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By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SCOUT HOME - DAWN - FALL 96'

LANA SCOUT, 23, brunette, stands in front of a small cabin, the home she grew up in. She stares at it as tears start to form in her eyes. After a moment her crying turns into laughter. Taking a deep breath, she wipes her eyes, turns around and walks away, backpack in tow.

CUT TO:

INT. SCOUT HOME - KITCHEN - DAY - HOURS LATER

STEPHEN SCOUT sits forward on the couch, his hands plead with his son, BEN SCOUT, 27, who stands opposite him.

Ben stares at him in disbelief. He paces back and forth. Disbelief turning into anger.

BEN

How could you do this to us?!

All sound is muted.

Stephen tries to approach Ben, who is inconsolable.

A freshly woken AMANDA, 22, comes down the stairs in her pajamas, startled. She finds a good vantage point in the corner of the room and watches them.

CUT TO:

INT. SCOUT HOME - KITCHEN - DAY - FALL 96'

Stephen puts the finishing touches on a casserole. He paces all over the kitchen in his apron, grabbing ingredients left and right, like a pro, sipping a beer in between.

Lana is "assisting" but mainly keeping one eye on the clock and another out the window.

LANA

Shouldn't he be here by now? What time did he say?

Stephen, holding the tray in one hand and his beer in the other, stands in front of the oven.

STEPHEN

Lana, a little help.

Lana rushes to oblige.

On cue, we hear the sound of tires on gravel. A truck pulls up. Lana runs over to the window.

STEPHEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Is that him?

The grin on Lana's face is pure and wide when she sees Ben exit the TRUCK.

Her expression sours when she sees Amanda exiting the passengers side.

LANA
Dad? Who's the girl?

Out the window: Amanda meets Ben at the trunk, they unload some luggage, laughing when Amanda's petite body almost falls backwards trying to pull out a suitcase, Ben catches her.

STEPHEN (O.S.)
That's Amanda, his new girlfriend.

Out the window: Amanda holds Ben's hand as they walk towards the house, she looks at him, a hint of nerves, he kisses her hand while still holding it.

STEPHEN O/S (CONT'D)
Okay, that should be it for now.
(beat) Lana, would you grab us some wine?

Lana is frozen in place, staring out the window.

STEPHEN O/S (CONT'D)
Lana?

She comes back to herself, as if realizing something.

LANA
Hmm? Yeah.

Lana rushes up the stairs.

INT. SCOUT HOME - FOYER - (CONTINUOUS)

Ben enters the foyer, Amanda behind him. He takes Amanda's jacket and hangs it on the coat rack, then does the same with his own. They place their suitcases by the door.

BEN

Dad? Lana? I'm home!

Stephen waddles out from the kitchen in his apron and charges at Ben, touching him with his dirty hands.

STEPHEN

There he is - Doctor Scout!

Ben embraces him back, a little embarrassed.

BEN

Actually, I'm not a doctor yet.

STEPHEN

But they can't take it away from you at this point, right?

BEN

I guess not.

STEPHEN

Well, then, there you go.

Stephen turns to Amanda.

INT. SCOUT HOME - LANA'S BEDROOM - (CONTINUOUS)

Lana runs into her bedroom and shuts the door. She goes over to her closet where she sorts through an array of T-shirts, flannel shirts and jeans until she finds the only dress all the way in the back.

AMANDA (O.S.)

(laughing) Hello, Professor Scout. I'm Amanda.

STEPHEN (O.S.)

Professor? God that was a lifetime ago, what have you been telling her?

BEN (O.S.)

They can't take it away right?

STEPHEN (O.S.)

You know what? Something tells me I'm gonna need a drink for this.

BEN (O.S.)

Dad, where's Lana?

STEPHEN (O.S.)
She's getting the wine.

Lana looks annoyed as she quickly applies make up, making a mess of it and fumbling to fix it.

