

THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

Written by

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Based on the novel by Stephen Chbosky

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ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOVIE BEING PRODUCED.

FADE IN:

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Tickling and clanking sounds fill the average sized, cozy room of CHARLIE (15) slim built and attractive, as he type on his fading typewriter. He's typing hastily; the paper is being stamped by hundreds of letters.

Charlie stops.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I'm writing this for you is because I know you'll listen, even though I didn't know who you are, I'm sure you can somehow sob or even flinch at this letter. I just need to know that someone out there listens and understands to everything I say.

He is finished with the letter, he pulls the paper out of the typewriter then lays it on the table. He opens his drawer and pulls out an envelope.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie exits the house and grabs his bicycle; he has the envelope stapled on his mouth. He struggles moving out of the yard at first but manages to make it successfully. He starts hitting the streets.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I want you to know that I am both happy and sad. I'm still trying to figure out how that could be.

EXT. LOCAL POST OFFICE - DAY

Charlie saddles his bike on one corner. He runs inside.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

All I want to do now is to
tell you about my life, about
what's happening to me...

EXT. HILL - DAY

Charlie is on a green field, he's looking at the
beautiful scenery down below. He smiles and lifts his
two hands in the air.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

...why am I here? What am I
doing? I'm wickedly sure that
you somehow don't care, but I
just want you to hear the
perks of being a
wallflower...

FADE OUT.

INSERT TITLE CARD: THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - DIFFERENT DAY

Charlie rises from his bed as his ALARM roars; he picks
it up and then turns it off. He lazily pulls himself out
of the bed.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I just got out of middle
school, and this day is my
first day as a high school.
Its nerve wracking actually,
I hate to admit it but I'm
kind of scared.

There's a PICTURE FRAME at one of his side tables, there
is Charlie standing beside a pudgy cheeked BOY.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie runs down the stairs, his hair is perfectly
combed, his shoes are shiny. He goes to the kitchen and
sees his MOM setting up the table.

MOM

Oh! Charlie! You're so handsome. Come here.

Mom kisses Charlie on the cheek. Charlie just smirks.

MOM

Go sit down. I'll ready your breakfast. You know, first days are so blissful.

Charlie is just sitting there quietly. Judging by his face, he's not that excited about entering high school as a freshman. Mom is busy taking care of the breakfast.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

There are currently four people living in this house, my Mom, my Dad, my Sister and me. My brother is staying at a dormitory because he's entering college at Penn State.

Charlie's SISTER (17) enters the kitchen, she's chewing a bubble gum, she's a senior and is slightly rebellious. She sits in front of her brother.

SISTER

Good morning, suffer in silence dork.

CHARLIE

Shut up.

Mom sees her chewing.

MOM

Young lady, didn't I tell you that gums are not for breakfast?

SISTER

What the hell? I'm just using this gum to activate my taste buds.

Mom walks towards her.

MOM

Spill it out.

SISTER

No.

MOM

I said spill it out.

Sister heaves out a sigh then spills it on the floor.

MOM

Hey!

SISTER

You said I spill it out!

MOM

Have you heard of trash can?

SISTER

Sorry. They don't teach that
at high school.

Mom sighs. She picks the gum on the floor and shoots it
on the trash can.

SISTER

Gross!

Mom serves their breakfast. Charlie stares at her
sister.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't know but should I be
scared at high school? My
sister pretty much turned to
be such a cold skank when she
entered high school.

She notices that his eyes are glued to her.

SISTER

What?

CHARLIE

Nothing.

Charlie digs on his cereals.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie and his Sister walk out of the house with their books and backpacks. Mom is just behind them, she stops at the doorway.

MOM

Good luck!

They both turn.

SISTER

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Bye, Mom!

They go the curb where a CAR is pulled in. They enter it.

INT. CAR - DAY

They both sit at the backseat. Their DAD (40's) is the driver.

DAD

Morning. Excited?

Charlie shrugs his head off.

DAD

Ow. C'mon, cheer up!

SISTER

Don't worry, Charlie. It's just high school.

Charlie fakes a smile.

DAD

Okay, let's go. Your mother is sure worrying.

They start to drive off.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I wouldn't be as nervous as this if Michael is still here. Michael's my best friend. Too bad, he killed himself just before we finish middle school. It's sad, really.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The bell rings. Charlie is walking in the hallway, shyly. He has his head bow down. There are some familiar faces he can see.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

My first day was a blur. My sister just disappeared after we hop down my Dad's car. It's crazy. I don't know where to go.

He goes into his locker and puts books he won't need. Charlie shuts it and sees a GIRL, she's raiding her locker that is beside his.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

My mom said I should go make some friends. I don't have the iron backbone and this attempt was a long shot.

Charlie smiles at the Girl.

CHARLIE

Hi, I'm Charlie.

GIRL

I know.

She closes her locker and starts marching down away from him. Charlie shakes his head off. He couldn't believe it. He looks up at his schedule and starts moving out.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Advanced English was my first class, there I met Bill, well "Bill" is the name he wanted me to call him when we're not in class.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

Charlie is sitting silently at his chair. Other students are busy listening to BILL, bald and aging, he looks smart.

BILL

Okay, class. Today, we're going to discuss about novels.

He scribbles at the board.

BILL

Well, tell me anything you know about novels?

No one dares to raise their hands up.

BILL

No one? Come on. Novels? Do you only read *Good Housekeeping*? 'Cause totally it's insufficient to fulfill your literary needs. Come on.

Bill calls someone behind Charlie.

BILL

You, Patrick!

Charlie turns and sees PATRICK, he doesn't look like a freshman.

PATRICK

Sir?

BILL

Patrick here is a senior and he said he wanted to attend Advanced English, that's why he's here.

Patrick stands.

BILL

Why don't you tell me about novels?

PATRICK

Uhm, I'm not really into novels, but I guess novels are cool. Yeah, they are cool.

BILL

What's the first novel you read?

PATRICK

Hmm. I guess, it's...actually, it's a Stephen King novel. You know, the novel with a girl that is telekinetic and she's like covered in blood.

BILL

Ow. *Carrie*. Yeah, that's a good one. Thanks, Patrick.

Patrick sits down and Bill continues on speaking. Charlie sighs.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

It's funny that this Patrick guy here is called Nothing when he was younger, yep, Nothing. It happened when kids started calling him Patty, he told those kids that either they call him Patrick or nothing. There it goes, he was branded as Nothing.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie is walking into a field alone. CHEERLEADERS and ATHLETES are practicing nearby.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I'm not saying that high school is bad, it's not just that lovely. The cafeteria is called "Nutrition Center", which is strange because all they got for sale was junk foods.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY

Charlie enters the gym and walks into the bleachers, he sits on a cornered spot. There's a BASKETBALL warm up happening.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

One day, I was contemplating how the cafeteria became the Nutrition Center, when I found myself in the school gym. It's funny because I never go in a place like this back when I was in middle school. Michael and I mostly spend our free time playing some video games at a local arcade.

He grabs a sandwich club from his bag and starts munching on it.

PATRICK (O.S.)

C'mon, BRAD!!

Charlie looks down and sees Nothing from his Advanced English class, he's yelling at the players, like he's a hardcore spectator watching a real game.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

There I saw, Nothing, but
let's call him Patrick from
now on. He would yell things
out like he's the coach or
something. This guy is really
hilarious. I'm really shy but
I think Patrick's a guy who
won't reject you.

Charlie goes to the wild Patrick on his seat.

CHARLIE

Hey, you're in my English
class! Nothing, right?

Patrick smiles.

PATRICK

Just Patrick. You?

CHARLIE

I'm Charlie.

PATRICK

Ah, this is Sam.

He points to a young lady who is sitting beside him,
SAM, pretty and striking, she's obviously a senior too.

SAM

Hey, Charlie.

She flashes a very warm smile.

PATRICK

C'mon, sit down.

Charlie hesitates. He sits down beside them.

SAM

So, you're a freshman? How is
it?

CHARLIE

Uhm, its fine. Not that
great.

SAM

Oh yeah. That sucks. Freshman year is a lunacy.

Charlie grins.

PATRICK

Hey, wanna come with us at Big Boy later?

CHARLIE

Big Boy?

PATRICK

Yeah, the coffee shop downtown. It's nice in there.

CHARLIE

Okay.

Charlie nods. Patrick and Sam smile at each other.

EXT. BIG BOY - DUSK

They are sitting outside the coffee shop, sipping drinks and munching down donuts. Charlie is sitting in front of them, tedious.

SAM

So, how old are you Charlie?

CHARLIE

Fifteen.

Sam turns to Patrick.

SAM

Patrick wants to know more anything about you. Patrick?

PATRICK

Do you have any favorite bands? Or movie?

CHARLIE

Uhm, actually, I loved the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*.

SAM

Oh. Good taste. I loved that too.

PATRICK

How about your favorite book? Got any?

CHARLIE

The Side of Paradise by Scott Fitzgerald.

PATRICK

Why?

A beat.

CHARLIE

Because it was the last one I read.

Patrick and Sam share glances and then start laughing hard. Charlie is confused.

CHARLIE

What's so funny?

They finally stop.

SAM

It's just that you're so honest, not a show off. That's cool.

CHARLIE

So, how long have you been going out?

PATRICK

What?

Again, they start chuckling.

CHARLIE

Again? What's so funny?

SAM

We're siblings.

CHARLIE
(surprised and
bewildered)
What? You don't look alike.

PATRICK
Step. His mom married my
father, so that's it.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
I was very happy to know that
since I would really love to
ask Sam on a date. And
speaking about *It's a
Wonderful Life*, I just
remembered something about my
childhood.

FLASHBACK:

INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Young Charlie, about 7 years old is looking at his Dad
as he cries while making sandwiches. Charlie is
confused.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
I remembered how my Dad cries
at that movie. He will go at
the kitchen just before the
movie ends.

Dad knew that he's there. He wipes his hand to get rid
of mustard then he pats his son's shoulder.

DAD
This is our little secret,
okay, champ?

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
I loved how my Dad is so
gentle, he never hit me or
any of my siblings. Except
for one time...

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Young Charlie is slapped by Dad. It's not really that strong but it hurts. Charlie starts to sob.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

...my Dad slapped me because I made my Aunt Helen cry. I don't really know what happened that day, I just don't. All I know that Aunt Helen is my favorite aunt, she's nice and is always there for me. I missed her. She died at December 25, my birthday. I wish I was never born that day, so it won't be too snowy, so Aunt Helen won't get on an accident.

