

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - DAY

Joshua sits on a chair in the bathroom. Aiden stands behind him, running a buzzer through the back of his hair. He takes off a big chunk.

Aiden's laptop is open on the sink playing a Youtube video of a man giving instructions, while cutting the back of his own hair with clippers.

MAN ON VIDEO (V.O.)

Be careful on this step because your clippers might catch or get stuck...

The clippers WHINE as they get stuck in Joshua's hair.

AIDEN

Uhm...

In the mirror, Joshua smiles and gives a thumbs up. Aiden returns a nervous thumbs up as he tries to get the clippers unstuck.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE/UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Aiden steps out of the bathroom. He looks inside.

AIDEN

Okay, not bad.

Joshua walks out. His hair is combed, his beard buzzed down to stubble. He looks quite handsome.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

You ready to go to the city?

JOSHUA

The city?

AIDEN

I'm not supposed to go without an adult, but you're an adult, right?

Joshua nods. Aiden holds up a crumpled ball of bills.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Good because I have two months of allowance saved up. So let's go.

EXT. CITY OF STANWICK - DAY

A bustling micropolitan. Streets lined with shops, restaurants, and hotels surround a beautifully manicured park. Aiden walks next to Joshua, showing him around.

AIDEN

I know it's not exactly a big city, but there are a few cool things about it.

Joshua looks around taking in every minute detail with childlike wonder; Flowers, trees, buildings, cars...

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Remember that movie, "The Last Winter"? This was the town Russia nuked because it had all the missile silos nearby.

Joshua walks over to a parking meter, pushes the buttons.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Yes, that's a parking meter.

JOSHUA

What does it do?

Aiden laughs, thinks he's joking. He isn't.

AIDEN

When you park your car, you put money in so you don't get a ticket.

JOSHUA

A ticket for what?

AIDEN

How do you not know this stuff?

Joshua's gaze fixates on the display window of a jewelry store across the street. He steps into the street. A VAN speeds toward him.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Joshua!

Aiden pulls him back just as the van passes.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

You can't just walk out into the street like that! Jesus. What's wrong with you?

JOSHUA

I'm sorry.

AIDEN

It's okay. Come on, let's go.

They cross the street, stopping at the display window of the jewelry store.

Joshua stares at the necklaces. He takes out his own, caresses the pendant. It's an antique pewter foldout magnifying glass.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Can I see?

Aiden goes to touch it, but Joshua grabs it, defensive. Tucks it back in his shirt.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Sorry. Hey, I'm starving. You hungry?

INT. CAFE - DAY

Joshua and Aiden sit in a booth of a small cafe. Aiden holds a cheeseburger, but can't take his eyes off Joshua, who eats from four different plates of cakes and pies.

JOSHUA

Aiden, this is incredible. You need to try this.

Joshua eagerly holds out a forkful of cheesecake.

AIDEN

I'm good, thank you. I think I just want to eat this...

JOSHUA

Please.

AIDEN

Fine. I'll take a bite.

Aiden takes a bite.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

That is delicious.

Joshua takes a forkful of another cake, holds it out.

JOSHUA

And this one.

Aiden takes the bite.

AIDEN

Also delicious.

Aiden goes to take a bite of his cheeseburger, but Joshua is already holding out yet another bite.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

No more, please.

Joshua looks at him with a childlike intensity.

JOSHUA

Just try it. Please Aiden. You must.

Aiden takes the bite. Joshua resumes eating. Aiden watches him, takes in his genuine happiness.

It dredges up something deep. Painful. Joshua sees this. His smile evaporates.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Aiden, what's wrong? You didn't like the cake?

Aiden wipes his eyes with his forearm.

AIDEN

No, it's not that. It's just...everything you've been through, and you're all alone, with nobody to protect you, yet...

Joshua takes another bite of cake, the frosting covering his lips.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Never mind, it's stupid. Hey, you want to do something fun?

EXT. SLEDDING PARK - DAY

A snow covered hill divided into half-a-dozen different lanes.

A MONTAGE as Aiden and Joshua speed down the hill in colored snow tubes. Alone. Together. Spinning around. Joshua's initial apprehension becomes exuberance.

Aiden's tube comes to a stop on a patch of grass. He looks up to see Joshua speeding toward him, grin stretching from ear to ear.

Aiden screams as Joshua slams into him, sending them both tumbling over. Joshua, panic stricken, crawls over to Aiden, who lies face first in the snow.

JOSHUA

Aiden, are you okay? Are you hurt?

Aiden, his face covered in snow, bursts out laughing.

AIDEN

That was awesome!

He checks his watch.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Shit. My mom is going to be at school to pick me up. We've got to get you home.