

Jesus of Suburbia
"Carry On"

written by

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TEASER

INT. ARTY'S ROOM -- MORNING

A messy, teenage boy's room, walls covered in band posters. ARTY (17, punk) throws on a ripped up t-shirt, the word "SCUM" handwritten across the chest. He catches a glance of himself in the mirror and quickly puts a button up shirt on, covering the tee.

Zoom out to reveal the rest of Arty's outfit: slacks and dress shoes. The sound of arguing from downstairs. Arty slams the door. He plugs in his electric guitar and starts playing. The music continues under:

INT. SYD'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- MORNING

SYD (17, studious) comes down a fancy staircase in a nice black dress. SYD'S MOM waits at the bottom of the stairs with a shawl, gently putting it on Syd's shoulders. She pulls Syd into a tight hug. SYD'S DAD watches from the other side of the room. He walks over and kisses her on the head.

SYD'S MOM

I know it's probably not going to be the first thing on your mind today, but if you hear anything-

SYD'S DAD

Julia...

SYD'S MOM

Sorry... I just--

SYD'S DAD

We love you, honey. Tell the Garcias we're thinking of them.

INT. CAM'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- MORNING

CAM (17, sporty) hangs out with her brothers in her family's hyper-masculine living room. Her oldest brother, MIKE (23) helps her tie her tie. Her other brothers, AIDAN (21) and LIAM (20), sit around and drink beer. CAM'S DAD enters and hands her a beer.

CAM'S DAD

I'm uh-- I'm sorry, Cameron...
Yeah--

CAM

Thanks.

Mike finishes tying the tie.

LIAM

Ayyyyy, look at that fucking tie!

AIDAN

Oh shit, you're looking slick as hell, bro.

MIKE

Not for much longer.

Mike throws Cam over his shoulder, spinning her around.

CAM

Dickhead!

Liam and Aidan laugh. Soon, they're all laughing.

INT. TESSA'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN

A quiet, empty house. TESSA (17, artsy) enters the cramped kitchen. There's a small bowl of pills on the counter. A note taped up next to it says:

"Don't forget. Love you. --Mom"

Tessa grabs the pills. She tosses them in the trash. There's a knock at the door. She opens it to find Cam waiting for her outside. Cam smiles and holds her arms open wide. Tessa jumps into her arms, kissing her over and over.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- MORNING

A beat-up mini-van pulls into a parking lot. Arty jumps out and the van speeds off. He looks up to see Syd, Cam, and Tessa waiting for him. They immediately pull him into a long, tender hug. The teens look up at what lies ahead: a funeral.

TITLE: JESUS OF SUBURBIA

ACT ONE

INT. CHURCH -- MORNING

An uptight, catholic funeral. XANDER'S DAD stands at the pulpit. His generic speech can be faintly heard in the background. Arty looks down at the program in his hand. The inside cover reads: "Alexander Garcia died from natural causes with his loving father alongside him..."

Arty looks around at his friend's disgusted faces. He rips the page out, crumpling it up.

EXT. CHURCH -- EARLY AFTERNOON

Post funeral. XANDER'S DAD sits on a bench behind the church, smoking a cigarette. Suddenly, he's pelted with paper balls. He looks over and sees Cam and Tessa quickly running away. Left behind is Arty, who glares at him.

INT. 7-11 -- MOMENTS LATER

Cam and Tessa walk down the snack aisle of the local 7-11. Tessa grabs bags and bags of snacks throwing them back to Cam.

INT. 7-11 -- COUNTER -- CONTINUOUS

Cam and Tessa walk right by the counter with their arms full of loot. DOUG (32), the disgruntled manager, calls after them.

DOUG

You're not supposed to take things
on your day off.

TESSA

We're grieving, Doug.

She and Cam exit out the employee's only back door into:

EXT. 7-11 -- ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

A make-shift hang out spot. Stolen signs hang on the wall. Buckets are used as tables. Cigarette butts litter the ground. Syd sits on an old couch, deep in a phone-call.

SYD

No, mom, I haven't heard anything.
 Yes, I just checked. Can you--
 (notices Cam and Tessa)
 I gotta go... Yes! I promise.

