TURKEY

Screenplay by
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TITLE CARD: PROLOGUE

Over black...

The sound of packages being unwrapped followed by three voices - two male and one female, mid to late twenties, Caucasian American.

BRETT (V.O.)

Ohhhhhhh fuck yeah! This is the fucking shit right here!

DAISY (V.O.)

(in awe)

Jesus Christ Jimmy! How the fuck did you get a hold of this?

JIMMY (V.O.)

I know a guy man, real top dude. He'll always get you what you need.

DAISY (V.O.)

Brett! Fucking crack it open man!

JIMMY (V.O.)

Woah woah, hold up a fucking minute bro.

(beat)

I need the cash first.

BRETT (V.O.)

It's all good bruh, chill - we got the cash for you man!

Brett can be heard counting the money quietly.

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

What the fuck Daisy!? The money ain't fucking right! We're short - seventy, eighty fucking dollars! What the fuck did you do with it?

DAISY (V.O.)

What'd you fucking mean we are short?

BRETT (V.O.)

Fuck Daisy, what do you think I fucking mean?! We don't have enough for this shit. Fuck!

(beat)

Yo, I'm really sorry Jimmy, I don't know what happened man.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Well, I can't just give you it dude, I need paying not just for the shit but for my time and the risk.

BRETT (V.O.)

Fuck Daisy!

(beat)

Look man, what if Daisy just like sucks you off or something? You know as like compensation... will you give us some more time?

DAISY (V.O.)

I'm really sorry, I don't know what I did with the money.

BRETT (V.O.)

You probably went and brought some fucking molly, knowing you - stupid cunt.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Look, it is okay. Let's all just fucking chill for a second.

(beat)

Yeah, just give me what you have now, get me the rest by Sunday and Daisy can give me head.

BRETT (V.O.)

(calm)

It's alright baby...

(angry)

...just give him a fucking blow job, alright!? It is not like you haven't sucked cock before!

(beat)

I want to get fucking high.

DAISY (V.O.)

I want to get high too.

BRETT (V.O.)

Hurry up and suck his fucking cock then cunt!

(beat)

I'm sorry baby, I just really want to get high. The sooner you get on with it, the sooner we can get high together. After a few moments - we hear the sound of zipper being opened, followed by sucking, gagging, deep breathing and groaning.

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

Can I open it now?

JIMMY (V.O.)

Uh huh.

The sound of packaging being opened and skin being smacked.

TITLE CARD: TURKEY

INT. CRACK HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY

(BEGIN CONTINUOUS SHOT)

Jimmy's face fills the frame - he is young but worn out, asleep but restless, alive but spiritless.

The sound of an inaudible conversation can be heard in the distance.

He turns over in bed a few times, opens his eyes, stretches, yawns, gets up, opens the door and walks out into the...

INT. CRACK HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...hallway. He yawns and rubs his eyes as he walks slowly towards a door. He grabs the handle, opens up the door and walks into the...

INT. CRACK HOUSE/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

...bathroom. Jimmy stares at his reflection in a mirror above the sink. He then washes his face and brushes his teeth.

On completion he leaves the bathroom and walks...

INT. CRACK HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...back down the hallway. He turns a corner and enters the...

INT. CRACK HOUSE/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...kitchen. He walks over to a cupboard, opens it, pulls out a bowl, closes the cupboard and then places the bowl on the kitchen surface.

He walks over to another cupboard, opens it, takes out a box of cereal, closes the cupboard and then pours some cereal into his bowl. He then walks to the fridge, takes out the milk, pours some on his cereal, takes it back and closes the fridge door.

He picks up his breakfast (it may even be dinner for all he knows) and walks into the...

INT. CRACK HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...living room.

JIMMY

Oh fuck!

He nearly drops his cereal at the sight of something in front of him. He takes a moment to compose himself - a few deep breaths and some internal processing.

Once he has regained his composure he walks to a sofa, sits down on it, begins to eat his breakfast and watches the television. He takes occasional glances over at the "surprise" in the room. With each glance, the more it seems like he may burst into tears.

When he finishes his breakfast he leans forwards, puts the bowl on the floor, places his hands on the side of his head and takes a dozen deep breathes.

After a few moments, he stands up and walks towards another hallway. As we turn the corner with him, we see what has been causing him stress.

Brett, a young guy, dressed in a dirty, old tracksuit is sitting dead in an armchair. He has a piece of cable tie wrapped around his arm, an empty syringe by his leg and vomit around his pale face and lips.

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. CRACK HOUSE/ANOTHER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy walks down the hallway and passes an open door. He takes a step back and looks at Daisy. She is stretched out on a mattress on the floor, she too is dead. Her youthful beauty obscured by vomit. A cable tie wrapped around her skinny, delicate, right arm.

Jimmy takes a deep breath, walks to the front door, opens it and leaves the house.

(END CONTINUOUS SHOT)

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: CHAPTER 1 - THE PICK UP

INT. CAR - DAY

Jimmy is driving through an urban, residential area. After a few moments he pulls over, turns the engine off and looks at himself in the rear view mirror.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF VANESSA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jimmy knocks on the front door. After waiting patiently for roughly twenty seconds; he knocks on the door again.

He is left waiting for a little while longer before the door opens slightly. A woman, in her late twenties peers out at him.

VANESSA

Jesus, what do you want Jimmy?

YMMIL

I was hoping I could crash here for a while.

VANESSA

What happened to your new friends?

JIMMY

Well, they left town last night.

VANESSA

Oh... Where have they gone?

JIMMY

I don't really know. Hopefully somewhere nice.

(beat)

Vanessa - can I come in please?

She sighs and then opens the door.

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jimmy looks around the living room.

JIMMY

I like what you have done with the place.

VANESSA

Thanks.

She sits down on the arm of a sofa.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Are you still using?

JIMMY

Yeah. Are you?

VANESSA

Sort of.

(beat)

I've tried to kick it three times since you left.

JIMMY

I think it is just the way we are meant to be.

He sits down next to her, stares into her eyes, gently brushes some stray hair behind her ear and begins to affectionately stroke her cheek.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You're so beautiful.

(beat)

What happened to us?

Vanessa smiles.

VANESSA

There has never been an us Jimmy.

(beat)

We have always been circumstantial.

She rests her head on his shoulder.

JIMMY

Do you think we could have ever been something more?

VANESSA

No.

(beat)

If we hadn't fucked our lives up, I probably would have graduated from college and delivered a load of babies. You would still be riding the subway to teach high school geography, married to your childhood sweetheart and watching your daughter grow into a woman.

He starts to stroke her neck.

JIMMY

(detached)

Yeah... yeah...

She looks up at him and into his eyes. He wraps an arm around her neck and places a hand on her cheek.

Their breathing becomes shallower, their nostrils flare and their lips begin to tremble slightly.

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY

Jimmy sits on the bed and Vanessa stands in front of him. She unbuttons her shirt and unzips her jeans. He watches her in awe as she removes her clothes. Now in just her underwear, she lets down her hair before taking her bra and panties off. They stare at each for roughly fifteen seconds before she gets on the bed and straddles him.

VARIOUS SHOTS:

- A) Jimmy lying on his back breathing deeply.
- B) Vanessa winding her body and thrusting her hips as they have rough sex.
- C) Jimmy tilting his head back and groaning.
- D) Vanessa's stomach and shoulders flexing.

END OF VARIOUS SHOTS.

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Over black, the sound of rustling, things being placed on a hard surface and music.

Smash cut to Vanessa:

- Close up of her arm. Several seconds later, she ties a piece of cable tie around it and begins to slap it in search of a vein.
- Close up of a syringe being filled.
- Close up of an eye followed by a close up of her lips and teeth as she gasps in pleasure.

Smash cut to Jimmy:

- Close up of a cable tie wrapped around his arm. He begins to slap a vein.
- Close up of a syringe being filled.
- Close up of his droopy eyelids.

Jimmy and Vanessa lie on the couch together staring up at the ceiling.

He raises a hand in the air and stares at it. She reaches up and gently takes hold of it. She rubs his palm with her index finger.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER

(BEGIN CONTINUOUS SHOT)

They are lying in the exact same position when we return. It is difficult to work out how much time has passed... it may have been five minutes, five hours or five days... time is of no concern to them at this exact moment in life.