END FLASHBACKS.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie enters their house, wipes his mud on the mat and moves on. He sees his parents at the living room, watching some lame TV show.

CHARLIE

I'm home.

Mom and Dad spin their head. Mom stands up and goes to him.

MOM

Oh. How is it?

CHARLIE

Fine.

MOM

Did you made any friends?

CHARLIE

Hmm. Actually, yes. Sam and Patrick.

MOM

Wow, that's great!

CHARLIE

They are seniors.

MOM

What?

Dad stands up too and chuckles.

DAD

Well, at least you made it.

MOM

Yeah. And I guess seniors are mature persons. I just guess.

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

I'll go do my assignments.

MOM

Okay.

Charlie starts going upstairs.

MOM

Dinner will be ready!

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie is busy doing assignments when his Sister barged in the door.

SISTER

Hey.

CHARLIE

Hey.

SISTER

What happened to you?

CHARLIE

Should I be the one asking you that question? You left your own brother at his first day in high school.

SISTER

Don't create such fuss. At least, it's over.

Charlie just sighs and continues what he's doing. Sister comes to him.

SISTER

Here.

She produces a mixtape into her hands and offers it to him.

CHARLIE

What's that?

SISTER

A mixtape. You should listen to it. Take this as a peace offering or whatsoever.

CHARLIE

Where did you get this?

SISTER

From my last jerk boyfriend.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

Sister heads out the door. Charlie looks at it.

LATER THAT NIGHT:

Charlie is lying on his bed, looking at the ceiling while *Asleep by the Smiths* is playing.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I listened to the mix tape that night and so far, I liked the songs on it. That night is also the night where I first dreamt about Sam.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY/CHARLIE'S DREAM

They are both naked, lying on the floor. They look at each other at smiles.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

It was a terrible and weird dream actually. I felt so ashamed because I saw her naked without permission.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie is strolling the premises, he has no class for the next hour. He sees Sam and Patrick at a bench, smoking.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

The next day, I was hesitant to tell Sam about the dream but I really wanted her to know. I don't understand. It's just weird.

He goes and looks at them, he's kind of disgusted that they are smoking.

PATRICK

Hey, Charlie. Want some smoke?

CHARLIE

No. I'll pass.

SAM

How are you?

CHARLIE

I'm great. Cool.

SAM

You got nice jeans. Where do you get that?

CHARLIE

Oh. My Mom bought it on a thrift store.

PATRICK

Tell her she has good taste.

SAM

Exactly.

A beat.

CHARLIE

Uhm, Sam? Can I talk to you
for a minute? Alone?

Patrick and Sam share stares again, they grin.

SAM

Yeah. Why not?

They stand up.

SAM

See ya, Patrick.

PATRICK

Go on.

Then Sam and Charlie starts marching away from Patrick.
Sam throws the cigarette on the ground then steps on it,
she blows the remaining smoke out of her throat.

SAM

So, what is it?

CHARLIE

I don't really know how I
will tell you this.

SAM

Come on. Is it something
serious?

CHARLIE

I dreamt about you last
night.

SAM

Okay, then?

CHARLIE

You were naked. We're both
naked.

Charlie bursts into an abrupt cry. A moment passes by,
Sam lets out a warm laugh.

SAM

Ow. Don't cry. Its okay, its
fine you dream about me.

Charlie is still sobbing.

SAM

You're too cute.

Charlie stops.

CHARLIE

It's okay?

SAM

Yeah. No harm. No foul.

CHARLIE

But...

SAM

Do I look pretty?

CHARLIE

Yes.

SAM

You know that you're too
young for me Charlie, right?

Charlie nods.

SAM

I don't want you go waste
your time thinking about me
that way.

CHARLIE

I won't. It was just a dream.

Sam smiles, holds his hands and drags him back to
Patrick who is still smoking.

PATRICK

What happened? Why are you
all red, Charlie?

SAM

Charlie has a Charlie-esque
crush on me.

PATRICK

Really?

He smiles.

CHARLIE

I'm trying not to.

They siblings laugh.

PATRICK

That's awesome. Charlie's now
one of us.

CHARLIE

What?

SAM

You're our friend now.

PATRICK

Welcome, crybaby.

SAM

Why don't you come with us,
tomorrow night?

CHARLIE

Why?

SAM

We're going to a party. Come
on, it's cool.

Patrick nods in agreement.

CHARLIE

Okay.

They all snicker.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A red convertible Volkswagen pulls in at the curb. Sam is on the steering wheel, she beeps. Patrick is in the backseat. Charlie exits the house, wearing faded gray sweater. He goes to them.

PATRICK
Your parents agreed?

CHARLIE
Ah, yeah. They thought it's nice if I'll go try some socialization for a while.

SAM
That's great. Come on, hop in.

Charlie rides the roofless car. Sam starts to drive.

CHARLIE
I brought something.

Charlie pulls the mix tape out of his pocket.

PATRICK
What's that?

CHARLIE
Play this.

Patrick takes it then inserts it into the player, then songs from Smashing Pumpkins, The Smiths, The Beatles and many more starts to play.

EXT. SUBURB STREETS - NIGHT

They start hitting the streets. Feeling the wonderful life they are having. The wind is blowing strong. Sam is all smiles while driving. Patrick dances to the music then lets his arms fly in the air. Charlie is just sitting, smiling.

The songs continues to play, Sam and Patrick are singing along with it. Sam tapped on the steering wheel. Patrick makes some air waves. Charlie is just reserved on his seat, his eyes are sparkling, staring straightly at nowhere.

CHARLIE

I feel infinite.

Sam and Patrick stop. They look at him like it's the most wonderful phrase they ever heard. They smile at each other.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

It was a total blast. We felt younger when we did that.

EXT. BOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They arrived at an idyllic residence. They are wild prairie flowers at the lawn. Sam parked the Volkswagen then they all came down.

Patrick goes to the door and knocks. It opens, then there is BOB, frizzy haired, he looks stoned.

BOB

Hey Patrick!

They hug.

SAM

This is our new friend,
Charlie. He's a little
fragile.

BOB

Okay. Come on inside.

Bob and Sam hug. Bob goes to Charlie and hugs him tightly too. Charlie almost loses his breath.

INT. BOB'S BASEMENT

They all go to the basement where the party was. Charlie sees older kids, seniors. He look at a couple as they make out, he sees girls showing their tattoos at each other.

It's quite smoky inside, Charlie coughs softly. They sit at worn out sofa.

BOB

Be right back! There's
someone at the door.

Bob leaves. Charlie observes everything. He then sniffs a smoke, he turns beside him and sees Sam and Patrick smoking.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I'm not really into this kind
of environment. I guess
curiosity brought me in here.

PATRICK

Wanna try some, Charlie?

SAM

Hey, he's not ready for that.

PATRICK

I was just trying.

Charlie smiles. He sees seniors dancing and some are drinking beer. The basement door opens and there is Bob with TWO NEW GUESTS, he's carrying a case of beer.

BOB

Hey everyone. More beers
here!

TWO GOTHS goes to Charlie.

GOTH #1

Hey, you're so young. Why are
you here?

PATRICK

He's with us.

GOTH #2

What grade are you in?

PATRICK

First year.

Patrick pats Charlie's lap.

PATRICK

Be right back. Stay here,
talk with the Goths.

Sam and Patrick heads to the basement door, leaving Charlie behind. The Two Goths sit beside him and starts bugging him.

GOTH #2

Want some beer?

CHARLIE

No.

GOTH #1

What do you want to be when
you grow up?

Charlie shrugs.

CHARLIE

I don't know yet.

Charlie is becoming uncomfortable. Bob comes to him, carrying a bowl of BROWNIES.

BOB

Hey, Charlie boy, want some
brownies?

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't really like brownies
but I'm quite starving so I
took it and ate some...

Charlie grabs one and starts munching on it.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

That's when I realized that
it's not the normal brownie.
It tastes weird.

He starts to feel like's everyone's spinning.

INT. BOB'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Patrick is there, alone. He's biting off his nails. Suddenly, a handsome guy enters, BRAD, he locks the door. He's the school's MVP.

PATRICK

I thought you won't come.

BRAD

Can we just start? On whatever you want to do.

Patrick walks towards him.

PATRICK

Okay.

They kiss.

INT. BOB'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Charlie is shaking his head off to throw off the peculiarity he's feeling. He drops the brownie on the floor. The Two Goths are just beside him, drinking. Bob continues to pass the brownies to other partygoers.

Sam enters and sees Charlie, she knows what's happening.

SAM

Charlie?

She goes to him and starts pinching his cheeks.

SAM

Charlie? You okay?

Charlie's groggy. He's high.

CHARLIE

(stoned)

It's so bright. The, the, music...is so mind cracking.

He smiles.

SAM

Damn.

(turns to Bob)

Bob! What's your problem?

BOB

What? He likes it. Ask him.

SAM

You shitload. He's too young
for a brownie, okay?

(turns to

Charlie)

What do you feel?

CHARLIE

Light.

He's spinning his head.

SAM

Are you seeing anything,
Charlie?

CHARLIE

Just light. It feels so good.

SAM

You thirsty?

CHARLIE

I want a milkshake.

The people in the room laugh. Sam sighs and takes
Charlie out.

SAM

(to Bob)

Get lost.

INT. BOB'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sam lets Charlie sit on a stool. She goes to the
counter.

SAM

I'll make you some milkshake.

Charlie is so stoned. He's so dizzy. He turns to the light, he flinches.

CHARLIE

So bright.

Sam goes to find a blender.

CHARLIE

Where's the bathroom?

SAM

That way. Turn right.

Charlie stands up and starts heading that way.

SAM

Should I help you?

CHARLIE

No.

INT. BOB'S BATHROOM - DAY

Brad and Patrick are still kissing. They are pinned on the wall. A knock stops them.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Hello? Open the door please.
I gotta pee.

BRAD

Who's that?

PATRICK

It's fine. It's only Charlie.

Patrick sighs then opens the door. Charlie looks at him then at Brad.

CHARLIE

Why are you both in here?

PATRICK

Are you okay?

CHARLIE
Sam's making me a milkshake.

PATRICK
Are you stoned?

Patrick turns to Brad.

PATRICK
We should stop.

Brad sighs and exits the bathroom. Patrick holds Charlie on the shoulders.

PATRICK
Patrick doesn't want anyone to know, okay?

