I Dream of You

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INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- NIGHT

Ristorante Moonlight is illuminated with warm light. Three families eat and chat. An older gentleman takes a sip of his clam chowder.The waitresses and waiters are cleaning the many empty tables. On the walls of the restaurant, a newspaper headline reads: Ludwig Vanderbilt awards Gabriella Valentino Best New Restaurant.

The chatter is interrupted by the roar of an engine. Stepping inside Ristorante Moonlight is rockstar SULLIVAN MORTEM(25) and his wife NATALIE(26) enter and are directed to a table. The waiters, waitresses, and the families gawk at him and start to gossip.

WAITER
That's Sullivan Mortem of the Chainbreakers, right?

WAITRESS
Yeah. What's he doing here? This restaurant isn't exactly popular, you know.

WAITER
Don't let boss here you say that.

WAITRESS
But its the truth.

The waitress continues to stealthily stare at Sullivan and Natalie.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)
I wonder how many people have had soulmate dreams about him.

WAITER
Thousands, probably, and many more to come after.

WAITRESS
Ah, to be Sullivan Mortem. I wish I could have that many people that want to fall in love with me.

WAITER
Right, that doesn't mean anything. Our boss got screwed over by her soulmate six months ago.

WAITRESS
I guess you're right.

In the kitchen, GABRIELLA VALENTINO,25, is laboring over a pot of her signature clam chowder. ROXIE,21, bursts through the kitchen.

ROXIE
"Gabi, a guest is requesting your presence immediately."

GABRIELLA
(without looking up from her clam chowder)
"I'm almost finished here. Tell them to wait one more minute."

ROXIE
It's not an ordinary customer. He's...

The familiar yell of an old man shook through the kitchen. Gabriella sighed loudly

GABRIELLA
Watch the chowder. This won't take long.

Gabriella strode out of the kitchen and into the main restaurant. All eyes are turned to the table in the middle, where a familiar guest, MR.LUDWIG(60), is yelling at a teen waitress. Gabriella's pace quickened.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Mr. Ludwig, what is the matter?

MR.LUDWIG
(pretentiously)
Oh, thank heavens, Gabriella. I was just about to dig in to your most splendid bowl of clam chowder when I found a clump of hair in it. I demand a refund for this incompetence.

GABRIELLA
Ok. Let me see the hair in question.

Mr. Ludwig pulled out the hair from the bowl and handed it to Gabriella with a grin. The hair is ghost white. Smiling, Gabriella turned to the teen waitress.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Please get all of the other chefs out into the restaurant.

The teen waitress left and within 10 seconds, it was obvious to everyone watching that no one on the kitchen staff has white hair.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
I know that your latest reviews haven't been selling well, but I didn't think you'd stoop so low.

MR.LUDWIG
(desperately)
I need this. I need to preserve my reputation. Surely, you understand.

GABRIELLA
(after a pause)
Get.Out.

MR.LUDWIG
...What?

GABRIELLA
Get out! I never want to see you again.

Mr.Ludwig's shock turned to anger and he refused to move. Sighing, Gabriella took his arm and practically dragged him to the front door.

MR.LUDWIG
(yelling)
I put you on the map! I can easily take you off of it!

GABRIELLA
(with a smirk)
Try it.

Gabriella threw him out the front door. She adjusts her bun and walks comfortably back to the kitchen as chatter resumes.

Sitting at a table in the back watching the whole event unfold, rockstar SULLIVAN MORTEM, 25, and his wife NATALIE, 26, return to their meals.

SULLIVAN
I can't believe that prick.

NATALIE
(twirling her pasta uninterested)
I know.

SULLIVAN
Do you like the food?

NATALIE
(with food in her mouth)
Yes, it's perfect. You know the best places, baby.

SULLIVAN
I go here all the time. I'm sorry I haven't had time to take you here.

NATALIE
It's ok, baby.

A waiter comes by and refills their wine. Sullivan and Natalie clink glasses together.

SULLIVAN
(joyfully)
To our second anniversary!

NATALIE
(a bit drunk)
And to many more!

Natalie and Sullivan finish their meals amidst their chatter. The waiter, almost on cue, comes by with the check.

SULLIVAN
It's on me tonight, babe.

Sullivan pulls out his phone to pay digitally and his expression changes to one of concern. Natalie is fidgeting with her ring.

NATALIE
(stammering)
What's wrong, baby?

SULLIVAN
...Is there anything you would like to tell me?

Natalie is staring at her lap

NATALIE
I don't know what you're talking about.

SULLIVAN
Ok, then.

Sullivan stands up and pushes in his chair.

NATALIE
(offended)
Wait, where are you going?

SULLIVAN
We'll talk at home.

Sullivan swiftly leaves the restaurant before causing a scene.

NATALIE
(in shock)
I can't believe he just... how dare he.

WAITER
(not reading the room)
You're not leaving without paying.

NATALIE
(irritated)
Fine. Here.

Natalie pays for the meal and leaves the restaurant.

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- NIGHT

Gabriella is in her bed in her pajamas, scrolling on her phone. Her screen is on tickets for Sullivan Mortem's world tour when Roxie calls her.

GABRIELLA
(tiredly)
Hey, Roxie, what's up?

ROXIE (V.O.)
Hey, are you going to Sullivan's tour? Tickets just dropped.

GABRIELLA
I'm on the website now.

ROXIE (V.O.)
(nervously)
Well, hurry up and get some. The LA show is going to sell out fast.

GABRIELLA
...I'm not sure that I'm going to go though.

ROXIE (V.O.)
What?! It's his first world tour in two years. You've talked forever about how you've wanted to see him live. What's with the change?

Gabriella thinks for a moment.

GABRIELLA
(half-heartedly)
There's a lot to get done around the restaurant.

ROXIE (V.O.)
Like what?

GABRIELLA
I was meaning to tell you all this evening, but I was planning on adding five dishes to the menu.

ROXIE (V.O.)
...What's the real reason?

GABRIELLA
(with a sigh)
I just don't want to go right now. I need to take care of the restaurant. The staff are unhappy and everything is falling apart. I don't have anything secure right now.

ROXIE (V.O.)
There's a thing called burn out, you know? You haven't had fun in ages, ever since Caleb-

GABRIELLA
(a bit angry)
Good night, Roxie.

Gabriella hangs up on Roxie abruptly and scrolls to a contact labelled Soulmate. She presses the call button and it fails immediately. Gabriella sighs, plugs up her phone, and rolls on her side to sleep.

INT. PARK BENCH- NIGHT (DREAM)

Gabriella is sitting on the bench impaitiently. She pulls out her phone and begins to mindlessly scroll. A figure in a hood suddenly stands in front of her.

GABRIELLA
Finally! I've been waiting for you, Ca-

The figure lowers its hood and Gabriella's eyes widen. It was Sullivan Mortem. Sullivan begins to fade away as Gabriella watches in shock.

Gabriella jolts awake. The sun is just starting to rise. She reaches for her phone and scrolls through multiple contacts before finding the right number.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
(rapidly)
Hello? Yes, I'd like to request a dream verification. Is there one available this morning? Right now? Yes, I'm on my way.

Gabriella showers and gets dressed in record time and runs out the door.

INT. PRACTICE STUDIO- DAY

Sullivan Mortem and the rest of the Chainbreakers are getting ready to start practice. Sullivan and HIKARI, 23, are tuning their instruments and talking.

HIKARI
Sullivan, you cannot be serious.

SULLIVAN
(tiredly)
I wish I wasn't. 9,000 dollars gone on two luxury purses.

HIKARI
What was her excuse?

SULLIVAN
She said that it was her friends birthday and she wanted matching purses for "girls night"

HIKARI
Please tell me you took her off of the account.

Sullivan nodded. Hikari finished tuning his bass angrily.

HIKARI (CONT'D)
Sullivan, this isn't right. Natalie isn't right for you.

SULLIVAN
(while sighing)
Hikari, calm down.

HIKARI
How can I be calm when my best friend's soulmate is taking advantage of him?!

SULLIVAN
Hikari, drop it.

HIKARI
Why are you defending her?

SULLIVAN
(yelling)
I'm not!

Sullivan's outburst made everyone stare at him. Sullivan cleared his throat.

HIKARI
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you...

SULLIVAN
You mean well, Hikari. I took it too far by yelling.

HIKARI
I'm still angry at her.

Sullivan chuckled.

SULLIVAN
I know you are. If it makes you feel better, Natalie and I are taking a break.

HIKARI
What made you do that?

SULLIVAN
(bitterly)
It was her, actually.After I took her off of the account, Natalie refused to come on the world tour.
(MORE)

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
She said that she "needed a break" from me.

HIKARI
That's unbelievably petty. Well, I think this might be good for you in the long run.

SULLIVAN
I hope so. Well, lets get started.

Sullivan got up from the ground and made his way to the mic. He breathed in and out, then put on his signature smile.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Alright, boys! From the top!

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- DAY

Gabriella silently gathers the ingredients for her filet mingon and started prepping. She throws the marinated filet on the grill. The sizzle of the grill fades out as Gabriella's mind wanders

INT. DREAM VERIFICATION OFFICE(FLASHBACK)

Gabriella sits nervously in office chair. The dream verifier walks in with her results. Gabriella sits up straight.

GABRIELLA
(nervously)
So, what are the results.

DREAM VERIFIER
After seeing your dream through our machines and running the figures profile through our systems, the person you saw was indeed Sullivan Mortem.

GABRIELLA
How is that possible?

DREAM VERIFIER
Mrs.Valentino, are you a fan of Mortem's work?

GABRIELLA
The Chainbreakers are one of my favorite bands.

DREAM VERIFIER
There have been instances of very obsessed fans having soulmate dreams about their favorite celebrities. Some have even tried to break apart their romances because of these dreams.

GABRIELLA
(sternly)
I'm not an obsessed fan. I just listen to his music casually.

DREAM VERIFIER
Regardless if you are or not, the facts are that you had a soulmate dream about Sullivan Mortem.

Gabriella sits in silence.

DREAM VERIFIER (CONT'D)
I'd keep this information private. His fans would try to tear you down if they found out.

Gabriella nods and quietly starts to leave.

DREAM VERIFIER (CONT'D)
And remember, you don't have to act on these feelings. These dreams only show potential, you know.

Gabriella turns around. Her eyes are red with tears.

GABRIELLA
(voice breaking)
...I know.

Gabriella leaves the building, gets in her car, and drives to Ristorante Moonlight

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- DAY

ROXIE
Gabi, watch the grill!

Gabriella snaps out of her flashback. The filet that she was making was burnt to a crisp. Roxie goes over and throws it in the trash.

ROXIE (CONT'D)
Geez, Gabi, pay attention. You haven't messed up since...

Roxie pauses upon seeing Gabriella's tired expression.

ROXIE (CONT'D)
Are you ok?

GABRIELLA
I'm fine, Roxie. Just tired.

Roxie sighs and goes back to work. Gabriella grabs another filet and starts to marinate it.

INT. THOMAS'S OFFICE- DAY

Sullivan and Hikari sit in the office facing their MANAGER THOMAS, 50's. There is a small stack of paper on the table

SULLIVAN
What's this for?

THOMAS
This is the contract for the personal chef we'd like to hire.

HIKARI
(confusedly)
Personal chef? For what?

THOMAS
For the tour. We have to have someone to feed the crew while they set everything up.

Sullivan took the contract and read it.

HIKARI
Does the chef have to be famous?

THOMAS
Not necessarily. Just someone good enough to make the foods that the crew likes

SULLIVAN
We'll talk with everyone else about it after this.

THOMAS
Great! Hikari, you can go. I need to talk to Sullivan in private.

Hikari got up from his chair and left the room.

SULLIVAN
What is it? I haven't done anything, have I?

THOMAS
This morning, Natalie called me. She said that she is refusing the tickets we provided her for the tour.

Sullivan gulped.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
She also said that you accused her of stealing money from your account.

Sullivan's face turns red.

SULLIVAN
(angrily)
She stole money from our joint account, sir.

THOMAS
Regardless if what she said is true or not, the point is that the call records exist of this conversation.

The manager massaged his temples.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Look, its easy for fans to spin anything these days and we can't afford drama before the tour starts in 2 weeks.

SULLIVAN
Understood, sir. I'll talk to her.

THOMAS
I'm glad you're quick to understand, Sullivan.

Sullivan left the office and saw Hikari sitting in a chair outside the door.

SULLIVAN
I thought you left.

HIKARI
I was curious. I didn't think Natalie would stoop that low.

SULLIVAN
Neither did I, even though there's clear proof that she took my money.

HIKARI
(bitterly)
Unfortunately, the world likes drama more than truth.

Sullivan and Hikari arrive at the lobby.

