

BEGINNINGS THAT DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS ENDINGS

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EXT. SAN DIEGO SURFING BEACH 2006- DAY

The sun overexposes the camera at first from the bright sun and we slowly gain more focus on a family of four. A glowing edge around the frame remains throughout the scene. A pregnant MOM, DAD, SON, AND DAUGHTER are in the shallow water. The wife stays ankle deep watching as the dad, carrying a surfboard in one hand, wads through the water with the two children, holding two boogie boards in the other arm. His hand is holding the young daughter's.

The son is quick to run ahead in the water after taking the boogie board from his dad. The girl, does the same, but looks up at her dad first for a nod of approval, unlike the boy.

The two children play in the water, competing who can board farther. We see the mother smiling as they come back to the shallows and immediately run back in. The father is farther out, sitting on a surfboard. Both looking for waves but looking back at his family gleefully.

He finds a wave to ride and we see the young girl staring at awe at her farther as he rides the wave. A ring of light from the sun casts over him as he follows it to the end.

The family is gathered back in the shallows.

SON

I want to try! I want to try!

The mom and dad share a smile between the two. The son runs fast into the water. The dad begins to walk after him as he bends down to the daughter.

DAD

And are you also following along?

The daughter eyes widen at the look of her father. Another ring of light frames his head as he looks at her smiling. She looks down shamefully as she answers.

DAUGHTER

(whispering)

I'm scared.

DAD

(playfully)

You're WHAT!

DAUGHTER

I'm scared.

(looks down) the waves...they're so big.

The dad bends down on his knees to be eye level. His hands hold her arms.

DAD

Guess what Kaia,
There's actually only one thing in
this whole world that we have to be
scared of.

Kaia waits for an answer.

DAD

It's of all the things we never
try.

Kaia smiles at her dad. He opens up his hand for her to take it. She hesitates for 3 seconds but nods her head firmly and grabs onto it. They walk into the ocean together and we fade out to a bright light.

INT. KAIA'S BEDROOM- DAY

The bright light is transitioned from her window as we pan to her asleep in her bed. She jolts awake with a melancholy expression.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

An open loft hair salon is half full of ladies getting their hair done. Some sit under the hair dryers, some are at the washing station, and others waiting for color to set. The sound of gossip and chit chat, along with a faint radio playing today's hits fill the room.

Kaia (21) sits in the chair staring at her reflection with an emptiness in her eyes as if she did not recognize herself. There is a puffiness to her face and shadows under her eyes. Her hair sits in a messy ponytail. On the counter of the hairdresser's station's is a day calendar revealing it is October 20th. CHANEL (30), the hairdresser walks over to her and takes her hair out.

CHANEL

I love walk ins! I'm Chanel it's
great to meet ya, do ya know what I
could do for you today, sweetie?

KAIA

Hi, I'm Kaia. Ya, I'm looking
for...something very different
from...
(checks her reflection) this.
Honestly do whatever you think
would look good.

CHANEL

Good? I'm gonna have you looking great!

Chanel smirks and we follow the chair's spin until Kaia is facing front in the mirror with a towel on her head.

Chanel pulls it off and Kaia's hair falls out to reveal a shoulder length cut and a deep brown hair dye.

EXT. KAIA'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Gravel crunches underneath the wheels of a paisley blue cruiser bicycle. Kaia's foot lands on the ground as she breaks at her house. We WIDEN to reveal a basket on the front porch with a big bow. The cellophane is reflecting in the sun. She shakes her head at the sight of it and begins to move the bicycle towards the garage.

INT. KAIA'S HOME HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Kaia enters her house. It's soft yellow walls have patches of light sneaking in from the closed blinds. There is one long hallway that diverges in the middle to more rooms. In view behind Kaia the kitchen table sits with baskets and cards suffocating the surface. There is little to no noise other than the natural CREAKS of an old home.

She walks in and her keys CLING as they hit the others in dish on the table. Next to it is a vase of decaying flowers and a memorial card for BEN KINGSLEY. The date reads that the passing was a less than a month ago. She continues to walk down the hall.

INT. KAIA'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Kaia turns the knob on the closed door and enters the room. A wider shot reveals she is facing a packed up bedroom. The walls have fresh spots from past posters and empty holes of pins that used to hold them up. Her bed is perfectly made like a guest was coming to rent it out. Bins of unidentifiable items take up the left corner near the windows. Towards the door is a large backpack stuffed to the brim, next to it a small blue suitcase.

Kaia puts on the backpack and CLICKS the handle on the suitcase to pull it up. On the back of the door there is a mirror. She stands and stares while taking a deep breath for 5 seconds. She shakes her head in agreement with her reflection and walks out of her room.

EXT. AIRPORT- NIGHT

A plane takes off over the airport. It is dark out, but the lights of airplanes coming and going illuminate the sky.

INT. AIRPORT SECURITY CHECK IN - NIGHT

Kaia stands in line at security check in. She keeps checking her watch.

