

REDUX

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1 HIGHEST HEAVEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

1

It was highest heaven. The dark mountain was partially obscured by clouds, layered with: Gray at the top, lighter clouds closer to the base of the mountain, and misty white, through which orange glowed, in the background.

In the foreground, a compelling gold figure covered in gems looked back over his shoulder toward a ravine filled with fire, between nine stacked stories that mirrored each other on either side of the flames, as they reached toward the gray clouds. Each floor of the majestic structure had its own windows made of a certain gem - windows of sardius, topaz, diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle. (Ezekiel 28:13.)

As the gold, bejeweled figure turned, his face could be seen. Black color had started to bleed up-from the tips of his long, golden hair, dying it. He lifted a shaking hand and saw his golden eyes filling with black color, a transformation captured in the gems on his gold skin.

He turned to fully face the fiery ravine...and began to stumble in slow motion, falling back.

He was at the edge of a cliff, about to go over its steep side.

The threads of his dark hair grew out like a web. The ends of his darkening hair wrapped around other, smaller

figures, like tentacles. As he went over; the small figures tied to him were pulled along with him...right out of the sky.

As he fell the gold figure lost his jewels, as if the adhesive that had held them in place couldn't keep them on his body any longer. As they flew off and landed, the former gems acted like fragile, black glass and turned to dust on contact.

The gold figure was turning black, too. As he fell, he looked up, and saw a star directly above the abyss of nothing where he was falling. Fully black, the being fell through the stars of second heaven and then through the clouds of the lowest heaven...and drifted toward what looked like earth.

2 INT. DANIEL'S (HANDSOME SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD) FRONT DOOR IN THE BACKGROUND LEADING TO A FOYER, ARCHED ENTRY TO THE KITCHEN FOREGROUND WITH A ROUND, EAT-IN KITCHEN TABLE-DAY

2

DANIEL opens the door to ALFIE (nine or ten year old boy in a school uniform with a backpack).

DANIEL

Whatever you're selling...

DANIEL trails off.

DANIEL

Um...

(clears his throat)

I can get you...a glass of water...if you wanna come in. Are you tired? You can come in... Sit down? Are you worried about your bag? I'm not gonna mess with it, buddy. See the kitchen table? It's right there. I was gonna make some soup and sandwiches-

ALFIE peeks around DANIEL and pushes past him.

ALFIE

Do you have chips?

DANIEL watches ALFIE take off his pack. ALFIE sits down at the kitchen table on top of the pack, like it's a bulky booster seat. DANIEL makes a sandwich and chips and a glass of milk.

ALFIE

I'm not a kid. Do you have soda pop?

DANIEL

You might not be a kid, but would your mom be okay with you having soda pop?

ALFIE hesitates.

ALFIE

I don't know.

DANIEL

What do you know? Eat your food.

ALFIE scarfs it down, and DANIEL slices an apple. DANIEL peels an orange for ALFIE.

DANIEL

Okay, you're giving me a look.
Would you prefer fruit cocktail?

ALFIE shrugs. DANIEL shrugs back.

DANIEL

Want me to walk you home now?

ALFIE suddenly jumps off his pack and starts unzipping it.

ALFIE

You asked me what I know. I know that when something falls, it's fallen.

DANIEL

Uh huh. What's that mean?

ALFIE

We're not who we're supposed to be,
because we fell.

(Whispering)

But he fell first.

DANIEL

Who? Fell from where?

ALFIE

I'll tell you what I know. But it's
a long story. And you have to
listen.

DANIEL

Is this because you don't want to
go home? Is your mom-?-

ALFIE

You asked me...what I know. Can you
get that cocktail now?

DANIEL

Okay.

ALFIE

And one more thing.

DANIEL

What?

ALFIE

You have to listen for real. No
doubt.

DANIEL

No doubt. I don't know if I control
that, buddy.

ALFIE

You do. Just listen like I'm
telling you a bedtime story.

DANIEL

Let me see if we actually have any
more fruit cocktail first.

ALFIE

I'll take another pop, if you
don't.

DANIEL

Alright.

ALFIE

I can go.

ALFIE stands up, pushing the book he's started to take out
back into his pack.

ALFIE

Thanks.

DANIEL

Wait! Kid! Tell me your story!

ALFIE

Nah. You don't wanna hear it.

DANIEL

Yeah, I do!

ALFIE

(hesitating)

Your arms are crossed.

DANIEL

I'll uncross 'em, okay?
Just...relax...and let me... You
like ice cream?

ALFIE

Can we eat it...someplace else?

DANIEL

Like at the park or-?-

ALFIE

You have a mom and dad, right?

DANIEL

That's a weird question.

ALFIE

Do you?

DANIEL

They won't mind if you stay here.

ALFIE

Okay.

DANIEL

That's a big book you got there,
kid. It's bigger than you!

ALFIE

It's my research.

DANIEL

Why don't you take it in the living
room? Don't worry, okay? My dad's
in the hospital. My mom's with him.

ALFIE

What's the matter with him?

DANIEL

Heart attack. Chocolate good with
you?

ALFIE

Yeah. Thanks.

DANIEL

Couch pulls out. There's blankets on the recliners, but don't go to sleep yet. I really wanna hear this story.

ALFIE slips out of the kitchen. DANIEL nods to himself, mutters something, and starts opening and closing drawers and cabinets.

3 INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

3

ALFIE

If there's anything you don't understand, just say it!

DANIEL

Okay. I don't understand how you ate like a PINT of ice cream that fast.

ALFIE

This is the story, okay? What we...know and believe is not really true. What most of us believe about the world and about how all this started is not really true.

DANIEL

Yeah?

ALFIE

Some people would say that it-it's a difference between: Science or myth?

DANIEL

Yeah.

ALFIE

But what EVERYONE'S missing...is time. Even they say it all started... Before a bang... Before an earth in seven days... Before that, there was something else.

DANIEL

Right. Another process?

ALFIE

There was a whole 'nother world.
But the same Creator.

DANIEL

Right.

ALFIE

He made a world, and He created,
um, beings...before anything that
we know right now.

DANIEL

Right. Hmmm.

ALFIE

It's hard to explain, but He
created angels...

DANIEL

Yeah?

ALFIE

In the beginning there was heaven
and earth, ya know?

DANIEL

So that stuff with the
angels...happened BEFORE the seven
days was complete?

ALFIE

So, There was a seven day
creation...

DANIEL

Yeah?

ALFIE

But before that, there was a
DIFFERENT heaven and earth. And
something went wrong...

DANIEL

Right...

ALFIE

So, there was a heaven and an earth-

DANIEL

Yeah...

ALFIE

-and in that place, there were different heavens. And I don't know what they were, but at the top heaven, there was a place called the mountain of God...

DANIEL

Yeah?

ALFIE

And there was something being built there. It was part of a plan, and it wasn't finished yet. But the angels were already there. The highest ranking angel was the prince.

DANIEL

Right.

ALFIE

And he-

DANIEL

It's interesting that he had a rank.

ALFIE

Building something outranks being that thing. (Hebrews 3.)

DANIEL

I guess you think Adam and Eve were the highest ranking humans, too... But they messed up.

ALFIE

Okay, I just need to...say what I have to say.

DANIEL

You never told this bedtime story before, have you? Sorry.

ALFIE

The angel... The prince was helping God build something in a place called the garden of God. (Ezekiel 28.)

DANIEL

Eden, right?

ALFIE

A DIFFERENT Eden.

(Shuffling pages)

This prince was gold and covered with gems. He...was building something. It had layers decorated with these different stones. Once the prince got to a certain layer, it went wrong. Before that, the prince walked on fire.

DANIEL

On fire?

