

A Fast Car
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. 1987 STREET CORNER - DAY

A convenience store sits still on the corner of an empty intersection as the sun beats down on the concrete.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

A stereo tuner rushes past static and bits of news reports as SAM (a skinny 17 year old girl with dark red hair and a flashy smile) turns the knob, seeking for something to listen to.

The shelves are stocked or over stocked with products and the stereo has to compete with the humming of refrigerators and two tall standing fans that Sam has set up right beside her. The store is very hot and Sam is in a tank top and shorts with the double doors of the store open to the street.

The dial stops when Sam hears Bon Jovi Living on a prayer.

SAM

Shit!

Sam ducks under the counter and begins to sing along with the song. She comes up with a pad of paper and grabs a pencil from the counter top. Sam scribbles down the lyrics of the song as it plays.

Outside a car flies by the open doors. Seconds later the tires squeal but not loud enough to distract Sam from her writing. The fast car backs up slowly until the driver is at a perfect angle to see Sam at the counter from his car.

A speedy honk blares from the car.

Sam looks up and gives the boy in the car a fast wave to match his honk and goes back to the song. The boy waves back.

Another sharp honk sounds from the speedy looking vehicle but Sam doesn't flinch.

Just in time for the chorus the boy in the car leans on the horn, drowning out the fridges, fan and the stereo. Throwing her pad of paper back under the counter, Sam throws her hair in a pony tail and stomps out of the store.

SAM

Has the heat fried your brain
buddy?

The boy doesn't say anything.

SAM
Get lost buddy.

Sam walks closer and sees Don (a 19 year with a calm voice, dark hair and a tank top on). His car is a beautiful 1969 Firebird convertible with black leather interior and a dark blue paint job. The car gleams in the heavy sun and the reflection blinds Sam when she walks closer.

DON
What are you doing here?

SAM
I'm working.

DON
Looks busy.

SAM
As if, no one ever comes in.

DON
We should leave then.

Sam raises her eyebrows.

SAM
We should leave?

DON
If no one ever comes in then no one is gonna notice.

SAM
Oh I understand what you said. And I understand that it is a good idea.

(beat)
For me. I don't know why we would be going anywhere.

Sam starts to walk away.

DON
Snappy.

Sam shoots a snarl over her shoulder.

Donnie sits up on his door.

DON
I think we should go out tonight.

SAM

Smooth move. But number one, I have a date tonight and number two, me go out with you, no way.

Don laughs and mockingly replies.

DON

Way.

Sam turns around on the spot and points her finger at Don's car.

SAM

So is this your gig? Drive around in some bogus car all day. Try to pick up chicks and be real cool. Any hot girl in a convenience store blows your mind?

DON

No. I pick up girls at convenience stores, bus stops, bowling alleys.

SAM

You don't talk much do you?

DON

I do, but you're doing enough talking for the both of us right now.

He smiles. Sam smiles back and starts to run her hand along the car. She takes a seat on the hood.

DON

No, no! Get off there!

Sam gets up.

SAM

Relax, relax. Not so cool when it comes to the car? It's nice though.

DON

It does me okay. My dad bought it for me.

SAM

How fast does it go?

DON

Fast. I can tell you or you can get in and I can show you.

Sam shakes her head.

DON
So tonight we'll go see a movie?

SAM
I wasn't lying I have a date
tonight.

DON
So?

SAM
I'm a respectable girl. I just
don't stand people up.

DON
Is it gonna matter years from now?

SAM
Possibly.

DON
I don't think it will.

Sam leans on the side of the car.

SAM
What would we do on this purposed
date?

DON
Nightmare on Elm Street, have you
seen it?

SAM
I don't watch scary movies. I have
a problem with monsters.

DON
What's the problem?

SAM
I don't believe in them.

DON
You're not supposed to believe in
them, it's a movie, it's a fantasy.

SAM
Now why would I want to have a
fantasy about a monster?

(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)

People line up in theatres and pay money so that they can think that there's something out there that's gonna kill them. I don't want to believe in monsters. So I don't want anything to do with them. I tend to get carried away with things.

DON

So you don't know what a monster looks like?

SAM

If I never see one, I'll never believe in one.

DON

That's pretty heavy.

SAM

What's your name anyway?

DON

Don.

SAM

Donnie huh? That's cute.

DON

No it's not. Because it's Don not Donnie.

SAM

A little defensive there Donnie.

DON

Don.

SAM

I'm Sam, and I might go on a date with you if we go see Dirty Dancing.

DON

No.

Sam walks away.

SAM

Good, because I already have a date.

Don starts up the car.

DON
 You'll stay at the convenience
 store then?

Don shouts at Sam as she walks into the store.

DON
 You got a choice, you can come with
 me now and see what happens, or you
 can stay here and never know.

Don shakes his head and revs his engine ready to take off until he see's the lights of the store all go off, then the sound of the fans and then the sound of the radio. Sam runs out with the boom box in her hand and the stereo plug dangling on the ground. Sam fumbles the keys in her hands but finally locks the doors and runs at Dons car. She throws the boom box in the back and jumps over the door into the passenger seat.

SAM
 Is it fast?

DON
 It's so fast that there's one thing
 you can never do.

Sam puts her seat belt on, frightened by the stern warning.

SAM
 What?

DON
 You can't look back. We're going so
 fast that you can't change your
 mind.

Sam rolls her eyes.

SAM
 Just go as fast as you can.

The Firebird burns rubber across the intersection.

EXT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

A crowd strolls out of the theatre gossiping and exchanging opinions. Sam walks in circles around Don who is leaning up against a lamp post outside the theatre.

DON
 I think it would be cute.

SAM

It's lame to the max, just suppose you were a smart high school graduate. And rich at that.

DON

I'm there

SAM

And a female...

DON

Oh.

SAM

And you were a strong independent woman.

DON

Right.

SAM

Ready to take her place in the world in the peace core, possibly helping people and establishing rights for those without rights. And you fall in love with an older man and despise your youngest sibling for being so naive.

DON

Okay.

SAM

All of this, a seemingly mature individual and you let everyone call you 'Baby'? What kind of liberated woman in the sixties would have allowed that?

DON

It's cute.

SAM

It's sexist.

DON

Sexism was new in the sixties. Before then it was just called 'the way it is'.

SAM

Ok, imagine you were Johnny Castle.

DON
I am Johnny Castle.

SAM
And instead of everyone calling you
John, or Johnny everyone called
you...

DON
What?

SAM
....Called You....Man-meat?

Don cracks a grin and sticks out his tongue.

DON
I see you're point. I guess we
should have seen Elm Street since
you hated Dirty Dancing.

SAM
Who said that? I didn't hate it. I
loved it.

Don drags himself off of the pole and begins to walk towards
his car parked down the street.

DON
But you were just complaining about
it.

SAM
But now I believe.

DON
That rich people are bad people?

SAM
In love.

DON
In love in movies.

SAM
No in love period.

DON
Because it was in a movie?

SAM
No because I saw it. It just
happened.

(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)
Not only do I believe in love but I
believe in the underdog and
romance.

Don puts his arm around Sam.

DON
You ready to go home?

SAM
Not yet, I have a great idea.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

Sam screams behind the wheel of Donnie's car as it flies down the road at an amazing speed. Her voice echoes in the hills.

SAM
This is amazing!

Donnie has a nervous look on his face and keeps reaching for the wheel but Sam slaps his hands away.

SAM
Isn't this wild? Have you ever done
this?

DON
Look out!

Sam slams on the breaks just in time to stop smashing into a dead end sign posted to a tree. The two take deep breathes and Don gets out of the car quickly and stands by her side. The car is absolutely filthy.

DON
In the back, get in the back.

SAM
Nobody puts Baby in the back!

EXT. CAR WASH - LATER

Sam sits in the back seat looking out the window as Donnie gets in the car and drives into the car wash with a pissed off look on his face.

SAM
Your dad must be super nice to buy
you a car like this.

DON
He's not.

SAM
Oh, what about you're mom?

DON
She's nice, real nice. Are your
parent's super cool?

SAM
No! They're such nerds oh my god.
It's like not even funny mom's such
a bitch.

Sam crosses her fingers.

SAM
I didn't mean that.

DON
Yeah my dad is a piece of shit.

SAM
Harsh.

DON
When you live by the bottle that's
the way it is.

The car wash starts to spray.

SAM
So is this what you wanna do with
your life? Be cool and drive hot
cars?

DON
No I work in a factory, been doing
it for a year.

SAM
That's what you want to do with
your life?

DON
No, no I didn't say that. I got
class every Wednesday and Thursday.

SAM
Class for what?

DON
Nothing.

SAM
No, what come on.

DON
It's dumb.

SAM
Just tell me I won't tell anyone.

DON
Well this one time, I guess I was like six or seven but my mom had a friend who was a photographer and she got me into a shoot. It was a catalogue and I was wearing jeans but I just had so much fun, it was easy for me and I liked the cameras. I was comfortable and over the years I got into it more so now I go to acting class. I know it's not acting to just get your picture taken but there's just something about it. Having a range of emotions.

Sam nods.

DON
It's kinda dumb though I mean you won't get any movies come through here I would have to go to New York or California for that.

Sam leans over the passenger seat.

DON
I did a few plays in high school when I was goin there and I did an audition for a commercial once but I didn't get it.

Don turns around in his seat and faces the back.

DON
But I don't know why I just told you all that. I usually don't like to talk about this kinda stuff to anyone.

SAM
Well, you're doing enough talking to for the both of us.

DON
You wanna be a singer? Like Madonna
right?

Sam laughs.

SAM
No, she's cool any everything but I
don't sing too well.

DON
I saw you singing back at the store
today.