A few people behind on the adjacent side stands LILLE. She is tall with messy brown curly hair. She has small braids in random sections and wears a loose fitting dress. In view of both girls, we see they have identical backpacks. As the line moves forward Kaia's bag gets pulled for a security check. A few moments later at the other station, Lille's bag does the same.

Suddenly a large barking erupts from one of the security dogs on the opposite side of the room. Everyone turns to look as more guards and dogs come running over. Both agents leave to assist. People begin to move in closer frantically. Both Kaia and Lille veer away from their belongings to look. A peering shot shows a man face down on the floor getting arrested. Murmurs of conversation emerges from the crowd, as a large chief SECURITY GUARD appears.

SECURITY GUARD

Everybody get back. This does not concern any of ya'll.

He waves people back as we walks forward.

Back up. Back up. This doesn't concern any of ya'll. It'll be on the news later if ya'll that noisy. C'mon back it up.

Kaia begins to walk back to her stand, but stops too early and is now waiting at Lille's belongings. Her bag passes and she continues on out of security. Lille walks back to her stand that is actually Kaia's bag now.

Kaia checks her watch to show 10:30 pm. She begins to fumble in the side pocket of her bag to pull out her ticket. She cannot find anything on the right side. She checks the other and pulls out a ticket. She lifts an eyebrow at the confusion, but does not ponder on it. In her haste she only checks the gate number and begins to run in that direction.

INT. AIRPORT GATE - NIGHT

Kaia, trying to catch her breath, makes it just as the flight attendant begins to close the door.

KAIA

I'm here! I'm here! Please don't
close it!

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Ticket please ma'am!

Kaia hands her the ticket and hastily makes her way through the tunnel. A close up of the ticket reveals it is for Lille Levine.

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Kaia settles into her economy seat. She opens a small container and pops two pills in her mouth. She puts on the provided eye mask and puts her headphones in, almost on full volume. She falls asleep the entire red eye.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The day is bright, the kind that hurts your eyes to take in all of the light. Cars zoom by on the highway as they past a giant "Welcome to Queensland" Sign. A faint sound of crashing waves can be heard in the distance revealing a coast nearby.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Kaia is standing outside of the airport and waves down a taxi. The taxi pulls up and Kaia gets in.

INT. TAXI CAB - DAY

TAXI DRIVER

(australian accent)

Hello, where are we heading today?

Kaia pulls out her phone on 10% battery.

KAIA

Hi! I'm heading to a hostel not far
from here...

She continues to scroll at her phone, searching for the name.

TAXI DRIVER

Oh, I think I know the one. All the
hippies go there.

KAIA

(laughs)

That definitely sounds like the
one.

The taxi driver begins to drive away from the airport.

Kaia peers at her phone.

KAIA
Okay ya, Paradigm Hostel, yes.

TAXI DRIVER
So, where are you coming in from?

KAIA
I'm coming from Washington. Is that
accent Australian?

TAXI DRIVER
(confused)
Uh, ya. It is. Born and raised.

KAIA
How cool. I've never heard one
before.

TAXI DRIVER
(chuckling)
Well, be ready to hear them
everywhere.

KAIA
Really?
(confused)
I didn't know there was a lot of
Australians visiting Chile. It must
be for the surf huh?

TAXI DRIVER
Sorry what?

KAIA
Is there a lot of Australians here?

TAXI DRIVER
Umm.. ma'am I'm not sure where you
think you are. But ya there are a
lot of Australians here...in
Australia...where you just flew
into.

Kaia passes the Welcome to Queensland sign outside of the
car window. Her jaw drops.

KAIA
Excuse me, what?

The taxi driver comes to a stop.

TAXI DRIVER

We're here miss.

KAIA

(panicked)

Here? Where's here? I'm not supposed to be here.

TAXI DRIVER

Look I'm sorry, I just drive the car. This really seems like a you problem.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Kaia gets out of the car without the look of shock leaving her face. She stands facing the road with her bags as the taxi drives away.

Behind her sits a colorful house with a bright green front door. Each side consists of a different color. Surfboards lean against the side of it. VOICES and MUSIC come from the back of the house.

Kaia turns around and stares at her surroundings. She bends down to open up her bags as KEENAN, 22 and MOLLY, 21 come from the back of the house each holding a surfboard. They walk toward her.

MOLLY

(australian accent)

Hey, are you alright?

KEENAN

(australian accent)

Ya, you seem rooted.

Kaia looks up at them. Molly is tan with fresh ocean hair and no makeup. Keenan is tall, but skinny. He has ashy hair that almost covers his eyes, tattoos engulf his arms. Both are in bathing suits, ready to surf for the day. Kaia still searches for her things.

KAIA

Well, you probably wouldn't believe me if I told you, but I'm not supposed to be here.

KEENAN

Oh do you need me to call you an Uber or something?

KAIA

No like I'm not supposed to be
here...in Australia.
I don't know how I got here. I just
landed and I..I

We get a close up of Kaia becoming pale and bringing her hands up to her head. The screen cuts to black.

