DREAMCATCHER

By
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FADE IN:

1 INT. ANNE'S DINING ROOM - EVENING 1

We PAN across various unpacked boxes as STEVEN (44), the family patriarch, recites grace at the dinner table. The only thing adorning the walls are various religious paraphernalia.

STEVEN
Dear, Lord. We ask you to bless our new home and to guide us in the right path in this new city.

Across from him sits ANNE (16), his daughter. A beautiful young woman with slick brown hair. Sporting sweats and a beautiful GOLDEN CROSS around her neck.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
Thank you for gracing us with this meal and for keeping us safe.

Across from Anne is LISA (40's), her mother. Bags under her eyes and tired look indicate the move has been stressful.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
We ask you to continue to watch over us, Lord, and forgive us for our sins. Amen.

LISA & ANNE
Amen.

They all dig in.

STEVEN
So Anne, sweetie. Today we met this man Francis down at the church.

LISA
Right! I almost forgot to tell you!

ANNE
Tell me what?

STEVEN
Francis was telling us about the church and we mentioned you and he said he has a daughter the same age

LISA
Her name's Haley. You're going to the same school next week when this spring break is over.

ANNE
Okay, cool.

STEVEN
He said that the class was given an assignment on past Presidents to do over break and that she was going to her friend's Sarah's house tonight to work on it.

Anne catches on. Expecting the worst.

ANNE
Oh, no. Please tell me you didn't.

LISA
We asked if you could tag along and he said of course, he said he'd let Haley know and she'd stop by later tonight to pick you up.

Anne explodes. Her worst nightmare come true.

ANNE
Jesus Christ, Mom! I don't want to be set up on a play date.

LISA
Hey, don't use the Lords name in vain. And it's not a play date. It's a study session.

Anne shoots her parents a look of disapproval.

STEVEN
Don't be a stick in the mud, Anne. It's good to meet new people.

Seeing that she has no chance of winning this argument she turns to her food. Her parents ramble on as Anne zones out.

TITLE CARD: **DREAMCATCHER**

The sound of a CAR HORN overwhelms us as we CUT TO-

I/E. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Anne shamefully walks to the car and crouches down. Inside- HALEY JADE (16) A beautiful tanned teen with a slight 'rocker girl' look to her. She surveys Anne. Smirking.

HALEY
Hi.

ANNE
Hi.

HALEY
Ready for what's next?

ANNE
I'm guessing you're Haley.

HALEY
Get in.

Anne enters. Puts on her seat belt with her bag on her lap.

ANNE
Hey, I'm sorry about my parents. I didn't want you to get stuck with me tonight.

HALEY
Oh, I'm not stuck with you. You're stuck with me, kid. So where are you from?

ANNE
Wisconsin.

Haley unimpressed says nothing. Continues smiling at her.

ANNE (CONT'D)
So we're doing homework tonight?

Haley looks at her surprised. She strikes the engine.

HALEY
(Sarcastically)
Yeah... Homework.

2 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT 2

A large table with a PYRAMID OF RED SOLO CUPS on each side- each filled a good amount of beer. Anne and Haley stand at one end, At the other end is TROY and DEVIN (16). Both

taunting Anne. Devin preps himself.

DEVIN
All right, ladies. Hope you're thirsty.

He cocks back- shoots- misses.

HALEY
Not as thirsty as you when you're home alone on a Friday night.

DEVIN
Oh, we have a trash talker!

TROY
It's okay, keep talking. You're just gonna drink more.

HALEY
Shut up and shoot.

TROY
Hey Wisconsin, this one's for you.

He blows her a kiss as he tosses the ball. Score. Anne looks at Haley. Haley picks up the cup and hands it to her.

HALEY
This one's all you kid.

Anne reluctantly takes the cup. She downs it. The clear look of disgust pops on her face. The boys laugh it up.

DEVIN
Ever play before?

Anne's still revolted by the amount of beer she just drank.

ANNE
No.

They both continue to laugh at her expense.

HALEY
Our turn bitches.

Haley places the ball in Anne's palm.

ANNE
I'm telling you, I can't make it.

Haley looks her square in the eye.

HALEY
Hey, I know you can do it. Have a little faith in yourself.

Anne turns to her enemies and fires away. Score. She's shocked. Anne and Haley jump and scream. Haley grabs and hugs her tight. They continue celebrating.

3 INT. GARAGE - LATER 3

Anne and Devin sit on the couch comfortably. Haley is mounted on Troy kissing passionately... And loudly.