She hangs up. Cam tosses her a soda.

CAM

Where's Arty?

They look over and spot him sitting high up in a tree. He stares at the sky.

ARTY'S POV. He watches birds fly overhead. He starts to have a FLASHBACK. He sits on the beach watching the birds. Someone's next to him, laughing. His memory is interrupted by:

CAM (CONT'D)

Arty!

He shakes off his flashback and looks over to his friends. A mischievous smile crosses his face. He stands up, slowly starting to walk across the tree branch like its a tightrope. Syd jumps up.

SYD

Arty, stop!

He smiles down at her and keeps walking. He's almost at the end. The branch starts to wobble.

CAM

Go Arty, go!

SYD

Cam, don't--
 (to Arty)
 Get down. Please.

The branch breaks. Arty falls. Syd screams.

EXT. 7-11 -- ALLEY -- MOMENTS LATER

Arty sits on the couch next to Syd. She holds a cold can of Mountain Dew on his scraped up knee. He bleeds through his now ripped dress pants. Tessa films them on her camcorder. She zooms in on Arty's gnarly knee.

TESSA

Today, Arty Allen attempted a death defying feat... Only to crash and burn miserably.

ARTY

Don't worry everyone, Dr. Syd is taking excellent care of me.

He touches her knee. She blushes. Tessa points the camera at Syd.

TESSA

Dr. Syd, ladies and germs, the smartest girl to ever live in Buena Park.

Syd covers her face.

ARTY

Would like you like to say a few words about what it's like to be a queen among scum?

SYD

Shut up. You guys are so dumb.

CAM

Did you hear that? She called us dumb! We got that on camera, bitch.

Syd tries to cover the camera with her hand.

SYD

Will you turn that off?

TESSA

Sorry, I just thought-

SYD

No, it's... You're fine.

The heaviness of the day falls on their shoulders again. Arty looks around at his friends solemn faces.

ARTY

Oh, come on guys! Are we just gonna sit here all day, depressed?

CAM

Probably.

ARTY

Xan would be pissed right now!

CAM

Cus I didn't get him a Red Bull?

ARTY

The party king would not want us to sit around, crying. Remember that night before formal?

TESSA

Is that when he did all those fireball shots?

CAM

Yeah and he sang that entire Fall Out Boy album.

SYD

Oh my god and then he fell asleep on the toilet.

They all laugh.

ARTY

See? You all wanna honor him... Let's have a party.

SYD

I don't know, Art...

ARTY

He would've hated that lame ass funeral!

CAM

He once told me he hated that priest so much that he would spend all of mass trying to set him on fire with his mind.

TESSA

And his dad's speech was so fucking bad.

ARTY

"The only thing he loved more than going to church was fishing with his old man."

CAM

That bitch couldn't even swim!

TESSA

Fuck it. Let's have a party.

Cam grabs Tessa, picking her up and spinning her.

CAM
Yes! Party! Party!

They spin and laugh. Arty looks over to the quiet Syd.

ARTY
Syd?

SYD
I don't know... It just feels a
little dark to me.

ARTY
Please....

He flashes her the biggest puppy dog eyes.

ARTY (CONT'D)
I wouldn't want to do it without
you.

He grabs her hand. Her heart skips a beat.

SYD
Fine. Ok.

ARTY
Really?

SYD
Let's do it.

Cam puts Tessa down, grabbing Syd and lifting her up high.

CAM
Party! Party!

ARTY
That's what I like to hear! Cam is
your dad down to host?

CAM
Always.

ARTY
Fuck, yeah. I'll grab the rest of
Xander's weed and--

SYD
Let's have a fucking party.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- REAR -- MID-AFTERNOON

A slightly rundown public high-school. Around back, Syd gives Arty a boost, helping him climb through the bathroom window. He falls through, landing with a thud. He jumps up and looks down at Syd, flashing her a cheeky smile.

ARTY

Thanks, S. I'd be dead without you.

He winks and disappears into the bathroom.

INT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Arty turns to see a guy using the urinals.

ARTY

What are you looking at, limp dick?

Arty exits the bathroom into:

INT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Arty walks down the hallway, ducking under all the classroom windows to avoid being seen. He makes it to the end of the hallway, where he he approaches a locker. On the front is the name XAN carved into the metal with a knife. Arty stares at it for a long beat.

