

JULIE and the LIGHT
(part 1 of the WHITE LIGHT TRILOGY)
ACT 1

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WGA I326614

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST RIVER -- NIGHT

It is winter.

A 5 YEAR OLD GIRL lies unconscious on a BROKEN WOODEN RAFT, floating down the cold current. She is dressed in thick martial-arts style clothes, her hair shaved short.

She is bleeding from a NASTY CUT on her cheek.

WOMAN'S VOICE
(Brazilian Portuguese,
subtitled)
I remember it all so clearly now.

*Around the girl is a strange but beautiful **WHITE LIGHT**. It dances about, sparkling off the surface of the water.*

The river lies at the bottom of a deep rocky FOREST CHASM. At the top of the chasm, the forest is ABLAZE.

WOMAN'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Which is curious, because there was a time when I couldn't remember anything!

The STARS are clear in the NIGHT SKY ABOVE.

WOMAN'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...And I loved it.

FADE OUT.

WOMAN'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Or, at least I thought I did.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE PATIO -- NIGHT

FRANTIC VOICE
FIGHT!!!!!!

A single DROP OF WATER falls on the cheek of JULIE, 11, who awakens suddenly to a confused state of semi-consciousness, lying flat on her back on the interlocking patio bricks.

She is dressed in a torn hooded sweater riddled with worn-down punk patches, the seams held together by massive amounts of different sized aluminum safety pins. Duct tape on her shoes, crappy headphones around her neck, a ridiculous punk/dread haircut, and a small scar across her cheek. She is filthy. A skateboard lies next to her.

SUPER: "CANADA - 1998"

FRANTIC VOICE (CONT'D)

Fight! Fight!! Fight!!!

There are COLORED LIGHTS twinkling everywhere. Julie is totally delirious.

She sees some BLURRY FIGURES huddling and standing over her;

- NUALA, a soft brown-skinned woman in her 40's, kneeling compassionately at Julie's side.

- OFFICER FRYE, a terribly huge and unsettling Police Officer with a mustache and a wicked scar across his forehead.

- PARAMEDIC ANNA, a rookie in her 20's, working to revive Julie.

- Another MEDIC, Paramedic Anna's partner.

AMBULANCE LIGHTS flash just beyond the fenced back yard.

There are cheap decorations all around - apparently there was a birthday party going on here. Some WOMEN huddle in the doorway, gossiping violently.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

(Frantic Voice)

That's it, sweetie, keep fighting!
Come back to us now, honey! Vital
signs are returning - she's coming
around.

NUALA

(Caribbean accent)

Oh, thanks God. Thanks God!

OFFICER FRYE

Do you know this boy?

PARAMEDIC ANNA

I think its a girl. Are you a girl,
sweetie? Honey?

NUALA

I, uh... yes, she was just here for
my birthday...

OFFICER FRYE

What are you dealing, son? White
crosses?? -Lucy in the Sky?? You
got some of that *sunshine* that's
going around, don't you??

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Where are this child's parents?

NUALA

She doesn't have parents..

Officer Frye peeks over his sunglasses at Julie's face.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

No parents?? None?

OFFICER FRYE

I think I've seen you before... What's your name, boy?

PARAMEDIC ANNA

(to Nuala)

Are you her legal guardian? What school does she go to? And why is she so filthy?

OFFICER FRYE

What gang do you run with? Where's your leader?

NUALA

She doesn't go to school, she - well-

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Doesn't go to school?? What do you mean she doesn't go to school? How old is this child?

OFFICER FRYE

I'm going to need a NAME, son!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

They all continue ARGUING about Julie's condition, but Julie isn't paying any attention. She rubs her head, sitting up, trying to re-gain her focus, but instead sees something *VERY STRANGE*;

Standing beyond Officer Frye at the back of Nuala's patio, is a *ghost-like HALLUCINATED YOUNG GIRL*, GLOWING with the White Light. *She is the same girl on the river; 5 years old, the same thick martial arts type clothing, but in this case her hair is not shaved; it is long and blonde.*

OFFICER FRYE

Name!

The hallucination FADES AWAY. No one else seems to have seen it.

JULIE

...Julie.

OFFICER FRYE

Last name? I know you, don't I?

PARAMEDIC ANNA

(to Nuala)

Look, if we find a child to be in a questionable situation, you must understand we have to contact Child Protection Services, Social Workers...

Nuala looks at Paramedic Anna with COMIC DREAD;

NUALA

You don't want that, trust me.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

OFFICER FRYE

- What gang are you in?

