

THE BEAUTY OF WATER

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL - DAY

The credits begin to roll as we're looking directly down at the clear blue water, which is very calm, beautiful, and inviting.

We can't see the walls since we're looking down at the middle of the 25-meter pool, and it looks completely empty, with no lane ropes or people in sight.

Suddenly, two people who are the only ones in the pool come into view in the middle of the pool as they're in the midst of a workout where they're swimming freestyle side by side: TANNENBAUM ZAVADSKY, 18 years old, and COURTNEY MAGUIRE, 18 years old.

Tannenbaum is wearing black swim trunks while Courtney is wearing a navy-blue one-piece swimsuit, which are the same swimsuits that they always wear. But they never wear goggles or swim caps, with Courtney tying her hair into a ponytail when she swims laps.

Tannenbaum has black hair while Courtney has blonde hair, and they both have blue eyes.

Then, throughout their graceful swimming, we switch back and forth from side views to underwater views to overhead views, as well as watching them in slow motion, as we admire their graceful and beautiful swimming.

Their strokes of raising their arms out of the water, tilting their heads to breath, putting their arms back in the water, pulling the water to their sides, and kicking behind themselves is truly poetry in motion.

Also, they're swimming nearly simultaneous with each other, almost appearing as if they're just one swimmer as they swim laps that go back and forth between the deep end and the shallow end of the pool.

Indeed, they turn their heads and breath at the same time, and they execute their swimming strokes at the same time, so they're almost completely synchronized.

They're swimming pretty fast, and it's obvious they're really good swimmers as the water simply glides over their bodies, which causes their skin to glisten.

Of course, they're swimming the kind of workout that's familiar to millions of swimmers around the world who have been on swim teams.

While we continue to watch them swim along nicely, we read large lettering on the wall in front of them that states the name of their high school: "WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL."

They swim to the wall, and in unison, each of them does a flip turn, which involves flipping underwater and, then, kicking off the wall with their hands extended above their heads as they shoot through the water like torpedoes.

After executing their flip turns, they emerge smoothly from underwater and continue to swim another lap.

They make sure that they swim together, so neither one is trying to outswim the other one.

Underwater, they exhale a flurry of bubbles with each breath, yet even their breathing is graceful since they're not overextending themselves.

They quickly cut through the refreshing water and reach the other wall.

So, they do another flip turn, and then they continue to swim another lap.

The only sound is the lovely sound of the swimmers splashing the water as they swim.

It's a perfect solitude for these two swimmers.

It truly seems as if the rest of the world doesn't exist, except for these two people having a fun time as they swim together.

They swim stroke after stroke, with their bodies seemingly gliding on the water.

It's a perfect blending of humans with the beautiful nature of water, which is the most basic element of life.

They reach the wall, and they do another flip turn and continue to swim another lap.

Their freestyle motions create whitewater that contrasts with the blue water in the rest of the pool.

This is peaceful perfection as these two graceful swimmers make their journey together across the pool.

Although they're only two people swimming in a pool, they're accomplishing an epic achievement, as all fitness people know since exercising isn't easy.

Indeed, working out consists of pushing one's body close to its limits.

And swimming is one of the healthiest forms of exercise, which is a good message for everyone.

They reach the wall, and they do another flip turn and continue to swim another lap.

They're on their last lap of their workout, but they're still swimming strong, with nice strokes and steady breathing.

In fact, they're not slowing down at all as they maintain their fast pace.

Although they're not Olympic swimmers, they're completing a tough workout, which the vast majority of people couldn't accomplish.

Obviously, they're very fit people who are skinny and have solid muscles.

They're cutting through the water as they begin to approach the wall at the shallow end of the pool.

Their last swimming strokes end at the wall, which they touch at the same time, and they stop.

They put their feet on the ground and rest their backs against the wall as they crouch down in the water, letting the water level reach up to their shoulders.

They're resting and catching their breaths since they have just finished their tiring workout as the credits end.

Tannenbaum and Courtney look at each other and smile, knowing they had a good workout.

Courtney reaches her hand out, and Tannenbaum shakes it, congratulating each other on their swim.

TANNENBAUM  
That was a good swim.

COURTNEY  
Definitely.

Tannenbaum and Courtney continue to breathe hard.

TANNENBAUM  
It's like your swim team, huh?

COURTNEY

Yeah.

Courtney exhales a big breath.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I'm beat, Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM

Me too.

It's quiet for a moment as Tannenbaum and Courtney look at the beautiful pool of water that stretches out in front of them while they relax. Indeed, they're simply enjoying the moment as their breathing starts to normalize.

They alternate between looking at the water and glancing at each other while they talk.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Hey, Courtney, have you ever thought about how beautiful swimming pools are?

COURTNEY

Yeah, I think they're really beautiful.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah. Heck, I think all water is beautiful.

COURTNEY

Me too. I could look at things like waterfalls forever.

They continue to relax.

TANNENBAUM

Well, being a school lifeguard is the best job you've ever had. We can swim when the pool is closed like this whenever we want.

COURTNEY

Yep, the job definitely has its perks.

TANNENBAUM

This is so relaxing. I don't want to ever leave.

Courtney turns her head and looks at Tannenbaum with complete seriousness.

COURTNEY  
Let's stay then.

Tannenbaum turns his head to Courtney.

TANNENBAUM  
Forever?

COURTNEY  
Forever.

Tannenbaum smiles, and Courtney smiles back at him.

TANNENBAUM  
Unfortunately, nothing lasts  
forever.

COURTNEY  
Well, some things should.

It's quiet as Tannenbaum and Courtney continue to relax.

TANNENBAUM  
Hey, after we swam at that YMCA  
last week, I read a little about  
it, and did you know the YMCA is a  
Christian organization that's also  
the world's most historic and  
widespread non-government  
organization?

COURTNEY  
No, but that's pretty cool.

TANNENBAUM  
I wonder how many pools they have?

Courtney gets excited.

COURTNEY  
Hey, maybe, we could own a pool  
like this someday, where people  
could swim and have a great time!

TANNENBAUM  
That would be nice.

COURTNEY  
It would be awesome! We could  
really make it our own, like we  
could have coolers near the pool  
that would be filled with Arnold  
Palmer that everyone could drink!

And we could do whatever else we  
wanted to do to make it fun!

Tannenbaum smiles.

TANNENBAUM  
Maybe, someday.

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY  
Yeah, someday.

For a moment, Tannenbaum and Courtney turn their attention  
back to looking at the calm water in the pool.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
Hey, my church group is taking a  
couple of boats to the lake again  
tomorrow after school to celebrate  
the end of the school year. Since  
we only have a half day of school,  
we'll be able to spend the whole  
afternoon at the lake. Do you want  
to go?

TANNENBAUM  
Sure, count me in.

COURTNEY  
Great! Just ride my bus with me  
after school to my house, and then  
I'll drive us to the lake.

TANNENBAUM  
OK.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

Courtney continues to smile as she closes her eyes and tilts  
her head back and rests it against the side of the pool.

Tannenbaum observes Courtney as her smile disappears, and  
she looks completely peaceful as she enjoys the moment.

Tannenbaum decides to copy her, so he also closes his eyes  
as he tilts his head back and rests it against the side of  
the pool.

It's peacefully quiet as Tannenbaum and Courtney relax as if  
they don't have a care in the world, and they're a picture  
of complete happiness.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

There are only about fifteen students since it's a small country school. And each student is sitting at their desk while they're, obviously, just waiting for the bell to ring to end the school year. In fact, the students have their backpacks sitting on their desks while they're talking to each other, and even the teacher is just sitting at her large desk in the front of the room while she's writing something down.

Courtney is sitting in the back corner next to two of her girl friends: COURTNEY'S FRIEND #1, 18 years old, and COURTNEY'S FRIEND #2, 18 years old. Indeed, Courtney's Friend #1 is sitting in front of her, and Courtney's Friend #2 is sitting beside her, and all three of them are turned towards each other. Courtney is wearing her beautiful necklace, which contains a gold chain with a gold Christian cross, that she always wears when she's not swimming.

Courtney's Friend #1 glances down at her watch, and then she looks up excitedly at Courtney and Courtney's Friend #2.

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #1

One more minute until the end of high school!

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #2

(to Courtney's Friend #1)

Then, we get to enjoy our last summer before college!

(to Courtney)

Of course, Courtney will just be chasing Tannen around.

Courtney, Courtney's Friend #1, and Courtney's Friend #2 smile. (Note everyone, except Courtney, always refers to Tannenbaum as Tannen.)

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #1

That's seriously all you're going to do?

COURTNEY

Yeah, it's my last chance to get him to like me before he goes to college and I go to work.

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #2

Well, maybe, you should start by letting him know that you like him. I mean, everyone else knows, but he's clueless about everything, except his stupid science books.



COURTNEY'S FRIEND #1  
Yeah, I can't believe you've turned  
down a bunch of guys because you  
like someone who's such a geek that  
he brings his own personal science  
books to school.

COURTNEY  
He's not a geek.

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #2  
Does he talk about science when  
you're alone?

COURTNEY  
Sometimes.

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #2  
He's a geek.

COURTNEY  
Well, I like him.

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #1  
We know you do.

Courtney smiles while Courtney's Friend #1 and Courtney's  
Friend #2 laugh a little.

COURTNEY'S FRIEND #2  
Anyway, good luck with him.

COURTNEY  
Thanks.

The school bell rings loudly, and all the students jump up  
while slinging their backpacks onto their backs, and they  
start to walk quickly towards the door in order to go home.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Many students are exiting out of their classes and flowing  
into the hallway, and they're all excited to go home for the  
summer as they walk quickly and loudly to the rear exit.

EXT. BEHIND THE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A few hundred students are flowing out of the doors and  
rushing across the large concrete patio, heading towards the  
line of many yellow school buses that are waiting in the  
parking lot. On the building, we read very big lettering  
that states, "WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL."

Courtney exits one of the doors in the high school, and amidst the chaos of people, she begins to walk across the patio as she looks around for Tannenbaum.

Courtney makes progress through the mass of humanity, where students are excitedly talking to each other and stepping onto their buses and hanging out of the windows of the buses as they wave and scream goodbye to other students.

Courtney stops and looks around as she searches for Tannenbaum while many people rush past her.

Courtney sees Tannenbaum in the distance as he's walking slowly towards her bus, so she smiles to herself and starts to hurriedly chase after him.

Courtney weaves her way between people as she tries to reach Tannenbaum without getting run over by anyone.

Courtney manages to make her way near Tannenbaum, and then she finds a little bit of a clearing, so she starts to run.

Courtney runs up to Tannenbaum, who is near the end of the patio and is approaching the bus. And he finally notices her as she stops with a big smile on her face, so he stops too.

COURTNEY

Hello!

Courtney's smile is contagious, so Tannenbaum smiles back at her.

TANNENBAUM

Hello.

COURTNEY

I thought you might not find my bus, or you'd forget we're going to the lake.

TANNENBAUM

I wasn't going to forget. I can't wait to go.

Courtney smiles broadly, which causes Tannenbaum to smile back at her again as they share a moment that's a little goofy.

COURTNEY

Come on, let's get on the bus!

Courtney skips happily to the bus and walks onto it, and Tannenbaum walks after her and gets on the bus too.

## EXT. BOATING LAKE - DAY

The fairly large lake is breathtakingly beautiful, and it's surrounded by the famous West Virginia mountains, which are covered with bright-green trees. There are boats cruising around, fisherman who are fishing in boats and on the shore, and swimmers who are swimming in a roped-off area near the shore.

MR. PRESTON, 55 years old, is Courtney's minister, and he's sitting behind the driving wheel in his nice speedboat as he drives it on the lake. MRS. PRESTON, 53 years old, is his wife, and she's sitting beside him in the boat. Also, behind the Prestons, there are three high school kids from Mr. Preston's church who are sitting while enjoying the boat ride.

Tannenbaum and Courtney are sitting side by side on a nice two-seat red raft that the speedboat is pulling. They're wearing bathing suits and orange life jackets, and their hair is wet since they've, obviously, been underwater. They're having a lot of fun as they go fast with the boat pulling them fairly smoothly through its wake. So, it's a nice ride that isn't too wild at all.

MRS. PRESTON

You know, honey, if you keep bringing the kids to the lake like this, they're going to think you're the best minister ever.

MR. PRESTON

Yeah, now that would truly be a miracle.

Mr. Preston and Mrs. Preston smile at each other.

Mr. Preston glances back at Tannenbaum and Courtney on their raft.

MR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Actually, it's looking too peaceful back there. I think I'll have to make it more interesting.

Mr. Preston turns the boat from side to side a couple of times while continuing to speed forward, which causes the raft to go back and forth over the waves of the boat's wake, and Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh as they go over the bumpy waves.

Their red raft even goes soaring through the air when they hit the waves, and water is spraying up into their bodies as they get pulled around the lake.

The boat starts to go straight again, so the raft goes smoothly within the wake.

Tannenbaum carefully stands up on the raft, symbolizing his inability to simply enjoy life's ride. And Courtney watches Tannenbaum as he manages to stay on his feet for a few moments, albeit very wobbly, but then he loses his balance and falls backwards into the water behind the raft.

Courtney slides off the raft on purpose in order to join Tannenbaum in the water, and then Tannenbaum and Courtney swim freestyle towards each other, although they don't put their heads underwater, and their life jackets prevent them from swimming very fast.

Mr. Preston looks behind his boat and notices that Tannenbaum and Courtney have fallen off, so he begins to turn the boat around and to drive back towards them in order to pick them up.

Tannenbaum and Courtney reach each other, so they stop and relax next to each other as their life jackets keep them afloat in the deep lake. Of course, they loved their ride, so they're smiling.

TANNENBAUM

That was so cool!

COURTNEY

I know! We were going so fast! I thought we were going to flip over about ten times!

TANNENBAUM

You never flip over. I've never even seen you fall off.

COURTNEY

Yeah, well, you always fall off because you're always trying to do something stupid instead of just enjoying the ride.

TANNENBAUM

Good point. Hey, we haven't been to our water hole for a couple of weeks. Do you want to go tomorrow?

COURTNEY

Yeah, we have to go there! It's been too long. Sometimes, I feel afraid it's going to disappear if we don't visit it. Isn't that strange?

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, but you are strange, after all.

Courtney splashes Tannenbaum, and she smiles while he laughs.

COURTNEY

You're hopeless.

TANNENBAUM

I know. It's too bad I'm your best friend.

COURTNEY

Yeah, it's definitely too bad.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

Mr. Preston's speedboat approaches Tannenbaum and Courtney, and it slows down in order to pick them up.

EXT. WATER HOLE - DAY

It's peaceful, with the only sound being the soothing sound of a small waterfall that's about 5 feet high and is flowing into the water hole where Tannenbaum is helping Courtney float effortlessly on her back in the middle of the water hole, which has a depth of about 15 feet. Courtney's body is in the form of a cross, with her arms and legs completely stretched out, and Tannenbaum has one arm under her back and one arm under her calves while he kicks with his legs to keep afloat. They're both having fun.

The water hole is surrounded by bright-green forests within the mountains. It has calm water, but it's in a nicely flowing stream that flows above and after it for as far as the eye can see. Also, there's a long rope that's hanging down from a tree on the shore for swinging above the water hole and, then, dropping into the water.

COURTNEY

This is heaven. I'm floating with no effort at all.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, but I'm using a little effort.

COURTNEY

Yes, well, you have to treat me nice.

TANNENBAUM

Why?

COURTNEY

I'm not telling because this isn't a science, Tannenbaum. You can actually use feelings to tell you why instead of relying on explanations.

Courtney's happy mood turns serious, and she frees herself from Tannenbaum and starts to swim breaststroke towards the shore, though she doesn't put her head underwater.

Tannenbaum swims freestyle after her, though he doesn't put his head underwater either.

Courtney reaches shallower water near the shore, and she stands up, with the water reaching up to her shoulders.

Tannenbaum arrives next to Courtney and stands next to her, but since he's taller than her, the water doesn't quite reach up to his shoulders.

Courtney looks seriously at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Are you excited to go to college?

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, I can't wait.

COURTNEY

Why are you going to Slippery Rock University when, with your test scores and record of winning all those science competitions, you could go to Carnegie Mellon or Harvard or MIT or wherever?

TANNENBAUM

I would choose those places if I wanted the best job because they do look better on a resume, but I just want to learn. And, since most colleges have great textbooks, if not the same ones, and most college teachers have PhDs, which is more than adequate to teach, I'm going to Slippery Rock because it's a lot more beautiful, isolated, and conducive to learning.

Courtney smiles slightly at Tannenbaum since she understands his reasoning for choosing Slippery Rock. It's, perhaps, the kind of understanding that can only come from someone who lives in the countryside, where an appreciation for one's environment is almost innate.

COURTNEY

You know, I was thinking. I know you need to go to college and become a great big physicist and all, and it's fantastic that you're going to follow your dream. But it's kind of sad. I mean, we've been coming here for our entire lives, and we even first met here when we we're kids, but we won't really have this anymore .... I guess I'm just afraid of losing touch.

TANNENBAUM

I'm not afraid. We'll still see each other a lot.

COURTNEY

I hope you're right.

TANNENBAUM

Alright, enough serious talk. Come on, let's go swing on the rope!

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, and she smiles back at him.

COURTNEY

OK!

Tannenbaum and Courtney start to walk towards the shore.

Tannenbaum grabs the bottom of the rope that's hanging over the water.

Tannenbaum pulls the rope with him as he and Courtney walk out of the water and onto the shore, which contains a mixture of rocks, dirt, and grass.

Courtney walks backwards a few steps to move further up the shore, and Tannenbaum brings the rope back to her and hands it to her.

While holding onto the rope, Courtney runs a few steps forward, and then she jumps and pulls herself onto the rope as Tannenbaum just watches her.

Courtney flies through the air as she goes over the water, and after she makes it a little ways from the shore, she happily screams as she lets go of the rope and falls into the water with a splash.

Courtney surfaces with a big smile on her face as she treads water while she watches Tannenbaum run into the water in order to grab the rope.

TANNENBAUM

That was a good one!

COURTNEY

Yeah, that was fun!

Tannenbaum grabs the rope and runs out of the water and back onto the shore.

After Tannenbaum runs a few steps up the shore, he stops and turns towards the water, and then he runs forward and jumps onto the rope as he soars over the water.

Tannenbaum lets go of the rope and, thus, falls into the water with a big splash.

Tannenbaum doesn't come to the surface, and it's quiet, with the only sound coming from the waterfall. So, Courtney looks around for him.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Tannenbaum! What are you doing? I know you're going to get me somehow!

Suddenly, Tannenbaum surfaces behind Courtney so quickly that it was like he was shot out of a cannon.

TANNENBAUM

Boo!

Of course, Tannenbaum has scared Courtney, so she screams.

Courtney turns around and faces Tannenbaum, and they're both smiling as they tread water next to each other.

COURTNEY

You're horrible!

Courtney splashes Tannenbaum a little, and he laughs.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Come on, let's swing again!



TANNENBAUM

OK.

Tannenbaum and Courtney start to swim freestyle towards the rope again, although they don't put their heads underwater.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S MOBILE HOME - DAY

With rain pouring down, Courtney drives her car into the driveway and parks in front of the mobile home. The home is on a foundation, not wheels, but it looks old and beat up since Tannenbaum is, obviously, poor. Also, there are no other homes in sight since it's completely isolated in the bright-green forests within the beautiful mountains.

There's a picturesque stream that runs behind it, which is the same stream that contains Tannenbaum and Courtney's water hole, which is downstream of the mobile home. And the pouring rain is causing the stream to flow fast.

Courtney exits her car and runs through the rain until she's under the awning that's hanging over the front door, which protects her from the rain.

Courtney knocks on the door, and MS. ZAVADSKY, 42 years old, answers the door. Ms. Zavadsky is Tannenbaum's mother, and she looks much older than her age due to years of drinking and living a rough life. Indeed, it's obvious that she's currently a little drunk.

COURTNEY

Hello, Ms. Zavadsky. Can I come in to see Tannenbaum?

MS. ZAVADSKY

Sure, come on in, darling.

COURTNEY

Thanks.

Courtney steps inside the mobile home.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

While the rain is fairly audible as it lands against the mobile home, Courtney takes off her shoes while Ms. Zavadsky walks towards her armchair.

MS. ZAVADSKY

Tannen, Courtney's here!

Ms. Zavadsky sits down in her armchair. And Courtney stands while looking around, and she's a little embarrassed by the room's messy condition since it looks like no one has cleaned in months, with clothes and magazines lying about.

Tannenbaum exits his bedroom and walks into the living room, where he stops as Courtney smiles at him, and he smiles back at her.

TANNENBAUM

Hello.

COURTNEY

Hello.

MS. ZAVADSKY

Hey, darling, can you get me a screwdriver?

TANNENBAUM

OK.

Tannenbaum turns his attention towards Courtney.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Do you want an Arnold Palmer?

COURTNEY

Yes, please.

Tannenbaum goes to the small kitchen that's right next to the living room, with no wall even separating the two rooms, and Courtney sits down on the sofa.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tannenbaum opens the door to the refrigerator, and he takes out a gallon of Arnold Palmer and a pitcher that already contains screwdrivers (Vodka and orange juice). And he sets both containers on the counter.

Tannenbaum opens the cabinet door next to the refrigerator and grabs three transparent glasses that he places next to the drinks on the counter.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

While Tannenbaum pours the drinks, Courtney and Ms. Zavadsky are sitting awkwardly and quietly since Ms. Zavadsky is staring off into space, not wanting to converse, and Courtney doesn't know how to really engage her.

Tannenbaum enters while carrying three glasses, which look very delicious, with the screwdriver being orange colored and the two Arnold Palmers being brown colored.

Tannenbaum walks over to his mother and Courtney, and he gives his mother the screwdriver, and then he gives Courtney a glass of Arnold Palmer while keeping the other glass of Arnold Palmer for himself.

COURTNEY

Thanks.

TANNENBAUM

You're welcome.

Tannenbaum sits down next to Courtney on the sofa, and all three of them begin to drink their drinks.

Ms. Zavadsky continues staring off into space, only caring about drinking her screwdriver.

COURTNEY

My sister said she'd take us to the waterpark tomorrow? Do you want to go?

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, that would be great, thanks.

COURTNEY

No problem.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

There's an awkward moment of silence as Tannenbaum and Courtney sit there while Ms. Zavadsky doesn't even look at them. All three of them just quietly drink their drinks.

TANNENBAUM

Hey, come to my room. I have something to give you.

Tannenbaum and Courtney stand up while Ms. Zavadsky continues to stare into space, and they walk into Tannenbaum's bedroom while carrying their glasses.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Courtney enters with Tannenbaum following her, and he closes the door, and they walk slowly as Courtney looks around the room (though she's been here before, of course) while Tannenbaum just quietly follows her as they drink their Arnold Palmers (which he drinks a lot quicker than her).

The room is pretty clean since Tannenbaum, obviously, cleans it better than his mother cleans the living room. Courtney walks along a long book shelf that contains a lot of science and math books, which are in excellent shape and are neatly stacked in piles. Tannenbaum observes her from behind as, along with Courtney, we read some of the titles (including "GENERAL PHYSICS," "RELATIVITY PHYSICS," "CALCULUS," and "ABSTRACT ALGEBRA"). Then, she reaches his desk and sees a physics book lying on it, which he has been reading, so she stops, and Tannenbaum stops behind her.

COURTNEY

I suppose it doesn't bother you  
when it rains. You can just stay  
in here and read your science  
books.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, it's not bad.

COURTNEY

Is that the only thing you do when  
you're not with me?

TANNENBAUM

Pretty much.

Courtney looks at the book on the desk, and it's in great condition like all the rest of the books. She admires the pretty cover, which consists of a picture of Niagara Falls.

COURTNEY

I don't remember seeing this book  
the last time I was here.  
(reading the book's title on  
the cover)  
"Physics: Hydrodynamics."

Courtney runs her hand over the cover as Tannenbaum walks a couple of steps towards her and stops at her side.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Niagara Falls. This is a nice  
book.

TANNENBAUM

I always buy new books because I  
love how they look and feel, and I  
store them lying down since I think  
it helps to prevent shelf wear.

Courtney flips open the book to the page that has a bookmark inserted in it, and the page consists of Bernoulli's

equation, along with writing explaining it and a nicely drawn colored picture showing a cutout of a tube with water flowing through it as the tube grows narrower, which also helps explain the equation.