CHARLIE
About what?

BRAD
If that kid --

PATRICK
Wait.
(turns to
Charlie)
Charlie, promise me you won't tell anything?

CHARLIE
What? You're not kissing there, aren't you?

PATRICK
Actually we do.

CHARLIE
Huh?

PATRICK
Just don't tell anybody.

CHARLIE
Fine.

Patrick then guides Charlie inside, he then closes the door and looks at Brad.

BRAD

This is crazy.

Brad leaves.

PATRICK

Who stoned him?

INT. BOB'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Patrick and Charlie arrive. Sam is finished at the milkshake. Charlie sits on a table then grabs then starts sipping it. Sam looks at Patrick.

SAM

How did it go?

PATRICK

Well. Charlie stepped in.

SAM

What?

PATRICK

Yes he did. Is he stoned or something?

SAM

Yeah. Bob did it.

Suddenly, Charlie yells.

CHARLIE

WOW! This milkshake is so good.

SAM

What do you feel, Charlie?

CHARLIE

I don't know. It's like I'm floating or something.

PATRICK

He's cute when high.

SAM

He's something, isn't he?

PATRICK

Yeah. He's a wallflower.

Charlie bobs his head, he hears this but his brain is so messed up it's hard for him to understand it.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

A wallflower. That's interesting. I don't really know what happened at that night. All I remembered was brownies, Brad and the milkshake.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Sam and Patrick are busy smoking at their bench when Charlie runs into them. They both giggle.

PATRICK

How's your night, Charlie?

SAM

How does it feel like being stoned?

CHARLIE

I don't really know what happened last night. It was a blur.

SAM

Come on. Sit here.

Charlie does sit.

PATRICK

Damn, man. You're like a complete lunatic when you are high. It's cute, actually.

CHARLIE

Patrick. Uhm, I'm sorry about Brad last night. Sorry I interfere.

PATRICK

It's okay. Fine.

Patrick puffs a smoke. Charlie looks at it.

CHARLIE

Can I have a cigarette?

PATRICK

Sure.

Patrick picks a cigarette out of his pocket and hands it to Charlie. Sam stops them.

SAM

Wait. Are you okay? Why did you suddenly want a smoke?

CHARLIE

I don't know. I just want to try what you're doing. I want to taste what you taste.

Sam sighs.

SAM

Maybe you're upset or something.

CHARLIE

No, my life is fine. I just want to try this one out.

SAM

Okay. Once you do it, you remember how things looked on it. Just like how the road turned into waves. How your face was plastic and your eyes were two different sizes. It's all on your mind.

Charlie stares at her.

SAM

Go on.

Sam uses a Zippo lighter to lit Charlie's cigarette. Charlie then slowly puts it into his mouth and starts smoking. He coughs terribly.

PATRICK

Whoa. Easy.

Sam taps his back.

SAM

Focus on the smoke.

He then smokes once more. He smiles.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

My first smoke wasn't a
disaster. It's actually
soothing, I liked it.

SAM

Look at the cement, is it
moving?

CHARLIE

(looks)

Yes.

SAM

Now, focus on that dried
leaf.

Charlie does so.

SAM

Is the cement moving now?

Charlie shrugs.

CHARLIE

No.

SAM

There you go. I think you'll
be fine.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Sam is talking about the
trance, it happens when you
don't focus on anything and
the whole picture swallows
around you.

Charlie laughs. Patrick and Sam did too.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't really know if they're a bad influence or not because I know that smoking is bad, but it feels like it's balanced. I can't classify yet if they are good or bad friends.

INT. FACULTY - DAY

Charlie is sitting in front of Bill's desk. Bill is there, looking at him straight in the eye.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

The next day, I found myself sitting at Bill's office. He said he wanted to talk with me about important stuff. He wants me to participate.

Bill grins.

BILL

Do you always think much, Charlie?

CHARLIE

I don't know. Is it bad?

BILL

Not really. Sometimes, people use thought to not participate in life.

CHARLIE

Is that bad?

BILL

Yes.

CHARLIE

I think I participate though.

BILL

Well, are you dancing? Are you going on dates?

CHARLIE

Well, not really.

BILL

See? You even admit it
yourself.

Charlie pulls out a cigarette.

CHARLIE

Can I smoke here?

BILL

You smoke?

Charlie nods.

BILL

Okay. Whatever you say.

Charlie lit the cigarette and starts smoking. Bill is
skeptical.

BILL

Just you because I let you
smoke here that doesn't mean
I'm going to tolerate you.
Quit smoking when it's not
yet too late.

CHARLIE

Okay.

BILL

So, how's your home life?

CHARLIE

It's fine. Nothing
spectacular. Mom and Dad is
pretty much the same. My
sister is still the girl who
changes boyfriends as if they
are pages of a book.

BILL

How about your friends?

CHARLIE

Uhm, Sam and Patrick are really cool. They accepted me unconditionally. I think I like friends like that.

Bill just nods.

BILL

Okay, let's get to the main point.

Bill grabs something from his drawer, it's a softbound novel. He hands it to Charlie.

CHARLIE

What's this?

Charlie gets it with his unoccupied hand. It's the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

CHARLIE

You want me to read this?

BILL

Not just that, I want you to make an essay out of it. Tell me what you feel about it, how you perceive it. It's up to you.

CHARLIE

Okay. I'll do it.

BILL

Good. So, ah, that's all. You're dismissed.

CHARLIE

Thank you, Sir.

Charlie leaves his cigarette on an ash tray on Bill's table. Charlie stands and is about to leave.

BILL

Oh, wait!

Charlie stops.

BILL

I want you to take this too.

Bill hands a pamphlet against smoking. The words SMOKING KILLS is emphasized with red color. Charlie takes it and looks at it.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

Charlie walks out of the door. Bill shakes his head and looks at the cigarette he just left.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie is busy reading the novel on his desk. He scratches his head.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

That night I started reading the novel. It's my first novel 'cause really I hardly read.

The door opens and there is Mom.

MOM

Charlie, dinner is ready.

CHARLIE

Okay, Mom. I'll be down.

MOM

Sure.

Mom closes the door. Charlie takes the book down and uses the pamphlet Bill gave him as a bookmark. He stands up and leaves the room.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

The students are heading outside, the classes just finished. Bill is on his table, Charlie is talking to him.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

In just a matter of two days,
I finished the book and
hastily did an essay of it.
And then I showed it to Bill.

Charlie hands Bill the essay. Bill takes it and examines it.

BILL

Impressive. I can't believe
you can make it that fast.

CHARLIE

Heh.

BILL

Why don't you go sit down
first? Wait while I finish
this.

Charlie nods then takes a seat. Moments pass by and Charlie looks at how Bill changes expression as he read the essay. After 5 minutes, Bill finishes it off.

BILL

Okay. Come here, Charlie.

Charlie stands up and goes to face him.

BILL

Ah. It was nice. The problem
is you run some sentences
together. And keep in mind
that you should words you
learn in this class like
"jaundice" or "corpulent".

He just smiles.

BILL

Okay, C.

CHARLIE

I'll do better next time.

BILL

Oh certainly, you have to. I got lot of novels I want you to read and make an essay out of.

CHARLIE

You do?

BILL

Yeah. And I have one on me right now.

CHARLIE

What do you want me to do with the books after I read it? Should I take it back?

BILL

Not necessarily. You can keep it if you want to.

CHARLIE

Wow.

Bill takes a book out of his table and gives into Charlie. It's called *Naked Lunch*.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

BILL

Go make an essay out of it and I want it better this time, understand?

Charlie nods.

BILL

Okay. So, why don't you go grab your lunch?

Bill checks the paper and hands it to Charlie who keeps it into his binder. Charlie goes to the door.

BILL

Hey, have you quit smoking yet?

CHARLIE

I'm trying.

BILL

Good.

Charlie didn't say anything, he walks out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie is walking at the hallway, thinking deeply.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't really know how I can incorporate the words "jaundice" and "corpulent" into my activities. It got me thinking, thus, I ended up at my Aunt Helen.

Charlie stops and goes to his locker, opens it. He puts the book *Naked Lunch* on it.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't really know, it's just that she came in my mind. I remembered the time when she told me that she was abused by her stepfather, I feel so pity of her. She just hugs me and kisses me everytime, I think it makes her feel better.

He smiles as he remembers about Aunt Helen, he shuts the locker.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The family is taking their dinner. Charlie is busy slicing his meat when Mom approaches him.

MOM

So, how's school?

CHARLIE

Fantastic. My Advanced English teacher, Mr. Bill, is giving me novels, he wants me to read it and make an essay.

DAD

That's a very great undertaking.

Charlie smiles. He turns to her Sister who is oddly looking, she's quiet and looks weak. Charlie is confused.

MOM

Your brother is so happy that you're doing well at school.

CHARLIE

What's up with him?

DAD

Well, pretty much, your brother plays football. He called last time, he said their warming up for a regional championship.

CHARLIE

That's cool.

DAD

We can't be any prouder.

Charlie looks at his Sister again, it made Charlie wonder if there's something up to her.

CHARLIE

What's up?

SISTER

What?

CHARLIE

You okay?

SISTER

What do you care?

MOM

Will you stop arguing? We're
in front of the food.

CHARLIE

Mom, by the way, Sam and
Patrick told me that you have
good taste.

MOM

Whose Sam and Patrick?

CHARLIE

My friends, don't you
remember? They say that they
love the jeans you gave me.

MOM

Really? Are they the seniors?
(turns to
Sister)
You know them?

SISTER

Yeah. Kind of.

MOM

They are very sweet. Why
don't you invite them over
sometime?

Charlie beams, he's excited.

CHARLIE

Sure.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Charlie is walking, about to enter the school. Sam
arrives and grabs his hand.

SAM

Charlie!

CHARLIE

Sam.

SAM
Are you free tonight?

CHARLIE
Why?

SAM
Patrick and I got a gift for
you?

CHARLIE
Gift?

SAM
Yes!

CHARLIE
You're not kidding?

SAM
I'm not! We'll pick you up
later.

Sam waves off to him then starts walking away. Charlie stops.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
It made me wonder how I was
special for them. They just
knew me but I'm already that
significant.

INT. SHOP CLASS - DAY

Charlie is not that focused on class. He's thinking of what they could've got for him. He smiles.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
I kept wondering the whole
day what that gift might be.
I hope I'll be surprised.