JULIE

Gang?

OFFICER FRYE

OK, I'm gonna have to take this boy into custody.

JULIE

What? Custody?? No!

This wakes her up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I'm fine. I was just here to say happy birthday to my friend!! What's so wrong with that??

OFFICER FRYE

You have the right to remain silent.. Anything you say or do could be -

JULIE

Gangs are for losers!

He begins to APPREHEND her.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Officer? Sir? Are you sure that's necessary?

Officer Frye SHOVES Julie's face into the interlocking bricks.

JULIE

Aaugh!

NUALA

Stop it!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

OK! Lets all just calm our vibrations here! No need for violence... Does anyone else here do Yoga?

OFFICER FRYE

You're not going *anywhere* until I get a last name, SON!

But Julie's had enough.

JULIE

-For chrissakes, I'm a *GIRL!!*

She somehow manages to KICK HERSELF LOOSE, grabs her SKATEBOARD and CRACKS it over Officer Frye's head.

Officer Frye TUMBLES backwards into the patio furniture. The umbrella comes CRASHING down, and the hors d'oeuvres SPILL everywhere.

Julie scrambles up on top of the picnic table, skateboard in hand, and grabs a FULL CAN OF SODA from a cooler. The women all try desperately to save what's left of the DISASSEMBLED APPETIZERS.

Officer Frye however starts to get back to his feet, a nasty GASH ON HIS HEAD swelling up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I'll throw it! You come any closer
I'll hit you with this thing I swear!

But at that very moment, Julie suddenly becomes overtaken by another *FULL-BLOWN HALLUCINATION*:

Before her eyes, Nuala's patio is impossibly transformed into a dark and ominous FOREST. TORCHES light up the shadowy scene, and LOG-STYLE STRUCTURES can be seen hidden among the trees. The Hallucinated Young Girl, still glowing with the White Light, is there in front of her again, still GIGGLING innocently at Julie.

But suddenly out of the vision, Officer Frye comes RUNNING towards Julie. The hallucination VANISHES.

OFFICER FRYE

Put your hands on your head, and get down on the ground! You are under arrest for th-

Julie THROWS the can. It PELTS Officer Frye right between the eyes. The can BUSTS OPEN, and SPRAYS AROUND MADLY.

Officer Frye is sent CRASHING back into the mayhem, his nose BLEEDING wildly.

The party lights come tearing down, the food table tips over once more, and everyone COLLAPSES in a haphazard tangle of arms and legs.

A small trace of the White Light still LINGERS before Julie's eyes, and next to it, Julie sees an OPEN GATE, swinging ajar in the night breeze.

Julie sees her chance for escape, and scrambles across the pile of people, grabbing her skateboard as she goes.

But as she exits, Julie feels Nuala's HAND on her shoulder. Julie stops. Nuala looks at her, concerned, but says nothing.

Julie SMILES coyly.

JULIE

Great party!

Nuala sees Officer Frye trying to get back to his feet among the chaos, RAGING with anger. Julie TAKES OFF on her skateboard into the night.

She looks back one last time, WAVING to Nuala.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Happy birthday!!!

Officer Frye points his GUN in the air, and FIRES.

- BANG! -

EXT. CITY HILL -- NIGHT

Julie scrambles down a grassy hill, SLIPPING, and almost wiping out. She takes cover around a corner wall at the bottom, and PEEKS back up to check if anyone is following.

At the top of the hill is an abandoned OLD BILLBOARD - a tattered IMAGE OF A TROPICAL BEACH still partially visible, hanging by a few scraps.

POLICE LIGHTS appear over the crest of the hill. Julie ducks back around the corner, her back against the wall. But the lights drive away. No one seems to be coming.

Julie lets out a sigh of relief.

She puts on her HEADPHONES and presses PLAY on her old walkman, but the music is WARPED. She opens up the WALKMAN for some street-style surgery. Inside is a cassette tape labelled; 'PUNK MIX #1', but the tape ribbon is all TANGLED up in the gears.

Julie removes one of the SAFETY PINS holding her sweater together at the side, and uses it to surgically UNTANGLE the ribbon. She replaces the safety pin, winds the tape up snug, and slaps it back down into the walkman. She presses PLAY, and a FAVORITE UPLIFTING PUNK TUNE begins.

She tucks the walkman into her front pocket, and adjusts her headphones and hood. Julie takes one more peek up toward the hill and the tattered old billboard. All seems clear.

She hops on her skateboard and smoothly rides away.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY -- NIGHT

Julie skateboards comfortably through the streets of the city. She LISTENS to her headphones playing under her hood.

