

NINE LIVES

"PILOT"

written by

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Based on the novel series
"The Nine Lives of Chloe King"
by Celia Thomson

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TEASER

FADE IN:

We HEAR her breathing first. It's panicked and rushed.

UNKNOWN POV as we run through the thick brush of an urban PARK, ducking and weaving. It's twilight; the long shadows make it hard to see. It could almost be a dream.

Snap. We look back. There's a flash of black moving through the trees. Someone is chasing us.

We jump a railing and land on a steep paved path, startling a few PEDESTRIANS. We turn right but there's another HOODED FIGURE at the bottom of the stairs. We turn the other way and start sprinting up the hill.

At the top there's a building - COIT TOWER - and we duck into a vestibule. Finally, we PULL BACK to reveal that the panicked runner is our heroine...

CHLOE KING, just 16, and she truly looks like she's running for her life. This is most definitely not a dream.

She catches a glimpse of a hooded-figure racing past. He didn't see her. Chloe immediately doubles back and heads into the building.

INT. COIT TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Chloe sprints up the winding stairs.

EXT. COIT TOWER/ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Chloe has a BIRD'S EYE view of the park two hundred feet below. The two hooded-figures jog past, obviously still looking for our girl. One of them glances up and Chloe immediately pulls back in, holding her breath.

They didn't see her and start to move away. For the moment she's safe. Chloe lets out a SIGH of relief. She turns away from the railing but stops short because...

A terrifying-looking MAN with three scars down the side of his face is standing directly in front of her.

MAN

Good-bye, Chloe.

She doesn't even have time to scream before he violently shoves her backwards.

SLOW MOTION as Chloe flips back over the railing, desperately grasping at nothing. The man is already gone. She catches a glimpse of the ground below as...

BACK TO REAL TIME. Chloe plummets toward the ground.

EXT. COIT TOWER - CONTINUOUS

SMACK! Chloe slams against the pavement. A WOMAN SCREAMS. Several PEOPLE rush to her side.

WOMAN (O.S.)
She's dead.

CONTINUALLY TIGHTEN ON CHLOE'S lifeless face as BLOOD starts to ooze out from under her head.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO SKYLINE - DAWN

The morning sun illuminates the spectacular skyline. WRITTEN ACROSS the screen is...

TWO DAYS EARLIER

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAWN

Warm light hits the colorful row houses that line this San Francisco street. Sun glints off of one WINDOW in particular.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe, our until now pleasantly average, rule-following teenager, stretches luxuriously in the rectangle of sun lying across her bed. She wakes up slowly, eyes still closed, a half-smile on her face. Life is good.

INT. CHLOE'S HOUSE/UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

MEREDITH KING, Chloe's mom, attractive, harried, professional and remarkably young at heart hurries past, buttoning her blouse. She only breaks stride to BANG on Chloe's door.

MEREDITH

Chloe! Get up! I swear to God I am not driving you to school today.

INT. CHLOE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

But no response from Chloe as she pulls up first one leg and then the other, clearly in no rush.

Suddenly, Chloe's phone BUZZES and she reads the text. Instantly, she flips out of bed and is on the move.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Meredith is at the counter, reading the paper, when she glances at the clock. She takes a calming breath and--

MEREDITH

Chloe King! If you're not down here in five-

But Chloe is already charging down the stairs putting her hair back in a clip.

CHLOE

Calm down, crazy lady. You're gonna pop something you might need.

She grabs her mother's toast as she heads for the door.

MEREDITH

Chloe.

CHLOE

Sorry. No time. I have a super mean mom who won't drive me to school.

MEREDITH

Chloe!

CHLOE

What?

MEREDITH

Sit.

Chloe plunks down at the counter and bites off a hunk of toast. Meredith sips her coffee. Finally.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

So--?

CHLOE

(resigned)

Fine. I got a B on my English test. It turns out that isolation is not a *central* theme of Grapes of Wrath. That slutty girl who everyone thought was going to get pregnant - she's pregnant. And, no, at no point did any even remotely cute boy look my way and say I want some of that. So - uh, pretty much all is right with the world.

MEREDITH

Was that so hard?
(off Chloe's look)
Go.

Chloe bolts, but she only get two steps before...

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Chloe.

Chloe lets out the biggest SIGH. Now what?

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Your backpack.

CHLOE
(kissing her good-bye)
See? This is why they put you in
charge. Text me.

MEREDITH
I love you, too.

CHLOE
Implied!

The front door BANGS closed. Meredith just smiles.

EXT. CHLOE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Chloe runs down the front steps and hops into the passenger
side of an old, beater VW BUG.

INT./EXT. - AMY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Chloe's best friend AMY, 16, is behind the wheel. Amy, hidden
inside a poofy, fake-fur coat, is a vintage queen leaning
toward Goth, but a certain amount of innate wholesomeness
always manages to creep through.

CHLOE
Go! I promised my mom I wouldn't
drive with you anymore.

Amy tries to peel out but stalls the car instead.

AMY
You can't yell at me like that and
expect me to perform. You know how
I am with pressure.

CHLOE
Sorry.

They drive off, still lurching a little along the way.

AMY
And that last ticket was so not my
fault.

INT. AMY'S CAR - MOVING - MOMENTS LATER

Amy, never taking her eyes off the road, hands Chloe a latte.

AMY

Don't spill.

(beat)

Okay, so here's the plan. After school I have band, but as soon as we're done murdering "Poker Face", I'll pick up Paul, he's ditching Chinese again, and we'll meet you at the park.

CHLOE

(smiling)

I was afraid we weren't going to do anything.

AMY

Please. This is how we always kick-off birthday week.

CHLOE

Yup. This is what we *always* do.

AMY

(off light)

Aah. Yellow. Go. Stop. No...

Finally, she slams on the breaks. They screech to a stop halfway into the crosswalk. Amy shoots the annoyed pedestrians a what's-your-problem look. After a beat.

AMY (CONT'D)

Don't you wanna go?

CHLOE

No. I do. It's... I don't know.

AMY

Are you okay?

CHLOE

Yeah. I just woke up feeling kinda weird. It'll be fun.

A car behind them HONKS and they start up again.

EXT. AMY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

As the car pulls away, we catch a REFLECTION in the glass of Chloe's window. It's of a MAN in a long, BLACK, LEATHER coat.

We don't see his face. But Chloe does - he seems to be watching them. She quickly turns away.

