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INT. ROAD/CAR – DAY

Mary is in the car with her father and stepmother. They're driving along a country road, on their way to drop off Mary at Perkins College. It's a girls' boarding school in Quebec.

MARY

Even before then, I already had a bad feeling about it. I felt like a grey mouse heading right for the mouth of a cat and there was nothing, nothing I could do about it. My mother had died three years before, and I was beginning to forget what she looked like. When I looked in my compact and saw my own face.....

(looks at her face)

I could remember hers....The powder smelled like when I touched her cheek. My mother, she would never have sent me to a boarding school

INT. PERKINS COLLEGE - DAY

The car drives up in the driveway of the school. The girls are running around and having a tea party in the gazebo. Mary is sitting in the back seat and is hesitant to come out of the car. You can hear the flutists playing on the lawn outside. Ms. Vaughn is on the gazebo with the other girls. She walks over to where Tori is sitting, and sees Mary arriving.

After dropping Mary off, her father gives her a hug, touches her face, and then walks away with her stepmother. They walk over to Ms. Vaughn, the headmistress and English teacher.

MR. BEDFORD

Thank you.

MS. VAUGHN

(shakes his hand)

Goodbye now.

Ms. Vaughn walks over to Mary.

MS. VAUGHN

I...it does get easier, really....

MARY

No...no, I'm fine...really...

MS. VAUGHN

Listen, I'd like you to meet someone, fantastic. Victoria!!

Tori turns around and almost chokes on her drink. She wipes her mouth with her hand.

MS. VAUGHN

Victoria!! Come and meet Mary.

TORI

Ok!...Just a minute!!

She turns back around, and laughs with her friend. Then Tori gives her drink to her friend, and leaves.

EXT. FRONT YARD – DAY

INT. BOARDING SCHOOL -- DAY

Mary and Tori start going up to their room. Tori helps Mary carry her bags up the stairs.

TORI

The food is really gross though. Mostly we just save up our allowance and just like order pizza or Chinese, and well, you know, the anorexics just eat erasers....

(she looks back at Mary)

serious.....

Mary stops and looks at a statue that is in the room...Then they start walking up the stairs..

TORI

We get away with anything here, and I mean anything!!

Tori looks back, and sees that Mary is tired from walking up the stairs.

TORI

Wow! You're soooo outta shape. You'll havta come jogging with us, or you'll have a stroke before you're 20!

They get to the top of one flight of stairs.

TORI

So, this is the bathrooms and the showers....

They start walking up another flight of stairs.

TORI

What's your name again??

MARY

Well, most people just call me Mouse.

TORI

Mouse???

MARY

My dad's always called me that.

TORI

Really, how come??

(pause)

My dad used to call me Princess. It made me barf.

MARY

It's better than Mouse!

They go up a few more flights of stairs until they reach the room in the attic that Tori shares with Paulie.

IN THEIR BEDROOM

TORI

(opens the door)

Ta da!!

There are 3 beds in the room. Paulie and Tori's beds are on one side, and on the other side of the room is Mouse's. (Paulie's in on the right, Tori's is in the middle, and Mary's is on the left)

Tori's bed is full of clothes, and so is the floor around her bed.

TORI

Mine's the messy one...of course! Major slobberina. Oh well, I can't help it. It's like rage of my mother or something, right??

They walk farther into the room.

TORI

(points at beds)

That's Paulie's, this is mine, and.....this one is yours.

Tori puts the suitcase on Mouse's bed. Tori goes over to the dresser that is beside Mouse's bed and takes some of her clothes off that are hanging in the drawers.

TORI

Sorry....

Tori goes to sit on her bed, and tries to make Mary feel more comfortable and welcome. Tori smiles at Mary, but Mary looks worried, and doesn't smile back. She just looks around the room.

TORI

Hey! Look, I know it's weird at first... But now, this is much more home to me than home.

(she stands up)

Like the lost boys in Peter Pan, right?? Except we are the lost girls, right??... Lost and Delirious.

(pause)

TORI

So, when you're finished up here, come party with us, kay??

Tori leaves the room. Mouse starts to unpack her things, she unzips the suitcase that Tori left on her bed, takes out a stuffed bear and puts it on the windowsill. She takes out a framed picture and hugs it. She goes over the window, puts her glasses then looks out the window. She sees two people standing on the swing. (It's Paulie and Tori)

EXT. BEDROOM - DAY

INT. SCHOOL LOBBY/LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mouse goes over to the black statue that she was looking at before. She seems fascinated by it.. She walks over and touches it then goes to sit down on one of the couches. Paulie, who is smoking a cigarette, and is sitting in another chair, behind the statue, suddenly pops up.

PAULIE

(holding cigarette)

Wanna smoke??

MARY

(startled, jumps up)

Ahhhh!!!

PAULIE

Did I scare ya??

(pause)

You got new girl written all over ya, don't ya?? Like a fresh new lamb_ What are you?? Thirteen?? Fourteen?? Some kind of brainiac?? Skip a few grades??

Paulie gets up holding a cigarette in one hand and a tape player in the other. She approaches Mouse and puts the player on the table then offers her right hand to Mouse.

PAULIE

(takes a drag)

I'm Paulie,

(blows out smoke)

Oster.

Mouse shakes Paulie's hand

MOUSE

Mary Bedford. Mouse really.....they call me....

PAULIE

I'd rather call you shit head than Mouse

Paulie down sits beside her.

PAULIE

So you're rooming with me and Tori, huh?

MOUSE

Yeah, that's what Ms. Vaughn said.

PAULIE

Well, I guess she didn't like us up there all by our lonesome.

(pause)

MOUSE

I've never been to a boarding school before.

PAULIE

Well,

(slightly punches Mouse in the arm)

now you're one of the lost girls. Welcome to the club.

(pulls out a bottle of alcohol)

Come on, help me spike the punch. Let's get this party off its butt!! Rage more!!

Paulie gets up, picks up the tape player, puts her cigarette in a vase then heads off to the party. Mouse gets up, and rolls up her skirt up a bit

MOUSE

(quietly)

Rage more.

She follows Paulie outside.

EXT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

INT. THE FRONT SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Three boys, Jake, Tim and Phil, from the nearby boarding school, R.A.B., are riding their bikes and heading towards the gazebo where Tori and the other girls are.

TIM

Hey girls! Mind if we crash your tea party??

TORI

Go away!!

(to Cordelia)

God my brother is sooo annoying!!

CORDELIA

Yea, but he's cute though.

Paulie and Mouse show up on the gazebo.

PAULIE

(to the guys)

Can't you read the sign?? No dickheads allowed!!

JAKE

Uh, she's special, eh??

Then Paulie goes over to the table where the punch is, and pours the whole bottle of alcohol in with the punch. Then she puts the empty bottle into a silver ice bucket

JAKE

Now, I really want some tea.....

PHIL

Yea!! Can the dickheads have some tea, please??

Then the guys start laughing.....

Paulie pours herself and Mouse each a glass. Paulie drinks her punch in one big gulp, and wipes her mouth. Mouse just smells hers. Paulie puts the Violent Femmes tape in the player that she brought with her and turns it on. '**Add It Up**' starts to play. The 3 flutists, who are still on the grass, stop playing and look over. Then Paulie goes over to Tori.

PAULIE

(whispers in her ear)

Good morning glory Tori!

Paulie then takes Tori's hand, and pulls her to the middle of the floor...

PAULIE

(to everyone)

Are you guys ready to party??!!

Everyone starts cheering.....Ms. Vaughn goes and shoos the three boys away. Everyone is dancing, including Mouse. Ms. Bannet and Ms. Vaughn are off to the side drinking the spiked punch. Ms. Bannet is liking it, but when Ms. Vaughn drinks hers, she is surprised by what she tastes.

MS. VAUGHN

Oh.....Paulie!!!

Paulie sticks out her tongue and keeps dancing and having fun.

MS. VAUGHN

Paulie, Paulie.....

MS. BANNET

What?

MS. VAUGHN

Looks like our Paulie just spiked the punch.

MS. BANNET

Should we pretend we don't know??

MS. VAUGHN

I'd like that....I know you'd like that too....

(pause)

MS. VAUGHN

That wouldn't be very good teaching now would it, Ms. Bannetska??

Ms. Vaughn and Ms. Bannet take the bowl and spill the punch out on the grass.

MOUSE

(narrates)

Before today, I really didn't know what people meant when they said they had fun...I was like some kind of Dr. Spock.....And what is this?? fun??

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

MOUSE

(writing in her diary)

I don't know, it's like she kinda put a spell on me, and all my foreboding. That feeling I had, just, kind of vanished... (She's talking about Paulie)

Paulie is lying on Tori's bed smoking a cigarette. Tori is sitting on the floor with her back against her bed, reading a Seventeen magazine. Mouse is sitting in her own bed.

PAULIE

Hey new girl!! What do you think of Vaughnie??

TORI

Don't call her new girl, it's so rude....

MOUSE

Ms. Vaughn?? She's nice...

TORI

Some of the girls say rude things about her.

PAULIE

She and Bannet, they got it going on for sure....

TORI

Paulie give it a rest! She's just a single lady and they're really good friends, that's it. Don't be so mean.....or homophobic!

MOUSE

She seems nice to me, I mean...umm...normal....well not....

PAULIE

I'm not saying she not nice, new girl, I'm saying she's A LESBO!! And she has the hots for our Tori here.