INT. PARADISE SURF HOSTEL - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Vintage furniture from the 70's fills the room. The walls are an old fake wood. Surf posters and colorful paintings line the walls. The coffee table is an old surfboard. Plants take up most of the empty spaces.

Kaia lays on the couch asleep. Keenan and Molly are in the chairs across from her. ARENA, 22 is to the left and REEF, 21, and RIP, 22 are to the right. All of them stare at her. Kaia jolts as she sees all of their eyes on her.

MOLLY

(australian)

How are you feeling?

KAIA

What happened?

MOLLY

You just passed out.

KAIA

Oh..I'm so sorry. Thank you for you
guys..for helping me.

KEENAN

(interjects)

Are you sure you're alright? You
were saying some weird things
before. Like you weren't supposed
to be here.

KAIA

Because I'm not. I was trying to
get to Chile. I don't know what
must've happened, I just landed
here.

They all stare at her not understanding.

KAIA

I was trying to find my ticket
before. Do you know where my things
are?

ARENA
(australian)
There in the next room! We'll grab
them.

Arena and Reef step towards the doorway and come back with
Kaia's belongings. Kaia begins ruffling through her
backpack.

KAIA
Huh? This..this isn't mine.

KEENAN
That's what you came with mate.

Kaia continues to search through the backpack.

KAIA
No I know but..

Kaia begins pulling out items from the backpack.

KAIA
But..none of this is mine.

MOLLY
Do you think you switched bags with
someone. Do you remember leaving it
alone ever?

INT. AIPORT SECURITY CHECK IN - NIGHT

The identical bags sit in view. Kaia walks back to the wrong
station.

INT. PARADISE SURF HOSTEL - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kaia's face shows a revelation.

KAIA
It was the wrong bin. How can I be
so stupid.

ARENA
(chiming in)
I know you don't know this, but we
actually don't allow negative self
talk in here. It brings down the
vibes.

KEENAN
Well it was a stupid mistake.

MOLLY

Keenan! She's obviously upset. I thought you were working on knowing when not to talk.

REEF

(jokingly)

He's just missing that part of his brain. There's nothing he can do for it.

Arena and Molly roll their eyes.

MOLLY

Sorry.

Maybe try checking for an ID in the bag or something?

Kaia unzips the top pocket to pull out an Australian passport. She flips it open to a picture of Lille and all of her information inside.

KAIA

Found one. There's an address.
22 Becker St, Brisbane City,
Queensland. Maybe I should return
it and hopefully find a way to
contact her.

REEF

That's not too far from here. About
40 minutes. We could drive you, Mac
hasn't been out in a few days.

KAIA

Mac?

KEENAN

It's our van. Like Fleetwood Mac.

KAIA

Are you sure?
You guys have already been kind
enough to me.

RIP

Well your lucky we're a bunch of
hippies. We kind of love this shit.

The rest of the room shakes their head in agreement and smiles.

KEENAN

Ya honestly other than surfing we
wait for life to come to us,
instead bulldozing through it. We
like to be in flow with time.

(towards room)

Hey, we could go surfing too,
there's a great beach right nearby.

The group nods and verbally agrees excitedly.

MOLLY

(towards Kaia)

And you've seemed to have
physically landed in our laps, so
it's a pretty good sign we're meant
to help you.

KAIA

(lifts an eyebrow)

But I'm a complete stranger. And
the whole meant to happen ideal is
kind of a loose foundation to base
your life choices on.

ARENA

(chimes in)

Aren't all beliefs loose, or else
they'd be facts?

KAIA

You guys really think about this
stuff often huh?

ARENA

Well if the few of us didn't, who
else would? The billions of people
with their heads stuck in a
computer shuffling through their
excel sheets?

(becoming louder)

I don't think so. People can judge
what they want but I think higher
thinking is just as beneficial to
society as any other pr...

KEENAN

(interrupts)

Calm down Arena. You know we alllll
get there in different ways.

ARENA

(snapping back)

Sorry... sorry.

(MORE)

ARENA (CONT'D)

(towards Kaia)

We just have some..um.. unique..
ideas we've been cultivating in
this space, and I just forget that
sometimes.

KAIA

It's okay.

(pause)

Honestly it's refreshing from what
I hear back home.

ARENA

It's just hard when you have to
defend your lifestyle so often
because its, um, different.

KAIA

You don't need to justify how you
want to live your life to me, or
strangers. We all have our reasons.
It's good you have one at all, I
think a lot people don't.

KEENAN

(laughing)

Maybe she's closer than we were
thinking.

INT. MAC THE VAN- AFTERNOON

We cut to a close up of Keenan's hand rolling to the rhythm
of COSMIC FREEWAY's chorus by Yeek. Golden light seeps in
through the open windows creating an euphoric glow against
the colorful patterns and images covering the inside walls
of the van. The girl's hair is being blown as the van speeds
down the highway and everyone smiles or sings along.

Arena reaches her body over the backseat to reach Kaia's
personal space. The music lowers but remains playing.

