

this place kills everything i ever love

By

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1

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

1

MOTHER looks down into the camera, appearing to address the audience.

MOTHER

Okay Sophie, be good for Grandpa.  
And make sure Aaron doesn't get  
into too much trouble, okay? We  
love you.

FATHER walks into the room and touches Mother's back.

FATHER

Let's head out, bye Sophie.

MOTHER

We'll be right back.

She smiles and turns to leave. The two walk out the door.

CUT TO BLACK

BLACK SCREEN

Crash. a car accident.

Sirens.

2

INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

2

Four years later.

SOPHIA MURRY, 8, stands in front of her bedroom mirror, staring at herself. She's in a superhero costume, maybe one from a year ago, it looks a little small.

Her wall is littered with pictures of her parents, her dog, and her brother Aaron. Books line the floors and a pile of clothes sits in the corner.

Sophie's dog, TEDDY, sits by her side, proud to be her assistant.

She sucks in her gut and puffs out her chest. A true hero must constantly appear ready to conquer villains, even if they're a little scared.

Sophie grabs a cape off the chair next to the mirror and ties it on.

She takes off.

3 INT. HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - DAY

3

Sophie sprints down the hallway, with Teddy by her side. They run from room to room, checking for any problems to solve.

She busts into the living room and sees AARON MURRY sitting on the floor, staring outside. He pays her no attention.

SOPHIE

Do you want to be superheroes with me?

Aaron continues staring.

SOPHIE

Aaron!?

AARON

I can when I'm done.

Sophie walks over and looks over Aaron's shoulder.

SOPHIE

It looks gross.

AARON

It's not done.

He tries to block Sophie but she grabs the notebook from his hands and brings it out into the middle of the room.

SOPHIE

I don't get it.

AARON

C'mon.

SOPHIE

Aaron, play superheroes with me.

AARON

Give me back my picture.

SOPHIE

No, it's ugly. You can't make ugly things when you're a superhero.

AARON

Sophie give it back.

Sophie stands strong, not willing to budge.

(CONTINUED)

Aaron throws his box of crayons at Sophie who screams in surprise.

At the commotion, Teddy, the dog, runs to the door and whimpers.

Sophie walks to the door and lets him out.

SOPHIE  
You scared him.

GRANDPA (O.S)  
Hey.

Sophie and Aaron go silent.

GRANDPA walks in and looks at the crayons.

GRANDPA  
What's going on?

Aaron gets up and walks over to the box of crayons,

AARON  
Sophie took my notebook. And called  
it dumb.

SOPHIE  
Aaron won't play superheroes with  
me.

Aaron picks up the notebook and crayons and walks out the door.

Sophie turns and prepares to leave the room.

SOPHIE  
Whatever...

Grandpa watches a disheartened Sophie start to leave the room.

GRANDPA  
Well what's so great about being a  
superhero anyway, Sophie?

Sophie stops to think about that for a second.

SOPHIE  
Well, they can fly.

GRANDPA

I mean, I could teach you how to fly.

This catches Sophie's attention. She turns around.

SOPHIE

You know how to fly?

GRANDPA

Well sure.

Sophie's brow furrows.

SOPHIE

That's not true.

Grandpa grabs Sophie and puts her on his shoulders.

SOPHIE

Wait, this isn't flying!

Regardless, Sophie can't keep a grin off her face.

Grandpa does a lap around the room and then brings Sophie out the door.

4

EXT. MURRAY FAMILY FRONT PORCH - DAY

4

Aaron sits on the porch steps, engulfed in his notebook.

Grandpa sets Sophie down and she starts down the stairs.

SOPHIE

Did you see where Teddy went?

Aaron shakes his head.

Sophie walks out into the yard.

Grandpa steps behind Aaron and looks over his shoulder.

AARON

Do you want to see?

Grandpa bends down and looks closer

AARON

I know it's not...

GRANDPA

It's impressive.

Aaron looks up in surprise.

(CONTINUED)

GRANDPA  
Really. Good work.

Aaron tries to hide a smile while Grandpa keeps looking to the drawing.

A beat.

SCREAM

Grandpa and Aaron bolt up and run down the steps into the yard. Sophie stands by the dog house screaming at the top of her lungs.

Grandpa and Aaron run over.

GRANDPA  
Oh my god.

Teddy, Sophie's dog, lies dead on the ground in front of them. No wounds, no gore, there's a peacefulness to the sight.

GRANDPA  
Lets go inside.

SOPHIE  
No.

AARON  
Why did...