As Tannenbaum explains Bernoulli's equation to Courtney, he uses his finger to point out the writing on the page (including the equation and its written explanation and the picture of water flowing through a tube). So, he's showing his love for physics, which is the greatest and most powerful intellectual endeavor in the world.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

This is Bernoulli's equation, which is named after the Swiss physicist Daniel Bernoulli, who discovered it in the seventeen hundreds. It shows how a fluid's pressure decreases as the fluid's speed increases. This is also the key to how airplanes fly, with the shape of the plane's wings causing the air to flow faster over the top of the wings, so there's less pressure on top and more pressure on the bottom, which lifts the plane into the air. Physics is the key to everything.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

Courtney sits down at the head of Tannenbaum's bed, which is located between his desk and a wall.

Tannenbaum drinks the last of his Arnold Palmer, and he places his empty glass on his desk.

Tannenbaum picks up a box with a picture of a camera on it that's sitting on his desk, and then he sits next to Courtney on his bed.

Tannenbaum gives the camera box to Courtney.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Here, this is for you.

Courtney puts her half-full glass of Arnold Palmer on the desk, and then she takes the black digital camera out of the box, and she immediately loves it.

COURTNEY

Wow!

TANNENBAUM

It's waterproof, so you can even take pictures underwater with it. It also has a time-delay on it, so you can set it up to take pictures of yourself. I know you love to take pictures and make albums, so I thought you would like it.

COURTNEY

This the nicest thing anyone ever gave me ... but I can't accept it. You shouldn't buy me anything expensive, and you need to save your money.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, I know. But I want you to have it, and I'm not taking no for an answer. Besides, I have to treat you nice.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

So, do you want to go explore and find things to take pictures of?

COURTNEY

Now? In the rain?

TANNENBAUM

There's no time like the present.

COURTNEY

OK, let's do it.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile devilishly at each other.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

The falling rain is causing the stream behind Tannenbaum's house to flow fairly rapidly throughout the following montage begins.

MONTAGE

A) In the rain, Tannenbaum and Courtney are wearing their bathing suits as they're sitting with their bottoms in the holes of separate yellow inner tubes while floating down the stream, and they're having a lot of fun. They've just started tubing, so they're not far downstream from his

house, but they're being propelled fairly fast, with the rain even creating some gentle whitewater in the stream. Using the camera that he just gave her, she takes a picture of him as he smiles for it. Then, he reaches out for the camera, which she gives to him, and he takes pictures of her as she jokingly poses in dramatic fashion, acting like she's a supermodel on an inner tube as they both laugh.

B) Tannenbaum and Courtney are crouching down next to bright-green plants that are growing next to the stream as Courtney takes close-up pictures of the rain hitting the green leaves on the plants, and they joyfully look at the digital pictures in the camera's viewing screen.

C) In the falling rain, Tannenbaum and Courtney are standing in the stream, where the water level is reaching up to just below their waists, while each of them is resting one hand on their yellow tubes in order to prevent the tubes from floating away. They're just before a section of fairly rough whitewater, and they're smiling as they sit down on their tubes, and then the river carries them into the whitewater as they go down the stream side by side. They simply cruise down the stream as they ride the waves of the whitewater. It's not a very long section of whitewater, but it certainly pushes them along quickly as they go over the rough waves, and they're absolutely enjoying their exciting ride. They make it through the whitewater and exit into a calmer section, where the stream pushes them forward at a much slower pace. And they look at each other and laugh since they loved their ride down the whitewater.

D) Tannenbaum and Courtney are at their water hole while it's still raining. They're standing on the shore as Courtney pushes the time-delay button on her camera, which is sitting on a large rock. They run into the water until they're close to the waterfall, with the water level reaching just above their knees, and then they turn around to face the camera. They each put an arm around each other's lower back, and they both smile as the camera flashes and takes a picture of them standing together with the waterfall behind them. This photograph captures a very joyous moment in time for them, and in fact, it's one of the greatest photographs of their lives.

EXT. TENT - NIGHT

Tannenbaum and Courtney are sitting in folding chairs in front of their fairly small blue tent, and after spending their day in the rain, they're happy to be in dry clothes.

They're facing a small campfire, with their backs turned to their tent. They're also facing the gently moving stream,

where they went tubing during the day, that's next to the far side of the fire. They're in a very isolated and quiet area in the forest where, like nearly all of West Virginia, there are many trees and mountains towering skyward.

COURTNEY

It's nice to be dry.

Tannenbaum smiles slightly.

TANNENBAUM

Yes.

A nice, quiet moment passes as Tannenbaum and Courtney look at the fire.

Tannenbaum looks up, and he looks over the stream and the mountains to the very clear sky where many stars are brightly shining, and Courtney notices that Tannenbaum is gazing at the stars.

COURTNEY

If you're calculating geomagnetic fields or the entropy of the universe, don't worry because I've already done the calculations.

Tannenbaum laughs as he looks down from the sky and looks at Courtney, who smiles back at him.

TANNENBAUM

Those are some big words.

COURTNEY

You taught them to me.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other, and then he looks back up at the sky.

TANNENBAUM

Actually, I was thinking that for all the great things that scientists have discovered, no one even knows how the various forces like gravity and electromagnetism are connected. We know their magnitudes, but no one knows the common explanation as to why one object attracts another object. There's so much that we don't know.

Courtney looks up at the sky, joining Tannenbaum in star gazing, and a quiet moment passes as Tannenbaum and Courtney look at the stars.



COURTNEY

This is why my friends think you're  
a geek.

Courtney and Tannenbaum smile without looking down from the sky.

TANNENBAUM

What do you think?

Courtney looks down from the sky and looks at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Well, you're definitely a geek.  
But I'm glad I know some big words.

Tannenbaum smiles as he looks down from the stars and looks at Courtney, and she smiles back at him.

TANNENBAUM

So, are you ready to go to sleep?

COURTNEY

Yeah, that sounds good to me.

Tannenbaum and Courtney stand up.

TANNENBAUM

You can go in. I'll put the fire  
out and put these chairs away in  
case it rains tonight.

COURTNEY

OK, thank you.

TANNENBAUM

No problem.

Courtney walks to the tent while Tannenbaum picks up one of the two chair bags that were lying on the ground near the chairs.

Tannenbaum picks up Courtney's chair and folds it up and puts it into the bag, and then he pulls the bag's string tight, securing the chair in the bag. Meanwhile, Courtney arrives at the tent, where she unzips the door, walks into the tent, and zips the door closed.

Tannenbaum carries the bag as he walks towards the side of the tent, where he lays the bag on the ground, and then he starts to walk back to get the other bag in order to put the other chair into it.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Courtney is lying on her back while inside her cotton (not nylon) sleeping bag with her head on her pillow, and she has changed into her pink flannel pajamas, which have short sleeves and short pants. Tannenbaum's cotton sleeping bag is spread out beside her, and a lantern sitting above and between the sleeping bags gives a fair amount of light.

Courtney's arms are outside of the sleeping bag as she's quietly and animatedly talking to herself while staring straight up towards the top of the tent as she practices the speech that she wants to give to Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Tannenbaum, we're soulmates. We have true love. We're meant for each other. I mean, I know you would really love me if you just opened your eyes, and you know how much I've always loved you.

Courtney becomes irritated.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Or you would if you weren't such an idiot.

Courtney reigns in her irritation.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

No, don't call him an idiot.  
That's not going to win him over.

Courtney tries a new approach to her speech.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Look, if we don't end up together,  
I'm going to cry every day for the  
rest of my life.

Courtney decides this new speech won't work either.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's it, get him to stay  
with me out of guilt.

Courtney tries another approach.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

OK, I'm a woman who loves you, and  
you're ...

Courtney gives up.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
a hopeless idiot.

Tannenbaum unzips the door and walks into the tent as Courtney anxiously observes him since she's, obviously, trying to get enough nerve to approach him about their relationship.

Tannenbaum zips the door back up.

Tannenbaum takes off his shoes and places them next to Courtney's shoes in the corner of the tent since he's getting ready to go to sleep.

Tannenbaum climbs into his sleeping bag as he pulls it over himself so that it covers everything but his head, which is lying on his pillow.

Tannenbaum turns onto his side as he looks over at Courtney, and Courtney puts her arms into her sleeping bag as she turns onto her side and faces him.

TANNENBAUM  
This is comfortable, huh?

COURTNEY  
Yeah, these are nice sleeping bags.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, and she smiles back at him as they share a quiet moment.

TANNENBAUM  
Well, goodnight.

Tannenbaum sits up on one of his elbows as he reaches above their heads to turn off the lantern that's sitting between them. But Courtney sits up on one of her elbows as she reaches out and grabs his hand and holds it, stopping him from turning the lantern off.

COURTNEY  
Wait!

TANNENBAUM  
Why?

Courtney's hand is resting on top of Tannenbaum's hand next to the lantern as each of them is sitting on one of their elbows while looking at each other.

Courtney knows this is her chance to talk to Tannenbaum about their relationship, but she's too afraid to make herself vulnerable to him.

COURTNEY

Nothing, I was just going to tell you I had a great day. It was a lot of fun.

Courtney smiles awkwardly at Tannenbaum as she tries to convince him that she didn't really have anything else to say.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, it was a fun day.

Tannenbaum smiles back at Courtney, who looks down and away from him since, obviously, her thoughts are occupied with their relationship, not on frivolous chit chat.

Tannenbaum looks down at Courtney's hand that's resting on top of his hand as he tries to determine if she's going to let him turn off the lantern, and then he looks back up at her.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Can I turn off the light now?

COURTNEY

Yes, of course, sorry.

Courtney lets go of Tannenbaum's hand, and she lies back down on her side, still facing Tannenbaum, with her arms outside the sleeping bag.

Tannenbaum turns off the lantern, but there's still a fair amount of light in the tent from the moon and stars shining through the tent's fabric.

Tannenbaum lies back down on his side, but he's facing away from Courtney.

Courtney stares longingly at Tannenbaum's back for a very quiet moment.

Courtney covers her heart with her hand and, then, extends her hand towards Tannenbaum as she professes her love for him. And, although she means to say it silently, she says it audibly enough that Tannenbaum hears something, though he doesn't hear the exact words.

COURTNEY

I ... love ... you.

Tannenbaum knows Courtney said something, so he turns around to face her and sits up on one of his elbows.

TANNENBAUM  
What did you say?

Courtney is completely embarrassed because she thinks Tannenbaum might have heard what she said, so she lets out a girlish scream and quickly turns over onto her other side, with her back facing Tannenbaum, as she rolls up into a ball and covers her entire body, including her head, under her sleeping bag.

Tannenbaum just stares at her covered body in amazement because she's behaving so strangely.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Are you OK?

COURTNEY  
Yes.

Tannenbaum just looks at her in confusion.

TANNENBAUM  
Goodnight.

COURTNEY  
Goodnight.

Tannenbaum smiles slightly to himself, and then he lies back down, facing away from Courtney, who remains completely covered by her sleeping bag.

EXT. WATERPARK - DAY

We're soaring above a beautiful small waterpark (where we read a sign identifying it as "WATER WAYS"), and it's surrounded by hills that are covered with bright-green trees. It contains a few water slides, a kiddie pool, a large swimming pool, and a lazy river. It's a hot day with many people enjoying the waterpark, which looks very refreshing and inviting.

We arrive at a wooden platform at the top of two water slides where Tannenbaum and Courtney are excitedly standing in line, and there are only two teenage girls front of them, with the rest of the long line of people stretching out behind them.

Each of the teenage girls is sitting in one of the water slides, and they're just waiting for the lifeguard to let them know that the slides are clear for them to start to go down the slides.

The lifeguard, who's a teenage boy sitting on a chair at the side of the water slides, motions the two teenage girls to start to go down the slides. So, the teenage girls push off the bottoms of the slides and, thus, propel themselves down the slides.

Tannenbaum and Courtney begin to walk to separate water slides, preparing to race each other.

TANNENBAUM  
(playfully)  
I hate to beat a girl. It doesn't  
seem fair.

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY  
You wish. I'll be waiting for you  
at the bottom.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other as they step into the water on the slides, and the water jets shoot water over their feet.

Tannenbaum and Courtney sit down in the water, and then they look at the lifeguard, waiting for him to tell them to start.

The lifeguard motions them to go forward, so Tannenbaum and Courtney look at each other and smile, and then they push off the bottom of the slides and, thus, begin to shoot down the water slides.

They go fast down the water slides as they cruise on top of the water.

They're enjoying the exciting trip down the slides as they go up and down the walls of the water slides.

Indeed, there are numerous twists and turns in the water slides that cause their bodies to oscillate.

It's a refreshing and fun trip as the water carries them down the slides.

At the bottom of the water slides, Courtney shoots out of a slide and skims on top of the pool of water until she submerges.

Immediately afterwards, Tannenbaum shoots out of the other slide and skims on top of the pool of water until he also submerges. So, Courtney won the race.

Tannenbaum and Courtney stand up in the pool, with the water coming up to their waists, and they smile at each other. Then, they begin to walk together towards the steps in order to exit the pool.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Not bad for a girl, huh?

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, I guess you weigh more than I thought.

Courtney smiles and jokingly shoves Tannenbaum's shoulder, which causes both of them to laugh.

MONTAGE

A) With the sun brightly shining, Tannenbaum and Courtney are standing in the kiddie pool, which is fairly busy with kids playing. The water level only comes up to their knees, and they're underneath a tall plastic mushroom that has a ton of water flowing off of its roof and falling on top of the heads of Tannenbaum, Courtney, and several small kids who are also enjoying the water pelting them. Everyone is smiling or laughing as the water rushes onto them, but the water is coming down too hard for some of the kids to stay under it very long, so they only stay under for a short time before they run out and, then, come back under the water again. After a few moments, Tannenbaum and Courtney exit the streaming water as they happily walk away and go across the pool as they walk past kids, parents, and others playing in the pool. It's just a nice walk for them as they take in the joy of the other people in the pool.

B) Tannenbaum and Courtney are sliding down the bottom part of the same water slides where they raced before since they're having a rematch. Courtney wins again as she shoots out of a slide and skims on top of the pool of water until she submerges. Immediately afterwards, Tannenbaum shoots out of the other slide and skims on top of the pool of water until he also submerges. They stand up, with the water level reaching up to their waists, and then Tannenbaum looks over at Courtney and realizes he lost again, so he smiles while throwing his hands up in disbelief, and she laughs at him.

C) Tannenbaum and Courtney are swimming underwater as they race each other the width of the large swimming pool, which they've almost traversed. Tannenbaum is a faster swimmer, so he touches the wall first, though he only wins by a thin margin. He stands up, with the water coming up to his torso, and he leans with one of his hands against the wall as he pretends that the race was easy for him and as if he's

been waiting for Courtney for a long time. Courtney touches the wall and stands up next to Tannenbaum, and she's breathing pretty hard from the tough swim. Tannenbaum pretends to yawn, so Courtney realizes that he's pretending that the race was very easy. Thus, Courtney teasingly splashes Tannenbaum with water, causing him to take his hand off the wall in order to protect himself. Tannenbaum laughs, and Courtney also laughs, and then he tackles her, taking them both underwater.

D) Tannenbaum is sliding down the bottom part of one of the same water slides where he raced Courtney before since they're having another rematch. He shoots out of his slide and skims on top of the pool of water until he submerges, and then he stands up, with the water level reaching up to his waist. He looks over at the other slide to see if he beat Courtney, and he thinks he has won since he doesn't see her. But, then, he looks over near the end of the pool and sees that she's resting with her back leaning against the side of the pool, and she's smiling as she pretends to yawn as if she's been waiting for him for a long time. And, of course, Tannenbaum realizes he lost for a third time, so he laughs, and then Courtney laughs too.

EXT. LARGE SWIMMING POOL IN THE WATERPARK - DAY

Tannenbaum and Courtney are sitting beside each other on the bottom of the pool near one of the side walls. They're trying to see who can hold their breath for the longest time, and they're gently waving their arms in order to keep themselves on the bottom of the pool in the clear blue water as many people swim and play near them.

With their heads tilted towards each other, they're observing each other, and they're simply having fun as they smile at each other.

Courtney can't hold her breath any longer, so she surfaces.

Tannenbaum sees that Courtney surfaced, so he knows he has won, and thus, he surfaces too.

Tannenbaum and Courtney are breathing hard as they stand next to each other amongst the people who are playing in the pool.

TANNENBAUM

Wow, you can hold your breath a long time!

Tannenbaum pauses to catch his breath.



TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

But it was nice of you to let me win for once.

COURTNEY

Well, it was either that or blackout.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

Courtney leans her back against one of the pool's side walls, and she crouches down, with the water coming up to her shoulders. So, Tannenbaum follows her lead and likewise leans up against the wall next to her.

It's quiet for a moment as they look around the pool and observe all of the commotion. Also, they're able to catch their breaths, so they're nearly breathing normal now.

Courtney looks at a family of a father, 36 years old, a mother, 35 years old, a son, 8 years old, and a daughter, 6 years old. The father is partially bald and a little overweight, the mother is average looking, and the son and daughter are very cute. So, they're a very normal-looking family. Indeed, they symbolize the all-American family.

The son is sitting on a long blue water noodle as his father holds onto him in order to keep him balanced on it while pulling him slowly around. And the daughter is floating on her stomach as she practices her kicking in order to learn how to swim while her mother, who's in front of her, is holding both of her hands to keep her balance. Thus, the father and mother slowly move their kids around in the water as they have fun with them.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

That's so cool to see.

TANNENBAUM

What is?

COURTNEY

A mother and father playing with their kids like that.

Tannenbaum turns his head to look at the family that Courtney is observing, and then he looks back at Courtney with a sense of bewilderment.

TANNENBAUM

Why?

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Because, silly, they look like a nice family that really loves each other. And that's the greatest thing in the world. It's also a nice reminder of how powerful the bond of love is that it can bring about such a beautiful family.

TANNENBAUM

So, you think love is some kind of great bond?

COURTNEY

Duh!

Tannenbaum smiles.

TANNENBAUM

You know, I could pinch that mother's arm until it hurts her so much that she would deny loving her family. And I could hold a gun to her head until she agreed to leave her family and never see them again. So, how powerful of a bond is love?

COURTNEY

Well, people are fragile, so anyone can be devastated by violence or depression or a tragedy or whatever, and it can reduce them to a state where they're not even really living. But people who are lucky enough to have a mind that is relatively untroubled can love people with all their hearts and souls, and nothing's more powerful than that.

Courtney looks at Tannenbaum with complete seriousness, and he just looks at her with shock since her answer was so great.

TANNENBAUM

That was a really good answer.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I never thought of it like that.

COURTNEY

Yeah, well, you wouldn't even have had to ask the question if it was about science.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, who's still smiling at him.

Tannenbaum and Courtney continue to rest happily against the wall as they turn their attention back to quietly looking at all the people playing in the pool.

EXT. LAZY RIVER IN THE WATERPARK - DAY

While still in the waterpark, Tannenbaum and Courtney are relaxing as the water gently pushes them around in a circle. Their bodies are shooting up through the donut holes in their blue inner tubes while their heads and arms are simply resting on the tubes, and their feet are nearly touching the ground as they let their legs drag behind themselves. The lazy river is fairly busy with other people who are also in tubes, and everyone is enjoying the refreshing ride.

COURTNEY

I could do this all day.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, this is nice.

Tannenbaum and Courtney notice three young siblings (two boys and a girl) who are moving along a little ways ahead of them. The kids are under ten years old, and they're having fun as they play with each other. Indeed, the kids are helping each other stack two blue inner tubes on top of each other so that each kid has two tubes, and then they put their bodies through the tubes, but they sometimes tip over since it's not easy for them to balance/handle two tubes.

Unlike Tannenbaum, Courtney doesn't take her eyes off the kids since they cause her to dream about having a family.

COURTNEY

I'm going to live in Watertown, West Virginia forever, and I'm going to get married and have a lot of kids. And I'm going to bring my family to this waterpark, and we're going to go camping and swim together all the time, and we'll go to lots of other places too, where we'll do lots of other things. I want that so bad.

Courtney turns her attention to Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM

I'm going to do something great.  
I'm going to be a physicist, and  
I'm going to invent something that  
will make me rich and famous.  
Then, I'll be able to live and  
travel whenever and wherever I  
want.

Courtney is hurt and disappointed that Tannenbaum didn't say  
he was looking forward to having a family.

COURTNEY

You're not going to settle down?

TANNENBAUM

No, I probably won't even have  
time. I'll be too busy doing  
things.

COURTNEY

You're just going to live alone  
forever.

TANNENBAUM

That's the goal.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, who's definitely not in the  
mood to smile back at him, and she even becomes angry.

COURTNEY

Well, that's a stupid goal.

Tannenbaum's smile disappears.

TANNENBAUM

Hey, I didn't call your goal  
stupid.

COURTNEY

That's because my goal actually  
involves other people.

TANNENBAUM

Why does that matter?

COURTNEY

It just does. Everyone needs to be  
close to other people.

TANNENBAUM

Why?

COURTNEY

I don't know. It's just the way it is.

TANNENBAUM

Well, that's a stupid answer.

Courtney is really hurt since she, obviously, plans on marrying Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Just forget about it. Besides, you'll settle down some day. You just don't realize it yet.

TANNENBAUM

So, now you're telling me what I'm going to do some day.

Courtney becomes even angrier.

COURTNEY

I said to forget about it, OK?

Courtney looks away from Tannenbaum as she turns her head and rests it on her tube, facing away from him.

Tears are welling up in Courtney's eyes.

TANNENBAUM

Geez, OK. It's no big deal.

Tears fall from Courtney's eyes.

Tannenbaum doesn't see that Courtney is crying, but he, obviously, knows she's angry and hurt for some reason.

One of the three kids in front of Tannenbaum and Courtney tries to sit on top of his two tubes that are stacked on top of each other. But his tubes slip out from underneath him, so he falls into the water with a splash, symbolizing the fall of Courtney's dream of marrying Tannenbaum and having kids with him.

EXT. FLORIDA BEACH - DAY

Tannenbaum and Courtney are standing in beautiful blue water with gentle waves rolling against them, and the bottom of the ocean is completely visible since the water is crystal clear. They're joined by Courtney's sister, JESSICA, 26 years old, and Jessica's husband, PAUL, 27 years old, who are a cute couple.

The water level reaches up to their torsos, and they're slowly walking around while looking down into the water as they search for sand dollars. The beach isn't very crowded since it's fairly isolated with no cities nearby, but there are some other people in the water and on the sandy beach.

COURTNEY

These sand dollars are really hard to find.

PAUL

Yeah, this is pathetic. It's even crystal-clear water here in Florida, and it took us a half hour to find one of them.

Jessica holds up the only sand dollar that they found earlier. This pretty sand dollar is dead, white, and completely intact.

JESSICA

That just makes this one more special.

PAUL

You're always the optimist.

JESSICA

Of course. It's better to look on the bright side, right?

Jessica smiles at Paul, and he smiles back at her.

PAUL

I can't argue with that.

TANNENBAUM

Hey, Courtney, did you ever wonder why the waves break where they do?

COURTNEY

No.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, who smiles back at her.

TANNENBAUM

Do you want to know?

COURTNEY

OK.

Tannenbaum and Courtney stop looking for sand dollars, and they walk a couple of steps towards each other, and then they stop next to each other.

While Tannenbaum explains the science behind the breaking waves to Courtney, they look at the waves coming towards them and turn to look at them as the waves pass them and gently break near the shore.

TANNENBAUM

See, a wave breaks when the top of the wave outpaces the bottom of the wave, which happens when the bottom of the wave is impeded by the ground. This causes the top of the wave to not be supported, so it tips over. And this breaking point occurs when the water's depth as measured from the ground to the calm sea level decreases to about 1.3 times the height of the wave as measured from the wave's trough to its crest. For example, a three foot wave breaks in about four feet of water.

COURTNEY

You know way too much.

TANNENBAUM

I like to know these things.

COURTNEY

That's an understatement.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

JESSICA

Well, I'm going to go rest on the beach for a while. Does anyone care to join me?

COURTNEY

I'll go with you.

Courtney and Jessica start to walk towards the beach while Tannenbaum and Paul stay behind, though they don't look for sand dollars and, instead, just enjoy the water.

TANNENBAUM

Courtney has no fascination with science. She doesn't contemplate any of the big things in the universe.

Paul smiles.

PAUL

No, she's much too grounded. But I'm sure you contemplate enough for ten people.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, but I could tell her all about the ocean's tides and dynamics of water, and she'd just look at me like I'm crazy or something. She just doesn't understand what this world has to offer. Heck, she'd be more thrilled with finding a sand dollar than finding a new ocean trench.

PAUL

I guess different things interest different people.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, I guess so.

Courtney and Jessica arrive at the wet sand on the beach, just before the water ends, and they sit down beside each other on their beach chairs, which they had already set up for themselves.