(reaches down and squishes Tori's face)

Who could blame her, right?? Miss beautiful....

Paulie hits Tori on the head with a pillow. Tori looks away smiling, then slowly picks up a pillow from the floor and hits Paulie back.

PAULIE

(laughs)

Sorry.....

They keep hitting each other with them. Paulie throws a pillow over at Mouse, and they all start laughing.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Mouse wakes up and sees that Paulie and Tori aren't in their beds, or in the room at all. She gets up, goes to the window and looks outside. She sees them kissing on the roof.

MOUSE

I wasn't really sure what I just seen. I know this sounds, like naive, but at first, I mean, I thought they were like, practicing for boys. Up in Rainy River, you see, nothing had really changed since the 50's...

INT. BEDROOM – MORNING

While Paulie, Tori and Mouse are still sleeping, Allison and her three friends come barging in to wake them up.

ALLISON & FRIENDS

It's morning time you lazy sluts...

(jumps on Tori's bed)

Out of bed or we'll kick your butts....

TORI

Allie!! Get out of my face, I mean it!! Mary, this is my sister Allie. She's a moron. Aren't ya, Allie??

TORI

She has warts, like all over her toes. Get your gross toes outta my bed!!

ALLIE

(to Mouse)

Don't listen to her Mary,

(smiles)

my feet are perfect!

PAULIE

(throws a pillow at them)

Get your fat stinking butts outta here!!

Allison just throws the pillow back at her.. Then Paulie gets out of bed with her pillow, and starts chasing the girls away.

PAULIE

Out! Out! Out!! You come back here again and I'm gonna kick your butts!! Fuckin' teeny-boppers!!!

Paulie comes back into the room

PAULIE

(puts pillow in front her face)

Uhhhh...Fucking grow up!!!

Paulie gets back into her bed

TORI

Hey! I think it's blueberry pancakes today.

PAULIE

(covers her face with her pillow and laughs)

God!!!

EXT. BEDROOM – DAY

INT. CAFETERIA – LATER

Paulie, Tori and Mouse get their food and walk over to join their friends at their table. Paulie introduces Mary.

PAULIE

Mary..Lauren...

LAUREN

Hi! How are you??

MOUSE

Hi!!

TORI

This looks soooo amazing. I could totally give my life for blueberry pancakes.

(to Mouse)

Don't you love blueberry pancakes, Mouse?

MOUSE

Yea...

Allie and her friends come over to join them at the table

.

PAULIE

(to Allie & her friends)

Hey, hey, hey!! No bottom-feeders!! Out!!

She starts pounding the table with her hand

PAULIE

Out! Out! Out! Out! Out!!

EVERYONE AT TABLE

(pounding table with their hands)

Out! Out! Out! Out! Out!!

Everyone in the room starts looking over to see what's happening. Ms. Bannet, who is sitting at another table with other teachers, starts to get up to see what's going on, but then she sits back down. Finally Allie and her friends get up and leave.

EXT. CAFETERIA – DAY

INT. MS. BANNET'S MATH CLASS – DAY

Paulie is sitting two or three rows behind Tori, and she's peeling an orange. Mouse is in the same row as Paulie. Tori is talking with the girl who is sitting right behind her, while Ms. Bannet is trying to teach a lesson on the board.

MS. BANNET

We want to define the minimum value of the quadratic....function. And in order to do this, we must complete the square. Since we know the leading coefficient is?...

. (turns to the class)

We know this ladies.....

Cordelia raises her hand.

MS. BANNET

Cordelia?

CORDELIA

1

MS. BANNET

1, yes thank you... We have half of the linear term...the X and the square..

Tori, who's still talking, looks over at Paulie, who is still peeling the orange, and smiles at her, and Paulie smiles back. The teacher is still trying to find more people to help solve the math problem.

MS BANNET

To get the constant square of 11.....

Ms. Bannet looks around and sees Tori talking with the girl behind her.

MS. BANNET

Victoria!

TORI

(turns around)

Yes??

MS BANNET

Come...help me.....

She has chalk in her hand, and signals Tori to come down to the front.

TORI

You, want me to do the problem??

MS BANNET

Yes, I want you to do the problem.

TORI

Kay, I'll try.

Paulie looks a bit concerned but keeps on peeling the orange. Tori goes to the front and looks at the chalkboard. She scratches her head and stares at the board.

MS. BANNET

What seems to be the delay, Victoria??

TORI

I don't get it.

Everyone laughs.

MS. BANNET

And what is it exactly,
(sits on her desk)
that you don't get??

TORI

The X. I mean like, where do you get the X?? Why? What is....What is an X?

Everyone starts to laugh. Paulie smiles, still peeling the orange.

MS. BANNET

You don't get that the X is...Perhaps if you spent less time gabbing, and a little more time listening.. ...

PAULIE

Gabbing???

Everyone turns to look at Paulie.

PAULIE (cont)

I consider that word a punch in the face, Ms. Bannet.

MS. BANNET

I beg your pardon Pauline??

PAULIE

It's a word males use to shoot us down.....to trivialize our talking to each other....You wanna be a part of that shit??!! Huh??

MS. BANNET

Pauline Oster!! You will not.....use that kind of language in my classroom again! Do you hear me??

Paulie puts the orange down on her desk, gets up from her seat, and starts walking to the front of the class

MS. BANNET

(walking towards Paulie)

Do you hear me?? I've had it up to here!! Up to my eye balls with your disrespect....

Paulie walks to the board and takes the chalk from Tori's hand. She starts writing the answer to the math question posted on the board. She adds a 2 and then a '+'.

MS. BANNET

(to Paulie)

What do you think you are doing??

PAULIE

I'm teaching Ms. Bannet.....something you should have been doing...

TORI

(whispers)

Paulie...

MS. BANNET

Out of my classroom!! You will go to Ms Vaughn's, and tell her why you are not in my class.....and suffer the consequences.

MS. BANNET

Do you hear me??

(slowly)

Am I not clear??

Paulie stares at Ms. Bannet for a couple seconds, then smiles.

PAULIE

You have a nice day now, Eleanor.....

Paulie winks at her, licks her lips, and then leaves the room. Tori, with her eyes to the floor, starts to smile.

INT. HALLWAY – DAY

Mouse and her friend, Kara are walking down the hall.

KARA

So, what class do you have now?

MOUSE

Reading

KARA

Ok, down the hall on your right. You'll be ok??

MOUSE

Yea

KARA

Ok, bye!

As Mouse walks farther down the hall, she hears Ms. Vaughn and Paulie arguing.

MS. VAUGHN

Paulie, you know you don't ownVictoria can speak for herself!!

MS. VAUGHN'S OFFICE

Ms. Vaughn are standing inside the office, near the door that leads to the hall.

MS. VAUGHN

She has a mind of her own, she doesn't need you to speak for her.

PAULIE

She wasn't saying anything.

(lifts her arms up)

She wasn't saying anything!!

MS. VAUGHN

She was saying what she wanted to say....

PAULIE

She wasn't!! She was just standing by the blackboard.....

MS VAUGHN

(cuts her off)

I cannot have you terrorizing my school!! Paulie, Paulie.....

IN THE HALL

Mouse is watching this from the hallway. She leaves after a few minutes. Ms. Vaughn and Paulie are still arguing in the office.

INT. FENCING HALL – DAY

Paulie is practicing her fencing skills with her male teacher. After a few minutes, he knocks her sword away and sticks his in her face. Paulie grabs it, moves it to the side, and starts laughing...

EXT. FENCING HALL – DAY

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM – NIGHT

The girls are in their room studying. Tori and Mouse are sitting on Tori's bed while Paulie is sitting on her own.

PAULIE

Who wants to hear the letter to my blood mother??

TORI

You wrote it? Did they actually give you her address?

PAULIE

(takes the letter out from in between her mattresses)

No, but they said they'd send it on for me. And if she's into it, we could have, like a meeting...

TORI

Whoa.....

PAULIE

(starts moving to the edge of her bed)

I know, that would be soo fucking.....

(she opens the letter)

Dear my real mother...

Don't be scared, It's totally ok that you gave me up, you were just a kid... I totally understand...Don't be scared of me....I'm not scary. ...

(looks up at Tori, then looks back at the letter)

I know you had a hard life, and I had a pretty good one. Comfortable, you know, if a little....chilly.....

Well, I imagine you living in some basement, around Gerrard and Parliament, selling your ass for a living....and I...I just thought, I would get in touch, and we could go for a beer sometime....

Your loving daughter,

Pauline

PS: Janet, my "fake" mother....she smiles without her eyes, and her hands are cold.

Paulie then looks up at Tori and Mouse.

TORI

I hope she answers, P.

PAULIE

When she's old, I will carry her around on my back.

MARY

You've never even met her??

PAULIE

(puts letter back between the mattresses)

Children's Aid took me away when I was little. She was with me for one whole day....every minute...that's what they told me...

TORI

I never write to my mom, we always like talk on the phone.

PAULIE

Maybe that's why you never say what you mean....

TORI

I can't say what I mean, P. I mean, how can I ever really say to her what I mean?? Even in a letter? I mean like...

Dear Mummy

I hate you...for multiple reasons...The most recent one being when you went on and on about my teeth at Easter, in front of all your gross friends. You want me to be like, your perfect junior league girl...and grow up to do charity balls, and be the concubine of some banker, like you. But the truth of it is, I'm like addicted to you.....like chocolate. And like, I just always wanna be around you...I'm like a stupid little puppy, and you keep kicking my teeth with your words....no your tone.. And sometimes, I don't know.....sometimes, I wish you were dead.....