EXT. MARINA GREEN - DUSK

CLOSE ON a SLICE of PIZZA with a bunch of candles in it. REVEAL it's being held by PAUL, 16, Chloe's other best friend. Paul is tall, Asian-American, and just beginning the move from Geekville to Handsometown.

PAUL

Hurry. Make a wish! My hand's on fire.

Chloe takes a big breath and blows out the candles.

PAUL (CONT'D)

And now it's covered in spit. This one is definitely yours.

(beat)

What'd you wish for?

AMY

You can't tell. She can't tell.

CHLOE

It wasn't even really... I just wished for things to be different.

AMY

What things?

CHLOE

Everything.

AMY

You mean you want more than two friends.

CHLOE

Amy. Not about you.

Chloe stands up on one of the wood POSTS that hold up the heavy chain that separates the grass from the bike path. She has a perfect view of the GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Would kinda like to be kissed once in my life.

PAUL

Hey! You've been kissed.

CHLOE

We were seven.

AMY

And clearly so traumatized by the experience it's taken her almost ten years to want to do it again.

PAUL

And right back to "hey".

CHLOE

I just feel like I want to take a risk. Do something... special. Be noticed. Maybe I'm just tired of being the good girl.

PAUL

Uh, how are you doing that?

REVEAL that Chloe is balancing in the center of the CHAIN strung between the posts.

CHLOE

I don't know. It's easy.

She balances on one foot for a moment, showing off and hops down. Paul immediately tries to duplicate the feat.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

It sounds so lame when I say it out loud, but I wanna do something dangerous. Different. Just not be me for a little while. It's hard to explain.

After a beat.

AMY

So do you wanna go back to my house and watch a movie?

CHLOE

Were you not just listening to me?

AMY

Yeah, but that's what we always do.

OOF! Suddenly, Paul flips off the chain and lands on his back between them. Ouch.

PAUL

You're a liar. That is so not easy.
(beat, to Chloe)
(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

Hey, lets go to my house and play World of Warcraft. You can totally pick the realm.

Chloe just starts to smile, mischievously.

CHLOE

Thanks. But I've got a better idea.

EXT. THE BANK - MOMENTS LATER

The three of them are standing across the street from THE BANK, a pulsing club that the young and beautiful are lined up to get into. Amy doesn't look too sure.

PAUL

So much better.

CHLOE

Come on.

They cross the street, dodging traffic, but the entrance is blocked by a couple of BIG GUYS checking IDs.

AMY

There's is no way they're letting any of us in there.

Chloe looks down the alley that runs along the side of the building. Nothing. But suddenly...

A FRAT BOY and his GIRLFRIEND tumble out of the fire exit just before Frat Boy vomits over the railing. Nice. Chloe sees her chance and slips in behind them. Chloe holds the door. Let's go! Now or never.

AMY (CONT'D)

No. Chloe. We can't--

Paul hesitates for only a second before following after her.

AMY (CONT'D)

Wait for me.

And she hustles up the steps.

INT. THE BANK - MOMENTS LATER

They make their way through the crowded, throbbing space and find room at the end of the bar. Amy is super uncomfortable, but Paul can barely contain his smile. He nods and WINKS at two MODELS - they immediately move away.

CHLOE

Don't do that. Be cool.

Just then a good-looking, young guy, XAVIER, slides up next to Chloe and checks her out. She shoots her friends a look. See? This is how it's done.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Hi.

XAVIER

Hey.

(beat)

Don't take this the wrong way, but you look kinda young.

CHLOE

I'm over eighteen.

XAVIER

Good to know. But you have to be over twenty-one.

CHLOE

(not cool)

Please don't tell anyone.

XAVIER

It's okay. I'm using my brother's ID.

Chloe smiles, relieved, then...

CHLOE

Dance with me!

She doesn't really give him a chance to respond as she pulls him onto the dance floor.

DANCE FLOOR - LATER

Chloe and Xavier are burning up the place - actually, Xavier is just doing his best to keep up. Chloe is sexy and free and loving every minute of it. Who is this girl?

EXT. THE BANK - LATER

Chloe and Xavier come out of the club, hot and sweaty.

XAVIER

Okay, you, my young friend, are wild.

CHLOE

(pleased)

No one's ever said that about me before.

XAVIER

I find that hard to believe.

(beat)

You know, my brother's place is just a couple of blocks...

CHLOE

I'm not that wild. Yet.

(beat)

I really, truly, have got to go.

(looking around)

I still can't believe that Amy and Paul ditched me.

XAVIER

Will you maybe at least call me?

Chloe hands him her phone and he puts in his info.

CHLOE

(off screen)

"Xavier". I like the name.

XAVIER

Lets hope you like the face that goes with it.

She snaps a picture of him.

CHLOE

I think I do. See ya.

She starts to go but stops and glances back. Then...

Chloe walks up to Xavier and KISSES him. Hard. When she lets go he's not quite sure what hit him and touches his lips.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

See? I knew I'd been missing out.

XAVIER

Wow. Uh, are you sure I can't at least give you a ride? It's pretty cold out.

CHLOE

I like it. Makes me feel alive.

And this time she really does go, running off across the street for home.

REVEAL that our FIGURE in the long, black, leather coat is watching her from the alley. We only see him from behind.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Chloe is next to her locker, anxiously scanning the CROWDED hallway when she spots a poofy fur coat make a hasty U-turn.

CHLOE

Amy!

Amy doesn't slow down. Chloe catches up and cuts her off. Amy side-steps and keeps on walking as Chloe follows.

AMY

(super uncomfortable)

Oh, hey, Chloe.

CHLOE

I can't believe that you just left me there. But you're forgiven - I ended up having like the greatest night of my entire life.

Amy stops.

AMY

Why? Because we left?

CHLOE

No. Because of him.

She shows Amy the picture of Xavier on her phone.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

His name's Xavier. And he kissed me. We kissed each other. Yesterday I said I wanted it to happen and it did. Actually, I made it happen which is kind of even cooler.

AMY

Ohmigod, Chloe, I can't believe--
(then, looking off)
Look perky. "From Russia With Love"
at ten o'clock.

Chloe glances back and sees ALEK PETROV, 17, tall and impossibly good-looking, coming down the hall with his POSSE, bouncing a BASKETBALL off of the walls. BAM. BAM.

CHLOE

That is your crazy obsession, not mine.