DEVIN
So how do you like it here so far?

ANNE
Well, I only got here three days ago. Can't really judge yet.

DEVIN
That's cool. At least you moved during spring break, you know?

ANNE
How's your break going?

Devin responds but Anne only half listens. She can't seem to take her eyes off of Haley kissing Troy.

ANNE (CONT'D)
(To Haley)
How long have you guys been together?

Haley climbs off him and sits to join the conversation.

HALEY
We're not together.

ANNE
Really?

TROY
Sex, love and relationships are a beautiful thing. Why limit that to one person?

HALEY
Love is cursed by monogamy.

DEVIN
My friends are stupid. Ignore them.

HALEY
I think all Troy and I are saying is 'just do what you love in life'.

ANNE
What do you love?

Haley thinks. Now serious for the first time.

HALEY
I'm in love with the vastness of the world. Endless possibilities. The stories. Art. But most of all... I'm in love with strangers.

Anne looks at her differently. Takes in her words.

HALEY (CONT'D)
I want to do great things, kid. And I'm not staying here forever.

TROY
Hey, what's wrong with LA?

HALEY
Traffic. And speaking of lets go.

TROY
Oh come on, it's so early.

Haley and Anne stand.

HALEY
Bye boys.

They walk out. Leaving them wanting more.

4 I/E. HALEY'S CAR - NIGHT 4

Haley pulls up in front of Anne's house.

ANNE
Hey, Thanks for tonight. I had fun.

Haley doesn't reply. She just eyes her.

HALEY
You're kind of an enigma.

ANNE
I'm sorry?

HALEY
I can't figure you out. And I'm usually good at that. Tell me something before you leave. Something honest.

Beat. She opens up.

ANNE
Honest?... I didn't want to move here. I had nightmares for two weeks straight before coming. I had a life back home, you know?

HALEY
Yeah. Moving sucks. Kinda threw a wrench in you plans huh?

ANNE
Just a tad. And you? You got plans?

HALEY
I don't know about 'plans' but I love photography. A picture can be beautiful. A photo can sneak into someone and bring their soul to the surface. It's the best way to know someone without knowing someone.

ANNE
"You're in love with strangers". Now it makes sense.

HALEY
Exactly. Maybe I can take your photo sometime?

ANNE
Maybe.

She smiles at her new friend. She opens the door to leave.

HALEY
Hey, tomorrow do you want to come to my place and actually do this stupid assignment we have to do?

ANNE
Yeah, I'd like that.

She climbs out of the car.

HALEY
Wait. Here take this.

Anne stops and watches her untie the DREAMCATCHER attached to her rearview mirror. She hands it to Anne.

HALEY (CONT'D)
For the nightmares.

ANNE
Thanks. Good night.

Anne leaves. While walking inside she grips the dream catcher tight and smiles.

5 INT. HALEY'S ROOM - AFTERNOON 5

CLOSE ON COMPUTER SCREEN: "Franklin D. Roosevelt" WIDE- we see Anne typing away in a large bedroom painted red. Dozens of PHOTOGRAPHS of different images blankets the wall. On one wall a red, yellow and black GRAFFITI MURAL that reads "Haley Jade Pics"- Clearly an artists room. Anne looks at it amazed.

ANNE
Did you do that yourself?

HALEY
Yeah. It's the name of my photography web site.

ANNE
It's amazing.

Haley puts her computer down. Frustrated.

HALEY
Ughh. This is so annoying. Who's William Mckinley? I've never even heard of him.

They both laugh. Anne agrees. Haley shuts her laptop.

HALEY (CONT'D)
I'm over this.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Hey, Lets play a game.

She closes her computer and Anne follows suit.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Truth or dare.

ANNE
Seriously? What are we 12?

HALEY
Shut up. It's the best game to play when you meet new people.

ANNE
Okay, I'll bite. Can I go first?

HALEY
Sure.

ANNE
Truth or dare?

HALEY
Truth.

ANNE
Craziest thing you've ever done?

HALEY
Oh, good one. Well, When I was 14 my Godfather brought me to Bangkok for my birthday. Quick trip just 4 days. So one day we went out to the jungle to find this small tribe that let us ride their elephants.

ANNE
Oh, my God. Are you serious?

HALEY
So here I am in the middle of the jungle riding this elephant And the only thing the tribe told us was not to kick the elephant behind it's ears Because that means run. So being the lunatic that I am.

Anne gasps.

HALEY (CONT'D)
I did. And THAT was the craziest thing I ever did.

