

HEIRLOOMS

written by

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FADE IN:

SUPER: Twenty years ago...

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE

Scarlet red flashes of glistening bright light fill the store. Magical incantations rise from a murmur to shouts.

More red lights.

Terrified SCREAMS pierce the commotion as the sounds of fear ring into the air.

A silence deep as the night ascends on the antique store.

The walls shake, almost as if they, too, are afraid when the front door SLAMS. FOOTSTEPS race away and dance off into the darkness.

The red lights have stopped. The screams have stopped. The silence is deafening.

In the back right corner of the shop, behind the counter, the whimpers of a BABY trembling in a bassinet prick the quiet and stillness.

The baby's eyes dart around the room. Nothing. Fear takes over as the baby begins to CRY. The CRY dissolves into the sound of a single violin solo.

END FLASHBACK.

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

INT. NICHOLAS'S BEDROOM - DAY

NICHOLAS, 21, lays half asleep on an old reclining chair. Food wrappers, dirty clothes, and junk decorate the room. Old and faded pictures of a young man and woman holding a baby sit on his nightstand.

A collage of newspaper articles, old family photos, and notes are neatly organized on the wall with scarlet red yarn connecting different photos and clippings.

The T.V. is ON, and its remote rises and falls on Nick's stomach, in synch with his SNORES. He wakes up suddenly.

NICHOLAS

Oh no!

MUSIC CUE: "LATE AGAIN."

Nick jumps and brushes broken chips off his shirt. Dorito crumbs rain down onto the carpet. Nick licks his fingers and combs his hair with his Doritos-stained hands.

He crams a Juicy Fruit stick of gum into his mouth. He pauses, kisses the photo of the baby held by the young man and woman, and runs out the door.

INT. OLD PICK-UP TRUCK - DAY

GRANDPA RON, late 60s, southern, with a mustache even more southern, chugs along in his old, dinged, and faded blue Studebaker pickup truck. Gray clouds of exhaust escape from the muffler. His wrinkled hand adjusts the radio dial. STATIC turned music floods the car. Grandpa Ron SINGS along.

MUSIC CUE: "On the Hunt."

He stops at the light and squints at a sign on the telephone pole.

Yard Sale

A toothless smile widens as he turns the steering wheel and heads toward the address.

END MUSIC CUE.

EXT. YARD SALE - DAY

Grandpa Ron peruses the items.

GRANDPA RONALD
Aren't you a curious little
thing...

Grandpa Ron lowers his spectacles and fixates on a tarnished half-locket. He picks it up and stares as it swings back and forth.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
Curious.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
What's your story, little locket?

It swings.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
You're missing your brother.

Swings.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
 Could it be?

A YARD SALE LADY sees Grandpa Ron interested in something and pounces.

YARD SALE LADY
 Can I help you?

GRANDPA RONALD
 Yes, how much is she?

YARD SALE LADY
 Uh... Two bucks.

He reaches into his pocket. Four quarters, eight dimes, and a handful of rusty pennies. He smiles as he pours the change. The coins CHIME together as they cascade into her hands.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Grandpa Ron at various yard sales around the town. He inspects items and talks to them as if alive. Soon, the back seat is full.

INT. OLD PICK-UP TRUCK - DAY

Grandpa Ron looks over his shoulder and into the backseat.

GRANDPA RONALD
 Okay, my new little pals, let's go home.

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - DAY

ASHLEY, 20's, has a girl-next-door vibe and easy smile, works frantically in the kitchen of the "What the Cluck" chicken restaurant.

She moves from loading the dishwasher to taking food out of the oven. Dishes, cups, and plates overrun the sink.

Nick bursts in.

NICHOLAS
 Sorry! I'm so sorry, I'm here!

ASHLEY
 I, umm, aghhh!

Ashley dashes back and forth.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Help!

NICHOLAS

I woke up la-

ASHLEY

I SAID HELP!

Nicholas springs into action. He beelines for the sink but trips and falls on his face. Nicholas quickly recovers and keeps the pile of dishes from falling over.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Nice of you to join us!

NICHOLAS

I know I over-

ASHLEY

Overslept, yeah, as usual.

Nicholas's hands wash at a million miles an hour. Soap suds fly. Bubbles pop, and water splashes about.

The pair continue the fervor. Within a few minutes, the kitchen is under control.

NICHOLAS

See, look at that! What would you do without me?

Ashley shoots him a look dirtier than the used mop in the corner.

ASHLEY

I'd smile.

NICHOLAS

Pretty sure you smile every time you see me.

ASHLEY

Don't confuse wincing in pain for smiling.

Nick fumbles plates as he continues to clean.

NICHOLAS

I promise I'll-

ASHLEY

Make it up, yah, yah. Honestly, do you care about anything?

NICHOLAS

Yes. I'm guessing this is a bad time to tell you I need to leave early...

ASHLEY

Are you kidding me? Why?

NICHOLAS

Project. I, umm, lost something.

Ashley rolls her eyes as suds float to the ceiling.

INT. INSIDE HOLLYWOOD FURNITURE SUPER STORE - DAY

DEXTER 30s, small in stature but large in his Napoleon complex, and the General Manager of Hollywood Furniture Super Store, struts around BARKING orders.

DEXTER

Let's go, people. We have furniture to sell and money to make me.

EMPLOYEE

(under her breath)

With his personality, he couldn't sell a money tree.

EMPLOYEE 2

Ya, for realz.

Dexter hears this even though he is at the end of the hall. He stops, turns, and strides toward them.

DEXTER

You two have something you'd like to share?

EMPLOYEE 2

Nah, we were-

EMPLOYEE

No, sir. Just talking about-

DEXTER

Let me be clear: I don't care about you. I care about money.

MUSIC CUE: "I LOVE MONEY."

EMPLOYEE
Money, Sir. Got it, Sir.

DEXTER
You think this is bad? I dare you
not to make quota.

EMPLOYEE 2
Is dis a literal dare? Like, should
I actually take the bet?

EMPLOYEE 2 (CONT'D)
What's the under?

DEXTER
Keep messing with me, punks. My
wrath is like a lake of fire.

EMPLOYEE
Yes, Sir. Fire oceans, Sir.

EMPLOYEE 2
He said lake, not ocean.

DEXTER
SHUT UP!

EMPLOYEE 2
Death and damnation. Yes, Sir.

DEXTER
Don't you forget it.

As he turns to leave, a customer approaches. Fake sincerity
brims over.

DEXTER (CONT'D)
Hello, Sir. Anything you need, just
let me know. We want to bring
Hollywood to your home!

Employee One sticks his tongue out at Dexter from across the
room. As if eyes were behind Dexter's head, he stops, feeling
something, and walks away.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

JUANITA, 50s, sits behind the desk reading "Tele Novelas-
MARIA." Grandpa Ron shouts across the store as he dusts off
some pieces.

GRANDPA RONALD
Juanita!?

JUANITA
Si?

GRANDPA RONALD
How much have we made today?

JUANITA
Same as jesterday.

GRANDPA RONALD
Well, how much is that!?

JUANITA
Cero.

GRANDPA RONALD
Really?

JUANITA
Nada.

GRANDPA RONALD
Okay.

JUANITA
Tumbleweed.

GRANDPA RONALD
Got the point, Juanita.

JUANITA
Lo siento.

Grandpa Ronald sits down and talks to the lamp he's cleaning as if it were alive.

GRANDPA RONALD
Oh, what will we do? If we don't start making money soon.

Seemingly by itself , the bulb CLICKS on and then off again. Juanita looks at the lamp and then blinks twice.

JUANITA
Senor-

Nicholas explodes into the room.

NICHOLAS
Sorry, I'm late! Sorry!!!

He runs past Juanita, who simply raises a hand as she goes back to her Novela and turns her page.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Grampy?

GRANDPA RONALD

In the back.

NICHOLAS

Sorry, I was working on a project, then I fell asleep, and then I forgot to set an ala-

GRANDPA RONALD

I planned on you being late. Started your side work.

He hands Nick the feather duster.

NICHOLAS

No, I just didn't hear my alarm.

GRANDPA RONALD

You never hear your alarm at the same time every day.

NICHOLAS

Sorry, Grampy.

GRANDPA RONALD

You know, one day, this will all be-

The door SLAMS open. It's Dexter.

DEXTER

Juanita, I'm in desperate need of a cleaning lady; interested?

JUANITA

Callate la boca.

DEXTER

No, thank you. I don't like Boca burgers.

She looks back at him, confused.

Dexter strolls through the shop and comes upon Ronald and Nicholas. Ronald looks up and sees him standing there.

GRANDPA RONALD

Dexter.

DEXTER

Ronald.

Nicholas is digging in his ear.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Nicholas, I see you are...
Occupied.

Nicholas, caught between smelling his finger and rummaging through his natural wax collection, stops digging for ear gold. Embarrassed, he starts dusting again.

GRANDPA RONALD

How can I help you, Dexter?

NICHOLAS

Get him a ladder so he can look you
in the eye.

Dexter mean mugs Nicholas and then turns back to Dexter.

DEXTER

The question is not how can you
help me, but how I can help you!

GRANDPA RONALD

I know why you are here, and...

Grampy begins to COUGH violently. He grabs his hanky and covers his mouth. Nick stops and looks concerned. Dexter cracks a very small smile.

DEXTER

Tickle in your throat?

NICHOLAS

Grampy, you okay?

Grampy waves him off.

DEXTER

He may need to get that looked at.
Listen, Ron, you have a lot on your
plate here.

GRANDPA RONALD

I'm not selling, and that's final.

DEXTER

My furniture chains are the wave of
the future. Antiques are, well...

Ron COUGHS again.

DEXTER (CONT'D)
A dying breed.

GRANDPA RONALD
Get out of my store.

DEXTER
Is that what you call this?

Nicholas is still dusting and eves dropping.

DEXTER (CONT'D)
I will offer you double what this
junk shop is worth.

GRANDPA RONALD
GET OUT!

Dexter backs out of the room, hands in the air as if under
arrest. He stops at the door.

Juanita stands rooted in her sport. She stares him down.

DEXTER
Juanita, yo quiero taco bell?

JUANITA
Majadero!!!

Dexter scurries off, the bell RINGING after him.

NICHOLAS
What was all that?

GRANDPA RONALD
Dexter's taking over all the local
shops to expand his franchise.

NICHOLAS
You're not selling though, right?

GRANDPA RONALD
Over my dead, cold body. This store
is... Special.

NICHOLAS
Special how?

GRANDPA RONALD
One day, my grandson, one day. For
now, let's get some supper.
Juanita, time to close up.

Juanita is already standing outside, holding up her watch, waiting. They both LAUGH and turn out the lights.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

The darkness is broken as a gentle tornado of glimmering light whirls around the shop. Shimmers of golden dust fill the room. Some of the antique pieces begin to shake and lift into the air.

With a sudden flash of light, the heirlooms come to life. The Globe spins! As it whirls, it SINGS. The Globe's spine shoots out and lays down, becoming hair. Its base becomes POPS out high heels. Africa becomes the mouth as Asia and North America shrink and come closer together for eyes.

GLOBE
CHIIILD, I thought that Dexter
would never leave!

The Twin Dresser's drawers punch through its sides for arms. And the bottom drawers slide out becoming feet. The nobs on the top drawers form big brown eyes, and the middle drawer, a long single drawer, opens as its mouth.

