

TIME TO GO

FADE IN:

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

It's packed. The lights are shining bright on the crowd.

SUPERIMPOSE: "SYRACUSE, NEW YORK - 2040."

There's bustle coming from every direction. We TRACK past various groups of people: athletes -- fans -- suits -- families -- coaches. We land on a REPORTER in action --

REPORTER

It's the first day of the 2040 Major League Baseball Draft, and as you can see the event has become a spectacle over the years with more fans allowed to experience the first day of the draft in person.

Now we REVERSE to see two young men sitting together. LUKE BRADFORD (24) is 6'4" and 221(lb), easy-going, instantly likable...and handsome as hell. JACOBI CRAMER (25) is also attractive, but resonates insecurity and dares to be self-destructive. Luke's mother HANNAH (50) and father TIM (50s) are beside Luke anxiously waiting to hear their names called.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

There are 40 rounds and every team has expressed interest in scooping up either of the two Arizona State standouts Luke Bradford and Jacobi Cramer for the Diamondbacks.

Hannah excitedly looks to Luke and Jacobi. They're stoked.

HANNAH

How are you feeling?

Luke shrugs, trying to be cool. Jacobi looks distracted as he eyes the ESPN analysts on a stage across the auditorium. Luke and Hannah follow his gaze to the huge TV broadcasting live.

ESPN ANCHOR (V.O.)

(on the TV)

Luke Bradford is a can't-miss pick. With that huge frame and "rocket arm," he can dominate the plate. You have to take him now when you're talking about a team like Arizona. They've been looking for that missing piece for a long time.

Jacobi turns back to Luke and gives him a fist bump. Luke nudges him to look back at the TV to see Jacobi's picture.

ESPN ANCHOR (V.O.)
 (on the TV)
 Jacobi Cramer is a fantastic prospect as a centerfielder.

Now Luke turns to Jacobi and gives him a fist bump. Then --

ESPN ANCHOR (V.O.)
 (on the TV)
 Early projections had him going as high as the Top 10, but rumors of an alleged rape plummeted his stock even though he was never arrested.

Jacobi looks away from the TV. Hannah shifts uncomfortably and reaches her hand over to offer comfort to Jacobi.

LUKE
 Don't stress, man. We got you.

ESPN ANCHOR (V.O.)
 (on the TV)
 Everyone sees Luke Bradford and Jacobi Cramer as a package deal - especially with the Diamondbacks holding two of the first 15 picks. Honestly, though, I wonder if Cramer gets drafted at all.

Jacobi's eyebrows furrow as he controls his urge to get up.

ESPN ANCHOR (V.O.)
 (on the TV)
 One minute he's angry and cocky, and the next he's humble.

Luke sees Jacobi's turning red. Hannah and Tim look away.

LUKE
 (to Jacobi)
 We're almost there, bro.

Jacobi manages a smile and nudges Luke with his shoulder.

JACOBI
 Dude, can you believe this? Can you believe we made it?

LUKE

I know! It's surreal, I can't wait to get out on the field and start in The Show.

JACOBI

Right! And yo- the money and women.

Luke looks perturbed given what they just saw on ESPN.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

(realizing)

And playing in a major league game!

Off Luke's approving look.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

You know, I know my dad was a total asshole, but I wish he was here to see this ... to see me get drafted.

Jacobi looks straight ahead and past Luke in awe. Luke looks at him for a beat, a look of empathy sweeping over his face.

'Hall of Famer' ALEX RODRIGUEZ (60s) takes the microphone.

ALEX

And now to begin, the MLB commissioner Don Palmer...

Hannah nudges Luke to get ready for the big announcement.

HANNAH

Here it is! Pay attention, honey.

Luke watches DON PALMER (60s) take his place at the podium.

DON

Welcome everyone! I'm not a time waster, and I know all these fans here can appreciate that, right?

A roar of CHEERS from the cheap seats.

DON (CONT'D)

With the first pick in the 2040 Major League Baseball Draft, the Arizona Diamondbacks choose ... Luke Bradford, a pitcher from Arizona State University.

In a unified voice everyone in the location erupts -- mostly CHEERS and AIR HORNS and a few BOOS from disappointed fans.

Hannah, Tim, and Jacobi stand to embrace Luke. He looks equally as stunned as he does ready to take on the world.

JACOBI

Dude! You fucking did it, man. You are the first fucking pick.

Luke hugs Jacobi and climbs the stage to meet Don Palmer.

DON

Congratulations, Mr. Bradford.

He grabs Luke's hand with a strong male handshake.

LUKE

I can't believe I am shaking the commissioner's hand and going to play for the Arizona Diamondbacks. Things can't get any better than this!

Off Hannah, Tim, and Jacobi's proud look, we CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Luke and Jacobi in their seats waiting for Jacobi's turn. The seats are empty where Luke's parents were sitting earlier.

JACOBI

(looks at his watch)
I don't think it's happening.

Luke turns to look at Jacobi serious as hell.

LUKE

Don't even. You've worked hard;
it's definitely happening, man.

Jacobi nods, feigning a smile. Luke glances at his parents by the vending machine and they exchange a worried look.

Tim and Hannah buy water while talking quietly to each other.

HANNAH

I hope someone picks Jacobi.

TIM

He's more than good enough to play in the pros, honey. But he screwed his chances with his lifestyle.

HANNAH

I don't believe for one second that he hurt that girl. Do you?

TIM

It doesn't matter what I think. But growing up in a household with an abusive dad can't have been good--

He stops because something catches his eye. Sees...

Jacobi looking pissed and sneaking out of the auditorium.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. BRADFORD RESIDENCE, GLENDALE - NIGHT

The Arizona sun is beaming down on a quaint two-story home set behind a manicured lawn. A handful of cars outside.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luke is sitting at the table beside an attractive girl. Meet CHLOE HAYLEY (25), Luke's high school sweetheart who's kind-hearted, clever as the devil, and unaware she's lovely too.

CHLOE

May I help you with anything?

Hannah's carrying a roasted chicken to the dining table.

HANNAH

No thank you, darling.

Tim starts carving the bird while Hannah serves the veggies.

TIM

Chloe, did you ever think your local high school boyfriend would finally be in the big leagues.

Chloe looks excited. Hannah can hardly believe it herself.

CHLOE

I've always believed in this one.

Luke puts his arm around her and pulls her in for a squeeze.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

It's going to be difficult when he leaves and starts traveling with the team.

Hannah looks to Luke, prompting him to say something sweet.

LUKE

We'll manage. We always have.

HANNAH

Well, you're both starting a new chapter in your lives, Luke on the field and you in medical school.

Tim serves Hannah her plate of perfectly carved chicken.

TIM

That's right. And congratulations again on your Ann Arbor scholarship—your folks must be very proud.

HANNAH

What kind of doctor will you be?

CHLOE

I want to be an ER doctor; I passed my MCAT and will move to Michigan in a few weeks to start school.

Tim hands Luke his plate, suddenly thinking of something --

TIM

Any word from Jacobi?

Hannah shoots Tim a look. Way to ruin the lovely mood...

LUKE

I've called and text so many times, but there's no answer or voicemail.

Luke's expression drops. Chloe puts her hand on his knee.

HANNAH

Jacobi has every right to be mad, but I hope he won't give up.

TIM

Despite everything, Jacobi is a great player.

Off Luke's look, we move to...

EXT. BRADFORD RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Luke walks Chloe to her car. They hover around each other, not wanting to separate. She leans back against the door.

LUKE

You know I'd marry you now if I could.

CHLOE

If we can get through this long-distance relationship, I'm hoping we can someday.

LUKE

What do you mean, babe?

CHLOE

Well, it's not going to be easy being so far apart. How do I know fame and fortune won't take you away from me?

LUKE

All I know is I love you, Chloe. I don't know what the future holds, but I'd like to think we can make it through. Don't you?

CHLOE

Without question. My heart is set on you, Luke Bradford.

They kiss and Chloe gets into her car. And as she drives away smiling, Luke smiling back from the driveway, we CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A man in a dress shirt sits at his desk. A shelving unit holds numerous trophies and framed photos and plastered all over the walls are framed DIAMONDBACKS baseball jerseys.

This is TODD STERNBERG (40s), the manager of the team. The sound of KNOCKING at his door... Todd calls out impatiently.

TODD

Come in...

Luke enters the office and Todd immediately changes his tune.

TODD (CONT'D)

Luke Bradford! To what do I owe this honor?

Luke smiles wide and shakes Todd's hand with a firm grip.

LUKE
Honor is all mine, sir.

TODD
Call me Todd, please. Have a seat.

Luke obeys and nervously clasps his hands.

TODD (CONT'D)
You're all set to leave for spring training tomorrow in Scottsdale?

LUKE
Of course, sir. I mean, Todd.

Todd notes Luke's hands and tries to put him at ease.

TODD
What can I do for you, Luke?

LUKE
I'm simply here to beg for Jacobi to have a chance with the D'Backs.

Off Todd's surprised look, we move to...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Luke parks and exits his car holding a pizza box. He looks cool wearing a Diamondbacks cap and ripped jeans. He climbs the steps to the second floor balcony and presses the bell.

An unshaven Jacobi answers and he doesn't look pleased.

JACOBI
What the fuck are you doing here?

He tries to close the door but Luke jams his foot in the gap.

LUKE
Whoa, buddy. I've got hot pizza here. I know you can't resist that- besides, I need to talk to you.

Luke sets the pizza down on the chair by the door.

JACOBI
I don't want to talk to you or anyone else. And why are you wearing that fucking hat in my presence? Are you here to gloat?

LUKE

Oh, this hat? It's not mine. It's yours...

Luke tosses it at him. Jacobi looks confused holding the cap.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You've been invited to the Arizona Diamondbacks' spring training camp.

Jacobi looks up at Luke.

JACOBI

Are you shitting me?

LUKE

Nah, dude. They want you to try out as an outfielder. I'm serious.

Jacobi excitedly tackles Luke to the ground.

LUKE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Don't damage my #1 draft pick arm!

JACOBI

You got jokes. Look, man. I know you got me this tryout. Don't mess.

LUKE

I did. But as soon as I recommended you, they didn't hesitate. They like what you have to offer, bro. Now, it's up to you to make the team. I can't help you there.

JACOBI

(super serious)

I will, man. Thank you. Thank you! They won't regret this. I will even be a model citizen, too.

LUKE

Dude, my mom's always saying that things happen for a reason. Maybe you were meant to be with the D'Backs. Do you believe that shit?

JACOBI

Nah, I believe in things I can see.
(opens the pizza box)
Let's eat this pizza and celebrate.

And as Luke laughs, Jacobi taking a huge bite, we CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD, ARIZONA - DAY

A 2033 FORD MUSTANG GT driving INTO THE FRAME. It's Luke driving on the open road with Jacobi in the passenger seat.

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Luke's wide-eyed taking in the sprawling view of fields.

LUKE

Dude! I can't believe this is really happening. We're almost there. Can you believe we might be on the same team...and it's the Arizona fucking Diamondbacks!

Jacobi is ecstatic. Then, Jacobi's PHONE BEEPS alerting him to a text message. He reads it aloud mimicking a girly voice.

JACOBI

Melanie says good luck to the both of us, and I can't wait to see you again.

Luke is stunned. He glances at Jacobi --

LUKE

Ya know? Melanie is so nice to you and obviously digs you despite your issues. What's your deal?

JACOBI

Man, I know. But you know I will not see her again - not with all these bitches I'll be hooking up with. We will be able to get with anyone we want now.

LUKE

What is wrong with you? How can you say that?

Jacobi is fast at work texting a response.

JACOBI

Just a little love note now and then I will drop the boom later after practice.

LUKE

You are unbelievable, man.

Now Luke's PHONE BEEPS signaling a text: "CHLOE HAYLEY."

JACOBI

Nah, man. I'm just a free spirit.

Luke is distracted texting his reply to Chloe when the HORN of an oncoming semi-truck makes him look up to see that he's veered into the opposite lane. But it's too late --

LUKE'S FORD MUSTANG AND THE TRUCK COLLIDE HEAD-ON AT 60 MPH

The wreck is massive with Luke's car flipping over twice.

INT. TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

The truck driver can barely move because his leg is trapped.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

A woman driving behind pulls over and approaches the truck.

WOMAN

I've already called the paramedics.
Just stay still. Are you OK, sir?

DRIVER

Yeah, I'm fine. I think my leg is
broken, though.

WOMAN

OK, I'm going to check the others.

The woman approaches Luke's upturned car. Her expression tells us it's not good...it would be a miracle if they're OK.

She reaches the passenger side and sees Jacobi. His eyes are wide open but he isn't moving or breathing... She moves around to see Luke's bloody face and can hear him moaning.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Sweetie, don't move. The medics are
on their way, OK? You'll be fine.

LUKE

Thank you. Is my friend OK? I can't
see or hear him.

WOMAN

The medics will be here soon.

She's trying to hold back tears at this point.

