

CONNOR

"Picture Perfect"

by
Michael Jay

TEASER

FADE IN.

EXT. L.A. SKYLINE - MORNING

Establishing shot of the sun rising, signaling the start of a new day.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - KITCHEN - MORNING

CONNOR blearily rubs his eyes and yawns as he rummages through the fridge.

He stands and looks around, making sure he's alone before pulling out a gallon of orange juice and chugging from it. A few gulps later, he replaces the jug in the fridge, again checking to make sure he's alone.

He looks down to the floor and Lesi's water and food bowl, still full.

CONNOR
(curious)
Huh.

He looks up at the clock. Ten in the morning. He squints, a bit confused now and walks into:

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He looks around the empty room.

CONNOR
Lesi! Come here, girl. Breakfast.
(beat)
Probably still sleeping.

He picks up the cordless landline phone and dials a number.

CONNOR
(into phone)
Hey Pike, it's me. You got the-
(beat)
Cool. Yeah, she should be home for her lunch break in a couple of hours. Can you make it over before then?
(beat)
Yeah? Sweet. See you in a bit.

He hangs up and puts the phone back on the charger. A small red light is flashing on it, indicating a new message. Connor presses 'play' on the machine.

MACHINE

(recorded female voice)

One new message...received today at
nine a.m.

(beep)

Hey Gabriella, it's Lisa. Listen, I
know we don't exactly talk at
work...come to think of it you
don't really talk to anyone.

Anyway, you haven't been in all
week and Tony's asking questions.
He's got a temp at your desk right
now. You might wanna give us a call
soon, okay hun? Oh, and happy
birthday. Bye

(beep)

End of messages.

Connor picks up a small stick of mail, thumbing through it. Most of it's junk addressed to 'occupant'. There's a letter to him with a return address in England and a stack of bills addressed to 'Gabriella Robinson'.

CONNOR

(to himself)

Thought she said they'd fix this.

Connor walks over to Gabriella's door and knocks.

CONNOR

Gab? You home?

(beat; opens door)

Well, if you are, I hope you're
decent.

He sticks his head into:

INT. G&C'S CONDO - GABRIELLA'S ROOM - NEXT

Pan across the room. Bed immaculately made. No Lesi. No sign of any recent inhabitant.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - MORNING

ON the dew covered grass. GABRIELLA's sandal covered feet are accompanied by the four paws of LESI. Pan up to see the ladies themselves.

Gabriella is looking pensive, like she really doesn't want to be here.

She comes to a stop in front of two GRAVES.

ON the graves. The larger reads 'Paul Robinson: 1977 - 2001' and the smaller is inscribed with 'Jennifer Robinson: 1995 - 2001.

Gabriella sighs.

GABRIELLA

Hey, you two. Sorry I haven't been by in awhile.

(beat; rolls eyes)

God, I say that every year, don't I?

Through a CAMERA POV, Gabriella continues her conversation. Zoom in on her a bit before the shutter snaps a few times, capturing her image.

Back with Gabriella. She kneels down and pulls out a few weeds surrounding the headstones.

GABRIELLA

I swear, the groundkeepers here should be fired.

She traces her fingers along the inscriptions on Paul's headstone. There's a wedding ring plainly visible on her third finger, one that's never been there before.

GABRIELLA

One of these days, I'm gonna figure out what else I want to write on these.

Her eyes are welling up with tears now. Lesi whimpers, sensing the heavy emotion here. Gabriella reaches out and hugs her neck.

GABRIELLA

Whenever I try to think of something, the only words that flash in my head are the byline from that newspaper.

She pauses to wipe away the slowly trickling tears, her bottom lip trembling, fighting the full on sob.

She looks over to her daughter's tombstone now.

GABRIELLA

You're being good for your Auntie Alessia, right Jenny? What am I saying? Of course you are.

Back on the camera POV, snapping a few more photos. Reverse on the vantage point, a large tree about twenty feet from Gabriella's position.

A well dressed, tanned, attractive man lowers his camera. He steals one last look at Gabriella and walks away.

Back on Gabriella, still managing to contain her emotions. She tearfully smiles, that sad combination of depression and remembrance.

GABRIELLA

Remember when you used to be bad
and I'd threaten to send you to
Camp Alessia for basic training?

She turns back to Paul's grave.

GABRIELLA

(sniffling)

I'm sorry, baby. I keep trying not
to cry every year.

(shakes her head)

Last night, Connor and I were
watching some God awful movie and
he goes in the kitchen and comes
back with a pint of rocky road. I
just got up and went to bed.

She can't fight it anymore. The tears and sobs are coming freely now.

GABRIELLA

(sobbing)

It was my favorite.

She buries her tear covered face in her hands. Her body shakes from the ragged sobs. Lesi just looks at her, still whimpering.

DISSOLVE TO the parking lot of the graveyard. Just inside the window, the photographer is removing the camera from around his neck and placing in the passenger seat.

Right next to a large stack of candid photographs, all of Gabriella!

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pan around the room to show streamers strung along the walls and a large 'Happy Birthday' banner. Stop on Connor tying strings to balloons.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - KITCHEN - NEXT

PIKE and KAIA are getting plates and silverware together. On the table is an enormous cake (far too big for this group) that reads 'Happy Birthday Gabriella' in red frosting.

They're stealing glances at one another, just barely catching one another's eyes and smiling.

PIKE

Glad you could make it.

KAIA

Well, she's my friend too.

PIKE

I know, I just understand you've gotta be busy lately, leading your pack and all.

KAIA

(corrects him)

Clan. My clan.

(beat; hinting)

Not too busy to take a phone call every now and then.

PIKE

Yeah, umm...I know. You know I don't do well with this sort of thing.

KAIA

(incredulous)

You've dated a werewolf before?

PIKE

No, just...I dunno.

She smiles and shakes her head. He missed the sarcasm. Her expression quickly turns somber.

KAIA

I miss you, Oli.

Pike gives her a look, but doesn't respond. They continue to go about their business, neither wanting to pry any further until:

PIKE
Hey, what are you doing later
today?

KAIA
(deadpan)
Shedding.

Pike gives her a look that begs to know if she's joking. She puts a stack of napkins on the table and turns back to him with a grin.

KAIA
Joke. I'm joking. Remember, we used
to do that?

PIKE
Right, sorry.

KAIA
After this shindig, I got nothing
on the agenda.
(hopeful)
Is that an invitation?

PIKE
Well, I was gonna grab a beer and
shoot some pool and...yeah, it is.

KAIA
I'd like that.

Pike steps over and joins her standing over the table.

PIKE
I don't wanna jump back into it.
Still trying to...adjust, or
something.

KAIA
I know. Kinda weird, considering
it's you we're talking about here.

She looks down at the cake and gives him a mischievous grin.

KAIA
Should I?

