

Superior by Nature -Draft 1-

By

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\*\*\* indicates missing transition scenes.

FADE IN

OPEN CREDITS with MONTAGE of TIME LAPSE videos to psych-rock music or the main theme.

INT. PRESENT DAY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sitting still on the living room sofa is GAVIN--a confused man. He stares into space as if unsure of where he is. Through the front door enters SCOTT--19, a jock who wears basketball shorts, Toronto Maple Leaf jerseys, and the like. He is carrying a basketball.

SCOTT  
Hey dad.

He walks into the kitchen, stops, and turns to Gavin.

SCOTT  
(cont'd.)  
Dad?

Scott approaches Gavin and leans over to his level.

SCOTT  
(cont'd.)  
Dad, it's me, Scott.

Gavin's head slowly turns to Scott.

GAVIN (PRESENT)  
Scott. I think you should call the doctor.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT

SUPER: 40 YEARS EARLIER.

A cluttered apartment. On the wall beside the dining table hangs a map of the world, except it is upside-down. Gavin--now 26, a competent and intuitive drug dealer--sits at the small dining room table. Standing on the other side of the table are TYLER--22, meek and preppy--and AIDEN--18, a weaselly little turd. The three wait awkwardly in silence.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
Aren't you going to introduce your friend?

AIDEN  
Uhm, Tyler, this is Gavin.  
(to Gavin.)  
Gavin, Tyler. He's my cousin.

GAVIN  
That's the tenth cousin you've brought here.

AIDEN  
Uh, I have a big family... He's cool, I swear. Ask him.

GAVIN  
I don't have to ask him.

There is another awkward silence.

AIDEN  
Well?

GAVIN  
It's your move. Put your cards down.

Aiden nudges Tyler who takes out his wallet and reveals a stack of Canadian bills. He shyly places the money on the table and Gavin thumbs through it, giving Aiden a disappointed look, but reluctantly he stands and walks off to the other end of the room. Tyler and Aiden exchange confused looks. Gavin returns with a large book, 'American Medical Association: Complete Guide to Men's Health'. Gavin opens the book, it's hollowed out. He pulls out .4 grams of cocaine and replaces it with the money, closing the book and pushing it to the side of the table.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
That's a dime. Enjoy.

Gavin tosses the coke to an excited Aiden. Aiden looks down the hall, and motions for the bathroom door. Gavin waves him off, and Aiden walks quickly down the hall, leaving Tyler. Tyler stands there awkwardly, turning his attention to the upside-down map.

GAVIN  
(cont'd)  
So what exactly is your relationship with Aiden?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER  
Uh... I'm his cousin.

GAVIN  
(chuckles.)  
Right. Right. Listen, I like Aiden.  
He's a good kid and all. And I know  
I just met you, but you seem a  
bit... naive that he's using you.

TYLER  
Well... he's letting me sleep on  
his couch.

Tyler continues staring at the world map.

GAVIN  
You're not exactly comfortable with  
all this, are ya?

TYLER  
Huh?

GAVIN  
The drugs. You probably think it's  
a scumbag lifestyle.

TYLER  
(embarrassed.)  
Uh, no. No.

GAVIN  
It's fine. I understand and all.  
You've taken a lot of interest in  
that map, eh?

TYLER  
Why is it upside-down?

GAVIN  
Is it upside-down?

TYLER  
Yeah. Right?

GAVIN  
Tell me why.

TYLER  
Well... it's...

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Your whole life you've been trained to believe that the north has some kind of superiority over the south. That it is, as the natural world created it, on top. But the fact is, this map shows the world as accurately as any other.

TYLER

It's interesting, I've never looked at it this way. It's like I'm seeing these continents for the first time.

GAVIN

It reminds me to keep an open perception of the world. There are an infinite number of ways to look at... well anything. Our minds tell us how we define "big", how far is far, how fast does time pass us by. It's all very relative.

TYLER

I guess that makes sense.

GAVIN

Is it going to snow this winter?

TYLER

What?

GAVIN

This coming winter--will it snow?

TYLER

Yes.

GAVIN

Is that a fact?

Tyler is unsure how to respond. Gavin removes a joint from his book and lights it.

GAVIN

(cont'd)

You'll probably tell me that I need to get with reality, but what if, even for a moment, we could control our perception? Free our minds of conventional understandings of distance and time and physics

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN (cont'd)  
and... even feelings. What is so  
bad about that?

Gavin offers Tyler the joint, and Tyler accepts it  
reluctantly.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
What is so wrong with wanting to  
fly?

TYLER  
This will make me fly?

GAVIN  
No no no. That'll make you float,  
maybe. If you want to fly, you'll  
need something harder.

Tyler looks at the joint, and raises it as a toast.

TYLER  
I guess I'm floating.

Tyler takes a drag, and coughs. He passes the joint back to  
Gavin, waving the smoke out of his face.

GAVIN  
You're only peering through the  
fence at my world now, Tyler.

TYLER  
They say marijuana is a gateway  
drug.

GAVIN  
Nah that's bullshit. If you want  
through the gate, you have to be  
prepared to leave the world you  
know.

Aiden enters, sniffing his hand. He sounds like he has a  
cold.

AIDEN  
What's going on?

GAVIN  
Just dabbling.

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN  
Come on let's go. Thanks Gavin.

GAVIN  
You're welcome here anytime. You too, Tyler. Anything you need, buddy, come to me. I'm serious.

TYLER  
Thanks.

Aiden and Tyler exit.

INT. AIDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tyler is lying on Aiden's futon with a pillow and blanket. He is sick, his cough and sniffing show that. He opens a box of Sudafed and prepares to take it with a glass of water. Aiden enters while texting on his cellphone.

AIDEN  
Hey hey, what're you doing with that?

Aiden sets his cell down on the coffee table and reaches for the Sudafed, Tyler doesn't give it to him.

TYLER  
I have a cold..?

AIDEN  
Ugh! Whatever.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK on the door. Aiden answers it. It's CHLOE--19, a female with girl parts and all that fun stuff--and she's ready to party.

CHLOE  
Hey Aiden!

Aiden tries to play it cool.

AIDEN  
Chloe! Hey! Uh, what's up?

CHLOE  
A few friends and I are going to the bar. You're 19 aren't you?

AIDEN  
Ha ha! Yeah! Of course, I'm 19.

(CONTINUED)

CHLOE  
Cool. You should come with us.

AIDEN  
Okay! Uh... just a second.

Aiden shuts the door.

AIDEN  
(loud whisper.)  
Tyler, let me borrow your license!

TYLER  
Why?

