

THE FULL TILT BOOGIE

Written by

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INT. - BEDROOM - MORNING

A precocious 12 year old boy, Eli has struggled to fit in at school. He's weird because he hears everything via his intuition.

He lives with his Mom in the hills above the bay where the air is cleaned from the wind and currents from the nearby ocean.

Eli is waking up in his immaculate bedroom. His walls are abstractly painted. He loves waking up and looking at his walls. He sees something new every day that makes him feel great inside. He smiles as he sits up in bed, looks brightly at the wall near the window then out the window towards the bay.

ELI
Good morning dad.

The morning fog is already dissipating. Spots of sunshine filter and dance occasionally through the grey and white clouds.

Eli reaches through a wall and pulls out a pair of neatly, folded dirty gold pants. Nope. He puts them back and pulls out a pair of faded hemp denim jeans, smiles and puts them on.

Slightly right he reaches in and feels for his favorite shirt the Elements of Minecraft.

Balancing his hands on the wall, he sticks his feet into his brightly colored Hoka running shoes and smiles.

ELI (CONT'D)
Fly.

INT. - KITCHEN - MORNING

Eli cheerily walks into to the kitchen and give his Mom a silent hug. She is talking on the phone as Eli clings to her bosom, listening to her heart beat. He's in love with his Mom. He senses the presence of his Dad in her heart but dares not acknowledge him to her. She's moved on while his art covers every inch of the walls.

Eli rocks her a bit, looks into her eyes as she pauses.

ELEANOR
(whispering)
Over there.

Eli rolls his eyes and signs to his Mom "I KNOW! DUH!"

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Let me call you back. I need to get
Eli to school. First day at the new
school... 7th grade...bye.

Eli's Mom glared at Eli who was not frightened at all.

ELI

No, I HAVE to ride my bike there
Mom! That was the whole point of
going there!

ELEANOR

Eli-

ELI

I'll meet you there in 30 minutes,
parking lot at the bikes.

Eleanor sighed, bit her lips, hugged Eli and they both leave
the kitchen in silence.

EXT. - STREETS - MORNING

Eli is riding a single speed bike with old school pedal
brakes. It's an immaculate bike.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. - BIKE SHOP - AFTERNOON

2 bike technicians have a look of shock on their faces as Eli
has a tantrum.

ELI

No! No! NO! Absolutely NO LOGOS, NO
DECALS, just paint it pearlescent
gray with black highlights!

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. - STREETS - MORNING

Eli uses hand signals to great effect. He's riding with
authority as if he owns the road. He never looks behind
because he senses where every vehicle is. He obeys every
traffic signal and sign.

EXT. - UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

Eli climbs up through several blocks. Climbing strong through the upscale neighborhood, Eli smiles. He loves how no one is around. He has the whole street to himself. It winds up and around to the top. He stops at the STOP sign though he knows he doesn't need to. He sips on his water bottle, puts it back in and then begins to furiously pedal downhill until he can't pedal any faster.

A few blocks later he slams on the brakes, grins as he narrowly misses being run over by a single car operated by a mindless driver on his cell phone.

Eli shoves off and coast 2 blocks to school. He makes his way across the parking lot, looking straight ahead and not the least bit interested in the novelty of attending a uniquely named school with a unique program.

EXT - SCHOOL - MORNING

Predictably his Mom is early and fidgety near the bikes, looking around for Eli. He walks his bike behind 4 girls and sneaks up on his Mom.

ELI
(low toned voice)
Hello Eleanor!

His mom is startled, turns to see Eli and looks at him irritably while Eli smiles. He dissolves her mood with a warm hug.

ELEANOR
Eli, why are you late?

ELI
(shrugging, smiling)
Traffic, Mom.

He puts his bike on the rack as 2 older students snicker while driving by in their custom convertible.

Eli pulls a monstrosously thick cord out of his pack and locks up his bike with it. He clicks a button and turns to walk with his Mom to his first day at the School of Creatives.

SUPERIMPOSE: "SCHOOL OF CREATIVES"

ELEANOR
Are you nervous?

ELI
No.
(looks around)
I like what these people are
thinking.

Eleanor squeezes Eli's arm, smiles, let's go and stops. Eli turns to her without breaking his pace and mouths the words, "thank you!" to her and walks towards the front doors.

INT. - CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "WEEK TWO"

Eli is in a trance. He is having an experience he has never had before: a direct connection between two people. He is sitting next to Padme, an Indian classmate, and was experiencing her mother's thought process about her cancer, her soul, life after death.

His Visual Communications teacher, Ms. DeMuth, is trying to get his attention.

MS. DEMUTH
Eli? Eli. Hello, Eli? Eli!!!

He woke from his trance to find Ms. DeMuth standing over him looking at his iPad Pro.

MS. DEMUTH (CONT'D)
This is very curious as it's not
related to the assignment at all.
(She presses the "Share"
icon and the Screen icon
to project it on the
smartboard.)

Eli looks at the smartboard and gasps. Before he could press the Home button, Padme recognized what was depicted. A woman alone in a corner of a room while memories of being raped, beaten, neglected, and left for dead weighed down on her from above.

Embarrassed, Padme gets up and runs out of the room. Eli grabs his iPad, shoves it in his pack, and follows her.

MS. DEMUTH (CONT'D)

What the?

Ms. DeMuth shakes her head, looks around the classroom.

MS. DEMUTH (CONT'D)

Jeremy, what do you have to show us?

INT. - SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Eli rounds the corner to his locker just as Padme slams hers shut and runs.

EXT. - SCHOOL PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

ELI

Padme! Wait up!

He shoves his pack into his locker, grabs his bike pack and helmet, runs down the hall and bursts out the doors into the blindingly bluebird skies.

Padme is already on her bike riding furiously down the hill. By the time Eli has his bike lock stuffed into his pack Padme is 3 blocks away. Eli chases after her anyways.

Down the hills she went. Padme looks back once and pedals even faster, tears streaming down her face. She's heading for an industrial part of the bay.

Eli is working up a sweat. He's not used to riding this fast. They are on the major streets now. Eli loses sight of Padme when the light turns red. He watches helplessly as Padme speeds over and down a hill out of view as cars speed across his field of vision.

Just before the light turns green, Eli anticipates it, jumping onto the pedals and cutting off a group of motorcyclists, causing several minor collisions amongst them.

Aggravated, they chase Eli, who has turned left down an alley against traffic thinking it will be a shortcut to wherever Padme is riding to. The motorcyclists give pursuit.

Eli hears them, looks back to see they are actually Hell's Angels. Though exhausted he is too scared to stop. After another 30 seconds of hard pedaling, Eli blacks out from the exertion and falls from his bike.

EXT. - ALLEY - AFTERNOON

Eli's head is cradled by a burly bearded biker with sunglasses seemingly glued to his forehead.

BURLY BIKER

You okay dude? That was quite the fall. I'm sorry if we caused you to crash.

Eli groans, sits up, and examines himself. He had felt his wrist snap and his shoulder dig into the broken glass strewn all over the alleyway. He sees holes in his shirt, dried blood on it, but not bleeding.

He looks at the biker.

ELI

I'm... I'm good.

BURLY BIKER

I knew it!
(the other bikers laugh
outloud as if it were the
funniest thing they had
heard.)

The burly biker picks Eli up off the ground, slaps both shoulders, mumbles something through the tough guy smiles, and walks to his bike. The 20 other bikers walk their bikes back and take off back where they came, one by one the alley fills with the loud tremulous roars of the bikes.