HIKARI (CONT'D)
By the way, have you thought about our personal chef? The manager said that they didn't have to be famous, but I think our company isn't gonna hire a nobody.

Sullivan grew silent and then a smile grew on his face.

SULLIVAN
(happily)
I have someone in mind. I'll text the chat about it later.

HIKARI
Alright, see you at practice tomorrow, Sullivan.

INT. SULLIVAN'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Sullivan arrives home late. Natalie is watching TV on the sofa and smiles at Sullivan.

NATALIE
How was your day, baby?

SULLIVAN
Why did you call my manager? We could have resolved it privately.

Natalie turns off the TV

NATALIE
Oh, that. Well, I wanted to clarify that since it was our joint account, I didn't "steal" your money.

SULLIVAN
(gradually angrier)
We agreed that we'd notify each other of a big purchase on that account, remember?!

NATALIE
9,000 dollars isn't a big purchase. For you, it's a drop in the bucket.

SULLIVAN
Drop in the bucket?! It's still a lot of money. And on what? Something as useless as designer purses!

Natalie shoots up from the sofa.

NATALIE
Useless?! They were for my friends vacation. I haven't seen them in years.

SULLIVAN
Then use your own savings to buy that, not our joint account!

NATALIE
I don't make enough of my own money to buy something that expensive.

SULLIVAN
Then, you should have thought of that before spending that money! That joint account is used for groceries, rent, utilities, you know, things that we need to live. We promised each other that we would discuss big purchases. Do you remember that?

Natalie walks away to the bedroom and locks the door.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Hey! We're not done with this conversation.

NATALIE
We are done. Because you don't trust me. Goodnight, Sullivan.

SULLIVAN
It's not about that! Natalie, open this door!

Natalie doesn't respond. Sullivan sighs and lays down onto the couch. He pulls out his phone to the Chainbreakers group chat. He sends a quick message about Ristorante Moonlight before falling asleep.

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- NIGHT

Gabriella lays in her bed in her pajamas. She is on speaker phone with Roxie. Her main phone screen is on Sullivan's Instagram account.

ROXIE (V.O.)
What?! You're telling me that you saw Sullivan Mortem, the Sullivan Mortem, in a soulmate dream?

GABRIELLA
Not so loud, Roxie.

ROXIE (V.O.)
Sorry, sorry, but its just unbelievable. He's already married with someone else. I've never heard of a case like this.

GABRIELLA
Neither have I.

ROXIE (V.O.)
His fans are going to crucify you if this gets out.

GABRIELLA
(sarcastically)
Yeah, thanks for the reminder.

ROXIE (V.O.)
Anyway, I can understand why you'd be bothered.

Gabriella scrolls to Sullivan and Natalie's wedding pictures. They look happy together.

GABRIELLA
I don't need this right now. There's already too much to worry about with the restaurant.

ROXIE (V.O.)
Gabi, we had more customers today and there's less rumors online now. I think things are finally calming down now.

GABRIELLA
It won't stay calm if I get complacent. It only takes one person to destroy everything I worked for.

ROXIE (V.O.)
...Like Caleb did?

GABRIELLA
(sadly)
Like Caleb did. You were the only one that stood by me back then.

ROXIE (V.O.)
That's what friends are for, Gabi.

GABRIELLA
(after a beat)
Thank you, Roxie. Truly

ROXIE
Anytime. Goodnight!

Gabriella plugs up her phone and falls asleep.

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- DAY

The kitchen is flowing as normal. Gabriella labors over a piece of chocolate cake for a customer's birthday. Roxie bursts into the kitchen.

GABRIELLA
If Mr. Ludwig is back again, tell him that he's banned from the restaurant.

ROXIE
(calling to someone else)
She's right back here, sir.

Right behind Roxie, Sullivan Mortem walks right into the kitchen. He is wearing a baseball cap and hoodie. Gabriella is stunned. The kitchen staff have their mouths open in disbelief.

SULLIVAN
Ms. Valentino, it is a pleasure to meet you.

GABRIELLA
(awkwardly)
Likewise.

SULLIVAN
Please come with me. My company and I have a business opportunity for you to consider.

GABRIELLA
Well, its working h-

ROXIE
(jumping in)
I can take care of the restaurant, Gabi. Go ahead. Talk to them.

Gabriella glares at Roxie.

GABRIELLA
Make it quick.

SULLIVAN
Thank you for your time.

Gabriella and Sullivan walk out of the restaurant together and go inside Thomas's car.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
I am a fan of your cooking, Ms. Valentino.

GABRIELLA
(coldly)
Please call me Gabriella.

SULLIVAN
Sorry. I just wanted to give you my respect.

GABRIELLA
I don't do anything special.

Gabriella keeps her eyes on the window. The rest of the car ride is silent.

INT. THOMAS'S OFFICE- DAY

Gabriella walks inside the office with Sullivan. She takes a seat in front of Thomas while Sullivan retreats to the office wall to watch.

GABRIELLA
To what do I owe the pleasure?

THOMAS
Straight to business, I see? Well, I'll make it quick. Starlight Entertainment wants you to be a personal chef for the Chainbreakers for their two month world tour.

The manager slides Gabriella the contract and a business card. It reads the managers name, Thomas

GABRIELLA
I don't understand.

THOMAS
We have a lot of people on the crew setting up for the tour. We need them all to be fed while they work.

GABRIELLA
(suspicious)
That makes sense, but do you have another reason?

THOMAS
Excuse me, miss?

GABRIELLA
Starlight Entertainment has to know who I am. I'm an outcast in the cooking world, so you must have another reason.

Sullivan chuckles in the background. The manager loosens his collar.

THOMAS
I'll be blunt with you because you were personally recommended, but Starlight Entertainment wants to create a cooking/interview variety show and if you became part of it, it would serve as your "redemption arc" as it were. You and Starlight Entertainment benefit from this arrangement.

GABRIELLA
I see. That isn't stated in the contract.

THOMAS
(flustered)
Well, the plan was to give you this opportunity and a new contract after the tour was over, if you meet our expectations that is. We are aware of the rumors surrounding you, but since you were recommended our company is willing to give you a chance.

GABRIELLA
(after a beat)
I need to think this over. I mean, you're asking me to leave my restaurant for two months. That will incur some losses.

THOMAS
Starlight Entertainment will compensate you handsomely.

GABRIELLA
I'll think about it

Gabriella stands up.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Before I leave, may I ask who personally recommended me?

THOMAS
Sullivan did.

Gabriella turns to Sullivan. He is looking at the floor.

GABRIELLA
Thank you.

THOMAS
A car will drop you back off. We hope that you will consider our offer.

Gabriella nods and walks out.

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- NIGHT

Ristorante Moonlight is closed for the night. Roxie is busy cleaning a table when Gabriella walks up to her.

GABRIELLA
Come with me.

Roxie gets up and follows Gabriella to the kitchen.

ROXIE
What's up?

Gabriella takes a deep breath.

GABRIELLA
Starlight Entertainment invited me to be the Chainbreakers personal chef.

Roxie's eyes light up.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
But I'm going to say no.

ROXIE
What?! This is such a huge deal.

GABRIELLA
It doesn't feel right.

ROXIE
Listen to me, Gabriella. You don't have to act on these feelings. You aren't going to act on these feelings. I know that you aren't going to.

GABRIELLA
It-

ROXIE
Ever since Caleb, you've done nothing but cook in the restaurant. I'm not going to let you turn this down. Besides, isn't this the best chance to prove yourself once and for all?

GABRIELLA
What about the restaurant?

ROXIE
I can take care of it. I'm basically a mini you, anyway.

Gabriella laughs.

GABRIELLA
You need a couple more years till you catch up with me.

ROXIE
You wound me. But, Gabi, you've earned this. You've earned a lucky break.

GABRIELLA
...I haven't earned anything.

ROXIE
Gabi...

Gabriella grabs her bag and starts to leave the restaurant.

ROXIE (CONT'D)
Don't let him determine your value.

Gabriella turns and glares at Roxie. Roxie shrinks back.

GABRIELLA
Don't talk like you know me.

Gabriella slams the front door.

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- NIGHT

Gabriella mindlessly scrolls on her phone in her bed. She shuts it off quickly and places it on top of the managers business card. She stares up at the ceiling.

FLASHBACK- EXT.PARK BENCH- DAY

It is a warm summer day. GABRIELLA,19, is sitting on the grass people watching. CALEB, 20, walks up and sits down next to her. He holds up two ice cream cones, one vanilla and one mint chocolate.

CALEB
Here, I got your favorite.

Gabriella swipes the mint chocolate ice cream out his hands.

GABRIELLA
Thank you, baby!

CALEB
Anything for you.

Gabriella licks the ice cream. Caleb watches her with a smile on his face before eating his own.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Still, the ice cream guy gave me a funny look when I ordered mint chocolate.

GABRIELLA
Really?

CALEB
Really. It was so obvious I almost said something.

GABRIELLA
Let him have his opinions. Its just an ice cream flavor.

CALEB
But...

GABRIELLA
But nothing. I appreciate you trying to defend my ice cream honor, but it doesn't matter. Mint chocolate is always going to be my favorite, no matter what others say.

CALEB
(smiling)
That's why I love you, baby. Always so confident.

GABRIELLA
That's why I'm going to make it with my cooking. I'll be the best in the world with my own restaurant, you'll see.

CALEB
That's a big dream, baby. Have you thought about this?

GABRIELLA
Of course. It's going to take some time, of course, but--

CALEB
(under his breath)
A waste of time for a useless hobby.

GABRIELLA
What did you say?

Caleb looks back at her with a smile.

CALEB
Nothing. Come on, let's go for a walk.

Gabriella and Caleb get up and walk. Gabriella's hand goes to hold Caleb's.

GABRIELLA
I can see it now. A big building in the heart of Los Angeles, right next to the beach. Chandeliers in ceiling, perfect white table cloths, the best servers and sous chefs around, and a three Michelin star award proudly on the restaurant walls.

CALEB
Have you thought of a name?

GABRIELLA
For what?

CALEB
This restaurant, of course. Your "three star Michelin" restaurant has to have the best name in history.

GABRIELLA
I haven't really thought about it.

CALEB
Well, say something that comes to mind.

Gabriella throws away her finished ice cream in a nearby trash can and puts her hand on her chin to think.

GABRIELLA
It has to be something romantic. Something that welcomes everyone to its door.

CALEB
How about Promenade Inn?

GABRIELLA
This is a restaurant not a hotel?

CALEB
In that case, Gabi's Bar?

GABRIELLA
That's not romantic enough.

CALEB
Why don't you think of one?

GABRIELLA
Hmmm...Tide's Calling. Perfect for a beachside place, don't you think?

CALEB
...How about you leave the naming to me?

GABRIELLA
Alright, Mr.Law Student, what do you have in mind?

CALEB
I think the moon is romantic. Remember our first date on the beach? The moon that night was gorgeous.

GABRIELLA
(smiling)
I remember. I couldn't ever forget it.

Caleb's face lights up.

CALEB
How about Ristorante Moonlight?

GABRIELLA
Ristorante Moonlight...

Gabriella's eyes lock onto Calebs. His smile grew wider.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
That sounds perfect.

CALEB
Of course! I named it, after all.

GABRIELLA
Calm down, hotshot. I still have to make it first.

CALEB
You will make it, Gabi. And once I pass my bar exam, I will be there to defend your honor.

GABRIELLA
Promise, Caleb?

Caleb pulls Gabriella in for a hug.

CALEB
I promise. Now let's head back.

Gabriella and Caleb leave the park.

END FLASHBACK

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- NIGHT

Gabriella sighs. Roxie's words echo in Gabriella's mind

ROXIE (V.O.)
Don't let him determine your value.

Gabriella lifts up her phone and picks up the business card. She sends a message to the manager and falls asleep.

INT. THOMAS'S OFFICE- DAY

Gabriella walks into Thomas's office. Thomas closes his laptop and perks up.

THOMAS
You have made your decision?

GABRIELLA
I have. It would be wonderful to work with you.

THOMAS
(jovially)
Wonderful! Now, let's just get this contract signed.

Thomas rummages in his desk for the contract and places a pen on top of it.

GABRIELLA
However, I have one condition.

Thomas's eyebrow raises.

THOMAS
What condition?

GABRIELLA
The members of the band and the crew are to treat me like a coworker, nothing more and nothing less.

THOMAS
(confusedly)
That's it? I was expecting more money.

GABRIELLA
I'm more concerned about my reputation. You should understand that the environment we work in is filled with lies.

THOMAS
...I understand. I'll let the group know.

Gabriella reads the contract again. She nods, picks up the pen, and signs the form. She stands up and walks to the front door.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
We will leave for the tour in two weeks. If you need help getting things arranged, you can call me.

GABRIELLA
Thank you. See you then.

