

BEFORE MOURNING RISES

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. AFTERLIFE - SKY

A BIPLANE mutters through the vivid sky. THEO (12) flies in loops and corkscrews, soaring just above the clouds.

Theo laughs and whoops.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN - NIGHT

The ground RUMBLES. Sparkly trees and plants cave into the ground, falling into a vast pit of darkness. A glowing figure blips away.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Deep purples and soft pinks paint the vast sky. Clouds fade into a fiery orange as the sun falls behind the horizon. Pink blossom trees dance in the wind as the first stars begin to shine.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP! BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!

A little hand pushes open the microwave door. KIRI (8) slides a bowl of soup out of the microwave. The top of her head bobs up and down over the kitchen counter as she walks her soup to the table.

The table is set as well as any seven year old would set it. On one side of the table is a grilled-cheese sandwich and a steamy bowl of soup. On the other is another grilled-cheese sandwich, with a space for a bowl of soup. Kiri sets down the bowl of soup, filling the gap that was there before.

She slides over a foot stool and opens the kitchen cabinets. From inside the cabinets, two distinctly different GLASS CUPS sit: One with swirling purple and blue and the name "THEO" printed on it, and another cup of swirling pink and green and the name "KIRI" printed on it. Kiri grabs both glasses.

Kiri sets them at opposite sides of the table. She climbs onto her chair, poking her head through the horizon of the table.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Kiri's mother, LENA (38) enters.

LENA

Grandma Michelle is going to pick us up tom--

She sees the chaos of a mess in her kitchen.

LENA (CONT'D)

Kiri, hun? What did you make?

KIRI

Grilled-cheese and alphabet soup!
Our favourite.

LENA

Hun, remember how I told you to clean up after you make something?

KIRI

Sorry, Mom. I just wanted Theo to eat before the morning.

Lena crouches beside Kiri.

LENA

I know, baby. It's so sweet of you to think about your brother.

Kiri's face is covered in soup. Lena wipes Kiri's face.

LENA (CONT'D)

He misses you too. We'll all feel especially close to him tomorrow. Did you try on the black dress I got you yesterday?

KIRI

I don't want to wear that. I don't like dresses. I why can't I just wear this? Theo always wore his pjs.

LENA

Because this is a special event we're having for your brother and we don't want to be disrespectful, right?

Kiri sighs.

KIRI

Okay, fine.

Kiri hops out of her seat and leaves the kitchen. Lena sits down. Tears well up in her eyes, and her nose is stuffy. She grabs Theo's cup.

LENA
(whispering)
I didn't know we still had these.

Lena collects herself and stands up from the table. She gathers the dishes and as she turns around, she stubs her toe. Theo's cup falls from her grasp.

SMASH!

Lena stands still in disbelief. She stares at the glass fragments all over the floor. Fragments slide into other rooms, and under the cabinets, tables and fridge.

Her breathing becomes unsteady as she sweeps up the glass remains in her hand. Her hands quiver as she collects the fragmented shards. She picks up A SHARD that had most of Theo's name printed on it.

She holds it to her heart, squeezing the glass tight. Once she opens her hand, blood begins to ooze from her hand. Lena lets out a great BELLOW. The bellow echoes.

INT. DREAM REALM - PRISON

Darkness. Pitch black. A girl reveals herself, glowing a faint purple. MARA's (38) jet black hair covers her eyes and face. Her pale skin makes her look unwell. Starved. SHACKLES are locked to her wrists and ankles. The cold iron rests on the ground coiled around Mara. Mara's eyes open - vast, dark pits. Empty voids that hide all that sits behind them.

The faint purple aura pulses brighter. The chains radiate purple.

CLINK! CLINK! CLINK, CLINK!

The chains fall to the ground, as the shackles dangle on her wrists and ankles. Mara's eye's glow with rage. Mara flies off camera.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kiri brushes her teeth and spits into the sink. PLINK! Her eyes go wide. She makes a big smile into the mirror. She lost one of her bottom front teeth. She feels the new gap with her tongue.

LENA (O.C.)
Kiri, did you brush your teeth?

KIRI
Yup.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM

Kiri rushes into her bedroom. Lena waits on Kiri's bed, her hand wrapped in a bandage. Lena's head is buried in her hands, she's holding an ORANGE PILL BOTTLE.

KIRI
Mom, look! My tooth.

LENA
That's great, baby.

KIRI
Does that mean I get a visit from
the Tooth Fairy?

LENA
Yes, honey.

Kiri climbs onto her bed.

KIRI
Mom? Are you okay?

LENA
Mom's okay, just feeling a little
tired. Come here.

Kiri snuggles up next to Lena.

LENA (CONT'D)
I love you and your brother more
than anything in the world.

KIRI
I know, Mom.

LENA
And you know he's just above the
clouds, in the afterlife. Watching
over us - like a guardian angel.

KIRI
My friend, Tilly, says that the
afterlife is whatever you want it
to be.

LENA
She's right.

Lena kisses Kiri on the forehead. Kiri gets under the covers and nestles in.

LENA (CONT'D)
Get some rest, hun. Tomorrow's an important day for this family.

KIRI
No, but I'm not tired.

Lena sighs, staring at an ORANGE PILL BOTTLE. She opens it.

LENA
Take one of these. It will help you sleep. I'll set an alarm in case.

Lena sets Kiri's ALARM CLOCK to 7:00am, and places it down on the night stand. The clock flashes 8:46pm. Lena walks to the door.

KIRI
Goodnight, Mom.

LENA
Goodnight.

Lena turns off the lights and slowly shuts the door.

KIRI
Mom?

LENA
Yes, dear?

KIRI
Do I have a guardian angel?

Lena chuckles.

LENA
Of course, dear. Everyone does. You just have to have to trust what they're doing is right, and they know what's best for you.

Kiri blushes.

KIRI
Love you, Mom.

LENA
Love you too, baby.

Lena shuts the door.

A small star night light turns on beside the bed, and the adhesive stars glow on Kiri's ceiling. Kiri's eye shut.

KIRI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Lena walks into the kitchen to Kiri's mess.

Lena picks up the pile of dishes that were on the kitchen table and brings them to the sink. She puts the sandwiches in a clear bag and tosses them in the fridge. She washes the dishes in the sink and wipes down the microwave.

Finally, she wipes down the kitchen counter to give it a glimmering shine.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM

Kiri is sound asleep. The clock flashes 9:39pm. Her shades are closed, but still let light come in from the sides.

Cars drive down the street, faintly lighting up her room when they pass the house. Kiri tosses and turns.

Another car passes the house. Upon lighting up the room through the swaying shades, Mara appears. She is perched on Kiri's bed. Mara stares down at Kiri.

MARA
(whispering)
Oh, sweet child. We don't have much
time.

Footsteps from the hallway. They get louder. A shadow approaching the door through the slit between the door and the floor. The doorknob slowly, turns open. Lena pokes her head in the room.

She quietly walks up to Kiri's bed. Lena grazes her hand on Kiri's cheek.

LENA
(whispering)
I know you're hurting, baby. I am
too. It'll all be over soon.

Lena places a five dollar bill under Kiri's pillow.

Mara waits patiently under Kiri's bed.

Lena walks out of Kiri's room and shut the door from under Kiri's bed.

Mara slowly emerges from under the bed. She leans over Kiri. Her hair just barely missing Kiri's face. Kiri's eyelids moving rapidly and randomly as she does the occasional twitch.

Mara sighs.

MARA
(whispering)
I'm too late. Well, this way could
be more fun.

Mara's gently presses her fingers on Kiri's forehead. Her fingertips pulse a faint blue light. The pulsing grows faster until Mara's fingertips push through Kiri's head.

MARA (CONT'D)
Sweet dreams.

A white light flashes bright.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN

The light subsides. Mara's laugh echoes. Kiri's eyes open. She gasps.

Kiri sits in a vast garden, with lush, vibrant green grass. In the centre of the garden is a towering, PINK WILLOW TREE, draped in mossy vines and glowing butterflies. The sky swirls with purple, pink, blue and green streams all bundled up and intertwined.

LUMI, a shimmering spirit-like figure watches from behind the willow tree. Kiri watches this new world around her, so alive and peaceful.

Kiri hears rustling in the willow branches. She cautiously backs away from the tree. She backs up next to ARLO, who hangs upside down from a branch.

ARLO
Do you hear something?

Kiri and Arlo fall to the ground.

Arlo's short, platinum blonde hair shimmers in the light as he adjusts his big, round glasses. He wears a purple hoodie with big, purple eyes.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Whoops. My bad. Are you okay?

Kiri's eyes are wide with caution.

KIRI
Who are you?

ARLO
Name's Arlo. I'm a Dreamweaver.
You're Kiri. I know all about you.

KIRI
Um, where am I? Am I... dead?

ARLO
Oh, no. Nothing like that. Welcome
to the Dream Realm. A place where
all your wildest dreams come true.
Well, that is until I find that
little sparkly guy, Lumi. I just
met him. I don't trust him with
that much power, he's got the
maturity of a twelve year old.

KIRI
How old are you?

ARLO
Oh, I'm a twelve year old. But, a
Dreamweaver knows no age. We are
simply figments of your
imagination. Some people say we're
as old as the person we host. Some
say we're as old as time itself. I
tend to stick around the age of the
person I host so we can grow
together. Not many Dreamweavers do
that. It's very progressive, I must
say.