ALFIE

Where they were making the stones of fire... Gemstones need fire and pressure. And the prince was using gemstones. As he built, they were going on to his skin, too-

DANIEL

Why?

ALFIE

As a reward... But then he lost focus.

DANIEL

On what?

ALFIE

His job.

DANIEL

Building the thing...with the
gemstones...

ALFIE

The prince saw himself, and he
wondered: Why can't I be God?

DANIEL

Huh...

ALFIE

And something about the prince made
others want to follow him... I
think he...tricked them.

DANIEL

He must be good at doing that.

ALFIE

He tricked them, and they fell. But
he fell, too.

DANIEL

What happened? What's that mean?

ALFIE

He came here. He brought angels
with him. Into this Eden. He asked-

DANIEL

Right.

ALFIE

-the humans if THEY wanted to be
gods. The same whisper that somehow
got inside him.

DANIEL

That's what got inside him...and he wants to put that on other people. He wants other people to have his fate probably.

ALFIE

That's another part of the story-

DANIEL

What?

ALFIE

-Hell was not created for us; it was created for the prince and the angels that went with him. But he whispered to us, and we became his children. Then hell became a place we could go.

DANIEL

It's a strange story. Dark...

ALFIE

But it's a story that explains a war that is going on. You know? Some-someone had something and became BITTER when he lost it. But he still has power over this world.

DANIEL

Okay, like Jerry Maguire?

ALFIE

I don't know-

DANIEL

One of my parents' favorite-nevermind... The ones that went with him...must have already had those feelings somewhat, unless they're just lemmings.

ALFIE

The prince doesn't want his children to have a relationship with God. Because He threw him out of heaven.

DANIEL

So what does...the PRINCE want to happen to us?

ALFIE

Hell. The prince wants to be your god.

DANIEL

What's the point?

ALFIE

Like they said in Dawn of Justice, What falls is fallen. This world fell. He fell. It's all fallen.

DANIEL

Why...didn't God stop it? Stop HIM?

ALFIE

He had a choice. You have a choice. We're not robots.

DANIEL

Freedom sounds like a sucky excuse. For HELL. I think I'd rather be a robot than go to hell.

ALFIE smiles a little.

DANIEL

What's your name?

ALFIE

Wall-E.

DANIEL

Okay. My name's Voltron. I liked your strange, dark story.

ALFIE

Who's he? Did you understand it?

DANIEL

The prince and his children are the reason for evil in the world. Right?

ALFIE

I guess you can call me Alfred.

DANIEL

Is that your name?

ALFIE

Kind of. Can I go to bed now?

DANIEL

Uh, yeah. Yes. Sure.

ALFIE

Will you tell me a story then?

DANIEL

Let me find you something to wear. You can use my bath-

ALFIE

No thank you. Will you tell me a TRUE story?

DANIEL

Right now?

ALFIE

Yes.

DANIEL

Fine. Sit down then.

ALFIE sits down in one corner of the sectional, using his pack like a pillow this time. DANIEL kneels down in front of him, staring at the floor.

DANIEL

There was a boy like you. He had parents. But they gave him away. No one knows why. When something is abandoned, it's unwanted. I was abandoned. In the snow. But then...a man and his wife tried to be my parents. But now the man might die. I'll be alone again-in a way I've never been alone before. I don't know how I was feeling about that, but then a little boy showed up... I thought he was selling something, but he looked exhausted. He looked hungry. And, I guess, I understood that-being tired. Needing something to fill me up... So I asked him to come inside. And the little boy told me a story about a God I don't believe in. But it made me curious, because I've never heard it told that way before. The end. Now do you want to brush your teeth or anything?

ALFIE

No.

DANIEL

Okay. Go to bed.

4 EXT. OUTSIDE A CORNER WINDOW-NIGHT

4

ETHAN (handsome seventeen year old) is pushing up the window. ETHAN braces both hands on either side of the window. Then ETHAN lifts his right leg up over the sill, resting the hook of his leg there for a moment. Then he pulls himself up, ducking his head under and in. ETHAN grunts as he lets his body lean down toward the floor.

INT. JUST INSIDE THE CORNER WINDOW, TO THE LEFT OF THE LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE-NIGHT

ETHAN comes all the way into the room through the corner window. He turns to pull the screen and the window itself back down.

DANIEL
Breaking and entering, I see.

ETHAN
Broke nothing.

ETHAN grunts, turning to perch on the sill. ETHAN removes his shoes. Standing, ETHAN brushes by DANIEL to head into the kitchen.

ETHAN
Fruit cocktail and a pint of ice cream? Must be bad.

ETHAN grabs a chip with his free hand and continues through to the foyer, where he bends over to arrange his shoes.

DANIEL
Help yourself-

ETHAN
Thank you, I will.

DANIEL
Mi casa es su casa.

ETHAN
Alright, Teen Wolf-

DANIEL
Coach Finstock, actually.

ETHAN
Thanks, Coach.

5 INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT

5

ETHAN
Who's the kid?

DANIEL
I don't know?

ETHAN

Is he alright?

DANIEL

Like what? Is he safe? Dangerous?

ETHAN

You have to use your head.
Especially when you and your mom
like to take in strays like me-

DANIEL

Strays?

ETHAN

We're not all angels, ya know?
What? What did I say?

DANIEL

Angels. That's what Alfie was
talking about.

ETHAN

Alfie?

DANIEL

The kid. I don't know. He won't
tell me his name. He's smart.

ETHAN

Jehova's Witness? They start 'em
early, now, huh?

DANIEL

And they spend the night, too.

ETHAN

Is he okay in the head or just
religious?

DANIEL

Step outside my office.

DANIEL pushes off the kitchen counter, heading toward the foyer. As he opens the front door, ETHAN pushes off the archway between the kitchen and foyer and turns to follow DANIEL out of the house.

6 EXT. FRONT PORCH OF MC'S HOUSE-NIGHT

6

ETHAN

Ya mind?

ETHAN holds up a pack of cigarettes and a cigar-shaped butane lighter.

DANIEL

Something's wrong with that kid,
but I don't think he's crazy. I
think he's alone.

ETHAN

Obviously.

DANIEL

Huh?

ETHAN

Desperate, too, if he let you feed
him. That's why I say he could be
trouble.

DANIEL

Why?

ETHAN

Cause he's one of us. Wild thing
that doesn't trust the world.

DANIEL

Definitely...

ETHAN

What?

DANIEL

He doesn't trust his mom.

ETHAN

I know how he feels.

DANIEL

And you still think he shouldn't be here?

ETHAN

You're gonna do what you're gonna do, but-

DANIEL

I actually want your opinion.

ETHAN

-that's, uh, not good. When you don't have a good example of how to be. You can hurt people and not even know it.

DANIEL

He told me a story that kind of hurt my brain.

ETHAN

Okay. So how is he?

DANIEL

No updates yet. Doesn't look good.

ETHAN

Sorry.

DANIEL

I'm used to it. Everybody leaves. Dies. Whatever.

ETHAN

Dying isn't exactly jumping ship, ya know? And he isn't dead yet.

DANIEL

Yeah.

ETHAN

Miz Sosa?

DANIEL

Yeah?

ETHAN

She's, uh, friends with Olivia.

DANIEL

Punk Princess Olivia? Queen of the
Pretty People...who are also a
little edgy?

ETHAN

She's gonna be at that thing at the
twins' house... Is that kid staying
the night?

DANIEL

If he wants to.

ETHAN

Thought so... Poker?

DANIEL

Step inside my office.

ETHAN

After you, Coach.

DANIEL

There are three rules that I live
by-

ETHAN

Say no more. Please. Coach.