Gabriella leaves the office. On her way to the elevator, she sees Sullivan walking to the managers office.

SULLIVAN
Hi, Gabriella.

Gabriella nods at him and walks into the elevator. Sullivan continues his walk to the managers office confused. Sullivan opens the door and sits in front of the manager.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Has Gabriella agreed to work with us?

THOMAS
She has. She's looking forward to it.

SULLIVAN
(happily)
Really? That's fantastic news.

THOMAS
More importantly, how are you and Natalie?

Sullivan's expression changes.

SULLIVAN
We're on a break right now, sir. She said she needs time alone.

THOMAS
Good. We need the tour to run smoothly, Sullivan. Did you talk to her about posting anything?

SULLIVAN
I did. She promised to keep this private.

THOMAS
Excellent. I knew she was your soulmate. She understands things so well.

SULLIVAN
...Right. If you excuse me sir, I have to get back to practice.

Sullivan gets up and goes to the door.

THOMAS
Let's make this tour a good one.

Sullivan smiles subtlety.

SULLIVAN
It'll be one you'll never forget.

Sullivan closes the door.

—

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- DAY

It has been two weeks since Gabriella signed the contract from Starlight Entertainment. Gabriella is packing her suitcase for the next two months. Roxie is also there to help. Two suitcases sit next to Gabriella's bed, overflowing.

GABRIELLA
Do you think I packed too much? Is the medicine I brought enough? The cooking supplies are maintained, but what if on the airplane, they-

ROXIE
Calm down, Gabi. If you want my honest opinion, I'd rather have too much than too little.

GABRIELLA
That is a good point. But, what about souvenirs?

ROXIE
I knew you were going to say that. Stay right there.

Roxie leaves the studio apartment and comes back quickly with a big, empty suitcase.

GABRIELLA
Isn't that your suitcase?

ROXIE
It is, but I'm letting you borrow it-

GABRIELLA
Thank you, Roxie.

ROXIE
On one condition.

Gabriella's eyebrow raises.

GABRIELLA
What is it?

ROXIE
Get me Sullivan and Hikari's autographs.

GABRIELLA
(in disbelief)
Seriously?

ROXIE
What? They'll probably give it to you if you asked.

GABRIELLA
This is a business trip. It's unprofessional.

Roxie goes quiet and sulks.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
But, I'll see what I can do.

Roxie's eyes light up.

ROXIE
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

GABRIELLA
Of course. Now, can you help me close these suitcases?

ROXIE
Sure!

Roxie jumps on top of the necessity suitcases while Gabriella zips it closed. Roxie forcefully presses on the cooking supply suitcases while Gabriella zips it. Gabriella breathes a sigh of relief.

GABRIELLA
Thank you for helping me with this.

ROXIE
You're welcome. I can't believe you delayed packing till today though. That isn't like you.

GABRIELLA
Well...

Gabriella averts her eyes to the ground.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Guess I'm more nervous than I thought.

ROXIE
You're going to impress them Gabi, don't worry.
(MORE)

ROXIE (CONT'D)
Just cook how you always do and Ristorante Moonlight will be back on the map.

GABRIELLA
I hope so.

Roxie's phone buzzes. She checks it and her eyes light up.

ROXIE
I gotta go. I'm almost late for my night in with Jason.

GABRIELLA
That's right. Isn't your anniversary coming up?

ROXIE
Yep! 4 months from now. Can you believe it?

GABRIELLA
I can. You two are cute together.

Roxie blushes.

ROXIE
Aww, thanks. Right, now I really have to go.

GABRIELLA
Have fun!

ROXIE
Send pictures and don't forget the autographs.

GABRIELLA
I won't. I promise.

Roxie closes the door behind her. Gabriella moves her three suitcases to the front door and goes to get her backpack. Gabriella picks up the backpack and Caleb's words echo in her head.

CALEB (V.O.)
This is for you: it's big enough to fit anything. When you get famous enough, take it with you across the world, ok?

Gabriella shakes her head and places the prepacked backpack next to her suitcases.

She goes to her bed and lays down in it. The sun is starting to set. Gabriella charges her phone and goes in the bathroom to get ready for bed.

INT. SULLIVAN'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Sullivan puts his suitcases right next to the door and heads to his and Natalie's room. Just as he's about to relax, he gets a phone call from Thomas.

SULLIVAN
Evening, sir.

THOMAS (V.O.)
Hello, Sullivan. Are you packed?

SULLIVAN
Yes, sir. Just put everything near the door.

THOMAS
Perfect. Our private plane leaves at 6:30am sharp. Please don't sleep in again.

SULLIVAN
(embarrassed)
It was just one time. It won't happen again.

THOMAS
Just making sure.

SULLIVAN
I'll see you tomorrow. Have a good night.

THOMAS
Good night, Sullivan.

Sullivan hangs up the phone and charges it on his bedside drawer. He turns and looks at the empty spot on the bed with sadness.

FLASHBACK- INT. SULLIVAN'S HOUSE- DAY

Sullivan opens the door after a long day of practice. His eyes scan the quiet house.

SULLIVAN
Natalie, are you home? I wanted to talk.

Sullivan moves farther into the kitchen. On the island, there is a handwritten letter. Sullivan picks it up and reads it.

NATALIE (V.O.)
Dear Sullivan, I saw your text. I get that you want to talk, but I'm not ready, and I don't think I will be for a while. To be blunt, I'm hurt by the fact that you don't trust me after everything we've been through. So, I'm leaving the house for now. By the time you read this, I'll be staying at a friends place. I will come back when you learn to trust me like I trust you. You are my soulmate and I am yours. I love you-Natalie.

Sullivan drops the letter and sprints to the master bedroom. He opens the wardrobe and finds Natalie's clothes gone. He sits on his bed, picks up his phone, and opens the security app on his phone. It shows Natalie leaving through the front door. Sullivan tries to call Natalie. His number is blocked.

Sullivan slams his phone on his bedside drawer and cries into his hands.

INT. CONCERT HALL- FLASHBACK

SULLIVAN, 20, is sitting in the waiting room tapping his foot. HIKARI, 19, tunes his guitar. The crowd is chanting from the outside.

CROWD (V.O)
Chainbreakers! Chainbreakers

Sullivans tapping gets faster. The manager opens the door.

MANAGER
Everyone else is ready. It’s showtime, you two.

HIKARI
Alright! Let’s give them all we got.

SULLIVAN
…Yeah

HIKARI
Don’t get nervous now, Sullivan. Today, our Texas fans are going to show their support. We have to give it back.

SULLIVAN
Ok, let’s do this.

Sullivan opens the door and almost runs into NATALIE, 21, holding flowers. Sullivan’s jaw drops.

NATALIE
Surprise!

Sullivan hugs Natalie tightly.

SULLIVAN
How did you- You said you had a business trip

NATALIE
To fool you, of course. You’d really think I’d miss your first American show?

SULLIVAN
I really needed to see you…

NATALIE
I can tell. You look petrified.

SULLIVAN
Is it that obvious?

NATALIE
Tonights the night you were waiting for for so long. I watched you and Hikari go from abandoned garages, long nights, and so much more to get here. You’re going to kill it, both of you. I’ll be watching the whole time.

HIKARI
Sullivan, let’s go!

Natalie kisses Sullivan’s cheek.

NATALIE
Go to your dream, Sullivan. See you after the show.

Sullivan catches up to Hikari and steps onto the stage. Natalie watches from backstage as Sullivan sings the best he's ever sang before. Natalie checks a message on her phone from an art school. The phone reads rejected. Natalie wipes a tear from her eye.

The show ends with thunderous applause. Sullivan runs backstage and hugs Natalie.

SULLIVAN
I love you, Natalie.

NATALIE
…Do you? Even though I don't have much?

SULLIVAN
What's that about? Of course I love you.

NATALIE
It's nothing. Don't worry. Now come on. We have to celebrate your dreams coming true.

Natalie takes Sullivan's hand and they both walk out of the concert hall?

END FLASHBACK

INT. SULLIVAN'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Sullivan lies in bed, staring at the dark ceiling. He turns to the left side of the bed and quickly turns to his right. He grabs his phone and checks the time. The cracked screen reads 2:30am. Sullivan rubs his eyes, turns off his phone, and falls asleep.

EXT. PRIVATE RUNWAY- DAY

The sun is barely peeking over the horizon. A black car pulls up to the plane. Gabriella exits the car and looks up at the plane, impressed. The manager sees Gabriella from the plane door and waves at her.

THOMAS
Good morning! I trust the ride was comfortable?

GABRIELLA
It was. Thank you.

THOMAS
Our pleasure. Sullivan isn't here yet, but Hikari and the others are inside. They're excited to meet you. We'll take your bags.

GABRIELLA
Thank you.

A staff member comes and takes Gabriella's suitcases. She steps inside the plane and sees Hikari, dressed in a hoodie with no makeup on.

HIKARI
Good morning. You must be Gabriella.

GABRIELLA
Yes. It is nice to meet you, Hikari.

HIKARI
Likewise. You must be good if Sullivan won't stop talking about you.

GABRIELLA
Won't stop talking about me?

HIKARI
Yeah. It's starting to get on our drummers nerves.

GABRIELLA
I'm sorry, I guess.

HIKARI
Don't be. Sullvian's just a passionate person. You'll see when you meet him.

GABRIELLA
I see. Well, I'll go take my seat. Good to meet you, Hikari.

Gabriella takes her seat near the front of the plane. She finds a blanket and pillow and starts to set it up. As she starts to recline her chair, Sullivan bursts through the door in a sweat.

THOMAS
Sullivan, what did I tell you about oversleeping?!

SULLIVAN
I'm sorry, sir! It won't happen again.

Thomas sighs.

THOMAS
Just take a seat. We'll be taking off in 10.

Sullivan scans the cabin and after seeing Gabriella, immediately goes and sits next to her. Gabriella avoids eye contact.

SULLIVAN
I'm glad you're coming with us, Gabriella. I'm such a huge fan.

GABRIELLA
I appreciate it. Thank you.

The plane starts to rumble and the loudspeaker turns on.

PILOT
Attention, passengers, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to our flight service to Paris, France. Approximate flight time is 10 hours 50 minutes. There will be inflight meals served halfway through the flight. Please get ready for takeoff in two minutes.

SULLIVAN
So, is this your first time going to-

Gabriella puts on her headphones and starts scrolling through movies. Sullivan sighs and does the same.

PILOT
Passengers, enjoy your flight.

The plane moves off the runway and takes off into the sky. The movie "Godfather" is playing on Gabriella's screen. Gabriella's eyes grow heavy and she falls asleep.

INT. CALEB AND GABRIELLA'S SHARED APARTMENT - NIGHT(FLASHBACK)

Gabriella(22)is in the kitchen, baking chicken legs and mac and cheese in the oven.

Balloons and a store-bought chocolate cake sit on the kitchen table. Suddenly, Caleb throws open the door.

GABRIELLA
Surprise! Did it go well?

Caleb walks past her to the fridge, grabs a beer, and collapses on the couch.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Caleb?

CALEB
(yelling)
What do you want, Gabi?!

GABRIELLA
How did it go...

CALEB
How did it go?! It went horribly! I failed!

GABRIELLA
I'm sorry...

CALEB
I don't get it. You have a job at a restaurant doing exactly what you want while I can't even pass the fucking bar exam!

GABRIELLA
There's always a next time.

Caleb laughs bitterly.

CALEB
There isn't a next time. I failed it five times. Everyone thinks I'm a laughingstock.

GABRIELLA
It took me 30 applications to get to my restaurant job. There's always another...

Caleb gets up and towers over Gabriella. She shrinks back.

CALEB
What would you know? Don't give me your pity.

GABRIELLA
I'm not...I don't mean.

Caleb sees Gabriella’s expression and backs off.

CALEB
Wait, Gabi…I-I’m so sorry.

Caleb reaches out for Gabriella and she flinch. Caleb starts to cry.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Every thing has been a lot lately. I don’t mean to take it out on you.

GABRIELLA
It’s ok. Dinner is ready. Let’s eat and calm down.

Caleb and Gabriella sit down at the dining table. Caleb wolfs down the food while Gabriella eats slowly.

CALEB
Delicious as usual. Your food has healing power, I promise.

GABRIELLA
I‘m glad you liked it.

They finish their food and wash the dishes together. They sit on the couch and watched TV. Chopped plays on the screen.

CALEB
Am I good enough for you?

GABRIELLA
What?

CALEB
You’ve made progress in your goals. You have a job as a sous chef with one of your mentors and you support us. Meanwhile, I can’t even pass an exam.

GABRIELLA
Hey, it is a difficult exam. And that doesn’t define my love for you. You could be a poop collector and I’d still love you.

CALEB
But…

GABRIELLA
But nothing. You’re going to pass next time, I’m sure of it. And I’ll always support you.

