

WONDERFUL! WONDERFUL!

by

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WONDERFUL! WONDERFUL!

FADE IN:

EXT. CARTERS' HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: Todos Santos, Baja California Sur, Mexico -- February 18, 1994, 2:00 a.m.

A group of borrachos stand around their dingy old pickup truck playing their banda music full blast. They sing along and yell at each other drunkenly in front of the Carters' shoddy and plain two story house.

All the lights are on except for those upstairs. There are various cars parked around the house appearing like a bumper-car ride. The full moon and the millions of visible stars shine brightly.

An old, dilapidated cab rushes down the dirt road, kicking up a large cloud of dust behind it. The borrachos are unfazed.

INT. CARTERS' HOUSE - MICHAEL AND PENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

PENNY CARTER is crying as she holds her bedroom door partially open, looking out the front windows and into the large kitchen.

She is a tall and statuesque woman with long dark locks -- half Anglo and half Latina. Her dark tan matches her beautiful brown eyes. But at the moment she is disheveled and emotional.

Take in the living room from her POV: FAMILY FRIENDS from town are gathered in the living room along with other FAMILY MEMBERS from the States. The mood is strange: For some this is a very sad occasion, others are treating the gathering almost like a party. The different classes and cultures are easily distinguishable.

She switches to a different POV: We see out the front living room windows. She watches the borrachos drink it up outside.

INT. CARTERS' HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is clearly visible from the living room, and from Penny's vantage point as well.

Penny's daughter CLAIRE, a beautiful 25-year-old American woman rushes in through the side door.

She holds her 2-year-old son, KYLE, and is frazzled and distraught. Kyle, though, is barely awake.

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MARK, Claire's handsome and strong 26-year-old husband walks in behind them dragging Kyle's Mickey Mouse suitcase on wheels as well as his and Claire's suitcases. Managing the cumbersome luggage prevents Mark from taking notice of everyone.

Claire rushes over to two of her brothers: DAMON, 11 years-old, and GARRET, who is 13 years-old. The boys are pretty shell-shocked. She is nurturing, loving, and tearful with them as she ignores all the other people staring at her including those surrounding Damon and Garret.

CLAIRE

We flew down as soon as we could.

Claire hugs the boys still holding onto Kyle. Her beautiful, full wavy auburn hair falls out of her large tortoise shell hair clip and into her face. She doesn't bother to pull it out of the way.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

It's gonna be all right, you guys.
Dad's a fighter, you know that.

A beat. The boys can't seem to find any hope. They are crying. Claire lets go of her sobbing brothers and lifts Kyle's body higher onto her chest.

Garret and Damon pull away to greet and hug Mark.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Where's Danny?

INT. PENNY AND MICHAEL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Penny turns her head back into her bedroom. She tearfully watches her son, DANNY (Damon's 11 year-old fraternal twin) give his final goodbye to his father, MICHAEL, who is only in his early 40s.

Danny is crying as he kneels beside his father at his bedside.

Penny cries openly, not making the slightest of noise although she clearly wants to. Her chin and eyebrows jitter as her tears fall onto her lips.

Michael lays on his back, his head turned to Danny. He is sweating and crying heavily as his crystal blue eyes glisten and glow in the darkness of the room. His head is bald from the chemo, and it is moist with droplets of perspiration. A white bed sheet covers his naked body up to his chest. The covers on Penny's side of the are in the same condition as when she tore them off of her earlier in the night.

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CONTINUED:

Danny cries equally as much as Michael. All Danny wears is his over-sized "California!" bed-shirt and Disneyland boxer shorts. Danny brings Michael's hands to his face and cries into them. The boy seems more than distraught -- it's as if he feels somehow guilty as well.

DANNY (V.O.)

Liver cancer. Yeah. It's a killer!
The guilt and remorse was just
settling in, ya know? God, can you
tell? Look at me! I was 11-years-
old and the man I had treated like
crap was dead.

Danny continues to cry.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(hissing, grasping onto
Michael's hands)

Why!?

MICHAEL

(more composed than Danny,
but crying just as much,
at peace)

I love you, Danny. Be a good boy.
Take care of your Mom for me, Okay?

Danny continues to cry, his face turned down, as if he was all alone. His forehead rests on Michael's hands.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Okay?

Danny slowly looks up directly into Michael's eyes, his own eyes SQUINTING and drenched.

DANNY

(trying to be strong)

Yes. I will. Always.

A beat.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I love you, Daddy! I do. I'm so
sorry.

MICHAEL

You don't have to be.

Penny comes over to Danny and gently holds him from behind. He turns around to face her. They hold a look of mutual sadness and understanding. He nods and turns back to his father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny kisses Michael on the cheek and hugs his fragile body. Penny, crying still, leads Danny out of the room.

Just as Penny takes Danny to the door, Michael turns his head away and starts to mumble.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 (peaceful, in a trance,
 crying)
 It's so beautiful! So bright. But I
 don't want to go, Penny. Penny,
 please.

Penny closes the door and rushes over to Michael's side kneeling on the floor as Danny did. She takes his hands and kisses them.

PENNY
 (crying)
 You have to, Michael. You have to
 give up.

She rests her head on his chest. Her tears fall on his feverish red skin.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 You have to, baby.

MICHAEL
 I love you, Penny.

PENNY
 I love you, too.

Michael's body collapses as every muscle in his body drops. He's dead. Penny's head is still rested on his chest. She cries even harder as she listens to his heart come to a dying halt.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM LOFT - NIGHT

VIEW FROM LOFT: Michael is carried out through the kitchen, enveloped in the bed sheet he lay covered with before.

Two WOMEN shuffle their feet, struggling to ease their tears as they carry his bony carcass out of the house.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

As Michael is carried out the side door in front of them, a cluster of MOURNERS stand clenching onto Penny, draping their arms over her head, keeping her eyes away from the horrific sight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But their eyes are fixed to the sight of what's left of Michael. They cry furiously, even as they try to snuffle their tears back for Penny's sake.

Penny just lets loose and wails in their arms.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is lit only by the stars and moon as well as the flashing lights from the town ambulance hurrying toward the house.

As the ambulance nears and the sirens grow louder and more discordant, Danny leans against the wooden railing of the second story loft. With his head resting on his hands on the railing, he comes up slowly. He takes a deep breath in, as if to prepare himself for the sight he must force himself to see.

His face is wet with tears, his disheveled hair adhering to his cheeks. His eyes have become empty and lifeless. He is not crying anymore, only sniffing.

As he watches his father go by, he breaks down, releasing every emotion in his young and overwhelmed heart. His body becomes limp as if he too is dying. He gradually crashes to the cold tile floor. He attempts to brace himself for the fall but his wet hands slip from the railing. The pain of the fall only aggravates his emotions.

DANNY (V.O.)
"Time will heal", they said.

FADE TO BLACK.

DANNY (CONT'D)
...It only made things worse.

FADE IN:

INT. CARTERS' HOUSE - BOYS' LOFT - DAY

SUPER: Exactly one year later.

Daylight shines brightly into the loft. Garret and Damon and their American and Mexican friends play Loteria, the Mexican equivalent of Bingo, with great enthusiasm and spirit on the floor.

The squares of their tablets are filled with dirty pebbles and small rocks instead of the dime-sized plastic pieces.

CLOSE on Garret throwing down the Corazon card on top of the rest of the old, tattered, and torn cards.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARRET
(fluent Spanish accent)
El corazon.

Danny watches from behind the crowd on Garret's bed, not as interested as the rest. They are all wearing trunks and poorly fitted beach shirts. Danny has his towel wrapped around his shoulders.

DANNY (V.O.)
I can't say I ever really fit in after Dad died. My brothers -- rather, my twin brother Damon -- thought I was the biggest shithead in the world for the way I treated our late father. Christ, can you tell?

Damon looks up at Danny from his cards and Danny shyly and sincerely smiles back. With angry eyes, Damon mockingly smiles back and turns away back to the game with the others.

GARRET (O.C)
(slapping down another card)
..Las jaras.

Danny's eyes are fixed on Damon. They subtly express his confusion and hurt.

DANNY (V.O.)
My problem wasn't that they treated me like a shithead, rather it was that I loved these people.

GARRET (O.S.)
...El valiente.

DANNY (V.O.)
I loved my older brother, Garret. And I loved Damon too. I mean, he's my twin for Christ's sake. Aren't we supposed to have some kind of Chang and Eng bond, or something.

MEXICAN FRIEND #1 hurriedly places another rock on his tablet just as Damon does the same.

MEXICAN FRIEND/DAMON
(excited, yelling)
Loteria!

Danny shudders at the noise. It seems he is in a perpetual state of emotional pain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He gets up from the bed slowly and lifeless. He goes to the second story railing to look for Penny.

DANNY (V.O.)

I wanted to make them love me, make them love me the way Mom did, unconditionally. I ended up hating myself.

Once Danny has Penny in his view he smiles widely.

Danny's POV: Penny is downstairs in the storage room across from him, on the phone.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is littered with various cardboard boxes stacked high and low. There is an old, torn sofa with a flattened arm. Penny remains on the phone being very flirtatious.

The phone is balanced on a stack of worn and faded American board games, some missing tops, placed on an old desk with a dark grey prison quality.

Instead of hearing what she's saying, we continue to hear Danny in V.O.

DANNY (V.O.)

You may be wondering why this baboso white boy is in Todos Santos. Well, after being diagnosed with a terminal illness, Dad didn't really feel like working the nine to fives anymore, you know?

Amidst all this disorder Penny seems beautiful, and her body movements are loose and slow as she stays on the phone.

INT. BOYS' LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Danny continues to look down at her. His smile drops as he tries to understand Penny's body language.

DANNY (V.O.)

Hell, can you blame him? This was the Carter residence for five and a half years, until...

INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Now we hear Penny's voice as well.

PENNY

(whispering, seductive)
Tony, hold on, okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (V.O.)
 ...until Tony showed up.

A beat.

Penny places the phone over her shoulder. She smiles and waves at Danny. Danny smiles back wondering whom she's talking to.

PENNY
 (yells out with a sharp
 edge)
 Hurry up boys? I'm leaving! I
 don't have all day!

INT. BOYS' LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Danny's body jolts at the unfamiliar pitch of Penny's voice.

Garret is shuffling the cards to start up a new game. Mexican Friend #1 and MEXICAN FRIEND #2 are fighting over one of the tablets. Each one of them are giving their individual reasons as to why they should have it as they attempt to pull it out of the others hand.

MEXICAN FRIEND #1
 Ya has jugado con ella dos veces!

MEXICAN FRIEND #2
 Y? No es tuyo de cualquier modo!

DAMON
 (yelling up to Penny)
 Wait! We just started another
 round!

INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PENNY
 I don't care! Turn it off! Let's
 go!

Penny smiles lovingly at Danny and she turns away.

INT - BOYS' LOFT - CONTINUOUS

The boys sigh.

Garret stops shuffling and reaches for the box to put everything away. He gathers up all the tablets and cards.

GARRET
 (coolly to Friend #2)
 Oye, cabron. Damelo.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Friend #1 snatches the tablet out of Friend #2's hand and kindly hands it to Garret. They all stand up from the floor and make their way out of the loft and down the stairs.

Danny is ahead of them hurrying to see Penny. In both Spanish and English the other boys emphatically discuss the game with one another.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Penny picks the phone up from off her shoulder.

PENNY
 (into the phone,
 whispering, flirtatious)
 I'll see you there, okay? Bye.

A beat. Penny smiles as she pretends she has already hung up. She holds the mouthpiece away from her face.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (giggling)
 Hang up!

TONY (O.S.)
 (chuckling through phone)
 No. You.

PENNY
 (happy to oblige)
 Okay.

Penny hangs up and smiles wryly as she walks out with Danny by her side and the other boys trailing not too far behind.

EXT. OCEAN/SHORE - DAY

Penny has been pushed off into the ocean in an old chipping wooden canoe. Everyone cheers her on vigorously from the shore. She paddles out, struggling with the oars at first, but then getting used to it. She smiles, laughs, and waves sharing her peace and extreme bliss with her family and friends at the shore.

DANNY (V.O.)
 Oh, God. I loved this place. We used to come here all the time with ice coolers and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that I'd help Mom make. She would always remember to put those two tortilla chips in the middle of my sandwich.
 (beat)
 It seems like so long ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONY, the man on the phone and her new boyfriend stands alone. His Banana Republic slacks, tucked in button-down shirt, and loafers make him look very different from the others. His styled salt-and-pepper hair and mustache further point up how isolated he is from everyone else.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But that was before. Before everything changed. Before my little "unconditional love" mission turned me inside out.

Tony gazes out at Penny with his hands in his pockets. From his POV we see Penny as she bobs up and down in the water, rocking in the small canoe. She takes off her shirt, exposing her wetted bra, and smiles widely.

Danny, along with everyone else, laughs and whistles at her enthusiastically. His laughter dies down as he turns his head aimlessly from his mother to Tony's lone figure.

Danny looks at him with curiosity, unimpressed.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Why he came to my father's scattering I have no idea. All I knew was that he didn't belong. He never really did.

Danny turns away when Tony notices him, but then looks back at him again. Danny sneaks away into the crowd in front of him so as not to let Tony see him anymore.

Tony's face is emotionless as he turns his attention back to Penny. She's pouring Michael's ashes out in the air, holding the urn up as high as she can. Her love and happiness cannot be contained. The ashes blow freely into the warm beach air.

PENNY

(loud and emotional)

I love you, Michael! I love you!

DANNY (V.O.)

Isn't she beautiful. I promised my Dad I'd take care of her. And I did. Right up to the very end.

The cheers coming from the shore accelerate into an uproar of love, happiness, and excitement. Danny is a bit less enthusiastic. He keeps casting furtive glances at Tony, who has ruined the moment for him.

Beautiful calm waves help Penny to the shore as she rows toward Danny and to the rest of the crowd. They run to meet her, cheering her on further.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Before they can reach her, though, she is running and headed for the enemy: Tony. They embrace lovingly and wholeheartedly.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 You know, at first I thought that Mom got together with him so fast because of money or sex or something. Now I realize she was just lonely and scared.

Everyone embraces Penny as she holds onto Tony's side smiling happily. Danny hangs back, remaining stagnant and stoic.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...like me.

A beat. Danny reluctantly follows the crowd's footsteps in the sand, stomping almost. His head points to the ground and his hands are buried in his pockets.

A crow is heard, not too far up in the sky. Danny looks up at it. From the crow's POV: A panoramic view of the distance between Danny and the crowd up ahead. The boys and everyone else appear to take to Tony well. They appear polite, curious, and extremely friendly -- laughing and making jokes.

CLOSE ON Danny as watches the crow continuing to fly above the scene.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARTERS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

All of the Carters' family and friends are there celebrating Michael's life in a lively atmosphere. It is mostly the same people from the night he died.

DANNY (V.O.)
 Some might consider having a party after scattering a loved ones ashes is unholy, or something. I'd say they'd better shut up and mind their own business.

All of the adults are downstairs drinking Pacificos with lime, laughing and having a good time reminiscing about Michael and listening to his favorite music: The Rolling Stones, Roy Orbison, Eric Clapton, etc.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 This is how my Dad would've wanted it. No sulking allowed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The kids are all upstairs in the boys' loft bedroom playing Loteria, having just as good a time with their bottles of Manzanita and Fanta soda and bags of Sabritas chips crowded around them.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Although, there is plenty of
 sulking later. This isn't the
 fucking Brady Bunch.

Danny is downstairs circling the living room with all the adults. Most are too wrapped up in their own animated conversations to notice him shyly walking by. A select few do greet him, not sad, but happy to have this time to celebrate Michael's life. He reaches the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Danny enters just as Penny's laughter explodes. She is sitting on the island in the center on the kitchen laughing with friends and family. Danny makes his way over to her, no longer shy but smiling and vibrant.

DANNY
 Mom!

Penny turns her head to him as she continues to laugh with the others.

PENNY
 Bob-o!

Penny reaches for Danny and he jumps up onto the island next to her. She wraps her arm around his back still holding her Pacifico. Penny's friend SANDY, one of the women who had carried Michael's body out of his room the night he died, turns to Danny.

SANDY
 (tipsy, animated)
 Danny, why do you always let her
 call you Bob-o?

DANNY
 Cuz it's my middle name.

PENNY
 Because it's his middle name.

Penny and Danny smile at each other. Beat. Sandy leans close into Danny's face, balancing herself with her hand on the edge of the island. She reaches up to his shoulder with her other hand.

SANDY (CONT'D)
 Okay, Danny Bob-o!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sandy laughs drunkenly. Danny smiles. She drags her hand off of his shoulder, pats him on the cheek, and turns away. Danny turns to Penny, waving his hand in front of his nose, telling her that Sandy's breath stinks. They both laugh.

DANNY
(laughter winding down)
Mom?

PENNY
(smiling happily)
Yes, ninito.

She takes a swig of her beer.

DANNY
(curious)
'member at the beach, when you were scattering Dad?

PENNY
(playfully)
Do I "'member"? Yes. Actually, I "'member" it quite well.

Danny smiles at Penny and gently nudges her shoulder with his. Penny then does the same.

DANNY
Seriously, though.

Penny continues to playfully mock him imitating his attempt at a serious look.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Did you see that crow that was sorta watching us?

Penny drops out of her silly face. She nods.

PENNY
(tender, self assured)
That was your Dad.

Danny looks at her strangely.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(surprised)
Shut up! I never told you about the crow story?

Danny shakes his head.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Yes I did.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

Well, I don't 'member.

PENNY

Whenever someone in the family close to us passes on, there's always a crow trailing behind. For your auntie and I, it was your Abuela and Jesusita. That crow for you is your Dad, protecting you.

Danny looks both amazed and comforted.

DANNY

(barely audible)

Oh.

PENNY

And he'll always be there for you, just like before.

A beat. She looks at him as looks down at the floor.

DANNY (V.O.)

Just like before.