EXT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- REAR -- MID-AFTERNOON

Syd stands awkwardly, keeping guard. She checks her email a few times. Nothing. She texts her mom: "Nothing yet." She clicks her phone off, revealing her background: a photo of her an Arty sitting on the school bus, his head on her shoulder.

EXT. CAM'S HOUSE -- MID-AFTERNOON

Cam and Tessa approach Cam's front door.

TESSA

I'll be in in a sec.

CAM

Ok, baby.

Cam gives Tessa a quick peck then heads inside. Tessa sits on the stoop. She pulls her phone out. There's a bright red notification on her voicemail app. She opens it. One unheard message from Xander. It's from the day he died.

Tessa thinks about listening to it. She doesn't. Instead, she scrolls down to an older voicemail. She plays it.

XANDER

(V.O.)

Hey, crazy... Just saw your text.
Don't go anywhere, ok? I got some
weed and some paint. And we're
gonna ride this thing out... We'll
keep you tethered my bipolar
baby...

BEEP. The voicemail ends. A beat. Xander won't be coming over.

INT. CAM'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

In the middle of the living room stands SHELLEY, a peppy middle aged woman. She carefully sets a plate of cookies on the table. There's candles lit all around the room.

CAM

What the fuck...?

SHELLEY

Oh, you must be Cameron!

CAM

Who the fuck are you?

SHELLEY

Uh... I'm Shelley. The realtor.

CAM

Nice to meet you, Shelley. What the fuck are you doing in my house?

Mike comes around the corner, holding a fresh, white towel.

MIKE

Is this one better?

Mike looks up to see Cam standing in the middle of the room.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Oh shit... Dad!

Cam's Dad enters the room followed by Aidan and Liam.

CAM'S DAD
Cam, I thought you'd be-

CAM
Are you selling the house?

Cam's family looks at her, their faces full of guilt.

CAM'S DAD
Yeah... Yeah, I am.

CAM
You all knew?

Her brothers nod sheepishly.

CAM (CONT'D)
Fuck you. All of you.

Cam storms out the door.

EXT. CAM'S HOUSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Cam charges out the front door right past Tessa.

TESSA
Cam?

Cam stops by the car. She presses her fists up against the glass, closing her eyes as she fights back tears. Tessa comes up behind her, putting her hand on Cam's back. Cam takes a deep breath, then turns around, putting on a brave face for Tessa.

CAM
Sorry baby, my dad says he won't host the party...

TESSA
Oh... Ok.

CAM
Let's get the fuck out of here.

INT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- HALLWAY -- MID-AFTERNOON

Arty knows the code to the locker. He opens it. Inside is a bunch of crumpled up drawings, a well-worn notebook, and a little bag of weed. Hanging on the door is a photo of the beach. Arty's same FLASHBACK begins.

He sits on the beach. Next to him is Xander. They laugh. Their hands touch. The flashback is interrupted by: BRIIIIING. The school bells rings. Arty quickly shoves the weed in his pocket. Kids begin to flood the hallways.

Arty starts speed walking towards the door. He notices eyes on him from all directions. Students whisper about him as he pushes through the crowd, still in his funeral clothes.

Arty's almost to the door when he makes eye contact with the school's overachiever, PEYTON. Peyton approaches.

ARTY

No, no, not now--

PEYTON

Hey-- Uh-- I'm really sorry about, Alex. We were best friends. Like truly-- like two peas--

Arty begins twitching as he listens to this.

ARTY

Peyton, I really don't--

PEYTON

He was just so funny. Always wearing his little black outfits. Not talking to anyone. I'm gonna miss him so--

Arty lunges forward, punching Payton in the face.

EXT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- REAR -- CONTINUOUS

Students come streaming outside with their backpacks on. Syd looks around for Arty. Suddenly, she's approached by another preppy student, CHARLOTTE.

CHARLOTTE

Syd!

SYD

Oh, uh-- hi, Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

What are you doing here? I thought you guys were at the... You know.

Syd looks around, nervously.

SYD

Yeah, it uh-- it ended a little bit ago, so... Hey, uh, have you heard anything yet?