LUKE

Please check on him. His name's
Jacobi.

Luke starts to cry.

WOMAN

Try not to move, honey. The medics
are here now.

An ambulance arrives with the fire department and police.

LUKE

Jacobi? Can you hear me?

Luke tries to turn but he can't move his head. Two medics
appear at his window and start trying to pry Luke free.

MEDIC #1

How are you doing, buddy? Can you
tell me where you're hurt?

LUKE

Everywhere. My friend- Jacobi... Is
he next to me? Is he OK?

The medic looks through to the other window where the other
medic is checking Jacobi's pulse. He sadly shakes his head.

MEDIC #1

We're gonna focus on you first.

Luke's eyes flicker as he falls in and out of consciousness.

LUKE

No one's helping. I can't hear him.

And as Luke's eyes flicker closed again, the medics and
police working hard to pry him free, we SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY, HOSPITAL - DAY

Medics pushing Luke on the gurney through the double doors.

INT. TRAUMA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luke's strapped to a board and secured with head rolls and
straps. Then, Luke's eyes flicker open again. Sees...

A female doctor with dark brown hair and green eyes.

LUKE

Chloe? Am I dreaming? Am I dead?

The doctor is KAREN MOSER (late-20s). She's sharp, a little arrogant, but overall her demeanor is strong and very sexy.

KAREN

Luke, I'm Dr. Karen Moser, and I will be one of the doctors helping you today. You are in the ER, and you have a lot of injuries that we need to address quickly. Can you tell me how you feel and where you hurt?

LUKE

My left leg hurts badly, and it really hurts when I breathe. And my head is fucking killing me!

Karen signals something to one of the nurses and she exits.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Can someone please call the Arizona Diamondbacks and tell them what has happened. I don't want them to think we are losers and just didn't show up. Jacobi and I were on our way to spring training. How is he doing? Can I talk to him?

Another doctor storms in and begins yelling out orders. It's DR. DELL (40s), stern, rigid, and likes to boss Karen around.

DR. DELL

Dr. Moser prepare for a chest tube.

Karen nods and moves to the side. Dr. Dell steps forward --

DR. DELL (CONT'D)

Mr. Bradford. I am Dr. Dell. You have a fractured left femur, a punctured lung, and a head injury. But you are alive, and that's the most important thing right now. Dr. Moser will be placing a tube in the left chest area, and then we'll head to the OR to fix your femur.

Dr. Dell nods at Luke and turns on his heels to exit.

LUKE

But doctor? What about Jacobi?

Dr. Dell didn't hear... Karen walks over to Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Dr. Moser. Please tell me about
Jacobi. Karen... Please?

KAREN

He's dead, Luke. His injuries were
too severe; he died on the scene.
There was nothing the medics could
do. I am sorry.

Luke tries to wriggle out of his straps as he thrashes about
yelling and crying. The nurses try to subdue him while Karen
administers a morphine injection. Luke passes out...

FADE OUT.

INT. OPERATING ROOM, HOSPITAL - DAY

Karen is tending to Luke's dressing and stitches. He wakes up
completely groggy and highly medicated.

LUKE

Wow. That tickles.

KAREN

(smiles wide)

Mr. Bradford. Nice to see you and
hear from you again. You gave us a
big scare.

LUKE

You are really hot. I mean,
beautiful, Miss Nurse.

KAREN

Thank you for the compliment, Mr.
Bradford. But remember, I am a
doctor.

She points to her badge.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Your doctor.

LUKE

Yes... Sorry, ma'am.

KAREN

You don't remember me? I was there
when you arrived in the ER.

LUKE

Oh yeah, I kind of remember... it was kinda like you were my angel.

He grabs her hand but she pulls away.

KAREN

I am no angel, Mr. Bradford. I am an ER doctor.

LUKE

Yes. Yes. Got it...

Luke turns away. Karen stands ready to exit the room.

KAREN

Things are looking good for you, though. Your collapsed lung has re-expanded after the operation and your femur and head bleed have been resolved - for now, anyway.

Luke just nods.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Your parents are on their way.

LUKE

So, that's it? No words of encouragement?

Karen stops with her back to Luke. She rolls her eyes and puts on a fake smile while turning around again.

KAREN

I am sorry, Mr. Bradford. Let's start this over again.

Karen sits at his bedside. Luke turns to face her and there's a beat of silence before he speaks --

LUKE

Do you like baseball, Dr. Moser?

KAREN

Not really- to be honest.

LUKE

Well, I was a great baseball player. I was the No. 1 pick in the draft this year, and I can freaking hit, too. For a pitcher, that's rare.

KAREN

(softening)

I know enough about baseball to know that's true. Most pitchers don't bat at all unless they are in the National League, right?

LUKE

(smiles)

So you do know some baseball.

KAREN

(smiles back)

Maybe a little.

LUKE

I am done, right? I'll never play baseball again. Just say it.

KAREN

The truth is that your leg injury is so severe that not only will you never play baseball again but you may even walk with a limp. But your neuro status seems to be fine so far. It could have been much worse.

LUKE

My best friend is dead. Nothing could be worse.

Luke looks away tormented. She stands again lost for words.

KAREN

Get some rest.

Karen exits. Luke shuts his eyes. But then--

FLASHBACK - LUKE'S POV: LOOKING UP AND SEEING THE TRUCK

Luke's hands clench the sides of the bed. He screams!

Now Hannah and Tim are rushing into the room. They both take their turn to hug their son. Hannah is shocked by all the bandages and array of medical tubes.

HANNAH

Oh my God, Luke.

She starts to cry while holding his hand.

LUKE

I'm so glad you're both here.

HANNAH

Chloe will come as soon as she can... We told her you were fine.

LUKE

That's not what they told me.

Luke bursts into tears.

HANNAH

Honey, everything will be OK. Dr. Moser said you were doing good.

TIM

You know, they told us that they performed a drug and alcohol test while you were in the ER. All tests were negative. What happened?

Hannah squeezes his hand, like there are no secrets between them. A beat passes as Luke gathers the strength to say this.

LUKE

Yeah. They wouldn't find anything in our systems, because we didn't do anything wrong.

Off his parents' expectant look.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I was texting and driving - plain and simple. Jacobi didn't even know what happened. I killed him. It's my fault.

Hannah and Tim exchange a devastated look. She puts her arm around him as he sobs... Tim speaks soothingly --

TIM

It was an accident. We love you, son. Everything is going to be OK.

A critical care doctor enters the room. This is DR. ELLIS (40s). He shakes Tim's hand. Hannah remains with both her hands comforting Luke.

HANNAH

Thanks for everything, Dr. Ellis.

DR. ELLIS

It's my pleasure to help. I'm sure that Dr. Moser relayed that both of Luke's surgeries went very well.

TIM

Yes, we're very thankful that they went well. But the big question is when will he be able to play again?

There is a long pause. A grim look washes over Dr. Ellis as he sees Luke turn away from his dad. He knows that he knows.

DR. ELLIS

Luke won't be allowed to pitch again; he was lucky enough to save the limb. He should be able to exercise and have a normal life--except for baseball. Not at a competitive level, anyway.

Tim doesn't know what to say. Dr. Ellis turns to Luke --

DR. ELLIS (CONT'D)

I am very sorry. I heard you were the first draft pick. That's big.

Luke barely looks up at him and nods his head.

DR. ELLIS (CONT'D)

Your chest tube will come out soon and you can start rehab.

Now Luke looks right up at him with hope in his eyes.

LUKE

Rehab? So, if I rehab my leg, then maybe I could pitch again.

DR. ELLIS

No, Mr. Bradford. All the rehab in the world is not going to help you pitch again. Pitching from a mound would be too much strain and pressure on your femur. I am sorry.

He turns to Luke's parents regretfully.

DR. ELLIS (CONT'D)

It was very nice to meet you, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ellis exits the room and turns left. But we STAY and see Karen is standing right there...having heard everything.

BARKLEY (O.C.)

Woah, hot stuff, why the sad face?

Karen looks up to find DR. BARKLEY SIMMONS (30s), an ER fellow with a cocky and somewhat insensitive demeanor.

KAREN

Barkley, hey. I just don't know if I can do this. My patient is so complicated.

BARKLEY

That hottie? I saw you with him when he came in thru the ER. You could not keep your eyes off him.

KAREN

I was doing my job.

She walks away. Barkley calls after her --

BARKLEY

Guess I have no chance of dating you now. Your heart is taken.

KAREN

(without turning)

You already have a girlfriend.

And gives her the middle finger. Off Karen's perturbed look, we move to...

INT. CAR - NIGHT

It's silent, a calm interval from the revelations of the preceding scenes. Tim drives, Hannah sitting beside him. She rolls down her window...

TIM

Are you okay?

Hannah closes her eyes and leans over to let the breeze hit her face. A beat.

HANNAH

Why Luke?

Tim looks right at Hannah, speechless. He turns back to face the road. Hannah opens her eyes, looks right at him.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Will he be charged?

TIM
I don't know. But I'll do
everything that I can.

As we HOLD ON Tim, driving them out of the city, wondering how bad this could turn out, we CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

We're outside the imposing building that's bustling with several journalists and media vans outside including ESPN.

INT. ROOM, HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Luke barely smiles at the young nurse as she gives him his medication. She's not fussed and promptly leaves the room.

Luke turns on ESPN to see what's up in the sports world. His face drops in anguish when he sees his picture and Jacobi in their Arizona State uniforms on the mounted flatscreen TV.

ESPN ANALYST (V.O.)
(on the TV)
Breaking news story with the facts surrounding Jacobi Cramer's tragic death. He was the passenger in Luke Bradford's vehicle who was driving them to the Scottsdale. Luke sent a text while driving, which led to the unfortunate accident yesterday--

Luke's face flushes red with anger as he throws the remote across the room at the TV. It cracks like fireworks.

LUKE
It should have been me!

He suddenly grasps his chest; the sudden and ill-advised throwing motion now hurting him like crazy.

KAREN
Wow, a radar gun would have caught good speed on that one.

Luke looks over embarrassed and ashamed to find Karen standing in the doorway. He bows his head speechless.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Are you ok, Luke?

LUKE

I just coughed and strained my chest. No big deal.

Karen glances at the screen that still has clear audio.

ESPN ANALYST (V.O.)

(on the TV)

Jacobi's family are yet to comment on whether they will pursue legal action. Luke is recovering in hospital although it's unclear if he'll ever play baseball again--

Karen manually switches off the TV.

KAREN

Your chest X-ray looks great so I am going to remove the tube.

Luke nods, shaken by the ESPN news.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Take a deep breath and relax.

She removes the connections and tears off the tape around the insertion site. Luke watches as she removes the tube.

LUKE

(screams)

What the hell? Why did you have to pull it that hard? That shit hurt.

KAREN

It's a tube in your lung. There is no easy way to do it.

He looks at her to find a little grin on her face.

LUKE

You think this is funny?! You need to be more gentle with patients.

Luke adjusts his bed and moves around to get comfortable.

KAREN

And you need to be nicer to the doctors who saved your life.

They exchange a defiant look as Karen updates the vitals on his chart and mumbles not quite under her breath --

KAREN (CONT'D)
 Chest tube, head injury, femur
 fracture, near cardiac death- and
 you want me to be gentle. How about
 I shove a rectal probe up your ass?

She looks up from the chart to glimpse his shocked face.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 Until next time, Mr. Bradford.

And swivels on her heels to exit without turning back.

LUKE
 Karen ... Dr. Moser? Please don't
 leave. I'm sorry.

Karen stops as Luke continues earnestly.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 You have helped me so much. I know
 I wouldn't have made it if it
 wasn't for you. I wanted to die.

She turns back.

KAREN
 Thank you. I appreciate your kind
 words.

He lays out his hand as if he wants her to grab it. She
 reluctantly steps forward and holds his hand.

LUKE
 And I appreciate everything that
 you have done. Thank you.

Karen nods and walks out. And as Luke watches, looking like
 he's becoming sweet on her, we move to...

INT. REHABILITATION DEPT. - DAY

A therapist named STEVE (40s) is helping Luke strengthen his
 left leg. It's clear it's excruciatingly painful for Luke.

STEVE
 You're not doing bad at all, buddy.

LUKE
 How much longer? This is hell.

STEVE
 Our session is an hour and...

He checks his watch and smiles at Luke.

STEVE (CONT'D)
...we're half way through.

Luke shakes his head. Now he's indignant.

LUKE
No fucking way. I'm done. Fuck--

Then, something catches his eye. Sees...

Karen standing right there with her eyebrow raised.

KAREN
(to Steve)
I'll take it from here, Steve.

STEVE
Great, Dr. Moser. I'll grab lunch.
(then to Luke)
See you tomorrow, Mr. Bradford.

Luke looks down ashamed about his outburst.

LUKE
Sorry, man. Thanks for everything.

Karen takes Luke's leg and continues doing the exercises.

KAREN
It will get easier... I promise.