CALEB
Promise?

GABRIELLA
I promise.

Gabriella kisses Caleb on the lips. She pulls back and leans on the couch pillow. The two continue to watch TV.

INT. PRIVATE PLANE- AFTERNOON

Sullivan shakes Gabriella awake. Gabriella flinches away from him.

GABRIELLA
Don't touch me!

SULLIVAN
I-I'm sorry. I just wanted to wake you up for lunch.

Gabriella looks up and sees the flight attendant standing in front of them with a menu.

GABRIELLA
Right... sorry. Thank you.

SULLIVAN
Don't mention it.

The flight attendant gives her a set meal of beef, vegetables, and a small chocolate chip cookie. Gabriella eats it and nods.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
How is it?

GABRIELLA
What?

SULLIVAN
How's the food?

GABRIELLA
Better than I expected for airplane food.

SULLIVAN
Really? Then I'll have what she ordered.

GABRIELLA
You can make your own choices, you know.

SULLIVAN
I know, but I trust the opinion of a famous chef.

Gabriella rolls her eyes and puts on The Menu. Sullivan returns to his episode of Mindhunter while eating his meal. Some time later, the loudspeaker turned on again.

PILOT
Flight attendants, please prepare for landing.

The plane dipped below the clouds. Within 10 minutes, the plane landed on the runway. Gabriella and the band scrambled out of the plane and stood on the runway.

THOMAS
Welcome to Paris, ladies and gentleman. Our ride is coming soon to take us to our temporary accommodation.

The staff unloaded their bags and as soon as the bus came, everyone went onto the bus. Sullivan walked to the back of the bus and sat away from Gabriella. The bus ride was completely silent.

INT. TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION- AFTERNOON

The temporary accommodation was a small house rented by the company. Everyone walked inside and Sullivan collapsed on the couch.

SULLIVAN
Finally, I’m exhausted.

HIKARI
Did you not sleep on the plane!

SULLIVAN
Couldn’t.

THOMAS
Alright everyone. We rented this house for one night, so we have to take care of it.

GABRIELLA
Why just for one night?

THOMAS
For our Europe and American stops, the company has vans that will take us to our cities. It’s much more effective that way.

HIKARI
When is rehearsal tomorrow?

THOMAS
4pm so we can prep for soundcheck. Gabriella, once you finish unpacking, then we can head to the store and to the venue.

GABRIELLA
Already?

THOMAS
The crew setting up the show came here yesterday and they’ll be working until midnight. They need someone to make food for them.

GABRIELLA
Alright, then. I’ll be ready in 20 minutes.

Gabriella walked upstairs to her room and unpacked the necessities for one night. Gabriella checked if all of the cooking supplies were in order. She reapplied her makeup, brushed her teeth, and straightened her hair. By the time Gabriella was done, Sullivan and Hikari had left. The manager was sitting on the couch typing on his phone.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Ready to go.

THOMAS
Ok, let’s go. Our car is waiting.

Gabriella and the manager got into a rental car and started driving to the store. Gabriella stared at the buildings of Paris in awe.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Do you have an idea of what you are going to make?

GABRIELLA
It depends what the setup at the venue is.

THOMAS
We have a portable stove, microwave, and a sink for the set up. And the ingredients you buy at the store will all be compensated by the company.

GABRIELLA
Really? You’re being very generous with me.

THOMAS
We want to test your skills if you’re going to work for us in the future.

Gabriella leaned back in her chair and smiled.

GABRIELLA
Thank you, sir. I won’t let you down.

MANAGER
My name is Thomas. You don’t have to call me sir.

GABRIELLA
Don’t Sullivan and Hikari call you sir?

THOMAS
They’re just saying that to show their gratitude for me supporting them all these years. Everyone else just calls me Thomas or manager.

GABRIELLA
I see. It will be a pleasure to work with you, si--Thomas.

The car ride continues as Gabriella and Thomas talk.

EXT. ARC DE TRIOMPHE- DUSK

Cars drive around the arc. Tourists closer to the arc are taking photos. Sullivan and Hikari sit on a nearby bench, looking at a picture on Sullivan's phone. The picture is Sullivan in front of the arc.

SULLIVAN
Doesn't my hair look a bit off?

HIKARI
You've said that at every photo we've taken so far.

SULLIVAN
I just want to make sure I look good for our fans.

HIKARI
You look fine. Just post it.

SULLIVAN
What caption should I put underneath it?

HIKARI
...Bonjour France.

SULLIVAN
That's too simple.

HIKARI
How about Belle France?

SULLIVAN
What does belle mean?

HIKARI
Beautiful. I looked up the word to surprise our fans with it tomorrow.

SULLIVAN
Smart. Let's use it.

HIKARI
Would that ruin the surprise though?

SULLIVAN
Even if they know, they'll like it anyway.

HIKARI
Good point. Ok, I grant you permission to use it.

Sullivan rolls his eyes and uploads the picture on social media. Within seconds, comments pour in.

HIKARI (CONT'D)
What are they saying?

SULLIVAN
(reading)
"See you tomorrow" "Can't wait!" "Sullivan looks so handsome" "So pretty!"

HIKARI
See? I knew they'd like the photo.

Sullivan turns off his phone and looks back at the arc. The sun is starting to set.

SULLIVAN
Natalie was supposed to be here. She wanted to go to France so badly.

HIKARI
Well, she would be here if she wasn't so petty.

SULLIVAN
Was she being petty?

HIKARI
Sullivan, don't start...

SULLIVAN
I mean, it probably isn't easy dating a celebrity. Being in the limelight, constantly being judged by their fans, being compared to them.

HIKARI
Natalie knew about all this when she started dating you.

SULLIVAN
Just because you know about it doesn't mean that its easy to deal with.

HIKARI
Our fans love her, though. Remember their reactions to your wedding pictures?

SULLIVAN
They love her now, but that can always change.

HIKARI
But, that isn't your fault though. You've done everything you can to support and help her.

SULLIVAN
I could always do more.

HIKARI
Sullivan, if you hadn't been doing enough for Natalie, I would have smacked you upside the head.

Sullivan laughs.

SULLIVAN
I know you would've.

HIKARI
Stop thinking about Natalie for a bit and look around. You're in Paris with a beautiful sunset, an amazing tour is lined up, and the celebrity chef that you're a fan of is here with you.

SULLIVAN
Speaking of Gabriella, should we get something for her?

HIKARI
Yeah, she's going to be working all night for the tour crew. Let's try and find something real quick.

Sullivan and Hikari get up from the bench.

SULLIVAN
Hey, Hikari?

HIKARI
Yeah?

SULLIVAN
Thank you.

Hikari smiles

HIKARI
No problem.

Sullivan and Hikari leave the arc and walk into the streets.

INT. INSIDE STADE DE FRANCE- MIDNIGHT

Gabriella leaves the waiting room pushing a cart full of food boxes onto the stage. Everyone is working and visibly exhausted. She stops by each of the groups working and they grab their food boxes. Gabriella finishes handing out the food and leans on the cart in the middle of the stage.

GABRIELLA
Finally, everything is done.

Gabriella grabs a single food box filled with pasta and meat sauce and starts to eat. The crew members have all taken a break to eat. Gabriella finishes her food first and watches everyone eat nervously. Gabriella starts collecting the empty food boxes from each team, listening to everyone talk along the way.

LIGHTING CREWMEMBER #1
The pasta was fantastic!

LIGHTING CREWMEMBER #2
I agree. The salad you made was really good.

SOUND CREWMEMBER
I never knew tofu could be cooked this well. Thank you.

DRUMMER
(speaking with his mouth full)
No wonder Sullivan wouldn't shut up about you. This was the best pasta I've eaten in a long time.

SECURITY GUARD
All of the security guards love your cooking. Thank you, Gabriella.

Gabriella visibly relaxes. Once all of the trash has been collected, Gabriella returns back to the waiting room.

INT. WAITING ROOM- MIDNIGHT

Gabriella pushes the cart inside the waiting room and puts the food boxes in garbage bags. She sits on the couch and rubs her eyes. Thomas enters the room, beaming.

THOMAS
The vendors outside the stadium enjoyed your cooking and I'm hearing praise from all of the leaders from each team.

GABRIELLA
Thank you for going outside and helping me, by the way. That saved a lot of time. There's one more box of food for you on the table over there.

THOMAS
Gabriella, you didn't have to-

GABRIELLA
It's ok. It's part of my job.

THOMAS
Thank you.

Thomas opens the food box and eats the pasta. His face visibly brightens.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
I understand all of the praise now. This is really good.

Gabriella smiles.

GABRIELLA
Thank you.

THOMAS
Are you tired at all?

GABRIELLA
Not compared to them. This is regular for me.

THOMAS
Since everyone was served, I can drop you back off at the accommodation.

GABRIELLA
I appreciate it.

THOMAS
Its part of my job.

Gabriella picks up the trash bags and the two leave the stadium.

INT. TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION- NIGHT

Gabriella opens the door to see Sullivan still wide awake in the living room. He is staring at his phone silently.

GABRIELLA
Hello, Sullivan.

Sullivan jumps and quickly shuts off his phone.

SULLIVAN
Oh, hi. How was it?

GABRIELLA
Good. You have a very good crew with you.

SULLIVAN
They're with us on every tour we've done. They haven't let us down.

GABRIELLA
That's cool.

Silence.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
I'm surprised you're still awake.

SULLIVAN
Yeah, just had to check on something back home. I'm heading up now though.

Sullivan gets up from the couch and walks quickly up the stairs. Gabriella follows and goes to her room. She falls asleep in her bed without changing.

INT. SULLIVAN'S ROOM- NIGHT.

Sullivan is staring at his phone screen. Many security notifications read that Natalie has entered his home. Sullivan sends a message to her friend to check on her, shuts off the screen, and slowly falls asleep.

INT. INSIDE STANDE DE FRANCE- AFTERNOON

Sullivan and Hikari wrap up rehearsing their last song of the night. Gabriella listens while cooking soup and grilling meat. Sullivan and Hikari enter the waiting room and Gabriella listens to the two talk.

HIKARI
Something's up with your voice? Did you not sleep well?

SULLIVAN
Kinda.

HIKARI
Nervous about the concert?

SULLIVAN
No, not about the concert. It's about Natalie. She's been at my house.

Hikari perks up.

HIKARI
Didn't she say that she was staying with a friend?

SULLIVAN
She did.

HIKARI
Maybe she forgot something.

SULLIVAN
Multiple times?

HIKARI
People can be forgetful. Remember how many times you forgot your wallet when you were with me?

SULLIVAN
Those were all accidents!

HIKARI
Sure they were.

SULLIVAN
Natalie isn't that forgetful. Something must be going on.

HIKARI
Or maybe nothing is. You can ask her when you get back.

SULLIVAN
I get back in two months. I need to know what's going on now.

HIKARI
Well, she blocked your number so you can't do anything about it now. We have a show to perform and we've got to be on our a game for this.

SULLIVAN
...You're right.

The two continue to talk. Gabriella returns to cooking and notices that the beef is starting to burn. She turns off the heat and starts over.

INT. INSIDE STANDE DE FRANCE- LATER

Gabriella picks up the boxes of food that Sullivan and Hikari just finished eating from. The crowd is chanting and singing the Chainbreakers songs.

SULLIVAN
(in disbelief)
They're so loud.

GABRIELLA
I know. I think the table shook while you were eating.

HIKARI
Speaking of that, that pot roast was incredible.

SULLIVAN
I have to agree, it was perfect before our concert.

GABRIELLA
Glad you enjoyed it.

The crowd gets noticeably louder. Sullivan's phone buzzes. He checks it and stiffens up.

HIKARI
Sullivan, what's up?

SULLIVAN
Need to use the bathroom. Be right back.

Sullivan gets up from the couch and runs out. Thomas enters the room.

THOMAS
Showtime in two minutes.

HIKARI
Got it.

Hikari grabs his bass and stretches. Sullivan reenters the room and grabs his guitar.

GABRIELLA
Good luck, you two.

Sullivan looks back at Gabriella. His eyes are slightly red.

SULLIVAN
Thanks, Gabriella.

Hikari and Sullivan leave the waiting room. Gabriella leaves to the kitchen. She turns the pot roast on low heat for the crew. Thomas enters the room.

THOMAS
Do you want to watch backstage?

GABRIELLA
Can I?

THOMAS
The food is done, so of course you can. Let's go.

Gabriella follows Thomas backstage.

INT. BACKSTAGE- NIGHT

Gabriella and Thomas arrive just as Sullivan and Hikari finsh their first song. The crowd cheers their names.

SULLIVAN
Welcome, everyone! It's been a while.

HIKARI
I hope everyone is ready to dance and sing all night!

The crowd cheers.