Eli stands numbly, watching them ride off, wondering what that was all about. He's dazed and can't even remember how or why he got to where he is right then and there.

He looks down at his bike, hardly a scratch on it. He bends over to pick it up when he notices a vivid blue color reflecting on his custom grey finish.

He looks up to see a wildly beautiful blue marble building in front of him. It was as brilliant blue as the sky. He couldn't tell if there were windows or if it was just a solid blue globe-shaped building.

Eli stands there with his bike and looks around. It's oddly silent and there seems to be no activity which makes him wonder if this was all just a bad dream. It wouldn't be the first, it would be maybe the hundredth at least.

How come he had never seen this before? Eli once again looks around to get his bearings.

ELI
Weird. I'm lost.

Eli gets on his bike but before he can make 2 pedal revolutions, he stops and looks at the building again. He dismounts from his bike and walks towards the door. He locks his bike on the NO PARKING sign and walks haphazardly towards the trapezoid base of the building.

He stands near the door and looks up at the blue globe curving above him. It is eerily silent as if there wasn't a living soul in it. Maybe no one is here.

EXT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

Eli timidly pushes the door open. Nothing. He steps in, nothing again. He puts his hands on the next glass door. Nothing. He steps into the spacious lobby. Still nothing. Nobody here.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING LOBBY

A computerized voice shatters the dead silence.

COMPUTERIZED VOICE
State your reasons for being here.

Eli looks around, sees a directory, and walks over to it. In very small type it displays 200 floors.

He runs out the doors and looks up at the building while stepping farther away from the building. It feels not right to him, so he goes to his bike and is about to unlock it when he senses a girl crying for help.

He walks back to the front doors, puts his hands on the first set of glass doors and senses the cry for help. He repeats that with the other doors and senses her voice stronger.

He walks to the elevator aisle. 5 elevators on each side with 1 elevator on the far wall opposite him. He walks past the elevators looking at each; they were each marked in increments of 40. He reaches the single elevator at the far wall. Its button reads AUTHORIZED USERS ONLY.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING ELEVATOR

COMPUTERIZED VOICE
State your reasons for being here.

Eli ignores the voice and presses the button. To his surprise the door opens instantly. There's just 1 button and a digital display with the floor numbers. He swipes down and chooses floor number 23. It's his favorite number.

He feels an enhanced gravitational force as the elevator shoots up. 2 seconds later the door opens up and his curiosity turns into regret as hundreds of thousands of voices flood his mind. It hurts so bad that he covers his ears in vain and falls to the floor.

Two people step in, quickly lift him up, pull him out of the elevator and rush him into a room.

Actually, the room appeared as soon as he was out of the elevator.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - OPAQUE WHITE ROOM

A beautiful woman crouches before him as he sits in the most comfortable chair ever. The voices are gone.

SOPHIA

Hi Eli, my name is Sophia.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(without speaking)

You are an empath. Everyone who works here is an empath. That computerized voice you heard in lobby is one of our inside jokes. The other elevators don't work. You have incredible healing powers. Once we show you how to process people's thoughts, you will be able to heal them.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(speaking)

All of those voices you heard when you stepped onto this floor will no longer bother you.

ELI

Why don't I hear them now? What is this room made of?

SOPHIA

(without speaking)

This room is made of silence. That way we can recharge and go about our business.

ELI
What is your business?

Eli looks skeptical. A business? This doesn't look like a business at all.

Sophia looked away as tears formed in her eyes. Eli couldn't read her the way he read others. She wiped her eyes, smiled gorgeously, bravely through their glistening blue green orbs.

SOPHIA
We've been waiting for you Eli. You will understand soon.

Sophia got up, walked to a wall, pressed a hidden button, looked at Eli.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
Come here, drink some water.

Eli got up, put out his hand and instantly there was water.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
She how that works? I suggested, you complied, and now you have water. That's how your healing gift works in a nutshell. Ethan?

A skinny man with a hipster beard, tight black jeans, black beard, blonde hair, brown eyes and a burnt orange shirt walked out from an unseen door.

ETHAN
(Said with a smile that made Eli feel incredibly calm)
Finish your water and come with me, please.

Ethan leans on the wall with his left hand and it became a large door. With his right hand he motions Eli. The wall closed behind them.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I am in charge of the empaths. I am an empath myself, however it took me 10 years to figure how other empaths can be served here.

Ethan waves his hand and the entire wall changed from pearly luminescent white to a dull opaque.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What you are about to see is overwhelming. My job is to notice what you feel, think, what connects with you, what repulses you, the whole range of feelings. I can sense right now that you feel an excitement in your gut, that you are very, very happy to be here, and this is the best day of your life.

Eli smiles.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I know that you hear people's thoughts" - Eli nods - "but I promise you that this will be too much. When that happens you are to raise your fist. Like this.

Ethan raises his fist triumphantly with a smile on his face and glanced at Eli.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yes, you must smile, too. There's one other thing. Give me your hands.

Eli complies as Ethan puts his hands underneath, palms up. Eli feels a warm energy radiating from Ethan's hands.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Point your palms towards my face.

Eli faces his palms to Ethan's face.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. - INNER CITY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Ethan accesses his memory to recall the time he saw his younger sister being beaten and kicked by a stranger. He recalls how horrible he felt because he did not recognize it was his sister on the other side of the street. He remembers how he came breathtakingly close to being run over by a car as he crossed the street. He yells at the attacker in a full on rage. Although just 12 years old he violently beats the attacker, who, shocked by this response, runs away.

END FLASHBACK.

ETHAN

Keep your palms there... now move them apart until you sense what I am holding in my mind.

Eli moves his hands apart a few inches and immediately senses anger, rage and a sense of completed action, and brings his palms close together.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Good. Palms down. Now close your eyes.

Ethan places one hand palm up underneath Eli's hands, then places one hand on Eli's forehead.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Keep your palms down and don't move under any circumstance. You are safe, nothing bad will happen. I'm preparing you for what you are about to witness, and installing some tools to help you protect yourself.

They stand motionless for 5 seconds.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Good?

Eli nods. Ethan places his other hand on Eli's heart, then both hands, then lifts them away from Eli and begins molding/shaping an energy field from his loins up and over his head, and down along his spine.

Eli smiles as a powerful surge of warm energy permeates his body.

Ethan stands behind Eli and places his hands on the back of Eli's head. Then he starts `pulling`, removing all of Eli's previous negative encounters and doubts about himself about those encounters.

ELI

Wow! That feels awesome!

Eli spontaneously hugs Ethan. Ethan reciprocates, smiles, releases and brings his face a little closer to Eli. He's just a few inches taller, so he bends forward a little to get his eyes lined up with Eli's.

ETHAN

Okay, you're now ready. Remember, this is all I can do for you today. If something bothers you, put one hand or both up, palms in the direction of the source of whatever it is that bothers you. If at anytime you want to stop this, raise your fist like I showed you. It's very important that you do it quickly. We are about to start. Watch me and do it like this.

Ethan raises his arms straight out in front with palms touching, facing away from his body.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Start like this.

Eli mimics Ethan's stance.

ELI

Ready.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - WAITING ROOM

Ethan swipes both hands away from each other as if aggressively opening curtains. The wall becomes glass, revealing hundreds of thousands of people in various partitions of a variety of sizes and shapes.