CHARLOTTE

Oh, yeah... I didn't get in.

SYD

I'm so sorry-- when uh-- when did you find out?

CHARLOTTE

The email like literally just got sent.

Syd's heart starts beating out of her chest. She can barely hear Charlotte over the ringing in her ears.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

It just sucks cus like my entire family went to Yale. Like I thought legacies were supposed to like automatically get in but--

Charlotte's voice is drowned out as Syd pulls out her phone. She has a notification from her Gmail. She opens it.
Congrats. Welcome to Yale.

SYD

Fuck.

Her concentration is interrupted by a student who runs by.

STUDENT

Fight! Yo! There's a fight in the hall!

EXT. 7-11 -- ALLEY -- MOMENTS LATER

Tessa and Cam throw darts in the hang out spot. Cam throws one hard and fast. She completely misses and it gets lodged deep in the wall.

CAM

Fuck me.

She runs over and starts trying to pull it out. Tessa's phone rings. She answers and braces herself.

TESSA

Hola, mama.

TESSA'S MOM
You think you're fucking smart,
huh?

TESSA
What?

TESSA'S MOM
You know who takes the trash out?
Me.

TESSA
Ok, and?

TESSA'S MOM
I can see all your pills in there.
You gotta start taking this shit,
mija. En serio.

TESSA
Ok, ok....

TESSA'S MOM
No, don't ok ok. That's what you
always say. I'm gonna start
watching you take them--

TESSA
Mom--

TESSA'S MOM
My house. My rules. My daughter
takes her fucking medication.

Suddenly, Tessa throws her phone on the ground, smashing it.

INT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Arty shakes his hand out. Peyton holds his bleeding nose.

PETYON
Yo! What the fuck?!

ARTY
You have no idea what you're
talking about!

PETYON
You're fucking crazy, bro!

ARTY
Don't pretend you gave a shit about
him!

Arty breathes heavily. He looks around at the terrified crowd. Syd pushes through to the front.

ARTY (CONT'D)

None of you gave a fucking shit about him!

PEYTON

I'm telling Principal Lopez, dude. You're dead.

Syd runs forward and tries to grab Arty. He pushes past her and out the front door.

EXT. 7-11 ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

Tessa stares down at her smashed phone. Cam runs over.

CAM

What the f-- are you ok?

TESSA

Yeah, shit. I just... I dropped it.

Suddenly, it dawns on Tessa.

TESSA (CONT'D)

No, no, no. Fuck.

She picks her phone up and starts trying to turn it on. Her hand is nicked on the broken glass. She starts bleeding.

CAM

Tessa, hey--

Cam tries to gently take the phone from her but Tessa pulls it away. She grabs on tight, her hand bleeding more and more.

CAM (CONT'D)

Put it down.

TESSA

My messages-- my...

Tessa holds the phone to her chest.

CAM

It's just a phone.

TESSA

No, no, you don't--

CAM

Everything's saved in the cloud
these days. We'll just take it to
the apple store tomorrow--

TESSA

Can you just-- why are you always
trying to fix everything?

CAM

What do you want me to do?

TESSA

I don't know, like... Feel
something, I guess. Xander left me
a voicemail the night he died. I
haven't listened to it.

CAM

Oh....

Cam sits on the ground next to Tessa. They both look down at
her phone.

EXT. LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL -- PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Arty runs into the parking lot. He dodges all the cars and
buses pulling up to the school. He leans over, panting and
catching his breath.

SYD

Arty!

Syd runs up to him. She puts her arm around him, pulling him
in. She strokes his hair and comforts him. They stay like
this for a long beat.

Suddenly, a car pulls up next to them. Inside is Charlotte
and her mom.

CHARLOTTE'S MOM

Oh my god, Sydney! Charlotte told
me the good news! Congrats, honey!
Welcome to the Yale family.

Arty looks up at Syd, completely betrayed. He starts walking.

SYD

Arty! Arty.... Fuck.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. 7-11 -- LATE AFTERNOON

The gang is reunited at the 7-11. Syd examines Tessa's broken phone. Arty stands as far away as he can from Syd.