(MORE)

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(back to her story)
I still can't believe I actually
did it. You would have been so
proud of me. I just walked straight
up to him--

BAM. Alek's basketball hits the wall above Chloe's head.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
I don't even know if I'm ever going
to talk to him again, but--

BAM. It hits the locker next to her. Chloe's had it. BAM--

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Hey, Jockoff.

Chloe grabs the ball--

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Do you mind? People are trying to
have a conversation. Go play "Look
At Me" somewhere else.

-- and rifles it down the hall where it bounces off a wall
and SWOOSHES straight into a TRASH CAN. Everyone turns to
look at her.

AMY
You did not just do that.

Chloe looks as shocked as everyone else.

CHLOE
I think I did. Let's go.

She grabs her friends arm and they self-consciously hurry
off. Alek watches Chloe disappear up the stairs. We're not
quite sure what his look is about.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/CLASSROOM - LATER

Chloe is sitting near the back. She's TAPPING her pencil as
she stares out the window, clearly her mind is elsewhere.

Her cellphone vibrates. It simply says "157". But before
Chloe can even react--

TEACHER
Miss King? The answer, please.

CHLOE
Ah, 157.

The TEACHER, slightly annoyed, turns back to the board as Chloe scans the room. Alek looks back at her from the front row and holds up his cellphone.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - LATER

Chloe is at her locker when Alek comes up - his bad-boy smile and charming ACCENT make him a hard guy not to like.

ALEK
You're welcome.

CHLOE
Thanks. I owe you.

ALEK
I look forward to collecting.

He steps into her personal space. Chloe instinctively backs up, but the locker is behind her.

CHLOE
Um, you haven't spoken to me in two years. Let's go back to that.

ALEK
You smell very good.

CHLOE
Okay, crazy non sequitur man, it's called bathing. Try it.

ALEK
(amused)
Why do you give me such a hard time, Chloe King?

CHLOE
Believe me, if I knew it was going to have this kind of affect, I never would have touched your ball.
(quickly)
Don't say it.

ALEK
Something tells me we're going to be very good friends.

He starts to lean in. Holy crap - is he really going to kiss her? Chloe seems frozen when suddenly--

JASMINE (O.S.)
Alek!

A beautiful, but not very happy girl, JASMINE, 16, calls out from the end of the hall. She and Alek exchange a look. After a beat, Alek turns back to Chloe and shrugs.

CHLOE

Well, uh, nice chattin'. Lets try
and never do that again.

Chloe walks off as Alek and Jasmine exchange another look.

EXT. PATEENA - DAY

A hip vintage clothing store on a bustling street.

CHLOE (O.S.)

When did we get these in?

INT. PATEENA - CONTINUOUS

Chloe is looking in a mirror while she holds up a fairly sexy black top. Her slightly bitchy, co-worker LANA, 19, looks up from the magazine she's reading behind the register.

LANA

Yesterday, when somebody decided to
take off early and left me to do
all the restocking.

CHLOE

Which is why it still hasn't been
done.

(re: top)

I'm going to put this on hold.

LANA

For you?

(off Chloe's look)

I'm just sayin' that's not exactly
the kind of top that likes to sit
home by itself on Saturday night.

Chloe looks in the mirror again. Maybe it isn't her. After a beat...

CHLOE

Oh, turn it up. I love that song.

LANA looks down at her ipod with its earbuds attached, lying on the counter. There seems to be no sound coming out.

LANA

You can hear that?

CHLOE

Sure. Can't you?

Lana looks at her suspiciously, but the JINGLE of the front door changes the subject. A handsome guy in a motorcycle jacket has come in and is going through the racks. Chloe and Lana exchange looks - Chloe, gives her a "watch this" and heads across the store.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Hi.

The guy turns around. He's BRIAN, 18, a tall, sweet, good-looking guy with kind eyes. Chloe wasn't totally prepared for how cute he was going to be.

BRIAN

Hi.

Suddenly MUSIC comes on a little too loud, then Lana quickly turns it down.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I love that song.

CHLOE

I just said that--

But she knocks over a coat rack. CRASH. Oops. Once again so much for being smooth. He quickly helps her pick it up. Finally, she takes a deep breath and...

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Can I help you with something?

BRIAN

Just an opinion.

He puts on a funky, knit cap that has little cat ears on it.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Ironic or just lame?

CHLOE

Little bit of both? But it works with the jacket. You a cat person?

BRIAN

Nah - I've just got cold ears. I'll take it.

He follows Chloe to the counter. Chloe smiles at Brian again. She likes this guy.

CHLOE

So, you in college?

But when he doesn't answer right away...

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I'm just asking because we get a lot of people from the university. We ran this ad - and you never really know if it's working or not because--

LANA

(to Chloe, sotto)
Stop talking.

CHLOE

Twelve dollars.

BRIAN

Back east. I'm taking a semester off to help out with some family stuff.

(then, re: hat)

I kinda packed in a hurry.

CHLOE

I'm Chloe.

BRIAN

Brian.

CHLOE

Every afternoon from three to six - in case there's anything else you forgot to pack.

BRIAN

Then maybe I'll see you around.

(beat)

Sometime between three and six.

One more furtive look and Brian heads out.

LANA

I don't know what you did with Chloe, but when you see her - tell her she needs to tag the sale rack.

Chloe looks in the mirror again. She takes the top and puts it behind the counter. She kind of likes this new her.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Chloe is walking down the street, furiously texting.

CHLOE
(sotto, while texting)
No. You have to meet me!

She steps off the curb without looking and--

BIKE MESSENGER
Watch out!

A BIKE MESSENGER swerves to avoid hitting her. He skids to a stop and looks back.

But Chloe's not there. She's crouched on the roof of the car next to where they should have hit.

BIKE MESSENGER (CONT'D)
How did you-- ?

But Chloe has no idea. She's not sure how she got there either, but a SMILE starts to creep across her face.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET/ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Chloe is now sprinting down the steep, crowded street faster than she could ever imagine possible as she ducks giddily between people and obstacles.

At the last second she swerves and darts down an alley, careening off the alley wall, five feet in the air.

She races forward, jumping over trash cans, just clearing a car as it pulls out in front of her. It's almost as if she's flying.

Ahead is a FIRE ESCAPE LADDER hanging down from a second story. She picks up speed, leaps off of a dumpster and...