SAM
No, I just remember stuff better
when I sing it. I was writing down
the words.

DON
For?

SAM
I collect quotes.

DON
Quotes?

SAM
Yeah like good parts of songs, or
like stuff that presidents say that
kinda stuff.

DON
Let's hear some.

SAM
The important thing is not to stop
questioning...

DON
Right so let's hear one.

SAM
That was one. The important thing
is not to stop questioning, Albert
Einstien.

DON
Try one more.

SAM
Ok, ummm...Reality leaves a lot to
the imagination.

DON
Don't know.

SAM
John Lennon.

DON
Seriously?

SAM
Yeah.

DON
That's awesome.

Don looks out the window.

DON
What do you think that other guy is
doing now?

SAM
What guy?

DON
The guy you stood up.

SAM
Oh him, He probably didn't care.

Sam leans back into the back seat.

SAM
He's cool he won't mind, Donnie.

Don nods.

DON
So what are you doing next weekend.

SAM
Working.

DON
Wanna go out instead?

The car wash finishes.

SAM
Only if it's not busy

EXT. CONVIENIENCE STORE 1990 - DAY

'Janies got a gun' by Aerosmith plays loudly as Dons car whizzes by the empty store. The heat scorches the ground as they race down the street with the air conditioner on full. Don drives while Sam holds her head up with her arm and stares out of the passenger side. Sam plays with her sunglasses. The couple doesn't say anything to each other.

DON
I'm sorry you know.

Sam turns around and takes her sun glasses off.

SAM
I know Donnie!

Sam smiles, practically jumps into Donnies seat and kisses him all over as he swerves around the roads.

DON
What the hell Sam!

Sam laughs.

DON
But seriously-

SAM
Seriously, I wanted you to go to class. You paid a lot of money for it and I had fun at prom by myself anyway. It was crazy Tommy puked all over the place and when Angela got up on stage her heel totally broke and she fell and it was terrible. I would have died if that were me.

DON
I really wanted to take you.

SAM
I know you did. But my graduation is on Friday and you're gonna be there or I'm never gonna talk to you again.

DON
I already got the time off. I'm there.

SAM

I was thinking of getting a haircut. You think I should go like all cute like Mariah Carey or all like Madonna.

Don smiles and replies mockingly.

DON

I like, think your hair like, looks fine how it is.

SAM

What if I shaved it all off?

DON

What do you mean?

SAM

What would you do if I shaved off all of my hair, you just picked me up tomorrow from work and I had no hair and I was like 'hey 'sup'.

DON

I would keep driving.

SAM

No way! Seriously.

DON

I'm very serious.

SAM

That's so shallow.

DON

That's not that shallow.

SAM

Ok maybe not but you're supposed to at least think about it.

DON

I would never talk to you again. I don't need to think about it.

SAM

No I mean you should have humoured me.

Phil Collins comes on the radio and Sam begins to panic.

SAM

Oh my god, I need this song.
Where's my stuff?

DON

It's in there.

SAM

In where?

DON

The glove box it's in there, get
it.

Sam grabs her notebook and pen out of Donnie's glove box and starts writing.

DON

You hungry?

EXT. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN - NIGHT

Don pulls the Charger up to a plaza with a Dunkin Donuts, Kentucky Fried Chicken and a smoke shop that are all closed. Don wipes a little sweat off his forehead with his sleeve. Sam grabs a jelly candy from her purse and looks at Donnie. Don gets out.

DON

Stop eating that garbage!

SAM

What are you talking about?

Don spins around and walks into the KFC.

SAM

It's closed what are you doing.

DON

Just wait here.

Don runs inside the abandoned fast food chain.

Seconds later an older boy lights a cigarette inside and comes walking out.

OLDER BOY

What's up Sam?

Sam gives the guy a wave not having any idea who he is.

OLDER BOY

Ok go, turn it.

Sam looks to her left and right but cannot see anyone for miles.

OLDER BOY

Hit it already Don, what the fuck!

Suddenly the inside of the KFC is lit with Christmas lights and designed beautifully.

OLDER BOY

Go on in he's waiting for you.

Sam gets out of the car and goes into the KFC. Inside, the first things she sees is a small table with only two chairs. In the middle of the table is a bouquet of roses that use a empty chicken bucket for a vase. Lights are strung up all around the room and a sign hangs from the large menu that reads 'I love you'. The room is decorated in red and white streamers and lights. The single table is set in the middle of the room with silverware and proper plates. A white table clothes hangs and a red candle burns beside the flowers. The chairs that are usually stiff and metal seem elegant since they are draped in white fabric.

Don walks out from behind the kitchen doors in a dress shirt and tie and jeans.

DON

I really, really wanted to take you.

Sam stops herself from crying.

SAM

How did you do this. You didn't need to do this, it's too much.

DON

I have a lot of pull in this town sweetie.

Donnie grabs Sam and kisses her gently.

DON

My buddies uncle owns this place. But I wish I could take you somewhere better. I know how important that night was to you. But what you don't realize was that it was important to me too.

(MORE)

DON (cont'd)

I don't want us to be so far from each other that we can't make this work. Plus my mother told me one time that a woman is only really comfortable when she dances in the arms of someone she loves. And I love you Sam...

Donnie flicks on a stereo and it begins to play a slow tune. Donnie puts out his hand for a dance and Sam comes close to him.

SAM

Your mom is a smart woman. With a smart son. And I love you too.

Sam and Donnie dance.

INT. KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN - LATER

The two share a meal in the brightly lit restaurant alone.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A group of ten girls get dressed in a room with only one mirror. Sam and her friend Sally shove their way to a spot in the front and begin adjusting their graduation gowns, hair and mortar boards.

SALLY

That is so totally romantic!

Sam nods.

SAM

And I think We're going somewhere in the summer. I think he's got some day's off of school and I'm gonna take some day's off of work and we're gonna go to New York and just see what it's like.

SALLY

That's wild.

SAM

Yeah.

SALLY

But what are you gonna do about school. I mean you're gonna go to school right.

SAM

Yeah I told you I'm going to Boston
I already got in.

SALLY

Good as long as you're not sitting
around having babies or burning
bras or something.

SAM

Whatever, like I would have kids
now. I'm going to New York.

They finish with their hair and walk out into a sea of
parents taking pictures and cleaning up their children.
Sally's parents and younger brother grab her aside and begin
to refix her hair and Sam see's her parents approaching.
Sam's mom, Linda, is dressed in all pink and her father,
Anthony wears a suit. Anthony shouts from across the room.

ANTHONY

There she is!

SAM

Yes dad.

ANTHONY

You look gorgeous baby.

SAM

Yes dad.

LINDA

You do look great dear.

SAM

Thanks mom.

ANTHONY

We got seats near the front but
when you're up on stage I'm gonna
run up with the camera anyway. I
hope no old sow tries to get in my
way when you're up there.

Sam's father takes a threatening look around.

SAM

Oh my god. This is gonna be a
backyard brawl.

LINDA

No sweetie. Just let you're father
say his piece he'll be fine.

SAM
Thanks mom.

ANTHONY
Do you have a speech prepared?

SAM
No dad we don't say anything they
just call us up.

ANTHONY
Ok I hope you're right.

SAM
Is Donnie here yet.

LINDA
Not yet sweetie.

ANTHONY
I only got seats for two.

SAM
Dad, I told you he was coming.

ANTHONY
Well he ain't here.

SAM
Are we seriously gonna do this now?

LINDA
No honey, I'll stand and Donnie can
have my seat.

SAM
I love you mom.

Sam hugs her mom. Her dad looks at her with open arms and she smiles.

SAM
I love you too dad.

A teacher yells over the gaggle of families.

TEACHER
Attention can I have all the
graduates in the hall way and all
the parents take their seats.

The crowd does so in an orderly fashion.

ANTHONY

Good luck honey. We love you. And don't blink when you get your diploma.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The same teacher stands at the hallway explaining the procedure to the line of students but no one is listening.

TEACHER

And your name will be announced and you will walk up and you will be handed your diploma and you will shake the hand of Mrs. Popler and you will be handed the microphone for a short word and you will exit the stage for pictures.

Sams jaw drops and she turns to Sally.

SAM

What the fuck?

TEACHER

Excuse me Mrs. Somers.

Sam ignores the teacher.

SAM

We have to say something.

SALLY

Chillax, Christ. We don't have to say anything just like 'I love you mom' or ' thanks to this teacher I had'.

SAM

I'm not good at that stuff. I'm not goods at talking in front of people.

The line gets thin with students and Sam can almost see the stage from where she is.

Sam observes Cheryl, a blonde in her class stepping up to get her diploma and shake hands and receive the mic.

CHERYL

Thanks mom. I love you Russel.

A guy in the audience who can only be Russel stands up and hollers.

RUSSEL
Yeah Cheryl, that's my girl, you're
the best baby!

Cheryl's parents snap some pictures and she's on her way. Sam takes a deep breathe and a few more students take the stage.

MRS. POPEL
Sally Rexdale.

Sam laughs and pushes her best friend out on the stage. Sam scans the crowd for any sign of Donnie or her parents.

MRS. POPEL
Samantha Somers.

Sam takes the stage and goes through the motions until her hands grabs the microphone.

SAM
I love you mom and dad and I love
you so much Donnie.

Sam's dad is frantically snapping pictures and the applause comes and goes and Sam still stands up there looking and listening for Donnie. The room falls silent and Anthony looks up from his camera.

INT. SAMS HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door of the house flies open and Sam walks in wiping the tears out of her eyes. Anthony and Linda walk in behind her.

ANTHONY
That kid is a no good fucking punk!

SAM
Stop talking like that you have no
idea what you're saying.