A few moments later they both get to their feet like baby deer.

YMMIT

Is it okay if I charge my phone?

VANESSA

Sure.

(beat)

Do you want a drink?

JIMMY

Sure.

VANESSA

Water?

JIMMY

Sure.

He opens a door and walks out into a...

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...hallway. He walks towards the front door, opens it and steps...

EXT. OUTSIDE OF VANESSA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

...out of Vanessa's house and onto the sidewalk. He closes the door behind him, walks over to his car, places a hand on the roof and stares into the darkly lit street and sky for several moments. He opens the driver's side door and rummages around in the glove box until he finds his phone charger. Once he has it he closes the door, walks back to the house and...

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...steps back into the hallway. He closes the door behind himself and walks back into the...

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...living room. He finds a plug socket, puts his phone on charge and sits on the floor with his back resting against a wall.

Vanessa hands him a glass of water, sits down on the floor about two meters from him and sips at her drink.

They sit in silence staring into each other's eyes whilst his phone charges. After a few minutes he picks up his phone, scrolls through the missed calls, presses the most recent notification and holds it to his ear.

ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.)

You have eight new messages - playing message from July 2nd at 20: 42.

AMY (V.O.)

This is the last time you are going to hear from me you fucking, deadbeat loser.

(beat)

Today was an opportunity for you to show your daughter how much you love her and you let her down again. Who are you Jimmy? What makes you think it is okay to mess with a thirteen year old girl's emotions like that?

(beat)

All Natasha wants to do is spend some time with you but you are never there for her! Why did I even bother to think we could work something out today? The sooner she realizes you are just a junky, cheating loser the better.

(beat)

I know you don't know the definition of the word decency but I thought I would have the decency to tell you that Nat and I are moving in with Pete's parents tomorrow.

(beat)

We'll have to settle things in court but until then don't you dare come anywhere near us or try anything shady to find us either. We are far too good for you.

The line cuts off.

He lowers the phone slowly away from his ear and then begins to tap it against his hand.

VANESSA

Are you okay Ji...

He launches the phone across the room and gets to his feet.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Jimmy!

He paces up and down.

JIMMY

What's the time?

She glances at her phone.

VANESSA

Quarter past midnight.

Jimmy grabs his sneakers, kneels down and starts putting them on.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Jimmy! Jesus, talk to me.

JIMMY

Amy is leaving LA, moving to somewhere in fucking Utah I think and taking Nat with her.

He stands up and grabs his hoodie off the couch.

VANESSA

Ahh, I'm sorry Jimmy.

He puts it on, walks out of the living room and...

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...marches towards the door. Vanessa follows him.

VANESSA

Jimmy! What are you doing?

He opens the door and steps out onto the...

EXT. OUTSIDE OF VANESSA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

...sidewalk. He pulls his car keys out of his pocket, opens the driver's side door and gets into the...

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

...driver's seat, closes the door and starts the engine.

Vanessa bangs on his window.

VANESSA

Jimmy!

We zoom off down the road and into the night.

He drives down numerous roads, stops at red lights, turns corners etc. His face, hidden away in the shadows, frequently appears out of the darkness due to the plethora of light sources across the city.

After a while he drives down a residential street, pulls the car over, turns the engine off, opens the door and steps out onto the...

EXT. OUTSIDE AMY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

...sidewalk and quietly walks towards a warm, friendly looking home. As he gets closer to it he crouches down, stops and takes a quick look around the area. The coast is clear so he advances to the front door, lifts up a plant pot, slides a key out from underneath, puts the pot back down, stands up and slowly and quietly opens the door and steps...

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...inside the house. It is dark and there aren't any signs of unwanted interference for him. He quickly closes the door behind him and walks up the staircase and out onto the...

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/LANDING - CONTINUOUS

...landing. He walks slowly but with purpose and confidence. He stops momentarily outside of an open, bedroom door and looks inside.

A man and woman, both in their late 20s, are asleep in a large bed.

He quickly walks towards another door. He pauses momentarily to look over his shoulder, then opens the door and walks into a...

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/NATASHA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

...kids bedroom. Asleep, in the bed is Natasha. She is a little short for her age and has lots of brown, messy hair.

Jimmy walks over to her, places a hand on her head and watches her sleeping peacefully.

JIMMY (whispering) Nat. Nat.

He stroke his daughter's head.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Wake up.

Her eyes open slowly.

NATASHA

Dad?

JIMMY

Yeah, it's me. I've missed you bud.

NATASHA

Dad, it is really late.

JIMMY

It is isn't it.

(beat)

Your Mom rang me and she said I have to come get you and take you to Utah.

NATASHA

Hurr? Why?

JIMMY

Pete has something to do tomorrow now so can't take you and your Mom until next week.

(beat)

But I'm going to take you there so you can get to know the area before school starts.

Natasha stares at him and after a few moments says...

NATASHA

Okay.

JIMMY

I'm going to need you to grab some clothes and bring 'em down to the car, okay?

NATE

But... don't I need a case?

JIMMY

I've got one bud, it is okay, I have it all covered.

(beat)

Now, come on, let's go. People will be going to work soon and we don't want to get caught up in traffic, do we? Natasha sits up, gets out of bed, walks to her wardrobe and gets some clothes out. Jimmy stands up.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You ready?

NATASHA

I think so. I should grab my toothbrush and things...

JIMMY

No, no - it is okay sweetheart, I have some new things in the car for you.

(beat)

Okay let's go man - nice and quietly we don't want to wake up Pete or your Mom.

NATASHA

I should change...

JIMMY

No, you're fine in your PJs. Come on let's go.

Jimmy frog marches her out of the room and...

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/LANDING - CONTINUOUS

...across the landing and back down the stairs into the...

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...hallway.

JIMMY

I'll grab your sneakers.

Natasha opens the door and leaves the house. Jimmy grabs her sneakers, leaves the house...

EXT. OUTSIDE AMY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

...and walks towards the car. She has gotten in the back already so Jimmy gets into the driver's seat, switches the engine on and speeds away.

(END CONTINUOUS SHOT)

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: CHAPTER 2 - AN ODYSSEY BEGINS

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Natasha is asleep in the back of the car. Jimmy watches her in the rear view mirror sleeping peacefully as he drives down a dark road.

All of a sudden Jimmy crumples over at the steering wheel in pain. His teeth clench, his breathing becomes erratic and his hands shake slightly. He slowly sits up, gasps for air, switches the hazards on, pulls over, kills the engine, quickly opens the door and leaps out of the car.

EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

He rushes over to a bush, kneels down and begins to violently vomit.

Natasha has woken up and is watching her Dad from inside the car. After a few moments she opens the door, gets out, walks over to him, kneels down and strokes his back.

NATASHA

Dad... are you okay?

JIMMY

I'm alright just...

(vomits)

... just get back in the car. I don't want you to get cold.

NATASHA

Are you sure?

JIMMY

I'm okay - I'll come back in a minute.

Natasha reluctantly stands up and gets back in the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

She lies on her side and closes her eyes.

EXT. ROADSIDE - LATER

About twenty minutes have passed... Jimmy stands up, takes several deep breathes, walks back to the car and opens the door.

Natasha is asleep. She is curled up in a ball snoring quietly.

Jimmy pulls a bag out from under his seat, places it on the ground, unzips it and begins to take things out - some cable tie, a lighter, a syringe...

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Jimmy lies down with Natasha and puts his arms around her. Her eyes open.

NATASHA

Dad?

JIMMY

It's okay... it's just... your... your...

NATASHA

Dad... you need to drive so we miss the traffic.

JIMMY

It is okay Nat... we will be fine.

He strokes her hair.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I just... just need to sleep for a bit.

Jimmy closes his eyes. Several moments later, he is snoring. Natasha closes her eyes and goes back to sleep.

INT. CAR - LATER

Natasha opens her eyes and looks up at her Dad who is snoring. She lifts his arm off her, gets to her feet and leaves the car.

EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

She stands with her back towards the car having a pee. She looks over her shoulder at her comatous Dad and sighs.