Penny sees Tony coming down the stairs, Pacifico in hand. She greets him with the same happy tone as when she noticed Danny coming into the kitchen.

PENNY

(with an Italian accent)

Antonio!

Danny looks up to see what got her so excited and distracted from him. He hates seeing that it's Tony.

INT. END OF STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Just as Tony reaches the last step, Penny hugs him and hangs off of his shoulders like a little girl. Tony hugs her back with a strong grip. Penny shrieks loudly although no one else pays attention.

They make their way back to the kitchen island.

INT. CARTERS' HOUSE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Penny and Tony's eyes are fixed on each other romantically as Penny playfully slaps Tony's chest.

Danny jumps off the island and runs upstairs, bypassing them. Penny sighs. Tony looks up the staircase with indifference as Penny turns away to follow Danny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tony grabs her by the arm and returns her to his arms while shaking his head for her not to follow Danny.

TONY
(reassuring her)
He'll be fine on his own. C'mon.

Tony continues to try to get Penny to walk away with him, though Penny continues to repeatedly glance upstairs.

TONY (CONT'D)
(convincingly, assure)
It's just going to take a little
while for him to warm up to me,
that's all.

PENNY
I hope so.

Penny looks back at Tony and hugs him warmly as they walk away in sync.

DANNY (V.O.)
Once Tony rode in on his high
horse, Mom started to make trips up
to the States more often.
(sarcastically)
Yippee.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Penny stands by the side white rod iron door with two of her suitcases by her side. She is wearing a cheap thin sundress, Sandy holds the door open for her.

Penny calls the boys.

PENNY
(yelling)
Okay, boys! Be good for Sandy, I'm
leaving!

The boys can be heard dropping whatever they are doing and running down the stairs.

Danny is the first to get to Penny.

DANNY
(whining, upset)
Stay here with me - I mean us. You
just saw Tony a week ago. Why do
you have to go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Penny looks Danny right in the face.

PENNY

Because I want to go. Plus, I've missed the States. Maybe I'll take you with me one of these days, huh?

DANNY

(pouting, giving in)
Okay.

Garret and Damon make their way into the kitchen. Penny turns to Sandy.

PENNY

Thanks for baby-sitting them again, Sandy. I really appreciate it.

Sandy appears to have a hangover. Her eyes are squinting, her hair is all disheveled, and she is balancing herself on the doorknob.

SANDY

(groggy)
Yeah, no problem.

Penny looks at her curiously for a beat. She turns to Garret and Damon.

PENNY

You'll make sure Danny takes his pills?

SANDY

Pills. Pills are great...

PENNY

The pills for his epilepsy. You'll remember?

Sandy nods.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Good.

DANNY

I can remember myself you know.

PENNY

I know.
(to Garret and Damon)
Be good! I love you!

GARRET/DAMON

Bye. Love you too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

They both give Penny a kiss.

PENNY
How 'bout I bring you guys
something nice back? A souvenir.

DAMON/GARRET/DANNY
Yeah!

DAMON
(excited)
I want this handheld video game
thing. They show it on t.v. all the
time.

DANNY
Me too!

PENNY
All righty. Garret?

GARRET
(sweet)
I don't care. Surprise me.

PENNY
Done.

Penny picks up her suitcases.

PENNY (CONT'D)
All right, give me another kiss
goodbye.

They all give her a kiss on the cheek. Penny exits the side door and the boys and Sandy watch her from the side door doorway.

Penny waves at them lifting her suitcases in the air. Behind her sits their old dusty sienna brown Jeep Cherokee parked on the dry dirt lot around their house.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Bye!

EXT. SIDE DOOR DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

Danny and the rest of the boys wave back at Penny from the side door leading into the kitchen. Danny is the most enthusiastic.

EXT. DIRT DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

"I love you, Mom! - Love, Bob-o" is written on the left side window. Penny goes around the right side to put her suitcases in the car not noticing the message.

EXT. SIDE DOOR DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

While Sandy distorts her face further as she tries to make out the words on the car window, Garret and Damon whisper and laugh with each other making silly faces behind Danny back.

Danny gleefully covers his mouth as he smiles, waiting for Penny's surprise over the car window message.

EXT. DIRT DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Penny closes the door and waves at the boys once more as she makes her way to the other side of the car where the message is written. She stops and reads the message then looks back at Danny smiling.

PENNY
(yelling at Danny)
I love you, too, Bob-o!

She throws Danny a kiss and makes her way into the driver's seat.

EXT. SIDE DOOR DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE on Danny giving Penny a warm smile.

EXT. DIRT DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Penny starts the car up and pulls out of the dirt driveway and onto the dirt road in front of their house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny runs to the front window to watch Penny as she drives off. Penny honks twice - BEEP, BEEP - and waves to them. Danny promptly and enthusiastically waves back, watching the cloud of dust rise from behind the Jeep as Penny drives on and puts her arm back into the car.

Danny looks sad and lonely as he continues to gaze out the window even though Penny is out of sight.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARTERS' HOUSE - STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Sandy is on the phone with Penny. She twirls the telephone cord around her index finger continually looking up at the boys' loft to see what all the noise is that they are making.

INT. BOYS' LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Garret and Damon are groaning at each other as they roughhouse on the floor.

OVERHEAD VIEW of Danny laying on his bed on his back appearing detached, pensive, and lonesome. Move in CLOSE on Danny.

GARRET (O.S.)

(pinning Damon down to the floor)
What's the magic word, boy? Huh?
What is it?

DAMON (O.S.)
(unrelenting, gasping)
Screw you!

Danny turns his back to Damon and Garret.

DAMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Oooowwwwwww!

INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sandy looks back down from the boys' room a bit disturbed by the noise.

SANDY
Yeah, they're doing all right. How 'bout you? Enjoying your stay?

INT. TONY'S HOUSE - MASTER BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Penny sits on the counter by the sink fixing Tony's tie. Tony looks into the full length mirror examining the results of her efforts. He appears pleased.

The bathroom is spotless. Everything is a glowing white, very plain and ordinary although obviously expensive. The sinks are stainless steel and the white marble counter is reflecting the lights overhead.

Penny wears Tony's thick white robe with his initials embroidered on it: A.A.S. (Anthony Alexander Spartolli).

Penny presses the phone against her ear with her shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

Oh, yeah.

SANDY (O.S.)

I hear ya, I hear ya.

A beat.

INT. CARTERS' STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SANDY

So when will you be getting back?

Sandy's POV: Danny approaches the railing upstairs.

Sandy gives Danny a quick small smile before turning away as Penny laughs loudly at Sandy's question.

PENNY (O.S.)

(laughing)

A little eager to get away from my kids, there, Sandy?

INT. TONY'S MASTER BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tony is pulling away from nuzzling on Penny's neck.

SANDY (O.S.)

No, no, no. That's not it at all, Penny. I just -

PENNY

I know, don't worry about it. They've been a handful lately.

INT. CARTERS' STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny calls out to Sandy anxiously from the railing on the second story.

DANNY

(excited)

Is that my Mom?

Sandy looks over at Danny as he makes his way down the stairs suddenly glowing with glee.

PENNY (O.S.)

(quick)

I gotta go. Tell the boys I say hello and I'll be there tomorrow, Okay?

SANDY

Okay, see you then. Bye.

INT. TONY'S MASTER BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

PENNY

Bye.

Penny hangs up the portable phone and lets it fall to the floor as Tony continues to and kiss her. She tilts her head back and smiles.

TONY

You better be enjoying yourself,
baby.

Penny giggles as Tony keeps kissing her.

INT. CARTERS' STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sandy hangs up the phone just as Danny arrives at the storage room doorway.

DANNY

(upset)
Was that Mom?

SANDY

Yeah, Danny, but she had to go.

Danny walks back upstairs clearly disappointed.

SANDY (CONT'D)

(trying to comfort him)
She's coming back tomorrow, though.
You'll get to see her then.

Danny continues to walk upstairs dragging his feet as if he couldn't walk another step.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Sandy stands waiting behind Garret, Damon, and Danny for Penny to get off of her plane. They are all wearing flip-flops, swimming clothes, long shirts and tank tops.

Danny fidgets in anticipation and excitement as he and Sandy peer at the other passengers getting off the airplane looking for Penny. Sandy has her hands on Danny's shoulders trying to calm him down as she rubs his arms.

Garret and Damon are looking around at other people in the airport jokingly imitating them and laughing with each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SANDY
(chit-chatty)
So you guys excited about
Thanksgiving?

Just then, Danny runs up to Penny who is in complete L.A. attire, a major metamorphosis from when they last saw her. Compared to them she looks like a rich t.v. star.

Penny, with a whole new demeanor, lets go of Danny and leads him back to Sandy and the rest of the boys. They all smile at her, impressed and stupefied.

SANDY (CONT'D)
Look at you! My God, Penny.

Penny puts her suitcases down. She twirls around giving everyone the full view as she pulls her newly cut, dyed, and styled tresses away from her painted lips.

Garret looks her up and down.

GARRET
Wow!

DAMON
(playful)
Yeah, yeah, yeah, you look great.
Now, where's my video game, woman?

Penny stops showing of her new look.

PENNY
(slightly amused, caught
up in herself)
Hold on. They're coming.

Penny turns around and out of the crowd of flight passengers emerges Tony brandishing his high priced suitcases and clothes. He smiles widely from underneath his combed mustache. Penny hugs him zealously.

Danny's face drops in disappointment.

TONY
(smiling)
So how you guys doin', huh?

Tony ruffles up Danny's hair.

DAMON/GARRET
We're good.

Danny is now beyond disappointment. He's jealous and angry at Tony and not afraid to show it.

INT. CARTERS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Danny hugs Penny warmly. Sandy sits watching. Garret and Damon whisper excitedly to each other about something. Damon motions to Garret to hold on. He crosses his fingers.

DAMON
(excited, to Penny)
So, did you get me the handheld
video game I told you about?

PENNY
God! No "How was your trip, Mom. We
really missed you."? No "Welcome
home, bitch."?

They all laugh. Damon then gets serious.

DAMON
(waiting for a response)
Well...

PENNY
(feigns shame)
I didn't get you guys anything.

Damon's face drops. Tony comes out of the bathroom.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(excited)
But Tony did!

Damon perks up, his eyes wide and alive.

DAMON
Yes!

PENNY
(to Tony)
Go get them their presents, honey.

TONY
Coming right up!

Tony goes to Penny's bedroom for the souvenirs. Danny sits up and looks at Penny.

DANNY
(flabbergasted)
He's staying in Dad's room?

PENNY
Yes. He is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SANDY

It's your Mom's room, too Danny.

Danny remains disapproving and frustrated.

Tony walks in with a large Toys-R-Us bag. Danny moves down toward Garret as Tony nears him and Penny.

Tony sits down on the arm of the couch right next to Penny. He reaches into the bag. Damon sits down on the floor at Tony's feet, waiting for his gift. Garret rushes down on the floor beside him. The bottoms of both their feet are darkened and dirty.

TONY

(to Damon, like Santa
Claus)

I guess it's no surprise what
you're getting, so...

Tony pulls out Damon's top of the line portable handheld video game. Damon's eyes light up and he takes the box in his hands, opening it right away.

DAMON

It comes with two games, too?!

Everyone is smiling except Danny. Garret fingers at the game.

GARRET

Cool! Let me play with it.

Damon pulls it away from Garret.

DAMON

No!

PENNY

(to Damon)
What do you say?

DAMON

Thank you!

Tony turns to Danny. He takes the bag behind his back and pulls the same handheld video game out of the bag like some cheap magic trick.

TONY

There ya go. It has a connector
cord so you and Damon can play
together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAMON
(disappointed)
Aw, man.

Danny looks at the unopened box uninterested and unimpressed. He doesn't even care to Peel back the plastic covering.

DANNY
(insincere)
Wow. Thank you.

Penny's smile fades.

PENNY
(confused)
Well, isn't that what you wanted
him to get you?

DANNY
(puts the box down)
Yeah. Thank you, Tony. I really
like it.
(beat)
I'll be right back.

Danny runs upstairs. Everyone is baffled by his display.

A loud crash is heard coming from upstairs. Everyone downstairs twitches slightly and looks up at the ceiling.

INT. BOYS' LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Danny lays on his bed hugging and crying into his pillow.

CLOSE on a beautiful framed picture of the boys and Michael smiling and having a good time when they were younger. It has been thrown on the floor. Its glass is spider-webbed, and the photograph inside it is tilted and off center.

PENNY (O.S.)
(yelling)
Danny! Danny!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Penny stands at the stove with her oven mittens on and a wooden spoon in hand. She is preparing Thanksgiving dinner.

PENNY
(same tone)
Danny! Danny, come help me. Boys,
get down here, Thanksgiving
dinner's ready!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny comes down the stairs.

Penny hands a large bowl of mashed potatoes with a large pat of butter melting in the center to Danny. He walks it over to the dining room table.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny places the bowl of mashed potatoes between the glistening perfectly browned turkey and the golden yams smothered with tiny marshmallows, butter, and brown sugar.

The table is impeccable. Everything matches. Suddenly, the Carter household has been transformed into some ritzy dining area, a far cry from the simple style of living they previously enjoyed.

INT. DINING ROOM - SUNSET

Everyone is taking their last bites of Thanksgiving dinner. The platters and bowls are half full now. The table doesn't appear as nice as they did when it was first set. The turkey is carved in every section, the yams and mashed potatoes have been scooped of their perfection.

Tony and Danny sit at opposite ends of the table.

DANNY

(polite, kind,
enthusiastic)

That was really good, Mom. The best yet.

TONY

(lounging in his chair)

Yeah, Penny, that was fantastic.

Danny smirks at Tony. He beat him to the punch. He complemented Penny first.

GARRET/DAMON

(full)

Yeah, Mom. Thank you.

PENNY

You're all very welcome. Anything I can do to make my little men happy.

The boys smile while Tony continues to lounge.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Oh, God, these dishes are going to take forever.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tony lifts himself up and sits up straight as Penny looks at her workload.

TONY
(looking out the window)
I have an idea.

They all look at Tony. Danny rolls his eyes.

TONY (CONT'D)
Let's walk down to the beach.

The boys don't think it's such a hot idea. They look at each other uninterested and full from dinner. Penny looks at the boys and back at Tony, who is waiting for a response.

PENNY
(keen for the idea,
looking at the boys with
insistent eyes)
Sure. We haven't walked down to la
playa in a while, boys.

TONY
(pleased)
Good. Let's go.

Tony and Penny push themselves out of their chairs.

PENNY
Danny will get Tony's camera out of
my suitcase, please?

All of them get up from the table with their plates. Danny's a bit slower than the rest of them as he rolls his eyes once more and sighs at the idea of spending more time with Tony.

EXT. DIRT ROAD BEACH PATH - EVENING

Moments later.

The beach can be seen in the distance. Cacti line the path they walk along. A crow is perched on one of the cacti. It crows twice.

Danny, with the expensive camera around his neck, looks up at it and smiles as it flies away. Danny appears to be deviating from the rest of his family and Tony. Damon plays with his new video game, the volume all the way up, while Danny has let Garret play with his video game with Damon. Danny looks up at the crow. It appears to be circling around them in the sky. He looks at it curiously.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY
 (hugging Tony, nervous)
 Tony has some good news to tell you
 guys.

Tony looks at Penny cutely.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (laughing)
 Okay, I guess I have some good news
 to tell you.

Danny turns to her. Damon and Garret continue to walk and play with the video games. Damon turns the volume down on his video game although it is still audible.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 When I was in L.A. last week, I ran
 into an old friend of mine and your
 Dad's.

TONY
 (chipper)
 Bill. Do you boys remember him?

A beat. Garret and Damon are paying little attention while Danny makes no response to Tony as he walks in front of him.

PENNY
 Well, I told him about your Dad and
 he gave me his condolences, and
 everything.

DANNY (V.O.)
 Uh-oh.

They all reach the beach and sit down. Danny picks up a piece of driftwood and draws circles in the sand.

PENNY
 Well, I guess he's starting this
 new, privately owned company out of
 his house in Santa Barbara and...

DANNY (V.O.)
 Oh, Lord, here it comes! The plot
 twist in my little saga.

A beat. Tony and Penny smile and look at each other.

PENNY
 (unable to contain her
 elation)
 He offered me a job! International
 Projects Manager!
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PENNY (CONT'D)

Great title, huh?! And we're moving
back to California.

Danny stabs his piece of driftwood into the circle he was drawing. Garret and Damon are astounded but play it off as though they are as happy as Penny is about the news.

Danny is openly and noticeably stunned. His eyes widen, his mouth drops open.

PENNY (CONT'D)

I'll be in Santa Barbara three days
out of the week, but you'll see me
plenty.

TONY

Plenty.

PENNY

Your sister and Mark have been
looking for a place to stay in
L.A., so you'll be staying with
them there. We've found the nicest
little house for you guys.

A beat. Garret and Damon are still smiling. Danny remains stunned.

TONY

(to Danny, excited)

Let me take a picture of you guys.
So you can never forget this
moment.

Tony takes the camera off of Danny's statue of a body. The boys huddle around Penny, who is smiling ecstatically. Damon and Garret are still faking their glee. Danny doesn't even try.

TONY (CONT'D)

Smile!

CLICK! Tony takes the picture.

DANNY (V.O.)

I can't watch this part.

DISSOLVER TO:

INT. BOYS' NEW HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

SUPER: Santa Monica, California

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE on the picture of Penny and the boys taken on the beach. It is stuck on the refrigerator door with a children's letter magnet.

PULL OUT from the picture.

Kyle's toys are scattered along the kitchen floor in a puddles of water. a pile of dishes sit in the sink, a full trash bag lay on top of an already overflowing trash can.

PAN into the adjacent living and dining room area.

INT. LIVING ROOM AND DINING ROOM AREA - CONTINUOUS

The house is in complete disarray and chaos.

Kyle, the boys' nephew, now 3 years-old and sporting a "bowl" haircut, runs away leaving muddy footprints on the carpet floor as he screeches away into the coat closet and slams a door.