KIRI
(to herself)
A guardian angel.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Lumi jumps from back side of the willow tree. He pulls out
Arlo's large, SEWING NEEDLE. The gold needle shimmers as it
glows and hums as it's waved around.

ARLO
Hey! Lumi, give it. Give it.

Arlo jumps around trying to take the needle from Lumi. Lumi uses the needle to turn Arlo into several random items from a butterfly to a fan.

Arlo 's voice flutters as if talking into a fan.

ARLO (CONT'D)

Lumi. I'm not joking. Give me the needle.

Arlo hops to chases Lumi, who hides behind Kiri.

ARLO (CONT'D)

Kiri, take it. Take it!

Kiri snatches the needle from Lumi. Lumi hunches over, gloomy.

KIRI

How do you work this thing?

Kiri waves it around unsure, yet carelessly. The needle's glowing aura disappears.

ARLO

Oh, yeah. You really have to believe in your imagination. It take practice, you'll get there.

Arlo turns to Lumi.

ARLO (CONT'D)

Uh, Lumi. Do I dare ask?

Lumi waves up at Kiri.

KIRI

Oh, here.

She hands Lumi the needle. Lumi turns Arlo back into his original self. He hands the needle over to Arlo.

ARLO

Thank you, squire. Come on, I'll show you around.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE

Arlo, Kiri, and Lumi walk to the edge overlooking the whole land, surrounded in flashing bright colours and swirling patterns. Dense, white clouds that are scattered around just below.

ARLO
Beautiful, isn't it?

KIRI
It reminds me of someone. He's
just. I was just trying to see him.

Arlo hops over the edge and hovers in front of Kiri. The needle glows gold. He reaches his hand out.

ARLO
Want a better look?

Kiri reaches for Arlo's hand, but is too far away. Lumi floats in front of Kiri. He hugs himself, swaying back and forth. He nestles himself into Kiri as Kiri hugs him tight.

Kiri's feet lift from the ground. She first looks uneasy, but quickly gets acclimatized. With Lumi in her arms, Kiri follows Arlo, as they soar through the clouds.

EXT. DREAM REALM - SKY

Wisps of glowing shimmers trail behind them as they soar through the stardust clouds.

A total utopia of love and life was living under their feet:

Lush meadows with flowers that hum gentle melodies, rivers flowing with liquid light, and forests where the trees' leaves glow faintly, as though lit from within.

Majestic crystal mountains rise in the distance, their peaks catching the light of twin moons that hang low on the horizon.

Dream creatures of every shape and size roam freely, some leaping through the air, others lounging on floating islands that drift gently along invisible currents.

Mystical-looking deer prance over the hills while brightly while exotic-coloured birds briefly join the three heroes on their flight.

Occasionally, a glowing city of spires and domes, appears from between the clouds. They perform acrobatics around the colourful ribbons in the sky. The air tingles with a sense of wonder, as the Dream Realm reveals its infinite beauty.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN

Mara wonders around the garden, sifting through the tall grass and flowers. The grass rustles occasionally, but is caused by an animal or creature of some kind, poking their head out and sniffing around.

MARA

Kiri, honey. Where are you?

Kiri exclaims with delight from above. She flies around the colourful sky with Lumi in arms and Arlo right next to her.

Kiri's shadow crosses over Mara looking up at the gleeful girl. Mara watches as Kiri and Arlo land on a far away cliff that looks over the vast landscape Mara finds herself stranded in.

Two mystical-looking bunnies hop out of the grass. Mara waves her hands, transforming the helpless victims into WRAITHS. The large, ghostly-figured helpers SNARL as they finish mutilating.

MARA (CONT'D)

Find her.

The Wraiths rush in Kiri's direction, leaving a trail of black and purple ooze. Mara makes her trek to the cliffside where Kiri and others are resting.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lena turns off the light in her ensuite and walks out flossing her teeth. She's in her pajamas. Her eyes are red and puffy. She sits on the right side of the bed, the left side is made neat and tidy.

She lays down under the covers and turns off her table lamp. The clock flashes 10:02pm.

A long pause.

Lena gently sobs in the dark. Her silhouette sits up and turns on the lamp.

LENA

I can't. I can't.

Lena walks out the door.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

The kettle boils to a WHISTLE. Lena turns off the stove, and pours herself a cup of tea. She blows on the tea, the steam pours over the cup.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lena walks over to the couch and sits, placing her tea on the coffee table. As she sips her tea, her stomach growls.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Lena opens the fridge. She grabs the sandwiches that Kiri made and tosses them in the microwave.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Lena sits on the couch snacking on the sandwiches and sips her tea.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Lena comes out of her ensuite once again, flossing her teeth. She sits back down on the right side of the bed, gets under the covers and turns off the table lamp.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE

Kiri and Arlo's legs dangle over the rocky fixture. Patches of tall, sage grass wave in the breeze. The pink willow tree sways far-off in the distance. The dark ooze comes closer in distance.

KIRI

The sky is so pretty. All my favourite colours.

ARLO

Of course they are.

ARLO (CONT'D)

Kiri?

Kiri looks over at Arlo.

ARLO (CONT'D)

I knew him too.

Kiri smiles.

KIRI

You did? How?

ARLO

I'm his Dreamweaver. I was.

Kiri's smile slowly fades.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

The "Theo" and "Kiri" glass cups sit on the coffee table, filled with soda.

Colourful balloons and streamers cover the entire room. A mountain of OPEN BOXES AND GIFT BAGS sit in the corner. Theo sits at the couch, wearing a birthday hat on. Kiri, also wearing a hat, sits next to Theo. Kiri has all of her teeth.

LENA

Okay, birthday boy, there is one final present. This one your sister picked out for you.

Theo's big, blue eyes sparkle as he admires the box that is laid before him. He tears off the wrapping paper, and lifts it high - a REMOTE CONTROL PLANE.

THEO

No, you did not! How did you know?

LENA

Your sister knows you well, baby.

Theo's eyes fill with excitement and he smiles wide.

THEO

I love it. Thank you.

He turns to give Kiri a big hug. Then, turns to give Lena a big hug as well. Lena kisses Theo on the head.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - THEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Theo lies in bed, wide awake. He tosses and turns, but cannot sleep - restless. He sits up and stares at his new plane on a chair in the corner of his room.

He jumps out of bed and puts on a hoodie. He grabs the box and gently opens his door.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM

Theo gently cracks open Kiri's door. He sneaks up to Kiri's bed and softly jostles her leg.

THEO
(whispers)
Kiri? Kiri, wake up.

Kiri rolls over and looks up at Theo. The clock flashes 11:24pm.

KIRI
Why, Theo? It's too early for this.

THEO
I can't wait. I need to at least test it.

Kiri turns her table lamp on and puts on her hoodie.

EXT. KIRI'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - LATER

Theo stands in the yard flying his new toy plane as Kiri watches, sitting next to Theo.

The plane lights up in the twinkling night sky like a real plane does. Theo is naturally skilled at flying his plane, performing several tricks and maneuvers as if he were a licensed pilot.

The plane flies into a tree, getting caught in the branches. The broken plane rests on the branches. Theo set the REMOTE down, climbs up the tree, and steps onto a branch.

The branch bends as Theo trusts it more. Theo shuffles his SHOES farther out to where the plane lies. Just within grasp; Theo reaches...

Closer...

A fingernail away...

SNAP!

Kiri's eyes widen. She gasps.

Theo falls from a great height. His back nearing the ground. Theo reaches for any branch as he whips past them.

As Theo is about to hit the ground...

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

...Lena wakes up from her sleep in a jolting panic. She sits up and turns the table lamp on. The glass shard with Theo's name sits next to the lamp. The clock flashes 11:57.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BATHROOM

Lena turns the light on and opens her cupboard. An ORANGE PILL BOTTLE with her name on the label sits on the shelf. She opens the bottle and dumps out a few pills on her counter. She scoops them up and tosses them in her mouth. She closes the bottle and puts them back in the cupboard. With a glass of water, she swallows the pills.

She looks at herself in the mirror - locking eyes with herself.

LENA
(whispering)
God, please forgive me.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE

Kiri and Arlo are lie on their backs, with their feet hanging over the edge. They watch the ribbons in the sky weave and dance around. Lumi plays with the grass in the background.

KIRI
What was your favourite moment with him?

ARLO
That's a hard one. You know how he dreamt of being a pilot right?

Kiri nods.

ARLO (CONT'D)

Well, one night I made him exactly that. I was his co-pilot. I was the one to get him into flying. We'd fly every night. Sometimes I wonder if I hadn't then he might've...

Kiri takes Arlo's hand.

KIRI

It's not your fault, Arlo.

ARLO

I know, I know. It's just...I wonder sometimes what might've been. I just want to fly with him again.

The two look over the cliff.

ARLO (CONT'D)

You know, he dreamt a lot about you. You may be younger but boy, he looked up to you.

KIRI

Yeah, right.

ARLO

He did. He was always jealous of your imagination, your creativity. It doesn't come naturally to everyone.

KIRI

How come I don't have a Dreamweaver?

Arlo sits up.

ARLO

You do.

Kiri sits up. She looks puzzled.

KIRI

Lumi!

ARLO

You ask me, you don't need one. You can dream of anything you want. Your creativity is limitless.

Arlo gestures at the beauty.