Each wave causes water to run over their feet until the water recedes, which exposes their feet until the next wave.

JESSICA

This is fun, huh?

COURTNEY

Yeah, this is fantastic. Thank you for letting me come along on your vacation.

JESSICA

Oh, we're just glad you came.

Courtney and Jessica smile at each other.

Courtney and Jessica look at Tannenbaum and Paul, who are simply standing in the ocean together while enjoying the waves. It's very beautiful and peaceful and is simply a perfect day at the beach.

COURTNEY

I'm going to miss Tannenbaum so much when he goes to college, and I don't think he's even going to



think about me. He's just going to love studying his science books. I can't believe we've been together all these years, and he's never even asked me out on a date.

JESSICA

He's unique. That's for sure.

COURTNEY

You know, after our parents died ten years ago, his mom brought him to the funeral. He was my best friend even then, but he didn't even tell me that he was sorry for my loss. It was almost like he didn't care. And, although our parents were killed by drunk drivers, and his dad died from a drug overdose, he never stopped pouring his mom drinks of Vodka, and he didn't even have anyone to take him in like I had you. It's like he doesn't really care about people. He's all thinking and no feeling. It scares me.

JESSICA

Yeah, well, he's definitely a live-and-let-live type of person. He's fine with letting people do whatever they want to do as long as they don't bother him too much. I suppose that's why you're his only friend, yet he still refuses to spend a lot of time with you. He gets to do stuff with you that he enjoys, like this vacation, but he also gets to keep his space.

COURTNEY

You make it sound like he's using me.

JESSICA

No, he's not using you. It's just that he can only stand so much time with people, and you happen to be the one person that he has chosen to spend his free time with. Just don't confuse it with him wanting to be close to you, and don't expect him to ask you on a date or anything.

COURTNEY

Well, how do I get him to want to be close to me?

JESSICA

I don't know. He's a freak of nature. I'm not even sure he's human. It would probably be easier to bond with a rock.

COURTNEY

I have to try. And don't give me a speech about it being hopeless, and there are plenty of fish in the sea. I just know I'd regret it forever if I didn't at least try to get him to like me. So, what can I do?

Jessica smiles, knowing that Courtney is determined to get Tannenbaum to like her.

JESSICA

Well, you're certainly a lost cause. But, maybe, you could start by letting him know you're a girl.

Courtney is confused.

COURTNEY

What? You mean, you want me to like ... strip naked in front of him?

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA

No, I mean, you're always swimming or playing something else with him. So, he never really sees you as feminine. You should let him see you dressed up in a fancy dress and high heels and wearing makeup.

COURTNEY

If I did that, he'd laugh at me.

JESSICA

Yeah, but then you just take off one of your high heels and hit him on the head.

Courtney and Jessica laugh a little.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Listen, Paul and I are going to a dance tonight on a pier, and I could get Paul to bring Tannen by just telling him that we're all going to the pier for a little party. And I could take you shopping for some nice clothes today. Then, I'd bring you to the dance.

Courtney lightens up as she smiles at Jessica, who smiles back at her.

COURTNEY

Really?

JESSICA

Yep.

COURTNEY

That would be awesome, thank you!

JESSICA

It's my pleasure.

Courtney and Jessica relax happily as they look out onto the beautiful ocean, and of course, Courtney is dreaming about dancing with Tannenbaum.

EXT. FLORIDA PIER - NIGHT

We're slowly soaring parallel to the shore as we go over the dark ocean, though we can still see the waves breaking, as we approach a long wooden pier that jets out onto the ocean while the song, "BRAHMS' LULLABY" (performed by Bohdan Warchal and the Slovak Chamber Orchestra from the album entitled, "The 99 Most Essential Brahms Masterpieces"), begins to play, emanating from the dance party at the end of the pier. This beautiful, slow, wordless song plays in its entirety, with its crystal-clear notes sounding through the night air, signaling a dreamlike night for Tannenbaum and Courtney. Most of the pier is dimly lit, but the end of the pier is brightly lit with white lights from glowing lanterns, which are shining like beacons as they illuminate the dance party that's taking place below the lights.

We arrive at the people dancing on the pier, and it's a very romantic setting due to the ocean and the glowing white lanterns hanging on ropes that stretch above the heads of everyone, which also makes it seem like this is a dream. There are about one hundred people at this dance party, and all of them are dressed up for the evening.

The DJ is controlling the music at a table while most of the people, including Jessica and Paul, are slowly dancing to it while others are sitting at small tables. Tannenbaum is nicely dressed in a short-sleeve collared shirt, tie, and slacks, although he isn't wearing a suit jacket, and he's completely bored as he just sits alone at a table while watching the people dancing. Also, a lot of food is sitting on a long table, where people are grabbing snacks and taking them back to their tables to eat.

All of the tables are covered in white tablecloths, which combine with the white lights to make the party look like it's taking place in a very classy and dreamlike outdoor restaurant.

Courtney is walking down the dimmer-lit part of the wooden pier as she heads towards the dance party, which is glowing at the end of the pier. She's exquisitely dressed in a very pretty pink dress, and her hair is tied up into a bun, instead of falling down to her shoulders like it usually does, and she's wearing makeup and high heels, though she usually doesn't wear either of them. She looks absolutely beautiful.

Courtney is very nervous since she's not used to being dressed up, and she wants Tannenbaum to like her. So, she stops just before arriving at the party.

Courtney scans the people, looking for Tannenbaum, as her eyes move across the various tables and people until she spots Tannenbaum sitting by himself, so she smiles.

Courtney takes a deep breath, and then she begins to walk towards him, although she walks slowly and nervously.

Tannenbaum sees Courtney walking towards him, and he's completely surprised and mesmerized by her beauty since he's unaccustomed to seeing Courtney dressed up.

Tannenbaum can't stop staring at Courtney, which causes her to smile nervously and look down and away from him.

Tannenbaum stands up as Courtney arrives in front of him, and then she stops, hoping for his approval.

Courtney looks up from the ground and looks at Tannenbaum, and then she nervously and awkwardly just keeps standing still before him while he looks her over. Indeed, he looks up and down her body a few times, noticing her hair, makeup, dress, and shoes.

Tannenbaum just can't believe how different and beautiful Courtney looks.

COURTNEY

Well, what do you think?

Tannenbaum takes his gaze off of Courtney's pink dress and looks at her eyes.

TANNENBAUM

I think you're crazy for dressing up. That's what I think.

Courtney looks down, feeling hurt.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

But that's just what I think. What I know is that you look beautiful.

Courtney smiles and looks up into Tannenbaum's eyes.

COURTNEY

Thank you.

Tannenbaum smiles back at Courtney, but then his smile fades away, and he looks away since he's feeling awkward. So, Courtney's smile fades too, and she looks away.

"Brahms' Lullaby" finishes playing, and there's a pause before the next song starts while the dancers wait on the dance floor. There's an awkward moment of silence between Tannenbaum and Courtney as they just stand in front of each other since they don't know what to say.

TANNENBAUM

This feels kind of weird, huh?

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile nervously at each other.

COURTNEY

Yeah.

TANNENBAUM

I feel like some guy should be arriving to take you somewhere.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh nervously, but their laughter quickly dissipates, and they look into each other's eyes.

COURTNEY

No, no one's arriving.

TANNENBAUM

Well, then, I guess I get the honor of asking you to dance.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney and extends his bended arm.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
So, may I have this dance?

Courtney smiles broadly back at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY  
Yes, you may.

Courtney interlocks her bended arm around Tannenbaum's bended arm, and he escorts her as they begin to walk onto the dance floor.

The song, "CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE," by Elvis Presley from the album entitled, "The 50 Greatest Love Songs," starts playing. And this beautifully romantic song plays in its entirety as everyone dances slowly.

Tannenbaum and Courtney stop on the dance floor, and he puts his arms around her waist and clasps his hands on her lower back, and she puts her arms around his neck and clasps her hands behind his neck while resting her forearms on his shoulders.

Tannenbaum and Courtney begin to slowly dance as they sway to the music while other people dance similarly.

Tannenbaum and Courtney don't say a word as they happily dance to the music in a sweet, gentle, and loving fashion.

Tannenbaum and Courtney keep looking into each other's eyes as if the rest of the world doesn't exist.

It's truly as if Tannenbaum and Courtney are in their own wonderful dream as they experience a closeness that they've never felt before.

Jessica and Paul are dancing together when they look over and see Tannenbaum and Courtney dancing. So, Jessica and Paul smile at each other.

Tannenbaum and Courtney just continue their loving and magical dance that neither of them wants to end, and they both know their relationship has changed forever.

A young girl, 8 years old, is dancing with a young boy, 8 years old. She's wearing a beautiful blue dress, and he's wearing a collared shirt and slacks. They're very cute together as they happily sway to the soothing music.

An old man, 75 years old, is dancing with his wife, 74 years old, and they're having a great time as they smile at each other and at their surroundings. Undoubtedly, they're a couple who's been through many years together and still has a lot of love for each other.

A young man, 33 years old, and his wife, 32 years old, are dancing with their kids. He's dancing with their daughter, 6 years old, while his wife is dancing with their son, 5 years old. These two dancing couples are having a lot of fun together, and the husband and wife smile at each other.

Paul looks at Jessica and playfully mouths the lyrics of the song as they smile at each other.

PAUL  
(singing, mouthing the words)  
Take my hand, take my whole life  
too.

Jessica joins Paul in playfully mouthing the song's next words to each other.

JESSICA AND PAUL  
(singing, mouthing the words)  
For I can't help falling in love  
with you.

Jessica and Paul smile broadly at each other as they relish their goofiness, and then they look away in order to just enjoy their dancing, but they're still smiling.

Courtney drops her arms from Tannenbaum's shoulders and wraps them around his waist and clasps one of her wrists with her other hand on his lower back, and she rests her head on his shoulder, with the top of her hair touching his chin. And Courtney smiles as she closes her eyes in complete contentedness.

Since Tannenbaum and Courtney are closer together now, he unclasps his hands and grabs one of his wrists with his other hand.

So, Tannenbaum and Courtney are, basically, hugging each other while slowly swaying to the music.

Tannenbaum looks down at the top of Courtney's head as he holds her while they continue to dance.

Tannenbaum and Courtney are completely happy and peaceful in each other's arms.

If there's such a thing as heaven on Earth, Tannenbaum and Courtney are in it.

Tannenbaum and Courtney enjoy the final moments of their dreamy dance.

With everyone dancing on the romantic pier, the final notes of the beautiful song ring out into the night air.

## EXT. FLORIDA HOTEL - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

While it's raining, we read the clearly lit large sign in front of the hotel that identifies the name of the hotel: "WATERSIDE HOTEL." Obviously, Jessica and Paul aren't rich enough to afford an expensive hotel, but it's a decent hotel with three stories.

## INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

In a third-story room, which doesn't consist of much more than two beds and a television, Tannenbaum is just quietly sitting alone on the bed that's closest to the window and furthest from the bathroom. His hair is wet since he, obviously, just took a shower, and he's wearing a T-shirt and shorts, which are his "pajamas." He's facing the bathroom as he just wait for Courtney, who's in the bathroom as she finishes getting dressed after her shower.

The curtains are open on the large window, which is behind Tannenbaum, and the only sound is the quiet and peaceful sound of the rain. The room is pretty dark since one lamp, which is sitting on a nightstand between the heads of the beds, is the only light in the room that's turned on, though some light is coming from the window via the moonlight and the hotel's outdoor lights.

At Tannenbaum's feet, a cotton sleeping bag is lying spread out in between the two beds since this is where Tannenbaum has slept during the vacation while Courtney has slept in one bed, and Jessica and Paul have slept in the other bed.

Courtney walks out of the bathroom, and her hair is hanging wet from her shower. She's wearing her usual pink flannel pajamas, which have short sleeves and short pant legs, and she looks beautiful.

Courtney is very happy, so she's smiling as she walks toward Tannenbaum.

Courtney sits down on the bed directly across from Tannenbaum, and as he looks curiously at her beaming smile and contagious happiness, he can't help but to smile himself.

TANNENBAUM

What?

COURTNEY

Nothing, I'm just happy.

Courtney laughs a little as Tannenbaum just smiles while he continues to curiously observe her.



TANNENBAUM  
You're a goofball.

Courtney just laughs.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Where are Jessica and Paul?

Courtney finally stops laughing, and she smiles devilishly at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY  
They're sleeping in a different room tonight.

TANNENBAUM  
Good, then I'm sleeping in their bed because this sleeping bag hasn't been real comfortable. It actually made me look forward to sleeping in the car on the way back to West Virginia tomorrow morning. Anyway, I guess they want to be alone, huh?

COURTNEY  
Not exactly.

Courtney stands up, and then she bends down and folds Tannenbaum's sleeping bag in half and picks it up and tosses it to the ground at the foot of the beds.

Courtney smiles mischievously at Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM  
Oh, so it's us who want to be alone tonight?

COURTNEY  
Yes.

Courtney's smile disappears as she becomes serious and reaches both of her hands down and picks up one of Tannenbaum's hands.

While using one of her hands to hold his hand up, she playfully intertwines the fingers of her other hand with his fingers.

Tannenbaum is completely transfixed as he stares at his hand while Courtney plays with it. It's as if Courtney has put him into a trance, and it's a quiet and lovely moment for them.

Tannenbaum finally removes his gaze from his hand and looks up at Courtney.

TANNENBAUM

We're going to have sex, aren't we?

COURTNEY

You mean make love? No, we're not married, silly.

Courtney smiles.

TANNENBAUM

That doesn't stop other people.

COURTNEY

We're not other people.

TANNENBAUM

Touché.

COURTNEY

By the way, I know some people do crazy stuff in bed, but when I make love, I'll just be lying on my back with the lights out.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

TANNENBAUM

So, what are we doing?

COURTNEY

Praying.

Now, Tannenbaum is really confused.

TANNENBAUM

What?

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY

Praying.

TANNENBAUM

You're a very strange girl.

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY

I pray every night before I go to bed, so I was hoping you would join me.

TANNENBAUM  
Seriously?

COURTNEY  
Yes, but don't worry. You don't  
have to say anything.

Courtney, who's still caressing Tannenbaum's hand, gently pulls him up via this hand and arm.

Courtney lets go of Tannenbaum and kneels down next to the bed where he was sitting.

Tannenbaum looks down at Courtney like she's a little strange.

Courtney lays her forearms on the bed, and she clasps her hands in prayer.

Courtney looks up at Tannenbaum with a serious, pleading look since she wants him to join her in prayer.

Tannenbaum is drawn into her, so he relinquishes and kneels down next to her and clasps his hands on the bed like Courtney.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and then she bows her head and closes her eyes.

Taking his cue from Courtney, Tannenbaum also bows his head and closes his eyes.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
Dear God, Tannenbaum and I humbly pray for all of the people in the world who are hurting. Please help them in their time of need, whether it's providing food to the hungry or caring for the sick or helping someone deal with emotional problems or whatever the case may be. It's very painful to know how much sadness exists in the world, so we pray that you help to make it better .... And, on a personal note, I want to thank you for giving me the best night of my life.

Tannenbaum is surprised by Courtney's admission of this being her best night ever, so he opens his eyes and looks at Courtney, who still has her head bowed and her eyes closed.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I couldn't have dreamed of anything greater. Tannenbaum has been my best friend since we were kids, and we've had a lot of fun together. But, at least for tonight, we were more than friends. And, even if tomorrow doesn't bless us, we'll always have this night. In the name of Jesus Christ ...

Tannenbaum quickly bows his head and closes his eyes since he doesn't want Courtney to know that he ever opened his eyes.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

we pray. Amen.

Courtney opens her eyes and unclasps her hands, and she takes her arms off of the bed and lets them fall down to her sides, and then she looks at Tannenbaum.

Like Courtney, Tannenbaum opens his eyes and unclasps his hands, and he takes his arms off of the bed and lets them fall down to his sides. And, then, he looks at Courtney.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

What do you think?

TANNENBAUM

I think you're the sweetest person who's ever lived.

This makes Courtney very happy, so she laughs and smiles broadly at Tannenbaum, and he smiles a little back at her but not too much since he's, basically, in a state of shock about how sweet and charming Courtney is behaving towards him.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

But you're definitely strange.

Courtney laughs a little, and Tannenbaum smiles.

Suddenly, it becomes quiet as Tannenbaum and Courtney are just looking at each other.

Courtney leans over and closes her eyes as she kisses Tannenbaum on the lips, and he closes his eyes and kisses her back.

Their lips part, and they open their eyes.

They're completely silent as they look at each other, with the rain being the only sound.

COURTNEY  
Was that your first kiss?

TANNENBAUM  
Yes.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY  
Me too.

Tannenbaum smiles back at Courtney.

Their smiles disappear as they act as if they're under a spell. Indeed, they're under a love spell. So, a lovely, quiet moment passes between these two people as they look at each other.

TANNENBAUM  
Now what?

COURTNEY  
We sleep together.

TANNENBAUM  
But you said ....

COURTNEY  
We can cuddle.

Tannenbaum pauses a moment, although he's still under Courtney's spell and will do anything she asks of him.

TANNENBAUM  
OK.

Courtney smiles broadly.

Courtney stands up, so Tannenbaum stands up too.

Courtney turns off the lamp sitting on the nightstand between the heads of the beds, so all of the lights are out. But a fair amount of light is entering from the window.

On the bed closest to the window, which is the same bed where they just prayed, Courtney picks up the bed covers and slides under them. She lies on her side as she faces Tannenbaum, with her head resting on a large pillow.

Courtney holds the covers next to her, exposing part of the bed to Tannenbaum in order to allow him to join her under the covers. And she smiles up at him, which causes him to smile back at her.

Tannenbaum lies down on the bed, and Courtney throws the covers over him. So, they're facing each other while lying on their sides, with their heads resting on the same pillow.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, who smiles back at her, and then they turn their attention to cuddling.

Tannenbaum awkwardly puts one of his hands on Courtney's shoulder, just above the covers, while she puts one of her arms around his waist under the covers. So, basically, they're imitating the position that they used when they danced with each other.

But this, obviously, isn't going to work, so they break from their embrace and scoot closer together, and then he puts his arm around her waist under the covers while she puts her arm back around his waist under the covers.

They're still not comfortable, so they make more wrestling moves under the covers, trying to figure out where to put their hands.

After a couple of more failed attempts at cuddling as they adjust their hands under the covers, it's obvious that they're not making much progress.

Courtney laughs a little at their ineptitude, and then Tannenbaum laughs too.

Tannenbaum sits up on one of his elbows while Courtney continues lying down as they take a break from trying to figure out how to cuddle.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

How do we do this?

COURTNEY

I don't know.

Tannenbaum and Courtney are in a giggly mood now, so they can't start laughing and can't stop.

TANNENBAUM

Hey, this was your idea.

COURTNEY

Yeah, but I've never actually done it.

TANNENBAUM

There should be like a hotline to  
call to get advice for this stuff.

COURTNEY

Yeah, 1-800-WE'RE-CLUELESS.

They start laughing even more.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

OK, let's figure this out.

TANNENBAUM

OK, just tell me what to do.

They stop laughing, although they're still smiling at their  
awkward situation, and Courtney sits up on one of her  
elbows.

COURTNEY

Here, lie down on your back with  
your head on the pillow.

Tannenbaum obeys Courtney and lies down on his back.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Now, put your right arm out.

Tannenbaum obeys Courtney and extends his right arm out with  
Courtney helping to guide it so that his arm is lying just  
below the large pillow.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Now, I just put my head over your  
arm and next to your head.

Courtney lies down on her side, facing Tannenbaum with her  
head on the pillow next to his head, although her head is  
slightly lower and is, in fact, next to his shoulder, and  
his right arm is extending under her neck.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Now, you can wrap your arm around  
me, and I'll put my arm on your  
chest.

Tannenbaum bends his right elbow and, thus, raises his right  
forearm, which he wraps around Courtney until his hand is  
resting on her right shoulder just above the covers, and she  
throws her right arm onto his chest under the covers.

They're quiet for a moment since they realize they've  
finally achieved a great cuddling position.

Courtney smiles to herself, and Tannenbaum looks down onto the top of her head.

TANNENBAUM

Hey, you did it. This is nice,  
huh?

COURTNEY

It's perfect.

Courtney closes her eyes in contentment.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Goodnight, Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM

Goodnight, Courtney.

Tannenbaum closes his eyes too.

With the quiet sound of the rain, Tannenbaum and Courtney sleep together for the first time, and of course, it's a very peaceful sleep.

EXT. NEW RIVER - DAY

During the following montage, this beautiful river is cutting through a deep valley in the middle of West Virginia.

MONTAGE ("COUNTRY ROADS" BY JOHN DENVER FROM THE ALBUM ENTITLED, "THE ESSENTIAL JOHN DENVER," PLAYS IN ITS ENTIRETY OVER THIS MONTAGE)

A) We're soaring above the New River as we head downstream, with tall mountains covered with bright-green trees rising above both sides of the river, until we arrive at about a dozen whitewater rafts that people are gently rowing down a calm section of the river. Obviously, this is a very popular river for whitewater rafting, and the rafts have various colors and various company names written on their sides since they're run by several different operators who organize whitewater trips. At the water's level, we see that one of the rafts contains Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, and Paul, and they're accompanied by a GUIDE, 45 years old, who's an athletic-looking man. They're sitting on the edges of a very pretty blue raft, which is big enough to hold about eight people, so there's plenty of space. Tannenbaum is sitting on the front port side while Courtney is sitting on the front starboard side. Jessica is sitting behind Tannenbaum, Paul is sitting behind Courtney, and the Guide is sitting in the center on the back of the



raft. Everyone is wearing orange life preservers and yellow hard hats, and they're having fun as they slowly row their oars in unison, paddling down the river.

B) Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, Paul, and their Guide excitedly row in unison while their raft goes through a challenging section of whitewater rapids, which is pretty rough, so the waves push their raft up and down. Also, several other rafts are going through the same rapids. The river is calm before and after this fairly short section of rapids, but while in the rapids, they have to row in order to continually hit the rapids with the front of their raft, which prevents them from tipping. And, when the front of their raft crashes into each wave, a lot of water shoots up and rushes onto them, which gets Tannenbaum and Courtney very wet since they're sitting at the front of the raft. It's a complete thrill ride, so they can't stop smiling as they enjoy this incredible ride down a beautiful river.

C) Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, and Paul are standing near the front of a line of people on top of a really big rock, which is located on the shore, as they wait their turn to jump off the rock and fall about ten feet into the river below. Meanwhile, the guides are waiting in the rafts floating below as they make the rafts available for the people to swim to them and climb aboard after jumping off the big rock. The person in front of Tannenbaum and Courtney jumps off the rock, so they walk to the edge of the tall rock and stop as they prepare to jump off together. Tannenbaum and Courtney pause as they smile at each other, and then they jump off, and Courtney screams as they fall through the air until landing with a splash in the river. Their life jackets don't let them stay underwater for very long, so they quickly pop up and smile at each other. Then, they watch Jessica and Paul jump off the rock together and land in the river. When Jessica and Paul surface, all four of them smile at each other, and then all of them start to swim to their blue raft, where their Guide is waiting.

D) Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, and Paul are floating on their backs, with help from their life jackets, as the river carries them into a gentle section of whitewater while their Guide rows their raft beside them. There are also other rafts and people floating in the whitewater. The waves aren't real big, and they have a lot of fun as they go up and down the waves while making sure they keep their feet floating near the surface in order to avoid hitting their legs on rocks beneath the water.

E) Along with other rafters, Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, Paul, and their Guide have stopped to eat lunch. They're sitting on big rocks on the shore while eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and drinking bottles of water while

their raft is sitting on shore next to them. They're simply relaxing while quietly eating and enjoying the beautiful scenery as they look out onto the gently flowing river.

F) Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, and Paul are standing up on the sides of the raft while their Guide rows ferociously as he spins the raft in circles in a calm section of the river, and other rafters are watching them. They're having fun as they try to keep their balance while their Guide tries to make them fall. After a few revolutions, they start to lose their balance, and they all fall off while screaming and splash into the river as their Guide stops rowing and just laughs at them.

G) Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, Paul, and their Guide are excitedly going through a section of whitewater rapids that isn't too tough, so they're simply having fun as they paddle through the rapids, and several other rafts are traversing these rapids too. They're just smiling and enjoying the ride through the waves as "Country Roads" finishes playing.

Tannenbaum, Courtney, Jessica, Paul, and their Guide are slowly paddling down a calm section of the river.

#### GUIDE

OK, you can rest now.

Everyone stops paddling and pulls their oars out of the water and lets them rest across their laps, and they just let the river slowly push them along as several nearby rafts do likewise.