Mouse is surprised that Tori said she wished her mother was dead.

PAULIE

Rage more, Victoria!!

TORI

(laughs)

I can't believe I just said that.

Then Tori gets up, runs over and jumps on Paulie, and knocks her over. They both start laughing.

MOUSE

My stepmother is always talking about me when I'm there. I hate it, and I hate her! I think she's jealous of my closeness to my dad...

PAULIE

Tori's mom is insanely jealous of her.

TORI

Why would she be jealous of me??

PAULIE

(looks at Tori)

Duh!!!

TORI

What??

After a few seconds, Paulie leans over and kisses Tori. Mouse feels uncomfortable, so she looks away. Tori blushes and punches Paulie in the arm.

TORI

Mary, you didn't do your letter yet....

MOUSE

Oh....she died three years ago...

TORI

I'm sorry.

MOUSE

No, it's ok.... I just don't see the point of writing her a letter....

PAULIE

Maybe she can hear you, you know....

MOUSE

If I did write her a letter.....

PAULIE

(cuts her off)

Go for it!!

MOUSE

Dear mother...

Member you asked me, when you were sick, well....dying. It was fall, October. It was still hot that year, and your room, smelt like sweet, rotten apples...

(pause)

I was holding your head in my arms, and your breathing was so fast, and like, shallow...and you said 'Mary...please, remember me.' The thing is, I do sometimes, forget what you looked like...

PAULIE

(to Mouse)

Brave.

TORI

You really don't remember what she looked like??

MOUSE

(crying)

Sometimes...

TORI

God, that's so incredibly sad.

PAULIE

Brave. That's your new name. Mary B, B for Brave.

She pulls out the pillow that Tori is sitting on and throws it at Mouse.

PAULIE

Mouse is dead!!

TORI

(moves down the bed toward Mary)

We're glad you're our new roommate, Mary. Aren't we, Paulie?

PAULIE

(moves up behind Tori)

Duh!! Are you glad to be our new roommate, Mary Brave?? Come on. Truth be honest.....

Mouse smiles.

EXT. BEDROOM – NIGHT

INT. INSIDE THE CHURCH – DAY

There are a whole bunch of members in the choir, students from the boarding school, some old men, and Ms. Vaughn is there too. The choir members are standing at the front of the church, on the stairs. Paulie and Mouse are standing beside each other in the back row. Right in front of Paulie is Tori. The choir is singing to the hymn '**Sanctus**'. Some of the girls are playing instruments in the front. Mouse looks over and sees Paulie reaching for Tori's hand. Tori puts her hand behind her, and then Paulie holds onto it.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY – DAY

Mouse is walking down the hall and she sees Joe, the school gardener outside, taking a tree out from the back of his tractor. She smiles.

OUTSIDE IN THE YARD

MOUSE

Ummm....Excuse me.. I was just wondering...would you.....could you....

JOE

(he turns to face Mouse)

You like to garden??

MOUSE

Yea!! Yes....I used to it everyday, from like April till it snowed with my mother....before she passed away.....a couple of years ago....

JOE

I'm sorry to hear that.

MOUSE

So, I was wondering, if maybe you could use some help sometime?? Or if you'd rather not, that's totally fine...

JOE

No, no, that's ok! That'd be nice...That's the first time in 20 years that one of the girls offered... It's like a sign coming ...you know, like a dawning of a new age...

(laughs)

I'm just kidding. I'll run it by Faye....I mean Ms. Vaughn, the head mistress, but I think she'll be okay with it.

Mouse turns around, and starts walking away.

JOE

What's your name??

MOUSE

Well.....

(pause)

it's in transition.

JOE

In transition, I like that...

(crouches on the ground)

Is that with a 'ph' or an 'f'??

(starts to laugh)

Mouse looks confused. He stops laughing after he sees she doesn't get it.

JOE

You're a....you're a bit of a thinker, aren't you?

MOUSE

I don't know...

JOE

Well, you are....

(pause)

Okay, in transition, I'll be expecting you. Don't forget to bring a pair of gloves...

Mouse smiles, and then walks away.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD – DAY

INT. FRONT PORCH – EVENING

Paulie and Tori are sitting on a bench outside. Paulie is leaning against Tori, and they're both sharing a cigarette. They are talking about how to spend the summer.

PAULIE

So.....

TORI

She's been planning this trip to Italy all year. I can't just tell her and say, sorry mom, trip's off, I'm going tree-planting out west with Paulie...

PAULIE

(takes a drag)

Tori....

TORI

(she leans in closer to Paulie's ear)

You know what I wanna do, but I can't.... She's been acting really strange lately, Paulie. And I don't know, I havta spend time with her. Besides, we're going to be together in the fall at McGill, we'll be so together.

They both smile.

PAULIE

(gives cigarette to Tori)

I'm going to plant 3000 trees a day. And get a golden shovel for you.

They both start laughing.

EXT. PORCH – EVENING

INT. GIRLS BEDROOM – NIGHT

Paulie and Tori are making love in Tori's bed. It's very dark in the room. Mouse is sleeping and is unaware of what is happening in the other bed. (The song '**Beautiful**' is playing.)

Paulie is lying down on the bed, and Tori is kissing her body. Paulie then sits up and starts kissing Tori's body. Then they both lie down and kiss each other even more.

INT. SCHOOL YARD – MORNING

Joe is outside, unraveling hoses, and watering the grass.

INT. THE BEDROOM – MORNING

Mouse's alarm clock goes off. She sits up and turns it off. She rubs her eyes, and looks over at Tori's bed. Paulie, who is still in Tori's bed, hears the alarm and sits up.. She sees Paulie & Tori in bed together naked, with the blankets wrapped around them.

PAULIE

(to Mouse)

Oh, uhhh...sh...She gets serious nightmares...

Mouse just nods, and gets out of bed. Paulie and Tori start laughing. Mouse goes to the sink to wash her face.. She wets her face , and looks looks in the mirror.

EXT. BEDROOM – MORNING

INT. WOODS – DAY

Tori, Paulie, and Mouse go out jogging. Tori notices that Mouse isn't speaking, and she looks as if she's having a difficult time breathing.

PAULIE

Shall we go easy today for Mary Brave??

TORI

You're gonna love it in here, it's soo cool!!

Tori looks over at Mouse, and sees that she's struggling to keep up.

TORI

You ok?? Coach says you should be able to speak easily...

PAULIE

Ok, no pain, no gain, Mary Brave!!

TORI

You're doing pretty good for your first time out though, wouldn't you say, Paulie??

PAULIE

Not bad!

TORI

I say we're doing like, 7 1/2, min. mile??

PAULIE

No way... Tor... we're like 9 at the fastest... we're draggin' our butts, man!!

Suddenly they hear the crying sounds of a bird. They stop running and see the bird standing on the ground in the leaves. It looks like it might be hurt.

PAULIE

Whoa, whoa!! Oh shit!!

TORI

Oh my god! It's soo beautiful
Tori steps forward.

PAULIE

(she puts her arm back in front of Tori).
Don't touch it, if you don't wanna get bit.

TORI

I wasn't gonna to touch it.

PAULIE

Leave it to me. Ok?? Ok, I'll take care of it.

(pause)

I said just leave it to me!! I'll meet up with you later. Go!!

TORI

(to Mouse)
Come on.....when she gets something in her head.....

Tori and Mouse leave into the woods.

FARTHER INTO THE WOODS

As Tori and Mouse are running back to the dorm, they run into Jake, Phil and John, who are also out jogging.

PHIL

Hey!

JAKE

Hey there!

TORI

Hi!!

PHIL

I was wondering if you lovely girls wanna smoke a split with us??

TORI

Uhhh, thanks, but we're on training...

JAKE

Hey, aren't you Tim Moller's sister??

TORI

Yea, I'm Tori and this is Mary.

Jake shakes both of their hands.

JAKE

I'm Jake , Holander and that's John and that idiot, is Phil

PHIL

Hi!

TORI

Hi!

BACK WITH PAULIE IN THE WOODS

Paulie is still with the bird, and she's trying to pet it. After she pets it, the bird moves, and she takes her hand away. There is a close up on the bird's eyes, then Paulie's. She pets the bird again.....

BACK WITH TORI AND THE GUYS

TORI

So anyway, we gotta get going...

JAKE

Hey Tori! Isn't Tim's 18th coming up?? Down at the Bluenote??

TORI

Yea, yea it is.

JAKE

Sounds like a good time. Are you gonna be there??

TORI

Uhh.....maybe.....

(pause)

TORI

Anyways, we gotta go.....

Tori and Mouse wave to them, then walk away..

JAKE

Well, I hope to see you there, Tori.

When the girls leave, Phil teases Jake

PHIL

(mocking voice)

I hope to see you there, Tori.

They all start laughing, and Jake shoves Phil. They start running into the woods.

A GRASS FIELD

Mouse and Tori are still on their way back to the school.

MOUSE

I think he likes you.

TORI

Who??

MOUSE

You know who.

TORI

They like my tits. They all like my tits.

MOUSE

So you gonna go?

TORI

Where??

MOUSE

To your brother's birthday party.

TORI

And have all those gross guys groping me?? No thanks!! I'd rather stay home and do math.