7 INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

7

ALFIE startles awake on the sectional. He untangles himself from a blanket, patting his pack frantically. Slowing down, he begins to examine his surroundings owlshly. He sees DANIEL watching him from one of the recliners and freezes.

DANIEL

(Coming to his feet)

Everything's okay, Wall-E. Do you
like eggs? And could you possibly

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

drink a cup of milk, if I make you
a plate of bacon to go with it?

ALFIE stares at DANIEL for a long time.

ALFIE

I shouldn't have told you that
story.

DANIEL

You can trust me, Alfie-

ALFIE

Mason. My real name's Mason. And I
was wrong. I meant, I should have
told you that story; but you might
wish I hadn't.

DANIEL

Why?

ALFIE

Because they'll be watching to see
if it worked-

DANIEL

Worked? Kid, I-

ALFIE

And if it did... They won't like
it. They'll try to stop it from
changing you.

DANIEL

Changing me? Mason? Mason, are you
okay?

ALFIE

Now, you think I'm crazy. Kids with
no parents are fine? Kids with
crazy, RELIGIOUS stories, even? But
when I tell you that the story is
alive-

DANIEL

Alive?

ALFIE

A catalyst that's set to go off
inside you-

DANIEL

What?

ALFIE

Then you get a little scared? You
should be. Still want me to have
that cup of milk? Didn't think so.

ALFIE throws the straps of his pack over his shoulders and starts to march past DANIEL with his eyes on the ground. He's muttering something and shaking his head. DANIEL touches his shoulders, and ALFIE's arms turn to windmill blades with fists at the end.

DANIEL

Whoa, kid! Slow down. I don't think
you're crazy. Just...religious. And
smart. And imaginative... And-

ALFIE

Crazy! A freak!

DANIEL

-troubled. I think you're not in a
good situation.

ALFIE

Are you?

DANIEL

No... No, I'm not. We have that in
common.

ALFIE stares at DANIEL, his eyes jumping back and forth,
breathing hard.

DANIEL

That's why we need to stick together.

ALFIE

We're actually on opposite sides.

DANIEL

Of what?

ALFIE

The war. You're a child of the prince. I'm Veritas. I'm your enemy, until you change.

DANIEL

You're my enemy?

ALFIE

No. I'm YOUR enemy. I don't see you that way.

DANIEL

How do you see me?

ALFIE

Lost.

DANIEL

Listen...

ALFIE

I think I will have that milk now. Think about what you have to say, and see if it's good to say.

DANIEL

Is that in the (gesturing agitatedly) BIBLE or, whatever you carry around in that bag of yours? The golden rule or something?

ALFIE

My mom.

DANIEL

I'm-

ALFIE

There's no point. The prince and his brotherhood killed her. He was a child, too.

DANIEL

Wha-? A KID...KILLED-?

ALFIE

The golden rule is about treating other people the way you want to be treated. The Bible says to love that way. (Matthew 22: 36-40). No. Her boyfriend. He was one of the prince's children. Like you...

DANIEL

What?

ALFIE closes his eyes. His lips are moving inaudibly.
DANIEL backs away from him.

DANIEL

Alf- Mason? Are you...praying? Are you afraid? I'm not going to hurt you. I-I just don't like being compared to... I'm not... I would never...

ALFIE opens his eyes. He stares at DANIEL.

ALFIE

Thoughts are just thoughts till their actions. You feel. You say. You do. Even Veritas...

DANIEL

You-you're Veritas, right? Truth? Or, something...

ALFIE

It means I believe the truth...

DANIEL

So... Do you actually...have
anyplace to go, Alfie?

ALFIE

To my foster parents.

DANIEL

Do they..? Are they..?

ALFIE

They're Veritas. But they're not
MINE!

ALFIE slips off his pack and marches past DANIEL into the kitchen. He slams his pack onto the seat with its back to the front door again and clambers back up on top of it. DANIEL heads to a cabinet and pulls out a cup.

ALFIE

A glass, please. I'm not a kid, I
told you.

DANIEL

You DID tell me.

ALFIE

But I didn't tell you the whole
story.

DANIEL claps the cup down on the counter, turning to face ALFIE.

DANIEL

This dangerous story-the one that
could get me KILLED or something...
You didn't even tell me the whole
thing?

ALFIE looks up beside him and then turns slowly, until he's turned his face toward the front door.

DANIEL

What are you looking at, kid?

ALFIE turns to look at DANIEL.

ALFIE

Is your friend here?

The doorbell rings.

DANIEL

Um...

DANIEL goes to the front window, flipping the curtain back.

DANIEL

Uh, yeah, I guess he is. How did you-?

ALFIE

He's okay.

DANIEL flips the deadbolt open and heads back to the kitchen. He stands over ALFIE, looking down at him.

DANIEL

How did you know that?

The door opens slowly. ETHAN leans partway in.

ETHAN

Everything okay? Chloe and John back yet?

DANIEL gestures roughly. ETHAN comes in, closing the door behind him. He kicks off his shoes, arranging them neatly.

DANIEL

(whispering)

How did you know that?

ALFIE

Wind Worker told me.

DANIEL

What?

ETHAN hesitates under the archway between the kitchen and the foyer.

ETHAN

Everything okay?

ALFIE

Can I have that milk now?

DANIEL

Uh, sure.

ALFIE

In a GLASS.

ETHAN

Bossy little stray, aren't you?

ALFIE

At least I don't come in through people's windows when they're at the hospital.

ALFIE looks up at ETHAN as DANIEL places the glass of milk in front of him, staring into ETHAN's face.

ALFIE

I actually come through front doors; I don't just pretend to, so they THINK I have good manners.

ETHAN turns to look at DANIEL.

ETHAN

This is good manners?

ALFIE

It's a true story.

ETHAN looks back at ALFIE.

ETHAN

Oh, yeah, I hear you have all kinds of stories.

ALFIE

Just one. But it's long. And I haven't finished it yet.

ALFIE picks up his glass.

ALFIE

Thank you, Voltron.

ALFIE drinks all of the milk while DANIEL and ETHAN stare at him.

8 INT. LB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

8

From behind, we see an adult male figure kneel down on the carpeted floor. The figure reaches out his right hand toward the bed skirt of the bed, lifting it slowly with the tips of his fingers. There, ALFIE is leaning over his knees, almost in the fetal position, but not quite. ALFIE's head is lifted and his eyes are wide in his face. He's gritting his teeth and trembling. The man facing ALFIE holds the bed skirt up with his right hand and reaches out his left hand toward ALFIE.

ALFIE (V.O.)

It didn't start there though-me showing up at Voltron's house, and him thinking I'm trying to sell something door to door. Yeah, we jumped in fast. Voltron and Wall-E... Yeah, he was 17. I'm 10. And it might seem weird to talk about what we talked about. People tell me I don't sound like a kid. Believe me, there ARE real reasons for that. Kids can, like, have a connection...because of what they've been through. They can understand without saying anything. So, I fast forwarded a little, and the story started there. It would've been boring otherwise. And

(MORE)

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

I'm a storyteller; I try NOT to do boring. But MY story didn't start there, and some of it was magic. Some things are like that. We can meet people, and it can be magical... And sometimes, people aren't even people. They just look like us.

The figure (wind walker or, Jesus Christ) said words that couldn't be heard. His hand was out, and he waited. Slowly, ALFIE's knees came into the light as he came forward. Then he blinked as that light hit his eyes-first the night light, then a different kind of light.

The light does more than grow; it transforms. Soft yellow becomes white. And white becomes blue. Somehow, it doesn't blind ALFIE and, at the same time, covers the adult figure like a hooded cape that pools around him.