SULLIVAN
Tonight, I want all of you to forget your chains. Stress, worry, fear, anything that holds you down, it does not matter here. Tonight, break those chains and let loose. Then, you'll have the strength to take on the world!

The crowd gets even louder. Gabriella claps loudly from the back.

HIKARI
Without further ado, we dedicate this next song to our belle Paris fans!

The crowd cheers again. Sullivan smiles at Hikari before starting the next song. Gabriella watches in awe while Thomas smiles proudly.

THOMAS
Enjoying it?

GABRIELLA
Definitely. They're even better than I imagined.

THOMAS
Of course. I'm so proud of them.

Sullivan and Hikari perform an amazing show. Gabriella sings and dances to every song. The show ends, Sullivan and Hikari bow, and they both head back stage.

INT. WAITING ROOM- NIGHT

Sullivan and Hikari walk into the waiting room together. Gabriella and Thomas join them smiling. Sullivan and Hikari pack up their instruments.

GABRIELLA
You guys did amazing. It was incredible seeing it from backstage.

SULLIVAN
...Thanks.

Sullivan finishes packing at record time and leaves the room.

HIKARI
That's odd. He's normally chipper after a good show.

THOMAS
Maybe he's just tired.

HIKARI
He doesn't really get tired until we get back to the hotel room, though.

Gabriella averts her eyes to the ground, thinking.

THOMAS
Gabriella?

Gabriella snaps up to him.

GABRIELLA
Yes?

THOMAS
Are you getting tired?

GABRIELLA
No. I was just thinking.

THOMAS
About?

Gabriella hesitates.

GABRIELLA
It's probably nothing.

THOMAS
It could be something. Tell us.

Hikari and Thomas look at her. Gabriella takes a deep breath.

GABRIELLA
Well, before the show, I noticed that Sullivan's eyes were red.

HIKARI
Really? Why didn't you tell me that?

GABRIELLA
It wasn't my business to ask. And I didn't want to interrupt your mood for the show.

Hikari rubs his eyes and finishes packing.

HIKARI
I'm going to check up on him.

THOMAS
I have to stay here, but let me know how it goes.

Hikari nods and leaves the room. Gabriella heads back to the kitchen while Thomas heads to the main stage. Gabriella stands over her warmed pot roast, lost in thought.

FLASHBACK- INT. GABRIELLA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriella is sitting on the couch. Caleb is yelling at her.

CALEB
You promised you'd be there! It was my first big case.

Gabriella remains silent.

CALEB (CONT'D)
No, forget it. Just stay in your stupid restaurant. Just leave me in the dust like you've always been doing.

Caleb gets up and walks to their room.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Forget it. Apologize when you mean it. Goodnight.

Caleb slams the door. Gabriella flinches and softly cries.

FLASHBACK- INT. GABRIELLA'S LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Gabriella is staring at her phone screen. Notifications of hateful messages appear rapidly. Roxie is on speaker phone.

GABRIELLA
(reading)
"I can't believe you would do something like this." "You're awful." "Kill yourself, you monster."

ROXIE (V.O.)
Please tell me that none of it is true. You didn't actually hurt...

GABRIELLA
Of course it isn't! I'd never do anything like this.

ROXIE (V.O.)
The pictures are convincing enough to fool anyone, though. Other chefs and food critics are already condemning you.

GABRIELLA
...I'm heading to the restaurant. Gather the staff. We need to come up with a plan.

Gabriella hangs up the phone and throws herself on the couch. She sobs loudly into her blanket. Slowly, Gabriella gets up, attempts to make herself look presentable, and leaves the apartment.

END FLASHBACK

INT. WAITING ROOM- NIGHT

Gabriella finishes serving food to the crewmembers and pushes the cart back to the waiting room. She notices that there was an extra food bowl. Gabriella bags the trash, takes the food bowl, and leaves the stadium.

INT. TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION- NIGHT

Hikari enters the accommodation. Sullivan is curled up against the couch. His phone is right next to him, charging.

HIKARI
Sullivan?

Sullivan looks back up at Hikari. His eyes are red and puffy.

SULLIVAN
Hey, Hikari.

HIKARI
What's wrong? Gabriella said you were crying earlier.

SULLIVAN
It was nothing. I was just overwhelmed before the show started.

HIKARI
...What's the real reason?

SULLIVAN
That is the real reason.

HIKARI
Is it about Natalie?

SULLIVAN
...No

Hikari sits next to Sullivan on the couch.

HIKARI
You can tell me anything, you know.

SULLIVAN
I know.

HIKARI
So, you can tell me the real reason tomorrow, after you slept.

Sullivan doesn't respond. Hikari gets up and walks to his room. Sullivan slowly falls asleep.

INT. TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION - LATER

Sullivan wakes up and groans. He sees light coming from the kitchen. He gets up from the couch and goes towards it.

INT. TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION KITCHEN - LATER

Sullivan walks into the kitchen. Gabriella is warming clam chowder in a pot.

SULLIVAN
Shouldn't you be asleep?

GABRIELLA
I could ask you the same thing.

SULLIVAN
Couldn't sleep. Adrenaline after the show lasts a while.

GABRIELLA
I guess so.

Gabriella pours the chowder into a bowl. Sullivan sits down next to the counter.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Do you know why clam chowder is my signature dish?

Sullivan shakes his head.

SULLIVAN
You've never told that story.

GABRIELLA
Well, its your lucky day. You're the first fan to hear it.

Gabriella walks behind the counter and sits next to him.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Whenever I came home from school or from anywhere upset, my mom would always know somehow. She would tell me to wait and she would cook me a pot of clam chowder. It took her a long time and she had her own recipe. It was delicious.

Gabriella smiles.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
She would sit the bowl in front of me and say: "Eat. Then, you can talk." I would eat the whole bowl and by the time I'm done, I would have calmed down enough to talk about my problems and find a solution with her.

Gabriella turns to Sullivan.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
You don't have to tell me what's going on. I don't know you enough to give you advice like Hikari or Thomas does. All I can do is cook and hopefully, it makes you feel a little better.

Sullivan looks at the chowder. Gabriella turns to face forward. Sullivan picks up the bowl and slurps down the broth. He picks up his spoon and finishes the bowl. Sullivan looks at Gabriella, takes out his phone, and slides it to her, unlocked.

SULLIVAN
It's all on there. Check the camera app. The most recent video.

Gabriella checks the camera app. The most recent video is security camera footage from Sullivan's home. A car pulls up the driveway and Natalie gets out, carrying two designer purses. Another girl follows her to the front door.

They walk to the front door and stop. Natalie pulls her in for a deep, passionate kiss. Natalie opens the front door and the girl waves goodbye. The video ends.

Gabriella passes the phone back to Sullivan. Sullivan starts to softly cry.

GABRIELLA
...I'm sorry. I don't really know what to say.

SULLIVAN
That girl was Jen. I've known her since I met Natalie. I didn't think...that she would do something like this.

GABRIELLA
Sullivan...

SULLIVAN
I thought we were soulmates. I thought I was good enough for her. I thought I did everything right!

Gabriella pauses.

GABRIELLA
...Do you know why Ristorante Moonlight has declined?

SULLIVAN
Yeah, because someone framed you for beating up your boyfriend. Everyone was talking about it.

GABRIELLA
You are one of the only people who says I was framed.

SULLIVAN
Well, you were, weren't you?

GABRIELLA
...That's correct. I never hurt Caleb in our relationship.

SULLIVAN
Why didn't you find the guy who posted those lies and press charges? That's an easy win for you, no?

GABRIELLA
The one who framed me was Caleb. My "soulmate"

Sullivan stares at her in silence.

SULLIVAN
What?

GABRIELLA
He's a lawyer. He had a large network of people on his side. If I went up against him, it wouldn't have ended well. So, I took all of the hate and focused on the restaurant.

SULLIVAN
Surely you could have done something.

GABRIELLA
...No, because part of what he wrote in that post was true.

SULLIVAN
Huh?

GABRIELLA
I wasn't there for Caleb. I was so busy with the restaurant that I didn't support him as well as I should. The timing never worked out so all I could do was cook for him and congratulate him when he got home.

SULLIVAN
Did he ever tell you that he wanted more than that?

GABRIELLA
Yes, the day before that post. Ristorante Moonlight's opening was the day of his first case. I couldn't make it and that was the last straw for him.

SULLIVAN
Even still, that doesn't mean he has the right to destroy your career!

Gabriella chuckles.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

GABRIELLA
It's been a while since anyone besides Roxie got mad on my behalf.

Gabriella pauses.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Soulmate dreams only show potential, not confirmation. Both partners have to work for it and for me, its clear that me and Caleb could have done better. Answer me, Sullivan, do you think you could have done better for Natalie?

Sullivan thinks hard.

SULLIVAN
No. I supported her while she was going through art school, I comforted her during her insecurities, and she never mentioned that she wasn't happy. I did all that I could.

Sullivan's expression hardens.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Still, I can count the amount of times I showed up in person to one of her art shows on one hand. Maybe I could have been blind to her emotions. Maybe all that I could do wasn't enough for her. Maybe a small part of this is my faul--

GABRIELLA
Does that give Natalie the right to cheat on you?

Sullivan is taken aback and remains silent.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Well, then I think you have your answer.

SULLIVAN
...I'm not sure what to do next. I have a tour to finish, after all. It's going to be harder than ever to perform.

GABRIELLA
You can work on a plan with Thomas as we move from city to city. And as for the performances, you're performing for your fans, not her. Now, we should go to sleep. We're leaving early tomorrow.

Gabriella picks up Sullivan's bowl and spoon. She starts to wash it in the kitchen. Sullivan returns to the sofa and lies down.

SULLIVAN
Gabriella?

GABRIELLA
Yes?

SULLIVAN
Thank you. For listening.

GABRIELLA
Likewise and you can call me Gabi.

Gabriella finishes cleaning the dishes and leaves to her room. Sullivan falls asleep faster than ever.

INT. TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION- MORNING

Sullivan and Hikari drag their suitcases out the front door and leave them outside. Thomas is waiting outside next to a tour bus, finishing a conversation with the driver in the front seat. Thomas looks down at his watch.

THOMAS
Where's Gabriella?

HIKARI
Don't know. Maybe she still isn't ready yet.

At that moment, Gabriella runs out the door with her luggage. She is wearing jeans and a Chainbreakers tour hoodie. Her hair is uncombed and there are bags under her eyes.

GABRIELLA
Sorry I'm late, Thomas. I didn't mean to oversleep.

THOMAS
That's ok. You're not the only one who has overslept this trip.

SULLIVAN
It was an accident. Cut me some slack. Anyway, do you need help with your suitcases, Gabi?

GABRIELLA
Sure, thanks Sullivan.

Sullivan takes both of Gabriella's suitcases and puts them in the back of the bus. When returning to the group, Gabriella and Thomas are talking.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
How far is it to London from here?

THOMAS
Closer than you think. It's about 6 hours from here.

GABRIELLA
Perfect, then I'm sleeping for the entire trip.

THOMAS
Fine by me. I have some work to do as well.

HIKARI
Come on, let's see how nice this tour bus is.

INT. TOUR BUS- MORNING

The group enter the tour bus. The bus has a living area with a couch, tv, and chargers, a small kitchen and fridge, and a small bathroom. In the back, 10 bunk beds with curtains covering them are attached to the wall and another door that leads to a bigger bedroom.

HIKARI
This is a good bus. Starlight Entertainment knows how to find them.

GABRIELLA
Who gets the master bedroom, though?

HIKARI
We normally do rock paper scissors to decide tha--

SULLIVAN
You can have it, Gabi.

GABRIELLA
You sure? What about Thomas? Doesn't he need the space?

THOMAS
It's fine. I'm used to sleeping in the bunks on tour bus.

GABRIELLA
Alright. Thank you.

SULLIVAN
No problem. Now, get some sleep. When we get there, I'll wake you up.

Gabriella enters the master bedroom and closes the door. Thomas heads to the front to talk to the driver. Sullivan and Hikari sit onto their bunk beds.

HIKARI
So, are you going to tell me what you were upset about last night?

SULLIVAN
I told you, it wasn't a big-

HIKARI
Did you do something wrong?

SULLIVAN
No, its just...its complicated.

HIKARI
Well, we're on this bus for six hours. I'm listening.

Sullivan gives Hikari his phone. The bus engine starts to rumble.

HIKARI (CONT'D)
What?! I can't believe she would do this!

SULLIVAN
Join the club.

HIKARI
I didn't know. I shouldn't have been so insistent. You probably weren't ready to tell me.

SULLIVAN
How could anyone be ready after seeing something like that? Don't worry. I'm happy that you care so much.

HIKARI
That's what friends are for.

Sullivan climbs into his bunk bed and lies down.