AIDEN  
Gah! Cause I need to get in the  
bars.

TYLER  
No way dude, you look nothing like  
me.

AIDEN  
Fuck!

Aiden opens the door and Chloe is still standing there, he quickly shifts his mood.

AIDEN  
Uh, you know what... Chloe. I  
actually can't go out tonight, see,  
my friend-uh-cousin is here...  
visiting.

CHLOE  
Oh well, he can come!

AIDEN  
Yeah see that's the thing, he's  
sick.

Chloe looks in at Tyler. Tyler shrugs.

AIDEN  
(cont'd)  
How about another time?

CHLOE  
Sure, sure. Tomorrow night, maybe.

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN  
 Tomorrow night! Yes! Perfect! See  
 you then.

Aiden shuts the door.

AIDEN  
 (cont'd.)  
 You are useless!

TYLER  
 What?

AIDEN  
 I let you stay here and then ask  
 one small favor and you bail. And  
 with a *girl* at my door!

TYLER  
 Sorry.

Aiden begins to exit the living room.

AIDEN  
 And you used my *fucking* Sudafed!

Tyler glances at Aiden's cellphone. Making sure Aiden is gone, he then grabs the cell and searches the contacts before finding the name he wants: GAVIN. He dials.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT CONT'D

Gavin is lying on his couch reading L. Sprague deCamp's 'Lest Darkness Fall', or some blatantly sophisticated book possibly with paralleling themes, when his phone RINGS. He promptly answers after first looking at the caller ID.

GAVIN  
 Aiden.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

TYLER  
 No. It's Tyler.

GAVIN  
 Tyler. What can I do for you buddy?

TYLER  
 Uh well, I was wondering if that  
 offer was still on the table.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
I'll pick you up in fifteen  
minutes.

TYLER  
Oh thanks so much.

GAVIN  
No problem.

Gavin hangs up, though it takes Tyler a moment to realize it.

INTERCUT ENDS

INT. AIDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT CONT'D

Tyler pulls his duffel bag from beneath the futon and quickly but quietly stuffs his blanket and pillow in it. He throws the bag over his shoulder and walks slowly for the door, watching through the crack of Aiden's bedroom door. He has to muffle his cough as he exits the apartment.

EXT. AIDEN'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Tyler is sitting on the stairs outside the apartment complex. Gavin's car pulls up, Tyler jumps to his feet dragging along the duffel bag and makes for the car.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gavin is giving Tyler a tour of the apartment. They come to Tyler's room and Gavin ushers him in. The room looks as though it's already occupied.

GAVIN  
This will be your room. It's my  
brother's, but he's in Montreal  
protesting the war. He'll be gone  
for a while.

Tyler explores the space.

TYLER  
Wow, Gavin. What can I do to thank  
you?

GAVIN  
Come on.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT

They move into the living room. Gavin sits and relaxes in the armchair and Tyler takes a seat on the sofa, on edge. Gavin conjures his hollow Men's Health book.

GAVIN  
You look sick.

TYLER  
I have a cold.

GAVIN  
I think I have just what you need.

Gavin pulls a pill bottle out of the book.

TYLER  
What is that?

GAVIN  
Your key to the gate. Unless you're not ready to leave the you you thought you knew behind.

Tyler laughs nervously, and embarrassed.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
It's alright, don't let me talk you into it.

Gavin pours two pills onto his palm and holds them as an offering. Tyler nervously takes one. Gavin pops the pill in his mouth. Tyler gives it a moment's thought before taking his. They wash them down with beer. It goes without saying, special effects galore as the scene transitions into a trip.

INT./EXT. GAVIN'S WORLD - CONT'D

A fantasy world. It is bright and beautiful. Endless valleys, purple mountains, a hot air balloon, an enormous moon and nearby planets in the day sky. Lens flares. Perfect.

Tyler finds himself here, in the meadow. A green butterfly circles in front of him. He looks around, and finds Gavin behind him.

TYLER  
Where are we?

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
This is my world.

TYLER  
What did you give me?

GAVIN  
Is that important?

The green butterfly flies in the distance behind Gavin.  
Tyler grins, and so does Gavin. RING!

FLASH FORWARD TO:

INT. PRESENT DAY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen phone RINGS. Present Gavin enters to answer it.

GAVIN (PRESENT)  
(into phone.)  
Hello? Yes, doctor... I-. Yes.  
Okay. I see. I see. Yes, thank you.  
Thank you. Okay, I'll do that,  
thanks. Good night.

Gavin hangs up the phone and stands there, holding back  
emotion.

SCOTT  
(off screen)  
Dad?

Gavin looks at Scott.

INT. PRESENT DAY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY CONT'D

Gavin and Scott are sitting on the living room sofa.

GAVIN (PRESENT)  
That was the doctor. He says  
Alzheimer's isn't causing my memory  
loss.

SCOTT  
That's good. Right?

GAVIN (PRESENT)  
Heh. Not really. I have a brain  
tumor the size of a golf ball. I  
start treatment next week.

Scott isn't sure how to react.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN (PRESENT)

(cont'd.)

Dr.Silo isn't sure if my memories will ever return, and I think that's what troubles me the most. More than dying. Son, I can't remember any of my life up until this past month. It's like I didn't exist, I had no life. I was born an old man about to die from cancer.

Scott stands up with a sudden surge of avidity.

SCOTT

I'll help you remember.

GAVIN (PRESENT)

That's good of you, kiddo.

FLASH FORWARD TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - DAY

Morning. Tyler wakes up in his bed, groggy and hung over. In just a t-shirt and boxers he limps toward the living room. There, Gavin is sitting at the table in his usual spot with his hollow book, and Aiden stands between him and the front door.

AIDEN

Come on, give me a break!

Aiden notices Tyler as he enters.

AIDEN

(cont'd.)

Tyler? Jesus, there you are. I was worried sick about you.

Aiden looks to Gavin, then back and forth between them, suspecting that he'd been deceived.

AIDEN

(cont'd.)

Wait... what's going on here?

GAVIN

Tyler has decided that he'd like to stay with me for a while.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

Yeah...

AIDEN

You're kidding me. You're staying with Gavin? Good god be careful he doesn't blow you up.

Tyler squints at Aiden, as if to say "that was a strange thing to say".

GAVIN

You know what, take it, go.

Gavin tosses Aiden a driver's license.

AIDEN

Cool thanks. And thanks for taking that little leach off my back, he was getting on my nerves.

Aiden exits.

GAVIN

Don't worry about him, he'll get over it.

Tyler nods.