The city is actually quite peaceful at night, and Julie appears right at home.

EXT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Julie stops at a tight, graffiti covered DOOR between stores on a low-end commercial street.

She digs some KEYS out of her pocket that are attached to her pants with a tied shoelace, unlocks the door, and heads up the narrow, poorly lit stairwell.

INT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

It is a tiny, very messy, one room high-ceiling apartment, filled with skate/punk posters, dirty clothes, garbage, and bad graffiti all over the walls. There are two low-rider couches, a coffee table, some bunk beds built into the wall, and some old mattresses on the floor.

A cheap inflatable palm tree is taped up in the corner, in need of some air. 4 or 5 KIDS AND TEENAGERS are asleep, all passed out in their street/skate/punk clothing.

KID, the youngest, maybe 7 or 8, is on one of the couches, lying with a blanket and a stuffed toy. Next to him is an open sketchbook and a mess of felt pens.

As Julie passes, she notices he is STARING intensely at her.

JULIE

...What is it?

Kid smiles, fascinated by something, almost to tears.

JULIE (CONT'D)

What are you seeing?

KID

Angels!

Julie smiles politely.

JULIE
Thanks, Kid.

KID
They're beautiful...

Julie tucks him back in.

JULIE
Just sleep good, alright? Tomorrow's
a new day.

Julie touches his forehead, and he goes off to sleep again,
still smiling in ecstasy.

She climbs the ladder of her bunk-style bed and flops down
on her pillow. She stares off vacantly for a while at the
night sky out her window, then closes her eyes, and goes to
sleep.

EXT. FOREST RIVER -- NIGHT

*The 5 Year Old Girl is still sleeping on the RAFT, floating
with the current.*

INT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Julie's sleep is broken by the sound of something small
hitting her window. The daytime light is menacingly bright.

The noise hits again, as if something small and metal had
been thrown at the glass. Julie is awake now, but tries to
fall back asleep.

Then something flies solidly through the open part of the
window, and knocks a GLASS off the counter with a CRASH!

EXT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Julie peers her head out the window. Below is Kid, carrying
an OPEN EMPTY SUITCASE. He TOSSES PENNIES up at the pane as
their homemade 'doorbell', PEGGING one right in Julie's
forehead.

JULIE
Whoa, whoa! I'm here, I'm here!

KID
I wanna come up.

JULIE
Do you have any food?

Kid produces a couple of sad looking slices of pizza.

EXT. WINDOW LEDGE -- DAY

Julie and Kid are sitting on the oversized window ledge outside her apartment, eating their pizza. A small cheap ghetto blaster plays some WARM MORNING TUNES.

JULIE

So what's with the suitcase? Are you leaving us?

KID

I've finally saved up enough money to buy my bus ticket. Gonna go see dad.

They watch a SCHOOL BUS stop on the far side of the street, CHILDREN no younger than Kid or Julie getting on board. PARENTS kiss them goodbye as they get on the bus.

JULIE

I never even knew you had a dad.

KID

Everybody's got a dad.

Kid suddenly stops, and looks at Julie.

KID (CONT'D)

Sorry.

But Julie isn't offended at all. In fact she just laughs. Kid smiles, relieved. Julie finds a HALF EMPTY SODA CAN sitting a bit further down the ledge. She INSPECTS it, cynically.

JULIE

Bus Ticket, eh? Cool. I was thinking of getting a bus ticket too, maybe go out west an' see PUNKFEST. Wouldn't that be a trip?

Julie DRINKS the soda, and leans back against the wall when something catches her eye;

JULIE (CONT'D)

Hey!

She finds an UNFINISHED CIGARETTE BUTT among some spider webs and other junk. It looks disgusting.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Who left this here?

She dusts off the larger chunks of dirt. She reaches comically back inside for a second, and returns with a LIGHTER, sparking it up, excitedly.

Kid watches in astonishment.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry,

She realizes her rudeness, then offers some to Kid.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Did you want a drag?

Suddenly a HORRENDOUS CRASH blasts out from the front door inside the apartment. A SQUAD OF POLICE OFFICERS flood into the room, YELLING, guns out. Officer Frye is among them. They immediately begin HANDCUFFING everyone inside.

JULIE (CONT'D)

WHAT-th-FFFF- !!!

Kid and Julie scurry themselves further down the ledge out of view. Officer Frye PEERS out the window, but does not see them. He goes back inside, FURIOUS with rage.

