

WATER TOWER SCENARIO

PART 1

EXT. TOP OF A WATER TOWER - MIDNIGHT - **THE PRESENT**

CLOSE UP - Digital alarm clock reads 12:00 AM.

ALARM NOISE fades in FROM SILENCE.

CAMERA BACKS UP TO REVEAL Maggie and Daylen lying on blankets on the water tower. It's pitch black, but they're lit by a gas lamp above them.

Maggie lies on the left, Daylen on the right, and in between: an alarm clock and TWO ROWS OF NUMBERED, WHITE ENVELOPES. A few feet behind them sits a red cooler and a video camera suspended in mid-air in the distance.

Daylen wakes up, turns off the alarm clock, and quickly opens an envelope with a scribbled, "READ ME FIRST" on the cover and takes out an enclosed letter.

He shakes Maggie to wake her as he reads the letter.

He looks to Maggie. She's slowly regaining consciousness.

Maggie's suddenly alert and a little scared.

DAYLEN

Are you okay?

Maggie lifts up the shirt on her arm and examines a black, house-arrest-looking shackle on her upper arm.

MAGGIE

What just happened?

Daylen examines a similar shackle on his arm.

DAYLEN

This is scary shit (nervous laugh).

Maggie's confused and looks around.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

Read this.

Hands her the letter. She reads it.

Daylen exhales.

Maggie looks at the clock then back at the letter.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

So we're supposed to open one envelope on the hour. Then ask each other- you- whatever's in it... Then...

Daylen scoots closer and uses one hand to point to the letter and the other hand to stabilize himself by resting it on her shoulder. **When he puts his hand on her, she flinches/pulls away - reflex.** Daylen's a little taken aback.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Eye contact.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

...Then... Ask and I wait I think... 24 times.

Maggie grabs her envelope reading, "1."

She looks at the neatly-organized row of letters.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

At the bottom here it says we can't leave either.

Daylen picks up his "1" envelope.

MAGGIE

It didn't say who goes-? But that's 24...hours!

DAYLEN

Heh... I don't guess it matters.

MAGGIE

What's happening?

DAYLEN

What else are we going to do?

They look all around. It's pitch black.

MAGGIE
Errrrummm.

DAYLEN
We'll just see what goes.

MAGGIE
O-kay!

Reads her enclosed message over one more time.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
The question is as follows: What is your name? How old are you? Where did you grow up? What's your favorite color? Do you have any siblings? Pets? What do you do for fun? Dreams?

MUSIC PLAYS (CUE 5).

Daylen looks at Maggie's feet.

DAYLEN
That's it?

Maggie flips over the letter. They make eye contact

DAYLEN (CONT'D)
Okay?... I'm Daylen Gordon. 22.
Lived all my life in Birmingham,
Alabama-

MAGGIE
Me too. I live there.

They look at each other.

DAYLEN
...I like black - or... to be technical - I guess blue's my favorite.. Have a brother.

Looks to Maggie for prompting.

MAGGIE
...Pets, fun, dreams.

DAYLEN
No pets. I like music, and I don't have dreams.

Daylen looks at his letter.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)
It's the same.

MAGGIE
Magnolia - Maggie's what I go by -
Anderson. 23. Born in Endicott, New
York. Blue too. Petless. I work...
I guess I'd like to be independent.

Daylen examines the letter and instructions.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Well nice to meet you Daylen.

Daylen's a bit preoccupied. He sees the semi-hidden camera a few feet behind them. It's unreachable.

DAYLEN
Is that a camera...

Maggie looks around.

MAGGIE
Can't see.

DAYLEN
Back there. See? Too far to reach
though.

Maggie's looking for it.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)
So wake up. Here. Ask your favorite
color... and sit?

Looks at clock (now reads 12:04). Picks up card "2" and slaps it on his leg.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)
56 minutes... Yep. Pretty dark out
here...

MAGGIE
Should we climb down?

He looks around - it's dark and very high up.