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INT. GAVIN'S APT. - DAY

Gavin is on the sofa reading, wearing glasses. Tyler is in the kitchen area pouring a glass of water. He COUGHS in a fit. Gavin looks up from his book and takes off his glasses.

GAVIN

You know I went to med school and if there's one thing they managed to teach me, it's that coughing means you're sick.

TYLER

You went to med school?

GAVIN

Yeah, well, it's amazing how the course of our life changes with time. I was pretty good though.

Gavin puts down the book, and sits up.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

Then maybe you can cure me.

GAVIN

Yeah... Yeah! You know I think I might be able to find just the remedy you need in my medical handbook.

Gavin goes and finds his 'Men's Health' book and takes a seat in his armchair. He puts on his glasses and begins mimicking a doctor. He opens the book and pretends to flip through it.

GAVIN

(cont'd.)

Hmm... yes. Let's see, here. Ah! Of course. The best cure for any bout.

Gavin summons a bag of weed (or pipe) from the book. Tyler isn't impressed by the performance.

EXT. CLUB ENVY - NIGHT

A busy night on the streets of downtown Thunder Bay. People are entering and exiting a bar called Club Envy.

INT. CLUB ENVY - BILLIARD ROOM - NIGHT

Aiden stands with pool cue in hand at the billiard table amidst loud music ("return" by The Re-Stoned) and colorful strobe lighting. Aiden is drinking beer with two friends, one of them is Chloe.

CHLOE

Cool place, huh.

AIDEN

Uh, yeah. Cool place. But, you know, if it gets lame we could always hang out at my place.

CHLOE

(entirely uninterested.)

Right. I could use another beer.

AIDEN

I'll get you one!

A second nameless friend enters.

(CONTINUED)

2ND FRIEND  
 (unconcerned.)  
 Cops are here.

Aiden gets worried.

AIDEN  
 What for?

2ND FRIEND  
 Crosschecking driver's licenses.  
 Looking for fakes.

AIDEN  
 Shit.

CHLOE  
 What? No big deal, we're all old  
 enough to be here.

Aiden laughs a fake, nervous laugh.

AIDEN  
 Yeah.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT

The atmosphere is smokey. A CD player plays "Crucial Contact" (Karl Blau) softly. Tyler lays on the sofa while Gavin is slouching in his armchair eating a pita from The Pita Pit.

TYLER  
 You're a terrible doctor.

GAVIN  
 How do you feel?

TYLER  
 Hmm?

GAVIN  
 How do you *feel*?

TYLER  
 Fine I guess.

GAVIN  
 Tell me one time when you've felt  
 better than you do right now.

Tyler thinks about it.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

Ha, alright you have a point.

GAVIN

You feel pretty fuckin' good right?

TYLER

Yeah.

GAVIN

Say it!

Tyler sits up.

TYLER

I feel *pretty fuckin' good!*

Kind of awkward. Tyler settles down.

TYLER

(cont'd.)

But I have to wonder, you know, do I really feel good or is it just a drug induced illusion? Like, why am I happy right now? Shouldn't there be some meaning behind being happy? Some reason for it?

GAVIN

You're happy because you're enjoying yourself. Weed just... lowers your standards of what makes you feel good. Takes the bad emotions out of the equation. You know?

TYLER

You're kinda full of yourself, huh.

GAVIN

(jokingly.)

Really Tyler!? I use my valuable, hard-earned doctor experience to help nurse you back to health, and you don't even pay taxes! And this is how you thank me? Yes, I'm kind of full of myself.

TYLER

Thank you.

Gavin flashes a smile and looks away, spacing out, slowly becoming lost in some emotion or memory. Tyler notices after a moment.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER  
 (cont'd.)  
 Gavin. Gavin?

Tyler waves frantically, trying to get Gavin's attention. He becomes impatient. Cupping his mouth with one hand, he imitates a PA system.

TYLER  
 (cont'd.)  
 Paging Dr.Gavin.

GAVIN  
 Don't call me that!

TYLER  
 Eesh, what happened to taking bad emotions out of the equation?

Gavin takes the pill bottle out of his book and downs a couple. A moment passes as he adjusts.

GAVIN  
 Ah that's better.

TYLER  
 Gavin?

GAVIN  
 Shh!

Gavin stares, his eyes dilate. He moves slowly forward, as if sneaking up on something. He becomes emotionally hysterical.

GAVIN  
 (cont'd.)  
 Green butterfly!

Gavin's POV: A green butterfly flutters across the room.

Tyler appears awkwardly uncomfortable with Gavin's insanity.

TYLER  
 Okay. You know those pills could give you cancer.

GAVIN  
 Shh! Look at it.

Gavin's phone, which is sitting on the coffee table, RINGS. Gavin answers it.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
 (cont'd.)  
 Huh?

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT CONT'D

Aiden is in the office of a police station, very startled, on the police phone.

AIDEN  
 Gavin! Thank God you answered. I'm at the police station.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

GAVIN  
 (to Tyler.)  
 It's Aiden.  
 (to phone.)  
 Why are you calling me?

AIDEN  
 Didn't you hear me? I'm at the police station! I'm in deep shit man.

GAVIN  
 What happened.

AIDEN  
 I got IDed by a cop at the bar and they crosschecked my license, where the hell did you get that license?

GAVIN  
 Shh! Did you tell them where you got it?

AIDEN  
 What!? No! Jesus dude.

GAVIN  
 You shouldn't have called me.

AIDEN  
 Listen, I'm in deep shit, the license you gave me belonged to some guy wanted for murder or something and now they think it's me!

Gavin sighs.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Listen close Aiden, they're cops, they're not stupid. They know its not your ID. They're just trying to get you to tell them where you got it and you can't do that, hear me? I'm on probation.

Tyler is taken aback by this news.

GAVIN

(cont'd.)

Keep your mouth shut, play stupid, they'll have to let you go.

AIDEN

Can you come get me?

GAVIN

Are you crazy? I'm not picking you up at the *police station*.

Tyler silently pressures Gavin to say "yes", but Gavin shakes his head and mouths "no".

AIDEN

Please, you don't have to come inside I promise. I need a ride.

GAVIN

Ugh, fine! But you better get your ass out of there in an hour. Hear me?

AIDEN

Meet me in the parking ramp.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT CONT'D

Gavin hangs up.

GAVIN

I really hate that kid.

TYLER

You better let me drive.

GAVIN

Not a chance. I drive high all the time.

Gavin snags his keys off the table and paces for the door.

INT. PARKING RAMP - NIGHT

In a dark parking ramp, Gavin and Tyler are waiting in Gavin's car with dwindling patience.