Tannenbaum looks up at the spectacular New River Gorge Bridge that's just ahead of them. It spans the incredibly long distance over the chasm where they're whitewater rafting, and everyone else in the raft follows Tannenbaum in looking in awe at the bridge too.

#### GUIDE (CONT'D)

Of course, since all of you are from West Virginia, you know that's the New River Gorge Bridge. It was completed in 1977, and it contained the longest arch of any bridge in the world for more than twenty-five years.

Everyone, except Tannenbaum, looks down from the bridge, and Courtney just watches Tannenbaum observe the bridge.

Courtney sadly knows that Tannenbaum is taken with this fantastic accomplishment of science, and it hurts and scares her since she's, of course, afraid that science will take him from her.

TANNENBAUM

That's really something, isn't it,  
Courtney?

COURTNEY

It's just a bridge.

Tannenbaum looks down from the bridge and looks at Courtney, and he can't believe that she doesn't appreciate the bridge like he does.

TANNENBAUM

It's not just a bridge! It's a  
great milestone in the field of  
engineering. I even read that it  
contains over eighty million pounds  
of steel and cement.

Courtney knows Tannenbaum is excited, which she's happy to see. Thus, almost in spite of herself, she smiles at him.

COURTNEY

OK, it's a heavy bridge.

Tannenbaum laughs, and everyone else smiles/laughs.

GUIDE

Alright, all forward.

Everyone puts their oars back into the water and begins to paddle together.

GUIDE (CONT'D)

This is our exit up here on the  
left.

Ahead on the shore on their left, just before reaching the bridge, several rafts are landing while others have already landed with people carrying their rafts out of the water. Of course, this is the ending point of the whitewater rafting trips.

EXT. JESSICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

It's gently raining on the two-story house on this summer's evening. It's a modest white-colored house, but it's still pretty, and it has a nice front yard and backyard that are filled with bright-green grass and a few bushes and trees. In fact, it's in a pleasant small town where every house has a front yard and backyard, so the neighboring houses aren't too close to each other.

## INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tannenbaum and Courtney are standing side by side as they're leaning against a kitchen counter across from the oven, waiting for their dinner to finish cooking in the oven. On the counter next to the oven, there's one oven mitt, two bowls, and two plates (with two large serving spoons on one of the plates) sitting next to each other.

TANNENBAUM

So, your sister and Paul are at his parents' house for the whole night?

COURTNEY

Yeah, they visit there a lot since it's only about an hour north of here, near Morgantown. And they wanted to give us some privacy since you go to college tomorrow, and I start work in a few days.

TANNENBAUM

Cool.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

COURTNEY

Well, the casserole is almost done, so I'll get the jello out now.

Courtney walks to the refrigerator, where her dinner recipes (7-up jello salad and hash brown casserole) are posted to the door by a magnet, and she removes a large rectangular glass dish of green 7-up jello salad, which looks very delicious. She puts the jello salad down next to the bowls and plates on the counter as Tannenbaum walks up to her and observes her.

Courtney picks up one of the large serving spoons, which was sitting on one of the plates, and she scoops out a large portion of the jello salad and puts it in one of the bowls, and then she scoops out another large portion and puts it in the other bowl.

TANNENBAUM

Ah, nice and green like the Irish girl that you are, Courtney  
Maguire.

Courtney puts the serving spoon down in the rectangular dish of jello salad, and she turns to face Tannenbaum, who's smiling at her, and she smiles back at him.

COURTNEY

Hey, your name is Tannenbaum  
Zavatsky, so you can't make fun of  
anyone's name. I mean, you're  
Russian, but you're named after a  
German fir tree.

TANNENBAUM

It's a Christmas tree. I was born  
on Christmas Day, like Isaac Newton  
by the way, and that song was  
playing at the hospital.

Courtney smiles mischievously.

COURTNEY

(singing)

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, you're  
named after a fir tree.

Courtney laughs, and Tannenbaum smiles as he takes a step  
forward, putting himself right up in front of her.

TANNENBAUM

So, you said you call me by my full  
name since you like it and want to  
show respect, but now, you're  
making fun of me?

Courtney laughs a little.

COURTNEY

Yes.

Tannenbaum turns Courtney around until he's standing behind  
her. And he wraps his arms around her arms and waist, so  
he's got her controlled as she screams while laughing.

TANNENBAUM

So, that's how it's going to be.

Courtney isn't struggling against Tannenbaum since she has  
surrendered and is subdued in his arms, and she's still  
laughing as she enjoys this moment. And Tannenbaum is  
smiling as he leans his head over Courtney's shoulder until  
it's next to her head, which calms Courtney and causes her  
laughter to dissipate.

Courtney closes her eyes as she contently smiles while  
Tannenbaum holds her.

Tannenbaum's and Courtney's smiles disappear, and he's  
looking down while her eyes are closed as they enjoy a quiet  
moment of contentedness.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
What if I never let you go?

COURTNEY  
Our dinner would burn.

TANNENBAUM  
Oh, good point.

Tannenbaum smiles while Courtney laughs and opens her eyes, and he lets her go. She turns around and walks to the oven.

Courtney turns off the oven, and she picks up the oven mitt that was lying on the counter, and she puts it on one of her hands.

From the oven, Courtney removes a large rectangular glass dish that contains a hash brown casserole, which looks very delicious, and she lays it down on the stove on top of the oven.

She takes off her oven mitt and lays it on the counter.

She picks up a large serving spoon that was sitting on one of the plates, and she scoops out a large portion of casserole and puts it on one of the plates, and then she scoops out another large portion and puts it on the other plate.

She puts the serving spoon down in the rectangular dish of casserole.

COURTNEY  
OK, it's all ready. Let's go eat.

TANNENBAUM  
Sounds good.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other, and then each of them picks up a plate of hash brown casserole and a bowl filled of 7-up jello salad, and they walk into the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Tannenbaum and Courtney walk to the small dining table in this nicely cozy, enclosed room that's fairly small. On the same side of the table, they lay their plates and bowls down next to their silverware, which are sitting on napkins, and their transparent glasses, which are filled with Arnold Palmer. Then, they sit down next to each other in order to eat their delicious dinner.

TANNENBAUM  
Arnold Palmer, 7-up jello salad,  
and hash brown casserole. This is  
too good. Thanks for making this.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY  
You're welcome.

TANNENBAUM  
You really like cooking, don't you?

COURTNEY  
I love it when I have someone to  
cook for.

TANNENBAUM  
Well, I'm glad I'm that someone.  
Your meals over the years are  
nearly the only home cooking I've  
ever had. Nothing ever comes out  
of the oven at my house.

Courtney smiles, and then she takes a sip of her drink as  
Tannenbaum watches her while smiling oddly, which causes her  
to smile again as she puts her glass back down on the table.

COURTNEY  
What?

TANNENBAUM  
I feel like God is going to walk in  
and tell me I'm in heaven.

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY  
No, I don't think so.

TANNENBAUM  
Too bad. I was going to ask for  
better company.

Tannenbaum smiles as Courtney laughs.

COURTNEY  
He'd say I was already too good for  
you.

TANNENBAUM  
Well, I can't argue with that.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh, and then they turn their attention to quietly eating their dinner.

Tannenbaum uses his fork to eat a bite of his casserole, and Courtney uses her spoon to eat a bite of her 7-up jello salad. It's a tranquil time of happiness as they enjoy being next to each other while eating a great dinner.

INT. COURTNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tannenbaum and Courtney are sitting comfortably together on the bed while leaning against the headboard, with one big pillow sandwiched between themselves and the headboard, and the teal plush bed cover is covering them up to just above their waists. She's curled up next to his right side, and his right arm is wrapped around her waist. And he's wearing a T-shirt and shorts while she's wearing her usual pink flannel pajamas that have short sleeves and short pant legs.

This beautiful large bedroom is brightly lit. And it's a very feminine room, with the walls and ceiling being light blue, which makes it seem like they're still in a watery environment somehow. So, it reflects Courtney's feminine personality, and Tannenbaum has clearly been transported into her world. Even the door and window's curtains are closed, peacefully isolating them.

COURTNEY

It's quiet. I guess the rain stopped.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, I like it.

COURTNEY

Me too. It feels like we're the only two people in the world.

TANNENBAUM

That's a scary thought.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, and she smiles back at him, but then their smiles disappear as they look seriously at each other.

COURTNEY

I wish we could feel like this forever.

TANNENBAUM

Maybe, singular moments are somehow better than everlasting ones could



be. Maybe, it makes you appreciate them more.

COURTNEY

Yeah, maybe.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

Their smiles disappear, and Courtney looks seriously at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Listen, I know you're a distant person, but you've let me in, so I can see how fantastic you are. You're, obviously, brilliant, but you're also kind and fun to be around, and I thank God everyday that you're in my life.

Tannenbaum smiles, but Courtney looks seriously at him.

TANNENBAUM

You are very odd.

Tannenbaum laughs, which shocks Courtney since she was trying to have a profound moment with him. And she looks away since she's hurt that he isn't taking her seriously, and she's embarrassed that she opened herself up to him.

COURTNEY

Stupid magazines.

TANNENBAUM

What?

COURTNEY

I read about how doing pillow talk, where a couple lies in bed and compliments each other, is important for couples to get closer. But I don't think the magazines had you in mind.

Tannenbaum sees that Courtney is hurt and embarrassed as he looks at her while she looks down.

TANNENBAUM

Well, I guess it's my turn.

COURTNEY

For what?

TANNENBAUM

To give you a compliment.

Courtney gets excited, so she looks up intently at Tannenbaum as she eagerly waits for a compliment, causing him to smile at her quick change in mood.

Tannenbaum becomes serious, like Courtney, as he studies her face.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

You have hair like the golden sun,  
eyes like the bluest water, and  
skin as white as snow, so you're  
the world's most exotic creature.  
And, to me, you're the most  
beautiful, but you're even more  
beautiful on the inside.

Courtney looks at Tannenbaum in shock because he gave her such a great compliment.

COURTNEY

Wow, you're great at pillow talk.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh a little.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

But what if I had brown hair?

TANNENBAUM

I'd still think you're the most  
beautiful, and you'd be a lot  
smarter.

Courtney laughs and slaps Tannenbaum lightly across his chest with one of her hands, which causes him to laugh too.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Besides, it would be great since  
Hitler gave people like you a bad  
name.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh.

COURTNEY

OK, first, he gave everyone a bad  
name. And, second, I don't think  
you can mention Hitler during  
pillow talk.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh a little.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Anyway, I've always loved how we both have fair skin and blue eyes, but you have black hair and I have blonde hair.

TANNENBAUM

You're very observant. You'd make a good scientist.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile.

COURTNEY

No, I just think it's cool, like we're made for each other. It's like we have most things in common, but we also have differences that complement each other.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, that is pretty cool.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

COURTNEY

Men and women complement each other as boyfriends and girlfriends or husbands and wives. Even our bodies fit together for lovemaking. Of course, men and women are very different, but neither one is whole until they come together to form a family where they take care of each other and create life. Besides, most men would just eat junk food while lying in a filthy house if it wasn't for women.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh.

TANNENBAUM

By the way, I don't think most people refer to sex as lovemaking anymore.

COURTNEY

Well, they should. I mean, there's so much pornography, sleeping around, coarse talking, and even people just dressing suggestively that, whether those things are immoral or not, they're not healthy because they don't really have

anything to do with love. They cheapen the act and the relationship between men and women and life itself. Besides, I could never have sex without love, so that's why I call it lovemaking.

TANNENBAUM

Do you have a great answer for everything?

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh.

COURTNEY

Yes, now come lie down with me!

Courtney lies down, and Tannenbaum follows her lead until they're lying with the bed cover concealing them up to their shoulders, and their heads are resting on the same pillow that was behind their backs. He's on his right side, and she's on her left side as they face each other. And it's quiet for a moment as they enjoy lying next to each other.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Like most girls, I grew up playing with dolls and dreaming about getting married and having a family. Like most boys, you grew up playing with action figures and dreaming of wars in a make-believe world.

Courtney looks seriously at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

You think I'm too practical, that being a square like me is pathetic.

TANNENBAUM

No, I don't think that at all.

Courtney smiles weakly.

COURTNEY

Not now because you're under my love spell.

Courtney smiles but, then, becomes serious.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

But you have thought it before and you will again. And, if you don't stop thinking it, things will end badly for us.

It becomes very somber between Tannenbaum and Courtney.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

You know, I think it's great that you're chasing your dream, and I know it's important for everyone to try to make a difference out there in addition to the contribution of creating newborn life. But I just want you to know that although the world may give acclaim to someone, it's impossible for the world to love anyone. They're not family. After all, you can't lie in bed with the world.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

Courtney pushes the teal plush bed cover down to a little below the level of their hearts, so their upper chests are exposed. Then, she grabs Tannenbaum's right hand, so her right hand is clasping his right hand just above the bed cover and just below the pillow.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

And you can't hold hands with the world.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Out there, we take the good and leave the bad. In here, we take each other. It's a sea of people out there, and everyone is a single person, but in here, together, we're much more. We're life at its closest, most meaningful.

Tannenbaum and Courtney stare into each other's eyes for a meaningful moment.

Courtney removes her right hand from Tannenbaum's hand, and then she takes Tannenbaum's right hand and places it on her heart, and then she places her right hand on his heart.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I can feel your heart beating. Do you feel mine?

TANNENBAUM

Yes.

Courtney smiles, but it quickly disappears, and it becomes very quiet while they feel each other's heartbeats.

COURTNEY

"I had a heart, it once was true,  
but now it's gone from me to you.  
Take care of it as I have done  
because now you have two, and I  
have none."

TANNENBAUM

Is that a quote?

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY

Yeah, I read it somewhere once. I  
don't think it's known who said it.

TANNENBAUM

You are very much a girl.

Tannenbaum smiles, and Courtney laughs for a nice, joyous moment.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I mean, you're very feminine.

COURTNEY

Is that good?

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney.

TANNENBAUM

Yes, it's good.

Courtney smiles back at Tannenbaum.

Tannenbaum looks down at Courtney's beautiful necklace, which is a gold chain holding a gold Christian cross.

Tannenbaum takes his hand off of Courtney's heart and picks up her cross, and he gently rubs his thumb over it as he studies it. So, Courtney takes her hand off of Tannenbaum's heart.

COURTNEY

Are you a Christian too?

TANNENBAUM

Yes. And most great scientists  
have been too.

COURTNEY

How come you only go to church when  
I drag you along?

TANNENBAUM

It's complicated.

COURTNEY

Please tell me. I want to know.

Tannenbaum lets go of the cross.

TANNENBAUM

It's just that I know heaven means  
good ultimately wins, but I don't  
know why God lets so many bad  
things happen in this world. How  
could he do that?

COURTNEY

I don't know. I guess we wouldn't  
need faith if we had all the  
answers.

TANNENBAUM

That's true. That's a good point.

Courtney smiles a little since she's happy that she helped  
Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

There's also the fact that God  
created a universe so big that  
we're not even specks of dust in  
it. I mean, if we're so important,  
why are we so insignificant to the  
universe?

COURTNEY

I don't know.

Tannenbaum turns onto his back and, basically, talks to the  
ceiling as he gets excited/depressed at thinking about the  
universe.

TANNENBAUM

The universe has a diameter of  
billions of light years, and it  
contains billions of galaxies, with  
an average of billions of planets  
and countless stars in each galaxy.  
So, no human will ever even see  
anything close to a small part of  
the universe, let alone ...

COURTNEY  
Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM  
do anything that really matters in  
comparison. So, what's the point  
really? Why do ...?

COURTNEY  
Tannenbaum!

Courtney puts her right hand on Tannenbaum's left cheek and turns his head towards her, which enables her to finally get his attention.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
You analyze things too much.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum as he looks at her as if she just woke him up.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
Just stay here in the present and  
enjoy the moment, OK?

TANNENBAUM  
Yeah, OK, sorry about that.

Courtney smiles weakly and sadly as she removes her hand from his cheek, and she looks down.

A moment of silence passes as Tannenbaum looks at a subdued Courtney.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

COURTNEY  
I'm scared. What will happen to  
us?

A few tears start to fall from Courtney's eye since she can't help to cry, but she doesn't wipe the tears away.

Courtney looks up at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
Will you just leave me behind?

Tannenbaum turns back onto his side in order to directly face Courtney, and he sits up on his right elbow and looks down at her.



TANNENBAUM

You have many friends, and you can have almost any guy you want in this world. But you're all I'll ever have. So, you can leave me, but I'll never leave you. I promise.

Courtney smiles widely up at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

Tannenbaum uses his left hand to wipe away the tears from Courtney's cheeks.

Tannenbaum uses the back of his left hand to push a few bangs of Courtney's hair away from her forehead, moving them back to the side of her head.

Tannenbaum moves his hand down from Courtney's hair to her right cheek, and he slowly runs the back of his hand back and forth over her cheek, feeling the smoothness of her skin. And she closes her eyes, enjoying the moment.

After Tannenbaum rubs Courtney's cheek a few times, she opens her eyes while he continues to slowly rub her cheek.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

You're beautiful.

Courtney smiles broadly.

COURTNEY

Thank you. You're not bad yourself.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh a little.

Tannenbaum withdraws his hand from Courtney's cheek and slips it under the bed cover.

Their smiles disappear, and Courtney looks seriously at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I love you.

TANNENBAUM

Don't worry, it's just temporary insanity. You'll get over it.

Tannenbaum smiles, but Courtney doesn't smile. Indeed, Courtney just longingly looks at Tannenbaum, hoping he'll tell her that he loves her.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I love you too.

Courtney smiles, and Tannenbaum smiles back at her.

Tannenbaum leans down, closes his eyes, and kisses her on her lips, and she closes her eyes and kisses him back.

Their lips part, and they open their eyes. And Tannenbaum stops resting on his elbow as he lies back down on his side with his head on the pillow.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

COURTNEY

Goodnight, Tannenbaum Zavadsky.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh a little since she used his full name.

TANNENBAUM

Goodnight, Courtney Maguire.

Tannenbaum and Courtney laugh a little more.

COURTNEY

OK, new position tonight.

Courtney grabs Tannenbaum's left arm and wraps it around her torso under the bed cover as she flips over, so her back is facing Tannenbaum while her hair is near his face, and the bed cover is extending up over their shoulders.

Courtney closes her eyes as she prepares to go to sleep happily.

Tannenbaum smiles to himself.

Tannenbaum stands up and turns off the light switch next to the door, which causes the room to go dark.

Then, Tannenbaum settles back down under the bed cover, and he wraps his left arm around Courtney's torso under the cover again, and he closes his eyes to join her in sleeping happily together.

EXT. SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

We're soaring above the buildings (e.g., Miller Auditorium and North Hall), as well as the bright-green grass areas that occupy the beautiful large spaces between the buildings, where many students are walking with their

families and friends as the students move in for the start of the school year. Then, we arrive at Patterson Hall, which is a dorm building that consists of three stories.

EXT. PATTERSON HALL - DAY

Tannenbaum and Courtney are leaning against the trunk of her car, which is sitting in the parking lot. They're trying to figure out how to say goodbye to each other since they've just finished moving his things into his dorm room inside Patterson Hall after she drove him here to drop him off to start his college career. Her car is backed into its parking space next to the grass, so they're facing Patterson Hall as they watch students move their belongings from their cars in the parking lot to their dorm rooms. Of course, the students are receiving help from their families and friends, which provides a stark contrast to the lack of families that Tannenbaum and Courtney possess.

Indeed, many people are walking on the sidewalk that goes from the parking lot to the entrance of Patterson Hall, with the sidewalk being surrounded by a pretty combination of bright-green grass and trees.

COURTNEY

I always feel like an orphan when  
I'm surrounded by so many families  
like today.

TANNENBAUM

You are an orphan.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Yeah, but I don't always feel like  
one, smarty pants.

Tannenbaum smiles back at Courtney, but then their smiles disappear as they return to watching all of the commotion around them. They know they have to say goodbye, but they don't want to leave each other.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Well, I suppose I better go.

Courtney stops leaning against the car and stands up, and then Tannenbaum stands up too.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I guess I'm supposed to tell you to  
study hard and not chase all the

girls, but for some reason, I don't think that will be a problem with you.

Tannenbaum and Courtney both laugh a little.

TANNENBAUM

No, that won't be a problem.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

Their smiles disappear as they become serious again.

COURTNEY

I'll come visit you soon, just to make sure you haven't been corrupted or something.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

TANNENBAUM

I can't wait.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, but she can't bring herself to smile back.

A quiet moment passes as Tannenbaum and Courtney try to figure out how to finish off their goodbye.

Courtney hugs Tannenbaum, and he hugs her back.

COURTNEY

I love you.

TANNENBAUM

I love you too.

Tannenbaum and Courtney break from their embrace, and they give each other a quick kiss on the lips.

Courtney smiles at Tannenbaum, and he smiles back at her.

COURTNEY

Goodbye.

TANNENBAUM

Goodbye.

Tannenbaum watches Courtney walk to her driver's side door.

Courtney gets into her car and starts to drive out of the parking lot, slowly making her way amongst the cars and people.

Tannenbaum watches Courtney leave, and then he turns away and starts to walk on the sidewalk as he heads towards the entrance to Patterson Hall in order to begin his college career.

Since Tannenbaum and Courtney are now separated, their relationship is in danger.

EXT. PASCAL'S COOKIE FACTORY - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

It's a large building, and like nearly everything in West Virginia, it's surrounded by mountains that are covered with bright-green trees. There's a big wooden sign that we read to say, "PASCAL'S COOKIES."

INT. FACTORY FLOOR - DAY

There are about 30 workers scattered around the large room who are operating different machines, which are fairly loud. Some workers are working alone while other workers are working in teams. And every worker is wearing latex gloves, goggles, earplugs, and a hairnet, although they wear their own street clothes. Everyone is doing the hard, grueling work that's, unfortunately, typical for factory work.

A worker is adding ingredients to an extremely large vat in order to make cookie dough while, from this vat, a conveyor belt is pulling a seemingly endless stream of small balls of cookie dough upwards until they're high above the factory floor.

The balls of cookie dough reach the highest point of the conveyor belt, and then they fall over its ledge and drop into a machine that puts about a dozen balls of cookie dough into each plastic bag, creating many bags that exit close to the level of the factory floor and continue forward on another conveyor belt.

Courtney and two other workers are sitting next to this conveyor belt as they're busily picking up the plastic bags of cookie dough and stuffing them into cardboard boxes. She quickly fills up a box and places it on the conveyor belt, where the box goes to a machine that seals it and, then, continues to another worker who puts it on a palette, which will, of course, be shipped to companies (e.g., restaurants) who'll make the dough into cookies.

Obviously, Courtney isn't happy to be doing this very hard, mind-numbing work, but she has to make a living. So, she picks up bag after bag and fills box after box. And there's no talk between her and the two workers next to her since all of them are too busy doing their jobs.

## INT. PREP ROOM - DAY

Courtney clocks out for lunch by sliding her magnetic card in the machine hanging on the wall in this small room that contains equipment for the workers (e.g., boxes of gloves and earplugs).

Courtney takes her goggles off, which she puts in her pocket.

Courtney takes off her earplugs, gloves, and hairnet, and she throws them in the trash can.

Courtney begins to walk to the lunch room.

## INT. LUNCH ROOM - DAY

Courtney is sitting at a table as she eats the last bite of her peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Her empty paper bag, which contained her lunch, is sitting next to her large aluminum can of Arnold Palmer, which has a big picture of Arnold Palmer on it. There are a couple of other workers in this fairly large room, but no one is talking or even sitting near each other as they quietly eat their lunches.

Courtney looks at her watch and realizes she has to go back to work, so she stands up and throws her paper bag into the trash can.

Courtney picks up her can of Arnold Palmer and takes a last sip to finish it, and then she throws it into the trash can.

Courtney begins to leave the lunch room in order to go back to work.

## INT. PREP ROOM - DAY

Courtney slides her magnetic card in the machine hanging on the wall in order to clock back in after lunch, and then she grabs a hairnet from the dispenser on the wall and puts it over her hair.

Courtney grabs a box of earplugs from a large bin that's sitting on a table, and she removes the earplugs, tossing the box into a trash can, and inserts the earplugs into her ears.

Courtney takes the goggles out of her pocket and puts them on, and then she quickly grabs two latex gloves from the dispenser.

Courtney puts on her gloves while she walks back to the factory floor, where she'll continue her very boring and tough job.

EXT. FISHING LAKE - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

We're moving fairly slowly just a little above a large lake as we pass over kayaks, canoes, and paddle boats that are cruising around on the water, and we're approaching a wooden fishing pier where quite a few people are standing while fishing over the pier's wood railing. This lake is surrounded by mountains that are covered with very colorful trees since it's fall, so it's very beautiful.

