

A REFLECTION OF JANE KLABBA'S FACE IN A WINDOW FILLS THE SCREEN.

She is fifteen years old, of mixed race, Asian and white. At this moment she is smiling. It will be the last happy moment she has for a very long time.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - BROOKLYN - DAY

We can hear no one speak. Just noises. It's like being inside a tin can.

She is staring out the window of a school bus watching a bird fly along with it. It bounces through the air playfully as the bus moves through the city.

She is shaken out of this nice trance by something unpleasant.

A punk ass boy, surrounded by punk ass friends approaches her and says something angry.

She looks for help as friends around her back away.

She is frozen. Rooted in place as this boy starts yelling at her.

She starts rocking back and forth, looking down at the floor, as some kind of embarrassment or shame takes over. Breathing heavy.

She looks at her hand, squeezes into a fist then opens quickly. She does this three times. It is turning a dark shade of blue, and her nails start to grow and sharpen.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - DAY

An ASIAN WOMAN, Jane's mom, stands on the corner as the bus rolls up with a screeching halt.

The doors open and kids run off in a panic. They rush into parents arms and point back at the bus.

Mom looks at the window and sees Jane looking out. Her face is pure panic.

Mom runs for the door. We hear a sound. A scream. Not a human scream but something animal but unidentifiable.

Mom rushes the bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - BROOKLYN - DAY

Jane sees her Mom step on the bus and walk past the driver who is on the floor staring up at something.

Mom looks up in the same direction, smiles a tender smile, and then looks down on the ground.

There is the punk ass kid with a blue scaled, long finger nailed hand, around his throat.

Mom says something and the hand let's go.

The boy jumps up and runs off the bus.

Mom waves Jane over.

Jane approaches her mother. We can see is that she is not the height she was.

She is tall. Very tall. She must have to bend over not to hit her head on the ceiling.

Mom continues to wave Jane over to her.

Jane approaches and leans down.

Mom says "I love you." And embraces Jane.

Something happens.

Jane steps back and looks down at her hand.

Her long finger nails are covered in blood.

She looks at her Mom and sees a gaping hole in her chest.

Her Mom looks up, touches her face, and dies.

A scream.

CUT TO:

IN DARKNESS: A RADIO

A DJ's voice.

DJ (V.O.)

Another attack last night. This one in Virginia. A refugee from Ohio attacked a group of students and it has people there on edge.

(MORE)

DJ (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This is the third such attack in a month and it reignites the debate started by Congress about how this crisis can be contained, the infected nicknamed "M" have begin to be relocated but experts at the CDC say the combination of hormones and man made chemicals-

INT. JANE'S ROOM - DAY - MORNING

Jane's hand lands on the radio, shutting it off.

She is sitting up in bed breathing hard.

A knock at the door.

JANE

I'm up.

The door opens and a head pops around the side. CURTIS KLABBA, her father, white, late forties, stares in.

Moving boxes are scattered around the room. Nothing looks like it has a place yet.

CURTIS

You ok?

JANE

Bad dream.

CURTIS

I made breakfast.

He disappears behind the door.

She stares for a moment taking in her surroundings, then sighs, and gets out of bed.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - MORNING

Curtis is putting bacon on a plate that is already complete with eggs.

JANE

Bacon?

CURTIS

Yeah.

She sits down and stares at her father.

JANE
Dad.

CURTIS
What?

JANE
Meat?

CURTIS
Oh. Right.

He takes the bacon off her plate, puts them down on the table, sits and eats.

She stares at him with a sad look.

JANE
Are you-

CURTIS
Got a letter from the CDC. They assigned you a new doctor down here.

Jane nods.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
You have a month until the next injection.

She nods.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
You should make that appointment.

She looks at him and opens her mouth to speak but says nothing.

Silence.

They eat.

CREDITS ROLL as the morning takes it's course.

EXT. JANE'S HOUSE - DAY - MORNING

Jane, wearing a dark hoodie and jeans, and Curtis, in shirt and tie, walk out a small beat up house set off in the woods.

Jane walks over to Curtis' beater Volvo and puts a ten speed bike on a bike rack that is attached to the trunk.

They both get in the car and drive down a gravel road.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - TRAILER - DAY - MORNING

As they drive out they pass several trailers. One of them destroyed by fire and then rot, the others in disrepair from neglect.

One of them has a beat up old CHARGER out front.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SQUIRES FARM - DAY

Curtis' car drives past a huge old beat up white farm house.

EXT. BLACKSBURG - DAY - MORNING

Jane is staring out the window watching the town go by.

-A bank is being opened by a dowdy looking woman in her sixties.

-A BBQ joint is smoking. Men stand toward the rear of the building laughing and drinking coffee.

-A Dairy Queen, still shut from the day before sits waiting for school to get out.

-Town Hall, a big old stone building surrounded by a half decaying downtown is coming to life as people go in and out of it's front doors.

-They pull into the high school parking lot.

From the car, Jane looks up at the 70's like structure of the High School. A place in great need of an upgrade.

Outside the school, next to the lot, A MAN is putting what look like protest signs in a landscaping truck.

He drops a stack of **red** paper and they start to blow away. With a limp and a few choice words he starts to chase after them.

Jane watches this with interest.

INT. PRINCIPAL JUANITA'S OFFICE - DAY - MORNING

PRINCIPAL JUANITA, a kind looking woman in her fifties is sitting on the corner of her desk starting down at Jane with a serious look on her face.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA

So Jane... I say this and ask these questions out of the greatest of respect for your situation. Have you had any episodes in the last three months?