GAVIN  
I'm not going to wait much longer.

TYLER  
I thought time was just perception.

GAVIN  
Smart ass.

They wait in silence.

TYLER  
So you're on probation?

GAVIN  
Yeah...

TYLER  
No judgment here. Just curious.

Gavin is uneasy with the topic.

GAVIN  
I got in big trouble... for blowing  
up a meth lab.

FLASH BACK TO: Gavin walking down apartment hallway when behind him an explosion blows out the door to Ronnie's apartment, setting off the fire alarm, and taking Gavin by surprise.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
I mean, it was just a little lab in  
this guy, Ronnie's, apartment. It  
was an accident of course.

TYLER  
Oh wow. Well, that happens, I  
guess.

More waiting. Tyler coughs.

GAVIN  
So... have you lived in Thunder Bay  
all your life... or..?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

Yeah. Yeah. Well kinda. I mean, I was born and raised here but I left my parents when I graduated high school and have been kinda all over the place ever since. I didn't get along with my parents very well. You?

GAVIN

Cool, listen, I don't really like talking about my past. I've got this whole ideology about time, and for it to work I kind of have to let go of and forget my past mistakes.

TYLER

Oh, sorry.

GAVIN

It's fine, I didn't mean it that way. You can tell whatever stories you want, it's just a *me* thing.

TYLER

Okay.

Aiden enters the car through the back seat door and sits in the middle.

GAVIN

Uh, thank God.

TYLER

Hey.

AIDEN

Hey guys.

GAVIN

Dude, what the fuck?

AIDEN

Hey, this is *your* fault! You gave me a criminal's license?

GAVIN

If you remember correctly, I didn't want to give it to you!

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN  
Oh, so you knew.

GAVIN  
No! Whatever. Let's go. Crisis  
averted.

Gavin tries to start the car but the engine doesn't catch.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
Come on.

He tries again, this time it catches.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
Ah-ha!

The car rattles and then dies with a puff of smoke. Smoke  
streams out of the engine.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
You gotta be kidding me. Seriously?

TYLER  
Let's check it out. Pop the hood.

Tyler gets out of the car. Aiden and the frustrated Gavin  
follow. Tyler lifts the hood and secures it. Smoke pours  
out, Tyler waves it off.

TYLER  
Jeeze.

AIDEN  
Do you know what you're doing?

TYLER  
Not really. Uhm...

Tyler pulls out the dipstick, wipes it with his hand  
smearing oil in his palm, then dips it back into the engine  
and pulls it out. Aiden looks closely.

AIDEN  
(to Gavin.)  
You forgot to change the oil you  
dipstick!

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
I changed it!

TYLER  
Looks like you blew out the back of  
the engine.

GAVIN  
Sweet! My car broke down in the  
police station parking ramp, hah!  
Isn't that hilarious!? Thank you,  
Aiden.

AIDEN  
This is entirely your fault!

GAVIN  
I stuck my neck out for you.

TYLER  
It's fine, we'll figure something  
out. Help me push.

INT. PARKING RAMP - NIGHT

Aiden is in Gavin's car steering while Gavin and Tyler push. They push the car into a parking spot. Gavin dusts off his hands. Aiden exits the car.

GAVIN  
Let's get out of here.

INT. CITY BUS - NIGHT

Gavin and Tyler sit on one side of the bus facing Aiden who sits on the other side. Gavin ignores Aiden, looking off angrily.

FLASH FORWARD TO:

INT. PRESENT DAY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Present Gavin is sitting on the living room sofa when Scott enters carrying a box of junk.

SCOTT  
This is all I could find in the  
basement. Looks like a box of your  
old stuff.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN (PRESENT)

Let's see it.

Gavin starts pulling stuff out of the box, while Scott pulls out the largest thing, a cylinder tube, and pops off the cap. Gavin pulls out an old paperback copy of 'Lest Darkness Fall', a lighter, VHS tapes, empty pill bottles, deck of cards, junk, junk, junk. He pulls out a watch, but the battery is dead.

From the cylinder tube, Scott pulls out Gavin's map of the world and holds it north side up. He hands it off to Gavin, who naturally holds it south side up. Gavin shakes his head, unfamiliar with the map.

Scott pulls from the box a pile of papers and starts looking through them. This reveals the last thing which Gavin takes out, the 'Complete Guide to Men's Health' book. Gavin examines it for a moment, then opens it, surprised to find that it has been hollowed out. The only thing hidden in the compartment is a picture of Tyler. Gavin pulls it out.

FLASH BACK TO Gavin taking Tyler's picture in the apt. 40 years earlier.

Present Gavin isn't sure what to make of this memory. He turns the picture over and written on the back is "NEVER FORGET".

SCOTT

Hey look at this.

Scott hands a piece of paper to his father.

SCOTT

(cont'd.)

Looks like an old bank statement addressed to the apartment you used to live in.

GAVIN (PRESENT)

Ah, yes. Very good.

SCOTT

Think the apartment is still there?

GAVIN (PRESENT)

Possibly. Could jog a few memories being back in my old place.

SCOTT

Let's check it out.

FLASH BACK TO:

EXT. SNOWY STREETS - DAY

MONTAGE of snowfall on streets, in fields, over buildings and covering cars. It's winter now.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - DAY

Gavin enters the apartment carrying two grocery bags. He is wearing a winter coat and other such accessories. He puts the bags on the kitchen counter and looks into the living room to see Tyler on his armchair with his head out in the open window.

GAVIN

What're you doing? You're going to make yourself sicker.

TYLER

Ever notice how quiet and peaceful it is after a snowfall?

GAVIN

Well yeah there's a reason for that. Snow absorbs sound waves.

TYLER

It's so eerie, come listen.

GAVIN

Listen to what? You're high. Come on. I got you some more medication. Had to walk two miles through snow to get it, the buses aren't running.

Tyler climbs out of the window. He is pale and there are red circles around his eyes.

GAVIN

(cont'd.)

Come on this stuff wasn't easy to get.

Tyler falls into the armchair.

TYLER

I'm lightheaded.

GAVIN

Do you need to lie down?

Tyler nods.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - DAY

Tyler is sitting up in his bed, dazed, staring at the door. Gavin is sitting at his bedside in a desk chair. He is preparing a hypodermic needle, filling the syringe, cleaning the skin on Tyler's arm--all while speaking.

GAVIN

I talked to Aiden. Cops are still harassing him. I don't know, I think he'll be fine. I guess I shouldn't have given him that ID.

Tyler's attention stays on the door.

TYLER

It wasn't your fault.

GAVIN

Yeah... yeah I know. I mean, I didn't know it belonged to a wanted criminal.