INT. CAR - DAY

Close up of Natasha fast asleep. After several moments she opens her eyes. She squints as the early morning rays shine through the windows. She slowly sits up and sees Jimmy at the wheel.

JIMMY

Morning.

(beat)

Did you sleep well?

NATASHA

Yeah.

JIMMY

Good.

NATASHA

Did you?

JIMMY

Oh yeah, just fine.

NATASHA

Good.

JIMMY

Now you're awake; put your seat belt on for me please bud.

She puts her belt on.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Thanks.

(beat)

Say, I'm real sorry about coming to get you so late last night.

(beat)

It is... just you know... Mom was pretty persistent that I get you then.

NATASHA

She didn't tell me.

JIMMY

Mmm, I know sweetheart. She rang me up after you went to sleep. You know how she can get when she has an idea in her head.

(beat)

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

It is in the best interests for you at the end of the day. Always is, always will be.

Natasha leans back in the seat.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Yeah, so we have some miles to make up but we'll be okay. We'll get there in plenty of time.

NATASHA

Dad?

JIMMY

Yeah.

NATASHA

What happened last night?

JIMMY

What d'ya mean?

NATASHA

When you started being sick.

JIMMY

Oh... well...

NATASHA

Mom says you are a drug addict.

JIMMY

Well... your Mom doesn't know everything.

(beat)

Because I'm not a drug addict.

(beat)

I just felt really sick, I think I may have had sun stroke or something, I was out in the sun for a real long time yesterday.

NATASHA

Oh . . .

JIMMY

And the injection makes it go away. (beat)

Makes you sleepy though.

NATE

Dad?

JIMMY

Uh-huh.

NATASHA

Stop bullshitting.

JIMMY

What? What are you talking about? I'm not bullshitting you.

(beat)

Hey! Anyway don't say bullshit, only adults can curse.

NATASHA

Dad I'm thirteen, I'm not stupid.

JIMMY

Yeah man I know - but being thirteen though doesn't make you an adult.

(beat)

I never said you were stupid either.

NATASHA

I know you took drugs last night and it weren't for sun stroke.

JIMMY

Oh really? And how do you know that little Ms. Smarty Pants?

NATASHA

The internet!

JIMMY

Oh really? You are one of those kids that believes everything that they hear and see on the internet?

NATASHA

No.

JIMMY

It sounds like it.

NATASHA

No, but I have seen the junkies shooting up by the garbage cans behind the mall.

JIMMY

Okay hold on a second. How do you know the terms "junkie" and "shooting up"?

NATASHA

Pete told me.

JIMMY

(under his breath)

Motherfucker.

NATASHA

Don't curse.

JIMMY

I'm an adult, I am allowed.

NATASHA

I asked him what they were doing and he said "Don't look - they are just dirty junkies shooting up". Mom said the same thing.

(beat)

And that's what you were doing last night. And if you keep doing it you will end up dirty, smelly, living behind a mall eating the thrown-out hot dogs and nachos that have gone bad.

Jimmy takes a deep breath.

JIMMY

Are you finished?

NATASHA

No.

JIMMY

Well Nat, I am. So let's play a game... let's see who can sit in silence for the longest. Winner gets twenty bucks.

NATASHA

You don't have twenty bucks.

JIMMY

Oh don't I?

He pulls a twenty dollar bill out of his pocket, waves it around and then slams it down on the passenger's seat.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Alright - game starts now.

NATASHA

Fine.

JIMMY

Hey, the game has started. That's your only life gone.

She folds her arms and stares out of the window. He sighs deeply.

INT. CAR - LATER

They are both sitting in silence still.

JIMMY

Shall we get some breakfast?

NATASHA

You spoke first. I win.

JIMMY

Yeah, you win... this time. Do you want breakfast?

NATASHA

Yeah! I'm so hungry!

JIMMY

Why didn't you say?

NATASHA

Because I wanted to win.

JIMMY

We'll get something at the next stop.

NATASHA

I really want to brush my teeth as well and wash.

JIMMY

Alright - no problem - we can do that.

(hastily changing the

subject)

What are you going to spend the money on?

Do you even have to ask?

He laughs awkwardly.

JIMMY

Okay... so what... are you going to get?

NATASHA

Gosh Dad! I thought you would know!
 (beat)

I'm going to buy a punch bag.

JIMMY

A punch bag? What's that for?

She sighs.

NATASHA

Dad... I'm learning Karate, Taekwondo and Akido.

JIMMY

Really? What for?

NATASHA

Karate for self-defense, Taekwondo for competitive competition and Akido for mindfulness.

JIMMY

Wow, sick man! So, do you think you could kick my ass?

NATASHA

Dad - I am not learning martial arts so I know how to kick somebodies butt.

(beat)

I learn for self-defense and self-discipline, respect and to increase my self-esteem and confidence.

JIMMY

Oh, right...

After several moments of silence.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

So... Mom called me up and said that you were doing something important at school yesterday.

Mhmmm.

JIMMY

Well, I would just like to say I'm really sorry that I wasn't there, I messed up and I'm real sorry that I wasn't there to support you.

A few moments of awkward silence pass...

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I would love it if you could forgive me but if you don't... then I totally understand.

After several moments...

NATASHA

I forgive you.

JIMMY

Thank you.

(beat)

Okay, pound it.

They fist pump.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What skills were you showing off baby?

(beat)

How to kick a dude's head off? The five finger death punch? Or how to rip a heart straight out of someone's chest? I bet it was that!

NATASHA

Dad! I don't use material arts to hurt people.

(beat)

Anyway, it wasn't anything to do with martial arts. I was in a play.

JIMMY

Oh sick! What did you perform?

NATASHA

Of Mice and Men.

JIMMY

Oh awesome! Were you Curley's Wife?

No. Sasha Williams played that part.

JIMMY

Okay - who did you play then?

NATASHA

I was a field worker.

JIMMY

Oh... well... I bet you bossed that part.

NATASHA

There were four field workers and they didn't have lines.

JIMMY

Yeah, so what? I bet you were the best one though.

NATASHA

I auditioned for Curly's Wife.

JIMMY

Who did you say played her?

NATASHA

Sasha Williams.

JIMMY

Well darling, fuck Sasha Williams...

NATASHA

Dad!

JIMMY

...Fuck her sweetheart! As far as I'm concerned you are the best and that's all that matters.

(beat)

Anyway, Curley's wife is a straight up cock tease, you don't want that part man.

NATASHA

Dad!

He laughs to himself.

INT. CAR - LATER

Jimmy looks back at Natasha.

JIMMY

Shall we stop off here, get some supplies?

NATASHA

Sure.

JIMMY

Okay boss.

He pulls the car over and parks outside a convenience store.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Alright - you know what we need?

NATASHA

Yep.

JIMMY

Cool.

(beat)

I'll catch you up.

She gets out of the car and enters the store.

He opens up the glove box - pulls out a cell phone and some cash, stuffs it into his pocket, puts his face mask on and gets out of the car.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Natasha is grabbing toothpaste when Jimmy catches up with her.

JIMMY

Here's some cash.

He passes her some money.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I'll see you back in the car.

He walks away from her and makes his way over to the phone cards. Once there, he peruses for a few moments and then takes a card.

INT. CAR - DAY

Natasha stares out of the window looking at the convenience store. Jimmy walks out of the store, waves at her and then holds up one finger.

JIMMY

(muffled)

One second baby, just need to make a call.

EXT. OUTSIDE CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Jimmy walks down the street a little, takes his mask off, switches on the cell phone and leans up against the wall. Once the phone has loaded up he taps in a number and puts the phone to his ear.

Ring, ring, ring, ring, ring, ring...

JIMMY

(into phone)

Vanessa, it is me Jimmy.

(listens)

Yeah yeah we are alright. Are you okay?

(listens)

You gotta be fucking kidding me? When?

(listens)

No fuck her...

(listens)

...fuck that cunt especially! Who does he think he fucking is man? He has been on the scene... what... like a fucking year and now he thinks he's Natasha's fucking Dad or something.

(beat)

You know what; fuck them both, let them send the fucking police or a SWAT team! She is my fucking daughter! If they come back you tell them that.

