

THE FINAL HEAT

Written by

Jordan Roman

jroman3@elon.edu
(719)433-2858

FADE IN:

We hear a young girl's voice over black.

YOUNG GIRL (O.S.)

Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven.

DISSOLVE TO:

1959

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Bright light streams in through the windows. It appears holy. A young girl kneels at her bed praying.

This is SARAH (18), a quiet but driven, soul-searching Catholic student.

SARAH

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against
us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from
evil. Amen.

Sarah looks to a Bible resting on the night stand. She tenderly holds it, stands and leaves the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Family photos and decorations line the walls. A large cross overlooks the room.

Sarah cheerfully strolls down the stairs and through the living room. She looks to the cross for hope, guidance.

INT. DINING ROOM - MORNING

Sarah's DAD(40) and MOM (40) sit at the table. They have a stern air of devoutness about them. Sarah joins them at the table.

SARAH
Morning.

DAD
Let us pray.

They join hands in prayer.

DAD (CONT'D)
Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy
gifts, which we are about to
receive from Thy bounty, through
Christ our Lord. Amen.

They gently part hands and then start to eat.

MOM
Are you ready for the meet?

SARAH
Yes mam.

DAD
Did you finish all of your work?

SARAH
Yes sir.

DAD
Good girl. Principal Harlan keeping
everyone whipped into shape still?

SARAH
Yes sir.

DAD
That's what I like about him, he
always keeps things in order. He
doesn't let things get out of line
like these liberal hippies.

Sarah and her Mom simply look on at this remark. Sarah slowly
leans in to take a bite of spaghetti.

DAD (CONT'D)
How many times do I have to tell
you? Get your elbows off the table!

Dad suddenly lashes out and knocks a glass off the table.
It's shatter is deafening as it hits the ground. Rachel and
her Mom watch unphased, they are used to this.

SARAH
I'm sorry father.

DAD

Don't make me tell you again.

Her Dad glares at her as he composes himself. The tension in the room is taught. There is unease, fear in Sarah's eyes.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Sarah sits in the car with her Mom. They cruise by neon signs and other shops around their neighborhood. Sarah sits lost in her thoughts.

SARAH

Mom.

MOM

Yes sweetie.

SARAH

What made you become religious?

MOM

I'm not sure what you mean.

SARAH

What made you decide to believe in God? Was it your choice?

Sarah's Mom sighs and thinks for a minute as the colors of the night outside pass by the car.

MOM

I was 16. I needed to find myself.
I needed to find something,
anything really.

They drive in silence for a moment.

MOM (CONT'D)

I haven't told you this before but I think you deserve to hear it. My parents weren't the most supportive. They didn't care what I did and so I didn't care either. I got heavily involved in the night life scene and the bottle. I drank and drank until I was broken, just a shell of who I used to be.

The pain lingers on Mom's face as she recalls the memories. Another moment of silence ensues.

MOM (CONT'D)

I was searching and a friend realized that I was self destructing and took me to my first service. After that first service, I felt something real, instead of the hollow contentment I was filling myself with. The alcohol was empty, like my sense of fulfillment. I realized after that service how much I was missing. There was an extra presence that I discovered after that day. That's when I formed my relationship with God, and knew he would be looking down on me, always.

SARAH

That's incredible.

Mom smiles warmly at Sarah.

MOM

It is. It really is.

MOM (CONT'D)

Why don't we get some music going.

Mom turns on the car radio. Some static crackles until the sound of Elvis's voice comes on. His voice croons as CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE plays over the radio.

Sarah smiles and grabs her Mom's hand.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Their car drives off into the night as the song continues to play.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

We move across a series of lockers in a packed hallway. The insides of the lockers are decorated with various pictures and religious imagery such as crosses and pictures of Jesus and biblical figures.

In one locker is a picture of Elvis Presley. In another is a picture of Marilyn Monroe. One boy sneakily places a WHIZ COMICS issue into his locker. Another locker sports a picture of James Dean and Grace Kelly.

We stop at a sparse locker. There is a cross and a few photos of Sarah and her Mom and Dad smiling and laughing. There are no pictures of friends or pop singers or movie stars.

Sarah grabs her bible from the locker and shuts it. She looks around her and clutches her bible for support.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

A conservatively dressed teacher, MS. ROBERTS (45) stands at the front of the room facing a full class of uniform clad students.

Sarah sits in the front row. She listens to the lecture but is distant, elsewhere.

MS. ROBERTS

Sarah what is your favorite bible verse and why?

Sarah timidly answers with uncertainty.

SARAH

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5.

MS. ROBERTS

And why did you choose that one?

SARAH

Because God has all of the answers and when we aren't sure turning to him will always show us the way.

MS. ROBERTS

Very good Sarah.

Sarah surveys her surroundings as the bell rings and the students eagerly file out of the classroom.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The bell finishes the shrill ring. Students shuffle through the hallway, lockers slam, papers rustle.

Sarah drifts through the hallway. So many familiar faces and yet few of them are friendly.

Sarah walks to her locker and opens it. She smiles at the picture of her family and delicately places her bible down in the locker.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Sarah sits alone in the locker room. She looks around at her lonely surroundings as she puts on her running cleats. She closes her eyes

SARAH

Lord give me strength.

She stands up and walks forward, determined. She slowly walks out of the locker room.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - AFTERNOON

It is the day of the track meet. A group of girls wearing track uniforms stand on the track. Sarah stretches and steps onto the track. She fiercely eyes her competitors.

She bends down and aligns her cleats in the starting blocks. Her gaze is focused and determined. She raises her eyes and looks down the track. Her finish line is a hundred yards away.

Sarah readies herself. We hear the voice of the starter.

STARTER (O.S.)

3...2...1...

BANG! The sound of the gun explodes through the air.

Sarah dashes down the track at lightning speed. Running is her release, her freedom.

She quickly leaves the other girls in her wake as she runs faster with each step.

She eventually crosses the finish line, well ahead of the other girls.

Sarah catches her breath and quickly jogs back to the starting line to join the rest of the team. There is a smile on her face as she confidently strides back.

Sarah joins the rest of the team in the middle of the field. She stretches and prepares for her next race.

A few more races are run and then the announcement is made for Sarah's next race. She approaches the track and something catches her eye.

It is mysterious RACHEL (17) wearing a long trench coat and smoking a cigarette. Sarah stops and stares at Rachel. Rachel stares back. She looks disinterested.

Rachel suddenly drops the trench coat and has the school track uniform on underneath. Sarah looks shocked.

Rachel takes a drag and flicks the cigarette. Sarah halfheartedly approaches the starting blocks again, her confidence gone.

Rachel lines up next to Sarah in the starting blocks.

RACHEL

Good luck. You'll need it.

Sarah's face reveals sheer intimidation. She steals one last glance at Rachel.

STARTER (O.S.)

3...2...1...

BANG!

Rachel and Sarah blast out of the starting blocks. They both down the track establishing a large lead from the rest of the pack.

The two girls intensely eye the finish as it closely approaches. Sarah glances over to check Rachel's progress. Rachel's eyes are focused on the finish.

Rachel and Sarah are neck and neck until Rachel races ahead with a sudden burst of speed. She crosses the finish line first, just slightly before Sarah.

The rest of the runners eventually cross the finish line. Sarah hunches over and pants heavily, her frustration visible. Rachel stands in place watching Sarah, a grin on her face. She isn't out of breath in the least.

Rachel walks by Sarah. Rachel slightly brushes past Sarah as she passes by. Sarah loses her breath at the sensation of Rachel's touch.

Rachel smirks and starts to walk away. Sarah stands frozen in place, rooted to the spot. Sarah is speechless.

In the distance Rachel puts her trench coat on, lights a cigarette and walks away.

STARTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...Announcing the winners in the final of the 100 yard dash!

The sound of the megaphone of the starter break the silence. Sarah turns to look at a podium set up in the middle of the field.

The energetic and pudgy STARTER (40) stands holding a megaphone near the podium.

STARTER (CONT'D)
Third place is Cassandra Force from
Marymount!

Athletic CASSANDRA (17) steps onto the third place block and is handed a medal. Sarah continues to watch the podium.

STARTER (CONT'D)
Second place is Sarah Gaines from
Blessed Heart Academy!

Sarah nervously takes her place at the podium. She walks up to it, is handed a medal and then stands on the second place block.

STARTER (CONT'D)
And first place in the 100 yard
dash is Rachel Barnes, also from
Blessed Heart Academy!

Sarah angrily watches from the second block and watches Rachel, getting smaller and smaller the further away she gets.

STARTER (CONT'D)
Rachel Barnes? Blessed Heart
Academy?

The crowd watches in confusion. Sarah sighs and looks down at her silver medal. She delicately holds it.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

We are looking at the same silver medal, but hanging next to a collection of gold medals on the wall. A cross hangs next to the collection of medals.

Sarah lays in her bed looking at the medals. She is lost in her thoughts, distant. She feels uncomfortable in her own skin.

MOM (O.S.)
Sarah! Dinner!

Sarah slowly sits up and sighs.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Sarah sits zoned out at the dinner table.

DAD (O.S.)

Sarah!

Sarah snaps back to reality.

SARAH

Sorry! Yes sir?

DAD

Look at me when I am talking to you. How was the meet today?

SARAH

Sorry sir. It was OK, I got second in the 100.

MOM

That's alright honey.

DAD

Well what happened? You never get second.

SARAH

I don't know.

DAD

You don't know? Are you alright?

SARAH

Yes sir I'm fine.

DAD

Well what's the problem?

SARAH

Just an off day. I promise it won't happen again.

MOM

Let us know if you need anything honey.

Sarah's Dad glares at her Mom. Sarah notices her elbows are on the table and quickly moves them. She looks up to the cross for some sort of hope.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Sarah drifts through the hallway, out of touch with the rest of the students filling the hallway.

Sarah looks around at all of the faces and still can't locate a familiar one. She eventually sifts through the chaos of the hall to find her locker.

She opens it and we see religious imagery and pictures of crosses adorning the inside. A few track pictures also line the inside. Sarah grabs her sacred bible resting inside the locker.

She grabs it and holds it tenderly. Someone brushes against her almost knocking her over. The bible falls on the ground. She bends down to pick it up and sees the back of Rachel walking away down the hall.

Rachel slightly cocks her head and grins as she realizes Sarah has spotted her.

Sarah composes herself and reaches into her locker to grab her track cleats. We slowly move in to the darkness of the locker.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

We pull out of the dark of Sarah's locker. We are in an empty, cold locker room. Sarah finishes putting on her track cleats. She grabs her bible out and opens it.

She softly smiles at the verse and at her cleats. They are her comfort.

Sarah puts her bible back in the locker and stands to look out the windows at the top of the lockers. Light barely streams in. The light catches Sarah's eyes as she looks upward for more comfort.

Blunt student KELSEY (16) walks into the locker room with her track uniform on.

KELSEY

Gaines? What are you doing, did you fall in?

Sarah laughs.

SARAH

No I'm just getting ready. Praying.

KELSEY

Do the praying on the track or
coach Vicky will have a conniption!

SARAH

Be right there.

KELSEY

Better be. Get that butt in gear!

Kelsey turns and leaves. Sarah turns and leaves the locker room, determined.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - AFTERNOON

The girl's track team stretches on the grass inside the track. Sarah lifts her head from a deep stretch and looks at the track ahead. She places her cleats in the starting block and readies herself.

Sarah looks around, but there is no sight of Rachel. We hear the voice of strict COACH VICKY (36). She stands by the side of the track.

COACH VICKY

Explode from the start! And ready,
set, go!

