

All In

a real life fantasy about the true meaning of family

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Based on the themes of Mark Batterson's "All In."

A Family Story Films

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1 EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP. EARLY MORNING.

BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN TOP VISTA.

A breathless, wonder filled voice.

SUNRISE.

JACK O.S.

There's no such thing, you know, as an
unscathed life.

(breathing)

We all die...

CUT BETWEEN GOPRO "SELFIE" AND TRADITIONAL FOOTAGE.

JACK KEATING (36) FILMS HIMSELF AS HE CLIMBS A MOUNTAIN.

Jack has a "mountain man" look and a sense of adventure
shines in his eyes. He is climbing the last few feet of a
steep incline, using his hands to pull himself up and over
the the ridge as the first rays of the early morning sun and
looks directly to camera.

JACK CONT'D

All in, Jackie, live every day like
it's your first... and last.

(Looks to someone off camera)

My mom used to say that to me every
morning before school.

Jack stands and takes the last few steps onto the summit to
reveal the astounding panorama from the top of the mountain.

MADDY O.S.

Jackie?

Jack laughs. He turns with the GoPro and films two of his
kids who have been following behind him.

MADDY (15) is strong and beautiful, ERIC (12) is awkward, but
carries himself with a sense of surety, he's enjoying the
hike.

ERIC

Dad, look!

JACK

Breathtaking.

Jack stares into the sunrise. Maddy and Eric are breathless

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as they turn to the vista. Wonder is in every eye.

MADDY

Wow.

Jack puts his arm around his daughter.

JACK

The pain of that 4AM alarm is paying
off...

Maddy rolls her eyes lovingly as she leans into him.

JACK CONT'D

(looks down at Maddy)
Right?

MADDY

(smiling/genuine)
It's perfect.

Jack kisses her on the forehead and turns to Eric who is
looking in awe at the sunrise over the hills.

ASTRID O.S.

Can we get waffles now?

Jack laughs as his daughter ASTRID (7), and his wife, EMILY
(38), arrive at the top. Jack kneels beside Astrid, pointing
out the sunrise.

JACK

(enthusiastic)
What do you think?

ASTRID

It's pretty.

The whole family watches for a moment.

ASTRID CONT'D

Daddy?

JACK

(still looking at sunrise)
Hmm?

Astrid gently takes Jack's face in her hand and turns it
toward him.

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ASTRID

Mom said I can have Strawberry syrup
on my waffles!

Jack smiles and looks up to Emily.

EMILY

(breathless)

Guess what we have been talking about
for the last two miles.

(wide eyes)

I may have used bribery.

Maddy turns to leave.

MADDY

I'm with Astrid. Waffles are calling.

Astrid turns to follow as everyone joins in.

JACK

Wait? We just got here!

ERIC

Yeah, let's go just a little further.

EMILY

(grins at Eric)

We already went a "just a little
further" half an hour ago.

Emily walks to stand next to Jack and puts her arm around him.
She looks out over the sunrise.

EMILY CONT'D

(breaths in)

Stunning.

Then Emily turns and follows the girls, hollering over her
shoulder.

EMILY CONT'D (CONT'D)

Come on Jackie, we need waffles!

ASTRID

With strawberry syrup.

JACK

(to Eric)

Looks like we're outvoted, bud.

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Jack turns the camera on himself.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D
 I encourage you to choose adventure
 today. Even if it scares you a little.
 Especially if it scares you a little.
 You won't regret it.
 (calls to Emily)
 And only my mother called me,
 "Jackie."

That last statement is said loudly - for Emily.

ASTRID O.S.
 Waffles, Jackie! Let's go!

Jack can't help but grin.

JACK
 Right. Uploading video now.

Jack turns camera to himself.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D
 (into camera)
 And then, Waffles.

Camera cuts.

2 INT. WAFFLE HOUSE. CITY. MORNING.

OPEN ON A PHONE - THE LAST FRAMES FROM JACK'S VIDEO FADE TO BLACK AS IT ENDS. THE PHONE RESTS ON A TABLE NEXT TO A PLATE OF HARDLY EATEN SOGGY WAFFLES.

EVA (34) sits at a window seat in a mostly empty Waffle House. She wears a suit that's stylish - somewhat hipster. Next to Eva is a well-worn journal - every inch covered in writing - including the margins. She is hunched over the notebook, writing in tiny letters in the only free space left on the page. The sky outside boasts thick clouds that hang low.

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW A SUV CRASHES, FLIPPING MULTIPLE TIMES BEFORE LANDING IN AN EXPLOSION OF FLAMES. IT IS LOUD AND VIOLENT AND RATTLES THE WINDOWS AND TABLE.

Eva looks up from her journal and out the window for a moment. She glances at the flaming bus but it doesn't hold her interest. She resumes her writing.

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CLOSE-UP OF THE JOURNAL SHOWS THE WORDS "THE DREAD" BEING SCRAWLED AS WELL AS WORDS LIKE "IT RETURNS," "HOW TO FIGHT THE DARKNESS?" "THE END OF THE HEROES OF THE AGES!" AND THE WORD "STORYLAND" HAS BEEN CROSSED THROUGH MULTIPLE TIMES.

CUT TO A WIDE OF EVA WITH THE FULL DINNER BEHIND HER. THOUGH WE CAN'T SEE OUT THE WINDOW, WE CAN SEE THE LIGHT OF THE FLAMES OUTSIDE PAINTING THE WAFFLE HOUSE.

EVA
(glances at waffle. Whispers)
To waffle: a failure to make up one's
mind.

BEHIND THE CRASHED SUV AN APARTMENT BUILDING BEGINS TO COLLAPSE AS DUST AND DEBRIS SPREAD OUTWARD.

Eva continues writing in her journal, not looking up as the chaos grows.

EVA (CONT'D)
(distracted)
Dependent Personality Disorder.

WAITRESS O.S.
I didn't catch that?

EVA
(distracted)
DPD. It's the inability to make
decisions.

Eva catches her breath and glances at the Waitress.

EVA CONT'D
I don't have it.

WAITRESS O.S.
(confused)
Well... that's good.

CUT TO A WIDE WHERE WE SEE THAT WAITRESS (34) HAS BEEN WAITING AT THE TABLE. SHE HOLDS A HALF FILLED COFFEE POT. WE SEE OUT THE WINDOW AGAIN AND THERE IS NO WRECKAGE, JUST A SMALL TOWN. A NEARLY EMPTY STREET.

WAITRESS CONT'D
More Coffee, hun?

Eva looks at her nearly empty coffee mug.

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EVA
Coffee. Yes.

Waitress pours. Eva is awkward, almost as if she doesn't understand the point of these human interactions.

Waitress glances at the uneaten waffles.

WAITRESS
How were they?

EVA
Flavorless.

Waitress pauses then barks a laugh.

WAITRESS
(playfully sarcastic)
With all that syrup? I'm surprised you could taste any-

EVA
(leans in, suddenly warm)
Did you know Waffle House sells 145 waffles per minute?

WAITRESS
How'd you know that number?

EVA
I read.

Eva looks up and her eyes land on a butterfly pin Waitress is wearing. The butterfly flies away. Eva watches the butterfly as she speaks.

EVA CONT'D
My brother and his family live just a few blocks from here- on Elm.

Eva points.

WAITRESS
I know it...
(beat)
What about you, hun. You from here?

EVA
(looking out the window)
We lived here for a couple years when we were younger.

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Eva glances back at the accident. The waitress nor anyone else seems aware of the carnage just outside the window.

WAITRESS

Are you close? You and your brother?

Eva ponders the question, smiles faintly, then nods.

EVA

He's my little brother.

Waitress waits for more but nothing comes. Eva seems to have forgotten she's there. A woman wearing a dark blue dress MARIA (65), enters the restaurant, the bell above the door rings over the sounds of the restaurant.

WAITRESS

Is there anything else I can get you?

EVA

(smiles fondly)

I left but Jack stayed. He and Em got married and had three kids.

(proudly)

The perfect family.

Waitress's breath catches.

WAITRESS

Do you mean Jack and Emily Keating?

MARIA

Eva, it's time.

Waitress turns and obviously knows Maria.

WAITRESS

Maria.

(heartbroken)

I'm so sorry.

Maria offers a sad smile.

MARIA

Thank you, Trish.

(to Eva)

Eva...

Maria places a hand on Eva's shoulder.

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MARIA CONT'D
We're already late.

Eva slowly meets Maria's eyes. She is afraid.

EVA
I can't do this.

MARIA
We can talk about that later. If we
don't go now, we're going to miss it.

Eva offers a tight nod, gets up and collects her notepad, phone and books. Holding them close to her chest, she glances one last time out the window, then begins walking to the door.

She stops, thinks a moment then turns.

EVA
You should take them.
(beat)
You and Bob.

Eva doesn't wait for a response before walking out.

Maria watches her go with a pained look. She glances at the unpaid ticket next to Eva's plate and retrieves money from her purse, laying it on the table.

3 INT. CAR. MORNING. CITY.

Maria drives down back streets as Eva stares out the window without saying a word. They drive through an old, tired part of the city. A gas station/mechanic garage, an old strip mall, the stores now repurposed as lawyer and real estate offices, a nail salon and a check cashing service.

They stop at a light, Maria reaches over and gently fixes Eva's hair.

Eva looks at her phone and opens a blank message, choosing "Jimmy." She is incredibly tense as she types, "*I can't do this*" again. Then, "*Call me.*"

They pull into an old church parking lot. *Perched on the side of the church is a mammoth, colorful Monarch butterfly, almost as big as the church.*

Maria opens her car door but Eva doesn't move. She is fumbling with a pill bottle but her eyes are fixed on the

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butterfly. She watches it curiously a moment. The butterfly's wings open and close a couple of times, but it doesn't fly away.

MARIA

Eva?

Without taking her eyes off the butterfly, Eva wrestles with the lid, frustrated. Mariah takes it gently from her and opens it, handing it back.

EVA

(looking down)

I'm not going in.

Eva spills two blue pills into her hand then palms them into her mouth.

MARIA

Sweetheart-

EVA

No.

(breathless)

I can't.

Maria purses her lips worriedly. After a moment she nods. Unsure what to say, she exits the car and walks toward the church. She stops and looks back one more time before disappearing inside.

Eva exits, but doesn't follow. She leans against the car for a moment, watching the church.

She takes a couple steps forward. Her movements are stiff and she is clearly terrified. She walks to the side of the church and cautiously approaches a window, peeking inside.

The church is filled with people. A man BOB (65) stands on stage speaking soberly. In the front row are the three Keating children - Maddy (15), Eric, (12) with his arm in a sling, Astrid (7). Maria steps in from the aisle to sit beside them. Maddy and Eric sit numb as Maria places a comforting hand on Astrid's shoulder.

As Eva watches the children, the cityscape behind the church begins to crumble. As every sky-rise in the distance disintegrates, dust and debris fill the air. The rumbling earth launches the mammoth butterfly into flight as it flutters away, disappearing into the billowing cloud of dust. The dust cloud explodes over the church and swallows Eva up.

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Eva blinks. The world is back to normal. She unconsciously scrubs a tear from her cheek. She looks in the window to see the church is mostly empty. She glances back to see a number of people exiting.

Eva quickly walks away, not wanting to be seen.

4 EXT. KEATING HOUSE. AFTERNOON.

LONGBOARD WHEELS ROLLING ALONG PAVEMENT.

Eric rolls down the center of his street. His right arm is in a sling and he wears earbuds. Music is playing. Another boy, REESE (12, slightly overweight) rides alongside him.

The boys roll down the road side by side. Reese watches his friend out of the corner of his eye. Reese is talking. Eric pulls his earbuds out.

REESE

...that maybe you would want to come over and watch Mystery Science Theater?

Eric eyes Reese a moment.

ERIC

Probably not.

Reese nods as he looks forward again. Finally, he blurts out.

REESE

I'm sorry about your parents dying.

Eric nods again as they continue down the road. His music is playing through the earbuds.

REESE (CONT'D)

You want to race?

ERIC

No.

REESE

Cool. Yeah. Let's just ride.

(beat)

If you need to talk or whatever... My mom said I should tell you that you could talk to me.

(beat)

Do you want to get some cookies?

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ERIC

I'm good.

REESE

Right, let's just ride.

Eric puts his earbuds in as the music from *Sleeping At Last* rises.

5 EXT. KEATING NEIGHBORHOOD. EVENING.

SUNSET. ERIC'S MUSIC CONTINUES.

Eva walks up the street. She approaches the Keating house where a number of people from the church are out standing in the lawn. As Eric and Reese ride past, Eric and Eva share a silent, pained look. Eva continues on, ignoring the well wishers who try to approach her. The front door bursts open and Astrid leaps out, followed by LEELEE (8). Both are laughing and giggling as they run past. Eva watches Astrid with a look of concern. Eva enters the house.

6 INT. KEATING HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. EVENING.

ERIC'S MUSIC CONTINUES.

Eva steps into a simple, but homey living room. It is filled with people from the church. A few of them acknowledge Eva and some try to engage her. She nods but otherwise ignores them all, passing between them like a ghost as she climbs the stairs.

7 INT. KEATING HOUSE. HALLWAY. NIGHT.

Eva enters the upstairs hallway and hears voices coming from Maddy's room.

MUSIC FADES.

She walks to the open door but doesn't enter. She looks inside to see Maddy laying in bed with Maria sitting next to her.

8 INT. KEATING HOUSE. MADDY'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Maddy has been crying. Maria speaks in a loving, yet firm voice.

MARIA

...not fair. All of us are broken
right now.

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MADDY

(bitter)

She was broken before this and you
know it.

Eva flinches at Maddy's words. Maria begins to lovingly rub Maddy's back. Eva's eyes flitter around the room. She notes a Narnia series on the bookshelf, the decorative crafty mirror with the words "You are Loved," in script along the bottom and finally lands on the butterfly curtains.

MARIA

You're Aunt, she- her life has not
been easy. She-

Maria trails off as her eyes find Eva in the doorway.

EVA

Jack used to say I was an extreme
extrovert with severe shyness.

(beat)

He thought it was funny.

No one says anything and Eva fills the space. Her breath catches.

EVA (CONT'D)

The bright orange and black coloration
of monarchs warns predators that they
are toxic. It's known as aposematism.

Maddy offers Maria an "are you kidding me," look.

EVA CONT'D

I like your your curtains.

MARIA

(notes the butterflys)

They are beautiful, aren't they? Em
made them.

MADDY

I would like to go to sleep now.

Maria kisses Maddy on the forehead and gets up and walks to Eva. Placing a hand on her back.

MARIA CONT'D

Why don't we let Maddy get some rest?

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EVA

Right.

9 INT. KEATING HOUSE. HALLWAY. NIGHT.

Eva turns and walks down the hall and into Jack and Emily's bedroom where she is staying as Maria gives Maddy one last look and closes the door.

Maria tries to catch Eva but she is already closing the door to her room. She stares at the closed door a moment, but doesn't go to her.

10 INT. KEATING HOUSE. JACK AND EMILY BEDROOM. 2 AM.

Eva wakes to Astrid standing over her. Without speaking, Eva shifts over as Astrid climbs into her bed. Eva puts her arm around Astrid.

11 INT. KEATING HOUSE. JACK AND EMILY BE

Eva wakes. Astrid is gone.

12 INT. KEATING HOUSE. KITCHEN. MORNING.

Wearing her bathrobe, Eva walks down the stairs and through the family room. She carries one of her notepads at her side. Maria is already awake and in the laundry room, folding clothes. She looks up and smiles tiredly at Eva.