ARENA

I'm Arena. It's really exciting to
meet you. I think I saw you coming
in my mediation today.

KAIA

It's nice to meet you too. I um
guess that's pretty cool. I don't
really do understand any of that
stuff.

ARENA

That stuff? Hah you mean existence?
Of course you do, mediation is just
a practice of a certain type of
existing. Some practice more than
others.

KAIA

I don't know if anyone's told you
this but you have say some really
interesting things sometimes.

ARENA

(flattered)

Why thank you love! My biggest fear
is to be boring.

(notions to Rip)

This is Rip, my boytoy.

RIP

Very funny. We've been dating for 4
years.

Arena lifts her hand to block from Rip seeing, but whispers
the words loud enough for him to hear.

ARENA

That's what he thinks.

RIP

(gleefully)

Would you stop it.

He pulls her back in a playful way and kisses her.

KEENAN

Would you please stop being so in
love.

MOLLY

(from the passenger seat)

You had no problem with love three
weeks ago when Natalie was around.

Keenan raises his shoulders tensely and covers his ears.

KEENAN

What did we say about the name.
That lying bitch is to be called
Sheila when referenced.

MOLLY

Don't get your knickers in a bind.

Molly rolls her eyes. Keenan turns back to Kaia.

KEENAN

I guess we should introduce
ourselves too by now, I'm Keenan,
(notions to Molly)
this is Molly,
(notions to Reef),
and this is Reef.

MOLLY

Hey gorgeous. It's so great to meet
ya.

KAIA

It's great meeting you too.
Seriously thank you both for
helping so much today. Thank you
all for being so kind. You're
actually saving my ass right now I
won't lie.

REEF

Ya, we know.

Lighthearted laughs bellow from the friends. Reef turns up
the music and everyone goes back to singing along.

EXT. HIGHWAY- AFTERNOON

We widen to a drone shot of the entire yellow van with
everyones surfboards piled on to the top. Music is still
playing.

EXT. LILLE'S HOME- AFTERNOON

Radio music continues as they pull up to a two-tiered beach
front property. A car sits in the driveway.

INT. MAC THE VAN

We cut to a close up of Kaia's phone on the leather seats.
"Mom" flashes across the top. Her hand declines the call.

EXT. LILLE HOME

Kaia exits and stands towards the van. The music dims.

MOLLY

We'll see you back at the hostel?

KAIA

Ya! Thanks again for letting me
stay with ya'll until I figure out
all of this.

MOLLY

What are friends you made through
random encounters for!

They wave to each other as the car begins to move again, as Molly cranks the stereo. The music fades out with them. Kaia turns to walk towards the stairs.

EXT. LILLE FRONT PORCH

Kaia raises her hand to knock on the door as it opens on its own. Behind the door stands, LUKE, 23, a muscular man with blue eyes that pop against his tan skin. His hair is shaggy on the top, but cleanly cut down on the sides. His gaze misses Kaia as he is speaking on the phone.

LUKE

(yelling)

You can't just act like the world
evolves around-

Luke comes face to face with Kaia. Kaia stares for a slightly awkward amount of time with her mouth open.

KAIA

(regaining sense)

Hi, um, hi, I'm here because..

Kaia fumbles for the passport. She finds it and holds it up. Luke smiles and shakes his head. He continues to speak on the phone.

LUKE

(chuckles)

How does life always manage to work
for you?

He pauses as he listens to the response on the phone. He takes the passport out of Kaia's hand and flips to the ID page.

LUKE

It's here alright.

(towards Kaia)

Even came with a cute girl.

Kaia instantly blushes.

LUKE

Call me when you need me again-
like you always do.

EXT. BUSY CHILE MARKETPLACE- DAY

Lille stands to the side of the street as she has one hand covering her free ear.

LILLE

(to Luke)

You know I always do. What else are
little brothers for? Love you and
call you soon!

A wider shot of Lille reveals her with, HANNAH, 24 whom she grabs the hand of after hanging up the phone. The two start to walk together.

EXT. LILLE'S FRONT PORCH

Both of Kaia and Luke smile at each other, with a slight tension that makes eye contact hard to keep.

LUKE

So what's the story with all this?

KAIA

Something that you would think
should be impossible.

LUKE

With my sister, I'm not sure if I
believe anything really is anymore.

Kaia softly grins.

KAIA

Well, I was trying to get to Chile,
but accidentally switched bags, and
now I'm here across the world, and
very far from where I was trying to
get to.

LUKE

(chuckling)

My sister must be loving this. She
lives for any excuse to not make it
home.

KAIA

Well, I don't know much about her but I've never even traveled outside of the US, so this is definitely not a dream for me right now. Actually I think it's definitely a nightmare.

LUKE

You're quick to judge things huh?

KAIA

No, I just have a whole new set of problems to deal with now.

LUKE

So you had an old set?

KAIA

Huh?

LUKE

You said you have a new set of problems? It implies you had old ones.