Sarah explodes out of the starting blocks and dashes down the track, letting all of her issues out onto the track. She runs away from them temporarily.

Sarah gains speed with every step and easily dusts the other girls on the track as she gracefully finishes first.

Sarah quickly jogs back to the team on the field. Sarcastic CARLEY (17) approaches Sarah.

CARLEY

Hey how's it going?

SARAH

Fine. You?

CARLEY

I'm good. Have you met the new girl
yet?

Rachel walks from around the bleachers onto the field. She flicks her cigarette and dumps her trench coat on the field. Rachel eyes her. Sarah freezes. She offers no response.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

There she is. Looks like a dyke to me.

Carley laughs and walks toward the rest of the team. Sarah quickly follows her. Sarah watches Rachel with concern as she makes her way back to the track.

Coach Vicky approaches Sarah.

COACH VICKY

Sarah, how are we feeling? I don't want another second place.

Sarah is clearly distracted as Rachel draws closer to the group.

SARAH

I feel good and it won't happen again Mam.

Sarah quickly looks to Rachel who approaches them both.

COACH VICKY

Rachel! Since this is your first official practice I will kindly remind you that we do not show up late to practice and if you come late again you are off the team. Understood?

RACHEL

Yeah.

COACH VICKY

Ditch the attitude and line up in the blocks. Sarah, line up next to her.

Coach Vicky storms away. Sarah and Rachel look at each other. There is awkward silence. Sarah quickly steps back onto the track, lines herself up in the blocks and looks forward.

Rachel grins and lines up next to Sarah in her starting blocks.

COACH VICKY (CONT'D)

On your mark.

Rachel and Sarah look forward at the ready.

COACH VICKY (CONT'D)

Get Set.

Both runners arch their backs preparing to bolt.

COACH VICKY (CONT'D)

Go!

Both runners explode off the blocks and charge down the track. After a few seconds they are even with each other. Sarah steals a quick glance at Rachel. This race is extremely important to her, more than just a practice heat.

Sarah inches forward as they both edge toward the finish line. Rachel charges forward suddenly to barely nab the finish, inches in front of Sarah.

Both runners slow to a halt and Rachel calmly breathes and turns to look at Sarah. She smiles at her.

Sarah's face is flushed and she breathes heavily, frustration and hurt in her expression. Sarah walks up to Rachel but can't muster the words to say to her. They both stare at each other for a moment before Sarah storms off in distress.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sarah cautiously walks into the locker room. There is no sign of Rachel. Sarah takes off her shoes and hurls them at the lockers in agitation.

She quickly opens her locker and grabs her bible from inside. She opens it and reads a few verses while taking deep breaths to calm herself down.

SARAH

In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Sarah takes a few more breaths before closing her eyes. When she opens them she is calm, at peace with herself. Carley walks into the locker room.

CARLEY

Coach Bitchy needs to get laid.

SARAH

Carley, don't say that!

CARLEY

What!? You know it's true.

SARAH

You shouldn't be so vulgar.

CARLEY
I'll repent for my sins.

Carley takes a seat next to Sarah on the bench and opens her locker.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
Good run today.

SARAH
No it wasn't.

Carley takes off her shirt and shorts and dons just a sports bra and underwear. She is extremely athletic and has a great body.

CARLEY
That new girl is quick.

Sarah looks up from her bible at Carley. Sarah is distracted at the sight of Carley's body for a moment. She stares for a moment before regaining her composure.

SARAH
I don't like her.

CARLEY
Why not? Because she beat you
twice?

Sarah forces herself to look away from Carley.

SARAH
No! She just has a bad attitude.

CARLEY
She's a bitch?

SARAH
I didn't say that.

CARLEY
Yes you did. In so many words. It's
OK.

Carley wraps herself in a towel and heads toward the showers. Sarah pretends not to see her undress near the shower. Sarah forces herself to look at a page of her bible. We hear the sound of water as Carley starts the shower.

SARAH
She just gets to me.

Carley pokes her head out from around the shower door.

CARLEY
Then beat her.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah lies on her bed staring at the ceiling. Thoughts flood through her head as we see quick glimpses of Carley in the locker room.

SARAH
No.

Sarah takes a deep breath and attempts to read her bible. A few glimpses of Rachel flash before us. She sits up in bed.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Sarah, you're confused. That's all.

Sarah lies back down, restless.

INT. PRINCIPAL HARLAN'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Sarah nervously steps into the large office. A few variations of crosses hang on the wall and different versions of the bible rest on a massive wooden desk.

Sarah takes a seat.

SARAH
Good morning sir. You wanted to see me Principal Harlan?

Large hands close a bible. Strict dictator PRINCIPAL HARLAN (40) sits at the desk looming over it. He sits in a chair that resembles more of a throne, as if he were a king.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming." Do you know which verse that is from?

SARAH
No sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
Let's try again Sarah.

Sarah shifts uncomfortably in her seat.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away." Now which verse is this one from?

SARAH

I don't know sir.

Principal Harlan breathes deeply and releases a sigh to mask his intense frustration.

He flexes his knuckles, a small rosary hangs around his wrist.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Sarah, Sarah, Sarah. Do you know why I am asking you about these verses?

SARAH

To improve my relationship with God?

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

To eradicate ourself of the unholy evil that is sin, ever present in our daily lives. It is not you I worry about my dear Sarah.

Principal Harlan stands and paces behind his gargantuan desk. He motions to the high school visible outside of his office windows.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Rather it is all of the other students who roam this campus treating our sacred religion like some sick and twisted joke. Do you understand me when I say this?

SARAH

Yes sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

I knew you would. You are on the holy path of righteousness my dear. That is why I called you in today. To praise your efforts and work that you have accomplished inside and outside the classroom.

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

You excel in all of your courses, you are the anchor on our track team and I see a bright, bright future ahead of you upon leaving this institution. So I ask that you, as a messenger of our lord, carry out our will to save those who sin here at Blessed Heart. Salvage the hope in our religion and uphold the spirit within. Can you do this Sarah?

Sarah's stoic expression hides her nervous energy.

SARAH

Yes sir. I will do everything in my power to spread the message of the Lord.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Good girl. I knew you had a special way about you when I first saw you. God told me that you were a special one and I knew he wouldn't lie to me. Would he?

SARAH

No sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Good girl.

Principal Harlan steps close to Sarah she slowly draws back in her seat.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Now what I am asking of you is simple. Because I know I can trust you, I am asking you to be my witness. Any violation of school policy or any sin committed before your eyes, I want you to report to me. Simple. That's all you have to do. I will take care of the rest from there. Do I make myself clear?

SARAH

Yes sir.

Principal Harlan takes a seat on his desk facing Sarah. He slowly leans down and softly strokes Sarah's hair. The unease and fear grows in Sarah's eyes with every word.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

I knew you were special. You have always been special in my eyes. I am so grateful to have an exceptional student like yourself. You have great things in store for yourself my dear.

Sarah slightly recoils. Principal Harlan leans closer and looks right into Sarah's eyes.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Look at me.

There is a tensely uncomfortable moment as Sarah struggles to bring her gaze to meet Principal Harlan's intense gaze.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you Sarah. That's all I have. Don't let me down. You are dismissed.

Principal Harlan slowly draws back. Sarah quickly stands to leave.

SARAH

Thank you sir.

Principal Harlan stands and walks back around to take a seat on his throne and open his bible.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - AFTERNOON

Sarah stretches on the field near the track. Rachel walks onto the field donning her trench coat. She flicks a cigarette and approaches Sarah.

Sarah dips her head to try to ignore Rachel. She is deeply intimidated.

RACHEL

Hey.

Sarah looks up, nervous.

SARAH

Hey.

RACHEL

Wanna race?

SARAH

No.

RACHEL
Didn't think so.

Rachel drops her coat and walks over to the track. She lines up in the starting blocks and dashes down the track. She effortlessly cruises down the track, hardly expending energy as she crosses the 100 yard mark.

Sarah watches on and glares at Rachel. Rachel jogs back and approaches Sarah. Rachel grabs a cigarette from a pack and lights one.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Smoke?

SARAH
There's no smoking allowed on the-

RACHEL
What, the track? Oh I'm sorry I didn't realize it was a problem. And are you the coach now?

Rachel pulls on her long trench coat.

SARAH
This is a Catholic high school!

Rachel is amused. Sarah approaches Rachel but quickly stops in front of her.

RACHEL
What, are you going to do something?

Sarah violently grabs the cigarette out of her mouth. The two stand very close, their faces almost touching. Sarah's cheeks are red, flushed with anger.

Rachel's eyes are defiant, gazing through Sarah. She grins. There is tension as they stare at each other. Sarah's anger is quickly replaced by a nervous discomfort.

She looks away, quickly breaking the gaze with Rachel. Rachel continues to watch Sarah, completely comfortable.

CARLEY (V.O.)
Hey!

Carley approaches and wedges her way between Rachel and Sarah.

CARLEY
We're all on the same team here.
Aren't we Sarah?

Carley raises an eyebrow at Sarah. Sara glares at Rachel then focuses her gaze on Carley.

SARAH
Yeah.

RACHEL
Let me know when you want to get
beat again.

Rachel walks away. Sarah watches her go with a hurt look on her face. Carley wraps Sarah in a hug.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

An old car cruises into view and glides down the street.

INT. CARLEY'S CAR - NIGHT

Carley and Sarah laugh as Carley drives.

SARAH
I just remember how disgusted you
looked! You couldn't even look at
him after that.

CARLEY
I mean how could you, there was
spaghetti everywhere!

They both laugh hysterically. After their laughter subsides they both watch the road in silence.

Carley turns the radio on. IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT by The Five Satins plays. They both smile and drive on in silence. Sarah looks once more at Carley.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - NIGHT

Carley and Sarah walk onto the dark track.

CARLEY
Oh come on!

SARAH
We could get in big trouble!

CARLEY

Live a little Sarah, there's something to be said for pushing the limits sometimes. That's the only way to live.

SARAH

I just don't know about this.

CARLEY

Move it Sarah. I won't take no for an answer.

Sarah nods and reluctantly follows.

SARAH

OK. But I'm blaming you if we get caught. And you will have to talk to my parents.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BLEACHERS - NIGHT

Sarah and Carley walk onto the bleachers and sit on the front row.

SARAH

Let's leave!

CARLEY

Sarah! Listen, I know you are ingrained in your faith and I respect that. But you also have to see you are holding yourself back. For example, Gary Jones wanted you to be his girlfriend so badly in 7th grade and you used religion as your excuse, when I know you liked him!

SARAH

I was scared.

CARLEY

And Thomas Clark, freshman year only wanted to hang out and take you out on some dates but once again there was an excuse you gave him, and he was the cutest boy in our class!

Sarah sits in silence.

SARAH

I just don't want to disrupt my relationship with Him.

CARLEY

I know, but is that really what you want? I bet if you ask yourself deep down, you might find that maybe it isn't.

SARAH

That's not true!

CARLEY

I'm just trying to help.

SARAH

No you aren't you are questioning my faith, and I think you need to reevaluate your own. You are filled with doubt.

An uncomfortable silence ensues.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I guess I'm just really not sure. About any of it. Have you ever asked yourself why you believe?

CARLEY

All the time.

SARAH

So why do you?

CARLEY

Because it provides me hope for living. A purpose for being here. It's something that I don't have to explain to anyone else but myself. It's also what it means to me and for me doing what makes me happy.

SARAH

If only more people thought that way. Sometimes I'm just not sure how strong my faith is.

CARLEY

What do you mean?