Pike grins and nods. Kaia dips her finger along the edge of the cake, getting a glob of icing on her finger tip. She sucks it off, a bit more seductively than necessary.

Pike looks almost mesmerized.

PIKE
Uh...how is it?

KAIA
It's good. Sweet.
(dips her finger again)
Here, try it.

Pike hesitates, but Kaia gives him a look that says it's okay. He tentatively licks the icing off her finger, getting a bit of it on the side of his face.

Kaia reaches up and gently wipes the icing off his lip. They hold a gaze for a spell before she closes her eyes and leans in.

He immediately pulls back.

PIKE
Whoa, down girl.
(beat)
No pun intended.

KAIA
Sorry, I-

PIKE
No, it's cool. It's okay. Me? Still adjusting though. I want to take it a little slower.

KAIA
Right. Slower.
(beat)
Like beer and nine ball?

PIKE
You're on.

They share a smile, both filled with both hope and anxiety.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NEXT

The landline rings. Connor dashes over and picks it up.

CONNOR

Hello?

(beat)

She is? Okay, great. Thanks, dude.

He hangs up, a bit of anxiety in his expression now. He turns to the kitchen and:

CONNOR

Hey, guys! Guys! She's on the way up.

He picks up a cheesy noisemaker and gives it a test blow.

INT. HALLWAY - THE CHARON - DAY

Gabriella walks down the hall, Lesi on a short leash at her side. She wipes her eyes with her finger, still a tiny bit choked up.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NEXT

Pike and Kaia have joined Connor in the living staring at the front door. Connor holds up two of those cheesy cone hats.

CONNOR

(grinning)

Hey, I got these.

Pike and Kaia look down at the monstrosities for a beat before Pike SLAPS them out of Connor's hand.

PIKE

Grow up, dude.

Connor's face falls.

INT. HALLWAY - THE CHARON - NEXT

Gabriella gets to her door, unlocks it, and:

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NEXT

Gabriella jumps in fright at:

ALL THREE

Surprise!

Gabriella looks at all of them, dumbfounded. Dead silence.

Connor meekly blows on his noisemaker.

Lesi looks at the three, then back at her master. She WHIMPERS and trots off, head hung low, to Gabriella's room.

CONNOR
Uh, happy birthday?

GABRIELLA
(eyes brimming with tears)
How could you?

She runs off to the kitchen.

Connor looks back at Pike and Kaia, who nod at him to follow her.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - KITCHEN - NEXT

Gabriella is chugging a glass of ice water. She finishes it off and pinches the bridge of her nose just as Connor walks in.

She whirls on him, good and angry. Connor holds his hands up defensively.

CONNOR
Now, I know you didn't want to make a big deal out of your birthday, but I figured-

GABRIELLA
What, Connor? What part of "I do not celebrate my birthday" did you not get?

CONNOR
I know, I know. It's just...

He scratches the back of his head, trying to pick his words.

GABRIELLA
Just nothing. I don't care about today, alright? I wish today didn't exist! Is that clear enough for you?

CONNOR
I'm sorry. I...look, when I was a kid, my parents made it a point to make our birthdays a big deal. It's like you get crapped on every other day of the year, so your birthday should-

GABRIELLA
What the hell are you talking
about?

Connor gives her a confused look.

GABRIELLA
Connor, you never celebrated a real
birthday! That's all a bunch of
crap they jammed in your head.

Connor's taken aback, clearly hurt now and on the defensive.

CONNOR
(angry)
Point of fact, you said 'they' when
you meant 'we'.

GABRIELLA
(frustrated)
God, that's not the point.

CONNOR
What is the point then? What am I
missing here?

Gabriella starts to answer, but shakes her head instead.

GABRIELLA
Even if I told you, it wouldn't get
through that skull. Forget it.

She brushes past him. He doesn't try to stop her, knowing
it's pointless.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NEXT

Pike and Kaia are sitting on the couch, having heard the
whole conversation. Gabriella walks right by them.

GABRIELLA
Lesi!

Lesi comes running up to her, leash still dragging behind
her.

GABRIELLA
Leash.

Lesi twists around and grabs the leash in her mouth. She
stands on her hind legs, presenting it to Gabriella, who
takes it from her mouth.

Connor comes out of the kitchen.

CONNOR
Hey, where are you going?

GABRIELLA
Taking my dog for a walk.

CONNOR
(blinks)
You already walked her.

Gabriella shoots daggers through him with her eyes (not literally). He didn't just say that.

She yanks the door open so hard it almost comes off the hinges.

GABRIELLA
And you could've waited 'til I got
here before someone licked the damn
cake!

SLAM. The door's closed. She's gone. Connor looks at his two friends on the couch.

CONNOR
Who licked the cake?

Kaia slumps down a little further.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Gabriella's stomping mad, walking much faster than she needs to. Lesi is keeping up just fine, but obviously she's not used to this pace.

Gab stops in a field of open grass and pulls a tennis ball out from her small purse.

She reaches down and takes off Lesi's leash.

GABRIELLA
Alright, go get it.

She throws the ball. Lesi retrieves it at warp speed, getting it back to her hand in no time.

Gabriella winds up again, this time her eyes SPARKLE a bit before she hurls it as hard as she can. A short streak of light trails off the ball as it sails out of frame. Lesi's off like a dart.

Gabriella sighs, the aggression not quite worked out yet.

MALE (O.S.)
Go get it, boy!

Off to Gabriella's side, a frisbee whizzes by. A half second, a large Great Dane zips by, going after it.

The photographer from earlier steps into frame!

He looks over to Gabriella and clears his throat.

Gabriella looks over at him, a bit taken aback by his looks. She recovers pretty quickly.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Hell of an arm you got there.

Gabriella half scoffs, half smiles and shakes her head.

GABRIELLA
Was that your version of a pick up
line?

The Dane returns with the frisbee. It gets thrown again and he's off.

PHOTOGRAPHER
I prefer to call it breaking the
ice.

GABRIELLA
I call it a warning sign to get out
my mace.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Whoa, whoa, there. What's with the
hostility?

GABRIELLA
This is Los Angeles, honey. Men
don't break the ice here. They tend
to skip right to the date rape.
(beat)
You're obviously not from here.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Hey, I'm just making conversation.

She scoffs, full on this time.

GABRIELLA
Like that ever happens.

Lesi finally returns. She drops the ball at Gabriella's feet before falling over to her side, panting heavily. Gabriella kneels down, now not facing the man, and strokes her fur.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Okay, mind if I try again?

GABRIELLA
(cold)
Yep.

He walks over and sticks out his hand.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Gray DeSouza.

He flashes her a smile. Despite herself, she can't help but smile at his persistence, though he can't see her face.

She does shake though, still kneeling over her dog.

GRAY
Okay, now we're getting somewhere.

She stands back up to look him in the eye.

GABRIELLA
No, we're not. Points for effort though.