LUKE
(cracks a smile)
Do all doctors help patients with
physical therapy?

KAREN
As a fellow, yes. My attending
wants me to be a part of all your
care.

Luke can't help but catch her roll her eyes.

KAREN (CONT'D)
They want us to experience
everything that our patients do.

LUKE
So, you get to be with me until I
leave the hospital?

KAREN

Yep.

LUKE

Wow. How'd you draw that short straw?

KAREN

Well, I kind of messed up.

LUKE

You?!

KAREN

My boss has had problems in the past with my... 'insensitivity.' I've been accused of moving on a little too quickly once I've saved a life and not followed up to see how things are with the patient.

Luke looks into Karen's eyes and sees the remorse.

LUKE

Sorry to hear that. But, it is pretty awesome that you save lives.

Karen smiles at Luke's attempt to placate. He continues with the exercises on his own and tells her with conviction:

LUKE (CONT'D)

And I am going to play ball again. I will pitch again. I will show you doctors who is the boss here.

And as Karen laughs, Luke giving her a wink, we CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "GLENDALE, ARIZONA - 2055."

Luke (now 40) standing on a mound wearing his Diamondbacks jersey and staring down his batter. He bends over to check the signs from the catcher. Luke rises up and starts his windup, leaning back to throw a strike right down the middle.

The batter sends the ball up and over the left field fence.

LUKE

You really got a hold of that one!

Luke looks back at the kid standing in the batter's box. It's his son ALEX (12) looking like a mini-Luke in his uniform.

ALEX

Well, dad, you threw it right down
the middle.

LUKE

Your mom called for the pitch,
Alex, so blame her.

The catcher lifts her mask -- it's Dr. Karen Moser.

KAREN

I just wanted to see if you could
hit your dad's fastball.

She winks at Alex.

LUKE

We know you can pitch. I just want
you to work on your batting because
you are more valuable to teams when
you can do both.

ALEX

Can we be done, though? I am
getting tired.

Alex sheepishly rests his bat against the backstop and takes
off his helmet. Now we see he's the spitting image of Luke.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Who feels like ice cream?

Luke and Karen exchange a laugh.

LUKE

Sure, buddy. Great idea.

Luke pulls out his phone as they come together.

LUKE (CONT'D)

But first... a family pic.

They smile and put their heads together for a snapshot.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Karen hops in the driver seat. Luke fastens his seatbelt in
the passenger seat. Then, he gazes out the window at the
pitcher's mound. A longing look washes over his face.

KAREN

How's your leg?

LUKE

All good.

Luke turns to her trying his best to offer a genuine smile.

INT. DINER - DAY

Luke, Karen and Alex eat ice cream together in a booth. The Diamondbacks' game is on the flatscreen behind the counter.

KAREN

I hope they win tonight; they have been awful lately.

ALEX

I know, right? Their pitching sucks. They could use you right about now dad.

LUKE

I don't think so, son. At 36 years old, I could be a coach, but that's about it. Thanks for the compliment.

KAREN

You know, old man, that's an idea. You can be a pitching coach.

LUKE

I'm already a coach. Is being a high school coach not good enough for you, doctor?

He gives Karen a steely look.

KAREN

I meant what I said to be a compliment.

Luke takes a bite of ice cream and faces the TV. And as Alex and Karen exchange a nervous look, we move to...

EXT. BRADFORD RESIDENCE - NIGHT

It's an elegant two-story home with a manicured garden and winding driveway. The light from a TV flashes upstairs.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luke laying in bed watching the TV. Karen exits the ensuite bathroom and turns off the light before jumping into bed.

KAREN

I am sorry. I did not mean to hurt your feelings. I love you very much.

She reaches out and holds him with her head on his chest.

KAREN (CONT'D)

You are a great dad and a great coach. Your school and boys are lucky to have you. I just believe that with your personal skills and coaching experience that any major league team would love to have you.

LUKE

I know you didn't mean any harm. I am sorry I got so upset. I just wished I could have played. I wish we both could have.

KAREN

I know.

A commercial for Spin Tech comes on the TV screen -- it's a man in a suit speaking while walking through a hi-tech lab.

AMBASSADOR (V.O.)

(on screen)

Have you ever wanted to find out what could have been? We have developed a program that can take you back to a time you want to revisit. That's right- time travel.

Luke looks intrigued while Karen scoffs and changes channel.

KAREN

What a joke? These people are playing God. They can't alter people's lives, their destiny, or even history.

LUKE

It's not the first time that I've seen the ad. I'm kinda curious...

Karen softens her tone in understanding of Luke's interest.

KAREN

The government has not approved time travel. What they are doing is somewhat illegal.

LUKE

It can't be that bad if nobody has stopped them yet. Right?

KAREN

'Yet' being the operative word. I don't like the concept one bit and I think it's a bad idea for people to try and fuck with their past.

Luke is taken aback by her language and forceful opinion.

LUKE

Geez. How do you really feel, Karen?

KAREN

Sorry. I'm a little tired. I should get some rest. Good night, honey.

LUKE

Night.

Luke turns off the TV and lays on his back. And as he stares at the ceiling, wheels turning in his head, we CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Luke driving his car underneath the road sign: "SCOTTSDALE."

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The RADIO plays while Luke nervously taps his fingers on the wheel. He's focused on the road when he suddenly flinches --

FLASHBACK - LUKE'S POV: LOOKING UP AND SEEING THE TRUCK

Luke shakes it off rattled and grips the steering wheel.

EXT. SPIN TECH - DAY

Luke drives toward a tall building with tinted black floor-to-ceiling glass windows. The car vanishes into the garage...

INT. LOBBY - DAY

ANGLE ON ELEVATOR DOORS that open to reveal Luke looking nervous as he enters the reception area. Sees...

Holograms of people greeting him and advertising for Spin Tech's 'Destiny Travel' on huge wall-mounted flatscreen TVs.

Luke walks up to the front desk to meet the 'real' attendant.

LUKE

My name is Luke Bradford. I have a consultation appointment at three.

INT. HI-TECH LABORATORY - DAY

It's not the man from the TV commercial. Instead, it's an older man dressed in a suit wearing glasses and a tie.

AMBASSADOR

You have six months to find out if you want to stay in your new life or go back to your current one. You can come back whenever you choose.

LUKE

Do you remember what happened if you return to your current life?

AMBASSADOR

No- it will be as though you never left and return to the same point in your life.

Off Luke's intrigued look.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

Most candidates are interested in finding out if they should have taken that other job or married that other person, or even taken that scholarship. You've obviously wondered about something too?

LUKE

Have you ever done it?

AMBASSADOR

I have no desire. But many people do. That's what we're here for.

Now Luke looks conflicted.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

Some people believe things happen for a reason and everyone has only one destiny, not an alternate destiny waiting for them. Others like the idea of having the chance to decide their destiny. Everyone's circumstances and reasons for doing so are different of course.

LUKE

I can imagine.

AMBASSADOR

But remember you can choose one or the other. You can never change your mind and go back if you choose your current life plan originally.

LUKE

I am just going back to see what my life would have been. I would always choose my current life.

AMBASSADOR

I have seen people choose both, the present and the past. Some lives are ruined, and some are improved. It all depends on how much their new life tempts them to stay.

Off Luke's look, we move to...

EXT. BRADFORD RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Luke sitting in his car staring at the house.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luke quietly approaches Alex's bed and sees that he's fast asleep. He sweetly adjusts his blanket and exits the room.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM, BRADFORD RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Luke enters and starts removing his clothes, careful not to wake Karen. He climbs into bed and switches off the lamp.

KAREN (O.C.)

I do not think it's a good idea.

Luke turns on the lamp again to find Karen wide awake.

LUKE

Maybe so, Karen, but I feel it would give me some closure, answer some questions, and verify that I am on the right path in life. I struggle with my past every day. I just want to change it. I want Jacobi back. I stole this life from him. He did not have a choice.

KAREN

It was an accident.

LUKE

I know. But I can return to the few minutes before the car wreck.

KAREN

Things happen for a reason, Luke. Bad and good things happen in life, but they happen for a reason. God has a life plan for us all. And he had one for Jacobi.

LUKE

So, it was Jacobi's fate to be killed in a car wreck? I don't believe that. I believe that he is dead because of my ignorant self. Because I fucked up.

Luke faces away from Karen. She moves in closer and puts her arm around his chest and continues speaking to him softly.

KAREN

Luke, you are a wonderful man, and you made a mistake. You have made a great life for yourself; there is nothing to be ashamed of. If you do this and take that other life, then you will lose your son and me. We will never be a part of your life.

LUKE

I know. I don't want our life to change. I love you and Alex very much and could not imagine my life without you. I am alive and well because of you. I am sorry.

Luke turns over to kiss Karen. It lasts for a few seconds with sensitivity and then passion turns into play. And as Luke puts their bodies together and they make love, we CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

The scoreboard: "ZERO." It's the seventh inning of a teenage baseball game. Luke is the coach for Alex's team the Eagles.

MARK (12) in a Gophers jersey waiting in the batter's box for Alex. He smiles at his dad CHRIS (40) who's his team's coach.

Mark swings his bat around like he's Babe Ruth. Before he knows it, Alex pitches a strike down the middle.

UMP

Strike.

MARK

Hey man, I wasn't even ready.

CATCHER

You are in the batter box, buddy.

Alex gets ready to deliver another pitch. Then --

MARK

(to Alex)

Loser, just like your dad.

It's loud enough for most people to hear including Luke.

ALEX

You're the loser.

He throws the ball to almost hit Mark in the head before he can duck. It barely misses. Mark is fuming around the plate.

MARK

What the heck was that? Come on ump, how about a warning here?

UMP

Don't forget to duck.

Mark stares down the ump as he gets back into the batter's box and waits for the next pitch. Alex strikes him out and turns to look at Luke but he's walking off the field...

INT. CAR - LATER

Luke in the driver seat waiting impatiently. Karen gets in the passenger seat and looks at Luke incredulously.

KAREN

What was that? He's just a stupid kid, Luke. With an even dumber dad.

Luke watches Alex through the windscreen bidding farewell to his friends in the distance. He takes a breath. Then --

LUKE

Karen, I can't live like this. I love you and Alex very much, and I would never want to change my life, but I need to know. I want to know if I could have made it in the major leagues. I need to know what Jacobi's life would have been like. I took his life away from him.

Luke says teary-eyed.

KAREN

What? What are you saying, Luke? Are you saying you want to go back and relive your life and possibly choose a different life? Are we not good enough for you?

Karen turns away. Luke grabs her hand and holds it tight.

LUKE

I would never choose a different life. I want to go back to see what would have been. I will come back to you. You and Alex are the most important people in my life. You will never know that I was gone. Time will stand still for you and Alex and everyone. I will be the only one going back in time.

KAREN

You say you will come back to us, but there is always a chance you won't. I don't know if I can handle that.

LUKE

I want to do this. You don't know how it is to live with the guilt of killing someone. I want to see Jacobi again. I want to see if I could make it in the pros. Just think of the stories I would be able to tell you when I got back.

KAREN

If you come back.

LUKE
I will baby, I will.

The two stare at Alex approaching the car while there is a long beat. Then just before Alex opens the door --

KAREN
Okay, do it. But we're not telling Alex.

Alex hops in the back and Luke starts the car. He looks at Karen but she's facing the window. As Luke pulls away we STAY on Karen and see that she's fighting tears and MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CHAMBER, SPIN TECH - DAY

CLOSE ON Luke's face looking equally frightened and excited as a pendant on a chain is gently placed around his neck.

We REVERSE to see the ambassador turning it over to show Luke it has a timer: "183 days/4392 hours" (until it's 6 months).

AMBASSADOR
One side is the timer. The other is the 'return' button. If you do not push it within six months time, you will remain in your new life.

Now we see Luke's strapped into a chair in a laboratory filled with machines, scientists, and security personnel.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)
Are you ready to proceed?

LUKE
Yes, sir.

The ambassador steps back to reveal a DOCTOR standing there.

AMBASSADOR
Dr. Wilson will administer a sedative and attach electrodes to your chest and head to monitor your vital signs and brain waves.

Luke nods and the doctor gives him the injection right away.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)
Good luck, Mr. Bradford.

The sedative kicks in and Luke eyes close.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD - DAY

We're back with Luke sitting in the driver seat of his 2040 blue and black Ford Mustang GT. The car speedily passes the sign: "SCOTTSDALE 5 MILES."

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jacobi is right next to him texting on his phone. Luke looks over at him in awe --

LUKE

Man, I am happy to see you!

Jacobi looks up slowly with a confused look on his face.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I mean--

JACOBI

Watch the road, man!

Jacobi quickly turns the wheel to stop them from veering into oncoming traffic. Luke turns back to the road eyes wide.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

Dude, what the fuck? Pay attention.

Luke continues driving with both hands clasped around the wheel. His eyes darting between the road and seeing Jacobi.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

You could have killed us.