Claire, the boys' older sister, chases after Kyle yelling and cussing at Kyle's behavior.

She wears glasses, and her beautiful, wavy, brown hair is always up. A gap in her two front teeth only adds to her imperfect sense of beauty. Her stretched pink lips move all around her face when she get herself excited.

Mark, her husband, who looked so strong and vital the year before in Mexico, is now ill. He has the bald head of a chemo patient, and he is on the couch, dozing off in front of the loud television, groaning at the noise being made.

Claire's beauty is lost in her role as the stressed out young mother-with-ailing-husband.

CLAIRE

God dammit, Kyle! What the hell did I tell you about playing in the mud!

DANNY (V.O.)

Remember my sister, Claire? She's the one chasing after my wonderful nephew, Kyle. He's Satan. Okay, I'm kidding. And that's Mark nodding off from all the Percodan. Yeah. Just my luck. The new father figure I get after my father dies of cancer... has cancer. It's of the lungs. Classic, huh? He doesn't like to talk about it, though.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAIRE
(angry, frustrated)
Kyle, get over here!

DANNY (V.O.)
Neither does Claire.

The t.v. is on high volume on some explicit daytime talk show. Mark's head falls off his fist where he rests it. He's a bit heavy, still trying to fit into his old t-shirts. He still looks pretty strong considering his condition.

INT. DANNY AND DAMON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny lays on his back on his unmade twin bed.

Damon is in the adjacent bathroom connecting their room to Garret's room. Both of the beds in the room are unmade, paint is chipping off of the walls, the door is off its hinges and leaning up against the closet. The sink is running as the radio plays in the bathroom.

Danny has his eyes closed as he clenches onto his bed sheets tearing the small hole in the sheet even wider. He's trying to stay as calm as possible and repress his rage as he is surrounded by the disaster that he's living in.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(aloud to himself)
What the hell happened?

Damon comes out of the bathroom in his towel.

DAMON
(mocking him)
What the hell happened?

Danny turns toward the wall and rolls into the fetal position. Damon laughs.

DANNY
(clenching his teeth)
Leave me alone.

DAMON
(brushing his teeth,
mocking him once more)
Leave me alone.

Damon laughs. Danny pounds the wall with his fist, gets up from his bed and exits as Damon continues to laugh.

INT. SANTA MONICA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny walks into the living room and stands next to the t.v. to get Mark's attention.

Mark, with his head tilted back, opens his eyes and looks up at him as he lay his arm around Kyle, now calm and quiet moving his lips to "Barney & Friends" and its signature "I love you, you love me..." song.

Kyle wears only a "Barney & Friends" Pull-Up and Tommy Hilfiger socks.

DANNY
(insistent)
You have got to get me out of here.
Please.

Mark looks at Danny. He can tell he's serious.

INT. MARK AND CLAIRE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

The car is immaculate. You can tell that Mark prides himself on its cleanliness. He wipes the dashboard of non-existent dust and turns the windshield wipers and soap on. A green pine air freshener hangs from the rear view mirror.

DANNY (V.O.)
Mark was so cool. He was just like my father and this time around I could appreciate him. They really were a lot alike. They both loved their kids and they were both extremely funny. Michael Carter incarnate. Enjoy it while you can, kids!

MARK
(calm, patient)
So, what's up?

Mark turns off the windshield wipers. Danny clutches his seat back and sighs.

DANNY
(closing his eyes)
Everything.

MARK
What do you mean, "Everything?" You always say that.

Danny opens his eyes slowly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I know. It's just that everything's wrong.

They reach a stop sign and Mark turns his head to Danny.

MARK

(rubbing his bald head)
Hey, you're not the one who's dying, chief.

Mark puts his hands on the steering wheel and accelerates.

DANNY

I know. I'm sorry.
(beat)
Do you ever miss living in Palm Desert? You now, not having to live with so much commotion.

MARK

Why? Are you missing Mexico again?

DANNY

Yeah. Plus - well, you know what it's like to live in that house. It's so different from when we lived in Mexico. So much louder and cluttered and stuff. And Mom's hardly ever around.

(with growing resentment)
She's up in Santa Barbara with her stupid International Projects job or whatever the hell she does up there.

MARK

You just need to have a talk with her when she comes down this weekend. And quit writing her those stupid ten-page "notes." She doesn't read them.

Danny appears offended but understands where Mark's going.

DANNY

All right. If she even comes this week.

Danny rolls down his window and gazes outside.

EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

A crow flies above their car as they make their way through traffic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(sarcastic)
You always know what to say.

They both laugh.

MARK
(sings discordantly)
*I love you/You love me/We're a
happy fa-mi-ly...*

They continue laughing as the car and crowd continue down the street. The car swerves in and out of the lane.

INT. CLAIRE AND MARK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Penny is dressed very office chic like. She still carries her purse. She is hurried and obviously not planning to stay very long. Danny tries to get her attention.

The room is littered with Kyle's toys and the playpen serving as his bed.

PENNY
(exaggerative, disgusted)
This place is a pigsty! What a mess. Doesn't your sister ever clean?

Penny isn't really interested in an answer. She delicately kicks a toy out of her way with her expensive high heels.

Danny is already seated on the bed. He faces forward for a second, his back to Penny, until she starts to complain.

PENNY (CONT'D)
What the hell is this? Gum?

He twists his body around to see what she's talking about. Penny is squeamishly trying to peel on the gum. Danny approaches her looking at the bottom of her shoe.

DANNY
(tired, emotionless)
It's a decapitated fruit snack,
Mom.

Danny peels it off of her shoe with no fuss. Penny balances herself on the wall, disgusted by that now. Her french tip nails are kept up away from the wall. Danny walks back to the bed throwing the fruit snack in the trash on his way. Penny checks to see if her shoe is clean and makes her way over to Danny. She warns him before she sits down beside him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

All right, Danny, I know how you can be, so make it quick. I'm in a hurry.

Danny takes a deep breath. Penny sits down and crosses her legs. She's still looking around at anything else that seems unkempt.

DANNY

(low)
Okay.

A beat.

PENNY

(impatient)
What is it Danny? Spit it out. I'm gonna be late. I've got to meet Tony and three of his clients for a drink in an hour and I still have to shower and get ready. Look at me, I'm a mess.

Contrary to Penny's comment, she looks perfect. Danny takes another deep breath at the thought of his mother leaving him to meet Tony's desires.

DANNY

(angry giggle, looking straight forward)
You see? That's it. That's what I want to talk to you about. That's what I've tried to talk to you about for months now.

PENNY

(frustrated)
What? What is it?

DANNY

(clenching his teeth)
Would you just wait a second, please?

Penny's eyes widen. She looks Danny right in the eyes.

PENNY

(serious)
Oh, don't you even think about talking to me like that.

Danny turns his head away from her in shame.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

(low)
I'm sorry.

Penny scoots back on the bed and gets comfortable.

PENNY

You better be.

DANNY

It's just that...
(rest his face in his
hands)
God.

Penny tips her head back.

PENNY

(frustrated)
For Christ's sake, Danny!

He takes another deep breath and takes his hands off of his face. His eyes are glossed over. He's been crying, though Penny hasn't noticed at all.

DANNY

(crying, angry)
Would you just wait a second?!

Penny is silenced at the sight of her weeping son.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm so pissed off right now, you
know -- and you just couldn't give
a damn!

Penny has no idea what he's talking about, but makes an attempt to understand anyway.

PENNY

Is that what this is about? You
think I don't give a damn?

Danny clenches his fists in front of him as if he's about to punch someone.

DANNY

No! It's about everything.

Penny is still unsure and confused as to what her son's talking about.

PENNY

Everything...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANNY

(continues to cry, angry)
Yes, mother, everything. The fact that I don't see you for weeks on end. You're never even around for me to say "hello" when I come back from school. And even when you are here, you always spend all your time with Tony.

PENNY

(defensive)
We always invite you guys out with us when we go out for dinner on the weekend.

DANNY

You're not getting it. That's my point. You're only in town every other weekend, when it's convenient for you. When was the last time you came over here? Do you remember?

Danny wipes his face. He stops crying.

PENNY

(defensive still)
The reason I don't want to come over here is because it's such a--

DANNY

(interrupts)
It was the day you came back from Las Vegas, after your little elopement with Tony. That was months ago.

PENNY

Do you even know what I'm doing up in Santa Barbara? I'm working, making sure we're not poor like we were in Todos Santos!

DANNY

(defensive, insisting)
Why does everything have to be about money with you? We weren't poor. We were happy.

PENNY

Maybe, Danny but we were poor.

Danny gives up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DANNY
 (whispering to himself, in
 disbelief)
 "Maybe?"

Penny didn't hear him. She composes herself.

PENNY
 And like I said Danny, I gave you
 the opportunity to see us countless
 times.

DANNY
 (tears up, voice rattling)
 I don't want to see "us" I want to
 see you. I swear to God, Mom, I
 think I'm starting to hate you.

Penny begins to cry as well. So they are both crying, but the
 usual forgiving embracing is absent.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 I thought you said you were only
 going to have to be up there three
 days a week. Why do you have to
 keep lying to us?

She is offended, hurt, and belittled all at once from the one
 boy that she could count on for everything. She reaches for
 Danny's shoulders. Finally, they both hug with a strong sense
 of love and anger intertwined.

PENNY
 I would never lie to you or any of
 your brothers, ever! You hear me?

Penny lets go of Danny and looks him dead in the eyes.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 Do you hear me?

DANNY
 Yes.

Penny rubs the back of Danny's head affectionately.

PENNY
 I love you, Bob-o. I do.

Penny hugs Danny once more.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 I'm just... I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Claire walks into the doorway with Kyle pitter-pattering not too far behind her calling for her. He is silenced as soon as he reaches his mother and sees Danny and Penny.

CLAIRE
(concerned)
You guys all right in here?

Danny and Penny let go of one another, sniffing and wiping their noses and under their eyes. Penny smiles and turns to Claire and Kyle. She nods.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Okay. Well, Mark's back from his check-up so we're ready to go.

PENNY
Okay, we'll be right out.

Claire pats Kyle on his head and turns him around. They both walk out of the doorway and through the kitchen. Penny looks back at Danny and she pats his thigh.

PENNY (CONT'D)
I guess we'd better go then.

DANNY
(nods with a smile)
Yeah.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

The whole family spills out of the back door to get in the cars. Claire and Mark's car is parked outside next to Penny's new Mercedes.

Penny walks out with Danny. Mark walks out with Kyle on his shoulders and Claire nervously watching to make sure Kyle doesn't fall.

PENNY
Okay, let's hit it boys. Universal City Walk here we come!

Garret runs over to Mark and Claire's car.

GARETT
Shotgun!

DAMON
You always get shot gun. I want to sit up front this time.
(turns to Claire)
Would you please make him, Mom-- I mean, Claire?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny looks at Penny to see if she notices the verbal slip. She does.

CLAIRE
Would you just be nice to your
brother. Please.

Penny remains struck by the role reversal she's witnessing.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
And I get shotgun.

Damon and Garret slouch in disappointment. Penny turns away.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Mom, you ready?

Penny gets into her car, trying to be lively and excited.

PENNY
Yeah, I'm great.
(to the boys)
And the City Walk is going to be
great!

EXT. UNIVERSAL CITY WALK CAFE - LATE AFTERNOON

Penny and Claire sit at a small table on the balcony of the Hollywood Athletic Club restaurant sipping on their respective drinks. The table is littered with the boys' finished plates and drinks.

They are both looking down at Garret Damon, Mark, and Kyle.

Their POV: All the boys are playing happily and actively in the WATER JETS coming up from the ground. Kyle waves at the two of them.

KYLE
(yelling)
Hi Mommy!

Penny and Claire wave back.

PENNY
He's going to slip and hurt himself
down there.

CLAIRE
(casual)
Oh, Mom, relax. He'll be fine.
Mark's with him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They look over at them again and Kyle slips as he slides on his shoes. Claire jerks up, scared. She scoots her chair out halfway as her eyes remain fixed on Kyle.

It's straining for him, but Mark, who is right behind him, stands him up and examines his body. He's fine. Mark waves at Claire to assure her he's not hurt. Kyle starts playing around in the water right away.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 (sighing, joking)
 I swear, that boy has so many
 bruises all over him already. Child
 Protective Services is going to
 come and snatch him right away from
 me, you watch.

Penny lets out a slight giggle, but doesn't respond to her comment. Instead, she's looking affectionately out at her own boys as they play with Kyle.

Penny POV: Danny, Damon, and Garret happily play with Kyle as they slide through the water jets together, not minding the fact that they are soaked.

Claire tries to get her mothers attention.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 Mom. Mom? Maaahahm!

Penny snaps out of it and turns her attention to Claire.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 (concerned)
 You all right, there?

PENNY
 (mild)
 Yeah, I'm fine. I'm fine.

Claire looks at her curiously for a second. She notices a new bracelet on Penny.

CLAIRE
 (concealing her jealousy)
 Is that new?

Penny shows it off, jiggling her wrist.

PENNY
 (nods, proud)
 Do you like it?

Claire fingers at all of the jewelry on Penny's hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLAIRE
Yeah, it's nice.

Claire takes her hand away quickly. Penny doesn't mind.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
(composed, mature)
I wanted to talk to you about
something.

Penny jiggles her bracelets back and takes a sip from her drink.

PENNY
Sure. What about?

CLAIRE
(sadly)
It's about Mark.

Penny is struck off-guard. She looks at Claire highly concerned and worried. She looks down at Mark.

Penny's POV: Mark is kneeled down out of the water now. Kyle runs from behind him smiling and laughing and launches onto his back for a piggyback ride. Mark can't carry him. Smiling through the pain, he sets Kyle down, stands him in front of him, and kisses him sweetly.

CLAIRE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You know he's been going through
chemo, and he hasn't really taken
to it as well as Dad did.

Claire's voice begins to rattle. She giggles nervously.

CLAIRE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Did you know we were all making
bets on whether or not he'd lose
his hair?

A beat. CLOSE ON Claire.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
(grins plaintively)
I lost.

Claire begins sniffing now and breathing heavily.

Penny grasps Claire's hands and looks attentively into her eyes. Claire looks almost hysterical as she shakes her head to and fro, but she swallows it with deep breaths and tries unsuccessfully to smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Penny is deeply affected by her daughter's grief and fear. She tries to stay there, in the moment with Claire, but there is also a far-away look in her eyes. It can't help but take her back to when Michael was dying.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
(chest heaving, chin
jittering)

We've tried to explain it to Kyle but he's just too young to understand. I don't even think he's noticed how weak his daddy has gotten. I mean look at him.

Claire and Penny's POV: The still burly and brawny Mark is sitting down, slouched and exhausted on a bench. Kyle is running toward him for a bear hug. Before Mark can sit up and prepare himself for the collision Kyle has already plowed into him.

Claire looks away and cringes. Penny cups Claire's hands more firmly. Claire raises her head. Her mascara is running and her full lips drape across her face.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
They say he's only got three months, Mom. Three months! Don't you think they could've told us a little more in advance? Christ.

PENNY
They said that to your Dad too, remember? He managed to live five more years.

CLAIRE
I know, I know...

Claire looks down at the table blankly, nodding. She appears slightly reassured. Penny reaches out for her again.

PENNY
C'mere. It's going to be all right.

Claire scoots out of her chair and into the one next to Penny. She falls into her mother's arms weeping. Penny strokes her full wavy hair like a baby.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: One week later

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A U-Haul truck and a U-Haul trailer attached to Claire and Mark's car are parked in the driveway.

We hear an assortment of noises. Newspaper CRUMPLING, pans CLAPPING, and Kyle RUNNING.

DANNY (V.O.)

So we moved again. Believe me, it was a hoot. This time we were off to Santa Barbara, closer to Mom and her work. Claire, Mark, and Kyle would move back to Palm Desert, where they lived before.

(sings)

*I'm a tra-va-lin' a' man/makin'
lotsa stops/all over the world...*

INT. SANTA MONICA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The house is empty with the exception of some furniture and a couple of boxes.

The Carter boys and the Mark and Claire are packing up. Damon and Garret are taking care of their own rooms. Mark is packing in the living room with Claire not too far away.

Danny is finished and stands hugging the frame of his bedroom doorway looking out at the motion going on in the living room. He's got a blank look on his face.

DANNY (V.O.)

I was going to miss Mark, Claire, and Kyle. Apparently the hospitals are better there in the desert. Whatever. I mean, what were they going to do, carry around fluids in canteens? Lord.

Mark tapes up a large box sitting beside an empty bookcase. An expensive pocket knife hangs from Mark's belt loop. Kyle is running around looking to see whom he can help out.

KYLE

(gleeful)

You need help, Daddy.

Mark is squatted getting ready to pick the box up.

MARK

No thanks, buddy. I got it.

Mark ruffles up Kyle's hair, smiling and touched. Kyle runs on to the next packer: Claire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mark watches him sensitively for a beat until he returns to the box sitting in front of him. He attempts to pick it up and he does, but he quickly drops it. He sighs, shakes his head and plops himself on the ground.

MARK (CONT'D)
(frustrated and depressed)
Shit.

Claire and Kyle look over to Mark. Kyle is much less concerned than Claire. Her eyes widen in worry.

Danny leaves the doorway and rushes over to Mark. Claire drops what she was wrapping in newspaper and hurries over to Mark with Danny. Kyle is not too far behind her.

Mark slowly and achingly stands up before Claire or Danny can reach him.

CLAIRE
You all right?

MARK
(a bit angry)
Yes. I'm fine, Claire.

Mark nods his head. Kyle mocks Claire.

KYLE
(patting Mark's knee)
Are you all right, Daddy?

MARK
(fatherly, stroking the
back of Kyle's head)
Yeah, buddy. I'm fine.

Mark looks at Danny to reassure him. Danny still looks concerned. Mark looks back down at Kyle. Kyle hugs his Daddy's leg. Claire and Mark smile down at him.