CAM

Sorry I didn't get the beer, Art,
my dad--

ARTY

It's fine.

With his bruised hand, Arty opens the fridge and grabs a twelve pack of PBR. He carries it to the counter, refusing to make eye contact with Syd as he walks by. He plops the giant box of beer on the counter. Doug looks up from his magazine.

DOUG

I can't sell you these.

ARTY

I have an ID.

He pulls out an ID and hands it to Doug.

DOUG

Aren't you in high school?

ARTY

I was held back.

Tessa approaches the counter.

DOUG

Tell your friend to scram.

TESSA

Don't be a dick, Doug. Just let him
have it.

DOUG

You guys don't treat me with any
respect.

ARTY

Bro, our friend jumped off a
fucking bridge last week just let
us have some goddamn beer.

A figure appears behind them.

XANDER'S DAD
I'll buy it.

Arty and Tessa turn around, shocked to see Xander's Dad standing behind them. He pushes through to the counter.

XANDER'S DAD (CONT'D)
Yeah, yeah. Here.

He throws a twenty at Doug. Arty, blinded by rage, runs out of the store.

EXT. 7-11 -- PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Arty stands in the parking lot, the world spinning around him. Arty's FLASHBACK. The beach sunset. Xan's smiling face. Then, Xander's dad's voice.

XANDER'S DAD
(V.O.)
Alexander! Get in the fucking car!

Arty feels a hand on his shoulder. His flashback fades away. He looks up to see his friends gathered around him. Xander's Dad exits the 7-11. He holds the beer up.

XANDER'S DAD (CONT'D)
Ya'll should come over and have a drink. It's the least I can do.

SYD
I don't think--

ARTY
Ok.

CAM
What?

ARTY
Let's go have a drink.

SYD
I'm not gonna--

ARTY
I don't care what you do... But I would like to go get drunk.

TESSA
Me too... Cam?

She dares Cam to say no.

CAM

Ok, yeah. Yeah. Let's go.

Syd watches them start to leave with Xander's Dad. She stands her ground for a moment but... She needs to make sure Arty's ok. She runs after them.

INT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

Cam and Arty stand at the counter, downing beers.

CAM

They're selling the fucking house, bro. No one even told me.

ARTY

Did you tell Tessa?

CAM

Nah, man. Something's like... Off with her today. I don't know.

ARTY

Here's what you do: you make fucking bank, you save the house, and you show your dad and your dumbass brothers that you're just as responsible as them.

CAM

Damn... That's a really good idea... How do I do that?

ARTY

Sell some pills, baby! You know how much money I make selling my Adderall?

CAM

A shit ton?

ARTY

A shit ton! You gotta save that house, alright? I can't have anyone else leaving me.

INT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Arty's voice rings in Cam's ears as she stares at herself in the mirror. Her eye make-up is smeared from crying. She wipes the streaks of eyeliner off her cheeks.

She notices the medicine cabinet is slightly ajar. Inside, is a bunch of shiny orange bottles. She opens the cabinet. There's bottle after bottle of medication for Xander. A beat. Cam pulls one out and looks at it. She tries to read the label but she doesn't recognize the scientific name of the drug.

She takes out a few more bottles. Nothing is familiar. After a moment, she shoves them all in her jacket pockets.

INT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Arty stands and stares down a long, dark hallway. At the end is Xander's room. There's a faint glow coming from under the door. It almost feels haunted.

Cam exits the bathroom. Arty downs the rest of his beer. He throws it on the ground and walks as far away from Xander's door as he can.

EXT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- BACKYARD -- CONTINUOUS

Out back, Tessa and Syd sit around an old, busted fire pit, listening to Xander's Dad tell stories.

XANDER'S DAD

I will never forget that grade school play... You remember that, Sydney?

SYD

Um, yeah... I think.

XANDER'S DAD

I mean you just pissed all over that goddamn stage.

TESSA

It was a lot of piss.

XANDER'S DAD

You were such a nervous kid, Jesus Christ. Not Alexander, though. He loved that shit.

Arty and Cam emerge from the back door. Arty sits on the opposite side as Syd. Cam stands right behind Tessa, putting her hands on her shoulders.