ANTHONY
I may not know him but I know his
fucking dad and he's a bag of shit.
He's a drunken old man I've known
him for years. I didn't like him
then and I don't like his kid.

Sam turns to her mother.

SAM

Why wasn't he there he said he would be there.

LINDA

I don't know sweetheart.

ANTHONY

Because he's a loser like his father.

SAM

He is not a loser, you're a fucking loser.

ANTHONY

Don't you talk to me young lady it's that boy's mouth rubbing off on you.

LINDA

Maybe you should call him.

ANTHONY

I told you from day one that he was no good didn't I say that Linda?

LINDA

Yes, dear.

SAM

No, something went wrong I know it.

Anthony grabs Sam and looks into her eyes.

ANTHONY

Something is wrong. He's not worth it. You gotta snap outta this. He's just a boy. You got school to think about, University. Not some shit kid in this town.

Sam grits her teeth.

SAM

He doesn't talk to me like this. You're the only one who makes everyone feel like shit. You make people feel like they have to leave. This town is my home, and just because you never got out doesn't make it shit.

(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)

Donnie always told me that I could make it here, he said this town is big enough that you can be anything you want, it's only you that makes it feel small.

LINDA

Maybe you should call him.

ANTHONY

Call him, fuck that I'm going over there.

SAM

You're not going over there because I'm going over there.

EXT. DONS HOUSE - LATER

Sam, her face still red but no longer in tears, slams her fist against the door. Don opens it.

DON

Go home, Sam.

Sam rips open the door in a fury. Dons dad, Greg stumbles out of the kitchen with heavy eyes, bumping his shoulder against the door frame.

GREG

What's the matter Donnie boy don't wanna introduce me to your girl.

Don walks right by him and down the hall.

SAM

Where the fuck where you?

Sam charges down the hall after him.

GREG

You hear me?

DON

Shut up!

GREG

Don't you talk to me like that Donnie boy.

SAM

Where were you.

Don opens the door to his room and lets Sam in.

DON
I can explain just don't leave this
room.

Don leaves and shuts the door behind him. Sam can hear the
argument outside.

DON
I don't wanna hear a god damn thing
out of you or I'm calling the cops.

GREG
I run this house and if you don't
like the way I run it then that's
gonna be a problem for you, not me.

DON
It is a problem for me. It's always
been a problem, but if I left, who
would have to scream at?

GREG
You're my son you do as I say.

Don starts to do the dishes and doesn't respond to his
father. His father makes his way to Dons room and opens the
door. Greg sees Sam sitting on the bed and scratches his
stomach.

DON
God you are sexy. I'm Greg, Donnie
boy's father.

SAM
Hi.

GREG
He doesn't talk much about me does
he.

SAM
He really likes the car, he said
you gave it to him.

GREG
I did give it to him
(Greg pipes up so don can
hear him)
But he doesn't appreciate
everything I give him, a nice car a
warm meal, nothing.

Greg rips a poster off of Dons wall and smashes a wall of trophies he had on a shelf Sam gets up frightened and jumps to the other side of the bed.

Don walks into the room and slams his father against the wall and then throw him down on the ground.

DON

Don't bring your problems around her. She's the only thing keeping me here. Not you.

Sam watches as Don stands over his father but catches a person out of the corner of her eye. In the hallway, Don's mother, Tracy stands with two suitcases in her hand. Sam takes a deep breathe when she sees the black eye on the woman as well as a touch of blood on her lip. Tracy lifts her finger to her mouth and hushes Sam.

SAM

(whispers)
Donnie.

Don looks over his shoulder and sees his mother. Donnie nods to her and she quickly leaves.

GREG

Nothing's gonna change around here except you're bitch girlfriend is gonna see that your a loser.

Don jumps on top of his dad and pins him down.

DON

That's where you're wrong.

Don jumps back off of his father and grabs Sam by the hand as he rushes out of the front door of the house and into his car.

INT. DON'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Don drives the car as fast as he can and doesn't say a word. Sam holds her hair that is flying wildly in the convertible.

Don slows the car down to a normal speed.

DON

My mom's leaving. She left.

SAM

I didn't know things were that bad.

DON
There's a lot you don't know.

SAM
Why?

DON
It's not something I like to brag
about. That my families terrible.

SAM
You could have told me. I was
waiting for you at my graduation. I
embarrassed myself Donnie it was
awful.

Donnie shakes his head.

DON
You're right you got big problems
Sam.

SAM
You shut up, let me out of this car
you loser.

Donnie slams on the brakes and fishtails the car right into
the middle of an intersection.

DON
Then get out.

SAM
No, just tell me what happened.

DON
I'm a loser. Get out.

Sam wipes the tears from her eyes.

SAM
I'm sorry.

Donnie gets out of the car.

A car slows to a red light at the intersection and the driver
sticks his head out to see what's happening.

Donnie paces outside of the car.

DON
She called me today at class, when
I was in class.

Sam gets out. Two cars on the opposite side come to a red light and a car slowly drives around the arguing couple in the middle of the intersection.

SAM

What?

DON

That she had to leave.

Another car pulls slows to the intersection and starts honking.

DON

She deserves way more than this. So I had to come home.

SAM

It's ok.

DON

I quit school.

Don paces around.

DON

I need a real job. I need to be working harder than this.

SAM

You can still go to school.

DON

No, Sam. I have to start taking care of the house now, I can't afford to live on my own.

SAM

Then leave, go with your mom.

Donnie looks at Sam. The light turns green and the cars begin to honk and the drivers begin to yell.

DON

You want me to leave? I would have been gone to California years ago if it weren't for you. I would have left this town. And now I have to stay here with my fucking dad.

SAM

So leave.

More cars show up at the intersection. Some try to inch their way around the couple, other sit idle.

DON
I want to leave. But I don't want
to leave you.

Sam walks up to him and grabs the collar of his shirt with one hand and pulls him down.

SAM
Then you're not going anywhere.

Sam kisses him and he passionately lifts her up for an amazing kiss. He softly lets her down but still holds on to her.

SAM
Your dad calls you Donnie.

DON
That's why I hate it.

SAM
Why did you let me call you Donnie,
if you would have told me that's
why you didn't like it I --

DON
No, it feels better when you say
it, almost like when you say it, it
takes away all of the times he
say's it. I need you not to stop.

The cars are piled up on all four sides now with passengers and drivers screaming along with car horns of all different lengths and tones blasting the two lovers.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. FACTORY - DAY

The factory buzzes with blind noise and Donnie picks up the phone in the hallway and dials. Don wears a hard hat and pulls his white paper mask down from his mouth.

DON
Hey, is Sam there?

Sam answers on the other end of the phone.

SAM

Hey, you.

DON

What are you up to?

SAM

Nothing, watching TV.

DON

Good, look I'm gonna be late tonight.

SAM

How late?

DON

I don't know, maybe really late.

SAM

Why? Why this time.

DON

Don't give me a hard time ok. Remember how I put the car up sale? Well somebody phoned in today and told my dad they wanted to swing by and see it. Hopefully things won't be so bad after this.

SAM

I'll wait then, call me when you're done.

Donnie hangs up the phone but can't drag himself away from it. He leans his forehead against the wall but quickly moves on when he sees another employee walk by. He walks down a corridor where men work sorting machinery parts into boxes. They look up to see him pass and their faces are grim and tired looking.

Don passes three men who work with band-saws and molding equipment, their faces are dark and they never look up from their work.

Don reaches his empty station, a garbage compactor. He puts his paper mask back on and dumps a huge load into the machine packing it to the brim. He then walks over to the controls. A piece of paper is taped at the top and bottom above the controls. Don pulls a lever and then hits the green button, setting the machine into motion. Don reaches up for the piece of paper and undoes the top piece of tape. The paper falls held on only by the bottom tape strip.

On the paper is an old picture of Don and Sam as well as a quote written by Sam with hearts and doodles around it. The note reads ' You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today - Abraham Lincoln'

The Machine ends its duty and a new pile of garbage is dumped by Dons side. He tapes the top strip back up to the machine and continues working.

EXT. DONS HOUSE - EVENING

Don rubs his hands together and looks back at his 1969 Firebird that he has polished and displayed in his driveway like a trophy. He looks down the street and then up the street and no one is around. Don turns back and grabs his rag and begins to polish the headlights again until he hears a bike come to a halt on his driveway.

DON

Hello.

Don turns around.

SAM

Hello.

DON

I told you Sam I'm waiting on someone. But I sent my dad to the bar with a couple bucks so you can go wait in side. I'll be in as soon as this guy shows up.

Sam takes a newspaper clipping out of her pocket.

SAM

I don't know what you're talking about sir. I am here to look at the...

Sam looks at the clipping and reads it aloud.

SAM

1969 Firebird. Great co-d-t period. A-C. Good on Gas. Only Driven twice.

Don looks up and down the street.

DON

You're kidding right.

Sam gets off of her bike and walks around the car chewing a piece of gum.

SAM
Well, it is shiny.

DON
This isn't funny Sam, you know I need the money.

SAM
I don't know about the color though. Blue doesn't go too well with my completion. I was thinking more of a pink.

DON
A pink?

SAM
Does it come in pink.

Sam opens the door.

SAM
Only driven twice? I don't know about that young man. Can you pop the hood.

Donnie closes the door and points to the house

DON
Get inside, I'm not popping the hood.

SAM
I don't know how you expect to sell this non-pink car with that attitude.

Don pops the hood and walks away. Sam gives the engine a look over.

SAM
It looks...not Bad. Does that thing look right to you?

Donnie walks back.

DON
What thing?

Sam points at the engine.

SAM
That. Is that supposed to be blue?

DON
Oh...you mean the wind shield
washer fluid. Yes, it's supposed to
be blue.

SAM
Oh. Well then everything seems to
be in order here.