... just misses the ladder. She sails past and lands in a pile of boxes. CRASH. There are limits. But still, it was pretty cool.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Amy, chopsticks stopped in mid-air, is staring across the table at Chloe who is shoveling it in.

AMY

Wait. What? So suddenly you have like these super powers?

CHLOE

Jumping over a dumpster doesn't really qualify as a super power. But it's kinda weird, right? It's like this burst of energy and I knew I could do it. Oh - and I can hear things.

AMY

Like little men in your head things?

CHLOE

No.

(listening, then)

Ew, I think they just spit in that guys food.

She turns around and a WAITER is setting food in front of a very UNPLEASANT CUSTOMER. Several cooks are watching from the kitchen, whispering. Amy pushes her food away.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

It's like my non-wish birthday wish came true. It's hard to explain. I just feel so different.

AMY

What did you have for breakfast?

CHLOE

Spinach. This isn't a fortified breakfast cereal thing.

AMY

Hormonal?

CHLOE

Yeah, no, that's a whole different kind of crazy.

AMY

Obviously there has to be some kind of explanation. You know, other than... you're a freak.

CHLOE

And you're worthless. I wish Paul would've shown. The Comic Book King would be so into this.

AMY

I told him not to come.

CHLOE

Why?

After a beat.

AMY

Paul and I made out!

CHLOE

What?! When?

AMY

Last night. At first it was just kind of a oh-here-we-are-on-the-dance-floor-what-are-we-gonna-do-now kind of thing, but then... not so much.

CHLOE

You and Paul?

AMY

I know. But don't worry, you're so not going to be a third wheel.

CHLOE

Wait. You just kissed and now you're a couple? I've talked to you everyday, all day, since we were like two and never once have you said that you had a thing for Paul.

AMY

I kind of didn't know until it happened. Are you jealous?

CHLOE

Of you and Paul? Uh, no.

AMY

You don't have to be mean.

CHLOE

I'm not being mean. I'm being surprised.

AMY

I thought you'd be happy for us.

CHLOE

I am.
(beat)
Was he any good?

AMY

Surprisingly yes. At first it was a little awkward but then when we kinda got into it--

CHLOE

Okay, no. I can accept it, I just can't hear about it.
(looking off)
Holy crap. There's Alek's girlfriend.

Jasmine is coming in the front door.

AMY

Ew. Creepy. No. That's Jasmine. They're cousins. She's in my AP History Class.

Amy gives her a little wave.

AMY (CONT'D)

And why do you even care?

CHLOE

'Cause he kinda tried to kiss me.

AMY

Chloe! Did you let him?

CHLOE

So no. But I did just shamelessly throw myself at the guy with the world's most beautiful eyes.

AMY

Did he throw back?

CHLOE

(can't believe it)
Yeah, I think he kinda did.

AMY

Ohmigod, Chloe. Who are you?

Chloe just laughs and shrugs.

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT/STREET - SHORT TIME LATER

UNKNOWN WATCHER POV as the girls come out of the restaurant and head up the street. They're definitely being followed.

AMY

Okay, we need to make a plan. First-
wait a day and call Bank Boy.

CHLOE

I don't know. That was just kind of
a drive-by flirting.

AMY

Two days ago your options were zero
and no one. He stays on the list.
And then there's Alek.

CHLOE

His Slavic hotness? Let it go. It's
never happening.

AMY

Before you rush to judgement, you
should see him with his shirt off.
(off Chloe's look)
Fine. Then that just leaves Kitty
Hat.

CHLOE

Now he's a definite yes.

Suddenly, Chloe grabs Amy's arm and stops. She looks back.
No one is there.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Sorry. I thought I heard something.

AMY

This isn't going to become a thing,
is it?

(beat)

So what do you think if the four of
us went out on a double date
sometime? Would it be weird?

They stop next to Amy's car.

CHLOE

First of all, I don't know if I'll
ever see him again. And second -
yeah, it'd be weird. But I still
want to go. I really am happy for
you and Paul.

AMY

Thanks. Me too.

(getting into her car)

And Chloe - try not to wrestle too many bad guys on your way home.

Back to our UNKNOWN WATCHER'S POV as Chloe waves and walks away. She turns back one more time - but still, no one is there. She shrugs and runs off across the street.

EXT. DESERTED STREET - MOMENTS LATER

SMACK! Chloe lands in the middle of a sidewalk. She decides which way to go for a moment, turns around and--

BUM (O.S.)

Hey. Spare a buck?

A fairly scary-looking BUM is right in front of her.

CHLOE

(startled)

What? No. Sorry.

BUM

Then maybe something else.

And he grabs her by the wrist before she can get away.

CHLOE

HELP! Let go of me...

They struggle and Chloe swings at him with her free hand. AAAAH! The bum SCREAMS and lets go, stumbling backwards, grabbing at his face.

BUM

You bitch! What'd you do to me?!

He pulls his hand away and his face is shredded and bleeding. He has four claw marks across his cheek. He immediately stumbles back, trying to get away.

Chloe looks down at her hand. She has CLAWS.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. DESERTED STREET - CONTINUOUS

Chloe stands staring down at her claws. CRASH. The bum she just sliced and diced stumbles back over some trash cans.

BUM
Stay away from me.

You don't have to tell Chloe twice. She takes off running.

EXT. CHLOE'S HOUSE - MOMENT LATER

Chloe comes to a stop in front of her house, slightly out of breath, and looks at her hands. They're perfectly normal.

But then she flexes them and the claws reappear. SHLOOSH. Holy crap. There's blood on the tips. They quickly retract. Chloe hurries up the front steps.

INT. CHLOE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Meredith is aggressively searching through the kitchen drawers as Chloe comes in and heads straight for the sink, and washes her hands.

CHLOE
Hey.

MEREDITH
(still searching)
It's about time. You have really got to call if you're not coming straight home after work.
(then)
Are you okay?

CHLOE
Yeah, some crazy, old homeless guy tried to grab me.

MEREDITH
Honey, are you hurt? Should we call the police?

CHLOE
No! No - it's so not a big deal. I'm fine.
(off her look)
Really. Life in the big city.

Meredith isn't completely convinced as she goes back to searching the drawers.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
What are you looking for?

MEREDITH
The exacto knife. My Wine-Of-The
Month club box just came and trust
me - not a moment too soon.

Chloe looks at the large, sealed cardboard box on the counter and then at her hands.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
I swear I just used it. Well, a
month ago anyway.

CHLOE
Done.

Meredith turns. The box is open.