(listens)

I appreciate the heads up but we're going to be alright, okay bye.

He hangs up, switches it off, throws it in a trash can, takes a deep breath, stretches and returns to the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

He gets into his seat.

NATASHA

Dad?

He puts his seat belt on.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

JIMMY

(calm)

Yeah, I'm fine.

NATASHA

Why were you shouting and cursing?

JIMMY

Ah it's nothing, don't worry about it.

(beat)

Okay, let's go get some breakfast.

He turns the engine on and then begins driving.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I know it isn't very stylish but we'll have to brush our teeth in a restroom, is that okay?

NATASHA

Errr, I guess so.

JIMMY

Good girl.

(beat)

Hey, listen a second - I'm going to need you to wear a face covering.

NATASHA

Why? Kids don't have too.

JIMMY

I know sweetheart but...

(beat)

...I'll be honest with you. I was shouting because a friend just told me there is a new Covid variant and it is really infectious... especially in kids.

Oh...

(beat)

Why were you so mad about it?

JIMMY

Well... I just think this Covid thing is a load of nonsense is all and I don't think you should have to wear a mask all the time... but you know how it is, the government are the bosses and I have to do what they say or they'll give me a fine.

He reaches into his glove box and passes a mask to her.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Just put that on for me please and I'll let you know when you can take it off, alright?

NATASHA

(sighs)

Okay.

She puts the mask on.

JIMMY

Good girl, thank you.

She looks out of the window and sighs.

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER PARKING LOT - DAY

Jimmy switches the engine off, puts a mask on and gets out of the car.

Natasha picks up a plastic bag and gets out of the car.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER - DAY

They sit down at a table and begin to examine the menus.

A few moments later, a waitress approaches them.

WAITRESS

Hey guys, how're we doing today?

JIMMY

Good thanks.

WAITRESS

What can I get you two?

JIMMY

I'll have a black coffee with eggs and bacon please.

She scribbles the order down.

WAITRESS

And for you darling?

NATASHA

Can I have an orange juice and blueberry pancakes please?

WAITRESS

You sure can.

She scribbles the order down.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Okay thanks guys.

She begins to walkaway but suddenly turns around and walks back over.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

(with a smile)

Thought I'd just let you know, you don't have to wear your masks at the table.

She walks away.

Natasha begins to take hers off until...

JIMMY

No, leave it on please.

NATASHA

Why?

JIMMY

You can take it off soon.

Natasha leans back in her chair and sighs.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER/MALE RESTROOM/TOILET CUBICLE - DAY

Jimmy and Natasha are in the cubicle together - he is stood up and she is sat on the toilet - they are brushing their teeth.

A few moments later Natasha takes the brush out of her mouth, stands up and goes to leave the cubicle.

JIMMY

No, stay here.

NATASHA

Why?

JIMMY

I haven't finished and a men's restroom is no place for a young girl to be on her own.

NATASHA

I asked you "Why the guys restroom"?

JIMMY

And I told you I'm an adult man and can't go into a ladies restroom.

(beat)

Now, use the bottled water you got to rinse your mouth and then spit it in the toilet.

NATASHA

Really?

JIMMY

Yes really. I know it is not what you're use to doing but sometimes you just have to... you know... just go with it.

She sighs, takes a bottle of water out of the plastic bag, unscrews the lid, takes a sip, swirls and spits in the toilet.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Good girl.

He strokes her shoulder but suddenly falls to his knees and begins to retch.

NATASHA

Dad, what's wrong?

He begins to vomit in the toilet.

JIMMY

I'm okay - just... just... wait at a table... but don't... talk to anyone.

NATASHA

Okay.

She leaves the cubicle and he continues to vomit.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER - DAY

(BEGIN CONTINUOUS SHOT)

Natasha is stood looking out of a window. Jimmy reappears several moments later.

JIMMY

We've got to go hun.

He grabs her by the hand and pulls her through the diner.

NATASHA

Dad, what's wrong?

He ignores her, drags her out of the diner exit and out into the...

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER PARKING LOT - DAY

...parking lot. He pulls her over to the car, opens the back door and hurries her inside.

(END CONTINUOUS SHOT)

INT. CAR - DAY

He sits down in the driver's seat, reaches under his chair and grabs his bag.

JIMMY

Okay Nat, I need you to cover your eyes okay?

NATASHA

Dad...

JIMMY

(snappy)
Please, just do it!
 (beat, composed)
Please, just cover your eyes for a
minute.

She lifts her mask up over her eyes. He looks back at her briefly before unzipping his bag and wrapping a cable tie around his arm.

Close up of Natasha. We cannot see him shooting up but we can hear the act. Deep breathes, vein slapping and then finally a sigh of relief.

Thirty seconds of silence passes.

JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D) Sweetheart - we are going to have to check into a motel. Daddy needs to do a few things before we go to Utah.

(beat)
You can look now baby.

She slowly pulls her mask back down. The engine kicks in.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: CHAPTER 3 - AN ODYSSEY STALLS

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Static shot - we are positioned at the end of a motel parking lot. There are a fair few rooms from here to the reception at the other end.

In the distance we see the car Jimmy and Natasha are riding in pull into the parking lot and park near the reception. Jimmy and Natasha get out of the car and enter the reception.

A minute or so later they reappear and start walking towards us. After several moments they are a few feet away - pan right slightly to see Jimmy unlocking the room door. He opens it and they disappear inside.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

It is a very small room - there are two beds, two bedside tables with lamps on, a small window and a closed door which is hiding a small, en-suite bathroom.

Jimmy runs over to the door, opens it and disappears inside. Natasha stands awkwardly in the middle of the room. Jimmy's retching and pained groans are audible.

Natasha looks extremely concerned.

NATASHA

Dad!

She moves closer to the door.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

Dad!

She leans her head against the door.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

Dad, are you okay?

She anxiously strokes the door.

JIMMY (O.S.)

Just try and relax - ignore me.

She backs away from the door and slowly walks around the room.

NATASHA

Should I call you an ambulance?

JIMMY (O.S.)

No.

NATASHA

What about Mom?

JIMMY (O.S.)

No! Please just try and relax will ya?!

NATASHA

Dad! I wanna qo home!

JIMMY (O.S.)

You're not going fucking anywhere, do you fucking understand me girl? (beat)

(MORE)

JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

If you fucking carry on, I'll come out there and so help me god I will fucking beat you! Do you understand me?

She puts her hands over her eyes.

JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Do you understand me?!

NATASHA

(teary)

Yes!

JIMMY (O.S.)

Yes what?

NATASHA

Yes sir.

JIMMY (O.S.)

Good! Now shut up!

She jumps on a bed and buries her face into a pillow.

After a several, moments...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Natasha sits hunched over slightly resting her chin on her fist staring at the bathroom door.

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Jimmy, covered in sweat and vomit, lies on his back staring up at the ceiling light. His breathing is shallow and his eyes are droopy.

JIMMY (V.O.)

(tired, breathy)

Everyday, I'm living... the American dream... in the City of Angels... the land of opportunity... the home of the

brave... God bless America.

He reaches up towards the light.

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

It runs through my veins... makes my brain tired... a climax... only worthy for Gods... dance with me through candy land... feel the breeze on your skin... the taste on your tongue... stay as long as you want.

He begins to shiver.

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

Swimming in the Arctic Circle... sleeping in an ice bath... inside an igloo...

He slowly gets to his feet and grabs the door handle.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Natasha stares at him as he leaves the bathroom and ambles towards a bed like a new born taking its first steps. He pulls the quilt back, gets into bed, completely covers himself and falls asleep.

She sighs, gets off the bed and walks into the bathroom.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Natasha sits cross legged on the bed looking bored. Suddenly, we hear the sound of running water.

She looks over at her Dad - it isn't water, it is urine.

She gets up, tiptoes over to him and gently slides the quilt off him. He groans.

NATASHA

Dad, you need to get up.

He moans.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

Dad, you just went to the bathroom.

JIMMY

(groaning)

I'm in the bathroom.

NATASHA

You're in bed.

