

BLUR

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FADE IN.

INT. KEVIN'S HOME - MORNING

A window lit room is seen from Kevin's point of view. He slowly pushes himself from the creaky bed and enters the small, dingy bathroom. He turns on the leaky faucet and places a raggedy face towel into the steaming water.

INT. KEVIN'S HOME - FLASHBACK

KEVIN'S MOTHER
(yelling)
You were suppose to pay the bill
last week!

KEVIN'S FATHER
(yelling)
Shut up woman! I paid the damn
bill! There has to be a mistake!

KEVIN'S MOTHER
(snarling)
Marrying you was the mistake.

Kevin's Father slaps his mother across her face, making her fall to the ground.

KEVIN
Mom!

Kevin runs to his mothers side.

KEVIN'S FATHER
Go to your room!

Kevin hesitates before standing in front of his father.

KEVIN'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Dammit boy I said now!

Kevin's father clinches his fist and mugs the small boy.

Kevin runs to his room looking back before slamming the door.

Back to scene.

Kevin drys his face and exits the bathroom into the hallway.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Monica is seen in an ACU uniform walking through campus.

SUE
(from afar)
Hey Monica!

MONICA

Monica stops walking as she notices her classmate, Sue, approaching her.

SUE
Hey, where you headed?

MONICA
101 Anthro.

SUE
(teasingly)
You're such a nerd Monica.

MONICA
Whatever Sue. You're the one who
can fly planes at the age of 10.

Sue shrugged her shoulders, brushing off Monica's compliment.

SUE
So, Dylan is having a party
tonight.

MONICA
You know I don't do parties.

SUE
(pleadingly)
I know, I just need you to D.D for
me.

MONICA
Okay, just give me your keys and
I'll pick you up.

SUE
(excitedly)
Okay, I'll call you! Thanks Mon.

Sue skips away from Monica, quickly linking up with another group of friends.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Monica enters the classroom and the room grows quiet. She sits in the front row and takes out her books. Professor Nixon eyes her before greeting the class.

PROFESSOR NIXON
Good morning ladies and gentlemen
and welcome to 101 anthropology.
Today we will be discussing the-

Suddenly a student, Michael, walks in late and sits next to Monica. He flashes a quick smile before he adverts his attention to Professor Nixon.

PROFESSOR NIXON (CONT'D)
(recovering)
We will start today's discussion by
looking into the society we live in
today and comparing it to societies
in the past.

The students begin to jot down notes.

PROFESSOR NIXON (CONT'D)
Can anyone tell me the difference
in society today than it was fifty
years ago?

Monica slowly raises her hand.

PROFESSOR NIXON (CONT'D)
Yes.

Nodding in Monica's direction.

MONICA
Well, I'm sure that you know there
has been a string of Police
brutality throughout the country.
These social injustices are very
similar to societal issues that
occurred fifty, sixty years ago.

PROFESSOR NIXON
Can you not admit that America as a
whole has grown pass those
abhorrent times?

MONICA
I'll admit it when I'm proven
otherwise. No disrespect professor,
but I can't turn a blind eye to
what is going on in front of me.
(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)

I see it every time I walk through this campus. Until we start getting justice for these crimes, I won't stop protesting.

FEMALE WHITE STUDENT

Black people aren't the only people cops are killing. They're killing us too.

Monica quickly turns toward the girl.

MONICA

That's true. In fact, whites are the leading percentage of cop killings. And the fact that you're not infuriated puzzles me.

Michael let's out a small chuckle as he looks at Monica, admiring her confidence.

PROFESSOR NIXON

It's very interesting that you have these views when you serve this country.

MONICA

I'm sorry professor. It's just being a black girl in America, I've had a different outlook on life. I can't just turn the other cheek when I serve this country and my people continue to be aimlessly killed on the street.

PROFESSOR NIXON

Understood. Well Miss Freeman I appreciate your enthusiasm for domestic affairs however let's just save your comment for later discussion.

Monica settles back into her seat and sits quietly throughout the rest of the class period.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL SIDEWALK - SAME TIME

Kevin steps onto the sidewalk his face hardened. He walks A few blocks before stopping in front of a small house. He walks on the porch and rings the doorbell. Soon a small frame girls steps out.

IRA

Hey Kev!

She hugs him closely before releasing him. Kevin immediately relaxes his posture and smiles.

KEVIN

Hey. You ready?

IRA

Yeah.