ALFIE stared up-where the face of the man should have been visible-like he could see it. And ALFIE nodded like he could hear words. But there was only electric silence outside his own head.

WIND WALKER 1

The One was a priest in His earthly life. But He is High Priest to all people. He was chosen by a decision that was made before this earth and its heaven. He prayed for humans like you...and was heard, because He was obedient. The One was lifted high through suffering. He was transformed into the key to your freedom, Alfred who was Mason. Now you can be free forever. You, too, have been chosen by the One...to be an obedient priest.

ALFIE

But... But what can I do?

WIND WALKER 1

You can taste the gift of heaven.
You can experience the powers of
that realm-if you remember what I
will tell you now. A story about
the One who came to set YOU, and
every OTHER humans free.

ALFIE

What-? What do I have to do, if I
want to be free?

WIND WALKER 1

You have to believe.

ALFIE

How do I do that?

WIND WALKER 1

Do you want to believe?

ALFIE

I think so.

WIND WALKER 1

You're afraid. Do you want to have
something-a light...when the fear
comes to make it dark again?

ALFIE

Yes.

WIND WALKER 1

Then stay there. Stay in that place
in your heart that WANTS to
believe. That should be enough.
Then...listen. Pretend I'm telling
you a bedtime story... And when I'm
finished, if you want to, you can
tell the whole WORLD.

ALFIE

How?

WIND WALKER 1

Think hard about what I say. See
how my words feel in your heart.

ALFIE

In my heart?

WIND WALKER 1

There is One who will help me plant
this story. Like a seed in soil...
Your heart...is the soil. And it
might come alive.

ALFIE

Alive?

WIND WALKER 1

Don't be alarmed. I meant, The
story.

ALFIE

What?

WIND WALKER 1

The story--the one I'm about to tell
you?

ALFIE

Yes?

WIND WALKER 1

Like a seed, it is potential life.
The One may help me water it. And
you may allow it to grow. You might
cultivate it. (Hebrews 6:4-8.)

ALFIE

Culti...? What?

WIND WALKER 1

Cultivate. I meant, You might
choose to grow what could come
alive. You might decide to take
care of it.

ALFIE

Like...a vegetable garden?

WIND WALKER 1

Yes.

ALFIE

And...if your story is a...seed,
then what comes alive would be
like...cucumbers that I-I could
pick. And I could...share them with
neighbors.

WIND WALKER 1

Yes.

ALFIE

Momma...wanted to have a garden.
She...wanted...to grow...pickles.

WIND WALKER 1

Yes.

ALFIE

I think she's okay now.

WIND WALKER 1

For Kallie who was Mason's Momma,
earth was the worst part of her
life. Now, the best part of life is
her future.

ALFIE

Did you tell her the story you're
about to tell me?

WIND WALKER 1 lifts his head, like he's listening. The cape
still shrouds his face as he examines whatever he sees
above him. Then he lowers his head again.

WIND WALKER 1

She heard the story from someone.
When she was very young-younger
than you... And if you trust me
after I'm finished telling you,
then...tell another person. One
person at a time...

ALFIE

What if he won't listen?

WIND WALKER 1

Don't think of it like that.
Freedom is good news. If you
remember freedom is the point of
your story, you'll tell it that
way. And whoever you tell will get
a taste of that, and want it for
himself.

ALFIE

I don't know if I can. I'm just a
kid.

WIND WALKER 1

Storytelling lives inside you. It's
a gift waiting to be opened. Used.

ALFIE

What's it for? Why me?

WIND WALKER 1

He made you that way-with
storytelling on the inside...the
way dance was inside your mother
and music was inside your father.

ALFIE

You...know...my dad?

WIND WALKER 1

I know that gifts are keys that can
open many doors. But there is only
one RIGHT way to use the key in
your heart. Only one RIGHT door...

ALFIE

Where does it go?

WIND WALKER 1

Heaven. Where the One lives...

The figure disappears while his voice is still filling the
room with his presence. ALFIE crawls all the way out from
under the bed. ALFIE's foster mom (early 40s), KENYA,

pushes in the bedroom door that is already slightly ajar. KENYA comes into the room, sits down and wraps her arms around ALFIE, rocking him.

KENYA

You okay, honey?

ALFIE

I don't know, Kenya.

ALFIE (V.O.)

Light isn't the same-not after a wind walker brings some down from heaven...and takes it back with him. It's also not the same when a really nice lady wants you to call her mom, but that's not her name in your heart. Because someone else already has that key, and she took it with her when she died. But some people know the first part of your story, even if they don't know your name. So you can start at-well, after intermission, in a long movie.

INT. DANIEL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

ALFIE is telling DANIEL his story, but without sound.

ALFIE (V.O.)

Or, in the next omnibus, if it's a long series... That's how it was with me and Voltron.

INT. ETHAN'S GARAGE - NIGHT

ETHAN is sitting on a crate, staring at his hands, as he crashes one fist into his open palm, like a ball into a mitt. He looks up, grim-faced, and the light of the moon through a broken pane of garage door glass falls across his eyes, like a mask.

ALFIE: (V.O.)

Voltron's friend thought he knew my story-that he'd heard it before. But our stories are different genres. His has lots of nasty twists, so he thinks my story's a joke.

The man who killed my mom was kind of like that. But he didn't just capture bad dreams like the BFG; he CREATED them. I don't think Voltron's friend is like that.

9 SUBURBAN HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

9

Clusters of teens are talking, dancing, laughing, texting, selfie-ing, eating and drinking in clusters as a wide range of digitally enhanced music, across a collaboration of genres matches their energy. DANIEL and ETHAN are leaning against a wall. ETHAN has a plastic cup in his hand. DANIEL has his hands in his pockets. He doesn't take them out as ETHAN suddenly pushes him in the direction of a group of about 5 girls perched on a sofa back.

STELLA (16 or 17 with pinkish hair and red stripes) flashes a peace sign, smiling slightly.

JEN (16 or 17 with long, straight hair) crosses her legs and puts her chin on her left hand.

LIV (16 or 17 with shorter, curly blonde hair) blows ETHAN a kiss.

ETHAN

What's up, Olivia?

LIV

Hello, Handsome.

MARIA (16 or 17 with long, slightly wavy blonde hair coursing down over her shoulders toward her elbows) covers a small smile with her right hand.

MARIA

(rolling her eyes)
Hi, Ethan.

LIV

What can we do for you, Pretty
Boy...and your...FRIEND here?

ETHAN shrugs.

ETHAN

We can talk about that Livie-
privately-

LIV

Who says?

ETHAN

I say so. But Danny's here for her.

KENNEDY SOSA (16 or 17 with dark brown skin and dreads)
smiles, startled.

KENNEDY

Me?

ETHAN

Dan only-

DANIEL puts a hand on ETHAN's arm.

DANIEL

Why so surprised?

ETHAN

Hey, Livie?

LIV gestures to the girls around her. KENNEDY puts her
hands on the arms of the girls right next to her, but they
all slowly stand up to follow LIV.

MARIA

Sorry Didi.

DANIEL watches KENNEDY, until the other girls move away,
looks around, and then sits down beside KENNEDY on the back
of the sofa, too.

DANIEL
Hi, Kennedy.

KENNEDY
Hi, Dan.

DANIEL
Why wouldn't I be looking for you?

KENNEDY
Um... Honesty?

DANIEL
I love it.

KENNEDY
Well, no one is looking for
me...when I'm with them.

DANIEL
I am.

KENNEDY stares at him for a while, before saying anything.

KENNEDY
It's...

(shaking her head)
In this culture...

(touching her dreads with the tips of her fingers)
It's weird...to see someone like
you...staring at me. Like that.
When there are plenty of blondes
available...

