

HOT PINK

"Pilot"

Written by

Elisabeth Holm

Based on the novel *What Girls Are Made Of*
by Elana K. Arnold

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - REID RESIDENCE - NIGHT

A warm strip of light leaks in from the open door of an ensuite bathroom. We sit on the bed in the dark, watching.

INT. MASTER BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

More light bounces off wet walls and glows through steam. We're not exactly in reality, more like the hazy space between a memory and a dream. Some details might be missing or blurred, others sharply in focus.

TERESA REID, 43, exits her shower, no-makeup-full-bush naked. Teresa's an Actual Human Woman, not wholly without cellulite and/or stretch marks. She is beautiful. And she is tired.

She towels off and vigorously applies lotion. (Where others angry clean, Teresa rage moisturizes.) We trace her fingers as she pushes skin around - her elbows, knees, collar bone, the place where butt meets thigh.

Teresa opens the medicine cabinet to put her lotion back and lingers, starring at a cluster of men's products on the shelf. She dumps all of them in the trash except one - a small bottle of cologne. *Not yet.*

Teresa closes the cabinet and finally turns to enter the dark bedroom but is startled - by us, clocking her every move.

Teresa stands tall, mesmerizing and saint-like under that misty, glowing halo. She exhales.

TERESA

You know, I never wanted to believe my mother, but it really is true. A man's love will always be conditional. It doesn't matter what year it is.

Teresa begins to comb her wet hair.

TERESA (CONT'D)

How we look, how we cook, how we listen, how we screw.

She wrings her hair out.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Well you know what, my love has conditions too. Everybody's got their limits. There really is no such thing as unconditional love.

(MORE)

TERESA (CONT'D)
 Who knows, maybe I even stop loving
 you some day. If you really give me
 a reason not to.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Teresa comes in and sits on the edge of her bed. She nuzzles her wet head into what we just barely make out as the neck of whomever she's talking to. A long beat.

TERESA
 Not that you ever could.

Camera finally reveals the owner of that neck: NINA REID, 14, Teresa's daughter. We've been Nina this whole time.

Nina's legs dangle off the bed. She stares straight ahead.

CUT TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK:

NINA (V.O.)
I mean. I swear it happened just
like that.

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLE: "HOT PINK"

INT. NINA'S BEDROOM - MORNING, PRESENT DAY

16 year-old Nina lays in bed half-awake. Hair longer, boobs (well at least one of 'em) bigger, and pajamas skimpier.

NINA (V.O.)
I wish that I could tell you that
was out of the ordinary.

Teresa (now 45) knocks while entering.

TERESA
 I really can't be-

TERESA (CONT'D)
 -late today.

NINA
 I'm uppp-uh.

EXT. REID RESIDENCE, SHADY CANYON COMMUNITY - MORNING

A Spanish-style home in a planned community, identical to its neighbors but smaller with more modest landscaping.

Teresa locks up in her biz caj pencil skirt while Nina and her cut-offs bound into the car. Nina's shoelaces are untied, her heels out, crushing the backs down.

TERESA

(re: Nina's shoes)

Do not get behind the wheel like that. It's one thing if you want to kill *yourself*-

Nina gets into the driver's seat and slams the car door shut.

TERESA (CONT'D)

What did I *just*-

NINA

(through the windshield)
I'm not even *doing* anythi-!

NINA (V.O.)

But my mom's been saying crazy shit to me for as long as I've had ears.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Teresa exchanges pleasantries with a NEIGHBOR. 6 year-old Nina sits in the shopping cart. Teresa wheels them away.

TERESA

People don't change.

INT. PEDIATRICIAN WAITING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Teresa reads *Highlights*. 9 year-old Nina fills out a form.

TERESA

Everything reduces to sex and death.

INT. COMMUNITY POOL WOMEN'S ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Teresa stands outside a closed stall door. 11 year-old Nina wails while peeing behind it.

TERESA

This is why we *never* stay in our
wet bathing suit.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. TERESA'S CAR / EXT. IRVINE, CA - MORNING

Nina peels out of the community. Teresa sits in the passenger
seat, the right amount nervous, the wrong amount showing it.

NINA (V.O.)

**Mom and I live in Shady Canyon in
Irvine, California.**

We pass near-identical houses in near-identical developments
with etched-in stone names like Quail Hill and Turtle Rock.
Irvine is The Sims IRL, sterile and banal with zero trash,
zero homeless, and three California Pizza Kitchens.

NINA (V.O.)

**It's not that shady. And there is
no canyon.**

Sprinklers go off. Wheels drive over speed bumps. "I Heart
Irvine" banners depicting happy families line traffic lanes.

We pass The Spectrum mall, its Tender Greens and Ferris
Wheel. Alton Parkway's five churches for five different
Christian sects, all lined up neatly in a row.

NINA (V.O.)

**Irvine's been named America's
Safest City by the FBI for the past
thirteen years.**

Nina drives past Northwood High, a pristine public school
whose "Aquatics Center" features the motto "Integrity.
Compassion. Mutual Respect. FOR THE GOOD OF THE PACK."

Nina glances at the empty school, eyes full of dread.

NINA (V.O.)

**Irvine's on all these lists as the
happiest and best place to raise
children. I don't know how those
things are determined, but clearly
some of us were never interviewed.**

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Parents and children gather as kids get picked up outside. We hear "have a great break" and "happy holidays" chatter. 6 year-old Nina and her FIRST GRADE CLASSMATE, 6, say goodbye as Teresa and the CLASSMATE'S MOM, 36 stand behind them.

FIRST GRADE CLASSMATE

(to Nina)

What mountain do you ski on, Nina?

The girl's mom looks embarrassed. She bends down.

CLASSMATE'S MOM

Vivian sweetie, not everybody goes skiing for Christmas. Nina's daddy's a professor. I'm sure they have very nice...health insurance.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CAR / EXT. ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK - MORNING

Nina drives by picnics, kids, joggers, and a bright orange hot air balloon ready for take-off.

CUT TO:

EXT. ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK - DAY (FLASHBACK)

12 year-old Nina practices a dance routine in matching leotards with her best friend LOUISE LIN, 12, buzzing and bright. Louise's brother, ALAN, 15, circles them on his BMX bike. The girls do perfectly coordinated back-bends, the hot air balloon floating in the background.

ALAN

You girls ever hear of a razor?
Your legs are fuckin' disgusting.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CAR / EXT. IRVINE, CA - MORNING

Nina stops at a red light as THREE YOUNG MOMS in athleisure jog across the street in synch with tricycle strollers. Teresa gives major eye roll without rolling anything.

NINA (V.O.)

**Beka says it's no wonder Irvine's
the town that birthed Rage Against
the Machine. I don't know their
music, but I get what she means.
Like how she says clichés are
cliché for a reason-**

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - REID RESIDENCE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

13 year-old Nina exits her bedroom and creeps toward her parents' room. With each step we hear more of a man grunting. Nina peers through the crack to see a sliver of her dad, JIMMY REID, 52, jerking off as he talks on his cell phone.

JIMMY

(into phone)

God I love how tight that pussy is.

Mesmerized, Nina leans on the door, accidentally shutting it.

JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Shit.