Gray gives her another million dollar smile.

GRAY
Hey, I'll take points any way I can get them.
(beat)
So can I parlay those points into a hot dog?

GABRIELLA
Wow.
(beat)
You are so full of crap.
(to Lesi)
Come on, girl.

Lesi leans her head up and whimpers. She ain't moving anytime soon. Gabriella kneels down and scratches her stomach.

GABRIELLA
(to Lesi; harsh)
You're supposed to be on my side.

GRAY

You know, there are such things as nice guys in the world.

GABRIELLA

Mm hmm. They're all married.

GRAY

There are single ones too.

GABRIELLA

We call them gay.

GRAY

(beat; shrugs)

This is LA, not San Fran.

Gabriella laughs in spite of herself. She doesn't want to like this guy, but his charms are working.

GABRIELLA

(sighs)

Gabriella Heron.

(beat)

One hot dog. Try anything funny and I make you a permanent soprano.

GRAY

It's cool. I love that show.

Another winning smile. Smooth as silk. Gabriella laughs once again.

JUMP CUT TO a hot dog stand in another part of the park.

Gray pays the vendor as Gabriella loads her (veggie) dog up with every condiment in sight. Gray watches her pile on the artery cloggers.

GRAY

(in awe)

That's a hell of a dog. Are you from here?

They begin to walk, their dogs between them, playfully nipping at one another.

GRAY

Most of the women I meet here eat ice on a toothpick for lunch.

GABRIELLA

I'm not most women.

GRAY

Kinda figured that out for myself.

Gabriella blushes slightly. Her defenses are totally down now. She takes a bite of her dog and gulps it down.

GABRIELLA

Seriously, if it ain't sloppy, it ain't good.

Gray shakes his head at her.

GRAY

You're like...not of this world.

Gabriella smiles again. It's frighteningly becoming a perpetual expression.

GABRIELLA

What about you, Mr. DeSouza? What world are you from?

GRAY

One more foreign than yours, I'd wager.

(off her look)

I'm a professional photographer.

Gabriella rolls her eyes. Now it makes sense.

GABRIELLA

No wonder you had such good lines.

GRAY

(eyebrow raised; wry)

I had good lines?

GABRIELLA

You gonna tell me I have a unique look and you could make me a superstar? For a price?

GRAY

Actually, my clients keep their dignity. I'm from the Midwest. None of the women I meet here are related to me, so they're not as attractive.

It's a crude joke, but it does manage to get Gabriella to smile again and put her at ease.

GABRIELLA
Do they keep their clothes on
though?

GRAY
See for yourself.

He motions for her to follow him.

FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Gray hits a button on his keyless entry pad and the trunk to his convertible penis mobile (sorry, BMW) pops open.

He ruffles through the contents, producing a large PORTFOLIO and hands to Gabriella.

She leafs through it, seeing several different styles of print ads. Lingerie, jeans, swimwear, a little bit of everything.

GRAY
See anything you recognize?

GABRIELLA
(still looking)
Nope. I mean, I don't really read
any of those glamor mags.

GRAY
People actually read them?

She offers up a smile.

GABRIELLA
I don't even look at them.

GRAY
(blinks)
You're really not from LA, are you?

She doesn't answer, admiring what is admittedly some damn fine work.

GABRIELLA
This is...quite good actually.

GRAY
Still considering the mace?

GABRIELLA
(smirking)
Slightly.

She closes the portfolio and hands it back to him.

GABRIELLA
Okay, I give. I'm impressed.

GRAY
Thanks. It's not as easy as it
looks.
(beat)
Listen, I've got a studio a few
blocks from here. Nothing fancy,
but I'd like to show you around if
that's okay.

Gabriella looks a little wary. Gray immediately catches this.

GRAY
Don't worry, there's other people
there. Plenty in fact. There's a
shoot going on right now with
another guy in my agency.

Gabriella considers the notion for a bit. She doesn't feel
like going home right now anyway.

GABRIELLA
Sure. I'll drive myself though.

GRAY
No problem. I don't mind riding
shotgun.

She shoots him a look. He holds his hands up defensively.

GRAY
Kidding, kidding.

She gives him a smile and heads off to her car. He watches
her leaves, more specifically her swaying hips.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Gray holds a door open for Gabriella. She enters, dumbstruck
by the new surroundings.

Agents pacing back and forth on cell phones talking. Models
walking around in robes with high heels. Several layouts with
models being photographed.

GABRIELLA

Foreign world. You weren't kidding.

GRAY

(smirking)

Stick close to me. Everyone here speaks Hollywood. You'll need me to translate.

He maneuvers her through the crowd, ducking around clothing racks and cameras like it's an obstacle course he's done a million times.

He comes up on a short, animated gentleman alternating between talking into his hands free set and checking items off a clipboard.

GRAY

Yo, Jimmy!

JIMMY DEAUX (pronounced 'dough') doesn't answer. Gray reaches up and pulls the earpiece off of him.

GRAY

(into ear piece)

He'll call you back.

Jimmy hits a button on the phone attached to his hip.

JIMMY

That's very rude.

GRAY

Sue me. Jimmy, this is Gabriella Heron.

Gabriella's a good four inches taller than this guy, but he swaggers up to her like he's got a shot in hell.

JIMMY

(shakes her hand)

Please to make your acquaintance.
I'm Mr. DeSouza's personal assistant.

Jimmy leans down (doesn't have to go too far) and kisses her hand. Gray looks at Gabriella and winks.

GRAY

That's the resume phrase for 'bitch monkey'.

Gabriella smiles. Jimmy is not amused.

GRAY

Jimmy, please get Miss Heron some water.

Jimmy's bravado is gone now. Gray just totally punked him out.

GRAY

Go on. Shoo. If you're quick, there'll be a banana in it for ya.

Jimmy scowls and leaves.

Gray points to a nearby couch and motions for Gabriella to sit down. He also takes a seat, making it a point to keep a respectable distance.

GABRIELLA

This place is just...

GRAY

(finishes for her)
Different? Yeah, that's why I spend my down time with the bitch.
(off her look)
My dog.

Jimmy walks up to the couch, almost shoving a bottled water in Gabriella's face.

Gabriella accepts it with a smile. She opens it and takes a sip.

JIMMY

Gray, there's some business to go over if you got a minute.

GRAY

Oh, err...
(to Gabriella)
Would you mind? I won't be long.

GABRIELLA

No, go right ahead.

Gray nods his thanks and walks off with Jimmy. Once they're out of earshot of Gabriella:

GRAY

What's in the water?

JIMMY

GHB. Didn't appreciate the monkey
line, by the way.

GRAY

Gotta keep up the charm, my friend.

Behind them, Gabriella curls her legs up under her on the
couch and rests her head on her arm.

GRAY

She's perfect. I mean, dead on
perfect.