MEREDITH
How did you...?

Chloe just kind of shrugs as her mom pulls out the wine.

CHLOE
I'll be up in my--

MEREDITH
Sit.

Chloe reluctantly sits.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
But in honor of your birthday, lets
skip the talk and just have cake.

Meredith sets a CAKE on the counter between them.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Happy birthday.

CHLOE
No singing.

MEREDITH
I'm not the singer. That was your
dad's--
(catching herself)
No singing.

CHLOE

Mom, it's okay. He left over ten years ago. I'm good.

Meredith cuts the cake and hands her daughter a piece.

MEREDITH

So, in a not-snooping-not-judging way, I noticed you came in a little late last night. Did you and your posse--

CHLOE

Don't say "posse".

MEREDITH

...rat pack, do anything special?

CHLOE

Actually, yeah, we did. We went dancing... and I met a boy.

(quickly)

Do not squeal, cry or hug me!

Meredith sits back down.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

And I met another one this afternoon at work. He was... nice.

Chloe goes back to her cake.

MEREDITH

That's it? That's all you're going to give me.

CHLOE

That's kind of everything.

MEREDITH

I'm sensing more to this story. And you don't seem very excited.

CHLOE

I am. I just... I've got a lot of stuff going on.

MEREDITH

What do you have going on?

Chloe looks down at her hands again. After a beat...

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Chloe?

CHLOE

Do you know anything about my birth parents?

MEREDITH

Jesus Christ, Chloe. You're not going to cut me a break are you?

CHLOE

Relax. This isn't a door slammy, you're-not-my-real-mother moment. I'm just curious. I swear.

After a beat, Meredith pours some more wine.

MEREDITH

You already know everything I know, which is pretty much nothing.

CHLOE

But no papers? No records?

MEREDITH

Things were chaotic. The Soviet Union had just fallen. The Ukraine was a new country. Your dad was working over there when he saw you in an orphanage and fell in love.

CHLOE

I know all this.

MEREDITH

I thought he was going to bring me home some of those stupid nesting dolls - I got a two month old baby instead. God, I wanted those dolls.

CHLOE

But how did he get me out of the country? It doesn't make sense.
(off her mother's look)
What?

MEREDITH

I think... some money might have changed hands.

CHLOE

He stole me?

MEREDITH

No. He didn't have a choice. That's just how it was done.

CHLOE
But didn't dad--

MEREDITH
(sharp)
No. Your father wasn't big on
explaining himself. Even then.
(softening)
I'm sorry. I wish I knew the
answers, too.

CHLOE
(sincere)
Thanks for the cake.

She kisses her mom and heads up the stairs. Meredith looks after her concerned. Or is there something she's not telling?

INT. CHLOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Chloe is at her mirror. She checks out her eyes. Her ears. Nothing else has changed. What the hell is going on? She doesn't even know what she is anymore.

INT. PATEENA - DAY

Chloe is absentmindedly staring out the window, while Amy paws through a rack. Lana is behind the counter.

AMY
What do you think? Paul loves
vintage rock T's, but his mom
refuses to let--

CHLOE
Amy. Known him my whole life. Not
new information.

Amy looks at her friend for a moment.

AMY
Okay, what is the matter with you?
Did you take a header into a trash
bin or are you just coming off of
your crazy amp'd-up birthday high?
(beat)
And do not tell me you can fly
because if you do, I swear I'll
have you committed.

CHLOE

No. Don't worry. I can't fly. That would... just be weird.

AMY

Did you even call Bank Boy like we planned?

CHLOE

You planned.

AMY

(off Lana)

Don't give me that look. She's helping me. I'm going to buy something.

Lana looks doubtful and heads to the back. After a beat...

CHLOE

I just can't figure out what is going on with me. Nothing makes any sense. Yesterday I was so--

(then)

What are you doing?!

AMY

(dialing Chloe's phone)

Calling Bank Boy.

CHLOE

Stop!

AMY

Aah. It's ringing. Here.

Chloe reluctantly takes it and glares at her "friend."

CHLOE

Message.

(beat)

Hi. This is Chloe. We, uh, met at the Bank the other night. Call me.

(hanging up, to Amy)

Never do that again.

INT. XAVIER'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON a CELLPHONE. Its red message light is FLASHING. Inexplicably it's on the floor.

PULL BACK to reveal that Xavier is half-naked, lying next to it. Eyes wide open. Lips blue. He's DEAD.

EXT. PATEENA - LATER

SLAM! Chloe, with Amy's help, yanks the metal grate closed in front of the store windows and starts on the padlock as Brian comes up behind them

BRIAN

You're closing early? Now how am I going to indulge my quirky headwear fetish?

CHLOE

(sotto, to Amy)
Kitty Hat.
(to Brian)
Sorry. I should have warned you this happens... a lot.

BRIAN

Just know I'd planned on doing about fifteen minutes of humorous small talk before I was going to ask you this but - you wanna have a cup of coffee with me?

CHLOE

I can't. Amy and I--

AMY

Are parting ways because we have no plans together whatsoever. Bye.

Amy quickly hustles off to her car. After a beat...

BRIAN

I'll take that as a 'yes'.

EXT. STREET/PARK - DAY

Chloe and Brian, coffees in hand, walk along the edge of Coit Tower Park, deep in conversation.

CHLOE

He left when I was really young, so I barely even remember him. But four years ago I found this old email address my mom had hidden and I sent him a couple of messages.

BRIAN

Did he answer?

CHLOE

No. I doubt it's even active.
Actually, I don't even know if he's
alive. But it's okay - my mom and I
make a pretty good team. Do not
tell her I said that.

(beat)

How about you? You get along with
your parents?

BRIAN

No mom - just a dad, and our
relationship is "evolving." My mom
died five years ago and we've both
been a little lost ever since.

CHLOE

Well, here's to being found.

They tap cups. There's a chance they might kiss, but...
Suddenly, a large DOG starts BARKING and lunges for Chloe.
It's only stopped by the tight hold its OWNER has on its
leash. Chloe jumps back and instinctively grabs Brian's arm.

BRIAN

Ouch!

The claws. She immediately hides her hands in her jacket.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Damn. You've got some nails.
(to dog owner)
Dude, do something about your dog.

DOG OWNER

She's never like this.

The owner finally pulls the dog away. Chloe is freaked.

BRIAN

That was kinda random.