SARAH

There are momentary thoughts
sometimes that scare me.

Carley takes a seat next to Sarah. She faces her.

CARLEY

You have to do what you want. Not
what they want.

IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT resumes as they sit, both a part of
the night.

Carley places her hand on Sarah's hand. Sarah swallows and
nervously meets Carley's gaze. Carley moves her hand away and
looks out on the field. Sarah watches her.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

Wanna race?

Carley jumps to her feet and runs out toward the track.

SARAH

It's on!

Sarah quickly follows after her.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - NIGHT

Sarah and Carley line up on the track as if they are about to
run.

SARAH

Eat my dust.

CARLEY

Bring it.

SARAH

1...2...3... Go!

They both sprint off into the darkness.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Sarah stands at her locker putting books away. The bell rings
and students scurry out of the hallway into their classes.
Sarah closes her locker to reveal Principal Harlan standing
to the side of her.

She is startled upon seeing him.

SARAH

Oh principal Harlan, I'm so sorry I didn't see you there sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

I'm sorry if I startled you Sarah.
Do you have a minute?

Sarah looks toward her classroom.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

I'll tell her don't worry.

SARAH

What is it sir?

Principal Harlan looks around to make sure the hall is empty.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

I just wanted to check in. See how things were going after our last meeting?

Sarah is clearly flustered.

SARAH

Oh yes sir. I haven't really seen any reckless behavior lately from anyone.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Have any names by chance?

Principal Harlan slowly moves closer. His presence looming over Sarah as she presses further against her locker. He stares into her eyes, uncomfortably close.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Don't let me down Sarah. I picked you for a reason.

Sarah presses even further into her locker, praying that someone else will step into the impossibly empty hall. Sarah nods, averting her gaze from his.

SARAH

Yes sir. I won't let you down.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

For sin is omnipresent in us all, it is about avoiding the temptation. Give in to his guidance.

Principal Harlan moves even closer to Sarah.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
Sarah, this will be your task
shared between us. Understood?

Sarah is practically flat against the locker. She nods.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
Let me hear you say it.

SARAH
Understood sir.

Principal Harlan slowly stands back and surveys the hall.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
Good girl. Go to class.

Principal Harlan stands back and walks down the hall. Sarah still cowers against the locker. She looks terrified.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Roberts stands at the front of the room lecturing to a full class. Sarah quickly hurries into the classroom and finds the only open desk.

MS. ROBERTS
Thanks for joining us Sarah.

SARAH
Sorry mam, Principal Harlan wanted
to see me.

Ms. Roberts quickly nods, she understands his presence. She addresses the class.

MS. ROBERTS
What is religion?

Self righteous THERESA (16) sits toward the front of the room and raises her hand.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)
Theresa.

THERESA
An organized collection of beliefs
and ideas that connect humanity to
an order of existence.

MS. ROBERTS

Such as?

THERESA

Catholicism.

MS. ROBERTS

Great. But now I implore you to truly ask yourself what is religion. And what does your religion mean to you?

Sarah hardly pays attention to the lecture. Ms. Roberts paces at the front of the room.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Is religion a pick and choose buffet where you can decide when to be Catholic and not? Is it only being Catholic on Sundays? That all depends on what your religion means. But I can tell you if you pick and choose, your religion is not holistic. This means abiding by the word as closely as you can. The elements of life that violate our principles of this religion must be followed as well to be a holistic Catholic.

Ms. Roberts walks toward the first row of desks.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Maybe Theresa is a good Catholic most of the time but decides not to be on Friday night to go drinking with her friends.

Ms. Roberts slowly approaches Sarah's desk and stops.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Or maybe devout Sarah decides to pursue an impermissible desire, a forbidden temptation against what is specified in the bible.

Sarah nervously looks into Ms. Robert's eyes. The lecture hits too close to home.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Sarah? What does religion mean to you personally?

SARAH

Uh.

Ms. Roberts waits for the response.

SARAH (CONT'D)

It means being one with God to be
your best self and to embrace your
true self.

Ms Roberts watches Sarah closely before moving on and
resuming her place behind her desk.

MS. ROBERTS

I like that Sarah, thank you.

Ms. Roberts writes RELIGION on the chalkboard. Sarah looks at
the chalkboard with unease. She glances around at her peers
before looking back.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

I implore you to truly explore what
your religion means.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Sarah sits alone in a deserted hallway, pressed against the
wall. She holds her bible and a journal.

She places down the bible and starts to write in her journal.
She writes the words MY RELIGION. She talks out loud as she
writes.

SARAH

My religion means maintaining my
relationship to God no matter what.
Despite my desires I will not, can
not stray from the righteous path-

Footsteps abound down the hall. Sarah's head whips up. It
looks as if Rachel is standing in the hall. When she looks
closer she realizes there is no one in the hall.

Sarah returns to her journal.

SARAH (CONT'D)

-because my path, the righteous
path, means upholding the will of
God.

Sarah looks up again. Someone stands at the end of the hall.

CARLEY (O.S.)

Sarah!

Sarah turns to see Carley approaching.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

You're going to be late to
practice, let's go!

Sarah quickly gets to her feet and runs out of the hall with Carley. Before she leaves the hall she notices what appears to be the edge of a trench coat as it disappears around the side of the hall.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - AFTERNOON

The girl's track team stands on the field near the track stretching. Carley and Sarah stand near the track.

CARLEY

Let's race.

SARAH

It's on.

Sarah and Carley line up on the track in the starting blocks. Sarah is focused and looks at the ground. Coach Vicky walks toward the track from the field.

COACH VICKY

Ok ladies, everything you got.
Leave nothing behind. Whoever wins
this will get the anchor position
in the 4x100 relay so run with all
you have.

Sarah and Carley and a few other girls line up on the track.

COACH VICKY (CONT'D)

On your marks...get set...go!

Sarah rocks back and forth and then explodes up and out of the blocks when go is yelled. She dashes for a few steps before realizing that Rachel is sprinting right next to her.

Sarah furiously charges forward widening the gap between her and Rachel as she takes the lead.

Sarah eyes the finish and knows the victory is hers. Twenty yards from the finish, Rachel surges forward and crosses the line just a step ahead of Sarah.

Sarah gasps for air and looks up to see Rachel standing and grinning at her. Sarah approaches Rachel in a fury.

SARAH
I'm going to beat you!

RACHEL
That so?

SARAH
Let's run again!

RACHEL
I'd be glad to beat you again.

They both jog toward the starting line again. Carley watches with concern from the sideline.

CARLEY
Sarah, relax. This isn't a good idea.

SARAH
I'm going to beat her. I have to!

Carley shakes her head. Sarah quickly lines up on the track. Rachel lines up next to her.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Call it!

Coach Vicky watches, amused.

CARLEY
On your marks...

Rachel and Sarah glare at each other.

CARLEY (CONT'D (CONT'D)
get set...

Both runners rock back.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
Go!

Rachel and Sarah take off. They charge down the track faster and faster. They are dead even after fifty yards. Sarah suddenly loses steam as her exhaustion sets in.

As they both near the finish line Sarah's body gives out and she collapses violently on the track at full speed. Carley and Coach Vicky quickly run over to help Sarah.

From Sarah's point of view we see Rachel standing behind the finish line looking at us. Her face is expressionless as we see the face of Carley huddling around us.

Rachel walks away as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Sarah lays in a hospital bed and slowly wakes up as Carley, Mom and Dad sit in the room with her. Sarah slowly gets her bearings.

She has a bandage on her arm and on her knees and there is a long scratch on the side of her face.

CARLEY

Hey.

SARAH

Hey.

MOM

Hey sweetie.

CARLEY

You look pretty busted up Gaines.

Carley laughs and Sarah forces a smile.

MOM

You're extending yourself too far dear.

SARAH

I know.

DAD

Regionals are coming up, you should have taken it easier.

SARAH

I know.

CARLEY

We need an anchor for that 4x100.

SARAH

They have Rachel.

CARLEY

She's not you.

Carley smiles and Sarah smiles back weakly. Carley places Sarah's bible on her bed.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

The answers aren't all in there you know.

Sarah looks at the bible with doubt.

EXT. BLESSED HEART ACADEMY - DAY

Sarah sits on the front steps of the school with Carley. Sarah still wears some of the bandages but her scratch on her head has healed somewhat.

SARAH

Hey thanks for being there. For always being there really.

CARLEY

Of course Gaines. I just don't want to see you face planting on that track again, understood?

SARAH

Yes mother.

CARLEY

Don't let her get to you. It's mental. You are letting her get in your head, that's why she keeps beating you.

SARAH

I just can't seem to get her out of my thoughts.

Carley shoots her an odd look.

SARAH (CONT'D)

On the track I mean.

Carley continues to look at her quizzically. An attractive boy walks by the steps and smiles at Carley. This is popular jock JAMES COOPER (17).

CARLEY

Well, I can't seem to get James out of my head.

SARAH

Cooper?

CARLEY

Oh yeah. He asked me to prom!

Sarah's face falls in disappointment.

SARAH

Really?

CARLEY

Yeah! I'm also hoping that he'll ask me to be his girlfriend after.

SARAH

Why didn't you tell me?

CARLEY

It just happened earlier today! Isn't that wonderful?

Sarah feigns excitement as she tries to hide her sadness.

SARAH

Yeah. That is wonderful.

CARLEY

Don't look so blue Gaines! Are you asking anyone?

SARAH

I was going to ask someone...

CARLEY

Who!?

SARAH

It doesn't matter. They wouldn't want to go with me anyway.

CARLEY

Why not?

SARAH

They are into someone else. It wouldn't even be allowed.

CARLEY

What do you mean? Do they go to a different school? I'm confused.

SARAH

It's nothing. It's really not a big deal. I don't even know if I am going to go.

CARLEY

No. You are going. Come with our group. Who needs a date anyway?

SARAH

Yeah I guess.

CARLEY

Hey chin up, it will be fun. I have to boogie, James wants to discuss prom plans. Catch you later.

SARAH

Bye.

Sarah watches Carley leave, the damage already done. She pulls out her bible.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah's bible rests on a side table in the dining room. Sarah, her Mom and Dad sit at the dinner table eating.

DAD

Did you hear about the McCormick's?

MOM

What exactly happened?

DAD

Susan caught Jerry cheating on her with another man.

MOM

Oh my goodness. That's absolutely horrible.

DAD

It's disgusting.

MOM

What happened.

DAD

Susan filed for divorce and notified Father Rosario.

MOM

What did Father Rosario say?

DAD

Jerry was excommunicated of course, as he should be. People like Jerry are what is ruining the world. Are you listening Sarah, they are the ones to fear. They live a life of sin and will be condemned for it. Understand?

Sarah conceals the intense fear beneath.

SARAH

Yes sir.

DAD

I'm proud of you Sarah, because that's not something I will ever have to worry about.

SARAH

Thank you sir.

DAD

Your mom and I have also started looking at some great college options that we think you might be interested in.

MOM

We figured we didn't want you to go too far from home and we really liked the look of some local schools.

DAD

We narrowed down a list. Ancilla College, Calumet College of Saint Joseph, Holy Cross College, Marian University, Saint Joseph's College, Saint Mary's College, Saint Mary of the Woods College, University of Notre Dame, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne.

SARAH

Those are all Catholic schools.

DAD

And?

Sarah musters the courage to speak up.

SARAH

What if I don't want to go to a Catholic school?

There is tension as this sinks in.

DAD

Why wouldn't you? As far as I'm concerned, you are Catholic and therefore should be going to a Catholic college.

SARAH

But I just want to see what else might be out there.