Sophie stares at Teddy, and squats down next to him. She puts her hand on him. She's terrified.

Aaron squats next to her, and Grandpa stares from behind.

5 INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

5

A few months later.

Aaron and Sophie are under Sophie's covers, going through a photo album.

SOPHIE  
Look, you're a baby.

Sophie carefully pulls out a picture of a woman holding a baby.

AARON  
Wow.

(CONTINUED)

SOPHIE

You don't remember them at all?

Aaron shakes his head.

The two stare at the picture.

SOPHIE

Okay, put it back. We have to be careful.

6

EXT. MURRY FAMILY FRONT PORCH - DAY

6

Six years later.

Sophie sits on the porch steps in an off-white dress. She plays with a beetle that's lying on its back. Using a stick she props it upright.

The porch is older, more run down. The paint peels from the walls and a screw or two stick up from the wood.

Grandpa pokes his head out.

GRANDPA

I'm going to the store, do you want anything?

Sophie completely ignores him.

GRANDPA

Sophie?

SOPHIE

No thanks.

Grandpa stares at her for a second, then goes inside.

Sophie continues playing with the bug.

AARON (O.S)

(screaming)

Sophie!

Sophie jumps and looks around. Nothing.

She runs out to the edge of their property, and Aaron is riding his bike down the road.

Two older kids follow him, throwing rocks.

(CONTINUED)

SOPHIE  
Aaron, what the...

AARON  
Go inside, go inside.

Aaron reaches the entrance and hops off his bike.

The bullies catch him as soon as he gets off. CODY grabs his collar. He's the bigger of the two.

CODY  
Hey Sophie.

SOPHIE  
Let go of my brother.

CODY  
Your little brother tried kissing  
me today.

Aaron flails around trying to get free, ALEX grabs him too, securing their grip.

AARON  
Shut up, no I didn't.

SOPHIE  
Cody, let go.

Cody smiles and lets go of Aaron.

No one moves.

Cody reaches into his back pocket and pulls out Aaron's notebook.

Aaron turns on his heel and swings hard at Cody, decking him in the stomach.

Alex reacts immediately, throwing himself at Aaron, but Sophie stops him.

She tackles Alex down and throws a punch to his gut.

Cody grabs her and tosses her aside, but she's quick.

Sophie punches Cody in the face and knocks him on the ground.

She won't stop punching.

Aaron grabs Sophie and Cody stands up.



CODY  
(between gasps for air)  
What's wrong with you guys?

Cody motions to Alex to leave, and they hop on their bikes, kicking the fence on the way out.

Aaron sits and stares at Sophie, whose hands are bruised.

Grandpa comes out slowly with some ice.

Aaron helps Sophie up and gives her to Grandpa, who helps her inside.

Aaron watches them go in, then walks out to the edge of the property. He sits on the curb, next to his bike.

He spins the wheel of the bike, it goes around and around.

It hypnotizes for a second, then stops.

Aaron hates it. He hops on again and takes off.

7 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

7

Six years later.

Aaron busts into his room and grabs his backpack.

SOPHIE (O.S)  
Aaron!

Aaron opens his window and starts to climb out.

Sophie comes in.

SOPHIE  
Stop!

Sophie hurries to the window and grabs Aaron's arm. She holds him back.

AARON  
Let go!

Sophie grabs Aaron's backpack and pulls, the bag comes off and the contents fall out. A bunch of rolled up pieces of paper, a box of cigarettes, a notebook, and a pouch.

Sophie picks up the pouch and opens it.

(CONTINUED)

SOPHIE  
Are you kidding?

She pulls out a needle and a baggy.

Aaron grabs his bag and shoves everything in it.

He goes for the pouch but Sophie stops him.

SOPHIE  
This isn't a joke.

Aaron ignores her and grabs the bag from his hand.

AARON  
Screw off Sophie.

Aaron throws his backpack out the window. He follows and shuts the window behind him.

Sophie stands alone in the room.

8

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

8

Sophie and Chelsea stand outside, Sophie carrying grocery bags.

SOPHIE  
Thanks for taking me.

CHELSEA  
No problem.

Sophie turns to look at the house.

SOPHIE  
Do you want to hang out?

Chelsea looks around. A trash bag sits on the porch steps, ash trays and cigarette butts litter the ground around them.

CHELSEA  
Um.

SOPHIE  
I just have to give this stuff to Aaron and then we can...

Chelsea flinched at Aaron's name.

CHELSEA  
It's all good Sophie.

Chelsea smiles and starts walking down the steps.