CHLOE

Yeah. Hey - I should probably go.
My mom has this thing about me
coming home. Thanks for the coffee.

BRIAN

Chloe, wait. Can we do this again?

CHLOE

I'd really like that. Bye.

And she's gone.

EXT. COIT TOWER PARK - CONTINUOUS

Chloe, lost in thought, walks along the path but catches a glimpse of a man in a long, black leather coat standing in the trees. She stops and looks back. He's gone.

Now fully alert, she hurries on but notices through the trees a HOODED-FIGURE keeping pace with her on the path above that she's about to intersect. She changes directions and heads down a different path. And then she hears...

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
She's heading up. Cut her off.

Chloe immediately jumps the railing and disappears.

CHLOE'S POV as she runs through the thick brush, ducking and weaving. It's twilight; the long shadows make it hard to see.

Snap. She looks back. There's a flash of black moving through the trees. She's being chased.

She jumps another railing and lands on a steep path, startling a few PEDESTRIANS. She turns right but there's another HOODED FIGURE at the bottom of the stairs. She turns the other way and starts sprinting up the hill.

At the top is COIT TOWER. She ducks into a vestibule.

She catches a glimpse of a hooded figure racing past. Chloe immediately doubles back and heads into the building.

INT. COIT TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Chloe sprints up the winding stairs.

EXT. COIT TOWER/ROOF - CONTINUOUS

She has a BIRD'S EYE view of the park two hundred feet below. The two hooded-figures jog past, obviously still looking for our girl. One of them glances up and Chloe immediately pulls back in, holding her breath.

They didn't see her and start to move away. For the moment she's safe. Chloe lets out a SIGH of relief. She turns away from the railing but stops short because...

The terrifying-looking MAN with three scars down the side of his face is standing directly in front of her.

MAN
Good-bye, Chloe.

ACT FOUR

EXT. STREET/ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine and Alek each have Chloe by an arm and are hustling her along, constantly looking over their shoulders to make sure that they're not being followed.

JASMINE

We were only supposed to be watching you. You know, just to make sure that Alek was right.

ALEK

I was right. I told them you'd started to transform.

JASMINE

But then we saw one of the Order's assassin's lurking around and knew we had to do something.

ALEK

In here.

He pulls them into an alley. Alek deftly LEAPS ten feet up onto a fire escape and scans the street behind them.

ALEK (CONT'D)

I think we're good. We're not being followed.

CHLOE

Would one of you please tell me what is going on?

He drops back down to the ground.

ALEK

We should keep moving.

And they start down the alley and out onto another street.

JASMINE

Chloe, I'm so sorry. There are usually people who talk you through this. This isn't how it's normally done.

She stops.

CHLOE

What's done?!

JASMINE

Contact. Your transformation was so fast--

ALEK

You were born in the Ukraine, no?

CHLOE

Yes. But how did you...?

ALEK

(re: store front)

This looks good. Come on.

He pulls her into a busy coffee house.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

They're in a booth at the back. Jasmine hands Chloe a cup of tea. Alek is sitting so he can watch the entrance.

JASMINE

I know you must have a million questions.

CHLOE

Kinda just one. What the hell are you?

ALEK

You mean, what the hell are we? We are Mai.

CHLOE

Mai?

JASMINE

Descendants of an ancient and sacred race - not completely human, not completely god.

There is a small AMULET of the Egyptian cat-goddess BASTET, around Jasmine's neck.

ALEK

We were warriors. Now we are forced to live in the shadows.

JASMINE

He's being slightly dramatic - we lead pretty normal lives.

CHLOE

There are more of you? Us?

JASMINE

Maybe a couple thousand in San Francisco. But there are other Mai prides around the world.

CHLOE

This makes no sense.

ALEK

You know what we say is true. Mai blood must run thick for you to transform so quickly.

JASMINE

We didn't even know for sure you were one of us until yesterday.

After a beat...

CHLOE

Are there going to be more... changes?

ALEK

No. Just a tail.

Jasmine hits Alek.

JASMINE

Ignore him. I know it's difficult to accept - but this is who you are.

Chloe is trying to process. But after a beat...

ALEK

(playful)

Do you regret being so mean to me now?

CHLOE

Uh, no.

ALEK

So who was that guy in the park? Is he your boyfriend.

CHLOE

So not your business.

JASMINE

For a second I thought you were going to kiss him - I swear I almost had a heart attack.

Chloe has no idea what they're talking about.

ALEK

Mai and humans do not mix well.

JASMINE

I guess you'd call it a curse. We can't be...

ALEK

Intimate.

JASMINE

Thank you. Even something as small as a kiss--

CHLOE

What happens if we kiss?

ALEK

Depends on the kiss. Paralysis. Death. Sometimes paralysis and death. But don't worry - not for the Mai, just the human.

JASMINE

Alek. I swear--
(to Chloe)
Don't let him frighten you. You didn't kiss that guy. He's fine. We were watching.

Chloe takes out her phone and opens it.

CHLOE

It's not him I'm worried about.

EXT. XAVIER'S APARTMENT/STREET - SHORT TIME LATER

Police cars and lights. A body is lifted into the back of the CORONER'S TRUCK.

Across the street, on the other side of the barricade, Chloe is watching with Jasmine and Alek. Chloe has her hand over her mouth - this can't really be happening.

JASMINE

It's not your fault. You had no way
of knowing.

ALEK

(sincere)
I'm sorry.

Chloe just turns and walks way, quickly. Tears are starting
to stream down her cheeks.

JASMINE

(grabbing her arm)
Chloe, wait!

CHLOE

Don't touch me!

JASMINE

Please. Just let us take you home.

CHLOE

I can get home on my own.

ALEK

She means our home. You will be
safe.

CHLOE

Don't you get it. I don't want
anything to do with you.

JASMINE

I don't think you have a choice.
(beat)
At least until we figure out why
the Order was after you.

ALEK

Or how they knew about you. They
normally don't do this.

CHLOE

The Order?

JASMINE

Humans as a species aren't really
crazy about *different* - the Order
are the ones dedicated to its
extinction.

ALEK

They've been hunting us for
centuries.

ALEK (CONT'D)

Trust me. You will not be happy if that guy in the park catches you.

CHLOE

Uh, yeah. Too late. I guess you missed the part where he tossed me off the top of Coit Tower.

A look passes between Alek and Jasmine.

JASMINE

Just now? What happened?