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS
That never gets old.

A chest bounces high into the air and hits the ceiling. Its top CLAPS open and shut as it speaks.

CHEST
What are you looking at? What's the
big deal?

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS
The flying in the air, lighting up
part!

The pieces LAUGH.

CHEST
Hey, I love how Big Ron told him to
"Forget about it!"

A MUSIC BOX, small, but detailed, HUMS a little tune. As its wheel cranks, a ballerina rises out of it and tries to SPEAK for the piece. No words come.

CHEST (CONT'D)
I'd love to forget Dexter.

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS

Give us five minutes alone with
him.

A LAMP, stunning and majestic, burns so bright that as it transforms, it can't be looked at directly. Its lampshade drops into a skirt. The bulb morphs into a face, and the light shining from it becomes a long, beautiful mane of hair.

LAMP

And what, you gonna blow dust all
over him?

The Twin Drawer SNEEZES. Gold dust poofs underneath it.

GLOBE

Honey, he ain't even worth your
shimmer and shine.

ASIAN THROW PILLOW

He very bad man.

RECLINER CHAIR

Everybody relax. Ron isn't gonna
sell. Too stubborn.

LAMP

Let's hope so because if he does-

The door DINGS as it opens. Nick runs in to get his keys.

The shop freezes.

Nick grabs his keys and looks around for a second. He looks at the frozen pieces suspiciously. He walks to the lamp and picks it up. Nick adjusts the lampshade.

NICHOLAS

Huh, your lampshade fell.

He clicks the lamp on and smiles. A small cloud of golden dust billows behind him. Nick spins on his heels.

Nothing.

Nick's eyes dart around the room suspiciously. He shrugs his shoulders and locks the door.

INT. HOLLYWOOD FURNITURE SUPER STORE - DAY

Dexter, full of insincerity, talks to a customer, an extremely LARGE WOMAN. The customer is looking at a chair that is clearly much too small for her.

DEXTER

I'm telling you, this would be perfect for your living room! A beautiful choice.

LARGE WOMAN

I don't know, it looks a little minute...

DEXTER

Nonsense, give it a try.

The woman wiggles herself into the chair, and her excess squeezes through the sides and back.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

See, a perfect fit!

He looks up towards a surveillance camera in the sky and smiles.

LARGE WOMAN

You think so?

It seems as if she's holding her breath. The chair's legs begin to buckle but hold.

DEXTER

What did I tell you? And it's sturdy!

She exhales. The legs of the chair live to see another day. Dexter smiles, pleased with the realism of his insincerity.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

The antique shop is quiet. A customer, NAYA BROOKS, 20s, with striking crystal-colored eyes and dark hair, a local thief posing as an artist, browses. The door to the back room ajar catches her attention. She walks over and opens it.

Seeing the Globe, Naya picks it up. Grandpa Ron enters the room.

GRANDPA RONALD

Lost?

NAYA

Hi there, this globe is beautiful, how much for it?

Grampy grabs it out of her hands.

GRANDPA RONALD
Not for sale.

Juanita walks by, hears this, and shakes her head.

NAYA
It is exactly the type of piece I
have been looking for. How about a
hundred for it?

GRANDPA RONALD
Sorry, can't. But there are plenty
of great items in the front of the
store.

NAYA
(annoyed)
I already looked, but I trust your
judgment. Arrange for me to pick up
your most expensive piece. I'll be
by in a few days to finalize.

Naya, smug, walks out of the store.

DING. The door chime TINKLES behind her.

Juanita walks up to Grandpa.

JUANITA
Mr. Ron, why you no sell?

GRANDPA RONALD
You know we don't sell anything
from the back room.

JUANITA
Yo se. We no sell nada from any
room.

GRANDPA RONALD
She said she was gonna buy
something big!

Juanita looks at him with disbelieving eyes.

She walks away and leaves Grandpa Ronald as he gently puts
the globe back in its place.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
I gotchya.

He spins the globe as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE INSIDE HOLLYWOOD FURNITURE SUPER STORE - DAY

A heavy cloak drapes a MAN sitting in the shadows across from Dexter. Darkness obscures his face.

Several security screens line the room's wall. Dexter is obviously nervous and talking a mile a minute.

DEXTER

She totally went for it, Sir. I swear, I could sell an umbrella in the desert. I could sell ice to an Eskimo, I could-

SHADOWED MAN

SILENCE!

Dexter freezes with his mouth open, clearly terrified.

SHADOWED MAN (CONT'D)

When I hired you, I said you could be the face of this company under one condition. Do you remember what that was?

DEXTER

Uh, to buy that junk shop and everything in it from the old guy.

SHADOWED MAN

Yes, and have you done that?

DEXTER

Umm no, but I don't know what you want with that place anyway. It's almost bankrupt while business is booming here!

The Shadow Man POUNDS the table.

SHADOWED MAN

My reasons are none of your concern. Now, I need you to figure it out, or else.

Dexter GULPS.

DEXTER

Or else? Or else, what?

MUSIC CUE: "OR ELSE."

Flames from the fire pit erupt. The pain-filled, cold eyes of the Shadow Man reflect orange and yellow ambers.

SHADOWED MAN

Are we clear now?

Dexter shakes his head, yes.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - NIGHT

Grandpa Ron is straightening things up at the end of the day. Nick does his best to help him.

A couple and their young son are the last customers to leave the store. Nick walks them out, staring longingly as laughter carries them to their car.

NICHOLAS

Grampy, Juanita told me about that customer today. A hundred bucks is a lot of money.

GRANDPA RONALD

Some things just aren't for sale.

NICHOLAS

It's just a stupid globe.

GRANDPA RONALD

No, Nick. It's not just a stupid globe. It's much more than that.

NICHOLAS

What am I missing? We are surrounded by junk!

GRANDPA RONALD

This store is more important than you could ever understand right now-

Nick throws his broom down in annoyance.

NICHOLAS

If this shopping is so important, then why did my parents just leave it with no explanation?

GRANDPA RONALD

They didn't just leave. You know-

NICHOLAS

No, I don't know!

GRANDPA RONALD

What's gotten into you today?

NICHOLAS

Today? I wake up to a life I don't want, in a place I don't really know, with a family nowhere to be found.

GRANDPA RONALD

Son-

Nick holds up his hand.

NICHOLAS

I'm trying to find them. We need money, you won't sell anything here.

GRANDPA RONALD

Son-

NICHOLAS

I'm not your son.

The silence cuts.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

My real dad's gone.

Nick takes a beat and then says in a whisper.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Why did they leave me?

Grandpa Ron takes Nicholas into his arms and hugs him fiercely.

GRANDPA RONALD

My boy, your parents would have never left you unless they had no choice. They loved you more than anything.

NICHOLAS

Then where are they?

GRANDPA RONALD

I don't know how to...

NICHOLAS

What do you mean?

Grandpa Ron takes a step back, the emotion paralyzing him.

GRANDPA RONALD

Time to finish up and get home.

NICHOLAS

But-

GRANDPA RONALD

I'll tell you everything when the time is right, I promise.

Nick looks confused.

NICHOLAS

You told me the time will never be perfect, but-

GRANDPA RONALD

Life will show you when you're ready.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Life will show you when you're ready.

Grampy stops and chokes back emotion.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Grampy, please.

GRANDPA RONALD

I... I remember the last night I saw your father and mother.

Nick stares with hungry eyes, hanging on his every word.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)

It was just an ordinary night. Your father and I were joking around with each other. He was yankin my chain about your mom. Gosh darn it, He loved her.

A tear wells in Nick's eye. He pulls his hair over to hide.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)

That's the funny thing about time. You don't know when it's gonna run out.

The top of the hour gong STRIKES. Grampy checks his watch.

Nick checks his phone.

DING. Nick's phone CHIMES. It's Ashley.

Nick, you promised you wouldn't be late again. Now you're not showing up? You need to prep for tomorrow. You've got five minutes to get here, or you're fired.

NICHOLAS

Dang it. I have to go to the restaurant. Do you promise to tell me that story next time?

GRANDPA RONALD

When the time is right, I'll tell you everything you need to know.

NICHOLAS

I gotta find them.

GRANDPA RONALD

Listen to me... Finding your parents keeps this ole ticker tickin.

Beat.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)

You matter.

They both exhale as they embrace.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)

I, I-

NICHOLAS

It's okay, Grampy. You don't have to say it. I love you, too.

They exit the shop in a half embrace.

As the shop doors closes...

EXT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - NIGHT

Gold flakes of magic rise from the shop floor. The inside of the shop shimmers as amber flakes of shining magic gold dust whirl around the room as we-

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - DAY

Grampy's hands massage his temples as he sorts through a stack of bills, red stamps on them all.

PAST DUE

The LANDLORD, Mike, 40s, with a kind face, KNOCKS on the door. Grampy waves him in.

LANDLORD
How's it goin, Ron?

GRANDPA RONALD
When the goin gets tough, the tough
get goin.

LANDLORD
That good?

GRAMPA RONALD
Mike-

LANDLORD
Listen, Ron, before you say
anything, you know I like you, but

RONALD
But what?

LANDLORD
I can't keep this up.

GRAMPA RONALD
I understand, and I sure do
appreciate you bein patient.

LANDLORD
Thirty days, Ron. Thirty days for
this month's rent and back rent for
the three late months.

GRANDPA RONALD
Good news is, see that piece over
there?

He points to it.

LANLORD
I see it, Ron.

GRANDPA RONALD
That right there is a rare, Pre-
Columbian Sican silver vessel.

LANLORD
Okay...

GRANDPA RONALD
That right there is gettin sold
today to a collector.

(MORE)

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)

It's worth \$7500, easy. It will more than cover what I owe.

LANDLORD

Really? Is it a solid sell?

GRANDPA RONALD

Ink is as dry as your lips.

Nick bursts in.

NICHOLAS

Sorry! So sorry I'm late. I was at the restaurant. I'm really trying to save up and-

Nick is out of control as usual, whirling in like a tornado.

GRANDPA RONALD

Careful, Nick.

NICHOLAS

I'm good! Gonna run to the back and get started on my-

CRASH.

Nick SLAMS into the counter. Items tumble. He knocks over several pieces, including the antique ready to be sold.

All eyes lock in the Sican silver vessel. As if time itself slowed, it falls to the ground and shatters.

The Music Box, now also on the floor, LABORS weakly out of tune until silence fills the store.

GRANDPA RONALD

Are you kidding me?

Silence rips through the shop.

NICHOLAS

I'm so so sorry...

GRANDPA RONALD

Sorry? That was our ticket out of the red. Your clumsy, late, irresponsible attitude just ruined everything.

NICHOLAS

Grampy, I didn't mean to, I just-

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The EKG BEEPS repeatedly. The silence in between each BEEP is filled with Grampy's labored breathing.

Nick holds Grampy's hand while saying a silent prayer.

GRANDPA RONALD
(groggy sense of humor)
I'd be prayin, too, if I ran into
my store like you did, kid.

NICHOLAS
Grampy, you're awake! Are you okay?
Are you in pain? I'm so sorry.

GRANDPA RONALD
Are you gonna question me to death
or let me answer?

NICHOLAS
I'm sorry.

GRANDPA RONALD
Yes, I know. It's okay.