EXT. SAM AND PATRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The red Volkswagen stops in front of a very clean and rich house. Sam, Patrick and Charlie walks out of the car to the house. Charlie was hesitant at first.

INT. SAM AND PATRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They enter the house, it was big and nice. It's not a celebrity crib of some sort but it feels heavenly when you walked in.

PATRICK

Mom and Dad are out in Maryland so you don't have to worry.

SAM

Come on, let's go to my room.

They all went upstairs.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

It's a cozy room. Well lighted. Posters of bands and others are on the wall.

SAM

So, what can you say?

CHARLIE

It's so nice.

PATRICK

(sarcastic)

Wow. That's a very critical verdict.

CHARLIE

Heh. Why did you both take me here in the first place?

SAM

We have a gift for you, remember?

CHARLIE

Oh. Why?

SAM

Nothing. We just felt giving you a gift.

Sam grabs his hands and takes him into a table. There a cloth on it that is covering some.

CHARLIE

This is it?

Sam pulls the cloth out of it, revealing a TYPEWRITER with a fresh red ribbon. Charlie beams.

PATRICK

You like it?

CHARLIE

Yeah, but why a typewriter?

SAM

Patrick told me that you've been doing essays for your English teacher.

CHARLIE

Oh.

Inside it was a piece of paper that has words encoded on it, it says "Write about me sometime". Charlie reaches for it and typed "I will". They all smile.

SAM

Don't be too flattered because we got this on a thrift store, you don't mind, don't you?

CHARLIE

No. Thanks.

Patrick claps.

PATRICK

Okay, why don't you go talk and I'll go down and make some snacks, okay? I'll bring some stash too.

SAM

Crazy.

Patrick heads out of the room, leaving the two behind. Sam looks at Charlie's eyes.

SAM

Charlie, have you ever kissed
a girl?

Charlie shakes his head.

SAM

How about when you're little?
I bet you did.

Charlie just shook his head.

SAM

You know, my first kiss is
when I was seven and it was
one of my Dad's friends. Only
Mary Elizabeth and Patrick
knew that when we're still
seven. Probably, everyone
knows about it but it's not
that a big deal.

CHARLIE

Who's Mary...Mary Elizabeth?

SAM

Oh, well, she is a great
friend. She's also a senior.
Moreover, uhm, I started
crying that day I kissed that
man, it was crazy and funny
at the same time.

CHARLIE

I guess it's normal.

Sam sighs.

SAM

You still like me don't you?

Charlie falters. He then nods.

SAM

And I know you know that we
can't be together, right? But
I want to forget all those
things for a minute.

CHARLIE

Okay.

SAM

I want to make sure that the first person you kiss loves you, okay?

Charlie nods.

SAM

I just want to make sure of that. Okay? Okay?

He just nods. She kissed him.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

It was the kind of a kiss that made me know that I was never so happy in my entire life.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie is lying on his bed, hugging the heavy typewriter. The songs from the mix tape are playing. He smiles, touches his lips.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I was so happy that night. I'm gladder about the gift Sam gave me than the typewriter. It was so lovely.

Charlie stands up, goes away from his bed. He puts the typewriter on his desk. He starts to pace.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

That night, I felt that I should give them gifts too, to show them that I appreciate everything.

MONTAGE:

Charlie is getting ready to make a mix tape.

He holds out an empty tape.

Charlie hand-coloring the cover.

He opens his closet and pulls an old 45 record out of a dusty box.

He smiles.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

It is clear that Charlie is happy and excited as well, he's holding the mix tape and the old 45 record. He goes to the bench where Sam and Patrick always hang out. He arrives there and sees Patrick, alone and smoking.

CHARLIE
Patrick. Where's Sam?

PATRICK
Don't know. Maybe she's out with Craig.

CHARLIE
Craig?

PATRICK
Yeah. Her new fling.

PATRICK
Oh.

Charlie doesn't really understand. He sits with Patrick and shows him the mix tape.

CHARLIE
Here.

PATRICK
This is for me?

CHARLIE
Yeah.

PATRICK
Wow.
(takes it)
Thanks. I'll listen to this once I got home.

CHARLIE

Cool. Uhm, do you know where Sam is? 'Cause I want to give her these.

Charlie sees the old 45 record. Patrick beams.

PATRICK

You're so thoughtful, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I'm just appreciating what you did to me last night.

PATRICK

That's nothing.

A beat.

PATRICK

So, I'll go meet up with Brad.

CHARLIE

Okay.

Patrick stands.

CHARLIE

Ah, wait. I was wondering if you and Sam are free this weekend. My Mom wants to have you as guests for dinner.

PATRICK

Is that so? I don't know but we'll try.

Patrick taps his shoulder.

PATRICK

See you.

They wave bye at each other. Charlie sits on the bench and looks at the record. He stands up and starts walking away.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie opens his locker, he puts some books and the old record on it. He turns and sees Sam with a guy, this is probably CRAIG, he looks fit and is handsome. Charlie scowls.

Sam sees him.

SAM

Charlie!

Charlie fakes a smile, he's kind of shy. He left the old 45 record in the locker, he closes it.

CHARLIE

Sam.

SAM

This is Craig.

Craig smiles at him.

CRAIG

Hey, bro.

CHARLIE

Hey.

SAM

Patrick said you were looking for me, he said you'll give me something.

CHARLIE

Oh. Did I? I don't know. Maybe Patrick's high.

SAM

You okay, Charlie?

Charlie looks away.

SAM

You have a problem.

(whispers)

Charlie, don't take what happened last night as a cause for hurting yourself.

Charlie looks at her, he grins.

CHARLIE

I'm fine.

SAM

You sure?

Charlie nods. Sam taps his shoulder.

SAM

Okay. Later.

Sam waves and then she and Craig went to the cafeteria. Charlie winces then smiles. He must be crazy.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I felt really mad about it. I want Sam to stop liking Craig. Maybe you think I'm jealous of him but I'm not, I just don't want him for her. He always looks distracted and one event proved my way of thinking about him.

INT. DOWNTOWN THEATER - NIGHT

They are at backstage. Everyone is getting ready for a play, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Charlie is sitting at a corner, reading the script.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Sam and the others are doing a show downtown at an abandoned theater. I don't know, they just feel like doing it, I guess they wanted to raise money too. I wasn't really at the play but I love reading the blueprint of the opera.

There, MARY ELIZABETH, blonde and cute is pacing, she looks worried. There are tattoos on her wrist and neck.

MARY ELIZABETH

Where's Craig?

Sam who is wearing her costume as Janet exits the dressing room.

SAM

I don't know where he is. I called at their house but his Mom doesn't know where he went.

MARY ELIZABETH

Aww, we have a fine streak. We can't pass the play without him!

Patrick plays Frank 'Not Furter, he walks in with costume.

PATRICK

What's happening?

MARY ELIZABETH

Craig is not here yet.

PATRICK

That sucks.

Mary Elizabeth stops when she sees Charlie. She goes to him and picks him to stand up.

MARY ELIZABETH

Charlie, how many times have you seen this show?

CHARLIE

Ten? Maybe.

MARY ELIZABETH

Do you think you can play Rocky?

CHARLIE

I'm not cut and hunky.

MARY ELIZABETH

It doesn't matter. Can you pull him off?

CHARLIE

I guess.

MARY ELIZABETH

Do you know or do you guess?
Come on.

CHARLIE

I guess.

MARY ELIZABETH

Great.

(to everyone)

Hey guys! We have a
substitute for Rocky here!

Charlie is somehow startled; he looks at Sam who is smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. DOWNTOWN THEATER - NIGHT

Charlie is wearing nothing but slippers and a golden bathing suit. He is standing in front of a crowd. There is Sam, acting her character out.

It's halfway in the play.

ROCKY (V.O.)

I was very nervous at that
moment. It was a bizarre
situation. I'm so afraid that
I'll get an erection.

Charlie goes to touch Sam's body, he caresses her. It's what's written on the script.

CUT TO:

They come to the grand finale, they are singing and dancing except for Charlie who is just pretending, he has a feather boa clinging on his neck.

After their musical number, they all go in front and bow down. The audience claps.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie and his parents are watching some dramatic TV show. They are all sitting in one sofa, Dad is embracing Mom. Charlie turns and sees Mom shedding a tear, she's being emotional about the show.

CHARLIE

Mom, Dad. I got into a play.

MOM

Really? What is it?

CHARLIE

The Rocky Horror Picture Show
and I play a very pivotal
role.

MOM

Wow. That's great.

DAD

You're quite an achiever,
son.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

Sister runs down the stairs and sits on a chair beside them. She starts to read a book. Charlie stares at her. She notices this.

SISTER

Don't start on me, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Why? I'm just looking at you.

DAD

Kids --

SISTER

Well don't, because it annoys
me.

CHARLIE

Fine.

Charlie gets his focus on the TV show.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I know there's something wrong with my sister. I don't know but her eyes tell something, like she's needing help.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

There's a school dance. Everyone is at their hippest attire. Drinks and snacks are everywhere. Students are partying and lounging.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Things got weirder at the school dance. Mary Elizabeth was my date, couldn't believe that she's the one who asked me out. She said that I look good in costume, that's funny, how can someone so corpulent look so good? Hey, I did it, I finally used corpulent!

Mary Elizabeth and Charlie are sitting somewhere, at a corner.

CHARLIE

So where are you planning to go at college?

She sips a drink.

MARY ELIZABETH

Dunno. I really wanted to go to Berkeley. I want to have two degrees, political science and minor concentration on women's studies.

CHARLIE

Wow. That's cool.

MARY ELIZABETH

I just want this to be over,
this high school life.

CHARLIE

Why?

MARY ELIZABETH

I always wanted to be free,
to be independent, and that
way I'm gonna explore the
lesbian relationship.

CHARLIE

What? Well, do you find girls
pretty?

MARY ELIZABETH

That's not the point.

Charlie just nods.

MARY ELIZABETH

You know, you're the most
sensitive boy that I'd ever
met.

CHARLIE

How?

MARY ELIZABETH

You know, you don't want to
kiss me good night.

CHARLIE

Well, I'm not ready yet.

MARY ELIZABETH

I know. I understand. I did
have a great time.

Charlie beams. Mary Elizabeth gulps the remaining drink
on her cup.

MARY ELIZABETH

So, want to go out after
this? You know, go on a date
or something?

Charlie halts. He takes a moment and is unsure what to say.

CHARLIE

Ah...sure.