DANIEL laughs.

DANIEL
It's not... It doesn't work like
that. I feel how I feel.

DANIEL lifts his hand and waits. KENNEDY nods, and DANIEL
uses the tips of his fingers to touch her dreads.

DANIEL
They call you Didi?

KENNEDY

(breaking into a wide smile)
Yeah... So, what do they call you?

DANIEL
Would you believe... Voltron?

Both laugh. They brace their hands on the sofa, where they're sitting. They both look down to where DANIEL's left hand doesn't quite touch KENNEDY's right and. KENNEDY looks up. DANIEL keeps his eyes down on their hands.

KENNEDY
Is this...your thing? Like..?

DANIEL
Like..?

KENNEDY
Like do you..?

(gestures vaguely toward herself)

DANIEL
Like, do I...what-?-

KENNEDY
Have a thing for..?

DANIEL
You? Yes.

KENNEDY
No...

DANIEL
What do you mean?

KENNEDY
This is awkward.

DANIEL

This is confusing. Is this a black and white thing? Are you-?

KENNEDY

I mean... Am I your type? I'm trying to ask you...

DANIEL turns his torso more fully toward KENNEDY, taking her shoulders between his hands.

DANIEL

Didi, look at me. I don't care about what anyone thinks. I think...you're BEAUTIFUL. GORGEOUS. And smart. And nice.

KENNEDY

But...I don't even think that... And sometimes people...are trying to...experience the unknown, if you know what I mean...

DANIEL

I'm not sure... Has that...happened to you?

KENNEDY

YES! And listen, after that, I don't EVER want to let someone test me out and bring me back for a refund!

DANIEL

Wow.

KENNEDY

Yeah, the world...has changed a lot... But a lot of bogus stuff still happens. Are you already regretting-?

DANIEL

No. I hate regret. I like you. Fact is, I don't want to talk about this. And

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

whatever...happened...before means
NOTHING to me-

KENNEDY

It means something to me!

DANIEL

Didi-

KENNEDY

Don't call me that. We don't even
know each other-

DANIEL

Yet. I hope.

KENNEDY

Yeah, I don't know...

DANIEL

I wasn't saying your feelings mean
nothing... I was saying
that...however someone else felt or
acted... Whatever someone else
did... That's not me. And I don't
really wanna talk about that,
because...

(shrugging)

then I'm, like, what? Defending
myself? I didn't do anything!

KENNEDY

Yet.

DANIEL

Right. And you...should never feel
how you feel about yourself.

KENNEDY

In this culture-

DANIEL

I'm sorry, but...why should this culture tell you how to feel? You're incredible.

KENNEDY

Thank you.

DANIEL

You're welcome. And, to be honest, I can't compare anyone else to you. My eyes always come back to you. You just stand out. Your smile. Your laugh. Your skin.

KENNEDY

My answers in Math class...

DANIEL

MIZ SOSA. That. Is. CORRECT.

KENNEDY laughs.

DANIEL

Again.

Both laugh.

KENNEDY

Um... I think it's probably different because you're a guy, too.

DANIEL

Yeah?

KENNEDY

(shrugging)

Yeah, but you're right. I don't wanna talk about this anymore.

DANIEL

You want something to eat?

KENNEDY

I'd rather dance.

DANIEL

I don't dance in public.

KENNEDY

Let's get out of here.

DANIEL

Let's stay.

KENNEDY

(shrugging, turning away, and starting to uncoil from the back of the couch)

Okay. Whatever. I don't get it.

DANIEL

(standing)

Our friends are here. Let's have fun here.

KENNEDY

So you don't want to be alone with me?

DANIEL

I want to see you with your friends. I don't know what that's like, really. I only have E.

KENNEDY

I think that's a girl thing, too.

DANIEL

Okay, I'm glad. That, like, puts me at ease. So I'm not weird?

KENNEDY

Oh yeah, you're weird.

DANIEL
So it's true.

KENNEDY
Oh yea, you're DEFINITELY weird.

DANIEL
Okay, what can I do to redeem
myself?

KENNEDY
From weirdness?

DANIEL
Yeah.

KENNEDY
Dance with me.

DANIEL
Now? With all these lights on?

KENNEDY takes DANIEL's hand and leads him toward where
STELLA, JEN, and MARIA are dancing and talking in one area
of the room.

KENNEDY
I guess Olivia and Ethan had other
ideas?

DANIEL
Huh?

KENNEDY
About fresh air.

DANIEL
(shrugging)
This is better.

KENNEDY
Yeah, it is.

10 EXT. HOUSE PARTY BACKYARD WOOD DECK - NIGHT

10

DANIEL, KENNEDY, ETHAN and LIV are seated on the guard of the deck, facing a quarter acre of backyard where other teens are dancing and playing among lightening bugs with glow sticks and backyard games. Behind them, people are doing the same on the deck, dancing around. Some people are swinging on the porch swing. SISTER PARTY HOST and BROTHER PARTY HOST are picking up plastic cups in the backyard and lying on the wooden deck.

SISTER PARTY HOST

Help me!

BROTHER PARTY HOST

Calm down.

SISTER PARTY HOST

Mom-

BROTHER PARTY HOST

Isn't here. Chill.

SISTER PARTY HOST

This is your job, too. You ALWAYS make me do EVERYTHING.

BROTHER PARTY HOST

I'm not making you act like that.

SISTER PARTY HOST

They WILL be here, and the house CAN'T look like this when they get back!

BROTHER PARTY HOST

It won't.

SISTER PARTY HOST

Because I'M doing all the work.

BROTHER PARTY HOST

If you say so.

SISTER PARTY HOST

Ugh!

BROTHER PARTY HOST

The feeling's mutual.

KENNEDY

I think it's time to go.

ETHAN

The twins always act like this.

LIV

Breakfast for dinner?

DANIEL

What time is it?

ETHAN

Late.

DANIEL

Perfect. My house?

KENNEDY

I thought-

DANIEL

Nobody's there.

KENNEDY

Exactly. I thought-

DANIEL

No indecent proposal... Except breakfast for dinner... If I have food...

LIV

If there's nobody at your house, why didn't you throw a party?

ETHAN

Nobody at my house either. Doesn't mean we should throw a party...

LIV
Ooookaaaaay... Soooo?

DANIEL
I think I have eggs.

KENNEDY
That'll do it.

LIV
Yeah.

ETHAN
Eggs are all you really need.

DANIEL
A staple.

KENNEDY raises her hand.

DANIEL
MIZ SOSA.

KENNEDY
How bout milk?

LIV
Juice would be nice, Professor.

ETHAN jumps off the guard into a hydrangea bush. Giggling, LIV climbs onto his back. ETHAN piggybacks her out into the backyard.

ETHAN
I think we need to pick up some beverages, Olivia! Whaddya think?

LIV
Milk for MIZ SOSA! Juice, for us mere mortals!

ETHAN whoops and runs off into the dark with LIV on his back.

KENNEDY

Can I ask you a question?

DANIEL

You don't wanna wait till you get something on your stomach?

KENNEDY

No.

DANIEL

Shoot!

KENNEDY

Are you cursing at me?

DANIEL

No.

KENNEDY

Why do they call you Voltron?

DANIEL

THEY don't, not really... That was... Well, there was this kid that came to my house the other day...

KENNEDY

Uh huh...

DANIEL

I thought it was a... What'd I think it was? A...boy scout or something? Selling cookies- What's so funny?

KENNEDY

I think that's...the GIRL scouts.

DANIEL

Yeah? Well, I thought he was probably selling something. Nine or ten... I don't know how old kids are these days... They make 'em bigger now.