(pause)

I wonder where Paulie is with that bird...

(calls out)

Paulie!!.... Paulie!!

EXT. WOODS – DAY

INT. SCHOOL ROOM – DAY

Paulie is sitting at a desk, reading a book about birds. There is bird stuff all over the room, like pictures, books, stuffed birds. And there is a piano being played in the background.

INT. THEIR BEDROOM – DAY

Paulie is trying to build a house for the injured falcon. She takes one of the drawers from the wooden closet, empties it out on her bed, and then puts it on Tori's bed. She taps the box, then goes over to the shelf and gets a sleeping bag to cover it up with. Tori comes in from the shower with a towel wrapped around her head.

TORI

Oh my God! Is that for the bird??

Tori puts her other towel on the chair, and walks over to the mirror.

PAULIE

If they can see too much, they freak out and go psycho.

TORI

(looking at Paulie through the mirror)
Do you think the bird will fly again??

PAULIE

Don't worry, I'll take care of it.

Tori takes the towel off her head and runs her fingers through her hair.

PAULIE

This is gonna be way, way cool!!

Tori looks at Paulie in the mirror, turns around and walks over to where Paulie is, takes her arm and pulls Paulie towards her.

TORI

Come here....

Tori touches Paulie's face and kisses her.

TORI

I would soo totally loose it without you, P.

Paulie smiles then they kiss again

EXT. BEDROOM – DAY

INT. WOODS – DAY

Paulie is with the falcon, and she brought the box with the sleeping bag. She tries to put the falcon in there, but it flies out. She puts food in her hand, and calls it over. It comes, and she tries to put it in the box again. This time it stays. She covers the hole with a flap from the sleeping bag. She takes a knife from under her pant leg and cuts the rope. Then she starts lifting the box up in the air with the rope.

EXT. WOODS – DAY

INT. GARDEN IN FRONT OF SCHOOL – DAY

Mouse and Joe are planting flowers

MOUSE

My mother, she really liked to get her hands dirty....I was always afraid of like, worm eggs..

JOE

Worm eggs?? Do worms lay eggs?

MOUSE

I think so....or no?

(laughs)

I don't know....

JOE

I don't think they lay eggs, I think they just woos up out of the earth....Your mother, she sounds pretty interesting. I like a woman who doesn't mind getting her hands dirty...

MOUSE

Yea! She would say 'hey, don't worry! It's a clean dirty'

Joe laughs

MOUSE

She was funny...

JOE

Yea.....

MOUSE

Every year in the spring, she would wake me up the in the morning, and she would whisper in my ear 'the first crocus is here' And we would go outside in our nightgowns, in our bare feet..

JOE

And uh...get your feet dirty together??

They both start laughing.

INT. GIRLS BEDROOM – NIGHT

Paulie, Tori & Mouse are rearranging the furniture in their room. They put on the 'Add It Up' tape and start singing along with it. First, they move the desk and chair away from the window, then they move the bed to where the desk and chair used to be. Mouse goes over to the tape player and turns up the music. Paulie starts dancing and playing an imaginary guitar. Tori moves the night table beside the bed. Mouse moves the chair while Paulie moves the desk to where the bed used to be and when she goes past Tori, she slaps Tori's butt.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Tori and Mouse are in their beds sleeping, while Paulie is sitting on the windowsill beside her bed smoking a cigarette. There's a dream catcher hanging on the window beside her. She puts out the cigarette, gets up, and closes the curtain. Then she grabs her backpack. Tori starts to move in her bed, so Paulie stops walking and waits until Tori stops moving. Then Paulie walks out of the room quietly.

INT. SCHOOL LAB – NIGHT

Paulie picks out a black & white mouse by its tail from the cage, and tries to put it in her pocket. She has to try a couple times, before it gets in there all the way.

INT. WOODS – NIGHT

Then Paulie goes running across the field, and into the woods with her arms stretched out sideways pretending she was a bird.

Later on, she is sitting in a tree teaching the bird to fly. The falcon is sitting on her arm, and then it flies down to the ground.

PAULIE

(laughs)

Yes!!

It's eating the mouse Paulie brought for it. And she laughs while it's eating, because she's happy that it's getting better.

INT. GIRLS BEDROOM – NIGHT

Paulie goes back to her room with her shoes in her hand. She puts her backpack on the floor. She takes off her pants and shirt, and drops them on the floor. She goes into Tori's bed and gets under the covers with her. Tori rolls to the other side of the bed, with her back to Paulie. Paulie rolls on top of Tori

PAULIE

(whispers)

Tori, I love you.

Tori wakes up. They both giggle and kiss. Mouse turns around and looks over at them, then looks up.

MOUSE

(narrates)

I don't know if they know that I can hear, or just pretended they didn't know....but after a while, it was kind of, I don't know....ok. Their sounds, their whispers, their shadows, became kind of, well, just like part of my dreams or something....just the way things were...

INT. GIRLS BEDROOM – MORNING

Allison and her three friends come barging in the room again, just like they did before.

ALLIE & FRIENDS

It's morning time you lazies.....

They see Paulie and Tori together naked under the sheets.

ALLIE'S FRIENDS

(disgusted)

HOLY FUCK!!!

Then they run out of the room, and leave Allie there. She is completely stunned and speechless about what she sees.

PAULIE

Bedford, shut the door

Paulie sits up and looks at Allison

PAULIE

Look...your, your...your sister gets nightmares...she's like...she's like, screaming in her sleep....

Allison is just standing there, staring at Paulie and Tori. She is shocked by what she's seeing, and doesn't know what to say.

ALLISON

(shocked)

Uh huh...

PAULIE

(looks at Mouse, and points at the door)

Bedford!!

Mouse gets out of her bed

MOUSE

(to Allison)

It isn't....it really isn't what you think.....

She pushes Allison out of the room

TORI

(to Paulie)

Get out!!

Paulie touches Tori's face with her hand

TORI

(pushes her hand away)

Get out of my bed!!

PAULIE

Relax, she'll get over it...

TORI

You don't know Allison!! Ok, she'll go hysterical! She's gonna go straight to mom and dad....

PAULIE

So?? Fuck it!!! It's the 21st century, alright!!

Tori looks very worried and scared.

TORI

You don't understand....

Paulie lies down behind her, and sighs.

TORI

You just don't understand.....

EXT. BEDROOM – MORNING

INT. IN FRONT OF SCHOOL – DAY

Tori is outside talking to Allison

TORI

I swear to god Allie! She just crawled into my bed. I didn't even know she was there.....

ALLISON

She crawled into your bed??

TORI

I think she has a crush on me or something...but I told her I'm not like that...

ALLISON

Tori, that's disgusting!! Why don't you do something?? Tell Vaughn, and have her kicked out...

TORI

I feel sorry for her, being adopted and everything....

ALLISON

Tori, you are too nice!!

TORI

So, you'll tell your friends, right?? You'll tell them the truth, that I'm not like that.

ALLIE

Of course!! I can't believe I ever thought you were...

TORI

And mom and dad, you 're not gonna tell them anything, right??

ALLIE

No Tor...But, are you sure that you're not.....

TORI

(cuts her off)

Allie!!! I love guys! I'm boy-crazy if anything. Actually, there's this really cute guy, from R.A.B, I met the other day, Jake, and he is soo totally in love with me....

ALLISON

Yea? You gonna go out with him??

TORI

Are you kidding?? We're going to Tim's party together, Friday.

ALLIE'S FRIEND

Allison!! Come on!

ALLIE

(leans down and picks up her backpack)

Don't worry Tor, I'll straighten everything out.

Allison runs to meet her friends

(SLOW MOTION)

Tori starts walking the other way and seconds later she bursts into tears. (The song '**Beautiful**' comes on again.) She puts her hand in front of her mouth, as she's crying, and keeps walking...

INT. HALLWAY – DAY

Mouse is walking over to her locker. She opens it and takes out an envelope. ('**Beautiful**' is still playing)

IN THE CAFETERIA – LATER ON

Paulie is sitting alone with her food in front of her. Tori and Mouse walk in, each with a food tray in her hands. Paulie waves at them. Tori doesn't look at Paulie, instead she walks right past her. Allison and her friends turn around, and stare at Paulie as she's waving.

CORDELIA

Tori!!

Tori goes over to Cordelia's table and sits in front of her. Mouse goes to where Paulie is sitting and sits beside her. Paulie looks over at Tori, and is upset that she's not sitting with her.

CORDELIA

(to Tori)

So, how are you??

TORI

Look, first of all, whatever they're saying is trash talk....stupid...I know you guys won't listen to it....

CORDELIA

Of course not....But, even if it was true, I'd be like, so?? Grow up!!

TORI

But, it's not true...

CORDELIA

Like, my aunt is gay, like get over it!!

TORI

Yea, but I'm not....totally....so...

CORDELIA

No, I know...

AT THE OTHER TABLE

MOUSE

She's upset. Give her time...

PAULIE

Bedford, this is a dark day...

Paulie puts a slice of cucumber in her mouth.

INT. MS. VAUGHN'S SHAKESPEARE CLASS – DAY

Ms. Vaughn is reciting passages from Shakespeare's 'Anthony and Cleopatra'.

MS. VAUGHN

'darkling stand the varying shores of the world...O Anthony, Anthony, Anthony!!'

Ah? Her beloved is dying, you see? And so she calls upon the sun to...burn the whole sphere! The world...her feeling is, how can there be an exchange when such an extraordinarily shattering...