Jimmy groans.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

I'm going to sort you out. I don't care what you say.

She gets on the bed and rolls him on his back. She gets off the bed, puts one of his arms around her neck and attempts to lift him up.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

Dad! Work with me!

He groans.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

I'm not sharing a room with a man who smells like sick and pee. Now, get up!

He slowly and reluctantly sits up. She pulls his arms until he stands up and then walks him to the bathroom.

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - DAY

He is forced into the shower cubicle.

NATASHA

Take your pants off and wash yourself. When you have finished, call me okay and I'll wash your hair.

She leaves the bathroom.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

She stands with her hands on her hips staring at the bathroom door. The sound of running shower water can be heard. She sighs and sits on the floor.

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - LATER

He is on all fours having his hair washed and shampooed by Natasha. She pushes her fingers through his hair.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

She leads him back into the room.

Cold. Too cold.

She lets go of his hand, opens the motel room door and drags him outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MOTEL ROOM - DAY

She helps him get into a sitting position, leans him against the wall and folds his arms.

She kneels down next to him.

NATASHA

Enjoy the sun. I'm just going to clean the room up.

He tilts his back, closes his eyes and begins to doze in the bright, warm sunshine.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

She pulls all the covers off the bed and begins to wash the mattress. She smiles to herself when she catches a glimpse of her Dad basking in the sun.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MOTEL ROOM - DAY

She sits down next to him, rests her head on his shoulder and strokes his arm gently.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Jimmy slowly opens his eyes and looks down at Natasha.

JIMMY

We shouldn't be outside.

NATASHA

You kept saying you were cold.

He gets up and pulls her inside.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

He closes the door, locks it and then pulls the drapes shut.

JIMMY

Don't go outside again, okay?

She sits down on the bed.

NATASHA

Dad, tell me what's going on? Please!

JIMMY

Your Mom wants to take you away from me. Her and Pete were planning to sneak off to Utah and not tell me where you guys were going to be living. There's no way that is happening - I'm your Dad, I'm not just going to lose you, be pushed out of your life.

(beat)

I'm going cold turkey, I'm going clean. She won't be able to say anything then.

(beat)

Now, I'm probably going to be acting a bit strange but I want you to know I don't mean anything I say or do, okay? It is my body trying to restart. I apologize if I've said anything nasty - I don't mean it - I'm just trying to get better.

NATASHA

Mom doesn't know?

He kneels in front of her.

JIMMY

No, she doesn't. But she needs to understand sweetheart you're my little girl and I'm never ever going to let you out of my life.

(beat)

That isn't your fault, it is completely down to me. But I'm trying and it is because I love you.

NATASHA

She'll be worried.

JIMMY

Yeah, she will babe but this will show her how serious I am about being part of your life.

NATASHA

How long do we have to be here?

I don't know Nat but I just need you to be with me on this. It's going to take time but we'll get through it because we love each other.

He hugs her but after a few moments he begins to retch.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

He let's go of her, rushes to the bathroom, slams the door shut behind him and begins to vomit loudly.

Natasha throws herself backwards onto the bed and stares at the ceiling. She appears to be in deep thought - her young brain attempting to process what is happening and the consequences that may lay around the corner for them.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

He lies on the floor with his head resting on her lap. She holds his head forward a little and helps him to drink some water. After a few mouthfuls; she dabs his forehead with a cold face cloth. She opens a yoghurt pot and begins spoon feeding him.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

She lies on the floor holding his hand. He looks over at her and smiles. She lifts his head up, puts it on her lap and begins to stroke his face with her index finger. She moves her finger across his forehead, down his nose and around both his cheeks.

He smiles and closes his eyes. She repeats the relaxation method until he is fast asleep.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

She strokes his hair whilst he sleeps. She closes her eyes and begins to snooze.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

She patiently helps him to get to his feet. She then walks him to the bed, helps him to sit down and ultimately lie down. She gets into bed with him, cuddles up next to him and lifts his arms around her.

They instantly go to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Jimmy is sat on the edge of the bed eating cereal. He appears to be recovering - his eyes are bloodshot and baggy but he now has the motor skills to use a spoon and take the occasional sip of water from a bottle.

Natasha, asleep, is curled up in a ball on a bed. He glances over at her and smiles.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

He sits hunched over on the edge of the bed, arms folded looking at the floor. She lies on her back staring at the ceiling.

NATASHA

Dad.

JIMMY

Yes bud.

NATASHA

I'm bored.

(beat)

It has been four days, when can we go?

JIMMY

Not yet baby, soon maybe.

NATASHA

Have you not thought - "Well, what
next?"

JIMMY

Yeah.

(beat)

Shall I tell you a story?

NATASHA

Dad.

JIMMY

Yeah.

NATASHA

Are you trying to avoid making a decision?

JIMMY

Do you want to hear a story or not?

NATASHA

I don't mind.

He laughs.

JIMMY

Well, I'm gonna tell you one. (beat)

When you were born - I could fit you in the palm of my hand.

NATASHA

Really?

JIMMY

Yeah, you were so small.

(beat)

All the doctors and nurses loved you - they all thought you were so sweet.

(beat)

The nurses would argue about who's turn it was to hug you. You were the smallest baby but you were the loudest crier.

(beat)

It use to rip me apart inside.

(beat)

I'm not saying this to make up for my wrongs or put any blame onto your Mom but...

(beat)

... I said to her so many times to stop using when she was pregnant but she couldn't. She just kept shooting up.

(beat)

A doctor came to see us on the ward after you were born and... she told us you were addicted to heroin and you were crying so much because you were suffering from withdrawal symptoms.

(beat)

Me and your Mom were the reason you were crying - we had brought you into our own stupid lifestyle.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(beat)

We left you with grandma and grandpa and we went to a motel just like this and went cold turkey together - your Mom is very strong and as far as I know - she hasn't touch a drug since. But I'm a weak, stupid man Nat - I'm an addict, I'm unfaithful, I'm a let down. But... I am trying to make things right... I'm not clever so it is going to take me a while to work something out. But... I hope when I eventually do figure something out... you'll love me as much as I love you.

He stands up and disappears into the bathroom.

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - SAME TIME

He sits down in front of the door.

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - SAME TIME

She sits down on the floor with her back towards the bathroom door.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

(BEGIN CONTINUOUS SHOT)

Jimmy is sat on the edge of the bed - breathing deeply and tapping his feet anxiously. He glances back at Natasha, who is fast asleep behind him.

He slowly and quietly gets to his feet, walks over to a bag and rummages around inside until he finds his smokes and lighter. He has a full box - he opens it, takes two cigarettes out, puts the box back, walks over to the motel room door, opens it and steps...

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...outside. He closes the door behind him, leans up against the wall, lights a cigarette and takes a long, hard drag.

It is a still, quiet and humid night.

A gorgeous, brunette woman dressed in cool, sexy and fashionable clothes leaves the motel room next door. She smiles sweetly at him before leaning against the wall and lighting a cigarette.

Jimmy tries to keep his eyes off her but she is so beautiful it is near on impossible to not look her way. Her name is Bianca.

BIANCA

It is so warm tonight.

Jimmy looks her directly in the eyes and is immediately under her spell.

JIMMY

It is.

(beat)

Makes sleeping difficult.

BIANCA

Well, I guess - why sleep on a night like this?

(beat)

Perfect night for beer and joints in a park. Followed by a skinny dip.

JIMMY

Yeah... definitely.

BIANCA

What's your name?

JIMMY

Pavel.

BIANCA

Pavel?

JIMMY

Yeah, Czech parents.

BIANCA

Ah okay - mine are Armenian.

JIMMY

What's your name?

BIANCA

Bianca.

JIMMY

Nice to meet you Bianca.

BIANCA

You too.

(beat)

So, what's your story?

JIMMY

Story?

BIANCA

Yeah - the only kind of people that stay here are either running away from something or to something.

JIMMY

I'm on a journey.

BIANCA

Of self-exploration?

JIMMY

To an extent.

She smiles confidently.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What brings you here?

BIANCA

I come to... take care of stragglers.

JIMMY

Oh, lucky them.

BIANCA

I know right?!

JIMMY

Do you drop by often?