XANDER'S DAD (CONT'D)

Putting on his little costumes.
Doing his little plays.

(MORE)

XANDER'S DAD (CONT'D)
 Not the manliest of the bunch.
 Manlier than Freddy Mercury over
 here, though.

He points to Arty and laughs.

ARTY
 What's that supposed to mean?

SYD
 Arty--

XANDER'S DAD
 Kid, look at your nails.

Arty looks down at his painted nails.

XANDER'S DAD (CONT'D)
 That's pretty faggy stuff.

CAM
 Woah!

TESSA
 For real?

ARTY
 What the fuck is wrong with you?

Arty stands up like he's going to fight Xander's dad.

SYD
 Guys, let's just--

XANDER'S DAD
 Oh come on, it's a joke. I know
 Alexander wasn't... I mean that
 girl was sleeping over every night.

ARTY
 What girl?

CAM
 Syd?

XANDER'S DAD
 No, the one with the shit in her
 face.

He motions to Tessa. She fidgets with her nose ring,
 nervously.

CAM
 No, no... Tessa's my girlfriend.

TESSA

Don't listen to him. He's drunk and crazy.

XANDER'S DAD

Jesus, are you guys all homos?

ARTY

You're a real piece of shit.

XANDER'S DAD

I don't mean anything by it.

ARTY

You do, though, dickhead.

XANDER'S DAD

You kids are so fucking sensitive.

ARTY

Fuck off!

XANDER'S DAD

No, you learn to respect the adults--

ARTY

See, this is why Xander killed himself.

A heavy silence. Arty looks around. He took it too far. He turns and runs inside. Syd follows after him. Tessa stands up, glaring at Xander's dad.

INT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Arty paces in the hallway. Syd comes looking for him.

SYD

Arty, hey--

ARTY

Leave me alone.

SYD

I haven't even made a decision--

ARTY

I mean it, Syd.

SYD

Shouldn't you be happy for me?

A long beat. Syd is on the verge of tears.

ARTY

Stop making me need you if you're
just going to leave.

This hurts. Syd's guilt gets the best of her. She gives Arty a sad smile and leaves.

INT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Tessa barges into the kitchen, followed closely by Cam. She starts grabbing all of their stuff. Her bag. Cam's coat. As she grabs Cam's coat:

CAM

No, wait--

The pills fall out of Cam's pockets, exploding all over the floor.

TESSA

What the fuck? What are these?

CAM

It's nothing--

TESSA

I swear to god, Cam, if you're
fucked up right now--

CAM

No, no, it's just... Ok... My dad
is selling the house. All my
brother's knew and... No one told
me. I'm just-- I'm trying to prove
I'm responsible. I can provide
money. I can save the house.

TESSA

So what... You're gonna sell pills?

CAM

Yeah, I mean-- they were Xander's.
It's not like he needs them
anymore.

Ouch. Tessa's pissed.

CAM (CONT'D)

Shit... That came out wrong--

TESSA
Whatever, Cam.

CAM
I did this for us! So I can stay
here! So we can be together!

TESSA
Stop trying to fix everything!...
God, you and my mom always trying
to fix... Maybe I don't want that.

A long beat. Cam's eyes well up.

CAM
Tessa...

Tessa turns around and heads out the front door.

EXT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Night has fallen. Tessa runs into the front yard. She breathes heavily. She looks down at her broken phone and her bloody hand. Suddenly, she starts running.

She runs and runs and runs. She kicks off her shoes. She feels the wind in her hair. She keeps running.

INT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Arty sits in the hallway with his head in his knees. He looks up and sees Xander's door. He stands and cautiously approaches it. A beat.

He puts his hand on the door. He pushes it open. The wind is knocked out of him as he sees the room. Everything is where Xander left it.

Arty runs his hand over the bed. He looks at the posters on the wall. The clothes on the floor. He approaches the dresser. There's a polaroid lying on top. He picks it up. It's a photo of him and Xander on the beach.

FLASHBACK. We see it in full. Arty and Xander sit on the beach. They talk and laugh. The sun is setting. Xander puts his hand on Arty's knee. Arty turns to him. A loaded beat. **They kiss.** Then, Xander's Dad calls.