Sam closes the hood.

DON
Hilarious.

Don turns his back and looks down the empty street.

Sam pulls out a stack of cash from her purse. And hands it to
Donnie.

SAM
Fair price too.

Don looks at the money.

DON
What the hell Sam are you crazy.

SAM
No.

Don pushes Sam's hand back into her purse.

DON
Put that away.

SAM
No, I want the car.

DON
I'm not selling it to you.

SAM
Why?

DON
You don't need it.

SAM
I do too. How will I get around.
How will I get anywhere?
(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)

Plus I know how much this car means to you.

Don slowly takes the money.

SAM

Plus, I always wanted to have my own car. And now I have a chauffeur as well.

Sam walks into Donnies arms.

DON

I'm gonna pay you back. I swear.

SAM

It's ok, you won't feel that way when you see how pink this thing can get.

Donnie laughs and wrestles Sam to the hood of the car and kisses her.

DON

No pink.

Don takes the keys to the car from his pocket and Drops them in her hand.

DON

Where to madame?

SAM

You said your dad's at the bar?

A devilish smile creeps over Sam's face. And she unlocks the drivers side door. Dons eyes dart around.

DON

He could be home like, anytime, like now?

Sam replies mockingly.

SAM

Like, really, could he like totally come home?

Don walks to the passenger door and get's in. Sam shakes her head.

SAM

Oh no...the Back, get in the back, baby.

Don grudgingly climbs over the seat into the back.

Sam back the car into the garage and the automatic switch closes the door half way until the mechanism stops.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Donnie and Sam cover up with a blanket after spending the night together. Sam curls up with the blankets and a crack of light shines through the bottom of the garage door that wasn't quite closed.

SAM

Where do you wanna live?

DON

Now?

SAM

No like, I guess if you could pick anywhere.

DON

I dunno, I guess a mansion.

SAM

No not like that. I mean like every time I imagine my life or dream about what it's going to be it always changes every year but the beginning has been the same for along time.

DON

Which is?

SAM

Well when I wake up, I wake up on the right side of the bed, because that's the side I like. And I wake up and as soon as I open my eyes I can see the beach.

DON

Sounds good.

SAM

Big windows or I guess the big glass doors where I can just see right through them. What do you see?

DON

I don't see like that anymore. I used to dream about things like that but whenever I try now I can't see them. It's like they got lost in my mind.

Sam sits up and kisses Donnie.

SAM

It's alright you just gotta clear your head. We'll be on vacation soon right?

DON

Right.

SAM

And then we can both see what it's going to be like.

Sam throws on a pair of Donnie's jeans and his big T-shirt. She jumps out of the car and investigates the garage. She opens up an old chest.

SAM

What's this?

Sam hold up a tiny, tiny sweater.

DON

Look like my baby clothes to me.

SAM

Very cute.

DON

Thank you.

Sam grabs out his cub scouts vest.

SAM

Oh my god! How adorable.

DON

I was in scouts for a whole year. I hated it.

Sam hold up the vest and looks at it back and front.

SAM

There's only one badge.

Sam throws the shirt to Donnie before she dives into the back seat of the car again.

DON
Yeah, it's the only one I got. I told you I hated it. Forget about it.

Sam jumps back in the car with the vest.

SAM
Ok, new question. If you could forget one thing, what would it be.

Donnie takes his arm from around her.

DON
Jeez, I dunno Sam.

SAM
Come on.

DON
You know what I would forget.

Sam takes his arm back.

SAM
All of it?

DON
Not all of it. There was some good stuff. Years ago. But I would forget all the times that he never answered me when I was asking him something. When you want to learn or speak your mind, or when you just want the person to give you a sign and no one answers...

Don's digital watch goes off.

DON
Jesus, I gotta get ready.

SAM
Ok I'll be at home so give me a call.

DON
Ok, can I borrow your car?

They crack a smile.

SAM
I guess I won't be needing it
today.

EXT. FACTORY - LATER

Donnie pulls into his space outside of the factory where two men stand on the stairs smoking. Donnie opens the heavy steel door and walks into work. The door closes and the men continue their cigarette.

The sun creeps through the clouds and begins the early morning. The Firebird sits idle beside the other cars that envy it.

One of the men drops a cigarette and hides it under the heel of his foot while he lights another. Another car pulls into the lot.

Donnie comes charging out of the large steel door using all of his strength to get to his car as fast as possible. He jumps down the stairs with his hard hat still in hand and then runs across his trunk and dives into the drivers seat. The car roars in reverse and squeals into drive as Donnie leaves nothing but tire tracks on the cement.

EXT. GREGS WORK - LATER

Donnie pulls up onto the gravel where a mini mall is under construction. The dust clears and a man, ROY, comes out with his hand extended to Donnie for a shake.

ROY
It's good to see you Don.

Don shakes his hand.

DON
Where's my father Roy?

ROY
Don, I just wanna tell you what
happened first.

Don listens.

ROY
He came in today real late and he'd
been drinking.

Roy straightens out his tie and turns around to signal to one of the guys who immediately walks into the site.

ROY

Well and anyway we tried to get him out of here but he wouldn't leave and it just escalated from there. I think he threw his back out from the fight.

DON

What does he do now.

ROY

I got a son too Don, so I know what it's like, and we all know about your mom. But... But I'm gonna pay him for all this week and maybe next week. But he can't come back. I know you understand. We can't have him back, he's not wanted here.

DON

I do understand.

Three large men drag Greg by his arms out the door of the construction site. Greg curses and winces in pain.

GREG

You fucking piece of shit. My sons got shit to do. I told you never to call him.

ROY

I know Greg it's not like the other times though. Because this is the last time.

Greg spits at Roys feet.

GREG

You son of a bitch. I'll be back.

ROY

Not this time.

GREG

I need this job. I need this job.

Roy gives the signal to let Greg go. He falls to his knees and Don looks down at him.

ROY

If you could get him out of here right now I'd appreciate it.

(MORE)

ROY (cont'd)
 You're a good kid and I'll try to
 get another week out of the
 company.

DON
 Thank you sir.

Roy nods his head and leaves. Greg looks up and Don who is
 looking down at him.

GREG
 Don't look at me like that.

Don extends a hand down to him but his father smacks it away.

GREG
 Not like that.

In pain, Greg gets up and makes his way into the passenger
 side of the car. Don slowly makes his way to the car and gets
 in. He reaches across and puts a seat belt around his father.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

The trees dance around the car as Donnie does less than the
 speed limit. His father coughs then pipes up.

GREG
 You got work today?

DON
 No...No work.

GREG
 Good, neither do I. What do you
 want to do?

DON
 I just want to go home.

Greg grabs his stomach in pain and looks out the window
 talking to the trees.

GREG
 I'm too old Donnie boy, too old for
 workin'. But my mind is sharp it's
 young.

Donnie keeps driving.

GREG
 And that's the worst. The
 remembering.
 (MORE)

GREG (cont'd)

I had everything I could have asked for. It all seemed to balance, a strong mind a tough body and a steady life. And now I got the worst of it. The sense that it used to be better and now it's getting worse and I can't do anything about it.

DON

You know it's all your fault don't you.

GREG

Oh hell yeah.

Greg grabs his chest in pain again and backs off from the argument.

GREG

Maybe I'll lose my mind and this won't seem so bad. But now you gotta man up. You gotta get stronger. Luckily, you got everything here you don't need to go get it. You got a girl and job and you don't have to leave to go anywhere. You could stay here your whole life and you won't lose anything.

Don slows the car to a crawl.

DON

You have no idea what I have and you have no idea what I have to lose.

Greg starts laughing.

GREG

You think all that. But the more you have, the more you have to lose. As long as you never move, you can never get lost.

Don looks ahead and continues driving.

INT. DONS HOUSE - EVENING

A cordless phone rings and rings.

The room is dark and coated by a blue light from the television that changes shape and sends different shadows across the room every few seconds.

Don sits in a recliner and looks at his father who is passed out under a small blanket on the couch.

The phone rings twice more and then stops.

INT. SAMS ROOM - LATER

Sam throws the phone on her bed and sits cross legged on her bed. Her walls are covered unlike the normal teenager. She has pictures of inventors and artwork plastering her walls and ceiling. Small pieces of paper are taped up everywhere in her room with quotes written on them. On her ceiling above her bed is a page ripped from a calendar with a blue Firebird displayed for the month of August. Sam lays back and looks at it. A knock at the door rattles Sam out of her daze.

LINDA

Honey?

Sam doesn't say a word but the door opens anyway.

Linda lays down beside her daughter and stares up at the ceiling. She then looks around.

LINDA

Oh my I never realized but you don't have a clock in here.

SAM

It broke.

LINDA

Oh it's ok.

SAM

It broke a long time ago. I just never replaced it but I'll get a new one.

LINDA

It's ok I said.

Linda looks around at the writing.

LINDA

You know I never wore a watch.

Sam looks at her mother.

SAM

I never noticed. I guess you wasted a lot of time.

LINDA

I don't believe in wasting time. Every second of my life I'm doing exactly what I want to be doing.

SAM

So you love laundry and T.V. and waiting in line.

LINDA

Well I do love television. I never missed an episode of Dallas, did you know that.

SAM

No.

LINDA

Well, I didn't. And every time I'm in a line. I'm waiting for something. It's not the waiting that's important. It's the end of the line that's worth it.

Sam sits up.

SAM

Well then how about being late?

LINDA

Late for what?

SAM

No, if you never know the time then how are you ever on time.

LINDA

I've been late for all kinds of things.

SAM

I've never known you to be late.

LINDA

Of course not, you're too important.

(MORE)

LINDA (cont'd)

But the dentist...He'll barely speak to me these days and my aunt Trudy used to cuss a blue streak whenever I would meet her for brunch.