Kaia's phone rings to break up her lack of rebuttal. She jerks at the sound. "Mom" flashes across the screen once again as Kaia looks down towards it. She hangs it up and comes back to Luke with a defensive tone.

KAIA

Look, I'm just coming here to return this.

Kaia lifts the backpack near her feet up to Luke's hands.

I was also hoping I could get in contact with her about getting my things back.

Luke leans on the door frame with one arm up.

LUKE

Well, unfortunately my sister runs solely on her own schedule, but I can do my best to get her to send it to me.

KAIA

You mean me?

LUKE

Well, if I did that, how else would
I see you again if she just sent it
to you?
That is unless you'd like to get
drinks sooner? Maybe talk about
some of these...problems.

Kaia begins to smirk from the flattery, but suppresses it
down to a keep a serious face.

KAIA

Trust me, you don't want to know. I
don't even want to deal with them.

LUKE

Of course YOU don't. Ya'know they
probably weigh a ton. And they
always get lighter when you let
them get some air.

Kaia peers at him.

KAIA

What's with everyone here and
trying to give me life guidance. Do
I really scream like that much of a
mess?

LUKE

I mean, given the circumstances...

Kaia straightens her stance and widens her shoulders.

KAIA

Look, please just get your sister
to send me my things. I have
important stuff in there.

Kaia reaches down in her purse to pulls out a scrap of paper
and a pen. She writes down the address she is staying at,
and hands it towards Luke.

KAIA

Here's the address I'll be at. I
can pay you for the fastest
shipping if she can send it.

Kaia begins to walk away from the door.

LUKE

No number?

She speaks as she makes her way down the staircase.

KAIA

I know everyone else here thinks
meant to be is a way of life, but
I'm not buying it!

In the background we begin to focus on Luke who stares and half smiles, as Kaia moves away from him.

EXT. BEACH - NEXT DAY

Surfers fill the beach, waxing their boards, putting on wetsuits, surfing waves, or paddling out to catch the next one. We follow along the coastline and stop at Kaia and her new group of friends who are prepping to surf. Reef finishes waxing a board and hands it to the sunbathing Kaia.

KAIA

(peering out of
sunglasses)

Oh no, I'm just going to tan.

REEF

Sorry, if you hang with us, you
surf.

Kaia nervously glances at Molly who shrugs her shoulders in agreement.

MOLLY

C'mon it'll be good for you!

(smiling)

It lowers stress!

Besides you mentioned you were from
the coast before, you must know.

Kaia is very hesitant.

KAIA

I..I don't know, I did,
but I don't think it's a good idea-

THE GANG

Nope! C'mon your going!

Keenan and Reef begin to gently grab at Kaia's arms and lift her up. Arena grabs the other surfboard, all at Kaia's protest.

KAIA

Oh c'mon, no way. I really rather
not-

Kaia's voices begins to fade out as the 6 of them make their way to the ocean.

EXT. IN THE OCEAN - DAY

We see a close up of Keenan's tattooed arm paddling as we widen out to a drone shot of the six of them on their boards. Kaia stays at the back.

Reef, Rip, and Arena continue out as Molly and Keenan stay back with Kaia, sitting on their boards. Kaia peers down into the water nervously.

KEENAN

So how long have you been surfing?

Kaia snaps out of her haze and looks to Keenan

KAIA

Sorry, what?

KEENAN

How long have you been
(sarcastically)
shredding the nar.

Kaia loosens her tight frame and smiles.

KAIA

Oh, um I was about 8 when I first
tried it. I really only surfed in
the summers.

MOLLY

(nudgingly)

So you're experienced is what I'm
hearing?

KAIA

It's been sometime since I've...

KEENAN

It's just like riding a bike. Just
got to feel the flow of it again.

Kaia touches the water with her figure tips, smiling at the water this time.

MOLLY

(pointing out)

Ooo! Let's go for this one coming
in.

Molly and Keenan start to paddle out. Kaia sits back. Molly turns her head after and sees. Continuing to paddle out she shouts.

MOLLY

The only things to be afraid of are
the things we don't try!

Kaia smirks from the comment and begins to paddle out to meet them.

EXT. DEEPER OCEAN WAVES- DAY

We cut to a wider shot to include the other's surfing. Reef is in a wave. Rip pulls Arena's board closer to his in a flirtatious manner. Keenan, Molly, and Kaia just behind, paddle out to catch the next wave.

Keenan stands first and begins to surf the wave. Molly, making sure to check a glimpse of Kaia, also begins to stand.

We get a closer shot of Kaia. Her breath is louder. She concentrates on the paddling carefully. In a quick motion she pushes up and her body adjusts naturally to the need for balance. She surfs and makes it into the tunnel easily. We see her smile and then snap back and forth effortlessly. She rides all the to the end of the wave and a huge smile is on her face. We hear mainly her breathing but gradually gain audio of cheering in the back, as we pan out to see the group of them clapping and whistling. Kaia blushes when she gains focus on them.

EXT. BEACH- DAY

Kaia and Molly exit the water holding surfboards, while the rest of them remain in the water in the background.