Eva enters the kitchen to find all three kids sitting at the table. Boxes of cereal, a jug of milk and an opened laptop are set out before them. Astrid slurps her cereal as Maddy and Eric stare intently at a laptop screen. Both have dark circles under their eyes and are obviously struggling.

The screen shows a blog page titled, "All In." In the corner of the screen we can see a book with the same title and a "Buy Now" button. The tagline at the top of the blog reads "*Win the Day.*"

Eric presses the refresh button every few seconds.

They look up as Eva walks in.

ASTRID

Good morning!

Astrid runs over and wraps Eva in a hug before pulling her to the table.

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ASTRID CONT'D

I saved a place for you. AND I made
you breakfast!

There is a lukewarm mug of coffee on the table as well as a bowl with soggy cereal already in it. Eva nods, sits and takes a bite of the cereal while Astrid watches. Eva's half grimace turns to a half smile and Astrid beams.

Maddy offers Astrid a concerned look. Eric stares at the laptop screen as if it is the only ray of light in the midst of this darkness.

Astrid picks up her bowl and slurps the final bit.

Eric presses the refresh button again then leans in.

ERIC

It's up.

A video begins to play. It shows Jack and Emily Keating.

Jack looks directly to camera. He's filming himself from his laptop. He is in the master bedroom. Emily walks around behind him packing a suitcase.

JACK (ON VIDEO)

To my...

(leans in to look at screen)

two hundred and seven regular viewers

- So thankful for every one of you!

(beat)

I've just one quick All In, thought
for you guys today. Every day there is
a...

13 INT. KEATING HOUSE. LAUNDRYROOM. MORNING

Maria is still in the laundry room folding a towel when she stops. She hears Jack's voice. She turns off the dryer and listens more closely.

14 INT. KEATING HOUSE. KITCHEN. MORNING.

Jack brings the camera closer.

JACK (ON VIDEO)

...nothing more stunning than knowing
He can be trusted. Make the decision,
take the leap of faith today.

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Jack claps his hands and offers a grin.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D
OK. We interrupt this regularly
scheduled vlog for a word to my
heroes.

Jack thinks for a moment.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D (CONT'D)
Kids, it's day five and we are in...
(glances off camera)
Where would we be?

Emily leans in over Jack's shoulder.

EMILY (ON VIDEO)
I'll be about nine miles up the Inca
trail. I think that would put me in
Runkurakay. But you're not as young as
you used to be, so you'll be at least
a couple hours behind.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
Your mom thinks she's funny.

EMILY (ON VIDEO)
I *am* funny!
(to camera)
Hi kids, miss you...again, love you...
again.

Emily walks off screen.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
Let's see, today is... Monday. Only
four days till we're home.

EMILY (O.S.)
Tell Maddy to help Astrid practice her
lines.

Jack raises his eyebrows and nods in Emily's direction.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
I'm not sure how these video things
work, but I think you might have just
told her.

A towel appears out of nowhere and slams into Jack's face. He
chuckles as he pulls it off.

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JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D
Eric, stay off the main roads, don't
break any bones while we're gone...
wait till we're home.

EMILY O.S.
That's not funny!

Eric gently touches the shoulder of his slinged arm. He
smiles sadly.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
Ladybug, I love you my girl. You are
stunning! We can't wait to see your
play. Wouldn't miss it for the world!

Astrid is grinning happily as she watches. She is holding
Eva's hand.

JACK (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
Hi Eva.

Eva lifts her other hand just off her lap in a subtle wave
and mouths the word, "hi".

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D
(smiles)
I did something.

EMILY (O.S.)
Are you telling her now?

JACK
No, just priming the pump.

Looks back at the screen and raises his hands placatingly and
smiles.

JACK CONT'D
It's a good thing.

Emily walks past but stops when Jack says this. She smiles
knowingly.

Eva is confused and a little concerned.

15 INT. KEATING HOUSE. LAUNDRY ROOM. MORNING

Maria walks out of the laundry room toward the kitchen.

16 INT. KEATING HOUSE. KITCHEN. MORNING.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
 ...I'll tell you all about it Friday!
 (beat)
 OK guys, if I don't start packing soon
 your mom might decide to go without
 me.

EMILY (O.S.)
 It's already been decided!

JACK (ON VIDEO)
 (chuckles)
 OK, love you!

Emily jumps on screen as Jack leans in to press stop.

EMILY (ON VIDEO)
 Love you!

The screen goes black and for a long moment, nobody moves.
 Finally Maria breaks the silence.

MARIA
 Have there been more of these?

Everyone turns to see Maria standing in the doorway.

ASTRID
 Yep! Dad made a bunch before they
 left. He made it so we get to watch a
 new video every morning!

ERIC
 He cued them on his site.

Maria nods as she scrubs away a tear.

Eva stands looking stiff as a board. She stares at the
 computer screen, then stalks out of the kitchen. Everyone
 watches her go for a moment before Maria kicks into gear.

MARIA
 I'm going over to the house to check
 in on everyone.

ASTRID
 (cheery)
 I'll come with you. And...maybe later
 we can rehearse?

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MARIA

(concerned)

Hun, you don't need to worry about the play. It's OK if you-.

ASTRID

(serious/concerned)

I have to be in it, Grams.

(sincere)

Please!

MARIA

Darling, of course I'll help you rehearse.

(to the others)

See you all shortly?

Maria and Astrid walk out the door in their robes and slippers.

17 EXT. KEATING HOUSE. MORNING.

Maria and Astrid walk off the modest back porch and down the stairs. They step onto the Keating lawn that's patchy mix of weeds and grass. They walk across the lawn and reach a long driveway filled with cars, vans and an RV. As they navigate the vehicles they walk into a new yard that is well manicured. A row of trees marks the property line but there is a path that follows through.

As Maria and Astrid walk in this yard they pass a number of tents. A little girl, LEELEE (7), steps out of a tent and runs to greet them. They hug her as they walk onto a beautiful garden and onto a back deck. All three now make their way to a glass sliding door and step into the house.

18 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S KITCHEN. MORNING.

The three are greeted by several "good mornings" at once. It's chaos. People everywhere of every age and race are in the kitchen, most with a coffee mug in hand - no two mugs alike. A baby sits in a highchair with CAMILLA (31 Asian), feeding her.

Astrid and Leelee run through and into the family room.

19 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S FAMILY ROOM. MORNING.

The house is warm and homey. Sleeping bags, pillows and blankets cover couches and every part of the floor. All are empty except for Jayden (24, African-American) who sleeps on

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a couch. A woman - ROCHELLE (35, caucasian) is folding a sleeping bag.

ROCHELLE
Good morning, Astrid!

ASTRID
(yells as she runs)
Morning, Aunt Rochelle.

ROCHELLE
Have you brushed your teeth yet?
(yelling)
Leelee, you need to brush your teeth!

Astrid and Leelee dart upstairs.

Jayden makes an exaggerated movement as he opens his eyes.

JAYDEN
Good Lord, it's impossible to sleep
with all this yelling.

ROCHELLE
(Watches Astrid leave)
You know everyone calls you the lazy
brother, right?

Jayden rolls over and hurls his pillow, slamming it into Rochelle, then rolls over and closes his eyes.

20 INT. KEATING HOUSE. KITCHEN. MORNING.

Eva walks down the stairs with her rucksack thrown over her shoulder. She opens the front door.

MADDY
You're leaving.

Maddy stands in the kitchen entry looking at Eva. Eva takes out her pill bottle and palms two little blue pills, swallowing them. Eva turns and looks, then simply nods. She takes another few steps and without looking back, she speaks.

EVA
Jack was the brave one.
(beat)
I'm sorry.

Eva flees the house.

21 INT. KITCHEN. KEATING HOUSE. MORNING.

Maddy watches from the window as Eva climbs into the jeep and drives away. Eric enters the kitchen.

ERIC

Where's Aunt Eva going?

Maddy doesn't answer. She stares out the window a moment then stalks out of the kitchen.

22 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S FAMILY ROOM. MORNING.

Astrid and Leelee sprint back into the family room, laughing as they leap on top of Jayden who tries to hide beneath his covers.

ASTRID

Uncle Jayden!

LEELEE

(grabs his face)

Wake up!

JAYDEN

(grabs her face, playfully)

I'm awake! And now you're both gonna get it!

The girls squeal as Jayden wrestles with them, but they escape quickly while he pretends to give chase without ever leaving the couch. He growls at them as they squeal again and run for the kitchen.

JAYDEN V.O.

(yells)

Get me some coffee. I need coffee!

23 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S KITCHEN. MORNING.

Bob has arrived at the back sliding door. He has a number of donut boxes in hand. Astrid and Leelee dart inside, still giggling.

Astrid runs over as Bob sets the donuts down and kneels to hug Astrid and Leelee.

BOB

Morning girls!

At that moment Maddy and Eric walk in the back sliding door. Bob walks over and gives them both hugs.

Bob kisses Maddy's forehead then places a hand on Eric's

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shoulder. Maddy walks over to pour herself a cup of coffee.

BOB CONT'D
How's the shoulder?

Eric shrugs.

MARIA
Where's your Aunt?

MADDY
(furious)
She left.

Bob and Maria share an "oh no," look. Maddy doesn't wait to watch the the effect of her words as she stalks out of the room.

Bob gives Eric an extra hug. Eric offers a numb nod. Astrid seems unfazed by the news.

24 EXT./INT. JEEP. SIDE OF COUNTRY ROAD. MORNING.

THE SOUND OF A RINGING PHONE.

Eva, sill in her bathrobe, sits in her jeep parked along the side of the road. She stares forward at something we can't see.

PHONE CONTINUES RINGING.

Eva opens the door and walks slowly along the shoulder.

BEEP.

SPEAKER PHONE O.S.
You have reached James. Leave a name
and message and I will return your
call as soon as possible.

She sits on the grass. The jeep is behind her with the door left open. A number of cars whizz past.

Just in front of Eva's feet a few bits of safety glass litter the ground. She barely moves. In front of her - on the side of the road - are two small crosses and a bouquet of flowers. Beside the flowers is a picture of Jack and Emily. Fluttering around it all is a colorful monarch butterfly.

Eva stares blankly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA
 (into phone)
 Jack and Em want me to take the kids.
 I can't...I left... I-
 (beat)
 Where are you? I-

PHONE BEEPS TO END MESSAGE.

25 INT./EXT. JEEP. HIGHWAY. NOON.

MOBILE PHONE RINGS O.S.

Eva is driving. She is tense, agitated. Her phone is on the seat next to her.

As she's driving past a feild we see what looks to be a towering "house of cards." The cards are huge and the tower is easily 30 stories (cards) high.

SPEAKER PHONE O.S.
 ...and I will return your call as soon
 as possible.

EVA
 Why aren't you answering!?
 (yelling)
 I won't do this again!
 (long silence)
 He's gone. They're gone.
 (beat)
 Everyone leaves.

The BEEP ends the message but Eva continues talking.

EVA (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Everyone leaves.

In the distance the house of cards crumbles as a gust of wind hits it, sending them flying across an open field.

26 EXT. BOB AND MARIAHS HOUSE. BACK DECK. DUSK.

Tables are full of food and people are eating around the fire with plates in hand. Jackets are worn by all as the spring night still holds a chill. Bob is standing near the fire.

Maddy sits on the edge of the darkness. She is silent, and clearly angry. Some girls and moms sit with her, but none of them are talking. It is clear she doesn't want to speak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bob walks around the fire, meeting the eyes of many of the people there.

BOB

...so Jack hears Em shouting.

(chuckles)

and he runs to the back to find her on the lawn mower, waist deep in the lake. Jack went in to get her and that was the moment I was sure- Em was the one.

Chuckles, smiles, and tears from the group. Eric smiles sadly at the story. Maddy shows no emotion. Astrid is giggling.

BOB (CONT'D)

(wipes away a tear)

Lawnmower was never the same after that.

Laughter.

Maria reaches down and grabs two paper cups of steaming hot liquid, handing one to Bob. He lets a moment of pain pass before he slowly meets the eyes of the Keating children.

MARIA

To my heroes. To Jack and Em.

Everyone raises cups in sincere agreement.

GROUP

To Jack and Em.

27 EXT. KEATING HOUSE. NIGHT.

Full night has come. The old jeep pulls into the Keating driveway. The house is dark and quiet. Eva glances toward Bob and Maria's house. A flickering fire can be seen through the trees. The sounds of muted laughter can be heard every now and again. Eva notes a package sticking out of the mailbox. She exits the jeep, still in a bathrobe, and grabs the mail.

JAYDEN

We had spaghetti tonight.

Eva starts. Jayden is sitting on the Keating porch.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Didn't mean to startle you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Eva nods but remains silent.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)
I thought spaghetti came from a can
till I was twelve-
(beat)
before Bob and Maria.

Eva won't meet Jayden's eyes. Her eyes are fixed on the distant flickering firelight.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)
I'd been in two homes before here.
Nice people, but they weren't family.
(nods to the firelight)
Everyone in that house has a similar
story.
(beat)
That's our family. That's the only
place any of us have ever belonged.

Eva still doesn't meet his eyes but turns her gaze to the ground. A moment passes.

EVA
Where did you get those shoes?

Jayden looks down at his bright orange shoes.

JAYDEN
Do you like them?

EVA
(meets Jayden's eyes)
The places we stayed in before here...
They weren't nice people.
(beat)
Jack was my family.

Eva looks away suddenly emotional. Jayden is also emotional.

JAYDEN
He was mine too.

EVA
(looks at Jaydens shoes)
I haven't decided yet.

Jayden seems confused then realizes Eva is referencing his shoes and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAYDEN

Come on, I think there's still some spaghetti left.

Jayden takes Eva by the arm before she can object and turns her toward the path. Eva lays the package on the wicker chair.

Jayden and Eva walk toward the fire.

28 EXT. BOB AND MARIAH'S HOUSE. BACK YARD. DUSK.

Bob sits beside the fire as Maria addresses the family.

MARIA

I know hearts are heavy. I also know Jack and Em would be the first to ask for it. In fact Jack would demand it.
(deep breath)
Are we ready?

A few forced cheers from the family.

ASTRID

The Story Game!

MARIA

Good.
(beat)
Then I choose... Grace.

The atmosphere changes immediately as GRACE, (21, Asian) stands with a smile. Everyone turns to watch.

GRACE

Once upon a time there was... a ferocious bear who lived in a cave by a magical lake.

Grace spreads out her arms, flapping dragon wings as she lets out a loud "ROAR!" The children giggle with excitement.

GRACE (CONT'D)

On the other side of the lake was a village. And in this village was a beautiful child, a young girl... a warrior.

As Grace talks, every face around the fire begins to brighten with wonder and excitement. Eva and Jaden arrive, standing at the back of the group. Eva watches almost fearfully.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Now this bear had one weakness...
Nothing could possibly defeat it
except...

(thinking hard)

dizziness!

Laughter.

GRACE (CONT'D)

If the bear saw someone spinning, he
would become terribly dizzy, so dizzy
that he would be as dangerous as a
cub.

Grace smiles and then begins to spin. There's laughter as
everyone around the fire stands and spins as well.

BOB

Here we go!

Bob joins in the spinning as Grace stops and scans the group
until everyone joins. Finally, dizzy, they stop. All the
children watch with eyes wide in excitement. Eva's face is
unreadable but we get the sense that the story makes her
uncomfortable.

GRACE

I choose... Rochelle.

Rochelle smiles as she stands to the cheering of everyone
gathered. She speaks in a thoughtful tone, searching for a
line.

ROCHELLE

Dizziness wasn't the bears only
problem. He also... had a sore tooth.

(laughter from group)

And this tooth made him even more
dangerous. The only thing that would
ease the bears pain... was if he spit!