Claire hums a giggle and looks lovingly at Mark, but Mark is too focused on his son.

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Penny starts up her U-Haul.

INT. U-HAUL - CONTINUOUS

Penny looks dolled up even for packing up a house. The steering wheel is too big for her. She looks very unqualified to drive such a large vehicle. She honks the horn twice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY
 (smiles to herself)
 Time to hit the road.

Penny giggles for a second and shakes his head.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Penny hangs out of the driver's side door looking over the roof of the U-Haul truck.

PENNY
 (peppy)
 We all set?

EXT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Everyone makes their way out of the house carrying boxes marked "Garret's Room" and "Kitchen" and such.

Damon is the first to come out. Danny carries a small box under his arm with Kyle holding his other hand. Garret and Mark walk together. Mark carries a smaller box while Claire carries the one that he was having trouble with. Mark stares at that box and the ease with which Claire is handling it as she shifts it further up her chest.

GARRET
 (to Mark)
 What's so much better about the hospitals in Palm Desert anyway, man?

MARK
 Oh, they just know me better there.

PENNY
 (pumped)
 All right. Let's hit it. Just pack in these boxes and we're set!

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Danny starts playing baseball with Kyle. He is in a daze as he turns to take one, long, last look at his latest former house.

KYLE
 (impatient)
 Throw the ball!

Danny looks back at Kyle, with a mock fatherly smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(a la "Father Knows Best")
Now, what do you say, Kyle?

KYLE
(tired of the question)
Pleeeeeease.

DANNY
(encouraging)
Good boy.

Danny tosses the ball.

Claire closes the trunk of her car and steps over the chains hanging between the car and their U-Haul trailer.

CLAIRE
C'mon, Kyle, get in your car seat.

Kyle's shoulders expressively drop in disappointment as he turns to face Claire. She is waiting for him with the car door open.

KYLE
(dropping the stick he's
using as a bat)
But, Mommy, I hate the car seat. It
hurts my neck.

He steps up to her and pulls the collar of his stained Guess t-shirt down.

KYLE (CONT'D)
See!

He has some chafing along his neck.

CLAIRE
(emotionless)
Too bad. Get in.

Claire grabs him from under the arms and plants him in the car seat, buckling him up.

KYLE
(grappling at the harness
on his neck)
Noooooo! Owey, Mommy.

Claire slams the door. Mark cares to Kyle offering him a juice cup and toys from the driver's seat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLAIRE
(to the boys)
Well, give your sister a kiss
goodbye.

Danny is the first to reach her even though Damon is closer. Damon and Garret both hang back a little, not as eager for this display of emotion.

Danny kisses Claire and hugs her.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
I'm gonna miss you little shits. Be
good for Mom, Okay?

DANNY
I will. I can't speak for these
other dorks though.

CLAIRE
Be nice.

CLOSE on Penny staring at Claire and Danny.

Claire and Danny let go of one another. Danny walks over to the other side of the car to hug Mark who is getting out of the driver's side.

Damon shuffles his feet over to Claire.

Danny approaches Mark with just the right amount of emotion for a man-to-man hug

DANNY
(cool)
I'll see ya, man.

Danny hugs Mark patting him strongly on the back.

MARK
(brotherly)
All right, chief. Take care.

DANNY
Take care.

They let go of each other. Danny pats Mark's shoulder and lets his hand fall off.

MARK
(unsure)
I will. I will.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

In a split second Mark flicks out his large, glistening pocket knife. Danny jumps back scared for a second and they both laugh it off. Mark twirls it around.

MARK (CONT'D)

Here, you can have it.

Mark closes the knife up and hands it to Danny. He takes it, looking at it intensely.

DANNY

(excited)

Really? I mean, thank you. Thank you!

MARK

(emphatic)

Just don't forget to sharpen it!

Danny nods as he holds the knife close to him. They both hug once more. Penny pulls down the back of the truck and slams it shut. She turns around and dusts her hands off.

PENNY

All righty, we're all set then.

Damon, Garret, and Danny give their final hugs to Mark, Claire, and Kyle, as does Penny when the boys are all through.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(in a hurry, motherly,
hugging Claire)

So you guys know how to get there,
right?

CLAIRE

Yeah, Mom. We've made the trip
before?

Claire and Penny let go of each other.

Penny walks back to their U-Haul and Mark and Claire pack themselves into their car.

Mark starts the car up. Garret runs to go open the gate.

Penny starts up the truck with some initial difficulty.

Danny waves to Claire, Mark, and Kyle before he walks away to the U-Haul. Mark is pulling out of the driveway. Claire waves as Mark yells out of his window to Danny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MARK

You'll remember, right? Not to forget to sharpen it!?

DANNY

(smiling, calls out)
I won't forget!
(to himself)
I promise.

INT. - U-HAUL TRUCK - HIGHWAY - DAY

Penny is bouncing up and down on the seat. She is just starting to get used to the truck. Her face tells us nothing, but we can tell she's thinking intensely.

Danny leans up against Penny's shoulder resting his eyes.

Damon plays with his video game while Garret sleeps with his head rested on Damon's shoulder. Penny looks at her boys and smiles contentedly.

Danny looks up at Penny and Penny returns the loving glance. Danny looks away and notices a small ice cooler on the floor in front of Garret.

DANNY

(pointing and looking at
the ice cooler)
Is there any food in there?

PENNY

What do you think?

Danny smiles and rolls his eyes. He then reaches for the ice cooler. After he puts it in his lap he opens it and in there he finds peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. He takes the one with his name out and takes it out of its bag. After opening the sandwich he finds two tortilla chips in the middle of it.

Penny looks at him out of the corner of her eyes. Danny looks back at her lovingly and touched. They smile at each other.

DANNY (V.O.)

Things looked good. I had my family again, that bond and love was restored. But dammit, Mark, Claire, and Kyle were gone. Oy vey. On the plus side, though, Tony would only come up to Santa Barbara from L.A. on the weekends!

Danny giggles.

EXT. PALERMO DRIVE, SANTA BARBARA - DAY

SUPER: Santa Barbara. Two hours later.

The roaring U-Haul makes its way down the road soon to be their address. CLOSE ON the street sign: PALERMO DRIVE.

PENNY (O.S.)
 Look you guys, all the streets
 around here are named after Italian
 cities.

INT. - U-HAUL - CONTINUOUS

Penny is pointing out all the different streets.

Garret is asleep with his head resting on his forearm, which is on the window. Damon is listening to his CD player.

Danny looks at where she is pointing but appears annoyed for some reason.

PENNY
 (generic Italian accent,
 romantic)
 See, look! Modena. Turino. La
 Spezia.

DANNY
 (jokingly, annoyed)
 Ever since you met Tony
 everything's about Italy and
 Italians. You're Mexican!

Penny stops talking and looks at Danny to match the comment with his face. She doesn't know what to make of the comment. Is he joking? Is he being mean? Should she defend Tony?

She ends up defending herself, joking with him.

PENNY
 I'm Italian, too! And so are you,
 so shut up.

Penny bumps Danny's shoulder and smiles at him. Danny smiles back and rests his head on her shoulder again. A beat.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (excited, happy)
 We're here! Wake up, Garret!

Garret wakes up groggy rubbing the back of his neck.

GARRET
 What? Where are we?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(making no eye contact)
Home.

DANNY(V.O.) (CONT'D)
Look at the place. It was so
conservative. So... Republican.

Penny parks the truck by the curb.

The neighbors, a retired conservative looking couple are watering their lawn as their Chihuahua barks at them. They smile and wave at their new neighbors.

Danny exits the truck with Penny while Garret and Damon stretch and yawn beside the truck.

PENNY
(friendly, pointing out
the boys)
Hi, I'm Penny and these are my sons
Danny...

Danny shakes hands with the neighbors.

The FEMALE NEIGHBOR is trying to calm down their dog, a cigarette between her fingers.

DANNY
(polite)
Hi, nice to meet you.

MALE NEIGHBOR
(Santa Claus quality in
his voice)
Hi there, nice to meetcha.

The woman has gotten hold of the dog and walks over to her husband's side with the Chihuahua in hand.

Meanwhile, Damon has made his way to the front window of the house looking into one of the master bedrooms.

Danny scoots over to shake hands with the woman. As he reaches out to shake her hand the Chihuahua yaps and growls, and attempts to bite Danny. He pulls his hand back to his chest where he cups it with the other hand.

Everyone is meeting each other except for Damon, who is still examining his new place.

The woman quickly puts her cigarette in her mouth and harnesses the dog. She taps the dog on the nose and reprimands her waving her finger in her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Once she has the dog under control, she takes her cigarette out of her mouth and takes a drag.

She speaks in a scratchy, Emphysema voice, smoke billowing out of her nose and mouth, apologetic and kind.

FEMALE NEIGHBOR

I am so sorry. She's usually quite tame.

Danny opens his mouth to say something but is quickly interrupted.

PENNY

(fake but friendly)

Oh, I wouldn't worry about it. He doesn't get along with any dogs.

Danny smiles.

Garret walks to the back of the truck and opens it to start taking things out.

As the new neighbors and Penny engage in some friendly chit-chat, Danny makes his way over to Damon to see what he's doing.

EXT. FRONT WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

DANNY (V.O.)

It was definitely different. But I guess it's what I wanted. I guess. I was with my family finally. We could share each other's time together. It seemed perfect.

Danny walks slowly and wearily, unsure what to think of his new surroundings. His eyes scan every square inch of the beautiful, lush property. It has sort of an English garden quality.

EXT. SIDE OF HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Damon is trying to jump over the side gate when Danny approaches him.

DANNY

(low, kind)

What are you doin'?

Damon's hand slip and he stops trying to climb the wooden gate. He takes a deep breath in through his teeth and jumps off of the gate. He pinches the tip of his finger and puts his finger to his eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

(angry)

Look what you made me do!

He shows Danny his wound, which beside the redness that had accumulated at the tip of his finger looked fine. He only gives Danny half a second to look before he shakes out his hand and walks away behind Danny.

Danny looks confused as to why Damon is so angry. He turns around and sees Damon waiting on the porch chair.

Penny and Garret are bidding adieu to the neighbors. Garret is carrying a large and apparently very heavy box marked "Penny's shoes."

Penny, hands free, is reaching into her Fendi purse for the key to the house.

PENNY

(trying to lighten the
homecoming)

They were a nice couple, weren't
they?

GARRET

(hikes the box up on his
hip bone)

Yeah. They were all right.

Penny leads the way to the door, key in hand. The three boys crowd all around her on the small porch.

PENNY

(unlocks the door)

Welcome home, boys.

INT. DEN - DAY

The family walks in fingering everything as they look around.

All of the furniture is covered in white sheets including the armoire where the t.v. is hidden. Penny sits in a sofa chair. Garret opens the sliding glass door to the back yard and exits.

Penny gets angry as she lifts the sheets off the furniture.

PENNY

I asked that woman to have this
place redone professionally!

Danny enters and sits in the other sofa chair in front of the armoire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(positive)
At least it got done, right?

Penny flops her head in Danny's direction.

PENNY
(exhausted, curious)
Since when did you start seeing the
silver lining of things?

DANNY
(smiling)
I don't know.

Penny smile and motions to him to have him come sit next to her. She scoots over and put her arm around Danny.

Suddenly we hear a crashing SPLASH.

Penny and Danny perk their heads up and stand up and run outside to see what made the splash.

EXT. BACKYARD/POOL - CONTINUOUS

Damon, fully clothed, is laughing as he swims to the railing to get out of the pool.

Garret, meanwhile, is atop the roof hailing down to the rest of the family goofing off.

The rest of them laugh, even Penny.

PENNY
(laughing, worried)
Garret, get down from there! You're
going to break your leg.

Garret pretends that he's going to fall off of the edge of the roof.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Be careful!

Garret stops goofing off and steps back. Damon yells to him as he shivers in the wind.

DAMON
Do it, it's fun!

GARRET
What do you think I'm up here for,
genius?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Garret gets in jumping position. Penny's face cringes. Garret takes the plunge.

GARRET (CONT'D)
Yeeeeeeaaaaaahhhh!

DAMON
(trying to scare Garret)
Nnnooooooooo!

Garret does a cannon ball and everyone gets drenched. Damon jumps in after him as Garret is pulling himself out by the railing.

Damon catches him just in time to pull his shorts down a little. Penny and Danny laugh. Garret is laughing and pulls his shorts up. He runs to the side of the house to get back on the roof.

DANNY
Can I go, too? Please.

Penny nods. Danny takes his tennis shoes and socks off and runs with Damon over to the side of the house.

Garret jumps into the pool as Damon and Danny walk up to him on the roof. Damon jumps right for Garret.

PENNY
(scared)
Damon!

Damon and Garret land close together but no one gets hurt. Danny looks down at how far it is and waves to Penny. Damon and Garret squirm out of the pool and wait for Danny.

DANNY
(nervous)
It's higher than I thought.

GARRET
Ah, c'mon. You're not gonna chicken out on us are you?

DAMON
Yeah. We did it, now you have to.

Danny takes a deep breath and plunges feet first into the pool, his limbs flailing every which way. He splashes and pushes his way to the surface.

DANNY
Was it good? How much splash did I make?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny gets out of the pool. Penny slaps him with the back of her hand.

PENNY

It was a perfect ten. All of you,
you were all perfect. Now lets go
in it's getting cold.

Penny makes her way back inside. Danny is out of the water now and he is wringing out his shirt.

Garret whispers into Damon's ear and suddenly Damon peels Penny's Gucci sunglasses off of her face and they both grab her and get her to the edge of the pool. She is laughing hysterically trying to fend them off.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(screaming, laughing)
Danny, help me! Help me!

Danny runs over to her but hesitates. Penny is close to being dunked.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(laughing still)
Danny!

Just as she leans over into the pool, she gets her arms free and pulls Garret and Damon both in with her. Now they have all been dunked and they laugh and splash each other gleefully.

Danny jumps in after them to join in.

They are all together once more. They are laughing and experiencing each other. They are a family.

DANNY (V.O.)

If only things would have gone as
planned.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PALERMO DRIVE - THE FOLLOWING MORNING

Garret, Damon, and Danny are all unloading the U-Haul, which is parked in the same position as it was before.

The male neighbor is watering his lawn once more. He waves at the boys.

Danny makes his way to the house carrying a small box marked "Danny's Room." As he turns into the walkway from the driveway he sees the neighbor's dog defecating right on a stray wild flower that blossomed in the middle of their lawn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He looks at the dog, shakes his head, and giggles. He looks over to the man next door. He waves kindly, probably knowing where and what his beloved Chihuahua is doing.

Danny walks on into the house.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Danny walks into the house. He is on his way to his room when he hears Penny. She is walking into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

PENNY

(exhausted)

All right, you guys. Time for a break.

Danny puts his box down in the hall and cuts the tape off with his new knife. He slides it back in his pocket and sits down on the table across from Penny.

Penny picks her head up from her forearms. She lugs herself to the empty, metallic refrigerator. She hangs on the refrigerator door, hunched over.

She reaches and pulls out a partially eaten Subway sandwich and a bottle of Wesson oil. Garret walks in with another box just as Penny shuts the refrigerator door.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Garret, my son. Have a seat. We're taking a break.

GARRET

(sighing)

Finally.

Garret and Penny sit down together. Danny is already seated. Penny starts munching down on the sandwich, her mouth opening and closing slowly like a horse. She pours some oil onto each bite.

Danny stares at her, intrigued, disgusted, and exhausted.

DANNY

That has got to be the most disgusting thing I've ever seen. It can't be healthy for you.

GARRET

It's right up there with Mark soaking his Fruity Pebbles in milk overnight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Penny laughs with her mouth full of oily Subway sandwich. They all drawl out their laughter almost in sync.

The telephone RINGS.

Penny's eyes widen as some sandwich almost spills out of her mouth as she laughs. At this she laughs even more as she heads for the phone. She pretends she doesn't know where the phone is for more laughs.

She picks up the phone.

PENNY
(laughing, chewing)
Hello.

Penny's face drops as she swallows her food. The boys' laughter dies down at the sight of their mother. They grow worried.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(worried, her eyes scream)
Well, Claire, is he gonna be all right?
(beat, then hurried)
Okay. We'll be there as soon as we can.

She hangs up. Damon walks into the room.

DAMON
Where are we going?

Garret doesn't say anything. They are all worried as hell.

Danny just rubs his thumb against the knife that Mark gave him that is in the palm of his hand now.

Penny scurries into her bedroom and comes out with her purse and keys in hand.

PENNY
C'mon, let's go.

Without even one question the four of them head out the front door leaving everything as it is: vacant, bare, and unfinished.

The door SLAMS shut.

POV: From the large window of the kitchen, beyond the lush flows and hummingbirds and butterflies, we see the family that has just been reunited scampering off frantically.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Penny pulls the back of the U-Haul truck down violently as the boys cram in once more. We see Penny gesturing to the man next door that nothing is wrong.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PALM DESERT HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - SUNSET

Garret, Damon, Penny, and Danny speed walk down the corridor toward a somber, helpless, and thin Claire.

Penny is leading the pack fervently and ardently.

Claire looks up from her tears and glides over to Penny. Their embrace expresses everything they feel: pain, sorrow, and hopelessness. They scramble at each others backs as if there should be more to hold onto. Claire digs her face into Penny shoulder muffling her cries for her brothers.

Garret, Damon, and Danny huddle around Claire and Penny awkwardly. The boys' eyes are fixed on them and they all hesitate to even touch Claire or Penny.

DANNY (V.O.)

I was so scared.

All three of the boys are noticeably moved. They have been transported back to when their own father was dying.

Penny loosens her grip on Claire, but Claire hesitates to look her mother in the eyes.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You know what I was thinking at that point? I was thinking that I just wanted to be normal. I wanted life to be normal.

Claire stays looking at the ground, with her forehead leaning against Penny's chest. Her thick hair falls from her hair clip into her face. She brushes it back behind her ear. It falls again and Penny catches it and turns Claire's head up to her.