EXT. BEACH SPOT- DAY

They move back to their spot and sit on the towels.

MOLLY

What a surprise you are. Acting
like surfing was a holiday treat.
You obviously practice often.

Kaia puts down her surfboard shaking her head. She picks up her phone and we cut to her screen with 10 missed calls from "Mom". She shuts it off and puts it down.

Kaia maneuvers to lay flat down on her towel. Molly moves to rest on her elbows on the one next to her.

KAIA

No, no, I just wasn't sure I could
still surf.

MOLLY

Why? Seem pretty solid up there.
Looked like it's a second home to
you.

KAIA

It was.

MOLLY

Was?

KAIA

It was just something I grew up
doing... and..and I guess.. I guess
all those good memories are just
hard to relive. Haven't really had
much desire for it anymore.

MOLLY

Okay you lost me. You seemed so
natural up there. Wouldn't reliving
good memories be, I don't know
mate, good?

Kaia takes the nearby shades and slaps them on keeping her
eyeline at the sky.

KAIA

No. Not these ones.

MOLLY

Wow, you're about as open as a
Blockbuster in 2015.

KAIA

HA. Funny.

A few (3) moments of silence overcomes the two.

MOLLY

You know people have ears for
reasons right? Some think evolution
some think from God, but either way
we have them so we can listen to
one another.

(points)

Mine are working just fine.

Molly is smiling as Kaia slides the shades down to look at
her. Kaia slides the shades back up and looks away.

KAIA

Look, it's not personal but I'd rather just stay the mysterious person you met than reveal my life traumas to you. It's better for me AND you.

MOLLY

I just don't think not living your truth is ever for the better.

KAIA

Look,

Kaia moves to her elbows and lowers her sunglasses.

I've come here to escape that truth. Besides people,...I don't know the right word, but they just..just treat you different after knowing. That's why I left in the first place. To get away from everyone and all of it.

MOLLY

Look you don't have to share anything with me. But can I share some wisdom with you?

KAIA

Does my answer have any impact?

MOLLY

Not really.

(smiling)

Look, I get wanting to avoid you're feelings. You're talking to someone who traveled to 15 countries in 10 months. I was the master of running away from my problems. But I also came to a point in my life where I gained a lot of clarity.

KAIA

And what was that?

MOLLY

That no matter how far I ran, the feelings always caught up. They know no distance. And they will eventually out run you.

KAIA

Well,..(mimicking)

(MORE)

KAIA (CONT'D)

I'm a runner I'm a track star.

MOLLY

Humor as deflection, classic.

KAIA

Look, I really appreciate this, but you don't have to be my therapist right now.

MOLLY

Ha, I'm not. This, to me, is called caring. It's a quality I personally like to extend to people. Besides, I've been observing you just a bit, I don't need you to tell me. I'm incredibly intuitive and already have the idea.

KAIA

Oh, really?

MOLLY

(clinically)

Oh yes. I'm assuming it's a lost. Definitely familial, going to guess Dad or older brother. Guessing it was unexpected, given the reluctance to say it out loud as well.

Kaia raises herself up and removes her sunglasses. She stares at Molly with confusion but also astonishment.

KAIA

huh-wha-

MOLLY

I also saw you decline the call from your mom, so it gave me some insight.

KAIA

I- I-

MOLLY

I keep people's stories to myself, don't worry. This is yours, I'm simply an ear if you need one.

KAIA

(choked)

I, I'm not sure what to say

MOLLY

It's okay, don't say anything. At least not to me.
(pauses) Your mom, you, you should answer.

Molly begins to get up from the towel and jogs back towards the water.

MOLLY

The only things to be afraid of are the things we don't try!

Kaia is left by her self. She looks around and brings her knees close to her chest. She looks out towards Molly diving into a wave. She places her sunglasses back on and picks up her phone. We do not see the screen, but can see her fingers beginning to type.

INT. PARADISE SURF HOSTEL- EARLY NIGHT

We are in the living room with Reef, Rip, Keenan, Molly, and Kaia. They are chatting, on their phones, or enjoying the record that is playing Beatle's live rendition of "Because". All are in casual clothing, relaxing.

Arena bursts into the room with a hyper energy that excites the room for her news.

ARENA

Get up, get up! We have plans tonight!

RIP

(towards Keenan)

I love when she does this.

ARENA

I just saw Marty at the market, and everyone is heading to Bungalow Bev's tonight! He sounded like it's going to be a huge one.

MOLLY

Is who I think will be there?

ARENA

You bet you're Aussie ass!

MOLLY

(smiling)

I'm in.

REEF

I love Bev's, sounds good to me.

KEENAN

You don't even have to ask.

RIP

(to Arena)

I'm wherever you are.

Arena smiles.

KEENAN

(to Kaia)

You're going to love it.

(leans in closer)

Trust me you need this.

KAIA

Guess I should go with the flow
huh?

KEENAN

Young grasshopper is learning.

Keenan air applauds.