CHLOE

What do you think happened? It felt like I broke every bone in my body.

ALEK

But you are still here.

CHLOE

Sorry to disappoint.

Another looks passes between the cousins.

JASMINE

"Only the Uniter has nine lives to live."

ALEK

That would explain the sudden transformation.

JASMINE

"And nine lives to endure." Chloe, I... We're not supposed to save you. You're supposed to save us.

CHLOE

Not happening.

ALEK

You have to come. Please. The Order knows. They will not stop. Many people are going to die.

CHLOE

No. I'm not going with you. This has nothing to do with me.

She pushes Alek away, and he goes flying. CRASH.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Leave me alone.

Chloe takes off running.

EXT. WHITLEY'S OFFICE/STREET - NIGHT

WHITLEY REZZA, 40's, greying but handsome, the epitome of wealth and power, walks out of the building and heads straight for his waiting TOWNCAR.

INT. TOWNCAR - CONTINUOUS

Whitley gets in the backseat and the door is closed. REVEAL that our scar-faced ASSASSIN is sitting next to him. His name is THE ROGUE. Whitley doesn't seem surprised.

THE ROGUE

You're late.

WHITLEY

I've been working.

THE ROGUE

I found the girl. She's who we've been waiting for.

(beat)

What would you like me to do now?

WHITLEY

What do you think I'd like you to do? Kill her as many times as you have to.

INT. CHLOE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Meredith is watching TV when Chloe bangs through and charges straight up the stairs.

MEREDITH

Chloe, I thought we agreed--

SLAM! Okay, then.

INT. CHLOE'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The shower is running behind her. Chloe takes off her shirt and looks at her back in the mirror. It's completely covered in black and purple BRUISES.

MEREDITH (O.S.)
(at the door)
Chloe? What's going on? Are you
alright?

BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Chloe is in the shower, the water runs off of her head.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Chloe, dressed but hair still wet, is sitting on her bed,
knees pulled in tight, lost in thought.

Suddenly, she hears a LOUD RUMBLING and something charging
towards her door. What the hell--

AMY
Chloe!

Amy bursts into her room. She looks like she's been crying.

AMY (CONT'D)
You're home. I called you like a
hundred bajillion times.

CHLOE
It's okay. I'm fine. Really.

AMY
Why wouldn't you be fine? Paul and
I just broke up.

CHLOE
Amy, I'm sorry, but I just can't
right now.

AMY
He was supposed to meet me at the
Galaxy but didn't show. I bet his
mom--

CHLOE
Amy! No. I just can't deal with you
right now.

AMY
And what the hell do you have going
on that's so important?

CHLOE
How about this?!

And Chloe pulls up her t-shirt, but she can see in the mirror that nothing is there. The bruises are gone.

AMY

Yeah, I get it. You're a skinny bitch. What does that have to do with anything?

After a beat...

CHLOE

(completely sincere)
I think I died tonight.

AMY

Oh, Chloe. Are you okay?

She immediately puts her arm around her friend. But just then Chloe's phone BUZZES.

CHLOE

It's Paul. Should I answer?

Amy nods.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(on phone)
Hey, Paul.

But Paul doesn't sound so good.

PAUL (O.S.)

Chloe? I've got somebody here who wants to talk to you.

CHLOE

Paul?

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

The Rogue takes the phone away from Paul's ear.

THE ROGUE

Hello, Chloe. I believe you and I have some unfinished business.

REVEAL that Paul is strung up behind him in the corner of an abandoned loft.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. LOFT - NIGHT

Amy jerks to a stop in front of this semi-abandoned looking four-story building.

INT. AMY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Chloe zips up her leather jacket.

CHLOE

You should probably keep the motor running.

AMY

Chloe--

CHLOE

It'll be okay. I'm just really sorry for getting you mixed up in all this, but I'll make it right.

Amy leans across and locks Chloe's door.

AMY

There is no way I'm letting you out of this car without you telling me what's going on.

CHLOE

Remember when you warned me about bad guys? I should have listened.
(beat)

If Paul and I aren't out of there in two minutes, call the police.

AMY

You can't go in there alone. I don't mean I want to go with you - but you can't go in there alone.

CHLOE

Trust me. I'll be fine.

And for the first time, Chloe flashes her CLAWS. SHLOOSH.

AMY

Aaa--

Amy stifles a YELP, covering her mouth with both hands.

CHLOE
Wish me luck.

All Amy can do is nod. Chloe gets out and runs toward the building. Two seconds later - Amy's car dies.

INT. LOFT - MOMENTS LATER

Paul is tied up, arms over his head, in a corner of this large, unfinished loft space obviously undergoing renovation. The Rogue is nowhere to be seen.

PAUL
Uh, hello? I don't suppose you'd consider tying my hands behind my back instead - I don't really have the upper body strength for this.

CLANK. The ELEVATOR DOOR opens and Chloe steps out. She can't see anyone.

CHLOE
Paul?

PAUL
(calling out)
Chloe. Get out of here. It's a trap.

CHLOE
Yeah, kinda figured that part out on my own.

She starts to cautiously move across the room towards Paul.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Hey, Creepy-creep. You know who you are. I'm just going to take my friend and go and I swear you'll never see me again. I don't know what's up with you and the Mai, but it really has nothing to do with me so--

But Chloe hears the faintest SOUND behind her and quickly steps back.

WHOOSH! A ten-point NINJA STAR whizzes past and is imbedded in the wall behind her. That was close.

But another one SLICES her in the leg and she goes down.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Aaah.

The Rogue steps into view and pulls out a gleaming curved knife. It's both ancient and deadly.

THE ROGUE

I know you don't think this has anything to do with you, but you're wrong. It has everything to do with you.

CHLOE

Who the hell are you?

THE ROGUE

Your executioner. I'll try to be quick but with eight lives still to go - this could take a while.

He advances towards. Chloe pulls herself up. She now looks more pissed than frightened.

CHLOE

News flash. Dying sucks. And I'm so not doing that again.

Suddenly, she LEAPS up at him - claws out. He wasn't expecting this. He goes down and she tumbles over him.

They're both instantly back up. He advances on Chloe, swinging his knife as she tries to retreat, ducking under the scaffolding.

He lunges and Chloe rolls out of the way just in time, slashing him in the leg.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Now we're even. Oh, wait, I still need to throw you off of a building.

But completely enraged, he launches another attack. Chloe barely steps out of the way in time.