JIMMY

Told you she would be when I
spotted her. You sure you can close
the deal?

GRAY

Go drink some Midol, Jimmy. I'm a
professional.

Jimmy walks away. Gray looks back at Gabriella, who is fast
asleep on the couch. His expression completely blank.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN.

EXT. PHOTO STUDIO - NIGHT

Establishing shot of the (quarter) moon in the sky. Pan down to the studio.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriella is still knocked out on the couch. Gray gently shakes her until she stirs back to consciousness.

GABRIELLA
Wha...huh?

GRAY
Hey, sleeping beauty.

Gabriella sits up on the couch and stretches her arms.

GABRIELLA
(blearily)
What time is it?

GRAY
Nine thirty.

GABRIELLA
Oh gosh, I'm sorry.

GRAY
It's cool. I got tied up helping out on a shoot anyway. Lost track of time. Entirely my fault.

He stands and holds out his hand to help her up. She accepts and stands, a little wobbly.

GRAY
Whoa, you okay?

GABRIELLA
Yeah, I'm good. Nothing a latte won't fix.

GRAY
Well there's a Starbucks-

GABRIELLA
Around the corner, I know. There's always one around the corner.
(MORE)

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

(beat)

Listen, I should be going.

GRAY

Of course, I'm sorry I kept you so long.

GABRIELLA

It's alright. Not like I've got much to go home to.

She (shakily) walks off towards the door. Gray pauses a minute before jogging over to catch up with her.

GRAY

(hesitant)

Look, umm, I'd like to see you again.

Gabriella looks up at him, a bit surprised at that request.

GABRIELLA

Umm..sure. I mean, I guess that would be nice.

GRAY

Great! Is tomorrow too soon? Coffee around lunch time?

GABRIELLA

That's fine. A late lunch though.

GRAY

Whenever.

He pulls out a notepad, scribbles something, and tears off a sheet for her.

GABRIELLA

You don't have a card?

GRAY

Hundreds, but this feels a bit more personal.

Gabriella smiles yet again.

GABRIELLA

Thank you for today. I needed to...forget about the world for awhile.

GRAY

Glad to be an escape. Next time,
we'll try alcohol. It's never
failed me.

He pushes the exit door open for her.

GABRIELLA

Night.

GRAY

Night.

She walks out and he again watches her leave.

INT. PIKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Pike and Kaia are wrapped up in one another on his bed. Pike looks down at his girl and smiles wryly. The sort of smile every man has moments after mind boggling great sex.

Kaia stirs and pulls herself tighter to him.

PIKE

So much for taking things slow.

KAIA

(giggling)

Five hours not slow enough for you?

Pike smirks and kisses the top of her head.

KAIA

So, does this mean-

PIKE

Shh. Let's think about that post
afterglow.

She pulls herself even tighter to him.

KAIA

Okay.

A cell phone ring makes them both groan.

PIKE

Don't answer it.

KAIA

Okay, I'll just turn it off.

She sits up, keeping the sheet across her torso. Pike stretches on the bed.

KAIA
 (into phone)
 Hello?

She turns to Pike and mouths 'Gabriella' to him. He nods in understanding and swivels his hips off the other side of the bed.

Kaia mercifully blocks any man ass from view as Pike puts his boxers and pants on.

He gets up and walks out of frame, pausing to kiss Kaia's forehead.

KAIA
 Hey, babe. Listen, Connor didn't tell us-

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. GABRIELLA'S CAR - NIGHT

Gab's driving with one hand and holding her phone to her ear with the other.

GABRIELLA
 Forget all that. I, uh, I met someone today.

KAIA
 Whoa ho ho. Well, go you! How was he?

GABRIELLA
 (confused)
 What?
 (beat; gets it)
 Oh no, we didn't do anything. We just...hung out.

KAIA
 Are you serious? Not even a kiss?

GABRIELLA
 Nope. He bought me a hot dog though.

KAIA
 Please tell me that's a metaphor.

Pike sits down behind her on the bed with a bottled water. He starts nibbling on her shoulder. Kaia closes her eyes, practically melting.

GABRIELLA

(incredulous)

What the hell? Am I supposed to put out the first night? We didn't even have an official date.

Kaia swats Pike off of her.

KAIA

Sweetie, this is Los Angeles. If the man was single, cute, and straight, you need to lock it down early.

GABRIELLA

I'm not some slut, Kaia!

KAIA

It's called being proactive.

Another cell phone rings and Pike reaches over to answer it.

PIKE

Speak.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. G&C'S CONDO - CONNOR'S ROOM - NIGHT

Connor's laying on his bed, idly flipping through channels on his television. A photo album rests on his lap.

CONNOR

Dude, I'm not a dog. Listen, you seen Gabriella since earlier? I haven't heard from her.

PIKE

Yeah, she's laying right here next to me.

CONNOR

(sits up)

What?!? Dude, I'm gonna-

PIKE

I'm kidding, kid. I don't know where she is.

Kaia turns around and gives him a curious look. He mouths 'Connor' to her. Kaia nods and turns back to her conversation.

KAIA
 Anyway, it's a little strange to hear you talk about another man.

GABRIELLA
 Why's that?

KAIA
 Well, I always kind of figured you and Connor-

GABRIELLA
 What?!? Eww!

ON Pike and Connor now.

PIKE
 Point of fact, Gabriella's a grown ass woman.

CONNOR
 Well, she needs to get her grown ass home.

Back to Kaia and Gabriella.

KAIA
 What? He's not my type, but he's cute, got that naive charm working for him, and he's good in a fight.

GABRIELLA
 (emphatic)
 He's a fetus.

Pike and Connor.

PIKE
 Look, if I hear from her, I'll give you a buzz, k?

CONNOR
 Alright, thanks.

PIKE
 Later.

CONNOR
Hey, wait! You still gonna be able
to help me out tonight?

PIKE
(groans)
Damn, I forgot. Yeah, dude. I'll
meet up with you in an hour.

Kaia whirls on Pike, not pleased with that.

PIKE
Two hours?

Kaia shakes her head.

PIKE
Three hours. We'll pull an all
nighter.

CONNOR
Cool. Later.

They hang up. Kaia returns to her conversation.

KAIA
Sorry, Gab. What were you saying?
(beat)
Gabriella?

Gabriella blinks her eyes, having just woken back up, and YANKS on her steering wheel, shrieking as she just barely avoids a semi truck she was heading for a collision with.

She pants heavily. Close call.

KAIA
Gabriella? Are you okay? I heard
tires screeching.

GABRIELLA
I...I'm fine. I'm gonna go now.

She hangs up before Kaia can answer. We stay with the newly reunited couple.

Kaia lays her head down on Pike's chest.

PIKE
Everything okay there?

KAIA
 I guess. It's hard to tell with
 her. Both of them, actually.
 (beat)
 Is everything okay here?

PIKE
 We're getting there.