Paulie is really into the whole discussion.

PAULIE

(interrupts Ms. Vaughn)

Listen to this!! A little later she goes.....

(recites passages)

'Shall I abide in this DULL world which in THY absence is no better than a sty?'

Sty?? I like that... And then later she says.....

'The crown o' the earth doth melt. And there is nothing left remarkable beneath the visiting moon.'

Nothing...

(looks up)

I know that...

Paulie looks to her left where Tori is sitting. Tori covers her face with her hand, trying not to let Paulie see her face.

MS. VAUGHN

Yes, oh yes...Eventually we all do....

(walks over to chalk board)

You see what this is all about is love!!

(writes love on the blackboard)

Mad, passionate love, that crosses all boundaries... And that's why we still relate to it today... Who among us has not felt passion?? And there are some that would say that umm...love is...tired, umm, well...a social construct if you will... What do you girls think? Lauren??

LAUREN

When my father left my mother for his girlfriend, he said it was love. But it was obvious to everyone that it was, well, sex.

Some of the girls start to laugh

LAUREN

I think love is sex...

MONICA

I think it's like, projection. Like a mirage in the desert, you see what you wanna see in the person, you know?

CORDELIA

No, no, no... It's a chemical high, induced by your bodies, so you'll wanna make babies..

LAUREN

Love is money....

As the girls are talking about what they think love means, Paulie gets upset by what they are saying...

PAULIE

(looks around at everyone)

Liar! Liar! Liar! Liar! You hold your heads up in your assholes because LOVE IS! It just IS!!! And nothing you can say can make it go away!. Because it is the point of why we are here. It is the highest point and once you are up there, looking down at everyone else, you're there forever...

Then Paulie looks over at Tori again. But Tori looks the other way...

PAULIE

If you move, right? You fall.....you fall...

Tori is still covering her face with her hand, trying not to cry.

MS. VAUGHN

Yes Paulie....I think you may be right...

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY – DAY

Tori is talking to Mouse, and they are sitting at a desk on the side. As Tori starts to talk, a girl from another table looks over at her.

TORI

Listen Mary, I havta talk to you about Paulie. I know this whole thing must be weird for you, and I'm sorry...But like, you are the only person who I can really.....
Look, you don't know my parents. They are super, super straight and religious, and they would literally never speak to me again. And I need them to be a part of my life. I couldn't deal with losing them. I love Paulie, you know that I do. She's my best friend in the world, and probably the only person that I'll ever love like...
(whispers)
like in the way that Cleopatra...

(pause)

TORI

(starts to cry)
And to her...it's like I'm choking...like I'm not in the breathing world. And it's like there's this life that we're supposed to live, ok? Like this dream that my mother and father have for me. And even though it is killing me...even though it's killing me, Mary, I will never be the same goofy, loving Tori with her ever.. I cannot be with her ever! Not ever, ever again!

(pause)

Paulie is gonna take this very hard. Ok? She is really sensitive. She's really gonna need a loyal friend. She will need you more than anybody will ever need you, Mary. Do you think you can you handle this??

EXT. LIBRARY – DAY

INT. GIRLS BEDROOM – NIGHT

Tonight is the birthday party for Tori's brother, Tim. Tori is sitting on the foot of her bed, and putting on makeup. Paulie is sitting at the edge of her bed, holding a book, and watching Tori.

PAULIE

Why you putting that shit on for??

TORI

Because....

PAULIE

Because why??

TORI

Because I'm going out.

PAULIE

Oh, where are you going??

TORI

Just out...with a friend...

PAULIE

What friend??

TORI

Just a friend of mine, ok??

PAULIE

I'm just interested to know, that's all.....

TORI

Yea well, friends respect each others privacy.

PAULIE

Friends??

TORI

(looks at Paulie through the mirror)

Yea, friends. We're all friends here,

(looks at Mouse)

aren't we, Mary B??

Mouse, who just came out of the shower, is standing by the mirror. And she just nods her head.

PAULIE

We're not just friends.

(pause)

TORI

I'm sorry, Paulie....

Tori gets up and leaves the room. Mouse goes over to Paulie and sits beside her on the bed.

MOUSE

Are you okay??

PAULIE

That brightness eh?? In her eyes, that brightness like my fake mother's, that brightness when she lies...

And on the wall behind Paulie's bed, it says:

My bounty is as boundless like the sea
my love is deep,
The more I give to thee,
The more I have for thee, for both..

LATER ON THAT SAME NIGHT

Mouse is sleeping, and Paulie is sitting in her bed smoking, waiting for Tori to get back. She puts out the cigarette in the ashtray, gets up, grabs her backpack and runs off into the woods to the falcon.

IN THE WOODS – NIGHT

Paulie is with the falcon, and she's feeding it.

PAULIE

(opens the flap, and gives it some food)

You grow up big and strong, so you can fly away from here.....

The bird comes out of the box and goes to the ground. Paulie is calling it over to her...

PAULIE

We will fly away from here...fly away from here forever... yea, we'll fly far away from here

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS

Tori is walking back from the party with Jake.

INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT

Mouse wakes up, and looks at the clock, it's 1:37. She notices that Paulie & Tori aren't in their beds. She puts on a sweater, takes a out flashlight and goes outside.

INT. WOODS BY THE SCHOOL – NIGHT

Mouse is walking around outside, and then she sees Jake and Tori kissing against a tree. She just stands there and watches them. The falcon squawks, and Mouse looks over toward the sound, then looks back at Tori and Jake.

MOUSE

(narrates)

Before tonight, I never...I never had any feeling down there at all...I was.... like a wooden doll, without any blood in my body. But that night....that night, I started to feel the blood moving....

Suddenly Mouse hears louder shrieking sounds from the falcon. Then she sees Paulie running towards the school. Mouse runs away after her.

EXT. WOODS – NIGHT

INT. BEDROOM – LATER ON THAT NIGHT

Tori walks in quietly, carrying her shoes. Paulie is awake in her bed, lying face down, and holding a pillow by her face. Tori takes a sleeping shirt from under her pillow, then goes and sits at the foot of her bed, and starts changing. Paulie lifts her head a bit, and looks over at Tori.

PAULIE

Have a good time??

TORI

It's none of your business Paulie!.

(Pause)

PAULIE

You lied to me....

TORI

I said I was going out with a friend, and that's what I did....

PAULIE

Do you always fuck your friends up against trees??

TORI

My life is none of your business, Paulie! And you had no right to spy on me...

PAULIE

Tori, everything you do is my business! You are my business, and I am yours!!

TORI

If I ever catch you spying on me again.....

PAULIE

What??

TORI

Just don't!!!

(pause)

PAULIE

Are you gonna see him again??

Tori goes over to Paulie, and sits on the bed beside her.

TORI

Listen, Paulie, it's time we...we grew out of this. It...it's not right anymore. I just wanna be friends, ok??

She puts her hand on Paulie's shoulder.

PAULIE

(her face is in her pillow)

This is not happening...

(Tori puts her hand on Paulie's shoulder)

Tori.....Baby...please.....

Paulie gets up, kneels on the bed behind Tori, puts her arms around Tori and hugs her. Tori takes Paulie's arms off of her, and tries to get away.

TORI

Let go of me, please.....

Paulie then grabs Tori's hand. Mouse looks over and watches them.

PAULIE

Is this about Allison?? Your parents?? Please.....

Tori pulls away, walks over to her own bed and lies down, with her back towards Paulie.

Mouse is awake the whole time, and is listening to the conversation.

OUTSIDE BY A SCHOOL WALL

Paulie is crying by herself, and at the same time, Tori is lying in her bed awake. Paulie stays out there for a while, and cries... ('**You Had Time**' is playing)

INT. SCHOOL MAILBOXES – MORNING

Paulie and Mouse are walking down the hall, and they're on their way to their mailboxes. Allison and her friend, who are at their mailboxes, look over at Paulie and start to laugh. Paulie just ignores them. She slides the key in her mailbox, opens it, and sees that it's empty. She slams the door closed, and walks away. Mouse opens her mailbox and takes out a package of seeds that her father had sent her, and pours some into her hand.

A few seconds later, Allison and her friend approach Mouse

ALLISON

What's that Mary??

MOUSE

Oh, uh...some, some seeds...for you know...the garden out there....

ALLISON

Seeds....That's better than what my mother gets me. Oh my god, her taste is like soo Ralph Lauren.

(pause)

ALLISON

I hope you don't think that I'm like, budding in but, I thought you should know, people are saying, like, not very nice things...about you....

MOUSE

Things??

ALLISON

Well, because of the way that you're hanging with Paulie. They think that you're, that you must be like her. Everybody knows that she practically raped my sister! Tori said that she crawled into bed naked with her.

MOUSE

Well, Paulie's my friend!! So, I guess I doesn't really matter what other people think!!!

Mouse takes the key out of her locker, then leaves. Allie and her friend stand there and start talking....

EXT. HALLWAY – DAY

INT. SCHOOL GARDEN – DAY

Mouse goes to see Joe, the gardener, to bring him the seeds that she got. He is shoveling dirt into the flower bed.

JOE

Hey!

MOUSE

Hey!

(pause)

MOUSE

How much does it matter what other people think??

JOE

Well, it depends on how much they're paying ya, I guess...How much they paying ya??

(pause)

MOUSE

My father sent me some seeds....I was wondering if maybe I could plant them somewhere??