Paul sees Chloe with her claws for the first time.

PAUL

Chloe?

(beat)

That is so cool.

INT. AMY'S CAR - SAME TIME

Amy is anxiously sitting in her car, cell phone at the ready, staring at her watch.

AMY

One minute thirty-eight seconds.
One minute thirty-nine---

THUD. SMACK. A man lands on the hood of her car. There's another at her window. Amy SCREAMS!

ALEK

Where is she?

It's Alek and Jasmine.

JASMINE

Amy, please. There's no time.
Where's Chloe?

AMY

In there. Fourth floor.

And they're both instantly gone, running for the building.

AMY (CONT'D)

Alek and Jasmine? Wait. Don't leave
me here!

And she's out of the car hustling behind them.

INT. LOFT - MOMENTS LATER

CRASH! Another piece of scaffolding goes down. Chloe is still holding him off.

He thrusts. Chloe defends. She slashes but he catches her wrist and she gets an elbow to the chest. She lets out a GASP of pain as he flips her back on to the floor.

Before she can get up, he's on her. Kneeling over her chest. Both her arms pinned. Her claws useless. Chloe struggles.

THE ROGUE

To kill the so-called Uniter will
be the greatest accomplishment of
my life.

CHLOE

You've got the wrong girl.

THE ROGUE

Perhaps you're right. So lets see
how many times I can kill you
before you stop coming back to
life.

He raises his knife and is about to plunge it into her heart
when...

Alek leaps in and tackles the Rogue. CRASH.

Chloe is immediately on her feet. Jasmine is there.

JASMINE

Chloe, go. We'll get your friend.

But Alek comes flying back and lands at Chloe's feet. It's
pretty clear that neither he nor his cousin are a match for
the Rogue.

CHLOE

Get Paul. I'll deal with this guy.

JASMINE

No. You've got to get--

CHLOE

Now.

Jasmine and Alek scramble as the Rogue launches another
attack. Chloe grabs a steel bar to try and defend herself.
SLAM. SCRAP. He flies back - Chloe looks like she's finally
about to clobber him when--

AMY (O.S.)

CHLOE!

She's at the elevator. That's all the Rogue needs as he grabs
the pole and flips Chloe away. OOF. She slams into a pile of
boxes.

CHLOE

Not now, Amy.

Amy spots Paul who's just been untied.

AMY

Paul.

And rushes over to him, just as a NINJA STAR imbeds itself
into wood just inches from Paul's head.

She kisses him. But when she lets go, she looks back at the battle that Alek and Jasmine have re-entered. Even with three against one, the Rogue still seems to be winning.

Paul grabs a piece of metal pipe and heads into the fray. Chloe gets in a kick to the chest. The Rogue falls back towards Paul.

PAUL

Don't worry, Chloe. I got him.

Paul hits him across the shoulders with the pipe. But it just seems to infuriate him even further. With one swift move he grabs Paul and throws him up against the wall.

ANGLE ON Amy who is now really mad. She picks up one of the industrial lights.

ANGLE BACK on Chloe and The Rogue. The Rogue sends Jasmine crashing into some scaffolding. For the moment, it's just him and Chloe.

And Chloe looks like she might finally be getting the better of him but as he stumbles, he grabs a board and it smacks Chloe full on.

Chloe flies back and CRASHES out one of the arched WINDOWS.

EXT. LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Glass flying - Chloe lands feet first a floor below on the fire escape.

CHLOE

(re: landing)

Thank God that part is true.

She looks up at the Rogue who is looking down on her.

INT. LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Rogue is at the edge of the broken window.

AMY

Stay away from my friend.

He turns back just as Amy SLAMS him in the face with the light. It sparks and explodes and he tumbles backwards out the window.

EXT. LOFT - CONTINUOUS

The Rogue falls back barely catching onto a fire escape railing before slamming onto a landing several floors below. He looks up at Chloe.

CHLOE

Still not even.

He knows when it's time to retreat and continues to head down the fire escape. Chloe takes up the chase. Alek and Jasmine leap out of the window behind her.

EXT. LOFT/STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Chloe runs out into the street but it's deserted. Alek and Jasmine catch up. He seems to have vanished.

But as she turns away, we see him step out of the shadows and hurl a knife straight at CHLOE.

The knife tumbles through the air. But just as it's about to hit...

JASMINE

Chloe.

Jasmine pushes her out of the way. The knife hits her in the shoulder blade.

ALEK

Jasmine!

Chloe looks up and the Rogue is already gone.

JASMINE

I was supposed to watch you.

And she passes out in Alek's arms just as Amy and Paul come running up.

AMY

Ohmigod, I'll call 911.

ALEK

No! I'll take her home. We can heal her. I hope.

(to Chloe)

But the rest of us only have this one life.

CHLOE

I'm sorry.

ALEK
You can't run away.

CHLOE
I know.

And Alek lifts his cousin in his arms and hurries away, leaving Chloe standing alone in the street with Amy and Paul.

INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brian comes in the front door of this very impressive house and starts up the stairs, but stops when he sees a light on in the front room.

BRIAN
Hey, Dad. I didn't think you'd still be up.

REVEAL that Dad is Whitley Rezza.

WHITLEY
Good day?

BRIAN
Yeah, actually it was a very good day. 'Night.

MUSIC UP:

INT. JASMINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jasmine is bandaged up and sleeping. Alek watches from the door for a moment before closing the door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Amy and Paul are parked in Amy's car under a streetlight, making out.

EXT. CHLOE'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

The light is on in Chloe's room.

INT. CHLOE'S HOUSE/ UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Meredith stops at Chloe's door. She decides not to knock.

INT. MEREDITH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Meredith is on the floor in front of her closet. She reaches all the way to the back and pulls out a dusty, old SHOE BOX. After a beat, she opens it. Inside are documents and letters. All of them are written in RUSSIAN.

INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brian dials his cell and heads up the stairs. No answer. Finally, he hangs up.

INT. CHLOE'S ROOM

CLOSE ON Chloe's cell and it's "MISSED CALL" message. PULL BACK TO REVEAL that Chloe is staring at her laptop screen.

On it is a message. It simply says, "TRUST NO ONE. Dad."

EXT. CHLOE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

PULL UP and away from the house REVEALING the SKYLINE and a LONE HOODED-FIGURE crouching on a neighboring roof watching Chloe's window. It's Alek.

FADE OUT.

THE END