ETHAN

Walk Eli. Don't look at me. I'm right beside or behind you. Put your toe on the glass-

And they were in. Immediately Eli could sense but not hear a billions upon billions of agonizing thoughts. He moved his hands down and couldn't feel the thoughts. He could now hear them. His hands worked like a modulator/filter.

He saw an old man in a large room, but didn't feel anything. He saw a 20 year old woman without legs dragging herself across a small room. Round and round she went. She smiled at Eli. A baby was wailing in a tiny room without a ceiling at all. Eli put up his hands. A girl his age sat in a corner rocking back and forth violently. Eli put his hands down and the girl stopped and smiled. The older woman next to her noticed, looked at Eli and started weeping tears of joy as dark wisps of energy peeled off her back and toxic orange pee and dark red shit soiled her pants. She took them off and was clean. Next to her was a Native American man in his 50s lying on his back gasping for breath.

Eli shielded himself, then lowered his hands slowly. Eli put his hands together as if holding a rope or golf club and pulled. The man relaxed and started breathing easy. He smiled, sat up and started crying, his tears floating and some dancing around him before dissolving.

Eli went back to the baby, picked it up and the baby snuggled into his arms and fell asleep. He put her down into a soft, warm blanket. Others began noticing the change in the temperature and energy around but couldn't see Eli nor Ethan.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

We're done.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING WAITING ROOM

Eli collapses into Ethan who steadies him with one hand while swiping with his other. Sophia steps in and pulls Eli into a comfy puffy chair that resembles a pillow of clouds while Ethan busily swipes everything back to the way it was prior to their entry.

When Eli comes to a few seconds later, Ethan sits next to him.

ETHAN

That went very well Eli. When you get home I want you to ask your Mom to switch your diet to organic fruits and vegetables only.

Eli nods. He senses every cell in his body nodding in agreement too.

ELI

Eat well. Be well. You know how to protect yourself now.

ETHAN

(without speaking)

I will send for you next week.

Sophia leads Eli to the wall. An elevator door materializes with the door already opened. She steps in and points at the only button and then steps out giggling.

Eli pushes the button and the doors close. He hears and feels a gentle whoosh and a second later the doors open, not in the lobby but rather on the back side of the building.

EXT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Eli walks to his bike, locked onto a thick short pole. Eli scoffs at himself as he pulls the lock off the pole to find that he can't. He senses Ethan and Sophia, turns around and sees them for a second smiling through the glass and then they disappear as the glass glare reflects the sky.

He uses the key, unlocks the lock, stuffs it into his pack and rides off.

INT. - KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Eli is seated at the counter voraciously eating his dinner while his Mom Eleanor is reading student papers on her iPad Pro. Eli gets up, goes to the adjacent kitchen and gets a second serving from the stove.

Eli carefully, consciously places two big forkfuls of veggie noodles and places them into a steaming bowl of curry. He puts a wrap onto a small plate and walks around the counter to sit near his Mom who glances over.

Eli smiles at her and decides to let the steaming curry noodles cool off a bit. As he's about to bite into the wrap, something occurs to him.

ELI

Mom, do you ever talk to Dad?

Eleanor is startled, opens her mouth, sighs, closes her iPad and swivels to Eli.

ELEANOR

Eli... I don't think I can talk about that right now.

ELI

How come we never hear from him?

Eleanor sighs heavily and slumps as Eli slurps his curry noodles. He looks expectantly at his Mom.

ELI (CONT'D)

You're not very good at this. And you never have been. Why?

ELEANOR

(exasperated)

Eli, what has gotten into you today?

ELI

How come you never told me that I'm an empath?

ELEANOR

Empath? Who told you you're an empath?

ELI

Isn't obvious, that I can hear people's thoughts? That I have to tune you out so I don't have to deal with all the FUBARed politics you go through?

ELEANOR

Language-

ELI

Language? I'm just using the terms you use on a daily basis.

Eleanor gasps.

ELEANOR

How would you know since you tune me out?

Eli carefully moves his food away, closes his eyes and puts his palms out towards his Mom.

ELI

Stay still please.

Eli moves his palms apart. He takes deep breaths and for about 10 seconds there is an awkward silence. After 10 seconds his Mom opens her iPad and scans her email Inbox. Eli flinches a bit.

ELI (CONT'D)

You're the prettiest woman on the entire campus. Nobody really believes that you are as smart as you are. They think you give blowjobs to the Dean. The Dean likes that people think that way; gives him more leverage. Dr. Dave? David?

ELEANOR

Dav-

ELI

Davis. Dr. Davis resents the hell out of you and yet wants to date you, seriously date you so he can take over the department chair. Cynthia in HR despises you for your good looks and your smarts. You like her but she's just consumed with jealousy. Your publisher thinks you should quit and write full time but that thought terrifies you because you have tenure. And Dad? You just go to a dark place whenever you think of him.

Eleanor is visibly upset as Eli opens his eyes and puts his palms down. His Mom gives him a look before tears fill her eyes. She leaves and hurries to her bedroom, shuts the door and shuts herself down on the bed. She screams into the pillow.

Eli follows her; he puts his hand on the door and grows visibly upset.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. - CLASSY BALLROOM - SUNSET

A younger, happier Eleanor is waiting just outside the ballroom doors. She is happy and anxious at the same time. In walks her handsome husband. He's wearing an old school wool sports jacket, artsy Jhane Barnes shirt, colorful tie, well-worn but clean Levis jeans, and his trademark red converse shoes.

ELEANOR

What took so long this time?
(smiling, kidding)

ELLIOT

The usual!

He giggles, wraps his arms around his wife and arms around each other they walk into the ballroom. The banner on the wall reads: Academia Awards". They squeeze into two remaining seats at a table near the front.

EXT. - OUTSIDE CLASSY BALLROOM - EVENING

Eleanor is straightening out Elliot's tie and tugs on his jacket lapels. She is tipsy.

ELEANOR

I wish you would learn how to drive
so we could go home together.

ELLIOT

(sighs)

I know, Elly. I wish you would get
a bike so we could ride home
together. I could show you all the
cool landscapes and plants.

ELEANOR

(pulls Elliot in, kisses
him)

You be safe.

ELLIOT

Always; you know me.

Eleanor smiles, walks away, turns back to say

ELEANOR

See you soon. I'll be with Eli, so
come see us.

ELLIOT

Of course!

She walks to the parking lot. Elliot walks to the nearby bike rack, unlocks his bike, buttons his jacket, locks the lock to the rack and rides slowly away.

EXT. - URBAN STREETS - LATE EVENING

Elliot is in the crosswalk of a busy intersection. Several pedestrians are walking through the crosswalks during an all-way light.

Elliot times the light, looks both ways, then bursts out into the intersection. He doesn't see a speeding car in the middle lane on his left. It smashes Elliot with such force that his jacket is ripped off his body and the bike totally demolished. Weirdly, a skateboarder sitting down on a concrete retaining wall 100' away catches Elliot's cell phone and keys as his body flew through the air.

INT. - ABRAM'S HOUSE - LATE EVENING

A distressed Eleanor arrives home. Infant Eli lets out a chilling, ear-piercing scream. Eleanor bursts into the bedroom to see the babysitter in tears.

BABYSITTER

I can't make him stop! I don't know what happened.

Eleanor has Eli in her arms as he screams, She swaddles him in a fleece blanket and gently rocks him in her arms. She looks at the babysitter with fear in her eyes.

ELEANOR

How long has he been screaming?