EXT. BUNGALOW BEV'S

A shot of the outside of Bungalow Bev's is panned over. A bright neon orange sign names the building. Old wooden shingles cover the few exteriors walls. A lack of doors creates indoor/outdoor concept. The roof is made with piled straw. Colorful lights flash throughout the place, music is vibrating deeply and people are socializing in full swing.

We follow behind the six of them walking towards the building, catching a close up of each one. Kaia is in a black flowy sun dress that has an open back. Her hair is up in a bun. Her makeup is minimal and clean.

In contrast is the rest who look similar to characters in the 70's. Flowy patterns, loose fitting clothing, and eccentric makeup makes up their appearances.

INT. BUNGALOW BEV'S MAIN FLOOR- NIGHT

They all enter the front space. We pan to close ups within the crowd. Everyone is in similar clothing as the 5 others. People are surrounding the bar, dancing, smoking towards the back. The music is loud and bounces people around the place. We cut to a silhouette of BEVERLY WAVES, 48, standing in a frame of a bamboo door. She walks into light and meets the group with a large grin and air kisses.

She is a petite women standing barefoot. She is tan with youthful wrinkles and long silver hair that moves as she walks. She is in chunky silver jewelry and rags of fabric that form a dress.

BEVERLY WAVES
My favorites! Welcome, Welcome.

She barely stops as she ushers the group to follow her.

KEENAN
You say that to everyone!

Beverly continues to charge forward, raising her arm to point towards the sky.

BEVERLY WAVES
But I mean it the most with you
guys!

MOLLY
You also say that too.

Beverly flashes back a smile.

BEVERLY WAVES
What can I say I love my people.

EXT. BUNGALOW BEV'S OUTSIDE PATIO- NIGHT

They enter the outside patio space with two bars on each side and groups of people mingling and enjoying nightlife.

Beverly lifts her arm in a wave to one of the bartenders. He nods his head back in acknowledgment and begins grabbing glasses and preparing cocktails. Beverly continues in the direction towards the bar, while routinely fixing up things around her and managing her employees that pass by.

People clear a way for her as she walks, but also wave and smile at her presence.

INT. OUTSIDE PATIO BARTOP- NIGHT

Some drinks are already made and are grabbed by those that the bartender gently moves forward to. Everyone turns to talk to one another. Molly turns to Kaia, yelling over the music.

MOLLY
Would you like anything?

KAIA
Maybe just a coke.

MOLLY
(smirking)
Any rum in that?

KAIA
Why not,
(shrugging)
just a light pour.

MOLLY
(winking)
Oh ya, definitely.

Molly turns back facing the bar and leans over to tell the bartender. Keenan brings over Beverly to introduce Kaia.

KEENAN
Kaia, this is a great friend of all
of ours, Beverly Waves. She owns
this oasis and just might also be
the coolest person on this planet.

BEVERLY WAVES
Oh stop it, Keenan. You always know
I have an age limit.
(towards Kaia)
And he's too old for it.

Both Keenan and Beverly crack into laughter. Kaia laughs along slightly anxious. She continues to look around and has trouble focusing her attention.

BEVERLY WAVES
Beverly Waves, it's a pleasure to
meet you.

She reaches out for a handshake and as Kaia reciprocates she pulls her into a hug to Kaia's surprise.

She releases her and lifts both hands arm level and notions to her space.

Welcome to my sacred space.

KAIA
Quite a cool place you have. I love
the openness.

BEVERLY WAVES
Thanks doll. Keenan was just
telling me about you're crazy
dilemma. How amazing for life to be
so forceful and upfront with you.

KAIA

I guess you could call it that. I'm seeing it more as painfully ironic.

BEVERLY WAVES

It's how it usually turns out to be darling. Take it from me, I've lived too many lives by now.

She is tapped on the shoulder by an employee who relays information to her in her ear. Beverly's eyes widen at the statement and shakes her head in acknowledgment.

Sorry to rush meeting you, but I have to check on my stock. Please enjoy the space how you please. A guest of the Paradise Crew is an always guest of mine. I'll see you around soon, don't be a stranger!

She motions to French kiss Keenan who towers down for her and takes Kaia's hands in both of hers squeezing them. She exits towards the way of her employee.

Arena, Molly, Rip, and Reef turn back to one another collectively holding 5 shots of a mysterious brown liquor. Molly hands a drink to Kaia, her other hand holding a shot.

MOLLY

Here you go, love.

Kaia watches them as they turn to one another and begin to cheers. They say something in another language Kaia does not recognize and they down the shots.

INT. BUNGALOW BEV'S MAIN FLOOR- NIGHT

The six of them are entrancingly dancing to the music. As we get closer to the faces of everyone, but Kaia, we see their pupils are all enlarged. Their mouths open at the lights in awe and their hands try to touch the glows.

Kaia remains oblivious happily dancing along. She taps Arena.

KAIA

Hey, I'm going to head to the bathroom

Arena doesn't miss a beat as she thumbs up Kaia.

Kaia stumbles out of the dance floor and back towards the outside patio.