OFFICER FRYE

-Find that little skateboard girl!!!!

EXT. ROOFTOP -- DAY

Julie and Kid are now up on the adjacent building's flat rooftop, peering down at the situation below.

Julie stands defiantly out in plain sight, watching as her APARTMENT is steadily DISMANTLED.

JULIE

SKATEBOARDING IS NOT A CRIME!!!

Kid grabs her arm and PULLS her back out of sight. They peek back down at the scene;

The building's street entrance door has been wedged open, and more cops continue to escort their friends out in handcuffs.

A small CROWD has begun to gather out front to watch.

So far, it seems as Julie and Kid have not been spotted yet. They watch as the police continue to clean the place out.

JULIE (CONT'D)

...THEY'RE TAKING ALL MY STUFF???
My walkman, ... my tapes!? Oh my
god, my they're taking my TAPES!?

She turns to kid, desperate.

JULIE (CONT'D)

...Why would they take my tapes?

No answer. Julie looks back at the scene, astonished.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 What ever happened to the good ol'
 days, when everybody just pretended
 we weren't there?

She immediately starts to plot out a strategy in her mind.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Get outta here, alright?

Kid just stands there.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Get outta here! Freakin' cops gonna
 learn some freakin' lessons about
 some freakin' manners.

Kids eyes begin to tear up.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Aw, geez... Look- Uh.. Sorry, eh?
 Uh... you were gonna go see your dad
 or somethin'?

KID
 ...Can I... I mean, can I...

He is having difficulty finding the words.

JULIE
 What?

KID
 ...Can I have one of your *angels*?

Julie is stunned. Kid breaks apart.

Julie frantically tries to calm him down.

JULIE
 Kid, you were just dreaming last
 night. Somebody probably just spiked
 your root beer or something...

KID
 Just one, please! Oh please, they
 were so beautiful!!

He starts to cry pretty bad now. Julie scrambles to hold
 him together.

JULIE
 OK, OK...!!

He stops for an instant.

JULIE (CONT'D)

-But just for you, all right?

Kid laughs a little under his emotion.

Julie has no choice but to continue the charade:

-She MIMES the action of taking two imaginary fistfuls of 'angels' from her chest, and placing them into Kid.

Kid is visibly SOOTHED, instantly in ecstasy.

KID

(hugging himself warmly)
Oh, thank you, thank you!

JULIE

No probs.

Back to business.

JULIE (CONT'D)

But now I gotta go get my stuff back.
My tapes, my WALKMAN, my skateboard?
My SWEATER!? ...My lucky sweater??? -
Goddammit, they are NOT getting my
lucky sweater.

Kid is clearly relieved, not crying anymore at all, almost ignoring Julie's jabbering.

Julie turns back to him.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Go on, get outta here now. Go see
your dad, okay? Have a blast.

KID

-What are you gonna do?

Julie looks back at her apartment with an icy determination.

JULIE

I'm gonna get my stuff back.

EXT. WINDOW LEDGE-- AFTERNOON

Julie has shimmied herself back down onto the ledge she was previously sitting on. She peeks in the window.

She gets dizzy for a split second.

The place is littered with Police, all of her friends cleared out. The remaining contents of the room are being SEARCHED very unprofessionally.

Officer Frye is standing nearest to the window, staring outside blankly.

Both his eyes are swollen and bruised, a white strip of medical tape across the broken bridge of his nose. The imprint of the soda can Julie threw at him is still clearly visible in the middle of his forehead.

He turns around and walks with his back to Julie, still unaware of her presence.

Julie takes a breath, and makes her move -

She DARTS IN through the window, and in a running glance locates and SNATCHES up her valuables: skateboard, sweater, a zipper backpack, her walkman, and a grocery bag full of cassette tapes.

She hits Officer Frye HARD in the shins with her skateboard.

She pulls a BED SHEET down from the bunk over another Officer's HEAD, and HIP-CHECKS yet another into the not-cleaned-in-4-months BATHROOM.

Julie laughs out loud at the sight, and ESCAPES.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAYS -- AFTERNOON

Julie is being CHASED by 3 cops through the maze of the dilapidated building. A few ODD TENANTS are scurrying about, witnessing the chase.

JULIE
 (to her neighbor,
 running by)
 Hey, how ya doin? Sorry 'bout last
 week, eh?

Julie grabs a FIRE EXTINGUISHER off the wall and tries to use it as a smokescreen.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 FIRE!!!!!! FIRE!!!!!!

But she is having trouble activating it, and the dramatic effect is somewhat diminished.