SULLIVAN
Was I a good boyfriend?

HIKARI
Of course you were. You did all you could for Natalie and her dreams. If you ever treated her with disrespect, I would have smacked you upside the head.

Sullivan laughs.

SULLIVAN
Thanks. Gabi said something similar.

HIKARI
She did?

SULLIVAN
Yeah. Last night, she warmed up some food and listened to me. She echoed your sentiments.

HIKARI
Good, I'm glad. You could use other friends besides me.

The bus starts to move. Hikari climbs into his bunk bed.

HIKARI (CONT'D)
I have to thank her properly once she wakes up. In the meantime, I'll follow Gabriella's lead and go to bed.

SULLIVAN
I'm pretty sure she would not mind if you called her Gabi at this point.

HIKARI
I'll wait for her to tell me that. Night, Sullivan.

Hikari closes his curtain. Sullivan follows, but doesn't sleep. He lays in his bed wide awake, listening to the low hum of the bus as it moves.

INT. TOUR BUS- LATER

Sullivan quietly walks to Gabriella's door and knocks on it. Silence.

SULLIVAN
Gabi, we're here.

More silence. Sullivan knocks louder.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Gabi, wake up!

GABRIELLA
(groggily)
I'm getting up. Hang on.

The door opens. Gabriella steps out, rapidly adjusting her hair.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
I was having a good dream, too.

SULLIVAN
Sorry, but I did tell you that I would wake you up when we got here.

GABRIELLA
You did. Hang on, let me freshen up.

SULLIVAN
You look fine, Gabi.

GABRIELLA
I really don't. Give me five minutes. I'll be right out.

Gabriella closes the door before Sullivan says anything else. He shrugs, takes his personal backpack, and walks out of the bus.

EXT. DEBEN HOUSE CENTER- DAY

Sullivan and Hikari are leaning against the bus. Thomas is on the phone. Gabriella walks out of the bus, dressed in a purple blouse and white jacket. Thomas finishes his call and turns to the group.

THOMAS
The rest of the crew has made it to Wembley Stadium.

GABRIELLA
I'm ready to head there as well, if you need me.

THOMAS
Ok. Sullivan, Hikari, you two can go and explore London for a while. Gabriella will meet you once she's done.

HIKARI
When do we need to be there, Thomas?

THOMAS
4:00pm for rehearsal and sound check.

HIKARI
Alright, see you later.

GABRIELLA
Be safe, you guys.

SULLIVAN
Don't worry. We have the perfect disguises.

Sullivan and Hikari both pull out two baseball caps and put them on. Gabriella looks at them incredulously.

GABRIELLA
You can't be serious.

Sullivan and Hikari smile widely and they all walk to the train station. The group separates to catch their respective trains.

INT. WEMBLEY STADIUM WAITING ROOM- DAY

Gabriella ladles the last serving of beef stew and the last serving of vegetable stew into their respective serving bowls. She loads each bowl onto the meal cart. She washes each pot and silverware carefully and quickly before wheeling the cart towards the show floor.

EXT. WEMBLEY STADIUM MAIN STAGE- DAY

Gabriella steps onto the main stage. Every member of the crew is hard at work on their respective cast. Gabriella stops by the sound crew first.

GABRIELLA
Hi. Here's your food and thank you for your hard work.

SOUND CREWMEMBER
Thank you so much! I'm starving.

The sound crewmembers each grab a bowl and spoon. They start eating rapidly.

GABRIELLA
You can take your time. No one's stealing your food.

SOUND CREWMEMBER
Thank you for the concern but we have to finish quickly if we want the rehearsal to start on time.

GABRIELLA
I see. Well, I hope you enjoy.

Gabriella leaves the sound crew and visits the lighting, instrument players, security, and vendors. Each group grab their bowls and eat rapidly before starting work again. Gabriella collects their trash and starts to head back to the waiting room.

INT. WEMBLEY STADIUM WAITING ROOM- DAY

Gabriella arrives in the waiting room with the cart and the trash. She throws away the trash in the room's trash can and sits down on the couch. Thomas enters the room while talking on his phone.

THOMAS
(on the phone)
I think she's...ah, perfect timing. Gabriella just finished. I'll tell her where you guys are now.

Thomas hangs up the phone and walks over to Gabriella.

GABRIELLA
I assume that was Sullivan.

THOMAS
Correct. He wanted to check on you and let you know that they were heading to the London Eye.

GABRIELLA
The London Eye. I always wanted to go there.

THOMAS
I already called a taxi. They'll be here in 10 minutes.

GABRIELLA
Thank you so much.

THOMAS
Of course. I have to say, Gabriella, so far, your performance has been very good.

GABRIELLA
Really?

THOMAS
Really. You adapted your food to each members diets, you have a great attitude, and the crew has told me nothing but compliments. I can see why Sullivan recommended you.

GABRIELLA
That praise means more than you know.
(MORE)

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
This has been the best opportunity that I've received in recent years.

THOMAS
You have more than proven yourself. If you'd like, we can help quell those rumors about you.

GABRIELLA
Thank you, but there is no for you to do that.

THOMAS
I won't force you, but think about it. You can get more opportunities for the future.

GABRIELLA
I'll think about it. Thank you.

Gabriella grabs her backpack and leaves the waiting room.

EXT. LONDON EYE- DAY

The taxi stops right outside the London Eye. Gabriella gets out and immediately sees Sullivan and Hikari, still wearing their baseball caps. She walks up to them.

SULLIVAN
Hi, Gabi! How did everything go?

GABRIELLA
It went well. I finished everything faster than I thought. How was your sightseeing?

HIKARI
We mainly walked around the city, saw some street performers, and had British fish and chips. But, this right here is the real attraction.

SULLIVAN
Come on, let's head inside before the line gets any longer.

The group walks inside the building and joins the long line.

INT. LONDON EYE- DAY

Sullivan, Gabriella, and Hikari are 3/4 of the way through the line. Gabriella anxiously checks her phone. The time reads 2:00.

GABRIELLA
We're an hour away from the stadium. We have to get through this line quickly.

HIKARI
It'll be fine. We're almost to the front.

SULLIVAN
Yeah, we'll get a spot on the eye in no time.

HIKARI
Hey, Gabriella-

GABRIELLA
I told you Gabi.

HIKARI
Right, I forgot. So, anyway, I was curious about something: What is the difference between the fish and chips in Boston and the ones here in London?

SULLIVAN
Yeah, I was curious about that too, but we forgot to ask the waitress before we left.

Gabriella's eyes start to widen.

GABRIELLA
Well the difference between these fish and chips and ones in Boston is their batter. They use beer alongside flour to make their batter, which makes it thicker. The ones in Boston don't use beer to make their batter. Also, the type of fish they use is different. The British one uses cod or haddock while in America-

LONDON EYE EMPLOYEE
Next in line, please.

Gabriella stopped talking and made her way to the front with Hikari and Sullivan. Sullivan couldn't contain his grin.

SULLIVAN
Three tickets, please.

LONDON EYE EMPLOYEE
96 dollars.

GABRIELLA
(under her breath)
It costs that much.

HIKARI
Don't worry about that.

Hikari pulls out a card with Starlight Entertainment written on it and pays with it.

SULLIVAN
Company card. A lifesaver on tours.

The three were lead by the employee to a capsule in the Eye. Three other families were inside.

HIKARI
This is the best thing you can do in London, Gabi. You're extremely lucky.

GABRIELLA
You rode on this before when you came here?

SULLIVAN
Yeah, Thomas booked a private capsule for us and we saw a beautiful sunset. That isn't something that I'll ever forget.

The capsule started to move slowly up. Outside the eye was a view of the entire city. Gabriella stares at Buckingham Palace from the distance in awe. Sullivan moves closer to the glass while Hikari goes to the other side of the capsule. Gabriella moves closer to Sullivan.

GABRIELLA
You don't have to be ok, you know.

SULLIVAN
I know, but Natalie wanted to see the London Eye a lot.
(MORE)

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
She dreamed of taking her sketchbook up here and drawing this view. It would have been a good drawing.

GABRIELLA
Have you figured out a plan?

SULLIVAN
After the rehearsal today, I'm going to sit down with Thomas and talk about it.

GABRIELLA
Good, because you have to be smart about what you say. I don't want to see someone else get blacklisted.

SULLIVAN
You know, Starlight Entertainment has a good legal team. We could make a case for you as well.

GABRIELLA
I appreciate the offer, but it's ok.

SULLIVAN
Why not?

GABRIELLA
To put it simply, I don't want to reopen the wound again.

Sullivan opened his mouth and closed it again.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Those months of cyberbullying were the worst months of my life. I couldn't run the restaurant because people would make threatening calls or bad reviews. I couldn't post anything online defending myself because there would always be people slandering my name. I changed my phone number multiple times, but I still got death threats on my phone. All I could do was turn off my phone, lock my apartment door, and stay in bed.

Gabriella sighs.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
I didn't have the urge to eat or sleep. I was wasting away in my bed and if it wasn't for Roxie taking care of and slapping some sense into me, I wouldn't be here talking to you. I don't want to remember those thoughts again. I just want to move on.

Tears run down Gabriella's face. Sullivan reaches out his hand, hesitates, and then takes her hand in his.

SULLIVAN
You're strong, Gabi, and I'm sorry for triggering some bad memories.

Gabriella quietly nods and turns back to the capsule. Big Ben looms in front of them.

GABRIELLA
It's beautiful.

SULLIVAN
It really is.

The London Eye finishes its loop. Sullivan, Gabriella, and Hikari call a taxi to the stadium. The taxi ride is silent.

INT. WEMBLEY STADIUM WAITING ROOM- AFTERNOON

Gabriella is cutting ingredients for the crew's dinner. Sullivan and Thomas sit on the couch. Hikari tunes his bass on the other side of the room.

SULLIVAN
So, that's what's been going on. I've sent you the video as evidence.

THOMAS
That's...are you ok, Sullivan?

SULLIVAN
I'm doing better. Today helped a lot.

THOMAS
Good. So, we need to consider our next steps.

SULLIVAN
I've already considered it and the answer is simple: I'm divorcing Natalie. Cheating isn't something that I can forgive.

THOMAS
Unfortunately, its not that simple. We have a tour to worry about and divorce papers take time.

SULLIVAN
I know, which is why I think it would be good to start now.

THOMAS
I agree and Starlight Entertainment can make arrangements. Have you thought about the court orders you want?

SULLIVAN
Yes. I want to keep the house and all of my other assets.

THOMAS
Based on her financial situation, we can assume that Natalie will request spousal support.

SULLIVAN
We can expect that. The amount she makes as a freelance artist is significantly less than my own. I'll agree to it.

THOMAS
Ok, and one last thing, once you get these papers served to her, there is no going back. She might try and start a scandal in retaliation. Are you sure you want to do this?

SULLIVAN
I do. I don't want Natalie in my life anymore.

THOMAS
Good. We'll get started with the papers after the performance tonight.

INT. WEMBLEY STADIUM BACKSTAGE - LATER

Sullivan and Hikari are waiting backstage for their cue. The fans are cheering loudly.

CROWD
Chainbreakers! Chainbreakers!

Sullivan takes a deep breath.

SULLIVAN
Showtime.

Gabriella arrives backstage with Thomas.

GABRIELLA
Go ahead and kill it! See you after the show.

Sullivan smiles and follows Hikari out to the main stage. The crowd screams louder. Sullivan and Hikari play three songs before they stop to address the fans.

SULLIVAN
Hello, London!

The crowd roars.

HIKARI
It is a pleasure to be here with you tonight. I want to hear each and everyone of you scream!

The crowd screams back. Sullivan gets teary-eyed.

SULLIVAN
You know, this is the biggest stage we've ever performed on. I can't believe that only 5 years ago, we struggled to get one gig.

HIKARI
I know. Its absolutely amazing how far we've come.

SULLIVAN
And it's thanks to each and every one of you! Thank you so much!

The crowd screams louder.

HIKARI
Now, let's get this show started. Forget about everything and sing to your hearts content! Ready, Sullivan?

SULLIVAN
Of course I'm ready. Let's go!

The show continues with Sullivan and Hikari putting on an incredible show. Sullivan is jumping while singing and playing, yet he hits every note. Sullivan's grin does not drop once.

INT. WEMBLEY STADIUM WAITING ROOM- NIGHT

Gabriella throws away the trash and leaves the meal cart in the back of the room. Thomas calls Gabriella's phone.

THOMAS (V.O.)
Good work today. I'm outside with the car once you're done.

GABRIELLA
Thank you. Oh, can we stop somewhere before we head back to the bus? I need to pick up something for Sullivan and Hikari.

THOMAS (V.O.)
Sure.