INT. SCOUT HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT - (CONTINUOUS)

Lana stands over the table with a bottle of wine in her hand. She looks polished in her dress. Ben and Stephen stare at her with confusion but don't say anything.

Amanda stands up.

AMANDA
Hey, I'm Amanda, it's so nice to finally meet you.

She goes in for a hug. Lana leans over, as if to return the hug, but instead puts the wine down and returns to her position, extending her arm to shake hands. Ben looks nervous as he watches them. Amanda awkwardly shakes Lana's hand.

AMANDA
Old school, I like that!

LANA
Lana. (to Ben) Hey Doc.

Ben shakes his head with a smile.

BEN
Good to see you, sis.

She sits down opposite Ben and Amanda. She refuses to look in Ben's direction if it can be avoided.

LANA
Should have told me she was coming, Ben. I hope there's enough food for everybody.

BEN
Dad knew. Besides, I'm not that hungry anyway.

Amanda grabs Ben's hand, her eyes light up, everything about her is melodramatic.

AMANDA
I'm sorry Lana, I didn't mean to

intrude, I just had to meet you guys.

LANA

It's fine, I'm not that hungry either
actually.

Ben looks uncomfortable. He looks at Lana, lingering there a moment, taking her in.

CUT TO:

INT. SCOUT HOME - FOYER - NIGHT - SPRING '96

Lana bursts through the front door in her waitress uniform, mad at the world. She is greeted by a party in progress.

Her shoulders deflate at the sight. She sees MARK, 27, and raises her guard again.

MARK

Lana! Where have you been all night?
You need to catch up, girl! Our Ben is
leaving us for California, the
traitor!

Mark shoves a drink in her face.

LANA

Hi, Mark. I'm just gonna squeeze on
past for a second...

MARK

Lana, I've been meaning to talk to you
for the longest time.

Almost aggressively, Lana gets out the corner Mark has her pinned in and starts to walk up the stairs.

MARK (CONT'D)

When are we going out again? It's
going to be lonely for you without Ben
around!

INT. SCOUT HOME - LANA'S BEDROOM- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Lana opens her bedroom door and sees FRIEND #1 and FRIEND #2 making out on her bed.

LANA

BEN! Can you come up here for a sec?

(beat) BEN!

Whispers around her start giggling. A commotion, then Ben appears from the bowels of the house. He has a goofy drunken smile on his face and a bottle in his hand.

BEN

Lana, I'm so sorry it got out of hand.
I invited --

Lana holds her hand up to stop him.

LANA

You wanna do me a big solid and get
your friends out of my room please?

Ben opens the door and takes a look. He sighs.

BEN

Fuck Lana, I'm sorry. (annoyed) Can
you guys go downstairs please?

Friend #1 and Friend #2 stand up and walk out of the room, apologizing profusely as they return to the party.

Ben holds the door open for Lana like a gentleman. She rolls her eyes and storms inside.

She removes her jacket and throws it in the corner. Ben notices that she's upset and closes the door, standing awkwardly, unsure of what to say to her.

Lana takes out a lock box from her closet and sits on her bed. She opens it, takes money out of her uniform and places it inside.

Ben extends his arm, offering the bottle to Lana.

BEN

Here. It'll help.

She looks at him a moment, then accepts it and takes a drink.

LANA

Where's Dad?

BEN

They accidentally gave him the wrong
truck, he had to drive back to
Florida. He'll be back tomorrow night

or something.

Lana plops herself down on her bed, still wearing her shoes and closes her eyes. She rests the back of both hands on top of them.

BEN (CONT'D)

You wanna talk about it?

LANA

Maybe I should go to med school, too.

BEN

I think you going back to school is a great idea.

LANA

I'm joking, Ben. I'm not going to medical school. You're actually smart, you can do something like that. I'm probably gonna work at Kane's Diner until I'm old and decrepit.

Ben walks over to Lana and takes off her shoes.

BEN

It doesn't have to be med school, Lana. It can be anything. You can be anything you want.

LANA

Oh, fuck off!