More laughter. Rochelle spits. "That's digesting." Everyone
in the group spits. The younger children are loving it.
Rochelle looks at Astrid who is raising her hand excitedly.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

I choose...

(thoughtful)

Astrid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Cheers from the group.

ASTRID

(giggles)

The sore-toothed bear was famished and wanted to eat the thousands of fish that swam in the magical lake. But his tooth was just too sore and that made him angry.

Astrid is pacing excitedly. She stops and spits. Everyone laughs.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

So he walked to the village to find a dentist. When the warrior girl saw the bear, she was so scared she forgot about her spinning and instead she
(mischievous look)
peed in her pants!

Everyone laughs aloud at this with shouts of "No" and "Too far!" Eva smiles as Astrid giggles again.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

Ok, ok, ok! Nobody has to pee their pants.
(thinks)
The bear stared at the girl and roared.

Astrid pointed with one hand and put her other on her stomach and then gives a loud "raaaahhhh." Everyone joins in. Raaaahhhh! The gathering chortles.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

I choose, Aunt Eva!

Eva takes a step back. Everyone turns, only now realizing she has arrived.

Eva struggles as she notes Maddy's glare.

The group begins to chant, "Eva, Eva, Eva..."

Eva timidly shakes her head "no" and the chant fades. Maddy speaks.

MADDY

(all eyes shift to Maddy)
The girl runs away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

The group sobers.

Astrid, not realizing Maddy was addressing Aunt Eva, speaks - breaking the tension.

ASTRID

Then what, Maddy? Where did she go?

Astrid looks at her, waiting. A tear escapes Maddy's eye as Rochelle puts an arm around her.

JAYDEN

(quietly)

Astrid. Choose me.

Jayden has walked into the the center of the group. After a moment a mischievous smile parts Astrid's lips.

ASTRID

I choose...

A number of people begin to shout out. "No!" and "Not him!"

"Remember what happened last time!"

ASTRID (CONT'D)

Uncle Jayden!

Jayden steps forward, making a show of taking off his coat. A collective groan escapes every lip.

Maddy sits, her anger spent, she is heartbroken and numb. Maria sits beside her, placing an arm around her shoulders.

JAYDEN CONT'D

Our young hero suddenly remembered the lakes magical healing powers. She realized she couldn't vanquish this sore toothed bear. But if she could get it to chase her into the lake, then the magical waters would heal it.

ROCHELLE

Don't do it Jayden. Don't you dare - it's too cold!

Jayden sits and pulls a shoe off. Rochelle points threateningly.

TOMMY

Dude! Think of the children.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Jayden offers a wicked grin.

JAYDEN CONT'D

The young hero knew then what she must
do. Walking up to the bear, face to
face, she drew back her fist

Jayden stood, drew back his fist and swung it as he yelled.

JAYDEN CONT'D (CONT'D)

and punched the bear on the mouth.

(beat)

Then, she turned and SHE RAN!

Jayden turns... he sprints onto the pier and down the dock.
As he runs he takes off his shirt, tossing it. He doesn't
hesitate. Jayden cannonballs into the lake.

Everyone watches in stunned silence.

Bob stands slowly.

BOB

There's something wrong with that boy.

(looks at group)

You know the rules.

Bob inhales deeply.

He shouts like a warrior and beats his chest. Finally, he
runs toward the lake with shoes and jacket still on.

Everyone watches Bob leap into the lake.

With a mixture of disbelief and resolve, one by one the
family stands.

Astrid is the first to move. She jumps up, screams and
follows suite.

One by one they all begin to shout and scream as they run
down the pier. Shouts of "For Jack and Em," and "All in," can
be heard, as well as shrieks from the cold.

WE STAY ON ERIC A MOMENT. HE STANDS. PEOPLE ARE RUNNING ON
EITHER SIDE. THIS IS SOMETHING HE MUST DO. HE WALKS AT FIRST,
THEN SLOWLY BREAKS INTO A RUN.

Maddy, Maria and Eva are the only three who don't
participate. Maddy and Eva stare blankly at each other over
the fire. Finally Maddy turns and stalks angrily into the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

house.

MARIA

(to Eva, gently)

She loves you.

(looking at the swimmers)

We're all grieving in our own ways.

(emotional)

They're gonna need towels.

Maria got up and headed toward the house.

29 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

Everyone is wrapped in towels and blankets, sipping hot chocolate.

Children and adults sleep on couches and all over the floor.

A large fire burns in the fireplace.

Astrid and Eric are asleep on the game room floor.

Maddy sips her steaming coco and sits, staring at the fire. Jayden sits quietly beside her.

30 EXT. BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. FRONT YARD. NIGHT.

Bob, Maria, and Eva sit on the front steps.

Bob still has wet hair but wears dry clothes and a big warm coat. Both he and Maria have steaming hot cups of tea in their hands.

For a long moment, nobody speaks.

EVA

(gazing into the darkness)

I used to play the Story Game with Jack and... and our mother.

MARIA

I know.

Eva stares into the darkness.

EVA

I left today.

BOB

And you came back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Eva shakes her head. She visibly hardens, turning her back.

EVA
 (defiant)
 I read the will. It's clear. If I'm...
 (vulnerable/fragile)
 if I'm unable,
 (matter of fact)
 they go to you.

MARIA
 (blunt)
 Are you... unable?

Eva is suddenly angry. She glares at Maria.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 (gentle)
 That's what I thought.

BOB
 You don't have to go it alone, Eva.
 We're all in this together.

Eva takes a few angry steps into the darkness. Finally she throws her hands in the air and speaks with her back to Bob and Maria.

EVA
 (tired, but resolute)
 I'm leaving in the morning. I need to go. I need to see Jimmy.

Maria studies Eva a moment.

MARIA
 I've always liked James. He's a good man.
 (thinks a moment)
 What about the kids?

Eva seems confused.

MARIA CONT'D
 Where will they stay?

EVA
 Here.

MARIA
 No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Eva looks at Mariah confused.

MARIA CONT'D

You should take them with you.

Bob quickly hides a surprised look.

EVA

I can't.

(beat)

I- Maddy- they can't- they won't want to come.

BOB

Probably not- but they need you.

Mariah and Eva both glare at Bob. Bob stands, and walks to Eva, he puts a hand on her shoulder gently.

BOB CONT'D

And you need them.

Eva palms two pills and swallows, she turns and stares out the window, panicked and lost.

31 EXT. LAKE. MORNING.

The sun rises.

Mist flows across the surface of the lake.

A couple of family members sit on the pier with coffee and fishing poles in hand.

32 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. MORNING.

Everyone is sleeping everywhere.

People begin to stir.

A couple of bedroom doors open to reveal more family members.

Maria is making pancakes in the kitchen.

THE LAPTOP CLOCK READS, "7:56 AM."

Jayden walks over and leans in. He squeezes Eric's good shoulder.

Jayden places his hands to his mouth, shouting loudly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAYDEN
Four minutes!

33 EXT. BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. MORNING.

The back door opens. Rochelle steps out and shouts to those fishing on the pier.

ROCHELLE
Four minutes!

The fishers hurriedly put down their poles and make their way inside.

34 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. MORNING.

Most of the family stands around the laptop. But two people are notably missing. Eva and Maddy.

THE SCREEN READS 7:59 AM.

ASTRID
(excitedly)
Here it comes!

Eric leans forward. The page refreshes. Everyone leans in.

Jack Keating is on screen. He is checking out at a Walmart. He is wearing a baseball cap with "All In" stitched into it.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
Greetings to all my friends! And especially my sweet kiddos!
(to Checkout Lady)
I'm making a video for my kids, my sister and a bunch of wonderful people.

35 EXT. BOB AND MARIAS. LAKE. MORNING.

Eva sits by herself at the edge of the lake. She is dressed, ready for her trip. She watches the video on her phone.

36 INT. BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. MORNING.

Jack turns his GoPro on the checkout girl - she is an older, wiry lady. She gives a slightly confused and distracted smile. As Jack talks, he picks items off the conveyor, showing them to the kids.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D
 Let's see, manly green rain slicker
 -check. Dainty yellow one for mom -
 check. Gold Bond powder - that's for
 your mom.

Everyone laughs.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D (CONT'D)
 A compass, oh man, definitely for your
 mom.
 (to Checkout lady)
 She once got lost in this very store.
 Speaking of...

Jack looks around worriedly as he speaks to the Checkout
 lady.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D (CONT'D)
 We may need to send out a search
 party.

Checkout Lady is amused.

Everyone watching laughs again.

EMILY (O.S)
 What are you saying?

JACK (ON VIDEO)
 (relieved / Motions to lady)
 Oh good. My new friend-
 (Looks at nametage)
 Jenny was really worried about you,
 but I told her you could orienteer
 with the best of them.

JACK TURNS THE CAMERA ON EMILY.

EMILY (ON VIDEO)
 You are so weird.

Emily makes a weird face at Jack.

Wonder paints everyone watching.

37 INT. MADDY'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

Maddy sits on her bedroom windowsill. She can see the lake
 and where Eva is sitting. A half filled backpack is on her
 bed. She watches the video.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jack moves to stand next to Emily. We can hear the checkout lady scanning items.

EMILY (ON VIDEO)

Guys, we are missing you. We are so proud of you. Your kindness and generosity towards each other is stunning. Right? And especially toward your Aunt Eva?

JACK (ON VIDEO)

It is stunning... correct?

Jack gives a parental eye raise, smiles then continues.

JACK (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)

Your mom is right, we are proud of you. So is Jenny.

Emily rolls her eyes as Jack briefly turns the camera on a laughing Checkout lady, then back to himself and Emily.

The group laughs.

JACK (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)

You are all our favorites. Choose adventure, go live all in today. We love you!

(beat)

That goes to all our wonderful viewers! I encourage you to trust that God is good and you are all His favorites as well. Then go all in and dream big today.

Jack fiddles with the camera a moment, then it whips quickly back to him.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D

Almost forgot. Your mom and I have hidden your favorite treats in your bedrooms. Eva, I left something for you as well. Quick hint - it's where mom used to hide her thin mints. OK, let the scavenger hunt... begin!

Jack's eyes widen in excitement as the screen goes black.

Everyone stares at the screen.

38 EXT. BOB AND MARIAS. LAKE. MORNING.

Eva stares at the blank screen for a long moment. In the distance the back door opens to Bob and Maria's house as Eric, Astrid, Bob, Maria and a few others march out and toward the Keating house.

Finally, Eva stands. Her eyes curious as she walks toward the Keating house.

39 INT. KEATING HOUSE. MADDY'S ROOM. MORNING.

Maddy's phone is still in her hands, the screen blank. She sits on the windowsill watching as Eric, Astrid, Bob, Maria and a few others approach the house.

She hears the door open. Noise up the stairs. Running feet down the hall.

40 INT. KEATING HOUSE. MID MORNING.

MONTAGE.

Astrid searches her closet.

CUT TO.

Eric goes through his album collection, Bob is with him laughing.

CUT TO.

Maddy throws more clothes into a backpack - angrily. Then she pauses and looks at her nightstand.

CUT TO.

Astrid searches through her dresser drawers, throwing clothes everywhere.

CUT TO.

Eva walks across the basement, opens the freezer and moves some things aside. She smiles as she see's Thin Mints and then stops, a sad smile at what she see's underneath the mints.

CUT TO.

Eric looks under his bed and finds nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CUT TO.

Maddy eyes a shelf in her bedroom. Her eyes narrow. She walks over.

CUT TO.

Eva reaches inside the freezer.

CUT TO.

Maddy gets on tiptoes and looks behind a picture. She sees something further down the shelf. She grabs a bag of sour gummy worms hidden behind a couple of hockey trophies. A sticky note is on the bag that reads "*You are our favorite! We believe in you!*" Maddy is emotional.

CUT TO.

Eric looks in his closet and see's something sticking out of a shoe. He retrieves a bag of pistachios. On the bag is a sticky note that reads "*You are our favorite! We are so proud of you!*" Eric grins.

CUT TO.

Astrid opens a wooden chest at the foot of her bed. A bag of M&M's is there with a sticky note that reads, "*You are our favorite. Dream BIG today, we can't wait to see your play!*"

CUT TO.

Eva stands in front of the opened freezer. She holds a well worn and tattered paperback book. She reads the cover, *The Magician's Nephew, by CS Lewis*. She holds the book like it is the most precious thing in the world. The note reads, "*Found it at the flea market. Love ya, sis!*" Eva is emotional.

Behind Eva, the freezer begins to overflow with water. Water begins to flow down the stairs and the basement window bursts with a flooding wave, and there seems to be a polar bear swimming in the corner of the room- the voice of a little boy echoes fearfully from somewhere far away.

LITTLE JACK O.S.

I can't swim.

LITTLE EVA O.S.

Yes you can, Jack. You just have to imagine...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Eva closes her eyes.

41 INT. LIBRARY. NIGHT.

Two sets of feet walk the aisle of a mammoth library. It is filled almost to the ceiling with books.

AS THEY TURN A CORNER, WE SEE LITTLE JACK AND LITTLE EVA. LITTLE EVA CLUTCHES A NOTEBOOK TO HER CHEST. SHE ALSO HAS A COPY OF THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW.

Little Eva, Little Jack and their mother, MRS. KEATING (25) walk down the aisle pushing a trolley filled with books. Little Jack watches Eva with rapt attention. Mrs. Keating carries a coffee mug in one hand, sipping every now and again as she returns books to shelves. She is clearly mesmerized by her daughters story.

The house lights are off and only the small stand and table lamps are on. The library is closed for the night.

LITTLE EVA

(animated)

...in Storyland, adventure hides
around every corner! Every last bit is
filled with magic and light. And there
is only goodness.

(wide-eyed wonder)

And whatever you imagine becomes real
and a part of the story.

(beat)

What do you see Jack?

LITTLE JACK

(excitedly)

There! I see Fish!

Eva grins at her little brother.

LITTLE EVA

Yes! But these aren't regular fish.
They're Japanese Ryukin Goldfish -
they are beautiful colors of orange,
deep red, blue, white and calico.

(thoughtful)

Mama, did you know only 1 out of every
3,000 calico cats is born male?

Mrs. Keating barks a laugh as her eyebrows rise in surprise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MRS. KEATING

I did not.

(beat)

And what did you say the name of the land was?

LITTLE EVA

It's here Mama...

(motions to Library)

Storyland.

(to Little Jack)

And Jack. In Storyland, we can all swim!

LITTLE JACK

And the clouds are made of cotton candy!

Little Eva grins as her eyes follow something only she can see. Mrs. Keating kneels and leans in. As Little Eva points, Little Jack comes in close to hear his sister's tale.

LITTLE EVA

There.

(points)

Do you see the polar bear swimming through the air.

Little Jack chimes in excitedly as Mrs. Keating stands and walks over to the nearby librarian desk.

LITTLE JACK

Yes! I see it! And a.... a... a cheetah!

Mrs. Keating chortles as she opens a drawer. Inside we see a bottle of almost empty bourbon and an open bottle of oxy. She hesitates only a moment before she grabs the whiskey emptying it into her coffee mug.

Little Eva watches with a look of concern as her mother takes a large gulp. Mrs. Keating takes another swig, closes her eyes and exhales a long breath before she places the mug back down and turns her attention back to the children.

MRS. KEATING

(sincere)

Tell me more.

Little Eva's eyes carry a look of concern as they move from the mug to her mother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MRS. KEATING (CONT'D)

(sad)

What's the matter? Cat's got your tongue?

Little Eva's whispers quietly. Her face turning dark.

LITTLE EVA

Mama, no.

LITTLE JACK

(suddenly fearful)

What? What is it?