BIANCA

Urmmm... yeah. A lot of people enjoy my care.

JIMMY

Yeah, I can imagine you are very good at what you do.

BIANCA

Do you need to be looked after Pavel?

JIMMY

I do.

BIANCA

Well, how serendipitous.

(beat)

Would you like me to come into your room and take care of you?

He glances at his door.

JIMMY

Sure.

She stubs her cigarette out on the ground, turns to face him, crooks her head slightly and smiles.

BIANCA

That'll be a hundred dollars kind sir.

He laughs.

JIMMY

What happened to ObamaCare?

BIANCA

Vanished... just after people decided they would rather have a guy who enjoys golden showers in charge of the country.

JIMMY

Oh really? So, that wasn't just a bad dream after all?

Making sure he can see all of her best sides, she walks over to him and takes his hand gently.

He smiles as she strokes his arm.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Don't go anywhere - I'll be right back.

He lets go of her hand and goes back inside the...

INT. MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...motel room. He closes the door behind him, walks over to Natasha, kneels down next to her and gently shakes her shoulder until she wakes up.

Sorry to distribute you bud but I need you to go sleep in the bathroom.

NATASHA

What? Why?

JIMMY

Daddy needs the whole room to himself.

(beat)

Okay let's get moving.

He picks her up in his arms and carries her into...

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

...the bathroom. He places her in the tub, leaves the room momentarily and returns with a sheet and two pillows.

JIMMY

Here you go. This will be as good as the bed, probably better.

He puts two pillows behind her head and covers her with the sheet.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Sorry for disturbing you man, sleep well.

He walks out of the bathroom, back into the...

INT. MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...motel room. He closes the bathroom door behind him and opens the motel room door.

Bianca turns and smiles.

JIMMY

Hey.

BIANCA

Hey.

(beat)

May I come in?

JIMMY

You can.

She walks inside. He closes the door behind her.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Can I get you a drink? I'm afraid I only have water.

She perches on the side of a bed and crosses her legs.

BIANCA

I'm okay thank you.

(beat)

Come and sit next to me.

He sits down next to her.

After a few moments of gazing into each other's eyes she gently takes one of his hands and places it around her midriff. She leans her forehead against his, takes his other hand and places it on her left breast.

She pecks him on the lips, strokes his cheek and then pecks him another three times.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

(softly)

Let me look after you.

She helps him to take his t-shirt off, lies him on his back and slides his track pants down. She gets off the bed - kicks off her shoes and removes her skirt - she then mounts him. She slowly and seductively unbuttons her top and removes it. She begins to slowly wind her body and grind it against him. She strokes his chest, pushes her hands through her hair and then removes her bra.

(END CONTINUOUS SHOT)

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Natasha gets out of the tub, tip-toes to the door and peaks out. She quickly gets back in the tub and covers her face with a pillow. Shock, disgust, confusion and embarrassment - are just a few emotions she is feeling right now!

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Bianca is asleep on her stomach in bed and Jimmy is stood putting a T-shirt on. He takes a swig of water and then leaves the room.

After a few moments - the bathroom door begins to slowly open. Natasha hesitantly sticks her head out and looks around the room. Her eyes set on Bianca who has started to stir. Natasha quietly crawls along the floor to grab her bottle of juice. She reaches out for it...

BIANCA (O.S.)

Oh my god!

They both jump.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jimmy pulls a box out from underneath a back seat, opens it, pulls out a wad of money and begins counting it.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Natasha sits facing Bianca.

BIANCA

Is he good to you?

Natasha nods.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

You can tell me if he isn't.

NATASHA

No, he is okay.

BIANCA

What are you guys doing here?

NATASHA

He is going cold turkey.

BIANCA

From what?

NATASHA

The drugs he takes.

(beat)

My Mom wants to take me away and not tell my Dad whereabouts we are going this year.

(beat)

He took me here because he doesn't want to lose me.

(beat)

Please don't tell anyone.

Jimmy comes back in.

JIMMY

Oh - morning guys.

(beat)
How are we?

NATASHA

BIANCA

Okay.

Good.

JIMMY

Good... that's good.

(beat)

So, Nat - this is my friend Bianca, she was tired and needed somewhere to sleep.

(to Bianca)

Right?

BIANCA

Yeah.

Bianca stands up.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you Nat. If you need anything remember to go to reception.

JIMMY

(snappy)

You don't need to do that!

(calmly)

You don't need to do that, do you kid? You have me.

She nods.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Good girl.

(beat)

Okay, Bianca let me walk you out.

Bianca waves goodbye to Natasha and then walks out of the room with Jimmy.

Natasha stands up and goes into the bathroom.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Jimmy closes the door.

BIANCA

What the fuck is going on man?

JIMMY

Here's your \$100.

He passes her the money.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Thank you - it was awesome.

He turns around but Bianca grabs his arm.

BIANCA

You better not being hurting her? (beat)

If you're a pedophile - I fucking swear to god I'll...

Jimmy turns back around and grabs her firmly around the wrist.

JIMMY

I am no fucking pedophile.

(beat)

I fucking love my daughter with all my heart and I just fucking regret that I haven't spent more fucking time with her.

BIANCA

What's going on Pavel?

JIMMY

I'm sick Bianca, very fucking sick. But I'm fucking trying okay? Do you understand me? I'm sick but I'm trying.

BIANCA

I'm going to call the police - something isn't right!

JIMMY

Don't you fucking dare! Don't you fucking dare! If you do, I'll fucking kill you! Do you fucking understand me?

BIANCA

(loud)

Let the fuck go of me now!

He turns her around and puts a hand over her mouth.

(quietly)

Shut the fuck up! Shut the fuck up! Please!

She struggles to break free from his grasp.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Stop! Fucking stop! I am not hurting her!

BIANCA

Help! Help!

JIMMY

Shut up!

BIANCA

Help!

He stomps on her ankle and without thinking snaps her neck. She goes limp and crumples to the ground.

Jimmy looks down at her in shock.

JIMMY

Fuck! Oh fuck, oh fuck, fuck, shit, no, no, no.

He kneels down next to her, looks around the area for any witnesses, picks her up and quickly carries her to his car.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Natasha is relaxing on a bed and staring into space when Jimmy returns a few moments later. He quickly walks into the bathroom.

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - DAY

He vigorously washes his hands in the sink.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

He shuts the door behind him, sits down on a bed and holds his head in his hands.

NATASHA

Are you okay?

Yes sweetheart.

(beat)

I just have a headache.

After a few moments silence...

NATASHA

I want to go home Dad.

JIMMY

You can't go home baby, we're going to Utah.

NATASHA

I want to go back to Mom!

He looks over at her.

JIMMY

Why?

NATASHA

Because we go out and do things! ... And School starts again on Tuesday.

JIMMY

But you're moving to...

NATASHA

Dad! I thought you had spoke to Mom! She told me that we aren't moving for another three months!

JIMMY

Wait, if you knew you weren't going away for three months, why did you come with me?

NATASHA

I thought maybe you were lonely! I also thought maybe you wanted to spend some time with me!

JIMMY

Keep your voice down please!

NATASHA

No! You said we were going to have an exciting journey and all we have done is stay in a stupid motel room!

(MORE)

NATASHA (CONT'D)

I've had to listen to you being sick, wash you, wash puke off the floor, wash poo and pee off the bed! That isn't fun!

Jimmy stands up.

JIMMY

Oh okay - I see now - you think you're some fucking big guy right?!

NATASHA

Yeah!

JIMMY

And you think you are better than me!?

NATASHA

Yeah!

She stands up and steps in front of him.

JIMMY

You think you are something fucking special don't you?!

NATASHA

Yeah!

JIMMY

Go on show me! Show me who you are!

She screams at him.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What the fuck is that?!

NATASHA

A roar!

JIMMY

You think you are king of the jungle don't you? You think you're something, don't you girl!?

NATASHA

I don't think! I know!

She screeches at him.

He yells in her face.

You hear that?! I'm the fucking king man, not you!

She yells really loudly. He roars back at her.

They scream at each other until they become croaky and hoarse. He grabs her by the hand and drags her into the bathroom.