DAYLEN
...Err... We could sleep maybe?

MAGGIE
It said no sleeping... What's gonna
happen if we don't do it?

DAYLEN

Well, he did manage to kidnap us
and put us wherever the hell.
(Laughs) I don't know if we should
test him.

MAGGIE

(laughs)
Got a point...

Daylen examines the darkness once more then looks at Maggie.

DAYLEN

So you grew up in New York?

MAGGIE

(laughs)
Yeah, we're not going anywhere.
(Inhales) So...

DAYLEN

Oh wait. Siblings?

...

...

...

PART 2 - LATER

EXT. TOP OF WATER TOWER - SUNRISE - **THE PRESENT**

INSERT - CLOSE UP, ALARM CLOCK READS **6:59AM**

Maggie and Daylen haven't talked this much in years. Daylen
talks with his hands. Maggie listens intently.

DAYLEN

...EXACTLY! He never liked me
playin'. Said some things, but she
bought my first guitar too.

MAGGIE

-The things people say... small
stuff... Really messes you up.

DAYLEN

...He just puts anything creative
in a lower category ya know? If
it's not a 'job'-

MUSIC FADES IN (**CUE 9**).

ALARM CLOCK RINGS, 7:00 AM.

They reach for their respective envelopes and open.

MAGGIE

Describe the single best and single
worst days of your life.

CUT TO:

LATER - 12:00 PM

Daylen reads.

DAYLEN

What makes you happy?

CUT TO:

LATER - 2:00 PM

They open a new envelope and pull out a letter, a pad of
paper, and a pencil.

DAYLEN

Pencil AND paper. Hot damn!

They're both reading intently.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

Easy peasy: Just five minutes of
whatever and don't stop writing
until then.

MAGGIE

Write about what?

DAYLEN

Doesn't say, the only rule's we
have to write the whole time.

Maggie looks over it once more.

MAGGIE

Kay. On your mark, get set...

She looks at the clock.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Go.

-They're writing.

INSERT - THE CLOCK READS **2:07 PM**

-Maggie looks at the clock.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Anngghhh (buzzer noise).

They stop writing at the same time.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
So we swap...

They swap papers.

Daylen stands up.

DAYLEN
It doesn't make sense. Just don't
think -

MAGGIE
...And read. It'll be okay, mine
doesn't make any sense either. You
sit down though. It's like school.

Maggie stands up, Daylen sits. She reads a little ahead
before she starts. She struts around a little and almost
makes a dance out of reading.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(reading out loud)
Once upon a time... There was a
voice that spoke the things people
think...

Maggie stops the dance thing and slows her walk down, she's
more interested in the words.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
From the woman on the corner, "I
wish I could be better. Be there..."

CUT TO:

EXT. DELIVERY TRUCK - THAT MOMENT

WE HEAR Maggie and Daylen TALKING OFF SCREEN THROUGH A WALKIE
TALKIE in the car.

HIGH ANGLE - PAN FROM THE PASSENGER SEAT TO THE DRIVER'S SEAT

On the passenger side of the car, we see several Polaroid pictures taped to the window, and on the floor we see a pile of photographs and paper scraps - **he's making a scrap book.** On the dashboard we see binoculars, a megaphone, a camera (with a long lens), and a small journal.

When we reach the driver's seat we see a man transcribing the off-screen conversation.

MAGGIE (O.S.)

...And the quiet man waiting in line... "I'm going to tell her. The next time. I'm gong to tell her that life isn't always perfect. It's hard, and you might be sad, but you've gotta trust things'll be better, 'cause they will, and I know this doesn't make sense to you now, and I know you'll be happy, but just in case.

BACK TO THE WATER TOWER

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

You've gotta know, and remember that things will be okay. The next time. I'll tell her. I swear." And so the voice moves along. Speaking thunk thoughts.

DAYLEN

(nervous laugh)

I was right... that really doesn't make sense! I'm sorry.