Mary Elizabeth smiles like she has seen the cutest man alive.

MARY ELIZABETH

Awesome.

Charlie sees Patrick and Sam talking and taking snacks in a distance. He turns to Mary Elizabeth.

CHARLIE

I'll go to take a pee break.

MARY ELIZABETH

Okay. I'll just move out too.
I'll talk to the DJ to play
some girl bands.

Charlie stands up, Mary Elizabeth too then they part ways. Charlie goes to Sam, Patrick just left.

CHARLIE

Sam.

SAM

Charlie.

CHARLIE

Where's Patrick going?

SAM

Gonna get high at the parking
lot with Brad.

CHARLIE

Oh. Wait, where's your date?

SAM

Don't know. Craig said he
didn't want to go some stupid
high school dance because
it's too immature.

CHARLIE

Well, are you having a good time?

Sam stops for a moment.

SAM

Not really. You?

CHARLIE

Not sure. This is my first dance and first date. So, I don't really what to compare it to.

SAM

Don't worry. It'll be okay. You want some punch?

CHARLIE

Sure.

Sam smiles and goes where the drinks are. Charlie looks at her.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Sam did look sad. I wished I could make her feel better but sometimes I guess you just can't. I stood alone and watched the dance, it's boring actually. The only thing that caught my attention was my sister, she was with a guy I never saw before, they are arguing. My sister just left and so is the guy.

Charlie looks as her sister and her alleged boyfriend walked out of the party.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie enters the house, tired. It's silent, probably his parents are already sleeping. He's about to go upstairs when he heard a sobbing.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I went home that night
finding my sister crying her
heart out in the kitchen.

Charlie goes to the kitchen and sees her Sister crying,
her back pinned at the fridge.

CHARLIE

Are you okay?

She knew he was there.

SISTER

Just go to your room and
leave me alone, Charlie! You
can't help.

CHARLIE

No, really. What's the
problem?

SISTER

You wouldn't understand.

CHARLIE

I wouldn't understand unless
you tell me.

SISTER

Just go.

CHARLIE

Want me to wake up Mom and
Dad?

SISTER

No, please! Don't do that.

CHARLIE

Why?

SISTER

Charlie, just shut up, okay?!
Just shut up and leave me
alone. Do you understand?!

Charlie is struck.

CHARLIE

Okay. Okay.

Charlie silently steps out of the kitchen. Abruptly, his Sister goes out to hug him. After a while, Charlie hugs her too.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

It was weird because I never hugged my sister before. After a while, she calmed down and let go.

They break the hug off. She is still sobbing.

CHARLIE

What's wrong?

SISTER

I'm pregnant.

A wave of sadness and shock hits Charlie's face. He can't believe it.

SISTER

(pointing at
her tummy)

He keeps denying that this is his baby but I know, I know the truth, he's the one responsible for this!

CHARLIE

What do we do?

SISTER

We can't tell anyone. This is a secret, okay? If you tell Mom and Dad you're dead.

CHARLIE

I won't.

SISTER

Okay, since I turned 18, I don't need my parent's consent. I just need someone to be with me at the clinic and it will be you. Okay?

CHARLIE

Sure.

Charlie scowls, he felt bad for her Sister.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

That's when I found out that there's really something that's bothering her.

INT. CLINIC - DAY

Charlie is sitting at the waiting room, alone. His Sister is inside the room where they will take her baby out.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I wondered how her face would look like when she came out from those doors. When I was younger, my sister is the one who always teach me about babies, how they became what they are and what happen when they died. Suddenly, I felt sad...

He starts to cry, tears are rushing down on his cheeks.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

...I realized that this was not the first time I cried since I made my Aunt Helen a promise not to cry unless it was for something very significant. I had to go outside because I couldn't take it anymore.

INT. CAR - DAY

Charlie is on the backseat, smoking, the windows are open, he's still crying.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Somehow, babies and abortion didn't seem so important. I started to think about what's happening to me. Will I be someone's father? Will I be someone who will teach students about Advanced English? Will I be someone who will play football like my brother? Those questions dissolved when my Sister found me inside.

She goes inside, fresh from the operation. She turns and sees him chain smoking, she became angry.

SISTER

Charlie, are you smoking?

She was so mad.

SISTER

I can't believe you're smoking! Where did you learn that?

Charlie stops from crying, he starts to laugh as if he's stoned again or something.

SISTER

You're so dead. I'm going to tell Mom and Dad.

CHARLIE

Oh, no, you won't, unless you want your abortion secret to spill out.

His Sister stops and realizes it.

SISTER

Yeah, right.

She starts to feel uncomfortable.

SISTER

Charlie. Can you please drive? I feel sick after that operation.

CHARLIE

Sure. Good thing I got my license now.

SISTER

Wow. Charlie is smoking. I couldn't believe it.

She shakes her head in disbelief.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie and Sister go inside the house. Mom is busy doing errands at the kitchen. Dad is watching his son's football game.

CHARLIE

We're home!

They both go at the living room.

DAD

Where have you been the whole day? Your missing your brother's game?

CHARLIE

It's being televised?

SISTER

Obviously.

Mom exits the kitchen.

MOM

Where did you go?

CHARLIE

Uh, McDonalds?

DAD

McDonalds? Why would you
bother eating there? Your Mom
made pork ribs.

SISTER

We also go to see a movie.

MOM

Oh really? What did you see?

SISTER

It's a cheap slasher film.

DAD

It is good?

SISTER

No.

MOM

Well, at least you both
decided to go bond together.
That's nice. I'll go ready
the ribs, let's go eat
dinner.

Mom heads to the kitchen. Sister looks Charlie, they
high five.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie is busy typing on his typewriter when his Sister
knocks. She came in.

SISTER

Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yeah?

SISTER

Thanks. I owe you big.

CHARLIE

Don't mention it.

SISTER

I want you to quit smoking,
okay? Because I love you
Charlie, I care for you.

CHARLIE

Okay.

SISTER

I mean it.

CHARLIE

So do I.

SISTER

Okay. Good night.

CHARLIE

Good night.

She walks out of the door. Charlie sighs then looks
outside and sees the moon, shining over him.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie is busy reading the *Naked Lunch* at the living
room when their phone rings.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Girls are weird and I don't
mean that offensively.

He stands up and leaves the book at the table. He goes
to answer the phone.

CHARLIE

Hello?

INTERCUT
WITH:

INT. MARY ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - DAY

Mary Elizabeth is sitting on the couch while gluing her
ears on the phone. She's curling her hair with her
finger.

MARY ELIZABETH
Hey, is Charlie there?

CHARLIE
This is Charlie.

MARY ELIZABETH
Oh, hey! What's up?

CHARLIE
Fine. I've been walking a lot
from school.

MARY ELIZABETH
That's great!

An awkward beat.

MARY ELIZABETH
So, I started reading books,
you know *Hamlet*?

CHARLIE
Yep. I've read that.

MARY ELIZABETH
Great! Are you a bookworm?
Because I am, certainly!

CHARLIE
Okay, what are we really
talking about here?

MARY ELIZABETH
I guess the two of us. Oh,
actually, I bought you a
Billie Holiday record, it was
so amazing. I really wanted
to expose you on certain
things.

Mary Elizabeth just goes on, talking nonstop. Charlie is
just there, standing, itching to hang up.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
It almost feels like of the
three things involved: Mary
Elizabeth, me, and the
certain things, only the
first one matter to Mary
Elizabeth.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie is walking at the hallway, estranged.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Then, there was the dinner.
Things got worse when Mary
Elizabeth found out that I
invited Sam and Patrick over
for dinner at Sunday night.

Mary Elizabeth comes to his view, he stops.

MARY ELIZABETH
What time Sunday?

Charlie just smiled.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
It left me with one option.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mom is busy wiping a table when Charlie taps her. She spins.

MOM
Oh. What is it?

CHARLIE
Sam and Patrick won't make it
on Sunday. They are going at
the Grand Canyon.

MOM
Oh. That's too bad.

CHARLIE

Yeah. I know. They said that they are still open for invitations.

Charlie smirks.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The trio are at the bench, smoking. Charlie faces them.

CHARLIE

The dinner at Sunday is cancelled.

PATRICK

What?

SAM

Why?

CHARLIE

We're going at the Grand Canyon.

SAM

Aw, that's too bad.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't really like to lie at both parties but it's the only way to prevent Mary Elizabeth go and meet my parents at our house. I don't hate Mary Elizabeth; I just don't like her bugging me.

INT. CRAIG'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Everyone is at the floor, formed a circle. There's a bottle in the middle of them.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

My problems with Mary
Elizabeth just became worse
when that beer bottle started
spinning down. It's a victory
party after we earned so much
money because of the play.

Patrick excitedly spins the bottle. They all drinking
wine and is moving their bodies into beat. Mary
Elizabeth is there. Sam and Craig too. There are also
some seniors that Charlie didn't really know.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

If the bottle ever pointed
me, I would certainly choose
dare, 'cause I know that
Patrick or someone would ask
me about Mary Elizabeth which
I hate.

The bottle stops at Charlie. They all cheer.

PATRICK

Okay, Charlie. Truth or dare?

CHARLIE

Uhm, dare.

PATRICK

Woohoo! This one's a
braveheart.

Patrick stops for a moment and is obviously thinking.
He's stoned.

PATRICK

Okay. Kiss the prettiest girl
in the room on the lips.

The room is flooded with "ooh" and "yeah". Charlie
stops, contemplates. Silence occurs when he stands up
because Mary Elizabeth is sitting beside him, which
means there's someone in the room that is the apple of
his eye. Charlie goes to Sam, takes her head and kisses
her on the lips.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Once I stick my lips into hers, the silence was unbearable. I knew that if I kissed Mary Elizabeth, I would be lying to myself, to Patrick and to Sam.

They break off. Mary Elizabeth stands up and storms out of the room.

SAM

What's fucking wrong with you?

Sam stands up and chases Mary Elizabeth. All of the people in the room stare at him, including Craig.

CRAIG

You just kissed her, man!
What the hell?!

Craig goes to him. Charlie backs up. Patrick intervenes.

PATRICK

Craig. Stop.

He pulls Charlie.

PATRICK

Come on, Charlie.

They went outside.

CRAIG

You know this is your fault,
Patrick!

EXT. CRAIG'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Patrick and Charlie walk out of the house with their coats. They started getting out of there.

PATRICK

I'm gonna drive you home.