DAD

What are you saying?

SARAH

Nothing, I'm just trying to explore all of my options.

DAD

I was hoping for some appreciation for all of the work your mother and I did.

SARAH

I do appreciate it, I just want to look some on my own.

Dad raises his voice.

DAD

Are you questioning my judgement?

Sarah gets nervous.

SARAH

No sir.

DAD

Good.

MOM

I think what your father is saying is that we both just want what is best for you.

Sarah forces herself not to respond.

SARAH

Thank you.

Sarah looks at the uneaten food on her plate.

MOM

Please, eat more honey.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

We read words from a bible verse on the page. We move back and forth across the page as Sarah's finger traces the verse:

WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS CRY FOR HELP, THE LORD HEARS AND DELIVERS THEM OUT OF ALL THEIR TROUBLES. THE LORD IS NEAR TO THE BROKENHEARTED AND SAVES THE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT.

Sarah looks up at the ceiling.

SARAH

Help me God. Please help me. Give me an answer.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

Sarah sit by herself during lunch. Carley sits at another table with James and some of his other athlete friends. Sarah spots Rachel leaving the lunch room.

Sarah stands up and follows after her as she leaves the lunch room.

EXT. BLESSED HEART ACADEMY BACKSIDE - DAY

Sarah emerges from the doors to the building and walks toward the back of the school. Rachel is nowhere to be seen.

Sarah continues to walk around the back but can't find Rachel anywhere. She hears the sound of voices off to the side. Sarah quickly conceals herself behind a dumpster.

Carley and James emerge from the doors and laugh. They survey their surroundings to make sure no one is around. The coast is clear.

Sarah hides herself even more and looks to her right to see Rachel leaning against the wall, wearing her trench coat and smoking a cigarette.

Rachel glares at her, she glares back but remains silent. Sarah turns back to watch Carley and James.

James presses Carley up against the wall and kisses her. They intensely kiss.

Sarah watches them in shock. Tears well in her eyes. She forces them back and wipes her face. Rachel looks at her. Carley pulls away from the kiss and quickly heads back inside with James.

Sarah glances at Rachel then quickly runs back inside. Rachel takes a drag and blows a steady stream of smoke into the air.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Rachel sits on the floor of the empty hallway. She is upset and a single tear falls onto her bible.

THERESA (O.S.)

Sarah!

Sarah wipes the tear and looks up. Theresa stands outside a classroom in the hallway.

THERESA (CONT'D)

We are about to start.

SARAH

I'll be right there.

Sarah composes herself and stands up.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A group of students are seated at desks in a circle. CONSERVATIVE YOUTH is written on the whiteboard.

Sarah rushes in and takes a seat at a desk almost afraid to speak up. Theresa stands at the front of the classroom leading the meeting. She holds a notebook with topics on it.

THERESA

Next topic up for discussion. Gay Marriage.

Theresa looks at the notebook. Judgemental LAINEY (17) speaks up.

LAINEY

Is there anything to discuss. We know where our party stands and how disgusting the idea is. It's despicable.

THERESA

Does anyone else have any thoughts?
Any other ideas on the matter?

LAINY

We all know what the bible says,
it's against our religion.

Sarah finds herself speaking up suddenly.

SARAH

I'm just curious, are there any
other interpretations of this in a
religious context though?

LAINY

Why is this even a discussion? Do
you feel differently about it
Sarah?

Sarah quickly grows uncomfortable.

SARAH

No, of course not. It's just
politics, I'm weighing all the
options.

Devout COREY (16) speaks up.

COREY

The institution of marriage is
strictly between a man and a woman.
Any marriage considered different
than that is not considered a
marriage. You know that Rachel.

SARAH

I know! I'm not suggesting anything
I was simply asking!

Sarah composes herself after her outburst.

SARAH (CONT'D)

As we all know, gay marriage is a
sin.

Rachel suddenly steps into the room from the hall.

RACHEL

Excuse me?

The group of students is shocked as Rachel walks into the
center of the room. Sarah is deeply intimidated but feigns
confidence.

SARAH

I said gay marriage is a sin. It should stay illegal in all states and every country in the world. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."

RACHEL

Get off your high horse you self righteous bitch. Who are all of you to say what is right and wrong. That doesn't sound like any sort of religion to me.

THERESA

You don't know anything about our religion.

RACHEL

Oh I don't?

Rachel walks right up to Sarah and looks her in the eye.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." Romans 13:8. Sounds like your religion to me.

SARAH

Get out.

Rachel defiantly stays in place. She glares at Sarah.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Get out!

Sarah shrieks.

RACHEL

(Under her breath)
Hypocrite.

Rachel turns and slowly leaves the room leaving everyone in silence. Sarah shakes in rage, deeply upset.

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM - DAY

Sarah storms into the bathroom. She looks into the mirror with anger and frustration.

She notices something written above in the mirror. Written in lipstick it says "FUCK THE CONSERVATIVE YOUTH!"

One of the stalls opens and Rachel struts out to the sink to wash her hands.

The rage overtakes Sarah and she rushes toward Rachel and shoves her against the wall.

SARAH

What is this!?

RACHEL

Don't fucking touch me!

SARAH

What is wrong with you!?

RACHEL

Your hypocrisy! You and your prejudiced club!

SARAH

Don't talk to me about religion!

RACHEL

And you still have no idea what it's all about! You are completely clueless as well as hypocritical!

SARAH

What are you doing!? Leave me alone!

RACHEL

You're crazy! I'm faster than you and that kills you because you've always had everything handed to you and you are used to being a perfect angel. Wake up!

SARAH

I'll report you.

RACHEL

And that's all you could do, because you can't face the fact that I'm right. You're too afraid. You're insecure and unhappy and-

SARAH

Shut the fuck up!

Sarah suddenly kisses Rachel. The two girls stare at each other in silence. There is extreme tension. Rachel slowly takes a step back.

RACHEL

See I told you. Your religion and your club...they don't mean shit. You can't fight it. You can't fight who you are and that kills you doesn't it?

Rachel gives Sarah her signature grin. Sarah is frozen to the spot, speechless. She manages to find her footing and rushes out of the bathroom.

Rachel continues smirking and looks at the lipstick writing on the mirror.

INT. PRINCIPAL HARLAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Sarah frantically rushes into the office, still in hysterics. Principal Harlan is clearly surprised and moves to shove something in his desk drawer as if hiding something.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Sarah! I didn't expect to see you, I was just packing up for the day.

Sarah breathes heavily and paces back and forth.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Sarah, please take a seat and breathe.

Principal Harlan moves over to the door and shuts it and then sits on his desk right in front of Sarah. He touches her shoulder.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Is everything alright?

Sarah shakes her head.

SARAH

No.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

What can I do for you Sarah?

Sarah slightly calms down.

SARAH

I have a name.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK BLEACHERS - AFTERNOON

Sarah sits on the bleachers holding her face in her hands as she sobs. The track is empty and the bleachers watch her.

Sarah looks up, a tear runs down her face. She looks to the sky for an answer and receives none. She tosses her bible across the bleachers.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - AFTERNOON/EVENING

Sarah steps onto the track. The track now seems longer than ever before. She slowly walks down the lane toward the finish line.

She stops walking before she reaches the finish line and walks off the track. The sky turns dark as the night takes over.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah kneels at her bed praying. She looks tired and her cheeks are red. Her bible rests on the bed beside her. The images of the day flash through her mind.

SARAH

Jesus Christ my God, I adore you
and thank you for all the graces
you have given me this day.

QUICK CUT:

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Rachel smokes a cigarette takes off her trench coat to reveal the track uniform. She looks defiantly forward.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah struggles to continue to pray as she sees flashes of Rachel.

SARAH

I offer you my sleep and all the
moments of this night, and I ask
you to keep me from sin.

QUICK CUT:

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

BANG! The sound of the gun goes off. Sarah and Rachel sprint down the track. Rachel gains a lead on Sarah in the race.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah is struggling to maintain focus on her prayer.

SARAH
I put myself within your sacred
side and under the mantle of our
Lady.

QUICK CUT:

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - DAY

Sarah passionately kisses Rachel then pulls back. Rachel grins at her.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel stumbles over the last lines of the prayer.

SARAH
Let your holy angels stand about me
and keep me in peace. And let your
blessing be upon me. Amen.

Rachel tosses her bible in frustration. She lays down on her bed and looks up.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Father give me the strength to
carry forth with grace. I feel that
I have strayed from the path of
righteousness. I know that it is
within me to be strong and realize
your ability to give me strength.

She shuts her eyes tight.

SARAH (CONT'D)
And to stay on the right path-

The face of Rachel stares at us and smirks. Sarah opens her eyes as her prayer is abruptly cut short. She breathes heavily as she struggles to shake the image from her mind.

There is rustling outside the door.

MOM (O.S.)

Sarah!

Sarah turns to the door, brought back to reality from her thoughts. Sarah's Mom walks into her room and sits on the bed.

MOM (CONT'D)

How are you sweetie?

SARAH

I'm alright.

MOM

Talk to me.

SARAH

What do you do when you aren't sure about something?

MOM

What do you mean?

SARAH

What do you do when you feel like you are drifting from yourself.

MOM

Well I confide in God for the answers. I pray and wait for a response.

SARAH

But what if you don't get one. What if God doesn't answer?

MOM

Then trust in yourself and your abilities sweetie. You have a lot going for you. Look at all of these medals.

SARAH

Yeah.

MOM

Do you feel like you are losing yourself?

SARAH

Maybe.

MOM

You aren't Sarah. Believe me.

Sarah's Mom kisses her on the forehead.

SARAH

Thanks mom.

MOM

Any time. Have you said your prayers yet?

SARAH

I was just about to.

MOM

I talked to Principal Harlan the other day.

There is alarm in Sarah's expression.

SARAH

About what?

MOM

About you.

SARAH

What did he say?

MOM

He said you were a wonderful student and that you had a bright future within the church.

Sarah feigns enthusiasm.

SARAH

That's great.

MOM

He even said he might have a potential opening after graduation if you were interested.

SARAH

How kind of him.

MOM

I think you should consider it.

SARAH

Ok.

MOM

Don't forget to say your prayers. Goodnight.

SARAH

Night mom. And thank you.

Sarah's Mom smiles and leaves the room. Sarah quickly gets up and closes her door. She looks at the cross hanging on the wall and delicately lays back on her bed.

There is a quick flash of Rachel's face.

She looks over to her medals on the wall and then down to her running shoes in the corner of her room. Sarah quickly hops out of bed and slips on her running shoes.

She quickly changes into shorts and a t-shirt and then quietly slips out of her window.

The bible lays on the floor.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

Sarah swiftly runs through the night. She steadily moves down the street at almost a dead sprint.

She picks up speed as she moves further down the street and into the darkness.

The darkness encloses Sarah as she runs further and further from her house, and from her worries.

Sarah charges forward like a machine, her body drenched in sweat.

Finally Sarah comes to a stop after she can't run anymore. She pants heavily as she catches her breath.

She looks around at the darkness surrounding her. After a moment she turns around and jogs off into the darkness.

INT. PRINCIPAL HARLAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Principal Harlan sits at his desk reading an article from the paper. His powerful hands are folded on the desk. The door opens and Rachel steps in. She looks less than enthused to be there.

RACHEL

You called for me?

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Please take a seat.

Rachel reluctantly sits.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
Rachel Barnes is it?

RACHEL
That's me.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
I think you know why I called you
in here.

RACHEL
No, please enlighten me.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
I have heard reports from others
about your conduct around this
school.

