

Memorphilia  
an original screenplay by  
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FADE IN:

INT. KRADER INSTITUTION - GRACIE'S ROOM - DAY

A single bed and dresser in the small room. Bars over the window.

GRACIE MARTIN (25), natural beauty, an uncertainty about her, packs a few belongings into a suitcase. Tragedy has stripped her of the exuberant life force she once had.

She picks up a picture of her holding a baby girl (5 months). In the photo, Gracie looks like she couldn't be happier. An extreme contrast to how she looks now.

She gingerly touches the infant in the photo and smiles through her tears.

BROOKE MARTIN (22), strong resemblance to her older sister but more outgoing, opens the door.

BROOKE

Ready?

Gracie remains focused on the picture.

Brooke notices and slowly walks to her side. She lays a hand on Gracie's shoulder.

BROOKE

It's a beautiful day.

Gracie lays the picture inside her bag, along with the last of her belongings, mostly clothes.

GRACIE

Depends on whether your glass is half empty or half full.

She steps away to lay her bag on the bed.

Brooke watches sadly.

BROOKE

Yours has been empty long enough, don't you think?

Gracie gives her a look.

DR. HARRIS (40s), psychiatrist, white coat, steps inside.

DR. HARRIS  
Gracie, I see you're ready to leave  
us.

GRACIE  
No, but my family says I am.

Brooke exchanges a troubled look with the doctor.

DR. HARRIS  
I'd like to speak with you one last  
time before you go, if I may.

As Gracie passes by him:

GRACIE  
You're the doc.

Dr. Harris gazes at Brooke for a moment before he follows  
after her.

Bothered, Brooke sits down on the bed and lays her hand on  
the bag.

INT. DR. HARRIS' OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Gracie enters first and sits down on the dreaded "couch",  
despite there being two chairs in front of the desk.

Dr. Harris enters and closes the door.

DR. HARRIS  
You can sit in a chair if you'd be  
more comfortable.

Gracie bounces lightly on the seat of her pants.

GRACIE  
I have the couch broken in just right.

Dr. Harris grabs a file from his desk, and a pen. He turns  
a chair around to face Gracie and sits down. He makes  
occasional notes inside the file while they talk.

DR. HARRIS  
So, it's your big day.

Gracie lies back on the couch.

GRACIE  
We've already established that.

DR. HARRIS

I need to be honest... my recommendation was that you should stay here longer.

GRACIE

Smart man.

DR. HARRIS

Your family feels you're ready to come home.

GRACIE

(laughs)

THEIR home. I lost mine after I got committed.

Dr. Harris sits back and sighs.

DR. HARRIS

Gracie, I can't help you if you don't let me.

Gracie stares at the ceiling. Her mind is obviously elsewhere.

DR. HARRIS

The loss of a child is never easy, but don't let it destroy you. You can have more children. You'll fall in love again

Annoyed, Gracie gets up.

GRACIE

I'm a little too old for fairy tales, Doc.

She grips the doorknob and looks back.

GRACIE

Am I free to go?

DR. HARRIS

(saddened)

If you wish.

Gracie opens the door and exits.

Dr. Harris tosses his folder to the desk.

EXT. KRADER INSTITUTION - DAY

Gracie carries her bag as she leaves the institute. Brooke walks by her side. Gracie pauses to look up at the warm sun beaming down on her face.

Then she keeps walking to the...

PARKING LOT

She goes to Brooke's car and waits by the passenger door.

Brooke fishes car keys from her purse as she arrives.

BROOKE

I don't see why you can't at least  
try.

She pops the door locks. Gracie tosses her bag into the bag seat and slides into the front.

INT./EXT. BROOKE'S CAR - PARKED - CONTINUOUS

Brooke sticks her key into the ignition. She looks at Gracie, who stares out through the windshield. Brooke gives up and starts the car.

The car drives out of the lot.

INT. MARTIN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Brooke and Gracie have dinner with their parents, CHET and ALICE MARTIN (40s). The couple is very successful and proper. They eye Gracie while they eat.

ALICE

It's so nice to have you home, Gracie.

GRACIE

Why?

ALICE

Why? What do you mean, dear?

GRACIE

Cut the bullshit, Mom. You don't  
want me here any more than I want to  
be here.

ALICE  
That isn't true.

Gracie leaves a partial plate of food behind as she exits the room.

Chet and Brooke stare at Alice.

ALICE  
It... it isn't.

CHET  
I'll talk to her.

He wipes his mouth on a napkin and silently excuses himself from the table.

Brooke and Alice pick at their food.

GRACIE'S BEDROOM

A guest room decorated with landscape paintings on the wall.

Gracie enters, closes the door behind her. She goes to a painting of a lake and studies it, arms crossed.

A KNOCK at the door right before Chet opens it.

CHET  
Honey?

GRACIE  
This was the last picture I painted before--

She stops short. Chet places an arm around her shoulders and studies the picture as well.

CHET  
It's one of my favorites. Maybe you can paint one for me.

GRACIE  
My mindset has to be in a certain place. I think I'm done.

CHET  
Never say never. Pain is a part of life. What you learn from tragedy defines you.

Gracie sadly lays her head against his.