

JULIE and the LIGHT

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH IN BRAZIL -- MORNING

A SUNRISE over the ocean. Pristine Atlantic coastline.

A SURFER coasts by smoothly across a wave.

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

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. REMOTE NORTHERN FOREST RIVER -- NIGHT

*It is winter. A light SNOW falls on the moving river.*

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.*

*TEEN GIRL'S VOICE  
Which is curious, because there was  
a time when I couldn't remember  
anything!*

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.

*TEEN GIRL'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
And I liked it that way.*

The STARS are clear in the NIGHT SKY ABOVE.

FADE OUT.

*TEEN GIRL'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 and POLICE 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  
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...

PARAMEDIC ANNA

What? No parents??

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

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*;

Just a few feet beyond everyone fussing around her, Julie sees a *beautiful White Light, sparkling and floating gently in the air*. No one else seems to notice. Julie rubs her eyes, confused.

OFFICER FRYE

Name!

The White Light FADES AWAY.

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, we need to get her into a program, where people can -

Nuala INTERRUPTS Paramedic Anna with COMIC DREAD;

NUALA

No! That's not gonna work, 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??

This wakes her up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

No thank you! I'm fine. I was just here to say happy birthday to my friend!! Is there a law against saying happy birthday to your friend?

OFFICER FRYE

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

He begins to APPREHEND her.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

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

JULIE  
It's her birthday!! Look at the  
decorations!!!

Officer Frye SHOVES JULIE'S FACE into the interlocking bricks.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Aaugh! What the hell??

NUALA  
Stop it!!

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

Paramedic Anna begins some kind of breathing technique, though  
clearly stressed.

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.  
Paramedic Anna SCREAMS. The umbrella comes CRASHING down,  
and the hors d'oeuvres SPILL everywhere.

Suddenly Julie is hit with a powerful, and completely  
disorienting *FLASH-HALLUCINATION*; *she instantly sees images  
right before her eyes of a FOREST, glowing RED, like a waking  
VISION.*

*The images are too fast for Julie to make sense of.*

The *Flash-Hallucination* is so strong that it actually removes  
Julie from her reality for a second. But the sight of Officer  
Frye getting back to his feet WAKES HER UP AGAIN.

Julie regains her balance and 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 is coming for her, a nasty GASH ON HIS HEAD  
swelling up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

*You stay away from me or I swear to  
god I'll huck this Dr. Pepper right  
through your skull!!!*

Officer Frye CHARGES TOWARDS her, full of anger.

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 in the  
mouth, KNOCKING A TOOTH OUT.

The can BUSTS OPEN, and SPRAYS AROUND MADLY. Officer Frye  
is sent CRASHING back into the mayhem, his mouth 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.

Julie takes a moment to observe the comedy before her, and  
lets out a LAUGH.

Then she SEES THE WHITE LIGHT AGAIN, HOVERING towards the  
OPEN GATE, swinging ajar in the night breeze.

Julie blinks her eyes a few times, still not sure what she  
is seeing, but recognizes her chance for escape, and scrambles  
across the pile of people, following the White Light, 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.

Another *Flash-Hallucination* hits her; more images of a FOREST, ROCKS, and FOG.

It only lasts a second, but almost knocks Julie over. She shakes her head, and it goes away.

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, greeting a few BUMS and CANINES she knows along the way.

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, a bunk bed 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. Some KIDS AND TEENAGERS are asleep, all passed out in their street/skate/punk clothing. Julie does her best to navigate through the mess without stepping on anyone.

She sees SKUSE, late teens, in 70's UK punk fashion sleeping on the first couch. He is woken by Julie but is still mostly asleep.

SKUSE

Wha..? Is it morning time yet?

JULIE

No, its still night. You can go back to sleep.

SKUSE

Aww, great. OK. G'night.

Skuse smiles and falls back asleep, instantly.

Next, Julie passes RAT BOY on the floor. He is early teens, thin and unhealthy looking. He is completely asleep/passed out, making funny GURGLING sounds as he dreams.

Next, Julie steps over FRISKO, a funny looking punk girl of ambiguous age.

Frisko is also still mostly asleep/passed out, but manages to give Julie a big drugged out smile and a double 'hang loose' hand gesture.

FRISKO

Aayyyy....

Julie smiles back, and tucks Frisko's blanket up a bit more around her shoulders as Frisko falls unconscious again.

Lastly, Julie passes by KID, the youngest, maybe only 7 or 8 years old. He is curled up on the other couch, lying with a blanket and a stuffed toy.

Next to him is an open sketchbook and a mess of felt pens, drawings of FOXES, and other creatures.

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.

Another *Flash-Hallucination* hits her; *more images of a FOREST,  
 MOSSY ROCKS, WOODEN STEPS.*

But this time, it is somehow not as jarring as the previous  
 ones, not as imposing. Julie blinks it away.