Mrs Keating looks sadly at Eva and then at Jack.

MRS. KEATING

(sad)

The Dread.

Eva shakes her head. Mrs Keating looks at her with deep sorrow.

MRS. KEATING (CONT'D)

(smiles sadly)

The Dread.

(beat)

Jack, only good is supposed to live in Storyland.

(a deep sadness)

But I don't know how to stop it, The Dread... It's here.

A darkness seems to hover over the library. Then Mrs Keating takes a deep shaky breath and shifts from sorrow to playful.

MRS. KEATING (CONT'D)

(pleading)

What happens next?

(beat)

Eva?

Little Eva studies her mom, then turns to Jack, collects herself, smiles bravely and shifts back into storyteller mode.

She speaks in a voice that's a mixture of fear and excitement.

LITTLE EVA

The Dread is a vast darkness that
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LITTLE EVA (CONT'D)
 threatens to eat up the entire world.
 It feasts on Heroes and happiness and
 won't stop until there is no story
 left... only darkness.

(shouts)

RUN!

Little Eva sprints away as Little Jack follows excitedly.

ASTRID O.S.

Aunt Eva. Are you ready to go?

42 INT. KEATING HOUSE. KITCHN. MID MORNING.

Eva blinks. She is back in the kitchen.

Astrid stands beside her grinning with backpack in hand.

Behind Eva a butterfly flutters out of the kitchen. Astrid smiles at the butterfly.

Eva nods.

43 EXT. KEATING HOUSE. LATE MORNING.

Maddy sits on a bench swing, waiting. There are lots of family by the jeep. Astrid is there and ready. Eva stands at the back of the jeep that now has a small enclosed trailer attached to it.

BOB

...in case you want to bring anything
 back. There's not a lot of room in the
 Jeep.

Maddy opens her gummy worms and munches a couple.

Maddy spots the thick manilla envelope that is addressed to Jack Keating. She picks it up and studies it a moment before unzipping her backpack and dropping it in.

44 EXT. BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. FRONT YARD. MORNING.

Eric exits the house wearing over the ear headphones, with a backpack slung over his shoulder and his longboard in hand. He is listening to a mellow song. He walks past Maddy.

WE ARE WITH ERIC NOW, HEARING WHAT HE HEARS. THE SONG PLAYS LOUDLY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A bustle of people have walked over from Bob and Marias.

Eric looks toward the jeep. Eva and Bob are at the back. Bob is busy attaching a small u-haul type trailer to the hitch. Bob smiles as he meets Eric's eyes. He leaves the trailer and walks toward him.

Maddy walks over with her backpack. She is emotionless.

Hugs and loving conversation surrounds Eric.

Maria walks the kids out to the jeep.

Bob pulls Eric in close, hugging him and pulling one of the headphones off his ear so he can whisper.

FOR A MOMENT THE VOLUME OF THE SONG GOES DOWN AND WE HEAR BOB'S VOICE.

BOB

I love you, son. Grams and I are proud
of you. We'll see you in a few days.

Eric nods and hugs Bob.

BOB PUTS THE HEADSET BACK ON ERIC'S EAR. THE VOLUME RISES AND WE HEAR ONLY THE SONG AGAIN.

Eric climbs into the jeep.

Astrid wraps Bob and Maria in a hug then throws her backpack in the back and leaps into the jeep.

Bob watches her with a look of concern but says nothing.

Maddy gets in the back seat, crowding her sister and brother. Bob watches. None of the kids sit up front with their aunt.

Eva glances at the empty seat then glares at Bob and Maria before pulling away.

Astrid waves excitedly out the window.

They drive a moment.

The town passes by.

The jeep drives past where the accident happened. Every eye turns to watch as the jeep drives through the intersection. Astrid notes the spot and her joy fades for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Eric closes his eyes and listens to the song.

WE STAY CLOSE ON ERIC'S FACE - HIS EYES CLOSED.

Eric opens his eyes.

A look of confusion.

Astrid is crying and hyperventilating as she yells at Eva.

Maddy is trying to calm Astrid down while also yelling at Eva who is obviously confused.

Eva pulls over to the side of the country road.

Eric takes his headset off, pausing the song.

ASTRID

You can't make me! I won't go. I
won't!

Eric leans forward.

ERIC

What's happening?

MADDY

(to Eva)

You know she's been practicing for
this! Who do you think you are to
decide for her - for any of us?!

Eva doesn't answer. She looks like a cornered animal.

Astrid is terrified for some reason. She bursts into tears.

ASTRID

(pleading)

Please, Aunt Eva, please! I can't miss
it!

Eric speaks a little more emphatically.

ERIC

What's going on?

MADDY

This trip is so important that Astrid
will have to miss her play!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ERIC

She can't miss her play!? It's all
she's been talking about!

Maddy stares daggers at her aunt as Eva squeezes her eyes
shut as she throws back two more pills.

Maddy gives an unbelieving shake of her head.

MADDY

What are you doing?

EVA

(screams)

I DON'T KNOW!

Everyone silences.

EVA CONT'D

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! I don't
know! I didn't ask for this! I didn't
even want you to come!

The tension is strong and Astrid is terrified. Eva realizes
she's been cruel. She takes a deep breath to calm herself.

EVA

Did you know that IED affects nearly
16 million Americans over the course
of their lifetime?

(looks at Maddy through rear view)

Intermittent Explosive Disorder.

(beat)

I don't have it.

(beat)

I'm- I'm sorry.

This explanation does nothing to ease the tension. A mixture
of pain and disgust paint Maddy's face.

Eva exhales again, a long slow breath. She reaches for her
pills.

EVA (CONT'D)

(to Astrid)

We won't miss your play.

(beat)

We will come back early, OK?

ASTRID

Do you promise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

EVA

MhhHm.

In the distance, something large approaches the jeep. Whatever it is, it spans the horizon.

Astrid nods but struggles to look Eva in the eye. Maddy wraps her in a protective hug as she offers Eva a cold stare. Eric retreats back into his headphones.

Eva turns back around.

She palms and swallows two more pills before starting the jeep.

Maddy watches with a look of disdain.

Eva eyes the horizon curiously. A dark violent tsunami is sweeping toward them, destroying everything in its path. Eva takes a deep breath as the enormous wave crashes over the jeep.

CRASHING WAVES AND CHURNING WATER.

Eva and the Keating children all float somewhere deep in the ocean. While floating beneath the water, Maddy watches Eva with a look of disdain.

Eric also floats nearby. He wears his headphones and his eyes are closed.

Astrid floats, watching Eva. After a moment she waves happily at her aunt.

45 INT./EXT. JEEP. CITY ROADS. AFTERNOON.

The jeep drives down city roads.

Eric pauses the music as he scrolls through his phone and pulls up an old post from his father's vlog. His eyes are glued to the screen.

WE STAY ON ERIC, NOT ON THE VIDEO. WE HEAR JACK'S VOICE. HE IS SHOUTING.

JACK O.S. (ON VIDEO)

Ten miles an hour! Your form is good!
You still good?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIC
(muffled voice)
Good!

JACK O.S. (ON VIDEO)
Fifteen miles. You can let go bud!

ERIC
Not yet!

JACK O.S. (ON VIDEO)
Faster? OK! You got this! Seventeen
miles an hour!

The sound of whizzing stops with a tumbling thud and screech of tires. Jack is laughing in an excited and encouraging way.

WE CAN NOW SEE THE PHONE SCREEN. A GOPRO IS MOUNTED TO JACK'S DOOR AND HAS PULLED ONTO THE SHOULDER.

Jack hops out and runs back.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
Eric, are you alright?! That was
awesome! SEVENTEEN MILES AN HOUR!
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!

Eric appears, limping up out of a ditch, carrying his longboard. He is grass stained and angry. He takes off his helmet and throws it to the ground.

ERIC (ON VIDEO)
This is stupid!

Jack places his hands on Eric's shoulders and laughs again.

JACK (ON VIDEO)
Yeah it is! - high rates of speed and
pavement? - what you're trying to do
is scary.
(beat)
Maybe you should just walk away.

ERIC
(annoyed)
I'm not quitting!

JACK (ON VIDEO)
Nah, didn't think so. You've got a
dream and you are chasing it.
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
You got this, son!

Jack says the final line as if it's one he says often.

WE ARE NOW BACK WITH ERIC.

He scrubs away a tear and turns his phone off.

46 INT./EXT. JEEP. AFTERNOON.

Eric, Astrid and Maddy are all crowded in the back seat.

Astrid is drawing a picture in an art book. Eric is listening to music. They are very snug and Astrid seems a little put out by it.

ASTRID
It's squishy back here.

EVA
One of you can sit in the front.

MADDY
We're fine.

Astrid lights up.

ASTRID
I'll sit in the front!

EVA
OK.

Maddy answers quickly and condescendingly.

MADDY
It's against the law. The airbags would kill her instantly.

EVA
Oh... OK.

ASTRID
It's not fair.

EVA
Eric, do you want to sit in the front?

Astrid takes Eric's headphones off his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ASTRID

Aunt Eva wants to know if you want to sit up front.

Eric looks at Maddy who offers a dangerous look. He glances at Eva and shakes his head "no," then puts his headphones back on. Maddy leans over the backseat, looking for something in the back.

MADDY

We need to turn around.

Eva watches Maddy through the rearview mirror. Maddy bites off each word.

MADDY (CONT'D)

We. Need. To. Turn. Around.

Eric sits up straight, taking his headphones off. Eva just looks at Maddy, unsure how to respond.

MADDY (CONT'D)

I forgot my jacket and I'll need it for this stupid trip.

ASTRID

We're not supposed to say stupid!

Maddy glares at Eva.

EVA

I have a jacket. It's a lot nicer than yours. You can use it.

Maddy's eyebrows climb as she leans forward angrily.

MADDY

I don't want your stupid jacket. I don't want anything from you!

ASTRID

We aren't supposed to say stupid!

Eva is stiff as a board and unsure what to do.

ERIC

I have to pee.

Maddy turns and snaps at him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MADDY

How is it possible you have to go
already?

ASTRID

I have to go pee too.

MADDY

I told you both to go at home!

ERIC

I did go at home! I'm not stupid. I
just have to go again.

Astrid yells.

ASTRID

We're not supposed to say
stupid!

EVA

Gas station!

Everyone turns to look at the gas station. You could cut the
tension with a knife.

EVA CONT'D

I can buy you a new jacket.

MADDY

I'd rather freeze.

Maddy turns her back to Eva, folding her arms tight. She is
seething.

Eva pulls into the station and around to a pump.

47 EXT. GASS STATION. COUNTRY ROAD.

As the jeep pulls in, Eva doesn't see a semi truck driving
through from another direction. She slams on the breaks just
as the semi does the same, barely avoiding a collision.

Eva slams her palms on the horn and keeps it pressed for a
full ten seconds.

The driver throws his hands up in disbelief.

All three children in the back watch in uncomfortable
silence.

Eva pulls up the final inches to the pump and takes a breath.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA
(calmly)
You can all go pee now.

All three children climb out of the jeep and walk into the station. Maddy is still seething.

Eva slowly pulls her face from the steering wheel. She exits and walks around to grab the gas line to fill up. She sees the trucker walking toward the shop. He is watching her as he walks.

EVA (CONT'D)
What?!

The gruff, older looking TRUCKER with tattoos all down his arms throws his hands in the air.

TRUCKER
Take it easy, sister. I just want to buy some Cheetos.

The trucker disappears into the shop.

48 EXT. GASS STATION. MID DAY.

Maddy leaves the shop and climbs into the jeep. She slams her door and tuns toward the window.

Eric is already in the car, looking out his window, music playing.

Eva is sitting in the front seat. She puts the car in drive and pulls out.

MONTAGE OF DRIVING THROUGH DIFFERENT COUNTRY ROADS.

49 INT./EXT. JEEP. MID DAY.

Maddy stares out the side window at nothing.

Eric has his headphones on and his eyes closed.

Eva glances irritably at the empty seat beside her.

HOOOONK!!

A loud horn sounds. Eva jumps nervously. The jeep swerves over to the wrong lane then swerves back.

Eva looks in her rear view mirror. The massive semi-truck

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

from the gas station is behind them.

The truck swerves, trying to pull up beside them, honking loudly multiple times.

EVA
(unbelief)
He's certifiable!

Eva speeds up, riding in the center of the two lanes so it can't pass.

Maddy looks behind them and offers Eric a worried look. Eric takes his headphones off.

The truck swerves again and honks multiple times.

Eva speeds up again.

She looks into her rear view again. The trucker's arm is out the window. He is yelling something.

MADDY
What does he want?

ERIC
(nervous)
Maybe you should let him pass...

Eva gives Eric a half crazed look.

The truck swerves again and this time it's too late for Eva to get in front.

A police car that was hiding behind a sign turns its lights on and pulls out to give chase.

The semi pulls up next to the jeep.

Eva manually rolls down her window. The police car follows close behind.

EVA
What?! what?? What do you want?

The semi is now directly beside them.

A look of shock enters Eva's eyes.

Sitting in the passenger seat is Astrid. She is waving excitedly at Eva and her siblings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SHOCK.

Eva turns to look at the back seat. The middle seat is empty.

Eric and Maddy share a guilty, unbelieving look.

As they pull onto the shoulder the police car pulls up.

50 EXT. SIDE OF ROAD. COUNTRY.

FOR THE ENTIRE SCENE WE STAY WITH MADDY AND ERIC AT THE JEEP.

Astrid leaps down from the truck and darts over to Eva who has walked halfway to the truck.

Maddy and Eric are out of the jeep and the trucker is standing next to his big rig. The Policeman speaks to the trucker.

Astrid jumps up and down and is obviously excited about her adventure. She darts over to Maddy and Eric.

The policeman shakes the trucker's hand. The trucker waves to Eva and the kids, then climbs into his big-rig. As he pulls away, the policeman walks up to Eva and talks with her. She gives him her license. He looks at it and then hands it back.

A moment later he tips his hat then walks away. Eva turns toward the jeep as the kids climb in.

51 INT. JEEP. AFTERNOON.

Eva starts the jeep and drives past the policeman who waves at her. She ignores him.

All four of the Keatings stare straight forward. Astrid is the only one who is grinning.

Eva reaches into her jacket pocket, grabbing her pill bottle. She pops the lid and swallows five or six, crunching them like candy.

Maddy and Eric share a concerned look.

ASTRID

Blade let me honk the horn and everything. It was so awesome!

Silent a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA

His name was Blade?

Everyone stares forward again.

ERIC

How much was the ticket?

Eva offers a confused look.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Back there. He gave you a ticket...

EVA

No. He gave me his number.

(beat)

His name is Aaron.

Eric and Maddy's eyebrows raise.

ASTRID

Ohhh! Someone's getting married!

There is another moment of awkward quiet as the jeep drives down the road. Then Astrid asks.

ASTRID (CONT'D)

Who is Evil Ken Evil?

ERIC

It's Evel Knievel.

MADDY

Why?

ASTRID

That's what the policeman called Aunt Eva.

Eva continues to stare ahead. After a moment she begins to giggle, she tries to suppress it, she is fighting her laugh. She can't help it. Astrid begins to giggle, Eva is trying not to laugh but she can't help it. Soon she is crying she is laughing so hard.

The laughter is infectious. Eric can't help but join in. Even Maddy smiles then quickly realizes what she is doing and stops herself.

52 INT/EXT. JEEP. OPEN ROAD.

All three children are in the back seat, staring out the windows silently.

53 INT. JEEP. EVENING.

As they drive into town, nobody is speaking. Maddy stares out the window, deep in thought. The sun hangs low on the horizon.