RACHEL
Oh wonderful.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
Cut the sarcasm!

Rachel bites her lip.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
Now, I don't know what school you
came from or what the environment
was like and I don't know if you
have ever been in a Catholic school
like this before, but let me make
one thing clear.

Principal Harlan stands and steps in front of Rachel.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
This is no joke. Our religion is
everything at Blessed Heart and we
do not tolerate any student who
believes they are better than that,
or above the system. From what I
have heard, it appears that you
think you are better than our
policies here. Is this true Rachel?

Principal Harlan moves closer to Rachel and brings his face
down closer to hers. She moves her head back.

RACHEL
What have you heard?

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
Answer the question!

Rachel is startled by the outburst.

RACHEL

No. I don't believe I'm better.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

You will refer to me as sir!

RACHEL

No sir. I don't believe I am better than the policies.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Good, because no one is. That is to say that we are better than God and don't need his direction and guidance.

Principal Harlan moves his face even closer to Rachel's.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

And I know you would never insinuate that would you Rachel?

RACHEL

No...sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Good. I'm glad we understand each other because I know you can't take another expulsion on your record.

Rachel suddenly grows very worried.

RACHEL

How did you know that?

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

I do my research Ms. Barnes.

RACHEL

Please-

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Then follow policy and we will have no problems. I believed in giving you a second chance. To be born again if you will. But he will not be so forgiving.

His face is now inches from Rachel's. She is petrified and doesn't dare move.

RACHEL

Yes sir.

Principal Harlan slowly moves his head back and sits back on his desk. Relief spreads over Rachel's face.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

No more cigarettes, mishaps or cutting class. One more chance Barnes. Don't make me angry. You are dismissed.

Principal Harlan resumes his seat behind his massive throne. Rachel slowly gets to her feet, shaken and exits the office.

EXT. DRIVE-IN MOVIE - NIGHT

A car slowly drives into an open spot at a large drive-in. Carley drives the car while Corey sits in the passenger seat and Sarah and Lainey sit in the back seat.

SARAH

Hey I'm going to grab some candy, want anything?

CARLEY

No thanks.

Sarah steps out of the car and starts to walk toward a nearby candy stand.

Sarah searches around for people she knows. As she walks she starts to realize how alone she truly feels. She continues to walk and spots something in the distance.

Behind a car, the familiar trench coat disappears behind the side of a car. Sarah takes another close look. The coat is gone, nowhere to be seen.

Sarah uneasily continues walking and approaches the candy stand. A female FRIENDLY WORKER (17) works the stand.

FRIENDLY WORKER

Hello. What can I get for you?

SARAH

Can I have dots please?

The worker grabs a bag and hands them to Sarah and smiles at her. Sarah is visibly uncomfortable.

Sarah hands the worker a few bills and quickly walks away. The drive-in screen begins to play previews.

The screen flashes sporadically and we hear the sounds of the trailer music and narrator's dramatic voice. Sarah looks up and sees the shape of a figure in the darkness up ahead.

As she slowly edges closer to it she realizes it is Rachel. She is facing the other direction, her large trench coat enclosing her.

Sarah walks toward her. Rachel turns her head back and laughs then slowly moves her eyes to lock on Sarah. She stares through her and then gives Sarah a haunting smirk.

Everything goes dark for a moment and when the screen flashes brightly again Rachel is gone. Sarah looks around dazed, confused. She picks up her pace and swiftly moves toward where Rachel was standing.

Rachel is nowhere to be seen as Sarah frantically searches for her. Sarah increases her pace to a run as she runs by cars and looks all around for a trace of Rachel.

Sarah's desperation grows as she looks in and around cars, drawing attention to herself. Eventually after scouring virtually the entire drive-in she gives up and heads back to the car.

INT. CARLEY'S CAR/DRIVE IN - NIGHT

Carley, Lainey and Corey cast glances at Sarah.

CARLEY
Where were you?

SARAH
There was a line.

LAINY
The movie is starting.

The film begins and we view the opening scene of the movie ON THE WATERFRONT.

In the film, the character of FATHER BERRY delivers some lines.

FATHER BERRY
"You want to know what's wrong with our waterfront? It's the love of a lousy buck. It's making love of a buck- the cushy job -more important than the love of man!"

Sarah watches the screen uneasily, his words registering with her. We pull in to her expression of unease.

Something catches her eye. The side of the trench coat passes by the back window and disappears around the back of the car. Sarah is startled by it but nervously and quickly collects herself.

SARAH

I'm going to use the bathroom.

LAINY

You were just out.

SARAH

I know, I'll be quick.

Carley shoots her a concerned look. Sarah quickly steps out of the car.

EXT. DRIVE-IN MOVIE - NIGHT

Sarah quickly closes the car door and makes her way around the side of the car.

She doesn't see Rachel anywhere. She continues to walk further from the car until she notices Rachel walking near the front of the drive-in.

Sarah quickly moves past the row of cars to make her way toward the front of the drive-in. By the time she gets to the front she stands close to the screen and sees no one.

Doubt continues to play on the screen. Sarah turns and finds Rachel now walking toward the back of the drive-in. She turns and sprints toward her.

After she clears every row of cars she is suddenly grabbed quickly and almost taken off her feet. It is Rachel who has grabbed her. Sarah is startled, speechless.

RACHEL

What the hell are you doing? Why are you following me?

SARAH

Why are you following me!?

RACHEL

You are terrified!

SARAH

Of what?

RACHEL

Of being honest with yourself. Do yourself a favor and embrace who you are!

SARAH

That was a mistake. I wasn't thinking clearly. That won't ever happen again

RACHEL

Don't bull shit yourself. You like girls.

SARAH

No I don't!

RACHEL

Oh because it violates your religion?

SARAH

Just shut up.

RACHEL

Because I'm right. You can't pray the gay away.

SARAH

Shut up!

Sarah's face flushes with anger.

SARAH (CONT'D)

You're wrong!

RACHEL

Say it, you're gay.

SARAH

I'm not!

RACHEL

Prove it.

SARAH

I pray for people like you.

RACHEL

Don't pray for me. It's useless.

Rachel lights a cigarette and smirks at Sarah. She blows smoke in her face. Sarah storms away.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Come back here!

Sarah continues to walk and then stops in her tracks and turns.

SARAH
Why!?

RACHEL
Because I know that you want to
kiss me as much as I want to kiss
you right now.

Sarah stands frozen in place. She takes a moment and then quickly moves over to Rachel. Sarah grabs Rachel and passionately kisses her.

They continue to kiss in the midst of passion and intimacy, both silhouettes against the backdrop of the movie screen.

Both girls suddenly turn to see someone walking up to them in the darkness. They quickly part and step away from each other.

The shape of Carley comes into view. She slowly approaches them.

CARLEY
This is where the bathroom is
Sarah?

Sarah takes another step back from Rachel. Her face is flushed, she is embarrassed.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
What were you doing?

Sarah is speechless.

RACHEL
We were working out some issues.
Just talking.

CARLEY
Is that so? Sarah?

SARAH
Yeah, we worked everything out.

Carley looks at them in disbelief.

CARLEY
Sure you were. Rachel is it?

RACHEL
Yeah, Carley?

CARLEY
Yeah.

RACHEL
We're all good here. No issues.

Rachel smiles a fake smile at Carley.

SARAH
Let's go.

Sarah starts to walk away.

CARLEY
Yeah. Let's do that. Stay away from
her.

Rachel laughs as Carley glares at her. Rachel grins back,
lights up a cigarette and takes a drag.

RACHEL
I'll try to keep her away from me.

Carley finally turns and walks away with Sarah. Rachel tilts
her head back and blows a jet stream of smoke toward the sky.

INT. CARLEY'S CAR/DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Carley and Sarah sit in the back of Theresa's car at a drive-
in. Neon signs illuminate the street and cars around them.

CARLEY
Do you want to tell me something?

SARAH
There's nothing to tell.

CARLEY
That's not what it looked like.

SARAH
She's harassing me. That's all.

CARLEY
What is she doing?

SARAH
Just following me.

CARLEY

Then let's report her. Get her expelled. We can spin this so Harlan can have her gone like that.

SARAH

I already did.

CARLEY

And!?

SARAH

Harlan needs more evidence.

Sarah looks out the window. She watches her peers laughing and joking outside their cars.

Sarah thinks she spots Rachel for a split second before realizing it is her own paranoia.

CARLEY

Let's get her kicked out. I don't trust her at all.

SARAH

It's not enough.

CARLEY

Why are you defending her, I know she has been harassing you. Don't you want her gone?

Sarah hesitates, at war with her mind.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

Sarah!?

SARAH

I don't know. She hasn't done anything wrong.

CARLEY

Why are you defending her!?

SARAH

All I'm saying is I think we need more of a reason if we want her gone.

CARLEY

What aren't you telling me?

Sarah defensively looks at Carley.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
Sarah. Is there something about
Rachel you are hiding?

SARAH
Drop it.

CARLEY
Tell me.

SARAH
No!

Carley is startled by Sarah's outburst.

CARLEY
You better not be lying to me.

SARAH
I'm not.

They both look forward in uncomfortable silence.

CARLEY
Well I'm starving.

SARAH
Me too.

They exchange a smile. Carley rolls down the window and yells
at a waiter.

CARLEY
Can I get a cheeseburger and
fries!?

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

We hear heavy breathing and quick footsteps on the pavement.
Sarah's shoes come into view.

Sarah charges forward into the night. As if she is chasing
her destiny she runs forth, head held high, determined. She
continues to run and run disappearing into the dark.

EXT. DINER - NIGHT

Rachel sits across the street from a brightly lit neon clad
diner.

The neon casts a glow on her face. She takes off her shoes and socks. Her feet are bloody and calloused, some of the skin is torn off.

She looks to the right of the diner and sees a large majestic church extending into the sky. Sarah looks at her feet and then closes her eyes, finally feeling free for the first time in years.

EXT. DINER - DAY

The same familiar diner sits before us. It appears to be a different building without the neon glow in the daylight.

Sarah and her Mom and Dad walk near the diner as they approach the looming church before them.

Sarah's Mom and Dad enter the church. Sarah approaches the massive front doors as if it is judgement day and her future towers over her as she slowly enters.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

A massive crowd is gathered in the church as organ music plays. Sarah and her parents file into a pew and stand, waiting for the sermon to begin.

This place feels even more foreign to Sarah now. Mom and Dad look at Sarah and warmly smile. Sarah feigns a smile.

MOM

I'm glad you're here honey.

SARAH

Thanks mom.

DAD

We're proud of you Sarah.

SARAH

Thanks Dad.

Sarah's Dad lightly squeezes her hand and lets go. She smiles at him.

An attractive and well-kempt FATHER ROSARIO (40) approaches the altar and lays a heavy book down on the stand before him. He scans the crowd and looks ahead, focused.

FATHER ROSARIO

Uncertainty awaits, and decisions must be made.

(MORE)

FATHER ROSARIO (CONT'D)

In the face of uncertainty, one must carry forth even when they aren't sure. See the truth is that we are all still trying to figure out our place here on this Earth. Heaven, hell, purgatory. Where do we fit in and how is our relationship with God during this lifetime, during our time on Earth going to solidify where we end up? It comes down to making decisions, with his guidance along the way. If you aren't sure, pray. If you receive no answer then do.

Sarah watches the sermon closely. A semblance of hope is ignited in her eyes. We move closer to her as she looks down at her bible resting on the seat next to her.

FATHER ROSARIO (CONT'D)

The lifetime of decisions made along the course of our lifetime affect who we will be when we look back on our life and even after, passing into the afterlife. Are you who you want to be?