(CONTINUED)

CHELSEA  
I'll see you later.

Sophie fakes a smile as Chelsea walks away.

9 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 9

Aaron stares up at the ceiling from his bed.

He's wrapped tightly under his blanket, staring into space.  
Beads of sweat line his forehead.

The ceiling fan spins around and around.

Hypnotizing.

10 INT. MURRY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 10

Sophie walks in the front door with a plastic bag of groceries.

She dumps the contents out: Gatorade, crackers, pack of cigarettes, and paper towels.

She walks over to the cupboard and reaches up for a glass, but it falls.

SOPHIE  
Damn...

11 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 11

Aaron continues staring at the fan.

SOPHIE (O.S)  
Hey, you up?

Aaron stays silent.

KNOCK

It's deafening, Aaron covers his ears at the sound.

AARON  
Go away.

12 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 12

Sophie stands outside of Aaron's door with the Gatorade and cigarettes.

She waits a beat, and puts the items down.

- 13 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 13  
Aaron throws the covers over him and hides from the outside.  
He's sweating more now.  
He closes his eyes.
- 14 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 14  
Sophie picks up bits of glass.  
She cuts her finger on a shard.
- SOPHIE
- Ow.
- Sophie looks at the cut, a drop of blood falls onto her shirt.  
She gets up and walks to the bathroom.
- 15 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 15  
Aaron's eyes shoot open.  
He throws the blankets off of him and grabs a bucket from next to him.  
He vomits.
- 16 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 16  
Sophie washes her cut under the stream of water.  
She looks into the mirror and notices the blood mark on her shirt.  
She turns off the faucet and walks out.
- 17 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 17  
Aaron picks his head up from the bucket and looks around the room.  
There's not much in the room but for Aaron's bed and some assorted furniture. Paintings and drawings litter the walls.  
He grabs his phone from his side table.  
Aaron gets up and walks toward a canvas that's sprawled out on the floor, and sits on the ground next to it.

18 INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 18

Sophie walks into her room and removes her top shirt so she stands in her tank top.

She stares at herself in her full body mirror.

There's a tear in the hem.

She turns to the side, there's a bleach stain on her jeans.

She grabs a hoodie and puts it on. A hole in the side.

Sophie stares for a second at herself in her ragged clothes.

Beat.

She grabs a picture from her bedside and throws it at the mirror, shattering it.

She falls to the ground.

19 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 19

Aaron puts his face down to the canvas and stares across it. He rubs his hand across the painting. The colors are intense, reds, blacks, and purples move about chaotically across the canvas.

He falls back against the floor and stares up at the ceiling.

His phone vibrates and he pulls it out.

The text message comes on the screen.

FROM CODY:

GOT SOME IN, YOU WANT TO BUY TONIGHT?

20 INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 20

Sophie sits on the ground, the mess of the room surrounds her.

She picks up a shard of glass and holds it in her hands.

She looks toward the mirror again. A cracked reflection looks back at her.

Her eyes fall to the picture she threw.

She picks it up.

(CONTINUED)

It's the one from before, of her mom holding Aaron.

SOPHIE

I'm sorry.

21 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

21

Aaron opens the window of his room, and starts making his way out.

KNOCK

Aaron looks toward the door.

SOPHIE (O.S)

Aaron.

Aaron shakes his head and looks around.

AARON

Crap.

He climbs back in, leaving the window open, and walks to the door.

He opens it.

AARON

What?

Sophie stands leaning against the wall.

SOPHIE

I just found this.

She holds up the picture.

Aaron stares at it.

AARON

What do you want me to say?

Sophie's taken off guard.

AARON

Thanks, Sophie.

Aaron shuts the door in her face, but keeps the picture.

He holds it in his hands for a second before putting it on his desk.

He falls onto the bed.

22 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 22

Sophie let's the shower wash over her.

Beat.

She turns the shower off and steps out.

She wipes the fog off the mirror and stares at herself.

FADE TO BLACK

23 EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT 23

Sophie sits on the porch step, her hair wet.

She stares out at the street, her eyes are red.

Aaron comes out and puts a blanket around Sophie's shoulders.

He sits down next to her.

SOPHIE

I hate this place.

Aaron says nothing.

They sit in silence.

Aaron pulls out a notebook and stares at his sister.

AARON

Sit back into the light.

Sophie looks at him.

AARON

Please.

Sophie doesn't say anything but moves up a step.

Aaron begins work on the drawing.

Sophie stares straight out into the world.

We see the drawing he makes of Sophie. She's flying.