Eva pulls into an office complex as her phone rings. *It is Bob.* She ignores the call.

MADDY

Where are we going?

Eva parks.

EVA

I have a meeting.

Eva exits the car.

The three kids watch her disappear up a flight up stairs and into a doorway. Maddy's mouth is hanging open in disbelief.

MADDY

Are you kidding me?

Eric puts his headphones back on and leans back, closing his eyes.

Maddy is angry. She exhales a long breath then opens her backpack and eyes the manila envelope.

She opens it and retrieved a stack of papers, flipping through them with a confused look.

Eric takes his headset off and leans in, reading over her shoulder.

54 INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S WAITING ROOM. EVENING.

Eva walks into an office with a small waiting room. A woman sits quietly, reading a magazine.

A receptionist sits at the front desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Eva, what a pleasant surpri-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Receptionist is clearly not being sincere. She looks down at the scheduling pad in front of her.

EVA

Hello Sandra, is Jimmy in?

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry Eva... but *Doctor Carter* is with someone.

Receptionist says the words "Dr. Carter" like she is teaching Eva his title for the 100th time. Eva walks toward the office.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Eva, Eva! You can't go in there!

Eva walks into Dr. Carter's office.

55 INT. DR. CARTER'S OFFICE. EVENING.

A man in his mid 60's (DR. CARTER) sits on a plush chair. His hair and beard are gray and he wears spectacles. Lying on a couch across from him is a large man (DARYL 31) with a thick beard and a sketchy relationship with cleanliness.

DARYL

... but then mom says "I have to get my own place."

Dr. Carter and Daryl look up as Eva enters.

DR. CARTER

Eva.

EVA

Jimmy, I-

DR. CARTER

This isn't appropriate behavior.
(stands)
You need to leave and make an appointment.

EVA

You can't tell me I have a Personality Disorder and then expect me to behave appropriately.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry Doctor, I tried to stop her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. CARTER

Eva, I specifically said you DO NOT have a personality disorder. You know very well - now is not the time.

(confused)

Aren't you supposed to be with your nieces and nephew?

EVA

They're waiting in the jeep. I've been calling you.

Dr. Carter's eyebrows rise.

DR. CARTER

Yes, on my personal phone. How did you even get that number?

EVA

(nods to Receptionist)

It's on Sandra's phone.

RECEPTIONIST

You were on my phone?

EVA

(matter-of-fact)

Yes.

RECEPTIONIST

(upset)

How do, what-

DR. CARTER

You brought the kids here?

EVA

(annoyed)

I already told you. They're in the jeep.

DR. CARTER

(exasperated)

Whatever this is, it's going to have to wait. Darryl is my final appointment for the day and I-

EVA

Jack and Em are dead.

(beat)

They didn't even make it to the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EVA (CONT'D)
airport.

Dr. Carter's jaw drops. Receptionist is in shock. She reaches a hand out to Eva's shoulder. Then she goes further, wrapping her in a hug.

RECEPTIONIST
Oh Eva, I'm so sorry!

Eva is stiff as a board. She shoots Jimmy a "help me," look.

DR. CARTER
(sad/serious)
You didn't think to mention this in
the voice mails?
(beat)
Come in.

Daryl stands up.

DARYL
Do I need to- what should I do?

Dr. Carter shoots an exhausted look at Daryl, but before he can say anything Eva steps in.

Eva looks at Daryl like it's the first time she notices him.

EVA
(matter of fact)
First, you're too old to live with
your mom.

Eva takes his arm. And begins to guide him to the door. Ushering the receptionist out in the process.

EVA CONT'D
(scrunches her nose)
Second, you should shower more often.
(looks him over)
Finally, you have a strong jaw. It's
your best feature. You should shave.

Daryl, who has a pathetic straggle of hair on his chin, stands at the entrance. He is confused, irritated and also... flattered? His hand goes to his chin just as Eva shuts the door on him and the receptionist.

56 EXT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE. EVENING.

Maddy, Eric and Astrid sit in the jeep. Maddy is still thumbing through the thick manuscript. Eric is listening to his music. Astrid is happily humming a song to herself.

Maddy shoots an irritable look at the office complex. She checks her watch and throws the manuscript into her bag. She gets out leaning against the jeep with arms crossed.

Eric takes his headset off and joins her.

Astrid also steps out.

57 INT. DR. CARTER'S OFFICE. EVENING.

Dr. Carter sits in his chair. The death of Jack and Emily has hit him hard. He wipes a tear. Eva is on the couch, fidgeting with pent up frustration.

Eva instinctively grabs the pill bottle from her jacket pocket. She palms two little blue pills and swallows them.

Dr. Carter raises his eyebrows in surprise.

DR. CARTER

You do realize I'm the one who wrote your prescription?

(beat)

Eva, how long have I been your counselor?

EVA

19 years, 3 months and 2 days.

Dr. Carter leans in.

DR. CARTER CONT'D

Did you know Bob and Maria were my suggestion? I played no small role in helping place you and Jack in their home.

Eva is stunned.

EVA

You've never mentioned this.

DR. CARTER CONT'D

It wasn't relevant before now.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. CARTER CONT'D (CONT'D)

Your case worker thought the two of you were hopeless. Six homes in four years. He wanted to split you up.

(pauses and smiles)

The first time I met you both I knew you were special. Jack was bright-eyed and you so wild, and... brilliant... and lost.

(beat)

You remember that first session?

EVA

You wore a yellow cartigan.

(beat)

You said Jack and I were a good team... and also that I was intelligent,

(beat)

and mouthy.

DR. CARTER

(smiles)

You hated me. So distrustful - and understandably.

(intense)

Eva, your mom died. You felt left behind. But she didn't leave, she died. Listen to me, now. Jack and Emily- they didn't leave you either.

A tear traces Eva's face.

DR. CARTER CONT'D

(emotional)

They died. And I'm so sorry.

(beat)

But it isn't about you. It had nothing to do with you. You aren't broken, you are in pain. The kind of pain that comes with loving deeply.

(beat)

You can spend the rest of your life looking for the right disorder to make room for your pain, or you can choose to face it.

(beat)

Those children need you. And you need them.

Eva offers a curious look at Dr. carter on that last

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

statement. It matches what Bob had said the night before.

DR. CARTER CONT'D (CONT'D)

It's time to stop hiding. It's time to be brave.

(sad smile)

It's time to- how does Jack put it?

EVA

(breathless)

All in.

DR. CARTER

That's right, it's time to live all in.

SLAM!

The office door bangs open to reveal a fuming Maddy. Eric is there as well, his headphones around his neck with Astrid beside him. Receptionist is flustered.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, Doctor Carter, I-

MADDY

What is this place?

(to Eva)

Are you seeing a shrink? Is this the real reason you dragged us here!

DR. CARTER

(kindly)

Hello, Maddy, so amazing to finally meet you. I see you've cut your hair, I like it.

Eva grabs her pill bottle and palms two more pills. Dr. Carter gently takes hold of her hand and offers a small shake of his head.

Eva thinks a moment, then drops the pills back in the bottle.

Dr. Carter takes in all three children. He has a very calming and fatherly way about him.

DR. CARTER CONT'D

Eric?

(eric nods)

I hear you're quite the long-boarder!

(bends down)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DR. CARTER CONT'D (CONT'D)
 And you must be Astrid!
 (Astrid grins back)
 Do you still want to be an actress?

ASTRID
 Uhuh. I have a play in a couple days!

DR. CARTER
 I know! You'll be amazing.
 (stands and looks at them all)
 Your aunt spends half of her sessions
 in here bragging about you three.

None of the children know how to respond. Dr. Carter changes his tone.

DR. CARTER CONT'D
 (gently- to Maddy first)
 I knew your dad when he was just a
 boy, and I met your mom once - they
 were extraordinary people. I am sorry.
 (beat)
 Your aunt came here to ask for my
 advice. Can I tell you what I told
 her?

Maddy is emotional, but nods ascent.

DR. CARTER
 What you are experiencing now is a
 sorrow too heavy to carry alone. The
 only way through this darkness is
 together. You're mom and dad knew
 this.

58 INT. EVA'S CONDO. NIGHT.

Eva parks the jeep. The parking space is too tight to keep the trailer connected. She gets out and walks around to the back, disappearing from view as she bends down, then back up. She turns the crank. Eric watches her. Astrid is asleep. Maddy stares forward, deep in thought.

The jeep moves a little. Then Eva pushes the empty trailer into its own spot.

Maddy and Eric climb out. Eva leans in and grabs Astrid, carrying her while she sleeps.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Eva walks up the stairs to the small condo and finds the keys, opening the door.

59 INT. EVA'S CONDO. NIGHT.

Eva enters and flips on a light. The condo is sparse. There are no pictures on the walls. But on the coffee table is a picture of the Keating family.

Besides a small couch, Eva only has bookshelves. Lots of them.

The kitchen and lounge run together. A small bathroom and bedroom are the only other rooms.

Each bookshelf is a mix of Eva's notepads intermingled with fiction and nonfiction books.

Maddy and Eric walk in. They are in awe. There are more than a hundred well-worn journals.

Eva opens the bedroom door and places Astrid on the bed. She exits the room and speaks to Maddy and Eric in a quiet voice.

Eva walks back to the front door and disappears outside.

Maddy and Eric stand for a moment looking at the books.

Maddy grabs one of Eva's notepads and sits on the couch, flipping it open.

A moment later Eva returns with a small fishbowl in hand. A little goldfish swims inside the bowl.

Eric eyes the bowl. Eva stops, momentarily awkward.

EVA

This is Jack Fish. He was staying with the neighbor.

Maddy offers Eva a "are you kidding me?" look. Eva sees Maddy is holding one of her notebooks. She sets Jack Fish on the kitchen counter, walks over and grabs the notebook from Maddy.

EVA CONT'D

These are private.

Eva walks away with the notebook tight against her chest. She is afraid? She softens somewhat and tries to explain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA CONT'D (CONT'D)
Please... they're... private.

ERIC
What are they?

Eva hesitates.

EVA
They're my stories.

Eva goes to a closet and grabs some extra sheets - She can't meet the children's eyes. She glances around as if only now realizing she has three kids in her private space. Notebooks similar to the one she is holding are everywhere.

EVA (CONT'D)
Um, you all can share my bed. I'll sleep out here on the couch.

Maddy and Eric share a look. Eva stands next to the door, waiting for them.

ERIC
So I guess we're going to sleep then?

EVA
OK.

Maddy marches into the bedroom. Eric follows.

ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE IS A COPY OF THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW AS WELL AS A BOOK TITLE, "THE JOURNEY OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY."

Eva closes the door and leans hard against the wall.

60 INT. EVA'S CONDO. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Eric and Maddy share a "this is strange" look, but neither say a word. Eric lays down on a padded, reclining chair and closes his eyes.

Maddy walks back to the bedroom door and almost opens it. She stops herself, then leans against it, sliding down to a sitting position.

After a moment she opens her backpack and her eyes land on the package addressed to her father. She retrieves it again. This time we can see that it is a manuscript titled "*Jack and the Hidden World, by Eva Keating.*"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Maddy thumbs through to where she left off earlier and continues reading.

61 INT. EVA'S CONDO. NIGHT.

Eva struggles to breathe. She grabs her bag, reaching in to retrieve *The Magician's Nephew*.

Eva leans against the bookshelf that contains four other copies of the book, each with the same cover. She slides down, still leaning against it. Eva stares at the cover for a long moment before closing her eyes in exhaustion.

62 INT. LIBRARY. NIGHT.

Little Eva and Little Jack hide beneath a table. Little Eva whispers in her brother's ear.

LITTLE EVA

The Heroes could flee no longer.
Approaching at breakneck speed, and
destroying all joy, destroying
Storyland, was The Dread!

Little Jack can barely contain his excitement.

LITTLE JACK

(whisper)
The Heroes had to fight!

Little Eva smiles and nods to her little brother then points at her mother's approaching feet and makes a "shushing" motion.

Mrs. Keating has arrived at the end of the aisle, but doesn't know where her children are. She walks past the table and Little Eva's hand darts out, catching hold of her mother's ankle. Her mother squeals and leaps back.

LITTLE EVA

Got ya!

Little Jack screams excitedly while his mother stumbles and laughs. Both children dart out from beneath the table. Mrs. Keating is drunk. Eva reads her mom's body language and for a moment hesitates.

Then Mrs. Keating offers a roguish grin and darts over to grab a broom that sticks out of a nearby Janitors cart. Little Eva grins as she sees a cane that's been left behind at one of the reading tables. She runs over and grabs it and

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

then climbs up to stand on a reading table.

MRS. KEATING
Argh. I'm The Dread!

Little Jack squeals and he scrambles up on top of the table. Mrs. Keating steps into her role and speaks in her best "evil voice."

MRS. KEATING (CONT'D)
(menacing)
I have come to destroy Storyland! I
will steal your happiness and replace
it with dread!

CAMERA MOVES BEHIND MRS. KEATING. AS SHE BREAKS FRAME WE ARE NOW INSIDE THE IMAGININGS OF THE KEATINGS.

THEY ARE STILL IN THE LIBRARY, BUT IT IS MORE MAGICAL THAN IT HAD BEEN A MOMENT EARLIER. SPARKLING LIGHT ILLUMINATES THE LAND AND THE LIBRARY HAS SHIFTED SO THAT IS NOW HALF JUNGLE, HALF LIBRARY.

Scores of colorful fish, a lion, polar bear, and a cheetah swim through the air. Magical creatures climb on the shelves and rest of the trees. Little Jack and Little Eva are dressed like warriors from another land.

Mrs. Keating is dressed like an evil queen, cloaked in darkness.

MRS. KEATING (CONT'D)
I will get you children if it be the
last thing I do!

Little Eva looks at Little Jack.

LITTLE EVA
Jack! Remember, the Heroes can fly!

Little Jack whoops and hollers in excitement as he leaps upward and doesn't come back down.

Little Eva grins at her brother before leaping up and somersaults through the air, flying toward her mother.

LITTLE EVA (CONT'D)
(shouts)
Attack!

Colorful lights sparkle as magic fills the library. Mrs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Keating stretches out her hands, hurling "shadow bombs." The bombs explode in the air, sending shadow and flames outward. The children somersault through the air, narrowly missing being hit. Mrs. Keating leaps upward flying toward her children while unsheathing her sword.

The fight is pure magic with the children flying around and fighting their mother. Mrs. Keating throwing out shadow bombs and sword fighting.

Wonder and laughter.

Mrs. Keating sweeps her sword around, barely missing Little Eva's head.

LITTLE EVA (CONT'D)

Jack!

(breathless)

We must work together! The only way to defeat The Dread and save Storyland is if we work together!!

Little Jack slices through shadows and he flies toward Eva.

For just a moment we're back in the real library. Little Jack is leaping off a table and rolling across the floor while Little Eva is being spun around by her mother.

WE SWIVEL AROUND EVA AND ARE BACK IN STORYLAND.

All around them, fish, a lion, a polar bear, stingrays and cheetah's swim through the air.

Little Eva wrestles with her mother whose hand goes to her chest, over her heart.

Little Eva stops fighting as her mother struggles to breathe.

WE ARE BACK IN THE LIBRARY.

Mrs. Keating leans heavily against a table, trying to catch her breath. She is obviously dizzy.

Little Jack has yet to realize the story is over. He wields an upside down broomstick like a sword and is fighting a number of unseen villains and shouting.

LITTLE JACK

Take that! And that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LITTLE EVA

Jack!
 (beat)
 JACK!

Little Jack stops with a look of shock. Mrs. Keating leans against a bookshelf. She is pale and breathless.

MRS. KEATING

It's OK.
 (pained)
 Just need to sit down.