EXT. FISHING PIER - DAY

Courtney is standing beside Jessica and Paul near the end of the pier, and all three of them are fishing over the wood railing. They're simply enjoying their time together.

A FISHERMAN GIRL, 10 years old, who's standing near Courtney on the pier, reels in her fishing pole, pulling a fairly big fish out of the lake while her father, FISHERMAN GIRL'S FATHER, 35 years old, is standing next to her.

FISHERMAN GIRL

Dad, I got another one!

FISHERMAN GIRL'S FATHER

Good job! Bring him on up!

Courtney watches the Fisherman Girl pull a fish over the railing and onto the deck of the pier, with the fish hooked onto the end of her fishing line.

The Fisherman Girl's Father lays his fishing pole down on the deck, and then he reaches down and picks up his daughter's fish and begins to pull it off the hook.

Courtney turns towards Jessica and Paul.

COURTNEY

How come we always go fishing in the wrong spot?

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA

I don't know, but it makes it worse that the spot next to us is always a good place to catch fish.

PAUL

And if this is a sport, that girl  
is a much better athlete than us.

COURTNEY

Yeah, but we're girls. It's you  
who should be embarrassed.

Courtney smiles at Paul, who's looking back at her as he  
pretends to be really hurt.

JESSICA

It's OK, I'm sure you'd get her in  
boxing.

COURTNEY

Yeah, I'd even bet you could punch  
out most ten-year-old girls.

Courtney and Jessica laugh at Paul, who smiles.

PAUL

You know, you'll be sorry if I  
catch a really big fish because I'm  
not going to share it. In fact, I  
was taking it easy, but I'm really  
going to try now.

Paul turns his attention to the lake as he concentrates hard  
and grabs his fishing pole hard. Also, he bends his knees  
and spreads his legs apart as he gets into a stance in order  
to prepare to catch a large fish.

Jessica and Courtney laugh at Paul.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Come on, fishy.

Jessica pats Paul on his back.

JESSICA

Don't worry, we'll still love you  
even though you can't fish.

Paul relaxes as he stands straight up and smiles at Courtney  
and Jessica.

PAUL

Well, that's a relief because I  
don't think my chances of catching  
a fish are real great.

Courtney and Jessica laugh a little.



JESSICA  
No, I don't think so either.

Jessica and Paul smile at each other.

Courtney, Jessica, and Paul turn their attention back to their fishing for a moment.

Jessica turns towards Courtney.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
So, are you excited to see Tannen  
for Thanksgiving?

Courtney becomes very serious and sad.

COURTNEY  
He's not coming home.

JESSICA  
What? All college kids come home  
for the holidays.

COURTNEY  
Yeah, except him. He said he might  
not even come home for Christmas.  
He just studies. He doesn't even  
spend much time talking to me when  
I call him. I knew this would  
happen. I just don't know what to  
do to change it.

JESSICA  
Why don't you go visit him?

COURTNEY  
He doesn't even want me to visit.  
He just says he'll see me next  
summer.

JESSICA  
So, go visit him anyway.

Courtney becomes a little happier at the thought of going to visit Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY  
You think so?

JESSICA  
Absolutely. You could just go  
there sometime after Thanksgiving,  
like in early December. Just drive

up there after work on a Friday or something.

COURTNEY

Yeah, that sounds great! I'll do that. Thanks, sis.

Courtney smiles at Jessica, who smiles back at her.

JESSICA

No problem.

Jessica and Courtney turn their attention back to their fishing.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Now, if we could just catch a fish.

Courtney, Jessica, and Paul smile.

EXT. SNOWY ROADS - DAY/NIGHT

It's snowing throughout the following montage, which follows Courtney as she drives on the snowy roads in the pretty snow-covered mountains and hills of West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

MONTAGE

A) Through the falling snow, Courtney is driving on a winding road, heading towards Slippery Rock University in order to visit Tannenbaum. Of course, she always tries to do things right, so she's quietly paying attention to the road with both hands on the steering wheel.

B) Courtney continues driving on the windy road that's cutting through snow-covered mountains, and West Virginia's beautifully golden-domed capitol building is in the distance, and it's an impressive sight as it towers above the city of Charleston.

C) Twilight has arrived as Courtney drives out of the Ft. Pitt Tunnel and starts to go across the bridge that leads into Pittsburgh, where the skyscrapers are towering impressively before her, and she looks up at them in wonder since she's a country girl who's not used to seeing cities. Also, the iconic water fountain at Point State Park is shooting up water high into the air as the skyscrapers tower behind it (even though the fountain doesn't usually run in the winter). Pittsburgh truly is America's prettiest city, especially in the winter snow.

D) At a gas station in Western Pennsylvania, Courtney is quietly standing next to her car as she fills it up with gas. Twilight has passed, so it's darker, but the brightly shining moon and gas station lights provide a fair amount of light. Courtney is the only person getting gas, and the gas station is in a remote area that's surrounded by snow-covered hills, which are covered with trees like the mountains in West Virginia. Thus, she's very much alone on this cold night.

E) Courtney is driving on a road between pretty snow-covered hills as she nears the completion of her journey to see Tannenbaum.

F) Courtney turns onto the college campus as she drives past the large entrance sign, which is lit by a white spotlight, and we read this sign to say, "SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY."

EXT. PATTERSON HALL - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

We're soaring above the snowy campus, which is very visible due to the bright moon, as the snow continues to fall. The campus is isolated by the surrounding snow-covered hills and forests, and this isolation combines with the darkness to make the campus appear a little ominous.

We're going from one corner to the diagonally opposite corner of the snow-covered campus, starting over a large wide-open field. And, then, we're going down a hill until arriving at the educational buildings (e.g., the library and science hall), and there's a large quad area between these buildings that's dotted with only a few students walking around. And, then, we're going up a hill until arriving at the dorm buildings, where we arrive at Patterson Hall.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Courtney is walking down a hallway on the third floor, and one side of the hallway has mostly just a wall while the other side has dorm rooms. She's wearing boots, jeans, and a nice black wool coat that extends just below her waist, and some snow is on her clothes and hair since she, obviously, just came in from the outside.

It's a very rowdy scene with college students partying in the dorm rooms and in the hallway on this weekend night. Courtney is observing everything with a sense of disgust since she's not a person who's into frivolous, and often immoral, partying.

Courtney walks past one room that has its door closed, but its loud rap music is still slightly audible in the hallway. Also, many people are drunk, and although only boys live on this floor, there are many girls mingling with them. Some people are busily going to and from the dorm rooms while others are talking to each other, and others are running around like crazy people.

A boy, who's holding a tennis ball, is playfully chasing a girl down the hallway as they run towards Courtney, and Courtney quickly stops and leans her back flat against the wall in order to avoid them running her over. Courtney watches them run past her, and then the boy throws the tennis ball at the girl and hits her in the butt.

The girl stops, turns around, and faces the boy, and they're both laughing as he slows down and walks up to her, and then they wrap their arms around each other and kiss each other with a very long and disgusting French kiss. Courtney makes a gross-out face and turns away from the scene.

Courtney starts walking down the hallway again, and then she observes another boy in front of her who playfully picks up another girl, who playfully screams. He puts her over his shoulder, and then he carries her as he walks past Courtney and carries her into a dorm room behind Courtney.

INT. DORM ROOM OF DRUNKS - NIGHT

Courtney is approaching a dorm room, where the door is open, and a DRUNK STUDENT, 20 years old, is standing with his back leaning against the door frame. He has a can of beer in his hand, and he's, obviously, drunk as he smiles at Courtney, who's walking towards him.

DRUNK STUDENT

Hey, baby, want to come inside and  
have a drink?

Courtney stops and looks inside the dorm room, where she sees about ten people who are sitting on the beds and desks or standing while leaning against the walls. Most of them have cans of beer in their hands, and some of them are smoking too. It's a mixture of boys and girls, with some of the boys having their arms around the girls.

Courtney is saddened by the sight of these young people who, apparently, need beer to cope with life. It reminds her of her mother and Tannenbaum's mother.

The Drunk Student stops leaning against the door frame as he stands straight up and faces Courtney with a mischievous look on his face.

DRUNK STUDENT(CONT'D)

And, maybe later, we can have some  
real fun.

Courtney looks down at the can of beer in his hand and,  
then, looks up into his eyes.

COURTNEY

You shouldn't drink so much.

The Drunk Student laughs right in Courtney's face in a very  
mean fashion.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

It's not good for you.

The Drunk Student laughs even harder at Courtney.

The Drunk Student turns around to the others in the room  
behind himself.

DRUNK STUDENT

Hey, everyone, stop drinking! This  
Miss Goody Two Shoes says it's bad  
for us!

Everyone in the room laughs at Courtney.

ANOTHER DRUNK STUDENT, 19 years old, who's sitting on a bed  
with his girlfriend, takes offense to Courtney's presence.

ANOTHER DRUNK STUDENT

Tell her to get lost!

Everyone continues to laugh as Courtney looks down and  
starts to walk down the hallway again.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

The Drunk Student steps out into the hallway, still  
laughing.

DRUNK STUDENT

Hey, come back when you get off  
your high horse, you bitch!

Courtney doesn't respond to this comment as she keeps  
walking away, but it hurts her.

The Drunk Student goes back into the dorm room.

Courtney reaches near the end of hallway and stops at the  
closed door of Tannenbaum's room.

INT. TANNENBAUM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Courtney is nervous about meeting Tannenbaum, so she takes a deep breath and quickly exhales.

Courtney summons up her courage and, with a steely resolve, knocks on the door.

A PANTLESS GIRL, 18 years old, opens the door a wide crack, and all she's wearing is a T-shirt and panties. And the T-shirt doesn't even extend far enough down to cover her panties. She's smiling since she's, obviously, having a good time on this evening of partying.

PANTLESS GIRL

Hello.

Courtney looks down the body of the Pantless Girl and is surprised to see she's not wearing any pants. So, Courtney quickly looks to her side since she's embarrassed about being with this girl who's barely clothed, and she jealously and hurtfully thinks this girl might be hanging out with Tannenbaum.

The Pantless Girl waits for Courtney to say something, but Courtney is speechless in this awkward situation, so there's a moment of uncomfortable silence.

PANTLESS GIRL (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

Courtney snaps out of her shock and looks into the eyes of the Pantless Girl.

COURTNEY

Is Tannenbaum here?

PANTLESS GIRL

No, he's not here right now.

Courtney is happily relieved that Tannenbaum isn't with this half-dressed girl.

COURTNEY

Oh, thank God!

PANTLESS GIRL

What?

Courtney shakes herself out of her moment of glee and becomes serious again as she returns her thoughts to finding Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Oh, sorry. Do you know where he is?

A SHIRTLESS BOY, 18 years old, is wearing only shorts, and he walks up from behind the Pantless Girl and opens the door further, allowing Courtney to see that no one else is in the room. And the Shirtless Boy walks in front of the Pantless Girl, who retreats a step and stands behind him, in order to address Courtney.

SHIRTLESS BOY

Hi, I'm his roommate.

Courtney looks down at the ground since she's embarrassed at the semi-nudity on display in front of her.

SHIRTLESS BOY (CONT'D)

Actually, Tannen is never here.  
He, basically, lives in the library, so you could check there.

Courtney looks up and smiles at the Shirtless Boy.

COURTNEY

OK, thanks. Sorry to bother you.

SHIRTLESS BOY

No problem.

Courtney starts to walk back the down the hallway, going the way she just walked.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

The Shirtless Boy steps out into the hallway.

SHIRTLESS BOY

Excuse me, Miss!

Courtney stops and turns around and looks back at the Shirtless Boy.

SHIRTLESS BOY (CONT'D)

Are you a friend of his?

Courtney looks directly into the eyes of the Shirtless Boy.

COURTNEY

Yes.

The Shirtless Boy smiles.

## SHIRTLESS BOY

Wow!

Courtney just keeps looking at the Shirtless Boy, and she's a little hurt and confused, and the Shirtless Boy picks up on this, so he sheepishly smiles.

## SHIRTLESS BOY (CONT'D)

It's just that I didn't think he  
had any friends.

Courtney simply looks down and turns and starts to walk away again as she goes down the hallway.

## EXT. QUAD IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY - NIGHT

Through the falling snow, Courtney is somberly walking on the snowy sidewalk as she goes across the middle of a wide-open quad that's between several of the education buildings, and she's the only person in the lonely quad. Patterson Hall and the other dorm-room buildings are on the hill behind her since she's walking away from them as she heads towards the library, which is an impressively large three-story building that has many windows surrounding each floor. It's a very cold and quiet night, and the falling snow is accumulating on her hair and clothes.

Two young college students, a boyfriend and girlfriend, exit the library, and they start walking on the sidewalk as they head towards Courtney. They're dressed in warm coats and have book bags strapped on their backs, and the boy's left arm is intertwined with the girl's right arm.

The boy and girl are a very happy couple, which is clearly what Courtney wants to have with Tannenbaum.

The boy and girl are a few steps to the side of Courtney as they walk past each other, so they don't acknowledge each other, but Courtney is very interested in them.

After the boy and girl have walked past her, Courtney stops and turns to her side as she looks at them while they continue walking.

It's a sight that consists of Courtney standing very much alone in a wide-open area as the only other two people around are a happy couple who are walking away from her.

Courtney watches them go towards the hill, walking back towards their dorm buildings.

Courtney smiles to herself at the pleasant site of this happy couple, who are now in the distance.



Courtney turns back towards the library and starts to walk towards it again.

INT. SMALL LIBRARY ROOM - NIGHT

Courtney walks up the last few steps of a staircase, and then she arrives on the third floor, and she walks across a small open-spaced room that has a large desk where students can study. However, this desk is noticeably empty, and indeed, the entire library is nearly empty since it's a Friday night. So, it's a very lonely atmosphere as Courtney walks towards an open doorway where she enters into a large room.

INT. LARGE LIBRARY ROOM - NIGHT

Courtney enters into a corner of an extremely large room, which takes up nearly the entire third floor, and she walks slowly as she looks around in amazement at this incredible, imposing, and lonely room on this wintry night.

There are many large windows displaying the snow falling outside, and the room is filled with a lot of very tall bookshelves that are filled with books. Also, to the left side of Courtney, there is a row of large desks lined up between a wall of windows and the bookshelves. But only one of the desks is occupied as it contains two young college girls who are sitting together while reading their books.

Courtney turns to her right and walks perpendicular to the bookshelves as she observes the mind-boggling collection of books with a sense of wonder while she looks for Tannenbaum.

Courtney walks past a few rows of bookshelves, and then she turns to her left and walks down one of the rows, with the bookshelves towering above both sides of her.

Courtney is continuing to walk between two bookshelves when one of the bookshelves ends, revealing a large empty desk that's sitting amongst the bookshelves. Indeed, the bookshelves are arranged with spaces where large desks are sitting in order to allow people to study while being secluded among the bookshelves.

Courtney continues forward until she reaches an aisle that's perpendicular to where she was walking, and she turns to her right onto this aisle and, thus, walks perpendicular to the rows of bookshelves that are on both sides of her.

Courtney looks down the rows of bookshelves on her left and sees a single row of many small one-person desks that are

lined up against the wall, with a window in front of each desk. This row of desks occupies nearly the entire wall, but she didn't see them before since they were hidden by the bookshelves. Indeed, these desks are, basically, crammed between the windows and the bookshelves.

As she continues to search for Tannenbaum, Courtney looks down at the row of one-person desks against the windows while she continues to walk, although she's mindful to keep looking around at other areas too.

Courtney comes across another large desk sitting among the bookshelves, and a young college boy is sitting at this desk as he's quietly writing notes from a book that he's referencing. He notices Courtney, so he looks up from his notes and looks at her. Courtney smiles at him and gives him a little wave, and he smiles and waves back at her, exchanging a pleasant moment.

Courtney walks past a few more rows of bookshelves and comes across another large desk, which is empty.

Finally, Courtney sees Tannenbaum sitting at one of the one-person desks against the windows, so she stops suddenly. He's facing the window, so his back is facing her, and thus, he doesn't notice her. He's slumped in his chair as he reads a book that's sitting on his lap while the top of the book is leaning against his desk.

Courtney turns to her left and walks down the short row between bookshelves until she reaches Tannenbaum.

Courtney pulls out the chair for the one-person desk next to Tannenbaum, and she sits down, facing him. Although he senses a person has sat down next to him, he doesn't look up since he's concentrating on his book. There is no one else in sight while the windows in front of them display the constantly falling snow.

COURTNEY

Hello.

Tannenbaum looks up, and he's, obviously, surprised to see Courtney, who's smiling at him, so he quickly sits up straight and puts his book on the desk.

TANNENBAUM

Courtney! Hi!

There's a moment of silence as Courtney keeps smiling at Tannenbaum, and he tries to overcome his shock of seeing her. Then, they begin to talk to each other in quiet voices since they're in a library, although they don't talk too quietly since they're a little isolated from everyone else.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

COURTNEY

I came to visit. I looked for you at your dorm, but your roommate said you'd probably be here. By the way, I don't think I'd fit in very well up there.

Tannenbaum smiles.

TANNENBAUM

No, you're not a tart.

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY

I like it here but not at this hour. I'm usually about to go to sleep by now.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile at each other.

There's a moment of silence as Tannenbaum and Courtney try to figure out how to overcome their awkwardness, which is born out of his guilt of, basically, ignoring her over the last several months and her need to talk to him about their relationship. And, of course, they both know Courtney's comment about not being comfortable at the library at this late hour has touched upon the irreconcilable difference between themselves: He's addicted to studying, and she's much more grounded.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Are you coming home this summer?

TANNENBAUM

No, I've decided to go to summer school.

COURTNEY

(in quiet resignation)

Summer school.

Courtney looks sadly down at the ground, and another moment of silence passes before she's emotionally able to look at Tannenbaum and address him again.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Tannenbaum, this is too much ... the studying ... the isolation ... all of this. It's not healthy. You'll get lost in yourself.

TANNENBAUM

This is what I have to do if I'm going to ever achieve anything.

COURTNEY

You need balance in your life.

TANNENBAUM

No, that's exactly what I don't need. Don't you see?

COURTNEY

So, you just forsake everything else?

Tannenbaum just looks down since he doesn't really know how to tell Courtney that she's not a part of his plans.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Just a few months ago, you promised me that you'd never leave me. Was it just a lie?

Tannenbaum looks up from the floor and looks at Courtney.

TANNENBAUM

I meant it when I said it, but things were moving so fast, and I was just distracted by you.

COURTNEY

Distracted? I'm just a distraction?

TANNENBAUM

No, I don't mean it like that.

Tannenbaum takes a quick moment to collect his thoughts.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Look, I think you're a great person, and I want to still be your friend and check in with you from time to time. But I can't afford to spend a lot of time with you or anyone else. I mean, how am I going to be able to do anything when I have to always attend to some sort of relationship?

COURTNEY

Maybe, I could help you somehow, like help you relax when you're not studying?

Tannenbaum laughs a little, which hurts Courtney.

TANNENBAUM  
Yeah, help, right.

COURTNEY  
What does that mean?

TANNENBAUM  
It means there have been millions of brilliant men who thought women could help them relax, only to see their potential squandered as they got tied down in marriages and families. What are women good for anyway? They're almost never great scientists or artists or leaders or accomplish anything great, and they're even physically weak.

Of course, Courtney is hurt and angry.

COURTNEY  
What about the fact that women gave birth and raised all those men?

Tannenbaum becomes immediately ashamed, so he looks down at the ground.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
Besides, why would you say those things to me?

Courtney begins to cry, so she quickly wipes a few tears from her eyes and cheeks.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
How could you even think those things?

Tannenbaum looks up from the ground and looks at Courtney, whose face is wet with tears, and he feels horrible because he sees how much he hurt her.

TANNENBAUM  
I'm sorry, I don't know why I said that. I guess I'm just tired. I didn't mean any of it. I really didn't. I'm so sorry.

Courtney thinks about what to say for a moment, but she sadly and angrily realizes that Tannenbaum is too far gone for her to reach him.

COURTNEY  
Goodbye, Tannenbaum.

Courtney stands up and turns to leave.

TANNENBAUM  
Wait!

Tannenbaum stands up and grabs Courtney's arm and turns her towards him. But she looks down to avoid looking at him, and she simply waits for him to let her go.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
You can't leave like this. I need  
you to say that you understand and  
that we're OK.

Courtney looks up at him in complete seriousness that combines with a mixture of sadness, anger, and determination.

COURTNEY  
I understand perfectly. You lied  
to me. Now, let me go.

Tannenbaum reluctantly lets go of Courtney's arm, and she turns and walks away a couple of steps, but then she turns back to angrily face Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
And we're not OK!

Courtney turns away from Tannenbaum and begins to walk down a row between the bookshelves as he watches her leave him.

So, Tannenbaum stands hopelessly defeated and crushed while the beautiful snow continues to fall outside of the windows behind him.

EXT. QUAD IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY - NIGHT

Courtney walks hastily and angrily as she exits through the front door, and she's crying as she wipes the tears from her face.

The falling snow is gathering on her hair and clothes as she starts to walk on the sidewalk as she goes back across the wide-open quad in front of the library, heading towards her car at Patterson Hall.

Courtney is the only one around, so it's a very lonely sight on this cold, wintry night.

EXT. COURTNEY'S CHURCH - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

While snow is falling, red and green Christmas lights are glowing on the beautiful stone facade of the average-sized church that's located in the snowy woods.

INT. NAVE - NIGHT

There are about ten people scattered around who are putting up a variety of Christmas decorations on the walls, windows, and Christmas trees in this nice nave.

In the corner next to the entrance of the nave, Courtney is sadly decorating a nice Christmas tree, which is a little taller than her, as she removes ornaments out of boxes and puts them on the tree. They're very pretty ornaments, consisting of red and green glass balls, gingerbread men, etc.

It's a fairly well-lit room, with a lot of the light coming from glowing Christmas lights that are spread on the walls and on several Christmas trees. And there are many rows of pews that are arranged in two columns, with a center aisle between the columns.

The song, "O TANNENBAUM" (from the album entitled, "Christmas Classics with Harp and Oboe"), starts to play on the church's loudspeakers. This beautiful and completely instrumental version of this classic Christmas carol plays in its entirety, but Courtney isn't thrilled about hearing it since it reminds her even more about Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

(to herself)

Of course, this song has to be playing.

Mr. Preston is walking down the aisle between the pews, heading out of the nave, when he glances over at Courtney and notices how sad she looks. So, after a second glance, he stops just before exiting the nave.

Mr. Preston observes Courtney for a moment, and then he decides to go talk to her in order to see if he can cheer her up, so he begins to walk towards her.

Mr. Preston approaches the Christmas tree that Courtney is decorating.

MR. PRESTON

Do you mind if I help you?

COURTNEY  
No, of course not.

MR. PRESTON  
Great, I love decorating Christmas  
trees.

Mr. Preston arrives at the Christmas tree, so he stops.

Mr. Preston starts to pull ornaments out of the boxes and  
put them on the tree.

While they're decorating the tree, a few quiet moments pass  
as Mr. Preston waits for Courtney to talk, but she doesn't  
say anything.

MR. PRESTON(CONT'D)  
You know, when I baptized you as a  
baby, you cried the entire time.  
But I think you look even sadder  
tonight.

COURTNEY  
No, I'm fine.

Courtney smiles weakly at Mr. Preston.

MR. PRESTON  
Lying to a minister? I'll have to  
take you to the devil right now.

Mr. Preston smiles, but Courtney shows no reaction as she  
just concentrates on decorating the tree.

MR. PRESTON(CONT'D)  
Can you at least give me something,  
so I can feel like I'm actually  
helping as a minister?

Courtney hangs an ornament on the tree, and then she stops  
and looks straight ahead at the tree as if she's looking  
through it.

Mr. Preston stops too, and he just stands while looking  
directly at Courtney as he waits for her to speak to him.

COURTNEY  
When you see someone making a  
mistake, but they won't listen to  
you, what do you do?

Courtney turns and looks at Mr. Preston as she's desperate  
for an answer.



MR. PRESTON

Well, that's always a tough question. Often times, someone with a closed heart will stop trying to help, if they even tried at all, because they don't care. And someone with an open heart will never stop trying to help because they care. But that's just what usually happens. It doesn't answer your question about what should happen. So, to answer your question, I guess one should only do what they can, and then they have to let go because loving someone often means letting them go.

COURTNEY

So, you just let them go make mistakes?