TYLER

I forgive you.

Gavin looks up at the dazed Tyler.

GAVIN

(confused.)

What?

Tyler snaps out of it and looks at Gavin, then down at his arm, waiting for the needle.

INT. AIDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Aiden enters his apartment wearing a heavy winter coat, scarf and gloves and carrying a stack of mail. He drops the mail on his table, and goes to take off his winter clothing. Then he turns his attention back to the mail and picks up the first letter and opens it. It's from the Thunder Bay City Hall. Nervously, Aiden unfolds the letter, a summons directing him to appear before the court to answer to criminal charges.

AIDEN

Shit.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - DAY

Through the third floor apartment window is a raging blizzard. Tyler watches, depressed, through the frosted glass pane. There is a small, plastic Christmas tree on the coffee table. Gavin is in the kitchen, cooking soup.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - DAY

Gavin sets a bowl of soup down in front of Tyler, who is sitting at the table. Tyler grimaces at the soup.

TYLER  
I'm not hungry.

GAVIN  
Yeah, well, you need to eat.

Tyler looks tired, he holds his head up with his elbow on the table, and stirs the soup, disgusted.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
That's the best I can afford right now. I need a new engine and I'm paying for your medicine and I haven't pushed a lot of... product.  
Eat.

Tyler reluctantly takes a spoonful.

TYLER  
Happy Birthday, Jesus.

Tyler shovels the soup into his mouth, but before he can swallow his expression changes and he allows the soup to drain out and run down his chin, dripping everywhere.

GAVIN  
Ah.

Gavin turns to the kitchen and grabs a roll of paper towels, rips one off and hands it off to Tyler who wipes his mouth clean.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
Not the holiday feast you were hoping for?

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

The thought of food makes me dizzy.

GAVIN

Try to eat.

Gavin walks to his armchair and sits. When he leans forward to pick up his book and glasses to read, he sees under the plastic Christmas tree, a small package wrapped in newspaper. He picks it up.

GAVIN

(cont'd.)

What's this?

TYLER

A gift. Open it.

Gavin unwraps the gift, it's a very simple wrist watch.

GAVIN

Ha! A watch. I appreciate the irony. Where'd you get this?

TYLER

It belonged to a friend of mine.

QUICK FLASH BACK TO: Two hands, Maddy and Tyler's; Maddy with the watch around his wrist, Tyler holding Maddy's wrist above the watch and trying to pull him up--but Maddy slips out of the watch, leaving Tyler grasping the watch as Maddy's hand falls.

GAVIN

Thank you. But just to spite you, I'm never going to set it to the right time. Sorry I didn't get you anything.

TYLER

You've given me plenty.

FADE THROUGH BLACK

EXT. CAR LOT - DAY

It's a sunny summer day, Gavin and Tyler are standing in a car lot facing Gavin's car. Tyler is no longer sick. Gavin holds up his keys and looks at Tyler.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
Let's see if she runs.

The two get into the car. Gavin puts in the key and starts the engine flawlessly. They smile. Tyler spots something on the dashboard, it's a King piece from a chess set. Tyler picks it up and looks at it. Gavin sees it, his face grimaces with fear. Tyler turns the piece in his hand, revealing the other half is charred and burnt. Gavin turns his head and looks out the side window to see a man standing at a distance. His face is severely scarred.

Then Gavin's car blows up.

CUT TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT

Gavin's eyes shoot open, he GASPS. He's lying on the sofa, with his book against his chest. He'd just awoken from a startling dream.

COUGHING in the other room. Gavin raises from the sofa. GAGGING, COUGHING, CHOKING. Gavin stands and walks towards Tyler's room to investigate.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT CONT'D

The coughing is coming from Tyler's bathroom. Gavin stops in front of the bathroom door.

GAVIN  
Tyler?

The noises continue, Tyler is vomiting. FLUSH, SPIT, SPIT.

TYLER  
(O.S.)  
I'm fine.

Gavin hesitates, then walks back towards the living room.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT

Gavin is sitting on the sofa, Tyler enters and joins him.

GAVIN  
You alright?

Tyler nods, then reaches for Gavin's hollow book and opens it, pulling out Gavin's weed. Gavin stops him.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER  
It's all I've got.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT CONT'D

BEGIN MONTAGE to psych-rock music ("03" by Flowerheads) of Gavin and Tyler doing stupid/silly things. Lots of laughter. They drink a little. Clowns. Colors.

They go many places, but never leave the living room. Gavin sees something upsetting. End in blackness.

ZOOM OUT of Gavin's dilated eyes. He's scared, but it fades. The room is smokey. Tyler sits next to him, staring into the distance.

TYLER  
What is it?

Gavin looks at Tyler. Tyler looks at Gavin.

TYLER  
(cont'd.)  
Time?

GAVIN  
It's a... philosophy, it's a theory, a tool constructed by our minds to understand the motion of particles. No. Nah, it's simpler than that. Time is an illusion created by our ability to retain memory.

TYLER  
Explain that.

GAVIN  
Okay, well, imagine what it would be like to have no memories. You would have no landmarks to help you determine how much time has passed by. Essentially, you would have no past, every moment would feel like your first.

TYLER  
I guess that makes sense scientifically, I mean, they say that in the moments you have an adrenalin rush, like if you got in a car crash, your brain is working  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TYLER (cont'd)  
 in overload mode and it feels like  
 everything is going in slow motion.

GAVIN  
 Yeah and certain drugs can speed up  
 or slow down your perception of  
 time. Like, we've just been sitting  
 here for...

Gavin looks at his watch.

GAVIN  
 (cont'd.)  
 Fuckin' hours.

Tyler jumps to his feet.

TYLER  
 So, if time is infinite, or, shit,  
 even if it isn't... compared to the  
 overall span of time, our lives  
 come and go like this.

Tyler snaps.

GAVIN  
 Ha ha, okay... wait wait wait.

Gavin picks up a disposable camera and snaps a picture of  
 Tyler while he talks.

TYLER  
 Which *means*, this moment is just  
*smear*ed across the span of time.

GAVIN  
 (laughing.)  
 There I caught your moment of  
 enlightenment.

Tyler waves his arms around, and using a non-diegetic  
 GHOSTING effect, it appears that his motion is smearing.

TYLER  
 But our minds perceive it slowly  
 enough that we are only conscious  
 of a given moment. Like a film  
 reel.

Tyler CLAPS his hands in succession. The non-diegetic frame  
 becomes grainy and shakes, revealing sprocket holes as if  
 the film is running on a shaky old spool.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
 Alright, I'll buy that.