She leans up and gives him a deep kiss.

PIKE
 I'm supposed to meet-

KAIA
 (seductively)
 In three hours.

PIKE
 Point taken.

He yanks the blanket up over them, covering the frame.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Connor slings a duffle bag strap over his shoulder. Just as
 he reaches the door, Gabriella opens it and comes in.

Lesi darts between Connor's legs and dashes into Gabriella's
 room.

CONNOR
 Hey.

GABRIELLA
 Hey.

The tension from their earlier spat still lingers.

GABRIELLA
 Going out?

CONNOR
 Yeah, with Pike.
 (beat)
 Your job called twice earlier.

GABRIELLA
 Oh yeah, what'd they say?

CONNOR
 You don't uh...have a job anymore.

GABRIELLA

Oh. Well, whatever. Dime a dozen in
this town. Night.

Connor looks astounded at her blase attitude.

CONNOR

Yeah, night.

She walks by him, looking pretty tired. Connor watches her
enter the room and shut the door before he heads out.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Gray is sitting at a table alone, checking his watch.
Gabriella approaches him from behind.

GABRIELLA

Hey, I am so sorry.

Gray stands and turns to greet her, still with that smile on
his face.

GRAY

No, it's okay.

He gives her a light kiss on the cheek that gets her to
blush.

GRAY

Oh, here.

He quickly moves around the table and pulls out the chair for
her, ever the gentleman.

GABRIELLA

(sitting down)

Thanks.

(beat)

Sorry, I overslept. Truth be told,
I'm still feeling a little out of
it.

GRAY

(smirking)

Look fine to me.

Gabriella looks away, fighting another blush. He's totally
inside the castle walls now.

GRAY

So, listen, I sort of had an ulterior motive for asking you here today.

GABRIELLA

Oh?

GRAY

Well, Jimmy liked you a lot. Your look I mean. He talked a few of the others at the agency and they'd like to you to come for a shoot, if you're interesting.

GABRIELLA

No, thanks. That's a bit too exposing for me.

GRAY

(nodding)

Thing of it is, I agree with them. Look, what if it were just me and a couple of lighting guys? No circus, none of that. We'll go over the proofs together and if you don't like any of them, they'll never leave the red room.

That smile could sell sand to a man in the Sahara and it's clearly working on Gabriella.

GABRIELLA

(sighs)

Okay. Could be fun, I guess. Umm, do I have to sign a contract or anything?

GRAY

Oh no, we'll do strictly off the books. If you want to go further, we'll draft up some paperwork and go from there.

Gabriella looks away, contemplating her options.

GABRIELLA

Think your wardrobe people have anything in my size?

GRAY

Well, I already said it'd just be you, me, and the lights.

(MORE)

GRAY (CONT'D)

Do you have anything good that
you'd be comfortable in?

GABRIELLA

Well...you're the expert, not me.
You'll have to see for yourself.

Gray smiles and nods, sipping his coffee.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The sound of the door opening startles Connor from his nap on
the couch.

Gabriella and Gray walk in to a bouncy greeting from Lesi.

Connor's eyes zero in on the unknown visitor like a vulture.

GABRIELLA

(absentmindedly)

Connor, Gray. Gray, Connor.

Gray walks over and holds his hand out.

GRAY

Pleasure.

Connor shakes it, dumbfounded.

CONNOR

Yeah, likewise.

GABRIELLA

(pointing)

My room's in there. Flip through
the closet, see if there's anything
that grabs you.

Gray nods and enters Gabriella's room. Connor bolts up to his
feet.

CONNOR

Who's he?

GABRIELLA

A photographer I met at the park
yesterday. He wants to take some
photos of me.

CONNOR

Yeah, I bet he does.

(beat)

Can I hit him now?

GABRIELLA
Don't, okay? Just don't.

GRAY (O.S.)
Gabriella! Think I got something
for ya!

CONNOR
(mumbling)
I got something for him.

Gabriella pops him in the chest and walks into her room.
Connor just shakes his head.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

Gray is helping to set up the lighting. The layout is a
simple white sheet background with a covered box.

Gabriella walks up in a robe. Her arms are wrapped so tight
the robe resembles a straitjacket.

Her hair is up and she's wearing a pair of silver hoop
earrings.

GABRIELLA
I'm suddenly not so sure about
this.

GRAY
Everyone's nervous their first
time. You'll be fine.

He leads her over to the set and leaves her there, walking
over to a small boombox and turns out some generic soft rock.

GRAY
Okay, you ready?

GABRIELLA
Nope.

GRAY
They all say that the first time.

He moves behind the camera. Gabriella sighs deeply and takes
off her robe. She's wearing a black mini dress that
compliments her body quite nicely.

It's a far cry from her usual attire. Gray is so taken aback
he has to stop and stare for a second.

GRAY
 (captivated)
 Wow.

GABRIELLA
 Gray.

GRAY
 Right, sorry.
 (ducks behind the camera)
 Okay, let's do this.
 (beat)
 Give me...sassy.

Gabriella gives it her best shot, but she looks more like a librarian.

GRAY
 Okay, uh...let's try another word.
 Give me...serious.

That she can do. A FLASH indicates Gray's taken a picture.

GRAY
 Alright, now we're rolling.

In a montage, a dozen photographs of Gabriella stack on top of one another all on a black background.

They start with her giving serious expressions and slowly show her loosening up and having fun with it, openly smiling in the last few.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - GRAY'S OFFICE - LATER

Gray is sitting at a computer flipping through the shots from the shoot.

Gabriella walks up behind him, back in the robe. She looks over his shoulder at the computer.

GABRIELLA
 You can print them that fast?

GRAY
 On paper, yeah. For the finished photos, there's retouches and stuff. Takes a bit.
 (beat; looks at her)
 Although I doubt much work will be necessary.

She grins at him and points at the screen.

GABRIELLA
I like that one.

Gray looks back to the computer to see what she's talking about.

GRAY
(laughing)
The librarian pose.

GABRIELLA
Yeah, I didn't know I could look that stern.

She takes a step back, blinking her eyes rapidly.

GRAY
If only you had a mirror when I met you.
(beat; turns and looks at her)
Hey, you alright?

GABRIELLA
Yeah, yeah I'm okay. Just got a little woozy. Must be all the lights.

GRAY
Again, first time. It happens. Let's call it a day for now, okay? I'll call you when the final prints are done so you can go over them.

GABRIELLA
Okay.

She starts to leave the room, her legs shaky.

GRAY
Hey, wait. You good to drive yourself home?

GABRIELLA
(tentative)
Yes. Well...

Gray stands and walks over to her.

GRAY
Just to play it safe, I'll have one of my guys follow you back. Make sure you get there safe.

She nods and walks out of the door. Then she dashes back in and gives Gray a lingering kiss on the cheek.