BABYSITTER

Maybe 10 minutes.

After 30 seconds Eli stops screaming and starts crying uncontrollably.

ELEANOR

What the?
(looks at the
babysitter)

Babysitter shrugs. Both are disturbed by the sound of Eli crying because it doesn't sound like a baby but more like a teenager or adult sobbing.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Can you stay with me for awhile Sarah?

SARAH

Yes.

Eleanor leads them to the kitchen.

ELEANOR

(lifts her shirt)
I'll feed him. I could use a drink and snack, too. Do you mind?

SARAH

Not at all.

Sarah pulls items out of the fridge.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Too late for veggies and hummus?

ELEANOR
(smiles)
Nope, never too late. Thank you for
being here. It's just so weird-

- her cell phone rings. She adjusts Eli, grabs the phone and
sees that it's Elliot. She is eager to talk with him.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Elliot! Weird timing-

POLICE
Is this Eleanor Abrams?

ELEANOR
Yes? Elliot?

POLICE
Are you the wife of Elliot Abrams?

ELEANOR
Yes.

POLICE
Miss Abrams, this is the Santa Cruz
police. I'm Sergeant Davison. We
found Elliot Abram's phone and the
ICE number.

ELEANOR
Oh my god! Is he okay!?

POLICE
I don't know m'am. It doesn't look
good. The person we believe is
Elliot Abrams is being transported
to County right now.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. - ABRAMS HOUSE PRESENT DAY - EARLY EVENING

Eli gasps and tears fill his eyes as he puts his palms on the
door. He grabs the knob and gently opens the door. He peeks
in and sees his Mom on the bed. He walks over to her, puts
his hand on her back. She scootches over and hugs Eli into
bed with her.

ELI
No wonder you don't like me riding
a bike!

ELEANOR
(chuckles, wipes away
tears)
So you're an empath. Did you know
your father also was an empath?

ELI
What!?

ELEANOR
I didn't think of it until now, but
he was always telling me that he
was just painting people's
thoughts. I don't think he ever
told anyone else that.

Eli sighs into his Mom's arms. They cuddle silently as the
camera pulls back from the bedroom.

INT. - SCHOOL OF CREATIVES CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Students in Ms. DeMuth's Design class are presenting their
designs onto a smartboard from their iPads. Though it was
Thursday, Eli had been absorbed all week by thoughts of his
father. He felt a connection with him, an inner peace, and it
manifested in his interactions at school. He felt calmer.

Thoughts of his father were peppered with thoughts of one
woman out hundreds of thousands in the Blue Marble Building.

He also felt in control and instead of his palms he was
imagining them so he didn't have to hear EVERYTHING people
were thinking. Others noticed this in his body language. He
was so much more approachable. Even Padme noticed but she was
avoiding Eli, and Eli avoided making eye contact with her.

MS. DEMUTH
Eli, your turn.

Eli's eyes were closed. He was busy imagining the impossibly
beautiful Sophia, wondering if she was thinking of him; she
was but not in the way that Eli hoped.

MS. DEMUTH (CONT'D)
Eli? Open your eyes Eli and share
your design. ELI!!

Her yelling had a weirdly cathartic way of pulling him out of
trances, unlike Mr. Kittimoor's deep baritone when he was
annoyed with the high pitch "om"s in the weird Vagus class.

ELI

Yes...

(as he presses the
`Share` icon on his pad.)

His beautiful rendition of the elevator lobby of the Blue Marble building had beautiful glowing numbers for each floor set. The class oohed and aaahed, except Padme who glowered at Eli; she knew this building because it was where her mother was.

Ms. DeMuth noticed Padme and called on her. Padme was about to give her critique when there was a knock at the door. Eli sensed it a second before it happened. He felt joy and warmth spreading in his chest and then a 3-tap rap on the door's window.

Ethan stepped in and smiled at Ms. DeMuth. Eli glanced at Padme and was relieved to see that she didn't know Ethan.

ETHAN

Hi, I'm here to meet with Eli
Abrams.

(pretending not to know
what Eli looked liked)

I'm the new Creatives Counselor.

Several of the kids snickered, Padme included. Ms. DeMuth pointed at Eli and directed Ethan's attention to the smartboard screen where Eli's Blue Marble elevator was glowing.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

That's a beautiful design, right?

Eli turned red.

MS. DEMUTH

Yes it is, Mr. ...what did you say
your name was?

ETHAN

Oh, I'm sorry! I actually didn't.
I'm Ethan Andrews.

Ms. DeMuth motioned for Eli to come up but he had his stuff already in his pack, walking up the aisle.

MS. DEMUTH

He's new here, third week; regular
schooling and all that.

PADME

He's regular alright.

A few kids snicker, Eli turns to look at Padme, who looks out the window.

Ethan smiles, puts his arm around Eli as they walk out the door. The kids in class can be heard snickering as the door closes behind them.

EXT. - SCHOOL OF CREATIVES PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Ethan and Eli walk briskly out of the school, cross the parking lot and get into Ethan's Tesla Model X.

INT. - TESLA MODEL X - AFTERNOON

Ethan presses the power button. Eli notices the battery is low and looks curiously at Ethan.

ETHAN

Yes, give it a try, but don't focus on the batteries, focus on the charging port.

Eli closes his eyes and sees the port. He imagines solar energy pouring into the port while Ethan drives. Ethan is amazed to see that after just 15 seconds that the battery display shows the car is fully charged.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Stop Eli. Eli, stop! ELI!

ELI

Sorry.

ETHAN

Don't be. I saw how Ms. DeMuth had to yell to break your concentration. Is there a better way to reach you without yelling your name?

ELI

Nope. Yelling works for me.

ETHAN

But you realize that yelling is often a negative experience for most people? Does it hurt you?

ELI

I thought you were an empath.

ETHAN

I am, but Eli, you have a concentration level that creates a barrier.

ELI

Oh.

Eli stares up through the Model X's integrated windshield/skyroof. He felt distracted and never liked the way it felt.

ETHAN

Eli, it's okay. Let it go and let's move on. We're here and we have work to do.

EXT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Eli felt embarrassed because the car was off and he didn't even notice that he had been looking up at the blue marble's upper exterior.

ETHAN

No need to be embarrassed. And yes, we can go to the top today.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - AFTERNOON

The elevator doors silently open. Eli and Ethan step out and walk to the floor to ceiling windows. Eli looks out and then down in quiet amazement. He can see the floors of the blue marble below him; they are on top of the globe-shaped building.

While Eli moves around the floor admiring the views and absorbing the energy, Ethan stands with his eyes closed, trying to get a bead on Eli. Today feels off, and Ethan would like to know why. What's bothering Eli?

ETHAN

We have a meeting and you're invited.

Eli turns around towards Ethan, sees him as he swipes the air. A wall appears, then a door slightly ajar and barely visible as an slightly transparent vertical line that would be easy to miss.

Ethan motions to Eli to follow him. They step through the door and hear snickering.

ELI
Why are they laughing?

ETHAN
Inside joke...that I won't find the
door but I always do.

A tall man dressed in a blue metallic suit stands up to meet Eli. He has silver platinum hair that appears to be electrically charged. His piercing green-blue eyes are mesmerizing. Eli freezes, stares off into space and suddenly cannot hear anyone in the room.

The tall man, known only as Zimmer, sits down and watches with the others as Eli goes into a trance.