Various mosaics of biblical figures including Jesus, God and Satan line the stained glass windows of the church. They are beautiful and yet haunting at the same time.

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

If yes, how can you improve. Be closer to our lord and savior Jesus Christ every day.

We move in to a mosaic of Jesus with the crown of thorns around his head and blood trickling down his face, and his pained expression.

FATHER ROSARIO (CONT'D)

If your answer is no, you aren't who you want to be then make the decision to be that person. That is what God would do.

Sarah nods in agreement and looks to the stained glass windows enclosing her.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Heavenly light streams through the windows. Sarah looks at the light and lays down on her bed.

She closes her eyes.

Rachel is laying on the bed next to her. Sarah softly strokes her hair and looks up at her. Sarah brings her face close and kisses her. Rachel pulls away and looks into her eyes.

Sarah open her eyes and wakes up, realizing it was a dream. She uneasily smiles.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - AFTERNOON

Sarah stands on the track focused on the finish line 100 yards away.

Rachel walks onto the track and stands right next to her. They share a look.

SARAH

Let's race.

RACHEL

You're on. I'll enjoy smoking you again.

Coach Vicky stands on the field. Rachel and Sarah line up in the starting blocks.

COACH VICKY

Strong starts, even stronger finishes ladies. On your mark...get set...go!

Rachel and Sarah explode out of the starting blocks. They book down the track, Sarah eyes the finish. She runs harder than she has ever run before.

They match each other step for step. Rachel edges the lead as they approach the finish but Sarah charges forward ahead of Rachel to finish first.

They both slow down and Sarah eagerly stands near the finish. Rachel looks at Sarah and glares at her then walks up to her.

RACHEL

That won't happen again.

She walks by Sarah, leans in and whispers in her ear.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Meet me under the bleachers after practice.

Rachel jogs away. Sarah's eyes are wide. Sarah jogs back toward the field and passes Carley on the way.

CARLEY

You did it. I knew you could.

SARAH

Thanks.

Sarah smiles.

CARLEY

Are you alright?

SARAH

Yeah. I am.

Sarah faces the track and steps onto it, about to run another sprint.

EXT. UNDER THE BLEACHERS - AFTERNOON

Sarah makes her way under the bleachers. She nervously looks around in search of Rachel but can't find her. The bleachers appear empty.

RACHEL (O.S.)

Good race.

Rachel steps out from behind a pillar. She smokes a cigarette and wears her trench coat. She approaches Sarah who stands with uncertainty.

SARAH

What do you want?

RACHEL

I think you know. And I think you want the same thing.

SARAH

No I don't, you have no idea what I want.

RACHEL

You're telling me you mistakenly kissed me twice?

Sarah grows frustrated.

SARAH

I'm sorry I misled you. I don't like girls like that.

RACHEL
Stop lying to yourself!

SARAH
We can't do this. We will be
crucified.

RACHEL
Don't be so afraid for once! Stop
letting everyone else dictate your
life.

SARAH
We just can't do this. I'm sorry.

RACHEL
Just run away. Run away from
everything like you always do.

Sarah looks up to the sky for a moment then walks up to Rachel and presses her against the column and kisses her. They continue to kiss delicately.

They part lips and Sarah breathes hard as her heart races. Rachel softly strokes her face.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Stop fighting.

They kiss again.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
It feels good doesn't it?

Sarah nods.

SARAH
Yes.

Sarah runs her hand through Rachel's dark hair.

SARAH (CONT'D)
In public, I don't know you. Deal?

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL
Hey I don't like you either. I'd be
glad to smoke you again on the
track.

Sarah smiles. They hold each other.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah excitedly enters her room and dives onto her bed. She is giddy and smiles like a little kid. Her entire being seems different, she appears radiant.

Her gaze quickly moves to the cross and for a moment she is concerned until she is taken back to thoughts of Rachel.

CUE TEENAGER IN LOVE by Dion and the Belmonts

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A.) EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT - Sarah runs through the night with fierce energy and intensity in her step.

B.) EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY - Sarah eyes Rachel from across the field and offers her a sly smile before stepping onto the track and running an extremely fast 100 yard dash. Coach Vicky looks at a stopwatch in surprise after Sarah finishes. Sarah jogs back with confidence and smiles. She steals a glance at Rachel.

C.) INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - Sarah stands at her locker. Carley watches her from down the hall with concern and then walks off.

D.) EXT. UNDER THE BLEACHERS - AFTERNOON - Sarah and Rachel share a kiss under the bleachers and move off screen.

E.) INT. SARAH'S CAR - NIGHT - Sarah and Rachel sit inside a car on a hilltop overlooking the city. They hold hands and Sarah leans in for a kiss.

F.) EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - NIGHT - Rachel and Sarah sit on the track. Rachel lights a cigarette and takes a long drag. She offers the cigarette to Sarah. Sarah hesitates but takes it and tries a drag. She violently coughs. Rachel laughs and instructs her through how to smoke. Sarah tries another drag and blows a steady stream of smoke into the air. They both laugh. Rachel puts her arm around Sarah.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Roberts stands at the front of the room lecturing. Sarah sits at her desk watching the clock. Principal Harlan's voice comes over the intercom speaker attached to the wall.

MS. ROBERTS
Sometimes we must fight desire-

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (O.S.)
Can Sarah Gaines please come to my
office.

Sarah looks in confusion at the intercom. Ms. Roberts
approaches her desk.

MS. ROBERTS
You heard him.

INT. PRINCIPAL HARLAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Sarah steps into the office. Principal Harlan stands with his
back to us, facing the window.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
Sit.

Sarah sits. Her expression has turned to worry.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
"For all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God." What verse?

SARAH
Uh, Matthew-

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
Wrong. Romans 3:23.

He slowly turns on his heel and offers a slight smiles that
quickly fades from his face.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
Good afternoon Sarah.

SARAH
Good afternoon sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
I wanted to call you in to have a
quick discussion. To inquire about
something.

SARAH
Yes sir.

Principal Harlan moves around to the front of his desk.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

I have been closely tracking Ms. Barnes, whose name you so kindly disclosed to me. Her activity has improved I will say.

Sarah is unsure of what to say, or if she should speak.

SARAH

That's wonderful sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

It is wonderful Sarah, but I am concerned with the activity of another. It deeply concerns me and troubles me that your behavior is the one I am worried for Sarah.

SARAH

How come sir?

Principal Harlan moves closer. He places a hand on Sarah's knee.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Because I have heard reports.

SARAH

From who sir?

Principal Harlan laughs.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Surely you didn't think you were the only one I asked to report back to me did you? I had to make sure someone was keeping an eye on you also. Humanity can not be trusted.

It is clear Sarah thought she was the only one to report to Harlan.

SARAH

Reports? Of what sir?

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Apparently you have been spending time with Rachel Barnes, outside of school. I dare say, sneaking around is diverging on the path to sin. What is there to hide Sarah?

SARAH

Nothing sir! I have simply been trying to help her. She needs help.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

What kind of help is that exactly.

SARAH

Help following the right path. I'm trying to help guide her back to it.

Principal Harlan strokes Sarah's leg. Sarah grows extremely uncomfortable and fights every urge to slap his filthy hand away.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

You will not see her outside of school again. If I find out you are lying to me, and that this was something more than "guidance", I will ensure that you are expelled from this institution at once and your college plans are disrupted. You will have no path to fulfill. Do we see eye to eye on that Ms. Gaines?

Sarah slowly nods and speaks through gritted teeth.

SARAH

Yes sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Principal Harlan continues to stroke her leg and then strokes her hair. Sarah is terrified and disgusted as she fights back tears of anger, frustration.

EXT. BLESSED HEART ACADEMY - AFTERNOON

Sarah sits on the steps alone. She pulls out her bible but then puts it away. Carley sits next to her on the steps.

CARLEY

Hey kid. Where have you been?
Haven't seen you too much lately.

Sarah is surprised to see her.

SARAH

Hey. Just gotten really busy you know with track and school and trying to plan for college you know?

CARLEY

Sure. What are you doing tonight? Let's hit the drive-in.

SARAH

Oh, I can't.

CARLEY

Why not?

SARAH

I, have a lot of work on those applications I have to do.

Carley looks at her in disbelief.

CARLEY

OK. I'll see you around Gaines.

Carley leaves the steps.

EXT. HILLTOP - SUNSET

Sarah and Rachel sit on the front of the car holding each other as they watch the light sky changing to dark. Sarah holds a camera and faces it back toward themselves, taking a selfie.

SARAH

Say cheese!

RACHEL

Cheese!

Sarah takes the picture and a big flash illuminates their faces. They both laugh and Sarah places the camera down.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

So prom is coming up.

SARAH

Yeah. I wish we could go together. I'm sorry.

RACHEL

That's alright. Doesn't mean we can't go.

SARAH

Are you sure? We don't have to go.

RACHEL

No. Go with Carley's group. Ask Harry, I'm sure he would be ecstatic. Just make sure he knows, you are occupied. You are mine.

SARAH

Are you sure?

RACHEL

Yes. You can't miss your senior prom.

SARAH

What are you going to do?

RACHEL

I'll be there don't worry. I'm going to ask Chris Jeffries, I've seen him look at me.

SARAH

OK. I just wish I could spend more time with you.

RACHEL

I do too. You can't though Sarah, you have to be more careful. You have to graduate so you can go to college.

SARAH

Don't lecture me now also.

RACHEL

I'm not but this is important for you.

SARAH

What if I don't want to go to college?

RACHEL

Don't say that.

SARAH

It's true. I just don't know what I want. I haven't had a chance to decide that because everyone is telling me what I want. Don't be one of them.

RACHEL
I'm not. But don't throw everything
away. I'm just looking out.

SARAH
Thank you.

Sarah smiles and kisses Rachel.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

It is the day of the regional track meet. A large crowd is gathered in the stands. The crowd roars as multiple teams line the field.

The voice of an announcer can be heard over a loud speaker.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
The 1st heat of the 4x100 relay
race is up next.

Coach Vicky, Sarah, Carley, Rachel and the other members of the Blessed Heart track team sit on the field warming up. Sarah and Rachel sit far from each other but look at each other and exchange subtle smiles.

Coach vicky paces back and forth.

COACH VICKY
Ladies, start strong. High knees
and smooth pass-offs. We can clinch
this. I know we are faster than
these other teams. Carley, Theresa,
Sarah and Rachel. Let's run ladies.

The four step up and start to warm up on the field. Sarah grabs her bible and holds it for strength. She closes her eyes for a moment before putting it back in the bag and jogging over to her team mates. She approaches Carley.

CARLEY
Come on Gaines I'm counting on you.

SARAH
I got you.

Rachel and Sarah pass by each other.

RACHEL
Hey.

Sarah turns.

SARAH
Hey.

RACHEL
Good luck.

SARAH
You too.

RACHEL
Don't drop that baton.

SARAH
That's all you.

Coach Vicky addresses the team.

COACH VICKY
Good luck ladies

They share a moment before Sarah walks toward the track.

SARAH
See you on the track.

The team lines up in their places on the track. Sarah is in the anchor spot, Rachel is before her. Theresa is the starter, and Carley is the second runner.

The announcer's voice resounds throughout the stadium.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
The 4x100 relay is about to begin.

Theresa lines up in the starting blocks next to the other runners.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Runners take your mark.

The runners get their places set.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Get set...

The runners rock back.

BANG!

The gun fires and the runners explode out of the starting blocks. For the first section of the race the runners stay pretty even.

