



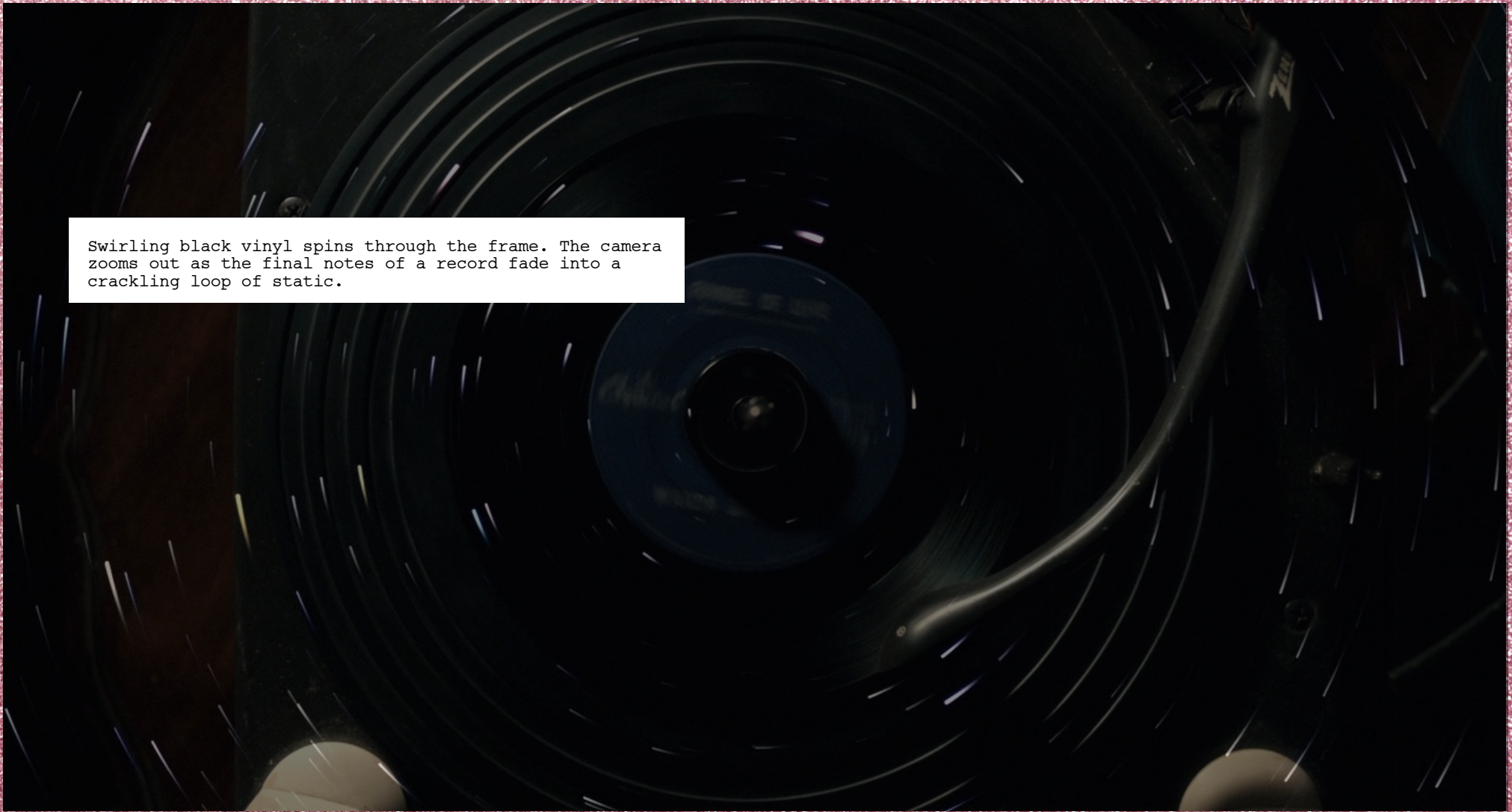
WHIPPED

Written by Katya Apekina

Director: Andrew Wonder

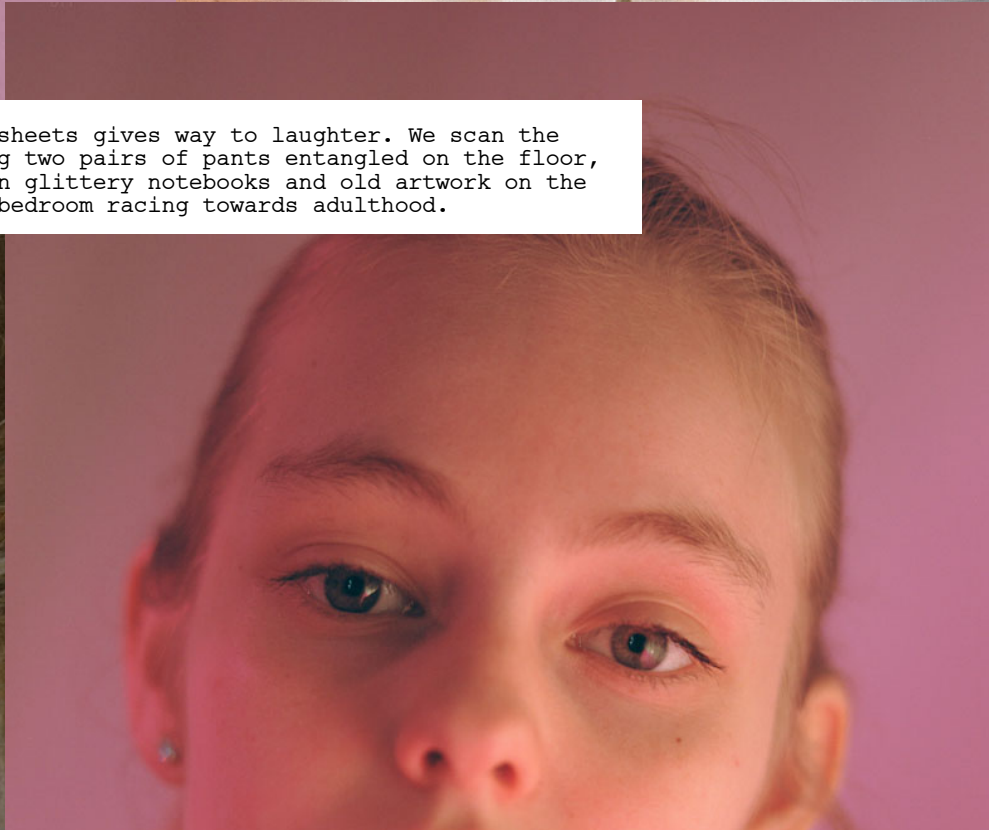
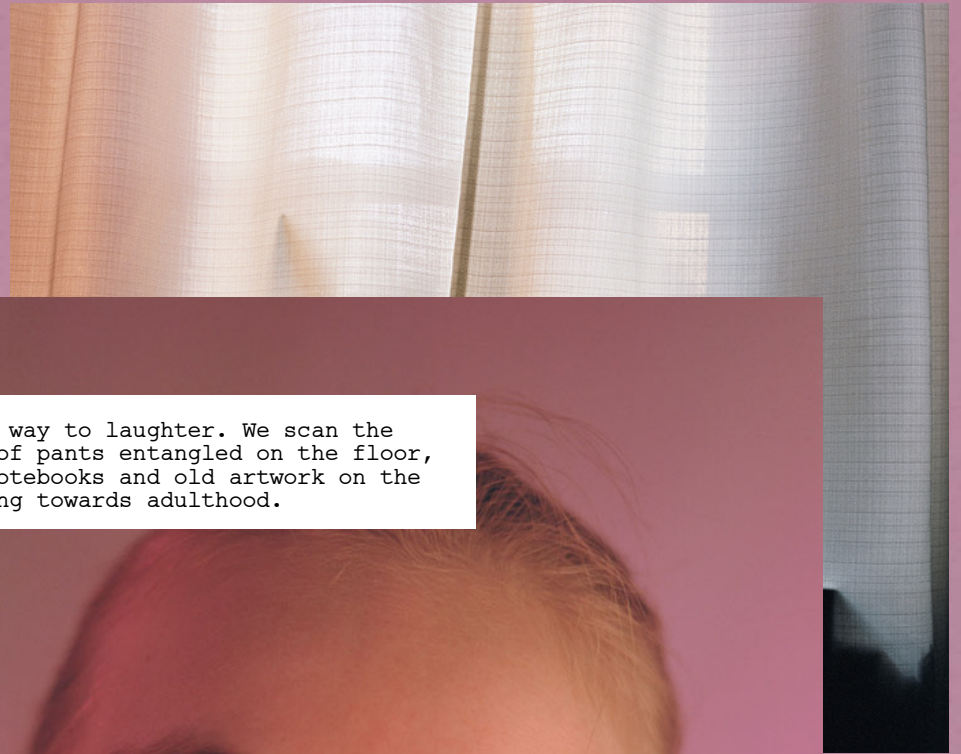
Layout by Jason Mendez

Swirling black vinyl spins through the frame. The camera zooms out as the final notes of a record fade into a crackling loop of static.