ARLO (CONT'D)

Look around. This is all you, Kiri.
This was all here went I showed up.
I didn't do this. In fact...

Arlo takes out his needle. He looks at his reflection in the shiny needle.

ARLO (CONT'D)

You don't need me.

KIRI

I do, Arlo. I do need you. I can't
even use the needle. You think I
can survive alone?

ARLO

You so can, you have.

KIRI

Do you think I want to?

Lumi hops up to Arlo, he nuzzles in his arm.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Kiri sits on her knees with her back facing the cliff.

KIRI

We need you, Arlo. I need you.

The grass rustles.

KIRI (CONT'D)

Lumi?

Arlo's eyes widen.

ARLO

Kiri!

Kiri turns around. The Wraiths pounce on top of Kiri,
thrusting against the rocky terrain.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

Kiri is lying in bed. Her arms twitch. Kiri's clock flashes
1:35am.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Mara climbs over the cliffside. Her eyes glow a bright white.

MARA

Surprise.

Kiri's eyes fill with terror, her breath unsteady. The silhouette of Mara is seen in her pupils.

Arlo tackles the Wraiths off of Kiri. Arlo and Mara tumble aside. Arlo's needle CLATTERS on the ground. The needle's aura pulses as Kiri reaches for it.

ARLO

Kiri, run.

Kiri dashes off, leaving the needle behind. Lumi follows close behind.

MARA

Get her.

The Wraiths follow Lumi's lingering trail of sparkles.

EXT. DREAM REALM - ETERNAL FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Kiri enters a dense, whimsical forest. Vines and moss hang from branches.

Kiri sprints as fast as her little legs will carry her. Lumi hovers around her, knocking away and branches or plants that are in her way. Kiri occasionally stumbles over a root or a stone, but never stops.

The Wraiths catch up, biting at her at every opportunity. Lumi knocks one Wraith into a passing cave. One more to go.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - CONCURRENTLY

Arlo rests on his knees. Mara rolls over, she spots the needle on the ground.

MARA

I'll admit, dear boy, you were the last person I'd expect to see.

ARLO

That's because your vision's clouded with judgment. With rage.

MARA

Perhaps. Doesn't change the fact that the girl has been living a lie, and so have you.

ARLO

I'm only protecting her. She can't handle any more than what she already knows.

MARA

What she knows? Or what you tell her?

Mara's shackles CLATTER.

MARA (CONT'D)

Tell me, what favours are you doing letting her be lied to?

ARLO

She can't get hurt in a utopia.

Mara's shackles glow purple.

MARA

It's only a utopia if someone suffers.

Mara leaps for Arlo, who quickly evades.

EXT. DREAM REALM - ETERNAL FOREST - CONCURRENTLY

A light shines through the branches. Kiri runs toward it, shielding her eyes as she nears. She is about to emerge from the dense forest...

SMACK!

Kiri trips over a root.

The final Wraith stops in front of her. Lumi flies from behind Kiri and hurls star-like projectiles at the Wraith, disintegrating it to a pile of glitter.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - CONCURRENTLY

The needle HUMS in the front of the two. Mara and Arlo are at a stand still.

MARA

You can't expect me to let her stay with you.

ARLO

You can't expect me to give her up.

She dives for the needle. Upon grabbing it, the needle instantly fades into a reflective black.

ARLO (CONT'D)

No!

Arlo grabs the needle too. The area he's in contact with remains a bright gold.

MARA

Don't worry, darling. You know where to find me.

ARLO

(struggling)

If you do this, she will never be the same.

MARA

That's what she needs.

Mara kicks Arlo off the cliffside.

Mara stands at the edge of the cliff, needle in hand. Her shackles break off. She looks at the world she's about to conquer, accompanied by multiple Wraiths of various animal victims.

END OF ACT 1.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark. Lena sits on her carpet, legs crossed.

WHOOSH!

A match flickers. Lena lights several candles revealing a SCRAPBOOK. The book is filled to the brim. Each child has a tabbed section - one for Kiri, and one for Theo.

A tear beads down her face. Her hand reaches for Theo's tab, she hesitates. The tear drops.

EXT. KIRI'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Theo's plane whirls in the night sky, and is caught in a tree.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Lena is sound asleep. Theo tiptoes toward Lena's bed. Theo pokes Lena's leg.

THEO
(whispers)
Mom? Mom?

Lena groans.

LENA
(groggy)
Theo, honey, what's wrong?

THEO
My plane. It's in the tree.

LENA
You shouldn't be up, it's so late.
I mean early.

Lena rolls over.

LENA (CONT'D)
I can try to get it in the morning.

THEO
Can't you do it now? I'd sleep
better knowing it's not going to
fall.

LENA
Honey, if you want it that bad, you
can get it yourself.

Theo looks out the bedroom window. The plane rests within the frame of the window.

THEO
Okay.

Theo tiptoes out of the bedroom, shutting the door behind him.

EXT. KIRI'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - LATER

The plane sways with the branches in the wind. Kiri and Theo stand at the trunk. Kiri has all of her teeth.

KIRI

It looks really high up. Maybe you should just wait 'til the morning.

THEO

No, I need to get it. I don't want it to break. I just got it.

Theo grabs the lowest branch. He pulls himself up and reach for the next branch...

And the next.

THEO (CONT'D)

(muttering)

What kind of pilot crashes their plane during a red-eye? A bad pilot, that's who. We know who won't be off to flight school.

Eventually, Theo is level with the branch the plane rests on. Sidestepping an inch at a time, Theo makes his way toward the plane.

SNAP!

A smaller branch falls as Theo gets closer to the plane. The branch nearly hits Kiri.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The branches snapping is muttered through the window, but enough to wake Lena. Confused, she drags herself to the window.

Lena gasps and bangs on the window.

LENA

Theo! Get down from there!

Theo reaches...

And reaches...

SNAP!

Lena covers her mouth. She bolts out of the room.

LENA (CONT'D)

Theo!

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The tear splashes on Theo's tab. Lena wipes her eyes.

She opens the scrapbook. Various PICTURES of Theo, from different ages all organized and decorated with blue and purple beads and glitter.

EXT. KIRI'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Lena and Kiri kneel next to Theo. Branches are spread over the yard. The plane lays on the ground, broken. Lena holds Theo in her arms. She kisses him on the forehead.

Sirens BLARE in the distance.

END OF FLASHBACK.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM

Kiri and Lumi rest on a nearby stone.

KIRI

It's all my fault, Lumi. I'm sorry.

Kiri traces a circle in the water, and watches the stream ripple.

KIRI (CONT'D)

Thank you for protecting me.

Lumi taps on Kiri's leg.

KIRI (CONT'D)

What is it, Lumi?

The tall grass rustles. Lumi steps in front of Kiri. Arlo emerges.

Kiri gasps with delight.

KIRI (CONT'D)

Arlo!

Kiri gives Arlo a big hug.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Thank goodness you're alright.

ARLO
She has my needle.

Kiri looks at Arlo.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - LATER

Mara stands with her swarm of Wraiths.

MARA
Find her.

The Wraiths scatter.

Mara leaps off the edge, in a free fall. A large eagle Wraith swoops down, and catches Mara in her descent. They fly off, black needle in hand.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM

Kiri and Arlo watch the large koi fish swim by.

ARLO
She's looking for you, you know.

Arlo tears up a blade of grass.

ARLO (CONT'D)
You're not safe here. Not even with me.

KIRI
Don't be silly, Arlo. I'm always safe with you.

ARLO
She has my needle. She will find you. We have to get you out of here.

Arlo jumps in the water. He detaches a nearby lily pad, about ten feet wide.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Take my hand. We're leaving.

KIRI
No, I don't want to get my pjs wet.

ARLO
They won't get wet. Trust me Kiri.

Kiri takes Arlo's hand. She hops onto the lily pad. Arlo propels the lily pad with his feet. Lumi follows.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM - LATER

Kiri and Arlo flow down the stream on the giant lily pad. Large koi swim underneath them. Bird Wraiths fly above them.

The surrounding large lily pads act as cover from the predatory creatures.

KIRI
Arlo?

Arlo turns.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Why am I in trouble?

ARLO
You're not in trouble. Mara just has something you don't. She's jealous of you. She wants everyone to have the same experience.

The lily pad drifts over the serene water.

KIRI
No, I don't believe that. If everyone lived the same life then we'd all be the same.

ARLO
Exactly. So, I can't let her get to you. Luckily, we just need to keep you safe until you wake up in the morning. She can't get to you, then.

The surrounding lily pads brush against Kiri's head.

ARLO (CONT'D)
I would suggest to just hide until morning, but I can't do much without my needle.

KIRI
Okay, okay, yes. The needle. But
Mara has the needle.

ARLO
Yup. That's where we're going.

Kiri hits Arlo on the shoulder.

KIRI
No, Arlo! Why couldn't you have
just gone by yourself? I don't want
to go.

ARLO
Hey, don't be mad. The minute I
lose sight off you is the minute
she's gonna strike. Lumi will watch
you.

KIRI
Yeah, Lumi is a better protector
than you, Mister Dreamweaver.

Arlo's turns around.

ARLO
Excuse me?

KIRI
Yeah, yeah. You should've seen how
Lumi shot down the bunny thing.

ARLO
And who told you to run from that
bunny thing, hmm?

KIRI
Lumi would if he knew how to talk.