KENNEDY

You. Are. So. WEIRD. What are you-
THIRTY?

DANIEL

Seriously? I feel old sometimes...

KENNEDY

Hm... Yeah?

DANIEL

Yeah... Like when I saw this kid.
He needed help, ya know? He needed
someone to listen to him... So I
did...

KENNEDY

Is he okay? Was he in trouble or
something?

DANIEL

I think he's okay. I hope I see him
again... Anyway, I told him my name
was Voltron.

KENNEDY

What? I don't get it...

DANIEL slides off the guard of the wooden porch, holding
his hand out to KENNEDY. She follows him down.

DANIEL

He told me his name was Wall-E.

DANIEL stares at KENNEDY. She stares back.

DANIEL

It made sense at the time.

KENNEDY

Okay... It's okay. I'm sure...he'll
be okay.

DANIEL

Yeah...

KENNEDY

So... Voltron.

DANIEL

You can call me Danny.

KENNEDY

I like that. Danny.

DANIEL

Yup. Hello.

KENNEDY

Hi...

As they stare at each other, DANIEL and KENNEDY shake hands, but they're standing too close.

11 EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

11

DANIEL is walking with KENNEDY down a quiet, tree-lined, suburban street.

KENNEDY

Good eggs.

DANIEL

Thank God for Liv and Ethan. Woulda been garbage without the O.J., in my humble opinion.

KENNEDY

You can't be humble when you make eggs that good.

DANIEL takes hold of KENNEDY'S wrist to stop her. She pivots, and they kiss.

DANIEL

How can you not know how pretty you are?

KENNEDY

Finally.

DANIEL

I told you that before-

KENNEDY

No. I meant...

DANIEL

Oh. The kiss. That was fast.

KENNEDY

That was slow.

DANIEL

Wait...

KENNEDY

Ha! It was a good, slow kiss. But, I mean, I've been waiting all night...

DANIEL

You didn't even want me to call you Didi, but you wanted me to kiss you?

KENNEDY

Most guys I know-

DANIEL

I don't care about... This is us. Okay? And I...like to take things slow.

KENNEDY

Are you, like, mad, that I've had other...relationships?

DANIEL

I know people have relationships. And I know people do...everything. I just want to pretend none of that exists.

KENNEDY

That's more than weird; that's not reality.

DANIEL

Fine. Let's create our own reality. Our own rules...

KENNEDY

You can't deny the past.

DANIEL

I DO deny it. It's today. And I'm not...gonna...let it...come...here.

KENNEDY

Is that because you were adopted?

DANIEL

My dad had a heart attack. He's here. He's alive. Whatever went wrong, I'm... Now I know that I have to...be somebody else. I have to...appreciate him. Whatever went wrong before, I have to try to...make it be something different now. Because it's not promised. There's not always a do-over.

KENNEDY

Yeah...

DANIEL

So-so...you have to know that you're beautiful. Today. You have to know that I think that. Today. What's not important is what happened before that. Who doesn't believe that... Screw them! That's another day that already passed. That's old news.

KENNEDY touches DANIEL's face.

KENNEDY

That's good news. Freedom. Moving on...

DANIEL

Yeah...Freedom is good news.

KENNEDY

Miz Sosa thinks Daniel Molinari is both weird...and wonderful.

DANIEL

Molinari... Yeah, I know. I'm not even Italian.

KENNEDY

The Molinaris adopted you, though... I'm glad they did.

DANIEL

Kennedy?

KENNEDY

Yes?

DANIEL

I wish you knew me before this.

KENNEDY

Why?

DANIEL

So you could tell me if I'm changing... The little boy I told you about? He told me a story. About God. He said...it might change me... Do YOU believe in God?

KENNEDY

You first. Do you?

DANIEL

Me first? What is that? Do you, or don't you?

KENNEDY

Honesty again? I don't want to be afraid, but... you JUST kissed me-

DANIEL

Finally. What? A few hours after telling you how I feel...

KENNEDY

Whatever... I just don't want you to...

DANIEL

Kennedy. Be you. I like you.

KENNEDY

I do.

DANIEL

Hm.

KENNEDY

You don't.

DANIEL

If we're being honest... It's... It's on... Like...lots of things...you put-you put what you, you know...what you think is good ONTO...things. Like God. Then...you believe in them.

KENNEDY

Uh huh

DANIEL

But they might not be ANYTHING like any of those things-goodness and peace and change and truth. It's just...a story we tell ourselves.

KENNEDY

Is that how you felt-when the...little boy told you the story?

DANIEL

Alfie... That's the weird thing...
No.

KENNEDY

Hm... What did he say?

DANIEL

I don't know if I should tell the
story, until I know if I believe
it... He just told it so seriously.

KENNEDY

You really like this kid-Alfie, I
mean.

DANIEL

I hope he's okay.

KENNEDY

I hope you get to tell him that
your name isn't Voltron.

Both laugh. DANIEL interrupts their laughter by kissing
KENNEDY. They turn, holding hands, to finish walking.

KENNEDY

The sun's coming up.

DANIEL

Yeah. It is.

KENNEDY

Did he even know who Voltron was?

DANIEL

I'm pretty sure he did.

KENNEDY

Really?

DANIEL

He had NO idea.

Both laugh.

KENNEDY

Do I?

12 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - DAY

12

DANIEL is jogging down the stairs from the second floor to the first floor, holding a cell phone to his ear. The doorbell rings.

DANIEL

(into the phone)

Okay, yeah... I'll take care of everything, Mom. You just think about Dad.

Doorbell rings.

DANIEL

Yeah, someone is at the door... No, Mom, are you guys coming home now? I can-

Doorbell rings.

DANIEL

Dammit. No, not you! Sorry, Mom! I can pick you guys up... There's no reason- You're not using some rideshare service. Who cares about that! I'll come, bring you back-

Doorbell rings.

DANIEL

I WILL share a ride back to the hospital and collect the car... No, Mom. It's fine.

Doorbell rings. DANIEL rushes down the rest of the stairs, flips the bolt, and throws open the door.

DANIEL

Alfie!

ALFIE shifts back and forth, tightening his grip on his pack.

ALFIE

Is it okay? I can come back. Are you..? Duh. Yeah, you're on the phone... And I don't have to come back...

DANIEL

Wait! No, not you, Mom.

(waving, trying to smile and mouth words at the same time)

Come in! Or that, Mom. Uncle Nate. Yeah. I'll pick him up. Aunt Lotte always wants to give us food, so he can bring the lasagna or quiche or whatever she's made with him... Yeah... He can bring the other car home after us. He can also help us bring Dad... Yeah... Perfect. Okay, Mom. I love you. Don't worry. I am. I know. It's summer, remember. Everything's okay. Okay. I do. Love you, too. Kay. Okay. Bye.

ALFIE

I can go.

DANIEL

No. You can stay. I have pop. AND ice cream...

ALFIE pushes past DANIEL.

DANIEL holds the door open and then closes it behind ALFIE, following him into the kitchen.

13 INT. EAT-IN KITCHEN - DAY

13

ALFIE

You're good at telling stories, too.

DANIEL

What-When did I tell you a story? YOU told ME a story.

ALFIE

You said, abandoned means unwanted.

DANIEL

Ohhhh-

ALFIE

That you're adopted...

DANIEL

-that... Yeah...

ALFIE

It's kinda like me...

DANIEL

(shaking his head)

I...

(taking a breath, holding it, and exhaling words)

...I really, really... I was
worried about you, Alfie.

ALFIE

You can say it.

DANIEL

What?

ALFIE

What you want to say, Voltron.

DANIEL

No, I...just-

ALFIE

It's okay.