Tears well up in Eli's eyes. He closes them, trembling, slowly turning to get his bearings. He looks down a little bit. A few follow his gaze but Ethan has his eyes locked on Eli. Eli gasps, then Ethan gasps.

ELI
There is someone here who has been
waiting for me for years.

Ethan nods yes, then no.

ELI (CONT'D)
How long have you known?

ETHAN
I didn't know until now.

Ethan turns to Zimmer to identify who Eli is talking about

ELI
No! Just get me down to him now!

The group is stunned. Zimmer is troubled. Sophia is bewildered. Ethan is uncomfortable. He puts his hands subtly towards Eli to block him from `hearing`.

ETHAN (V.O)
(to Zimmer)
You knew?

ZIMMER
Not until now.

Eli walks over to the three of them.

ELI
Take me to him.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING ELEVATOR - AFTERNOON

Led by Zimmer, the 4 step out of the elevator onto a floor with thousands of people. They walk among them as Zimmer explains something important.

ZIMMER

We see these people, but to them we appear as if in a dream; real but not tangible. They are in their own world while you and I are able to be between worlds-

ELI

I see him!

Eli starts tearing up as he sprints through and past thousands of people who are sick, injured, disabled, and some who appear lifeless. He finally reaches a corner and gasps.

There lies his father in a coma. Eli is in disbelief, slowly approaches his father. As he comes closer he steps into his father's happy place: home. He sees what he sees: the walls that he painted expressing his joy at being a dad. The abstracts now makes concrete sense to Eli as he feels what his father feels.

Then the wall paintings start to change. He sees an Indian woman lying in a bed similar to this.

ELI (CONT'D)

Padme's mother.

His father's expression starts to change into a calm smile. Then a wall changes into an abstract of two people riding bikes; Eli is on one of them and the ginormous background is the Blue Marble Building. Eli gasps excitedly.

Zimmer, Ethan and Sophia can hardly believe what they are seeing. His father has led Eli here, to see him, be with him.

ETHAN

Take his hand Eli.

Eli takes his father's hand and then poof! he's gone right into his father's world. Eli collapses onto his father. Ethan moves towards Eli but Zimmer holds him back.

ZIMMER

They are traveling; it'll only take a second.

ELLIOT'S CHILDHOOD MONTAGE, SHOULD LAST 4-6 MINUTES

Montage: how Elliot's father and grandfather died in a car accident but Elliot survived without a scratch. He was Eli's age, 12. He responded by never getting into a car ever again. He started painting a lot; it became his salvation and then a way to make a living.

END FLASHBACK.

After the flashback Eli comes to.

ELI
I love you, I love you, I love
you... I had no idea! I have no
words!

FADE TO:BLACK

INT. - ABRAMS KITCHEN - MORNING

Eleanor and Eli are eating. Eli doesn't reveal his visit to the Blue Marble. He desperately wants his Mom to come, but he feels tension and disconnected from his Mom and completely connected to his Dad.

Eleanor gets up from the table, quickly and gracefully walks to the stove, picks up a pan, walks back to Eli and dishes out more veggie hash onto Eli's plate.

ELEANOR
You're awfully quiet. What's
bugging you?

Eli shrugs, keeps his eyes on his food that he moves around with a fork. Eleanor walks back to the stove. She talks louder back towards Eli.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
I got a call from the school. Ms.
DeMuth says she is deeply impressed
by your designs.

Eli looks up at her quizzically. He pulls his iPad out of his daypack, turns it on and swipes through some images. He stops at the one with Blue Marble elevator lobby design.

ELI
I think she's referring to this.

Eleanor walks back to the table. Eli shows her and looks for a reaction. Eleanor gasps.

ELEANOR
That looks familiar.

ELI
It should.

Silent tension. Eli looks hurt and mad at the same time. Tears are welling up in his eyes.

ELI (CONT'D)
Why did you tell me Dad was dead?

Eleanor turns white as a sheet.

ELI (CONT'D)
And why have you not visited him since the day?

ELEANOR
Eli, he was as good as gone.

Eleanor starts connecting the dots.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
How do you know about this place?

ELI
I thought I accidentally found it.
A classmate's Mom is there. But
when I visited Dad, he showed me
that he lead me there.

Eleanor is quiet, slow to process it because she buried it long ago, shut herself off, suddenly a single Mom in need of work and support.

ELI (CONT'D)
So why do you not visit? You would
not believe how happy Dad was to
see me!

Eli breaks down in tears and runs to his room. Eleanor follows him.

INT. - ELI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Eli is on the bed crying. Eleanor stands at the door, opens it a bit to listen. She speaks to him through the crack in the door.

ELEANOR
Eli, I'm so sorry-

ELI
Don't! Get out of here!

FADE OUT.

INT. - SCHOOL OF CREATIVES CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Ms. DeMuth's Design Class is over. Students pack up their daypacks and head out of class. The day is over. Students are weary and ready to get outside.

Eli is slow to pack, wanting a chance to talk with Padme before she gets out the school doors. Eli follows her into the hall and makes his move.

ELI
Padme...

Padme turns briefly to see that it's Eli.

ELI (CONT'D)
Padme, can we talk for a second?

PADME
No, I need to go home.

ELI
You're not the only one with one parent.

Padme pauses, stops, turns around, looks around for space.

PADME
Over here.

She leads Eli over to an empty classroom. The lights are off and the blinds are drawn to keep out the sunshine. She closes the door behind Eli.

PADME (CONT'D)
Okay, what?

Eli is uncomfortable, looks down at the floor. Fat tears well up quickly and a few drop to the floor. She keeps her distance and cool.

PADME (CONT'D)
If all you're going to do is cry,
spare me.

Eli looks up and Padme can see genuine hurt in his eyes. She was thinking he was going to apologize for being insensitive.

ELI

My Dad is in the same place as your mom. I saw him a few days ago for the first time in my life.

PADME

What? You're joking.

ELI

(Subtlety shakes his head
"no")

It's true. My mom told me he's dead but he's actually in a coma. Has been since I was 9 months old.

Padme sits down as Eli slumps into a chair 2 seats away. Padme scoots closer, tears now welling in her eyes.

PADME

Sorry Eli, I didn't know.

ELI

I'm sorry. I didn't know about your mom. I'm sorry I hurt your feelings.

They sit next to each other looking down at the floor. A teacher walks in, notices the atmosphere and turns right around. He leans back in to say:

TEACHER

Doors close in 15 minutes.

The teacher closes the door behind him. There is a long silence as both gather their thoughts.

PADME

How? What happened with your dad?

ELI

He was hit while riding his bike. Not far from here.

Padme puts her hand on Eli's. They sit like this for 20 seconds, numb, locked into their own grief.

ELI (CONT'D)

Are you an Empath?

PADME

What? No, I'm not.

ELI
I am. So's my Dad. He painted
people's best thoughts, and
sometimes his own.

PADME
Hmmm...

Padme has lost interest and Eli senses that. He also senses that while he might be able to "read" or "hear" Padme's mom, this is not the time.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - ETHAN'S OFFICE

Ethan is shirtless, meditating on ball, perfectly balanced. He then becomes aware of Eli, walks over to the wall and swipes it. It becomes glass and he looks down to see Eli.

EXT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Eli rides up, dismounts his bike, locks it up and quickly is inside the building.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - ETHAN'S OFFICE

Ethan swipes the air.

CUT TO: elevator lobby, elevator door opens just as Eli was about to push the button.