She playfully kicks him in the stomach. He grabs her leg.

BEN

Just because it's a cliché, doesn't mean it's not true!

LANA

Get off me, you're so corny, man!

Ben squeezes a laugh out of Lana. Victory. He lets go and spots a picture of their mother on her night stand. She is also dressed in her waitress uniform.

BEN

You know, you look a lot like Mom.

Lana stops laughing. She looks at the picture.

LANA

Really? I don't think I look like her at all. Or Dad even.

BEN

Dad, not so much. But you definitely look like Mom.

LANA

You're just saying that because of the uniform.

BEN

I'm serious! You're a carbon copy.

Ben lies down in bed with her.

LANA

Do you remember her?

Lana looks into his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. SCOUT APARTMENT - NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT - 1973

A very pregnant RACHEL SCOUT, 20's, a natural beauty, enters the room clutching her stomach. Stephen jumps up from the couch and runs towards her. They look at each other, happy and nervous, acknowledging that it is time for the baby to be born.

STEPHEN

I'll call Deb and ask her to watch Ben and grab the bag, breathe baby, I'll be right back.

Stephen races towards the phone, keeping his eyes on Rachel until he disappears from the room. She smiles and looks back at him lovingly as she sits down and continues her labored breathing, the pain on her face grows.

CUT TO:

INT. SCOUT HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - SPRING '96

Lana prances into the room with the bottle in hand. Ben walks in behind her. The house is a mess. A couple of strays still hang around. Friend #1 and Friend #2 are asleep on the couch.

MARK

Lana! You've been in there so long,
yo. Come here, come dance with me.

Mark grabs Lana by the arm and starts dancing with her, she plays along for a second before trying to escape his grasp.

BEN

Alright everyone, party's over, lets
go.

Ben wakes up Friend #1 and #2 and motions for the others to leave.

Mark pulls her in closer, with force, and leans in for a kiss. She turns her face away, still trying to get away from him. Ben sees this and grabs him by the arm.

BEN

Come on Mark, time to go.

Ben separates Lana and Mark. She is flustered, but smiles at Ben. Everyone stumbles out the door. Mark looks back at Ben and Lana and starts laughing hysterically, pointing at them.

Ben pushes him out and closes the door, breathes heavily, and turns around. He sees Lana standing there, looking at the mess.

LANA

Well, good luck with all this.

She starts walking towards her room. Ben stops her.

BEN

Wait! You can't just leave me alone to
clean all this.

LANA

Ben, I just worked a double. I'm
tired, I'm pissed off. I love you. But
I can't.

She tries to leave again but he physically restrains her.

BEN

Wait, wait, wait! You can't leave me
to clean by myself. It's not right.
Please!

LANA

You're leaving me for California.
Fuckin' California. That's what's not
right.

BEN

Hey, that's not fair.

LANA

Fine, but ask me nicely.

BEN

I already said please.

Lana looks at him, unimpressed. Ben gets on his knees...

BEN

Lana, my sister... my best friend...
the Queen of...

LANA

Jesus, get up from there! You're gonna
make me do your laundry next.

Lana pulls him up. Ben smiles and hands her a broom. She
snatches it from his hands.

LANA (CONT'D)

If I'm helping you though, we're going
to need some music.

Lana walks over to the stereo and turns it on. She begins to
sweep to the rhythm of the song, getting into it. Ben walks
around the room collecting garbage into a large black trash
bag. A slow comes on. Out of breath, Lana stops dancing and
continues sweeping quietly.

LANA (CONT'D)

You know the whole college thing? I've
actually been thinking about it for a
while.

BEN

Lana, that's huge. How come you never
mentioned anything?

LANA

I don't know, because it feels like a
stupid daydream? I think about it at
work sometimes, when it's slow. But
I'm not good at anything, and if

waiting tables was enough for Mom, maybe I should just be happy with, you know, "the simple life".

Ben stops cleaning.