But then suddenly, Julie SEES fire - A SUDDEN HALLUCINATION OF RED FLAMES, bright and brilliant;

Julie shakes it off, and the flames VANISH.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Whoa.

But the cops are right on her tail.

She boots open the fire exit door, and HURLS the unused fire extinguisher at the nearest cop as he closes in, his skull CLANKING with a resonant ring.

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE STAIRWELL -- EVENING

Julie scrambles down onto the RUSTY STAIRCASE.

The thin metal frame is rickety - a symphony of CREAKS and CLANGS, a few too many bolts missing.

Julie shimmyies down them as fast as she can, almost falling. One cop is trying to follow, but is having a really hard time with it.

Officer Frye is there now too, staring down at Julie.

Suddenly Julie's SOCK gets tangled on a loose piece of the iron stairs, and she FALLS down to the filthy pavement below.

She gets up, gathers her stuff, and TAKES OFF.

EXT. OPEN CITY STREETS -- EVENING

Julie is still running, frantically. She keeps looking back in fear and panic, her heart rate sky high.

Her head is not clear at all. Nothing is visually stable.

The sheer height of the skyscrapers above her brings dizziness and vertigo, and the chaotic order of the city traffic and lights all around is almost too much to keep track of.

JULIE

What's happening?

Suddenly, Julie finds herself in the midst of trying to cross a busy 4 lane street, TRAFFIC whizzing on both sides, taxis competitively changing lanes without signals.

Then, a LIMOUSINE drives slowly past her.

-And in this instant, the noise and craziness of the city just shuts off for a moment, and TIME SEEMS TO SLOW DOWN.

Through the tinted glass, a BEARDED SLENDER OLD MAN is looking at her, curiously. His gaze suddenly intensifies, a glimpse of recognition in his eyes. Julie is transfixed.

The Limousine DRIVES AWAY. A HONKING HORN snaps Julie out of the frozen moment.

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- EVENING

Julie has managed to get most of her marbles back together, at least for now.

She finds a secluded corner in an alley, and checks with paranoia if anyone has followed her.

Julie swallows the dryness in her throat, puts on her 'lucky' hooded sweater, gathering her courage.

JULIE

Try to take my lucky sweater...

She begins to stuff her possessions into the BACKPACK.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Stupid pigs.

And for a moment, Julie finds herself breathing normally. She sees a graffiti tag on a nearby wall that she recognizes, and makes her feel better for the moment.

And for that brief moment, we see into Julie's world once again, the city night as seen through her eyes;

It is alive with playful beauty - shapes in the shadows, tracers of lights going every which way - the evening breeze making everything twinkle and dance.

Then suddenly Officer Frye BURSTS out of nowhere and GRABS hold of Julie's arm.

OFFICER FRYE

GOTCHA, you little freak!

JULIE

Aaaaugh!

OFFICER FRYE

I *DO* know you!

JULIE

No shit, Brainiac - you tried to *arrest me* last night!!

OFFICER FRYE

No, don't play dumb. I *know* you...

He is becoming very weird, and starts to TREMBLE slightly.

Julie tries to run, but Officer Frye TIGHTENS his grip.

Julie manages to break free, but Officer Frye grabs her GROCERY BAG OF CASSETTE TAPES, knowing she isn't likely to give them up.

JULIE

What, you gonna arrest me for tapes?

Officer Frye holds firm, staring at her intensely.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 (almost crying...)
 -They're *JUST TAPES!!* They're *MY*
MUSIC!!!

Julie YANKS on the bag. The bag SPLITS OPEN, and Julie's tapes go flying out, SCATTERING everywhere.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 AAAUGH!!!

Suddenly two new POLICE CRUISERS pull up sharply at the far end of the alleyway.

OFFICER FRYE
 (psycho)
 I *KNOW* you.

Several COPS run out and flank the end of the alleyway.

Officer Frye DRAWS HIS GUN.

Julie's mind begins to fly wildly out of control.

She tries to scoop some of her tapes up off the ground, but Officer Frye grabs her and forces his GUN into her NECK.

COPS
 We can take it from here, Frye...
 Let her go!!

Officer Frye nervously stands his ground.

OFFICER FRYE
 Or what??

JULIE
 He's trying to take my tapes away!!

Suddenly an AMBULANCE screeches up at the opposite end of the alleyway. Paramedic Anna exits.

PARAMEDIC ANNA
 Julie! Oh my God it's her.

COPS
 Put the gun down, Frye!! She's just
 a kid!