XANDER'S DAD
(V.O.)
Alexander! Get in the fucking car!

Xander looks at Arty with tears in his eyes. He gets up and runs away. The flashback ENDS.

Arty stands in Xander's room, alone. He begins to cry. He cries and cries.

A figure appears in the doorway. It's Xander's Dad. He stands awkwardly in the door frame. He's about to turn and leave when:

ARTY

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. It's all my fault. He never would've killed himself if we hadn't--

Xander's Dad grabs Arty's shoulder and looks him in the eye.

XANDER'S DAD

Don't say that, ok? I never want to hear you say that shit again. You're just a kid. I'm the parent. I was supposed to keep him safe and I... You're just a fucking kid.

Arty leans in Xander's Dad. Xander's Dad is taken aback from a moment then... He pulls Arty into a hug.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS -- LATE NIGHT

Cam drives down suburban streets. Streetlights refract off her car window. She sticks her head out.

CAM

Tessa! Tessa!!!

EXT. SYD'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Syd climbs into the passenger side. Cam has tears in her eyes. Syd hugs her.

CAM

Thank you. I'm just... I'm scared, Syd. I have no idea where she is.

SYD

I think we have to ask Arty to help.

Cam nods.

EXT. XANDER'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Cam pulls into Xander's driveway. Arty slowly exits.
Xander's Dad sits on the porch drinking a beer. He gives Arty
a slight nod. Arty hops in the back seat.

SYD

Hey.

ARTY

Hey... I think I know where she is.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS -- MOMENTS LATER

Arty, Syd, and Cam wander down the street.

CAM

Tessa!

ARTY

Tessa!!

SYD

Tessa!

There's a bridge on the corner. A figure sits with its back
against the fence, their silhouette illuminated by candles.

CAM

There she is!

The gang runs over.

EXT. HIGHWAY BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

On the bridge fence is a shrine for Xander. Photos. Flowers.
Candles. Tessa sits in front of it, staring at a large print
of his senior photo. Tessa looks up as her friends approach.

CAM

Oh my god, you scared the shit out
of me--

She pulls Tessa into a tight hug.

TESSA

He just always knew what to do.

CAM

I know... I know.

Cam sits on the ground next to Tessa. Syd and Arty join them. They all put their arms around each other. A long, tender group hug.

SYD
Should we like... say goodbye?

The friends nod.

TESSA
Xander, you were... Sorry, I uh--
Cam, you go.

CAM
Ok, yeah... My man, you were... The
fucking best dude. It's uh... Just
like... Why didn't you tell us, you
know...

Cam trails off. Syd can sense it's hard for her and takes over.

SYD
You were so creative and kind
and... You held us all together.

She looks over at Arty.

SYD (CONT'D)
And I will make sure everyone is
taken care of without you here.

She grabs Arty's hand. He lets her. The rest of the gang looks over to Arty. His turn.

ARTY
Oh... Uh... Fuck. I mean, Xander
was such a piece of shit. But uh...
I have never met anyone so...
Beautiful. Like that man was
fucking beautiful. And um... No one
else has ever made me feel like...
Like I mattered, you know... Like
there was a reason I'm here at
all... Shit... I just uh--

Suddenly, he's interrupted by the sounds of fireworks overhead.

CAM
Those fucking Disneyland fireworks.

SYD
Oh my god.

ARTY

All those happy families, man. Fuck them.

TESSA

Fuck them!

Arty jumps up. He leans over the fence and... He screams. A long, loud scream. His friends looks up at him in shock. Then-- Cam jumps up. She screams. She looks over at Arty. Relief. They scream together.

Tessa joins in. They look down at Syd. She stands up slowly. She takes a deep breath and... Lets out the most pathetic scream. They all laugh at her. Arty puts his arm around her. He screams again.

The friends all scream and scream. Sweat, snot, and tears everywhere. They pull each other in for another group hug. A long beat. Suddenly, Tessa's phone ding. DING DING DING. Messages come flooding in as it turns back on.

Tessa pulls out her phone. She looks down at it in shock. Cam grabs Tessa's hand.

CAM

Do you want to listen to it?

Tessa nods. She opens her voicemail and presses play. BEEP.

CUT TO BLACK