TYLER  
 So, what I'm getting at is that,  
 given the length of time overall,

Tyler extends his hands to demonstrate time's length. Then he brings them together and knits his fingers.

TYLER  
 The span of our lives is so tightly compacted that, in essence, it's as if today, yesterday, and next century all co-exist.

GAVIN  
 Smearred together, right. I suppose you have a point. Like, for all we know, we're sharing this space with dinosaurs!

FADE / FLASH BACK TO:

INT. PRESENT DAY GAVIN'S APT. - DAY (PRESENT)

Forty years later, in the apartment where Gavin used to live, present day Gavin enters the apartment, followed by Scott. He stops just past the entrance and takes a look around. Everything has aged. The furniture is covered in plastic and sheets, the table is flipped over, the walls are bare, the lights and television are gone, and there is cardboard duct taped over the windows.

Gavin walks around the living room, and lands himself on the sheet covered sofa after dusting it off with his palm. He looks around, appearing confused.

SCOTT  
 Do you remember anything?

Gavin doesn't answer at first. Scott assumes this means that his father still remembers nothing.

GAVIN (PRESENT)  
 This was my home... a long time ago, when I was just a boy about your age. It looked very different then, but it feels the same.

(CONTINUED)

There is a small rubber ball, the size of a baseball, on the ground collecting dust. Scott sees it, leans over and picks it up. Then he hands it to Gavin, who looks at it for a moment, and tosses it up at the ceiling.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - DAY

The rubber ball hits Gavin's ceiling and drops back down. Tyler, who is lying face up on the sofa, catches the ball and tosses it back at the ceiling, repeatedly.

Gavin enters and quickly opens the blind, letting the sun in. Tyler is blinded.

GAVIN  
How do you feel?

Tyler shrugs.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
Did you sleep last night?

Tyler shakes his head "No".

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
Okay. Well, you need to get some rest.

Tyler tosses the rubber ball to Gavin. Gavin catches it.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - DAY

Tyler is sitting up in his bed. Gavin enters with a glass of water and two pills. He sits at the bedside, puts the water on the nightstand and hands the pills to Tyler who just looks at them.

GAVIN  
These'll help you sleep.

TYLER  
Don't take this the wrong way, but do you think I should maybe see a doctor?

Gavin has to think about it.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Uhm, yeah. You know, why don't I call the clinic and see what they think.

Gavin exits.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - DAY CONT'D

Gavin enters the living room from Tyler's bedroom. He's stressed, frustrated, perplexed, looking for a way out. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK on the door, startling Gavin. He goes and opens the door, it's Aiden.

AIDEN

Gavin!

Aiden pushes past Gavin and Gavin shuts the door behind him. Aiden looks nervous.

GAVIN

Thank God you're here, I'm in big trouble.

AIDEN

Yeah you are!

GAVIN

(loud whisper.)

Listen, Tyler is really sick. Like, really fucking sick. He needs a doctor. But shit, I can't take him.

AIDEN

So what? You want me to take him?

GAVIN

No no no, he can't go to the hospital, period.

AIDEN

Why? He's sick.

GAVIN

(hysterical.)

Because they'll know he's on drugs!

(calm but quick.)

And he doesn't have health care, and nor do I because neither of us pay taxes; they won't treat him.

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

What're you talking about? Of course they will. He's a citizen, doesn't matter if he's homeless. You could take him in now...

GAVIN

(interrupting.)

Shhh! I can't! I can't.

Awkward pause.

AIDEN

(interrupting.)

You think he'll tell them about you. You're afraid of getting arrested.

GAVIN

God dammit. No! Okay? Mind your own fucking business.

AIDEN

Well I hate to tell you this now, but you're in bigger trouble than you think.

GAVIN

What?

AIDEN

Not my business.

GAVIN

Aiden...

Aiden sighs.

AIDEN

Ronnie's out. He was released yesterday.

GAVIN

They let him out already! He was making meth in his kitchen!

AIDEN

Yeah well thanks to you there wasn't very much evidence of that.

GAVIN

Does he know where I am?

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

You're at your *brother's*. It won't take him long to figure that one out.

GAVIN

What'll he do, call the cops? He can't prove I'm here.

AIDEN

The word on the street is, he's out for revenge... You have to get out of here, Gavin.

GAVIN

Fuck!

In a fit, Gavin picks up the rubber ball that is sitting on the kitchen counter and chucks it. It hits the center of the window and cracks the glass.

GAVIN

Ugh! Dammit! I can't deal with this.

The ball rolls under the coffee table.

AIDEN

This is real life, Gavin. You have to deal with it.

TYLER

(O.S.)

What's going on?

Tyler is standing in his doorway.

GAVIN

Nothing. I just broke the window, sorry. Um... and I called the doctor. Couldn't get you an appointment right away, but he prescribed something he thinks will help 'cause I guess there is something going around you probably caught. That's why I couldn't even get an appointment. But I'll take care of you.

Tyler nods and goes back into his room, closing the door behind him.

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

Couldn't get an appointment? How long do you think he'll believe that?

Gavin pulls out his wallet and summons a couple Canadian dollars.

GAVIN

Listen, do me a favor and go to the pharmacy and buy some medicine. Anything. And bring it back. Okay?

He gives the money to Aiden.

AIDEN

Okay.

Aiden exits.

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INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT

Gavin is covering his broken window by duct taping newspaper to the frame. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK on the door. Aiden lets himself in.

AIDEN

Hey.

He has a bag from the pharmacy and hands it to Gavin. Gavin opens the bags and pulls out a bottle of cough syrup.

GAVIN

Cherry cough syrup? Ugh, you idiot.

Gavin ushers him out the door and slams the door on him. He takes the cough syrup to the kitchen, pours some in a measuring cup, and takes it to Tyler's room.

INT. TYLER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT CONT'D

Tyler is sleeping, Gavin shakes him to wake him up.

GAVIN

Hey. Hey. I got the medicine that the doctor prescribed.

Tyler turns over toward Gavin, he looks terrible. He takes the medicine and coughs.

(CONTINUED)

TYLER  
Tastes like... NyQuil.

GAVIN  
Yeah that's just the flavoring.  
It's common.

Tyler coughs some more. Then shuts his eyes. Gavin looks at him with concern. He then sees, gripped tightly in Tyler's hand, his pill bottle. He snatches it from Tyler.

GAVIN  
How'd you get this?

TYLER  
I need it... to escape.

GAVIN  
You need to slow down Tyler, you're  
too sick.

Tyler turns over and slowly takes the bottle from Gavin. He opens it and puts a pill in Gavin's palm.