CURTIS

She's-

PRINCIPAL JUANITA

I need to hear it from her.

Jane shakes her head.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA (CONT'D)

That's good. Do you have calming exercises?

CURTIS

She meditates.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA

Again, I need to talk to her.

JANE

I do mindfulness breathing.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA

And that helps-

CURTIS

She's had the shot too.

Jane and The Principal stare at Curtis.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Sorry.

The Principal looks back at Jane.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA

When are you due again?

JANE

A month.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA

You have your assigned doctor?

JANE

The letter came yesterday.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA

Good. I'll need a copy of that.
 Mostly I just want to make sure we
 are on the same page. I want to
 welcome you...but one episode...
 You're the first of your kind to be
 relocated here. This kind of
 change is delicate...for everyone.

She stares at Jane.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA (CONT'D)

Understand?

Jane nods.

PRINCIPAL JUANITA (CONT'D)

While you are here you will meet
 with me weekly and we will assess
 your progress and experience.
 Homeroom is in ten minutes.
 Welcome to Blacksburg.

She puts out her hand. Jane shakes it.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY - MORNING

Jane walks with Curtis to the car.

They stop and she lets out a big sigh.

CURTIS

I know but...we're here.

For a moment, silence.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Maybe you'll have fun.

JANE

Seems great. Real culture hub.

They stand in silence.

CURTIS

I-

She wraps her arms around him, hesitantly, it's awkward. He
 hugs back with a weird pat on the back.

JANE

You think I'm a monster?

CURTIS

No. I know you are.

They both laugh. Neither thinks it is funny.

Curtis takes a deep breath and pulls away.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

I gotta go. You sure you're ok riding your bike home? Takes longer than the school bus.

JANE

I think the bike is better than a school bus in every way.

A **red** piece of paper blows onto Jane's shoe and she looks down.

She can see the words "Send the infected to the camps. Generation M must go. Stop the interstate refugee surge before it starts. Be pure American".

Curtis picks up the paper and balls it up.

JANE (CONT'D)

Yeah, seems great.

CUT TO:

INT. CURTIS' VOLVO - DAY - MORNING

Curtis looks out the passenger side window as he drives out of the parking lot. There stands Jane, holding her bike next to a bike rack, alone, waving to him. He turns the car away from her and she can be seen out the back window, getting smaller and smaller as he drives away. He bites his lip.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY - MORNING

Jane flips the hood of her hoodie up, locks up her bike, turns and walks into the main doors of the building.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALL - DAY - MORNING

The door opens from outside and light comes streaming in. Jane stands in the doorway a shadow against the outside world.

Then she steps inside and the door shuts.

There is not a soul to be seen and the hallway is as quiet as tomb. She looks around and sees signs on the wall for a dance.

-Trophies in a case.

-Lockers.

Then...**THE SOUND OF A SCHOOL BELL.**

Students come from every direction as doors fly open. The chaos between classes. Jane disappears in the crowd.

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY - MORNING

Jane walks into the classroom. It is full and the kids are being their normal rambunctious selves. Laughing, throwing things...

A couple of kids notice Jane and start to whisper.

Jane notices the attention and quickly walks to the back of the class and takes a seat.

BEAU TRIBBIT, 16, WHITE, enters the room followed by TWO OTHER BOYS his age.

BEAU

Sup everybody. I'm here to give you what you need. You need it or not.

He sits down next to a girl.

BEAU (CONT'D)

Hey Stephanie. When you gonna go out with me.

STEPHANIE

When you gonna ask?

He leans in.

BEAU

Proibly never.

Beau laughs and moves back to a seat two in front of Jane. We can see he has a pubescent blonde mustache and fresh bruises. He smiles a creepy smile at Jane as he sits.

She sees Beau is still staring at her and she tries to look away. She turns her head to the left and is shocked by the guy sitting next to her. It is RUDY SQUIRES, 18 or 19, AFRICAN AMERICAN. He seems older than everyone in the room by 2 years and taller by two feet. He wears an old army jacket, shoes two years too old and stares ahead with a lifeless look on his face. He slowly turns and looks at her.

JANE

Hi.

He says nothing and turns back toward the front of the class.

Something hits Jane in the face. A crumpled up piece of paper. He opens it up. Inside it reads: FREAK.

Jane looks around the room.

Now most of the kids are looking forward.

Beau is looking slightly over his shoulder with a nasty half grin on his face.

Jane looks back at Rudy who is now looking at the note.

He looks at her and then back at the front of the class.

A teacher walks in, A WOMAN IN HER TWENTIES.

HOMEROOM TEACHER

OK, quiet down. Let's take attendance and then you can go back to destroying the world.

Beau runs up to the teacher and presents her with a flower.

The class erupts in laughter and oooooos.

HOMEROOM TEACHER (CONT'D)

Thank you Mr. Tribbit. Now sit down.

With a big old shit eating grim he struts to his seat.

Jane shakes her head and mutters to herself just loud enough for Beau to hear.

JANE

Classy.

He looks to her.

BEAU

What's at?

Jane shakes her head, shrugs her shoulders, and pretends she didn't say anything.

Beau stares he down.

HOMEROOM TEACHER

Beau, I said sit.

He does so, slowly turning away from Jane.