CHARLIE
I should go back and
apologize.

PATRICK
No, trust me; you don't want
to be back there.

Charlie stops, as well as Patrick. Charlie is crying.

CHARLIE
I should go apologize.

PATRICK
Stop crying. Come on, I'll
take you home.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN - NIGHT

Patrick and Charlie are inside the convertible. Patrick
is driving, he looks at the distraught Charlie.

PATRICK
You want to talk?

Charlie didn't answer back.

PATRICK
Okay.

A beat.

PATRICK
Do you know about Lily
Collins?

CHARLIE
No.

PATRICK
I thought your brother would
tell you. It was classic.

CHARLIE
What is it?

PATRICK

Okay. Just stop me if you heard it.

CHARLIE

Sure.

PATRICK

So, ah, Lily comes up here with this guy named Parker, he was the lead in all the plays.

CHARLIE

Uh-huh.

PATRICK

One night, Parker and Lily decided to have a small picnic at a park, and they were so inlove. So, they have this picnic with sandwiches and everything. They start to make out and when they are about to do it, Parker realized he didn't have any condoms! So, what do you think happened?

Charlie shook his head.

PATRICK

They did it doggie style with one of the sandwich bags!

CHARLIE

No way!

PATRICK

Yes way.

CHARLIE

That was so gross.

PATRICK

And do you know what the best part was?

CHARLIE

What?

PATRICK

She was a valedictorian. And everyone knew it when she went up to give the speech.

They both started laughing.

CHARLIE

Thanks for making me laugh.

PATRICK

Don't mention it.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

After that we're both quiet, Patrick drove me home safely.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Volkswagen pulls in. Charlie goes down, Patrick follows.

CHARLIE

Why do you have to go down?

PATRICK

Just wanted to make you feel better.

CHARLIE

Well, you already did.

Patrick pulls Charlie closer him then kisses him. Charlie didn't flinch, he just let Patrick. They stop it after a while.

PATRICK

Too bad you're not gay. Then again, if you were gay, I wouldn't want to date you. You're such a mess.

Charlie just looks at him.

PATRICK

I'm sorry.

CHARLIE

No, it's okay.

PATRICK

No, I'm sorry. I really do.
I'm just a little problematic
about Brad.

CHARLIE

What? What happened?

PATRICK

His Dad found out. We broke
up.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry to hear that.

PATRICK

It's okay. I'm being dumb, I
know our relationship won't
last that long.

They slightly hug.

PATRICK

I think it's better if you
make a distance. Craig must
be really pissed off, as well
as Sam.

CHARLIE

And Mary Elizabeth too.

PATRICK

Just wait 'til things got
clear.

Charlie nods.

PATRICK

So, good night. Thank you.

CHARLIE

You know, Patrick? If I were
gay, I'd want to date you.

Patrick just smiled.

PATRICK

Of course.

He then gets into the car and starts driving away.
Charlie gathers himself and goes inside.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

So that is the beginning of
the days that I'll be alone.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie is sitting at the bench, alone. He is reading
Walden by *Henry David Thoreau*.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Nobody wants to talk to me
really. They are all angry. I
know Patrick's not but I
guess he's more on his
sister's side.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Charlie is alone, typing. When he finishes, he gets it
and puts it on an envelope.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I have probably written you
dozens of letters but this is
the only letter I got really
lonely. It felt bad.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie dials on the phone. After, he glued it into his
ears.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I did try to call Mary
Elizabeth but all I got as a
response was...

Somebody answered.

MARY ELIZABETH
(O.S.)
Hello? Who's this?

CHARLIE
Ah, Mary. It's Charlie.

She hangs up.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
...a heartbreaking dial tone.

EXT. BOB'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie knocks at Bob's house. Bob opens it and sees him.

BOB
Hey, Charlie, right?

CHARLIE
Do you have anything I could buy?

Bob smiles.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
I can't really take the loneliness anymore, oh sure, I've been this lonely before but I just can't take how many people are angry at me.

BOB
I had a quarter ounce of pot left.

Charlie nods.

INT. BOB'S BASEMENT - DAY

Charlie and Bob are smoking pot.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Charlie is sitting at his desk, there are his essays and novels scattered at the floor. He's smoking.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I just can't stop smoking, I
know it's bad but it's only
my get away.

He puffs a smoke then he grins.

EXT. BIG BOY - DAY

Charlie is alone, eating his lunch quietly.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

One day, I was eating my
Salisbury steak when
something terrible happened.

Charlie looks up and sees Patrick walking up to Brad and three of his FRIENDS who are lounging at a distance.

CHARLIE

Patrick?

Charlie can't hear it but he knows that Patrick and Brad are arguing, Brad's Friends are just laughing. After a while, Patrick starts to march away when...

BRAD

FAGGOT!

Charlie is startled, as well as the other customers. Brad and his Friends are just giggling. Brad is frozen, he steps back into them.

PATRICK

What did you call me?

He's so mad.

BRAD

I called you a faggot.

They laugh even harder. Charlie puts his fork and knife down. Patrick is all red, then suddenly he blows a punch on Brad's face. Brad stumbles down the floor. Brad's Friends stand and goes to Patrick.

CHARLIE

Patrick.

It's so intense. They all started beating Patrick up. Brad is just standing there with his bloody lips. Charlie stands and goes to them, he starts to get involved, pulling Brad's Friends out of Charlie.

CHARLIE

Stop it!

Charlie struggles, he pushes all of them successfully. They all stopped and looked at Charlie.

CHARLIE

(to Brad)

If you ever do this again,
I'll tell everyone. And if
that doesn't work, I'll blind
you. Faggot.

Charlie gazes at the beaten up Patrick, there are bruises and blood all over his face. Brad and his Friends starts to storm out.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

The fight happened outside
the school's premises but the
school doesn't want to
tolerate their students so
they called all of us at the
office...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Brad and his Friends walk out of the office, Patrick and Charlie too. Patrick has band aids and a tissue up his nose. They are fresh from a very fine sermon.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Patrick got suspended for starting the fight. Brad and his Friends got detention. I knew it wasn't fair but they did nothing on me, they said it's good that I did stop a commotion.

Brad and his cohorts start leaving. Brad and Patrick share intense glances.

PATRICK

Great. I was suspended.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry about Brad.

PATRICK

Its fine, Charlie. Thanks for stopping them. I'm being such a dork, thinking I could outwit them.

Sam hurries to them, she looks so worried. She goes to Patrick.

SAM

Patrick! What happened?
Where's Brad?

PATRICK

Get over it. It's done. I'm suspended, by the way.

SAM

Wow. Multi-talented.

PATRICK

Yeah.

They laugh at this very bad situation. Sam sees Charlie on the side. She smiles.

SAM

Hey, Charlie. I heard you're this ninja or something.

CHARLIE

You're talking to me?

SAM

Yeah. Why not?

(a beat)

Sorry about the other night. It was dumb. I was just really angry at what you did to Mary Elizabeth, she likes you. When you kissed me instead of her, I got really offended, I felt bad for her.

CHARLIE

I didn't know that she like me that much.

Patrick beams.

SAM

Charlie, you're so stupid sometimes. Do you know that?

CHARLIE

Yeah. I know.

SAM

Lucky you. Mary Elizabeth got over it. She has a new guy named Peter.

CHARLIE

She did?

PATRICK

What? You're planning to get her back.

Charlie shook his head.

CHARLIE

So, we can be friends now?

SAM

Of course. You're always my friend.

CHARLIE

And Patrick?

Patrick nods.

CHARLIE

And everyone else?

Patrick and Sam both nod. They smile warmly. Charlie then starts crying. Patrick and Sam shush him.

CHARLIE

I should really apologize to
Mary Elizabeth.

SAM

Okay, we'll help you.

INT. LOCAL THEATER - NIGHT

Everyone is busy for the play. Mary Elizabeth is sitting on a chair, drinking her coffee. Charlie shyly walks down to her.

CHARLIE

Mary Elizabeth?

She just looks at him. She's not mad or anything.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry for what I did.

MARY ELIZABETH

No, I should be the one to
apologize. I'm so stupid.
You're so young, I should not
take a toll on you.

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

So, we're friends now?

She smiles, stands up and hugs him.

MARY ELIZABETH

Yeah. I'm sorry.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I really want to jump and run that day. In other words, there was no pain, there was no pain anymore.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DUSK

Sam, Charlie and Patrick are sitting on the grassy field, like having a picnic or something, minus the baskets and the mat. They are smoking.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I wanted to tell you us about running. There was this beautiful sunset, it was almost the end of the school year. Sam and Patrick finally made it at our house during the Holidays and my birthday. I'm quite sad that they're almost leaving.

They were all laughing.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Patrick and Sam were so happy, they started running, chasing the sunset. I followed too and then we run and run, and once again, we feel infinite.

They all started running, chasing the sunset, literally. They look crazy as they leap, run and laugh at the same time. It was a blast.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - DAY

Bill is facing Charlie who sitting silently at his chair.

BILL

Haven't seen you in a while, Charlie? What's up?

CHARLIE

I'm great. Lots of things happened. I can't believe it's almost the end of school year, I just can't.

BILL

Well, me too. I'm so hesitant at leaving this school.

CHARLIE

What? You're leaving?

Bill nods.

BILL

I'm getting married. And we're moving to New York, there I'll pursue my playwright career.

CHARLIE

That's sad. I won't be seeing you next school year.

BILL

I'll miss you, Charlie. You're so intellectual. I'm so happy everytime I read the essays you gave me, it keeps better and better.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

BILL

So, have you participated yet?

CHARLIE

Pretty much. I learned so many things at this school. I regret the fact that I got scared at first. I guess we don't really know what's ahead.

Bill nods.

BILL

I want to thank you too,
Charlie.

CHARLIE

Why?

BILL

Because it has been a
wonderful experience teaching
you.

Charlie kept still.

BILL

Charlie, do you know why I
gave you extra work?

He shrugs.

BILL

It's because you are the most
gifted person I've ever
known.

CHARLIE

Really?

BILL

Really.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

BILL

I don't want you to feel
uncomfortable but, I want you
to know that you're very
special.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I looked at him, I didn't feel strange. I felt like I wanted to cry. I thought of the word "special", then I thought the only person that said it to me besides Bill is my Aunt Helen. I felt good hearing it again, maybe we forget it sometimes. I think everyone of us is special in our own way.

BILL

Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yes, Sir?

BILL

I want to give you the last book you'll have to read.