Gray smiles as she gets the hell out of there as fast as she can.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - GABRIELLA'S ROOM - DAY

Gabriella is tucked under her blanket, sleeping. Next to her is a large lump scrambling around.

There's a knock at the door.

Lesi throws the blanket off herself and BARKS. Gabriella remains under it.

CONNOR (O.S.)
Hey, can I come in?

GABRIELLA
(from under the blanket)
Don't plan on staying.

The door opens and Connor sticks his head in.

CONNOR
Hey, I ordered some Thai if you're hungry.

Staying on Connor at the far end of the room, the blanket flies up and off to the left of frame.

Connor's jaw drops.

ON Gabriella. Every bit of her exposed skin is ghostly pale, so much so it's blue, corpse like. Her eyes are bloodshot red. She has bags under them that damn near reach her lips.

She's also missing clumps of hair. Large clumps. Top of her head looks like a Checkers board.

Lesi yelps, hops off the bed, and runs out of the room.

GABRIELLA
What?

Push in on Gabriella looking back at Connor, not getting what the big deal is.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Connor opens the door to let Pike and Kaia in. Kaia's hair is noticeably disheveled. Connor blinks at the sight of them.

PIKE

Alright, where's the fire?
(off Connor's look)
What?

CONNOR

Nothing. Just wasn't expecting you two to show up together.

KAIA

(caught)
Oh, well, Oli called me and told me he'd pick me up. You know gas prices and all.

CONNOR

Right, yeah.

He starts walking towards Gabriella's room.

CONNOR

(speaking lowly)
Okay, fair warning. It's pretty bad.

PIKE

No worries. You still haven't met all of my tenants.

Connor lightly knocks on her door.

GABRIELLA (O.S.)

Go away!

CONNOR

Gab, it's okay. You're among friends.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - GABRIELLA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door creaks over and Connor sticks his head in again.

He quickly yanks it back out to avoid the SHOE thrown at his head.

CONNOR (O.S.)
Oh, quit being a baby.

He opens the door all the way to let Pike and Kaia get a full view. Two jaws hit floors.

Gabriella is staring at herself in a hand mirror, lightly touching her skin.

PIKE
Holy sh-

Kaia slaps him in the chest to cut him off.

GABRIELLA
(embarrassed)
Oh my God!

She yanks the blanket over her head to cover her deformed figure.

KAIA
Gab, it's not that bad, sweetie.
It's okay.

PIKE
(whispering to Connor)
If you're an extra in Shaun of the Dead.

CONNOR
(harsh whisper)
Dude!

Kaia sits down on the bed and gently pulls at the blanket. Gabriella, under it, isn't letting it budge.

Kaia pulls a little harder. Still no luck.

KAIA
(straining)
Okay, this is just...childish!

She RIPS the blanket right down the middle, exposing Gabriella, who tries to roll over.

GABRIELLA
(shrieking)
Don't look at me!

PIKE
(mumbling)
Don't have to tell me twice.

KAIA

(beat; thinks)

Just don't say anything. Listen,
nod, smile, and get the hell out.

She lets him go and walks out. Connor makes his way to the bed and sits down. Gabriella is hiding under the blanket again, the part that Kaia hasn't ripped.

CONNOR

Umm...it'll be okay.

Gabriella FLINGS the blanket off and gets right in Connor's face. Should've listened to Kaia.

GABRIELLA

Connor, look at my face! Really
look at it and tell me it's okay!

Connor's at a total loss for words.

CONNOR

I...I...

Gabriella grabs a sticky note from her nightstand and scribbles an address on it.

GABRIELLA

Here. This is the address to Gray's
studio. Find him, bring him here.

CONNOR

(cheerful)

Can I hit him first?

GABRIELLA

I don't give a damn, Connor! Just
fix this! You think this is a joke?
Look. At. Me.

CONNOR

Okay, okay, I'm going. Everything
will be fine.

GABRIELLA

This shouldn't have happened in the
first place.

Connor opens his mouth to say something when Gabriella cuts him off with a finger pointed dead between his eyes.

GABRIELLA

And no I-told-you-so.
This...just...isn't supposed to
happen to me.

CONNOR

Gab, with the life we live-

GABRIELLA

No, the life you live. This is your
thing, okay? I'm just...here. I'm
not supposed to be in it.

CONNOR

What? That doesn't make any sense.

GABRIELLA

This...this stuff. It happens
around me. I can deal with that. I
throw some mojo around and-

Her angry tone immediately shifts to sad.

GABRIELLA

I'm not...I can't...it shouldn't
happen to me. When it's other
people, I can...oh God, I just...I
can't handle this.

She's breathing rapidly now. Haven't seen one of these in
awhile. Not since the first time Connor and Gabriella met. A
panic attack.

Connor immediately grabs her in a hug.

CONNOR

Hey, hey calm down. Freaking out
isn't going to help.

Her breathing gets faster.

CONNOR

With me.

Her breathing slows ever so slightly.

CONNOR

Breathe with me.

A side view of the two of them now. Gabriella's breathing
slows to match Connor's. He pulls away and scoops up her car
keys from the nightstand.

CONNOR

I'll be back as soon as I can.

He gets up and leaves, giving her one final glance before he shuts the door behind himself.

Gabriella curls up in a ball and pulls her blanket up tight.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NEXT

Pike and Kaia stand from the couch and Connor strides into the center of the room with purpose.

CONNOR

Kaia, can you stay here with her please?

KAIA

(nodding)
Of course.

Connor meets Pike's eyes and motions to the front door. The two men leave. Kaia sits back down on the couch and nervously starts biting her nails.

INT. GABRIELLA'S CAR - DAY

Connor's driving, eyes deadlocked on the road. Pike's idly flipping through radio frequencies until he settles on a classic rock station.

CONNOR

For what it's worth...

Pike looks over to him.

CONNOR

I'm glad you and Kaia are back together.

Pike tries to play it off.

PIKE

Yeah, well I mean...
(sighs)
How'd you know?

Connor points to his nose.

CONNOR

She's all over you.

Pike grins wryly.

PIKE
Yeah, she really was.

Connor looks off to the side.

CONNOR
This is it.

He parks and shuts the engine off.

EXT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

Connor's taking point for this, not even waiting for Pike to flank him.

PIKE
Wait up! What's the plan?

CONNOR
Walk in. Drag him out.
Consciousness optional.

Connor hasn't broken stride yet.

PIKE
Sounds like a plan. Can we go on
three this time?

Connor still doesn't break stride as he comes up on the door.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - PHOTO STUDIO - NEXT

There's a loud bang. The front door SNAPS in half vertically. Connor pounds the rest of it down, stalking in looking for his target.

Pike follows him in, one of his guns drawn.

Pan around the room. It's completely empty. No camera, lighting, anything.

PIKE
What now?

CONNOR
Look around. Maybe something of a
trail I can track.