NICHOLAS
Everything is all messed up. The
store, you're sick...

GRANDPA RONALD
You must have missed the memo.

NICHOLAS
What memo?

GRANDPA RONALD
Life is tough, but Grampy is
tougher.

He squeezes Nicholas's hand.

NICHOLAS
I'm going to fix this.

GRANDPA RONALD
Startin to sound like me.

NICHOLAS
I messed up, I-

GRANDPA RONALD
We will figure it out.

Silence.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
Listen, kid, I said some things
back there-

NICHOLAS
Grampy...

Nick holds up his hands to stop the words from Grampy's
mouth.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
It's okay. You're right. I need to
do better. I just don't know how.

GRANDPA RONALD
You'll figure it out. Meanwhile, we
need to save the shop.

Grampy struggles as a cough rattles his chest.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
My ticker is a little weak, and I
have this nasty cough, but I'm not
licked yet.

NICHOLAS
Do you have a plan?

GRANDPA RONALD
I always do, but we don't have a
lot of time, less than a month.

He smiles.

A KNOCK at the door.

Dexter intrudes on the moment as he pokes his head in the
hospital room. Sunflowers fill his hands.

DEXTER
Flowers for the patient! How's the
old tiger holding up?

GRANDPA RONALD
I'm in bed, not the grave.

NICHOLAS
You serious right now?

DEXTER
As a heart attack.

Nick steps toward him.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Too soon?

Dexter smiles wryly.

GRANDPA RONALD

Nicholas, it's okay. What do you want, Point Dexter?

Dexter's smile morphs into a frown.

DEXTER

We all know what I want.

NICHOLAS

Three more inches? Good hair? A ladder? A girlfriend?

DEXTER

I am five foot nine.

He sets down the sunflowers at Grandpa Ron's bedside.

NICHOLAS

And I'm Kevin Hart.

GRANDPA RONALD

Out with it, Point Dexter.

NICHOLAS

Five seconds, and I'm calling security.

DEXTER

I simply came to check on my favorite antique store owner.

NICHOLAS

That's it.

Nick picks up the phone.

DEXTER

I made some calls myself. Have you ever heard of the Better Business Bureau, or do you only specialize in chicken grease?

Dexter sets the vase down and opens the blinds.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

It seems like they don't feel Grandpa Ron is fit to run the store. They think it's appropriate business etiquette to sell, given his condition.

GRANDPA RONALD

I may not be tip-top, but I can handle my business.

DEXTER

Debatable. They feel a change of ownership would be in the company's best interest and reputation.

GRANDPA RONALD

I agree.

NICHOLAS

Grampy, what are you saying?

GRANDPA RONALD

I'm saying that this blockhead finally got something right.

DEXTER

Excellent. I will have the papers drawn up this afternoon.

GRANDPA RONALD

No need.

DEXTER

Stop playing games, old man.

GRANDPA RONALD

Transferred ownership to my next of kin. Thirty... What's today? Ah, yes, thirty-two days ago.

DEXTER

What are you getting on about?

GRANDPA RONALD

If you have any questions regarding One of a Kind Antiques, you'll need to speak to my grandson, Nick.

NICHOLAS

Me?

What?

DEXTER

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Grampy, I-

Dexter stares, mouth open as wide as the Grand Canyon.

Grampy holds his hand up.

GRANDPA RONALD

I know you are probably overjoyed
and at a loss for words.

NICHOLAS

I'm not ready to-

GRANDPA RONALD

Throw a party while I'm laid up on
my back? Fine, fine. We'll wait
till I'm on my feet again.

DEXTER

I don't know what kind of scheme
you have going on here, Ronald, but
I will have that store.

GRANDPA RONALD

Over my dead body.

DEXTER

Promise?

Stare down.

NICHOLAS

I think your five seconds are up.

Nick picks up the phone.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Security? I saw a really short dude
with a bad haircut around my
Grampa's room.

He hands the flowers back to Dexter.

DEXTER

Please, keep the flowers. They are
from my employer. It's the least he
could do.

GRAMPA RONALD

Who's your employer?

DEXTER

Soon.

Dexter smiles, turns on a dime, and leaves.

GRANDPA RONALD
Bye, Point Dexter.

Nick sets the flowers down.

NICHOLAS
Grampy-

GRANDPA RONALD
Now, I know what you're thinking-

NICHOLAS
Do you?

GRANDPA RONALD
You're ready for this.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
I'm not ready for this.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
Nick, you're ready.

NICHOLAS
You didn't even ask me.

GRANDPA RONALD
Didn't have to.

NICHOLAS
How does that make any sense?

GRANDPA RONALD
When you get the full story, you'll understand.

NICHOLAS
You don't even trust me enough to tell me the truth about what happened.

GRANDPA RONALD
You weren't ready.

NICHOLAS
When, then? When am I ready? When am I good enough? When is it-

GRANDPA RONALD
You done?

NICHOLAS
No-

GRANDPA RONALD
It's time.

NICHOLAS

What?

GRANDPA RONALD

You're ready.

NICHOLAS

So, suddenly, you're sick, and it's magically the perfect season for me to take over an actual business?

GRANDPA RONALD

Nick, you have been waiting for this moment for longer than you know. It is time.

NICHOLAS

No, it's not time. In fact, I am never on time. I oversleep, and I literally just wrecked our only chance at getting above water.

GRANDPA RONALD

Now are you done?

NICHOLAS

No, never got started.

Beat.

GRANDPA RONALD

I believe in you. Your parents believe in you.

Nick walks over to the window. He stares out into the pane as if searching for answers.

NICHOLAS

I've been dedicating every moment of my life to trying to figure out where they are. I've been replaying events, rereading articles, playing detective.

GRANDPA RONALD

This isn't some video game-

NICHOLAS

I know, I-

GRANDPA RONALD

Then why are you fussin with me about this?

(MORE)

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)

Your mama would have wanted this for you. Your dad loved that shop. Your parents loved you.

NICHOLAS

They just loved me so much, right? Couldn't wait to spend their life away from me.

GRANDPA RONALD

It's not what you think.

NICHOLAS

Then where are they?! Where are they? Because every time I turn around, I'm reminded that I have no parents, no skills, and no future.

GRANDPA RONALD

Stop being a coward!

Silence.

NICHOLAS

Of course, they left. Who'd want to raise a coward?

Nick leaves. He passes by Dexter, who is hiding in the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Dexter smiles in the shadows. He takes his phone out of his pocket and makes a call.

DEXTER

We got him. Yes, Sir. I left the flowers.

He ends the call.

Dexter peers into the door, ajar. The sunflowers start to droop. As they do, Grampy's cough intensifies.

EXT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - DAY

Naya Brooks is back at the store. Her eyes are, once again, on The Globe. Juanita cleans up the mess.

JUANITA

So sorry, we are close.

NAYA

What happened here?

JUANITA

Mr. Ron es no good. His corazon es mal.

NAYA

I came before and was supposed to pick up the most expensive piece here. I take it that's what's left?

JUANITA

Si.

NAYA

What about the Globe? How much is that? And how about that music box? Is it broken?

JUANITA

I no sell. Lo siento. I need Mr. Ron to approve.

NAYA

I was ready to pay a hundred dollars before. What do you say I pay two hundred for The Globe, two hundred for the music box, and two hundred for your discretion.

JUANITA

Quien es discretion? No entiendo.

NAYA

I am trying to make a deal here.

Nick enters.

NICHOLAS

Can I help you?

NAYA

I heard about your grandfather. Is he okay?

NICHOLAS

How?

NAYA

How what?

NICHOLAS
Did you hear about my grandfather?

She thinks quickly.

NAYA
When the ambulance arrived, it went
crazy on social.

Beat

NAYA (CONT'D)
So anyway, I would love to help-

NICHOLAS
Sorry, we're closed.

NAYA
I was just telling your staff here
that I would be more than happy to
take a few of those pieces off your
hands, especially during this
difficult time.

NICHOLAS
I'm taking a moment to reassess all
sales.

She's staring at the Globe again. She shifts her focus.

NAYA
What about that broken one?

NICHOLAS
Why do you want these so bad?

NAYA
No reason.

NICHOLAS
It doesn't feel like no reason.

Stare down. Naya breaks from it and steps back.

NAYA
I hope your grandfather is okay.

She turns and walks out.

INT. RESTAURANT - SUNSET

Ashley is closing the kitchen as Naya walks in. The smell of old cooking grease reeks, almost knocking Naya off her feet when she enters.

ASHLEY

Hey, cuz. Any luck?

NAYA

No! And I can't keep playing rich collector with this kid.

ASHLEY

I can't keep pretending like I don't know you or what's going on. Every time he's in, I'm on eggshells.

NAYA

Well, I don't think he'll be around here much. Looks like he's got his hands full.

ASHLEY

I don't feel good about any of this.

NAYA

Don't even know what we are supposed to be looking for. We pretty much have marching orders to buy everything before anyone else does.

ASHLEY

See, that's weird. What if someone buys something random?

NAYA

Do you need money, yes or no?

ASHLEY

Yes.

NAYA

If we don't get a big payday, Dexter is going to buy this lot and kick us out. Our families will lose everything.

Beat.

NAYA (CONT'D)

People are counting on us. If we deliver, we'll make a fortune.

ASHLEY

There's literally grease in my nose.

NAYA

We deserve better. This deal would get us there.

ASHLEY

Doesn't mean I have to like it.

Ashley texts Nicholas.

I'll close up. Take care of you right now.

NAYA

We're better than a greasy spoon, and I'll take a silver one.

The girls smile.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - SUNSET

Nick straightens up the store as night begins to fall. His Phone DINGS.

Nick smiles and texts back.

Thanks, Ash. you're a good friend.

The sun sets. Golden tones of amber blanket the Louisiana pier line.

Nick throws away some old mail and trash. When his back is turned, brilliant gleaming yellow light fills the Antique store.

Nick freezes.

Slowly, he turns to see where the gold light came from.

The Globe spins.

The Dresser punches.

The Chest springs.

The lamp shines.

The Pillow shimmies.

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS

Wassup.

NICHOLAS

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS

AAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

NICHOLAS

You talk?

GLOBE

And you screamin!

RECLINER CHAIR

Can you guys all take it down a notch?

NICHOLAS

What in the world is going on here?

ASIAN THROW PILLOW

We should all take a nap.

CHEST

Hey, Kid.

LAMP

You're perfect - ly in the right to freak out.

NICHOLAS

Freak out? Freak out?! You guys are talking.

Nicholas faints.

The Asian Throw Pillow runs, dives, and lands right under Nicholas's head as he hits the ground.

GLOBE

He took that well.

CHEST

Nice catch.

The Asian Throw Pillow mutters something unintelligible as Nick lay on top of him.

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS

I think he's drooling on you. Hah!

MUSIC BOX

Can he fix me?

LAMP

He can fix alot, little one.

INT. OFFICE INSIDE HOLLYWOOD FURNITURE SUPER STORE - NIGHT

The obscured face wears a shadowed, fractured light.

Dexter stands in the door frame. He dabs his sweat, now pooling on his forehead. He swallows hard.

DEXTER

Sir?

The Shadowed Man rips into a turkey dinner with his teeth. Chicken skin and grease flop from his hand to the table. Cherry Roma tomatoes burst between his teeth.