PENNY

(warm, low)

Claire, where's Kyle? Is he all right?

Claire picks the hair off of her lip and looks at Penny, stepping away from her a bit. Her eyes are bloodshot, but no tears are drawn across her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAIRE
 (collecting herself)
 He's fine. He's in the cafeteria
 with Mark's mom.

PENNY
 Good. Good.

Claire peeks out at her brothers from behind Penny.

CLAIRE
 (voice cracking)
 Hey, boys. How you guys doing? You
 miss me?

Claire walks over to them and Penny turns around to see them.

GARRET
 (staying 'strong')
 Yeah, we're fine.

A beat.

DANNY
 (sad)
 How's Mark?

Claire hugs all three of her brothers.

CLAIRE
 (about to cry)
 He's going to be all right. He'll
 be just fine.

The boys are all crammed together. Danny's sticks his head
 out from behind Claire and looks at Penny.

Penny holds her face on her hand, shaking her head.

A NURSE walks by walking toward the open door to Mark's room.

Claire lets go of Garret, Damon, and Danny and walks over to
 NURSE #1.

Penny leads Garret, Damon, and Danny over to the lounge,
 which is right by Mark's hospital room.

Danny stares over to Claire and Nurse #1 who stand outside of
 Mark's room.

Penny's reassuring voice DROWNS OUT.

DANNY (V.O.)
 I knew exactly what was going on.
 Mark was dying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny's POV: Nurse #1, holding a bag of I.V. fluid in her hand, listens intently to Claire. Claire is hunched over glancing frequently into Mark's room. Nurse #1 reaches out for and holds Claire's hand with great emotion. She mouths something to Claire and Claire raises her head and appears to say tearfully, "Thank you".

Nurse #1 sets Claire's hand down and rubs her shoulder before walking into Mark's room.

Claire walks toward her family. She takes her hair clip out and clips it onto her raggedy oversized t-shirt.

Danny looks away from her.

Claire lets out a small cough as she brushes her beautiful, full hair behind her ears and tries to collect herself. This prompts Penny to immediately stop talking and stand up to face her grieving daughter. She waits for Claire to approach them, staring at her in pain.

The boys silence themselves as well.

CLAIRE

The nurse said you guys can go in a see Mark if you want to. You wanna see him?

The boys nod.

GARETT/DAMON/DANNY

(faintly, scared maybe)

Yes...

Claire places her hand on Danny's head, weaving her bony hands through his hair.

CLAIRE

(choking up)

Okay.

Frightened, Danny looks up at Claire.

Claire looks at Danny for only a second before her head drops to the floor again along with her hand from Danny's head.

Danny continues to stare at her as though he were staring at a horror movie at a drive-in theatre: amazed and under great suspense.

Penny places her hand on Claire's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PENNY
(nurturing)
Maybe you should go check on him
first.

Claire raises her head. Still she has not cried, but nevertheless, she is in extreme sorrow.

CLAIRE
(low)
Yeah. Okay.

Claire clasps onto Penny's hand lying on her shoulder and their eyes meet.

PENNY
(whispering)
Go on, Claire.

CLAIRE
(nodding, pressing her
lips together)
Okay, okay...

Claire turns away and slowly strides toward the door of Mark's room.

INT. MARK'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Claire enters the room. The only thing she hears are the mutters of Nurse #1, a choir of machines, and the HUSH HUSH of the ventilator. She slowly tip-toes passed the bathroom. She stops. She sees Nurse #1 leaving Mark from the foot of his bed. The nurse lays a consoling hand on Claire's shoulder as she passes by her. Neither of them say a word.

The nurse closes the door softly on her way out.

MARK
(breathy, drawled out)
Claire, is that you?

Claire jumps at first as if she has been caught. Then she relaxes and warily steps into Mark's view as though she were stepping into a jungle of wild animals.

Claire takes a deep breath and tries to seem strong.

CLAIRE
Yeah, babe. It's me.

She enters Mark's view.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His arms are stretched out on the bed, hanging off of the sides. But the first thing we see is how heavily bloated Mark is due to the oxygen being pumped into him.

He is extremely pale and his blue-dotted hospital gown blends into the plain bed sheets which are partly drawn off of him at the leg.

MARK
(smiles)
Hi, there sweet cheeks.

Claire laughs slightly as she walks to the side of Mark's bed. She checks his I.V. and sits on the edge of the bed.

CLAIRE
(smiling, choked up)
Hey, babe. They treating ya all right in here?

MARK
(slowly reaching for
Claire's breast, biting
on his tongue)
No better than you have, babe.

He massages her best for a second or two. Claire smiles and cups his hand. She places his hand down into her lap.

CLAIRE
(tearful)
Later, baby.

Mark smiles.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Mom and the boys are here. They came down to see you.

Mark lights up, which is only slightly detectable through his pallor and stiff appearance.

MARK
(jokingly)
Well, let the little shitheads in.

She nods.

Claire rests Mark's hand gently in his lap. She stands up as he starts to sit up. She covers his leg and looks at him lovingly until he notices her. She walks to the door.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Claire closes the door gently behind her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Penny stands up again from her seat in the lounge. Kyle and Mark's mother, ANGELA, sit in the lounge now as well.

Kyle hurries over to Claire.

KYLE
(yelling, elated)
Mommy!

Penny catches him before he runs over to Claire but then lets him go. Claire squats down to catch Kyle and to hug him. She hangs her head over his shoulder finally letting out one solitary tear.

Penny, Garret, Damon, Danny, and Angela approach the mother and son. Claire lets go of Kyle sniffing back her tears. She faces Kyle.

CLAIRE
(motherly, tender)
You're going to have to wait out
here with Nana Angela, Okay?

KYLE
(annoyed, obviously
clueless)
But, Mommy, I want to see Daddy!

Claire shakes her head slowly, both to say "No" and to hide her face from Kyle.

CLAIRE
(choking up)
I'm sorry, baby.

KYLE
(pleading, sweet)
Pleeeeeaaaase. He said he'd play
catch with me later.

Claire's eyes tear up.

Angela walks over, just about in tears herself. She takes Kyle by the hand and leads him away from the door and away from Claire. Claire remains squatted down on the floor hanging her head once more.

Penny squats down beside her, takes her by the hands, and stands up with her.

CLAIRE
All right. Okay I'm fine.

Penny nods warmly her hands still clenched with Claire's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Claire lets go of Penny's hands and walks over to Garret, Damon, and Danny. The boys appear distraught and dumbfounded by what's going on.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Okay, you guys. Mark's going to look a little different, Okay? They've been pumping oxygen into his system so he's a little bit bloated, but he's going to be fine.

Garret and Damon appear only more frightened and nervous. Danny really chokes up. Claire leans into Danny and wraps her arms around the rest of the boys.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Okay. Come on. Just act normal.

Garret, Damon, Danny and Claire and Penny walk to the door.

KYLE

(about to cry, held back
by Angela at the chest)
Moommmmy! Pleeeaaaase!

Penny turns to Kyle.

PENNY

(whispering)
Just wait here, Kyle.

Kyle quiets down.

DANNY (V.O.)

Poor kid. He had no idea.

Claire looks over to Kyle and smiles. She opens the door and walks in.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Claire, Penny, Garret, Damon, and Danny walk in. Claire walks a little faster than she did before, looking behind her as she gets into Mark's view.

Penny pushes the boys from behind. The boys are scared to death. Their eyes are wide, scanning the dark, stuffy, and plain room, not to mention Mark's barely recognizable body.

CLAIRE

(smiling, laughing
mockingly, lying to
herself)
C'mon, you wimps. It's just Mark.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

This just scares them even more.

Danny steps backward stepping on Penny's foot.

Penny looks down to him with the "evil eye" and presses her hand against his back. It isn't as threatening as usual due to her mournful state, but Danny presses on anyway.

Damon looks like he's about to throw up.

Garret has a stern look on his face. Coupled with the look of fear, he appears broken.

Claire's eyes insist that they make their way faster. Her eyes bulge out, glistening with the vague strip of golden sunlight coming through the drapes as the sun sets. Her lips are puckered together, firm and old.

The boys shuffle over, their eyes focused solely on what is behind the wall of the bathroom.

Claire nods at them pleased.

Mark's figure is revealed slowly from behind the wall.

The boys walk in and see Mark. They appear more interested now in what they were scared of before. Nevertheless, their fright has turned into nervousness.

Mark is still trying to get comfortable in his bed, trying to sit up. He stops shifting and sighs.

MARK

(drawled out, playful)

What are you little shits up to?
You being good for your Mom?

A beat. Claire leers at the boys. Penny pokes Damon in the back.

DAMON

(nervous, stuttering)

Yea... Yeah. Yeah, we're good.

MARK

(smiling)

Good. Good.

Meanwhile, Penny and Claire watch their conversation like a tennis match, throwing their heads back and forth. They both appear nervous and saddened by it all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARRET
(trying to be cool)
You're gonna be all right, right,
man?

Mark closes his eyes and opens them slowly, looking straight in Claire's eyes. Claire looks at him smiling and with a tear drawn across her face.

Mark looks right into the eyes of the boys with unbelievable sincerity and strength.

MARK
(swallowing, smiling
slightly)
Yeah, man. I'm going to be fine.
I'll make it.

Penny sets her hand on Danny's shoulder, her eyes bobbing from Mark to Claire rhythmically.

PENNY
(trying to be nonchalant)
All right, I guess we'll leave the
two of you alone. I think Kyle
wants to come in and see you now.

Claire nods. Mark spreads his arms out slowly to receive hugs from the boys.

Garret walks up to him first taking baby steps, looking around at all the machines Mark's hooked up to and all of his I.V.'s. They hug. Mark holds onto him strongly. Garret's arms give way before Mark is ready to let go. They let go of one another.

GARRET
(tries to remain composed)
Take care, man.

Mark's voice cracks and he immediately sucks it back with a loud snuffle.

MARK
(cool)
You too, buddy.

Mark and Garret do their signature handshake, clasping onto each others hands as tightly as possible.

MARK (CONT'D)
(warm, fatherly, eyeing
Danny)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARK (CONT'D)

Make sure Danny takes care of that knife, all right? You still have it?

Danny is still.

GARRET

(turning his head back
from glancing at Danny)
Yeah, he has it. He carries it around with him all the time.

MARK

(thankful, touched, to
Danny)
Good. Great. Are you sharpening it?

Danny shakes his head.

MARK (CONT'D)

(confident)
You can get a whetstone at any Big 5 or sports shop. They're cheap.

Danny delivers a small sad smile.

GARRET

(confident)
I'll make sure he gets one.

Mark bows his head. Garret gives a smiles at Mark. He turns away. Damon passes by Garret as Garret walks to Penny. Damon smiles at Mark and Mark smiles back.

DAMON

Well, I'll see you later then.

MARK

(emphatically)
Yes. I told you guys this already. Don't worry about me. I'll be out in a day or two, okay?

Damon appears to be assured.

DANNY (V.O.)

Maybe it was all bullshit. But everybody's gotta have hope, right?
(beat)
Right...?

DAMON

'kay. See ya tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MARK

Don't piss Danny off.

Everyone smiles. Danny's smile is less focused. His eyes meander around the room. Mark and Damon hug. Damon turns away toward Penny, Garret, and Danny.

DANNY

(frozen)

Bye, then. Take care.

MARK

(laid back, hiding his emotions)

Right. You too. Be good for your Mom. She's a great woman.

Danny and Penny smile.

Garret nudges Danny's side and gesticulates to him to go and give Mark a hug. Danny doesn't budge.

DANNY (V.O.)

I could barely move my head let alone walk over to his inflated dying body.

Danny raises his hand to give Mark a short wave and smile goodbye.

Mark raises his hand and waves back to him. His eyes are sad and knowing.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I wish I could've told him I loved him. But I couldn't... I couldn't and I didn't.

Danny turns away and then gives Mark one last glance before he exits.

Garret and Damon look at each other confused. Penny looks at Danny as he walks out. Claire doesn't appear as concerned. Her sadness is too deeply rooted.

The door shuts. Penny turns to Mark and raises her shoulders and sighs, shrugging her shoulders. She walks over to Mark to give him a hug.

PENNY

(warm)

Take care Mark. We'll see you.

MARK

Bye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Penny stands up from the bed and her eyes are all watered up. She puts her hand on Mark's hand and turns way.

As she walks out she looks over to Claire and mouths the words "I love you".

Penny, Garret, and Damon exit. Each of them gets their last glances of Mark and Claire.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CARTERS' HOUSE - SUNSET

The Carter boys and Penny pull into the driveway in the U-Haul. Garret sits in the front with Damon and Danny in the back.

They exit the car without saying a word to each other. They barely even make eye contact. They all appear heavily depressed and drawn.

They assume a single file and shuffle to the front door. Penny leads the way as she jingles her cluster of keys, her high heels clicking and clapping against the ground.

Garret, droning along behind Penny, stares at Penny's high heels. Penny's purse is dangling from his lazy wrist.

Damon stares straight ahead in a daze, blinking rapidly.

Danny is the most depressed of them all. Every muscle of his body seems to sag. His head points directly to the ground, his bangs draping and swaying in front of his eyes. He stops.

He looks at a dead snail that appears to have been dragging itself toward the garden. A horde of ants are crowded all over it devouring it as fast as the can. Danny squats down examining every detail of the feeding, his face catatonic.

Meanwhile Penny unlocks the front door and she lets Garret enter first. She looks over at Danny and walks into the house.

Damon catches the screen door before it closes behind Penny. He looks over at Danny. He almost goes over to him, but hesitates, and finally, turns and goes into the house.

As the door closes behind Damon, the sprinklers rise around Danny, out of the ground. The water spews out all over him, drenching his face and body as well as the snail. The ants scatter frantically.

Danny remains sitting in the shower of the sprinklers.

EXT. CARTER'S HOUSE - MORNING

It is a beautiful Saturday morning in Santa Barbara. The sun is glowing and birds are chirping. The garden in the front of the house is brimming with life and color.

We hear dishes CLINKING and food SIZZLING inside, as well as "Wonderful! Wonderful!" by Johnny Mathis playing.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Penny is preparing what appears to be a monumental breakfast. A pan occupies every corner of the stove. All of the ingredients to make pancakes, ham, hash browns and biscuits and gravy are set on the counter tops.

From her POV we see Tony outside the side door watering down the ground with the hose.

Both Penny and Tony are fully dressed and ready for the day.

Penny appears quite happy as she dances across the kitchen to the sounds of Johnny Mathis.

Penny dishes out a plate of food. She then walks over the main hallway entrance, pan in hand, and sticks her head out.

PENNY
(yelling)
Wake up chillin'! It's time to eat!

Penny dances back over to the stove and continues to dish out food.

INT. BOYS' HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Garret opens his bedroom door as he puts his shirt on. He is groggy but lucid. As he walks out he knocks on Danny's door on his direct right.

INT. DANNY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny is sitting at his drafting table in the same clothes as the night before.

There are scribbled pastel and charcoal drawings of a snail and other angry paintings on random pieces of paper and cardboard strewn across the table.

He appears to have fallen asleep there. His head is resting in his arms and he has a broken piece of pastel in his hand. He slowly raises his head gazing around at the many sheets of paper he slept on.

INT. BOYS' HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Outside Danny's door.

GARRET
(polite)
Breakfast is ready. You gonna eat?

Garret waits patiently for a response.

DANNY (O.S.)
(sleepy)
Yeah. I'll be out in a second.

GARRET
(trying to be kind)
Okay. Good morning.

INT. DANNY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny turns his head around to his door as if he could look straight through it at Garret.

DANNY
(clouded, unsure of his
tone)
G'morning.

Danny stands up from his swivel chair and walks into his bathroom. He turns on the light switch.

INT. DANNY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny stumbles toward the sink. He turns on the faucet and rinses his face. He turns the water off and looks at his reflection with great intensity as water droplets drip off of his face.

He looks in the medicine cabinet. He takes out his epilepsy pills and takes two.

It looks like he wants to cry but won't. He bites his lip and wipes the water from his cheeks. He exits.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny walks into the room - obviously irritated by the loud music - and stands in the doorway for a brief second as he adjusts his eyes and begins to wake up.

Damon and Garret are eating their food.

Penny stands with her back to the table as she picks at what is left in the pans on the stove. She continues to bob her head and hum to the music.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tony is still watering down the ground outside.

DANNY
(depressed, tired)
Good morning.

Garret and Damon look up from their food at Danny. They smile, trying to be nice to him, realizing he is in a bad way. Danny smiles back, especially grateful that Damon is making an effort.

Penny turns around and sees Danny as she is taking her index finger and thumb out of her mouth and chewing. She becomes even more animated, and happy. The boys watch her with curiosity.

Penny
(excited)
Oh good! Everyone's here.

Penny takes the dish towel hanging off of her shoulder and wipes her hands. She flings it back over her shoulder. Stepping out into Tony's view, she yells out to him as he is turning off the hose.

PENNY
Tony, hurry up! You've been out there forever! I think the ground is drenched enough now.

Danny giggles to himself as he serves up a plate. Damon soon joins his laughter.

TONY
(opening the side screen door)
All right, I'm comin'.

Danny makes his way to the table. Penny turns around and notices that Danny is pulling out the chair at the head of the table.

PENNY
Wup! That's Tony's seat. Can't sit there.

Penny walks back to the stove.

Danny is peeved. He shoves the chair back into place and pouts on his way to the chair next to Damon.

Garret looks up at Danny and gives him a semi-reprimanding look. Danny rolls his eyes at him and sits down.

Meanwhile, Tony is drying his glowing white tennis shoes with a towel at the side screen door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny reaches for the pitcher of orange juice. It is empty. He shakes it and puts it back down disappointedly. Damon has a full glass of orange juice. He offers Danny some by holding it up to his glass.

DANNY
(appreciative)
Thank you.

Damon pours half of his juice into Danny's glass and puts it back down on the table. Danny smiles at him. He takes a generous drink from his glass.