BEN

God, I hate that you have such little faith in yourself. I really do. I wish you could see what I see. I wish you could see how much you really deserve.

LANA

Well you won't be seeing much of me pretty soon anyway so...

BEN

Can you please stop with that?

LANA

What's the matter? You feeling guilty?

She tosses the broom at him, making him drop the trash bag.

BEN

No. I just think you should be happy for me, it kind of sucks that you're trying to make me feel guilty. It's not like I'm not nervous about it, a part of me wants to stay here too.

Lana walks over to him and pushes him slightly.

LANA

Well at least I won't have to clean up any more of your messes.

Ben pushes her back. They playfully fight.

BEN

You know what? Now I'm glad I'm leaving!

LANA

Oh, is that right?

Lana jumps up on Ben's back. They laugh and spin and she wrestles him to the ground. After a brief tug of war, he comes out on top and pins her down.

BEN
That's what you get for talking shit.

LANA
Let me go!

She struggles to break free but his grip is too tight.

LANA (CONT'D)
You know, I'm just kidding, right? I'm
so fucking proud of you, Ben.
Everything you've done, the man you
are becoming... seriously!

BEN
And you know I'm not letting you go,
right?

LANA
Let me go, you bastard!

He pins her down harder, basking in the glory of his
dominance. He starts laughing, she kisses him.

Ben pulls away from her, nearly releasing her.

BEN
What did you do that for?!

LANA
To get you off of me!

Ben stares at her, bewildered. She stares back, they are
frozen for a moment, eyes locked, before suddenly finding
themselves kissing again, giving into a surprising passion.

They stop for a moment and look at each other, scared.

BEN
This can't be happening.

LANA
Then, how come it is?

They continue to kiss as they lay down on the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. SCOUT HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT - FALL 96'

Amanda finishes a story. We are catching the end of dinner.

AMANDA

Truth is, I'm not really his patient.
I'm a simulated patient, thank you
very much!

Stephen perks up.

STEPHEN

You're an actress!

LANA

Of course you're an actress.

Amanda smiles an innocent smile at Lana.

LANA (CONT'D)

I mean, you're just so pretty.

STEPHEN

And what exam is this for, Ben?

BEN

It's the Step 2 CS. It's a series of
simulated patient encounters. You get
fifteen minutes with the patient and
then ten minutes for your patient
note.

Lana circles the rim of her glass with her finger.

LANA

And what disease did they give you?

AMANDA

Oh, just the common flu. Nothing too
weird. Although, it's a lot harder
than it looks. It's a very technical
disease.

LANA

I bet. Well, Ben. I've been right in
front of you all night. Longer than
fifteen minutes. Can you diagnose
what's wrong with me?

BEN

I can't do that.

LANA

Why not? You don't need my family
history, do you? Come on.

Lana drowns her drink and pours herself another glass.

LANA (CONT'D)
I've been feeling a little nauseous,
had this knot in the pit of my
stomach, since... since...

STEPHEN
Lana, I think you might have had
enough.

LANA
I'm fine.

STEPHEN
You're being really rude to your
brother and his guest right now.

LANA
What did I say?

Stephen takes the glass away from Lana's hand. She gets up
from the table.

LANA (CONT'D)
I'm going for a smoke.

Stephen, Ben, and Amanda remain at the dinner table, silent.
The front door slams.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - FALL 96' - CONTINUOUS

Lana stands in one spot, looking out into the distance,
smoking a cigarette.

Ben approaches but she doesn't turn around.

LANA (CONT'D)
I need you to tell me you weren't just
drunk.

Ben forces himself into her eye-line.

BEN
Lana.

LANA
I need you to tell me that I haven't
been sitting here going crazy for
nothing. That it wasn't a mistake.

BEN

Oh, Lana.

LANA

Don't just keep saying my name! Speak!
I'm not gonna let you brush this off.
For once, please, just tell me how you
feel!

Ben steps closer, he hesitates a few times before finally speaking.

BEN

That night meant more to me than you
can imagine. It was all I thought
about.