TYLER  
Come with me. To my world.

Gavin is shaking. But he lifts the pill to his mouth and clenches his eyelids as he swallows.

INT./EXT. TYLER'S WORLD - CONT'D

Another perfect dream space with Gavin and Tyler in the middle of it. Tyler isn't sick here. He looks perfectly fine. This shocks Gavin.

TYLER  
You see? I'm okay here. I'm free of  
illness. And just like you said,  
free of time.

Gavin shakes his head.

GAVIN  
No. No...

CUT TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT CONT'D

Gavin is sitting in the chair by Tyler's bedside with his eyes clenched shut.

GAVIN  
(cont'd.)  
This isn't real! It's all in your head.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. TYLER'S WORLD - CONT'D

Back in the fantasy world.

TYLER  
Does that make it any less real?  
Everything that we perceive on Earth is filtered in our minds first. Just like this place. Except this place is better. I'm okay here.

GAVIN  
But it isn't a substitute for reality. You are sick, and dying, and being here won't make you healthy again. This isn't real!  
(echo.)  
This isn't real... isn't real... isn't real... (cont'd)

Tyler looks at Gavin, shocked. Everything goes dark. He then begins slowly disintegration right before Gavin's eyes. His flesh peels and turns to ash, blowing away, until revealing Tyler's bloody skull. Gavin looks on in horror. And then Tyler is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT CONT'D

Gavin wakes up in the chair at Tyler's beside, very suddenly, from the nightmare. Tyler is in the bed, facing away.

TYLER  
You want to see my real world?

(CONTINUED)

Tyler rolls over quickly and grabs Gavin around the wrist where he is wearing the watch Tyler gave him. Gavin feels as though he'd just be struck by lightning.

FLASH BACK TO:

EXT. A BRIDGE IN OTTAWA - NIGHT

On a foot bridge stretched over a narrow river stands a boy with his hands on the railing. His name is MADDY--19, a boy contrary to his name, wearing Gavin's watch. Tyler runs up on the bridge.

TYLER  
Madison wait!

Maddy looks over, he's crying.

MADDY  
Stay back, Tyler.

Tyler stops but continues forward cautiously.

TYLER  
It's just me, Maddy.

MADDY  
I'm sorry. I can't do this anymore.

Maddy climbs over the railing, and Tyler runs forward and grabs his arm as he falls backward.

TYLER  
Hold on!

Tyler loses his grip and Maddy's arm slips, leaving Tyler with just his watch. SPLASH. Tyler waits in horror for Maddy to resurface, but he doesn't.

FLASH FORWARD TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT CONT'D

Gavin wakes from this vision of Tyler's past. He jumps to his feet and looks at Tyler for a moment, then backs away and exits quickly.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT CONT'D

After exiting Tyler's room, Gavin shuts the door behind him and then falls backward catching himself on the door. He is emotional and unsure of himself. He looks at the watch on his wrist, begins taking it off but gives up because he is too tweaked out.

BEGIN MONTAGE

A montage of scenes to music; either "Time for Heroes" (The Atomic Garden) or preferably the film's main theme--whichever is more emotionally stimulating. The shots are as follows, but not necessarily in this order:

TIME LAPSE of winter turning to spring.

Gavin is reading his book on the sofa, lying down. He finishes the last page and puts it down on his chest and just thinks.

Tyler comes out of his room to ask Gavin about the doctor's appointment, Gavin pretends like he is on the phone with the doctor and dismisses Tyler.

Gavin giving Tyler another shot.

Ronnie is at Gavin's door, knocking. Gavin goes to the door, looks through the peak hole and sees the left side of Ronnie's face. He sneaks away from the door, quietly.

Tyler in bed, getting sicker. He vomits a little. Seriously? Gross.

Aiden smooths his hair back and knocks on Chloe's door. She answers, he smiles, she shuts the door on him.

Tyler takes one of Gavin's mystery pills.

Gavin at his table with his hollow book. He is selling drugs to two druggies. Gives the druggie their drugs, and takes the money. He is not enthused and after putting the money in his book, he just rests his head and stares into space.

Tyler getting sicker, still. Lying in bed, helpless, staring out the window.

Aiden, dressed as nicely as he could be, approaches a court house.

END MONTAGE/FADE THROUGH BLACK

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT

Tyler is sitting on the sofa, watching a news story about the continuing war protests in Montreal. Gavin enters the apartment, and Tyler turns his attention to him.

GAVIN  
Just got back from Aiden's court hearing.

TYLER  
And..?

Tyler struggles to stand.

GAVIN  
Well, he's a minor so he won't be serving time. But he has to pay a hefty fine and possibly do community service.

TYLER  
And he didn't tattle on you?

Gavin doesn't respond, just gives Tyler a "what's that supposed to mean" face. Tyler then starts losing his balance and collapses where he stood. Gavin quickly runs to his aid.

GAVIN  
Hey! Tyler?

INT. GAVIN'S APT - TYLER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gavin is sitting at Tyler's bedside. He's worried, very worried, on the verge of tears even. Tyler is pale, lying face up, barely responsive.

GAVIN  
I'm so sorry, Tyler. I should have gotten you to the hospital.

Tyler's voice is shallow and raspy.

TYLER  
You did everything you could.

Gavin looks away when Tyler says this, guiltily.

TYLER  
(cont'd.)  
But you're a terrible doctor. Just so you know.

(CONTINUED)

Tyler tries to smile. Gavin laughs through his sorrow and wipes away a tear. He sits back in the chair and looks at Tyler for a moment, his mood shifting back downward.

GAVIN

When I was a child I always wanted to be a doctor, but I come from a really poor family, so it seemed out of the question because I couldn't afford med school. My best friend out of high school was a guy named Ronnie and somehow he convinced me to move in with him and start a meth lab with the promise that I'd make enough cash flow to get me through school. I was working at a car dealership at the time, and had no interest in drugs, but the plan was to sell the meth, not use it, so I quit my job and moved in with Ronnie. Everything was going fine, but naturally we started using the meth ourselves and they changed us. We didn't become bad people, but our friendship dwindled to the point where I couldn't take it anymore. Then a year ago, there was an accident.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. RONNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

A chess board, its pieces in the midsts of an epic battle, on a dining room table. Sitting at the table is RONNIE--20, a healthy looking young man with an attitude. The kitchen area is littered with milk jugs of chemical, spray cans, match books, coffee filters, lye, and pots. Gavin starts the stove and puts a pot on it. Without looking, he reaches back for a jug marked 'DISTILLED WATER' but instead grabs the identical jug next to it as he is feeling around, marked 'DIETHYL ETHER'. He uncaps it and pours it into the pot.