Mrs. Keating walks over to the children's section of the library where she sits down on a thick beanbag. Both children walk over. Jack climbs on the beanbag. Eva stands and watches. She is concerned. The Library grows dark.

Little Jack lays his head on his mother's lap. Little Eva continues to stand.

MRS. KEATING (CONT'D)

Come here, darling.

Little Eva climbs into the beanbag and snuggles up to her mom. Mrs. Keating strokes Little Jack's head as she looks at Little Eva. She picks up a book about Monarch butterflies.

MRS. KEATING (CONT'D)

(slurs)
 My beautiful butterfly.
 (ruffles Jack's hair)
 You can protect him.
 (slurred)
 I'm so sorry.

Little Eva doesn't know who the apology is for. Jack has closed his eyes and fallen asleep.

LITTLE EVA

It's ok, mama.

MRS. KEATING

(nods)
 That's your favorite?

Eva follows her mom's gaze to *The Magician's Nephew* from the stack of books on the floor next to her.

LITTLE EVA

It's about a girl and a boy and a
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

LITTLE EVA (CONT'D)
magic world.

Mrs. Keating seems to be falling asleep. But then opens her eyes.

MRS. KEATING
Read it to me.

Eva sits up and begins to read.

LITTLE EVA
After Digory had looked at the wood for a long time he noticed that there was a girl lying on her back at the foot of a tree a few yards away. Her eyes were nearly shut but not quite. as if she were just between sleeping and waking.
(beat)
Mama?
Mama?

No reply.

Something is wrong.

Little Eva

LITTLE EVA (CONT'D)
Mama?

The Magician's Nephew falls to the floor as Little Eva kneels beside her unconscious mother we see the book still clutched in Mrs. Keating's hands. The book titled, "The Journey of the Monarch Butterfly."

63 INT. EVA'S LOUNGE. MORNING.

Jack Fish swims around in his bowl.

Morning light breaks in from the lounge window.

64 INT. EVA'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

Astrid opens her eyes.

She stares out the window. After a moment she sits up and stretches.

Maddy sleeps next to her on the bed. Eric is curled up on the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

floor.

65 INT. EVA'S LOUNGE. MORNING.

Astrid exits the bedroom to a mostly empty lounge with a number of carefully labeled boxes. Eva has packed up all her books.

The front door is open and she is busy carrying boxes out to the jeep.

Astrid peers out the front door. The trailer is almost full of boxes.

Eva has worked through much of the night.

Astrid smiles at the boxes and nods approvingly at her aunt.

66 INT. EVA'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

Eric opens groggy eyes. He sits up and stares out the window a moment.

His eyes pop wide as he jumps up. He is in his boxers and a t-shirt.

ERIC

What time is it?

Maddy opens her eyes. She is immediately irritated with him for waking her up.

ERIC CONT'D

Maddy!

MADDY

(groggy)

I don't know.

ERIC

Maddy! Dad's video!

Maddy hops up and grabs her phone.

THE PHONE SHOWS 8:13 AM.

MADDY

It's already up!

Astrid pokes her head in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ASTRID
Whatcha doing?

ERIC
Dad's video!

Astrid leaps into the room as all three children are a mixture of excitement and anxiety as Maddy opens the webpage on her phone.

Maddy looks up to see Eva walk in with a roll of packing tape.

MADDY
(anger)
I can't believe you didn't wake us!

Eva's eye's widen as she realizes what Maddy is talking about. She glances at the phone.

EVA
(worried)
What time is it?

Maddy is exasperated. Eric leans in as the video loads and presses "play."

Emily is sitting at the breakfast table. She is in her PJ's. It's clearly early in the morning. She smiles at the camera.

EMILY (ON VIDEO)
Hey kids... and hello to everyone else. I'm sorry but I don't have any witticisms for you this morning. I need coffee for that. Speaking of...

Emily reaches off screen and grabs a steaming mug.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
So, your father- Jack, for the rest of you, asked me to "guest host" the video for this morning. He thought it would be a "great honor." He's so cute.

Emily takes another sip of coffee and then reaches off screen again.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
I've been thinking about how faith works.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Emily has a domino in her hand, showing it to the camera.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 Yes kids, I'm about to give an object
 lesson. No groaning.

Emily sets up the domino and then sets up a larger domino
 next to it. You can see she is in her element.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 Did you know a domino is capable of
 knocking over another domino that is
 one-and-a-half times its size?

She pushes the first domino that knocks over the second.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 A two-inch domino can topple a three-
 inch domino.
 (leans in)
 And get this, a three inch will topple
 a four and a half inch and by the time
 you get twenty-eight dominos down, you
 could take down the Empire State
 Building.
 (eyes brighten)
 So here's the big idea. Ready? Faith
 is exponential.

Emily smiles like she has just performed rocket science.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 Kids, every decision we make has a
 chain reaction. It's an amazing thing
 to realize that the smallest act of
 faith can transform not just our lives
 but the world we live in.
 (beat)
 God is love, His love is always good,
 He can be trusted. That is where your
 dad and I have put our faith. And we
 are daily discovering that this faith
 can be as small as one domino but when
 we exercise it, well, the impact is
 beyond anything we can imagine.

Emily gives hand motions and a sound effect to show the
 empire state building falling.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 So whatever your challenge today,
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 don't lose faith. The smallest
 decision can change your world.

Emily leans back smiling.

EMILY (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 That goes for everyone else watching
 as well. You too, Eva.

(beat)

OK. Even though I'm sure your dad and
 I are having a grand adventure, I am
 certain we are missing you! We're
 praying for you. We'll see you all
 soon.

(leans into camera)

Back in tome for your play, Astrid.
 Love you-bye!

Emily leans forward to press a button. The video ends.

67 EXT. EVA'S APARTMENT. MORNING.

Eva stands just outside her mostly empty apartment, a small,
 Buffalo Trace box at her feet. She scans her home one last
 time. The bookshelves are empty. The furniture, a couple of
 lamps and a vase remain. After a long moment she takes a deep
 breath and closes the door, then locks it.

She picks up the box, walks to the opened trailer and places
 it inside next to several other boxes. There is also some
 sheets, a chair and a pile of clothes still on hangers.

The kids all stand outside, leaning against the jeep and the
 trailer. They watch their aunt silently. Eva closes the
 trailer.

68 INT./EXT. JEEP. MORNING.

Maddy and Eva are in the jeep. Maddy is in the back seat as
 Eva is backing it up to the trailer. Eric and Astrid stand
 next to the trailer. The fish bowl is on the ground next to
 Astrid. Eric is waving, guiding Eva in.

ERIC

Keep coming. Left, more left, a little
 more, a little more, keep it coming.

ASTRID

(also trying to help)
 Almost there. Left!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOOM. The jeep runs into the trailer.

ERIC

Stop!

ASTRID

Perfect!

Eva's eyes find Maddy in the rearview mirror. Maddy cracks a small smile. She can't help it.

69 EXT. JEEP. MORNING.

The kids watch as Eva bends over the trailer hitch, wrestling to get it attached.

70 INT./EXT. JEEP. MID MORNING.

Everyone sits silently, staring forward as Eva drives.

Astrid holds Jack Fish, sticking her finger in the water and trying to pet him.

EVA

Mom used to take Jack and I to the most fantastic playground. There were tall yellow metal slides. As tall as trees with swings that went into the clouds.

(excited)

And there was a merry-go-round that we used to pretend was a UFO.

(seems to change the subject)

In 1992 there were comprehensive statewide regulations for playground safety, implemented.

(looks at Maddy)

They were the result of a national survey's findings that swings, slides, and merry-go-round's accounted for 71% of playground accidents.

The kids are confused, but they are still giving Eva all their attention.

EVA (CONT'D)

(sad to Astrid)

They don't make merry-go-rounds anymore.

(thoughtful, almost pained)

I haven't been to that park since mom

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA (CONT'D)

died.

(glances back)

Do you want to see it?

All three children nod "yes."

The jeep suddenly jumps two lanes and does a wild u-turn. The u-haul hops a curb and bounces around for a moment as sparks fly.

Astrid barely manages to keep hold of Jack Fish.

Eric grins at the stunt.

71 EXT. HIGHWAY. MORNING.

THE JEEP DRIVES DOWN THE HIGHWAY.

THE JEEP DRIVES DOWN A COUNTRY ROAD.

THE JEEP DRIVES DOWN A MOUNTAIN ROAD. FAR BELOW IS A MEANDERING LAKE. IT IS STUNNING.

BESIDE THE LAKE ARE A NUMBER OF FALLING DOMINOES. EACH DOMINO IS FALLING INTO A DOMINO ONE AND A HALF TIMES IT'S SIZE. SOON, THE DOMINOS AT THE END ARE THE SIZE OF SKY RISERS.

THE JEEP DRIVES INTO A MAMMOTH WALMART PARKING LOT.

72 INT./EXT. WALMART PARKING LOT. AFTERNOON.

The jeep is parked in front of the Walmart. A lone butterfly flaps past the Keatings and into the darkness. Astrid's eyes follow it a moment.

Astrid stares at the building with a perplexed look.

ASTRID

The merry-go-round is in Walmart?

73 INT. WALMART. AFTERNOON.

Eva and the kids walk the aisle. Astrid still holds Jack Fish.

Eva stops suddenly in the middle of the sporting goods aisle.

EVA

(points)

There was a baseball field over there.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA (CONT'D)

And a small creek between the field
and the playground.

(smiles)

I remember one time this bully, Jamie
Doogle- he called me names from across
the creek.

(thinks)

Odd Eva. Odd Eva.

(disbelief)

Jack was so mad he skipped a rock at
Doogle.

(smiles)

It hit him in the stomach.

MADDY

What happened.

EVA

We ran.

ERIC

Did he chase you?

Eva is distracted. She walks a few paces to the middle of the
isle then sits and lays flat on the floor.

EVA

The merry-go-round was right here.

Astrid watches Eva, then places Jack Fish down and lays next
to her aunt.

Eric and Maddy stare a moment. Eric joins.

Finally Maddy also joins.

Eva opens her eyes and stares at the ceiling.

They all stare at the ceiling as Eva speaks.

EVA (CONT'D)

Jack's always been my best friend.

(beat)

After mom died, he was the only one
who understood me... who didn't see me
as odd or... "broken."

Maddy becomes emotional at Eva's words.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EVA (CONT'D)

We would get the merry-go-round spinning as fast as it would go and then lie down and make believe.

(closes her eyes and smiles)

This is the first place we played the Story Game.

ERIC

Dad always said you were the best storyteller in the world.

Eva is slightly nervous at the compliment.

MADDY

Why did you stop?

Eva takes a moment to answer.

EVA

After mom died we had no one. We lived in an orphanage for a year and then a number of foster homes. It... it wasn't good. Your dad and I escaped into my stories because they were the only safe place for us.

(winces)

Eventually we ended up with Bob and Maria... and Jack was finally protected. He didn't need my stories anymore.

Eva smiles, but it's a sad smile.

EVA CONT'D

But not me- I was a rudderless boat in an angry sea.

(beat)

So I left. I moved back to the last place I felt safe. At least, that's what Jimmy says.

(clinical)

Reclusive personality is a widespread pattern of inhibition around people, feeling inadequate and being very sensitive to negative evaluation.

(beat)

I've not been diagnosed with RPD though.

Maddy watches Eva out of the corner of her eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MADDY

Dad said your imagination could make
him see invisible worlds.

(beat)

Would you tell us a story?

Eva stiffens.

EVA

Mom always said that she could feel
God smile when I told my stories.

WALMART EMPLOYEE

I don't know what this is, but you all
need to get off the floor before my
manager sees.

All four Keatings look over at WALMART EMPLOYEE (late teens).
He is unimpressed and confused. Eva ignores him.

EVA

(sincere)

Can I show you our most favorite place
in the whole world?

The kids all nod and Eva sits up.

EVA (CONT'D)

Great. I just gotta get one thing
first.

74 INT./EXT. JEEP. WALMART PARKING LOT. AFTERNOON.

CLOSE UP OF EVA'S SHOES AS SHE WALKS WITH THE KIDS TOWARD THE
JEEP. SHE IS WEARING THE SHOES SHE NOTED ON JAYDEN.

THE JEEP DOORS CLOSES.

Full night has fallen as the jeep drives down the highway.

Maddy and Eric watch Eva as if seeing her for the first time.
Eric isn't wearing his headphones.

ERIC

What did Dad leave for you in the
freezer?

Eva retrieves the book from her bag. Eric and Maddy share a
look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ASTRID

That's Dad's favorite!

EVA

(speaks almost to herself)

"The Wood between the Worlds," said Polly, dreamily. It sounds rather nice."

(Eva offers a sad smile)

When we went to the orphanage Jack and I would dream of escaping to another world like Digory and Polly do.

Eva pulls into a large parking lot.

She cuts the engine and exits. She is clearly afraid.

ASTRID

What are we doing here?

Eva starts walking without looking back.

EVA

Follow me.

All three kids exit and follow their aunt. Astrid still carrying Jackfish.

Eva walks past the main doors and over to a small alley.

In the middle of the alley is a door for janitorial staff. Eva pushes on it.

The door clicks open. Eva smiles.

The Keatings enter the building.

75 INT. LIBRARY. NIGHT.

The library is closed for the night. Nobody is inside. *It is the same library we have been in before.*

MADDY

I don't think we're supposed to be in here.

All three children are in awe at the mammoth library. EVA WALKS PURPOSEFULLY, MANEUVERING THROUGH THE ROWS OF BOOKS AND INTO THE CENTER OF THE MAJESTIC LIBRARY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA

We're not.

Eva goes behind the librarian's desk and flips a switch. Lamps turn on throughout, offering small, pools of light.

ERIC

What are we doing?

Eva walks over to Astrid and takes the fishbowl, setting Jackfish on the librarian's desk.

She walks deeper into the library trailed by Astrid.

Maddy and Eric share a concerned look before following.

Eva is nervous. She has not shared her stories with anyone except her mom and Jack. Yet when she speaks, she uses the tone and voice of a master storyteller. As she speaks, any oddness or stiffness disappears.

EVA

The Heroes had no idea the Dread was coming.

Astrid can barely contain herself, jumping up and down.

ASTRID

Dad always tells stories of the Heroes. Are the flying animals here as well?!

A small smile crosses Eva's face. *Jack told them my stories?* Astrid's face lights up as she turns in a slow circle.

Eva kneels beside Astrid and nods.

EVA

Can you see them?

Astrid shakes her head "no."

EVA CONT'D

There. And there. Turtles, a lion,
(points in another direction)
a school of fish.

ASTRID

I see them! Oh, and there's a bear!

Eric smiles and clearly wants to join but is holding back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Maddy seems uncomfortable.

EVA CONT'D

You need to be careful, most of them
are harmless, but they are wild
animals.

Wonder and fear paint Astrid's face as she looks around the
library.

EVA CONT'D (CONT'D)

Astrid the Brave couldn't have been
more terrified. She knew there was
danger nearby.

(fearfully)

Oh no. It's coming!

Eva's head jerks up as if she just heard a sound. A look of
terror enters her eyes.

ASTRID

What? What is it?

EVA

Run!

Eva sprints away, disappearing down an aisle.

Astrid watches a moment, then grins as she darts after her
aunt. Maddy and Eric share a considering look before
following at a walk.

Astrid arrives at the end of the aisle to see Eva drop to the
floor and leopard crawl underneath a table. *It is the same
table she and Jack hid under years ago.*

Astrid drops and joins her aunt.

ASTRID

What is it? What's happening?

Eva makes a shushing motion with her finger as Maddy and Eric
arrive at the end of the aisle. They don't know where Eva and
Astrid are.