Sam smiles.

LINDA

You don't have a lot of opportunities in life. You won't be able to stop time or make it work for you. All you can hope to do is use it wisely. If you priorities your time, you can never waste it. I never did.

SAM

What about school?

LINDA

You go to school.

SAM

What about work?

LINDA

You have to go to work.

SAM

What about boys?

LINDA

They'll come...and they'll go. But they aren't like work and school. They have to make as much time for you as you make for them.

EXT. DONS HOUSE - DAY

Sam walks slowly up to the house and knocks gingerly on the door but no one answers. The house seems quiet and she lets herself in. Sam walks into the kitchen and sees Greg sitting at the table with an almost finished bottle of brandy. He wears no shirt but has white bandages wrapped tightly around his chest.

SAM

Sir I --

GREG

Sammy, hey. How are you.

Sam shakes her head at Gregs sudden chirpy response.

SAM
I'm good I'm just looking for
Donnie.

GREG
Oh, he's just out working. He
should be back any time now.

SAM
Thanks sir.

GREG
When he stepped out though he told
me to tell you to take the car for
a spin. He said he didn't need it
today.

Greg nods his head and fashions to the garage.

SAM
Thanks again sir.

Sam makes her way through the kitchen and to the side door of
the garage. The door opens easily and she strolls in.

The car sits still and Sam walks by the drivers side where
she sees a note on the seat. She picks it up and begin to
read it.

DONNIES LETTER
I had to go, there's so much more I
have to see. I can't stay here
forever. One day I hope we can both
wake up and see the same ocean. The
car is yours to do whatever. Just
remember not to look back.

Sam looks at the keys in the ignition and runs into the house
and into the kitchen.

SAM
Sir Donnies --

Greg puts a finger up to his mouth and begs for her to be
quiet.

Sam runs to the phone in the living room and dials her
number. The phone rings and Linda answers.

LINDA
Hello.

SAM
Mom, I'm going on vacation.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Sam goes rushing into a bus station.

LINDA (CONT'D)
That's nice dear.

SAM (CONT'D)
No, I'm going now.

LINDA
Right now what are--

SAM
I'm doing the right thing mom.

LINDA
Don't let anyone tell you
different.

EXT. HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Sam drives the Firebird at breakneck speed down a highway.

SAM
Tell dad I love him.

LINDA
I will.

SAM
And I love you.

LINDA
I love you too.

SAM
I'll call you.

LINDA
Be safe.

SAM
I will.

LINDA
Take your time.

On the dark highway Sam takes hold of the wheel with her left hand and opens the glove box with her right. She briefly looks in and takes out her notebook only to throw it high in the air and leave it behind her.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Sam reaches the cash with a pile of junk food, a large new note book and the young male attendant slams down a pack of cigarettes at her request. Sam pays with her credit card and starts to walk out, getting a flirtatious wave from the attendant. Just by the exit she sees a pair of black sunglasses and tries them on. The attendant flashes her a smile takes a look around and nods his head at her to get going.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A car drives by the Firebird which is parked on the side of the road. Sam sits on the dirt path at the side of the road writing in her new notebook. The headlights of the car make for fantastic floodlights and beam right over her shoulders and pierces the cigarette smoke as she scribbles.

INT. DINER BATHROOM - DAY

Sam washes her face off in the dirty bathroom sink and washes her arms. Sam walks out and looks at her bill on the table beside the empty plates. She puts down her paper money and walks out nodding to the waitress as she passes.

The waitress walks to the table with a still lit cigarette in the ashtray and checks her bill. The bill was for ten dollars but only 3 dollar bills lie on the table under the total is a note saying 'Don't let it bring you down - Sam Somers' with a happy face at the end. The waitress looks up just as the blue car has left the parking lot.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

With the car on the side of the road Sam puts the convertible top up and the seat in the most horizontal position she can and tries to fall asleep.

EXT. UNDERGROUND - NIGHT

In a five dollar underground parking lot Sam lays on the hood of the car and writes with a small neon light above her head. She closes the book and puts her arms behind her head.

Above the parking lot spotlights stream through the sky and the city lights storm around them. Lit up on the mountain far, far away is the Hollywood sign above all of the houses.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. COIN LAUNDRY - DAY

A washing machine works busily swirling clothes and suds around, only one person sits on the bench adjacent from the washing machine periodically looking up from her romance novel. Outside at the curb-side sits a now beat up, faded and dusty blue Firebird. With her hair blowing in the wind Sam sits in the car and looks to her left across the street through her dark sunglasses to a bus station where a charter bus slowly rolls in.

Men and women get off of the bus and see familiar faces. The tenth person off of the bus is Donnie. He grabs his bag from the under carriage.

Sam steps out of the car and lights a smoke.

Donnie slings his bag over his shoulder and takes in the California air. He looks up to the sky and then over his shoulder.

Sam stands leaned up against the car dragging off of her smoke with nothing on but a white buttoned up dress shirt, orange tighty whiteys and her sunglasses. Three other men from the bus take a peek at the gorgeous half naked Sam.

Donnie shakes his head in disbelief and makes his way over there.

DON

Sam?

SAM

What took you so long?

DON

How did you --

SAM

I asked the bus station back home what the cheapest way to get to California was.

DON

But how can you afford to --

SAM

I had some money stowed away for a vacation.

Donnie raises his eye brow.

DON

And your clothes?

Sam points back to the coin laundry. The both of them try hard not to show how excited they are and not to smile.

SAM

So I was thinking, we should go out tonight.

DON

Really?

SAM

Yeah, I mean, I'm on vacation, so we should go do something.

DON

Like?

SAM

Well, I got a car here. It get's me around.

Sam tosses her hair and lets out a smile.

DON

Is it fast?

Sam looks at him and answers with a deep seriousness.

SAM

It's so fast it took us both away.

Don drops his bag, grabs Sam and picks her up in a hug. Sam yelps and hugs him and kicks her feet in the air.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Sam lays down on the bed with feet at the pillow. She fills out a page on her notebook and rests her cigarette on the ashtray on the bed. Donnie gets out of the shower and puts on a pair of jeans.

SAM

Do you think we could get on 'The Price Is Right'?

DON
Can you just stand in line for that
sort of thing.

SAM
Well you need tickets.

Donnie dries his hair with a towel.

DON
How do you get tickets?

SAM
Well at the end of the show it's
always like 'if you're going to be
in the California area and would
like to be a contestant on 'The
Price is right' then blah, blah,
blah, blah.

Sam gets to her knees on the mattress and points at her chest
with both hands.

And I am going to be in the
California area.

DON
Ok, how much are the tickets?

SAM
Nothing, I guess. You get em in the
mail.

DON
Well we should just go line up if
they're free. But when would you
want to go?

SAM
We'll just go one day, it'll be
spontaneous.

Sam pulls a drag off her smoke.

DON
When did you pick this up by the
way?

SAM
On the road.

DON
I see you did a lot of quotes too
eh.

Sam lays back down with her pen in her mouth and shakes her head.

DON
What do u mean no? You've been
writing every free second you got.

SAM
It's not quotes I threw that book
away.

DON
What.

SAM
Yeah I know.

DON
And?

SAM
And, I dunno, I guess I was just
tired of listening to everyone
else. I only have one quote in
here, and all the rest I'm gonna
make up myself.

DON
You're gonna make up your own
quotes that's wild.

Sam smiles.

SAM
Yeah it is cool. But it's not just
quotes it's like what I think about
stuff and little stories.

DON
Can I read em.

SAM
You can read it when it's finished.

Don goes over and turns off the light.

DON
Well, make sure to tell me when
you're done.

Sam settles under the covers and so does Don.

SAM
Donnie.

DON

Yes, Sam.

SAM

What are you gonna do here.

DON

I didn't wanna tell you but I got an audition here in two weeks. I booked it before I left.

SAM

That's awesome honey.

DON

Yeah, it's gonna be fun.

SAM

And , also...

Sam turns away from Donnie.

SAM

Whenever you wanna talk about home. Just let me know, ok.

Donnie grunts in agreement.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

A ray of sun shines through the blinds of the hotel room. The door rattles with a vicious bang on the other side.

HAG

There's a problem. Excuse me, room 116, there's a problem.

Sam shoots out of bed but Donnie barely moves. Sam goes to the door and screams through it.

SAM

What seems to be the problem?

HAG

It say's here your cards been declined.

SAM

Okay, Okay I'll take care of it don't worry.

HAG

If you don't take care of it you're
outta here come noon.

SAM

Yea it's ok.

Sam rushes over to the phone and makes a call. She calls
collect and the operator puts her through.

ANTHONY

Hello?

SAM

Daddy.

ANTHONY

Where the fuck are you?

SAM

I'm ok I'm at a hotel.

ANTHONY

What the hell possessed you to get
up and go out west?

SAM

I told you I was gonna go on
vacation.

ANTHONY

Yea, well you don't just take off
without telling anyone.

SAM

I'm sorry. Dad the credit card --

ANTHONY

Oh, the card, yea I bet you're
sorry now. I don't hear from you in
over two weeks but I turn that card
off and you phone home.

SAM

I have the money dad I'll pay you
when I get home.

ANTHONY

I don't care about the money. I
have money. What I care about is
you wasting your time away with
that damn punk.

SAM
Dad, I'm not fifteen.

ANTHONY
I know, I do trust you Sam. I'm
turning the card back on. I love
you and I know your good
for it.

Anthony breathes heavy into the phone.

ANTHONY
Just remember that in two months
you have a school waiting for you
and I need to see you here a week
before. We have to get your room
packed up.

SAM
I'll be back for sure dad. I love
you.

ANTHONY
I know. You be good.