His cloak reflects the amber light from the fireplace. He stops eating to address Dexter.

SHADOWED MAN

I got your call.

Food drops from his mouth and hands.

DEXTER

Ah, yes. How are you, Sir?

SHADOWED MAN

You are wasting my time.

Another tomato splatters in between the Shadowed Man's molars.

DEXTER

Right, um, he won't sell, Sir.

SHADOWED MAN

What?

He slams his fist on the table. The flames in the fireplace jump as if they were afraid as well.

DEXTER

Bu bu bbut, not to fear, Sir. He transferred ownership to his grandson. He's a sap. Should be a piece of cake.

SHADOWED MAN

Choose.

DEXTER

Pardon me, Sir?

SHADOWED MAN

Piece of cake or piece of you.

DEXTER

I can't tell if you're kidding or not, Sir.

Flesh from the turkey leg tears from the bone.

SHADOWED MAN

I am growing impatient with these games.

DEXTER

The kid doesn't want it, Sir. This is the opening we've been waiting for.

SHADOWED MAN

Don't speak to me about how long I've been waiting.

DEXTER

Yes, Sir, I was only pointing out-

SHADOWED MAN

Remember what's at stake.

DEXTER

I won't forget.

SHADOWED MAN

I trust you won't.

DEXTER

By tonight, there will be some movement.

SHADOWED MAN

I hear bones move easily when the proper pressure is applied.

The Shadowed Man cracks a wishbone.

SHADOWED MAN (CONT'D)

Did you leave the flowers, as I instructed?

DEXTER

Yes, Sir.

SHADOWED MAN

Have I not rescued you when no one
wanted you?

DEXTER

Yes, Sir.

SHADOWED MAN

Have I not given you opportunity?

DEXTER

Definitely, Sir.

In a cold whisper that chilled Dexter's spine, The Shadowed Man almost hissed.

SHADOWED MAN

Repay me.

Dexter flinches as The Shadowed Man's cold, black eyes meet his. The gray and withered hand clutches something in it.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - DAY

Nick's youthful hand locks the store. A notice sticks to the front door.

Two weeks, Ron... Management.

NICHOLAS

Gotta be kidding me.

Naya approaches. Nick sees her coming in the reflection. He blocks the door nervously.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

You don't give up.

NAYA

It's not what you think.

NICHOLAS

How do you know what I think?

NAYA

No, it's not that. I was just-

NICHOLAS

Just what? Do you have any idea
what I have gone through recently?

NAYA

I can only imagine how tough things
are for you right now.

NICHOLAS

No, I don't think you can.

NAYA

I'm not saying I know everything,
but I know what it's like to have
to take care of everybody.

NICHOLAS

You say that, but-

NAYA

The only reason I do what I do is
because I have people counting on
me, too. People that if I didn't
come through for, wouldn't make it.

Nick regards her.

NICHOLAS

The world expects so much of me.
Sometimes, all I want to do is-

NAYA

Run.

NICHOLAS

Actually, yes. I just want to-

NAYA

No, RUN!!!

Two large men in black suits and shirts with white ties and
dark glasses draw their weapons as they charge Naya and Nick.

NAYA (CONT'D)

This way!

Nick and Naya turn the corner at top speed. Nick slams into
the trash can. It CLANGS. He scrambles to his feet.

NICHOLAS

What the heck is happening here?

NAYA

Get up, shut up, and follow me!

NICHOLAS

No, stop and tell me what's going on!

Bullets BLAST through the wall next to their heads. Bits of brick fall from the bullet's kiss.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

And we're running.

Nick scurries ahead. He grabs Naya's hand. She rips it from him.

NAYA

Did you just try to hold my hand?!

NICHOLAS

I was trying to help!

Nick trips. Naya helps him up.

NAYA

Looks like you need the hand.

More bullets.

The pair race down the street. Their heartbeats POUND in their chests.

The Goons in suits are gaining ground. Nick is running out of steam.

More bullets.

NICHOLAS

They're shooting at you!

NAYA

Me?! Why me?

The two turn the corner.

NICHOLAS

Because I'm a nobody.

Nick looks back. One of the large men takes off his glasses.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

He has no eyes!

Naya sees an alleyway.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Naya duck in between nooks in the alley. The two men run by.

NICHOLAS

Can you explain what's going on?

NAYA

I can, but right now, we need to check on -

Nick's eyes widen as he stares at a message on his phone.

NICHOLAS

Grampy!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Grampy lays motionless with machines BEEPING.

He stirs as the young pair enter the room. They stand in the doorway, looking at him wistfully.

A NURSE, 40s, writes something in his chart as she exits. She looks at Nick with sorrowful eyes.

NURSE

I'll give you guys some privacy.

Nick watches Grampy for a moment. His chest struggles to rise and fall. He breathes, but with much effort. After what seems like an eternity, Grampy speaks with his eyes closed.

GRANDPA RONALD

What is this, a zoo? In or out.

NICHOLAS

You're awake.

GRANDPA RONALD

Can't a guy sleep without you trying to push him into the pearly gates?

NICHOLAS

Are you okay?

GRANDPA RONALD

Why are you breathin so hard? I can practically hear your heart beatin like a drum.

NICHOLAS
So, we were getting ch-

NAYA
Chicken for the restaurant, and we
thought maybe you hadn't eaten
today.

She looks at Nick and shakes her head no, ever so slightly.

GRANDPA RONALD
I don't wanna dance around what's
goin on here.

NICHOLAS
You don't?

GRANDPA RONALD
I'm not stupid.

NICHOLAS
I understand, Grampy-

GRANDPA RONALD
Lord knows you made it clear you
don't want to take over the shop.

NICHOLAS
Oh, yes, Well, that, too.

GRANDPA RONALD
What did you think I was gonna say?

NICHOLAS
It's just that you just signed me
up like it was bringing plates to a
picnic.

GRANDPA RONALD
You're smart, Nick. Now, I know I'm
tougher than prison steak when it
comes to you, but it's because
you're bright, you got potential,
and you always do the right thing.
The family needs you.

NICHOLAS
The family?

Naya looks impressed at all the things said about Nick.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
No one has ever believed in me.

GRANDPA RONALD
Time I come clean. Young lady, will
you excuse us?

She nods.

NAYA
I have some calls to make. I'll be
outside.

Naya unlocks her phone and steps out.

NICHOLAS
Be careful. Don't go too far.

Grampy opens his eyes a bit at this.

GRANDPA RONALD
The shop is magic.

Nick opens his mouth to speak. Grampy raises his hand.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. NIGHT WITCH'S HOUSE

A young man, VICTOR, 20s, sits nervously in a chair across
from an elderly WITCH. His foot TAPS nervously.

Tap, tap, tap tap, tap.

Tap, tap, tap tap, tap.

The wind blows the stray branches at the window. They hit the
window with a TAP.

A woodpecker TAPS on a tree.

The entire world around him seems to unify with the rhythm
and the beat.

The TAPPING grows as he breaks into song.

MUSIC CUE: "The Beat of Her Heart."

As he finishes the song, he is startled by the room's
"decorations."

The spooky room is lined with shelves of jars. Shrunken
heads, bones, skulls, and other ominous-looking ingredients
tread in the unknown liquid.

The scents of sea moss, mildew, and wet wood fill the room.

A book, tattered, wrinkled, weathered, sits in front of her. She closes it as she finishes MUTTERING to herself.

Her wrinkled and worn fingers obscure an object.

WITCH

Are you sure, young one? Love spells spell doom if not used correctly.

VICTOR

I don't care. I just need her to love me... Forever!

WITCH

Careful...

Victor throws more money on the table. The money begins to move.

The music SWELLS as the melody infuses life into the coins, jars, and furniture. Everything is dancing.

VICTOR

I gave you your money, lady. What do you want, more? Here. Now, gimme my spell.

Victor throws a few more coins at the witch.

She glares.

WITCH

So be it.

Her scaly hand opens.

A chain.

The tarnished piece swings in the air. She speaks as if in a trance.

The music builds.

WITCH (CONT'D)

Dominus sileo me vestri pectus est mei...

The chain glows.

A deep red pulses and fades like a beating heart.

MUSIC CUE: "Seeing Red"

Red shadows rise from every corner of the room as the song climaxes. As she finishes the spell and song, the shadows disappear.

WITCH (CONT'D)

The spell is written on the back;
just hold it out to your beloved
and recite it, but under no
circumstances-

Victor snatches the locket.

He stares at the moonlight. Victor jumps on the table. He dances. From table to table, he dances to the sound of the birds, crickets, and creatures of the night.

He floats through the door and holds the chain up to the stars.

MUSIC CUE: "You'll Be Mine."

Victor sings as if possessed with the possibility of enchanting his future love.

The witch shakes her head as he finishes his song. He gets into his car and SCREECHES out of sight.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - NIGHT

Victor's arms flail. He POUNDS the table as he implores a beautiful auburn-haired woman, MARIE, to listen.

A beautiful locket hangs from her neck.

VICTOR

Don't you understand? I can give
you everything you've ever wanted.

MARIE

I have everything I need.

VICTOR

How do you know you're not missing
something more?

MARIE

Victor, love is just that. It's
something you know. I can't explain
it, but I don't need to wonder.

VICTOR

Well, I feel love, too. And I know
you will eventually understand.
Love is all I ever wanted.

MUSIC CUE: "All I Ever Wanted."

Victor serenades Marie with a heartfelt song professing his
love to her. As before, he leaps onto the table.

His black hair covers one of his eyes. The other eye looks
mad. As his song builds, he takes the chain and holds it to
the stars once more. It begins to glow.

She is startled. Her gasp brings him back to the present
moment.

MARIE

Victor, I care about you. You're a
good friend, but you know that I'm
married, I have a family. I'm
happy.

VICTOR

What about me? What about my
happiness?

MARIE

Thomas will be home soon.

VICTOR

Leave him. Give me a chance.

MARIE

Are you crazy? Where is this coming
from? I'd never leave Thomas.

VICTOR

I deserve this!

Silence.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

I deserve what I want.

MARIE

You're not yourself-

Marie steps toward the back right side of the room,
protective.

VICTOR

I've never been more me. All I need
is you!

MARIE

I love Thomas till death do us
part.

VICTOR

LOVE ME.

MARIE

Never.

VICTOR

We'll see.

Victor grips the chain. He holds it up to her he begins to
CHANT.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Dominus sileo me vestri...

The chain begins to glow red. Light shines out of it and
towards Marie.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

A younger RONALD, 40s, a tough Southern man with a serious
mustache, walks with THOMAS, dark hair, kind eyes, and a
broad chest.

THOMAS

Well, yes, sir. Your daughter and I
have been married for a little bit
now. I just feel like there's more
of the world to see.

RONALD

Are you trying to take my daughter
away from me, young man?

Ronald gives his son-in-law a playful punch in the arm.

THOMAS

More grandkids would make you
happy!

RONALD

Don't get fresh with my daughter.

THOMAS

We're married!

They share a laugh.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Before it gets too late and cold, I
want to get her this firewood.

RONALD

Yes. We know if she gets cold, the
monster unleashes!

THOMAS

Or hungry.

Ron smiles. Thomas starts to walk toward the house.

RONALD

Hey Thomas...

THOMAS

Yes, Sir?

RONALD

I'm glad you two found each other.