EVA

(soft whisper)

This enemy has become far more
dangerous over the years. If they
touch you, you'll be turned to stone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Maddy and Eric take a few steps, searching. Eric is smiling while Maddy is clearly deep in thought.

Eric walks past the table. Eva's hand shoots out and grabs his ankle. Eric shrieks and leaps back.

Astrid dies laughing as she and Eva scramble out. Eva darts to the nearest bookshelf and grabs two armfuls of books and quickly begins scattering them all over the library floor.

EVA (CONT'D)

(to Astrid)

Quick, grab some StoryMines. Anyone who touches them will be blown to smithereens.

Astrid sees Eva and does the same. Eva and Astrid stalk around the table, keeping Eric safely on the other side. They continue scattering books as they go.

Maddy hangs back, watching closely as she runs her fingers along the books with a look of deep concentration.

MADDY

Aunt Eva...

Eva doesn't hear her. She turns to Eric and tosses one at him. He ducks. He can't help but smile at the absurdity of it.

ASTRID

(points at Maddy)

You won't capture me! I am Astrid the Brave and I will fight!

Eva darts to a side cubby where the janitor's cart is kept.

She grabs two brooms, a mop and a long duster.

Eva throws a broom to Eric who grabs it out of the air and offers a mop to Astrid. Maddy has turned her attention fully to Eva.

MADDY

Aunt Eva!

Eva finally slows, turning to Maddy.

MADDY CONT'D

Is this Storyland?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Eva stops and nods to Maddy with a knowing smile. Eric and Astrid look around the library with an even greater sense of wonder.

ERIC

It's real!

Eva turns to Eric and swings the broom wildly.

Eric's eyes widen in shock as he leaps back. Eva doesn't hesitate, but leaps atop one of the tables, takes a running step and dives to the top of another table and then leaps off to land directly in front of Astrid.

EVA

The only way to defeat the Dread is to work together!

Astrid laughs as she crawls onto a chair and then jumps up to a table in front of Maddy.

Astrid swings her mop forcefully. Maddy knows Astrid doesn't have the skill - to not hit her. She steps back. Astrid points at the the Storymines.

ASTRID

Careful not to step on a Storymine or you'll be blown up!

Eva swings at Eric again who dives into a roll, with broom in hand.

Eva dashes to the librarian's desk and grabs a handful of rubber-bands.

She hops atop a table, and shoots one at Maddy..

EVA

(to Astrid)

I think we just found the leader of the Dread.

Maddy looks back at Eva. Eva has a second rubber band aimed at Maddy with a smile on her face. A slow smile spreads across Maddy's face. She looks back and spies a water bottle on the janitor cart next to her. She darts back and turns to her aunt with a wicked grin. She aims it at Eva.

Eva places her hands up warily taking a step back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MADDY

All hail Dread, Maddy!

She squirts the water and Eva ducks. The water instead sprays Eric.

Astrid burst out laughing.

SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING BURSTS INTO MOTION. WE CIRCLE BEHIND EVA AND WHEN SHE BREAKS FRAME WE ARE NOW IN THEIR IMAGININGS.

Astrid does not come down from her leap. She can now fly. All of them can.

All four now wear fantastical costumes. Fish, turtles, stingrays, a bear and polar bear, and a cheetah swim through the air. High above the giant butterfly flitters.

Eva flies toward Eric with sword outstretched. They meet in mid-air, circling around in a deadly duel. Each time their swords meet, lightning flashes across the library.

Astrid flips over Maddy's head and when she lands she sweeps Maddy's feet out from under her. Maddy is laughing as she falls.

To her great fear, Maddy realizes she has fallen directly on a Storymine.

She screams as she is blown to smithereens.

76 INT. LIBRARY. CHILDREN'S SECTION. NIGHT.

Eric is sleeping on one beanbag and Astrid on another. Eva and Maddy are laying on bean bags next to each other. Astrid is laying next to Eva as Eva runs her fingers through Astrid's hair.

Hanging from wires above the children's section of the library are a number of plastic animals. There are fish, a polar bear, a cheetah, and more.

MADDY

(whisper)

I'm so angry. All the time. At you, at mom and dad...

(beat)

at God.

As Eva listens tears leak from her eyes. For a long moment, nobody speaks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA

I left your dad with Bob and Maria the moment I turned 18.

(beat)

I was so angry. At my mom, at the loss of my home, at God. Bob would preach about how God was good. But how could He be good? You know?

Maddy nods, but doesn't move from Eva's side.

EVA CONT'D

But your dad never stopped believing in me, loving me. Your mom too. They never lost trust.

(beat)

I haven't had faith for a long time, and I don't know how God's goodness works...

(looks at Maddy)

but I know what it looks like.

Eva shifts so she can look Maddy in the eyes. Maddy is looking intently at her Aunt, like she is seeing her for the first time, like she is giving her the answers to the universe. Eva reaches out and touches Maddy's face.

EVA CONT'D (CONT'D)

And it's beautiful...

Maddy smiles very slightly. Then she moves a little closer to her aunt and closes her eyes.

MADDY

(whispers)

Please don't leave us.

EVA

Never.

77 EXT. LIBRARY. EARLY MORNING.

The first rays of sun land on Eva's face.

The library has a sparkling brilliance to it.

78 INT. LIBRARY. EARLY MORNING.

Eva and the kids are all asleep on bean bags in the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

children's reading section. Eva is in a slouched, sitting position with her back against a wall of books. Maddy, Eric and Astrid are all around her. Astrid has her head on Eva's lap. Maddy and Eric sleep on either side, leaning into her. Jack Fish is beside Astrid.

TEDDY

Hello?

Eva opens her eyes and blinks at the morning light. TEDDY (50), wears a janitor's uniform and is pushing the half empty janitor's cart.

Eric and Astrid open their eyes, sitting up and stretching awkwardly.

EVA

Teddy. Hi. I like your hat.

Teddy's eyes shift to the kids and to all of the books scattering the library floor. Eva quickly clues back in.

EVA CONT'D

This is Maddy, Eric and Astrid.

(to kids)

This is Teddy. He... he works here.

Eric offers a half smile and wave of his hand.

TEDDY

Hi...

(to Eva)

I thought you were gone for the week.

(looks around)

Did you sleep here again?

Eva nods.

MADDY

You work here?

Eva smiles secretively at Maddy as though she played a good joke on her.

EVA

(to Teddy)

I won't be working here anymore Teddy.

I am going to live with my nieces and nephew.

Teddy assesses the situation, thinking a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TEDDY

OK, Eva.
 (beat)
 I'll miss you.

Eva stands and moves her hand to clap Teddy on the shoulder then stops herself awkwardly.

EVA CONT'D

Thank you.
 (to kids)
 Let's go. We have a play to get to.

Teddy watches them go. Eva and the kids exit the library. Astrid carries Jack Fish.

79 IXT./EXT. JEEP. EARLY MORNING.

The jeep pulls out of the library. The sunrise is stunning.

Everyone stares out the window as they drive. No one speaks, but there is relative peace. Maddy is in the back seat. After a moment she retrieves the manuscript from her backpack and continues reading.

All are still hurting, but the night before has gone a long way toward the beginnings of healing.

As they drive, a burnt out field they are driving past suddenly shows signs of life as a few beautiful flowers and a tree begin to sprout.

80 EXT. WAFFLE HOUSE. MORNING.

The Keatings sit on the curb outside a Waffle House.

Astrid is happy. She stretches her arms high. Eric holds Eva's phone. On Eva's plate is a half eaten soggy waffle.

ASTRID

Those were the best waffles ever!

ERIC

You say that every time.

ASTRID

That's because it's true every time.

Eric pushes a button.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVA

Did you know that waffles have been
around since the 14th century?

Maddy, Eric and Astrid look at Eva. Maddy smiles.

ERIC

It's up!

Jack Keatings blog begins to play.

JACK (ON VIDEO)

Hello friends. Thanks for hanging out
with our family these last several
days! I just watched Em's video before
I added it to the queue, and WOW! So
good. I married way up.

(checks his watch)

Rather than anything new, I want each
of you to go back and watch Em's video
again. And then... are you ready?

Excitement shines in Jack's eyes.

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D

Hashtag Domino Faith.

(Jack is proud of himself)

I challenge each of you to trust God
and risk in a way you never have
before. Go all in. Knock over some
domino's today!

EMILY (O.S.)

Jack! There will be no Inca trail if
we don't go, now!

JACK (ON VIDEO) CONT'D

Right! OK Kids, by now we're flying
39,000 feet somewhere just south of
Miami. We'll be home soon!

EMILY (ON VIDEO) O.S.

I'm leaving now.

JACK (ON VIDEO)

(laughs)

Gotta go.

(calls out to Emily)

I need two minutes to add this last
video to the queue!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)
 Kids, we love you, we miss you and we
 will see you tonight at Astrids play!

Jack turns the gopro, we see Emily carrying her bag down the stairs. Maddy, Eric and Astrid are at the bottom of the stairs. Jack turns the camera on his family.

EMILY (ON VIDEO)
 We love you so much and we will miss
 you so much.

We watch Emily hug each child and kiss them on the forehead. Jack turns the camera on himself with the kids in background

JACK (ON VIDEO)
 OK, we're off on a grand adventure!
 We'll see you soon.

The video ends. Nobody says a word. The video was created maybe twenty minutes before their death.

81 INT./EXT. BACK ROADS. MORNING.

Eric is in the back seat, sleeping with his head leaning against the window. Astrid is looking out the window.

Maddy is in the front seat. She has the manuscript on her lap. Eva glances over.

EVA
 What is that?

Maddy is suddenly awkward as she puts the manuscript down and glances at Eva.

MADDY CONT'D
 I think I know what the surprise is.

Eva is confused.

MADDY CONT'D (CONT'D)
 That my Dad was talking about.

Maddy shows the manuscript to Eva. The title is "*Jack Keating and the Hidden World, by Eva Keating.*"

Eva eyes the manuscript as if Maddy is holding a snake. Then Maddy holds up a letter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MADDY CONT'D (CONT'D)

It's from a publisher. They love your book.

Eva simply looks ahead.

MADDY CONT'D (CONT'D)

I think my Dad must have sent it to them?

Eva nods.

MADDY CONT'D (CONT'D)

I read it... It's amazing.

A tear escapes Eva's eye. She drives a moment longer before pulling to the curb.

MADDY CONT'D (CONT'D)

What is it? Why are we stopping?

Eric opens his eyes as he leans forward. All three kids turn to look at what's caught Eva's attention. They are at the top of a steep hill. The beautiful rolling valley below looks like it goes on forever. A shimmering lake is also in the distance.

ASTRID

Wow.

Wonder is in every eye.

MADDY

Yeah... wow.

Eva looks at the kids. She smiles.

Eric's eyes drift to the steep road in front of them.

A look of resolve. He opens the door and walks to the back of the jeep. Eva watches in interest as he fetches his longboard, helmet and pads.

Everyone exits to see what Eric is doing.

Maddy looks from Eric to the insanely steep hill.

MADDY (CONT'D)

You sure? This is a lot steeper than the hill you were training on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Eric dons his elbow and knee pads as he speaks.

ERIC
(grins)

No.

Eva assesses the situation. She hands her phone to Maddy and climbs onto the jeep, opening the top.

EVA
If you're going to do this, we've got
to get it on video.

Eva and Astrid share a grin as they climb in.

MADDY
You've got this!

Maddy climbs into the jeep and stands on the passenger seat, filming Eric.

EVA CONT'D
You can do this.

Eric nods then steps on and pushes off - hard.

Eva guns it, sending dirt flying as she pulls up, momentarily catching up and driving beside Eric. She slowly pulls back and follows from a safe distance. Maddy keeps the camera pointed at Eric.

All three Keating women watch Eric with a mixture of hope, awe and fear painting their faces.

Eric is magnificent. He flies down the mountain at a breakneck pace.

CUT TO.

We are now with Eric.

Eric is terrified. He is focused. The ride is insane. Eric swerves around a large rock.

CUT TO.

Something pops beneath the hood of the jeep as steam and smoke billow out. The jeep lurches to a stop as Eva pulls to the side of the road. She shares a quick look with Maddy before ignoring the steam and standing beside Maddy, who continues filming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CUT TO.

We are back with Eric. Faster still he goes.

We hear the voice from one of Jack's blogs as Eric longboards. We cut between Eric and the girls watching.

JACK V.O.

When did we start believing that playing it safe is safe? That there is any greater privilege than sacrifice? It's time to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death.

Eric goes low as he rounds a corner and places a gloved hand on the pavement to slow his run so he doesn't shoot over the cliff.

Eric's eyes go wide as he see's a tree branch in his way.

JACK V.O. (CONT'D)

Live your life all in. Choose faith, choose one another, choose adventure.

Eva, Maddy and Astrid shield their eyes against the sun, watching Eric with pride.

Eric performs an insane longboard ollie over the branch and lands the stunt. To top it off he shifts into a side- sliding stop.

Eric takes his helmet off. He's out of breath and happy.

82 INT./EXT. OPEN ROADS. MORNING.

Eric has walked all the way back to the jeep that is now on the side of the road. All the Keatings are standing around the opened hood that is still steaming slightly. Astrid is beginning to hyperventilate.

MADDY

Astrid, it's going to be OK. We'll figure this out!

Eva checks her phone while Maddy retrieves hers.

EVA

No signal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MADDY

Mine too.

Astrid tries to slow her breathing. Eric tries to comfort her.

ASTRID

No!!

Eva pulls her pills out of her pocket and palms a couple, offering them to Astrid.

EVA

Here. These will help.

Maddy's eyebrows shoot high as Astrid doesn't hesitate. She grabs them, throws them back and swallows. Astrid walks away, too upset to stand still.

Maddy walks over and whispers furiously.

MADDY

What did you just give her?

EVA

Sugar pills.

Maddy looks at her questioningly.

EVA CONT'D

Jimmy told me to take them whenever I was anxious.

(beat)

He said they would help people understand me better.

Maddy offers Eva a strange look.

EVA

(explains as if obvious)

They help calm everyone down.

Eric meets Maddy's eyes and smiles.

Eva climbs onto the top of the jeep and turns in a slow circle. She points.

EVA (CONT'D)

There.

A farmhouse stands not far from the road.

83 EXT. FARMHOUSE ROAD. MORNING.

The Keating's are in the jeep with the trailer in tow. It drives around 5 miles an hour. The back of the Jeep is rocking up and down due to the busted axle.

A farm wife MILDRED (mid 70's), sits on the porch watching the jeep. On a small side table is an opened laptop and a cup of coffee.

Everyone climbs out and walks toward the house. Astrid holds Jack Fish. As the Keatings close the gap, Mildred leans forward with a look of interest.

EVA

Hello, we are -

ASTRID

Our jeep is broken and I need to get to Baltimore- stat!

Mildred takes a sip of her coffee and watches with a strange and somewhat unbelieving look.

MADDY

Could we borrow your phone? We don't have a signal.

Mildred's husband WALLACE (mid 70's) steps out of the house with his own cup of coffee.

WALLACE

What's this all about?

Mildred's eyes never leave the children, but her arm goes up to tug Wallace's sleeve.

MILDRED

Wallace. It's them.

Wallace's eyes narrow as they look at his wife who glances at her laptop and then back at him. Wallace studies the Keatings a moment.

WALLACE

Who?

MILDRED

Maddy, Eric and Astrid... am I right?
The Keatings?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Collective jaws drop.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

And that means you must be Aunt Eva?

Eva, Maddy, Eric and Astrid are all confused.

WALLACE

Of course it is!

(beat)

Mildred and I have been watching your father's videos from the past few days.