MR. PRESTON

I know it seems like you should keep trying as hard as you can to make something right. But people often need to find their own path, mistakes and all. And all you can do is hope they'll choose the correct path.

Courtney looks down sadly.

MR. PRESTON (CONT'D)

Well, I hope that helps. Anyway, I know you'll do whatever is right. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got to go get more decorations.

Mr. Preston smiles at Courtney, who doesn't even look up at him.

Mr. Preston walks away, and after a brief moment of thinking about what he said, Courtney looks up at him.

COURTNEY

Mr. Preston.

Mr. Preston turns around and faces Courtney.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Mr. Preston smiles at Courtney, and he nods appreciatively in acknowledgement.

Mr. Preston turns around and continues to walk towards the entrance of the nave, where he exits.

Courtney looks down at the floor as she thinks about what Mr. Preston told her as the beautiful Christmas tree stands beside her, and the final notes of "O Tannenbaum" ring out above her.

EXT. WATER HOLE - DAY

It's a hot summer day, and in the middle of Tannenbaum and Courtney's special water hole, Courtney is floating on her back. But since Tannenbaum isn't here to support her, she's waving her arms and legs under the water in order to keep herself afloat. Of course, she's wearing the same navy-blue one-piece swimsuit that she always wears. Courtney hears BEN, 19 years old, calling out to her.

BEN (O.S.)

Hello, there! Do you mind if I  
join you?

Courtney is startled, so she quickly sits up and starts treading water as she looks at the shore, where she sees Ben, who's standing on the shore while wearing only shorts. Notably, he has a tattoo on one of his shoulders, giving a possible indication that he's not a real clean-cut person.

Courtney regains her composure.

COURTNEY

Sure, come on in!

BEN

Thanks!

Ben walks into the water, and after a few steps, he dives forward, letting his head dip underwater for a brief moment, and then he swims freestyle towards Courtney while keeping his head out of the water. He quickly reaches Courtney, so he stops in front of her and treads water, and he smiles at her.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hi, my name's Ben.

COURTNEY

I'm Courtney.

BEN

I'm sorry I startled you.

COURTNEY

No, that's alright. I just didn't know anyone else knew about this water hole.

BEN

Well, I just moved here because I got a construction job in town, and I was exploring one day when I found this nice creek to fish. So, I've been coming here two or three times a week. And, when I saw you swimming, I figured I'd go for a swim too.

Ben smiles at Courtney, and she smiles back at him.

BEN (CONT'D)

Do you come here often?

Courtney shakes her head.

COURTNEY

No.

Courtney looks at the water as she briefly and soberly reminisces about coming here with Tannenbaum as if she has become lost in a dream, but then she shakes herself out of it and regains her awareness.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Actually, I used to come here a lot when I was a kid but not anymore. But I would just swim. I didn't fish.

BEN

Oh, well, maybe we can go fishing sometime.

Ben smiles at Courtney, and she realizes that he's, basically, asking her out on a date, so she smiles back at him.

COURTNEY

Yeah, that would be great. I'd love that.

Courtney and Ben smile even wider at each other.

## EXT. FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

It's snowing on this nice, one-story building that's fairly small. A nicely decorated Christmas tree, which is shining inside with red and green lights, is visible through one of the windows. It's a lonely sight since it's isolated by the surrounding woods and mountains, and it's very quiet.

Also, there are only two cars in the small snow-covered parking lot, which is located at the side of the building. And the parking lot is lit by a couple of lights that are on top of tall lampposts.

## INT. VIEWING ROOM - NIGHT

It's very lonely and quiet as Ms. Zavadsky's dead body lays in her open coffin since, obviously, this is a funeral viewing. Facing the coffin, there are about twenty fold-out chairs that are arranged in a few rows in two columns, with a center aisle between the columns. And a Christmas tree, with red and green lights shining, is near the entrance.

Courtney, Jessica, and Paul are the only visitors, and they're sitting in the front row of chairs, with Courtney sitting next to the aisle between the columns of chairs while Jessica and Paul are sitting to her left side. Of course, they're dressed up for the occasion, with Courtney and Jessica wearing dresses and Paul wearing a suit.

JESSICA

I wonder what heaven's like.

PAUL

I don't know, but I'm guess it's too wonderful for us to even imagine.

JESSICA

Then, why do people fear death?

PAUL

Because no one likes to say goodbye. And, speaking of goodbyes, the funeral director said the alarm goes on in about twenty minutes, so we need to leave soon.

Unbeknownst to Courtney, Jessica, and Paul, Tannenbaum has walked into the room via the door behind them, and he's walking up the aisle between the columns of chairs. He's wearing a short-sleeve collared shirt, a tie, and slacks (although he's not wearing a suit jacket), and his long black wool overcoat is folded in his arms.

COURTNEY

Only seven other people came. I might have been her best friend, and I barely knew her. All I did was take a meal to her once a week. It's sad, isn't it?

JESSICA

Yes, it is.

Tannenbaum arrives next to Courtney and stops beside her, and no one notices his presence until he speaks.

TANNENBAUM

At least parking wasn't a problem.

Tannenbaum smiles a little at his joke as everyone is very surprised to see him, so they turn to him in shock. And Courtney, who is flustered, stands up.

COURTNEY

I didn't think you were going to show up.

TANNENBAUM

I at least wanted to be here to thank you for arranging this viewing and the funeral tomorrow, which I can't attend, unfortunately, because I have to return to work. I tried to be here earlier tonight, but I forgot how slow it is traveling through the mountains. Anyway, thank you for doing this.

COURTNEY

You're welcome.

Jessica stands up and walks up to Tannenbaum as Paul also stands up and follows Jessica.

JESSICA

It's nice to see you.

Jessica hugs Tannenbaum.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for your loss.

TANNENBAUM

Thank you, Jessica.

Jessica and Tannenbaum break from their embrace.

Tannenbaum and Paul shake hands with each other.

PAUL  
Hello, Tannen.

TANNENBAUM  
Hello.

A quiet moment passes as no one knows what to say to each other on this somber occasion.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Well, I guess I should say goodbye.

Tannenbaum walks up to the coffin until he stops and stands next to his mother's upper torso while Courtney follows Tannenbaum until she stops next to Ms. Zavadsky's waist.

Tannenbaum and Courtney look down at Ms. Zavadsky while Jessica and Paul quietly leave the funeral home in order to go home and let Tannenbaum and Courtney have time to talk in private.

Tannenbaum is fairly somber, but he doesn't show any emotion since he wasn't really close to his mother, and obviously, human connections aren't his strong suite.

COURTNEY  
You should know the alcohol poisoning took her in her sleep, so she died peacefully.

TANNENBAUM  
Did you find her?

COURTNEY  
Yes.

TANNENBAUM  
I'm sorry about that.

Courtney nods her head, acknowledging Tannenbaum's apology.

EXT. CREEK BEHIND THE FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT

While the snow is continuing to fall, Tannenbaum and Courtney are standing in the snow behind and to the side of the funeral home as they look down at the creek that's slowly flowing. Of course, they're wearing their nice coats now, with Tannenbaum wearing his long black wool overcoat and Courtney wearing the same black wool coat (which goes just past her waist) that she wore when she visited him at college.

It's quiet, with the only sound being the soothing sound of the creek flowing. The funeral home is completely dark now, although the parking lot, which is on top of the small slope behind Tannenbaum and Courtney, is still lit via lampposts, although it only contains their cars since Jessica and Paul have left.

Tannenbaum and Courtney are feeling awkward, so they avoid looking at each other a lot. Instead, they mostly just look down at the slow-moving creek, which looks very pretty on this snowy night. Basically, Courtney is just waiting for Tannenbaum to talk.

TANNENBAUM

It's been a long time.

COURTNEY

Five years.

Courtney's succinct answer is like a sharp knife into Tannenbaum, making him feel guilty for not seeing her more often.

A quiet moment passes as Tannenbaum tries to think of something else to say to Courtney.

TANNENBAUM

Why are there funerals anyway? The person's already dead, so what's the point?

COURTNEY

It's more for the living.

TANNENBAUM

The living want to see a dead body?

Courtney becomes exasperated at Tannenbaum's questions since he always questions everything, and she doesn't want to deal with it now.

COURTNEY

Tannenbaum.

Tannenbaum understands that his questioning was bothering Courtney, so he shuts up.

A quiet moment passes as Tannenbaum and Courtney just look at the creek before beginning to talk again.

TANNENBAUM

I let her live her life how she wanted, and it led to this. Do you think I failed her?

COURTNEY

Mostly, I think she failed herself.

Tannenbaum smiles.

TANNENBAUM

That's a yes.

It's completely quiet again as Tannenbaum and Courtney continue to avoid looking at each other a lot and, instead, just look down at the creek.

Tannenbaum finally looks directly at Courtney, who uncomfortably realizes his stare as she continues to look away from him.

Tannenbaum's gaze is distracted from Courtney's face by a significant black-and-blue bruise on the side of the back of her neck, though the bruise is partly covered by her hair.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

How did you get that bruise?

COURTNEY

I slipped and fell on the ice yesterday.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, you have to be careful. I almost slipped myself today. By the way, why isn't your husband here? I really wanted to meet him.

COURTNEY

He had a long week of work, and he just wanted to relax.

TANNENBAUM

Oh, well, maybe some other time.

Tannenbaum looks back at the creek since he knows Courtney feels uncomfortable when he looks at her.

COURTNEY

So, how is it living in Maryland?

TANNENBAUM

It's nice. Of course, it's not like here, but that's where my job is.

Another moment of silence passes as they try to figure out what to say to each other.



TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

You know, Courtney, just because I don't live around here doesn't mean I don't care about you.

COURTNEY

Yes, it does.

Tannenbaum is shocked at Courtney's reply, so he looks right at her, although she avoids looking at him.

Tannenbaum finally understands what Courtney means, so he brightens up since he thinks he knows how to fix it.

TANNENBAUM

Look, I know I haven't been there to help you with your everyday life, but one of the reasons I came tonight was to change that.

Courtney becomes very interested and hopeful as she watches Tannenbaum as he reaches into his coat pocket and removes a brown envelope, which contains banking documents for an account that he set up for her, and then he gives the envelope to her.

COURTNEY

What is it?

TANNENBAUM

It's fifty thousand dollars. I already set it up at the bank for you, so all you have to do is go and sign some things, and the money is all yours.

Courtney simply stares down at the envelope in her hands, and her hopes are dashed. Indeed, she's disappointed that Tannenbaum is trying to, basically, pay off his own guilt like any rich man trying to buy his way out of something.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I have plenty of money already from my job, and besides, you deserve it more than me. Now, you can buy a nice house or ....

Courtney tosses the envelope into the creek, and then she turns around and walks away as she heads up the slope to go to the parking lot.

Tannenbaum rushes a few steps forward into the creek in order to retrieve the envelope, which has started to float down the creek.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Why did you do that? Are you  
crazy?

While standing in the creek, Tannenbaum reaches down into the cold water and pulls the envelope out of the water.

Tannenbaum steps back onto the bank of the creek and stops, and he shakes the water off the wet envelope.

Tannenbaum looks up at Courtney walking away from him, and then he runs after her.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Wait!

Courtney won't stop as she reaches the lighted parking lot and starts to walk towards her car.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Wait!

Tannenbaum catches up to Courtney, so he stops running and starts walking by her side as she continues towards her car, although she has no intention of stopping to talk to him.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Will you just wait for a second?  
Let me explain. You can't leave  
like this ... well, not again  
anyway.

They're close to Courtney's car, and Tannenbaum rushes in front of her and stands in front of her driver's side door, preventing her from entering, so she stops right in front of him.

Courtney is done talking with Tannenbaum, so she silently and angrily looks down as she waits for Tannenbaum to move.

Tannenbaum holds the envelope out to her.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Come on, you have to take this.  
It's a gift. I want you to have  
it. There are no strings  
attached. This is simply your  
money. You need it, so please take  
it. Just please take it.

Courtney won't even acknowledge Tannenbaum's presence, so she doesn't even look up at him, let alone take the envelope.

Tannenbaum lowers the envelope down to his side, realizing that Courtney isn't going to take the money.

A moment of silence passes while the snow continues to fall on them, and Tannenbaum looks at Courtney as she continues to look down, and he's struck by how sad she looks.

Tannenbaum studies Courtney's face as he hopes that she'll somehow brighten up or at least look at him, but she doesn't react at all.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I think you're the best. Please  
don't ever doubt that.

Tannenbaum knows Courtney isn't going to respond to him, so he steps aside from the driver's side door as he moves in front of the rear door, giving Courtney access to her car.

With Tannenbaum hopelessly watching, Courtney gets into her car.

Courtney starts her car, turns on her lights, and drives out of the parking lot as Tannenbaum simply watches her leave.

Tannenbaum is standing completely alone, with his car being the only remaining car in the parking lot.

Tannenbaum pulls his cellphone out of a pocket in his pants, and he dials three numbers: 9-1-1.

The phone rings a couple of times, and then a female OPERATOR, 35 years old, answers.

OPERATOR (O.S)

9-1-1, what's your emergency?

TANNENBAUM

Hello, I'd like to report a case of  
domestic violence.

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

In the falling snow, two policemen have just exited the front door, and they're heading towards their car, which is parked in the driveway.

The modest single-story house is beautifully lit with red and green Christmas lights, and a small nativity scene adorns the small front yard, which is covered in newly fallen snow. There are other houses around since it's a small town, but each house has their own substantial yards, so the houses aren't very close together.

The policeman enter their car, and they begin to drive out of the driveway.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S CAR BY BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

Tannenbaum is parked on the same side of the street as Ben's house as he faces Ben's house, but he's a couple of houses away since he doesn't want Courtney to know that he's here. Obviously, he's trying to make sure the police help Courtney, but he's helpless as he watches the police leave Ben's house without, apparently, doing anything.

INT. TANNENBAUM'S CAR BY BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tannenbaum pulls his cellphone out of a pocket in his black wool overcoat that he's still wearing, and he dials 9-1-1.

OPERATOR (O.S)  
9-1-1, what's your emergency?

TANNENBAUM  
Hi, my name's Tannenbaum, and I just called a little bit ago about a domestic-violence dispute, and now I see the police are leaving the scene without making an arrest. Can you tell me what happened?

OPERATOR (O.S)  
Yes, a policeman just reported back that the woman wouldn't press charges, so there was nothing they could do.

TANNENBAUM  
OK, thank you.

OPERATOR (O.S)  
You're welcome, goodbye.

TANNENBAUM  
Goodbye.

Tannenbaum hangs up the phone and puts it back in his pocket.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
It's going to be a long night.

Tannenbaum starts his car and turns on his lights.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S CAR IN FRONT OF BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tannenbaum drives down the road and parks on the street directly in front of Ben's house, instead of pulling into the driveway. And, then, he turns off his car lights and turns off his car.

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tannenbaum exits his car and starts to walk across the front yard, with each of his steps landing softly on the fresh snow. He clearly hears Courtney and Ben arguing inside the house via loudly screaming at each other, yet he's in no hurry as he walks slowly.

BEN (O.S.)

You're a fucking liar! If you ever fucking call the police again, I'll kill you! I swear to God I'll kill you! Do you fucking understand?

COURTNEY (O.S.)

I'm telling the truth! I didn't call them!

BEN (O.S.)

Stop lying to me!

Tannenbaum listens intently as he continues to walk towards the front door,

COURTNEY (O.S.)

If I called them, why didn't I just tell them that you hit me or tell them where to look to find all of your stupid drugs?

Tannenbaum stops in front of the fairly small nativity scene. It consists of an open-faced wooden barn with the floor covered in hay. And the barn encloses Jesus lying in the manger, Mary and Joseph kneeling beside Jesus, and the Three Wise Men standing to one side of Jesus.

Tannenbaum admires it since he knows Courtney has lovingly decorated for Christmas, even though her life is in turmoil, and she doesn't have much money. However, he shows no reaction since Courtney's situation is too sad to fully allow him to enjoy her decorating.

BEN (O.S.)

I told you to never even mention my drugs! You're lucky I didn't kill you when you threw them out before!

COURTNEY (O.S.)

I should throw them out again and  
again and again until you stop  
using them because they just make  
you crazier than you already are!

Tannenbaum starts to walk towards the door again, and he looks up and admires the red and green Christmas lights that are glowing around the windows and edges of the roof, and then he looks down and admires the red and green Christmas lights that are glowing around the bushes next to the house.

BEN (O.S.)

Shut up, you stupid bitch!

As he's still walking towards the door, Tannenbaum hears Ben hit Courtney across the face, and everything becomes silent. Tannenbaum doesn't even react as he simply walks up a couple of porch steps until he's standing on the small porch in front of the front door.

Tannenbaum admires a pretty Christmas wreath that's hanging on the door, and the wreath contains a sign that we read to say, "MERRY CHRISTMAS." The wreath is hanging a little crooked, so Tannenbaum reaches up and fixes it, symbolizing his attempt to help Courtney put her life back in order.

Tannenbaum admires the wreath, and although it's a very nice decoration, he still shows no reaction.

Tannenbaum knocks on the door, and then he simply waits for someone to answer.

Ben opens the door, which swings inside the house.

Ben angrily looks at Tannenbaum, who's very relaxed and calm. Indeed, Tannenbaum seems as if he's just a friendly neighbor who has come to say hello, although he doesn't offer to shake Ben's hand since, of course, he has no intention of actually being a friend to Ben.

TANNENBAUM

Hello, my name's Tannenbaum  
Zavadsky, and I've been a nerd my  
entire life.

Ben looks at Tannenbaum like he's crazy, and in fact, he's too shocked to even respond to Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

So, I've been beaten up a lot, like  
serious, within-an-inch-of-my-life  
beatings ... until I learned how to

fight. I just thought I should tell you because, then, you'll know why your jaw is broken and your mouth is bleeding.

Ben is confused, and he becomes even angrier.

BEN

I'll give you to the count of three to get off my porch!

TANNENBAUM

You can count to three?

Ben becomes really angry now. So, he swings his right fist at Tannenbaum, but Tannenbaum blocks it with his left arm hitting Ben's right forearm, and then Tannenbaum quickly counterpunches with a right cross, which hits Ben square in the jaw and decks him backwards as he falls back into the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ben falls down onto his back, and he grabs his jaw, which is broken, with both hands as he writhes in pain. And blood is oozing out of his mouth since he bit his tongue.

Courtney, who's still wearing the same dress that she wore to the funeral viewing, is sitting on a sofa. But, of course, she's immediately stunned at the commotion, so she quickly stands up from the sofa and tries to figure out what's happening.

Courtney's eyes lock in on Tannenbaum in shock as he walks into the living room and stops near Ben's feet. Obviously, Courtney is already shaken from the abuse that her husband just gave her, although she's not crying since she's been toughened over the years. And she's very surprised to see that Tannenbaum has just knocked down her husband, but Tannenbaum just looks at her as if he simply dropped in for a casual visit.

TANNENBAUM

He fell. It's icy out there.

Courtney is too shocked to enjoy Tannenbaum's humor, so she just looks down at Ben and tries to comprehend everything.

Tannenbaum walks closer to Ben, and then he steps one leg over Ben's torso, straddling him. And Tannenbaum kneels down with his knees pressed up against Ben's armpits, which prevent Ben from being able to fight back, although Ben is in too much pain to really fight back anyway.

Tannenbaum leans down very close to Ben's head, and he puts one of his forearms over Ben's neck, and he puts his other forearm on the ground next to Ben's head to make sure he's got Ben's attention, and this also makes Ben stop holding his jaw and prevents him from writhing in pain too much.

Obviously, this makes Ben listen to Tannenbaum as he looks up at Tannenbaum with a mixture of anger and pain.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Listen, you've been a victim of domestic violence. I would call the police for you, but I know how you hate to involve the police in these things.

Tannenbaum becomes very serious.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Oh, and I should tell you if you touch Courtney again, I'll be back, and I won't be so nice. Do you understand?

Ben knows he's been defeated and has to give into Tannenbaum, so he answers sincerely though his pain and blood.

BEN

Yeah, I understand.

Tannenbaum stands up and starts walking towards Courtney, who's still shaken, and she looks at the ground in order to avoid eye contact with Tannenbaum. Meanwhile, Ben starts grabbing his jaw again as he quietly remains in pain on his back.

Tannenbaum stops in front of Courtney, and she looks up at him.

TANNENBAUM

You know, psychologists say good girls like you end up with losers like him because they're afraid to be alone, and they don't have the confidence to see they can do better. Astrologists would probably just say the stars weren't aligned. Personally, I don't care. I just know you're not staying here anymore. So, are you coming quietly or kicking and screaming?



Courtney takes a moment to shake herself out of shock as she looks around until she glances up at Tannenbaum, and then she nods yes, indicating she'll come quietly.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S CAR DRIVING - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

Tannenbaum is driving down a relatively straight country road in the snowy mountains as the snow continues to fall, and Courtney is sitting beside him in the front passenger's seat, and both of them are wearing their black wool coats.

INT. TANNENBAUM'S CAR DRIVING - NIGHT

Tannenbaum is driving while Courtney is looking out her side window as she continues to avoid a lot of eye contact with him, and of course, she's still shaken up from being hit by Ben and dealing with Tannenbaum. It's quiet for a moment until Tannenbaum breaks the silence.

TANNENBAUM

You know, the old Courtney would  
have been crying all night tonight.  
But you haven't cried at all.

Tannenbaum glances over to Courtney in order to detect a response, but she doesn't respond to him at all as she just keeps looking out her side window.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I suppose this cruel world will  
even harden someone like you.

Another moment of silence passes.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

You should take the money. Why  
won't you take it?

Courtney answers Tannenbaum, although she keeps looking out the window.

COURTNEY

You're trying to buy off your  
guilt.

TANNENBAUM

No, I'm just trying to make you  
happy.

Courtney finally turns from her window and looks at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Most rich people throw money at people to buy their affections, and I don't want you to act like one of them.

TANNENBAUM

You're right. I'm sorry.

COURTNEY

By the way, you shouldn't feel guilty. Everything between us was a long time ago, and I forgive you.

TANNENBAUM

I don't believe you, but thank you anyway.

COURTNEY

No, it's true. Besides, I know I pushed you too hard.

TANNENBAUM

No, you didn't. Don't ever think that.

It's quiet for a moment since Tannenbaum and Courtney don't want to talk about their broken past anymore.

COURTNEY

Listen, thank you for what you did tonight. I've been wanting to leave him for a while, but I just couldn't make myself do it. So, thank you.

TANNENBAUM

No problem. Actually, I wanted to meet your husband anyway.

Courtney laughs a little, and Tannenbaum smiles.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

But I must tell you that you have horrible taste in men.

Courtney laughs harder, letting the tension out of her body after a rough night.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Maybe, you should just pick a name out of the phone book next time. You can't do any worse.

Courtney continues to laugh.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Better yet, just come to where I work. It's full of geeks who have never been on a date. Just say hi to one of them, and he'll worship you for life.

Courtney continues to laugh, and Tannenbaum starts to laugh along with her.

Tannenbaum and Courtney finally stop laughing and regain their composure.

COURTNEY

Oh, that felt good.

With this moment of levity and relief, Tannenbaum and Courtney have restored a little normalcy and friendship to their relationship.

EXT. JESSICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

While it's still snowing, Tannenbaum pulls into the driveway, turns off his lights, and turns off his engine. It's late at night, and only one of the house's windows, which is upstairs, has light shining out of it since Jessica and Paul are getting ready to go to bed.

The house is nicely decorated for Christmas, with shining white lights around the windows and the roof, and each window has a shining white candle. Also, the front door light is turned on. The white house, white lights, white candles, white snow, and quietness of the night combine to make a dreamlike setting, mirroring the ethereal feelings between Tannenbaum and Courtney.

Tannenbaum and Courtney get out of the car, and she begins to walk around the front of the car while he walks to meet her in order to walk her to the front door of the house.

So, after Courtney makes it around the car, Tannenbaum walks beside her as they go towards the front door.

It's very quiet as they walk together in the beautiful falling snow that gathers on their hair, coats, etc.

TANNENBAUM

Tomorrow, you need to get a restraining order against your husband, OK?

Courtney nods yes.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Promise me you'll do that.

COURTNEY  
I promise.

At the door, they stop as Courtney turns around and faces Tannenbaum, not wanting him to leave.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
Do you want to stay here tonight?  
Then, I'll make you breakfast  
before you leave tomorrow.

TANNENBAUM  
Thanks, but I don't think that's a  
good idea.

Courtney nods in acknowledgement, but she still doesn't want Tannenbaum to leave.

Tannenbaum and Courtney look around for a moment, avoiding eye contact, as they try to figure out how to say goodbye to each other.