She swings her backpack across her shoulders and they hop off the porch onto the sidewalk.

IRA (CONT'D)

Oh my God. I have this pre-Cal test and Rogers class today. It's literally going to be the death of me.

KEVIN

I'm sure you'll ace it. You smart.

IRA

(nonchalantly)

Eh. Rogers is easy, but still. He assigns shit just to piss me off.

KEVIN

That's because he knows you're a genius.

IRA

(blushing)

You're too kind Kev.

KEVIN

Why don't we say fuck Rodgers and skip out?

IRA

What do you mean? Skip school?

KEVIN

Yeah. Why not? You've got like 2,000 credits anyways!

IRA

After a short pause Ira begins to laugh.

IRA (CONT'D)

Dude you know I'm in!

KEVIN

For real?

IRA

Yeah man. Let's do it.

KEVIN

Alright bet.

He looks around the neighborhood as if he were scanning a hideout spot.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

C'mon. I know a place we can go.

Kevin grabs Ira by the hand and they scurry off into the opposite direction of the school.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

PROFESSOR NIXON

Professor Nixon glances at his watch.

PROFESSOR NIXON (CONT'D)

Alright guys, that's a wrap for today.

The students began to grab their things and exit the classroom. Monica passes Michael and he stops her.

MICHAEL

Hey.

Monica continues to walk ignoring his calls. Michael catches up with her.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey. Again.

MONICA

I'm sorry? I didn't hear you call me before.

MICHAEL

What do you mean? I said 'Hey' when you passed me.

MONICA

Well the last time I checked my name was Monica, not 'Hey'. And for crying out loud, my last name is literally on my chest.

She points to her name tape dramatically.

MICHAEL
Geez, I'm sorry I bothered you.

MONICA
I bet you are.

MICHAEL
Feisty.

Michael licks his lips seductively.

MONICA
(laughing)
Ew.

Michael joins in laughter.

MICHAEL
So look, what are you doing
tonight? My boy Dylan is having a
party.

MONICA
Oh yeah I heard about it. However I
won't be endeavoring in that.

MICHAEL
Ah I see.

MONICA
What you mean?

MICHAEL
Nothing bad. It's just-

MONICA
Just what!

MICHAEL
You're afraid to have fun.

MONICA
What? I am not afraid to have fun.

MICHAEL
Do I hear a -

Begins to make chicken noises

MONICA
Oh yeah, real mature.

MICHAEL

Admit it. You don't think you're cool enough to go to a college party.

MONICA

I'll have you know, I've been to plenty.

MICHAEL

Oh yeah?

MONICA

Mmhmm. And I'm not impressed.

MICHAEL

(sarcastically)

Oh really?

MONICA

Besides. I'm D.D-ing tonight for a friend.

MICHAEL

So there's a chance I might see you there? Yes!

MONICA

Yeah. I'll be in the parking lot with the smokers and tweakers.

MICHAEL

(sarcastically)

Yikes.

MONICA

(sarcastically)

I know right.

MICHAEL

Well, I guess I'll see you tonight then.

MONICA

I guess.

Monica continue to walk toward her dorm.

EXT. LAKE - DAY - SAME TIME

Kevin and Ira carefully walk down a path toward the riverbank.

IRA
(gasping)
Oh my gosh! Kevin it's so pretty
here.

KEVIN
Yeah. I like to come here. To
think.

IRA
(slowly nodding)
Yeah. It's peaceful.

She reaches in her bag and pulls out a sketchbook and
pencils. She begins to sketch out the skyline.

Kevin watches her intently. His eyes never leaving the grace
of her fingers pushing the pencil to the paper.

Montage

- Kevin stands on the edge of the riverbank, tossing pebbles
into the water.

- Ira glances up at him from time to time.

IRA (CONT'D)
What ya think?

KEVIN
It's beautiful.

IRA
You really think so?

KEVIN
Yeah.

IRA
That means a lot coming from you.

KEVIN
Really?

IRA
Yeah. You know you have one of the
most creative minds I know.

KEVIN
(sarcastically)
Yeah right.

IRA
(reassuringly)
No seriously.

She turns to him staring into his eyes. She reaches for his face, bringing him closer to her.

IRA (CONT'D)
If you don't believe in yourself,
who will?

KEVIN
(jokingly)
You?

Ira playfully smacks Kevin, pushing him away.

Kevin pulls Ira back into him. Their bodies colliding.