Taking the first turn around the track, Theresa falls to second place but remains a few strides ahead of the other runners. She maintains a strong pace and quickly approaches Carley who stands at the ready.

Carley's hand is outstretched and she watches Theresa run in with anticipation. Theresa gets close to Carley and Carley starts to jog, awaiting the baton.

Theresa catches up to her and slams the baton into Carley's hand. It lands smoothly in her palm and her fingers clasp it tightly. She clutches the baton and dashes forward continuing the race.

Carley sprints forward, maintaining second place. Carley smoothly completes her leg of the race and flies in toward the next group of runners.

Rachel gets her start and snatches the baton from Carley with ease as she gracefully strides forward, closing the gap between her and the first place runner.

The other runners lag behind, clearly out-matched. Rachel charges forward, running hard. She focuses on Sarah, waiting for the baton at the start of the last leg, up ahead.

Rachel nearly catches the 1st place runner and then plows toward Sarah. Sarah anxiously awaits the baton. Rachel approaches Sarah and Sarah starts running.

They exchange the baton smoothly and Sarah takes off. Sarah quickly catches the 1st place runner and matches her step for step until the last quarter of the leg. She eyes the finish and charges forward for the last quarter, easily clinching the win.

The rest of the team cheers in excitement. Sarah jogs back toward the rest of her team who moves onto the field. She hugs everyone on the team but simply nods at Rachel.

RACHEL

Great run.

SARAH

You too.

COACH VICKY

Great job ladies! Let's keep up the momentum for the next heat!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The sun has dropped further in the sky as the afternoon takes over. The announcer's voice blares over the loudspeaker.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Second heat of the 4x100 about to start.

The Blessed Heart team stretches on the track. Coach Vicky addresses the team again.

COACH VICKY

Let's smoke them again. Two more heats. All in.

The relay team places their hands into a circle.

SARAH

Blessed Heart on three. One, two, three.

ALL

Blessed Heart!

COACH VICKY

Strong starts ladies!

The relay team jogs over to the track and lines up in their places again. The announcer's voice comes in again.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Runners take your mark. Get set...

BANG! The runners are off again sprinting around the track through the first leg. Blessed Heart is well ahead in 1st place through the first leg.

Theresa and Carley cleanly exchange the baton as Carley carries the lead through the second leg and continues forward.

As Carley approaches Rachel she places the baton where Rachel's hand should be but it's not there. Her hand is higher.

CARLEY

Rachel!

Rachel quickly notices her hand is too high and she drops it and quickly snags the baton, picking up a few extra seconds.

Once Rachel has the baton secured she sprints off even harder to make up for the messy exchange.

Carley watches her go.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

Shit.

The lead is less but Rachel runs a strong leg and maintains the lead in front of the second place runner.

She quickly comes into the starting point where Sarah awaits. Rachel slows and Sarah reaches extra far to grab the baton. She clutches it tightly and dashes off.

Sarah and the second place runner are neck and neck. Sarah furiously charges forward during the last 50 yards of the race and easily edges the victory from the 2nd place runner.

Relief washes over the face of Sarah, Coach Vicky and all of her other team mates.

She jogs back over to the field to meet her team mates. Carley confronts Rachel.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

What was with that handoff?

RACHEL

You didn't place it in my hand!

CARLEY

Your hand was way too high!

COACH VICKY

Stop it ladies we have one more heat. Let's take home the gold.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - LATER

The evening is just on the horizon. The crowd has thinned out. The Blessed Heart Relay team stands on the track awaiting the last heat.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

The final heat of the 4x100 relay is about to begin. Runners get ready.

Coach Vicky brings the relay team into a huddle.

COACH VICKY

Great work today, you all are an extremely talented team. I'm proud of you all. Remember, strong starts ladies.

The runners all take their places on the track.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Runners take your mark.

Theresa stares forward determined.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Get set.

Sarah looks to Rachel, who smiles back at her.

BANG! The gun fires and Theresa takes off. She completes the first leg even with the second place runner. She hands the baton off to Carley successfully and Carley dashes off with it toward Rachel.

Carley remains tied with the second place runner and flies toward Rachel. They beautifully exchange the baton and Rachel explodes forward once she has the baton.

Rachel surges forward, still tied with the second place runner. She approaches Sarah who nervously waits, hand outstretched.

Rachel slaps the baton into Sarah's hand but it slips from her fingers and the baton hits the track and bounces. Sarah leans down and swipes the baton but the lead has been taken by the other team.

Sarah squeezes the baton and dashes forward, running harder than ever before. The lead is narrow from the other team. Sarah focuses on the finish and runs with everything that she has.

After 50 yards she closes the gap between the 2nd place runner. She is almost even with her with 25 yards to go. The rest of the team watches on pins and needles and anxiously waits for the outcome.

Sarah suddenly surges forward takes the lead, just a step in front of the second place runner to clinch the win.

The crowd goes nuts and the rest of the team sprints over to the finish where Sarah stands exhausted. They all crowd her and cheer with victory.

CARLEY
We did it!

COACH VICKY
Great run kid! How did you pull that out?

SARAH

I was running for myself!

Sarah and Rachel finally embrace in a tight hug. Rachel whispers in Sarah's ear.

RACHEL

I love you.

Sarah looks at her in shock and then quickly wraps her in another hug. The announcer's voice comes over the loud speaker.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

The winner of the finals of the
4x100 relay is Blessed Heart
Academy!

Sarah and Rachel continue to embrace. Sarah whispers in Rachel's ear.

SARAH

I love you too.

They look into each other's eyes and then join the rest of the team in celebrating.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

Various streamers and fliers hang around the gym. Various students stand on step ladders and hang more decorations and adornments around the gym.

A large banner is being hung right over the stage in the gym by Sarah and Carley. It reads "Blessed Heart Academy" Homecoming. Carley and Sarah stand on step ladders. Their conversation seems forced.

CARLEY

I just don't understand why this is
the final design we settled on.

SARAH

It's not that bad.

CARLEY

Oh it's that bad.

SARAH

I don't know, I kind of like it.

Sarah looks at a large cross next to the Blessed Heart Logo. Carley glares at her.

CARLEY
It stinks and you know it.

SARAH
I don't know.

CARLEY
So tell me who you are taking.

SARAH
What?

CARLEY
Who you're taking to the dance?

SARAH
I don't know. I think I might go stag, no pressure you know?

CARLEY
That is such a cop out Sarah. I won't accept that.

SARAH
I just don't want to have a weird experience.

CARLEY
You are scared is what you are. Nothing new.

SARAH
No I'm not.

CARLEY
Don't give me that. You are too.

They finish hanging the banner and both step down to look up at their handy work.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
I hate it.

SARAH
It's beautiful.

Sarah and Carley walk away from the banner and start to grab more decorations to hang. They walk across the gym.

CARLEY
So?

SARAH

Well I was thinking of taking Harry Fontaine.

Suave HARRY FONTAINE (17), stands across the gym and smiles at Sarah.

CARLEY

That's a great choice. You are coming with our group right?

SARAH

Yes. How is James?

CARLEY

Amazing. We started dating last week and he has been just amazing.

These words sting a little bit, some of the memories of Carley flood back to Sarah.

SARAH

I'm glad to hear that. And he takes good care of you?

CARLEY

He takes great care of me.

They both start hanging another banner against the wall.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Sarah strolls through a large department store. Clothing, jewelry, perfume and a variety of other items adorn the shelves and racks scattered throughout the store.

As she makes her way further into the store she sees a shelf with an assortment of porcelain figurines and figures of people in various positions.

One of the items on the shelf is a man and woman figurine positioned in a waltz dance position. There is a knob and Sarah slowly turns it to wind up the figurines.

She lets the knob go and soft music plays as the figurines circle in a slow dance together. Sarah watches the figures dancing, entranced.

She imagines both of the figurines as women, wearing beautiful dresses. The two women slowly circle. Sarah smiles forlornly.

The figures are once again male and female. Sarah walks away as they continue to circle, blissfully happy as they dance.

Sarah continues to walk through the store. She eyes a few smaller dresses and grabs one before she quickly moves to a more conservative section of the store.

Sarah picks up a few more dresses that are longer.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Sarah steps into a small dressing room with a mirror. She looks at herself, not fully satisfied with the reflection looking back.

She hangs the dresses on the side of the wall.

She tries on each longer dress in the mirror. They each conceal her athletic figure. They are simply too restricting.

She finally tries on the short red dress she snagged. She looks beautiful, stunning. A hint of a smile creeps across her face.

In the reflection behind her, Rachel stands and smiles. She leans down and kisses Sarah's neck delicately.

Sarah quickly turns around but Rachel is gone.

EXT. CITY STREETS - AFTERNOON

It is PROM NIGHT!

Various cars cruise across the streets filled with teenagers in suits and dresses. They whoop and holler and have a good time.

I/E. VARIOUS TEENAGE ROOMS - AFTERNOON

We see a montage of various teenagers suiting up and getting ready for the prom.

Girls do their hair and makeup together and zip up their dresses. They look gorgeous.

Men comb their hair and don their dapper suits.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sarah stands in front of her mirror wearing the red dress from the department store. She looks radiant, stunning. Sarah looks at a stack of pictures resting on her dresser. One of them is the picture of her and Rachel smiling at the camera. She picks it up and holds it tenderly.

Sarah looks at her bible resting on her bed. She opens and places the picture inside then tosses it onto the bed. There is a knock at the door. Sarah's Mom steps in.

MOM

You look beautiful honey. Every guy there is going to want to drop his date for you.

SARAH

Thanks Mom. I love you.

MOM

Have fun tonight.

SARAH

I will.

MOM

Carley is here.

Sarah hugs her mom.

SARAH

Thanks Mom.

MOM

Any time.

Carley walks into the room as Sarah's Mom steps out.

CARLEY

Gaines, you look dashing!

SARAH

Thanks. You do too.

CARLEY

Now come on, the men are waiting!

EXT. SARAH'S HOME FRONT LAWN - AFTERNOON

Sarah, Carley, James, Harry and a few of their friends and all of their male dates pose on the front lawn as Sarah's Mom snaps pictures. Sarah's Dad stands next to her Mom and doesn't look amused.

MOM

You all look great!

Sarah fakes a smile as she poses with James. Sarah's Dad motions for James to come over. He walks over.

DAD

Now no funny business with my daughter you hear?

JAMES

Yes sir.

DAD

Good. Have her home by 11.

JAMES

Yes sir.

CARLEY

Let's go everyone, we don't want to be late!

The students all file into separate cars and pull away, toward the dance. Sarah offers one last wave as the car takes her away.

INT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Sarah, Carley and their group file into the packed gymnasium. A band plays 50's love songs and doo-wop on the stage. The front man has his hair slicked back and croons to Elvis Presley's YOU AIN'T NOTHING BUT A HOUND DOG.

The gym is decorated with banners, fliers and has colored lights streaming through the gym. There is a punch bowl and some snacks on a table to the side of the gym.

The faculty patrol the gym to make sure no one is inappropriately dancing. The students excitedly dance and enjoy themselves. Off to the side is a group of wall huggers who lean against the wall without dates.

Carley, Sarah and their dates make their way to the middle of the gym and start dancing along to the song. Sarah dances pretty stiff.

CARLEY

Come on Gaines don't be so stiff!

SARAH

Shut up!

Sarah gets into the song and allows herself to dance freely. She loses herself in the music and laughs and smiles as she enjoys herself. After the Elvis song sends everyone claps and cheers.

Ms. Roberts takes the stage and gets on the microphone to address the crowd.