She puts her head on her clumpy pillow, closes her eyes, and  
 goes to sleep.

*EXT. FOREST RIVER -- NIGHT*

*The 5 Year Old Girl is still sleeping on the RAFT, still  
 bleeding, 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 ROCKS 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.

Inside, Skuse, Rat Boy, and Frisko are still all passed out.

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 through the window for a second, and returns with a LIGHTER.

She SPARKS UP the disgusting cigarette butt, excitedly.

Kid watches in astonishment.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry...

She realizes her rudeness, then offers it to Kid.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Did you want the last 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, clearly missing one of his front teeth.

They immediately begin HANDCUFFING her friends inside.

JULIE (CONT'D)

WHAT-th-FFFF- !!!

SKUSE

Wha..? Is it morning time yet?

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.

They watch as Skuse, Rat Boy, and Frisko are escorted outside, handcuffed. Rat Boy does not look well. A small CROWD has begun to gather out front to watch.

JULIE

Oh, no...

The police force her friends into the backs of police cars.

JULIE (CONT'D)

SKATEBOARDING IS NOT A CRIME!!!

Kid grabs her arm and PULLS her back out of sight.

So far, it seems as Julie and Kid have not been spotted yet.

JULIE (CONT'D)

What ever happened to the good ol'  
days, when everybody just pretended  
we weren't there?

Julie takes another peek. Kid tries in futility to hold her back.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Why are they still going back in?  
What are those boxes they're carrying  
out? That's my place!!!

KID

Not anymore.

Julie looks at him, still in denial of the situation.

KID (CONT'D)

Face it Julie, it's over. Glory  
days are done. We're homeless again.

Julie looks back, incredulous.

JULIE

But they can't just take all my stuff  
away! Look, they're cleaning it all  
out! They're gonna get 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?  
 How can I be homeless again without  
 my tapes??

Julie looks back at the scene, astonished. The cops shut the doors of their cruisers and DRIVE their friends AWAY.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 Skuse, Rat Boy, Frisko.

KID  
 I don't think they're coming back,  
 Julie. And I don't think you can  
 rescue them this time.

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

JULIE  
 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.

Kid's 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*?

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. If  
 things get bad, you know how to find  
 me.

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. It is narrow, just enough to walk along without falling.

Out of nowhere another *Flash Hallucination* hits her; *images of a forest CLIFF, high and jagged, above a cold remote RIVER.*

The *Flash Hallucination* is gone in an instant. Julie gets dizzy for a second, and her legs go weak but she manages not to fall.

She peeks in the window.

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. He turns around 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 - *Another Flash Hallucination of FLAMES and FIRE!*

Julie shakes it off, and the Flash Hallucination VANISHES.

But the cops are right on her tail.

She KICKS 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 gets twisted UPSIDE DOWN.

Another *Flash Hallucination* of the *forested CLIFFS* invades her consciousness.

Julie FALLS with a SMACK to the filthy pavement below. The *Flash Hallucination* ends.

Julie looks up and sees Officer Frye, still leaning over the fire escape, staring down at her.

She gets up hastily, 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.

More *Flash Hallucinations* are bombarding her; *more confusing images of a FOREST, of ROCKS and CLIFFS, and FIRE.*

Julie is handling them bravely, trying to stay awake and alert, but 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.

Another *WAVE of Flash Hallucinations* jars her mind; *images of CABINS in the trees, TRAILS through the dense underbrush, TORCHES lighting the scenes.*

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.

*MORE Flash Hallucinations disorient Julie, immersing her completely; TORCHES, MARTIAL ARTS, and CABINS in a forest. She sees flashes of FACES, both kind and frightening.*

*One of the faces she sees in the Flash Hallucination MATCHES that of the Bearded Slender Old Man in the Limousine.*

The Limousine DRIVES AWAY.

A HONKING HORN snaps Julie out of the hallucinations.

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- EVENING

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

She is breathing heavily, but is trying to calm down. Julie has managed to get most of her marbles back together, at least for now.

She 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)

Lock up my friends... Try to take my music...

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. She begins to calm down.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 You can do it, Julie You've been in worse situations before. You're OK.

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.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 You're OK.

She takes a deeper breath, and continues organizing her stuff into her backpack.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 Stupid pigs.

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 gets HIT again with *more Flash-Hallucinations*, this time too fast to make sense of. She shakes it off, trying to ignore them.

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!!

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

JULIE  
Legal what??

But Officer Frye just GRIPS HER TIGHTER.

Julie is bombarded again by more *Flash Hallucinations*; images of *FIGHTING* and *MARTIAL ARTS*, confusing and too fast to follow.

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.

The *Flash Hallucinations* continue, and Julie is a mess of conscious distortion.

JULIE  
Get out of my head!!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
Oh somebody please stop this violent  
man!