INT. MOTEL ROOM/BATHROOM - DAY

He turns her to face the mirror.

JIMMY

Convince yourself!

NATASHA

What?

JIMMY

Look in that fucking mirror and tell yourself you are king of the jungle!

NATASHA

I'm king of the jungle!

JIMMY

Louder!

NATASHA

I'm king of the jungle!

JIMMY

Fucking louder!

NATASHA

I'm king of the jungle!

He puts his lips to her ear.

JIMMY

I can't hear you!

NATASHA

I'm king of the jungle!

JIMMY

Louder!

NATASHA

I'm king of the jungle!

Who is?!

NATASHA

Me!

JIMMY

Who?!

NATASHA

Me!?

JIMMY

Who?!

NATASHA

Me! Me! I am!

JIMMY

What's your name?!

NATASHA

Natasha Peel!

JIMMY

Who?!

NATASHA

Natasha Peel!

JIMMY

What?!

NATASHA

Natasha Peel!

JIMMY

You are damn fucking right! You are fucking right! Who are you?

NATASHA

I am Natasha Peel!

JIMMY

Are you better than me?!

She pauses.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Are you better than me?!

She doesn't say anything.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Speak!

(beat)

Are you better than me?!

NATASHA

Yes!

JIMMY

Are you?

NATASHA

Yes!

JIMMY

Shout it fucking louder!

NATASHA

Yes!

JIMMY

Who are you better than?!

NATASHA

You!

JIMMY

Yeah?! Shout it!

NATASHA

I'm better than you!

JIMMY

Better than who?!

NATASHA

You!

JIMMY

Who?!

NATASHA

You!

He kneels down quickly and hugs her tightly. Their tired bodies quiver.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

They are both lying on their sides facing each other.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

They are still facing each other.

JIMMY

Are you looking forward to school?

NATASHA

Yeah - we have a dance coming up.

JIMMY

Who you going with?

NATASHA

Dwayne Summers.

JIMMY

What's he like?

NATASHA

He is nice.

JIMMY

Is he smart?

NATASHA

Yeah.

JIMMY

What classes do you have together?

NATASHA

Biology and Math.

JIMMY

Do you like those subjects?

NATASHA

Yeah.

JIMMY

Is he cute?

NATASHA

Yeah.

JIMMY

Cuter than me?

NATASHA

Yeah.

JIMMY

He sounds dreamy.

They both fall silent. Several moments later...

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Are you going to dance together?

NATASHA

I hope so.

JIMMY

Do you know how to dance?

NATASHA

No.

JIMMY

Does he?

NATASHA

No.

JIMMY

I know how to dance.

NATASHA

Really?

JIMMY

Yep. Me and your Mom use to dance all the time.

NATASHA

Really?

JIMMY

Yes maam.

Silence.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Would you like me to teach you?

NATASHA

No, I'm okay.

JIMMY

Please.

NATASHA

Na.

JIMMY

Please - I have a CD in the car.

She thinks.

NATASHA

Okay then.

JIMMY

Really?

NATASHA

Yeah.

JIMMY

Awesome.

They roll onto their backs and get up.

EXT. MOTEL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

(BEGIN CONTINUOUS SHOT)

Jimmy and Natasha walk side-by-side to the car. He opens the driver's door, gets in, switches the engine on, opens the glove box and pulls a CD case out.

JIMMY

Here we go - your Mom and I's mixtape.

NATASHA

Eww.

JIMMY

Eww, what? These are some beautiful songs.

He puts the CD into the player and presses play. After a few moments "Labelle - It Took Along Time" begins to play.

He gets out of the car, stands in front of Natasha and holds his hand out.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

May I have this dance?

She takes his hand.

NATASHA

Yes kind sir.

He kneels down slightly, places her hand on his waist and begins to slow dance with her.

They dance for the duration of the song.

(END CONTINUOUS SHOT)

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: CHAPTER 4 - THE DROP OFF

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Natasha is sleeping peacefully. Jimmy kneels down beside her and gently shakes her shoulder.

JIMMY

Nat. Nat. Nat.

She opens her eyes.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Morning.

(beat)

I'm going to take you home.

NATASHA

Really?

JIMMY

Yes maam.

NATASHA

Why?

JIMMY

Take a shower and then we'll get going.

He stands up and walks away.

INT. CAR - DAY

Natasha is sat in the back wearing her face mask.

Jimmy gets in the car, switches the engine on and begins to reverse.

INT. CAR - DAY

Driving.

Jimmy looks back at Natasha.

I was wondering if you would help me say goodbye to something.

He looks out of the window.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Jimmy and Natasha walk along together underneath a clear, blue sky and over beautiful, green grass. He is holding his bag of heroin.

After a several moments they stop walking.

JIMMY

Say goodbye to it.

She looks at the bag.

NATASHA

Goodbye.

He takes a deep breath before throwing the bag as far as he can. Natasha strokes his arm.

NATASHA (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

He nods his head, turns to face her, smiles and then begins to tickle her. She giggles loudly.

VARIOUS SHOTS IN SLOW-MOTION:

- She chases him around.
- He spins her around in the air.
- He holds her upside down.
- They face each other performing karate moves.

INT. CAR - DAY

They drive down a suburban street and park outside the front of Amy's house.

JIMMY

Take your mask off bud.

She does.

NATASHA

Are you coming in?

JIMMY

I dunno - where's Pete?

NATASHA

He'll be at work.

He stares at the house.

JIMMY

Err, yeah - I'll be right behind
you.

She takes her seat belt off and gets out of the car. He takes a deep breath and reluctantly gets out.

EXT. OUTSIDE AMY'S HOUSE - DAY

Natasha runs up to the front door and begins to knock on it. Jimmy is a few feet behind her.

Several moments later, it opens and a woman in her late twenties with long, brown hair, Latino complexation and light, vibrant eyes appears in the doorway. This is Amy.

She let's out a small squeal when she sees Natasha on the porch. She bends over, puts her arms around her and hugs her tightly.

AMY

My baby! My beautiful, beautiful baby! Where have you been? I've been worried sick!

She places her hands on the side of Natasha's head and stares into her eyes.

AMY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

NATASHA

Yeah, I'm okay.

Amy looks up at Jimmy.

AMY

(to Natasha)

Go inside baby.

She kisses her on the forehead.

AMY (CONT'D)

(holding back tears)

Go and relax in the garden, okay?

NATASHA

Okay.

AMY

Good girl - I love you.

Natasha goes inside.

Amy stares at Jimmy for a few moments. Tears trickle down her face.

AMY (CONT'D)

I suppose you want to come in.

JIMMY

Only if that is okay.

She stands up.

AMY

Come in.

She walks back inside the house. He follows her.

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

Natasha sits down on a step with her back towards the house.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Amy stands in the middle of the kitchen with her back towards Jimmy. He walks into the room sheepishly, looks around and then approaches Amy.

She spins around and smacks him across the cheek. Tears roll down her face. He walks away from her and leans on the kitchen surface.

She stands with her back to him again.

JIMMY

I'm sorry Amy.

AMY

So am I.

(beat)

I am sorry I ever met you.

She turns to face him.

AMY (CONT'D)

Why are you so stupid Jimmy? Why do you do stupid things?

JIMMY

I...

AMY

Don't answer the question, I don't want to hear it.

(beat)

I thought Nat was dead. I've had so many horrible thoughts going through my head - has she been kidnapped, raped, trafficked, murdered and left to rot somewhere, thrown to the bottom of the ocean?! I never thought I'd see her again! (beat)

It has been ten days Jimmy and I have slept like... two or three hours because I've been worried sick! But you don't care - you don't care that I've been worried sick about my daughter.

JIMMY

She's my daughter too.

AMY

Is she fuck!? You fucked off and left her and me when she was six! You ring me up every year promising me you're going to be part of her life but every single time... you mess up. You mess up and break her heart - I have to be witness to that everytime - you have absolutely no idea how painful that is!

JIMMY

I do.

AMY

How? How? How the fuck do you know Jimmy? If you knew, you wouldn't have done it over and over and over and over again.

(beat)

Where did you take her?

To a motel.

AMY

Why?