Arlo splashes water onto Kiri.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Hey! You promised I wouldn't get
wet.

ARLO
Take it up with Lumi.

A large stream of water pours over Arlo. Arlo looks up, Lumi
waves at him.

KIRI
How you know where Mara is?

ARLO
She's in the same place every time.

EXT. DREAM REALM - WATERFALL - CONTINUOUS

Kiri and Arlo drift up to a blank horizon. A waterfall ROARS in the nearing distance.

KIRI
What's that noise?

ARLO
Hold on.

The lily pad tilts over the falls. Kiri and Arlo fall into a vast, dark void.

EXT. DREAM REALM - NIGHTMARE ABYSS - CONTINUOUS

Kiri and Arlo plummet toward the ground. Their surroundings appear empty, and disturbed. Ooze drips from an unknown source.

Lumi grabs Kiri, falling to a comfortable stop. Arlo slides down the mucky, rock walls landing as cool as he could imagine. He wipes his hands on Lumi.

ARLO
(whispers)
This way.

They creep up to a nearby rock. Lumi glows bright in the dark.

KIRI
(echoes)
Arlo?

Kiri's voice echoes through the abyss.

ARLO
(whispers)
Shh. Whisper.

KIRI
I'm scared.

ARLO
Listen, the needle should be over there. I'm going to go really quick and grab it. Then, I can fly us out of here. Sound good?

KIRI
Okay, okay.

ARLO
Lumi, this way.

KIRI
Wait, wait. Lumi is supposed to be
with me.

ARLO
We're all improvising here. Lumi,
light the way.

EXT. DREAM REALM - NIGHTMARE ABYSS - CONTINUOUS

Arlo and Lumi jump over the rock, landing very quietly. Arlo
nears toward the needle's silhouette...

WHOOSH!

A shadow whips by in the distance.

Arlo gets closer...

WHOOSH!

The shadow whips by again. Kiri curls up on the ground, and
covers her eyes.

Arlo reaches for the needle...

Kiri's SCREAM echoes. Arlo turns around.

ARLO
(echoes)
Kiri.

Arlo grabs the needle, but the needle doesn't glow. Arlo
takes a closer look - a decoy needle made of rock. The decoy
shatters.

Arlo bolts to the rock they came from. Kiri is missing.

MARA (O.S.)
You know...

Arlo turns around. Mara holds a glowing chain hanging from
above.

MARA (CONT'D)
The fear of the dark is the most
common fear in children.
(MORE)

MARA (CONT'D)

I've always wondered why. Is it because they're all alone? Hmm?

Mara pulls the chain down, revealing Kiri in shackles.

KIRI

Let me go!

MARA

Or maybe... They fear they're not alone after all.

Lumi lunges toward Kiri. Mara whips Lumi away with a chain.

MARA (CONT'D)

Don't worry. At least you can leave knowing there wasn't anything else you could do. People tend to find comfort in that.

ARLO

Mara, stop. She's just a kid.

MARA

She's not a kid! Her inner child died with Theo. His pain must be felt.

ARLO

You don't think we feel it? You don't think I ever lose sleep of what I could've done differently? You don't think that as his best friend, Kiri doesn't feel shred of guilt for what happened? You don't think we're all hurting?

Arlo drops to his knees with his head down.

ARLO (CONT'D)

You're not the only one in pain, Mara.

MARA

I'm just the only one to care enough to rectify what should have been.

Arlo looks up.

ARLO

Wait, wait, No!

The needle glows a dark aura. Wraiths carry Lumi and Arlo away.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lena sits on the floor with the scrapbook open. She grabs the shard from Theo's glass and tapes it to Theo's page.

She hears a CLATTER from downstairs.

She closes the book and walks out.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Lena cautiously looks around the kitchen. As she walks around, she steps on a little glass shard she didn't pick up earlier.

EXT. DREAM REALM - ETERNAL FOREST

Arlo and Lumi are thrown out into the forest. Arlo dusts himself off.

Arlo shouts into the cave they were just thrown out of.

ARLO
This isn't over!

Lumi sits on a log, facing away.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Hey...

Arlo sits next to Lumi.

ARLO (CONT'D)
You okay?

Lumi turns his back to Arlo.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Don't be mad at me! Once we get a
that needle everything will be
fine.

Arlo is suddenly hit with a magical STAR PROJECTILE. Arlo falls to the ground.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Ow!

Lumi gets face to face with Arlo, furled eyebrows.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lena is sitting at the table to bandage her foot and notices a note. Written in thick, black ooze: "I have her".

EXT. DREAM REALM - NIGHTMARE ABYSS

Kiri is chained up to a wall, curled on the ground. Mara approaches.

MARA

That didn't take so long, now did
it? I brought you some food,
thought you might be hungry.

Mara kneels in front of Kiri. She places the sandwiches down.

MARA (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Be happy this is
happening. You're going to see the
truth. You're growing up.

Mara caresses Kiri's face.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - LATER

Lena slowly opens the door. She quietly comes in and sits on Kiri's bed. The clock flashes 3:55am. Kiri is snuggled up in her sheets.

LENA

(whispers)
I love you so much.

EXT. DREAM REALM - NIGHTMARE ABYSS - CONTINUOUS

Lena's voice echoes.

KIRI

Mom?

Mara chuckles.

MARA

Don't be too surprised. I mean, you
really didn't think mother's can't
have Dreamweavers too, did you?

KIRI
Where is she? I want my mom. Let me
go.

Kiri pulls at the chains.

MARA
Sweetie, we're not finished, yet. I
still have to watch you grow up.

Mara reaches out her hand.

MARA (CONT'D)
Come on.

Kiri reaches for her hand. The chain breaks. A bright light
flashes.

INT. TOY STORE - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Kiri races down the aisle pushing a SHOPPING CART. Lena
trails behind. Kiri has all of her teeth.

LENA
Honey, slow down.

KIRI
I found it! I found it!

Lena catches up with Kiri, who is admiring a RC plane that
sits on the shelf.

LENA
Perfect! And you're sure this is
the one he wants?

Lena picks up a red plane.

KIRI
Yup! Get the blue one for him.

INT. TOY STORE - LATER

Lena is at the checkout paying for the plane. Kiri looks over
the counter on her tippy-toes. She hands the card reader to
the CLERK (22).

LENA
And could you wrap it as well?

CLERK

Of course.

Kiri watches the clerk wrap the toy plane. The clerk hands back the wrapped plane.

CLERK (CONT'D)

There you are. Have a nice day.

LENA

Thank you. You as well. Let's go, hun.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Theo opens his RC plane and hugs Kiri and Lena. Lena kisses him on the forehead.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. KIRI'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

Theo stands, flying his plane. Kiri sits on the ground with her legs crossed. She looks bored.

KIRI

Can I try now?

THEO

Not yet. I'm almost done.

KIRI

Please? I want to try before mom catches us and we both can't fly it.

THEO

Fine. Take it.

KIRI

Yay!

Theo hands the remote to Kiri as she stands up. She flies it around, struggling to keep the plane steady.

THEO

Be careful.

KIRI

I am, I am.

Eventually, the plane gets caught in the tree.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Oops. I'm sorry.

THEO
I knew it. Let me.

Theo takes back the remote and tries to fly the plane out of the tree, which doesn't work.

THEO (CONT'D)
Alright. I'll be back.

Theo sets the remote down and climbs up the tree.

Mara appears next to Kiri.

MARA
You're running out of time.

Kiri looks at Mara afraid.

KIRI
Theo, wait!

Theo stops climbing and looks down.

KIRI (CONT'D)
I'll get it. It was my fault. Let me do it.

Arlo looks back up and at the plane. He looks back down.

THEO
Are you sure? It's pretty high up.

KIRI
Yeah, come down.

Theo climbs down the tree.

THEO
Be careful up there.

Kiri climbs up the tree, making to the branch that holds the plane. The branch bends as Kiri trusts it more, shuffling farther out to where the plane lies. Just within grasp; Kiri reaches...

Closer...

A fingernail away...

Theo's eyes widen.

Kiri's has the plane in hand.

KIRI
Okay, I got it. I'm coming down.

Kiri slowly descends and hands the plane off to Theo. Tears well up in Kiri's eyes.

THEO
That was great. Why are you crying?
The plane's safe.

KIRI
Mhmm.

Theo heads inside. Mara appears next to Kiri, black needle in hand. The surrounding area convert to the Nightmare Abyss.

MARA
So was that so hard?

Kiri cries.

KIRI
I did what you want. Let me go.

MARA
Oh, honey. Seems like you
misunderstood. You're not done,
yet.

Kiri sniffles.

MARA (CONT'D)
It's going to be ok. Soon you'll be
thanking me for getting to see him
again.

Mara holds Kiri in her arms and kisses her on the forehead.

EXT. DREAM REALM - ETERNAL FOREST

Lumi is tossed through a fallen tree. Arlo approaches.

ARLO
You don't understand. I can't do
anything without that needle. I'm
not like you. I'm a Dreamweaver a
whole generation older. You don't
need a tool to channel your power.
But I do.

Arlo chuckles.

ARLO (CONT'D)

At least I'm not still not trying
to say my first words.

Lumi hits Arlo.

ARLO (CONT'D)

I'm joking. I'm joking.

Arlo sits next to Lumi.