JOE

(puts some dirt in the flowers)
In the dirt's usually a good place.....

(pause)

Let's see what you got...
(takes a seed from the envelope)
Ewww... worm eggs....

They both start laughing.

INT. SOCCER FIELD – DAY

The girls are outside getting ready to play soccer. Tori is talking with the other girls about sex and boys.

TORI

Jake's hands are magic....He knows exactly where to touch me.

GIRL

Teenage boys are soo clumsy....

TORI

No! He's soo perfect, you wouldn't believe it...He's like...like a sculptor.

MONICA

Roger....well, Roger's no sculptor....more like a....he's more like a plumber...

GIRL

Mike finishes as soon as he's inside....the second!!

CORDELIA

That's what you get with mating with a 16 year old...

TORI

Oh man! Jake can go on all night. He's a total man...

Paulie and Mouse, who are not too far away from them, can hear everything they are saying. Paulie looks over at Tori, and she looks like she's in pain. Tori never looks at Paulie, she keeps talking about Jake. Mouse is trying to comfort Paulie by rubbing her shoulder.

The whistle blows, and the soccer practice begins. Paulie has the ball first and starts kicking it.

GIRL

(yells out to others)

Rush it!! Come on get off it!!

Paulie has an intense look on her face, while she is running on the field. She is running really hard, and she doesn't seem to care who gets in her way. When she loses the ball, she runs off the field.

IN THE WOODS – LATER

Paulie changes her clothes, and she puts on the hooded grey sweatshirt again. She has her knapsack on, and she runs into the woods to feed the falcon. The falcon is sitting on a branch, which is low to the ground. Paulie gives it some food.

PAULIE

You wouldn't take it lying down, would you?? If some girl bird broke up with you....You wouldn't just lie there and squawk... You would fly to the highest branch and swoop your lady love back again under your wings. You'd fly away through the sky. You wouldn't just lie down and take it..... like a GIRL!!

INT. BEDROOM – DAY

Paulie is looking at herself in the mirror. She puts up her hair to see what she would look like, if it was short. Then she takes the mirror off the wall, looks at herself in it for a couple more seconds, then slams it against the other wall, near in the doorway. It breaks, and there is broken glass all over the floor. She throws the rest of it away behind her.

Mouse is running up the stairs....she's coming back from the soccer practice. When she comes into the room, she sees the broken glass all over the floor.

MOUSE

(surprised and shocked)

Paulie??

PAULIE

(turns around and looks at Mouse)
Pick up a shard!

Mouse looks at Paulie with a weird and scared look on her face.

PAULIE
(tougher)
I said pick up a shard!!!

Mouse picks a piece up and gives it to Paulie. Paulie takes it, then grabs Mouse's hand and cuts it with the glass. Then Paulie cuts her own hand. She rubs her bleeding palm against Mouse's palm

PAULIE
Our blood runs together, right? blood of the raptor....

Then she picks up another piece of glass from the floor..

PAULIE
(gives the glass to Mouse)
Now cut off my hair.

MOUSE
What for??

Paulie takes a chair, and sits down on it

PAULIE
Cuz, I'm going to war...
(whispers)
I got nothing to lose now...

MOUSE
Paulie, this is crazy!!

PAULIE
Come on!!

MOUSE
Paulie? Is this for Tori??

Paulie holds out her hair.

PAULIE

(getting mad)
Just cut off my hair!!!!

MOUSE

She wants a guy, Paulienot a girl with hacked hair....

Paulie gets up from the chair and pushes Mouse hard.

PAULIE

You don't know anything about it!!!

Mouse falls hard on the floor, and hits a small table that's behind her. Mouse gets up and is startled....

PAULIE

I.....I'm sorry...
(whispers)
I'm sorry, ok?.....I just gotta get her back....

MOUSE

Paulie, listen to me! Tori is not a lesbian, so you should just forget about her, ok??

PAULIE

Lesbian? Lesbian?? Are you fucking kidding me?? You think I'm a lesbian??

MOUSE

You're a girl in love with a girl, aren't you??

PAULIE

No!!!! I'm Paulie in love with Tori, remember? And Tori is....she IS in love with me because, she is mine and I am hers and neither of us are lesbians!!!!!!

Paulie knocks everything off the desk in front of her, and then she drops into a chair. She is about to cry. She rubs her face and looks to the side. Then she looks over at Mouse, and sighs...

INT. LIBRARY – LATER

Tori is studying and so are some of the other girls. Ms. Bannet is in there too. As you are looking at Tori, you can see someone walking up the stairs behind her. Tori turns around to look. Paulie arrives in her white fencing outfit, and she's holding a sword. She goes over to where Tori is sitting and kneels down beside her. She gets down on one knee, and puts one hand on the table, and the other hand holding a sword. She kneels there and stares at Tori for a couple seconds.

PAULIE

'I will make me a willow cabin at your gate and call upon my soul within the house. I will write loyal cantons of condemned love and sing them loud even in the dead of night....'

She gets up on the table, in front of Tori and looks down at her. Tori tries to cover her face with her hand.

PAULIE

'I will howl your name to the reverberate hills and make babbling gossip of the air cry out, Victoria!!'

Ms. Bannet comes over to the table

MS. BANNET

Paulie, why don't you come down??

Paulie stops and doesn't move. Ms. Bannet touches her wrist, but Paulie moves away, and turns to Ms Bannet with an evil look on her face. You can hear a bird flying away in the background.

PAULIE

Don't ever touch a raptor...

MS. BANNET

Please.....

Then Paulie walks from table to table, jumps to the floor and storms out of the library. Tori takes a deep breath, and is shaken up about what just happened.

INT. FENCING ROOM – DAY

Paulie is fencing with another girl, and she is really intense about it. Ms. Vaughn and Ms. Bannet are there watching her.

MS. VAUGHN

I should have seen it coming...

MS. BANNET

I saw it coming....I told you it was coming....It's still coming....

Paulie takes off her mask, looks out the window and sees Tori and Jake walking together and laughing. Then she continues fencing with her partner.

(slow motion)

Paulie is getting angrier, and then she kicks her partner hard.

INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT

Mouse and Tori are sleeping. Paulie comes over to Tori's bed, she lifts the cover up, climbs into the bed, and gets on top of Tori.

PAULIE

I bet he doesn't know how to do what I can do for you...

Paulie starts to kiss Tori on her chin...Tori tries to push Paulie off.

TORI

Paulie.....

Paulie starts kissing and touching her. Tori moans.. Tori pushes Paulie off of her, and then sits up.

TORI

There'll be no more of this, ok??

Mouse is awake, and she looks over to Tori's bed and listens

TORI

I love Jake!!

Paulie doesn't say anything. She just sits beside Tori on the bed. Tori gets out of bed and stands on the floor with her back to Paulie. Paulie kneels on the bed and leans forward. Tori turns to Paulie then kneels down to face her. She puts one hand on Paulie's face.

TORI

Paulie, listen to me ok?? because I'm gonna say this once and never, ever again. I will never love anybody the way I love you....Never... You know that, and I know that, and I will die knowing that, ok?? But it just can never, it just can never, ever, forever be. Do you understand??

(pause)

It just can never, ever, forever be...

She kisses Paulie. Tori gets up and Paulie holds on to her hand, but Tori pulls it away. Paulie leans over on the bed face down and starts to cry.

INT. CAFETERIA – MORNING

Paulie is sitting at a table by herself in the cafeteria. Her hair is messy and uncombed. Mouse starts to walk over with her food tray.

TORI

Hey Mary! How did you do on that Geography test??

Mouse goes over and sits with Tori. Kara and Cordelia walk by laughing. Paulie stares at Mouse and Tori, and she's not very happy. Then she hears someone laughing from another table, and she looks over.

PAULIE

Go ahead. Laugh!! It's ok!! If you wanna laugh, laugh!!

(pause)

What's so funny???

She gets up from her seat, and walks to the aisle.

(slow motion)

PAULIE

I know....I'm funny!!! Ha, ha, ha, ha!! Ha ha ha ha ha!!

Ms. Bannet starts walking over to her

MS. BANNET

That's enough....

PAULIE

Ha, ha, ha, ha!! Ha ha ha ha ha!!!

MS. BANNET

Paulie, that's enough!!!

Ms. Bannet comes over and then Paulie grabs the food cart, lifts it and throws it on the floor. Then Paulie runs out of the cafeteria, and slams the door open in the process. Ms. Vaughn is standing by one of the doors, and she watches as Paulie runs by....

EXT. CAFETERIA – DAY

INT. MS. VAUGHN'S OFFICE – DAY

Paulie is sitting in a chair, her hair is still all messed up, and she looks really upset.

MS. VAUGHN

Your parents are very worried about you, Paulie. They say you don't return their calls...

PAULIE

I have no parents!!

MS. VAUGHN

(by the window)

I had, what used to be called a nervous breakdown once, when I was a few years older than you are.....

(sits down at her desk)

Someone got me help, and looking back Paulie, I am very glad they did....Because if they hadn't....i don't know....It was....like I was a car...with no driver....

PAULIE

Shall I abide in this dull world, which in her absence is no better than a sty??

They both look at each other...

INT. SCHOOL YARD/GARDENS – DAY

Mouse is running outside looking very upset, and almost about to cry, when Joe sees her.

JOE

Hey!! How are you doing??

