

ZORA

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.

ZORA

Start →

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.

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.

CONTINUED:

ZORA

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

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. Zora CRUSHES the pill. *

SOPHIA

What are you doing?

ZORA

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

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

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

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?

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 --

CONTINUED:

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

End →

I love Jesus so much.

-- and they both BURST OUT LAUGHING