Luke nods in shock. Then Jacobi's PHONE BEEPS alerting him to a text message. He reads it aloud mimicking a girly voice.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

Melanie says good luck to the both of us, and I can't wait to see you again.

Luke looks stunned at the past hauled back into the present just the way he remembers... He answers as he would *again*.

LUKE

Ya know? Melanie is so nice to you and obviously digs you despite your issues. What's your deal?

JACOBI

Man, I know. But you know I will not see her again - not with all these bitches I'll be hooking up with. We will be able to get with anyone we want now.

LUKE

What is wrong with you? How can you say that?

Jacobi is fast at work texting a response.

JACOBI

Just a little love note now and then I will drop the boom later after practice.

LUKE

You are unbelievable, man.

Now Luke's PHONE BEEPS signaling a text. He keeps his eyes on the road ignoring it completely. Jacobi looks over nosily.

JACOBI

It's Chloe, man. Want me to reply for you- what's your passcode?

Luke throws his head back laughing. He's beside himself...

LUKE

Holy shit! I can't believe it worked. I'm back, baby!

JACOBI

What the fuck, man!? Why are you acting so fucking weird? Back from what?

Luke reaches over and plants a kiss on his cheek. The car veers again, but Luke regains control and continues laughing.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

Dude! Touch me again, and I'll have to punch you in the nuts.

LUKE

(screams)

We're fucking going to spring training! Wooooohooooooooooooo.

And as Jacobi looks at him like he's lost his shit, Luke turning the radio on loud, we move to...

EXT. TRAINING FACILITY - DAY

Luke's car meanders down a driveway toward a building sporting the sign: "Arizona Diamondbacks Training Center."

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Luke and Jacobi exchange an excited look frozen on the spot.

LUKE

Man. I remember my dad bringing me here plenty of times. But this just feels so much cooler.

JACOBI

I can't believe this right now.

He looks to Luke with gratitude in his eyes.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

Thanks, bro. This is my time; I'm going to get mine.

Luke puts his hand on Jacobi's shoulder.

LUKE

I'm so glad we can do this together. I'm glad to have you back.

Jacobi amusingly does a double-take again at Luke.

JACOBI

Dude, there you go with that shit again. Stop. I ain't gone nowhere. I've been here the whole time.

Luke looks kinda kooky as he nods grinning from ear to ear.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

Race ya to the front gate!

And opens the door without waiting... Luke leaps out too.

EXT. STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Luke and Jacobi open the gate to the stadium. They see the groundsman setting up for the players. Then, Luke sees...

Todd (the manager of the team we met earlier) chatting with JIM YOUNG (40s), a serious-looking man holding a clipboard.

LUKE
 (to Jacobi)
 Yo, that's the fly manager Todd Sternberg... He's the one that approved your ass for a tryout.

JACOBI
 No way. And who's the scary one?

LUKE
 The general manager Jim Young.

Both rookies approach with their backs straight.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 Mr. Sternberg. Mr. Young. It's great to see you again. I didn't think I'd even make it here - all these years watching you on TV when I could have played--

Luke catches himself. Sternberg, Young, and Jacobi are looking at Luke confused.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 I mean- I had this awful dream last night about an accident.

Jacobi nudges Luke to pull it together and takes over.

JACOBI
 I'd like to take this moment to thank you both for the opportunity.

JIM
 You can thank Sternberg. I had my doubts to be perfectly honest, son.

Jacobi looks down embarrassed. Luke returns --

LUKE
 You won't regret it; we both promise. So when do we start?

TODD
 Right now.

Jacobi looks up elated. Luke cracks up and we CUT TO:

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Luke and Jacobi are now in their baseball gear warming up.

JACOBI

Man, this is it; it does not get any better than this. There is Stephan Stout.

Luke follows his gaze to a huge player on the team.

LUKE

I know, man. But we are not on the team yet. You have to work hard. No playing around.

JACOBI

Uh huh. Coming from someone who doesn't have a job either.

LUKE

Hey, I know. But I'm going to work my ass off to become a starting pitcher and collect my million dollar paycheck.

JACOBI

Amen to that. I can't wait for the women and the money because I know I will make the team.

Jacobi reaches out to give Luke a fist bump. Then --

TODD (O.S.)

Bradford! Cramer! You're up.

And as the rookies exchange a nervous look, we TIME CUT TO:

EXT. STADIUM - MOMENTS LATER

The duo have joined the Diamondbacks for workouts. The coaches are analyzing the pitchers to know their strengths and weaknesses. It's Luke's turn and he impresses them all.

COACH #1

You're excelling with your ball movement, kid. Each list of pitches was just as strong as the other.

COACH #2

Keep throwing that fast Bradford and you have a great chance of becoming a starter pitcher.

Luke beams a smile and nods gratefully. Jacobi gives him a thumbs up before taking his turn looking a little nervous.

LUKE
Go get 'em, man.

Jacobi impresses the coaches also. We can see it in their faces but they're verbally less forthcoming with commentary.

COACH #1
Good job. Keep it up, boys. That's it for today. See you at dawn!

Luke and Jacobi unite to walk off the field.

LUKE
I want to pitch a whole game, a shutout, a no-hitter, or even strike out everyone.

JACOBI
The Diamondbacks haven't been good in a long time so they'd be lucky to have you, bro.

LUKE
Well they're probably not going to the World Series anytime soon - but there is hope of squeezing into the playoff picture.

Jacobi puts his hand on Luke's shoulder.

JACOBI
I know you're gonna kill it.

Off the rookies fist bump, we move to...

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Luke exits the bathroom with only a towel around his waist, the drops of water glisten on his chest and six-pack.

JACOBI
Yo. Your phone's blowing up.

Luke grabs his phone off the desk. He looks anxious as he types in his passcode and sees a barrage of texts.

INSERT - TEXT FROM "CHLOE," which reads:

"I've been calling and texting you...? Is everything going OK?"

Jacobi expectantly looks at Luke.

LUKE
Oh, it's just Chloe.

JACOBI
Now it's "just Chloe" wtf?

LUKE
It's just that things are diff--

Luke catches himself and puts down the phone.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I mean, like, she knows we're
training and busy and stuff.

Jacobi looks at him sideways and laughs.

JACOBI
Bro. You already feeling the love
from all those lady fans out there.

Luke waves him off as he puts on boxers.

LUKE
No, fool. I'm just focused is all.

He gets into bed and turns off his lamp wanting to end the chat. It's dark now. A beat. Then we hear their voices --

JACOBI
Focused on some bitches AITE!

LUKE
Shut the fuck up jackass.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

The ceremonies are in place and the flyover by the Air Force jets goes off without a hitch.

SUPERIMPOSE: "APRIL 1ST, 2040 - OPENING DAY."

INT. PRESS BOX - SAME

The commentators having their own pre-game talk.

COMMENTATOR #1

The Diamondbacks day game against the Chicago Cubs today will hopefully show how much they've improved since last season. The fans are cautiously optimistic about the season because Luke Bradford, a rookie pitcher, is going to be the third pitcher in the rotation. This is practically unheard of, and all anyone can do is hope for the best.

The commentator's V.O. CARRIES OVER:

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The first pitch is thrown by starting pitcher Stephan Stout.

COMMENTATOR #1 (V.O.)

Look at that- Stephan Stout already living up to the top billing.

With some great pitching and two home runs to back Stout up, the Diamondbacks take the opening day game, 7-4.

Luke congratulates the players and they all start to walk off the field. But just as Luke is about to get into the dugout --

VOICE (O.C.)

Come back, Luke.

Luke turns around but doesn't see anyone looking at him.

PLAYER

What's up, man?

Luke looks confused, still glancing around for the voice.

LUKE

Oh, nothing.

PLAYER

We won! Why the glum face.

Luke shrugs off the voice and leaves with the other players.

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Luke enters to find Jacobi smiling and holding two beers.

JACOBI

Beers for the winners right here. I wanna hear everything, bro.

The boys clink bottles and take a sip.

LUKE

You said, 'winner(s)'?

JACOBI

Oh, you mean the news that I made the Triple-A Arizona Aces. Looks like I will start in centerfield.

LUKE

Holy shit! No way. That's amazing.

JACOBI

Damn right. We are celebrating tonight. Man, let's do this. Let's go check out these Arizona hoes and get laid.

LUKE

Uh, no. You have a girlfriend, and I have a wife.

Luke brushes him off casually while taking another sip.

JACOBI

Dude, really? Wife? I know you guys are committed, but you do not have a ring on your finger. We are professional baseball players. We can have any girl we want.

Luke lowers the bottle realizing his faux pas. He catches a glimpse of the pendant around his neck. It gives him pause.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

And you are not wearing that thing in da club. What the fuck is that anyway? Did Chloe give that to you before you left? Because to be honest, that thing is horrible. It looks like something an old lady would wear and push when she needs help.

LUKE

Nah man, it's cool. Don't worry about it. Shit dude. Let's get ready. Time is wasting.

EXT. STREET, ARIZONA - NIGHT

Luke and Jacobi are stylishly dressed, their bodies looking good in their fitted clothing. They're on cloud nine relishing the attention they're receiving from the girls.

INT. HOOTERS - NIGHT

Nobody knows who they are, but they feel pumped up and confident as they sit at one of the two seated bar tables.

JACOBI

Check out those girls. They are tight.

LUKE

We are so single right now.

Luke reaches over to give Jacobi a fist bump.

JACOBI

I knew you would see it my way.

Jacobi engages the waitress as Luke looks around the bar.

LUKE

(to himself)

I guess somehow I'm married and single. For six months anyway.

Jacobi nudges Luke's arm to get his attention. He looks up to find the beautiful, voluptuous black waitress looking right at him. Her smile is phenomenal and leaves Luke speechless.

JACOBI

Well, I guess two professional baseball players like ourselves need to drink some premium beer.

WAITRESS

In that case, the first round is on the house. I'll be right back...

She holds Jacobi's look as she saunters toward the bar.

LUKE

Professional? You're in the minors.

JACOBI

She doesn't need to be bothered by those small details.

Luke laughs at Jacobi innocently shrugging his shoulders.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
Freebies ... special privileges. This
is just the beginning, man.

The waitress returns with their beers. Two each in fact.

WAITRESS
(to Jacobi)
You know, I'm off in an hour if you
want me to show you the nightlife.

Jacobi smiles and leans over to kiss her hand.

LUKE
That's a yes from Jacobi 23.

The waitress looks to Luke.

WAITRESS
And what about you?

Jacobi kicks Luke under the table. Luke smiles politely.

LUKE
Rain check for sure. I'm up early.

The waitress rolls her eyes and blows Jacobi a 'later' kiss.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Luke tipsily looks around at the blurred scenery. He smiles
and walks down the sidewalk with a little pep in his step.

VOICE (O.C.)
Come back, Luke.

Luke stops in his tracks. He looks like he's feeling dizzy
and sits down on a cinderblock next to a building. Then he
starts to see a bright light or is it the traffic lights...

LUKE
Am I going to die now from alcohol?

Luke sits still. As we PUSH IN to his face, we...

FLASHBACK:

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Luke, Jacobi, and Chloe are drinking at a senior party. The
party goers are mostly athletes and their friends. Then a
drunken douchebag named TYLER (17) intrudes in their space.

TYLER

So, Bradford, you chosen a college yet? Dude, you have your choice of anywhere, man. You are so badass.

LUKE

I think Arizona State. Then I can be close to home and go with Jacobi.

Luke gives Jacobi a fist bump.

TYLER

Are you fucking kidding me? You could go to California - to UCLA or USC. What the hell, dude? Don't let this loser take you down with him.

Jacobi gets in Tyler's face and pushes him back. As an offensive lineman, Tyler is bigger than Jacobi and doesn't move that far. He gets right back up in Jacobi's face.

CHLOE

Hey, guys. Come on--

Jacobi swings at Tyler's jaw. Tyler is stunned, but far from injured. Luke grabs Jacobi and Chloe and pulls them outside.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jacobi is shocked when Luke grabs hold of his arms.

LUKE

Let's get out of here, man. You will get in so much trouble.

Chloe's already on her phone hitting Uber.

CHLOE

A car is already on its way.

Tyler and his friends appear just outside the front door.

TYLER

You are just like your dad, Jacobi.
A fucking loser.

The Uber arrives and Luke pulls Jacobi inside with Chloe.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Where Luke looks pained. He regains his composure and manages to stand and continue walking down the street.

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Luke enters and pulls his wallet from his pocket to put it on the table. It falls to the floor and he bends down. Sees...

The snapshot of Karen and Alex with him on the field.

Off Luke's look, we move to...

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Luke is fast asleep in bed. The clock reads: "3:00 a.m." The sound of the DOOR OPENING stirs him awake. It's Jacobi.

LUKE
Hey man, good night?

JACOBI
These fucking bitches. All they do
is tease and then not give it up.
They want my fucking money.

He kicks his shoes off and throws down his keys.

LUKE
I'm out. Talk to you in the a.m.