MOUSE

Ok! Kinda weird actually....

JOE

What's goin' on??

MOUSE

You ever know someone that changed??

JOE

What kinda change??

MOUSE

Like total...like the change from this to the winter freeze??

JOE

Yea.

MOUSE

Yea....

JOE

Grass comes back every spring, green as ever. I guess people can too....

MOUSE

Some people never come back though, right??

JOE

Yea, some people....

(pause)

JOE

Listen.... Why did you ask.....

MOUSE

(cuts him off)

I have to go....

She turns around and runs off crying.

INT. WOODS – DAY

Paulie is out with the falcon again, trying to help it fly.

PAULIE

You will not fall....

Then she throws the bird up, and it flies to a branch. She whistles then sticks her arm out in front of her.

PAULIE

Yah!! Yah!!

Then she whistles again

(pause)

PAULIE

Yah!! Yah!!!

The falcon flies over to her, and lands on her arm. Then she laughs..

INT. MS. VAUGHN'S SHAKESPEARE CLASS - DAY

Ms. Vaughn is reciting passages from Macbeth to the class. Paulie is mouthing the words.

MS. VAUGHN

'Come, you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here; and fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full of direst cruelty! make thick my blood, stop up the access and passage to remorse, that no compunctious visitings of nature shake my fell purpose. Come to my woman's breasts, and take my milk for gall, your murdering ministers, wherever in your sightless substances you wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night, and pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell that my keen knife see not the wound it makes nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark to cry, "Hold, hold!"'

MS. VAUGHN (cont)

Now, does anyone know what our friend Lady M, is on about??

(pause)

MS. VAUGHN

Cordelia??

Cordelia, who is starring into space, and looks like she would rather be somewhere else, gets startled and then puts on her glasses.

CORDELIA

Uhhh...vampires??

Everyone laughs. But Paulie just rolls her eyes...

MS. VAUGHN

Oh, well, I've never heard that interpretation before...Oh, but it doesn't make it invalid, Cordelia...
Tell us more....

CORDELIA

Well just...all the blood....

MS. VAUGHN

Thinking about out lunch, were we Cordelia, hmm? Again....

(pause)

MS. VAUGHN

Paulie??... You look like you were involved with the piece....

PAULIE

Actually, I was just thinking whether the Jays are gonna take the World Series again.

MS. VAUGHN

I don't believe you Paulie. I saw you listening.....

(pause)

PAULIE

You can go fuck yourself sideways!!

She gets up, storms out of the room, and slams the door shut. Mouse and Tori look at each other. The class starts to get restless.

MS. VAUGHN

Ah, ah, ahh....Paulie is going through a difficult time....

(pause)

Now, shall, I offer up my interpretation?? I think, that Lady Macbeth....

MOUSE

(cuts her off)

She wants to get up the guts.

MS. VAUGHN

Yes, Mary....

MOUSE

To do what she has to do...Only the girl part of her doesn't have the guts...so she says turn my milk to gall, and I think gall is poison.. But then what would happen to the baby?? The baby would die....And she wants not to care about that....She wants not to care...to be like a guy, like a man...Men don't care see.....

LATER IN THE HALLWAY

Tori and Mouse have left Ms. Vaughn's Shakespeare class and are coming down the stairs.

TORI

I liked what you said about Shakespeare....that scary speech...

MOUSE

You did??

TORI

I wanna be unsexed, or whatever...Anyway, it all just causes so much trouble, you know?....

Tori sees Paulie at her mailbox, and she tries to avoid her.

TORI

I'll see you later!

Tori walks the other way.

Paulie pulls out an envelope from her mailbox. The letter is from the people that are trying to help her find her birth mother. Paulie is really excited. She walks over to Mouse.

PAULIE

Read it!

MOUSE

Out loud??

PAULIE

(excited)

Yea, right now!!

MOUSE

(opens the letter and reads it).

Dear Ms. Oster,

After much difficulty, we have located your birth mother....

but we regret to inform you that she does not wish to be contacted by you at this time...

By now the smile from Paulie's face has disappeared.

MOUSE

Do you want me to keep reading??

Paulie shakes her head and takes the letter from Mouse's hand. She is really upset. She turns around and faces the other way...She is about to cry.

MOUSE

(touches Paulie's shoulder)

Sorry Paulie.....

PAULIE

(moves away)

No...what? She has a life!! She has a right to a fucking life...Mouse!!!

Paulie walks away and slams her hand hard against the bulletin board. Mouse watches her leave, then turns around and walks away...

OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

Paulie runs outside through the schoolyard, with her head down, and she slams into Ms. Vaughn, and almost knocks her over. Ms. Vaughn drops everything that she was carrying. Paulie goes back and helps her pick up stuff from the ground.

PAULIEUhh...You should have gotten out of my way, man!!

MS. VAUGHN

I've been looking everywhere for you.

PAULIE

I'm sorry I said go fuck yourself in class there....I was way outta line. You can give me a detention... (smiles)

Give me two!!

MS. VAUGHN

I know someone, Paulie. A friend of mine that can really help you.....

PAULIE

Help me what??

Ms. Vaughn tries to touch Paulie, but she moves away.

MS. VAUGHN

Help you deal...

PAULIE

I think only people that lie to themselves need help, Faye!! Don't you??

MS. VAUGHN

Believe me please... I know what you're going through...

PAULIE

No, you don't!!

MS. VAUGHN

Love can be a....a very painful experience. I know....

PAULIE

(she leans in closer and whispers)

You don't know anything.....

MS. VAUGHN

Yes Paulie....I think I know.....

(pause)

PAULIE

She's the only person who ever loved me, you know?? I think I'll die without her...

Then Paulie turns around and runs away.

INT. R.A.B, THE BOYS SCHOOL – DAY

Paulie goes over, and sees a younger male student walking outside.

PAULIE

Hey kid!! You know Jake Holander in senior year??

BOY

Yea, I know him..

PAULIE

(pulls out a letter)

Alright, give this to him or i'll kick your butt!!

The boy walks away down the driveway

PAULIE

(narrates)

Jake, you butthole!!

Saturday, noon, dark noon for you. East side ravine...

Dual to the death for the heart of my Queen, Victoria...

*Yours Truly,
Paulie 'The Raptor'*

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY – DAY

Mouse is on the phone with her father, and she is talking about the dance.

MOUSE

No, the dinner's at 6, the tour's at 5. Well, ok, as long as you come to the dinner. I don't wanna be the only girl eating without a father....I don't know...Chicken Kiev, lobster...everything....it's a buffet...ok, so I'll see you on Saturday, 6 o'clock, sharp!.....oh, yea, I'm fine.....just.....maybe I'll tell you when I see you.....ok, yea.....love you...Bye..

She hangs up the phone...

INT. BOYS SCHOOL – FOOTBALL FIELD – LATER ON

The guys are on the field practicing football. Jake, John, and Phil are sitting on the bleachers. Jake is holding the letter from Paulie.

JAKE

She's fuckin' fried, man!!

JOHN

She sound's really unstable, I don't think you should do it....

(pause)

JAKE

She's making Tori's life hell.

JOHN

Why doesn't Tori just cut her off??

JAKE

She's too nice!! That's the way she is....

PHIL

Come on man!! Do it for Tori!! Do it for your woman!

JAKE

A duel sounds like fun.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD – DAY

INT. GIRLS ROOMS – NIGHT

The girls are preparing for the party, putting on their clothes and makeup. Paulie isn't there with the girls though.

AT THE PARTY – LATER

Mouse is waiting for her father to come. She is sitting at a table with Tori and her dad, Bruce.

MOUSE

He's never been on time for anything in his life.....

BRUCE

Oh, he could be caught in traffic. It could be really bad coming down here this time of day...

TORI

Yea, for sure...

The teachers are walking around and talking to all the parents...The girls are all walking around and talking to each other too...

A MOTHER

Hello, Ms. Bannet! How are you?

MS. BANNET

Fine...

SAME MOTHER

Good....

Two girls run up to a waiter, and take drinks off the tray...

INT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Mouse goes out to see if her father has arrived yet, but he hasn't. ('**River Waltz**' is playing.)

BACK AT THE PARTY

TORI

(to her father)

I wanna dance...

BRUCE

(takes her hand)

Well, let's go then..

While Tori is dancing with her father, Paulie appears at the party dressed in a men's suit.

(slow motion)

As she is walking in, everyone is looking at her. She walks over to where Tori and her father are, and just stands there staring at Tori. A few seconds later Bruce looks over at Paulie. Then Tori looks over too. Paulie steps in closer to them.

PAULIE

Good evening Victoria. Hello Bruce!

BRUCE

Good evening....

PAULIE

Bruce....I wonder if I might cut in??

BRUCE

This is a joke, right Victoria??

PAULIE

Joke?? I'm asking you....nicely...can I dance with your daughter please??

BRUCE

I'm afraid I don't think that's appropriate, and I don't think Victoria does either, so...

She cuts in anyway, and shoves Bruce out of the way. They are dancing together now. And by now, mostly everyone at the party is watching.

TORI

Are you crazy??

PAULIE

What?? You don't like dancing?? You used to love to dance with me on the roof....remember??

TORI

Paulie...please.....

PAULIE

What??

TORI

Don't make this difficult.....

PAULIE

You love me Tori!!

TORI

Like a friend...

PAULIE

As a lover. Say it! I'm in love with you Paulie!!