SAM
I am.

ANTHONY
I know. Now listen I know it sounds
unfair but you have to call me
every other day.

SAM
Dad --

ANTHONY
Every other day in the night time
or that cards going back off.

SAM
Bye dad.

Sam hangs up the phone and stares at her credit card. A bang
at the door snaps her out of her stare.

HAG
Room 116, is everything ok, I have
to get in there and make the bed if
you don't want the room for another
night.

Sam bends the credit card in half and throws it in the
garbage.

SAM
Ok, just a minute, we're leaving.

Sam shakes Donnie.

SAM
Get up.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

DON (CONT'D)
What's happening?

SAM (CONT'D)
We gotta go.

The car pulls up on the side of an empty road and the engine turns off. Other than the car lit up by a weak orange streetlight, the surroundings are pitch black.

DON
Where are we gonna go?

EXT. STREET - MORNING

A wave crashes hard and Sam wakes up in the back seat of the car with Donnie's arm across her, keeping a blanket from blowing away. She looks across the street and sees a beautiful ocean, calm in the morning sun. The waves are the only sound she can hear as the dawn sun gives the water a warm glow. Sam smiles and puts her hand gently on Donnie's arm but does not take her eye's off the water.

FADE TO BLACK.

The sound of machines clanging and metals swishing. In the background a constant sound of beeps can be heard among the endless scuffling and murmuring of a ocean of people.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE 1995 - DAY

Sam stands behind a grocery store counter swiping item after item across her scanner. She wears a black and white striped uniform with her hair tied back in a sloppy pony tail. Her line up stretches into the 3rd aisle with unsatisfied customers who are in a rush. Sam looks down at her watch to see that it's 3pm. She scans her last item, collects her cash and slams down a 'Closed Register' sign on her conveyer belt. The line of people angrily disperse.

Don pulls up in the Firebird that is now beat up and lost it's color and shine. Dust sticks to the windows and mirrors as well as Donnie himself who wears a dirty buttoned up shirt and a scruffy haircut.

DON
I'm sorry.

SAM
Whatever.

DON
I got a surprise.

SAM
Fuck you.

DON
I got an audition today. In about an hour and I want you to come.

Sam pushes Donnie excitedly and yells with enthusiasm.

SAM
No Way!

Don nods and pulls out of the store.

DON
Yup, yup, I got a good feeling about this one.

SAM
Well what's it for?

DON
It's a crime T.V. show. It's about a photographer who uses his pictures to find love in the big city. It's all filmed in New York and it has some major stars attached. I'm gonna be going for the part of his young assistant.

SAM
Oh my god, how did you get this?

DON
Claire, my new agent!

SAM
She's fantastic. I gotta get home and change I can't go there looking like this.

DON
You got it.

INT. WAITING ROOM - LATER

Sam sits in a nice outfit listening to Donnie while a sea of young men with sheets in their hands mumble to themselves and gesture with their hands.

DON
And then they would call me back
and then we would go to New York
where they shoot it.

SAM
I got a great feeling about this.

CHARLES, a man in a tweed blazer and glasses bursts out of the door. Charles flips his clipboard to the fifth page and yells at the top of his lungs.

CHARLES
Don Holsen?

Don stands up and walks toward the door with his script in hand. Sam stands up and nervously scurries behind.

CHARLES
Who the fuck are you?

DON
I'm Don Hun--

CHARLES
No, Who the fuck is that?

Charles points his clipboard at Sam.

DON
Oh nothing...

Don turns to Sam.

DON
Sweetie it's ok I'll only be a few--

CHARLES
No, get the fuck in there.

INT. AUDITION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A table sits in the middle of the room with a camera on either side and a monitor to the right. A panel of bored looking executives shuffle through papers as Charles walks Sam and Don into the room. Sam stands in the corner. Charles takes control of the room and speaks before taking his seat.

CHARLES

Everyone, this is Don Hunter reading for the part of Boyd. Don these are some of the producers and Mr. Franco who will be reading with you.

Mr. Franco lifts his hand and gives a wave but does not lift his head.

CHARLES

My name is Charles Gilbert I'm the casting director. Now when you're doing the reading just take it easy and everything should be good. Anytime you want Mr. Hunter.

Don clears his throat and begins to read his piece. Lines from the script go back and forth across the room but Charles can't take his eyes off of Sam.

Once Donnie ends his lines in the scene Charles claps his hands once. The producers buzz with a new enthusiasm.

CHARLES

That was good work young man. We'll give you a call.

DON

Thank you sir.

CHARLES

Don't mention it.

INT. SAM AND DONS APARTMENT - LATER

Sam walks in and flops down on the couch. The apartment is practically bare, only a lamp, a television and a small couch decorate the living room. A poster is pinned up on the wall of the living room and the kitchen is a boring off white with only a messy pot and pan to give it any life. Junk mail covers the small table that would be used for dining. Don flops on top of Sam and pretends to fall asleep. Sam laughs and tries to paw him off of her.

SAM
Get offa me!

DON
I can't I'm asleep.

Don notices the answering machine blinking and taps it.

ANSWERING MACHINE
Hey, It's Charles Gilbert calling
from the show. I really think you
hit it Donnie, the execs loved you,
I want you to come see me tonight
at my place. Bring your lucky charm
girlfriend too, we'll make a night
out of it.

DON
Whoooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

Donnie jumps alive off of the couch and starts dancing around
the room.

DON
Get dressed.

SAM
I am dressed.

DON
Better than that.

Sam rolls her eyes and lays back on the couch.

INT. CHARLES HOUSE - EVENING

Charles opens the door to an elegantly dressed Sam, who wears
a long dress and Donnie wearing dress shoes and pants and a
collared shirt.

CHARLES
Hey, you guy, sorry it's so late
but you know the business never
sleeps.

Charles walks them to the living room where he sinks into a
chair and the couple sits on a long couch. The house is
massive and decorate in bright colors and post modern
designs.

CHARLES
Did you want a drink?

SAM
No, thanks, we don't drink.

DON
Sure.

CHARLES
Sure. What do you drink?

Don hesitates.

DON
Brandy.

Charles gets up and mixes the drinks on the rocks.

DON
(whispers to Sam)
Just tonight, I don't wanna look
like a dick.

Charles comes back with the drinks.

DON
Thanks.

Charles sinks back into his seat.

DON
So you wanted to talk about the
part.

CHARLES
Right, I did. Well after you left
everyone agreed you did really
well.

DON
Thank you.

CHARLES
And you look the part. We were
looking to go a little younger but
I think you give the role a little
more edge. And something edgy
always bring in the crowds
especially these days.

DON
Right.

CHARLES
We probably want to do something
with your weight.
(MORE)

CHARLES (cont'd)

You're a little skinny but that's the type of thing you have time to work on after all the papers get signed.

DON

This all sounds really good.

CHARLES

But none of that really means shit.

DON

Excuse me.

CHARLES

I've been in this business a long time and I've seen a million kids like you just walking around. Everyone wants to be a star these days. I mean my generation, would have never been caught dead working for the man, you know, for the money. But not you kids. You kid's don't just want the money. You want to be the man. Everyone skips the education or the training. They just come to Hollywood and wanna make a million dollars. No one wants to pay their dues.

Don stands up and grabs Sams arm.

DON

You must have lost your damn mind.

CHARLES

I didn't say you don't have the part. I'm saying that you are gonna have to do something for me just so that you'll always remember who the real man is. It's time for you to pay your dues in this business.

Charles gets up in Don's face.

CHARLES

You'll be in New York in a week. But no fucking way you're gonna go there thinking you walked into Hollywood and took it over when I've been here my whole life, making people into stars. You're just a punk kid. I'm the man.

(MORE)

CHARLES (cont'd)
And you'll remember that... Every
time you look at her.

Don throws Charles into his seat.

DON
Don't make me fucking kill you,
sir. No one touches her.

CHARLES
Please kid. I have a wife and kids
I don't want your girlfriend. I
just want you to remember. Fuck
her, right here.

DON
No.

CHARLES
Think about it. This is it. What's
normally a drunken routine any
other night... Is a career tonight.

Sam grabs Dons hand. Don grabs his hand back.

DON
No.

CHARLES
She's smart eh.

Don grabs her arm and pulls her close.

DON
What the hell do you think you're
doing.

SAM
This is all you've wanted. And I
can give it to you.

DON
I think the both of you are crazy.
I love you, and we don't need this
that bad.

Sam backs away from Donnie and undoes her dress slowly. She lets it fall off her body and to the ground. She walks to Donnie and starts to unbutton his shirt. Both teary eyed they look at each other and Don wipes her cheek.

Don lays her down on the hard granite floor of Mr. Gilberts home, she takes in a deep breathe when her bare back touches the cold ground.

Donnie takes his shirt off and lays it underneath Sams back and makes love to her in front of Mr. Gilbert who sips on his drink.

INT. SAM AND DONS APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Sam's splashes water on her face in the bathroom sink then takes a look in the small mirror. Her make-up is almost all gone and her hair is slicked back. She lights a cigarette and sits on the closed toilet.

Don looks at the answering machine that flashes two.

He presses it.

ANSWERING MACHINE

Sam, Sam it's your mother.

Sam comes out of the washroom.

ANSWERING MACHINE (CONT'D)

I was just calling to tell you that your father and I applied to school for you again this year. And you got in again. We want you to come home darling. I don't know what great things you're doing out there. Maybe if you would call home more often then I would understand why you want to stay. Your father is good. He misses you.

The message beeps complete and Sam bites her lip to stop from crying.

SAM

I want to go home.

DON

But you have everything here, you wake up on the beach every morning and you have lots of time for your writing and we live in the most glamorous place on the planet.