THOMAS

Me too, Sir.

Ron whistles as he chops a few more pieces of wood.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Thomas walks toward the house.

A SCREAM.

Thomas drops the firewood and runs toward the house.

Another SCREAM.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - BACK DOOR - NIGHT

Thomas bursts into the room. Objects dance around Victor and
Marie. Red light gleams toward every corner of the room.

THOMAS

What in God's name is going on
here?

MARIE

Thomas!

Sensing that Marie is in danger, he thrusts himself in front
of Marie and the red lights. Marie grabs onto him. They are
in a deep embrace.

Victor is lost in the chant.

Marie's locket shakes as gold light shimmers from it.

VICTOR
You think you're better than me?

THOMAS
I don't know what you're talking
about!

VICTOR
I deserve love. I will have love.

MARIE
You are the opposite of love.
You're pure darkness.

Victor's eyes grow wide.

VICTOR
Pectus est mei...

As he finishes the spell, green light joins the red and slams
into Marie and Thomas.

They SCREAM.

The entire room erupts in a flash of red. When it clears,
Marie and Thomas have vanished.

Half of the locket, now fractured in two, sits in Victor's
hand. The other is nowhere to be seen. The chain from the
spell now glimmers green and red at the end of the locket.

Confused and frightened, he puts one-half of the locket
around his neck.

Uncertain, Victor reaches down and picks up something
indiscernible, and runs out of the store.

In the back right corner of the store, behind the counter,
another baby is in a bassinet. Scared, the baby begins to
CRY.

The CRY dissolves into the sound of a single violin solo.

INT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

Victor pulls up to his home. Sweat furrows his brow, dark
circles take shape around his eyes, and his hand reaches to
pull the chain off from around his neck.

VICTOR

How dare she? Does she have any
idea how much I love her?

A fire burns in the fireplace.

Every moment seems to age Victor. His energy shifts. Darkness
comes over him and his house.

The witch's words ring in his head.

WITCH (V.O.)

Love spells spell doom if not used
correctly.

Victor's eyes grow darker.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Grandpa Ron's eyes, now open, fill with emotion.

GRANDPA RONALD

That was twenty years ago.
The pieces are more than you think.

NICHOLAS

Grampy, I know-

GRANDPA RONALD

Just listen. When you were a baby,
your parents had an accident.

NICHOLAS

Accident, like, a car crash?

GRANDPA RONALD

No, no crash. A very troubled man
tried to hex your mom into loving
him. It didn't work.

NICHOLAS

Well, that's good, right?

GRANDPA RONALD

Kid, your parents never left.

Grandpa Ron looks at him for the first time since he arrived
in the room today.

GRANDPA RONALD (CONT'D)
They got turned into furniture
pieces.

NICHOLAS
I'm sorry, what?

GRANDPA RONALD
They're at the store, and I've been
trying to find the other piece of
the locket, and anything else that
may connect me to that night. Once
I find it, I can connect em and
bring em all back.

Nick lets go of Grandpa Ron's hand and backs away from the
bed.

NICHOLAS
My mom and dad have been at the
store this whole time, and you're
just now telling me?

GRANDPA RONALD
Kid, I wanted to-

NICHOLAS
So when you told me to stop playing
detective, you were playing dumb?

GRANDPA RONALD
You weren't ready-

NICHOLAS
No, you weren't ready to tell me
the truth.

GRANDPA RONALD
You have no idea how many times I
wanted to say something.

NICHOLAS
But you didn't. You didn't say one
word. You let me run in circles-

GRANDPA RONALD
That's not true. I was hoping you'd
find something, anything to help
bring them back. It's like I'm too
close to this thing.

NICHOLAS
I trusted you.

GRANDPA RONALD
Sometimes the right thing to do is
hard.

NICHOLAS
No...NO! You have always told me
that the right thing is easy to
identify. It may not be simple to
do but it's easy to know. It's what
you always told me.

GRANDPA RONALD
She's your mom, but she's my
daughter.

NICHOLAS
Now, who's the coward?

GRANDPA RONALD
I deserve that.

NICHOLAS
I can't handle this.

GRANDPA RONALD
You can handle this. You've got to.

NICHOLAS
Give me a second to think.

GRANDPA RONALD
You need to find the other piece of
that locket.

NICHOLAS
You've been lying to me. That's why
we've been getting chased around
town.

GRANDPA RONALD
Chased?

NICHOLAS
My parents aren't the bad ones...
You are.

Naya KNOCKS on the door.

NAYA
Everything okay in here?

GRANDPA RONALD
What are you, his girlfriend?

Nick and Naya each turn varying shades of red.

NAYA

Just someone looking for my purpose.

GRANDPA RONALD

Get it together, kid. Earlier, I think you were going to say that someone's chasing you. Is anybody at the store?

NICHOLAS

No, we left in a hurry.

GRANDPA RONALD

So the pieces are there... Alone?

NICHOLAS

Dad, mom...

He bolts out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - NIGHT

Commotion and noise are heard from The Shadowed Man. Dexter cowers with his back against a wall.

SHADOWED MAN

Arghhhhh!

Dexter trembles in the corner.

SHADOWED MAN (CONT'D)

I still don't have it.

DEXTER

What is it exactly, Sir?

SHADOWED MAN

If I don't have it, I can't relive the past and preserve my future with her.

DEXTER

I don't understand.

Shadowed Man rips his hood off.

SHADOWED MAN

Your comprehension is not required
in order to execute a simple task.

DEXTER

Please, don't be mad. I'm working
on it. Someone's buying that junk,
piece by piece-

SHADOWED MAN

Work harder! I want the other half
of that locket. It's in the store.
Make it happen.

DEXTER

With all due respect, Sir, now that
I know what I am looking for, I
will take care of it.

Amber light dances on his disfigured face. Half of a locket
hangs around his neck. It shimmers.

EXT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - NIGHT

A FIGURE, decked in black, runs from the store. The figure
turns the corner into an alleyway.

The moonlight catches an object inside of a gloved hand. The
hand tucks the locket into a side pocket.

The figure runs away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Grampy lay in his hospital bed. COUGHING envelops him.

BEEPS and ALARMS begin to blare. NURSE rushes in.

A trickle of red falls from his mouth.

NURSE

I need a crash cart in here.

Chaos ensues.

The sunflowers from Dexter are now completely wilted, brown,
and lifeless.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - NIGHT

The hooded figure throws the last petal of the sunflower into the fire. He smiles.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Gold SHIMMERS throughout the store as the pieces come to life.

The Music Box is broken again. The lamp lay next to it.

LAMP

It's okay. You're going to be okay.

A broken, labored, and out-of-tune song churns from The Music Box as if crying.

The Chest comforts the lamp, which seems to have kicked into mom mode.

The Throw Pillow breathes deeply and blows a mist onto The Music Box. Its music starts to fade.

Drops of light, as if tears, fall from The Lamp as she cries.

GLOBE

Don't lose hope.

MUSIC CUE: "When You Believe."

CHEST

Family always comes together.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - OUTER ROOM - NIGHT.

Broken glass CRUNCHES under Nick's feet. Naya walks behind him, taking in the scene.

The store is in shambles. Nick walks the path of chaos and broken pieces.

Around the corner, the door to the back area hangs off the hinges. Nick walks through the door.

Nick spies Grampy's desk.

NICHOLAS

The locket...

A box lay open.

Naya stands in the background, guilt written on her face.

NAYA
Looks like you lost something
important.

NICHOLAS
I may have just lost everything.

NAYA
I'm sorry.

NICHOLAS
You didn't do it. You're the only
good thing that has happened today.

Naya looks away.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Grampy said I needed to get the
half of the locket from here. I
can't believe most of what I've
been looking for is here. I gotta
find the pieces and make sure
they're okay.

Naya puts her hand on his arm.

NAYA
It's gonna be okay.

NICHOLAS (TO HIMSELF)
What if they're missing?

Nick walks into the store. He sees the pieces intact. He
exhales deeply.

NAYA
What are you going to do?

NICHOLAS
Protect what matters most. Now, I
have to find that locket.

NAYA
Nick, I-

He takes a step toward her.

NICHOLAS
It's been hard for me to trust
people. Had a rough family life.
It's been harder for me to believe
I'm worth two cents.
(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

You sticking around today and having my back, well, it means a lot.

She smiles. Guilt floods into her eyes.

INT. NICHOLAS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nick stares at his crime board. Red yarn connecting news articles and clippings find new connections. Nick pins photos of the furniture pieces to the wall.

He places a hand on one of the faded photos.

DING.

A text message comes in. Nick's eyes widen.

911.

INT. DEXTERS OFFICE - DAY

Dexter paces. Sweat pours down his large forehead. Ashley listens as she looks confidently out the window.

DEXTER

Ashley, I am looking for something very particular.

ASHLEY

I know-

DEXTER

Do you? Know?

ASHLEY

Let's just say I'm working on it. We have been working on it.

DEXTER

Whatever you're doing, do more. Go to the filthy little junk shop and find a locket.

ASHLEY

Okay. And then what?

DEXTER

Bring it to me.

ASHLEY

It will cost you.

DEXTER

I have plenty of money. Finish the job.

ASHLEY

We've done everything you asked.

DEXTER

Except succeed.

ASHLEY

This specific treasure hunt will cost extra. At first, it was broad. Get some junk, buy it off 'em. Now, it's a needle in a haystack.

Dexter picks a suitcase off of the floor. He opens it slowly as if enjoying controlling the moment. Dexter grabs money from the case and tosses some of it on the table.

DEXTER

Call me the seamstress.

ASHLEY

Did you just call yourself a seamstress?

Dexter looks away, self-conscious.

DEXTER

Do we have a deal or not?

ASHLEY

Fine.

DEXTER

Good to know that people can be bought.

ASHLEY

You don't know anything about me.

Ashley eyes the money.

DEXTER

Take it. Go find your cousin and get yourself out of that greasy spoon of a restaurant.

ASHLEY

And the rest of the cash?

DEXTER

Like I said, when the job is done,
you get the other half.

She stands.

ASHLEY

That little comment you made about
people getting bought... You're not
buying me.

DEXTER

Whatever.

ASHLEY

Not whatever. I'm doing a job
you're not good enough to do. I'm a
commodity. I'm valuable.

DEXTER

Big words. Listening to Tony
Robbins? Look, I'm under a ton of
pressure.

Dexter is looking worse each day.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

If I don't deliver, I'm gonna pay
for it in ways you couldn't
imagine. Then, you're gonna pay for
it in ways you couldn't imagine.

ASHLEY

The only thing I'm gonna pay for is
my way out of debt, and into the
life I deserve.

Ashley takes the money and walks out. After turning the
corner, she slips her hand into her pocket and pulls the
locket out. She smiles.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Nick bursts into the room. He sees Grampy, still as a stone.
The sounds of MACHINES keeping Grampy alive fill the room.

Nicholas exhales. He walks toward the bed. With each step,
emotion swells. 1`

NICHOLAS

Grampy... I don't know if you can
hear me or not, but I came as soon
as I found out.

He sits down at his bedside.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 Everything got messed up so fast.
 You just put me in charge, and
 someone robbed us, Grampy.

SNIFFLES break the silence.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 I lost the locket. Apparently, my
 parents are in the store. Who knows
 what they are.