INT. TOUR BUS- LATER

Hikari is sleeping loudly while Sullivan is still sitting in his bed. He is typing on his phone screen rapidly. Gabriella enters the bus with her hands behind her back. Sullivan turns off his phone and gets off of the bed.

SULLIVAN
You're back. How was the show?

GABRIELLA
That was the best I've ever seen you guys play.

SULLIVAN
Good, cause that was the most fun I've had on stage for a while.

GABRIELLA
That's good to hear. Anyway I brought you both something.

Gabriella holds out her hands to reveal two bouquets of flowers.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Surprise!

SULLIVAN
You didn't have to do that, Gabi.

GABRIELLA
Well, I had to. I had so much fun watching you two.

SULLIVAN
If only Hikari was awake right now.

GABRIELLA
He'll see it in the morning. Anyway, I'm heading to be-

SULLIVAN
Gabi?

GABRIELLA
Yeah?

SULLIVAN
Thank you for checking in on me and for these flowers.

GABRIELLA
Don't worry about it. Goodnight, Sullivan.

Gabriella returns to her bed. Sullivan opens his phone and types rapidly for a few minutes before falling asleep.

INT. TOUR BUS- MORNING

Sullivan wakes up and heads to the buses living area. Gabriella and Thomas are already there, drinking coffee.

GABRIELLA
Morning.

SULLIVAN
Good morning. How far is it to Milan?

THOMAS
15 hour drive, but we have a day off before the actual show. Plenty of time to rest.

SULLIVAN
Perfect. Oh and did everything send properly?

THOMAS
Yes. Our hired server gave her the papers while you were asleep.

SULLIVAN
That was fast.

THOMAS
Well this needed to be done fast. We'll be leaving in 5 minutes.

Thomas leaves to talk to the driver. Sullivan's phone rings and he answers it. It's Natalie. Sullivan's voice shakes.

SULLIVAN
Natalie-

NATALIE (V.O.)
What is the meaning of this?! Why are you doing this to me?

SULLIVAN
You know exactly why.

NATALIE (V.O.)
I see, found someone else, did you? Threw me out like garbage for someone of your standing!

SULLIVAN
I didn't find anyone, but you certainly have.

Natalie gasps. Sullivan's hands shake in anger.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Jen will be happy to take you in while we sort through everything.

Natalie's voice gets loud enough for Gabriella to hear.

NATALIE
I will ruin you. Do you hear me? I'll drag your name through the mud for this.

Sullivan smiles.

SULLIVAN
I'd like to see you try.

Sullivan hangs up the phone. Gabriella smiles widely.

GABRIELLA
Good job. I'm surprised you managed to get everything done that quickly.

SULLIVAN
Starlight Entertainment is effective when it comes to protecting their artists.

GABRIELLA
I can tell. Its going to turn out better than what happened to me, that's for sure.

SULLIVAN
We have irrefutable proof. She won't do anything until I'm home.

GABRIELLA
That's right. We can focus on enjoying the rest of the tour.

Sullivan sits on the couch next to Gabriella. The bus rumbles and starts to move. Hikari soon joins them and the group starts talking as the bus moves.

BEGIN TOUR MONTAGE

Sullivan and Gabriella walk around the Santa Maria delle Convent in Milan. They see The Last Supper and take a picture of it.

Sullivan attempts to help Gabriella cook. Sullivan accidentally cuts himself. Gabriella bandages his finger while laughing and goes to clean the knife. Gabriella teaches him a simple knife technique.

Sullivan, Gabriella, and Hikari visit the Magic Fountain of Montjuic. The fountain glows sky blue. Gabriella takes multiple pictures of Sullivan and Hikari for social media.

Sullivan plays his guitar and sings on the moving tour bus. Gabriella smiles into her pillow and falls asleep.

Gabriella struggles to carry her suitcases to the new tour bus in America. Sullivan carries them with a smile on his face.

Gabriella buys cowboy hats for Sullivan and Hikari's show in Texas. Gabriella forces Sullivan to wear the pink one. She smiles widely after seeing that Sullivan is trending after the show.

Gabriella teaches Sullivan how to cook an egg at his request. He makes eggs for breakfast next morning. Gabriella eats her fill and nods in approval.

Gabriella walks around New York with Sullivan. She unconsciously holds his hand. Sullivan blushes.

Sullivan and Hikari gift Gabriella a signed album. She packs it into her backpack with care. Sullivan watches with a smile.

Sullivan and Hikari finish rehearsing for their final show in Los Angeles. Gabriella sends a quick message on her phone before making lunch for the crew.

A hooded figure walks on the street next to Ristorante Moonlight. They look inside and see Sullivan. The figure moves away and hides in an alley.

END MONTAGE

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- NIGHT

Sullivan, Hikari, Thomas, and the crew are seated across the restaurant eating. Gabriella places a bowl of clam chowder to be delivered. Roxie brings it to Thomas with a smile.

ROXIE
Here you go. Enjoy.

THOMAS
Thank you.

Sullivan and Hikari sit at a table nearby eating their own dishes.

SULLIVAN
I didn't expect Gabi to do all of this for us.

HIKARI
I know. A private event, even after all of the work she's done today. Does she know the concept of rest?

SULLIVAN
Probably not.

Waiters and waitresses step out of the kitchen delivering desserts. Gabriella follows holding a glass of wine.

GABRIELLA
Everyone, it has been an honor working with all of you for the past two months.

Gabriella raises her class. Everyone follows.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
A toast to a successful tour!

EVERYONE
To a successful tour!

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- LATER

The restaurant is empty of guests except Sullivan and Hikari. Gabriella walks them out.

HIKARI
Thank you for this, Gabriella.

GABRIELLA
It wasn't a big deal. You've given me more than I could every repay.

SULLIVAN
We'll see you later, Gabi. Have a good night.

Sullivan and Gabriella embrace. Behind them, a camera light flashes. No one notices.

Gabriella returns inside to help clean. Roxie smiles at her.

GABRIELLA
What, Roxie?

ROXIE
I've never seen you look so happy.

GABRIELLA
Well, its been the best night the restaurant has had in months.

ROXIE
Not just that, Gabi. Sullivan. You lighten up around him.

GABRIELLA
That's not true.

Roxie rolls her eyes.

ROXIE
Whatever you say, Gabi.

GABRIELLA
Oh, before I forget, here.

Gabriella goes through her suitcase and gives Roxie the signed album. Roxie is speechless.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Told you I keep my promises.

ROXIE
Thank you, thank you, thank you so much! Oh, I know just where to put you when I get home.

GABRIELLA
In that case, let's hurry up and close so you can get home faster.

Roxie and Gabriella finish closing and head home. Gabriella drags her suitcases into her apartment and collapses onto her bed. She falls asleep with ease.

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- MORNING

Gabriella wakes up to her phone buzzing non-stop. She picks it up and reads a flood of messages.

GABRIELLA
"KYS" "How dare you hurt Sullivan" "Filthy slut".

Gabriella starts to panic. Her breathing gets violent.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
It's happening again. No, no, no, not again.

Sullivan calls Gabriella. She answers it immediately.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Hello?

SULLIVAN (V.O.)
I'm so sorry.

GABRIELLA
Why are you apologizing? Wait, what's going on?

SULLIVAN (V.O.)
Natalie was there, at the party. She posted a photo of us hugging and is claiming that I'm a cheater.

GABRIELLA
What? I-i made sure the event was private. How did she even see us?

SULLIVAN (V.O.)
I don't know, but our lawyers are working on preparing a statement. The fans have already figured out that it was you, and considering your rumors, are taking this very seriously.

GABRIELLA
Its my fault. I shouldn't have hugged you. I shouldn't have come on your tour. I shouldn't have-

SULLIVAN (V.O.)
Gabi, calm down. None of this is your fault. Listen to me carefully: I'm going to make a statement and reveal my original plans to divorce Natalie. There's enough evidence to clear my name, but we have to clear yours too.

Gabriella takes a deep breath.

GABRIELLA
I'm not ready.

SULLIVAN (V.O.)
Gabi...

GABRIELLA
I'm not ready. I'm sorry, Sullivan.

Gabriella hangs up the phone and hides under her blanket. The phone continues to buzz.

INT. NATALIE AND JEN'S APARTMENT- DAY

Natalie sits on the couch starting at her phone with a smile. Jen walks in with a mug and a teapot.

JEN
Here's some tea, love.

NATALIE
Thank you, baby.

Jen pours the tea and Natalie leaves it on the counter to cool.

JEN
Is everything falling apart?

NATALIE
Spectacularly. It's incredibly easy to get people on your side when they don't know the truth.

JEN
Starlight Entertainment does, though. You have to be prepared for them to fight you in court.

NATALIE
I'm aware. I've been looking for lawyers as we speak.

JEN
May I suggest something, sweetheart? I know the perfect lawyer who can help us.

NATALIE
Who do you have in mind?

JEN
His name is Caleb. He's an old friend. Used to buy makeup from me.

NATALIE
Caleb? As in...

Jen nods. Natalie smiles.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
Give me his number. I'll call him today to build a case.

JEN
Sure.

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- NIGHT

Roxie and the other restaurant staff work to clean the restaurant. The front door swings open.

ROXIE
Sorry, but we're closed for the-

Roxie stops upon seeing Sullivan. His eyes are red.

ROXIE (CONT'D)
...Let's talk in the back.

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT KITCHEN- SAME

Sullivan drinks from a glass of water. Roxie pours another glass for herself.

SULLIVAN
How is she?

Roxie sips her water.

ROXIE
Not doing well. She hasn't left her bed all day.

SULLIVAN
We're still working on building a case, but we need Gabriella to speak in court or else we can't proceed.

ROXIE
She's not ready.

SULLIVAN
Unfortunately, she doesn't have much of a choice.

ROXIE
In her state right now, it'll be difficult to convince her to speak.

SULLIVAN
What was it like last time? How long did it take her to recover?

ROXIE
Recover? Sullivan, Gabriella never recovered the first time. That's why she still blames herself.

SULLIVAN
Gabriella was and still is innocent. We just have to make her see that some-

Sullivan's eyes light up.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
I have an idea.

ROXIE
What is it?

SULLIVAN
Which pot hasn't been cleaned yet?

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- NIGHT

Gabriella is still in her bed. There is a knock at the front door.

GABRIELLA
Who is it?

ROXIE
Gabi, it's me and Sullivan. We came to check on you.

GABRIELLA
You don't need to. I'm fine.

ROXIE
You're not fine. Now, open the door.

GABRIELLA
Leave me alone, Roxie!

ROXIE
No, we're not doing this again. I'm coming in.

The front door unlocks and Roxie and Sullivan walk to Gabriella's room. Gabriella is disheveled and still in her pjs. Her eyes are red.

GABRIELLA
I shouldn't have given you a spare key.

ROXIE
That's not what you said when you gave me it.

Roxie looks at Sullivan holding a plastic bowl and spoon.

ROXIE (CONT'D)
You two can talk, I'll wait for you outside.

Roxie leaves the bedroom and closes the door. Sullivan opens the plastic bowl of clam chowder. Gabriella's eyes widened.

SULLIVAN
Eat, then we'll talk.

Gabriella takes the bowl and spoon. She eats the entire bowl while Sullivan sits next to her quietly. Gabriella places the bowl on her nightstand.

GABRIELLA
Did you make this, Sullivan?

SULLIVAN
The only thing I did was dice the vegetables and seasonings. Roxie did most of the work.

GABRIELLA
You did a good job.

SULLIVAN
I had a good teacher.

Silence.

GABRIELLA
When I saw those messages again, I wasn't in control of myself. All of the horrible memories came back and I made everyone worry about me again.

Sullivan takes her hand.

SULLIVAN
It's ok. I'm here.

GABRIELLA
It's not ok. I haven't been honest with you, Sullivan.

SULLIVAN
What are you talking about?

Gabriella takes a deep breath

GABRIELLA
The day before you came to invite me to tour, I...had a soulmate dream about you. It was verified and everything.

Sullivan's mouth falls open in shock.

SULLIVAN
...What?

GABRIELLA
That's why I initially said no when Thomas invited me. That's why I tried to push you away. I didn't want to destroy your marriage with Natalie.

Gabriella pauses.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
But when we talked about Natalie cheating on you, I was worried. I didn't want a scenario like this to happen again. I wanted to help you prevent this from happening, but instead I ended up being close to you.

Gabriella bites back tears.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
It's my fault, Sullivan. All of this is. If I hadn't gotten close to you, none of this would have happened. I shouldn't have come with you.

Gabriella rubs her eyes.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
Go, Sullivan. Get your divorce over with and forget about me.

Sullivan grips her hand tighter.

SULLIVAN
I'm not leaving.

Sullivan takes a deep breath.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Soulmate dreams only show the potential of soulmates. It has never been confirmation. That doesn't stop people from chasing those dreams, trying to force them to come true without putting in the work to make them a reality.