ANNE
Well, you got me trumped.

HALEY
My turn. Truth or dare?

ANNE
Truth.

HALEY
Boring! Fine. What's the farthest you've ever gone?

Beat.

ANNE
What do you mean?

HALEY
You know, first base, second base, third base...

ANNE
I suck at baseball.

HALEY
You suck at this game too.

ANNE
Fine, Second base I guess.

HALEY
Nice, with whom?

ANNE
His name was Jon. He was this tiny guy, He had this cute birthmark on his cheek. He was nice.

HALEY
(Teasingly)
Jon sounds sexxxxyyy.

ANNE
Shut up.

Anne playfully throws a pillow at her. They settle.

HALEY
Okay, your turn.

ANNE
Okay, honestly. What did you think of me when we first met?

Haley pauses. Anne's on the edge of her seat. Haley crawls over closer to her. Now only inches apart.

HALEY
That you're beautiful.

ANNE
What?

HALEY
I think you're beautiful, Anne.

Taken aback, Anne blushes. Silence.

HALEY (CONT'D)
4 terms?

Confused, Haley snaps back to reality.

ANNE
What?

HALEY
Roosevelt ran for 4 term right?

Anne catches up. She clumsily opens up her computer.

ANNE
Oh. Yeah. He did.

Haley goes back to her homework. Anne can't help but sneak a stare at this captivating girl.

6 INT. HALEY'S ROOM - NIGHT 6

Anne's eyes scan the various pictures that adorn the walls. Haley watches her admiring them. She stands.

HALEY
Let me take your picture.

ANNE
What, now?

HALEY
Why not?

Haley smiles. She stands and gets her camera off the desk.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Get on the bed.

Anne climbs on the bed and sits against the headboard. With dozens of eclectic photos surrounding her and soft lighting she looks beautiful.

Haley squats at the end of the bed and snaps away. The intimate moment is shared in silence.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Beautiful. I think I got it.

ANNE
Thanks. So, I should head out now.

HALEY
You should spend the night.

ANNE
What? No, I can't sleep over.

HALEY
Why not? It's spring break.

ANNE
I don't have a change of clothes
and you don't have a guest room.

HALEY
I can give you PJ's Kid, and my bed
is so huge the both of us can sleep
on it comfortably.

Anne contemplates. She pops a smile. She's reached a verdict.

7 INT. HALEY'S ROOM - LATER 7

Anne enters sporting PINK SHORTS and a RAGGEDY OLD T-SHIRT.

ANNE
Tadaaa.

Haley scopes her. Smiles.

HALEY
Turn off the light.

She does and climbs into bed under the duvet cover.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Good night.

ANNE
Night.

Anne lays on the edge of the bed facing outward. Haley in the middle. Suddenly, Haley's arm mounts Anne. Now SPOONING her.

Unaware of how to react Anne lays there frozen. She eyes the counter clock which reads: 1:07AM.

8 INT. SAME - LATER 8

The counter clock now reads: 3:21AM. Anne, not having moved an inch, lays in the same spot wide awake. Suddenly, movement. Haley changes positions removing her arm. Anne turns to face inward and is surprised to be face to face with her bed-mate.

Haley's wide awake as well. Anne is caught off guard. They look into each others eyes. Anne tense, Haley relaxed. Haley quickly leans in and plants a KISS on Anne.

9 INT. ANNE'S DINING ROOM - MORNING 9

Anne sits and eats breakfast with her family. Distant. Pensive. Dressed in a beautiful blue dress.

LISA
Anne, sweetie are you okay? You've hardly touched your breakfast.

ANNE
Hm? I'm fine.

STEVEN
Your friend Haley coming over after church? We can't wait to meet her.

Anne nods a yes. Breakfast continues but Anne removes the cross from around her neck. She cups it in her hand.

10 INT. CHURCH - LATER 10

In her own world, Anne zones out the sermon. She looks over to her parents- deep in prayer. She looks away. Clearly uneasy, a heavy conscious. No longer wearing her cross.

11 INT. ANNE'S DINING ROOM - DAY 11

Anne and Haley sit side by side at the dining table and whisper as Anne's parents are in the back fixing dinner.

HALEY
Your parents seem nice.

ANNE
Yeah.

Anne avoids eye contact. Seems distant.

HALEY
Are you okay?

ANNE
I'm fine. Just a lot on my mind.

HALEY
Okay. So guess what?

ANNE
What?

HALEY
I/m thinking of ending things with Troy.