MS. ROBERTS

Good evening everyone, let's give it up for the Rockets!

Everyone claps for the band,

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Our results are in for Prom King and Queen. Is everyone ready?

The crowd cheers.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Our Blessed Heart Prom King for this year is...James Cooper!

The crowd cheers again. James takes the stage and Ms. Roberts puts a crown on his head.

MS. ROBERTS (CONT'D)

And now for the Prom Queen. Your official Prom Queen of Blessed Heart this year is...Sarah Gaines!

Sarah's face reveals shock.

SARAH

I wasn't in the running.

CARLEY

Yes you were. Get up there.

Sarah slowly takes the stage, still in a daze. Ms. Roberts crowns her.

MS. ROBERTS

And now for the King and Queen dance. Hit it.

The band plays Elvis's I CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU. At the back of the gym Rachel slowly walks in wearing a beautiful black dress. She looks gorgeous, different than usual.

She slowly moves her way through the crowd of people on the floor. Everyone watches her in shock. Sarah's breath catches in her throat as she slowly makes her way down the stairs onto the floor.

Rachel stops and smiles at Sarah she mouths "I love you." Sarah stares speechless. Rachel motions to James. Sarah quickly regains her composure and her and James start slow dancing in the middle of the gym. The crowd is circled around them watching them.

Sarah's eyes are glued to Rachel as she dances inside the circle.

Eventually Rachel leads her date out into the circle and they dance right beside Sarah and James. Rachel and Sarah watch each other as they mechanically dance with their dates, just inches from each other.

The song plays on and eventually the rest of the crowd fills the circle in and everyone slow dances to the song until it ends. At the end of the song everyone claps and cheers.

Sarah and Rachel embrace each other in the crowd. Sarah grabs Rachel and passionately kisses her in front of everyone. The entire crowd watches in shock. Rachel pulls away and they both look at everyone watching them. Carley's expression embodies anger as she watches this.

RACHEL

Why did you do that!?

SARAH

I had to. I couldn't fight it anymore!

Principal Harlan's voice comes over the microphone. He stands on the stage and sounds furious.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Rachel Barnes, Sarah Gaines. Come with me!

Rachel and Sarah look up in fear. The rest of the crowd watches them with judgement. Principal Harlan bustles through the crowd and grabs Rachel and Sarah each by the wrist and pulls them through the crowd. They try to fight it but he is too strong.

INT. PRINCIPAL HARLAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Principal Harlan pushes Rachel and Sarah into his office and slams the door. He seems eerily calm for the situation as he sits in front of his desk.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Sit.

They both sit. They both look terrified.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Now. Do you both have something you want to say? To confess perhaps?

The girls sit silent. Principal Harlan yells in Sarah's face.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

Answer!

Sarah begins to cry.

SARAH

Sorry sir.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

You lied and committed one of the worst sins. You filthy slut. You don't deserve to be in this school.

RACHEL

Don't talk to her like that!

Principal Harlan slaps Rachel.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN

Don't say a word to me, heathen!

Principal Harlan restrains himself and lowers his voice.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)

You vile lesbian whores. Sarah, I'm disappointed in you. You had so much potential but I knew once Carley told me what was happening that you had strayed. Your soul was lost.

Through tears Sarah whimpers a response.

SARAH

Carley?

PRINCIPAL HARLAN
 Carley told me everything. She has
 known for a while. We have photos
 and other evidence.

Sarah and Rachel sob.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
 Don't come back to this school. I'm
 sorry but college is simply not in
 God's plan for you.

Sarah and Rachel look to each other for hope. There is none.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
 "But the person who does anything
 defiantly, whether he is native or
 an alien, that one is blaspheming
 the LORD; and that person shall be
 cut off from among his people."

Principal Harlan smiles and then turns back to face the
 window.

PRINCIPAL HARLAN (CONT'D)
 No forgiveness.

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah's Mom and Dad are waiting for her in the living room
 when she walks into the door.

DAD
 We just talked to Principal Harlan.

Sarah stands frozen.

DAD (CONT'D)
 Start talking.

SARAH
 I'm sorry.

MOM
 Sweetie-

Her Dad explodes with rage.

DAD
 Sorry doesn't cut it!

MOM
 Calm down honey.

DAD
No! We are housing a sinner!

SARAH
I'm not a sinner.

DAD
You will burn in hell. I have no sympathy for you.

Sarah's rage takes over.

SARAH
What a good Catholic, to turn his back on his own daughter!

DAD
Talk back to me one more time and you are out of this house!-

SARAH
I'm doing what I want for me. Fuck college and fuck your religion!-

Sarah's Dad slaps her hard. Sarah's mom screams. There is tense silence as Sarah grabs her face and looks at her father through tears.

DAD
Get out.

SARAH
I hate you.

MOM
Sweetie, he didn't mean-

SARAH
Yes he did. I'm gone.

Sarah spits on the floor and charges upstairs.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah furiously packs her clothes into a suitcase and grabs all of her important belongings and rushes out of the room.

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah charges down the stairs and past her parents. Sarah's Mom cries.

MOM

Honey please don't go.

Her Mom tries to grab her. Sarah swats her arm away.

SARAH

Don't touch me!

Sarah rushes through the door and slams it behind her.

EXT. UNDER THE BLEACHERS - MORNING

The morning sun peaks up from behind the horizon. Sarah lays under the bleachers in a blanket with her belongings by her side. Her face and her eyes are puffy and red from crying.

She slowly wakes up and pulls her bible out from her bag and caresses it softly. It is somehow still a semblance of hope in her situation.

She opens the bible and starts to silently read a verse to herself. We hear a familiar voice offscreen.

RACHEL (O.S.)

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Sarah looks up, startled to see Rachel emerge from behind a different pillar. She slowly walks toward her and offers a smile. Rachel appears to have been crying as well. Sarah stands and approaches her.

SARAH

This is awful. What kind of world do we live in? Where people are treated as less than human for being who they are?

RACHEL

It's a cruel world. I knew this. You're seeing this now.

Rachel moves closer to her.

SARAH

What's going to happen.

RACHEL

My family is moving away.

This hurts. Sarah looks down, tears form in her eyes.

SARAH
Oh. Where to?

RACHEL
They won't tell me. What are you
going to do?

SARAH
I don't know. I think I'll go to a
city. Hopes and dreams that are my
own.

RACHEL
You need that. You're not afraid
anymore.

Sarah laughs through tears.

SARAH
I know. I know.

RACHEL
This is the Sarah I fell for and
always will fall for.

SARAH
I'm going to miss you.

They both look at each other and know it's over. They kiss
and then share a deep embrace. They both look at the track
out in the distance.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Wanna race? One last time?

RACHEL
You still can't beat me. You never
will.

They both sprint toward the track.

EXT. CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - MORNING

Sarah and Rachel line up on the track next to each other.

SARAH
On you mark...get set...go!

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

The large church looms above us. Sarah slowly walks into the empty church. She walks around, looking for someone.

She slowly approaches the confessional area and steps into the confessional box.

SARAH

Father?

A voice comes through from the other side. It is Father Rosario's voice.

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.)

Yes, is that you Sarah?

SARAH

Yes sir. I just needed to confess.

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.)

Thank you for coming in Sarah.
Please tell me anything, whenever
you are ready.

Sarah composes herself.

SARAH

Father, you know everyone has always told me what I want, and I feel that I need to do what I actually want and no one else. This is my life and I have to take control. But I'm worried it would violate the rules of the church if I did that.

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.)

Fear not Sarah, this why we have confession. We all sin. Tell me about your concerns.

SARAH

Father, I like girls. I am in love with another female. I also don't care to go to college. It's always something that everyone else has wanted by myself. I really want the city, and I want to be free. I don't want to feel shame for being who I am. For kissing a girl because I have the desire to, the urge to.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I am sick of fighting these urges, and suppressing them because who tells me to. God? Well I just can't accept that in my religion. I want to live Father, I really want to live and to do so for something. But I want to know that I still have purpose and conviction in my beliefs and in my being. But I have to be honest Father, a God that will shun me for me, well that's no God of mine.

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.)

Ahh I see. That's very interesting. It sounds like you have found yourself.

SARAH

Yes Father, for the first time I can say I have. And I understand that everything that I might be violates the church and what it stands for, and I get that but I have to live. If I am excommunicated, I understand that and accept my fate.

There is silence on the other end.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Father? Are you still there?

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.)

I'm sorry Sarah. You know I can't do anything. We will have to ban you from the church.

SARAH

I understand Father, I expected that. But just know I still do have faith and will try to live with it by my side.

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.)

Thank you for your honesty Sarah. You are a special kind of person.

SARAH

Thanks for listening Father. I think I have found a path, and I think it's the right one for me. I'll miss you. Goodbye Father.

FATHER ROSARIO (O.S.)
God bless Sarah.

Sarah steps out of the box and walks down the center aisle of the church.

The stained glass of Mosaic of Jesus watches her as she walks out of the church.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

SOMETIME LATER

EXT. CHICAGO CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

The tall skyscrapers of Chicago tower above us. A female figure wearing a coat steps up to one of the buildings and stops and looks up at the massive buildings.

We move around the figure. It is Sarah. Her hair is shorter and her appearance seems different. Her makeup is different and she carries herself differently, with confidence and charisma.

She walks down the street with wide eyes, admiring the view. The massive city is new to her. She takes it in. A new beginning with new surroundings.

She walks forward, just a speck in the massive city.

EXT. CHICAGO CITY SCAPE - SUNSET

The buildings of the city stand, majestic in the distance. Sarah sits on a hill overlooking the city and watches the view.

She lays down and looks up into the sky.

INT. TRAIN CAR - SUNSET

A train car speeds down the rails. Sights and sounds of the city can be seen and heard from the train car. The train car slows as it approaches a stop.

The doors open and Sarah steps in. She looks around the car and takes a seat near the window. The doors close and the train starts again.

Sarah pulls her bible out of her bag and opens it. She takes the picture of her and Sarah out of it. The city passes by through the windows.

Sarah pulls out another book from her bag. It's not a bible but rather a book. CATCHER IN THE RYE graces the cover of the book.

Sarah opens it to the last page and reads the last few words on the page: "It's funny. Don't ever tell anybody anything. If you do, you start missing everybody."

The sun shines through illuminating Sarah with a golden light, a halo. The train comes to a halt and Sarah stands up and walks through the doors to the car.

The train car starts again. Sarah's bible rests on the seat.

EXT. CITY TRACK - SUNSET

Sarah steps through the gate of a massive public city track. A few runners casually jog around the track.

Sarah walks onto the field and drops her bag on the grass. She takes out her running shoes and puts them on then takes off her coat to reveal a jump suit beneath.

Sarah takes out a picture of her and Rachel smiling together. She lets it go and the wind takes it blowing it away. The picture slowly drifts until it is gone from sight. The evening approaches, just on the horizon as the sun dips below the city.

Sarah stretches and then steps onto the track. She surveys the track and the finish line 100 yards away. She watches it with focus, determination and smiles.

This is her element, her escape. She prepares herself in the starting position. She hears the voice of Coach Vicky in her head.

COACH VICKY (V.O.)
On your mark...

Sarah takes one last glance at the finish.

COACH VICKY (V.O.)
...get set...

Sarah rocks back

COACH VICKY (V.O.)
Go!

Sarah thrusts out of the starting position like a jet and sprints down the track with all of her heart. From her point of view the finish gets closer and closer as we fly down the track.

Determination lines Sarah's features. Sweat drips down her brow. She has found her release.

She runs and runs, free at least.

FADE OUT.