(yells)

You say it or I'll stop this dance right now!!!

Everyone looks over at them..

TORI

Paulie please....please....

PAULIE

Then say it!!...say it.....

Tori looks at her father then looks back at Paulie

TORI

No!! You tell anyone whatever you want....

She leaves Paulie alone in the middle of the dance floor and then goes over to her father. Her father asks her something and Tori shakes her head.

TORI

No, it's ok...

Tori walks away, and her father follows behind her. Paulie is still standing there, and she starts to cry. Ms. Vaughn comes up behind her.

MS. VAUGHN

Paulie!! Paulie!

(tries to grab Paulie)

Come here....Paulie....

Paulie grabs her, spins around with her, then runs from the party. Ms. Bannet walks over to Ms. Vaughn

MS. BANNET

Faye....

Paulie runs out onto the grass, screaming.....

INT. PARTY – LATER

Mouse is walking outside and crying, while the party is still going on. Her father did not show up. Paulie is outside, leaning against a tree. She sees Mouse walking by.

PAULIE

Mary Brave.....let's go!!

They both run off into the woods.

MOUSE(narrates)

Have you ever been really thirsty, and you opened a carton of milk and poured it in your mouth, and it's... sour??

(pause)

That's what happened inside me...

PAULIE

I'm so tired...

MOUSE

forever.....

INT. THE WOODS – NIGHT

MOUSE

I've never been so tired...

PAULIE

(calls for the falcon)

Yah! Yah!!

(pause)

Yah!!!

The falcon flies over and lands on her gloved hand.

MOUSE

He can fly! Hey! You taught him to fly??

The bird flies away.

PAULIE

He's gonna show us the way, Mary B...

MOUSE

The way??

PAULIE

Mouse, where is your father??

(pause)

Did I see you cry?? Did you cry like a girl?? Like a girly, girly girl? (walks around the tree)
I've been crying, too, Mary B. I've been crying like a girly girl, sucky suck for weeks now!! And it's
time....it's time for the raptor....Are you with me??

I hate my father!! Say it, it's easy...come on....Say I HATE MY FATHER!

MOUSE

(quietly)

I hate

(pause)

my father!

PAULIE

Yea....gimme more!!

MOUSE

I wish he were dead! I hate him!!

(yells)

I HATE MY FUCKING ASSHOLE, FUCKING FATHER!!!! I HATE HIM!!!!!!!!!!!!

Paulie starts reciting some passages from Macbeth

PAULIE

Unsex me here. And take my milk for gall. Fill me from crown to toe top full with direst cruelty...

come on!! Say that!! Say it to the raptor!!

MOUSE

Unsex....unsex me here, and take my milk for gall....

PAULIE

Make thick my blood!!!...

MOUSE

Make thick my blood!!...

PAULIE

(gives Mouse the glove)

Feed the raptor!

MOUSE

I can't!

PAULIE

Oh yes, you can!!.

Mouse takes the glove and puts her right hand in it. Paulie gives her the food for the bird.

PAULIE

Fill me from crown to toe top full with direst cruelty....Come on say that!! and feed the beast!!

MOUSE

Fill me full from crown to toe top, full with direst cruelty...

Mouse takes the food and raises her hand. The bird comes and lands on her hand, takes the food and flies away.

PAULIE

Are you ready Mary B?? Ready for dark noon??

MOUSE

I'm ready!

PAULIE

Are you ready for anything??

(whispers)

Rage more.

(pause)

Come on!!

Paulie puts her arm over Mouse's shoulders and they go back to the school.

EXT. WOODS – NIGHT

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY – MORNING

Paulie is wearing a piece of reddish purple cloth around her head. Then Paulie takes the fire extinguisher from the wall and slams it against the glass window where the fencing swords are. She takes both swords and gives one to Mouse. Then she kisses the one she's holding.

OUTSIDE IN THE YARD – MORNING

Joe is outside burning some wood. Paulie and Mouse both run to the woods, past Joe. Paulie is screaming like a crazy person, startling Joe. He just shakes his head as they run by.

IN THE WOODS

Paulie and Mouse are running to where they will be meeting up with Jake. Paulie is running a bit ahead of Mouse but Mouse is catching up. She runs past Paulie and Paulie glances at her then looks ahead. Mouse is still running ahead of Paulie and Paulie looks at her again.

The falcon squawks, and flies over to a tree where Joe is standing. Joe just looks at it.

Paulie takes out the hooded grey sweatshirt from her backpack, and tosses her backpack to the ground. She is putting on her sweatshirt, and looks around for the falcon

PAULIE

(to bird)

Yah!

Joe watches the bird as it flies away. Paulie is standing with her arm out, she taps it, and the falcon flies over and lands on it.

PAULIE

She's ready. (she's talking about the falcon)

Jake, John and Phil finally come.

JAKE

What the fuck is that??

JOHN

It's her pet budgie!!

PAULIE

It's not a pet!

JAKE

Oh??

PAULIE

it's a killer!!

JAKE

Well, I came Paulie. So what do you wanna do?? You wanna fight me??

Paulie shakes her arm, and the falcon flies to the tree.

JAKE

You and your bird?? But I gotta warn you, I'm on the wrestling team.....

Paulie tosses a sword to Jake and he catches it.

JAKE

Oh, I get it...Like a stage fight...Are we gonna have a stage fight?? I played Laertes in Hamlet last term I can do this...I can have fun doing this....

He starts to copy what Paulie is doing with the sword. Then the fencing starts.

JAKE

(to Paulie)

psss....pssss...

Jake's friends are cheering him on, and Mouse is cheering for Paulie.

MOUSE

Come on, Paulie!!

(pause)

Be careful!!!

Paulie kicks Jake's fencing hand.

JAKE

Place your bets, my friends.

PAULIE

This is for my love!!

JAKE

You talking about Tori?? Get real!! She hates you....She's just too nice to tell you.....

PAULIE

She loves me.....

JAKE

Stop talking shit Paulie!! Tori's my girlfriend....

They continue to fence until Paulie kicks Jake in the back of his legs and he falls to the ground. Paulie then points the sword at Jake, runs the pointed end from his chest down to his right thigh.

PAULIE

Give her up!!

MOUSE

Paulie!!!

PAULIE

Say I GIVE HER UP!!

JAKE

Go fuck yourself!!!

Paulie screams and thrusts the sword hard into Jake's right thigh then pulls the sword out. Jake screams and blood runs out of his leg.

MOUSE

Paulie NOO!!!

JAKE

fucking bitch!!

MOUSE

Paulie!!!

JAKE

(turns to his side)

She cut me....

JOHN

Fucking bitch!!!!

His friends rush to him and try to help stop the bleeding. Mouse is screaming and crying. She pulls Paulie away from Jake.

MOUSE

(shakes her)

What are you doing?? What are you doing??

JAKE

(turns to Paulie)

You are fucking crazy!!!!!!!!!!

Paulie looks confused and upset. She then runs away, screaming. Mouse runs off too, crying.

INT. SOCCER FIELD – LATER ON

Tori is in a soccer practice with a bunch of the other girls. Ms. Bannet and Ms. Vaughn are sitting on the grass, cheering, and drinking coffee. Mouse comes running hysterically towards Tori, crying, with her arms swinging all over the place. The teachers get up, and Tori starts walking over towards her. Mouse reaches Tori and is breathing hard. She is still crying, but before she can say anything, all you can hear is the shrieking sounds of the falcon. They all look up and follow the flight of the falcon, which is flying towards Paulie, who is now on top of the roof of the school. The falcon reaches Paulie and lands on her arm.

MOUSE

(quietly)

Paulie.

(pause)

Paulie...please....

Tori is worried and starts shaking. Everyone is staring up at Paulie, and wondering what she's gonna do. They all have a shocked look on their face, because they don't know what's happening.

PAULIE

(recites)

'I will make me a willow cabin at your gate, and call upon my soul within the house.....'

Tori is shaking even harder now.

PAULIE

(quietly)

I rush into the secret house....

Paulie stretches both of her arms out sideways

TORI

(screams)

Paulie!!!!!!!!!!

Paulie leans forward and then falls off the roof. The falcon flies away.

Instead of seeing Paulie fall off the building, you see everyone looking up, and following the flight of the falcon. Everyone is shocked by what they have just seen.

The movie finishes with Mouse reading the letter that she had finally written to her dead mother

MOUSE

(narrates)

Dear my mother,

I almost got lost too, didn't I? But the pure love you gave me before you died, was like a flame, always there...burning...And just like the raptor, that little flame was all I needed, in order to see in the dark.

Thank you, mama, for saving me from the dark....Paulie...she didn't have that, the darkness took over her, and she had to fly away....I still dream of her, every night. And I think I always will.....

And you know, I can always remember your face now....Anytime I think of you, I look up, and I see your face. My mother's face, like a flame across the sky....

THE END**Songs****Beautiful**

Performed by Me' Shell Ndegeocello

From the album: Bitter, released in 1999

Sanctus

Performed by Missa Luba

From the album: Kenyan Folk Melodies, released in 1991

Add it up (live)

Performed by the Violent Femmes

From the album: Add it up: 1981-1993, released in 1993

You Had Time

Performed by Ani DiFranco

From the album: Out of Range, released in 1994

River Waltz

Performed by the Cowboy Junkies

From the album: Rarities, B-Sides, & Slow, sad Waltzes, released in 1999

Original Score

By Yves Chamberland