CUT TO: Ethan rolling expertly off the ball, putting on his shirt, walks over to the elevator door, presses his chest to the door and takes 5 steps back and 1 step to his left.

As soon as he stops, the elevator door opens and there's Eli.

ETHAN
Hello Eli.

Eli nods, walks over to a table, puts his pack down and looks out the window.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Ah, girl problems. They are easier
to deal with than you think.

ELI
Why is Padme's mom here?

Ethan walks over next to Eli, swipes the desk and a screen appears with data. Ethan swipes on the list until he finds the name Devi who has a daughter Padme.

ETHAN
Let's go see her.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - ELEVATOR

Ethan disembarks from the elevator doors with Eli behind him. He walks briskly through the very large floor with thousands of people opaquely visible behind the curtains of their own making. He stops at a dark grey gauze.

ETHAN
This is Padme's mom, Devi.

Devi is catatonic, rocking back and forth. Eli steps through the grey gauze and immediately senses her alternating polarity as she switches from anger directed at her attacker and self-loathing for the attack. Ethan carefully watches Eli. It takes Eli about 20 seconds to realize that Devi was brutally gang raped; Eli starts gagging and Ethan pulls him out of the grey gauze.

ELI
That's horrible!

ETHAN
Yes.

Ethan pauses his thought, grabs Eli by the arm and gently, slowly leads him back to the elevator in a meandering path that takes them near scores of other patients.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Everyone has suffered various traumas. You have, and I have. It's best practice that they talk about it.

(Waving his hand)
But these people are unable to remove the poison that has sickened their BodyMind-

ELI
Body mind?

ETHAN
BodyMind, one word. One cannot separate one from the other.
(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

It's important that you understand that if you do not let go of trauma however big or small it may seem, it gets stored in you like energy in a battery. These people keep charging the battery with negative energy and so they remain.

ELI

Can they ever get unstuck?

ETHAN

Yes, but they need someone to help them.

ELI

Can you? Isn't that why you're here?

ETHAN

No, I can't. That's not my purpose. It's yours.

Eli pensively recalls hearing his father's voice, warm, friendly, heartfelt. It made Eli feel good. He recalls his mother's voice and it feels cold, calculating. Then he hears his father in that moment.

ELLIOT (V.O.)

She had to. Society doesn't support those who support us all.

The elevator door opens into the blank room that Ethan was meditating in. The ball changes color as Ethan approaches. Ethan swipes the air and a live video feed shows Sophia on the screen. Eli murmurs, smitten with Sophia. Ethan raises his eyebrow.

ETHAN

Hi. Can you come over and talk with us?

Sophia stands up, moves closer to the video screen and swipes it. She disappears at the same time she says, "Yes" and a wall with an opening appears. Sophia steps through at the same time her "Yes" ends.

Eli is startled.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

(to Eli who is staring at Sophia)

That takes some getting used to.

SOPHIA

Hi Eli.

Sophia looks at Ethan who nods affirmatively. She puts her arm around Eli and they walk towards the windows. Ethan lags behind.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

You're a certain type of Empath. You're able to articulate other's traumatic experiences, and you're able to release them from where they are stuck.

ELI

How?

SOPHIA

It's revealed to you, but you have to be able to absorb their trauma and process it before what we call 'Source' reveals how to release it. It's different for everyone. What we have in common is that trauma is stored energetically in each person and for one reason or several, each person holds onto trauma. They let their trauma define them.

ELI

What about my Dad? Is he stuck?

Sophia looks over to Ethan.

ETHAN

We don't know. He's in what we call a functional coma. It appears he has lasted as long as he has in order to communicate with you.

Eli turns pensive and starts to tear up.

ELI

Yes... yes he did. It felt so good, too.

ETHAN

When you collapsed onto your father, do recall what he said? And do you know how long you were "out"?

ELI

I was with him for years, like
growing up with him.

(Eli stops to compose
himself)

His Dad and grandfather were killed
in a car accident when he was 12.
He survived but never rode in a car
again. He never learned to drive.
He biked everywhere. He also said
that he painted other people's
thoughts and he painted every wall
in our house to express how awesome
he felt...

(tearing up)
being a dad.

SOPHIA

You are expressing energy that the
death of your ancestors that is
stored in your father. Come with
me, please.

Eli gently grasps Sophia's hand and they walk to the wall
that appears when they are near it. She holds open the door
that appears and smiles back at Ethan. Ethan smiles and turns
to sit on his ball.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - YOGA ROOM

Ethan is silently demonstrating various yoga asanas to Eli in
a heated room that glows with energy. He shows Eli the Sun
Salutation to warm up and then moves into the Primary series
of Ashtanga yoga.

SERIES OF SHOTS - ETHAN TEACHES ELI ASHTANGA YOGA

- A) Eli struggles with balance doing the Sun Salutation.
- B) Eli has perfect form during Sun Salutation.
- C) Eli falls over doing the Reverse Triangle asana.
- D) Eli has perfect form doing the Boat asana.
- E) Eli looks strong doing the Warrior asana.

INT. - MORNING - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "6 WEEKS LATER"

Eleanor is eating, drinking coffee and working on her laptop when Eli enters. He's a changed young man. He's upright, his shoulders no longer roll forward, he doesn't hunch when he sits down. His voice is a little deeper than it was 6 weeks ago.

Eli enters the bright, large kitchen, walks directly to his mother who notices his posture and confidence and stands up.

ELI

Hi Mom.

He gives her a strong hug, pulls her in for a second and releases.

Eleanor is shocked by this seemingly overnight transformation.

ELEANOR

What in the world? You've changed overnight! So much like your Dad.

Eli smiles. He feels great to hear that. Before she can ask, Eli responds.

ELI

Yoga. It's amazing what it does on so many levels.

Eleanor is speechless in a good way. Eli walks to the fruit bowl and helps himself to a banana and a pint of blueberries. His back is turned to his mother. We see his face, his eyes closed as he peels the banana. Eyes still closed he opens the cupboard door, grabs a bowl and puts it on the counter in front of him.

He opens the blueberries container and starts sorting them. A few soft mushy blueberries he places in the compost bowl along with a few stems. The whole time Eleanor is watching him, coming to grips as to why all of a sudden he's a handsome copy of his father.

She sighs, letting peace overcome her. Eli, with his eyes closed and back towards his Mom, smiles at the same time that Eleanor relaxes. As he turns around, she moves her computer, coffee and food away to rest her head. Graceful and quiet as a cat, Eli brings his fruit over next to her, puts it down, moves her computer and food farther away, closes his eyes and meditates.

A minute later Eli opens his eyes, moves the computer and food back to where it was, and starts eating. Eleanor startles awake and smiles when she sees Eli.

ELEANOR
Wow! What just happened?

ELI
You were dreaming, processing
something from way back.

Eleanor is stunned.

ELI (CONT'D)
It's okay Mother.

Eli smiles at his mom with such calm and peace that she's never seen in anyone. She's not used to this. Eli is no longer her boy, but a man. A young man, but a man nonetheless.

ELI (CONT'D)
I've been training.

ELEANOR
Training for what?

ELI
Training my purpose. Sharpening my
focus.

Eli gets up from the table and motions Eleanor to come with. They walk 20 feet over the entry of the living room. Eli puts his arm around her shoulder.

ELI (CONT'D)
Father painted this wall thinking
about the time he first met you,
how thrilled he was. It's the view
from the classroom where he saw
you. You sat by the window and he
saw he had a future with you.

