

EXT. MALIBU BEACH -- CLIFFSIDE -- DAY

Waves crash violently in extreme closeup.

A torn up polaroid photo floats by itself in the water.

A lone sneaker washes up on the shore.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - NEARBY - DAY

Julie (20s) and her boyfriend Mark (20s) hike up the side of a cliff, overlooking the ocean.

They move around a corner and then Mark stops --

MARK

Let's get one up here too.

He pulls out his Polaroid camera.

JULIE

You're really stopping my workout again?

MARK

(lightly)

Can you just shut up and take the picture?

He smiles at her.

JULIE

Since you asked so nicely...

She leans on him and he snaps a two shot of them. Backlit by the ocean.

He hands it to Julie and she puts in her back pocket.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Come on.

They keep walking...

A FEW MINUTES LATER.

Julie and Mark are deeper into the hiking trail.

Something catches Julie's eye -- It's a lookout point at the edge of the cliff.

She stares it for a second... It triggers her somehow...

Just then, Julie LOSES BALANCE.

She blacks out. But just for a moment.

She slowly comes to on the ground. Stands up and expects to find Mark there, waiting to help.

But he's gone.

She looks down at her clothes. They've changed.

Her face is smeared with makeup, and her hair is a mess.

Julie calls out to Mark...

JULIE (CONT'D)

Mark!!!

But there is no response.

Julie starts to panic. She bolts down the trail, looking for him.

She searches everywhere he could possibly be, but there is absolutely no sign of him.

Just when she runs out of places to look --

A little RED STRING reveals itself. Stuck to a tree.

She follows it. Deeper down the trail.

Then finds another string hanging off of a different tree, marking some kind of path.

Several more of these marked trees lead her toward a long staircase that descends down from the cliff to the shoreline.

She scales the steps. Frazzled. Making her way down to the beach.

She arrives... Looks around. Still nothing...

But then --

Another RED STRING. Fallen on the ground. Leading her eyeline toward a little cave off to the side of the beach.

She moves toward it. Enters the CAVE.

Inside are some small rocks strewn across the ground...

The trail of pebbles leads to a little makeshift MEMORIAL site. Candles and letters are scattered under the rocks.

In the middle of them is a framed photograph.

Julie picks it up...

The photo is a picture of Mark.

On the frame, someone has written "R.I.P."

Julie stumbles back.

A moment of clarity washes over her as we FLASH TO:

EXT. BEACH - DAY - FLASHBACK

It's the day Julie and Mark took the picture together. We re-watch them take the polaroid and walk off.

They continue walking, and get back to the area where Julie lost her balance...

Only this time, we see the story continue...

Julie stops on the trail. Looks out to the edge of the cliff, and signals to Mark that he should follow her.

MARK
You know I hate heights.

JULIE
Don't be a baby.

He hesitates. She grabs his polaroid camera.

JULIE (CONT'D)
You're really gonna make me take
the shot for you?

He reluctantly follows her off the trail and toward the cliff.

They stop right at the edge.

Mark takes the camera back and SNAPS a photo.

MARK
Can we go now?

JULIE
Now let me get one of you.

He hands her the camera and turns around.

Mark turns, so his back is now facing the water.

CLOSE ON Mark's shoes as they walk back, inching closer to the edge of the cliff.

EXTREME CLOSE ON Julie's eyes looking through the viewfinder.

She's about to snap the picture, when --

Mark SLIPS.

He reaches for Julie's hand. She reaches back but they narrowly miss each other.

We stay on a tight shot of her face in shock as she watches his body fall down into the ocean.

As the faint sound of his body splashing into the ocean hits, we CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - CAVE - PRESENT DAY

We're back in the cave with Julie.

It's all coming back to her now.

She pauses for a long moment. In shock.

Then looks down at her body. Her clothes have changed again.

Now she is wearing a HOSPITAL GOWN.

There is a white MEDICAL WRISTBAND on her wrist.

She has fully snapped back to reality. Clearly she has escaped from a psychiatric facility.

Julie looks out to the water, afraid.

THE END