For a moment Julie gets her senses back, and in a bold surprise move she 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; Officer Frye, Paramedic Anna, the Cops at the other end of the alley.

The weapon is heavy in her little fingers. Her hands shake uncontrollably.

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!!

JULIE  
 No! I ain't gonna listen to ANY of  
 you! Just get away!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
 Julie -

*Another Flash Hallucination* hits her; *BLOODY FISTS* and *KNUCKLES*.

Officer Frye LUNGES at her, and she FIRES THE GUN, shooting Officer's Frye's hat off, barely missing his head.

- BANG! -

Julie is almost thrown off her feet from the kickback.  
 Officer Frye falls, checking his head.

PARAMEDIC ANNA (CONT'D)  
 Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

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

PARAMEDIC ANNA (CONT'D)  
 Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

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.  
 It's nothing...

She finds a place to rest.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 Rat Boy probably just laced that  
 cigarette I found or something...  
 that's all.

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

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

Another *Flash Hallucination of the forest, rocks, and fire* hits her, but this time its much weaker, and it passes in an instant.

Julie begins to ascend the hill.

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, an 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 cliffs, is a SMALL CLUSTER OF CABINS, secluded 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 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, 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.*

*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. He looks like the SAME FACE of the man Julie saw in the limousine.*

*Sifu 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 vision 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 street friends and tattoos, all your 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 Flash Hallucination, but this time it is CLEARER, more controlled;

*-It is no longer just a flash hallucination, but is now a waking, lucid, VISION-MEMORY, which comes alive right before Julie's waking eyes.*

It is 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.

EXT. FOREST RIVER -- AFTERNOON

*It is a bright and sunny day. The RIVER shines beautifully as it winds its way through the FOREST CHASM.*

*At one spot along its high CLIFFS lies a naturally-constructed LOG STRUCTURE, a slightly eastern design to it.*

*It is nestled at the edge of the highest plateau. Inside, an instructional CLASS OF MARTIAL ARTS can be heard.*

INT. DOJO -- AFTERNOON

*It is a beautiful and well-cared for martial arts training dojo with mats for grappling, heavy-bags for boxing, and all sorts of training equipment. The class inside is small, maybe 7 or 8 STUDENTS.*

BJORN, a large Fighter in his 30's with a large beard, is at the front. He is leading a controlled, slow striking KATA. The Students are all in a Karate-type horse-stance, breathing in pattern, eyes closed, practicing this simple punch technique.

But it is no ordinary punch; as they continue the kata, they are also creating a faint mystical-looking **RED ENERGY** around their arms and fists. Some stronger than others.

The only one not paying attention is YOUNG JULIE, 5, who sits at the back. Her hair is long and blonde. There is none of the Red Energy visible about her.

She watches outside through the open door, staring down-river, as far as the winding cliffs allow her to see.

Suddenly, she squints a bit, and sees something that makes her get up and RUN out the doorway with a LAUGH of excitement.

Everyone's state of mind is disturbed, and their Red Energy FADES AWAY. Bjorn RUNS AFTER HER, nervous.

BJORN

Julie! ...Julie wait! I'm not supposed to let you go yet!!

EXT. COMMUNE TRAIL -- AFTERNOON

Young Julie hurries excitedly down the COMMUNE TRAIL, which descends in levels, hugging the cliff.

Young Julie JUMPS and SKIPS off the rocks as she goes.

-She passes some CABINS settled among the trees, small and cozy - the same cabins from Julie's dream.

-She passes PEOPLE HANGING LAUNDRY on a line, and a budding VEGETABLE GARDEN.

-She passes a very formal-looking outdoor SPARRING COURT. It sits along the cliff-edge, a ceremonial FIRE PIT at the front, BENCHES around the perimeter.

Young Julie runs on by.

-Then suddenly she VEERS from the main trail, and heads down a smaller, less visible ROCKY PATH, much closer to the cliff-edge.

EXT. MOM'S POTTERY STUDIO -- AFTERNOON

Young Julie follows the path carefully along the cliff edge. There, among the bare rock, is a small and humble POTTERY STUDIO.

*It is built almost entirely with the natural rocks, wood and clay from the surroundings. There are many LARGE CLAY DISCS stacked around, some fired, some not, along with some other traditional shaped pottery.*

*Attending the kiln, is Mom. Her hair is shaved short.*

*Young Julie bursts into the area, but Bjorn arrives not a moment behind, trying hard to catch his breath. He looks at Mom with a great shyness and respect.*

*BJORN*

*Your daughter... she-*

*But before he can say it, Young Julie blurts out the news:*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*-They're back!!!*

*Mom and Bjorn both jump, instantly looking down-river.*

*Indeed, a SMALL BOAT is moving its way up the current towards the Commune.*

*Mom tidies up in a flash, and disregarding whatever Young Julie may or may not have done, her and Bjorn run down towards the Main Hall.*

*Young Julie is way ahead of them.*