Nina runs back to her room and dives into bed.

INT. NINA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nina pretends to be asleep. We hear her door creak open and shut as hallway light appears and disappears over her face.

NINA V.O.

She was saying it about my dad, but

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CAR - MORNING

Nina's stopped at a light in front of a man-made lake with a fountain. A car pulls up alongside Nina to make a left turn.

NINA V.O.

-it seems to apply to a lot of-

Glancing at the car Nina's made *speechless* by a gorgeous girl she sees in the passenger seat. The girl (APOLLONIA CORADO, 17) locks sad, angry, haunting eyes with Nina.

Nina gasps and slams on the gas, plowing ten feet into a four-way intersection.

TERESA
Red light, Nina! Red light!

Nina and two other cars come to a screeching halt under the traffic lights.

TERESA (CONT'D)
What the hell was that??

Silence.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Hello??? I'm talking to you.

More silence.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Nina nods sheepishly. Teresa seems annoyed by the answer. She rolls down her window and sticks her head out.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Everybody all right? Student driver! So sorry!

The two other drivers are startled but no damage. They both look at Teresa like they hate her. They say nothing.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Okay! Have a good...okay.

Teresa puts her head back in the car and rolls the window up.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Pull over. Now.

Nina looks back at the car with the girl in it, still waiting to make the turn. The girl Nina thought she saw is a different person entirely.

NINA
Sorry, I thought...

TERESA
No. You didn't think. At all. You want the responsibility of a license, yet you—

Teresa's audio is drowned out by Nina's raging heartbeat.

A FLASH of a CLOSE UP on Apollonia, the girl Nina *thought* she saw. We pull back to reveal the image is from Nina's MEMORY:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - FLASHBACK TO LAST SEMESTER

The same Apollonia with the same facial expression sits in the audience, watching Nina speak into a microphone at a high school assembly. The audio is still drowned out as Nina's heartbeat crescendos, but Nina is visibly sheepish on stage. Kids around Apollonia look shocked by Nina's words. One girl reaches to gently touch Apollonia's shoulder, as we...

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

Nina exits the car passenger-side, still shaken. She slams the door shut. Teresa waits for Nina to enter and drives off.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

Nina enters. BEKA SALAZAR, 19, hipster half-shave and stick-n-poke tattoos, sits behind the counter reading an actual book.

Nina gives a small self-conscious wave.

BEKA
(without looking up)
Sup.

Dogs in cages bark and wag their tails at Nina's arrival. Nina attempts to shake off the morning's events, reaching to pet an aging mutt and give him a warm hello.

NINA (V.O.)
My mom is right. Love is 100%
conditional. At the shelter, young
quiet dogs find homes. Old dogs are
fucked.

RUTH CARTER, early-60s, no-bullshit-no-prisoners, emerges from the back room with a ball of leashes.

RUTH
Perfect timing. (re: barking dogs)
The natives were getting restless.

BEKA
(clearing her throat)
Racist.

RUTH
'Scuse me?

BEKA
"Natives"?

Ruth hands Nina the leashes and pops a couple Tic Tacs.

RUTH
Nina, would you mind walking Beka
as well?

BEKA
Seriously what is with old women
and tic tacs? It's like you and my
grandma are singlehandedly keeping-

Ruth pelts Beka with the box.

BEKA (CONT'D)
Ow! You need professional help!

RUTH
Agreed. Unfortunately, all we have
is you.

Ruth exits. Nina lets out a nervous little snort. She unlocks cages, puts leashes on dogs, and watches from across the room as Beka braids a small chunk of her hair.

NINA (V.O.)
Beka's three and a half years older
than me and the latest daily
reminder I suffer from chronic
severe basic disorder.

Beka pins the braid up into her third effortlessly cool hairstyle of the day, revealing significant armpit hair.

NINA (V.O.)
(a quieter admission)
After everything that happened last
year, she's also kinda the closest
thing I have to a friend right now?

BEKA
(off Nina's stare)
Can I help you? I mean, not like
actually help you.

NINA (V.O.)
Not that that's like, mutual or
whatever.

EXT. STREETS SURROUNDING ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

Beka and Nina walk and talk. They both have groups of dogs on leashes and pick up after them intermittently.

BEKA

No but for real, I'm so down. We could just like, float around and grow lettuce. Maybe some weed.

NINA

Yeah, but wouldn't you like, miss earth?

BEKA

Are you kidding me? This dumpster fire of hate crimes and waste?

NINA

...Right.

BEKA

Even if we stop burning fossil fuel in the next decade *-which we won't-* it was 120 degrees last week! That's not even a record! Hurricanes! Earthquakes! Our fuckin coral reefs! If we don't hit up Mars now we'll be dead by forty.

NINA

I know. I mean. We have a Prius.

Beka snorts.

BEKA

Probably have A/C too.

BEKA (CONT'D)

Which just adds to the carbon.

NINA

You don't have air conditioning??

BEKA (CONT'D)

Yeah, but I try not to use it.

Beka's phone vibrates with a text. She opens it and laughs.

BEKA (CONT'D)

God this bitch is thirsty.

Nina watches Beka handle her text. She puts her phone back in her pocket and puffs on a Juul.

NINA (V.O.)
A couple weeks ago I saw Beka
editing a nude.

BEKA
 I'm so tired.

NINA (V.O.)
She has perfect nipples.

NINA
 Same.

Nina yawns.

BEKA
 Last night was insane. My friend's
 friend deejay-ed this secret show
 on this abandoned golf course, and
 we were there til' like five
 rolling so hard.

NINA
 Cool.

BEKA
 This kid introduced me to this
 superhot bitcoin billionaire. She
 could not stop talking about block
 chain and mass incarceration.
 Apparently she runs this like, big
 monthly meet-up for women in tech
 who want to get their
 "consciousness swol."

Nina barely gets this but makes eyes like she does.

BEKA (CONT'D)
 Direct quote. Literal nightmare. I
 let her go down on me for like two
 hours just so she'd shut the fuck
 up. At a certain point I went *fully*
numb. She did teach me this wild
 breathing method that's supposed to
 cure hangovers, and honestly, I'm
 tired, but I'm not like, hungover.
 Kind of a game-changer actually.

Nina tries figure out how she can possibly participate.

NINA
 Coffee usually helps me. But it's
 like, a diuretic so I don't really
 get why if I'm already dehydrated?

Beka was texting and not listening.

BEKA
Pfft, what'd you do last night?

NINA
Oh. Uh. My night was pretty *lit* as well.

BEKA
(snorting)
Oh yeah?

NINA
Yeah. My mom and I watched this *crazy* episode of *Antiques Roadshow*.

Beka starts laughing. Nina's embarrassed.

BEKA
You're funny.

Nina is so relieved she starts giggling too. One of the big dogs takes a big shit. They wince.

NINA
What...color even is that?

BEKA (CONT'D)
I'm actually jealous?

They crack up again. Beka takes a photo of it. The laughter settles. Nina looks to Beka like she's waiting for something.

BEKA (CONT'D)
Oh, I'm good.

Nina bends down to pick it up.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - AFTERNOON

Nina puts the pups away while Ruth and Beka woman the desk.