Tony walks into the kitchen.

TONY
(lively)
It's a beautiful day out. We should
go for a bike ride later.

Garret, Danny, Damon, and Penny all look at each other surprised and amused by the comment as Tony grabs a plate from the counter.

PENNY
(looking at Tony, amused)
No. No, I don't think we will be
partaking in a bike ride today.

DANNY (V.O.)
This guy was so out of place. As if
you didn't notice that before.

Tony looks insulted and disappointed and shrugs his shoulders. He takes a knife and fork from the counter and walks over to the table.

TONY
(dry, disappointed)
Fine. I'll go.

Tony pulls out and sits in the chair at the head of the table. As he gets comfortable in the seat and bounces a bit in it he delicately picks up his napkin and gently lays it across his lap very mannerly.

Penny walks over to him with a pan in hand and serves Tony as he leans back in his chair. Penny is doing this almost as if she were his waitress.

Danny sneers at Tony but neither Tony nor Penny take notice of him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PENNY
(sliding a pancake off of
the spatula, perky)
There 'ya go.

Penny turns around and puts the pan back on the stove.

TONY
(cordial)
Thank you.

Penny walks over to the stove to return the pan. On her way back top the table she draws her fingers through Tony's hair and grabs the stereo remote and turns the volume down, pointing at the stereo in the living room.

GARRET
(interested)
So, what's this good news you want
to tell us so badly?

DAMON
(dry sense of humor)
We're not moving again, are we?

Garret and Penny look at Damon without amusement while Danny looks at him out of the corner of his eye, smirking as he pokes at some food on his plate.

A beat.

Penny, Garret, and Danny stop looking at Damon, who doesn't look up at them and continues to eat.

Penny is nevertheless excited about her news. Garret turns to Penny. Something has struck his mind. He puts his fork down and swallows his food as fast as he can.

GARRET
(excited, eyes widened)
Is it about Mark? Did you talk to
him?

Danny and Damon stop eating and focus completely on Penny, aside form chewing the food already in their mouths.

PENNY
(holding him in
anticipation)
Well, no. But yes, it's about Mark.

GARRET
(happy, excited)
He's doin' better, huh? Isn't he?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

A beat.

PENNY

(calm, cool, smiling)

Yep. I talked to Claire this morning and she said that he's got a high white count and that the prognosis looks pretty good.

Garret, Damon, and Danny all gasp in relief.

DANNY (V.O.)

You don't know how happy I was!

Suddenly, all of their tired dispositions change and they light up with glee and relief as well as disbelief.

Tony wipes his mouth, wrapping the napkin around his index finger and running it down the corners of his mouth. He smiles at the boys' happiness.

Penny's smile is much more expressive compared to Tony's. Every one of her teeth are showing.

GARRET

(elated)

Yes! I knew he'd get better. I knew it. He doesn't half-ass anything.

Tony's eyes look up from his plate. He looks at Garret for a second like he did something wrong.

Garret just looks back at him, his smile getting smaller, waiting for him to say something.

Damon takes his napkin out of his lap and puts it onto his half eaten plate of food. He leans back and stretches his arms out as he smiles.

Tony then looks over to Penny in the same way as he did to Garret.

Penny is still smiling as well and turns and notices Tony's piercing, silent glare. She looks at him for a second unsure of what he means. Then it dawns on her.

PENNY

(polite)

Garret, watch your mouth.

Damon sits back in the forward facing position.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

GARRET
 (elated still)
 Sorry. God, I'm just relieved. I'm
 happy.

Damon looks at Garret.

DAMON
 (happy)
 I told you he'd be all right. Damn,
 that's great!

Tony looks at Penny once more with the same look. Penny
 immediately addresses Damon.

PENNY
 (more insistent now)
 Damon, watch your mouth.

DAMON
 (laughing)
 What? "Damn?" That's not a bad
 word.

PENNY
 (laughing, mocking him)
 I don't care, don't say it at the
 dinner table. It's rude.

DAMON
 You never thought so before.

Penny gives him the "evil eye" -- intensely angered with one
 eyebrow up.

DAMON (CONT'D)
 (relents)
 God, fine.

Meanwhile, Danny had been watching Tony's glares at Penny,
 and he glares right back at Tony.

Tony glances at Garret, Damon, and Penny and notices how
 their smiles have dropped and how silent it has gotten. He
 returns to poking and scooping his food with a sense of
 accomplishment on his face.

A beat.

PENNY
 (peppy, smiling)
 Isn't that great though?

Danny looks up from Tony and glances at everyone at the
 table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

DANNY
(lively, animated)
You're damned straight!

Penny swings her head up and looks at Danny with a very serious vexed look on her face. It soon graduates to a smile, then she tries to hold back her laughter, and then a burst of laughter erupts igniting Garret, Damon, and Danny's amusement.

Tony is not amused. He looks up at all of them very angrily and vigorously cuts and shovels his food around his plate as the boys and Penny laugh together in a very bonding moment.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Finally! Things are back to normal.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - SUNSET

CLOSE on a fat slab of ground hamburger meat thrown on a barbecue. It is then squashed with an oversized spatula. We hear sizzling.

Tony, who is barbecuing, releases the spatula from the patty. The meat is bloody, juicy and bright red, overflowing with a variety of different colored seasonings.

Tony turns his head and yells out in a "Father Knows Best" tone of voice to Penny, who is inside the house through the side screen door.

TONY
Almost ready!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Penny tosses a salad in a large wooden bowl. Without raising her head or looking at Tony she yells back at him.

PENNY
Okay!

She puts the salad utensils down inside the bowl and walks over to the table and places the bowl on an already completely set up table with place mats and all. It is very neat and orderly.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(talking to herself)
Already?

Danny enters the kitchen. Penny is readying the rest of the food and getting out plates.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(sighing, whining)
Why does he always have to barbecue
on the weekends?

Penny is placing the plates on the table very gently and orderly. Tony opens the side screen door with a heap of bloody rare hamburger patties.

Alerted, Penny turns her head to Tony and back to Danny.

PENNY
(whispering, forcing the
rest of the plates on
Danny)
Shut up! He's coming. Be nice.

Danny places the rest of the plates on the table with much less care than Penny was taking.

DANNY
(whining, to himself but
still audible)
But they're always completely raw
or charred dry.

As Tony wipes his feet vigorously and nears the kitchen, Penny reprimands Danny with her eyes. She gives him the "evil eye" and wrinkles her lips.

Tony walks in carrying the plate of patties as a waiter would.

TONY
(generic French accent)
Dinner is served.

Tony sets the plate down on the counter. Penny wipes her hands off on her apron and places her hands on Tony's shoulders.

PENNY
(amorous)
Well, bonjour, monsieur.

TONY
(smiles, his hands on her
hips)
Bonjour.

Penny and Tony reach in to each other and kiss.

Danny cringes as he tries not to watch them.

Damon enters the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAMON
(disgusted)
Eeeeeewww. Get a room.

Danny smiles. Penny lets go of Tony.

PENNY
(mocking)
Eeeeeewww. Shut up.

Damon snarls at Penny jokingly.

Penny snarls back at him. She walks over to the counter and gets a large plate of corn on the cob, every one equipped with silver corn holders.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Someone go get Garret. Dinner's ready.

Tony walks to the doorway to get Garret but before he reaches the doorway Danny stands up from leaning on the table right in front of him.

DANNY
(eager)
I'll go get him.

Tony appears a bit peeved by the interruption but acts mature about it.

TONY
Okay.

Tony turns around, goes back to the counter and examines his patties.

Danny reaches the doorway still looking at Tony. Garret, just waking up from a nap, enters the kitchen doorway and bumps into Danny.

Danny jumps back and gives Garret room to let him by.

GARRET
(tired, kind)
Sorry. I didn't see you.

DANNY
(disappointed)
It's all right.

Tony looks up from the counter at Garret.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TONY
 (to Garret, smiling,
 poorly executed joke)
 Good morning.

Tony looks at his watch.

TONY (CONT'D)
 Or, er, good afternoon!

The grandfather clock CHIMES once. Tony looks at the grandfather clock.

TONY (CONT'D)
 (even more volume)
 Good evening, sir!

GARRET
 (walking across the
 kitchen to Penny, looking
 at Tony)
 Hello.

Garret leans into the pot of baked beans and bacon that sits alone on the stove. Penny smiles and gently shoves Garret away from the stove and out of her way as she stirs the beans.

PENNY
 (hitting the spoon against
 the rim of the pot)
 Okay, everybody get a plate.

Tony backs away from the counter. Damon sits up from his chair and is the first in line at the stove.

Danny stands up from leaning against the edge of the table and gets a plate off of the table. Garret walks over to the table and gets a plate of his own crossing behind Damon.

Penny serves Damon some baked beans and bacon as Damon stands in front of her holding his plate with both hands.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (kindly)
 You want more?

DAMON
 (polite)
 Ummmm. More bacon please.

Penny sighs and stirs through the pot looking for more bacon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

PENNY
 (serving him, happy)
 You've always been a picky eater.
 There. Enjoy your bacon.

DAMON
 (smiles)
 Thanks.

Damon turns and makes his way down the counter with his plate cafeteria-style. He gets his hamburger bun and builds it up with lettuce, tomatoes, and condiments. He continues down the counter past the sink and reaches Tony who stands proudly beside his patties, tongs in hand.

TONY
 (generically paternal)
 Cheese or no cheese?

DAMON
 (generically polite)
 Cheese, please.

Tony serves Damon his cheese patty. It drips as it transfers to Damon's plate. Damon's lips flip as he looks at his food disgustedly as it plops onto his well organized and formed bun. To play it off, Damon looks up at Tony who is looking up from his own plate and smiles exaggeratedly.

Meanwhile, Garret and Danny are in line getting their own beans and buns. Penny is serving Garret.

PENNY
 (spoon above his plate)
 More?

GARRET
 I'm good, thank you.

Garret moves down the counter to the buns. Danny is readied, plate in hand, smiling.

DANNY
 (pretending to be a poor
 beggar)
 Un poco de frijoles, por favor,
 senorita.

Penny plays along and serves him.

PENNY
 (with a look of pity)
 Alli lo tienes, ninito.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Danny looks down at his plate and back up at Penny with his lip out, still in character.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Quieres mas, mi hijo?

Danny nods.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(serves him)
Pobrecito.

Danny drops out of character and gives Penny a wide smile. Penny smiles back.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(joking)
Dork.

INT. - DINNER TABLE - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone finishes up primping and seasoning their hamburgers.

Penny looks up and smiles enthusiastically at Tony.

PENNY (CONT'D)
All right. Let's chow down!

They all begin to eat.

Garret, Tony, Damon, and Danny all go for their hamburgers first. Danny hesitates, of course. They all chew simultaneously.

Garret, Damon, and Danny all grow increasingly disgusted and uncomfortable and their chewing slows down.

Juices ooze out of the corner of Damon's mouth and down his chin. All three of them cringe in distaste, whereas Tony goes on taking bite after bite, loving it.

Danny spits his bite out into his napkin and gags silently. Garret and Damon tough it out and swallow their bites. Danny looks at them sickened at the site of them swallowing. Their swallows are fully audible.

The three of them look at each other with the same awful taste in their mouths.

Penny looks up as she is about to put another leaf of lettuce in her mouth. She heard them swallow. After taking notice of the looks on their faces, she kicks Damon under the table.

Damon bends over in his chair and rubs his leg. He mouths the word "Ooowwwwww".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Meanwhile Tony continues to chomp down on his burger, never raising his face from his plate, completely oblivious to what going on around - and under - the table.

Garret points at Tony getting the attention of Danny and Damon. Soon Penny looks up from her plate and looks, too. They watch Tony eat.

Every crevice of his face wrinkles as he opens his mouth as wide as possible, his eyes closing, his face reddening. He shoves as much burger into his mouth as he possibly can and bites down, chewing vigorously, almost as if he is having trouble keeping it in his mouth.

After holding it back, Danny, Garret, Damon, and Penny finally burst up into laughter.

Tony is still chewing a large mouthful. He looks up and chews a couple more times before he swallows, struggling at first. They laugh even louder.

TONY
(curious)
What? What is it? What's so funny?

They laugh even louder now. The four of them glance up at each other repeatedly. Tony sits there looking at them all completely clueless.

TONY (CONT'D)
(laughing slightly,
growing frustrated)
What? What are you laughing at?

They keep laughing as if he isn't even there. Tony leans back in his chair as though he were on a throne.

TONY (CONT'D)
(irritated)
Forget it!

Tony stands up and stomps out like a child. The laughter continues, as they gasp for air.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

CLOSE on the bright yellow school bell emitting a strident, shrill ring for class to get out.

PAN DOWN to the door of Danny's classroom. The door opens and various students exit carrying their backpacks and strapping them on. The students are in groups of two or more as they chatter on emphatically.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny exits with FEMALE STUDENT #1 and Damon.

DANNY
(happy, enthusiastic)
God, I feel so happy today. I don't
know what it is.

Damon keeps walking not saying anything.

FEMALE STUDENT #1
(tired, sarcastic)
Well, good for you, Danny.

DANNY
Yeah. Thank you very much.

Danny nudges her with his shoulder. He sees another crowd of people walking down the next hall in front of them: THREE GIRLS and one tall, blond, blue-eyed, BEACH GUY.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(energetic)
Oh. I'll see you guys later.

Danny walks over to the other group. He waves back at Damon and the girl. They tip their heads back in response. Their tired, unimpressed demeanors contradict heavily with Danny's positive energy.

Danny squeezes between one of the girls and the tall blond guy. A lively conversation ensues. Danny is more vibrant than his has been in a very long time.

Damon stares at Danny from behind smiling as he walks around the corner.

The girl steps closer to him and put her hand on his back trying get him to snap out of the blind daze of bliss he is under.

FEMALE STUDENT #1
(sensitive)
Hey, you all right?

A beat. Damon slowly turns his head over to her.

DAMON
(serene)
Yeah. Yeah, I think I'm going to be
all right.

She smiles at him and they walk on as Damon remains in almost a trance of complete peace and comfort. He looks back at Danny one more time before he rounds the corner and smiles once more.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

All of the windows are down in Garret's car as he swerves down the street and high speeds with piercing rock music blaring and throbbing the car. He is bobbing his head to the beat. Penny's car is in the driveway.

Danny is in the front seat and looks happy, enjoying the music. As they turn into the driveway he turns his head to look at Garret who has exaggerated his head bobbing to head banging. Danny looks away and laughs at Garret. Damon is in the backseat behind Danny. He looks content, amused, and happy to just be alive.

GARRET

(pondering)

I wonder why Mom's car is here.

Danny hands Garret his backpack and the three of them get out. Garret continues to bob his head even though the music turned off along with the car.

He and Danny get their backpacks on as they exit the car. Garret walks around the car from behind and passes Danny as he exits the car. Danny stands up and we hear crows crowing.

He perks up, alerted by them. Stepping out a bit more to get a greater view of the sky, we see the one common crow that follows them around, but trailing behind it is another younger crow, crowing even louder as if in a great deal of pain.

As Damon stands up and gets out of the car, strapping on his backpack, Danny drops his own backpack and goes running to the house as fast as he can. Garret looks at him strangely as he bumps into him. His face is that of extreme worry and tragedy. Something's wrong.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Penny is sitting at the table with her face buried in her hands. She has been crying.

We hear the screen door open and slam shut just as Danny rushes in, out of breath and heaving. Penny raises her head and wipes her cheeks revealing her bloodshot and mascara-run eyes. She's still dressed up for work.

Danny, crying now and shaking his head, bends over and hugs her emotionally.

Garret and Damon enter confused and concerned.

PENNY

He's gone, boys. I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny pulls away from her and looks right in Penny's eyes. He continues to shake his head and cry. Garret and Damon stand in shock. Danny hugs Penny once more.

DANNY

No! Nooooo! No.

Danny suddenly stands up from hugging Penny and runs toward his room. As he passes, Garret and Damon look back at him. We hear Danny's bedroom door SLAM. Garret goes to Penny and stands her up and hugs her. It strikes Damon that Danny could do something drastic. He drops his backpack and runs after him.

INT. BOYS' HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Damon sprints down the hall. He trips on the rug, but he doesn't fall. He bangs on Danny's door loudly and violently.

DAMON

(horrified, distressed,
yelling)

Danny! Danny, open up! Open the
door, God damn it, Danny!

INT. DANNY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bathroom sink runs. There is a prescription bottle of Danny's epilepsy medication on the floor, with a plastic blue cup and pills strewn across the floor.

Danny seizes face down on the floor of his bathroom. One leg is bent up, knocking the toilet repeatedly, the other is stretched out extending outside the bathroom into the bedroom. His tongue is sticking out slightly and he is turning slightly blue. His eyes are rolled back into his head. They are closed but we can still see some of the white of his eyes as his eyelids bat rapidly.

DAMON (CONTINUED O.S.)

Oh my God, Danny! Open up! Open
this door, you idiot! Danny!
Danny!!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Danny lays in a large hospital bed with the side railing up. It is very quiet and calm aside from the machines stacked up behind him monitoring his heart rate. He has one I.V. taped onto each hand and there's another in his right arm. Damon sleeps soundly beside him, slumped over in a large leather chair. A "People" magazine lay on his thigh.

Danny begins to awaken. His limbs move about and stretch. He opens his eyes and sees Damon, asleep nearby.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He then looks at the clock above the door. With a click it turns to 2:50 a.m.

Danny reaches for the nurse alert button, but after pushing it a few times he gives up. Instead, he takes the cord the button is attached to and swings it into Damon's lap, striking him right in the crotch.

Damon immediately wakes up and cups his crotch in a bit of pain, but more surprised than anything. The "People" magazine falls into the chair. Simultaneously, Damon leans forward and tends to Danny. Danny's head hangs to the side.

DANNY
(groggy, grumpy,
perturbed)
Where the hell am I?

Damon awakens a bit more.

DAMON
Wait, ummmmm. They told me to ask
you something. What's your name?
How old are you? What day is it?