Bill hands him The Fountain Head. Charlie takes it.

BILL

It's a very long book. It's great but try to be a filter, not a sponge.

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie is sitting alone at his bench, smoking.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

This week, I was all alone,
not because they're angry at
me again, it's because
everyone is busy with
graduation and other school
stuff. Next Friday is their
last day at high school.
Sunday is their graduation,
I'm so excited but I'm also
sad.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie plays the mix tape. He sits on his typewriter
and starts typing. The book *The Fountain Head* is on his
side.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Bill's right. *The Fountain
Head* is a good book. I hope I
am being a filter.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DUSK

Charlie is on the hallway talking to Bill. It's empty,
like they are the only one at the school.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I handed out the essay to
Bill and he was so happy.
Tomorrow is graduation and I
haven't heard about Sam and
Patrick.

BILL

Gotta read this at home,
Charlie.

CHARLIE

Hope you will like it.

BILL

Of course I will.

A beat.

CHARLIE

You're the best teacher I
ever had.

BILL

Thank you.

Bill reaches out his hand, they shake. Bill smiles.

BILL

See you.

Charlie smiles. Bill leaves.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

So, that was it. I can't
believe that I'm moving to be
a sophomore, it's so fast,
really fast.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie enters the house and wipes his shoes on the mat.
He notices there are bags on the floor.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I was very excited to come
home that night because my
brother is coming.

Charlie moves to the living room and sees his BROTHER,
sitting on the sofa with Dad and Sister. Mom is on the
kitchen.

CHARLIE

Hey.

BROTHER

Charlie!!

Charlie excitedly goes to his Brother and hugs him, he's
big and robust, definitely a Football player.

BROTHER

I heard you're maturing.

They break.

CHARLIE

I do?

BROTHER

Yes. Your sister told me.

Charlie looks at her and then he knows what they're talking about.

CHARLIE

Heh. Well, I guess everyone matures.

BROTHER

Actually, I got a gift for you. Remember the thing that I promised you?

Brother pulls out something from his bag, a FOOTBALL poster with signs on it.

CHARLIE

Wow. That's cool. Thanks.

Charlie is sure happy.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

It's Graduation day. Parents and students are all excited. Charlie is with his parents and Brother. Dad is holding a camera.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Graduation day finally arrives. I kept looking for Sam and Patrick 'cause I really want to congratulate them or more accurately, I just miss them.

They all sit on the chair. The classic Graduation song starts to play. Suddenly, graduation caps started marching down. The Graduates head to their seats. Everyone is taking pictures. Charlie sees Sam and Patrick, he smiles.

They all sit. The music stops and MR. SMALL, the principal goes to the platform to give a speech.

MR. SMALL

Bless us. Wow, what a wonderful class this was, even though there are bit of problems, I'm quite glad that they're all graduating. I'm totally grateful about how this year went. We have lots of achievements, from Quiz Bees to Basketball Championships. I just want to emphasize how we needed support for the Community Day Bake sale to start a new computer lab, to accommodate more students and to improve their learning. And now, I'm proud to present to you the graduating class' president, Peter Derricks. Good luck, graduates.

They all clap and so PETER starts giving his speech. Charlie doesn't really care; he's staring at Sam who is meters away from him. After Peter finishes his speech, he calls Charlie's Sister to give her speech; she's fourth in her class. Mom claps as well as Dad. Brother takes a picture. Charlie is just sitting, clapping.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

The graduation ran so fast, I found myself staring at Sam and Patrick as they receive their diplomas.

CUT TO:

Mr. Small is on the microphone again, calling the name of each student. Charlie's Sister has been called, she received her diploma. Mom is so emotional.

MOM

I'm so proud of her.

The family stands. Charlie claps. Sam receives her diploma too, Charlie claps louder. Patrick receives too, after shaking hand with the VICE PRINCIPAL, he goes in the front of the platform and screams.

PATRICK

Yeah!!

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Good thing Patrick can still graduate after that suspension.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie's family is at the parking lot, at the side of their car. Mom and Dad are really proud of Sister, they both kissed her at the forehead.

MOM

I'm so proud of you.

DAD

I can't believe this, you finally graduated.

SISTER

Thank you.

She smiles. Charlie looks everywhere, looking for Sam and Patrick.

BROTHER

So, let's go downtown? I'm starving.

DAD

Yeah. Hop in.

They all get inside the car except for Charlie who is still in his realm of searching for the step siblings.

DAD

Charlie? Charlie?! Get in the car.

Dad snaps his finger. Charlie is jarred.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

She climbs in and they drive off.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Charlie is typing again. He halts and looks outside, there are kids playing outside. He smiles.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Days past and I never heard
anything from them but then
suddenly, one day, Sam
surprised me.

Sister opens his door.

CHARLIE
What?

SISTER
You got a phone call.

CHARLIE
I do? Who is it?

SISTER
Sam.

Charlie smiles and runs outside.

SISTER
Hey!

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Charlie rushes down. He goes to the on hold phone, he answers it.

CHARLIE
Hello? Sam?

INTERCUT
WITH:

INT. SAM'S ROOM - DAY

Sam is on her underwear, the phone is glued into her ears.

SAM

Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yeah. How are you?! Happy graduation!

SAM

Thanks.

CHARLIE

Sorry I never got the chance to meet you after the event, my Dad said that no one will be detached.

SAM

It's fine. I looked for you at the parking lot.

CHARLIE

I looked for you too.

SAM

Guess we just didn't see each other.

CHARLIE

Yeah. I'm glad you called.

Sam didn't speak.

CHARLIE

Sam?

No response.

CHARLIE

Is there something wrong?

SAM

No...uh, can you go here at our house? Everyone's coming here 'cause we'll throw a small party. You know.

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE

Today?

SAM

Yeah. Today. Actually, maybe they're heading here now.

CHARLIE

Okay. I'll be right there.

A beat.

SAM

Charlie.

CHARLIE

Sam?

SAM

I broke up with Craig.

Charlie becomes uncomfortable.

CHARLIE

What? Why?

SAM

I don't know. Things are not clear as it seems. He's cheating on me.

CHARLIE

Cheating?

SAM

Yeah. I'm not the only one she's dating.

CHARLIE

Sam. I'm sorry.

SAM

It's fine. Just go here, okay?

CHARLIE

Okay.

SAM

Bye.

CHARLIE

Bye. See you.

Then the line is cut. Charlie stands still.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I wasn't happy about Craig and Sam breaking up. Not really, seriously. I never once thought that it would mean that Sam would like me. All I cared about was Sam, she got hurt. I realized how much I like her because there was nothing to gain and that didn't matter.

Charlie sadly goes upstairs.

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Charlie opens his drawer and gets the old 45 record he failed to give Sam. Charlie smiles.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie grabs his bike and starts biking, carrying a backpack.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I pedaled so fast, I thought my tires will explode. I want to arrive there immediately, to comfort Sam.

Charlie is biking furiously.

INT. SAM AND PATRICK'S HOUSE - DAY

Someone is using the doorbell. Patrick goes to the door and opens to see Charlie.

PATRICK

Hey, Charlie! Everyone's upstairs. At Sam's room. I'm busy making sandwich, want to help?

CHARLIE

Is Sam okay?

PATRICK

Yeah. We can't go sad this day! C'mon. We're going to college tomorrow!

Charlie steps inside.

CHARLIE

You're going tomorrow? As in tomorrow?

PATRICK

Actually, no. Sam only. I don't want to go to Penn State.

CHARLIE

Sam's going to Penn State?

PATRICK

Uh-huh.

Charlie smiles.

PATRICK

Go upstairs. I'll be there.

CHARLIE

Okay.

Charlie nods and heads upstairs. He goes to Sam's room.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - DAY

Charlie enters the room, there's a loud music inside. The graduates are smoking, some are drinking beer and getting wasted.

Sam sees Charlie.

SAM

Charlie! You made it!

She hugs Charlie.

CHARLIE

Are you okay?

SAM

Yeah. Don't feel too bad.

Charlie sees that Craig is not there. Mary Elizabeth is with Peter, making out.

CHARLIE

I want to give you something.

SAM

Yeah? What is it?

Charlie reaches for his backpack and pulls the old 45 record out.

CHARLIE

I hope you will like it.

SAM

Of course I will.

She kisses Charlie on the cheek.

SAM

Thanks. I'll bring this to college tomorrow.

CHARLIE

You're really going tomorrow?

SAM

Yeah. So, I can get ready. I'll stay at a dormitory.

Charlie starts to cry, again.

SAM

Ow. Don't start crying again.

CHARLIE

Okay.

He tries to wipe his tears.

SAM

I want you to listen. I'm so
fucking scared to be alone at
college.

CHARLIE

You are?

Sam nods.

SAM

Just like you're really
scared to be alone here.

CHARLIE

Okay.

SAM

So, I'll make a deal. When
things get bad at college,
I'll call you and when things
get bad in here, you call me.

Charlie nods like a little baby.

CHARLIE

Could we write letters to
each other.

SAM

Yeah. Use the typewriter.

CHARLIE

Okay.

SAM

Charlie, I'll be back at the
end of the summer. For today,
let's enjoy.

Sam goes to lower down the volume of the music.

SAM

Guys! Charlie gave me an old
45 record!!

They cheer.

BOB

Good boy!

Patrick enters the room with the sandwiches. They all start picking.

CHARLIE

Patrick.

Patrick turns. He places the sandwiches at the table. He goes to Charlie.

PATRICK

What?

CHARLIE

I got something for you.

PATRICK

Again?

CHARLIE

Yeah. Again.

Charlie pulls a novel out of his backpack. He hands it to Patrick. It's a novel called *The Mayor of the Castro Street*.

PATRICK

Wow. Harvey Milk. I've always wanted to read this. Thanks.

Charlie turns to all of them.

CHARLIE

I'm going to miss all of you very much. Good luck at college.

Then he cries terribly. All of them stare him in awe.

BOB

Ow, Charlie.

PATRICK

You're too cute for us to leave. Sucks.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I don't know why I cried,
yeah, I cry most of the time
but it's different, it
suddenly hit me that they
were all going. My friends,
my only friends.

PATRICK

Let's party, Charlie!

Bob raises his beer.

BOB

To Charlie.

EVERYONE

TO CHARLIE!

They all laugh. Charlie starts to smile.

EXT. SAM AND PATRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Darkness bites. Patrick is outside with Mary Elizabeth,
Peter and Bob.