ANNE
Really? Why?

Haley looks at Anne with such care. A gentle smile.

HALEY
Fresh perspective.

Lisa and Steven arrive with the food. They set it down. A beautiful table is set with a plenty of options.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Mr. And Mrs. Foster thank you so much for having me for lunch.

LISA
No, thank you. Anne told us how welcome you made her feel. We really appreciate it.

Everyone helps themselves. They dig in.

STEVEN
You see sweetie, I told you it would be nice. (To Haley) She didn't want to go out that first night. We almost had to push her out the door to go.

Everyone except Anne laughs, clearly embarrassed.

ANNE
Dad...!

LISA
Haley, we saw your dad at church today. We missed you though. Why didn't you come?

HALEY
Oh, I'm not a big fan of that church. I stopped going.

Steven and Lisa look surprised.

STEVEN
Oh, why's that?

HALEY
It's kind of a long story but to sum it up my godfather who always went to that church recently came out and he was "excommunicated".

LISA
Came out? Like... he's gay?

HALEY
Yeah.

STEVEN
Mmm. I'm sorry to hear that.

Haley goes wide eyed. Shocked at his response.

LISA
Yes, but I'm sure they'll accept him back one he's gotten some help.

Haley can't hold it in. She turns to Anne with a look of disbelief. Anne has fear in her eyes. A "Don't do it" type look. Haley faces her parents.

HALEY
Mr. and Mrs. Foster If I were gay would I be welcome at your dinner table?

They both put down their forks, shocked by this question.

STEVEN
Excuse me?

HALEY
If I were gay would I be welcome here?

Lisa and Steven eye one another. Lisa turns to her, lovingly.

LISA
We would do our best to help make you better.

ANNE
Mom!

Everyone sits still. Looking down at their plate. Tension is palpable. Haley breaks the silence.

HALEY
I should go.

Nobody protests. Haley stands and leaves. Anne glares her parents and follows.

12 EXT. ANNE'S PORCH - CONTINUOUS 12

Anne chases after Haley outside. Haley, in tears, storms out.

ANNE
Haley wait. I'm sorry.

HALEY
That was bullshit in there.

ANNE
I'm so sorry about my parents. They can be blunt.

HALEY
Blunt? Just tell me one thing. Do you agree with them?

Anne pauses. She looks down. She forces the words out.

ANNE
Listen, she's right. What we did was... wrong, it's not normal.

HALEY
Don't do that. You're not them. As much as you'd like to, you know you don't believe that.

She says nothing in response.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Look me in the eye and tell me you don't have feelings for me.

Hesitant. Anne makes eye contact. Trying, but the words won't come out. Their glance continues.

Haley abruptly kisses her. When the kiss ends their foreheads touch. Gently, lovingly, they look into each others eyes.

Anne steps back and looks back down, ashamed. Silence. Haley is almost insulted by this.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Look, I don't need this drama. We were just having fun anyway. Don't contact me again.

Anne stands stoic and watches Haley walk out.

13 INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON 13

Like a beaten dog Anne lies in bed moping. Still crying and makeup running, she sits up. She opens her computer and goes on a web site "HALEY JADE PICS"

Her eyes widen as she sees the latest post. A picture of her that Haley took from their earlier pseudo shoot.

A beautiful photo. Captivating. Under it- a caption.

ANNE
(To herself)
"The worst loneliness is to not be comfortable with yourself.
(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)
You are imperfect, permanently and inevitably flawed. And you are beautiful.”

She looks over to her phone. She grabs it and holds it uncertain. She puts it down. She looks over to her counter.

On it, the DREAM CATCHER Haley gave her. She looks at it with nostalgia. She fortifies. She sends a text and stands to leave- before doing so she opens the drawer and takes out her GOLDEN CROSS and puts it around her neck again.

14 EXT. ORANGE TREE - DUSK 14

The BEAUTIFUL ORANGE SUNSET highlights the oranges in the tree above where Anne is sitting. She looks around- nothing.

After a seemingly eternity she stands. She turns to leave but is halted when she sees Haley arrive. Her breath leaves her.

Both stare at one another. Anger, remorse, love and understanding are exchanged in these glances.

ANNE
Hi.

Anne holds her breath. Waiting for a response...

HALEY
Hi.

Anne finally exhales a gust of air. Tears on the brink.

ANNE
Ready for what’s next?

WIDE- The two stand in silence, distant. Yet, **<u>together.</u>**

CUT TO BLACK

END