DANNY
(perturbed, disturbed,
confused)
What? Shut up.

Damon laughs lightly.

DAMON
(consoling)
Do you know why you're here?

A beat. Danny looks clueless.

DAMON (CONT'D)
You're here because--

DANNY
(looking up at the
ceiling, disappointed,
guilty)
Oh. Yeah, I know.

Danny turns his head to Damon lovingly and appreciatively.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(moved)
You saved me.

Damon smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAMON
(nodding, proud)
Yes I did. I did indeed.

Danny's eyes water up.

DANNY
(touched, heartfelt)
Thank you.

Damon nods with genuine feeling.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(beginning to cry)
I'm sorry.

Damon gets up and pushes the side railing down to hug Danny. Danny lets his tears fall, but he makes no noise.

Damon lets Danny go and sits back in his chair. He pulls the chair toward the bed. Danny wipes his eyes and looks up at the machines and I.V.'s connected to his arms. He laughs slightly. Damon rubs his forearm and Danny looks back at Damon.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(warmly)
Damon...

Damon raises his eyebrows waiting for what's to follow.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(smiling, dramatic)
You're my hero.

They both laugh.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY -DAY

Penny, Garret, Damon, and Danny drive into the driveway in the Mercedes. They park and Garret is the first to get out.

Danny is in the front seat and stays there.

GARRET
(vital)
Mom, pop the trunk.

Penny opens her door and calls out to Garret who waits at the trunk.

PENNY
I did already!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Garret opens the trunk.

GARRET
(to himself)
Oh.

Garret lifts the trunk up.

INT. MERCEDES BENZ - CONTINUOUS

Damon puts his hand on Danny's shoulder from behind him. Danny turns back at him and smiles. Damon exits the car and shuts his door. Penny turns back inside the car with her door still open and one leg on the ground.

PENNY
(to herself)
Duh.

Danny, still sitting very properly now in the same clothes he was taken to the hospital in, turns to Penny.

DANNY
(content, happy)
Mom, I don't see why I need this.
I'm fine.

PENNY
(jokingly)
Shut up, Danny.

Danny smiles at Penny's remark. She gets out of the car leaving the door open. Danny reaches across the driver's seat to close it. Before he reaches the seat belt even Penny comes and closes it herself.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(instructing him not to
bother)
Ah, uh-uh.

Danny pulls back into his seat smiling and lighthearted.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Penny returns to the trunk of the car where Garret and Damon are now trying to get Danny's wheelchair out of the trunk. It appears to be stuck.

PENNY
(exaggerative, concerned)
Garret, you're going to break it.
Do you realize how expensive this
is?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Damon lets go of the wheelchair slowly but Garret persists and continues to struggle. Penny grapples onto the chair helping Garret.

GARRET

No I won't. If I just move it this way...

They both manage to get Danny's wheelchair out from where it was stuck. Danny turns his head and then puts both feet on the ground as if to stand up.

DANNY

(calm, unflappable)
I don't see why I need a wheelchair. I can walk fine.

PENNY

(putting the wheelchair on the ground)
Don't think I can't see you, Danny.

Danny looks at Damon who had been watching Garret and Penny get the chair out.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Turn around.

Danny turns back around.

DANNY (V.O.)

Mark was gone, but somehow things looked like they were going to be okay.

Garret wheels the chair over to Danny. Penny walks ahead of him to assist, Danny. Meanwhile, Damon looks on laughing with Danny at the situation. Garret goes to stand up and gets in the wheelchair but Penny carries him into it like a baby before he can do it himself.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(laughing)
I'm like some invalid, or something.

Damon laughs again with Danny.

EXT. FRONT WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

Danny is in the wheel chair and Garret pushes him past Damon up the walkway. Penny walks ahead of them to the door as she reaches into her purse for the keys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

(to Danny)

The doctor said that you might be a little light-headed when you first got home.

Penny is on the front porch at the door with the keys in hand. She turns around at Danny still on the walkway waiting with Garret and Damon.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(playful)

...So there!

Penny opens the door as she holds the screen door open with her rear. As she bends over to help Garret get Danny up the two steps, Damon gets onto the porch and holds the door open for Penny.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(smiling at Damon)

Thank you, Damon.

Damon smiles back and looks at his family with a sincere and rare look of fulfillment and appreciation. Garret and Penny get Danny up on the porch as Danny continues to laugh at himself. Garret and Penny are out of breath from carrying him up the stairs. Penny arches her back backward while Garret shakes his hands out and bends his fingers.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(sighing, joking, "ghetto" accent)

Damn, Danny. You fat!

They all laugh and Danny into the house. As he tries to get Danny's chair past the bump in the doorway, Penny talks to Danny.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(gleeful)

You know what I've been thinking about, you guys?

DANNY

(curious)

What?

Garret and Damon look at Penny.

PENNY

(cool, composed)

Oh, it's nothing really. Just been thinking maybe we could take a bit of a vacation, is all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Garret has gotten Danny over the bump in the doorway and wheels him in the house and to the right into the kitchen.

They all cheer. Penny smiles. Damon holds the door open for Penny. As Penny walks through she looks at Damon with the utmost love, tenderness, and appreciation for what he has done. No words are exchanged.

Penny wraps her arm around Damon. Damon rests his head on her shoulder as they walk into the house as mother and son, together.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Garret, Damon, and Danny enter the kitchen with their backpacks on. Garret goes to the counter and get a packet of Pop Tarts. All three of them look very handsome and put together, even Damon who usually wears his dark, layered clothes.

GARRET/DAMON/DANNY
(discordant)
Bye Mom!

Penny comes out of her bedroom to say goodbye.

PENNY
Wait!

Penny enters the kitchen lively and all dressed up in bright fashion conscious clothing. She has two large curlers in her thick, dark hair. She sees her sons.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(proud)
Oh, you all look so handsome.

They all smile happily.

GARRET
You too, Mom.

Penny pats her hair.

PENNY
(to Garret)
Thank you very much.

Penny turns and looks at Danny.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(to Danny, concerned)
Are you all right, Danny?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY (CONT'D)

You're not light headed or hungry
or anything, are you?

DANNY

(reassuringly, nonchalant)
I'm fine.

Penny remains concerned. Danny laughs at Penny's serious face. She looks at Garret. Garret looks back at her not knowing what she's means. She returns her attention to Danny.

Damon places his hand around Danny's back and onto his shoulder as Danny continues to laugh at Penny.

DAMON

(reassuring her, animated)
God, Mom, you always have to worry
about something, don't you? He's
fine. He took his new medication,
slept well, and had breakfast. He's
fine.

Danny slowly stops laughing. Damon takes his arm off of Danny's shoulder.

PENNY

(unsure, lightening up)
Oh, Okay Well, I wanted to tell you
guys that Tony is coming up here
today, so I won't be here after
work. We're going out for drinks
with a couple of his clients from
L.A.

A beat.

Damon and Garret look at her casually as if to say, "All right, so?" whereas Danny appears irked by the mention of Tony. Penny doesn't notice Danny, but Garret nudges Danny to stop. Danny stops and smiles at Garret as if he didn't do anything at all.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(places her index finger
in front of her face)
Wait here a sec, Okay?

Penny runs to her room.

DAMON

(making sure)
You did take your pills, right?

Danny's face shifts as if he doesn't remember. Damon's eyes widen. Garret walks over to Damon from the counter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARRET
(chewing on his Pop Tart)
Yeah he took 'em. I saw him.

Danny giggles to himself and Damon sighs in relief.

DANNY
(serious)
Damon, seriously, you don't have to
worry about that anymore. I'm going
to be fine.

DAMON
(sighing)
Good. I can't go around saving
every damsel in distress.

Damon, Danny, and Garret laugh.

DANNY
(hitting Damon gently on
the shoulder)
Shut up. Damsel.

Penny returns with her Louis Vuiton purse in hand as the boys
are laughing.

PENNY
Okay.

She takes out her matching Louis Vuiton wallet.

PENNY (CONT'D)
I'm going to give you guys some
money for something to eat today,
Okay?

Penny reaches into her wallet, carefully filled with 20's,
50's and 100's in order of worth. She gives each of them
twenty dollars. As Damon receives the first twenty dollar
bill, a chain reaction of pleasant surprise shows on Danny
and Garret's faces. Garret and Damon put the money in their
pockets immediately.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(handing out the money)
And you better not pocket this.
Especially you, Danny. I want you
guys to eat something.

Garret and Damon look at each other and laugh at Penny's
request. Danny is the last to get his twenty dollars. Penny
looks Danny right in the eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (happy to provide, grave)
 There ya go. Now, you better eat
 something, all you've had for the
 past two days is green Jello and
 I.V. fluids.

DANNY
 (appreciative)
 Okay. Thank you, Mom. I will.

Danny gives Penny a kiss on the cheek.

GARRET
 (chipper)
 See you later, Mom, have a good
 time with Tony.

This time, Danny is too concentrated on the twenty dollar bill in his hand that he has no response to the mention of Tony's name.

PENNY
 All right.

Garret kisses Penny and stands back.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 Bye.

Damon steps forward.

DAMON
 (appreciative)
 Thank you for the money.

Damon reaches for Penny's cheek and kisses her.

PENNY
 (kind, happy, pleased to
 please)
 You're welcome. Bye.

Danny puts his money in his pocket.

DANNY
 (sincere)
 I love you.

Danny kisses Penny goodbye.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Bye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

PENNY
(affectionately)
Bye, Bob-o.

Garret and Damon are already headed toward the door. Danny gives Penny a hug before he leaves and steps back toward the door, which Garret holds open. Danny looks at Penny lovingly and exits the house.

GARRET
Bye. See you later.

PENNY
Bye!

Garret walks out the front door and shuts the door gently.

Penny sighs and slowly turns around to go back into her bedroom.

INT - PENNY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Penny is walking back to her bathroom to finish up, but she hears the boys laughing outside. She turns around and heads toward her window. She opens the drapes and simply watches them walk toward Garret's 1993 gray Toyota Cresida.

The boys take their backpacks off as they continue to laugh and get in the car. Garret starts the car up and they pull out of the driveway.

Penny smiles lovingly as she looks out her window. She watches the car as long as she can before it goes out of view. Penny closes the drapes and returns to her bathroom once more.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Garret, Damon, and Danny walk to Garret's car in the far corner of the parking lot. Garret throws his keys up in the air as he walks nearest the car. Damon is behind Garret some three or four feet, waving at his friends.

DAMON
(teasing, yelling)
Try not to run into any other
parked cop cars, Okay?

Damon laughs as he still watches his friend.

DAMON'S FRIEND #1 (O.S.)
(yelling, laughing)
Shut up!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

After catching his keys, Garret turns around at Damon's friends. He then looks at Danny in the distance.

GARRET
(yelling)
Danny, c'mon, I've got to get to
work!

Danny is hugging his female friends and joking and laughing with them.

DANNY
(laughing)
Okay, I guess I gotta go.

FEMALE FRIEND #1
(laughing a bit)
Okay, see you tomorrow then.

DANNY
Bye!

Danny's friends walk away carrying on their joking very animatedly.

FEMALE FRIEND #2
Bye!

Danny waves back. He walks toward the car. The car is already pulled out of the parking space with the music blaring and in the parking lot traffic to get onto the street.

DANNY
(beginning to run,
yelling)
Wait up! Garret!

Damon, who sits in the front seat, rolls down his window and laughs at Danny. Danny reaches the car and gets in the back seat just as Garret accelerates the car.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Hey!

Danny closes the door as Garret and Damon laugh as they pull out of the parking lot.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CARTER HOUSE STREET - DAY

Garret's car makes its way down the street and into the driveway. All of the windows are down as the music still plays loudly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Two crows following the car not to far up in the sky perch themselves in a tree. Garret parks the car and turns off the ignition in the driveway behind the Mercedes.

GARRET

Looks like Mom got let off of work early.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Garret, Damon, and Danny get out of the car. Danny and Damon get out on the same side nearest the front walkway. They both have their backpacks in hand and put them on their back before they close their doors.

Meanwhile, Garret is getting his back pack out of the backseat on the other side of the car. He bobs his head and hums to the song that was playing on the radio. Danny and Damon look over at Garret and laugh at him, but not loud enough for Garret to hear them.

DAMON

(to himself, dry,
jokingly)
Dork!

Danny laughs and Damon looks up and laughs with him.

DANNY

(As Garret walks toward
them, disgusted, amused)
You know what Jake, told me today?
That the dictionary meaning of
"dork" is whale's phallus.

DAMON

(amused)
Really? Sick.

The three of them walk down the front walkway.

GARRET

(interested)
Danny, did you turn your poetry
project in today?

DANNY

(proud)
Yeah, I think he liked it.

GARRET

He should. You spent enough time on
it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(upset)
He made me read some, though.

DAMON
So? That means he liked them. Dork.

Damon and Danny laugh as they enter the front door, which is already open.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Damon puts his backpack on the dining room table and heads for the refrigerator as Garret and Danny head for Penny's bedroom. As soon as Damon opens the refrigerator they hear Penny call out to them from her bedroom.

PENNY
(yelling, happy)
Damon, boys, come in here!

Damon closes the refrigerator reluctantly and they all head for Penny's bedroom.

INT. PENNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

As usual, Penny's room is immaculate. Danny sits in Penny's desk chair near the door as Damon walks in. Danny and Damon exchange glances and smirks. Garret sits at the foot of Penny's bed on the opposite side of Penny.

Penny is still in her work clothes. She sits on her foot with her Louis Vuiton purse close next to her. Her Prada shoes dangle from her feet and from the bed. Penny rubs her hands together and takes a deep breath in.

PENNY
(exhaling, calm)
Okay, I've got some good news for you guys and Bill let me off early enough so I could be here when you got home to tell you.

The boys' eyes light up, eyebrows raise.

DANNY
(excited)
Well, What? What is it?

Penny reaches into her purse, holding it close to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY
(pulling travel brochures
out, cool, excited,
smiling)
We're goin' to Hawaii, baby!

Garret, Damon, and Danny gasp. Danny gets up from the chair and walks over to Penny. Damon walks over to where Garret is sitting. Garret reaches for the brochures and flips through them like a magazine.

Once Danny reaches Penny she pulls out some internet website print-outs. Danny looks through them amazed, surprised, and elated. Meanwhile Damon looks through the brochures with Garret.

DAMON
(surprised)
Oh, my God, Mom!

GARRET
(flabbergasted)
Mom, this is amazing!

Danny pulls the print outs away from his face and smiles at Penny before he hugs her tightly.

DANNY
(his voice slightly
muffled)
I love you, I love you, I love you,
I love you...

Penny beams. Danny pulls away from Penny.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(elated)
This is so exciting! When do we
leave?

The boys look back and forth from the brochures and the print outs to Penny, excited as their anticipation for the answer builds.

PENNY
(cool)
Well, let me tell you about it
first.

A beat. The boys wait patiently as Penny looks at each of their faces.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (excited, proud, bragging)
 Deluxe five star resort and spa
 hotel right on the beach. Scuba
 diving, accessible waterfalls,
 volcano tours, crystal blue
 beaches, all of it! All I have to
 do is book the flight.

A beat.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 ...First class.

The boys gasp once more.

DAMON/GARRET/DANNY
 Oh, my God!

Something strikes Damon's mind.

DAMON
 (animated)
 Wait! What about school?

Garret and Danny look up at Penny for her response.

PENNY
 (nonchalant)
 You can take a couple of weeks off,
 I suppose.

Damon and Garret gasp and look at each other in amazement.

DANNY
 (in disbelief, going to
 hug Penny)
 Oh, dear Lord. Ohmigod. Oh, God.
 Why? W-why?

Danny hugs Penny.

PENNY
 (smiling)
 Just because. I thought we could
 use some time by ourselves, as a
 family.

Danny quickly lets go of Penny.

DANNY
 (eyes wide, happy)
 Tony isn't coming?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PENNY
(slightly pleased)
No, he can't. He has to work.

Danny giggles openly.

PENNY (CONT'D)
(insistent)
And let's try not to talk about
this too much around him. He'd shit
his pants if he knew how much this
little trip of ours cost him.

Danny and Damon laugh.

GARRET
(stunned)
I can't believe you did this. I
don't believe it.

DAMON
(smiling, curious)
How much will it cost?

Danny and Damon look at Penny while Garret continues to be
baffled by Penny's extreme act of kindness.

PENNY
(cool, tittering)
You'd shit your pants, too.

All four of them laugh.

DANNY
(laughing)
I love you, Mom.

Danny hugs Penny once more as they all continue to laugh with
pleasure and excitement.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PENNY'S MERCEDES - DAY

Penny drives up Bill's driveway with the boys in tow. The
driveway is long, narrow, and flourishing with lush green
bushes and beautiful, colorful, and healthy roses. JORGE, a
gardener, tends to them in the middle section of the
driveway. Penny waves at him.

PENNY
(her arm out the window,
friendly)
Hola Jorge. Como estas?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JORGE
 (waving back, friendly
 back))
 Hola! Bien, gracias.

Penny lets her arm hang out the window as she drives on. Her various pieces of jewelry - Egyptian and Victorian gold bracelets, her diamond wedding ring and engagement ring, etc. - glisten and dangle in the wind.

Danny sits in the front seat holding a Louis Vuiton train case in his lap. Garret and Damon sit in the back crammed and uncomfortable between many different pieces of luggage. Both of them are trying to reach for the radio to change the station. It is tuned to Johnny Mathis's "Wonderful, Wonderful". They shove each other with their shoulders.

GARRET
 (aggravated, immature)
 Would you stop it! You're being
 childish.

Danny remains still and giggles at Garret's comment.

DAMON
 Shut up, Danny!

Penny parks. She opens her door and gets out. She stretches and takes a deep breath in as she looks out at the view.

PENNY
 (sighing, calm, not
 sarcastic at all)
 Ah, nice to see things are back to
 normal.

Just as she closes her door Damon pushes the pedal to Danny's seat down and Danny's seat launches back. Damon moves out of the way in time for the seat to miss him.

