

INT. SOPHIA'S HUGE BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The room is decorated in whites and creams, but everything looks pink and purple because LIGHT FROM THE SINKING SUN is pouring in from one of the windows. Sophia is looking avidly around while Grace is arranging Sophia's CLOTHES in a drawer.

Scene 1  
Start →

SOPHIA

Is this where we're gonna live?

GRACE

I don't know. There's some other houses on the property. The truck comes tomorrow with our furniture, we'll see if any of it makes sense.

(after a look around)

I have a funny feeling it won't.

SOPHIA

I like it here. It's like a hotel.

Grace smiles at that. Sophia plops onto the bed behind Grace.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

So why didn't it work out with you and Noah? He seems pretty nice.

GRACE

He is.

SOPHIA

Did he break up with you, or did you break up with him...?

GRACE

It was mutual, Sophia, I went away to college, and it just --

Grace's CELL RINGS. She looks at her cell -- TIGHTENS --

GRACE (CONT'D)

-- stop asking so many questions --

-- and heads away.

GRACE (CONT'D)

-- and get changed for dinner!

Sophia looks at herself in the mirror.

CONTINUED:

SOPHIA

I look fine!

GRACE

You look fine for Phoenix. People  
dress for dinner at Greenleaf.

SOPHIA

Is that a Christian thing?

GRACE

No, it's a rich black people thing.

She exits as she answers the phone, but WE STAY ON SOPHIA --

End →

Sophia looks at herself in the mirror, and after a FEW BEATS,  
she decides: she COULD look a little better, after all...

EXT. THE TOWER - NIGHT

IN A WIDE SHOT, LOOKING UPHILL

Zora and Sophia run up to the Tower, a primitive stonework cylinder shaped like a beehive, lit theatrically by OUTDOOR LIGHTS (obviously part of the landscape design) and go in.

INT. NEAR THE BOTTOM OF THE TOWER STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Zora leads Sophia up the narrow zigzag staircase.

Scene 2  
Start →

ZORA

This whole estate used to belong to an old lady called Mrs. Davis. When she got killed, it turned out --

SOPHIA

-- killed? --

ZORA

Yeah -- she got murdered --

SOPHIA

-- murdered? By who?

They walk up PAST CAMERA, CLOSE. OFF SOPHIA: FASCINATED --

INT. NEAR THE TOP OF THE TOWER STAIRCASE - SECONDS LATER

They're still ascending.

CONTINUED:

ZORA

-- some random guys. They broke into her house and were stealing her silver or something. She came downstairs and they killed her.

SOPHIA

Did they ever catch who did it?

ZORA

Yeah, they got executed. Hung.

At this point, they reach the top of the stairs, BREATHLESS --

ZORA (CONT'D)

But when they opened up the old lady's will, it turned out she'd left the whole estate to Greenleaf.

They step out onto --

EXT. LOOKOUT PLATFORM - THE TOWER

-- the LOOKOUT PLATFORM and look out -- the mansion and all the grounds stretch below: dark trees: lawn: stars above.

SOPHIA (O.C.)

Wow...

ON THE GIRLS, ACROSS SOPHIA TO ZORA

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

(pointing)

...what's that light over there?

As she digs in her pocket, Zora looks out and sees --

THE MEMPHIS SKYLINE IN THE DISTANCE

Lit up from below with GOLD LIGHT.

ZORA

The demonstration, probably.

Sophia looks out at the distant light philosophically. BEAT.

SOPHIA

I wish I grew up here.

ZORA

Why? The minute I graduate, I'm going to New York City.

CONTINUED:

Zora snatches a VIAL and PILL CRUSHER from her pocket.

SOPHIA  
What's in New York?

ZORA  
Times Square. Broadway.

She shakes a PILL from the vial --

ZORA (CONT'D)  
Have you seen "Wicked"...?

SOPHIA  
No.

ZORA  
I've seen it, like, three times.

-- and places it in the pill crusher. Sophia's still rapt.

SOPHIA  
I don't know. I like it here.

Zora crushes the pill, which makes a NOISE. Sophia looks.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

ZORA  
(showing it to Sophia)  
Ritalin. You want some?

End →

OFF SOPHIA -- THIS PLACE JUST GETS STRANGER BY THE MINUTE --

EXT. LOOKOUT PLATFORM - THE TOWER - NIGHT

Zora snorts a LINE OF RITALIN off the STONEWORK -- **SNIFF!**

Scene 3  
Start →

ZORA

You've never even TAKEN it?

SOPHIA

No. Do you have ADD or ADHD --

ZORA

-- no. But I said I did. I was,  
like, "I can't concentrate, I'm  
always interrupting my friends when  
they talk, it's pissing them off!"  
They still wouldn't give it to me.

(after a laugh, proudly)

I finally said, "If I don't start  
crossing things off my to-do list,  
I might hurt myself." BAM.

Zora crushes another pill and lays out a line for Sophia.

SOPHIA

Why did you want it?

CONTINUED:

ZORA

My Mom's school. You'll see.

Sophia, with some trepidation, SNORTS the line of Ritalin. As Zora packs up her drug paraphernalia, she continues --

ZORA (CONT'D)

If you don't keep your grades up,  
you get in "The Red Zone" and your  
name goes up on a bulletin board in  
the lobby. My Mom's the principal,  
I can't be in the Red Zone.

Zora pockets her PILLS and PILL CRUSHER, sniffs deeply.

ZORA (CONT'D)

You feel anything?

SOPHIA

(after a think)

I think so, yeah.

Zora sucks in air through her nose, SPITS over the edge and then looks sidewise at Sophia -- takes a BEAT -- then says --

ZORA

I love Jesus so much.

End →

-- and they both BURST OUT LAUGHING