He looks for a response but gets none.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 Something talked to me, and I don't
 know how it happened. What I do
 know is that so far, I've been a
 failure already. But I'm not gonna
 quit. I'm gonna figure it all
 out... I promise.

MUSIC CUE: Find My Way.

The door closes behind him. Nick bolts to his feet and wipes his eyes. Naya enters the room with warm eyes.

NAYA
 How's he holdin up?

NICHOLAS
 What are you doing here?

NAYA
 I figured this is where you'd be.

NICHOLAS
 I'm a wreck.

Nick shrugs, lost for words.

NAYA
 Hungry?

NICHOLAS
 I could eat.

NAYA
 You know. We've been running
 around, avoiding the bad guys, but
 I don't feel like we know each
 other.

NICHOLAS

Okay...

NAYA

Would you want to make that dinner more official?

NICHOLAS

With me?

NAYA

You've risked your neck, you've been brave, and you've been emotionally available. I misjudged you.

She takes his hand.

He swallows.

NICHOLAS

Yah, yup, yah. See you today. Tonight. Well, whenever you want to eat.

NAYA

Okay, sounds good.

She smiles.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Ashley drinks a coffee at the "What The Cluck", while Naya stares out the window.

NAYA

I don't know about this anymore.

ASHLEY

What are you, crazy? We finally have the upper hand.

NAYA

Right, but this is getting extreme. We got shot at.

ASHLEY

No, it's not. You're the one who said we deserved the silver spoon. Now, we have it.

Ashley opens her hand and lets the locket dangle.

NAYA
I know, I know. It's just, I kinda
feel-

ASHLEY
Feel?

NAYA
Not feel, like that, but-

ASHLEY
Wait, do you like this dweeb?

Naya crosses to the window.

NAYA
He's going through a lot. His
grandfather is dying, for Pete's
sake.

ASHLEY
Go out to dinner with him, find out
what this thing does, and then we
can up our asking price from
Dexter.

NAYA
Fine, but maybe we should think
about this.

ASHLEY
Maybe we should think about getting
out of here.

NAYA
I'm just-

ASHLEY
Don't forget why you're doing this.
You've had to fight and claw to
take care of your mom.

Naya looks away.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Aunty Sara needs you. The family is
counting on you.

Ashley's eyes narrow as she whispers.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Don't let the whole family down.

Naya shakes her head.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Naya and Nick sit by the window at an Italian restaurant. Nick stares out the window.

An elderly man walks his dog. Nick looks on, eyes welling with emotion.

NICHOLAS

I can't believe this is happening.
My life has turned into a movie.

She turns her gaze to him.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Everything before today was so
predictable. I've spent every
moment trying to accomplish one
thing, and now everything is crazy.

She looks on, listening.

He looks back at the elderly man.

NAYA

You okay?

NICHOLAS

I just feel like I should be doing
something.

NAYA

You are doing something. You're
having dinner with me.

Nick smiles.

NAYA (CONT'D)

So, about this-

She reaches out to touch his hand across the table.

NICHOLAS

Naya, wait. I want to say
something.

Nick eyes her hand on his.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

You know, at any other point in my
life I would kill for someone like
you to even notice someone like me.

(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

With everything going on, I can't even appreciate that someone doesn't think I'm a total dork. Thank you for being real.

She musters a smile.

NAYA

I'm gonna run to the ladies room.

Naya places her napkin on the table and excuses herself. Nick looks on curiously.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Naya splashes her face with water. She stares at her reflection.

As if burning a hole in her clothes, she pulls the locket out of her pocket. It stares back at her. It swings Tu and fro as if shaking its head with disapproval. She shakes her head as she starts to text on her phone.

MUSIC CUE: There Was A Girl.

As the song ends, she takes out her phone and begins to text.

Dexter... We Can't find it. Let's figure out another way.

She pushes send, takes a deep breath, and heads back to the table.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Naya's hand finds Nick's shoulder as she walks up to the table.

NAYA

So, what's the plan?

NICHOLAS

Huh?

NAYA

You said you want to do something. Well, let's do something!

NICHOLAS

Really? Okay! Like what?

NAYA

Wanna get outta here?

NICHOLAS
Um, yeah, sure. I'm not really
hungry anyway.

NAYA
Let's go hang out at the shop. I
can help you clean up.

They stand. Nick grins at her.

NICHOLAS
Um, okay, yah. It should be okay.
Thanks for being so understanding.

The pair exit the restaurant.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Naya stand at the front of the door. Nick has a
thought.

NICHOLAS
Before we go in, I have to tell you
something.

NAYA
Okay...

NICHOLAS
The shop is a little different.

NAYA
How so?

NICHOLAS
You may see some stuff that you've
never seen before.

NAYA
I've seen my fair share of
antiques.

Crash.

Something is going on inside.

Nick unlocks the shop door.

CLICK.

The store, not quite recovered or organized creaks as Naya
and Nick enter.

He looks around. Nothing out of the ordinary.

NICHOLAS

Hello?

No answer.

Another CRASH.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I don't think I can run around the city again. And on an empty stomach?

A cat runs from the back and out the front door.

NAYA

You mean like that?

They laugh.

NICHOLAS

I'm gonna warm up the food in the microwave.

NAYA

K.

Nick disappears around the corner.

Naya takes the locket out and walks toward the back room.

The antiques shimmer ever so slightly.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - BACKROOM - CONTINUOUS

Naya opens the drawer where the Music Box lay. She opens The Music Box and places the locket back inside its compartment.

CLICK.

The light flicks on.

NICHOLAS

What are you doing?

NAYA

Oh, I, um, just saw this piece and was looking at-

NICHOLAS

I saw you put what looks like part
of the locket inside. Did you... Did
you steal it?

He steps back.

NAYA

Nick, listen-

She steps forward.

NICHOLAS

Wait, this whole thing was a rouse?

NAYA

It's not what you think! I was
putting it back-

NICHOLAS

My grandfather almost died..

NAYA

I know-

NICHOLAS

Bullets were shot at my head. I
trusted you.

NAYA

Please try to understand that-

NICHOLAS

Oh, I understand. I was right.
Someone like you would never in a
million years be interested in
someone like me. People like you
have no heart.

NAYA

I-

NICHOLAS

Get out before I call the police.

NAYA

Nick-

She reaches for his hand. He SLAMS his hand on the desk.

NICHOLAS

Get out!

She recoils. Her eyes meet the floor, and she walks out.

NAYA

I'm sorry.

Nick wipes away a tear.

MUSIC CUE: People Like Me.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Nick goes back to the showroom. He picks up one of the doggie bags from dinner and throws it in the trash.

The cutlery, still sitting safely on the counter, is snatched and broken by an emotional Nick. Looking for his next victim, Nick picks up an antique piece. It's the throw pillow.

His arm careens back, ready to launch. The pieces in desperation come to life.

ALL PIECES

Stop!!!

Nick stops dead in his tracks.

The pillow's face freezes in terror. The Globe spinning has stopped. The chest is half open. The recliner is at full attention. The twin dressers have all their drawers out, and the lamp is on. A dust fart POOFS from the pillow's backside.

NICHOLAS

You guys are back!

They all chime in, talking at once.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Can everyone settle down, please?

CHEST

Could you put the piece down?

Nick obliges.

LAMP

You must have a lot of questions.

NICHOLAS

Yah, like how is this all happening? What, like, makes you guys talk? And, are any of you my mom and dad?

CHEST

Sit down. I'll tell you a story.

The store shimmers as the Chest and Lamp tell him the story of how they came to be. Nick listens, face a glow as if by a campfire. Each of the pieces huddle around, listening as the Chest holds court.

NICHOLAS

It's you. You guys are my parents.

The lamp and chest draw closer together. Nicholas rises.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

All my life, I've thought I couldn't do anything.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I'm going to free you. I'm going to free you all.

RECLINER CHAIR

This thing here is gonna be dangerous.

GLOBE

If you set us free, it would mean the world.

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS

I see what you did there.

NICHOLAS

So, Dexter has something to do with this?

LAMP

He's a pawn in a larger game.

CHEST

We saw what happened with Naya. Give her a shot. I think she's come around.

NICHOLAS

I don't think she's coming back.

ASIAN THROW PILLOW

Choosing to walk the dangerous road alone can lead to folly.

DING.

Nick's phone receives a text.

I'm gonna make this right. - Naya.

INT. DEXTER'S OFFICE

Dexter polishes his employee of the month plaques.

JULY

Dexter Smalls has an American flag sticker on the plaque.

A KNOCK at the door.

Naya feigns confidence as she enters the spacious office.

NAYA

I've got the locket.

Her lying eyes flicker.

DEXTER

Ah yes. And just in time for the Fourth of July!

NAYA

I guess I'm ready to be financially independent.

DEXTER

Let me see it.

NAYA

My cousin and I talked it over. The price just doubled.

DEXTER

Why you little-

NAYA

Ah ah ah.

DEXTER

Fine. In order to approve this little extortion attempt, we'll have to discuss it with my superior.

NAYA

Great, take me to him.

DEXTER

A word of caution... My employer doesn't like to be toyed with.

NAYA

That was more than a word, FYI.

DEXTER

You'd better be prepared for what's next.

Dexter leans in.

NAYA

You better have my money.

DEXTER

If this is a game, I promise you will lose.

NAYA

I've been losing all my life. I'm tired of losing. Take me to your little boss man. It's time to get paid.

DEXTER

It's your funeral.

He escorts her to the wall. She swallows hard. Dexter pushes a button. The bookcase slides to the right.

A room.

A cold breeze drifts into Dexter's office from what lies behind the bookcase.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

You wanted to meet with my employer. This way.

She looks around. The energy escaped the room as the cold air rushes in.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Oh, and good luck.

NAYA

Where are we going?

DEXTER

Outside the room, through this passageway, is a path to a house on a hill. Once you come to the path, do not stop walking until you see the house.

NAYA

So I just keep walking?

DEXTER
Walk, run, however you're inspired.

Worry creeps into Naya's gaze.

DEXTER (CONT'D)
And if I were you, I would hurry.
That path is home to many
unpleasant friends.

She looks across the threshold. A gust of icy wind blows through the dusty, cramped, and bug-infested passageway.

Naya shivers, steadies her nerves, steps forward, and plunges into darkness.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - NIGHT

Naya fights the swirling wind as she approaches the lone house on a hill. The scent of stale air and mildew permeates her surroundings.

A door.

Its faded, jagged, and splintered wood stretches into the sky.

She KNOCKS.

Silence.

She KNOCKS AGAIN.

The hinges SQUEAL as the door slowly opens.

NAYA
Hello?

Silence.

NAYA (CONT'D)
Hello?!

The sound of a MATCH fills the room.

SHADOWED MAN
In the back.

Each step Naya takes rustles the pit in her stomach.

An amber glow outlines the Shadowed Man from the growing fire in the fireplace.

Naya stops in her tracks. The Shadowed Man stares holes through her. He motions her to follow him.

He sits at his withered wooden desk. Its dark wood looks decades old.

SHADOWED MAN (CONT'D)
What brings you here?

NAYA
I have it.

SHADOWED MAN
Have what?

NAYA
You know... It.

He SLAMS the table.

SHADOWED MAN
Don't play games with me.

Everything seems to jump.

Naya retreats for a moment but then steels her grit.