Maggie sits slowly.

MAGGIE

I thought it was interesting.

She looks at him with a newfound intrigue.

He looks down and rolls his head the other way. Small grin.

DAYLEN

Can I start?

MAGGIE

Mmmhmm.

Daylen clear throat and stands up.

DAYLEN

...All at once (switch to story time voice) the youngster told them to leave her alone. They did. And she was left there. She was alone.

Maggie picks up some of the used paper nervously tears pattern in it.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

But all was not well. She needed a friend, and a friend she found. They went places, and did things. Fun things. Scary things. Silly things. And who would have thought they'd grow up? That one would leave and one would stay? (No more story time voice) Someone surely knew it would end. But how? After so many sleep-overs, and secrets, makeovers, and pizza Wednesdays, and the mess on the porch, and cat in the street, and the yellow treehouse. She could not understand, but she will learn. Yes. In time. She will learn...

Daylen hesitates.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

I like that.

CUT TO:

LATER: 3:20 PM.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

...I want to communicate on a different level altogether. Fuck the rain! *Talk* about when you weren't doing well. Don't always *pretend* things are fine.

Daylen looks up for a bit and interrupts himself.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

(laughs)
(goofy) Gee wiz! Chatter box king over here...

Maggie waits for him to say more.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

...I'm not one to talk.

Daylen looks at Maggie then back down.

Maggie waits again. Daylen looks at her. They connect, but as soon as Maggie speaks, she talks to the ground mostly.

MAGGIE
Do you feel guilty when you talk?

DAYLEN
How?

MAGGIE
Nevermind.

DAYLEN
Say it.

MAGGIE
It's like what I'm going to say
isn't interesting to me, and how's
anyone else going to care? I just
want to give up mid-sentence, but-

Extra long pause.

DAYLEN
...JERK!

CUT TO:

LATER: 4:00 PM.

MAGGIE
This one requires extra secretness.

Maggie quickly takes the blanket out from under her and throws it in the air to cover them. They talk under the blanket.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(whisper)
You're stuck on a desert island...
and you can only bring one thing,
what would it be?

Daylen looks at her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Just kidding... It says, "what
incident in your life has had the
single most impact on you or was
the most meaningful."

Maggie looks at him. The lock eyes for a few moments.

CUT TO:

LATER: 5:30 PM.

Empty envelopes and food packages are stacked in a pile.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
...but how do you meet people?

Maggie scratches her nose.

DAYLEN
I don't think I'm the one to
ask...(awkward laugh) AND!

Daylen stands up.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)
I gotta pee.

He walks to the edge of the tower and relieves himself.

MAGGIE
Be careful! Did you hear that?

Daylen laughs and walks funny.

DAYLEN
I can't feel my cheeks!... (now
peeing). Beats me though. Do you
ever see someone out you want to
talk to?

MAGGIE
All the time.

DAYLEN
Why is it so hard to just talk?

MAGGIE
(It's not hard with you.)

DAYLEN
What did you say?

MAGGIE
Nothing.

DAYLEN
Tallest waterfall ever!

MAGGIE
(laughs)
...It's tough.

CUT TO:

LATER: SUNSET, 6:30 PM.

Daylen finishes an origami x-wing fighter out of a piece of paper from his writing pad.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Oh come on! You couldn't do that again if you tried!

DAYLEN
What do you want?

MAGGIE
How do you know how to do that?

DAYLEN
It's a secret.

She hits him on the shoulder.

MAGGIE
Loser.

CUT TO:

LATE NIGHT: 11:59 PM.

Neatly lined origami figures replace the empty envelopes.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(intimate)
I don't know what it is... about...
but I feel...

Maggie looks at Daylen.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
It's been a long time...

Daylen listens.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(change the subject)
I'm tired!

DAYLEN
Any second.

CUT TO:

LATER: **12:05 AM.**

They lie unconscious.

The locked gate to the water tower ladder opens and a Masked Figure emerges.