ARLO (CONT'D)

Look. Come with me, or not. But I'm
going back there to get what's
mine. Doesn't mean I don't want to
help Kiri. I just need you to know
what I prioritize. Are you with me?

Lumi pauses for a moment, then nods.

EXT. DREAM REALM - NIGHTMARE ABYSS

Kiri is laying on the ground, coiled in chains. Mara
approaches.

MARA

Are you ready for the next
scenario?

Kiri doesn't respond.

MARA (CONT'D)

Kiri? I won't ask a second time.

KIRI

No.

MARA

No? You're telling me "no"?

KIRI

I'm not doing this any more. I'm
done.

MARA

Let me enlighten you on another
scenario: You refuse and refuse,
and become impossible to co-operate
with. Suddenly, you realize that
the power to think you had, was
never really there.

(MORE)

MARA (CONT'D)

And you'll be sharing this story with Theo after you've been dealt with in a way that would make him cringe. Does that sound like a more favourable scenario, Kiri?

Kiri stands up.

KIRI

You can't do that. You won't.

MARA

Do you want to see if I can?

Kiri doesn't respond.

MARA (CONT'D)

Do I scare you, Kiri? 'Cause you know that fear is a powerful tool. Although it doesn't feel like you fear me, so let me clue you in.

Kiri flies toward Mara.

EXT. DREAM REALM - NIGHTMARE ABYSS - CONTINUOUS

Mara catches her by the neck.

MARA

You have no idea what I'm capable of. And you really don't want to find out. Because when you do, oh honey, you'll be wishing for mercy. Begging.

Mara caresses Kiri's teary face, forcing a smile.

MARA (CONT'D)

Smile, baby. Smile for me. I love that smile. It's exciting getting to see your brother again, no?

Kiri's teeth fall out one-by-one.

MARA (CONT'D)

How about a visit from the Tooth Fairy?

Mara throws Kiri aside. An evil-looking Tooth Fairy opens Kiri's mouth and shoves coins in her gums. Kiri whales in pain. Kiri kicks the Tooth Fairy off, and bolts away.

The ground moves from under her, bringing her back to Mara.

MARA (CONT'D)

Nowhere to run.

Kiri is launched in the air. From the sky, is an intricate-looking maze. Kiri lands in the centre.

MARA (CONT'D)

Nowhere to hide.

A towering shadow looms over Kiri. Mara, now a giant, stomps toward Kiri.

Kiri runs through the maze, hitting several dead ends. She finds the exits and runs into a dark, vast area. Mara has disappeared. It's all too quite.

A HOWL and SCREECH echoes in the distance. A surrounding swarm of Wraiths charges toward Kiri.

Kiri SCREAMS, curled in a ball.

The swarm is about to trample Kiri...

And vanishes.

EXT. DREAM REALM - NIGHTMARE ABYSS - CONTINUOUS

Kiri looks around. Theo stands in front of her.

THEO

Kiri?

KIRI

Theo? Is that really you?

Theo looks examines his arms and hands.

THEO

I think so.

Kiri runs to Theo, arms wide open...

She trips. Theo catches her. Kiri cries in his arms.

KIRI

I can't believe you're back. I missed you so much.

THEO

Back? Back from where?

KIRI

From the-- You know.

THEO
Where did I go?

KIRI
Well, after the fall, you--

THEO
What fall? Kiri, what's going on?

KIRI
No, no, Theo. You don't understand.
You see, we got you this plane for
your birthday, and you fell trying
to get it from the tree after I
crashed it, and you--You didn't
make it.

THEO
It was you. You crashed it? You
crashed the plane! You killed me,
Kiri! It was your fault!

Kiri tears up.

KIRI
No, no, Theo. I didn't mean to.

THEO
I-- I can't see you anymore. Good-
bye, Kiri.

Theo walks away from Kiri. Kiri chases him.

KIRI
Theo, please. Don't leave me again.

Theo fades away with a soft purple aura.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Theo, no. Please come back.

Kiri falls to her knees. Mara stands over Kiri with the
needle in hand.

MARA
I know it hurts. How about we fix
this, yeah?

Kiri sniffles.

KIRI
He doesn't want to see me anymore.

MARA

Well, honey, you could see why. If you killed me too, I wouldn't want to see you either.

KIRI

I didn't kill him!

MARA

I know it's hard to accept. But the sooner you accept it, the sooner we can see him again. Okay?

Kiri look away.

MARA (CONT'D)

Hey. I need to hear you say it. Say it.

KIRI

I killed him. It was my fault.

MARA

Great job. Don't you feel better? Come on. Let's go fix this.

Mara takes Kiri's hand. They walk off.

INT. DREAM REALM - CAVE - LATER

Arlo and Lumi hide behind a boulder. Wraiths patrol the entrance to the Nightmare Abyss.

ARLO

Okay, they need someone to chase. So better you than me. Once they're distracted, I'll slip in and grab the needle.

Lumi nods. Lumi sneaks from boulder to boulder. He shoots a star at one of the Wraiths and taunts them. They all charge at Lumi, who skitters away.

Arlo runs to the NEEDLE CASE, to find the case empty.

ARLO (CONT'D)

I know you're here.

Arlo looks around.

He spots Mara and Kiri headed toward him. He dives behind a pile of rocks. Arlo watches through the cracks.

Kiri sits down, with the chains attached. Mara place the needle back in the case.

Mara spots footprints in the gravel.

MARA

Oh, you've got to do better than this. I know you're here.

Kiri spots Arlo hiding behind the rocks.

Lumi shimmers which attracts Mara. She throws the needle at Lumi, but missed. The needle is lodged in the rocky wall.

Arlo dives for the needle.

Lumi cuts Kiri free. They head toward the cave.

Arlo struggles to pry the needle out. The handle glows gold.

ARLO

(strained)
Come on.

Mara kicks Arlo down.

MARA

Shhh.

Mara summons the needle back to her grasp.

MARA (CONT'D)

I should've killed you from the start.

ARLO

If you are, do it quickly. Your chance is running away.

Mara turns to see Kiri and Lumi flee into the cave.

MARA

Kiri, no!

Arlo kicks Mara off of him. She drops the needle. Arlo scoops it as he runs. The needle glows gold.

ARLO

Alright!

INT. DREAM REALM - CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Arlo, Lumi and Kiri rush into the cave leading to their escape. Mara chases.

ARLO

Come on!

They jump over boulders and shimmy through little crevasses. Mara just misses them, and is stuck in the crevasse.

MARA

No!

She turns around to her Wraiths.

MARA (CONT'D)

Get them. Now!

The smaller Wraiths sneak through the crevasse, while Mara hops on an eagle wraith, soaring up the waterfall.

EXT. DREAM REALM - ETERNAL FOREST - LATER

Arlo, Kiri and Lumi are rushing through the forest. They are bombarded with several sudden Wraith attacks, which they fight off as they clear the forest.

Larger BEAR AND MOOSE WRAITHS suddenly charge at them, guiding them to the cliffside.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - CONTINUOUS

The three head full speed for the cliff. They leap off the edge, leaving the Wraiths to stop in their tracks.

Kiri clutches Lumi tight, and the three fly off.

EXT. DREAM REALM - SKY - CONTINUOUS

The three soar through the air, watching the once lively world turn drab and dead.

WHOOSH!

Mara attacks Kiri and Lumi in the sky.

Arlo shoots colourful blasts at Mara, who evades them in a graceful manner. Mara raises her hands, and the ground rises with them. She hurls chunks of land at Arlo. He falls from the sky.

Lumi and Kiri split up from Arlo, which Mara soon notices.

Mara chuckles and clenches her fist. Sharp crystals emerge from the ground.

Lumi and Kiri weave through, however are eventually struck. They tumble to a stop. Lumi is impaled. Kiri rushes over.

KIRI

Lumi. It's okay.

Lumi looks up at Kiri, teary. A sparkly tear falls onto Kiri's hand. Kiri admires her new sparkly aura. She looks back at Lumi, who's disappeared.

KIRI (CONT'D)

Lumi! Where are you? Please come back.

Mara watches from above then flees.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Kiri kneels at the remaining star dust that Lumi left behind. Arlo comes through the bushes.

ARLO

Kiri? Kiri?

KIRI

I don't want to talk to you.

ARLO

Hey, don't say that. I'm sorry.

KIRI

What are you sorry for, Arlo?

Arlo hesitates.

KIRI (CONT'D)

How about you're sorry for lying to me? How about you're sorry for putting your stupid needle before me?

ARLO

So many things, okay?

KIRI

You were right about one thing. I don't need you. Not anymore.

ARLO

I think you do. I think you need me now more than ever. You're just too afraid to admit it because you're just a kid who doesn't understand how the world works!

Arlo sighs.

ARLO (CONT'D)

This isn't real life, Kiri. This is you running from the truth. I was fine with playing along at first. But nothing in here matters. It's all in your head. And when your clock goes off, you're going to have to wake up to the hard truth, and you'll suffer all over again. But that's life, right? So, I do think you need me.

Arlo walks away.

ARLO (CONT'D)

But don't expect me to help when you do.

KIRI

I thought you were my guardian angel. I guess I was wrong.

Arlo flies off with his needle.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM - LATER

Kiri sits at the edge of the stream. She stares at her reflection in the water.

A flower in the stream drifts in front of Kiri. She reaches for it...

And reaches.

KIRI

Whoa!