Eleanor's eyes are watery. She takes a moment to breathe in, closes her eyes.

ELEANOR
There was something about him. I
thought he was held back in grade
school because he seemed older,
more mature. I was cold, so I
walked right by to sit by the
window...

FADE TO FLASHBACK:

The painted living room wall blurs as it recedes and window frames come into focus. Then the campus comes into focus.

Elliot is walking across campus on a sunny Spring day. He's a funky creative guy with red Converse shoes, chef's smock that has paint all over it, and yet his pleated shorts are immaculate.

Elliot enters the classroom, take off his chef's smock which reveals a t-shirt with the words "It's all binary to me." He sits down, pulls out pencil, sharpener, notebook and starts to doodle.

A few seconds later Eleanor walks in and though he's engrossed in his doodling, he senses her presence and looks up. Their eyes meet instantly. It's thrilling and humbling at the same time for Elliot.

He watches her shiver, mentally suggesting she sit by the sunny window. Eleanor does just that. She sits down and makes sure her sweater is closed and looks over at Elliot on the other side of the room. His smile warms her heart.

After class, Elliot bolts out the door first. Eleanor is disappointed. She hurries to gather her notebook and pen back into her stylish messenger bag. She's anxious to see Elliot. She walks out into the hall and looks both ways for him. She sighs and walks on out of the building into the sunshine. She smiles when the sun hits her and instantly warms her up.

She looks at her watch and decides not to hurry back to her dorm but sit somewhere and read. She walks over to a bench near a tree in the sunshine. She sits, pulls a book out her bag to read. She's opening the book when she hears and then sees a cyclist come to an abrupt stop in front of her.

ELLIOT

Ah! There you are!

CUT TO LIVING ROOM:

Eleanor and Eli are silently admiring the living room wall, letting the joy infused into the colors permeate their heart.

ELI

I know what we should do.

Eleanor looks at Eli and gulps.

ELEANOR

Oh Eli. I don't know, I don't know.

Eleanor collapses onto the sofa surrounded by her husband's wonderful paintings. She's been afraid of this moment, a reckoning, an account of sorts, an account she never wanted to have because she didn't know how to feel, think. She'd been in survival mode. No one knows when people wake from comas nor if they ever do. Some die as the body slowly shuts off. Eleanor felt guilty for wishing Elliot would have just died. It'd give her closure without having to do anything, without having to pretend as she had done all these years that Elliot was gone. He was just as good as gone.

After 6 weeks Eleanor decided she could no longer remain in limbo. The unknowns, the uncertainties, the possibilities, the vacillating hope was too much for her to bear. She wanted solid ground, closure. She had to choose between hope and Eli's future, so she chose Eli, certain that Elliot would never come out of his coma and so far that was the case.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

I'm not-

ELI

-ssshhh. It's okay Mom. I don't judge you and neither does Dad, so stop being so hard on yourself. Dad let it go, he has nothing but love for you. He stuck around because he loves you and me. Please trust me.

EXT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - DAY

Eli gets out of the car first, anxious to get going. Eleanor is cautious and uncomfortable, anxious to get this over with.

They walk into the Blue Marble Building.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE LOBBY

COMPUTERIZED VOICE

State your purpose.

Eli smiles, winks at his mom and pushes the button without looking, just looking at his Mom. Instantly the door opens and they step in.

ELEANOR

So many floors!

ELI

Press any floor.
(snickers)

Eleanor puts her hand to the panel and hundreds of floors light up under the presence of her hands. Slightly flummoxed she pushes 51.

ELI (CONT'D)
Seriously? Area 51?

Eleanor allows an uncomfortable smile, squeezes Eli's hand and his smile drops when he feels how clinched his mother feels.

Just seconds later the door opens revealing Sophia and and Ethan side by side with Sophia directly across from Eleanor.

SOPHIA
Hi, I'm Sophia. You must be
Eleanor.
(Looking back to Ethan)
This is Ethan.

Ethan steps forward and then back, beckoning them to step out of the elevator.

ETHAN
Come with us please.

Ethan turns to walk, takes 9 steps and then swipes a beautiful wall of warm energy to enclose the four of them.

Ethan swipes up a few comfortable large cushion balls and motions to Eleanor and Sophia to sit there while he and Eli walk into one wall and disappear. Ethan pops his head back out.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
We're right over here Eleanor. Take
your time.

SOPHIA
What has Eli told you about this
place?

ELEANOR
Nothing. I thought I'd been here
before when we first placed Elliot
here, but nothing seems the same.
It's confusing.

SOPHIA
Yes, it takes some getting used to.
One's perceptions change over time.
Mine certainly have.

ELEANOR
What do you do here?

SOPHIA
A little bit everything. What do you do?

ELEANOR
I teach law at the university.

Sophia ponders this for a moment.

SOPHIA
So... I hope I don't sound indelicate, but I know that Elliot's case was never resolved. I sense that the lack of justice drives you crazy, so you prefer not to dwell on it.

Eleanor tears up and nods in agreement.

ELEANOR
(sighing)
Yes... it's why I don't want to be here.

SOPHIA
You're here because of Eli.

ELEANOR
Yes. He's grown so much - just wow! He reminds me so much of his Dad.

Sophia stands and motions to Eleanor to do the same. They take a few steps and Sophia gently swipes the wall at eye level. They see Ethan and Eli doing yoga asanas.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

So that's what he's been doing. He's grown taller, straighter and seems so much more confident in himself.

Sophia nods, swipes the invisible wall again, and walks back and past the cushion balls.

SOPHIA
Come with me, let me show you around.

Eleanor tenses up.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

When Eli showed up one day, out of the blue, we had a whole lot of energy permeate each floor. I can't show you the floors. We have hundreds of thousands of traumatized people in our care from all over the world.

They walk into Ethan's offices and admire the view of the bay. They are far higher up than the elevator would suggest.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

As soon as we met Eli we knew he had the capabilities to remove the illusions and internal barriers they've naturally put up.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

We barely scratch the surface, Ethan and I and others. Eli has something unique that we're still learning about. He's an empath-

ELEANOR

What's that mean? What's an empath?

Sophia nods, swipes a wall, walks forward, and swipes an enclosure surrounding her and Eleanor. She takes a half step forward, presses a floor and then instantly manifested elevators silently whooshes up. 3 seconds later they step out.

SOPHIA

I'll show you a bit of what an empath experiences. Say the name "Eli".

ELEANOR

Eli

The walls glowed with blue, gold, and amber plasma strings gently swirling about.

SOPHIA

Say the name "Devi"

ELEANOR

Devi

The walls showed a single pale yellow plasma bubble that dissolved a second after it appeared.

SOPHIA

This time shout that same name.

ELEANOR

Devi!

This time the walls showed red and yellow plasma arcs for 3 seconds.

SOPHIA

Think about the day you got married
to Elliot.

The walls began to shoot out erratic bursts of dark blue plasma as Eleanor couldn't bring herself to think about Elliot.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

I know it's tough, but you do have
pleasant memories of him, don't
you?

ELEANOR

(annoyed)

Yes, of course I do, it's just that
it's been 12 years and not a day
goes by where I haven't thought
about him, about Eli, and, and-

As Eleanor speaks, the entire wall changes color and begins transforming from erratic to strong, thick arcs that passionately light up the walls.

Eleanor notices the colors are identical to her favorite wall in the bedroom. Sophia notices it and how sustained it is, that the wall's plasma vibration is sustained and hasn't moved.