EXT. STREET, ARIZONA - DAY

Luke driving his car with the windows down blaring the radio.

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Luke is jamming when something catches his eye. Sees... The building that is the Spin Tech facility in the future.

LUKE
Fucking crazy.

He shakes his head and continues down the road recharged.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

The Arizona Diamondbacks got off to a good start with two runs in the third inning. Todd and Jim look pretty pleased.

Luke is watching the pitcher and catcher work and discuss the opposing players. He tries to learn with every second he can.

And as Luke takes it all in, we TIME CUT TO:

EXT. STADIUM - LATER

After nine innings, the Diamondbacks have won their second game. The team and fans are extremely excited at the win.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators are wrapping up with final remarks.

COMMENTATOR #1

Not bad at all for the Diamondbacks to start the season with a two-game winning streak.

COMMENTATOR #2

That's right. And it appears that Luke Bradford is inching closer to his first start and is not wasting time. He'll see similar competition when they play the Astros. Some of the best hitters in baseball play for the Astros.

EXT. STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Luke and the team walking off the field together.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Luke and the team walking onto the field together (new game).

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators are perky and excited.

COMMENTATOR #1
It's almost time for the third
game. How are you feeling about it?

COMMENTATOR #2
Pretty damn good.

EXT. STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Luke joins the team for some warm-ups and stretching, but while he does, something catches his eye in the distance.

Karen and Alex in the stands. They are there for only a second and then disappear.

Luke can't believe his eyes as he stands there frozen.

VOICE (O.C.)
Come back, Luke.

Luke turns to find KEITH ECHOLS (20s), a relief pitcher.

LUKE
What did you say?

KEITH
I didn't say anything.

Keith shakes his head and Luke continues their routine.

EXT. OUTSIDE STADIUM - DAY

The stadium gates open for all fans to watch. We see Jacobi entering looking excited and maybe a little jealous too.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Luke finds a seat in the dugout for the start of the game. He spots Jacobi in the stands nearby and they exchange a grin.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators in action.

COMMENTATOR #1
The Diamondbacks will bat first
since they are the guest team.

COMMENTATOR #2

I'm anticipating what Luke and Cole
will bring to the table.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Luke takes his last warm-up pitch, and cocky COLE MYERS (20s) throws down to second base. While Luke is waiting for the ball to return --

VOICE (O.C.)

Luke I need you.

Luke looks to the stands imagining it's Karen and Alex. He gets his sign from Cole. Luke throws a fast pitch right down the middle and TREY GILBERT (20s) puts a huge swing on the ball and hits it over the fence. It's a home run. Trey flips his bat and moves around the bases.

Luke sees the radar screen reading: "95." He bends over his laces and starts cussing to himself. When he rises up, he sees Cole standing over him.

COLE

Well, it was either going to be a
strike or a home run. It's over.
Now let's get down to business.

LUKE

You planned that? You told me to
throw that fastball right down the
middle! You asshole.

COLE

And how did that feel?

Luke shoots Cole a look. The umpire comes out to them to break up their meeting.

UMP

Everything Okay? Let's go.

COLE

Yeah, we are done here.

Then turns to make his way back to home plate. Cole throws down the signs and Luke throws his pitch. The ball comes in right down the middle. The batter swings but misses the ball.

UMP

Strike.

Cole smiles as he looks at the radar screen reading: "98."

He throws the ball back to Luke and nods at him. Luke shakes his head up and down and is ready to throw again. The ball ends up low and away with no swing.

UMP (CONT'D)
Strike two.

The batter backs out of the batter's box and takes some practice swings. When he returns he swings at Luke's third pitch that is high and inside and misses again.

UMP (CONT'D)
Strike three you're out.

The batter walks away shooting daggers at Luke. Luke turns to see Jacobi amusingly thrusting his hips. Luke cracks a smile.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators are impressed.

COMMENTATOR #1
The Diamondbacks have managed to get three home runs and lead the Astros 3-1 in the 7th inning.

COMMENTATOR #2
Luke Bradford now has a three-hit game going.

EXT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

The manager approaches Luke as he's entering the dugout.

MANAGER
Good job, buddy. You're done. I'll be bringing in a relief pitcher for the 8th and 9th innings.

The catcher and all the players congratulate Luke. He can hear Jacobi screaming for him from the stands and laughs.

JACOBI (O.C.)
That's my man, right there!

Luke sits on the bench and smiles to himself.

COLE
Dude, you rocked it out there.

LUKE

Thanks, man. You know those batters well. I just throw the pitches.

COLE

Yeah, but I mean, really man, you keep pitching like that, and you are going to be special.

Cole gets his things ready to hit and leaves. Luke sits alone thinking for a beat. He takes the pendant out from his shirt and looks at it pensively. As we PUSH IN to his face, we...

FLASHBACK:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Karen and Alex playing on the beach. It's beautiful; they are beautiful. Luke is watching them looking happy and fulfilled.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Luke puts the pendant into his shirt. The Diamondbacks then finish off the Astros 4-2 for the win. It's Luke's first win.

A MONTAGE - LUKE OVER THE NEXT MONTH

-- BAR -- Celebrating with the team and Jacobi's new girl.

-- AIRPLANE -- Flying back to Arizona with his happy team.

-- STADIUM -- Losing the next game to the Astros by one run.

-- TOUR BUS -- Sleeping during the long road trip.

-- HOTEL LOBBY -- Receiving attention from fans and girls.

-- STADIUM -- Warming up with the team who show him respect.

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Luke enters the apartment exhausted and dumps his bag on the floor. Then, something makes him stop in his tracks. Sees...

Chloe sitting on his bed not looking pleased AT ALL.

LUKE

Chloe?

Luke puts down his phone avoiding eye contact. Then, he realizes that he missed a text. He looks down. Sees...

INSERT - TEXT FROM "JACOBI," which reads:

"Dude. Chloe's here all pissed."

Jacobi exits the bathroom looking sheepish as Luke looks up from his phone. Jacobi grabs his sports jacket and keys.

JACOBI

You two lovebirds have fun now.

And leaves the couple looking at one another.

CHLOE

Are you cheating on me?

This gives Luke pause.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Luke!

He startles at her volume.

LUKE

No, Chloe. But...

He walks over and sits beside her on the bed.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I know we've been through a lot together, and you know I love you--

CHLOE

Are you breaking up with me?

LUKE

You're such a sweet girl. But it's just that I only have six months in this new life--

Luke catches himself again as Chloe looks at him confused.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I mean, you know, at the training center, and I need to see where this all goes without any other distractions. The Diamondbacks are starting a rookie pitcher straight out of college, which is unheard of...

Luke trails off as Chloe lowers her head. A long beat. Then --

CHLOE

I understand, Luke. I'm just sad
you didn't feel that you could talk
to me honestly. We're friends too.

Now Luke sheepishly lowers his head. A beat. Then, Chloe looks at him with empathy and tries to lighten things up.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Then again, if you didn't
completely ignore me I wouldn't
have been mad enough to come here
and be able to give you a big hug.

Luke looks up to find Chloe smiling, it's not entirely genuine, but she's trying her best... They embrace.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Maybe we'll be together again
sometime in the future.

And as we HOLD on their embrace, Chloe shedding a tear over Luke's shoulder, and Luke looking relieved, we CUT TO:

EXT. STREET, ARIZONA - DAY

Luke driving his car with the windows down blaring the radio.

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Luke is excited when he arrives at his destination. The sign on the building: "PHOENIX UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER."

LUKE

(to himself)

Ha! Let's see how this works.

Luke parks in the ER parking area. He grabs a 'Philly cheesesteak' lunch bag from the seat and hops out of the car.

EXT. ER PARKING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Luke looks sharp in his blue shirt and khaki pants. He stands by the car and eagerly looks at his watch: "12 O'CLOCK."

LUKE

(to himself)

Here we go...

Luke smiles wide as something catches his eye. Sees...

Karen walking out of the ER entrance with a blanket and bag.

Luke follows a few steps behind as Karen sets up a mini-picnic for herself beside a tree on the grassy area.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Mind if I borrow your tree?

Karen looks up to find Luke with his lunch bag in hand.

KAREN
Go ahead, it's nice out.

Luke smiles and sits on the grass nearby. He watches discreetly as Karen starts eating her soup and salad.

LUKE
So, you're an ER doctor, miss?

KAREN
Yes, a fellow. It's Karen. Are you here visiting?

LUKE
Um- no. I'm here to see you.

Luke nonchalantly takes a bite of his sandwich.

KAREN
What? Me? Do I know you?

LUKE
Not now, but you will.

KAREN
Excuse me?

LUKE
Sorry. That sounded bad. I'm Luke Bradford...

He stands and holds out his hand.

LUKE (CONT'D)
...and I'm a professional baseball pitcher.

Karen does not reach to shake his hand.

KAREN

I've never heard of you, Luke Bradford. And I don't like baseball. So if you'll excuse me, I need to get back to work.

Karen gathers her things.

LUKE

Miss Karen, I mean Dr. Moser, I didn't mean to mislead you. I am coming into the ER to be seen.

Karen stops and looks up at Luke.

KAREN

For what? You don't look sick.

LUKE

But I am. I'm not from around here, and my sinuses are killing me. Can you help? Please.

Karen notes the sad but flirty look on his face.

KAREN

Fine.

Off Luke's excited face, we move to...

INT. TREATMENT ROOM, HOSPITAL - DAY

Luke is sitting up in a stretcher while Karen starts an ENT exam with an upper and lower respiratory tract assessment.

KAREN

Well, you look good, but I do see drainage and red nasal passages. I suggest some OTC Claritin.

Karen turns away to make notes where we see she's annoyed.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

Sick... sinuses boo hoo...

A male nurse named JOEL enters to take Luke's vital signs.

JOEL

Yo! Are you Luke Bradford?! You play for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

LUKE
That's right.

JOEL
Dude, so cool. Can I get your
autograph?

Karen turns her head to see him holding out his clipboard.

KAREN
Really, Joel.

Luke grins and grabs the pen to scribble his autograph.

JOEL
Sorry, Dr. Moser, but this is
awesome. He is a rookie and won his
first game with the Diamondbacks.

LUKE
Thanks, Joel. Now can you convince
Dr. Moser to go out with me?

KAREN
What? No way.

JOEL
Are you kidding, doc? I would date
him.

Joel gives Luke a fist bump and exits with a 'peace out.'

LUKE
I would really like to take you
out. Maybe some sushi or a salad or
really anything you would like.
Just say yes, please.

Karen walks up real close to Luke.

KAREN
I don't date jocks, just docs.

Karen exits leaving him speechless.

EXT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Luke exits his car. He stops when he hears SHOUTING coming
from the open windows of his apartment. He hangs back --

JACOBI (O.C.)
Come on, Melanie! Those girls meant
nothing. They are just pictures.
(MORE)

JACOBI (O.C.) (CONT'D)
I am a famous baseball player now.
I get shit like that all the time.

Luke is somewhat amused as he shakes his head.

MELANIE
I don't care who you are, you don't
treat women like this. I'm out.

The sound of the DOOR SLAMMING makes Luke recoil. He waits until Melanie beelines to her car before heading inside...

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Luke finds Jacobi standing in boxers and no shirt. He takes a beer from the fridge and picks up the opener from the bench.

LUKE
Dude, you and women. How do you
always mess up? I liked Melanie.

JACOBI
Like you have room to talk. I heard
you broke up with your girlfriend.

Jacobi enters the bathroom and shuts the door in his face.

LUKE
(to himself)
Yeah, but that's because I met my
future wife today.

Luke smiles and pops open the beer.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

It's time for the starting lineups. The players are waiting in the dugout. We FIND Luke waiting nervously. Until --

INTERCOM (V.O.)
Luke Bradford.

His face lights up as he gets an ovation from the home crowd.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Our regular commentators are excited as usual.

COMMENTATOR #1

The time has come for Luke Bradford to take the mound again; he's still undefeated on the hill.

COMMENTATOR #2

Just listen to that adoring crowd.

The commentator's V.O. CARRIES OVER:

EXT. STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Luke's WALK-UP MUSIC starts as he heads to the mound - it's 'Thunder' by Imagine Dragons. The CROWD gets even louder.

Luke finishes his last tosses, and the ball is tossed around the diamond until it comes back to Luke. He is ready. Luke looks down at the signs and throws the first pitch.

UMP

Strike.

The crowd CHEERS with approval.

COMMENTATOR #1

We're off to a pretty good start.

Another pitch is on the way, and the ball is ripped into left field for a single - one aboard. Luke gets the next batter to go down swinging.

COMMENTATOR #2

That's gotta be in the high 90s!

The crowd ROARS at the radar screen reading: "98."

COMMENTATOR #1

It's one out with one on.

The third batter takes some pitches and ends up with a single up the middle.

COMMENTATOR #1 (CONT'D)

Now there's one out with two on.

Next, the fourth batter, the clean-up hitter...

COMMENTATOR #2

Luke needs to get this next batter or it could put them in a bad spot.

