

NANA

Alright baby, you have a safe day.

4 EXT. NEW BURTON - DAY

4

Joey bikes across a rural town. She passes a group of teenagers in the park, flirting with one another, she smiles as she continues on. She gets to the main street, she passes by a TOOTHLESS MAN sitting in front of the pharmacy, he smiles widely at her, she smiles and waves back. She arrives at the diner where she works and slows her bike to a stop.

5 INT. LI'L J'S DINER - BACK KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

5

Joey enters the diner through the back entrance, the kitchen, which is visible from the dining room, is loud with the sizzles of eggs and meat turning into breakfast. A pair of LINE COOKS oversee the grill.

Sc. 1 Start

JOEY

Hi guys.

As she walks past the cooks, one turns to her, this is MIGUEL, 19, absurdly hot, almost cartoonishly handsome.

MIGUEL

What's up Joey. You have a good weekend?

JOEY

Yeah.

MIGUEL

Do something fun? Go dancing?

Miguel dances in place. Joey smiles, she's very comfortable, this is clearly a common flirtation.

JOEY

No dancing this weekend, just sleep. You still owe me twenty bucks from those pool games.

MIGUEL

I'm good for it...We should go dancing sometime maybe.

JOEY

How you gonna take me out? Daniel
(signals the other chef)
(MORE)

JOEY (CONT'D)
told me your mama doesn't let you
borrow her car anymore. Something
about a ditch?

MIGUEL
I still got my bike. You could
always ride on my pegs.

JOEY
I told you already, that's a toy.
Get a real ride.

Joey fits her apron on and prepares to head out.

MIGUEL
You ever gonna let me take you out?

JOEY
Maybe when you stop asking.

Sc. 1 End

Joey exits into the diner. Miguel turns to the other cook who
is smiling and throws some uncooked potato slices at him.

6 INT. LI'L J'S DINER - LATER 6

Joey takes an order from an OLDER COUPLE, mildly distracted
by a WOMAN who enters and sits at one of her booths.

JOEY
That all?

OLDER TOWNIE WOMAN
And a coffee, black and sweet just
how God made you.

Joey smiles and moves onto the next booth where she sees the
woman, REGINA 32, a black woman with a composure so calm it
can only be from extreme but humble confidence, reading a
book titled, 'THE ART OF TRAPPING LARGE GAME'.

JOEY
Going hunting?

Regina looks up and smiles at Joey

REGINA
Just like to be prepared.

JOEY
Nothin' wrong with that.

REGINA
Can I get...

Time passes as the effects of Joey's attack seep into all aspects of her life.

Joey is unable to sleep, unable to eat. She can barely focus at work. Joey does not recognize herself in the mirror and is unable to communicate with her grandparents.

13 EXT. MEADOW LANE - DAY 13

Joey bikes fast down the street. She mirrors the route we saw at the start. However this time, completely disassociated.

She again passes a group of teenagers in the park, flirting with one another, instead of finding it charming and sweet she sees it as gross and aggressive. She passes the same toothless man, and this time finds his grin putrid.

14 INT. LI'L J'S DINER - BACK KITCHEN - DAY 14

Joey enters the diner through the back. Miguel and the other line cook are there again.

Sc. 2 Start

MIGUEL

Hey Joey...

She says nothing and keeps walking. Miguel grabs Joey's shoulder. She whips around and stares him dead in the eyes.

JOEY

Don't touch me!

It's alarming. Patrons of the diner, including Regina, look up from their meals to see what the commotion is. Miguel hands her twenty dollars.

MIGUEL

I just wanted to pay you for the pool games.

Joey looks at the money. Regina clocks Joey's reaction.

JOEY

Oh...thanks.

Sc. 2 End

15 INT. LI'L J'S DINER - DINING ROOM - DAY 15

Joey brings a plate over to Regina and sets it down. She looks across the diner to see MIKE from behind, her eyes well, she begins to breathe heavily. She's a stroke away from a breakdown, she breaks the pencil in her hand without realizing it.