A FATHER, 50, and his THREE SONS, 20, 16, 13 enter. A stupidly-beautiful pack of bright eyes, strong jaws, and broad shoulders. The youngest watches his phone with headphones in. Nina's back is to them.

RUTH
(to the dad)
You're back!

FATHER
You sound surprised.

RUTH
 We get a lot of window shoppers
 over the break. Summer flings where
 dad says yes but mom says no.

The father looks back to his sons, now two on their phones.

FATHER
 (softly)
 Ah. No mom to say no in this case.

RUTH
 Damn it. Sorry.

BEKA
 You'll have to forgive the old
 lady. She suffers from foot-in-
 mouth disease.

RUTH
 And someone's about to suffer from
 foot-up-ass-

BEKA
 The children, Ruth! The children.

The children do not react. The dad just looks confused.

RUTH
 I'm gonna go ahead and grab that
 paperwork. (to Nina) Reid, could
 you come help the uh, sorry, didn't
 catch the team name?

FATHER
 Oh - Marks. I'm Michael, and these
 are my sons, Wade, Caleb, and-

Nina finally turns and:

NINA
 (involuntary)
 Seth.

CLOSE UP on SETH MARKS, 16, a brooding surfer-with-potential.
 Hates school but likes Vonnegut.

SETH
 Oh. Hey. (to dad) Nina's uh, in my
 class-

CUT TO:

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - FANTASY

Alarms sound, fire sprinklers mist, and a WHITE WATERFALL shoots out of Nina's vagina, overtaking Seth and his entire family *Deep Impact* tsunami-style.

Everyone's frozen in silent shock, dripping in white goo. The youngest brother slips and falls from a standing position. His headphones yank out of his ears on the way down.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - AFTERNOON

Nina casually holds her hands over her crotch.

SETH

So you like, volunteer, or?

BEKA

Nina?? lol. No. More like a prison sentence.

Nina gives Beka a death stare. Seth looks confused-amused.

SETH

Yeah, 'guess it figures your summer would be kinda...

NINA

Crap. Total crap.

Seth laughs.

MICHAEL

Ohh. You're the girl who...*Niiina*. Somehow I pictured you...bigger.

SETH

Dad.

MICHAEL

I mean like more muscular, or-

SETH

DAD.

Michael hits his oldest son in the stomach, fake-blaming him.

MICHAEL

Wade, why'd you say that?

WADE
'the fuck?

MICHAEL
Hey.

Nina clears her throat.

NINA
So. Was there a particular animal
you guys were looking at last time?

Michael turns to the littlest boy, Caleb.

MICHAEL
Which dog did you want, son?

CALEB
I don't care.

MICHAEL
If you don't care why are we here?

Caleb groans. He points to a scraggly, sandy gray puppy.

CALEB
That one.

NINA
Aww, Kramer?! He's the best!

BEKA
I'll get him.

NINA
Nooo-

Beka walks away.

NINA (CONT'D)
-oookay.

SETH
"Kramer." That's random.

BEKA (O.S.)
Nina named him!

Nina nods, mortified.

SETH
Oh yeah?

Nina sighs.

NINA
Have you ever seen *Seinfeld*?

SETH
Nah.

NINA
Cool. No. Yeah. Me neither. I mean, I used to watch it with my dad a lot. There's like, this guy, Kramer, who's like, the weird neighbor. He lives right across from Jerry. *Seinfeld*. Like in an apartment building. Anyways, whenever he comes over, like whenever Kramer comes to Jerry's, he like, opens the door like-

Nina does a very bad Kramer-enters-Jerry's impression. Seth lets out a surprised and uncomfortable laugh.

Nina closes her eyes and scrunches up her whole face as if that will make her disappear. (It will not.)

NINA.
So. Yeah. When we first got this little guy he just like, shoved his cage open with his paw and skidded out onto the counter like...

SETH
Got it.

A long beat. Beka puts Kramer on the counter and uses the moment to soak up how deliciously uncomfortable Nina is.

MICHAEL
I love *Seinfeld*!

EXT. SHADY CANYON COMMUNITY POOL - DUSK

We hear an excerpt from a TEDx talk about self-care as we watch a TEENAGE BOY flirt with THREE TEENAGE GIRLS by the pool, splashing, shoving, and squealing. The girls have perfect bikini bodies. The boy is not nearly as toned.

INT. NINA'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Nina watches the group through her bedroom window. The TEDx audio plays softly off her laptop in the background.

Nina's window is lined with a mix of collages, paintings, drawings, and doodles evoking female saints, a collection made gradually over the years. We slowly trace over it.

NINA (V.O.)

**Before my mom met my dad she won
this big scholarship. She got to go
to Italy to study art history and
researched the bodies of the female
saints.**

Nina pulls her shades down.

NINA (V.O.)

**The saints were virgin martyrs.
They sacrificed everything, endured
unspeakable torture, and died
heroes for their eternal devotion.**

Nina lays on her carpet and does ab exercises.

NINA (V.O.)

**When other girls probably got
bedtime stories about some badass
scientist-warrior-princess, I'd lie
awake and count the saints, listing
their names and ways they died
until I fell asleep.**

Nina thrusts her pelvis in the air for Pilates bridges.

NINA (V.O.)

**Agatha of Sicily, Agnes of Rome,
Catherine of Siena, Irene of Tomar.
Beds of broken glass. Crowns of
nails. Starved, drowned,
flagellated. Their stories all end
the same: the saint is finally free
to join her bridegroom in heaven
where she lives happily ever after.**

Nina completes her workout and applies a face mask.

NINA (V.O.)

**The saints loved Jesus the way that
I love Seth. Without hesitation.
Without question.**

Nina opens a bag of Pirates Booty and eats with her mask on.

NINA (V.O.)

Completely. Forever.

She chews in a deep trance.

CUT TO:

EXT. 5TH GRADE FIELD DAY - DAY

Nina chews gum in a similar trance as she stares at Seth. They're on a sports field with many classmates, lined up on opposing "good game, good game" high-five lines. Nina and Seth walk closer together until they finally high five. Seth smiles on contact. Nina trips into the kid in front of her, spitting her gum into her own hair.

INT. 6TH GRADE - CAFETERIA - DAY

Seth takes a bite of a taco. A boy comes over to pull Seth into something at another table. Seth leaves his tray.

NINA (V.O.)
You want to consume the person you
love. So they're inside you. So
they become part of you.

From two tables away, Nina eyes the half-eaten discarded taco and casually picks it up. She walks out of the cafeteria...

INT. 6TH GRADE - GIRLS' BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

...and directly into a stall. She locks the door, removes the rubber bands attached to her braces, and hoovers the taco on top of a toilet.

INT. 7TH GRADE - CLASSROOM - DAY

Nina sits next to Seth. She deeply inhales his sweaty pit stain as he raises his hand.

NINA (V.O.)
Like how at mass we drink the blood
of Jesus.

INT. 8TH GRADE - A BOY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A group of girls and boys hang out in a tv room, playing video games and looking at their phones. Nina watches Seth and another girl sheepishly re-enter, flushed and disheveled from having just made out. Nina bites her lip.

NINA (V.O.)
I usually pretend I'm swallowing
Seth's cum.