Courtney looks up at Tannenbaum, so he looks back at her. And they look into each other's eyes with an understanding that they must part, even though there's a deep longing for each other. It's a quiet moment of profound pain.

COURTNEY  
Merry Christmas, Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM  
Merry Christmas, Courtney.

Courtney kisses Tannenbaum on his cheek, and then she turns around and enters into the house as he just stands there and watches her until she closes the door.

Tannenbaum turns from the front door and starts to walk back to his car.

Although it's only a short distance, it's a very lonely and quiet walk for Tannenbaum on this wintry evening since he's leaving Courtney.

Tannenbaum enters his car, turns on the engine, and turns on the lights.

Tannenbaum drives in reverse as he drives back onto the street.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S CAR BY JESSICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tannenbaum drives a few houses down from Jessica's house, and then he turns around and parks on the same side of the street as Jessica's house as he faces the house. He turns off his lights and, then, turns off his engine as he prepares, unbeknownst to Courtney, to watch Jessica's house all night just in case Ben decides to come after Courtney before she's able to get a restraining order.

INT. TANNENBAUM'S CAR BY JESSICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tannenbaum is simply sitting in his car, prepared for a long night of watching over Courtney.

TANNENBAUM  
(to himself)  
Yeah, sleeping in her house is a  
bad idea. Staying awake all night  
in this freezing car is much  
better.

EXT. COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL - DAY

On a hot summer day in Maryland, Tannenbaum is swimming backstroke in between the lane ropes in the 25-meter pool while wearing a navy-blue swimsuit. In the refreshing water, he's swimming along nicely with crisp strokes, a steady kick, and relaxed breathing.

The pool consists of a few roped-off lanes for swimming laps (where a few people are swimming), with the rest of the pool having an open area (where many people are playing), and people are sitting/lying in chairs next to the pool. So, it's just a nice day with people enjoying their time at the pool.

Tannenbaum reaches the wall, so he does a flip turn and pushes off the wall, propelling himself forward underwater.

Tannenbaum emerges from underwater and starts swimming backstroke again.

Suddenly, a plastic red ball, which is about the size of a basketball, falls from the sky and hits Tannenbaum in the face, causing him to stop swimming.

Tannenbaum stands up, with the water level just above his waist, and he looks around to see who threw the ball.

Tannenbaum hears AMANDA, 8 years old, who's a very cute and precocious girl, calling out to him.

AMANDA (O.S.)  
Sorry, mister!

Tannenbaum looks over at Amanda, who's in the open section of the pool as she's doggy paddling towards him.

Tannenbaum smiles at the cute sight of this little girl swimming.

TANNENBAUM  
No problem!

Tannenbaum picks up the ball, which is floating next to him within the lane ropes, and he holds onto it as Amanda swims towards him.

Amanda arrives next to the lane rope between her and Tannenbaum, so she stands up, with the water reaching up to her shoulders, and Tannenbaum gives her the ball.

AMANDA  
Thank you.

TANNENBAUM  
You're welcome.

Tannenbaum smiles since he's amused by the cuteness of Amanda.

AMANDA  
Do you want to play catch?

TANNENBAUM  
You weren't playing catch with anyone?

AMANDA  
No, just with myself.

TANNENBAUM  
Where are your parents?

AMANDA  
Both my parents work, and my  
babysitter always brings me here,  
so she can get a tan.

Amanda motions over to her babysitter, who's an extremely tanned teenage girl who's sitting back on a reclined chair as she soaks in the sun's rays in her quest to get even a darker tan. She's not paying attention to Amanda, and indeed, her eyes are even closed.

AMANDA (CONT'D)  
I practically live here.

Tannenbaum smiles.

TANNENBAUM  
What's your name?

AMANDA  
Amanda.

TANNENBAUM  
That's a nice name.

Tannenbaum and Amanda smile at each other.

Tannenbaum sees a YOUNG BOY, 8 years old, who's behind and to the side of Amanda, and he's standing by himself in shallower water than Amanda, with the water level reaching up to his torso. And the Young Boy looks completely bored, so Tannenbaum calls out to him.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
Hey, kid, do you want to play catch  
with Amanda here?

The Young Boy turns his head towards Tannenbaum.

YOUNG BOY  
OK.

Tannenbaum turns his attention back to Amanda.

TANNENBAUM  
There you go, young lady.

AMANDA  
Thank you.

Amanda smiles widely at Tannenbaum since she's excited to go play catch.

TANNENBAUM  
My pleasure.

Tannenbaum smiles back at Amanda, and then Amanda turns away eagerly and throws the ball to the Young Boy, who excitedly catches it.

Then, Amanda doggy paddles into shallower water, where she stands up, with the water level reaching up to her torso.

The Young Boy throw the ball back to Amanda, who catches it, and then they continue to play catch with each other.

For a moment, Tannenbaum watches the two kids playing catch with a sense of melancholy since it reminds him of his younger days when he played with Courtney.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
She'll hate him in about ten years.

Tannenbaum turns from Amanda and the Young Boy, and he begins to swim backstroke again.

EXT. JESSICA'S HOUSE - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

It's raining gently during the afternoon on this quiet summer day.

EXT. BACK PORCH - DAY

It's a very nice wooden porch, with a ceiling that shields off the gentle rain, and Courtney is comfortably curled up in a wooden chair on the porch, with her legs folded up and a blanket covering herself (since the rain makes it cooler). Jessica is sitting in a wooden chair beside Courtney, and she's also covered with a blanket as she lovingly holds her baby boy, who's only a few months old. The baby, who's sound asleep, is also wrapped in a blanket.

Since they don't want to wake the baby, Courtney and Jessica talk to each other in fairly quiet voices while looking out at the pretty green grass that covers the backyard.

COURTNEY  
You guys look so peaceful, you and  
your first born.

Courtney smiles.

JESSICA  
I think we're both just happy that  
he's out of my womb.

Jessica smiles at Courtney, who smiles back. Then, Jessica looks down at her baby.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
And that he's healthy, and now his  
whole life is ahead of him.

COURTNEY  
It's so nice to see. I'm so happy  
for you, Jessica, and I know you're  
going to be a great mother.



Jessica looks up and smiles at Courtney.

JESSICA

Thank you. And, someday, you'll be a mother too.

COURTNEY

I hope so, but it's not looking very promising.

JESSICA

No, it will happen for you.

Jessica smiles at Courtney, who smiles weakly in return.

A moment of silence passes as Courtney simply observes Jessica holding her baby. Of course, Courtney is happy that Jessica has a baby, but she's also sad that she doesn't have her own family with Tannenbaum, so she feels a little bittersweet.

COURTNEY

A man and a woman are supposed to love each other and get married and give birth to children that they raise together. It's that simple to accomplish a loving family, which is the greatest thing in life. And I know a lot of people do it, and thankfully, you're one of them. But there are so many single people, dysfunctional families, and divorces. Why is it so hard to accomplish?

JESSICA

Well, it doesn't help that so many people in our culture don't promote good values. But love can be difficult because it's sometimes hard to find someone who is a good match for you. And a lot of people have flaws in certain areas, like money, lust, selfishness, mistrust, or whatever the reason may be.

COURTNEY

My reason is that I'm an idiot.

JESSICA

No, you just went out and married the first guy after you broke up with Tannen because you were afraid to be alone.

COURTNEY

And that was the biggest mistake of my life. I can't believe I wasted four years of my life with that creep, and I was married to him for three of those years. I'd do anything to not have done that. It doesn't even feel real. It feels like a bad dream. How screwed up is that?

Jessica smiles a little.

JESSICA

At least you're wiser now. You've learned you have to let Tannen go, but that doesn't mean you have to settle for just anyone. You can still find someone great. You just need to keep looking, and you'll find someone.

COURTNEY

You're right, but I don't think I can do that. I know there are a lot of great guys out there, and I have to try to move on from Tannenbaum, but whenever I'm not with him, I just feel lost.

JESSICA

You must know that he isn't the only one for you. I mean, marriage isn't some fairy tale where there's only one person in the entire world who was made just for you. It's about finding someone who'll be your partner in building a family, and then they become the one person who was made just for you, and you become the person who was made just for them.

COURTNEY

I completely agree with you, and I wish I could do that, but I can't. It's not his fault, but Tannenbaum has ruined me.

JESSICA

Well, then, your reason for failing at love is that you're hopelessly in love with a guy who's a complete loner.

COURTNEY

Yeah, that's an understatement.

It's quiet for a moment, except for the sound of the rain, since the mood has turned a little somber.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Sorry, I don't mean to sound so dramatic and depressing, especially when God has just given you and the rest of us such a great gift.

JESSICA

No, you're fine. Besides, it's been nice having you here over the last several months, and you're welcome to live with us for as long as you want.

Jessica smiles at Courtney, who smiles back.

COURTNEY

Thank you, but I'll be getting my own place as soon as I can.

Courtney stands up and wraps her blanket over her shoulders, having the blanket cover her back, and then she smiles down at the baby while gently rubbing the sleeping baby's soft cheek, just as Tannenbaum rubbed her own cheek when they slept together inside Jessica's house.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

But I'll definitely be available to babysit anytime you want to leave the little guy with me.

JESSICA

Good, you get him whenever he's bad.

Courtney and Jessica laugh while Courtney moves her hand from the baby's cheek to his stomach, which she gently rubs.

EXT. COURTNEY'S MOBILE HOME - DAY

Of course, it's a modest home, but it has a foundation, not wheels. It's in a mobile-home park that's full of similar homes, but each home has a little front yard and backyard of bright-green grass, so the homes aren't right next to each other. And the surrounding mountains, trees, and grass are very pleasant. Also, on this summer's day, it's raining, symbolizing the new beginning that Courtney is trying to have in her life.

Courtney opens the front door as a female REAL ESTATE AGENT, 45 years old, is standing behind her. And Courtney is excited about the prospect of buying this house.

While the Real Estate Agent locks the front door, Courtney opens her umbrella and covers herself with it as she walks down the few front steps until she reaches the ground, and then she walks several steps forward until she stops and turns around to face the house.

Like Courtney, the Real Estate Agent opens her umbrella as she walks down the front steps, and then the Real Estate Agent joins Courtney in looking back at the house as they stand next to each other while holding their umbrellas over their heads.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

So, that's the grand tour. It's not very big, but I think it's one of the better homes for your price range. And this neighborhood is pretty nice. So, what do you think?

COURTNEY

I like it. I won't be able to fit all of my things in here, but it looks like a nice place to live. So, yeah, I'd like to buy it.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Great, let's go back to my office, and I'll draw up the papers for you.

The Real Estate Agent smiles at Courtney.

COURTNEY

That sounds good, thanks.

Courtney smiles back at the Real Estate Agent.

The Real Estate Agent starts to walk towards her car, and Courtney follows her as the rain continues to fall.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S COMPANY - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

It's a large and impressive office building with a large parking lot, so it's a lot different than the quaint surroundings where Tannenbaum grew up. But the building is fairly pleasant looking, and there are bright-green trees, bushes, and grass around it since, although it's located in

Maryland, it's not located in a city. Also, it's raining, and since Courtney was just in the rain too, this rain seems to connect Tannenbaum and Courtney somehow, even though they're very far apart.

INT. TANNENBAUM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tannenbaum is sitting at his desk in his large office while wearing slacks and a short-sleeve collared shirt (without a tie), and he's looking over a math problem that's written on a piece of paper that's lying on his desk. He's holding his pencil, but he can't figure out what to write since he's stuck. His office has many books sitting on a bookshelves, and a writing board, which is hanging on a wall, has complex equations written on it in marker.

One of Tannenbaum's co-workers, DAN, 32 years old, knocks on the office door, which is already open, so Tannenbaum looks up from his math problem as Dan enters and walks towards Tannenbaum.

DAN  
Hello, Tannen.

TANNENBAUM  
Hey, Dan.

DAN  
How's the project coming along?

TANNENBAUM  
Good, except I can't solve this differential equation. I've been stuck on it for two days.

DAN  
Let me see.

Dan arrives in front of Tannenbaum's desk, and Tannenbaum gives Dan the sheet of paper that he was studying.

Dan sits down in the chair in front of Tannenbaum's desk, and he looks at the equation and is immediately dazzled by its complexity.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Yikes!

TANNENBAUM  
Yeah, I even had three other physicists look at it, and they couldn't solve it either.

DAN  
You didn't ask me.

TANNENBAUM  
You said math isn't your strong  
suite.

DAN  
Oh, I couldn't solve it, but I bet  
I know someone who can.

TANNENBAUM  
Who?

DAN  
Steve.

TANNENBAUM  
That old guy who works the night  
shift in the lab?

DAN  
Yep, he's my go-to guy whenever I  
get stuck.  
(playfully)  
Just don't tell anyone. I don't  
need other people getting in on  
this.

Tannenbaum and Dan smile at each other.

TANNENBAUM  
If he's so smart, why is he working  
in the lab, where he just babysits  
projects for other scientists? Did  
he shoot the boss's cat or  
something?

Dan smiles.

DAN  
It was only a hamster, but he lost  
the court case.

Tannenbaum smiles.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Actually, I asked him that same  
question once, and he just brushed  
it off by saying he's just not cut  
out to be a great scientist.

Dan stands up while holding the piece of paper that  
Tannenbaum gave him.

DAN (CONT'D)  
I was going to the laboratory  
anyway, so I'll drop this off for  
him.

Dan starts to walk towards the door.

TANNENBAUM  
Thanks.

DAN  
No problem.

Dan exits the office.

Tannenbaum looks at the door (where Dan just exited) as he  
wonders why Steve is only a lab worker.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S COMPANY - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

It's a calm evening, and it's no longer raining. The damp  
parking lot is nearly empty, and the vast majority of the  
building's windows are dark, with light shining out from  
only a few windows. Obviously, it's late at night, and  
almost all of the employees have gone home.

INT. BASEMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tannenbaum is walking slowly down the dark hallway in the  
basement. No one else is in sight, and it's very quiet as  
he, notably, walks past a vending machine. Then, he arrives  
at the door to a laboratory, and he opens it and enters.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

Among the many tables and various pieces of lab equipment  
that occupy a lot of this fairly large and nice-looking  
laboratory, Tannenbaum walks slowly towards STEVE, who's 50  
years old and fit. Steve is the only other person in this  
lab, and he's wearing a white lab coat while standing at one  
of the big lab tables, and he's using a turkey baster to  
suck a few drops of chemical from a small transparent glass  
cylinder.

STEVE  
Hello, there.

TANNENBAUM  
Hello.

Steve squeezes the chemical from the turkey baster into a much larger transparent glass cylinder, which contains a concoction that he's making. After finishing this task, Steve lays the turkey baster down on the table and turns his attention towards Tannenbaum, who stops in front of him.

STEVE

You must be here about that math problem that Dan left for me to look at when I came in tonight.

TANNENBAUM

Yes.

Steve begins to walk over to another table, and Tannenbaum follows.

STEVE

Well, I solved it about a half hour ago, and I was going to drop it off at your office tonight. But you have saved me a trip.

Steve arrives at the other table, where he and Tannebaum stop, and Steve picks up a paper.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Here you go.

Steve gives the paper to Tannenbaum, who immediately begins to study it.

Steve goes back to the concoction that he's making in the large glass cylinder.

Steve picks up a small transparent glass cylinder of chemical, and he starts pouring it into another small transparent glass cylinder while looking at the measurement marks on the glass cylinder since he's being careful to pour in the correct amount.

Tannenbaum is still studying the math problem.

TANNENBAUM

Wow, you did solve it!

STEVE

Yeah, it was a tough one, but I eventually got it.

Tannenbaum walks over and stops next to Steve while looking at Steve in amazement as Steve pours the chemical, which he just measured, into his concoction.



TANNENBAUM

Well, I was in a big crunch, so  
thank you for taking the time to  
work on it.

STEVE

It was my pleasure.

Steve has finished pouring, so he turns slightly from his  
concoction in order to address Tannenbaum.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I'm thrilled I could help out our  
star scientist. You're doing great  
things, and I'm just happy to be a  
small part of it.

Steve smiles at Tannenbaum, who smiles weakly in return.

While Tannenbaum thinks to himself for a moment, Steve turns  
his attention back to his concoction as he looks at the  
measurement marks on various cylinders in preparation to add  
more chemicals to his concoction.

TANNENBAUM

Do you have change for a five? I  
was going to get something out of  
the vending machine.

STEVE

Yeah, I think so.

Tannenbaum pulls his wallet out from a pocket in his pants  
and quickly pulls out a five-dollar bill while Steve pulls  
his wallet out from a pocket in his pants and starts to  
rummage through it in order to find five one-dollar bills.

Tannenbaum is observing Steve's wallet since his reason for  
asking for change is to see if Steve has a family photo, and  
indeed, Tannenbaum notices a very nice picture of Steve, his  
wife, and their five kids who are in their teens and  
twenties.

So, Tannenbaum knows that, unlike himself, Steve has  
sacrificed his professional career for the sake of his  
family.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Ah, here we are, five singles.

Steve removes five one-dollar bills out of his wallet and  
gives them to Tannenbaum while taking the five-dollar bill  
in return.

TANNENBAUM

Thanks.

STEVE

No problem.

Tannenbaum and Steve put the bills into their wallets and put their wallets back into their pockets.

Steve returns to measuring out liquids and pouring them into his concoction as Tannenbaum watches him for a quiet moment. Tannenbaum is trying to process the fact that Steve is a brilliant man who's only a lab worker, and he admires the fact that Steve is very dedicated to his family.

TANNENBAUM

You know, it's nice down here. I mean, it's quiet, and you don't have to do overtime or go on business trips or have a lot of job stress. And working the night shift gives you time off during the day.

STEVE

Yeah, it is nice. I certainly can't complain.

Steve smiles at Tannenbaum, who smiles weakly in return, while Steve continues making his concoction.

Tannenbaum starts to walk towards the door.

Tannenbaum stops just before the door and turns around to face Steve.

TANNENBAUM

You know, you're a great scientist.

Steve looks up from his concoction and smiles at Tannenbaum.

STEVE

I'm just a lab worker, but thank you for saying so.

Tannenbaum smiles slightly back and nods his head in acknowledgement at Steve. Then, Tannenbaum opens the door and exits the room.

Steve smiles to himself and doesn't immediately return to making his concoction since he's savoring the fact that Tannenbaum gave him the ultimate compliment for a scientist.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tannenbaum is walking away from the laboratory as he passes by the same vending machine that he passed by on the way to the laboratory, and he doesn't even look at it since, obviously, he only asked Steve for change because he wanted to see if Steve had a family picture in his wallet.

EXT. COURTNEY'S MOBILE HOME - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

While it's raining on this summer's evening, the front door light is shining, as well as light shining through the closed curtains of the bedroom window.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Courtney is wearing her usual pink pajamas while sitting comfortably under her plush bed covers while leaning against the headboard, with a pillow sandwiched between herself and the headboard. She's watching her flat screen television that's hanging on the wall at the foot of her bed.

The beginning of a news opinion show starts playing on the television, where we read the show's name: "THE DECISION." The program's host, CURTIS MEYER, 45 years old, appears on the screen as he's sitting at a desk.

CURTIS

Hello, everybody, I'm Curtis Meyer, and welcome to "The Decision." Well, it's not often that a scientist becomes the lead story of the day or, in fact, the decade. But that's what's happening because the instantly famous physicist Tannen Zavadsky invented a water turbine that's going to revolutionize our energy sector because it provides a very efficient means of producing power. It's going to create trillions of dollars in savings due to its cheaper method of producing energy, as well as being much cleaner for our environment and saving us from exhausting our natural resources. And I'm thrilled to say I got a chance to interview him earlier today for his first television interview, and I'll have the full interview for

you tomorrow night during our special on this topic. But I just want to show you a little bit of it tonight.

Courtney watches intently as the TV program cuts to the previously recorded interview, where Curtis and Tannenbaum are sitting across from each other at a desk that's in a nicely darkened room.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

So, to start things off, how did you first get the idea of creating this very unique water turbine?

TANNENBAUM

Well, I've studied the properties of water for nearly my entire life, and my specialty is hydrodynamics. So, I knew how water has been used in other turbines like steam engines. But I thought I could design one that would be more efficient and increase the power-to-weight ratio by improving the design and adding additional chemical reactions in order to allow a water-based turbine to surpass the internal combustion engine, and luckily, I was able to achieve that.

The TV program cuts back to the live segment.

CURTIS

I feel dumb. That guy is just an absolute genius. So, I hope you'll tune in tomorrow for the full interview.

Courtney eyes are watery because she's almost crying from seeing Tannenbaum on TV, although she's trying not to cry as she picks up the remote that was sitting on the nightstand next to her, and she uses it to turn off the TV.

Courtney lays the remote back down on the nightstand, and from a drawer in the nightstand, she removes a pad of white paper and a pen.

Courtney begins to write on the paper, and we see the first words that she writes are "DEAR TANNENBAUM." She continues to write the letter at a fairly fast pace, with the words flowing out of her.

As Courtney is writing, tears start to slowly flow down her cheeks, but she doesn't wipe them away since she's too involved with writing.

Courtney looks up from her paper and looks up at the framed picture that's hanging on the wall at the side of her. It's a beautiful picture of Tannenbaum and herself standing together in front of the waterfall at their water hole while it was raining. Of course, it's the picture that she took on the day that she went tubing with Tannenbaum after he gave her a camera.

Suddenly, one of Courtney's tears falls from her cheek and lands on the bottom of the paper. Courtney notices this, so she turns her attention away from the picture and starts to wipe her eyes in order to prevent further tears from falling, and then she looks down at the bottom of the paper, where her tear hit, and she tries to wipe the tear from the paper. However, she's only able to smudge the tear a little, so the tear stain remains on the paper.

EXT. TANNENBAUM'S HOUSE - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

In Maryland, this very nice big house has three stories (including the basement). Light is shining through a few windows, and the front door light is also shining. It has a big front yard and backyard filled with green grass, and it's in an upscale neighborhood, which symbolizes how far Tannenbaum is removed from his lowly roots.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

Tannenbaum is sitting at a glass table on his pool deck behind his house, and he's flipping through his mail while wearing slacks and a short-sleeve collared shirt (without a tie) since he just finished working. The beautiful rectangle pool is isolated by an eight-feet-high plastic fence surrounding it, and the pool has a length of 15 meters and a constant depth of 4 feet. Also, its calm water is nicely lit by underwater lights on this very quiet evening.

Tannenbaum flips through the mail until he sees a letter from Courtney, and his eyes widen since he's had no contact with Courtney for years. He tosses the rest of the mail onto the table, so he's only holding Courtney's letter. Then, he opens Courtney's letter, and while he reads it silently, we hear Courtney read it aloud.

COURTNEY (V.O.)

Dear Tannenbaum, the whole world is  
celebrating you, especially our

hometown of Watertown. I just want to send my sincere congratulations to you for all of your success. What you have done is so amazing that I can't even comprehend it. I always knew you were the smartest person who ever lived, and now, everyone else knows it too. You must feel like you're on top of the world, and I want you to know that you deserve it. I see now that things didn't work out between us because you were destined for greater things. As always, I wish you the best. Love, Courtney.

Just below Courtney's signature, Tannenbaum notices a smudged wet spot, which came from Courtney's tear. So, he realizes that Courtney cried while writing this letter, and he slowly runs his thumb over the spot while thinking about her. Indeed, he spends a moment contemplating his failed relationship with Courtney, which has been destroying her for years, and it's starting to destroy him.

Tannenbaum picks up all of his mail from the table, and he carries it with him as he stands up and starts to walk back to his house.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tannenbaum is sleeping comfortably on his side, with the bedspread covering him up to his neck.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

In his dream, Tannenbaum is in a trance-like state as he exits his back door and walks slowly across the swimming pool deck, heading towards the pool, with the underwater pool lights giving a beautifully eerie feeling. He's only wearing his black swimming trunks, which are the same ones he always wore when he swam with Courtney when they were kids.

Tannenbaum hears Courtney's laughter coming from somewhere, and it seems almost real to him, as if Courtney really is here. He looks around but can't see Courtney, and then the laughter dies out.

Tannenbaum stops at the edge of the swimming pool, and he looks down into the pool, looking for Courtney, but he sees that the pool is empty.

Suddenly, Tannenbaum hears Courtney laughing again, so he looks up and sees Courtney, who has appeared out of nowhere. She's on the deck at the far end of the pool, so she's directly across from him, and she's walking slowly towards the water. She's no longer laughing, but she's smiling broadly at him as he stares at her in disbelief.

Courtney is wearing the same navy-blue one-piece swimsuit that she wore when she swam with Tannenbaum when they were kids. Of course, Tannenbaum and Courtney no longer wear the swimsuits from their youth, but they wear them in this dream because that's how Tannenbaum fondly remembers themselves.