As Cole calls the pitches we MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, KAREN'S HOUSE - SAME

Where we continue watching the action on a TV screen. With a low and away pitch, Luke masterfully forces a ground ball double play to end the inning.

COMMENTATOR #1 (V.O.)

(on TV)

Geez. Did ya see that, Jim?

We REVERSE to reveal Karen sitting on her couch with a beer.

KAREN

Wow, that was close.

Joel (male nurse we met earlier) grins at the site of Karen intently watching Luke. She feels his gaze and turns --

KAREN (CONT'D)

What?

Joel makes a funny face and sips his beer without a word.

INT. PRESS BOX, STADIUM - DAY

The commentators...

COMMENTATOR #1

Bradford didn't allow a run in six innings despite having the bases loaded twice. He really showed poise and confidence until his innings were over.

COMMENTATOR #2

His pitch count was up into the 90s when he was pulled. That's a large count for a rookie in his second game to pitch.

EXT. STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

A REPORTER stands with her crew not far from the players.

REPORTER

The Diamondbacks finished with a 5-1 win. Luke Bradford, do you have a few words about your performance?

Luke looks elated at the attention. He's about to respond to the reporter when two players pour water and Gatorade all over him. Luke laughs it off and pushes his wet hair back.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KAREN'S HOUSE - SAME

Karen catches herself smiling at Luke and turns off the TV.

KAREN

All right Bradford, not too bad.

Joel smiles and stands to give Karen two air kisses.

JOEL

See you tomorrow, Mrs. Bradford.

Off Karen's incredulous look, we CUT TO:

EXT. ER PARKING AREA - DAY

Luke standing by his car waiting for Karen to exit the ER entrance with her lunch. He follows her to the tree - but this time she sees him first. He's busted in his tracks.

KAREN

Hello, Mr. Bradford. Feeling better?

LUKE

I am. Thank you.

KAREN

(friendlier)

What can I help you with today?

LUKE

Nothing actually, I just wanted to see you.

He sits right next to her.

KAREN

I don't know you, Luke. This is weird.

Karen starts packing her things.

LUKE

Please don't go. I am begging. Just talk to me.

KAREN

OK, I guess security can see us. So, how are you? I guess it's a day off and then back on the road for you?

LUKE

(smiles)

Ah ha. So you do like and watch
baseball, I knew it.

KAREN

Joel made me watch your last game.

LUKE

Oh, really and what did you think?

A beat as Karen thinks about her answer.

KAREN

You were awesome.

Luke beams a smile. Then --

KAREN (CONT'D)

You need to control your walks, but
other than that, you were great.

LUKE

Right. Gotcha.

He can't help but stare into Karen's eyes.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Will you go out with me tonight?
Please, before I leave?

Karen makes him wait...

KAREN

Okay, I will. I get off at six. Can
we meet at Bob's Burger and Shakes
at 7 p.m.? It is low key, and they
have great food.

LUKE

Yes, ma'am.

Karen laughs as Luke jokingly salutes her as he walks away.

EXT. BURGER JOINT - NIGHT

Low-key is an understatement but everyone looks happy through
the big windows. It's also packed which is the best sign.

INT. BURGER JOINT - CONTINUOUS

Luke and Karen are both dressed casually and laid back.

KAREN
Can I order? Will you trust me?

LUKE
Of course, Dr. Moser.

Karen shoots him a look at his silly grin.

KAREN
Karen is fine, Luke.

The waitress lights up at seeing Karen.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Hi, Kelly, we will have two usuals,
thanks girl.

Kelly nods and beelines to the register.

LUKE
Wow, so you must come here a lot.

KAREN
My sister owns the place.

Luke holds her look for a beat.

LUKE
I knew you were hiding something.

KAREN
That my family owns a burger dive?

LUKE
That you really like baseball.

Karen laughs heartily.

KAREN
It's my favorite sport.

Luke lifts his chocolate shake to Karen's vanilla shake.

LUKE
Well, cheers to that.

Off Luke's look, we move to...

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Luke walks Karen to her car. She unlocks it with her BEEPER and he steps in front of her to chivalrously open the door.

LUKE

Goodnight.

But Karen doesn't move. Luke expectantly looks up at her --

KAREN

Did the rookie need his closer
tonight to finish off the date?

Luke smiles in realization before he leans in to kiss her but only kisses her right cheek. Then he looks into her eyes.

LUKE

I will call you, Karen.

He walks away smiling wide. Karen bows her head and giggles.

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Luke enters to find Jacobi sitting on the couch in the dark.

LUKE

Hey, what's going on man? How come
you're sitting in the dark?

Luke turns on the light. Jacobi looks gloomy and mad.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Dude, what happened to your
forehead? You have a bruise.

Luke takes two beers from the fridge.

JACOBI

(super flat)

Ah, nothing, man. I was diving for
a ball during a game and hit the
ground.

Jacobi accepts the beer from Luke without looking up.

LUKE

Did you get it?

JACOBI

Get what, man?

Jacobi still staring ahead while drinking the beer.

LUKE

The ball. Did you catch the ball?

JACOBI
Oh, oh, yeah. Yeah, I did.

LUKE
Why are you so zoned out?

JACOBI
Nothing, man, I am just tired.

Jacobi grabs the TV remote and selects the ESPN channel.

LUKE
So... I had my first proper date
with the doctor. It was like...

Luke looks up to the ceiling talking in his own world.

LUKE (CONT'D)
...the perfect date. You would
think she's amazing too. She asked
me to kiss her goodnight but...

And as Luke rambles, Jacobi looking numb, we CUT TO:

A MONTAGE

EXT. ROAD - DAY

A BUS DRIVES into frame on the long stretch of road.

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

Jacobi sitting at the back, staring out the window. We TRACK back to reveal his teammates joking around in the foreground.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

The Diamondbacks in Colorado. Luke is on the bench this time.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Jacobi on fire going 3-for-4 with one home run and three stolen bases. The Aces win and the team congratulates him.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Luke batting in this game... The Diamondbacks win 7-3.

END MONTAGE

EXT. HOTEL, SAN DIEGO - NIGHT

Some of the Aces players (Jacobi's team) drinking in the lobby together to celebrate the win. They are excited.

TEAMMATE #1
You were on fire.

JACOBI
Thanks, man. You guys were awesome.

TEAMMATE #2
But seriously dude, I thought you were going to tank today given the way you were before the game.

JACOBI
Yeah, sorry about that, man.

TEAMMATE #1
Everything alright, buddy?

TEAMMATE #2
Yeah, you can tell us anything Jacobi. We're, like, a team.

JACOBI
Girl problems, you know. But I am just fine.

Jacobi polishes off his drink in one go and stands up.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
I'm beat. Gonna hit the hay.

He makes his exit while giving a few fist bumps on the way out. Two of the teammate as above exchange a nervous look.

EXT. HOTEL, COLORADO - NIGHT

Luke hops off the tour bus. There are plenty of FANS and autographs to sign on his way into the luxurious lobby.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - LATER

Luke exits the bathroom wearing a robe. He turns on the TV and picks up his phone. Dials: "KAREN MOSER."

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LIVING ROOM, KAREN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Karen answers almost immediately, excited at seeing the name on her phone screen: "LUKE."

KAREN
Hey, you.

LUKE
What's the doc doing on her day
off?

Karen smiles wide and shrugs her shoulders.

KAREN
Talking to you.

LUKE
Ha! That's right.

KAREN
I see you're not to bad at batting
either...

LUKE
Yeah, well since we're in the
National League, I get to bat
whenever I pitch.

KAREN
You're in your hotel room?

LUKE
Yes- just out of the shower--

But Luke stops when Jacobi's picture fills the TV screen.

KAREN
Is that so...

LUKE
Wait- Jacobi's on the news.

Luke turns up the volume on the TV.

KAREN
Your friend that you told me about?

Karen turns on her TV.

TV ANCHOR (V.O.)
 (on the TV)
 Jessica Franklin, a 22-year-old
 female, was found dead at the
 Catalon Hotel in Arizona.

Luke is frozen watching in horror.

TV ANCHOR (V.O.)
 She apparently died from a head
 injury, but an autopsy has not been
 performed yet to confirm the cause
 of death. The police suspected that
 the struggle ended when Franklin
 hit her head on the dresser. The
 police are looking for this man,
 which was last seen with Miss
 Franklin. If you have seen this
 man, please contact the local
 authorities.

The screen shows Jacobi walking in the lobby of the hotel.

LUKE
 (on the phone)
 Karen, I'll call you back.

Luke shakily hangs up and dials another contact: "JACOBI."

INT. SUITE, CATALAN HOTEL - NIGHT

Jacobi answers his phone looking panicked and frightened.

LUKE (V.O.)
 (over phone, filtered)
 I saw the news. Where are you?

JACOBI
 Luke, you know I didn't do this.
 The police are here now where we
 are at. They want to take me to the
 police station and get me back to
 Arizona immediately. The general
 manager and team know, and they
 said they would make bail for me. I
 will talk to you later. They are
 taking me right now.

Jacobi hangs up the phone. He is handcuffed and escorted out.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Luke has another start on the mound but doesn't play well.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators don't have much mercy.

COMMENTATOR #1

The Diamondbacks have lost the game, 10-4. Quite a set back.

COMMENTATOR #2

Luke Bradford's performance might have somewhat been affected by the news of Jacobi Cramer.

COMMENTATOR #1

There will always be bad news. But the best players still manage to keep it together.

The first commentator casually takes a sip of his coffee.

INT. HOTEL, COLORADO - NIGHT

Luke laying on the bed dressed staring at the ceiling. The PHONE RINGS on the bedside table but Luke doesn't answer.

INT. STAFF ROOM, HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Karen hangs up her cell phone looking worried.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Luke driving -- thinking --

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Jacobi sitting with his lawyer and a representative from the Aces. He looks nervous but more responsive than last time.

REP

Obviously we can't have you play until a formal charge or discharge is brought before you.

JACOBI

I'm being suspended? But I haven't been charged. I didn't do anything.

REP

The Aces organization is on your side and believes that you are innocent. The suspension will only be until a verdict is reached.

Jacobi looks to his lawyer who nods in confirmation.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Karen anxiously watching the ESPN channel.

ESPN ANALYST (V.O.)

(on the screen)

The Diamondbacks and the Aces have both lost their series games.

She switches off the TV looking frustrated. Then, the sound of the DOORBELL startles Karen. She gets up...

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

...and looks through the peephole -- Luke's standing there.

KAREN

Oh my God.

Karen opens the door and hugs him and we TIME CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Karen brings two beers to the sofa and sits beside Luke.

LUKE

He's my childhood friend; we've been through so much together - and now this.

KAREN

I understand. Hopefully the verdict will present itself soon.

Luke lowers his head.

LUKE

Did Jacobi do this? Did he kill that girl?

KAREN

You don't think that, do you?

LUKE

The night before we both left for our road trips he seemed so...detached.

Luke looks up at Karen.

KAREN

I remember there were also previous allegations of a rape?

LUKE

She pressed charges, but her story was riddled with inconsistencies and then she disappeared. Jacobi was never arrested because of a lack of evidence and no witnesses, but his reputation is tainted—especially since he's known for his questionable lifestyle. But he's always been a womanizer; everyone knows that.

KAREN

And this new situation?

LUKE

He could have hurt her. But kill her? That had to be an accident.

Karen puts her hand on his shoulder. Then, Luke's PHONE BEEPS on the coffee table alerting him to a text.

INSERT - TEXT FROM "JACOBI," which reads:

"I'm home. Can we talk?"

Luke shows Karen his phone screen and she nods in understanding. Luke stands and nervously walks out.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Karen. I'll call you.

Karen shuts the door behind Luke. Off her look, we move to...

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Luke enters to find Jacobi sitting on the sofa.

LUKE

Hey, man, are you okay?

He drops his baggage and immediately hugs Jacobi.

JACOBI

I'm so glad to see you.

LUKE

What the hell happened?

Jacobi sits down and proceeds calmly.

JACOBI

I met this girl at a bar. Things were going good and getting heated - as in hot and sexy. So we go back to her hotel. We started making out and were about to have sex. But then she said she'd only do it for money. I left her there in her room; I have no clue what happened after that. Anyone could have been in her hotel room. She was a hooker, man. I didn't fucking know.

Luke looks at Jacobi. His hands are trembling and he looks distraught. Luke puts his hand on his shoulder for comfort.

LUKE

I believe you, man. But you need to stay away from that trouble. It keeps fucking you up.

Jacobi immediately looks more relieved.

JACOBI

I know man; I hear ya. As soon as I clear my name, it is baseball only.

LUKE

Sounds like a plan. Beer?

Jacobi nods, smiling for the first time in ages. Luke heads to the fridge as Jacobi hits the remote to watch ESPN.