Ira gazes at Kevin longingly as she tilts her head up.

Kevin returns the gesture and their lips touch gently.

Ira pulls away a second later. Her eyes meeting Kevin's.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
You okay?

IRA
Yeah.

Kevin and Ira lean into each other once more and kiss.

INT. KEVIN'S HOME - NIGHT

Kevin enters the small home and looks to the right to see his mother sitting in a lazy boy recliner smoking a cigarette.

KEVIN'S MOTHER
Where you been?

KEVIN
School.

In an outrage Kevin's mother throws an ashtray in Kevin's direction.

KEVIN'S MOTHER
Lie again! You ain't been at no
damn school!

Kevin walks pass his mother headed toward his bedroom.

KEVIN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
Where the hell you think you going!
Stupid ass! Can't go to school, but
you can walk ya bitch ass in that
room.

Kevin glances back at his mother before slamming the door shut.

KEVIN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
Slam another got damn door!

Kevin's mother lights a cigarette as she slides out of the recliner, reaching for the ashtray.

KEVIN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
You oughta take ya ass down to the
FEC building and get a job! Lazy
motherfucka.

Kevin sits in a creaky office chair in front of a cluttered desk. He stares down at the mess with tear brimmed eyes. He picks up his pencil and begins to write.

Intercut between Kevin's Bedroom and Monica's Dorm Room

- Monica is seen standing in front of a standing mirror trying on clothes.

- Kevin is still at his desk. A loud thud is heard from music blaring.

INT. MONICA'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

MONICA'S ROOMMATE
So, who you going out with again?

MONICA
I'm not going out with him. I just
might be seeing him there.

She turns toward her roommate showing off her outfit.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE
So is that why you're getting all
fancied up?

Monica rolls her eyes.

MONICA
I'm not getting fancied up. I just
want to look decent.
(MORE)

MONICA (CONT'D)

Who knows, my future husband could be in that parking lot.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE

Unh huh. Who is he?

MONICA

What?!

Monica's roommate gets up from her bed.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE

Who is he?

MONICA

Ugh. If you insist on knowing. I met him in my Anthro class today.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE

Oouu. Okay give me the details. Was it love at first sight?

MONICA

Damn near.

The girls laugh.

MONICA (CONT'D)

No but seriously. He's fine as hell girl.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE

What's his instagram?

MONICA

Hold on.

Monica pulls out her phone and flashes the phone toward her roommate.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE

He's cute girl. You better watch him.

MONICA

That's what I'm saying. I ain't tryna have those type of problems.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE

Well you know me girl. I'll beat a bitch ass in a heartbeat over mines.

MONICA
You so crazy girl!

Monica receives a notification on her phone.

MONICA (CONT'D)
Oh this is Sue. I gotta go.

MONICA'S ROOMMATE
Well you be careful. You know Sue
is a party animal.

MONICA
(chuckling)
I know girl.

Intercut between Kevin's Bedroom and the Living Room.

KEVIN'S MOTHER
Kevin!

KEVIN
Yeah?

KEVIN'S MOTHER
Some lil bitch standing outside my
porch.

KEVIN
Who?

KEVIN'S MOTHER
Hell I don't know! Get ya black ass
up and come see!

Kevin gets up from his desk. He passes his mother entering
the doorway.

KEVIN
Ira. Wassup?

IRA
Hey.

KEVIN
You good?

IRA
Not really.

Kevin glances back at his mother.

KEVIN
Let's go.

INT. SUES CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

SUE
You look good Mon. You seeing
somebody at the party?

MONICA
(blushes)
What's up with the speculation
tonight?

SUE
(prying)
C'mon. We're like best friends. You
can tell me.

MONICA
(blushing)
His name is Michael.

SUE
(abrupt)
Doesn't ring a bell. Anyways. Let's
go.

MONICA
Okay...

Monica starts the car and they pull off.

INT. IRA'S CAR - NIGHT

Ira and Kevin are driving down a road. The only sound heard
is the wind passing through the windows. She pulls over into
a desolate lot. And shuts the engine off.

KEVIN
What's going on shorty?

IRA
It's my dad.

KEVIN
What happened?

IRA
He just flipped.

Ira quickly wipes away her tears.

Kevin pulls Ira close to him.

Ira buries her face in Kevin's chest. After a moment she pulls away. Eyes puffy.

IRA (CONT'D)
Thanks Kev.