NAYA
I'm not. I just want to make sure
you don't rip me off.

Fireworks go off in the distance.

SHADOWED MAN
Fourth of July. Silly holiday.
Independence is a lie. You're here,
in need.

NAYA
Lemme see the money.

The Shadowed Man's long fingers tap the table.

NAYA (CONT'D)
I had to double the price. This was
tough to come by.

The Shadowed man lowers his hood, revealing a face bearing the weight of dark magic.

Naya winces.

NAYA (CONT'D)

And the other half of the locket.
Do you have it, or you just get
your kicks watching people run in
circles?

BOOM. A firecracker EXPLODES again.

SHADOWED MAN

Have you ever been in love, young
one?

NAYA

What do you mean?

SHADOWED MAN

Have you ever been willing to risk
everything for one person, one
single human being that you know is
your destiny? The one?

NAYA

I don't believe in the one. I
believe in me. Self-preservation. I
believe in independence.

Another firework.

SHADOWED MAN

How fitting.

He regards the celebratory fireworks as they explode out the
window.

A stack of money is pushed to the edge of the table in front
of Naya. He lays the other half of the locket in front of
him, one hand on it for safety.

SHADOWED MAN (CONT'D)

Now, show me the other half of the
loket, or this meeting will not
end well for you.

NAYA

Fine, you win. Here you go.

She CRACKS a firecracker in his face.

EXPLOSION

The Shadowed Man SCREAMS as the light blinds him. The
firecracker dances around the room. Beams of light flash. The
Shadow Man continues to SCREAM, enraged.

SHADOWED MAN
I'll kill you!

Naya grabs the locket, looks at the money, leaves it on the table, and runs out.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - NIGHT

The special antique pieces huddle around Nick. The group, inspired, shimmer as they listen to Nick.

NICHOLAS
Okay, I'm gonna do this!

THE GLOBE
You're gonna do this!

NICHOLAS
I got this!

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS
You got this!

NICHOLAS
Yes!

Beat.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Okay, what do I do?

CHEST
We have to recreate that night.

NICHOLAS
Huh?

CHEST
We need to redo the spell as it was done that night, only this time, we do it to free us, not to trap us.

NICHOLAS
Alright, got it! What do we need?

LAMP
All of the people who were there that night, and we need the complete locket.

CHEST

If one says the spell, you can
free, imprison, or enchant the
person you desire.

LAMP

The key is to do it for the good of
someone and not for selfish gain.

NICHOLAS

You can spellbind someone in a good
way?

LAMP

Not all magic is bad.

GLOBE

Some magic is beautiful.

LAMP

Like a mother's love.

Nicholas's cheeks turn pink.

ASIAN THROW PILLOW

There's magic all around us.

GLOBE

The magic of a beautiful melody...

CHEST

The magic of a beautiful woman.

The lamp blushes.

NICHOLAS

Even after all this time, and being
trapped, and not seeing me... You
still love me?

LAMP

The magic of a mother's love.

The Lamp begins to glow.

LAMP (CONT'D)

A mother's love can't be explained,
duplicated, or bottled up. A
mother's love keeps you going in
even the darkest of times.

MUSIC CUE: A MOTHER'S LOVE.

NICHOLAS

We need a plan.

CHEST

Can you get into Dexter's office
and get the locket?

NICHOLAS

Basically, like Sherlock Holmes
recovering stolen jewelry?

RECLINER CHAIR

Piece a cake.

CHEST

Focus. Once we get all we need,
someone has to turn Music Box so
she'll sing again.

NICHOLAS

Why?

CHEST

That night, we heard a tune. A soft
singing. We are all pretty sure it
was the Music Box, but she hasn't
truly sung since.

NICHOLAS

Okay, so we get all the people and
all the things... Then what?

LAMP

We pray.

NICHOLAS

Mom, Dad...

Nick crouches down.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I never stopped looking for you.
I've waited for this moment. I
promise I will set you free.

Nick begins to pack a bag.

INT. HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Naya looks over her shoulder as she tears down the hill. Her feet take turns slamming into the earth. Her heart POUNDS against the inside of her chest.

An ill-timed root connects with her feet. Her legs tangle, and she CRASHES into the ground and rolls down the hill.

Her hands fumble with the half of the locket as she flails in the air. She finally gets a firm grip on the locket and clasps down.

THUD.

She collides with the dirt at the bottom of the hill. Scrambling, she rises to her feet.

No one following her.

She turns the corner and is back on the busy street.

NAYA

Taxi!

A yellow cab pulls up.

NAYA (CONT'D)

Hospital, please!

The car SCREECHES off.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT.

Naya quietly opens the door. Grampy is still in a coma. Only his chest rises and falls in rhythmic timing of the BEEPING EKG.

Naya walks to Grampy and takes his hand. She leans in and whispers.

NAYA

I'm gonna this right, I promise.

Naya takes out her phone.

She walks over to the window and looks out, checking for anything suspicious as she dials.

NAYA (CONT'D)

Nick, I'm in trouble. I'm at the hospital with Grampy. Please hurry.

WHAM.

The door BURSTS open. The two Henchmen from earlier smile cruelly. They take off their glasses, revealing their eyeless face.

Naya turns away.

The henchmen draw their weapons.

Naya opens the window and jumps.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - SAME TIME

Nick smacks his phone. The line has gone dead.

NICHOLAS
Naya? Hello, Naya!?

Nothing. Nick puts the phone in his pocket and turns back to the group.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Naya's in trouble. I think Grampy
is, too. I'll be back.

LAMP
Wait... Be careful.

Nick steadies his resolve and exits the front door.

EXT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - SAME TIME

As Nick rushes out the front, a dark figure slips around the back corner of the store. The figure creeps toward the back window to the room where the pieces are. They are still shimmering.

FIGURE
What the-

He picks the lock to the back door.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL

Shadow Man stares into the fire. Dead sunflowers line the shelf behind his desk.

His face is revealed. It's Victor from long ago.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - BACK DOOR - NIGHT

The lock JINGLES.

CLICK.

A gloved hand slides between the door and the frame. It's Dexter.

Dexter peeks his head around the door and into the shop. He enters through the back.

He sees the furniture.

DEXTER

Gotchya.

He walks toward them.

LIGHT!

Blinding light burns Dexter's eyes. The Lamp has turned on full force and aims directly at Dexter's eyes.

He stumbles backward.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Aghhhh!

The Chest has placed himself behind Victor's legs. He SCREAMS as he falls.

The Asian Throw Pillow is in range of his descent. Right before he hits the pillow moves. Dexter SLAMS into the floor.

The Globe rolls repeatedly into his face.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

What-

BAM!

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Is-

BAM!

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Going-

BAM!

DEXTER (CONT'D)

On?

He scrambles to his feet, terror plastered across his face. The Twin Dresser take turns boxing Dexter.

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS
Take this, and this, and this-

DEXTER
They talk!?

TWIN DRESSER DRAWERS
Talk is cheap!

Another shot to the face.

From the corner of his eye, he spots The Lamp with her back turned, tending to the Music Box. He runs to her, grabs her, and the Music Box.

Dexter FLICKS on his lighter and holds the items hostage.

DEXTER
I don't know what is going on here,
but if anyone or thing moves, I set
this lamp on fire.

The Lamp trembles as the heat gets close to her shade.

He clasps the half locket and hostage pieces and backs out of the store.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Nick, running full speed, crashes into Naya, who stands waiting outside the hospital.

NAYA
Nick, I'm so sorry.

NICHOLAS
Are you okay?

NAYA
I thought I was doing what was
right for my family, but I didn't
count on-

NICHOLAS
On what?

NAYA
Feelings. I'll explain later, but
for now, we gotta get up to Grampy.
I hid the locket up there.

NICHOLAS
You have the other half?

NAYA
Had... No time! Gotta make sure
they don't find it.

They rush into the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Nick and Naya hold hands as they travel up to Grampy's room.

NICHOLAS
Wait out here. If you see anything,
give me a heads-up.

Naya leans in and kisses him on the cheek.

NAYA
Careful.

Nick touches his face as he enters with a hint of a smile.

Grampy's bed is disheveled. The flowers lay on their side. He is pale.

NICHOLAS
Grampy! What happened? Has someone
been here? Are you alright?

GRAMPY
They... They were here...

NICHOLAS
I shouldn't have left you.

Nick searches frantically.

GRANDPA RONALD
It's gone, kid. They got it.

NICHOLAS
The locket. Please tell me they
didn't...

Grampy weakly points at the window. The curtains flap in the night wind.

A SCREAM.

Nick runs to the window. He looks out and sees two henchmen taking Naya away.

GRANDPA RONALD
Such a nice young lady, Nick. I
like you two together.

NICHOLAS
Naya!

GRANDPA RONALD
Protect the antiques at all costs.

NICHOLAS
Grampy-

GRANDPA RONALD
It's... time.

He gives a weak thumbs up.

The sound of the BEEP cut like a knife.

Flatline.

NICHOLAS
No!

NURSES rush in. Alarms BLARE. Crash carts burst into the
room. DOCTORS arrive.

Everything slows down.

Paddles SING with electricity.

DOCTOR
Clear.

They shock Grampy's chest.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Talk to me.

NURSE
Nothing.

DOCTOR
Hitting him again. Clear!

Paddles fight to keep Grampy alive.

His body surges with electricity and arches toward the
ceiling.

They room waits as the nurse checks his wrist.

NURSE
We have a pulse. It's faint, but
it's there.

Nick SCREAMS for his grandfather.

NICHOLAS
Grampy, please!

DOCTOR
Get him outta here.

NURSE
You can't be here.

DOCTOR
We're losing him.

NICHOLAS
That's my Grandfather, that's my
Grandfather!

Nurses hold him back as they push him out of the room.

The door closes.

BLACK OUT.

A HEARTBEAT thumps over a black screen. Slower. Slower.
Slower.

Silence.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

With both hands on his knees, he gasps for air and a sense of
peace.

He looks out into the darkness. No one to be seen.

Nick stumbles backward as he sits on the pavement, shell-
shocked.

Rain.

The rain hits Nicholas's face, disguising his tears but not
his pain.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE

Nick arrives back at the store. The place is a wreck.

CHEST
Son, Dexter was here.

NICHOLAS
I can't keep doing this. I'm not
built for this.

CHEST
Listen to me... He has everything.
The locket, and he kidnapped Music
Box. Nick, they have your mother.

Nick sits down, head in his hands.

NICHOLAS
I had my family back for a minute,
and it felt-

CHEST
Whole.

NICHOLAS
Yeah. Now, everything is falling
apart.

CHEST
I believe in you, son. Everything
has brought us to now. You can do
this. Go save your mom. Go save us
all.

Nick stands.

NICHOLAS
Before, I was just tired of being a
nobody. Now, all I want is my
family. Gonna go save em.

CHEST
Let's do this together.

NICHOLAS
You want me to take you with me?

CHEST
I can't sit here and wait any
longer.

NICHOLAS

But if I bring you, he'll have everything.

CHEST

You need me to free her, and we're wasting time.

NICHOLAS

But-

CHEST

Love is also sacrifice. Take me with you, and let's finish this thing once and for all.

Nick grabs his bag, and The Chest heads out the door.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL

Dexter hands The Lamp, Music Box, and locket pieces to Shadow Man.

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR

You've done well.