They fan out and starting checking the studio for any sort of clues.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - GABRIELLA'S ROOM - DAY

Gabriella's buried under the blanket again. A knock at the door.

GABRIELLA

Come in.

Gray enters the room!

GRAY

Gabriella?

The blanket flies off the bed at the voice. Gray quickly swoops in and covers Gabriella's mouth, though from the angle we only see the back of her head.

GRAY

Gabriella, please, calm down. I know what happened to you. It was Jimmy. He's got some dark stuff going on.

He lets go of her mouth and grabs her arms, trying to control her.

GABRIELLA

You son of a bitch, you set me up!

GRAY

I did no such thing. Look, I managed to undo the spell, but it's only temporary. We gotta hurry or it'll come back, okay?

He reaches over to the nightstand and grabs the mirror, holding it up to her face. Her reflection shows her being back to normal!

She gently touches her face, not wanting to believe her.

GABRIELLA

(sincere)

How?

GRAY

Like I said, it's only temporary. We need to hurry if it's to be permanent.

He stands up off the bed and holds his hand out. Gabriella takes it and he pulls her out of bed.

Now her actual face is in frame. If anything, it's WORSE than before!

GABRIELLA
How'd you get in?

GRAY
Your redhead friend let me in. She went to go grab your other friends. They're gonna meet us, let's go.

Gabriella grabs her purse and follows him out into:

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They hurry past the camera. Off screen the front door opens and shuts. Push in on a pale arm on the floor in the kitchen.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - KITCHEN - NEXT

Kaia is laid out on the floor unconscious.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Connor and Pike enter the place, having struck out. Lesi runs out of the kitchen and starts jumping all over Connor.

Pike heads into the kitchen.

CONNOR
Hey, hey calm down, girl. What's wrong?

PIKE (O.S.)
Yo, Connor!

Connor's head snaps up and he sprints into:

INT. G&C'S CONDO - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Connor stops at the doorway to the kitchen. Pike is on his knees with Kaia, who is just now waking up.

PIKE
Hey, you okay, babe?

KAIA
I...I think so.

Connor bolts away.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - GABRIELLA'S ROOM - NEXT

The door swings open (staying on its hinges) and Connor takes a quick look around.

CONNOR
(calling out)
She's gone!

He runs back out.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - KITCHEN - NEXT

Kaia's upright, sitting in a chair. Pike is kneeling down in front of her.

PIKE
What happened?

KAIA
Concierge said a flower delivery guy was here, so I buzzed him up. Opened the door and let him in.
(beat)
I turned around to let Gab know about the flowers and there was this gas, then you two were here.

CONNOR
Did you get a good whiff of the delivery guy?

KAIA
I...I think so, but-

CONNOR
Your nose is better than mine. Think you can get his scent?

KAIA
Umm, I can try.

CONNOR
Good enough, let's go!

He leaves the doorway again. Pike helps a dizzy Kaia to her feet and out of the room.

INT. DESOUZA HOME - BASEMENT - EVENING

Gray leads the way down the stairs, holding Gabriella's hand.

They reach the ground and Gabriella GASPS.

Pan around the room. It's a weird amalgamation of a photo studio and a hospital.

Defibrillators, cameras, a heart rate monitor, lights, and a lone bed in the center with all the equipment attached to its occupant.

Gabriella's curiosity gets the better of her. She approaches the bed, a look of horror overtaking her when she gets a good look at the patient.

It's a young woman who looks exactly like her!

GABRIELLA

What's going on?

GRAY (O.S.)

Meet my wife.

Gabriella turns around. From her POV, Gray's incoming fist causes a:

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN.

INT. DESOUZA HOME - BASEMENT - EVENING

Gabriella starts to come around, blinking herself back into consciousness.

From her POV, a blurry figure is standing over her. Focus to show Gray.

A wide shot shows him strapping her to another gurney!

GABRIELLA

You've got about three seconds to
let me out.

GRAY

Or what?

Gabriella squints her eyes and glares at him, concentrating. After a beat, she blinks a few times. Something's wrong.

GRAY

Jimmy got all the intel on you,
including your more unique talents.
(beat)
I was prepared.

He holds up his hand, showing a ring with a large black stone.

GRAY

No magic allowed.
(beat; smirks)
Well, aside from what's about to
happen.

He starts setting up his tripod camera.

GABRIELLA

Gray, what the hell is this?

Gray continues to mill about his preparations, speaking in an even, matter-of-fact tone.

GRAY

A few months back, Andrea was
flying back from a work trip in
Europe. This was during that weird
twenty hour plague that struck the
world.

Now he's lighting the scene.

GRAY

Somehow, her plane crashed. Part of it got ripped off according to the reports. Crashed into an aircraft carrier.

(beat; looks away)

She had third degree burns all over her. It's a miracle she survived. When they pulled her and everyone else out, they all had that whatever it was.

(beat; bitter tone)

All the reports said everyone who got sick were going to recover. Noone from that crash did. Media just conveniently ignored it.

Gabriella remembers this chain of events all too well. Gray is rapidly losing that calm tone he's had all this time.

GABRIELLA

(soft)

You kept her alive.

GRAY

Quack doctors said she didn't have a chance! The hell did they know?

GABRIELLA

Gray, that was months ago. If she hasn't woken up by now, she's not going to.

GRAY

Oh, she's going to.

He turns the camera on and positions the light directly over her.

GRAY

(re: camera)

This is enchanted. The person in any photos has their life force drained.

Gabriella looks horrified. She knows where this is going now.

GRAY

It's supposed to take months, but I'm tired of being patient. Need to pick up the pace.

Gray walks up to Gabriella and gently strokes her hair. She squirms away from his touch.

GRAY

I'm sorry it had to be like this. I just...I can't be without her anymore.

GABRIELLA

What happens to me?

GRAY

The magic will drain your essence and feed it into her. What do you think happens to you?

He steps behind the camera and snaps a picture. Gabriella launches into another panic attack.

Behind Gray, a large monitor shows the pictures he's snapping.

An ethereal blue glow surrounds Gabriella. Gray steps out from behind the camera, his work done now.

Gabriella continues to hyperventilate, now coupled with grimaces of pain. Her body starts to suck in, like a Botox operation gone horribly wrong.

Pan over to Andrea's sleeping form, her pale skin started to show more color.

Gray and Gabriella lock eyes. Gray looks almost remorseful at what he's doing.

GABRIELLA

(pained)

If I could make just one small request.

(beat)

Will you please hit him now?

Connor spins Gray around by his shoulder and DECKS him with a vicious right hand.

Kaia runs up to Gabriella and is blown away by the glow surrounding her. She smacks against a wall and slumps to the ground, out cold.

PIKE

Kaia!

Pike rushes over to his girlfriend.

CONNOR
Shut it down now!

GRAY
(frantic)
No, I...I can't.