Courtney dives headfirst into the pool and, then, swims underwater as she heads towards Tannenbaum, who can't take his eyes off of her.

Courtney surfaces about twenty feet from Tannenbaum, where she stands with the water level reaching up to her torso, and she looks up and smiles very fetchingly at him.

COURTNEY

Come on in. The water feels nice.

Tannenbaum is mesmerized by Courtney, so he can barely look away as he's under her spell, and he obediently lowers himself into the pool.

Tannenbaum walks a couple of steps towards Courtney, and then he slowly dives underwater and swims up to Courtney and emerges in front of her, with the water level reaching just above his waist.

Courtney is smiling and enjoying herself as Tannenbaum stands in front of her and continues to stare at her.

Like all of his communication to Courtney in this dream, Tannenbaum speaks calmly and trance-like.

TANNENBAUM

You're not real.

COURTNEY

Why does that matter to you?

TANNENBAUM

I don't know.

COURTNEY

Oh, Tannenbaum, isn't this cool?  
Being on top of the world, I mean.

Courtney smiles as she spins a complete circle in the water, enjoying the moment.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, on top of the world.

COURTNEY

Can you help me float on my back  
like you used to do?

TANNENBAUM

Yes.

Courtney lies back onto the water and floats on her back, which she accomplishes by moving her arms and legs, with her body perpendicular to Tannenbaum.

Tannenbaum puts one arm underneath her upper back and one arm underneath her legs, but when he tries to support her, his arms pass right through Courtney as if she's a ghost, with his arms simply rising out of the water.

Tannenbaum lowers his arms into the water as he looks down at Courtney, disheartened at not being able to touch her, and Courtney starts to struggle to keep herself afloat.

COURTNEY

Come on, help me float. Don't let  
me drown. Help me.

TANNENBAUM

I can't.

Courtney stops floating on her back and stands up, and then she looks seriously at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

Why not?

TANNENBAUM

Because you're not real.

COURTNEY

Why does that matter to you?

TANNENBAUM

I don't know.

COURTNEY

It shouldn't matter at all, right?  
We had fun together as kids, and  
we'll always have those memories,  
but we had to grow up and follow  
our own paths. So, come on, Mr.  
Big Scientist. You can answer  
anything. Why does it matter if  
I'm real or not?



TANNENBAUM  
I said I don't know.

Courtney smiles mischievously.

COURTNEY  
Ah, do you give up? Your genius  
mind failed you?

TANNENBAUM  
Tell me why it matters.

Courtney smiles mischievously.

Courtney slowly and seductively walks up right up to  
Tannenbaum, and then she begins to walk around him while he  
stands still.

COURTNEY  
Is the universe real to us?

TANNENBAUM  
No, it's an illusion. Most of it  
is so distant that its information  
is already billions of years old by  
the time it reaches us.

Courtney stops behind Tannenbaum, and she leans over his  
shoulder to talk closely and seductively to his ear, though  
she doesn't touch him since contact between them is  
impossible.

COURTNEY  
I guess it's like me, an image from  
the past.

TANNENBAUM  
Yes.

COURTNEY  
It may not even exist anymore.

TANNENBAUM  
Yes.

COURTNEY  
But you'd like to experience it, to  
study it, to know it completely,  
just like you want to be with me,  
to know if I'm OK, to take care of  
me. The past may be necessary, but  
you want more. You also want the  
present and the future.

TANNENBAUM

Yes.

Courtney withdraws from Tannenbaum's ear and walks several steps in front of him.

Courtney stops, and she turns around and faces Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

By the way, have you ever figured out why the universe so big, yet we're so small?

TANNENBAUM

No.

Courtney smiles as she begins to walk in a circle in front of Tannenbaum while throwing seductive looks back at him.

COURTNEY

I mean, except for us, the universe is devoid of life, so why does it even exist, right?

Tannenbaum has no answer as he looks at Courtney, hoping that she'll tell him.

Courtney finishes walking in a circle, so she stops and looks seriously at Tannenbaum and realizes that he doesn't know the answer.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Well, I guess the answer has alluded you because it's not really a science question. See, a large star or galaxy may mean a lot in one of your physics books, but in God's eyes, it doesn't mean anything. Don't you see that one person is worth more than any star or planet or anything else? Even Earth only has value because it has life.

Courtney walks up to Tannenbaum until she's standing very close to him, with their faces nearly touching each other, and they're looking into each other's eyes.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

It's God's way of letting us know that we're bigger than anything imaginable, that nothing is more infinite and more important than a

human being. What's out there doesn't matter. All that matters is what's right here, which your math will tell you is just two people. Your math is wrong. One person plus one person doesn't equal two people. It equals everything.

Tannenbaum and Courtney look at each other for a quiet moment as if they're looking into each other's souls.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)  
Goodbye, Mr. Tannen Zavadsky.

Courtney turns away from Tannenbaum, and then she dives into the pool and disappears as soon as she goes underwater.

Tannenbaum scans the water for Courtney, and then he looks up and scans the portion of the pool deck that's in front and to the sides of himself, but he can't see Courtney anywhere, and he quickly realizes that she has left.

So, after Courtney said goodbye to Tannenbaum using his shortened name, Tannen, and his surname, which is fitting for the depressed state of their relationship, Tannenbaum is standing completely alone in his swimming pool.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL AT COURTNEY'S MOBILE HOME PARK - DAY

On a hot summer day, Courtney is swimming freestyle between two lane ropes in the 25-meter pool, and then she does a flip turn off of the wall and starts to swim to the other wall. She's swimming gracefully and at a fairly fast pace, and her bathing suit is a lighter color blue than the one she wore when she was younger.

It's a pretty pool with mobile homes fairly close to it, but the surrounding wooden fence and woods give the pool a lot of privacy. There are a few roped-off lanes, and the rest of the pool consists of a large swim area on one side of the lanes and a small swim area on the other side, but Courtney is the only person in the pool.

After watching Courtney swim from above the water, we begin to look underwater as we observe Courtney swimming, and she's about 10 meters away from the wall when a foot breaks the water's surface in the distance and rests against the wall in front of her. And, then, another foot breaks the water's surface and rests against the same wall. So, obviously, someone has just sat down, and they're letting their legs dangle over the side of the pool.

Courtney notices the dangling feet and, thus, stops a few meters in front of the wall.

Courtney stands up, with the water reaching up to her upper torso, and she wipes the water from her eyes. Then, she looks up at the face of Tannenbaum, who's wearing a navy-blue swimsuit. He's completely dry, except for his legs that are in the water as he's sitting on the wall in front of her, and he smiles and waves at her.

TANNENBAUM

Hi!

Courtney is very surprised to see Tannenbaum, so she doesn't know what to say. She just quickly breaks eye contact and looks down at the water since she feels awkward, as well as feeling the pain of being around her lost love, while Tannenbaum just stares at her as if he doesn't want to look away from her for even a second.

Finally, Courtney is able to gather herself, so she looks back up at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY

What are you doing here?

TANNENBAUM

Arnold Palmer.

COURTNEY

What?

TANNENBAUM

I brought Arnold Palmer, and I thought you might want a glass. It's over there.

Tannenbaum gestures to the nearest corner of the pool, which is in the small swim area to his left. So, Courtney looks over there and sees that there are two big transparent glasses of Arnold Palmer sitting on the pool's deck. And the glasses look refreshingly cool on this hot day.

Courtney looks back inquisitively at Tannenbaum as she still tries to process his presence.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Golf and swimming go together, I think.

Courtney doesn't laugh and, instead, just looks down at the water since she's still not comfortable around him.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

So, what do you say?

Courtney looks up at Tannenbaum and nods her head.

COURTNEY

OK.

Courtney turns to her right and swims underneath the lane rope and continues to swim underwater as she heads to the corner of the pool where the Arnold Palmer is sitting, and Tannenbaum looks down at her from above and longingly admires how graceful she swims.

Then, Tannenbaum hops into the water between the lane ropes, and he goes underwater and swims behind Courtney.

Courtney reaches the corner of the pool, so she stands up.

Tannenbaum arrives next to Courtney, so he stands up too.

Tannenbaum picks up one of the glasses of Arnold Palmer and gives it to Courtney.

Courtney holds onto her glass of Arnold Palmer, without drinking it, while Tannenbaum picks up the other glass for himself.

Tannenbaum and Courtney stand up fairly straight but lean their backs against the same side of the pool while standing side by side, with Courtney near the corner of the pool on her right, and Tannenbaum is on her left. The water level is up to their upper torsos as they look out at the pool.

Tannenbaum starts to drink his glass, and then Courtney starts to drink too.

There's just a nice, albeit slightly uncomfortable, silence between Tannenbaum and Courtney as they drink their Arnold Palmers while looking at the calm water, and of course, there's a melancholy feel to their situation.

TANNENBAUM

Well, I saw you my first year in college, and then I didn't see you again until five years later at my mother's funeral, and it's only been three years since then, so I guess I'm starting to see you more often.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, but she doesn't respond or even look at him since she's still feeling a mixture of awkwardness and pain about being around him.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

So, anything new happening with you?

COURTNEY

Not really. I've been working the same lousy job near Charleston since high school, but at least I bought a new home in this park, which I guess you found out.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, this is nice. I'm glad you got your own place.

COURTNEY

Thanks.

Courtney manages to smile a little at Tannenbaum since the ice has been broken a little, and he smiles back at her.

Tannenbaum and Courtney quietly take a sip of their drinks.

Although their glasses are about halfway full, Courtney puts her glass on the pool deck at the corner of the pool, and then Tannenbaum reaches around her front and puts his glass down next to her glass.

A quiet moment passes as Tannenbaum and Courtney continue to look at the water that stretches out in front of them, and they've become a lot more comfortable with each other, so they're even enjoying themselves now.

TANNENBAUM

This is a nice moment.

COURTNEY

Yes, I like it too.

TANNENBAUM

Actually, I think my all of my best moments have been with you.

COURTNEY

My best moments have been with you too. But so have my worst moments.

Tannenbaum looks at Courtney with complete seriousness, but she doesn't look at him.

TANNENBAUM

I didn't treat you nice.

Courtney still doesn't even look at Tannenbaum.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
I can't tell you how sorry I am  
about that.

Courtney finally looks back at Tannenbaum.

COURTNEY  
Tannenbaum, you don't have to  
apologize for anything.

TANNENBAUM  
You know, if I could change the  
past, I would.

COURTNEY  
But you can't.

TANNENBAUM  
No, I can't.

There's an awkward moment of silence, so Courtney changes  
the subject.

COURTNEY  
Did you get my letter?

TANNENBAUM  
Yes, I got it last night. That was  
very gracious of you. Thank you.

COURTNEY  
I meant every word. I'm happy for  
you. You did something great, and  
you became rich and famous. You  
achieved your life's goal. It must  
feel really awesome. I wish I  
achieved my life's goal.

TANNENBAUM  
It doesn't.

COURTNEY  
What?

TANNENBAUM  
It doesn't feel awesome.

COURTNEY  
Why not?

TANNENBAUM  
Because I had the wrong goal.

Tannenbaum stares at Courtney, who looks back at him in shock since she realizes he means that he misses her, and the intensity is too much for her, so she looks away. And there's a moment of silence as he continues staring at her, studying her face, and he's struck by how sad she looks.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

You look sad. You never used to look sad.

Tannenbaum manages to stop staring at Courtney, although he looks back at her often while she rarely looks at him as they continue their conversation.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Have you ever wondered why couples fail so often today?

Courtney perks up a little bit and looks at Tannenbaum, hoping that he has the answer.

COURTNEY

Yes, I've always wondered that. Why, do you know?

TANNENBAUM

I was thinking it's because, after families were stable with happy marriages and few divorces and produced many children from our country's founding through the 1950s, a generation came along that couldn't live up to that since they lost their Judeo-Christian values, combined with hedonism and the frantic life of work and things, as well as an increase in drugs and an empty celebrity culture that deceives people into valuing looks too much and believing famous people are somehow more important. And this caused a failure of life where the number one priority of creating families got lost. So, while everyone is imperfect, people have fallen so far that they even ridicule the best among us to make themselves feel better. And, before long, they can't even recognize perfection, which is you.

Courtney loves that she finally obtains the answer that she longed to know, but Tannenbaum's compliment makes her blush.



COURTNEY

You flatter me too much.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney.

TANNENBAUM

That's not possible.

Courtney smiles as she looks away and looks down at the pool while blushing even more.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

You know, they say that someone as traditional as you isn't cut out for today's real world, that you're too sweet and pure and innocent and feminine, that there's no place for princesses and angels anymore. And they're right that you're too good for them. But they're wrong about judging women and, in fact, everyone on everything but the greatest achievements.

Tannenbaum speaks regrettably, almost to himself.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Even I bought into all of this modern nonsense when I insulted you in the library.

A quiet moment passes as Tannenbaum collects his thoughts.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Of course, you knew better. You knew I was wrong because women have, thankfully, done many great things in every professional field, but you didn't even argue that point with me because you knew that wasn't the real insult. The real insult was that I didn't give them credit for giving birth and raising families. You've always known that's the only thing that really matters because everything else is just a natural consequence. And people think I'm the smart one.

Tannenbaum smiles a little to himself, but Courtney doesn't react since she's just intently listening to Tannenbaum while looking down at the pool.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I remember you telling me how marriages are the most important relationships because they're the only ones designed to produce life, so they're not really even optional. People have to make it work. And you were right. You've always been right.

Tannenbaum takes a moment to collect his thoughts again.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I wanted to conquer the world. You wanted to become a housewife. And I was naive enough to think I was the ambitious one. I guess I didn't think some anonymous parents changing diapers or driving kids around were doing more for the world than me.

Tannenbaum smiles at Courtney, hoping she'll respond to him, but she just continues to look at the pool.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

And I know it comes with a lot of hard work and headaches, and I'm sure it doesn't even feel important a lot of the time, but it's what makes the world go around.

Tannenbaum thinks for a moment.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Logic says everyone is worth the same. And some people do love logically, where they can love people halfway around the world as much as they love their own blood. But, for most people, love has nothing to do with logic, which is why it's so fantastic. I mean, I'm thinking about big questions like what's the origin of the universe, and the only question I care about is if you're OK?

Tannenbaum smiles to himself, and then he looks at Courtney.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

Do you remember that night when we were camping, and we were sitting

in chairs outside while we looked  
at the stars?

Courtney looks up at Tannenbaum for a brief moment and nods  
her head.

COURTNEY

Yes.

TANNENBAUM

Well, I thought you enjoyed its  
beauty and I enjoyed its science,  
but I was wrong. I know now what  
you have always known. We both  
enjoyed it for the same reason: We  
were experiencing it together. I  
know I wouldn't have really enjoyed  
it at all if you weren't there,  
just like I don't really enjoy  
anything without you.

Tannenbaum looks down at the water in front of him and  
slowly runs his hand back and forth over the water, creating  
little ripples.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

It's almost funny. I always  
thought that water was the most  
beautiful thing in the world. I've  
always loved the ocean's waves and  
the winter's snow and the falling  
rain and the clear blue water of  
swimming pools. And I've always  
been obsessed with the physics of  
water.

Tannenbaum stops running his hand over the water, and he  
looks at Courtney, who doesn't look back at him.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

But I never noticed that some  
people are even more beautiful  
.... I should have known,  
considering that people are  
composed of almost two-thirds  
water, huh?

Tannenbaum smiles slightly to himself at his stupidity, and  
Courtney finally begins to react as tears start to form.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

But I didn't. It's ironic, I  
guess.

Tannenbaum takes a moment to reflect.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

I achieved my wildest dreams, and I'd give them all up to be your friend again. You're the only friend I've ever had, and I've hurt you more than anyone else.

Courtney is, of course, crying now, and she's wiping her tears away since she's trying not to cry.

COURTNEY

Tannenbaum, you're just feeling lonely for the first time, and that's progress to at least have a human emotion. But we both know you're not going to settle down, so you shouldn't seek me out whenever you feel lonely. It just causes more pain.

TANNENBAUM

I'm not here because I'm lonely. I'm here because you're here. Because I know your goal of having a family is the greatest goal there is. I mean, I'm glad I was able to contribute something to science, and people should use their talents to chase any dream they have no matter the odds, and I'm sure there are times when one has to sacrifice having a family in order to help out in other ways, but that means that person will never be complete. Courtney, I finally realized that having a family is better than any fame or fortune. So, I want to marry you and have kids with you and live in West Virginia forever. And I want to take our kids to waterparks and campsites and just stay home with them. And I want to have many more times where we drink Arnold Palmer in a swimming pool. And I have to tell you something that I should have told you years ago. I want to let you know that I've studied so many things, and I've learned so many amazing facts, but the greatest fact I've learned is that you're the most beautiful thing in the world.

Courtney is really wiping her eyes because she's crying a lot now, although she's still trying not to cry.

Tannenbaum simply looks at Courtney as he just hopes that he has gotten through to her.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)

And ... that's it. That's all I have to tell you. I only wish I had more than words to say it.

Tannenbaum waits for Courtney to respond, but she just continues to cry, so he looks away because he knows that there's nothing more he can do.

COURTNEY

Are you proposing to me?

Tannenbaum smiles elatedly and looks back at Courtney, who smiles back at him.

TANNENBAUM

Yes.

COURTNEY

Then, I accept.

Tannenbaum's and Courtney's smiles widen.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah?

Courtney lights up even more.

COURTNEY

Yeah.

TANNENBAUM

Wow! Then, come here, beautiful!

Tannenbaum and Courtney continue smiling broadly at each other, and he grabs her around the waist and pulls her to himself and hugs her. They remain embraced as if they're never going to let each other go.

On the pool deck on the far side of the pool, Courtney notices a SWIMMING BOY, 10 years old, who has just arrived, and he's wearing a swimsuit as he walks towards the pool's large swim area. This boy is preparing to enter the pool when he notices Courtney is crying, so he stops just a few feet short of jumping into the pool and stares at her with a confused look.

COURTNEY

Do you think you could choose a  
more private place next time you  
make me cry?

Tannenbaum turns and notices the Swimming Boy too, and then  
Tannenbaum and Courtney look at each other.

TANNENBAUM

Hey, it's not a science.

Courtney laughs, and then Tannenbaum laughs too.

Their laughter dissipates as they remain with their arms  
around each other (happy as they have ever been in their  
lives). And they watch the Swimming Boy jump and curl up  
into a cannonball above the pool.

SWIMMING BOY

Yahoo!

The Swimming Boy lands his cannonball with a big splash,  
which is like a fantastic punctuation to the celebratory  
moment for Tannenbaum and Courtney as they laugh at the  
boy's exciting scream and cannonball.

EXT. ZAVADSKYS' SWIMMING POOL - DAY

SAVANNAH, 7 years old, who's a very cute girl, climbs the  
several steps of the low diving board and begins to walk  
along the length of the diving board.

In front of Savannah, a lot of people are playing in this  
gorgeous 25-meter swimming pool. Also, around the pool,  
people are relaxing in chairs, lying on towels on the  
bright-green grass, and sitting at picnic tables. On these  
picnic tables, there are large transparent coolers filled  
with Arnold Palmer, which people are pouring into their  
transparent plastic cups and drinking, and the drinks look  
delicious. And beautiful mountains, which are covered with  
bright-green trees, encircle and tower above the pool.

Savannah arrives at the end of the diving board, and she  
stops in order to prepare to jump into the water.

Savannah jumps off of the diving board and lands feet first  
into the water, and when she surfaces, she swims freestyle  
out of the deep end of the pool, entering shallower water.

Suddenly, a man's hand, wearing a wedding ring, grabs one of  
Savannah's calves, and a woman's hand, also wearing a  
wedding ring, grabs her other calf, and they pull her  
backwards.

Savannah stops swimming and smiles as she sees that she's being pulled by her parents, Tannenbaum and Courtney, who are standing in water that's up to their shoulders. They're smiling as they pull Savannah next to themselves, and then they let her free, and she happily treads water since it's too deep for her to stand.

Tannenbaum is wearing swim trunks while Courtney is wearing a one-piece swimsuit. Both of their swimsuits are royal blue, with the same color symbolizing their closeness and the lightness of color symbolizing their happiness. Also, their two cute sons, ADAM and SCOTT, who are 10 years old and 8 years old, respectively, are treading water next to them since it's too deep for them to stand.

SAVANNAH

Hey, Mom, Dad, you scared me!

TANNENBAUM

You think that was scary? Try this!

Tannenbaum picks Savannah up and tosses her into the air, and she flies through the air and lands in the water with a big splash.

Savannah quickly pops back to the surface, and she loved it, so she's laughing as she treads water.

On the lifeguard stand behind Savannah, there's a very nice wooden sign posted about halfway between the ground and the feet of the lifeguard who's sitting on the chair. And we read this sign to say, "WELCOME TO THE ZAVADSKYS' SWIMMING POOL IN WATERTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA," which makes it obvious that Tannenbaum and Courtney own this public pool in their hometown. And, a little below this sign, there's a smaller wooden sign that's posted on the lifeguard stand, and we read it to say, "WEST VIRGINIA, HOME OF THE MOUNTAINEERS," which refers to West Virginia University and is a prideful saying for many people from West Virginia.

SCOTT

Throw me next, Dad!

ADAM

Then, throw me, Dad!

TANNENBAUM

OK.

Tannenbaum smiles as he picks Scott up and tosses him into the air, and he lands in the water with a big splash. Scott surfaces with a smile and treads water next to Savannah.

Tannenbaum turns his attention to Adam.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
For you, I'm going to need your  
mother's help.

Tannenbaum addresses Courtney.

TANNENBAUM (CONT'D)  
You grab his legs, and I'll get his  
arms.

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY  
OK.

Tannenbaum grabs Adam's arms, and Courtney grabs his legs.

TANNENBAUM  
OK, go!

Tannenbaum and Courtney pick Adam up and toss him into the air, and he lands in the water with a big splash. Then, Adam quickly surfaces, and he smiles and treads water next to Scott and Savannah.

SCOTT  
What do we get if we dive headfirst  
off the diving board?

TANNENBAUM  
OK, Scott, you never have to do  
homework again. Adam, you never  
have to talk to Scott again. And,  
Savannah, you never have to do  
anything.

Adam, Scott, and Savannah smile.

SAVANNAH  
Yay!

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile.

TANNENBAUM  
Actually, I hate to disappoint you,  
but we all get the same thing: ice  
cream. If your mother lets us.

Adam, Scott, and Savannah eagerly turn their attention to Courtney since they want ice cream.



COURTNEY

Yes, everyone can dive later, and then we'll go get ice cream after we finish swimming. But, first, let's go join your cousins.

SAVANNAH

OK!

Adam, Scott, and Savannah are excited for ice cream and to see their cousins as they start to swim freestyle towards Jessica, Paul, and their four kids: a 15-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl, a 12-year-old boy, and a 10 year-old-girl. Jessica and her family are standing and talking to each other in shallower water, which only reaches just above Jessica's waist.

Tannenbaum and Courtney start to swim breaststroke together as they follow their kids.

Adam, Scott, and Savannah reach Jessica's family, so they stop swimming, stand up, and start talking with Jessica's family.

Tannenbaum and Courtney arrive at shallower water that reaches just above their waists, although they're still a little ways from their family, so they stop swimming and start walking. Then, she grabs his arm and stops, so he stops and sees that she's looking purposely at him.

As they're looking into each other's eyes, Courtney smiles, which causes Tannenbaum to smile.

TANNENBAUM

What are you doing?

COURTNEY

I want to tell you something.

TANNENBAUM

What?

Tannenbaum and Courtney continue to smile at each other as she briefly delays her answer in order to enjoy this moment.

COURTNEY

This is perfect.

Tannenbaum and Courtney smile even wider at each other.

TANNENBAUM

Yeah, for you. I gave away billions of dollars to our church,

and now, I have to run this pool  
and do some physics consulting  
while you just lie around the house  
all day.

COURTNEY

Do you have to make everything  
difficult?

TANNENBAUM

I don't have to. I just like to  
make you mad.

COURTNEY

Well, you've failed because I'm  
just happy. We're happy.

Courtney smiles in complete joy at Tannenbaum, who smiles  
back at her in complete joy too.

Tannenbaum puts his arms around Courtney's waist while she  
puts her arms around his neck, and they kiss each other.

Tannenbaum and Courtney break from their embrace, and they  
joyfully smile at each other again.

Tannenbaum wraps one of his arms around Courtney's shoulders  
as she wraps one of her arms around his waist, and they  
start to walk side by side towards their family in the  
beautiful water.

FADE OUT.

THE END