RONNIE

Not so much, it won't dissolve right.

GAVIN

I got it, I got it.

(CONTINUED)

RONNIE

Well hurry up. It's your move.

Gavin finishes up and wipes his hands off on his jeans, then quickly walks back and sits at the table. His eyes scan the chess board quickly and he makes his move, he's playing white. Ronnie thinks about it and makes a move. Gavin makes a move.

GAVIN

Checkmate.

RONNIE

What!?

GAVIN

Uh huh.

RONNIE

No fucking way, you cheated.

GAVIN

Oh come on, sore loser.

RONNIE

I'm serious, you fucking cheated.

GAVIN

How!? You were right there the whole time!

RONNIE

That would stop you?

GAVIN

Ugh! You know what, fine, whatever. You win. I don't care. I'm done with this, bye.

Gavin storms out of the apartment. The pot on the oven is sizzling. Ronnie ignores it and puts a cigarette in his mouth. As he is lighting it, BOOM!

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY CONT'D

Gavin is walking down the apartment hallway after just storming out on Ronnie when behind him, BOOM, a large explosion blows the door off Ronnie's apartment and fills the hallway with fire and smoke. This knocks Gavin forward but he stays on his feet. The fire ALARMS go off, which startle him. He walks forward for a moment, towards the burning apartment, but then starts walking back and then runs for the exit.

(CONTINUED)

FLASH FORWARD TO:

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT CONT'D

Back in Tyler's room, Gavin is still telling his story.

GAVIN

I didn't go back for Ronnie, or turn myself over to the police. I ran. And I'm still running. Ronnie was in the hospital for months, then went straight to jail to plot his revenge. I never had the balls to face him. That's why I'm hiding. I never graduated med school, I'm not really on probation. I've made big mistakes in my life, Tyler. And as hard as I try, I can't forget what I've done.

Tyler struggles to talk.

TYLER

Never forget.

Gavin nods and looks at Tyler for a moment. Tyler isn't moving.

GAVIN

I'm calling the hospital.

Gavin gets up to find his phone but Tyler grabs his arm and stops him.

TYLER

No, wait. I... I feel fine now.  
It's like it just... went away.

Gavin looks at Tyler's pale face, unsure what he meant.

TYLER

(cont'd.)

It's okay now. I feel...

And then Tyler is gone, in that instant the life drains out of him. His hand drops.

GAVIN

Tyler? Tyler!? No...

Gavin shakes Tyler as if trying to wake him.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN  
 (cont'd.)  
 I'm sorry Tyler. I'm so sorry.

Gavin falls to his knees beside the bed.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Tyler is lying dead, face up, in his bed on a sheet of plastic. The hand of an EMT zips the plastic over Tyler's face, concealing him in a body bag.

INT. GAVIN'S APT. - NIGHT (CONT'D)

Gavin is sitting on the sofa in his living room being interviewed by a cop when two EMTs carry the body bag out of Tyler's room and to the exit.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A beautiful day at the park. Gavin is sitting on a park bench, waiting nervously. Ronnie approaches and sits on the right side of the bench, they don't look at each other.

RONNIE  
 I appreciate you calling and  
 agreeing to meet me here. Must have  
 taken a lot of courage.

Gavin nods.

RONNIE  
 It's been a long time, Gavin. I've  
 spent the last year thinking about  
 what I would do when I finally came  
 face to face with you again. You  
 know, that instant... the  
 explosion... to me it felt like  
 forever. I remembered every detail  
 of what happened. The pain. The  
 fire. It's like it happened in slow  
 motion.

Ronnie looks over at Gavin for the first time, revealing that the right half of his face is scarred from burns, and his right eye is milky white, blind.

RONNIE  
 (cont'd.)  
 And everyday I'm reminded of that  
 incident. I return to that  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RONNIE (cont'd)  
apartment. Lying on the floor,  
screaming.

GAVIN  
I'm sorry, Ronnie.

RONNIE  
I already forgave you. Because I  
knew the hardest part for you would  
be forgiving yourself. I thank God  
that I'm a different person now.  
And I hope you are too.

Ronnie stands up and walks away, leaving Gavin on the bench  
by himself.

FADE THROUGH BLACK / FLASH FORWARD TO:

INT. PRESENT DAY GAVIN'S APT. - TYLER'S ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

Present Gavin opens Tyler's bedroom door from the outside  
and peers in at the empty room. He pulls out the picture of  
Tyler from his pocket, reads "NEVER FORGET" off the back and  
turns it around to look at the picture. When he lowers the  
picture, it's as if a memory is projected in front of him in  
Tyler's room.

The memory is of the snowy day when Gavin gave Tyler a shot.  
Gavin sees his past self sitting at the bedside with Tyler  
in the bed. Gavin's past self is preparing a hypodermic  
needle and talking to Tyler, who is staring directly at  
present Gavin in the doorway.

GAVIN (PAST)  
*I talked to Aiden. Cops are still  
harassing him. I don't know, I  
think he'll be fine. I guess I  
shouldn't have given him that ID.*

Tyler's attention stays on the door.

TYLER  
It wasn't your fault.

Tyler says this to present Gavin, as if speaking to him  
through his memories.

GAVIN (PRESENT)  
Tyler... I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN (PAST)  
 Yeah... yeah I know. I mean, I  
 didn't know it belonged to a wanted  
 criminal.

TYLER  
 I forgive you.

Past Gavin looks confused. But present Gavin understands and  
 nods.

GAVIN (PAST)  
 (confused.)  
 What?

GAVIN (PRESENT)  
 I'm not sure I do. But I'll try.

Tyler snaps out of it and looks at past Gavin, then down at  
 his arm, waiting for the needle. Present Gavin shuts the  
 door on the memory. [This is a confusing scene and might  
 take a couple reads before understanding it. On film, it  
 will make perfect sense.]

INT. PRESENT DAY GAVIN'S APT. - DAY (PRESENT)

Present Gavin walks into the ruins of his old apartment  
 where Scott is waiting by the kitchen.

SCOTT  
 Dad?

Gavin walks to the window which is covered in cardboard. He  
 tears down the cardboard and looks out the window.

INTERCUT SCENES - EXT. PARK & INT. PRESENT GAVIN'S APT.

Past Gavin is sitting on the park bench after facing Ronnie.  
 Just as his future self is looking out the window, he is  
 looking outward at the beautiful spring day. Both of them  
 smile when, simultaneously, they see the green butterfly--  
 resting on a branch.

FADE OUT