INT. 9TH GRADE - NINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Louise hands Nina a present in Christmas wrapping. Nina tears it open and squeals: a pajama set Zazzled with Seth's face all over it.

NINA (V.O.)
Louise almost knew the extent of my
love. But even she could never
really understand.

INT. 10TH GRADE - HALLOWEEN HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Nina and Seth sit next to each other on a couch, legs touching. A drunk Louise sits on Nina's other side. She and Nina are dressed as Betty & Veronica (the *Riverdale* version).

NINA (V.O.)
I was fourteen when my mother told
me there's no such thing as
unconditional love. But I'm sixteen
now, and I need to know the
conditions for Seth to love me.

Nina silently freaks out about the knee-touching. Seth does not notice and talks to boys on his other side.

NINA (V.O.)
My desire for Seth overwhelms me at
every turn. I am powerless to
define myself any other way.

Nina is fully frozen, blushing and sweating profusely.

NINA (V.O.)
This is not a crush. It's not even
an obsession.

Seth finally turns to Nina as if he's about to say something. Nina's V.O. tone grows increasingly dark and intense:

NINA (V.O.)
Seth Is Everything. And I would do
anything for him. Any-

Louise pukes directly onto Nina's shoes.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. NINA'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Face mask still on, Nina does her Kramer impression in the mirror, trying to replay what it was like for Seth to watch.

Unmitigated disaster.

Her shame spiral is interrupted by a text: a video of Kramer the puppy peeing on Seth's carpet. We can hear Seth laughing with his brothers on the recording.

Second text: "kno how 2 train these things?????"

Nina freaksthefuckouttttt.

INT. IRVINE COMPANY OFFICE - DAY

Teresa walks down the hall of a real estate development company. She notices she's wearing the same sleeveless blouse as a twenty-something RECEPTIONIST. They share a smile.

TERESA

Cute top.

RECEPTIONIST

Ohmygod, yes! I keep telling my mom she'd love Madewell!

Teresa's closed-mouth smile stays plastered on her face. She knocks on a corner-office door: "Geoff Lin, SVP Development."

GEOFF (O.S.)

Yeah.

Teresa enters. GEOFF LIN, 50, busy and assured, sits behind a mess of floor plans, closing documents, and family photos.

GEOFF (CONT'D)

What's up?

TERESA

Just wanted to remind you I'm heading out early this afternoon to take Nina to the doctor-

GEOFF

Everything okay?

TERESA

Oh yeah, just the annual back-to-school physical and stuff.

GEOFF
Right. (a beat) 'Can't believe
they're going to be juniors.

TERESA
I know.

GEOFF
I still remember meeting you guys
at the playground.

TERESA
(a beat)
Me too.

There's an awkward tension between them.

GEOFF
Listen, I know it's none of our
business. Nobody cares what parents
have to say, especially dads-

TERESA
Don't flatter yourself, moms don't
count for shit anymore either.

Geoff chuckles.

GEOFF
Well I just, I know you and I never
really talked-

TERESA
And we definitely don't have to!

Teresa starts to fake-exit. Geoff chuckles again.

GEOFF
No, I...look, I know my daughter. I
know she feels badly about last
year. Louise never meant to hurt
Nina. She was in a tough situation,
things escalated quickly...she just
wanted to do the right thing.

Teresa never drops eye contact. She takes a breath and
swallows, giving another closed-mouth smile and nod.

TERESA
Yeah. Well. (a beat) Anything Dev
needs before I head out?

Geoff leans back in his chair. He tried.

GEOFF

Not unless you wanna do this call
with Bradley for me.

TERESA

Has really *no one* MeToo-ed him yet?

GEOFF

Oooh, I am so not allowed to make
that joke. I don't think I'm even
allowed to laugh at that joke.

CUT TO:

INT. SETH'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Seth's room is cramped, messy, and warm. His bed is a lofted
top bunk with a desk underneath. Wee-wee pads are strewn
about the floor amidst a bunch of clutter.

Seth sits in his desk chair, Nina on his carpet. A YouTube
video on how to train a dog plays on Seth's laptop.

He vapes while Nina silently inventories the space. A hoodie
hangs by her face. She not-so-discreetly burrows into it.

Seth pauses the video and turns to Nina.

SETH

This shit's kinda boring.

Nina panics and pretends she's sneezing into the sweatshirt.

SETH (CONT'D)

...bless you?

NINA

Sorry.

SETH

All good. Been meaning to wash it.

Nina is mortified. Seth smiles.

SETH (CONT'D)

I'm joking.

NINA (V.O.)

I love yo-

Wade barges into Seth's room. He doesn't notice Nina.

WADE
 (to Seth)
 You take my weed?

SETH
 No, dude.

WADE
 You lying?

SETH
 No, dude.

Nina opens Notes on her phone and jots down a band name on a poster in the room. "block chain" is written above it.

WADE
 You better not be lying.

SETH
 Get out.

Wade exits. A beat.

NINA
 ...Must be cool to have siblings.

SETH
 Naw, they're annoying as fuck.
 You're an only child, right?

NINA
 Yeah.

SETH
 That explains it. People always say
 only children are weird.

Nina giggles nervously.

NINA
 What?!

SETH
 Your parents had you and were like
 "uh, nah, we're good."

NINA
 Fuck off! I'm the miracle egg! They
 wanted more kids, but my mom had
 like, a million miscarriages, and
 eventually they just gave up.

Seth does not know what to say.

NINA (CONT'D)
Whatever. Now they're divorced and
one kid's too much for both of 'em.

Another beat. Seth vapes.

NINA (CONT'D)
Sooo.

Seth laughs through his exhale.

NINA (CONT'D)
What'd you do over break?

SETH
Me and Wade did some construction
stuff for this guy my dad knows.

INT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - 3-SECOND FANTASY

Seth and Nina high-speed fuck in a variety of cheesy porn
scenarios, he in his construction hard hat, she in his vest.

BACK TO REALITY:

NINA
Cool.

SETH
Not really. But we got paid. And we
got kinda jacked from it.

Seth flexes. Nina laughs way too loudly.

NINA
Literally the opposite of my
summer.

SETH
You got fat?

Another too-loud laugh.

NINA
No, I just like, didn't go outside.
I'm basically a pasty bag of skin.

SETH
Gross. You been working at that
shelter all summer?

NINA

Yeah. I mean, it's part of my punishment or whatever. I have four months left. Oh, *and* I have to see a guidance counselor regularly when school starts.

SETH

Wow.

NINA

I know.

SETH

No. Like. (a beat) No offense, but I'm kinda surprised that's all you got, considering what you...did.

NINA

Seriously? I already apologized in front of the *entire* school! It's not like I'm the only one who did anything. I never even-! I mean, Scarlett and Priya literally *filled* her locker with condoms and didn't even get detention. That's like, breaking and entering! But sure. *I'm* the psycho-

SETH

Whoa woah, chill, *chill*. I didn't-

NINA

Whatever. It doesn't matter.

SETH

Only child.

Nina exhales. She smiles and tries to recompose herself.

NINA

I mean, I've definitely had a lot of alone time. I've basically been quarantined. My mom made me deactivate all my accounts the day everyone found out.