The answering machine clicks back on with the second message.

ANSWERING MACHINE

Donnie boy, how's it going look I was just going over your audition and I feel that you really nailed it and I wanna offer you the part I set you up with a place in New York so you can start meeting them people and --

Donnie screams over the answering machine voice as it continues rambling.

SAM

I don't have everything, you have everything. Haven't you noticed we never leave. We never do anything Donnie we're stuck here.

DON

We're going to New York soon!

SAM

No I don't mean stuck in L.A. Or stuck in this apartment. I love L.A. And I love this apartment. I'm just stuck in this place in my life.

Sam sits down on the couch and holds her head in her hands.

SAM

I love you but I need to go home, I need to go somewhere.

Donnie sits beside her and puts her arm around him.

DON

I love you too. And you can do whatever you want. If you come with me. You can go to school in New York. You can find a way better job. It'll be better. You have everything you need there.

SAM

You sound like your fucking dad! Do you realize that! You left to get away from him and now you're more like him then ever.

DON

I never thought you would say that. I never thought that you would try to make me leave you, because that's exactly what you are doing. I thought we were together. I didn't follow you here Sam, but I feel lucky every day that you were there when I got off the bus. I didn't plan on getting this job and I sure as hell didn't plan on what happened tonight. Who knows what was going to happen today, maybe you would get promoted or maybe I would blow another audition, but we would both meet back here and that's what I was thinking about.

Donnie gets up and walks out.

EXT. SAM AND DONS APARTMENT NEW YORK - MORNING

Don walks up to the front door of their apartment. Sam walks out of the apartment with a big box in her hand and places it in the trunk of the car.

DON

I was really hoping you wouldn't.

SAM

Well, if I didn't do it then you would have had to.

DON

I wouldn't. This isn't my choice I want you to know that.

SAM

Well, how else am I gonna get this stuff outta here.

DON

Are you leaving.

SAM

Yes.

Don nods and walks into the apartment. It's bare.

SAM

And so are you. I thought we were going to New York?

Don runs up and kisses her.

DON
I think we both could use a road
trip.

The old car clunks out of the driveway.

SAM
Don't you think we should go to a
garage first. I don't know if it's
gonna make it.

DON
It'll make it, has it ever not made
it?

SAM
It's old though. I don't think
we've ever sent it in for anything
other than a oil change for the
past four years.

DON
That's because it doesn't need one.

Sam looks at Donnie.

SAM
Can it still go as fast do you
think?

DON
I guess we'll find out.

Don hits the peddle and the car screams out of the apartment
and onto the street.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

The skylight of the city that never sleeps reflects off of
the hood of the car as Sam enjoys a smoke.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Don holds tightly onto Sam shoulders and walks forwards as
she, with a big smile on her face walks backwards.

DON
I'm sorry. I couldn't find a
blindfold.

SAM
Well, I bet it looks just like the
houses across the street.

DON
That what you think.

SAM
Am I right.

DON
No, and if you were I wouldn't tell
you and waste my energy carting you
up the stairs backwards.

SAM
I would hope so.

DON
Just shut up and step.

Sam takes her final step on the stairs. Don sneaks behind her
and undoes the door and it swings open. He grabs sam again
and backs her in.

DON
Are you ready?

SAM
For sure.

Don spins her around and into his arms. The place is big and
wooden floors. But empty.

SAM
We don't have enough furniture to
fill half this place.

DON
Yeah, we need more furniture.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The couple unpacks and boxes that lay around the house.

SAM
We don't even have a bed.

DON
I'm not sleeping in that damn car.
We can use a blanket.

SAM
I slept in it longer than you have.

DON
Well we don't need to do that
tonight. We can use a sheet and
some balled up shirts.

SAM
I love living the glamorous New
York life.

Don reaches into a bag and takes out three bottles of liquor.
Sam gives him a dirty look.

SAM
What the fuck is that?

Don pulls out another bottle, this one of wine.

DON
And some wine.

SAM
Like I said..

DON
Baby, we own a house, we need it
for people who visit.

SAM
You know how I feel about that.

DON
Even if it's people like your
parents?

SAM
My parents?

DON
They're coming in three weeks for
Thanksgiving. I phoned them on the
road.

Sam smiles.

SAM
Your sneaky.

DON
Relax.

DON
It's a lot of fun.

ANTHONY
How much you make then? A million dollars? Is that what T.V. stars make these days.

LINDA
Anthony!

ANTHONY
What?

LINDA
He doesn't need to know.

DON
I make a good living.

SAM
He makes a lot of money daddy look at this place.

LINDA
It's a beautiful home Don.

ANTHONY
So what have you been up to Sam?

LINDA
I've watched Dons show, the first two episodes and I thought he was terrific.

Everyone nods.

DON
Thank you Miss. Somers.

LINDA
Oh yes. I like it and I would watch it every week but we sometimes go for our walks.

ANTHONY
So what are you doing here in New York Sam?

SAM
Oh I visit Don at the show sometimes.

LINDA

Is it big. I bet it's bigger than
it is on T.V.

ANTHONY

I didn't ask what Don was doing. I
asked what you were doing.

LINDA

Maybe you can take us to the show
Don?

SAM

I have to take care of the house
daddy. I have to clean and I was
unpacking for two weeks and
shopping for furniture. And I
decorated the house for tonight.

Anthony nods and shakes his negativity.

ANTHONY

Your right. It looks beautiful.

Sam smiles. Anthony finishes his dinner.

ANTHONY

That was great. I'm stuffed.

SAM

The T.V.s over there dad, I bought
a leather recliner you can try it
out.

Anthony smile and gives his daughter a wink.

ANTHONY

I think I will.

DON

Let me take your plate sir I'm
finished myself. Would you like
something to drink?

ANTHONY

Brandys good.

DON

Whiskey ok? I'm gonna have one
myself.

Anthony gives him a thumbs up and takes a seat. Donnie leaves
the room with the plates and comes back with a bottle of
whiskey and two glasses.

LINDA
It's a wonderful home honey.

SAM
Thank you. Want the tour?

LINDA
Yes, but sweetie you know what I really want.

SAM
Anything.

LINDA
Let's have a walk. I've never been to New York.

Sam smiles. They get up.

SAM
We're going out to pick up some desert.

LINDA
Now you boys behave.

The two of them shrug and take a sip of whiskey while watching T.V.

EXT. STREETS OF NEW YORK - EVENING

Mother and Daughter tighten their scarfs and take in the fresh air of New York in fall.

LINDA
I always wanted to come here.

SAM
Why didn't you?

LINDA
I just never needed to. Who knows what would have happened if I would have come to New York. There's a bunch of adventures. So many that the good ones rarely ever cross.

SAM
It is an amazing city.

LINDA
And you have a actor husband to boot.

SAM
He's not my husband mother.

LINDA
Not yet but when you go through so much with someone it's bound to bring you together.

SAM
I know. I think he will this year or next year.

LINDA
I think so too.

Linda peeks in another store.

SAM
Are you mad?

LINDA
What? Why?

SAM
Is dad mad? Because I left.

LINDA
That was a long time ago.

SAM
And are you mad?

LINDA
No.

SAM
Good.

Sam hugs her mother and walks her into a grocery store.

SAM
Because I like to see you guys.

INT. HOUSE - LATER

Sam and Linda walk into the house with two pies. The boys are laughing.

LINDA
We're going to put these in the oven and warm them up a bit.

The guys keep laughing and give her a cheers. Linda turns to Sam and whispers.

LINDA
Meet me upstairs I want the tour
now.

Sam nods and walks up.

INT. SAMS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sam sits on her bed and her mom walks in with a small gift wrapped up.

SAM
Mom!

LINDA
What?

SAM
What's the gift for?

LINDA
Well I missed your birthdays and
Christmas's.

SAM
I don't need anything I have
everything right here.

LINDA
Open it.

Sam unwraps the gift and it is a small antique clock.

SAM
What is this?

LINDA
I knew you didn't have one or I
remembered you didn't have one and
I just thought that maybe now that
your older you might be able to use
it.

SAM
Ok. I'll put it right here.

Sam gets up and puts the clock on her dresser. Suddenly a commotion echoes from down stairs. The girls go rushing down the stairs to see an over turned table with Anthony and Donnie standing beside it.

LINDA

What in the devil is going on down here.

ANTHONY

Nothing.

DON

You can't tell me what to do in my own house I pay for this house.

SAM

What the fuck?

DON

He thinks he can just come in here and tell me what I'm doing wrong with you.

LINDA

Anthony maybe we should leave.

ANTHONY

I told him that I think Sam should go to school. That she's not doing any good just staying at home.

DON

Maybe she wants to stay home. Maybe she likes that I can provide for her and give her everything she wants. She left you to be with me, what does that say?

SAM

(To Linda)

Oh my god he's drunk.

ANTHONY

She's not your personal shopper, before you she wanted to be something now all she is, is whatever you wanna be this month, whatever high or low you can come up with.

Don steps up to Anthony

DON

This is my house! I pay for it! And she doesn't want to leave!

ANTHONY

No shit. I think you should relax.

Anthony smacks the glass out of Donnie's hand and it shatters on the floor.

Donnie grabs Anthony's shirt with his left hand and punches him straight in the face with his right. The girls gasp and Anthony stumbles back. Instantly after getting his balance Anthony grabs Don by his collar with both hands and throws him across the room he slams against the wall and slides down slowly.

SAM

What the fuck is going on? What the fuck is wrong with you, both of you.

ANTHONY

You can do better than this. He can't give you whatever you're looking for Sam. You need to wake up and realize you're wasting your time.

SAM

Leave!