OFFICER FRYE
 (crazily)
 No!! She's not!!!

Officer Frye is TWITCHING abnormally now, full of adrenaline. He holds the gun tightly into Julie's temple.

OFFICER FRYE (CONT'D)

She's a devil!!

Julie's perceptions are becoming increasingly distorted, and she begins to HALLUCINATE AGAIN:

-For there, in front of her, impossibly, Julie sees a huge concentration of the WHITE LIGHT.

No one else sees anything of the sort.

And amidst the White Light, she sees the HALLUCINATED YOUNG GIRL again, STANDING on top of the ambulance, her long hair waving.

No one else sees any of this but Julie.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Julie, sweetie come with me! I can offer you legal asylum!

JULIE

Legal what??

But Officer Frye just GRIPS HER TIGHTER.

OFFICER FRYE

No! She's coming with me!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

You're hurting her!! What is wrong with you??

COPS

Let her go, Frye!

Officer Frye LIFTS Julie backwards off her feet, still holding his GUN at her head as a hostage.

He moves away from the Cops and towards Paramedic Anna and the ambulance, *straight towards the Hallucinated Young Girl.*

Julie is going completely crazy, the Hallucination for her as clear as day.

JULIE

What ARE you!!!??

The Hallucinated Young Girl smiles brightly at Julie. The closer Julie gets, the more brightly the hallucination shines. The Hallucinated Young Girl begins to GIGGLE.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh somebody please stop this violent man!

Julie is right freaked out, and YANKS FREE of Officer Frye's grip. Officer Frye tries to seize her again, but Julie TAKES THE GUN FROM HIS HANDS, to the shock of everyone.

She AIMS it at everybody all at once; The Hallucinated Young Girl, Officer Frye, Paramedic Anna, the Cops at the other end of the alley.

The weapon is heavy in her little fingers.

PARAMEDIC ANNA (CONT'D)

Oh Jesus! Julie put the gun down!
I'll get you out of here, I promise!
Oh child please listen to me!!

But Julie can not hear her. She is focused too deeply on the Hallucination, THREATENING it with the gun.

JULIE

Leave me alone!!!!!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Who are you talking to?

JULIE

STOP LAUGHING AT ME!!!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

No one is laughing at you!

But the Hallucinated Girl just keeps giggling, enraging Julie even further. Julie's vision becomes too intense, and she FIRES THE GUN, just missing Officer Frye's head.

- BANG! -

Julie is almost thrown off her feet from the kickback.

PARAMEDIC ANNA (CONT'D)

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

They watch Julie DISAPPEAR into the city. The Cops do not pursue her, more concerned with Officer Frye.

PARAMEDIC ANNA (CONT'D)

By my eternal soul... we NEED to
save that little girl.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY -- NIGHT

Julie is in a different part of the city now, with not so much traffic. She holds her last possessions awkwardly, trying hard to stay conscious.

JULIE

You're *fine*, Julie. You're fine.

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Those freaks last night probably
 just laced that cigarette or
 something... don't trip out.

She looks back up at her environment. It returns relatively to normal.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 You're fine. You're fine. I'm fine.

She relaxes for a moment, and for once, it is quiet.

Then a timed AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER activates behind her, and begins spitting water around in rhythm. Julie gets SPRAYED.

She sees the grass, and follows it upwards.

And atop the hill, Julie sees the same OLD BILLBOARD from last night, with the TATTERED IMAGE OF A TROPICAL BEACH.

She instantly becomes aware of her surroundings - she is only blocks away from Nuala's townhouse.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Nuala.

EXT. NUALA'S TOWNHOUSE -- NIGHT

Julie drags herself up to Nuala's DOORSTEP. She is dripping wet, exhausted. Diluted hair dye and sweat stain her face.

The MUSIC in her walkman suddenly begins to STRETCH, and cuts out, getting slow. The little green light FADES OUT.

Julie looks down at it, pitifully.

The DOOR swings open. It is Nuala. She GASPS.

NUALA
 Oh Lord, what happened now?

JULIE
 (wasted)
My batteries died.

Nuala takes Julie in, shutting the door.

NUALA
 Come in. That's it. Enough is enough.

She shuts the door, LOCKING it tight.

NUALA (CONT'D)
 Lord God take care... take care of her. Enough.

Julie experiences the next few moments in a half-daze, foggy images. Nuala takes Julie upstairs, helps her into some dry clothes, cleans her face and wounds, and puts her to BED.

She leaves the door open just a crack, and the warm hallway light seeps into the room. Nuala makes a subtle but nervous silent prayer, and leaves.