SETH

That's why you're not on Snap.

A beat. Nina blushes.

SETH (CONT'D)

I mean, I was just tryina send you that video.

More blushing.

SETH (CONT'D)

So what's it like off the grid? You Mormon now?

Nina knows that's not what that means.

NINA

Ha, yeah! Fully rebranding. I guess it's pretty surreal. Or maybe like, more real than before? I dunno. Sometimes I almost think it's been worse for me than it was for-

Speak of the angel. Nina notices a photo in a pile of junk on the floor by Seth's feet, an artsy Instamatic of Apollonia in a glittery Carnivale outfit. It triggers another MEMORY:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - FLASHBACK TO LAST SEMESTER

Spring Unity Week's "Multicultural Night of 1000 Stars." Apollonia performs on stage in the Carnivale costume, a family heirloom. She dances beautifully. Nina and other girls watch mesmerized - and jealous as all hell.

CUT BACK TO:

SETH'S ROOM - DAY

NINA

Sorry. I obviously shouldn't-

SETH

Nope. You shouldn't.

They both stare at the photo. Nina clears her throat.

NINA

So then, you guys are like...I mean, you got back together, or-?

SETH

Nope. We didn't.

Nina nods and brushes her hair behind her ear. Seth chuckles at her / the mound of garbage on his floor.

SETH (CONT'D)
That's just a giant pile of trash.

NINA
(re: the breakup)
Sorry.

SETH
Don't be. Sorry I'm...disgusting?

Seth starts throwing the pile of stuff into a laundry basket.

NINA
No, no, keep the photo, it's
very...aesthetic?

SETH
(snorting)
Better be. She made me take like a
hundred of 'em.

Seth throws the photo away too. Nina can't help but smile.

SETH (CONT'D)
Honestly, everything just got way
too weird and shitty last year.

NINA
Look, if it's any consolation my
whole life's weird and shitty now.

SETH
Well, you're basically weird and
shitty, right?

A beat. Nina looks down.

SETH (CONT'D)
You're *too* easy to fuck with.

He smiles at her, boy-spreading in basketball shorts.

SETH (CONT'D)
I mean, maybe you're a little
crazy. But. Maybe I'm into crazy.

INT. SETH'S BEDROOM - 3-SECOND FANTASY

The phrase "into crazy" plays over and over in a psychotic, distorted loop as we watch Seth spoon Nina while they share a Jamba Juice and stream *One Tree Hill*. They both wear pajamas with each other's faces all over them.

BACK TO REALITY:

Wade returns.

WADE
You take my board?

SETH
Caleb has it.

WADE
Bullshit. I'm taking it back to campus.

Wade steps in further and rifles through Seth's things.

SETH
How could I hide a surf board bro?
Where would I even put it? Ohmygod,
you're such a jackass.

Wade accidentally steps on Nina's finger.

NINA
Ow!

SETH
What the fuck, dude!

WADE
My bad.

WADE
Oh, no shit! Shelter Girl??

Nina squeezes her finger in pain.

NINA
(to Wade)
Hey.

WADE
Damn, little brother works fast.

SETH
Get OUT, Wade!

NINA
No, it's cool, I gotta meet my mom
anyways. I should probably...

Nina gets up to leave. Seth grabs Nina's hand.

SETH
Wait. You okay?

Nina FREEZES.

WADE
Awww, that's cute.

SETH
I swear to god!

Seth drops Nina's hand and lunges at Wade. They stumble around shoving each other. Nina squeezes past them to exit.

SETH (CONT'D)
Thanks for the training session!

WADE
Maybe next time y'all can try
rolling o-verrrr.

Ohhhh!
WADE (CONT'D)

SETH
Seriously imma KILL-

CUT TO:

INT. TERESA'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Teresa drives while Nina sits dazed in the passenger seat.

Teresa sighs, triggering a chorus of sexual moans we hear in Nina's head. The moans swell until they're abruptly cut off by Teresa, dancing on eggshells.

TERESA
So. How was...that?

NINA
Huh?

TERESA
Seth?

NINA
Oh. Good.

TERESA
Was it...hard to spend time with a
classmate?

NINA
No.

TERESA
That's great, hon.

NINA

Yeah.

TERESA

I'm happy for you.

NINA

Thanks.

Teresa continues to tread lightly but tread nevertheless.

TERESA

Did you guys...talk about last year?

NINA

Not really.

TERESA

Like you were avoiding it, or like it didn't come up?

NINA

We just hung out. It was really...nice.

Nina is lost in space. Teresa gives major side eye.

TERESA

Wow. Yay. (a beat) See, what'd I tell you? People move on.

NINA

Mhm.

TERESA

Junior Year'll be a fresh start.

NINA

Maybe you're right.

That last one's not a phrase Teresa has ever heard out of her daughter's mouth. Side eye widens.

INT. TERESA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Teresa turns into a strip mall parking lot. She pulls into a spot designated for "OC Women's Medical Group."

TERESA

(playfully)

So, now that you're done avoiding everyone, maybe we can go to Staples and get you those binders?

NINA

Sure.

TERESA

And how about the mall? Get you some jeans that fit?

NINA

Great.

TERESA

And, I know it's only August, but I was thinking maybe we do some caroling tonight? You know, just some light door-to-door-

NINA

Whatever you want.

Teresa chuckles and slams the door shut.

EXT. STRIP MALL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The slam finally snaps Nina out of it. She leaps out the car.

NINA

Oh, mom, actually I was kinda hoping you could just like, wait...here?

TERESA

...Pardon?

NINA

I just um, I totally appreciate you setting this up. I know you care a lot about me. It's just, the thing is, it would really mean a lot to me if I could just like, I dunno, have my (makes a circular hand wave around her vagina) examined without an audience. You know what I mean?

Teresa stares at Nina for a long beat.

TERESA

I knew it.

NINA

What?

TERESA

You had sex with that boy.

NINA

WHAT?

TERESA

Oh god, Nina, you just had sex?

NINA

What are you talking about?

TERESA

Was it even your first time? Did you use a condom? Tell me you used a condom.

NINA

Mom!

TERESA

Did he take advantage of you? "Lonely outcast, desperate for affection--"

NINA

Wowww. Thanks, mom.

TERESA

Are you pregnant, Nina? Is this your way of telling me you're PREGNANT?

NINA

MOMMMM. STOPPP.

TERESA (CONT'D)

I cannot believe--

NINA

Mom, I'm not pregnant!

TERESA

What, you see *no one* all summer, and now suddenly, you and a boy "just hang out"?!

NINA

I'm not some rabid, caged animal!

TERESA

That's not what I'm--

NINA

Five seconds ago you were happy for me! Why are you being psycho?!

TERESA

I really hate that word, Nina.

NINA

Then stop being it!

TERESA

I am not-

NINA (CONT'D)

Can't I just have like, one thing to myself?

TERESA

Sex????

NINA

We did not have sex. Why can't I just have a private visit about my private-

TERESA

Nothing is private at your age! You'd all post your colonoscopies if-

NINA

What?

TERESA

Nina, I did not leave work early to sit in a parking lot.

NINA

Oh no! A bunch of grown men have to slice their own bagels!