SOPHIA

That right there is your emotional
center. See how you're keeping it
alive, how it's stable?

Eleanor nods silently, tears flowing down her cheeks. She's been troubled, annoyed since she got here, but now her face is changing, peace and relaxation is coming up her. Her shoulders relax, she sits on the floor sideways to Sophia and gazes at her colorful, heart-warming memories of Elliot. Eleanor's defenses dissolve and the wall responds with greens and blues entwining at the bottom;

dark purple blobs with lavender and orange highlights weave thin highlights throughout.

ELEANOR

I see him now. I thought he would be angry, but I see now he's at peace and always has been. Oh-he wants to tell me something!

Eleanor smiles, closes her eyes, takes three deep breaths and then startles awake from her reverie. Eli has appeared directly in front of her.

ELI

Yay Mom!

He helps her up and they hug as Sophia and Ethan step out of the room. They remain embraced.

INT. - CONTINUOUS - HALLWAY IN BLUE MARBLE BUILDING

Ethan, Eli, Eleanor, and Sophia are walking single down a hallway. Ethan is a half step ahead of Sophia who keeps turning around to smile at Eli and Eleanor, eavesdropping on their conversation.

Soon they reach the square room where Ethan taught Eli how to protect himself from the hundreds of thousands of thoughts that permeated the next several floors.

ETHAN

Eleanor, good news: you're not an empath-

Eli and Sophia giggle.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

-but you got to see a little bit of what it's like to be one. Empath's are extremely sensitive. It's like being a radio that receives all channels all at once, all the time.

Ethan swipes the wall and 2 small couches appear.

SOPHIA

I want you to listen to Eli recount his visit with your husband and then we'll go in.

Sophia sits next to Ethan. Both close their eyes and meditate as Eli excitedly tells his Mom about the 20 years he spent with his dad that he later found out was 5 seconds in "this" time.

Then Eli uncovers the last thing his father revealed and his mood changes to anger and sadness.

Ethan notices and motions to Sophia.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. - UNIVERSITY CAMPUS PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Eleanor and Elliot kiss goodbye. He gets on his bike, she gets to her car and realize the keys to her car are in Elliot's jacket pocket.

The Dean happens to be passing by in his red BMW SUV and notices Eleanor waving him down.

EXT. - CITY INTERSECTION - NIGHT

Elliot notices the red SUV too late. The last thing he sees is Eleanor's terrified face - she's in the passenger seat of the car.

The skateboarder who caught his phone and keys hands them to the police, who hand it to the ambulance, who put it on the gurney. The keys wind up in Elliot's hand.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Eleanor and the Dean are arguing as he drives. She is devastated, numb, shocked and horrified. She arrives home to her 1 month old toddler screaming his lungs out.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - DAY

Eli is running to his father. Ethan and Sophia are right behind him.

ETHAN

No Eli!

Eli puts his head to his father's head and replays the last seconds of consciousness. He sees what his father sees: Eleanor in the passenger seat as the car slams into him. Eli feels the regret that his father felt that instant, that he wishes he had a helmet, wishes that he hadn't forgot to give Eleanor the keys, wishes he looked both ways, and most of all feels terrible for Eleanor.

Eli notices his father's left hand under the sheet and blanket. He reaches in and to find it clenched. His father shifts a bit, causing Eli to look at his face to see him smile a bit. His hand unclenches, Eli takes the keys.

Tears in all their eyes, Ethan and Sophia look on.

ELI
I love you.

Elliot's monitor flatlines and no attempt is made to resuscitate him. Eli sobs on his father, hugging him.

The three of them walk back to the floor's waiting room, eyes red from crying. Ethan swipes the wall open. He and Sophia step aside to let Eli in first.

Eleanor gasps and start crying as she senses that Elliot has passed. She and Eli collapse into each other's arms and cry.

ELI (CONT'D)
(sniffling)
Dad says he's sorry he forgot to
give you your keys.

Eleanor sobs in great heaves, pulls away to sit down. Eli sits with her, holding her as she sobs.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. - SCHOOL OF CREATIVES CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

CAPTION: "6 MONTHS LATER"

Padme and Eli are smiling as Padme shares one of orchestra compositions. She now sits near Eli.

INT. - SCHOOL OF CREATIVES HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Students pour out of class, go to their lockers, and then head out the school doors.

EXT. - SCHOOL OF CREATIVES - AFTERNOON

Eli heads out the door to the parking lot. Sophia is standing outside Ethan's Tesla Model X in the far corner of the lot where it's usually empty.

Eli is a noticeably taller, still skinny, and with a confident glow about him as he walks towards the car. As he approaches, Sophia walks out to give him a hug. Padme and her mother drive by and wave to Sophia, followed by several other cars with students giving Eli props.

They stand together next to the car and watch people wave and shout out their windows. When the traffic subsides, Sophia and Eli turn to each other. Eli let's out a deep breath. He's nervous. He breathes in again and they both start to giggle.

SOPHIA

You're ready for another amazing day.

ELI

Yeah, umm.

(giggles nervously)

I don't think I'm ever going to get used to this.

SOPHIA

I don't think anyone will.

They get in the car and drive off.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING ROOM - ETHAN'S OFFICE

Eli is meditating wearing headphones. We hear a little bit of the music. As the camera moves closer to Eli, the music grows a little louder.

Sophia enters the room holding a pair of gold slippers.

ELI

(removes his ear buds)

What... are those?

Sophia giggles, kneeling at Eli's feet.

SOPHIA

These...

(as she slips them on

Eli's feet)

...are the most powerful `shoes`.

Eli stands and cannot believe what he feels. He takes one step and nearly crashes into the wall.

Sophia anticipated it.

ELI

Whoa!

SOPHIA

Whoa indeed!

They look each other in the eyes, they've got feelings for each other. Eli moves closer to kiss Sophia.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

Hold on there young man. You've got work to do. And you need to know a few things about these shoes.

INT. - ADJACENT ROOM - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING

Ethan taps the wall which becomes opaque to Eli and Sophia, but transparent to Ethan and Mr. Zimmer.

ZIMMER

I need them back in 4 weeks.

Ethan nods and swipes the wall.

INT. - BLUE MARBLE BUILDING - MAIN WAITING ROOM

SOPHIA

You've got it. Start slow to get a feel for it.

Eli begins to dance, the shoes glow primarily red under his feet. He is hovering just above the floor.

ELI

I thought gold didn't conduct.

SOPHIA

It conducts and so much more.

Eli shrugs, swipes the wall, revealing a floor filled with thousands of recently injured people. The music is joyously loud and everyone turns to see Eli as he begins to dance and heal.

Arms and legs are instantly regrown, the deaf hear, the blind see, the trauma victims pass out and then wake with joy on their faces and begin to dance with Eli.

Eli leads the newly healed in a raucous joyous movement, dancing and weaving through the enormous crowd, Eli heals everyone.

Eli steps into the elevator. Sophia casually presses the button. An instant later the door opens to an even larger floor of people. This time Eli goes so fast that he appears to be moving in slow motion. An eye regrows, a disfigured burn victim grows new, supple skin, a hunched over quad's spine straightens, pulling her head out of her lap; she falls as she steps out of her chair, Eli catching her and her atrophied legs instantly are curvy and muscular. She joins the dance.

With this floor done, a sweaty Eli steps into the elevator, nods at Sophia, catches his breath, smiles as the elevator door opens. The music continues.

FADE OUT.

THE END