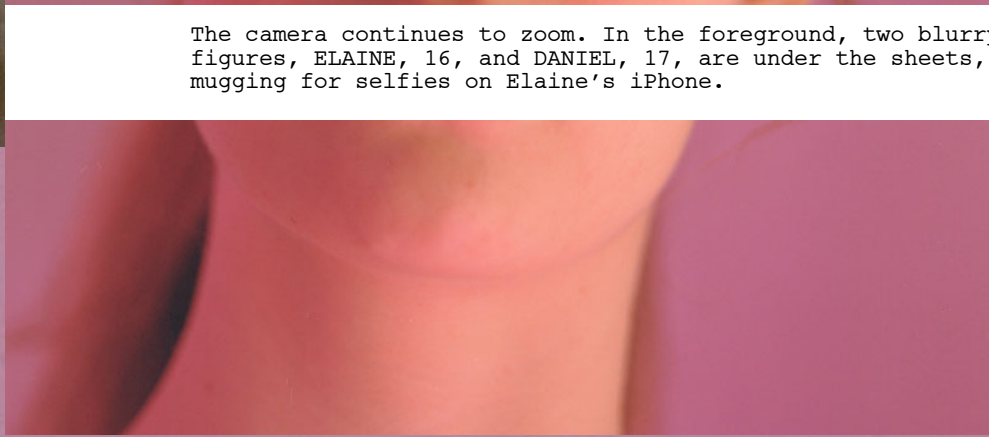




The rustling of sheets gives way to laughter. We scan the room, discovering two pairs of pants entangled on the floor, a desk covered in glittery notebooks and old artwork on the wall. A child's bedroom racing towards adulthood.