Connor yanks Gray up by his collar and slams him against a nearby wall.

CONNOR
Yeah, you can. Here, let me help you.

Connor THROWS Gray clear across the room into the camera and monitors, knocking them all over.

The glow continues to surround Gabriella, who starting to look like a burn victim.

GABRIELLA
(crying out)
Connor!

Connor rushes over to her, stopping when he reaches the glow.

CONNOR
(to Gray)
Dude, you're killing her!

GRAY
I don't care!

PIKE (O.S.)
Would you care if I killed her?

ON Pike holding his gun on Andrea!

GRAY
(shaking his head)
No, no you wouldn't.

PIKE
You end this, or I will.

Gray locks eyes with Pike.

GRAY
I don't think you can do it. You don't look like a killer.

Pike falters a bit, loosening and tightening the grip on his gun.

Gray gets up to his feet and eats another punch from Connor that sends him back down on top of the monitors. His arm slaps the camera and knocks it a few feet away.

Gray's look snaps to the camera. Connor follows his eyes to it. Then he locks eyes with Pike.

In slow motion, Gray dives for the camera. Connor jumps over, just a hair quicker and volleys the camera into the air with his foot.

Pike takes aim and shoots the camera to bits in mid air.

At regular speed, the camera lands across the room, destroyed. Gray, now on his stomach, looks at the camera with tears in his eyes.

The glow around Gabriella drops. Her breathing slows down as her skin starts to fill out again.

Pan over to Andrea, who is returning to her burned state.

Connor runs over and unstraps Gabriella, albeit very slowly as he's distracted by her body returning to normal.

Gray is openly sobbing on the floor now.

GRAY
(crying)
Andrea.

Pike helps a dazed (again) Kaia to her feet, holding her cheek with his face as he looks her over.

PIKE
You okay?

KAIA
(nodding)
Yeah. Feeling a little deja vu, but
yeah.

Gabriella, now completely herself again, sits up on the gurney, looking over at Andrea.

She slides off to her feet and immediately topples over. Connor catches her before she falls.

CONNOR
I got you.

Using him as a crutch, she walks over to Gray, who looks at her, a broken man now.

He slowly stands up and turns off the heart monitor, followed by all of the other equipment in the room, not looking at the others as he works.

GRAY
(tearfully)
She was my whole...everything I had.

GABRIELLA
She's been in a coma for months.
Even if she woke up, there's no telling what she would've been.
(beat)
Is that what you wanted?

GRAY
She still would've been here.

Gabriella sadly shakes her head, knowing she's not going to get through.

GABRIELLA
(to Connor)
Let's go home.

Connor slowly leads her up the stairs, with Pike aiding Kaia just behind him.

Gray doesn't watch them leave, his attention solely on his wife, still unconscious.

GRAY
(calling out)
What am I supposed to do now?

The gang looks back from the top of the stairs.

GABRIELLA
Start over.

He bows his head. Behind him, the door to the basement shuts.

Gray slowly gets to his feet and walks over to his (presumably now dead) wife. He slowly cups her hand in his own, heartbroken.

EXT. L.A. SKYLINE

The sun sets and rises again in seconds, time lapsing to a new day.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gabriella is curled up on the couch, watching television.

Connor walks in, his jeans and white t-shirt covered in dirt.

GABRIELLA

Hey.

CONNOR

Hey. Feeling better?

GABRIELLA

Much better. Thank you.

CONNOR

Cool. You up for taking a little ride?

She looks at him, not sure of his intentions.

INT. OCCULT SHOP - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Connor holds the door open for Gabriella and flicks the light switch by the door as he walks in behind her.

Pan around the room. It's completely fixed up. Shelves rebuilt and lined with all sorts of items. The glass counter is restored. All the lighting works.

Gabriella is completely speechless. She walks into the center of the shop, doing a 360 turn to take it all in.

GABRIELLA

(awestruck)

You did this all, yourself?

CONNOR

Most of it. I got a bunch of Do-it-yourself books. Pike helped too.

Gabriella nods. That's what they were out doing a couple of days ago.

CONNOR

There's more.

He gently grabs her arm and leads her into:

INT. OCCULT SHOP - STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Every single shelf in the large room is packed to the edges with all kinds of magical inventory.

Gabriella's jaw drops as she peruses the aisles.

GABRIELLA

How did you get all this?

CONNOR

Called in a few favors to the Council. Had to promise to go out there for more tests before the year's out, but other than that...

(beat)

I wanted to be done in time for your birthday. Sorry.

Gabriella quickly gets back to Connor, who's looking quite unsure of himself.

CONNOR

I know I'm not supposed to make a big deal about it and all, but-

Gabriella cuts him off with a tight HUG, closing her eyes and fighting off tears.

GABRIELLA

I've been twenty six for too long.

Connor tentatively returns the hug. She holds on tight for another moment before pulling away.

GABRIELLA

I'm ready to get older now.

(beat)

Listen, there's some people I want you to meet.

Connor blinks, confused.

INT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Gabriella leads Connor to the graves of her dead family.

Connor looks a little unsure of what to say here.

GABRIELLA

Paul, Jenny, this is Connor.

Connor meekly waves.

CONNOR

Uh, hi.

Gabriella smiles, amused by his awkwardness.

GABRIELLA

The car wreck. It was on my birthday. I sent them out for some ice cream for the party.

(beat; sad)

They never made it to the store.

Connor looks at her, finally understanding.

GABRIELLA

That's why I don't celebrate.

(corrects herself)

Didn't celebrate.

Connor nods his understanding.

CONNOR

Why didn't you tell me before?

GABRIELLA

(shakes her head)

I guess as long as I didn't say it out loud, then it wasn't really-

(shakes her head again)

God, this sounds so stupid!

CONNOR

It's family. You're allowed to be stupid when it comes to family.

(beat)

Or so I've heard.

GABRIELLA

Well, I guess you'd be the expert. You've had how many now?

CONNOR

(thinks to himself)

None, when you really think about it.

GABRIELLA

Angel was.

CONNOR

Dad. He wasn't-

(beat; composes himself)

Can't say he was around much.

Gabriella slips her hand into his.

GABRIELLA
Well, I'll be around.
(beat)
Let's go.

She pulls him away. He steals one last look at the graves.

CONNOR
Uh...nice meeting you both.

Gabriella laughs, again amused by Connor's naivete. Stay on the graves as they walk off into the distance.

CONNOR
Sorry your modeling career didn't pan out.

GABRIELLA
It's okay. I think I prefer being behind the cameras anyway.

CONNOR
(curious)
So, Robinson?

GABRIELLA
It's Heron now. Definitely Heron.
I'll make it legal tomorrow.
(beat)
You up for some ice cream?

CONNOR
Sure.

GABRIELLA
Great. I know this one place with awesome rocky road.

Their conversation continues as we:

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

END OF EPISODE