VICTOR

Thank you, Sir. I aim to please. It was nothing, really.

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR

Silence.

DEXTER

Silencing.

Naya sits, bound.

NAYA

Let go of me.

SHADOWED MAN

Ah, tisk, tisk. What did I tell you about love?

NAYA

Why don't you untie me, and I'll show you how much love hurts?

SHADOWED MAN

Love does hurt. It kills, even. Some people love romance, others love money.

Another figure appears from the shadows.

ASHLEY
Hello, cousin.

NAYA
Ashley? What are you?

ASHLEY
You know, you're very convincing. That speech you gave me about what we deserve and all that. Well, you got me thinking. You're definitely right. We do deserve more, but you've been slipping.

NAYA
Have you lost your mind? You've aligned yourself with these psychos?

ASHLEY
These psychos paid off my debt, got me out of that stupid restaurant, and showed me what I deserve.

NAYA
You're family.

ASHLEY
And look where that got me. Look where it got you.

DEXTER
As touching as all this is-

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR
Dexter, bring me what I need.

Dexter brings over the lamp and both pieces of the locket.

DEXTER
Maybe I should go.

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR
No, you belong here. You always have.

DEXTER
Me, Sir? No, I'm just here to do you're work.

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR
You're so much more, Dexter.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - NIGHT

Victor's arms flail and hits the table as he talks to a beautiful woman, MARIE.

VICTOR

Don't you understand I can give you everything you've ever wanted?

MARIE

Victor, I care about you. You're a good friend, but you know I'm married and happy.

VICTOR

Leave him. Give me a chance.

MARIE

Are you crazy? Where is this coming from? I'd never leave Thomas.

VICTOR

We'll see.

Victor pulls the locket out of his pocket. He holds it up to her he begins to CHANT.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Dum is sileo me vestri...

MARIE

Victor, what are you doing?!

The locket begins to glow and red. Light shines out of it and towards Marie.

Just then, her husband, THOMAS, bursts into the room.

Sensing that Marie is in danger, he puts himself in front of the red light. Marie grabs onto him. They are in a deep embrace.

Victor is too deep in the chant to stop.

VICTOR

He finishes the spell. The red light slams into Marie and Thomas.

They SCREAM.

The entire room erupts in a flash of red. When it clears, Marie and Thomas are nowhere to be found.

Half of the locket, now split, sits in Victor's hand. The other is nowhere to be seen. Confused and frightened, he puts one-half of the locket in his pocket and runs out of the store.

In the corner of the store, behind the counter, a small baby is in a bassinet. Scared, the baby begins to CRY.

Next to him, another baby resembles Victor, silent, is bathed in red.

END FLASHBACK.

DEXTER

Wait, that other baby was-

NICHOLAS

You. We... We're brothers?

The locket swings to and fro. It is connected but open. A picture of a baby Nick is on one side, and baby Dexter, is on the other.

Nicholas has been standing at the door.

NAYA

Nick-

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR

This is beautiful. A family reunion.

NICHOLAS

Is that what you wanted? All of us here?

SHADOWED MAN

No, I don't need all these loose ends.

He pushes a button. SCHUMP. Ashley drops through a hole in the floor.

NAYA

Ash!

He pushes another button. WOOSH. Maya's chair flies in a hole in the back wall.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - BACK ROOM - SAME TIME

Moss hangs overhead. Water DRIPS from the ceiling of the dark, dank room.

Naya wiggles to free her tied hands.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - SAME TIME

The Shadow Man stages everyone where he thinks they should be.

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR

This is why you are weak. After all she's done to you you still love her.

NICHOLAS

That's right. Love is a choice.

DEXTER

This... No, I can't...

Dexter tries to run.

BOOM. A metal door drops in front of the wooden door.

Shadow Man/Víctor rises.

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR

Everyone is here. It didn't quite work last time, so let's try this again.

NICHOLAS

Wait, you've ruined my life, trapped my parents, and kidnapped everyone here in the hopes that my mom will love you?

SHADOWED MAN/VICTOR

Hope is a lie. I have something more concrete.

Shadows creep across his face. As he chants, a red glow emanates. Red beams shoot out.

MUSIC CUE: HOPE IS A LIE (Dueling duet Víctor and Nicholas).

Shadows dance. Red lights swell. Victor targets The Lamp, Chest and Music Box in the center of the room.

He starts to chant.

VICTOR
Dum is sileo me vestri...

Naya, bruised, resurfaces in the room.

NICHOLAS
Don't do this!

Nicholas shouts over the noise.

VICTOR
Pectus est mei...

The Lamp shimmers. She begins to hum the tune of the Music Box.

The Music Box Shimmers.

The Chest shimmers and glows.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Marie, you will love me!

Victor holds the locket open toward her. Nicholas stands in between The Lamp and the spell's light.

Nicholas looks back at his mother. He nods, offering her assurance.

Victor, enraged, explodes with anger.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Move or die.

NICHOLAS
I lost her once. I'd rather die than run from you.

VICTOR
Don't test me.

NICHOLAS
You can't win.

VICTOR
Last chance.

NICHOLAS
I love you, Mom.

VICTOR
As you wish... Finmuerte!

SHUM.

An array of light blasts shoot from Victor's cane.

Naya jumps in the line of fire, taking the blast to the chest.

NICHOLAS
No!

VICTOR (CONT'D)
NO!

Nick rushes to Naya. He cradles her in his arms.

Golden light shimmers around her. Her lifeless body rises into the air.

EXPLOSION.

Gold light hits everything in its path. Victor is blinded and crumples to the floor.

The Chest, The Lamp, and the Music Box explode with Golden luminescence.

They transform.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - SAME TIME

The antique pieces, the Twin Drawers, Throw Pillow, Globe, and Recliner all explode with light.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - SAME TIME

A woman, man, and child lay in the center of the room. Dexter, and Nick stand in stunned silence.

Naya stirs.

NAYA
What happened?

She grabs her head.

The woman, Marie, stands and looks at her husband, Thomas.

They embrace.

MUSIC CUE: All I Ever Wanted

The pair sings to one another. Nicholas joins in as he hugs his parents.

As the song continues, he walks over to Dexter. Dexter sings as well.

MARIE

Your friend was willing to
sacrifice herself in the name of
true love.

THOMAS

Victor has tried his whole life to
force love. She willingly gave it.

A cloak lay in a heap where Victor stood.

Nicholas shakes hands with Dexter and walks over to Naya.

NICHOLAS

You were willing to-

She kisses him. Fourth of July fireworks crash into the night
sky.

MARIE

What Victor didn't realize is that
the spell has been cast twice, each
time by the same hand. This time,
it rebounded and hit everything
with a soul in the room. The souls
in honesty were freed if trapped.
The souls in opposition take their
place.

Marie puts the locket on.

Green shimmers cement the crack and shoot out everywhere.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Dexter, my boy. I've missed you
too.

She holds his face. Dexter sings the last line of All I Ever
Wanted.

DEXTER

What have I done? That means Ron is
my Grandfather, too. That means I-

MARIE

You didn't know.

NICHOLAS

Everyone deserves a second chance,
brother,

As they embrace, a tiny voice sings from the shadows. It's
the tune from the Music Box.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - SAME TIME

Juanita enters the store. Gold light shines to each corner of the store.

Juanita sings the same tune.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - SAME TIME

The tiny voice is a little girl. ANITA, (10) sings the tune from the music box.

MUSIC CUE: Makes The World Go Round.

ANITA
I'm looking for my grandma,
Juanita.

Nick smiles.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - SAME TIME

The Throw Pillow is now a wise-looking middle-aged Asian man. He laughs with joy as he slaps his thigh as he sees his reflection in the mirror.

The twin drawers are now in human form as twins. These pair of African American young men jump arm in arms in circles, celebrating.

A big, robust laugh comes from the Southern Farmer, who was formerly a Lazy boy recliner. JIM laughs heartily.

The trunk, who has sat silently in the corner for the entire film, walks forward.

TRUNK
We're free.

They all CHEER.

A beautiful black woman, THELMA, spins as she sings in the center of the room as gold shimmers like falling rain. She continues into a ballad of What Makes The World Go Round.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Nick picks up the cloak that was once The Shadow Man. A black ring sits ominously underneath.

DEXTER

Is that...

NICHOLAS

Victor, yes.

A crow swoops into the room through the open window, snatches the ring in its beak, and flies away.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

That happened.

Marie takes the locket and breaks it. She gives half to Dexter and half to Nick.

THOMAS

Now, let's Check on Grampy.

They walk out of the house, smiles all around.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Marie, Thomas, Dexter, and Naya quietly enter the hospital room. A nurse stops them.

An empty hospital bed sits neatly where Grandpa Ron previously lay.

She speaks to the family.

Marie drops to her knees.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY- NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Naya comforts Nick as they sit in the waiting room chairs. Thomas stands with Marie in the corner, holding her close.

NICHOLAS

I thought he'd make it.

NAYA

You did everything you could. He would be proud of you.

NICHOLAS

I did my best.

NAYA

And look over there. Look what you did. They're free. I've never been more impressed with someone in my life.

NICHOLAS
You mean that?

NAYA
Yes. And I want to show you
something.

She leads him down the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Naya walks hand in hand with Nick to a hospital room. A woman, bald, puffy cheeks and tired eyes, lay in her hospital bed, asleep.

NAYA
That's my mom. She's fighting...
The C word.

NICHOLAS
Wait, that's why you were always
around. That's why you were always
here. That's-

NAYA
That's why I steal. Well, stole. To
pay for her medical bills. But I
couldn't do it anymore. I've got to
do the right thing. And besides.
Victor felt bad and gave us money
that was technically his from The
Shadow Man.

NICHOLAS
You're incredible, you know that?

NAYA
Yah, I do.

She takes his hand.

NICHOLAS
Naya, earlier, when I yelled at
you, I was-

NAYA
It's okay. I understand.

Naya kisses him.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Grampy's funeral. Golden rays of sunlight shine over the proceedings. The PASTOR speaks from behind the casket.

PASTOR

Time is a funny thing. When we have it, we often misjudge how much there is. Time is likely the most valuable commodity on earth. When crooks and scoundrels are punished, society doesn't take their money; society takes their time. Ronald G. Wheelby gave his time freely.

The GONG of church bells sound in the distance.

The Pastor stops and takes a moment.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

He helped those in need without hesitation. He was the opposite of a scoundrel. He was a man who loved his children and grandchildren. He spent the second half of his life working to reunite his family. Ronald gave them the gift of more time together. May God bless him and his family and grant peace to all affected.

Nick sits next to his Naya, hand in hand. Marie and Thomas sit on the other side of him, holding each other.

The Antique pieces, now in their true human form, take in the message.

Dexter, sitting next to his dad, wipes his glasses and his eyes.

Somber smiles mixed with tears.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE

A buzz of energy flows through the Antique shop.

DING

The bell SOUNDS often as the foot traffic is at a high.

Dexter runs the register as people flow in and out of the store, hands full of purchases.

Naya welcomes customers. Juanita and her granddaughter clean. Maria and Thomas work with Nick around the shop.

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE - SUNSET

At the end of the day, a Grandfather clock appears.

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Tiny cracks in the dirt surface as the rubble shifts. Rocks dislodge.

A hand appears.

Ashley.

FADE OUT.