TERESA

Excuse me?!

NINA

I'm just saying what you've said!

NINA (CONT'D)

I'm literally quoting you.

TERESA

You know what, I don't even care about that-

NINA (CONT'D)

Mom. I'm sorry. But sixteen is a totally normal age for this to be happening.

(MORE)

NINA (CONT'D)

It's like, you want me to "grow up" and "learn from my mistakes" and "rebuild my relationships" with my entire school, but you won't let me do that with Seth or my own *medical doctor*? It's like I'm only allowed to mature in the ways you want-

TERESA

That logic is highly flawed.

NINA

My feelings are valid!

TERESA

My feeling is that you're having sex, and rather than tell me-

NINA

I'm telling you-

TERESA

If I find out you're pregnant, Nina-

NINA

I'VE NEVER HAD SEX!! Okay?? I've Never. Had. Sex.

Welp. The entire parking lot definitely just heard that.

Nina and Teresa stare each other down until finally Teresa slowly and silently gets back into her car. She keeps her eyes locked on Nina as she turns the radio on. From outside the car we can hear a couple muffled seconds of Shania Twain's "Man I Feel like a Woman." '*Totally crazy/forget I'm a lady/men's shirts, short skirts, woah-oh-*'

CUT TO:

INT. OBGYN OFFICE EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Nina sits alone in the room with her blue gown on, legs dangling off the exam table. She clocks the "toxic waste" bin, plastic uterus, speculum tray, and IUD in a glass box.

Nina takes a photo of the "love your labia" Etsy needlepoint hanging on the back of the door. She goes to text it to a friend but realizes she doesn't have anyone to text.

Nina puts the phone on top of her clothes and considers the pile, specifically the underwear resting on top. She decides to relocate her thong, hiding it deep in her shorts pocket.

She lays back into the stirrup chair. Lying on her back, she sees the "it's nothing puuursonal" kitten border on the ceiling. Nina closes her eyes.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - 3-SECOND FANTASY

Seth, shirtless in a lab coat, goes down on Nina between her stirrup-ed legs.

BACK TO REALITY:

The DOCTOR, 40's, enters. Nina slams her knees shut.

DOCTOR

Oh, don't be shy! Women corner me
at shivas to show me their vaginas.

Nina smiles a closed-mouth smile.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Nice to see you, Nina. You look
longer. Have a nice summer?

Nina nods.

NINA (V.O.)

She's so much prettier than my mom.

DOCTOR

Why don't you sit up so we can chat
first.

Nina awkwardly wiggles back to sit up.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

So, your mother said you're having
very painful periods, is that
right? My nurse mentioned you're
concerned about cramping.

Nina nods.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Okay. And - oh, are we waiting for
Mom, or-?

NINA

No. I um, I wanted, I mean *she*
thought it would be good for me to
to talk to you like, one-on-one.

DOCTOR
Wow. That's very thoughtful.

NINA
Yeah.

DOCTOR
My own daughter would be jealous!

Nina gives a polite smile.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Just so you know, if Mom were here, I'd have her stay to go through your medical history, allergies, diet, exercise, date of your first period, all that stuff. But then I ask Mom to leave the room for a few minutes so you and I could talk alone. About the fun stuff.

NINA
Oh. Cool.

Nina looks down. She feels dumb.

DOCTOR
I've often found the call from Mom about the "painful period" is actually code for something else. Does that...ring true to you?

NINA
Well, no, I mean, it really does hurt a lot. Like, a lot a lot.

DOCTOR
Okay.

NINA
(sheepish)
But...yeah...I do know birth control can help with like, cramps and acne and stuff. It changed my friend's life. I mean ex-friend. But yeah. I did wanna...yeah.

Nina blushes and smiles, seen. The doctor smiles back.

DOCTOR
Are you sexually active, Nina?

Nina's hands grip the paper on the exam table, making a loud crinkling sound.

NINA

Um.

DOCTOR

It's okay if you are. I'm just asking, are you already having sex, or have you engaged in any sexual activity? Heavy petting-

NINA

No. I mean, yeah. I mean, not like right this second, but. Sure. I mean basically, yeah. Yes. I am. I mean, I will. Like. I mean, I sort of gave a...hand job...? Once. And like, someone fingered me, I guess. I mean, he did. But I don't know if that counts. I mean like, I definitely didn't - it didn't feel - like I never...

DOCTOR

Orgasmed?

NINA (CONT'D)

Yeah. No.

They share a nervous laugh.

DOCTOR

It still "counts." I hate to break it to you, but you're probably better at giving yourself an orgasm than any boy your age can - frankly, even at my age-

Nina winces.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

What I mean to say is, masturbation-

NINA

"is totally normal and healthy" I know. They told us that like a thousand times in Health. It's like they want us to do it.

DOCTOR

I call it homeopathic Xanax.

She chuckles at her own joke.

NINA (V.O.)

pleasestoptalkingpleasestoptalking-

NINA
 (impatient)
 So, would you have to tell my mom
 if I go on birth control?

DOCTOR
 Short answer: no. In California we
 can do everything confidentially
 including abortion. That said, I
 know your mother well, and I do
 think this discussion can and
 should be had with her.

NINA
 No. Totally. I mean, we've
 definitely talked about sex before.
 ...Like...*super* recently.

DOCTOR
 That's great.

NINA
 Yeah. I told her I was thinking
 about possibly becoming...*sexual*
 with my um, *boyfriend*, and she
 suggested I speak with you about my
 um, options.

Nina starts laying it on increasingly thick.

NINA (CONT'D)
 The truth is, she was raised
 Catholic, and I think she just has
 a hard time actively participating?
 But she's very supportive of my
 relationship and just wants me to
 be prepared when the time comes.
 We're totally on the same page.

The doctor gives Nina a long hard look.

DOCTOR
 Okay. Well. My main concern is
 always SDT-STI prevention, so
 please keep in mind, no form of
 hormonal birth control is at all a
 substitute for condoms.

Nina nods as the doctor's voice drowns out. When we cut back
 to the doctor she's been replaced by shirtless-lab-coat Seth.
 He yanks at his latex glove and lets it smack his hand.

CUT TO:

INT. TERESA'S CAR (PARKING LOT) - SIMULTANEOUS

A "Dear John"-esque podcast plays while Teresa waits, frustrated and impatient. She looks to the door of the OBYGN office. Coast clear, she grabs her phone and opens Instagram.

In a mad, dirty-little-secret dash, Teresa types "Cha-" into Search. "Suggested" populates with an account she's checked many times before: *CHARLEY MORYN, lyfe&style journalyst*.

Teresa clicks and scrolls through a barrage of irritating bullshit, like a Bali coastline with Charley's tanned 30 year-old legs and pedicured toes, the caption a long, heartfelt essay about the sinking island and the gratitude to #BeHereNow, especially with #EssieNails.

But it's the fourth image down that stops Teresa's heart: Charley's toned arm slung around Jimmy, Teresa's ex-husband, a brand-new engagement ring sparkling on Charley's finger. The caption: "best birthday everrrrr!!! #[ring emoji] #[bride emoji] #JimmyLovesChachi2020." The post is 4 Days Old.