Danny, taken off guard, gets dramatic. He holds the train case delicately out in front of him.

EXT. BILL'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Penny slowly and leisurely strolls away from the car.

Bill's house is beautiful. It has two stories, sits on a magnificent green hill, and has a gorgeous ocean view.

Penny looks perfectly content, healthy, and alive. But as she walks around Bill's Jaguar and Mercedes Benz to the side of the house humming "Wonderful, Wonderful", she slows down on her pace and presses on the back of her head. It looks like she has a headache. She keeps walking toward her office.

INT. PENNY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Penny opens the side screen door. Bill sits at his desk with the computer on and files and papers scattered along his desk. He is obviously busy.

PENNY
Knock, knock!

Penny enters. Bill looks up from his desk, his glasses balancing on his nose.

BILL
Hey, sweetie.

He stands up and gives Penny a hug and a kiss. Penny cringes a bit.

BILL (CONT'D)
(joking, then concerned)
What was that for? Are you Okay?

PENNY
(looks around the office)
Yeah, I've just been getting these sharp brief headaches. These kids, you know.

BILL
Yeah, I hear ya'.

PENNY
(takes hand off her head)
You got my check.

BILL
(fingering some papers on her desk)
Yes. I've got it here somewhere.

Penny takes her check off of Bill's computer monitor.

PENNY
(showing Bill)
Found it.

Bill looks up from his desk.

BILL
(jokes and taps his bald head)
My mind's getting old.

Penny smiles as she makes her way to the side screen door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL (CONT'D)
Don't spend it all in one place.

Penny opens the screen door.

PENNY
(smiling)
Okay.

Bill gives Penny a hug.

BILL
(warm)
Have a good time, all right? You
deserve some time off.

Penny smiles and lets go of Bill.

PENNY
Okay I will.

Penny opens the screen door and walks out.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Bye! See you in two weeks!

Bill holds the screen door open as he yells back to her.

BILL
Bye! Try to come home in one piece!

Bill nods and closes the door. He carries on with his desk work.

EXT. BILL'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Penny walks toward the Mercedes.

Garret leans forward in the car as he turns the radio - tuned to a rock station - up. Danny remains still and is upright once more.

DANNY
(to Garret)
Turn it down. Mom's coming.

Garret turns the radio down and sits back. Penny waves her check at them. She opens her door. Penny shuts the car door.

PENNY (O.S.)
Let's go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The boys cheer. Penny turns the car around and drives out of the driveway. She honks the horn twice - BEEP, BEEP - and waves at Jorge once more.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KAUAI COAST - DAY

Panoramic view of the coast from the wing of the plane. The waves crash against the dark heaps of lava rocks. Mist billows into the air, showering the lush green hillside.

As the waves clear the rocks, sheets of brilliant crabs scurry back into the ocean. As the plane continues to fly, a majestic waterfall peeks out from behind the hill. It falls as if it were in slow motion, creating a tremendous foamy cloud at the base of the fall.

A man and women swim nude at the calm end of the water. Two crows fly along the coast with the plane.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Danny is in a wondrous daze as he stares out the window smiling. He is in a state of serenity and oneness.

Damon leans over him to look out he window. Danny glances at him and turns back to the window smiling still.

In the row of seats in front of them sits Garret and Penny. They are equally enthralled in the view, smiling and pointing at the scene that lay in front of them.

CLOSE on Danny's tranquil, content, utterly happy face.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - SUNSET

We hear Penny trying to get the door open. The door opens and the boys rush in. Danny appears a little more awestruck than the rest of them. Damon runs to the beautiful, wide balcony overlooking the beach. It's a room in itself.

Garret jumps onto the queen size bed. Danny follows his lead after taking a 360 degree look at the room and hugging Penny. The BELLHOP hauls in all of their luggage. As he exits Penny stops him.

PENNY
(polite)
Excuse me, sir.

The bellhop turns around and Penny reaches into her pocket and hands him a tip.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY (CONT'D)

There you go. Thank you for all
your help.

He looks at the tip and pockets it.

BELLHOP

(kissing up)

Thank you. You're welcome, call if
you need anything. Anything at all,
miss.

He walks out and Penny walks behind him to close the door.
She turns back around and the boys are still meddling around
and jumping on the beds.

Danny begins to stop jumping as Penny smiles upon her sons.
He bounces on his back until he's laying flat on the bed.

DANNY

(sighing)

Perfect. Perfect.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KAUAI CORAL REEF - DAY

Penny, Garret, Damon, Danny, and other tourists scuba dive in
the natural wonder that is the Kauai coral reef.

Penny and the boys explore the reef on their own away from
the others. The water is the most beautiful color blue
imaginable. Bubbles rise from each individual diver. Fish and
hundreds of other sea creatures mingle around them as though
they weren't even there. The sunlight strikes them causing
their colors to shine even brighter than they naturally are.

Penny puts her hand up to the rainbow fish letting a small
school of them gather around her.

Garret has his head down as far as possible to the ocean
floor. Damon follows one particular fish around. As the fish
turns around Damon slowly tumbles in the water.

Danny is completely mesmerized by everything around him. His
eyes wander from here to there, his body moves slowly with
great form almost like a ballet. We hear all of their
breathing through their respiratory masks.

GARRET

(bubbles release from his
mask)

Mom, come look at this!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE on Garret poking his finger into a patch of red and pink sea flowers that pucker up when you touch them.

PENNY

What is it?

GARRET

(excited, spellbound)

It's one of those flower thingies that clench up when you touch 'em.

PENNY

Oh, yeah. We had those in Mexico, right?

GARRET

Not like this.

Garret continues to poke the poor things.

DAMON

(looking out at the other scuba divers, laughing)

I think we're supposed to be with the rest of the divers. What do you think?

PENNY

(tipping her head in the direction of an old man)

I think that old man's Depends are about to float up out of his Speedos.

They all laugh.

DANNY (V.O.)

Sick, I know, but it's her humor. At her best you might want to cover your ears.

DAMON

(laughing)

Eeewwwwwwww...

A beat.

DANNY

(still, serious)

Mom.

PENNY

(her laughing winding down)

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY
 (beginning to laugh,
 pointing at the old man)
 I think they are floating off.

They all look over at the man again. They laugh hysterically. As Penny laughs she tips back onto a piece of coral.

PENNY
 (laughing, grabbing her
 cheeks)
 Oooooowwwwwwww...

The boys and Penny herself laugh at her.

EXT. SMALL WATERFALL - DAY

Two crows close by. A plane flies high above the scene.

Penny stands on the stone ledge behind the waterfall. She steps forward into the falling sheet of water. Immediately she tips her head back as she runs her hands across her face and back to her dark hair. She is wearing only a bathing suit and a matching orchid in her shoulder strap.

Danny, Garret, and Damon all swim in the cool, calm water in front of Penny.

DAMON
 (joking, to Penny,
 regarding the plane
 passengers)
 Who you trying to impress? They
 can't see you.

Penny stops massaging her hair.

PENNY
 Oh yeah?

She unsnaps her top at the front and flashes the plane.

The boys laugh and Penny snaps it back closed. She laughs with the boys and then jumps into the water with them.

EXT. RESORT HOTEL BEACH - DAY

Penny and Danny sit under a private palapa cabana lounging and burying their feet in the warm white sand. Damon and Garret are body surfing in the water.

Penny and Danny relax with their separate drinks each unique in color, size, and taste and each equipped with small paper umbrellas.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
You know what just dawned on me?

PENNY
(her eyes closed,
relaxing)
What is it?

DANNY
If you died, we'd be orphans.

PENNY
(giggling, not taking it
seriously)
What, like Little Orphan Annie?

Danny is now sitting up in his lounge chair and quite serious.

DANNY
No, Mom, seriously. Where would we
go? What would we do?

Penny turns her head to Danny and looks at him with squinted eyes.

PENNY
Since when did you become such a
negative thinker?

DANNY
I just--

Penny lays back into her chair and gets comfortable, digging her feet further into the sand.

PENNY
All I know is, if anything happens,
I don't want to be hooked up to any
machines like Mark was or like they
wanted your Dad to be before we
moved to Mexico. Don't leave me to
rot like some rodent, or something,
Okay?

DANNY
(lovingly, strong)
Absolutely. I'll take care of you.

Penny turns to Danny and pats his sunburned cheek.

PENNY
(smiling, appreciative,
adoring)
You always have, Bob-o.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny smiles. Penny takes her hands off of Danny's face and returns to her relaxation and watches Garret and Damon.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 And I don't know what you're
 angling at here, but Claire gets
 all of my jewelry when I die, so...

They both laugh and their heads slowly turn to each other. Penny pats Danny's knee. Danny covers her hand with his hand.

INT. DANNY AND PENNY'S HOTEL SUITE - BALCONY - SUNSET

We hear Penny showering getting ready for the night.

Danny is fully dressed and ready to go. He has a bit of a sunburn. He gazes out on the beautiful mountain and beach view as the sun sets into the crystal ocean. He is in a state of complete tranquility and happiness. He takes a deep breath enjoying the scent of the Hawaiian air and closes his eyes.

PENNY (O.S.)
 (still showering)
 Ow!

Danny immediately turns around.

DANNY
 (concerned)
 What? What's wrong?

He runs over to the bathroom.

INT. DANNY AND PENNY'S HOTEL SUITE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny enters the bathroom. The elegant mirrors are all fogged up and all of their toiletries are carelessly scattered about the counter. Penny turns the shower - which may as well be another room entirely - off. She pulls the towel off of the shower door, wraps it around her body, and gets out.

PENNY
 (holding her head,
 confused)
 I don't know. My head just got this
 sharp stabbing pain.

Danny looks at her just as worried as before.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 It's gone now.

Penny pauses and smiles at Danny. Danny smiles back at her more assured now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY (CONT'D)

Let's go get ourselves something to eat!

Danny perks up at that.

EXT. RESORT LUAU - NIGHT

A group of four scantily clad Hawaiian men twist and twirl wooden batons on fire at the ends. One man behind them chants a song as he beats on a large drum. Four Hawaiian HULA DANCERS come into frame, two from each side, hauling in a roasted pig with an apple in its mouth, tantalizing and inciting the audience.

They whistle and clap enthusiastically. Of all four of them sitting at the table, Garret becomes the most excited. Penny reaches across the table and nudges him to go dance with them. Garret hesitates and tries to be shy, but soon gets up there with them and dances horribly with all four of the other dancers but with great glee and enthusiasm.

They all laugh and soon Penny motions to Damon to get the camera out. Damon gives her the camera from her purse on the ground. Penny quickly takes the top of the line camera and snaps a picture of Garret goofing off with the hula dancers.

She gets ready to take another picture but her face suddenly turns from her blissful disposition to that of pain. She just got another shot of pain in her head. She takes her hand off of the camera and puts pressure of the pain point. Danny, still laughing at Garret with Damon, turns his head to look at Penny and notices her state.

DANNY

(worried more so than before)

Mom, Mom are you okay?

Penny takes her hand off of her head and tries to play it off.

PENNY

(turning her head slowly to Danny, still in pain)

Yeah, I'm fine. Why don't you take another picture of Garret?

She reaches to give Danny the camera but her arm falls and she begins to have a quiet seizure, beginning with twitches in her eyes and the escalating to her head. Danny immediately knows what to do. He gets out of his chair...

Damon is still watching Garret.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

(turning around, smiling)

Are we supposed to eat...?

Danny proceeds to help Penny. He is squatted next to her making sure she doesn't fall and hit her head. She is now falling out of her chair and convulsing all over her body. Her eyes are rolled back into her head, her hair drapes all across her face. A minute ago she was beautiful, lively, and vibrant -- but now she's deathly ill.

Damon and Garret have now taken notice of her condition. Damon freaks out and doesn't know what to do. He gets out of his chair and stands back reluctant and hesitant to help Penny or even get near her.

Danny holds her head to the side so that she doesn't swallow her tongue. Garret rushes over and the hula dancers stop dancing and appear frightened. Those in the crowd who hadn't noticed Penny before stop clapping and whistling and focus on Garret to see why he's running off.

Danny is crying hysterically. Garret kneels down next to him not knowing where to start. He too is crying uncontrollably. As Garret reaches them, he looks at Penny and sits her up as she continues to convulse. He and Danny look around for anybody with a phone.

DAMON (CONT'D)

(frantic, hysterical)

Does anybody have a cell phone?

Call 911! Call an ambulance!

Somebody! God damn it!

DANNY

(crying frantically,
hysterical)

For Christ's sake, someone give us
a phone! My Mom is dying! She's
dying! Call an ambulance! Call an
ambulance!

A man runs through the tables and hands a phone out to them.

MAN W/CELL PHONE

I have a phone! Here!

As he walks over he opens his phone and dials 9-1-1. Garret snatches it right out of his hands.

GARRET

(frenetic)

We need an ambulance! Our Mom is
twitching all over! Help us!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GARRET (CONT'D)

Help us! I don't know what's wrong
with her, just get us an ambulance!

He throws the phone down and the man picks the phone up from the ground and tells the operator where they are. He hangs up.

MAN W/CELL PHONE

(frenzied)

They're coming! The paramedics are
coming!

Damon continues to cradle Penny's body in his arms as she continues to seize. Danny holds onto her from behind, her arms flailing onto his thighs. He picks them up and obviously doesn't know what to do.

Garret nears them and picks Penny's arm up and brushes her hair out of her face. He tries to stabilize her by holding her limbs down but she is convulsing too much. They all cry together.

DANNY

(rocking on his knees,
crying)

No, no, Mommy, no! Stop it! Stop
it! Please no! Don't do this!
Please! I love you, Mom. I love
you.

EXT. HOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

The paramedics have put Penny on a stretcher and they wheel her into the ambulance. She continues to convulse even as the paramedics try to hold her down. Her eyes remain in the back of her head and her hair falls off of the stretcher.

All three of the boys, the man with the phone, and some other people from the luau follow behind her.

The two paramedics slide her into the ambulance.

PARAMEDIC #2

Looks like a brain aneurysm.

Danny is struck by what he said. He tries to get into the ambulance but the paramedics won't let him.

PARAMEDIC #1

I'm sorry, you can't get in here.

DANNY

(crying, shoving his way
in)

I don't care! I want my Mom!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The paramedics push Danny away from the ambulance. Garret pulls Danny back toward him away from the ambulance.

The paramedic closes the doors and they drive off with the sirens ringing and lit up. The boys hold onto each other tightly as Danny continues to cry hysterically.

The man with the phone approaches them, the cell phone still in his hand.

MAN W/CELL PHONE
(sensitive, gentle)
I can give you guys a ride to the hospital. I have a car.

The boys look up at him in desperation. Danny nods as Garret comforts him holding him tightly.

INT. MAN WITH CELL PHONE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Garret and Danny sit in the back seat as Garret remains hugging him tightly and securely.

DANNY (V.O.)
Time doesn't heal. It just doesn't.

Damon is in the front seat and continually looks back to them from the ambulance in front of them on the street. The man drives as fast as he possibly can and looks at the boys with great concern making sure that they are as well as they could be at a time such as this. Or perhaps he's just looking at them in wonderment.

Danny can't bring himself to look up at the ambulance.

DANNY (CONT'D)
I CAN'T! I CAN'T! Mom! Mommy!

GARRET
(cradling him)
Ssshhhhhhh. It's all right. It's going to be all right. Be strong. It's going to all right.

INT. PENNY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - SUNRISE

Danny watches Penny's lifeless body lay on her hospital bed. The sounds of life support machines echo throughout the room.

DANNY (V.O.)
Only a day before she said this wasn't how it was supposed to be. That she didn't want it this way.

Garret and Damon sit slumped over in chair asleep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny's chair is right next to Penny's bed. He gently strokes her hand and forearm before he pulls her still styled hair out of her face. He looks at her right at her eyes.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 (whispering, utterly
 sorrowful)
 You can't live like this.

A beat. He gets up out of his chair and walks over to Damon and Garret who sit side by side. He shakes them so they will wake up. They slowly open their eyes, squinting at the morning sun coming through the window.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 She can't live like this. She
 can't...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LAGOON BEACH - MEXICO - DAY

Everyone Penny and the boys have ever known are gathered on the beach.

Claire, Sandy, and Tony push Garret, Damon, and Danny out into the ocean in three different canoes. Each one of them carries a small golden urn containing some of Penny's ashes. They paddle off laughing and smiling at each other.

The grand crowd of people on the shore cheers them on with an uproar of peacefulness, contentment and extreme pride to love and be loved by such an extraordinary woman and soul.

They jump up and down, whistle, and run out to the shore line. There are no tears, no frowns, or sad eyes. Only smiles, bold laughter, and vibrant, lively faces.

As they cheer the boys on, the boys stop paddling and line up together in the calm ocean and look at each other. They're ready. They hold their urns at their chests.

GARRET/DAMON/DANNY
 One... Two... Three!

They raise the urns up into the air and Penny's ashes go flying out into the wind in a beautiful display of poetic proportions.

Up into the air the ashes fly as the crowd's cheering grows louder. Garret, Damon, and Danny laugh and look at each other loving each other, loving life and loving their family.

As the ashes spread out into the air they reach two crows perched on top of a heap of dark sea rocks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The crows look behind as out of the sky comes another stunning, bold, and statuesque crow, her wings spreading out across the entire sky. She perches with the other two and then they all fly out into the vast open sky, free and crowing in majestic, harmonious, beautiful tune.

As they fly over the scene we see the crowd embracing Garret, Damon, and Danny and each other as they get off of their canoes.

DANNY (V.O.)

Just as I was told, time healed. I healed. I even grew to think Tony wasn't such a shithead, if you can believe that. And you know what? I have no regrets. Not one.

A crowd from different backgrounds, different styles, and different colors embrace only to love and be in love with life and all those beautiful, loving, nurturing "Wonderful, Wonderful" people they meet along the way.

FADE TO BLACK.

DANNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Not one.

THE END