Sullivan looks into Gabriella's eyes.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
But, you, Gabi, are different from them. You never tried to hit on me or destroy our relationship like so many people have when they have soulmate dreams. You were considerate and kind of my situation and supported me without expecting charity. All of the crew on tour have nothing but good things to say about you.

Sullivan smiles softly.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
You are a good person, Gabriella, and I'm going to make you see it.

Gabriella starts to cry loudly. Sullivan embraces her. She cries for a few minutes before Sullivan breaks away.

GABRIELLA
...What do I have to do?

SULLIVAN
Our lawyers are gathering evidence to sue Caleb and Natalie for defamation and libel.

GABRIELLA
What about your divorce case?

SULLIVAN
That will take less time than this. The statue of limitations for you runs out in three months, so our company is working overtime to prepare evidence. All we need you to do is submit documents proving your damages and speak about your experiences in court.

GABRIELLA
Caleb knows a lot of people. He might try to do something.

Sullivan sighs.

SULLIVAN
We...considered that as a possibility, but even if he's there, we can handle it.

Gabriella gets up from her bed.

GABRIELLA
I'll help however I can.

SULLIVAN
I'll be with you all the way.

Gabriella takes Sullivan's hand and they leave the room to meet Roxie.

INT. RISTORANTE MOONLIGHT- NIGHT

It has been one month since Gabriella started her defamation and libel lawsuit against Caleb and Natalie. Gabriella, Roxie, Sullivan, Hikari, and the lawyer gather at a table in the restaurant. A large folder of documents is in front of them.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Do you have your missing restaurant revenue.

Gabriella hands him a document.

GABRIELLA
350,000 dollars for 7 months of damages to the restaurant.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
We could also argue for emotional distress compensation.
(MORE)

STARLIGHT LAWYER (CONT'D)
The exact amount has to be negotiated in court.

ROXIE
Argue for the max amount possible.

GABRIELLA
Roxie!

ROXIE
What? I saw the state you were in. You could barely take care of yourself. He deserves it.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
I'll try my best, but there's one thing you should know before court tomorrow. I found a key piece of evidence today.

HIKARI
You did? What is it?

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Sullivan, you mentioned that Jen runs a makeup business, correct?

SULLIVAN
I did. She went to cosmetology school and everythi-

Sullivan's eyes widen.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
Are you implying..

STARLIGHT LAWYER
I requested Caleb's bank statements. There is a transaction from Jen's cosmetics 7 months ago.

Silence.

SULLIVAN
I had a hunch that those pictures were fake.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Gabriella, in court, you need to provide your account of that night truthfully. Speak calmly and clearly.

GABRIELLA
I understand.

ROXIE
I'll keep the restaurant running while you're gone. My affidavit should help you out.

SULLIVAN
Thomas, Hikari, and I will be there as well.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Get some rest, all of you. You need to be ready for tomorrow.

Everyone gets up and leaves except Gabriella and Roxie.

ROXIE
I'm proud of you, Gabi.

GABRIELLA
For what?

ROXIE
For finally standing up for yourself. Even if you lose this case, it won't be in vain.

GABRIELLA
I won't lose, Roxie. Not this time.

Roxie's eyes widen, then she laughs.

ROXIE
That's the spirit. I'll have a feast ready to celebrate.

GABRIELLA
Thank you, Roxie. Good night.

Gabriella leaves to her studio apartment. She tosses and turns in her bed before finally falling asleep.

INT. LA COURTHOUSE WAITING ROOM- MORNING

Gabriella sits next to the Starlight Lawyer in the waiting room. Her feet are tapping rapidly. Caleb walks by her and stops in front of her.

CALEB
Gabi.

Gabriella looks up.

GABRIELLA
Caleb.

Silence.

CALEB
This is the first time I'm defending myself in court. Couldn't imagine it, could you?

GABRIELLA
I could. You were always persistent in your goals. It was only a matter of time.

Caleb grits his teeth.

CALEB
I have to finish some preparations. See you in court.

Caleb speed walks away. Gabriella breathes out. The lawyer looks at his watch.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Its time. Are you ready?

GABRIELLA
Ready as I'll ever be.

Gabriella and the Starlight Lawyer walk into the courtroom.

INT. LA COURTHOUSE- LATER

Gabriella and the Starlight Lawyer sit opposite Caleb and Natalie. The JUDGE clears his throat.

JUDGE
The preliminary hearing for the defamation and libel case against Gabriella Valentino is now in session. Mr. Summers, may the court be informed of the situation?

Caleb straightens his jacket and clears his throat.

CALEB
Seven months ago, Caleb Summers arrived back to their shared apartment with Gabriella Valentino.
(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)
The two got into an argument over a scheduling mishap and at the climax, Gabriella beat Caleb. The next morning, Caleb uploaded a picture of the beating to expose her to her fans. Since what happened was true, this could not be considered defamation or libel.

JUDGE
Defense, your examination, please.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Yes, your honor. Caleb, what was the reason behind your argument with the defendant?

CALEB
She promised to attend my first ever case, but her restaurant work came first.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Seven months ago was opening night, correct?

CALEB
...Yes, but she never told me.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Oh? This says otherwise.

The lawyer pulls up a text message thread between Gabriella and Caleb. It details Gabriella preparing for the night a month in advance.

STARLIGHT LAWYER (CONT'D)
You knew about opening night and how it was important to Gabriella.

CALEB
Your point being?

STARLIGHT LAWYER
My point is that you had no reason to argue with her that night.

CALEB
Even if that is the case, that doesn't change the fact that she hurt me. And if she hurt me, she certainly hurt Sullivan.

NATALIE
That's right! He cheated on me with that abuser.

The judge bangs his gavel.

JUDGE
Order in the court! Caleb could have been beaten for any reason.

CALEB
Precisely.

JUDGE
I would like to hear from Mrs. Valentino.

The Starlight Lawyer looks at Gabriella. Gabriella nods and walks to the witness stand. Sullivan, Hikari, and Thomas watch her from the court seats.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
Mrs. Valentino, can you give the court your events of the night?

Gabriella clears her throat and takes a breath.

GABRIELLA
Yes, your Honor. That night was opening night at Ristorante Moonlight. I arrived home around 10:00pm and met with Caleb. Caleb was upset at me that I missed his first case.

Gabriella pauses.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
H-he yelled at me for not being there to support him and left to our room. I slept on the couch that night. The next morning, I woke up to that photo and Caleb was gone. My business has gone down ever since.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Thank you, Gabriella. To clarify, Caleb was home before you were?

GABRIELLA
Yes. The opening ran late.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
You never yelled at him during that exchange?

GABRIELLA
No. He did all of the yelling.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Did you hit him that night or any night during your relationship?

Gabriella's voice raises.

GABRIELLA
No. I have never hit him in the years that we have been together.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Thank you, Gabriella, that will be all-

GABRIELLA
Your honor, can you allow me to add one more thing?

JUDGE
Is it relevant to the case?

GABRIELLA
Yes.

Gabriella looks directly at Caleb.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

Caleb's eyes widen.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
You were right about one thing during your testimony: I didn't spend enough time on you. I should have helped you more. I should have done something more for you. I wish you had told me earlier, so we didn't have to come to this.

Gabriella bites back tears.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
I'm glad you made your dreams come true, Caleb. I just wish you didn't have to destroy my soul to do it.

Gabriella rubs her eyes and walks down the witness stand. The Starlight Lawyer stares at her.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
(whispering)
You should have told me you were going to do that.

GABRIELLA
I'm sorry, but that was my only time to do it.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
I understand, just tell me in advance.

The Starlight Lawyer clears his throat.

STARLIGHT LAWYER (CONT'D)
Your honor, I want to bring Caleb back to the stand. I want to clarify his testimony.

JUDGE
Granted.

Caleb walks back up to the witnesses stand. His movement is slower than normal.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Caleb Summers, Gabriella testified that you were home before her. Is this true?

CALEB
...Yes.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Is you yelling at her and walking to your room true?

CALEB
Yes, that part is true.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
In that case, did she actually hurt you?

CALEB
..Yes, she hurt me. You saw the photos.

The Starlight lawyer shakes his head.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
I would like to present this bank statement to the court.

CALEB
Bank statement?

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Yes. Seven months ago, a purchase was made at Jen's Cosmetics on your account.

Natalie's expression changes to shock. Gabriella notices.

NATALIE
Jen's...Cosmetics?

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Correct. After cross referencing the prices of everything from her site, what you bought from her was stage makeup, specifically for bruises and injuries. You bought this the day before the incident?

CALEB
...Why does that matter?

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Look at the photo again.

The Starlight Lawyer passes the printed out photo to the judge. The floor is white and brightly lit.

STARLIGHT LAWYER (CONT'D)
I have visited many studios during my time in the entertainment industry and the one commonality between all of them was their harsh lighting. Furthermore, the timing of the purchase implies premediation.

The Starlight lawyer glares at Caleb.

STARLIGHT LAWYER (CONT'D)
My conclusion is that Caleb and Jen worked together to frame Gabriella. Caleb, what do you say to that?

Silence. Caleb looks back at Gabriella and sighs.

CALEB
Your soul was never crushed. It was mine.

Caleb looks at the judge and hangs his head.

CALEB (CONT'D)
I plead guilty to all charges. I will pay the damage settlements.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
The defendant requests 350,000 for seven months of revenue plus 2,000 for emotional damages.

Caleb pauses, then nods his head.

CALEB
Very well.

STARLIGHT LAWYER
Now, Natalie, I would like to call you to the...

GABRIELLA
100 dollars.

Natalie looks at Gabriella quizzically

NATALIE
What?

GABRIELLA
100 dollars and we settle it now.

NATALIE
Are you serious? Why?

Gabriella looks at Sullivan.

GABRIELLA
My damages have been paid already. Now, it's your turn to settle his.

Natalie pauses then nods.

NATALIE
Ok, deal.

JUDGE
The total amount of damages to be paid to Mrs.Valentino are 352,000 dollars by Caleb Summers and 100 dollars by Mrs.Valentino. This court is now adjourned.

The judge bangs his gavel. Gabriella walks out of the courtroom with the Starlight Lawyer. As soon as the doors close, Gabriella cries with joy. Sullivan, Hikari, and Thomas meet her and walk with her to her car.

INT. GABRIELLA'S STUDIO APARTMENT- NIGHT

Six months have passed since Gabriella's case was closed. Gabriella sits on her couch watching TV. There is a knock at the front door.

GABRIELLA
Coming.

Gabriella opens the door. Sullivan arrives with bags of food and snacks.

SULLIVAN
Hey, Gabi. I'm excited to see the movie.

GABRIELLA
You're excited to see a movie about a psycho chef?

SULLIVAN
Considering that's all you've been talking about all week, yes.

GABRIELLA
Fair point. Have a seat, I'll start it up.

SULLIVAN
Before we do that...

Sullivan sits down next to Gabriella.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
How've you been?

GABRIELLA
Never better. I can barely keep up with these offers. I might have to open Ristorante Moonlights across the world to accomplish it all.

SULLIVAN
That isn't a horrible idea.

GABRIELLA
Have things calmed down?

SULLIVAN
After the divorce was finalized, I spent a long time trying to calm down my fans.

GABRIELLA
Were those tour photos a part of that?

SULLIVAN
They always lose their mind over that stuff.

GABRIELLA
When did you get this clever?

SULLIVAN
I've always been clever.

Gabriella laughs.

GABRIELLA
Says the one who cut his finger chopping an onion.

SULLIVAN
Please forget that.

GABRIELLA
Nope.

Gabriella's hand holds Sullivan's naturally.

SULLIVAN
Gabi, now that things have calmed down, I have to tell you that I..I have grown fond of you.

Gabriella's smile subtley grows.

SULLIVAN (CONT'D)
If this is too soon, you can tell me, but...

Gabriella pulls him in for a kiss. Sullivan pulls back in awe.

GABRIELLA
That's my answer.

SULLIVAN
When did you get this confident?

Gabriella smiles.

GABRIELLA
I had a good teacher.

Gabriella snuggles into Sullivan's arms. She feels her eyes closing.

SULLIVAN
You should have told me you were tired.

GABRIELLA
I wanted to see the movie with you.

Gabriella pauses.

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
And...I don't want to fall asleep, wake up, and learn that everything was a dream.

SULLIVAN
It's not a dream, Gabi. You're safe in my arms and I will never disappear. Nothing will ever hurt you.

GABRIELLA
...I love you, Sullivan.

Sullivan lies down on the couch and continues holding Gabriella.

SULLIVAN
I love you, too. Now, sleep, and dream of me, so we will never be apart.

Gabriella smiles and falls asleep. Sullivan closes his eyes with her. The sun sets silently on the two happy lovers.