JIMMY

Well, I wanted to get her away from here before you took her from me.

AMY

I was trying to get you to take some responsibility! I would have told you where we were moving!

JIMMY

No you wouldn't.

AMY

Of course I would have! (beat)
Why were you at a motel?

He turns to face her.

JIMMY

I needed somewhere to get my head down and get off the heroin. I'm trying to do things right.

AMY

Do you know how irresponsible that is?!

(beat)

She is a child! What if you had a bad reaction?! You could have died! Did you not think how that could have effected her?!

JIMMY

I wasn't going to die.

AMY

Oh yeah, can you predict the future?

JIMMY

No.

AMY

Well, it fucking sounds like you think you can! (beat)

(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

Come on - tell me the lottery numbers!

JIMMY

I can't.

AMY

What a damn shame.

She sighs, looks down at the floor, walks around a little and faces him.

AMY (CONT'D)

You're lucky the police aren't here. They have been coming in all week.

She leans against the wall and sighs.

AMY (CONT'D)

I'm not going to report you.
 (beat)

If they ask me if it was you I won't say no though.

Several moments of silence...

JIMMY

How did we get like this?

AMY

I moved on Jimmy - you didn't. I wanted to do right by my daughter from day one. You, you decided to let the addiction take over your life.

(beat)

We said to each other "let's get clean" and we did. Why didn't you just talk to me when you felt the urge again? Why did you ask your junkie friends for advice and not me? Someone who loved and cared for you.

After a few moments of silence...

JIMMY

We've had some good times though haven't we?

AMY

Yeah, I suppose so we have.

Do you remember when we took Nat to see the view from above the Hollywood sign?

Amy laughs.

AMY

"Mommy! I can see the entire world from here!"

JIMMY

I thought she said Daddy.

AMY

Perhaps - she said it a few times.

JIMMY

When we were on your Dad's boat that time!

They both smile.

AMY

I was so embarrassed.

JIMMY

In a good way though, right?

AMY

Yeah, of course.

JIMMY

The look on your Dad's business associates faces were just... priceless.

AMY

She did the exact same thing a few years later. Dad was hosting this gala - all the men in suits, all the women in dresses, really fancy obviously...

JIMMY

Well yeah, it is your Dad.

AMY

Dad walks onto the stage, goes to speak into the microphone when everyone has stopped applauding and that's when she says...

"Oh no, not another long chat!"

They both laugh.

AMY

Yeah, everyone laughed.

They fall silent and after a few moments...

JIMMY

I am going away Amy.

AMY

Where to now?

JIMMY

I have done something really bad.

He looks at the floor.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

And I'm not going to run away this time. It is time I take responsibility for my actions.

(beat)

You're probably thinking "Well, you are thirty-two - you should have been thinking this way for like thirteen years" and you're right I probably should have.

(beat)

I have finally gotten to where I should be and I'm ready for it.

AMY

Jimmy, what have you done?

He walks over to Amy, stares into her eyes and takes her hand.

JIMMY

Can I kiss you?

She nods. He kisses her on the cheek.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry things didn't work out the way we expected.

AMY

Me too.

(beat)

How long will you be away for?

A long time.

(beat)

I'm going to send you a voice note - it'll be for Nat - promise me you'll let her listen to it.

AMY

Are you not going to say goodbye to her?

JIMMY

I can't.

AMY

What do you mean you can't?

He kisses her on the lips and leaves the kitchen.

AMY (CONT'D)

Jimmy, what is wrong with you? I'm not chasing after you!

She pushes her hands through her hair and leaves the room.

EXT. OUTSIDE AMY'S HOUSE - DAY

He walks towards his car, opens the door and pulls out a box. He walks back to the house, places the box in the bush in the front garden, walks back to the car, gets in and after a few seconds drives away.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: CHAPTER 5 - AN ODYSSEY CONCLUDES

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The sun has begun to set over the city of Los Angeles.

We are on the hood of the car looking in through the windshield at Jimmy. He sits in the passenger sit, his eyes firmly fixed on what is in front of him.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

He takes a brand new cellphone out of his pocket, presses a few buttons and holds the phone under his chin.

JIMMY

(into phone)

Hey Nat, it is just me. I just wanted to send you a message to let you know I have got to go away for a while. It'll be a long time before I can come and see you again. Maybe you and your Mom can come see me, I'm not sure yet... only come if you really want to - I have disappointed you over the years so I would understand if you didn't want to see me.

CUT TO:

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Amy and Nat are sat together on the sofa listening to Jimmy's message.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I just want to tell you that the last ten days we spent together were awesome. I got to spend time with one of the kindest, most caring, cool, smart and fun kids in the world.

(beat)

I loved every second of it - I just wish I spent more time with you and been there for you as you grew into the girl you are now and be there as you grow into a young woman.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Jimmy looks out of the window.

JIMMY

(into phone)

Apologies won't ever be enough but that is all I can give you right now.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(beat)

Nobody knows what the future holds but I just hope that I am involved in yours.

(beat)

Okay sweetheart I have to go now, I love you, take care of yourself and Mom.

CUT TO:

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Amy is hugging Natasha.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Mom, can I please talk to you in private for a moment?

(START TRACKING SHOT)

Amy looks down at her daughter, strokes her shoulder and walks into the...

INT. AMY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...kitchen. She takes the phone off speaker and holds it to her ear.

(END TRACKING SHOT)

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Jimmy leans back in his seat.

JIMMY

(into phone)

I'm really sorry about how I left earlier Amy.

(beat)

Before I left I hid something in the bush for you. If you go out the front you will find a cardboard box. I hope you guys use it and have a lot of fun. Go on some vacations, have some nice dinners, just make some great memories with each other.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(beat)

Okay - I love you - goodbye.

He hangs up.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE AMY'S HOUSE - DAY

Amy pulls the bush's leaves back and discovers the box. She picks it up and opens it to find wads of money.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

He looks at his phone and reluctantly presses a few buttons. He appears nervous as the line begins to ring.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.)

911, police, fire or ambulance?

JIMMY

(into phone)

Police please.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Okay - what's going on there?

A few moments later...

JIMMY

(into phone, trying to

hold back tears)

I am outside of West LA police station - in my car, in the parking lot.

POLICE CALL HANDLER (V.O.)

Okay sir, what seems to be the issue?

JIMMY

(into phone, voice

trembling)

I murdered someone and they're in my trunk.

He breaks - tears begin to roll down his face, for the first time he looks like a broken man.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Who did you murder? JIMMY (into phone) A young woman - a sex worker. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) When? JIMMY (into phone) A day ago. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Okay, what's your name sir? JIMMY (into phone) Jimmy Brooks. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Okay, and you said she is in your trunk? JIMMY (into phone) Yes maam. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) What did you kill her with? JIMMY (into phone) I snapped her neck. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Do you have any weapons on you sir? Firearm etc. JIMMY (into phone) No maam. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Okay - well - we have got someone coming out to talk to you. (beat) Why did you do this? JIMMY (into phone)

I didn't mean too but she was going

to call the police.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Why was she going to do that?

JIMMY

(into phone)

Because she thought I was hurting my daughter.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Okay sir, were you hurting your daughter?

JIMMY

(into phone)

No maam. I love my daughter - I would never hurt her.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Okay, what was the sex worker's name?

JIMMY

(into phone)

Bianca, we just met one night.

(beat)

How long will it take for someone to come out?

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.) Oh, not very long sir. Someone will be right down.

JIMMY

(into phone)

How many will there be?

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Two or three sir.

(beat)

So, if you could just remain calm and don't leave your vehicle that'll make things a lot easier.

JIMMY

(into phone)

Okay - I'll stay here.

(beat)

Should I stay on the line?

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.)

It is up to you sir, if you want to stay on the phone with me that's fine.

(into phone)

Okay - I think I'll just hang up.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Okay no problem sir - thank you for your call.

JIMMY

(into phone)

Okay... bye.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Bye now, take care.

He hangs up, places his head against the steering wheel and continues his emotional struggle.

A few moments later and there is a knock on the window next to him.

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.)

Jimmy Brooks?

He nods his head, opens the door and gets out.

FADE OUT.

THE END