Kiri falls, but rests on top of the water. She looks down at the fish that swim under her. She grazes her hand along the water. She stands on the water, briefly losing her balance. The water ripples at her feet.

She looks at her hands. Her palms sparkle.

Kiri looks up at colourful sky.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Just above the clouds.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - LATER

Kiri walks up to the edge of the cliff, overlooking the serenity at her feet. She shuffles her feet to the edge. Stones fall over.

MARA
He's not there, you know.

Kiri turns. She nearly falls.

KIRI
How do you know?

MARA
I know where he really is.

KIRI
Prove it.

Mara approaches closer.

MARA
Your mother believes in the afterlife, yes?

KIRI
She does.

MARA
More often than not, children follow the belief systems of their parents, so I ask you. Do you believe in the afterlife, Kiri?

KIRI
I don't know.

MARA
Why? Why don't you know? Your mother says your brother is there. What are you waiting for? Do you not trust her?

KIRI
I don't know.

MARA

You seemed pretty sure before,
Kiri, what changed? Is it that she
didn't tell you about her? About
me?

KIRI

She...

MARA

Kiri you don't even know who she
really is. And she's kept you in
the dark about so many things. Like
she did, me.

Mara takes Kiri's hand and squeezes it tight.

MARA (CONT'D)

(shouts)

You need to wake up!

Mara tosses Kiri over the edge of the cliff.

Kiri is in a free fall. She desperately waves her hands. Her
powers flicker.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM - CONTINUOUS

Kiri hits the trees which slow her fall. Mara appears from
behind a tree.

MARA

Look, I know it's hard. But I think
you'll find it easier to accept
life as it is, by learning how it
was.

KIRI

Who says I need to accept it?

MARA

Kiri, you don't accept life, it
moves on. It moves away. And you
lose it. You accept it, and you
thrive. Living without fear of new
surprises, with no skeletons in the
closet, or the ground. It's like I
said earlier... You'll grow up.

KIRI

What's in it for you?

MARA

A chance to rest, knowing there
wasn't anything else I could do.
There's comfort in that.

KIRI

What does that mean for me?

MARA

It means understanding where you
came from. Who you came from.

EXT. LENA'S CHILDHOOD HOME - YARD - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

YOUNG LENA (8) stands in a black dress holding her mother,
MICHELLE's (42) hand. They stand among a crowd in front of a
a PASTOR (36) and a LARGE FRAME. Inside is a portrait of a
HUGO (45).

PASTOR

To his wife, Michelle, Hugo was a
devoted husband. To his daughter,
Lena, he was a loving father. And
to his community, he was caring
presence...

Young Lena squeezes Michelle's hand.

YOUNG LENA

(whispers)
My feet hurt.

MICHELLE

(whispers)
Show some respect.

PASTOR

...In the name of the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, may God
be with you all.

Young Lena shifts her feet uncomfortably.

INT. LENA'S CHILDHOOD HOME - KITCHEN - LATER

The kettle boils to a WHISTLE. Lena sits at the table.
Michelle brings two CUPS OF TEA.

MICHELLE

That was unacceptable, daughter.
You disrespected your father's
honor.

YOUNG LENA

I'm sorry. I was just trying to
tell you before my feet start
bleeding again.

MICHELLE

A little blood won't end your days,
dear. But whining about it will
number them.

Michelle puts her cup down.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Every time you whine. Every time
you mope, and complain. He hears
you.

Michelle points up.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Living in a world where everyone
complains isn't a world that's very
favourable.

YOUNG LENA

That doesn't make the bleeding
stop, though.

MICHELLE

If you find yourself winding up,
take a deep breath, and put your
mind else where.

YOUNG LENA

But you told me not to dream.

MICHELLE

Don't twist my words, dear. I
didn't tell you not to dream, I
told you the dangers if you do.
Especially in a time like this, in
mourning.

Young Lena sighs.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

In grief, we look to escape. To
escape, we look to imagination.

(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

With imagination, we search our dreams. In dreams, we live the life we wished were real. And when the clock strikes seven, we're dragged back down. And we grieve all over again.

Michelle sips her tea.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

It's a distraction, dear. And It won't happen to you, not as long as I live.

Young Lena walks away.

INT. LENA'S CHILDHOOD HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

As young Lena walks out of the room, Kiri sits where she sat, and Mara where Michelle sat. Mara scoffs and sips her tea.

MARA

Figures.

KIRI

I thought you knew this already.

MARA

I do. It's just, I haven't thought about it in a while. I try not to.

Mara puts her tea down. She gets up and walks out of the room.

MARA (CONT'D)

Come.

Kiri follows.

INT. LENA'S CHILDHOOD HOME - BEDROOM - LATER

Young Lena cries on her bed. Mara and Kiri crack the door open. As Kiri steps in, she steps on a RIPPED DRAWING of a younger Mara. Kiri gasps.

KIRI

Is that?

MARA

Yeah. It's the last thing I saw. Before the chains.

Mara storms out.

KIRI

Wait!

Kiri follows.

EXT. LENA'S CHILDHOOD HOME - YARD - CONTINUOUS

Mara drops to her knees, sobbing.

KIRI

Mara?

MARA

She got rid of me.

KIRI

Mom?

MARA

Yes. That night, she locked me up.

INT. DREAM REALM - PRISON - NIGHT

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

YOUNG MARA (8) falls to the ground, as if shoved. Young Lena approaches. Young Mara sits up, but is shackled to the wall.

YOUNG MARA

Lena, stop! Let me go.

MARA (V.O.)

She was done with me.

YOUNG LENA

(teary)

I'm sorry. I can't let her down.

Young Lena walks away.

YOUNG MARA

(echoes)

Lena! Lena!

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. LENA'S CHILDHOOD HOME - YARD - NIGHT

Mara's on her knees, sobbing. Kiri stands behind her.

KIRI
It's not your fault.

MARA
It is. I did the same thing to you.
And I'm sorry. It's not you I hate.
It's her.

Mara looks up to the window of young Lena's bedroom.

MARA (CONT'D)
She just wasn't the same. Since
then I've had to watch everything
she did from the back of her mind.

KIRI
It's not too late to make things
better. Talk to her.

MARA
You're right.

Mara takes Kiri's hand.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lena sits on her bed, teary. Her nightside lamp is dim. The wind blows. The shadow of the tree branches sway on the floor. From the shadows bursts Mara. Mara's eyes glow purple.

Lena flinches.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

Kiri cracks open the door. She tip toes to her bed. The clock flashes 5:38am.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Mara's eyes glow purple.

MARA
Wake her up.

LENA
I can't. It's already done.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

Kiri rolls the real world Kiri, revealing that she has deep blue lips and fingertips.

Kiri gasps.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM

Mara grabs Lena by the collar.

LENA

It's okay. She'll be safe now. I
will be too. And we'll all be
together again.

Mara shoves Lena, and rushes out.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kiri backs away from the bed. Mara rushes in.

MARA

Kiri!

Mara jostles real world Kiri. She doesn't respond.

KIRI

What's happening to me?

Kiri's fingertips are slowly turning blue. Mara storms out.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - LENA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mara enters.

MARA

What did you give her? Poison?

LENA

She couldn't sleep.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mara bursts in and grabs Kiri's hand.

MARA

We need to go.

They disappear out the door.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - LATER

Mara and Kiri leap out of a portal.

MARA

I need the needle. I need to reverse it.

KIRI

Well, Arlo has it. I don't know where he is.

MARA

I do.

Mara leaps of the cliff, and flies off. The Dream Realm is drab and lifeless.

KIRI

I got this, I got this.

Kiri jumps. She falls unable to summon more than the occasional sparkle. She's nearing the ground.

Mara looks back.

Kiri is about to hit the ground...

WHOOSH!

She is scooped up by Mara. The two fly to the Dream Garden. The pink willow tree is in the distance.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN - LATER

Arlo is lying in the branches of the willow tree. Kiri whoops in the distance.

ARLO

Kiri?

Mara and Kiri land at the trunk.

KIRI

Arlo!

Arlo holds the needle in a battle stance.

MARA

Don't worry about me. I come in peace.

KIRI

Arlo, look.

Kiri holds up her hands, her whole fingers are blue. Arlo sheaths the needle and leaps down.

ARLO

Your hands. How did-

MARA

Her mother. We have to act fast, those pills are gonna kill her.

ARLO

Last time I saw you, you killed my best friend and were trying to kill me. I can't help. Not if you're involved.

MARA

Listen, I don't expect you to trust me. I just need you to take care of her.

ARLO

So I can let me guard down, and you take the needle, I don't think so.

Arlo reaches for the needle - it's not there. Arlo turns around. Kiri runs in the distance with the needle.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Kiri is bolting through the tall, wavy grass.

ARLO

(distant)

Kiri! Come back.

MARA

(distant)

Where are you?

Kiri hides behind a tree stump. A tear falls from her face onto the needle. The tear sparkles and the needle glows pink.

She squeezes the needle tight, her toes curl, and her face tenses.

KIRI

Wake up, Kiri. Wake up, Kiri.

She hits herself with the needle. She cries.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Wake up! Wake up!

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

Kiri is in bed, she twitches. The clock flashes 6:13am.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN - LATER

Arlo and Mara are scattered in the field.

ARLO
Kiri!

Kiri sobs in the distance. They rush over. Kiri's arms and legs are blue.