EXT. HOOVER DAM, NEVADA - DAY

BIRD'S EYE POV - THROUGH WINDOW GLASS

We're flying over the concrete arch-gravity dam in the beautiful Black Canyon of the Colorado River.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Karen wide-eyed holding Luke's hand tightly in the back.

EXT. HELIPAD, VEGAS - DAY

A chopper lands and Luke steps out holding Karen's hand and their overnight bags. It's windy and noisy but she's elated.

A MONTAGE - VEGAS SURPRISE TRIP

-- LIMO -- Driving down the strip to the Venetian Hotel.

-- SUITE -- Luke showing her there's two queen beds.

-- STREET -- Luke showing Karen around the strip.

-- STEAKHOUSE -- Enjoying fine cuisine in an upscale place.

-- CASINO -- The couple have fun drinking and gambling.

-- SUITE -- Karen getting into Luke's bed naked when he's sleeping and he awakes to hold her and they fall asleep.

END MONTAGE

INT. SUITE, THE VENTIAN HOTEL - DAY

Luke's PHONE ALARM wakes him up. He kisses Karen's cheek and neck. She wakes up and turns toward Luke. They're kissing and touching when Karen rises to straddle him with no covers on her. Luke stares in awe and lies her down. They have brief but passionate sex until they climax. They fall back. Then --

KAREN

I want you in my house.

Off Luke's elated look, we CUT TO:

EXT. STREET, ARIZONA - DAY

Luke driving -- listening to the radio --

JOURNALIST (V.O.)

(on the news)

The police have confirmed that Jessica Franklin, a 22-year-old female found dead at the Catalon Hotel in Arizona, died from a head injury. But it has not been labeled as a homicide. Jacobi Cramer, currently one of the top prospects in baseball, has been cleared as a suspect due to insufficient evi--

Luke abruptly turns off the radio.

EXT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Luke pulls up outside and turns off the engine and lights.

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Luke just sitting there -- thinking -- The lights from the TV flicker in the upstairs windows of his apartment.

INT. LUKE & JACOBI'S APARTMENT

Luke enters with his bag. He hears Jacobi on the phone in his bedroom, the door slightly ajar. He moves into...

THE BATHROOM

Where he removes his shirt and reaches down to put it in the laundry basket. Then, something catches Luke's eye that makes him stop dead in his tracks. Sees...

JACOBI'S SHIRT THAT APPEARS TO HAVE BLOOD ON THE SLEEVE

Luke stands there for a moment still holding his breath.

JACOBI (O.C.)

Hey, man, you're back. Did you have a good time?

Luke swings around to find Jacobi standing in the doorway.

LUKE

Shit man, what the hell?!

JACOBI

(laughing)

Sorry, dude. I didn't mean to scare you.

LUKE

Ummm, yeah. It was really nice.

Jacobi notes Luke's eye fixated on the basket. Luke drops his shirt on top and walks out of the bathroom... Jacobi picks up the shirt, looks at the blood, and drops it in the basket.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luke nervously grabs a beer from the fridge. Jacobi appears --

JACOBI

Did you hear the good news? The charges were dropped. I can start playing ball again.

LUKE

Yeah, man that's great. I heard it on the radio.

And chugs his beer to avoid further discussion.

JACOBI

Yeah, they are calling it an accident. She must have fallen. She was drunk. Her alcohol level was high.

LUKE

Yeah, man, I guess so. I need to change and head out.

Luke heads toward his bedroom. Jacobi follows...

JACOBI

Okay, man, but we need to get together. I want you to tell me about this chick.

Luke swings around and shoves Jacobi.

LUKE

She's not a chick. She is a lady.

JACOBI

Okay, okay. What the hell, man!

LUKE

I'm going to stay with Karen.

JACOBI

OK. Sorry, man...

Jacobi stands back, rattled. Luke holds his look.

LUKE
I am just late.

Luke enters his bedroom and shuts the door.

INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's sparse. Luke sits on the bed looking perturbed. He takes his wallet from the bedside table and stares at his family photo. Then, he takes the pendant in his shaking hands...

LUKE
That poor girl. All those other
women.

Luke checks the timer: "30 days/720 hours" (until 6 months).

He's ready to push the button when his PHONE RINGS. Luke looks at the screen, the caller ID reads: "COLE CALLING."

LUKE (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
Dude, what's up?

COLE (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
We are out. Bring some seeds.

Luke recoils at the CLICK! Off his look, we move to...

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

The energy from the CROWD is electric in the packed stands.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Our guys are on happy albeit fickle with their adoration.

COMMENTATOR #1
Luke Bradford is making a name for
himself as both a pitcher and a
hitter with a winning record on the
hill and three home runs and a
batting average of .230 at the
plate.

COMMENTATOR #2

If that weren't enough, ESPN calls him as a rookie sensation with the best-selling jersey in the league. The Diamondbacks have a winning record and are playing great, too. In fact, the Arizona fans love this team and I couldn't be more excited for the playoff push.

EXT. STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Luke pitches and the crowd is going crazy. Three straight strikeouts and he's on his way to another big outing.

EXT. DUGOUT - DAY

Luke takes some sunflower seeds from his pocket and out drops his pendant necklace. It falls to the ground. Just as Luke is about to pick it up, Cole takes it in his hands.

COLE

(laughs)

Is this a Disney World trinket?

Luke hastily takes it back from Cole.

LUKE

Something like that.

Cole notes how anxious Luke is handling the pendant.

COLE

Alright Bradford, let's go!

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

The Diamondbacks take an early lead and Luke confidently goes out to the mound. After another 1-2-3 inning, Luke walks back to the dugout with the team and winks at Karen in the stands.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators are also impressed.

COMMENTATOR #1

With back-to-back doubles, the Diamondbacks get another run and lead 2-0.

COMMENTATOR #2

It's been seven innings of hard-throwing.

EXT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Todd Sternberg (manager we met earlier) approaches Luke. He's sitting beside Cole, eyes fixated on the opposing players.

TODD

Hey, Luke, I just want to see how your arm is and how you're doing? Your pitch count is 82. Do you want to continue?

LUKE

Yeah, coach, I am good. Let's go all nine if I can.

TODD

Alright son, you got it.

The manager walks off. Luke turns to Cole --

LUKE

I can't believe he is going to let me keep pitching with the game so close.

COLE

Bradford, you have a no-hitter. He wants you to close it out.

And goes to fist bump Luke but he's now in dreamland.

LUKE

I've been so focused on each batter that I didn't even notice...

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

We're back with the commentators.

COMMENTATOR #1

The Diamondbacks are out of the inning and ready to start the eighth. And Luke is on the verge of a no-hitter.

Luke looks at the scoreboard. Sees... Zero in the hit column.

EXT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Luke shakes his head and looks to Cole.

LUKE

Really, a fucking no-hitter. I
can't believe this.

COLE

Alright, Bradford. Two innings -
just you and me. Let's kick their
ass.

Cole gives Luke another fist bump that he catches this time.

LUKE

Let's do it.

Luke and Cole head out...

EXT. STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Karen and Joel are nearby excited to see Luke up close.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Luke walks slowly yet with confidence while the other players
excitedly hurry to their places. The crowd is going NUTS!

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Luke comes out fast and strikes out the first batter.

-- Tries the same with the second batter but walks him.

-- Next one gets into a 3-2 count before lacing a hard
grounder to short. It is scooped up with ease.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators are thrilled.

COMMENTATOR #1

There you have it- the Diamondbacks
turned a quick double play to end
the inning.

COMMENTATOR #2

How's about that first strike out.

COMMENTATOR #1

Bradford's definitely on his game. With the score 2-0, the Diamondbacks have the ninth inning upon them. If Bradford can close this out with a no-hitter, he will definitely be a rookie sensation.

EXT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Luke and the team get a massive reaction from the crowd as they approach the dugout. Luke and Cole sit alone together, huddling closely to talk about their next pitch strategy.

COLE

We gotta deal with Bates.

Luke looks serious as hell as he nods his head. Cole pats his shoulder and they stand to head out...

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Luke and Cole see the fans standing up for the players. Luke catches sight of Karen and Joel who signal him 'good luck.'

Luke gets the signs from the catcher and throws a strike.

After the next few pitches, Luke strikes out the batter.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

COMMENTATOR #1

The second batter Adam Bates is up. He is one of the best players in baseball, so Luke has got to be careful.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The cocky batter ADAM BATES (30s) takes seven pitches and is dealing with a full count. He hits the ball to the third baseman that dives to his right by the bag to snag the ball.

UMP

Out.

It was so close, but the call is correct, and Bates is out.

BATES
 (to himself)
 Fucker.

Luke gets the ball ready for the next batter.

Ball 1. Ball 2. Ball 3.

COLE (O.C.)
 Time out.

Cole and Luke speak to one another.

COLE (CONT'D)
 Hey man, you feeling okay?

LUKE
 Yeah, I'm good. I just--

COLE
 You don't want to give him a
 strike, right?

Luke nods yes for the answer.

COLE (CONT'D)
 Bradford, you have me and the team
 behind you. Look around; everyone
 is behind you. You can do this.
 This is my game, too. Throw your
 fastball as hard as you can where I
 tell you three times, and we will
 get this no-hitter.

LUKE
 Alright Cole, let's do it.

Luke looks confident as Cole returns to the plate and gets ready. The batter didn't swing; it was right down the middle.

UMP
 Strike one.

Luke pitches... The batter swings at a strike that is high and outside but part of the plate.

UMP (CONT'D)
 Strike two.

The batter gets in a little closer to the plate.

Luke sees the sign and throws his pitch as hard as he can to the top and inside part of the plate.

The radar screen reading: "99."

The batter swings and hits the fastball deep to left field.

The left fielder is running as fast as he can and jumps up into the wall to catch the ball.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

The commentators are pretty shocked.

COMMENTATOR #1

It's over. Luke just pitched a no-hitter.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Luke reaching out to shake Cole's hand.

LUKE

We did it, man.

Cole grabs Luke instead and squeezes him tight. The embrace lasts one second before they're engulfed by the entire team.

Hannah and Tim are crying.

Karen tries to hide her tears from Joel but he's crying too.

Luke does an interview with the team's media representative.

REP

So Luke, was this your plan when you got up this morning?

LUKE

Umm, not really, of course, I always want to pitch well.

Luke spots the Gatorade boys coming for him. The rep follows his gaze and then steps back so Luke can get doused...

REP

(laughs)

Alright, let's get this over with. You said you wanted to pitch well. Well, you did. A no-hitter as a rookie is amazing. You set the bar high my friend.

LUKE

Well, thank you, Vickie. I just wanted a win. I knew the other pitcher was going to be tough on our guys not giving them many breaks, so I wanted to be tough on theirs.

The rep smiles and shakes his hand. Luke immediately goes over to Karen to hug and kiss her.

KAREN

I can't believe it, Luke, you did it. That was amazing. All the fans love you.

LUKE

Thanks, Karen. I love you. I have to go. The guys want to take me out tonight. I will see you later, bye.

Luke departs before Karen can reply. A look of disappointment comes over her face for a brief moment. Joel nudges Karen.

JOEL

Hey- did I just hear the four-letter word from Luke Bradford?

Karen looks up at him with an ecstatic smile and nods.

EXT. LAST CALL NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The owner brings the team another round of drinks. Some of the guys leave, but Luke, Cole, and Jacobi stick around.

JACOBI

I'd like to make a toast to you, buddy. Holy fuck no-hitter!

Two beautiful women walk past sexily eyeing the men.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

(to the women)

Hey, how about a dance for pal?

The BLONDE HOTTIE straddles Luke and starts a lap dance.

BLONDE

Hey baby, so what is your specialty?

LUKE

I'm a pitcher.

He holds her look for a beat. She's really attractive...

BLONDE

You can touch me, sweetheart. It's just you and me.

Luke starts to caress her as requested. Then she grab's Luke's neck to pull him close to kiss. It's quite a kiss.

JACOBI

Get it, dude.

Luke stops and gently pries himself apart from the dancer.

LUKE

Thank you.

She reaches to the table and writes her number on a napkin, folding it seductively into his pocket before she leaves.

DANCER #2 (O.C.)

I said, don't touch me!

Luke's head swivels in time to see Jacobi's lap dance turn sour. He's trying to touch and kiss the girl, but she's trying to break free. One of the bouncers bounds over...

LUKE

(aloud to himself)

Fuck, Jacobi.

Luke quickly gets over there to calm the situation but he's definitely drunk, and the bouncer has little patience.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Sorry, Sir. We've all had a bit to drink, we'll head out now...

BOUNCER

You better. And don't bring him back.

Off Jacobi's look, we move to...

INT. JACOBI'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Jacobi behind the wheel. Luke in the passenger seat talking and mumbling with his eyes closed.

LUKE

I know you hurt those girls, man. That girl is dead because of me. I chose to come back.

JACOBI
What are you talking about? I
didn't hurt anyone. Fuck you.

Jacobi turns to see Luke passed out against the window.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM, KAREN'S HOUSE - DAY

Luke awakes next to Karen, holding her from behind. He lies there thinking -- wheels turning in his head --

VOICE (O.C.)
Come back, Luke.