LANA

So why are you fucking with me, Ben?
Why are you breaking my heart?

Ben moves closer to her and caresses her cheek, she closes her eyes.

BEN

Do you honestly think I'm trying to
hurt you?

LANA

Take me to California with you.

Ben hesitates.

BEN

You know I can't do that.

Lana goes in to kiss him, he backs away.

LANA

Take me. Why can't you?

BEN

Don't you think I pray to god you
weren't my sister? It's all I could
think about. But you are, it's not
right Lana, we can't just do whatever
we want.

LANA

Says who?

BEN

Lana, listen to me. I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, but I know one day you will understand that I'm just trying to do the best possible thing for you.

He moves closer to her again but she backs up.

LANA

No, you're doing the best possible thing for yourself, so that you can be comfortable, and prance around with your perfect little girlfriend.

Tears pool in her eyes.

BEN

Come on, let's just go inside. We'll talk more in the morning, with clearer heads.

LANA

You go ahead, I'm fine right here.

BEN

You're not fine, you're hurt, and so am I, we really just need to get some sleep.

LANA

Okay Ben, go to sleep, I'd rather sit here and feel my emotions because at least they're real, and I'm not afraid of hurting for something real. It's a damn shame that you are.

Ben stares at her for a moment and takes a deep breath.

BEN

Lana, can you please just --

LANA

Goodnight, Ben.

Ben sighs. He turns around and starts walking back to the house. Lana breaks down as she watches him.

CUT TO:

INT. SCOUT HOME - BEN'S BEDROOM - DAY - FALL 96'

Ben wakes up to a letter resting on his night table. He unfolds it, sitting up to read it, careful not to disturb Amanda sleeping next to him.

LANA (V.O.)

Nothing ever made sense here but you.
But now even that much is gone. I wish
I could stay. I wish I could go with
you. But you don't want to fight for
us and I can't make you. Take care of
Dad, I love you.

Ben lowers the letter, a distraught look on his face. He quickly storms out of his room.

INT. SCOUT HOME - LANA'S BEDROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben enters Lana's room. Her door's open, she's not there. The lock box is opened and empty on her bed.

He rushes out, letter still in hand.

INT. SCOUT HOME - KITCHEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben comes down the stairs and finds Stephen sitting at the table drinking coffee.

BEN

Dad, where's Lana?

STEPHEN

She's not in her room?

Ben puts his head between his hands and paces for a second. Tears are forming in his eyes.

BEN

Dad, I really have to tell you
something.

Stephen looks at him, concerned. Ben hands him the letter. Stephen reads it, Ben paces across the room in anticipation. Stephen puts the letter down and looks at Ben, who has stopped in place.

STEPHEN

Sit down son.

Ben is confused by his father's reaction but obliges him and

sits down at the table.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - NYC - NIGHT - 1973

Young Stephen walks out of the hospital in a state of complete shock. His legs wobble under him. He uses the building to straighten himself up. He has traces of blood on his hands and on his shirt.

He wanders aimlessly towards the corner.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - NYC - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Distant and dissociated Stephen walks down the subway platform. He walks past a rough looking young JUNKIE COUPLE sitting on the floor.

The JUNKIE BOY is agitated and antsy, talking to himself. The JUNKIE GIRL is nodding out. An infant with a pink hospital cap rests in her lap.

The Junkie boy shakes a coffee cup with some change at Stephen, who reaches into his pocket and throws in a few coins. As he stands there, he stares at the baby, zoned out for a few moments.

The Junkie boy says something to Stephen, they speak as a train is passing by. The Junkie boy looks over the Junkie girl, who is still completely nodded out. He grabs the baby and hands it to Stephen, who hands the Junkie boy everything he has in his wallet- around seventy dollars.

The Junkie Boy immediately takes off. Before walking away, Stephen stands over the Junkie girl and stares at her for a while, then walks over to a bench nearby, sitting with the baby girl in his arms.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END