DANIEL

No, I... First-first... I'm
Daniel...not Voltron. That was
stupid. Dan. Whatever you wanna
call me...

ALFIE

You don't think we're alike?

DANIEL

No! Your mom... Listen. I don't-
don't wanna talk about this, okay?
It's not my business. I...look at
you-your... Your MOM was MURDERED.
Ya know? Of COURSE you know...
THAT'S why I don't wanna talk about
this. Open mouth, insert foot.

ALFIE

No one talks to me about it.

DANIEL and ALFIE stare at each other.

ALFIE

I wake up every night, hiding under
my bed. No one talks about it. My
dad left us, but Momma never talked
about it. Someone killed her, and
we can't talk about that. At
school, people make fun of me,
because my parents are brown, and
I'm white. I can't tell them that.
They couldn't handle it. I don't-

DANIEL

Alfie, I'm sorry-

ALFIE

Don't...be sorry! Just...TALK to
me!

DANIEL grabs the 2-liter bottle of soda pop off the counter
with two cups and brings them with him to the round eat-in
kitchen table. He sits down, handing out the cups.

DANIEL

You know why no one probably wants
to talk about it? Because your dad
sounds like a douche. And your mom
sounds like she wasn't a whole lot
better... As a mom...she should
protect you. She shouldn't bring

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

scumbags into your life...who,
obviously, aren't safe-for you or,
for her. Right? So, no one wants to
say that. I don't wanna say that.
But how do you dance around that?
I'm not even a good dancer. I suck
at dancing-

ALFIE

But it's true...

DANIEL

Truth...

(scoffs)

Does that make it better? REALLY?

ALFIE

No one talks.

DANIEL

And I see how that could make you
crazy. But...like, I tried
therapy... It hurts anyway...

ALFIE

Therapy?

DANIEL

You... You talk to someone... And,
like, it's supposed to help you...
But...he's just a stranger with all
these papers that are supposed to
mean he knows what he's doing in
your head... But it doesn't mean he
cares!

(Pausing abruptly)

And...you can't tell him
everything. I couldn't...
Because... Who's this stranger?
Just...some GUY who's PAID to
PRETEND to care? Not even that...
He just...asks YOU what you think?
What am I, like taking a CLASS?
Anyway-

ALFIE

Friends care. Right?

DANIEL

Do you want your mom to worry? To be sad? Mostly friends can't handle it either-not without feeling sorry for you... There's certain things...that I don't like to talk about...because I don't know how to do that...and it still be okay. Alright? It got real dark for me, too, so I get that. I like...that YOU think we're alike. Cause...that means...you kinda trust me. Right? But...it's never gonna be fixed for me, and-

ALFIE

Your heart, you mean?

DANIEL

(moving his cup, without pouring anything into it)
Mmhm... Yeah.

ALFIE

It might...

DANIEL clears his throat.

DANIEL

What?

ALFIE

What if you see them again?

DANIEL

Who?

ALFIE

Your parents. The ones who...

DANIEL clears his throat again and turns the cap on the 2-liter bottle. ALFIE holds his cup as DANIEL pours. DANIEL pours till the foam almost overflows, waits, and pours a little more, till the cup is as full as it can be.

DANIEL

As you can see, I drink out of cups, too. Nothing wrong with it.

ALFIE

I'm not a kid.

DANIEL

GLASSES are for root beer floats.

ALFIE

Friends are for...telling each other things. The truth.

DANIEL

And...stories. Right? You say I'm good at it. Never heard that before.

ALFIE

You have to tell someone your story.

DANIEL freezes.

DANIEL

I have a girl...friend... And-and I told her about you.

ALFIE smiles big. DANIEL stares at ALFIE for a second before smiling big.

DANIEL

Root beer floats?

ALFIE

And pizza?

DANIEL

Okay. That's gonna be tricky. Frozen or delivery?

ALFIE

Can we...make our own?

DANIEL

Okay... Back to the market we go!

ALFIE

Is that okay?

DANIEL

(pointing at ALFIE)

You have to call 'em first. I don't want anyone thinking some weirdo kidnapped you.

ALFIE

I'm not gonna stay the night this time.

DANIEL

Still... And I don't care if you camp out. I'm not saying that, but you have to call them.

ALFIE reaches down and comes up with a cell phone.

DANIEL

A ten year old should not have a phone.

ALFIE laughs outright.

ALFIE

You're weird.

DANIEL

'kay. That's a relief.

ALFIE giggles.

ALFIE

What?

DANIEL

I don't know.

(shrugs)

Everyone else says that, so...if you don't... I don't know. I'm, uh, losin my touch?

(pointing again, smiling this time)
 Call them. I'm gonna take the trash
 out and make a list.

ALFIE nods.

14 INT. DANIEL'S EAT-IN KITCHEN - DAY

14

DANIEL puts uneaten pizza crust back onto a plate, rubbing
 his fingers together over it. He burps.

DANIEL
 Excuse me.

ALFIE burps.
 Me, too.

DANIEL
 Can I ask..? What you meant when
 you said I might see them again?

ALFIE stares at DANIEL for a long time before speaking.

ALFIE
 Someone...told me that, when I was
 worried about M-my...mom... That
 someone had told her the story...

DANIEL
 The one you told me?

ALFIE
 I haven't told you all of it, but
 yeah...

DANIEL
 And..?

ALFIE
 If your... If they heard it, and
 believed it...

DANIEL
 Then it, what? Came alive and took
 them to nirvana?

ALFIE

Heaven.

DANIEL

But I'm your enemy, and I'm going to hell.

ALFIE

I never said that. I said you're lost. And you're my friend.

DANIEL

But there's a war, and I'm going to hell, right?

ALFIE

You have a choice.

DANIEL

So...how would I see them?

ALFIE

You need a key to the right door.

DANIEL

A key?

ALFIE

(nodding)

There's a key to heaven. It belongs to God.

DANIEL

Heaven...belongs to God?

ALFIE nods.

DANIEL

And there's...a KEY? What is it?

ALFIE

Let me tell you the rest of the story.

DANIEL

And if you don't..?

ALFIE

The story can't come alive, if I don't tell you the whole thing.

DANIEL

So...this is a way to heaven?

ALFIE

There's only one way. (Romans 10:11-15.)

DANIEL

THIS...story?

ALFIE

(nodding)

About the One... He came to set us free.

DANIEL

From the prince?

ALFIE

Yes. And whatever we're afraid of.

DANIEL

How?

ALFIE

We give Him everything bad, and He gives us everything good.

DANIEL

I don't get it.

ALFIE

You have to trust Him. Believe that He CAN save you... That He did it already.

DANIEL

(shrugging)

That doesn't sound fair.

ALFIE

You said the highest ranking humans messed up... They messed it up for us. That's not fair either.

DANIEL

But did He..? You said-He's GOD, right? The One, or whatever? Did HE ever mess up?

ALFIE

No.

DANIEL

So, that's not fair... We... Humans mess up all the time.

ALFIE

God has a choice, too. He chose us.

DANIEL

And...my parents... You're saying..? You think...they're up there? With Him? How do you know that?

ALFIE

They might be. They could be.

DANIEL

Is that the story?

ALFIE

It's dark and confusing all around, but the One is light. He can rewrite the story. Change the ending...

DANIEL
Am I changing?

ALFIE
You have to think about what I said
and if you trust me first.

DANIEL looks down at the soupy liquid at the bottom of his glass.

DANIEL
I should probably wash these... But
why don't we just get all new
glasses and make another round?

ALFIE
Can I get more ice cream in mine
this time?

15 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

15

ALFIE
How's your dad?

DANIEL looks up from the recliner where his legs are up and crossed at the ankles toward ALFIE mirroring him from the other recliner.