He doesn't know what to make of the voice. Karen stirs and turns to face him, snuggling into his chest for more sleep.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Karen sorting their clothes. She starts with Luke's jeans on top of the basket, emptying the pockets to find the napkin.

INSERT - NOTE FROM "LISA," which reads:

"Call me handsome... Thx for the
kiss, Lisa."

Karen stares at the note and phone number. A beat. Then she starts crying. She picks up his white shirt and sees lipstick stains on the collar. Karen drops it on the floor in despair.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

The crowd going absolutely crazy despite the blaring sun.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Our commentators are beside themselves.

COMMENTATOR #1
The Diamondbacks sweep their latest
series!

COMMENTATOR #2

What a game. Hot on all fronts!

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Luke's looking past everyone to find Karen in her usual spot but she isn't there... He looks confused and disappointed as he's mobbed by Cole and the other players.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke appears in the doorway. Sees... Karen from behind, sitting on the sofa illuminated only by the lamp on the side table. There's a glass of red wine on the table.

LUKE

Hey, what's going on, you didn't go to the game?

No reply. Luke approaches the sofa to sit next to her...

LUKE (CONT'D)

I mean, I know I wasn't pitching, but you could still support--

He stops, because he now sees that she's been crying, her eyes red and puffy.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What's wrong Karen?

A beat. Something catches Luke's eye on the sofa. Sees...

The shirt and napkin beside Karen.

Luke hangs his head. A longer beat.

KAREN

I can't do this, Luke. I should have listened to myself and never got involved with you.

LUKE

Oh, come on, Karen. It was nothing. I was drunk. I just had a no-hitter for fuck sake.

KAREN

You know, if you just said I am sorry, and it was wrong, then I might consider staying with you. But you are making excuses.

(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

Look, Luke, you are handsome and famous, and you can have any girl you want. This is only going to get worse.

LUKE

Karen, I am sorry. It was stupid. I love you, and it will never happen again. You are my choice.

KAREN

Choice?

Luke's eyes dart nervously as he tries to recover --

LUKE

I mean, you are who I want to be with the rest of my life.

Karen gets up and starts pacing... Luke watches nervously.

KAREN

I love you, too, but we have only been dating five months. And now this, I don't know if you are the one.

LUKE

Karen, please.

KAREN

Just leave, Luke.

Karen turns away. And as Luke obeys her wishes, looking devastated as he walks through the doorway, we CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Luke's car stops at the red light at the intersection, his face twisted with anxiety. A silver car pulls up beside him.

INT. LUKE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Luke hears his walk-up song 'Thunder' by Imagine Dragons playing through the window of the silver car. He turns his head and looks at the driver. Stops in his tracks. Sees...

The same pendant necklace hanging from the rear-view mirror.

Luke's is startled. He's about to say something when the car pulls away and turns right in the intersection. He calls out--

LUKE

Wait!

But now CAR HORNS are blaring at Luke. He accelerates through the intersection and then screeches his car into a U-turn, spinning it around to try and find the silver car again...

Through the windshield, Luke spots the car ahead turning right. He quickly maneuvers through the traffic to follow but when he turns into the street he finds it totally empty.

INT. TOPS BAR - NIGHT

Luke sitting alone at the bar, the stool beside him empty.

BARTENDER

Can I get you anything?

LUKE

Yeah, set the TV on MLB network will you, please?

The bartender nods and hits the remote to change the channel.

JACOBI (O.C.)

Dude, what's up? Saw your text.

Luke turns to find Jacobi looking genuinely concerned.

LUKE

Have a drink with me.

Jacobi takes a seat on the stool.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Karen broke up with me.

JACOBI

Why?

LUKE

She thinks I cheated. But I didn't, but I mean, just sort of...she found that dancer's number in my pocket.

JACOBI

First- love that you call her a 'dancer.' It's stripper, bro. And that's no reason to get dumped, forget Karen. You have so many other women to choose from, man.

The men grab the beers served by the bartender.

BARTENDER

From the owner, on the house.

Jacobi smiles as Luke only musters a polite nod.

LUKE

That's awesome. Tell him thanks.

The bartender nods and heads to another customer.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I know, I know. But I love her.

JACOBI

You weren't even together that long. Forget her, I said.

LUKE

She was going to be my wife. Now my future is fucked up.

Luke droops his head on the bar counter.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I only have one month left.

JACOBI

What are you saying? You have your whole life. You are the man, Luke.

And as Jacobi eyes a pretty girl walking past, Luke looking defeated hunched over the bar, we CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BOX, STADIUM - DAY

Our commentators bring us up to speed.

COMMENTATOR #1

The Diamondbacks are playing at home, and Luke Bradford is now 14-7 with an ERA of 3.07 with one start left.

COMMENTATOR #2

If everything keeps going the way it has, Bradford will go down as being one of the most prolific rookie pitchers in baseball.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Luke heads to the mound as his WALK-UP MUSIC plays - it's 'Thunder' again by the Imagine Dragons. The CROWD cheers.

He sees his parents in the stands. It gives him pause as suddenly he looks melancholy about leaving it all behind.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Luke gets the signs from the catcher and it's a strike.

-- Luke walks two off to a bad start in the 1st inning.

-- Luke ends up giving up a 3-run home run.

-- Luke strolls back to the dugout after three outs.

INT. PRESS BOX - CONTINUOUS

Not much love from our commentators.

COMMENTATOR #1
Well that was a disaster.

COMMENTATOR #2
I don't think he'll get much love
in the dugout after that inning.

EXT. DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

And they're right. Luke takes a seat on the bench. Only Cole, his catcher, sits down beside him while the others stay away.

COLE
It was a bad inning, man, but we
will be on lockdown the rest of the
way, okay Bradford?

LUKE
Yeah, lockdown, gotcha.

Luke leans back into the bench. Then, something catches his eye. Sees... Jacobi giving him the disappointed evil eye.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. LAST CALL BAR - NIGHT

The same look from Jacobi sitting next to Luke. The TV is on and Luke watches himself get crucified on the huge screen.

ESPN ANALYST (V.O.)

(on the TV)

The team is losing. In the last two week, Luke Bradford's speed is down, his strikeouts are down, and his overall plate command is non-existent. Bradford's batting average has also dropped, and his strikeout count is alarmingly high.

He's talking to Vickie (the same rep from all the games).

VICKIE (V.O.)

(on the TV)

All true. And the Diamondbacks have another day off, which comes on the heels of a three-game losing streak. Maybe this will give management a chance to meet and evaluate Bradford and whether they want to proceed with him or bring someone else up from Triple-A.

Jacobi waves at the bartender to change the channel.

LUKE

A no-hitter to loser at 99 MPH.

JACOBI

Shake it off, man. You're still a rookie sensation. What's happened?

LUKE

I don't know what's happened.

He turns to face Jacobi earnestly.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I just don't have it anymore, okay?

JACOBI

Okay, but I think that chick--
(corrects himself) 'lady' - has got you messed up inside. She's the reason you're sucking ass. Who would dump a pro baseball player? I need to talk to her ass--

Luke grabs Jacobi by the shirt to make a fist.

LUKE

Don't you fucking touch her Jacobi. Just stay away; you got that?

JACOBI

Yeah, sure man. No worries.

He puts his hands up. Luke lets go of his shirt and turns back to face the TV. Then he shouts at the bartender --

LUKE

Who told you to change the channel?

The bartender and Jacobi exchange a startled look.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I was watching that- please.

The bartender obeys and flips the channel back to ESPN.

VICKIE (V.O.)

(on the TV)

The Diamondbacks are still playoff-bound, but they'll need all hands on deck if they expect to make a serious run. Did Bradford start too early or is he just in a slump? It's something their manager needs to determine. Back to you guys.

Jacobi turns to Luke. He puts his hand on his shoulder.

JACOBI

Did you hear that fool? You're gonna join me soon in AAA unless you get on the stick.

Luke doesn't say a word and continues watching TV.

JACOBI (CONT'D)

You are their teammate. They need you. Whatever, man, I'm outta here.

Off Luke's 'who cares' look, we move to...

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Luke exits the bathroom unshaven and looking like shit in his boxers and sweat-stained t-shirt. He picks up his phone --

LUKE

Todd? Yeah, it's Luke... I've come down with the flu, I can't make the game tonight. Sorry. Best of luck.

Luke hangs up. He stands there regretfully and starts to cry.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 (to himself, agitated)
 What do I do? What should I do?!

Luke lifts the pendant from around his neck and turns it to look at the timer: "19:59 minutes" (remaining to 6 months).

Luke paces, unravelling. Then, his PHONE BEEPS alerting him to a text message. It's from Jacobi and it's a picture --

LUKE (CONT'D)
 Jacobi- what have you done?

Now we see what Luke sees...

Karen gagged and tied to her bed. She has a bloody nose and appears to be crying. Jacobi's looking straight to camera.

INSERT - JACOBI'S TEXT, which reads:

"She won't bother you again."

Luke hits the call log and speed dials a number: "JACOBI." He rushes to get dressed as it rings through to voicemail. As Luke grabs his keys and frantically rushes out, we CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S CAR - NIGHT

Where he SCREECHES out of the carpark and onto the road. Luke redials the number, swerving through traffic at high speed.

LUKE
 (screams)
 Answer the phone dammit. Get out of
 the way.

Luke runs a red light and has a near miss with an SUV.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 Fuck! Fuck you, Jacobi!

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke pulls up in the driveway. He looks at the upstairs window and sees Jacobi standing over the bed. Then, Luke's pendant makes a BEEPING sound. He panics and looks down just in time to see the timer counting down: "00:18 seconds."

WHITE OUT.

FADE UP:

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - A MOMENT LATER

Luke opens his eyes.

LUKE'S POV

AUDIO FX -- There's a cold and hollow SILENCE...

VISUAL FX -- OVERCRANKED CAMERA

Luke looks around... sees only fractured pieces... WHITE UNIFORMS... HIS MOTHER... PANIC-FILLED FACES...

Hannah mouths "Are you alright?"... Barely audible...

A nurse steps forward...

BACK

She helps Luke sit up. He's in a hospital bed. Luke looks around for someone. SOUND starts to come back...

LUKE

Where is she?

Hannah turns to the nurse.

HANNAH

He's awake, oh my God, he's awake.

The nurse hits the 'call button.' Hannah looks up as a lady wearing black scrubs and a lab coat walks in...

It's Dr. Karen Moser. But she looks different than before.

DR. MOSER

Welcome back, Mr. Bradford.

LUKE

Back? Where am I? Am I back in time?

The nurse and Karen exchange a look.

DR. MOSER

You were in a coma.

LUKE
(scrambling)
Where's Alex?

Off Karen's puzzled look.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Where's our son?

DR. MOSER
I think you were dreaming, Mr.
Bradford. After your accident you
haven't left the hospital.

LUKE
Is Jacobi here?

Luke looks to Hannah and she lowers her head.

DR. MOSER
Jacobi is dead. He died in the
accident. I am so sorry.

LUKE
Oh my God. He *is* dead. I killed
him. My family doesn't exist. And I
will never play baseball again. Was
everything a dream? I have nothing.

HANNAH
Luke, what are you talking about?
Your family is here, and as soon as
you recover, you will be fine.

She sits on the bed and holds his hand.

LUKE
Fine? (then to Karen) What about my
leg? You said I would never be able
to pitch again.

DR. MOSER
Nobody said that. You had a
laceration on your leg that I
sutured immediately. Stitches will
be out in 7 days. You should be
discharged as soon as you are
medically cleared and ready to go.

LUKE
But what about rehab, and time
travel, and you and me and Alex?

DR. MOSER

I am sorry Luke, but it seems like
a good dream.

Dr. Moser turns to the nurse.

DR. MOSER (CONT'D)

Let's schedule a neuro evaluation.

The nurse nods and exits the room.

DR. MOSER (CONT'D)

I'll be back to check on you.

LUKE

Thank you for everything, doctor.

DR. MOSER

Of course. Get some rest, Luke.

Then, something catches Luke's eye. Sees... Chloe appear in
the doorway. Karen watches her run over to tightly hug Luke.

CHLOE

I love you so much. I've missed
you. I want to follow you and go
wherever you go.

Luke holds Chloe's look. He realizes that Karen in the dream
was Chloe all along. He squeezes her back tightly teary-eyed.

LUKE

(to Karen)

So, what do I do now, doc?

DR. MOSER

(smiles)

You can do whatever you want. Your
future is what you make it, Luke.

Off Luke's hopeful look, we FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE: "TWO YEARS LATER."

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Luke standing on the mound wearing a Diamondbacks hat and
uniform. He's in the wind-up position. Luke stares at the
catcher for the signs and throws the pitch.

UMP

Strike.

The CROWD goes wild. Luke smiles and winks at Chloe in the stands behind the dugout -- she's holding their baby son.

FADE OUT.