Anthony grabs his coat off the rack and storms out slamming the door behind him and it rocks the house.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Sam gently puts an ice pack on Donnie who lays face down on the bed. She rubs his back in the dark and then gets up. She gets her notebook out of the bedside table and turns on a small light in the corner of the room and begins to write under it.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Couples pour into the restaurant wearing blazers and expensive suits. The women hang on to their husbands arm with their small purses dangling from the other. The seats are filling up around Sam who sits on one side of a small round table wearing a beautiful dress and her hair is done professionally. A young waiter stands tall at Sam's table.

WAITER

Anything for you madame?

SAM

No.

WAITER
Is it a special occasion?

SAM
Yes it is.

WAITER
Anniversary?

SAM
No, first date.

WAITER
Will you be needing a bottle of
champagne?

SAM
No.

WAITER
Very good madame, have a great
evening.

Donnie comes walking into the restaurant with a small box in his hand and sits down. He gets up quickly though and kisses Sam on the cheek. He stumbles when he goes back to his seat and Sam can smell the liquor on his breath.

DON
Honey.

SAM
Hello there.

DON
This place is great.

Donnie leans down and puts the box on the ground.

SAM
What's that?

DON
Nothing.

SAM
Is it for me.

DON
No.

SAM
Oh.

DON
So what did you do today?

SAM
I bought a new stove.

DON
Was the old one broken?

SAM
It wasn't broken but it would take forever, remember.

DON
Yeah.

SAM
Yeah so they came and installed that.

DON
Ok.

SAM
But I guess that was it, I had to stay home all day waiting for them and they showed up in the last hour.

DON
Oh.

SAM
How was your day?

DON
Long.

SAM
What did you do?

Don slumps back in his chair and looks down at the table.

DON
Not much.

Sam sips on her water.

SAM
I'll be glad when that shows over and we can see the city together.

DON
Yeah.

SAM
Can I see what's in the box now?

DON
No.

SAM
Donnie!

DON
Ok, Ok.

Don reaches under the seat and grabs the box from the floor and passes it across the table to Sam. Sam excitedly unwraps it as the waiter stops on his way by the table.

WAITER
Are we ready to order?

DON
No we aren't. Can we get a bottle of champagne please?

The waiter nods and takes off.

Sam open the box to see a stunning necklace. She beams with a smile and holds it up.

DON
I love you baby.

Don gets up and takes the necklace from her and goes behind to put it on. He fumbles time after time but finally gets it on.

The waiter drops the champagne off to the table, Sam waves it away but Donnie points at his glass to fill it up.

DON
You like it?

SAM
I love it.

Don nods with a big smile on his face and a full glass in his hand.

SAM
I love you.

Sam reaches her hand across the table. Don looks across the room into the crowd.

SAM
Donnie...Don....Don...

DON
I love you.

Sam takes her hand back.

SAM
Baby, you mean so much to me. We've shared everything together and I want us to share more. I can't think of anyone I would rather spend the rest of my life with. It took us a long time to be in this place but I think the timing is right. Do you think we're ready?

Donnie still gazes into the crowd, drunk and holding a now empty glass.

SAM
Why won't you answer me!

DON
What? Shhh, What is it?

SAM
Do you know how frustrating it is to be want an answer and no one is listening.

Sam looks hard into Dons eyes waiting for a response or some kind of reaction.

Don finishes his drink in a final gulp.

DON
No.

Sam sit's back in her chair.

DON
Now what were you saying?

SAM
Nothing.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Sam lies under the elegant sheets asleep while New York buzzes below her window.

Donnie walks in with a coffee in hand and spots Sams notebook sitting on the chair. He picks it up and starts to flip through it.

Sam wakes up slowly and sees what he's reading. She bolts out of bed and snatches it from his hand.

SAM
What are you doing?

DON
What?

SAM
Who said you could read this?

DON
You said I could read it.

SAM
It's not done yet.

DON
Well I'm sick of waiting.

SAM
Well I didn't say you could read it. This is mine.

DON
Yeah, whatever.

Sam calms down and lowers her arms.

DON
This is my house I'll read what I want.

Don grabs it out of her hand.

DON
And I saw my name in it, huh. What happened to the quotes?

SAM
I told you I wasn't doing that anymore.

DON
Well then what are you doing, you never told me that, and I saw my name in there, I saw a lot of peoples names in there.

SAM

Since when do you care what I do?

Sam goes to grab her book quickly from Don but he grips it as hard as he can crushing it in his fist.

Sam looks at him, using all of her strength to pull on the top of the book but it's no use and Don's eye's open wide and his face turns red.

DON

I've cared since the day you kept
this from me.

Sams grip is lost when Don raises the notebook straight in the air above his head.

DON

I care since I read it this morning? Why is Charles in here? Why am I in here? What are you writing about. I thought you were writing about cops and robbers or presidents or some shit. Maybe some monsters and fairies.

SAM

Maybe I am writing about a monster.

DON

I thought you don't believe in that shit.

SAM

I know but now I believe.

Don throws her notebook across the room at her.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

In the dining room of a large hotel a group of television executives cheers each other and drink while hour deurves are passed around. At the podium a man finishes his speech.

PRODUCER

And I would like to thank Freddie, Tracy, Rick and Donnie for a great season and many more to come. I love this cast.

The producer points at Donnie who stands in a tuxedo and stands beside the stunning Sam Somers.

Donnie points back at him playfully and the producers steps down from the podium to a great amount of applause.

The crowd takes to the dance floor as a slow song is played by the band.

Sam and Donnie dance cheek to cheek together.

SAM
I'm so proud of you.

DON
Thanks sweetie.

SAM
And I'm glad the show is finally all wrapped up.

DON
For now.

SAM
For now.

Sam looks at him.

SAM
I was thinking we could get away for a bit.

DON
Away from what?

SAM
From the city. I was just thinking we could go back to L.A. For a few weeks.

DON
L.A., nah, it's too hot.

SAM
Oh come on you never used to say that.

DON
Well it is.

SAM
We could go on The Price Is Right.

DON
Honey, if you want something we
don't have to go on The Price Is
Right

SAM
Well I was thinking we could take a
road trip there in the old car.

DON
The Firebird?

SAM
Yeah.

DON
It's falling apart, it's been in
storage since we got to New York.

SAM
I took it out. And I fixed it up.

DON
Really?

SAM
And now it's as good as new. New
paint job and everything.

DON
That things a piece of shit.
Anyway, look I can't go anywhere I
gotta keep in shape for next
season.

SAM
But --

DON
Look, maybe another year. You got
everything you need here. Why would
you want to leave?

SAM
That's something your father would
say.

DON
Don't start with that again.

SAM
Don, I know we got it good but we
need some time to enjoy it.

DON
Nah, we can't waste any time.

SAM
Do you realize the only thing I own is that car? I still have things to do. What happened to the ocean?

DON
Nothing.

SAM
When we were in California and I woke up beside the ocean, you were giving me everything. I could have lived there forever.

DON
I don't know what to tell you.

SAM
It feels like we're not going anywhere. We used to do everything and never look back, remember, we couldn't look back, we were going to fast.

Sam steps away.

DON
What. What is it.

SAM
You're not the same person.

DON
Yes I am.

SAM
We just want different things, and I love you but this isn't what I want to be doing with my time. I still have to go to school and --

Sam takes her hand off of Dons shoulder and her hand out of his. She walks slowly away from him and out of the dance area into a hallway. Sam walks away down the hall towards the elevator. Don chases after her and catches up in front of the empty elevators.

DON
And what, and I won't let you? Of course I will, if you got things to do then go do them--

SAM

I am.

The elevator rings and the doors open for Sam. Sam steps in and pushes her button waiting for the door to close. Don shakes his head as the door close and he bangs on the hard metal.

DON

Sam. I love you I love you, Marry me!

The elevator opens and Don steps back. Sam takes one step out leaving her other foot inside. A tear sparkles in her eye.

SAM

You made me believe in love because you showed me love.

Don grabs her tight and kisses her hand. The elevator tries to close but reopens when it finds Sam has not let yet.

SAM

But I can either leave tonight and see what happens, or I can stay here and never know.

Sam steps back in the door and it closes leaving Don with his back to a large window that catches a beautiful view of New York City.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP PATIO 2005 - DAY

The ocean crashes against the sand on a sunny beach. Palm trees stand tall in California where the wind blows the smoke from a woman's cigarette over her shoulder. Another woman walks to the table with a coffee and puts out her hand.

VICKI

I'm Vicki Astin, thanks for meeting with me Sam.

SAM

No problem.

In her mid thirties now, Sam's hair is long and much lighter than it used to be. She drags off of her smoke as Vicki reaches into her purse.

VICKI

I just love your work.

SAM

Great.

Vicki takes out a hardcover novel titled 'A Fast Car, Written by Sam Somers' and puts it on the table.

VICKI

So I guess we can start the interview.

SAM

Sure.

Vicki takes out a tape recorder and puts it on the table beside the book.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP PATIO 2005 - LATER

The two laugh and talk over coffee.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP PATIO 2005 - LATER

The sky is turning orange and pink above the ocean now and Vicki takes the recorder off of the table.

VICKI

Thanks Sam.

SAM

Thank you.

VICKI

I can't believe this is a true story.

SAM

Well I changed the names, but that's what really happened.

VICKI

Off the record do you still talk to him?

SAM

Nah, I haven't talked to him in years.

VICKI

Oh, Doesn't it seem like a waste? All that time and you don't even see him anymore.

Sam smiles, puts her cigarette out and stands up.

SAM

I don't believe in wasting time.

Sam shakes Vicki's hand and walks out of the store to her vehicle, her bright pink 1969 convertible Firebird. Sam gets in and opens the glove box.

Out of the glove box she puts on a black pair of sunglasses and closes the glove box on her now ragged notebook.