DANIEL
Coming home... So...

DANIEL shrugs.

DANIEL
Why do you wear your school uniform
in the summer?

ALFIE
We start later than you, probably.
We start later than everyone else
and get out later than everyone
else.

DANIEL

Right.

ALFIE

Dan?

DANIEL

Hm?

ALFIE

I'm the only one left.

DANIEL

(leaning heavily onto the arm of the recliner closest to ALFIE)

What, buddy?

ALFIE

(shaking)

I found her...

DANIEL

Your mom? You found her?

ALFIE nods. His face crumples. He shakes his head, sniffing.

ALFIE

She...She was...almost gone. When I said her name, she heard me, but... She-she couldn't see me. She-she was shutting down...

DANIEL

Oh, God, buddy! I'm so sorry...

ALFIE stops staring into space and focuses on DANIEL.

ALFIE

She was with me, but she was with him, too...

DANIEL

Who?

ALFIE

My dad.

DANIEL

How--?-how do you know?

ALFIE

Because she told me. She said his name, but I never knew his name-

DANIEL

But you knew?

ALFIE

Her hearing shut down, too, so I couldn't ask her... She just kept saying, David. David. David... Right before she slipped out of that body, she got real excited, like...she SAW something I couldn't see. I looked for it, but there was nothing there but me and her dying...

DANIEL closes his eyes, shaking his head.

ALFIE

(choked whisper)

But then...then she said it... She was looking for me even though I was there all the time, holding her hand... But she couldn't hear me or see me anymore. She was smiling anyway. She told me to let him in. It's David... He came back for me... Let him in. It's your daddy calling me, Mays. That's what she always called me. She was saying we'd be a family again. She was telling him she was glad he was there-my dad... But he wasn't. I know my dad's name was David. And he's in heaven with my mom.

DANIEL
What was her name?

ALFIE
Kallie.

DANIEL
Maybe she was-?-

ALFIE
Hallucinating? I found my birth certificate in her things... David Martin is the name on the paper. I still remember the sirens coming too late. I was looking for something of hers I could keep.

DANIEL
It's terrible you have to remember her that way.

ALFIE
Mostly, I don't... Mostly I remember the feeling I felt RIGHT after she died-

DANIEL
But that's what I mean-

ALFIE
It's hard to explain, but RIGHT after she died, it wasn't sad. It was peaceful.

DANIEL
Peaceful?

ALFIE
Yes... It...came into the room.

DANIEL
What? Peace?

ALFIE

Yes. It came into the room with me,
like wind... It blew in...but then,
it, kind of...sat down.

DANIEL

Peace...sat down...

ALFIE

Like a... Like a friend. But he
couldn't stay long.

DANIEL

No one can...

ALFIE swings his legs off the recliner to face DANIEL.
DANIEL does the same thing.

ALFIE

Everyone dies. Only Veritas get to
live a new life after that.

DANIEL

New? Life? I don't understand.

ALFIE smiles a little.

ALFIE

That's the point of the story.

DANIEL

Okay...

ALFIE

I have to go.

DANIEL

So do I. Dad is coming home.

DANIEL watches ALFIE pull up the strap of his backpack onto his shoulder, slide off the recliner, and walk around the end of it and toward the kitchen. DANIEL holds up a hand to wave, but ALFIE never looks back. The front door slams after a while. DANIEL stands up, rubbing his hands. He looks around for a moment, runs his hands through his hair, then pats down his pockets. He pulls his cell phone and keys from his front, left pocket, and jogs toward the kitchen, too.

16 EXT. PARK - DAY

16

DANIEL is sitting on a bench, talking into a cell phone as people run by on a winding trail and fish in a pond in front of him. Gatherings of ducks and geese are dotted about the park near its pond.

DANIEL

I don't sound happy, do I?

KENNEDY

What do you sound like?

DANIEL

I'm scared.

KENNEDY

Your dad came home, right? Where are you?

DANIEL

Yeah, he's home... Uh... Patriot's Park-the-the park by my house... I couldn't breathe.

KENNEDY

How's he doing?

DANIEL

Not... Not... I mean, I guess...he's supposed to be good, right?

KENNEDY

What's wrong?

DANIEL

Nothing-except he had a heart attack.

KENNEDY

Yeah?

DANIEL

I'm sorry... It's just, um, seeing him like that... He's...weak....

KENNEDY

Danny?

DANIEL

Huh?

KENNEDY

It's okay. And he's gonna get better. He will.

DANIEL nods.

KENNEDY

And this is the thing: You have to wait.

DANIEL keeps nodding.

KENNEDY

Patience will get you through. And being happy for the little things. Being grateful... I know about waiting. I know about being lonely inside-feeling like no one else can understand what you're going through. And you have to hang on. You have to see the good-even when it's easy to see it as a waste of time. It's okay to feel that way, but it's important to stay in the middle... You know what I mean?

DANIEL

The middle?

KENNEDY

Of your feelings... Don't get too high. But don't let doctor's appointments and how he looks right now...get you too low, either.

DANIEL

Yeah... Thank you.

KENNEDY

You'll get used to him. My family is from Ethiopia originally, and my grandparents don't come often to see us... They've been here twice in my lifetime. I don't even remember the first visit... I know them mostly from pictures and letters... Anyway, I think of them like that-from old pictures... So when I saw them a couple of years ago...it was like they'd shrunk.

DANIEL smiles. KENNEDY laughs.

KENNEDY

So there is no one for one here, but-

DANIEL

Miz Sosa, I'm disappointed in you.

KENNEDY

(smiling)

-I feel you.

DANIEL

(smiling)

I feel you, too.

KENNEDY

That's not a thing.

DANIEL

When can I see you again?

KENNEDY

Invite me to the park the next time you go or-

DANIEL

Do you wanna meet my friend, Alfie?

KENNEDY laughs out loud.

KENNEDY

The ten year old?

DANIEL

You're gonna love him.

KENNEDY

Ooookaaay...

DANIEL

No?

KENNEDY

(like the Joker from The Dark Knight)
Why so serious?

DANIEL

I love you.

KENNEDY giggles.

KENNEDY

Don't joke about that.

DANIEL

I'm not.

KENNEDY

Love means a lot to me. I don't
even have friends I don't love.

DANIEL

I have to go, but if you want me
to, like, un-say it; I can't. I DO
have feelings for you. I could call
them-

KENNEDY

What? LOVE?

DANIEL

Maybe. Is that weird?

KENNEDY

(nodding)

And wonderful...

DANIEL

It was that kiss-

KENNEDY

What do you mean?

DANIEL

-Ever since then, we've been moving fast.

KENNEDY

As long as it's real...

DANIEL

I think a lot more people would say a lot more...if we knew it was safe...

KENNEDY

Safe?

DANIEL

Yeah. I was talking to Alfie, and he said that... That we have to tell our story. We all have secret stories that we learn to hide. I'm telling you... This kid-Alfie makes me feel like a coward, and he's, nine or ten. I think...

KENNEDY

You've really adopt-Sorry...

DANIEL

What? Adopted him? It's okay. I kind of have. The Molinaris are known for taking in strays.

KENNEDY

It's just-

DANIEL

It's not a dirty word. It's not a bad thing. You're right.

KENNEDY

In the Bible...people who were adopted-like Moses, were saved...so they could save others. So...I think, really, that it's a beautiful thing.

DANIEL

The Bible... Okay...

KENNEDY

Is that okay?

DANIEL

More than okay... I'm not used to it, but I want you-

KENNEDY

I know. To be me.

DANIEL

I better go.

KENNEDY

Okay... Bye.

DANIEL

Bye.