EXT. BUNGALOW BEV'S OUTSIDE PATIO- NIGHT

On her way to the bathroom she bumps into a group of people also all cheer-sing to a shot of brown liquor. More confident with a few drinks in her, Kaia walks up and mimics a cheers along with them. They welcome her warmly and offer her one. She denies it at first, but they continue to insist. She grins and agrees. We gradually zoom into her hand that lifts it to her mouth and slow motions as she takes it.

There is a difference in the atmosphere slightly as soon as she lowers down her hand from the shot. She smiles and thanks them for the shot as she drunkenly makes her way to the bathrooms.

EXT. BUNGALOW BEV'S BATHROOM- NIGHT

She waits in line patiently at the bamboo built three stall operation.

INT. BUNGALOW BEV'S BATHROOM- NIGHT

Kaia exits the stall and moves to wash her hands in the sink. She turns on the water and dispenses soap into her hands. She runs them under the water for a few seconds before noticing soap suds floating up off her hands. She follows them with her eyes as she finds herself surrounded by them in her reflection in the mirror. Her skin is swirling and her surroundings are swaying with aliveness. She spins away from the mirror and sees panda bears climbing the bamboo walls. She stares in awe.

EXT. BUNGALOW BEV'S BATHROOM- NIGHT

She stumbles her way out of the bathroom into the public. She sees figures but no defining edges to construct her reality as she walks away.

INT/EXT. BUNGLAOW BEV'S- NIGHT

She begins to feel extremely loss and the lights change to a daring mood. Loud music blares uncomfortably. She begins to sweat, looking around for a resemblance of anything. She manages eye contact with some people, but they're faces quickly morph to other things. She shakes her head in effort to regain focus.

She continues to stumble her way through rooms, jumping from even her own shadow. She sees a glimpse of a women in a black dress and recognizes her. She tries to catch up but the women continues to move faster away. Kaia tries everything to follow.

EXT. BUNGALOW BEV'S SMOKING AREA- NIGHT

She enters in a room with fog. Unawaringly awkward she wads her way through it excessively dramatic still trying to reach the women she sees in the distance. A man's voice, SMOKING MAN, intercepts her focus.

SMOKING MAN
Hey do you have a light?

KAIA
(jumps)
Oh!

SMOKING MAN
A light?

Kaia peers deeply at him trying to figure out how to stop his face from moving.

She lifts her hands crossing over her chest.

KAIA
Do..Do I have a light?

SMOKING MAN
Ya. A light.

Kaia looks at the ground stressfully and contemplates her answer. She looks back up with an answer.

KAIA
I hope I have a light...I mean I know it's been dark for some time in here (points to self) but ... I really hope there's still a light. What if I don't have any left? What if I'm forever dark?

SMOKING MAN
Um, okay. I'll take that one as a no.

The smoking man removes himself away from Kaia. She barely notices his exit as she catches another glimpse of the women and continues hastily towards here.

EXT. DEAD END BUNGALOW BEV'S- NIGHT

Kaia's back is towards us as she turns the corner certain the women will be there. Instead she is met with a dead end hallways dimly lit. A phone ring begins to fade in.

Kaia begins to search around for it. Gradually the ringing becomes louder. She begins to become frantic the louder it becomes. Every second she begins to lose grip more and more and the ringing takes over until she is brought to her knees folding into herself.

We cut to black and silence.

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM- DAY

The ringing begins again just as loud as previously. Kaia lays asleep in her twin bed. She jolts up a few rings later in a sweat and deep breathing. She searches for her phone stuck somewhere between her pile of covers.

She is a few years younger, wearing her college t-shirt and has turquoise highlights in her dirty blonde hair.

She fumbles with it as she answers it.

KAIA
Hello? Hello?

The phone call is missed and it hangs up. Before Kaia can attempt to call back a knock is heard.

She, barely awake, falls out of bed and opens the door with half shut eyes. Standing facing her, is MOM, 58, who steps away from the door at its opening and has a painful expression upon her face.

LUKE

Why are you like this?

KAIA

Because.

LUKE

Because what? What! Because you're
afraid of getting hurt? Everyone
always-

KAIA

(shouting)

Because I have been hurt!

LUKE

(softly)

Because I have been hurt, so badly
by the absence of people that I
don't know if it's worth it to
allow more of them in.

A moment of silence (2 seconds) comes over both of them. Their breathing is heavy as neither of them break eye contact with one another. She begins to look down, but he lifts his hand gently pulling her cheek back up so they are eye level once again.

LUKE

I...I will be worth it.

She stares deep into his eyes with fear. Her eyes dart back and forth within them trying to see if he is speaking the truth to her. Tears begin to well up in her eye.

He brings his other hand to up to her, now holding her head in both of his hands. He wipes her tear away just as it begins to fall.

LUKE

I promise you...I will be worth it.

He leans in to kiss her and their lips begin to graze each other's softly at first. They both begin to lean more into each other putting pressure between both of their bodies, as if they were going to morph into one.