KIRI
I don't wanna go. I wanna stay here. I don't want to see him like this. Make it change, make it change.

ARLO
You don't have to. There's still time. There's still time, right?

MARA
There is. But not much.

ARLO
Okay, Mara, we need you to try and wake Kiri up from her bed. I'll stay here and try to reverse the pill's effect from here.

MARA
Okay.

Mara kneels in front of Kiri.

MARA (CONT'D)
It's going to be okay.

Mara caresses her face and kisses her on the forehead. Mara runs through the trees, she disappears.

ARLO
It's going to be fine. It's just me and you. Third time's the charm.

Kiri chuckles.

KIRI
That's not very helpful.

ARLO
I know, I'm sorry. I just don't
want to lose you too.

Kiri takes a deep breath.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Can I have the needle?

Kiri hands over the needle.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Please work.

Arlo waves the needle over Kiri. The needle glows gold.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

Mara cracks open the door and rolls Kiri over. The blue is up to her shoulders and hips. She jostles Kiri, she doesn't respond. Mara shakes her harder, Kiri doesn't respond.

MARA
Kiri, Kiri. Wake up! Wake u-

Lena hooks Mara's neck with her arm. Lena's arms are blue as well. She drags Mara out of the room.

LENA
It's too late for her. She'll be
happier with Theo.

MARA
(strained)
She doesn't deserve this.

LENA
She deserves to be happy, playing
with her brother. She can't hurt
anymore.

Lena trips and releases Mara. Mara kicks Lena away and rushes back in. Mara performs chest compressions on Kiri.

MARA
Come on! Stay with me!

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM GARDEN - LATER

Arlo waves the needle over Kiri's arms. They are still blue.

KIRI
It's not working.

ARLO
Don't say that. It'll work. Just give it time.

KIRI
I don't have time.

Arlo drops to the ground, he drops the needle. Kiri tosses a rock, the rock shimmers.

ARLO
No. You don't. But maybe there's another way. Up there.

Arlo looks up to the cliffside.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Do you trust me?

Kiri is hesitant, but she nods.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - LATER

Kiri and Arlo are standing on the edge of the cliff. The Dream Realm is faded.

ARLO
It's okay. We're going to be okay.
Can you say that?

KIRI
We're going to be okay.

ARLO
Good. Good. Take this.

Arlo hands her the needle, and slowly backs up Kiri. Pebbles fall from under her feet. Arlo hugs Kiri. The blue is reaching her neck.

ARLO (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, Kiri. I'm sorry for everything.

KIRI
It's okay, Arlo.

ARLO
I'm so sorry. Wake up!

Arlo pushes Kiri off the cliff. She falls. She puts her arms out, summoning star-like platforms. The needle glows pink.

ARLO (CONT'D)
Come on, kid.

She falls through the star platforms, and lands on the ground, rolling to a stop.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

Mara is give Kiri chest compressions.

MARA
Kiri, wake up.

Kiri jolts. Mara leaves the room and grabs the phone. She dials 9-1-1. Lena grabs it from her before she is able to call.

MARA (CONT'D)
This is not the time!

LENA
Let her go, she needs this.

The phone breaks.

MARA
What is wrong with you! Why do you do this?

LENA
I can't. I can't go to prison. I need my family together.

Lena drops tho the floor, struggling to breath. Mara looks at Kiri, then Lena.

MARA
You don't deserve them.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - LATER

Kiri lies at the based of the cliff, fully blue. Arlo jumps from the top, and lands right beside her. He rolls her over.

ARLO

Kiri?

Kiri doesn't move.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - DAY

The clock strikes seven.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP! BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!

Mara rips the clock out of the outlet. She stands over Kiri, she wipes away a tear.

EXT. DREAM REALM - CLIFFSIDE - CONCURRENTLY

Arlo stands over Kiri, and wipes away a tear.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - LATER

Sunlight spills through a stone archway, casting golden highlights on Kiri's face. She lays on the blue tile floor, in an ankle height puddle that spreads to beyond the arch, and into a crystal-clear blue sea. Mountains stand in the sea, covered in greenery, and pierce the clouds.

Kiri's eyes open. She sits up, and looks at her hands, which are no longer blue. She walks around, admiring the beauty.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - BAYSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Kiri spots Lena sitting on the rock.

KIRI

Mom?

Lena turns.

LENA

Kiri! Oh, honey. I'm so happy you made it.

Kiri steps back.

LENA (CONT'D)

Is everything okay?

KIRI

I don't know. I don't think so. I know I'm supposed to be mad at you. I just can't remember why.

LENA

There's no reason to be mad.

KIRI

You killed me. You killed us.

LENA

Honey, I didn't kill all of us. You killed someone too, remember? I only brought us to him. To the person you took from us.

Kiri steps back again.

KIRI

Do you love me?

Lena recoils.

LENA

Of course. I love you and your brother.

KIRI

That's not what I asked!

LENA

Then what did you ask, Kiri?

KIRI

Do you love me, just me?

LENA

Yes. I do.

KIRI

They why did you do it?

LENA

I saved you, Kiri. You know how dangerous it is to dream in grief. You're only hurting yourself. I stopped your pain, I brought all of us together. I fixed your screw up!

Kiri steps back again.

LENA (CONT'D)

You think I wanted to do this?

KIRI

I was meant to grow up! I was meant to live! You took it all from me. You stole it.

LENA

I didn't want you to suffer. I didn't think you would.

KIRI

Where's Mom? Where'd she go? You're not her!

LENA

She died with Theo. And so did you.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

Mara is standing over the two corpses. A door opens in the distance.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

Lena! Kiri! Ready to go?

Mara rolls under the bed. She disappears.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM - LATER

Arlo places Kiri on a large lily pad. She drifts down the stream.

Mara appears from behind Arlo.

MARA

It's not fair.

ARLO

I's not.

The needle hums, glowing pink.

ARLO (CONT'D)

She did it. She charged it enough. We can save her.

Arlo catches up to Kiri down the stream. Mara grabs his arm.

MARA

She needs to rest.

Mara takes the needle from Arlo.

ARLO
We can't just waste it.

MARA
I won't.

Kiri drift off into the distance.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - LATER

Mara emerges from under the bed. The footsteps grow louder

MICHELLE (O.S.)
Lena? Lena?

Mara stands over Lena's body.

MARA
(to herself)
Her life will be paid with yours.

The needle pulses bright pink. Pulsing quicker...

And quicker...

Until it stops. It fades.

Mara kneels next to Lena.

MARA (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Wake.

Lena's fingers twitch.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - BAYSIDE - LATER

Kiri and Lena sit at the bay, distanced from each other.

LENA
I don't expect you to understand.

KIRI
I don't.

Kiri looks at the mountains in the distance. A gust of wind knocks Kiri back. She looks over to Lena, but Lena has disappeared.

KIRI (CONT'D)
Mom?

THEO (O.S.)

Kiri?

Kiri turns around.

KIRI

Theo!

She runs up to Theo, and squeezes him tight.

THEO

And did I hear Mom, too?

Kiri looks at Theo, disappointed.

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENTLY

The footsteps grow louder. Mara hides under the bed. She disappears. The door opens.

MICHELLE

Kiri? It's time go.

Michelle spots the bodies.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Lena! Wake up! Kiri!

Michelle rushes to Kiri.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

(inaudible)

Kiri! Kiri, wake up! Oh my God!

Michelle frantically pulls out her phone. She sits on the floor. Sirens BLARE in the distance.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM - LATER

Arlo sits at the edge of the stream. His reflection ripples in the water. Mara sits next to him.

MARA

She's back.

ARLO

It doesn't change what happened.

MARA

I know. But She won't be with them.
Not anytime soon.

The ground RUMBLES in the distance.

ARLO
We have to go.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - BAYSIDE - LATER

Theo and Kiri walk along the water.

THEO
Where is she? Where's Mom?

KIRI
I don't know.

THEO
Yeah, you do. You were just talking
to her. I heard her. I know I did.

KIRI
She was here. But now she's not.
You missed her.

THEO
So she's still...alive?

KIRI
I guess so.

THEO
But why are you here? I mean, I'm
happy to see you, but it's also
just hitting me what that means.
What's going on?

INT. KIRI'S HOUSE - KIRI'S BEDROOM - LATER

PARAMEDICS lift Kiri and Lena onto STRETCHERS. They roll them
into the AMBULANCE. Michelle is left behind, sitting alone on
the bedroom floor. A look of dread settles into her
expression.

EXT. DREAM REALM - DREAM STREAM - LATER

Arlo and Mara are run up the stream, dodging incoming debris.
The ground rumbles.

MARA
What's happening?

ARLO

Kiri's mind is crumbling. Her body
is gone but the mind takes longer.
We need to get out of here before
it's fully dead or we go with her.

The cliffside crashes down behind them and the shock she them
flying forward.

ARLO (CONT'D)

I just don't know where to go.

MARA

I do.

INT. AMBULANCE - LATER

The ambulance rushes Lena through traffic. Lena's eyes
flutter, they open slightly revealing a her iris to be
purple...

Then switching back.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - BAYSIDE - LATER

Kiri and Arlo are skipping rocks into the vast water. Kiri's
mouth is moving, but her words are inaudible.

KIRI

...and then I turned over and she
was gone.

THEO

No.

KIRI

"No"? What do you mean "no"?