MILDRED

I am sorry for your loss. We've been praying for you.

Mildred is a little emotional. Eva and the kids are just confused. Wallace's eyes wander to the jeep far down the road.

WALLACE

Trouble with the jeep?

Astrid starts pacing as she becomes progressively more panicked.

ASTRID

The motor is steaming and we need to leave now~

ERIC

How do you... how do you know about my dad's blog?

WALLACE

Milly saw something about it on the news a few days back. But I'd seen it already on The Facebook.

Everyone is still confused.

WALLACE CONT'D

You know about the Facebook?

The kids all nod "yes." They know about The Facebook.

EVA

Mr. Wallace, we really need to get to Baltimore. It's important.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WALLACE CONT'D

Don't worry. I'm going to call my boy.
Aaron can get you there.

As Wallace steps inside, Mildred snaps into gear.

MILDRED

Are you hungry? We were just about to
eat lunch. Why don't you come in and
let me feed you? Wallace will have you
sorted out.

84 INT. FARMHOUSE. LOUNGE. MORNING.

Eric and Maddy sit at a kitchen table. They are on their
dad's web page. Jack Fish swims in his bowl beside them.

ERIC

(stunned)

This morning's video already has
28,000 views.

Maddy and Eric share an unbelieving look. Eric continues
clicking around the site.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hashtag Domino Faith is trending...

85 EXT. FARM HOUSE. NOON.

A police car arrives at the farmhouse.

Everyone walks outside.

The policeman steps outside his car, IT IS AARON, THE
POLICEMAN FROM EARLIER.

Wallace steps down and gives his son a hug.

WALLACE

Son, these fine folk are the Keatings.

Aaron looks at Eva with recognition and then mischief in his
eyes.

AARON

Eivel Knieval, yes, we've met.
(glances at jeep)
Seems you're still up to your
daredevil ways.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Eva is quiet, wary and... maybe amused. Wallace and Mildred stare at the two of them a moment. Maddy and Eric share a look.

WALLACE

You two know each other?

EVA

No.

AARON

Yes.

AARON (CONT'D)

(to Eva)

I knew you'd call eventually.

EVA

(matter of fact)

I didn't... Your dad called because our jeep is broken and Astrid has to get to her play.

AARON

(grins)

You still managed to get me here.

Aaron grins. Eva is confused and flustered.

MILDRED

(motherly)

This is no time for flirting, son!

Aaron is suddenly flustered as Eva's confusion becomes embarrassment. Maddy watches with eyebrows raised. A butterfly flutters around Aaron for a moment.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

We need to get the Keatings to Baltimore and we need it to happen yesterday.

ASTRID

(earnest)

I have to get to my play. It's an emergency!

AARON

(chastised)

I'm- yes ma'am. I'm sorry.

(looks to Eva and kids)

How can I help?

86 EXT. FARMHOUSE. AFTERNOON.

Wallace and Mildred stand in their driveway as the police cruiser speeds away.

Mildred waves.

87 INT./EXT. OPEN ROADS. POLICE CAR. EARLY EVENING.

Eva sits in the passenger seat of the police car. The kids are in the back. Astrid holds Jack Fish.

The car slows to a stop in rush hour traffic. Aaron pushes a button and the sirens sound. He pulls onto the shoulder and speeds past the stand-still traffic.

Astrid is obviously worried. Maddy sits with her arms around her sister, trying to give comfort.

MADDY

Do you want to go through your line again?

Astrid shakes her head "no."

The police car turns a corner. The church is visible at the end of the road.

EVA CONT'D

What's going on?

Cars line both sides of the road and hundreds of people are walking toward the church.

Everyone looks out the car windows with a mixture of confusion and concern.

As the police car pulls up to the church we see a couple of reporters waiting with cameras ready.

EVA

(points)

Pull around back.

Eva grabs her pill bottle and swallows a couple.

Astrid leans forward, palm open and outstretched.

Eva only now realizes she took the pills.

Maddy and Eric's hands are also there, open palmed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Eva shrugs and pours a few into each of their hands. Aaron watches with eyebrows raised.

Eva looks at him askew. Aaron shrugs then reaches out his hand as well. Eva offers a considering look before pouring a couple pills. Aaron throws them back, crunching down.

They drive past reporters and around to the back of the church.

Eva hops out and tries the back alley door. It is locked. She slams her palms against it repeatedly.

The door opens. Bob is inside and looking panicked.

88 INT. CHURCH. EVENING.

BOB

Oh, thank God. I've been trying to reach you.

Bob wraps each of the kids in a hug. Astrid still holds Jack Fish.

ERIC

What's happening outside?

BOB CONT'D

Just after you left, the local news covered your dad's blog. Folks have been calling to buy tickets- we aren't even selling tickets.

(beat)

The parking lots a mess.

AARON

I can help with that.

Bob looks at Aaron, confused.

EVA

Aaron, Bob. Bob, Aaron.

MADDY

I'll explain later.

Aaron nods and leaves.

BOB CONT'D

We were just about to postpone the play, but Maria insisted-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ASTRID
NO! You can't!

Astrid turns to her Aunt Eva and Grandpa Bob.

ASTRID CONT'D
Please!

EVA
We're not canceling it.

Maria has entered just as Astrid bursts out.

MARIA
No. You're here now, honey.
(to the others)
Good to see you all.
(to Astrid)
Come on hun, let's get you into
costume.

Astrid is nervous, focused and very determined. She hands Jack Fish to Maddy.

89 INT. CHURCH AUDITORIUM. EVENING.

Every seat is full. Many people who have no seats stand in the back or line the aisles.

A number of seats have been reserved a couple rows back from the front. Eva, Eric, Maddy and Aaron make their way to the front.

Aaron sits with Jack Fish on her lap. Aaron and Eva sit together. Eric sits next to Reese who stands up and gives him a wrap-around hug.

REESE
Did you know you're famous?

The stage lights go on. A large curtain has been drawn across.

REESE CONT'D
I'll tell you more later!

Jayden sits off to the side of the stage on a stool. He waves at Eva and the kids before speaking into a mic.

JAYDEN O.S.
It was a dark and stormy night.

Lights flash as the sound of lightning cracks through the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

auditorium. The curtains rise. The audience applauds.

WE ENTER A MUSICAL MONTAGE WITH A MELLOW SOUNDING TUNE THAT BUILDS TO A CRESCENDO. WE CUT BETWEEN CLOSE UP'S OF KEATINGS, ASTRID'S PLAY, AND AUDIENCE REACTION.

Astrid and a group of kids carry a cardboard boat on stage. It looks like they are inside the boat.

A kid in the back has a long beard and looks kinda like Jesus.

Jesus kid stretches his arms high and yawns, then pretends to fall asleep.

Audience laughs.

Eva glances around the audience. She sees the faces of her extended family. Every child who came through Bob and Maria's house is here, watching Astrid with rapt attention.

More kids run on stage with cardboard cutouts that look like waves and wind.

Boat begins to rock. Kids bounce about like crazy. One kid falls out. Audience laughs.

For Eva this is pure magic. Aaron watches Eva almost as much as he watches the play.

Eva studies her "brothers and sisters," then shifts her attention to Bob and Maria. They watch Astrid with pure delight. Eva nods to herself. This is her family.

Shark Kid swims past.

Eva, Maddy and Eric laugh.

Astrid stands and shouts something.

Eva watches Astrid, mesmerized.

Astrid pretends to vomit.

Kids on stage laugh. Audience laughs.

The boat is about to tip.

Astrid bends down and shakes Jesus kid.

Jesus kid awakens and yawns again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Eva and Aaron are now holding hands.

The kids dressed as waves and wind are spinning now. The storm is bad.

Jesus kid says something. Astrid shouts and points.

Shark Kid leaps into boat. Everyone but Jesus Kid dives out and pretends to be swimming.

Audience/Keatings laugh hysterically.

Jesus Kid looks at Shark Kid and points at waves.

Shark Kid leaps from boat. Everyone in the water screams as they scramble back into the boat.

Jesus Kid looks up to the sky and says something.

Waves and wind disappear off stage.

Kids all stand and take a bow.

The lights go up as the audience goes crazy. Standing ovation.

Astrid killed it. All the kids on stage give high-fives. Astrid does not.

Astrid scans audience, slowly becoming panicked.

Eva watches with a look of concern.

Astrid begins to hyperventilate, her eyes searching everywhere.

Eva, Maddy and Eric share a look and begin to make their way to the aisle.

They arrive at the aisle, but Astrid is no longer on stage. She is gone.

SONG ENDS/MONTAGE COMPLETE.

Maria grabs Eva's shoulder. She has to yell to be heard.

MARIA
She ran backstage!

Eva, Maria and the kids run backstage but Astrid isn't there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Aaron and the Keatings run deeper into the back, calling out as they go. Aaron carries Jack Fish.

MADDY
Astrid, where are you?

ERIC
Astrid!

Maddy and Eric turn around when they get to the back exit, offering Eva looks of concern.

Jayden, Rochelle and the rest of the extended family arrive, clearly concerned. The small back hallway of the church is crammed full of people.

JAYDEN
What happened?

Eva just shakes her head. She is terrified.

EVA
I thought we were doing well- I
thought things were...

Eva is holding her head in her hands. Aaron has arrived and is standing at the back of the group.

MADDY
Aunt Eva?

Eva meets Maddy's eyes with tears in her own.

EVA
I didn't see it.

ERIC
What?

MADDY
What?

EVA
What's the last thing your dad said at
the end of every video?

Confusion shifts to shock and then pain on every face.

MADDY
(breathless)
She can't be alone right now. We need
to find her.

Eva nods.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

EVA
I will. I promise.

Eva turns to leave, but Bob places a hand on her shoulder.

BOB
Eva, stop for a minute and take a look
around.

EVA
I can't, I need to fix this, I need-

BOB
(strong/fatherly)
Look around.

Eva is almost hyperventilating. She stops to meet the eyes of the gathered crowd. More than thirty brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews are all looking to her.

Realization dons slowly as Eva takes a deep breath and nods to the group.

EVA
Jayden, you check the house. She could
be there by now.

JAYDEN
On it.

Jayden darts out the back of the church.

EVA
Rochelle, you go to Bob and Marias.

Rochelle nods and darts out with Leelee in tow.

EVA (CONT'D)
Bill, check the park around the
corner.

Bill darts out with two children in tow.

EVA (CONT'D)
Sarah and Aimee, if you both could
drive around and see if you can find
her walking.

Sarah and Aimee disappear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BOB

I'll stay here in case she comes back.

MARIA

And I'll check the other playground on
Bates.

Eva nods.

EVA

(to Maddy and Eric)

You two, come with me.

(to Aaron)

Can you drive?

AARON

Absolutely.

ERIC

Where are we going?

Eva just stares at Maddy.

90 EXT. SIDE OF ROAD. NIGHT.

Astrid stands in the center of a busy intersection. Off to the side is the memorial that's risen up around the spot where Jack and Em died. She stares at the tattered notes and withered flowers.

In the distance, hundreds of stars fall from the sky as the world crumbles into darkness. The Dread has come and nothing can stop it.

EVA

Astrid!

Astrid doesn't move. A cars whizzes past, honking loudly. Astrid isn't trying to get hit, she just doesn't see the cars. Explosions of shadow are now coming from every direction as reality crumbles. Stars explode into the world in the distance.

Eva and the kids sprint toward her as the world crumbles behind them. Aaron steps into traffic, waving his arms to stop the cars.

MADDY

Astrid!

ERIC

We're coming!

FROM A BIRDSEYE VIEW WE SEE THE WORLD AROUND THEM IS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THE DREAD HAS COME.

All three are close now. Astrid has her back to them.

Eva, Maddy and Eric stumble to a stop, breathless. Eva places an arm around her shoulders, turning her around.

EVA

We're here, baby. We're here.

Astrid looks up at her aunt. She trembles as she speaks.

ASTRID

They're not coming back...

Eva shakes her head her head "no."

EVA

No... they're not coming back.

THE WORLD AROUND THEM IS GONE. THERE IS ONLY BOILING DARKNESS. THEY STAND IN THE ONLY THE SMALL POOL OF LIGHT AROUND THE KEATINGS.

ASTRID

(tearfully)

The Dread is real.

Eric and Maddy drop to their knees beside their sister. All of the Keatings are huddled together.

EVA

Yes.

Eva is crying now. All of them are.

EVA CONT'D

But we're here. We're together, I've got you.

Eva holds Astrid in the middle of the road. Maddy joins them and hugs Astrid and Eva, Eric also joins them as they all cry.

THE CAMERA PULLS OUT.

From a bird's eye view we see the newly formed family huddled together. Cars are stopped and The Dread retreats.

Suddenly, light explodes from the four Keatings. Colorful light shoots into the Dread, pushing it back. Fighting the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

darkness.

91 EXT. LAKE. SUNSET.

TITLE CARD: 1 YEAR LATER

CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY ACROSS THE WATER OF A LAKE. THE SETTING SUN REFLECTS ACROSS THE SURFACE PAINTING THE WORLD IN MAGICAL LIGHT.

CAMERA LIFTS SLIGHTLY TO REVEAL BOB AND MARIA'S HOUSE. THE ENTIRE EXTENDED FAMILY HAS ONCE AGAIN GATHERED AROUND A FLICKERING FIRE.

WE APPROACH SLOWLY. AS WE DRAW NEAR THE SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER AND CHEERING BEGINS TO RISE.

Astrid leaps about, telling a story we can't quite hear. Everyone cheers. Just behind her are Eric and Maddy. Eric looks a little older and Maddy has cut her hair. All three children look happy.

Nearby, Eva sits snuggled up with Aaron. They are obviously in love. Cheers come from some of the family. Astrid scans the group.

ASTRID

I choose...

Jayden leaps up, his hand shooting into the air.

JAYDEN

Oh! Oh me! Choose me! I've got a great one! Please, please, please! I promise you will not regret this!

Collective groans escape from many mouths as people begin to shout.

"No, Astrid!"

"Don't do it!"

"Think about it Astrid! This would be a huge mistake!"

Astrid looks past Jayden then turns to face her Aunt. She smiles.

ASTRID

I choose, Aunt Eva!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Collective cheers come from the family as Jayden sits down in defeat. Bob and Maria are truly happy as they watch.

Eva thinks a moment. She smiles at Astrid, then stands. Eva waits, letting the dramatic pause build. Total silence reigns. Her eyes sparkle with excitement.

EVA CONT'D

The only way to get there was to travel to the woods between the worlds.

(beat)

And this meant they had to jump into the emerald sea.

Eva doesn't hesitate. She turns and sprints across the short expanse of lawn, up onto the pier and leaps into the frigid lake. As she leaps, she screams...

Everyone just watches her.

For a long moment nobody moves.

JAYDEN

I did not see that coming.

Eric and Astrid share a look. As one, they sprint toward the lake, echoing her scream.

Bob is the next to go, followed by Maria and the rest of them. Jayden and Maddy watch, a look of shock painting Jayden's face. Many who jump yell out, "All in!" Half of them doing cannonballs and sending large splashes back onto the pier.

MADDY

(grinning)

She stole your move.

Jayden grins back then the two of them sprint onto the pier and cannonball into the lake.

The blended family splash about, laughing happily in the sunset.

CAMERA CONTINUES MOVING THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW AND INTO THE HOUSE. THREE FANTASY BOOKS ARE ON THE END TABLE. THIS IS THE TRILOGY EVA WROTE. ALL THREE ARE NYT BEST SELLERS. RESTING ON A SIDE TABLE NEXT TO THE COUCH, JACK FISH SWIMS HAPPILY.

THE END.