TERESA

Motherfuck-

CUT TO:

EXT. OBGYN OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

Nina exits the office, giddy.

EXT. STRIP MALL COVERED WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

Nina walks down the sidewalk towards Teresa's car. She pauses at the sight of FIVE FEMALE CLASSMATES, 16, exiting the nail salon two doors down. Imagine if "The Plastics" were members of The Wing. Some wear tank tops that say "shero" or "#squad" in neon glitter. One is very red around her eyebrows from having just been waxed. They exit engrossed in conversation.

LEAD GIRL

No but like, imagine if your best camp friend literally died from meningitis.

GIRL #2

What??

LOUISE

On visiting day.

GIRL #3
Ohmygod. So sad.

GIRL #2
Shut. Up.

LOUISE (CONT'D)
I know. We should totally text her.

They encounter Nina. Louise avoids eye contact.

LEAD GIRL
Well, well, well. If it isn't the
girl who cried slut.

GIRL #4
Woah. In the wild.

GIRL #2
How've you been, Nina?

GIRL #3
Wait, were you just at the gyno?

LEAD GIRL
It's like walking toxic shock.

The whole crew laughs except Louise. Louise and Nina finally share a look, like Judas running into Jesus.

Nina tries to walk past them.

LEAD GIRL (CONT'D)
My mom says slut-shaming is a tool
of the patriarchy.

NINA
(under her breath)
Well. My mom says your mom's a
literal pool float. So.

Nina takes two more steps and BAM: the Lead Girl stamps her pedicure flip-flop down on Nina's untied shoelace. Nina falls and cuts her chin. She cries out in pain. The girls erupt.

GIRL #4
Holy shit! beast-mode!

GIRL #3
(to the lead girl)
You're insane!

The Lead Girl starts to film Nina lying on the ground. Louise smacks the phone out of her hand and bends down to Nina.

LEAD GIRL
(to Louise)
Bitch you coulda cracked my screen!

LOUISE
And you coulda cracked her skull!
(to Nina) Neen!

NINA
Don't touch me!

EXT. TERESA'S CAR – SIMULTANEOUS

Teresa hears the faint sound of Nina screaming. She launches out of her car, leaving its door wide open.

TERESA
Nina?!

BACK TO THE GIRLS:

Louise touches Nina's back.

LOUISE
NEEN! You okay??

NINA
Get off!!!

Teresa rushes toward them. The girls scatter, squealing. Only Louise stays.

TERESA
Nina?? Nina! What the hell-

LOUISE
(to Teresa)
She tripped...It was...an accident.

NINA
Leave me alone!!

TERESA
(quiet but stern)
Go home, Louise.

Louise takes off. Nina continues to full-on drool-snot weep.

NINA
(to Teresa)
Just go! Please. Go away!

Nina sobs and burrows into Teresa arms. Teresa can't help but tear up too, overwhelmed too.

We FADE OUT on Nina and Teresa's audio as we FADE UP on the sounds of the next triggered MEMORY – a rowdy brofest.

SENIOR BOY (O.S.)
 (faux announcer voice)
 Arigato, Japan!! Up Next:
 Braaaaziilllll!

We hear boys hoot 'n holler over Portuguese porn video moans and beer pong. A ball lands in a cup knocking it over.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUISE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK TO LAST SEMESTER

We merge audio with picture: The Night It All Started:

NOTE: Like all memory Nina's is mutable and subjective. With varying in- and out- points, we return to her memory of this night a few times in season, highlighting slightly different nuances with each as Nina and we further unpack her emotions, the lead-up to the act, and its complex ripple effect.

A tipsy Nina wipes the ricochet of spilled beer off her top.

LOUISE
 NEEN! You okay??

NINA
 (giggling)
 All good.

We're in the "media room" at the Lin's suburban McMansion. No parents in sight. Louise's brother Alan (now 18) plays beer pong with his bros on top of a fancy wooden table.

A YouPorn video plays on the flat-screen TV. ("Brazilian Babe Sucks Cock" or some similarly charming title across the top.)

A group of SENIOR BOYS, 18, hang and shout - lazing on couches, scarfing down nachos, and drinking shitty booze. Louise and Nina are the only girls present - grossed out, curious, self-conscious, and giddy all at once.

LOUISE
 (re: the beer spill)
 Alannnn! Mom's gonna freak!

Louise begins vigorously cleaning the carpet. Nina helps.

ALAN
 Yoo chiiiiill! Seriously, it fades!
 It's already beer color.

BRO #1
 (to the girls cleaning)
 Woah! Sorry moms!

Alan tries to distract Louise by gesturing to the TV.

ALAN
 Holy shit! Weeze! 'That that hot
 chick in your grade??

LOUISE
 (rolling her eyes)
 Shut up.

The girl in the video has strikingly similar features to Apollonia. Boys laugh and holler. Nina pops up to see.

NINA
 Ohmygod! Toooootally!

BRO #1
 Who??

BRO #2
 That biddy banging Wade's
 little brother.

BRO #3
 Apollonia!

ALAN
 Yoo that girl's mad hot!

BRO #4
 A-buh-low-me-uhhh!

BRO #5
 A-pornia!

LOUISE
 Wow, it really *does* look like her!

Nina and Louise giggle-squeal as Nina starts filming the TV.

NINA
 No but like actually though!!

LOUISE
 (laughing)
 What are you doing?!

NINA
 OH MY GOD YESSSS!

NINA (CONT'D)
 That totally IS her!!!

The boys carry on as Nina goes to work on her phone. Louise takes a peek at Nina's screen and cracks up.

LOUISE
 Ohmygod, Neen! Stoppp!

Louise bonks Nina with the paper towel roll.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. REID RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - PRESENT DAY - DUSK

Nina sits at the table with an ice pack on her chin, eyes still red and puffy from the afternoon. Teresa sets a roll of paper towels down in front of her. Nina rips off two napkins.

It's silent for a while. Teresa puts the last bowl on the table and sits with Nina, scooping food onto their plates.

Nina tries to chew but winces. Her eyes well up again.

NINA

I can't go back tomorrow. Please don't make me go back.

TERESA

(after a beat)

You know what, Neen, there's going to come a point when you won't even remember this.

Nina drops eye contact. She lets a couple tears roll.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Really. I mean you'll always remember that it happened. You'll always remember those stupid shitty faces of those stupid shitty girls. But eventually, the months will start to fly by. Whole years will blur together. And before you know it you won't be able to remember how any of this felt.

Nina sniffles. Teresa hands her a napkin.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Really, sweetie. One day you'll be terrified to find that you don't feel anything for them at all. You'll even wish you could.

Nina looks up, a little confused.

TERESA (CONT'D)

You'll want to feel all that pain and that joy. All that hate and love. All those mistakes, all those wonderful-awful little moments. I know it sounds insane right now, but I swear to god, you'll miss it. You'll actually be sad it's been replaced - by real, adult pain.

They sit in silence for a long beat.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Unless you get raped or something.
God forbid. That you'll never
forget. No matter how old you are.

Another beat. Nina lets out a small laugh.

NINA

Jesus, mom. You're so depressing.

More silence until Teresa finally lets out a laugh. They
crack up together, first time in a while. They eat a little.