THEO

You expect me to believe all that?
You know, I knew you were more
creative than me, I didn't think
you'd be more gullible too.

KIRI

No, no. I'm serious, Theo. She did.

THEO

No, she didn't.

KIRI

Yes, she did!

Kiri throws a stone which skips several times into the distance. The rock glows pink. Kiri gasps.

KIRI (CONT'D)
 (to herself)
 Lumi.

Kiri bolts away.

THEO
 Kiri! Where you going?

KIRI
 To find Lumi!

THEO
 Who is Lumi?

Theo follows Kiri up the trail to the mountain top.

EXT. DREAM REALM - LENA'S MIND - LATER

Arlo and Mara stand in a plain-looking space. There are some dream-like attributes, but pales in comparison to Kiri's.

MARA
 Lena's mind. Boring, isn't it.

Arlo spots the SHACKLES mara was attached to.

MARA (CONT'D)
 It's where I spent decades planning
 what I'd do if I got free.

Mara disappears.

ARLO
 Mara?

The shackles CLANG shut. Mara straps herself back in the chains.

MARA
 You've got me this far, I just
 needed one last piece.

Arlo reaches for his needle. It isn't there.

Mara wields the needle, which is black. The needle pulses, creating Lena's mind to transform into the Nightmare Abyss.

Mara uses the chains as puppet strings, pulling them to alter the area around them.

Chains hurl at Arlo, who is knocked back. The chains wrap around him.

MARA (CONT'D)

You've done part, now. I just need to finish mine.

ARLO

It's not going to fix what she's done.

MARA

I'm not looking to. I've suffered long enough. I can't let her die without knowing what it feels like.

The needle HUMS and glows purple.

END OF ACT 2

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Dressed in black, family members and friends stand in front of Theo and Kiri's TOMBSTONES. Little-by-little they leave the cemetery, revealing Lena. She places flowers in front of both stones, and is escorted away by POLICE.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - TRAIL - LATER

Kiri and Theo trek up the long, windy, path. The scenery is gorgeous.

THEO

I'm so lost.

KIRI

We're not lost.

THEO

No, not that. Why are we going this way to find your friend?

KIRI

Because once we reach the top, we might be able to see him.

THEO

How do you know that for sure.

KIRI

Well, I don't. But what else do we do?

The two continue up the trail. Kiri spots a yellow and pink light from the top.

KIRI (CONT'D)

There! It's Lumi! You see him?

THEO

Come on!

Theo grabs Kiri's arm and they both run up the path.

KIRI

Lumi! Lumi!

EXT. AFTERLIFE - MOUNTAIN TOP - CONTINUOUS

Lumi over looks the Afterlife's eternal glory.

KIRI (O.S.)

(distant)

Lumi! Lumi!

Lumi scans his surroundings, spotting Kiri and Theo in the distance.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

Kiri and Theo run up the trail. Theo stops in front of a large trench that separates them with Lumi. Kiri does not stop.

THEO

Kiri!

Kiri leaps over the trench, reaching her hand out. Lumi dives down, reaching his hand hand out. The pink, sparkly energy connects the two. They both flying up, spinning hand in hand, as they reconnect.

Theo watches from the ground.

THEO (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Her guardian angel.

Kiri whoops as she flies around with Lumi, without any assistance.

KIRI

(distant)

Theo, come up here!

Theo backs up from the trench, readies himself and charges at it. He leaps over the trench...

And barely makes it, clinging on the edge.

The edge cracks...

Stones tumble...

Theo loses his grip.

THEO

No!

Theo falls into the trench...

SWOOP!

Kiri catches Theo in the air. The three fly around the vivid sky.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - BAYSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Arlo walks up the water, the waves wash over his feet. Kiri and Theo laugh in the distance. Arlo looks up.

ARLO

Guys!

Arlo spots THEO'S BIPLANE.

EXT. AFTERLIFE - SKY - LATER

Theo, Kiri and Lumi all fly under the dense, white clouds. A plane comes from the distance.

THEO

That's not...is it? It is!

KIRI

Arlo!

Arlo zooms by in the biplane. Theo lands on the wing on the plane. They all soar just above the clouds, which reveals a gorgeous sunset.

They fly into the distance.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The office is cold and dark. Everything is grey or beige. HANNAH (39), a detective sits at one side of the ALUMINUM TABLE.

BUZZ! The door opens. Lena walks in with HANDCUFFS and sits on the other side.

HANNAH

Hello, my name is Hannah. I'm the lead detective in this case. Have your rights been made clear to you?

Lena nods.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Great. We found a bottle of these pills, in your bathroom.

Hannah slides over a PHOTO OF THE PILL BOTTLE.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Now, chemical testing will reveal what they are. Unless you wanted to save us that step?

Lena doesn't move.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

How often do you use these pills?

LENA

They help me sleep.

HANNAH

So every night?

Lena nods.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Great. Well what ever they are caused you to be under serious hallucinations.

Lena doesn't move.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

This photo was taken yesterday, do you recognize the person in this photo.

Hannah slides over a PHOTO OF KIRI. She has red HANDPRINTS around her neck.

Lena adjusts her posture.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Do you acknowledge there are
evident handprints on her neck?

Lena looks away.

LENA
They aren't mine.

HANNAH
Yes or no, please, Lena.

Lena nods.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Based on the autopsy, Kiri looked
to under the same substance. Do you
know anything about that?

Lena doesn't move.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Now, I understand you don't want to
talk. I don't anticipate you to
confess. Nevertheless, forensics is
sweeping the crime scene as we
speak, and I think you can guess
what comes next.

LENA
You don't understand.

HANNAH
Enlighten me.

LENA
We needed to go to sleep. Together.
We had plans to meet my son.

HANNAH
Theo?

Lena nods.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Come to think of it, we'd like to
question Theo at some point. Would
you happen to know where he is?

LENA
You can't talk to him.

HANNAH
Lena. Do you know where he is?

LENA
Yes.

HANNAH
Where is he?

Lena doesn't respond.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Where is he?

LENA
Just above the clouds.

HANNAH
Don't you give me that! Tell me!

Lena doesn't respond.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Where is he?

LENA
Under the ground.

EXT. KIRI'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - CONCURRENTLY

POLICE swarm the yard. A CANINE sniffs around the tree. BARK!
BARK! The canine digs...

And digs...

Uncovering Theo's SHOE.

OFFICER 1
Body! We got a body!

The officers uncover the rest of the dirt, revealing Theo's
body.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

Lena and Hannah sit at opposite ends. Hannah holds back
tears.

HANNAH
You did it. I knew you did it. You
need help.

Lena doesn't respond. Hannah walks to the door.

LENA
You got kids?

Hannah pauses.

HANNAH
I do.

LENA
You better hope you go before they
do. Otherwise, you'll be the one
who needs help.

HANNAH
I would never kill them, Lena.

LENA
Would you kill for them?

HANNAH
I would.

LENA
How is that any different?

BUZZ!

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT - LATER

Lena enters her cell, a PRISON GUARD follows. Her SCRAPBOOK sits on the bed.

PRISON GUARD
You're mother's gonna pick it up
later. Thought you'd want a last
look.

The guard's eyes flicker purple.

Lena slowly flips through the pages, each with different
PHOTOS and MEMORABILIA.

She sobs quietly. She reaches for the next page.

MICHELLE (O.C.)
I knew you couldn't do it.

Lena flinches. She cuts her hand.

LENA
I thought you were done with me.

MICHELLE

I am. I just want the book. To keep
the memories of the family I
thought I had.

LENA

You don't deserve this book.

MICHELLE

I deserve it more than you.

The guard takes the book, hands it to Michelle.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Judgment will come.

Michelle exits.

The guard SLAMS the door shut.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

A PRISON GUARD ushers her into her cell.

PRISON GUARD

Okay, miss, you're trial's at seven
A.M. Better rest while you can.

The guard shuts the door.

PRISON GUARD (CONT'D)

Sweet dreams.

Lena sits on the bed, staring at the CLOCK, which reads 8:46.
She lies back and closes her eyes.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - CONCURRENTLY

Michelle flips through the scrapbook. She notices some BLOOD
STAINS on some pages.

INT. PRISON CELL - CONCURRENTLY

Lena jolts up. Her eyes purple.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - CONCURRENTLY

Michelle flips to Theo's page. The GLASS SHARD that was taped
is missing. Bloody prints surround the page.

INT. PRISON CELL - CONCURRENTLY

Lena pulls the glass shard from under her pillow.

LENA
There's no such thing.

She gestures across her neck. BLOOD pours over the floor and bed.

THUD!

EXT. AFTERLIFE - BAYSIDE - LATER

Lena opens her eyes to find herself where she'd left in the afterlife. The surroundings familiar, but different.

Laughs and cheers come from above. Theo and Kiri soar through the sky.

LENA
Theo! Kiri! Down here!

Theo and Kiri do not respond. Lena waves her arms.

LENA (CONT'D)
Guys, down here!

They do not respond. Theo and Kiri fly off. Lena runs into the water.

LENA (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

EXT. HELL - CONTINUOUS

Lena looks down to see the water is red. She looks up. Everywhere else is red. She stands in the water, stranded.

Lena falls to her knees. Her eyes brown, but purple in the reflection.

MARA (V.O.)
(whispers)
This is the best part.

Lena looks up from the water, hyperventilating. She's 13 again.

FADE OUT.