Julie lays awake for a moment, head still spinning...

Then closes her eyes, and FALLS ASLEEP.

EXT. DREAMSCAPE -- NIGHT

In a DREAM, Julie is FLYING over the landscape below.

A small concentration of the White Light is also FLYING just up ahead, leading the way.

The lakes, prairies and mountains pass beneath her as clear as a map. She sees a HIGHWAY, ribboning through the contours of the earth.

And upon closer inspection, Julie looks down and can see HERSELF, traveling across the land below.

She sees herself laying in the rear open bed of a PICK-UP TRUCK, laughing.

She sees herself riding a BICYCLE, on a long prairie road.

She sees herself ascending a MOUNTAIN TRAIL, about to reach the peak, and the AWESOME VIEW awaiting on the other side.

And eventually, on the far West Coast of the country, Julie sees herself on a FERRY, heading towards a large forested ISLAND. Julie flies downwards towards it.

The Island is mostly forest and rock, with jagged mountains, and deep river valleys.

And amidst the highest jagged mountains, a RIVER CHASM slices through the rock.

Julie ENTERS the chasm, descending into its winding CLIFFS.

And there, at the top of a series of narrow plateaus along the cliff-face, a SMALL CLUSTER OF CABINS lies just in among the trees, a slightly eastern design to them.

Warm light shines from the windows, and SMOKE puffs calmly from the roofs. Julie floats down inside one of the cabins, RIGHT THROUGH THE ROOF and walls.

INT. CABIN -- NIGHT

Still dreaming deeply, Julie settles herself above in the wooden rafters of the cabin. It is a small structure; just enough for a bed, a window, a wood stove, and a small adjacent cooking space. It is lit by kerosene lanterns.

Below, a CHILDBIRTH is taking place.

It is beautiful and slightly surreal, feelings of warmth and happiness amidst the natural tensions of giving birth.

There is the woman giving birth, Julie supposes is her MOM, and a man at her side, DAD, being supportive and loving. Both have shaved hairstyles.

Standing at the door in the shadows stands a mystical-looking old man, SIFU.

Everything goes smoothly, and relatively painless. Everybody is happy. They wrap the BABY in a soft blanket. Dad holds her, looking into her eyes with joy.

Then Julie notices the Hallucinated Young Girl again, floating next to her in the rafters. HALLUCINATED YOUNG JULIE smiles.

HALLUCINATED YOUNG JULIE

See? You don't have to be afraid.
That's us. That's you! Don't you
remember?

Dad gives the newborn back to Mom, who holds her up close to her face in a tender, loving private moment.

Dad gestures for Sifu to come closer, and he does. Julie sees Sifu more clearly now; He has a kind but stoic face, both ancient in wisdom and young in strength.

It is the SAME MAN Julie had seen in the limousine the previous day. He watches with curiosity and bewilderment, as he witnesses the newborn enter this world.

Somehow, Mom looks up right at Julie, who is still floating above. The White Light shines around her.

MOM'S VOICE

Julie! Julie?

INT. NUALA'S TOWNHOUSE BEDROOM -- MORNING

NUALA

Julie?

Julie wakes up gently. The room is filled with morning light, and sounds of birds. Her head is clear. Nuala is standing in the doorway holding some clean towels and Julie's clothes - washed, fluff-dried and folded.

NUALA (CONT'D)

You okay?

Julie shrugs up to a seated position on the bed, noticing the clean clothes she already has on.

JULIE

Yeah.

Nuala smiles warmly. She sets the towels down on the dresser.

NUALA

Have a shower, come down. The rest of your clothes are clean. I'm making breakfast.

Nuala leaves softly. Julie just sits, the dream still fresh in her memory.

On the bedside table, Julie notices a PEN and a NOTEPAD. She immediately starts to draft out a CRUDE MAP, the vision from her dream as to the location of her birthplace almost visually projected onto the paper.

But the dream starts to FADE, and Julie only manages a few lines on the page.

INT. NUALA'S TOWNHOUSE -- MORNING

JULIE

-Give it back!!

Nuala is holding Julie's MAP up in the air defensively. Julie is in her own clothes again, only cleaner.

NUALA

It's *crazy* Julie, I can't let you do this!

JULIE

You don't *understand!*

Julie charges forward, trying to take her map back.

JULIE (CONT'D)

It was YOU who told the cops where I live didn't you? Tell the *truth!* You squealed! You broke our deal!! That cop is a monster! How dare you send him to my place!