PATRICK

So, guys. See you tomorrow.

MARY ELIZABETH

We'll be here tomorrow.

BOB

Say my regards to Sam.

They all hug slightly then they wave goodbye. Patrick
sighs and then enters the house.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sam and Charlie are alone inside, sitting at the edge of
a bed. They are both silent. Sam gazes to Charlie.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I found myself alone with Sam
that night. I was shivering
for an unknown reason.

SAM

Charlie, you want to help me
pack my things?

Charlie nods.

SAM

Okay.

Sam stands and grabs bags from her closet. There are scattered clothes and girl things at the bed. Sam goes to the floor and starts picking clothes from the bed, folding it properly.

SAM

Come on. I thought you'll
help me?

CHARLIE

Oh yeah.

Charlie kneels and starts picking dress and folding it too.

SAM

Wow. I'm leaving.

A beat.

SAM

Charlie, why are you not
still asking me out?

CHARLIE

What?

SAM

What do you think about our
break up?

Charlie thinks.

CHARLIE

I thought a lot of things.
But mostly, I thought that
you being sad were much more
significant to me than Craig
not being your boyfriend
anymore. And if it meant that
I would never get to think of
you that way, as long as you
were happy, it was okay.
That's when I realized that I
really loved you

Sam smiles.

SAM

Why didn't you try?

CHARLIE

Because I didn't think you
wanted me to.

SAM

Why did you think that?

CHARLIE

Because of what you said.

SAM

The thing that I said nine
months ago? When I told you
not to think of me that way?

Charlie just looked at her.

SAM

Charlie, I told you not to
think of me that way because
of what I'm saying now. I
don't want to be somebody's
crush. If somebody likes me,
I want them to like the real
me, not what they think I am.
I want them to show me, so I
can feel it too. Now, I'm here
with you, I want to know where
you are, what you need, and what
you want to do.

Charlie smiles. A tear fell from Sam's cheek. Charlie comes closer and kisses her. Sam kissed him back. They started making out. They rise and goes to the bed, pushes the things out of the way. They started undressing each other.

They are both naked. Charlie's mesmerized. Sam moved her hand under his pants, she touches it. Charlie faints.

CHARLIE

Stop!!

Sam stops. Charlie half sits, he's panting. Sam is confused.

SAM

I'm sorry. Did it hurt?

CHARLIE

No. It felt good but there's something wrong.

SAM

What is it?

CHARLIE

I don't know.

SAM

You're not ready?

Charlie nods, he starts being pale.

SAM

Charlie?

He pants and suddenly remembers something.

FLASHBACK:

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

It's raining outside, 7 years old Charlie is on the bed, naked. Aunt Helen is there, touching him, molesting him.

AUNT HELEN

Shhh. It's going to be okay.

Aunt Helen kisses Charlie on the cheek, touches him on his private parts. Young Charlie doesn't even know what's happening.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie is startled, he remembered something, something unspeakable.

CHARLIE
I'm, I'm going home.

Sam shrugs her head.

SAM
Charlie, you're so pale. Are you sick?

Charlie stands and starts dressing, Sam too.

SAM
Charlie, I didn't mean to.

CHARLIE
No. It's not your fault. I'm sorry.

SAM
I should drive you home. You're so white, do you need some water?

Charlie sits on the bed. Sam is looking at him, worried.

SAM
Charlie, you can sleep here tonight, okay? I'm going to call your Mom that you're sleeping over.

Charlie just nods. Sam messes his hair.

SAM
Take a rest.

Charlie lies down and starts sleeping. Sam looks at him, caring.

SAM

I'm going to get some water.

Sam goes outside. Charlie couldn't believe it.

CHARLIE

Aunt Helen...

Charlie falls to sleep.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I dreamt that night how my Aunt Helen abuses me, I was too young, I don't know what she's doing. All I knew was that she loved me and that's the way how she shows her love. My parents didn't know.

INT. SAM AND PATRICK'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie is still deranged, taking his breakfast with Sam, Patrick and their PARENTS.

SAM

You sure you're okay now,
Charlie?

Charlie nods.

PATRICK

What happened last night?

SAM

I don't know he just fainted.

Their FATHER addresses them.

FATHER

He must be lonely because
you're leaving.

SAM

That's not it, Dad.

MOTHER looks at the wall clock.

MOTHER

Oh, you better hurry. It's a long way to Penn State.

SAM

Okay. Charlie, you sure you're okay?

CHARLIE

I am. Certainly.

Charlie is covering it up, his memory is bothering him.

EXT. SAM AND PATRICK'S HOUSE - DAY

A VAN is parked at the curb. Sam and Patrick's Parents are already inside. Sam and Patrick are with Charlie, Mary Elizabeth and the rest.

SAM

Mary Elizabeth! I'll miss you!

They hug.

MARY ELIZABETH

Take care.

Sam goes to Bob and high fives with him.

BOB

Want me to deliver stash to you?

SAM

No. I don't need that.

She laughs. She says "see ya" to others. Last was Charlie, it was different. Sam hugs him, she whispers into his ear.

SAM

You're still my best friend. I love you.

CHARLIE

I love you too.

They break off and kiss Charlie on the cheek.

SAM

I'm gonna miss you. All of
you.

She sighs and goes into the car. Patrick too.

PATRICK

Don't worry, guys. I'm not
staying with her. I'll be
back.

Patrick laughs and goes into the van too. Sam rolls the
window down. She waves to Charlie, he waves too.

Then they are off. Charlie stares at the van as it tears
down the road.

MARY ELIZABETH

Charlie? Are you okay? Want
us to drive you home?

Charlie turns to her.

CHARLIE

No. I'm okay.

Charlie grabs his bike and bikes off.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie enters the house, looking dizzy, fainting. He
goes to the sofa and starts taking his clothes off. He's
fully naked, he has his eyes shut, making noises.

His Mom sees him. She is confused.

MOM

Charlie?

She goes to shake him.

MOM

What are you doing?

He's not responding and is so pale.

MOM
CHARLIE! CHARLIE!

She continues to shake him, but he's not responding, he's just voicing small noises.

MOM
CHARLIE!! DAD!!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Charlie wakes up, he's dressed in a hospital gown. Every wall is white. He then realizes that he's inside a hospital room. Sister is there.

SISTER
Charlie?! You're awake! Are you alright?

CHARLIE
Huh? What happened?

SISTER
Mom and Dad saw you naked at the living room, you're convulsing.

CHARLIE
What?

Sister just nods.

SISTER
I don't know what's up to you? Are you taking drugs?

Charlie shrugs. Mom and Dad enter the door and sees him awake.

MOM
Charlie? You're awake?!!

She goes to him and starts brushing his hair off.

MOM
Oh, I'm so worried.

DAD

What happened to you?

CHARLIE

I don't know.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Charlie is sitting in front of a DOCTOR. There are just two of them in the room.

DOCTOR

Charlie, tell me, why are you naked at the sofa?

Charlie shrugs.

CHARLIE

I don't know.

DOCTOR

Charlie. Is something bothering you? Are you having nightmares? Is someone bullying you at school?

CHARLIE

No.

DOCTOR

Then why are you naked at that sofa?

CHARLIE

I don't know. I don't know how I get naked, I'm just so tired and wanted to go to sleep. I don't know.

DOCTOR

Is there something that is urging you to sleep?

CHARLIE

No.

DOCTOR

So, why? I wanted to know
Charlie what's happening to
you.

CHARLIE

It's...its Aunt Helen.

DOCTOR

Okay, then?

CHARLIE

I don't know. It just came
into my mind that she
molested me, I don't know. I
don't remember that until
now. I didn't know.

He cries.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

The Doctor is talking with Mom and Dad at a corner.

DOCTOR

It's a repressed memory.

MOM

What?

DOCTOR

Your son is having a mental
illness. He's depressed.

DAD

Why? What is this repressed
memory?

DOCTOR

Do you know that your son has
been molested?

MOM

What? No.

DOCTOR

It's about Aunt Helen.

DAD

What?! What are you talking about?

DOCTOR

Your son has been molested when he was seven years old. He's memory of being molested just added more into his depression.

Mom sobs, she hugs Dad.

MOM

No. No. I couldn't believe it.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie, fresh from the hospital enters the house with his family. He goes to the sofa.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I got discharged after a week. I guess everyone knew about Aunt Helen because they were so nice to me.

Mom and Dad kissed him on the cheek.

MOM

We'll be readying dinner. We're sure you're hungry.

They all look sad. Mom and Dad go to the kitchen. Sister sits with him.

SISTER

Our brother called, he was so worried. He's coming tomorrow.

CHARLIE

Really?

SISTER

Are you fine now, Charlie?

He nods.

SISTER

I'm sorry about Aunt Helen.
I'm sorry that I never helped
you when she was molesting
you because I didn't know.

CHARLIE

It's okay.

SISTER

I love you, Charlie, okay?

Sister kissed him on the cheek too. She stands and leaves.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

It felt like I wanted to cry
again because I'm so happy
that everyone is worrying
about me. Granddad sent me
letters, my other aunts too.
Patrick gave me a letter from
Sam, she said she will be
back any day to see me and
drive me into a tunnel. I
didn't know that that "any
day" is this day.

A beep from the outside stops him. Charlie stands up and peeks at the window. There he sees, Patrick and Sam on the Volkswagen. Charlie smiles. He walks out of the door.

EXT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie walks out of the house, looking at Patrick and Sam who are waving at him.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

I thought about Bill telling
me I was special. And I
thought, I wouldn't be as
special without these people
around me.

SAM

Charlie, hop in.

Charlie does so. They start driving off.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

The Volkswagen is navigating the tunnel. Songs from the mix tape are playing. Patrick is making air waves again.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

As we went into the tunnel I didn't hold up my arms like I was flying. I just let the wind rush over my face I started crying and smiling at the same time. I thought about Aunt Helen, I didn't care if she did something on me or not, all I know is she wanted me to buy a present the night she died. I also thought how I like to have Sam and Patrick as siblings. But mostly I thought about how I was standing up in the tunnel, not caring about the world.

Charlie stands up and feels the cold, rushing wind. Sam is sure happy.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

And that alone was enough to make me feel infinite.

Charlie screams at the top of the lungs. Sam and Patrick did too. They were all feeling infinite.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

These will maybe my last letter but that doesn't mean I'll forget about you. I will always believe the same about you. Love always, Charlie.

THE END.