NINA (CONT'D)

I just wish Dad took me with him
when he left.

Teresa tenses up.

NINA (CONT'D)

Sorry. I didn't. I mean, that's
not...I just. No one would know me
in New York.

TERESA

You know what, Nina, I'm sorry
people are mean to you, but you can
be very cruel yourself.

NINA

Mom, I said I was-

TERESA

That rumor was a terrible thing to
put that poor girl through-

NINA

And what they put *me* through?

TERESA

-and now you're paying the
price.

NINA

You're the one who stood up at
Parent Night and said they're
making "an unfair example"-

TERESA

That doesn't mean I think what you
did was okay-

NINA

Everyone was in on it! Everyone hated her! But I'm the only one who gets blamed?! It's-

TERESA

"Not fair"?

NINA

Not fair!

TERESA

And what would be fair? Tell me.

Nina doesn't have an answer. She never has.

TERESA (CONT'D)

You started it, Nina. And you never tried to stop it. To be honest with you, the part I really can't...what I'm most disappointed in is, three months later, I still don't get the sense you're even really sorry for anybody but yourself.

Nina's eyes water. Teresa decides to relent. For now.

TERESA (CONT'D)

I know this is hard. I do. But trust me, everybody will move on. The world does not revolve around you. Certainly not forever. Look on the bright side! It's not as if you've just had your heart ripped out of your chest, right?

NINA

Mom.

TERESA

It's not as if you have to pick up the pieces of a

TERESA (CONT'D)

broken home, and-

NINA

"broken home"

TERESA (CONT'D)

You have no idea what it's like-

NINA

I cannot believe you just made this about you. No, actually I can, but-

TERESA

You know what, go to your room!

NINA
It's been two years since Dad left.

TERESA
Two years is not enough time! Two
years is *nothing*!

Both are taken aback by the level of Teresa's anger, but only Teresa knows its exact source. She takes a breath.

TERESA (CONT'D)
(softly)
Go to your room.

Nina doesn't move. A long beat.

NINA
It's not like I don't miss him too.

They hold each other's gaze.

NINA (CONT'D)
Sorry. It's just...it's hard to
keep having the same conversation.

TERESA
Oh, except when it's about you?

Teresa gives a sly smile. Nina rolls her eyes. Fair point.

NINA
Two years *is* a long time. This
summer alone was an eternity-

TERESA
You think this summer was easy for
me? The way other parents look at
me? Like it's my fault? Like I
didn't bring you up right? I can't
even go to PF Chang's! The hostess
gives me these looks like-

Teresa imitates the face. Nina laughs.

TERESA (CONT'D)
It's bad enough the entire town
knows your father left me for a
avatar. With a mortgage we can
barely afford. In a place I never
even wanted to live-

NINA
Great! Let's move! I hate it here!

TERESA

Nina. As I have said. Let's see where you are in a year. I finally got real benefits. You're obviously not getting a scholarship-

NINA

Thanks-

TERESA

These are the-

TERESA (CONT'D)

-best public schools in the country.

NINA

"best public schools in the country"!

TERESA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry you put us in a situation-

NINA

No! I'm sorry I ruined our lives!

TERESA

Oh, honey. You didn't do that. Your father did.

NINA

Ohmygod, mom! People cheat every day! People get divorced every day! You will survive!

Teresa inhales, full of rage. She swallows it. Again.

TERESA

And so will you.

Teresa gets up to start clearing the table, clanking dishes and silverware. A long beat. Nina begrudgingly rises to help.

NINA

Great pep talk.

TERESA

(softly)

Go team.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACKS TO LAST SEMESTER - FAST & FURIOUS GLIMPSE MONTAGE:

-INT SCHOOL HALLWAY - Nina watches Louise show new student Apollonia around. Seth introduces himself at her locker.

-EXT SCHOOL PARKING LOT - Nina watches Seth kiss Apollonia.

-INT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - Nina watches Apollonia dance.

-INT LOUISE'S HOUSE - Nina laughs and films the porn video.

-INT SCHOOL HALLWAY - Students shriek at their phones and laugh in Apollonia's face as she walks by.

-INT CLASSROOM / CAFETERIA / LOCKER ROOM - more harassment

-INT PRINCIPLE'S OFFICE - Nina watches Apollonia enter with her angry parents.

-INT PRINCIPLE'S OFFICE - Nina watches Louise exit, guiltily avoiding eye contact.

-INT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - Nina sheepishly reads a statement into the mic at assembly. She locks eyes with Apollonia (repeat from beginning of pilot).

NINA (V.O.)
I would give anything to go back to
being irrelevant.

NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL LIP DUB 2019 VIDEO

A long tracking shot passes hundreds of high schoolers in school-branded gear, all dancing and lip syncing to a pop song. [e.g.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB3-lhop7ho>] Camera tracks through campus as kids take turns leading. Classmates pump peppy posters congratulating teams and individuals. We see the school motto once more: INTEGRITY. COMPASSION. MUTUAL RESPECT. FOR THE GOOD OF THE PACK.

A GROUP OF KIDS dressed in black ski masks dance into frame and raise two signs to the beat: "CONGRATS 2 NINA REID" "CLASS CUNT" (the "T" a palm tree emoji.) They dance out of frame. The song continues.

INT. NINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nina lays in bed with her laptop on her legs. She pauses the video we were just watching. "NORTHWOOD 2019 LIP DUB - UNCENSORED!!!" It has a couple hundred thousand views.

NINA (V.O.)
The link was live for six hours
before they finally blurred it out.

Nina opens PhotoBooth on her computer. She undoes her chin bandage and uses the camera as a mirror to survey the damage.

She shuts her laptop, turns off her lamp, and lays in the dark, wide a-fucking-wake. Suddenly, she gets a text: another one from Seth, the puppy sleeping on his bare chest.

Nina opens Spotify to find the musician she wrote down in Seth's room. She puts on their song and returns to the photo. Her hand glides under the covers. She begins to masturbate.

NINA (V.O.)

I know it's not feminist to let anyone else define your life – especially a boy. I know we're supposed to be strong, confident girls. Girls who look you in the eye and don't apologize. Girls who support each other and dismantle the patriarchy. We're supposed to run the world. Girls. And some girls really are.

Nina closes her eyes and continues to writhe.

NINA (V.O.)

But I was in Seth Marks' room today. I made him laugh. He grabbed my hand. And I can still smell his sweatshirt.

Nina gets closer to climax.

NINA (V.O.)

I love Seth so much I let it destroy my life last year. And the truth is, I can't wait for him to do it again. And again. And again.

With each "again" we FLASH to Nina in different fantasy-scapes, three distinct bloody virgin martyr saints. Sensual, visceral, moody, and electric, it's like Giallo cinema or Kenneth Anger meets Petra Collins. Seth isn't even in them. Then, one last FLASH: Teen saint Apollonia in glowing, flowing white. Exalted and adored, no punishment, no pain.

Nina cums hard into a pillow. Her eyes open wide, terrified. She catches her breath.

NINA (V.O.)

People always say "move on," but. No one ever really tells you how.

Nina grabs her phone and returns to Seth's text. She thinks for a beat and then: *lol c u at school*

CUT TO BLACK.