KEVIN
You wanna talk about it?

IRA
(sniffing)
I can't deal with his shit anymore.
Ever since my mom died, he's become
someone else.

KEVIN
(growing angry)
What he do?

IRA

Ira reveals bruises around her neck making Kevin's face flare with anger.

KEVIN
I'm so sorry Ira.

IRA
It's not your fault Kev. It's his.
That's why I'm leaving.

KEVIN
Leaving?

IRA
Yeah and I want you to come too.

KEVIN
Me?

IRA
Yeah. I see how they treat you.

Kevin's head jerked in Ira's direction. As his eyes met her gaze his head fell and he closed his eyes.

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

A small Kevin is seen in his bedroom. A small Monica creeps into the room and runs to Kevin's bedside, shaking him awake.

SMALL MONICA
Kev, you awake?

Kevin turns to Monica

SMALL KEVIN
What is it Monie?

SMALL MONICA
Can I sleep in here tonight?

Kevin pulls the covers down so Monica can get in.

Monica climbs into the bed next to her younger Brother,
snuggling closer to him.

Kevin's father appears in the threshold of the doorway.

KEVIN'S FATHER
(sing song)
Monie!

Monica wraps her arms around her brother tighter and Kevin
returns the grip.

SMALL KEVIN
(whispering)
Dont worry Monie, he can't get you
in here.

Back to scene

IRA
We both need a change. That's why
I'm leaving tomorrow night.

Kevin jerks his head up.

KEVIN
Tomorrow night?

IRA
I want you to come with me.

KEVIN
To where?

IRA
Anywhere. We can literally go
anywhere we want.

Kevin stares at the small frail body. He gazes in her eyes
seeing the honesty and seriousness.

KEVIN
I'll think about it.

IRA
Cool. You have till 8 am.

INT. DYLAN'S PARTY - NIGHT

Monica and Sue arrive at Dylan's party.

SUE
Here are my keys. Thanks so much.

MONICA
Yeah no problem. I'll just be out here.

Monica makes her way out of the house and into the backyard. She scans the scene for Michael but to no avail.

Michael scans the house for Monica, and notices her sitting outside.

SUE
Hey Mike!

MICHAEL
Oh, hey Sue.

SUE
Funny seeing you here.

MICHAEL
Dylan is my best friend. Why wouldn't I be here?

SUE
Oh really? Had no idea. Anyways. I've been wanting to talk to you.

MICHAEL
Yeah, bout what?

SUE
Us.

MICHAEL
What about 'us'?

SUE
You know about our rendezvous last semester.

MICHAEL
Yeah about that. I hardly remember.

SUE
(small giggle)
Thats so funny. Because I remember
you saying, I was the best you ever
had.

MICHAEL
Look Sue. Don't believe me when I'm
off the Henny okay? Now if you'd
excuse me.

He pushes pass her and heads for the backyard. He sneaks up
on Monica.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Boo!

Monica screams.

Michael laughs at her state of frightening.

MONICA
That's not funny.

MICHAEL
I thought it was.

Monica pouts at him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I'm glad you came though.

MONICA
Yeah well, I told you I'm on duty
tonight.

MICHAEL
Oh yes. Designated Driver Duty.

MONICA
That would be me.

MICHAEL
Well I guess since you won't be
enjoying the party, I'll keep you
company.

MONICA
No you don't have to. I was just
going to play Pokémon go until it's
over.

MICHAEL
No fucking way.

MONICA

What?

MICHAEL

You play Pokémon Go? That's so cool.

MONICA

Yeah well, I'm a huge fan.

MICHAEL

Same.

MONICA

Really? Who's you're favorite Pokémon?

MICHAEL

Pikachu of course.

MONICA

Amateur response.

MICHAEL

What? You don't believe me?

MONICA

I'm just saying.

MICHAEL

Whatever. Pikachu kicks ass.

Monica laughs.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

So tell me, where are you from?

MONICA

Kansas City.

MICHAEL

Oh really?

MONICA

Yeah. What about you?

MICHAEL

Miami.

MONICA

Figures.

MICHAEL

What?

MONICA

I knew you had to be from somewhere rich.

MICHAEL

Well that's cold.

MONICA

I'm sorry. I just know we'd never meet if it wasn't for school.

MICHAEL

That's not true. I've lived all over the country because of my father. We'd cross paths at some point.

MONICA

I doubt it. Your parents are probably A listers.