NUALA

I didn't know they would send him! What would you have me do? You're killing yourself!

JULIE
This is *different!!*

NUALA
No it's not!! It's the same thing
all over and over again!

Julie is stunned.

NUALA (CONT'D)
I have watched you since you were a
little girl, Julie! Every day, I
see you getting deeper and deeper
into your tattoos, and crazy
haircuts... God knows what else!
Sicker and sicker!! Yes I broke our
deal and yes I told the police where
you live, because its gone too far
and I can't take it anymore!

She calms herself down, somewhat.

NUALA (CONT'D)
Julie... you can't just *make up some
fantasy*, and then go chasing across
the country for-

JULIE
No, it WAS *REAL!!!*

Julie SNATCHES the map right out of Nuala's hand.

She collects the rest of her things and makes a beeline for
the door.

On her way, she grabs Nuala's CAR KEYS off the hook, and
looks back to Nuala one last time.

JULIE (CONT'D)
-And I know *exactly where it is!!!*

She yanks a pocket-sized TRAVEL FLASHLIGHT off the key-ring,
looking back at Nuala, betrayed.

JULIE (CONT'D)
You know, for someone who believes
in God and all that... you sure
don't have much faith in things.

Julie POCKETS the flashlight, but THROWS the rest of the
keys far off into some trees.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Hell, I'm standing right in front of
you!!

Julie takes off on her skateboard, DISAPPEARING eerily fast.

INT. BUS STATION -- MORNING

Julie is at the TICKET BOOTH, speaking through the tiny hole in the bullet-proof window.

JULIE

Whaddya mean you won't sell me a ticket?? I want to buy a bus ticket!

A barely audible reply through the tiny hole.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Look, I have cash here!

Julie opens NUALA'S WALLET, her driver's license displayed inside, a stupid smile on Nuala's face. There are some BILLS inside, 10's, 20's, and 50's. Julie offers the cash.

Another barely audible reply.

JULIE (CONT'D)

What difference does it make if I'm a kid?? Take my money!

Then a MAN IN STRAW HAT steps up, mid thirties, of a somewhat eastern complexion, with leathery skin.

MAN IN STRAW HAT

She's with me. Two tickets please.

More barely audible replies. But the Man In Straw Hat does not debate. His demeanor is steady.

MAN IN STRAW HAT (CONT'D)

2 tickets.

The Ticket Lady reluctantly SELLS him the tickets. Julie puts up no resistance, surprised.

The Man In Straw Hat walks a few strides away from the Ticket booth, then GIVES Julie her TICKET.

JULIE

Uh -thanks?

The Man in Straw Hat just nods a bit, grunts, and WALKS AWAY, gathering his pack.

INT. BUS -- MORNING

Julie has boarded the bus, still vigilant that someone might be looking for her.

She passes the Man In Straw Hat, who pays her no attention. Julie keeps going and finds an empty seat near the back.

The bus DRIVES out of the hangar, and STOPS at a light.

Then Julie looks through the window and sees something surprising;

It is Kid. He is at the front entrance to the Bus Station, holding a shiny new Bus Ticket of his own.

But when Julie looks twice, he *appears to have some of the White Light around him.*

It could be just a trick of reflected light, as Kid is standing in front of a window opposite the sun, and nobody else seems to notice anything unusual. But Julie chooses to believe it is something much more.

She smiles warmly to herself. Kid does not see her.

The bus starts MOVING again, and Julie reaches into her backpack.

Julie retrieves the TRAVEL FLASHLIGHT she stole from Nuala, and twists open the end; inside are 2 AA BATTERIES.

JULIE

I'll show them...

Julie junks the flashlight, and LOADS the batteries into her walkman, discarding the dead ones.

She presses PLAY. It works. Julie lays back into her seat, and relaxes.

She takes out the MAP that she started to draw at Nuala's townhouse - some more of the details blurrily come into focus, and with a conveniently found pen attached to the seat in front of her, Julie manages to DRAW a few more lines.

Suddenly Julie's perceptions get a slight JOLT:

The sight of the Map taking place in front of her opens up another MEMORY;

-a waking, lucid VISION-MEMORY, which comes alive right before Julie's waking eyes.

It is quite disorienting for a moment, but Julie looks down at her fingertips, and incredibly, she can see TINY SPARKLES of the White Light dancing about.

It soothes her, despite the extremely disorienting sensation.

The *Vision-Memory* comes stronger now, but rather than resisting, Julie closes her eyes, boldly ALLOWING it to come.

JULIE (CONT'D)

...I'll show them all.