MICHAEL

Nah. Just big time lawyers for A listers.

MONICA

Exactly.

MICHAEL

Your folks can't be too bad.

INT. LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

Small Monica and Small Kevin sit in front of a small TV. Suddenly a glass shatters and you can hear faint yelling.

KEVIN'S MOTHER

(screaming)

Stop! Stop!

KEVIN'S FATHER

Move bitch!

A loud smack is heard.

Kevin's mother begins to cry.

Kevin's father enters the living room.

KEVIN'S FATHER (CONT'D)

What y'all watching?

SMALL KEVIN

Cartoons.

KEVIN'S FATHER

I didn't ask you. I'm talking to Monie.

KEVIN'S MOTHER

Darryl, please.

KEVIN'S FATHER

Bitch didn't I tell you to go to bed? You take this little nigga here and go to bed.

Kevin's mother grabs Kevin and Monica.

KEVIN'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I didn't say Monie.

KEVIN'S MOTHER

But, don't you want them sleep for school?

KEVIN'S FATHER

Monie is fine. We gone have some daddy-daughter time.

KEVIN'S MOTHER

Not tonight, its late.

Kevin's father grabs her by the neck.

KEVIN'S FATHER

Why every time I tell yo black ass something you back talking me?

KEVIN'S MOTHER

(choking)

Please!

Kevin's father release his grip on Kevin's mother.

He snatches Monica out of her arms.

KEVIN'S FATHER

C'mon Monie.

Monica glances up at her mother with pleading eyes.

Kevin's mother looks back at her with disgust and pushes her toward Kevin's father.

Kevin's father grips Monica's shoulders.

Kevin's mother takes Kevin to bed.

Back to scene

MICHAEL

So do you have family back home?

MONICA

Just a little brother.

MICHAEL

What about your parents?

Monica hesitates before answering.

MONICA

I never knew them.

MICHAEL

That doesn't make sense.

MONICA

Yeah well, not everyone lived a privileged, two parent household, like you.

MICHAEL

Okay. That came out wrong. And now I sound like the biggest jerk of 2017. I'm sorry.

MONICA

It's cool. I shouldn't have expected you to understand.

MICHAEL

Let me make it up to you.

MONICA

How?

MICHAEL

Let me take you out. Tomorrow night.

Monica studies his body language. Before she could answer Sue approaches them.

SUE

Hey Monica. This party is dead. Let's bounce.

MONICA

Uh...

SUE
Oh hey Mike.

Michael nods to her.

SUE (CONT'D)
I'll be waiting by the car.

Sue walks away leaving Monica stunned.

MONICA
I guess I'm rolling out then.

MICHAEL
Yeah. So tomorrow?

MONICA
I'll think about it.

MICHAEL
Don't think for too long.
Tomorrow's not promised.

Monica walks away from Michael heading back into the crowded house.

Intercut between Monica and Kevin

- Ira pulls away from Kevin's small house. Leaving him outside. He slowly turns toward his home. His father stands on the porch eyeing him down.

KEVIN'S FATHER
Where you been?

- Monica approaches Sue's car unlocking it with the key.

KEVIN
I just took a drive.

- They climb into the car. Sue slams the door shut in frustration.

KEVIN'S FATHER
You think you a man.

- Kevin remained silent.

MONICA
You okay Sue?

SUE
Never been better. Just wanna get home.

KEVIN'S FATHER
You think you grown huh?

- Kevin's father rushes him and throws him to the ground.
- Monica and Sue pull off and head down the street in silence.
- Kevin's father and Kevin begin to tussle on the ground. Kevin's father delivering blows to Kevin's head.

MONICA
So why didn't you tell me you knew
Michael?

Sue rolls her eyes.

SUE
I didn't recognize him at first.
So, he screwing you too?

MONICA
Excuse me? I don't sleep around.

SUE
(angrily)
Opposing to who?

- In an outrage Sue grabs for the wheel.
- Kevin's mother storms out of the house.

KEVIN'S MOTHER
What is going on?!

Kevin punches his father and shoves him off of him. He rises to his feet dazed.

- Monica over corrects the wheel sending the car into a divider.
- Kevin begins to limp away, running away from his father.
- Sue regains consciousness and takes in her surroundings.

SUE
Monica?

- Monica lays lifeless against the drivers wheel covered in glass and blood.
- Kevin continues to run down the street.

25.

FADE OUT.