The camera continues to zoom. In the foreground, two blurry figures, ELAINE, 16, and DANIEL, 17, are under the sheets, mugging for selfies on Elaine's iPhone.



DANIEL
Did you -- finish?

ELAINE
I don't know. I think so? Did you?

DANIEL
Yeah. It was amazing.

ELAINE
Yeah. It was great.

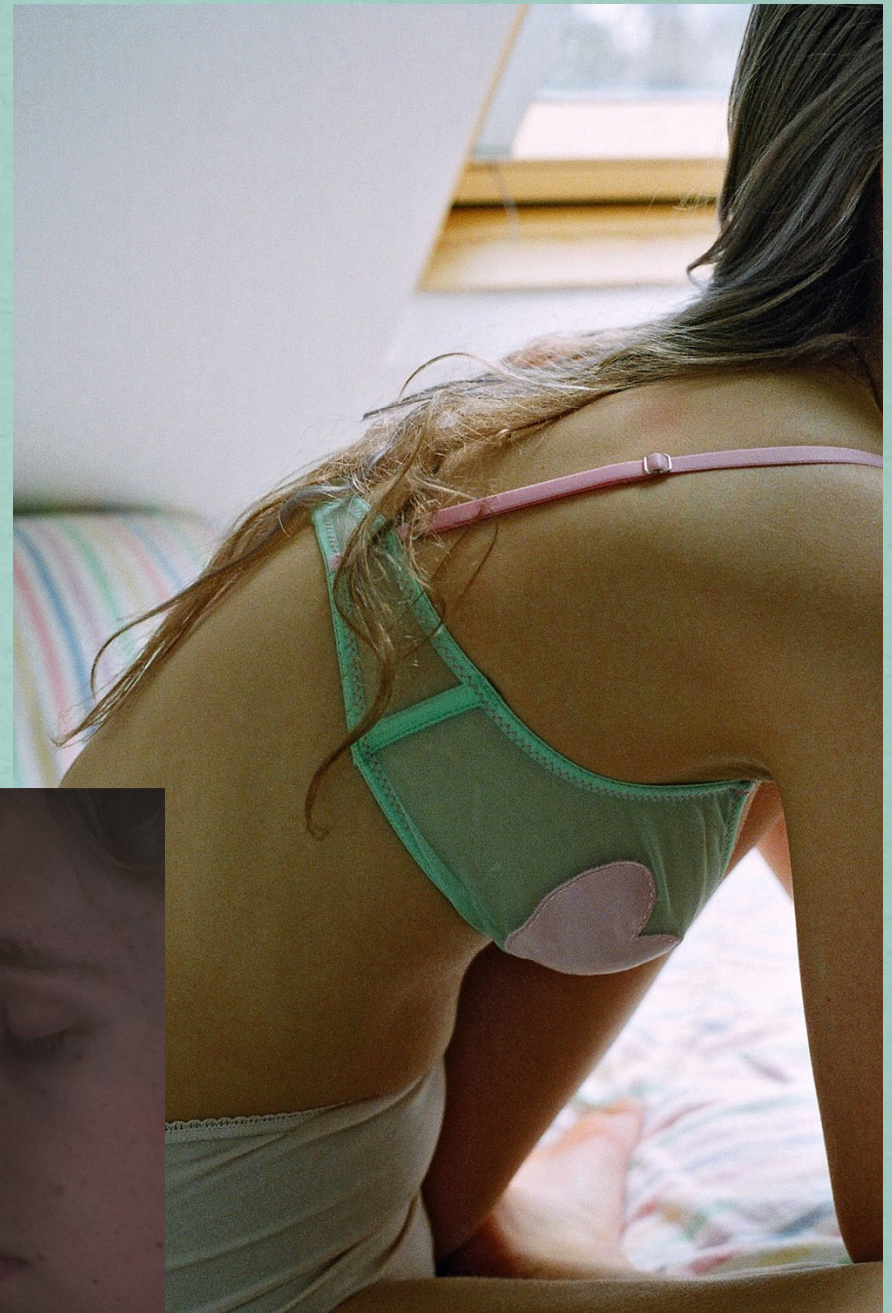
Elaine scrolls to a different camera filter, transforming their faces into dog heads. As a dog, Elaine glances at Daniel and laughs. It's silly but intimate.

Daniel lets go of the phone and kisses her on the shoulder. She watches Daniel staring at her through the screen. He tries to move the phone to get her attention, but she points it towards him.

The phone comes into focus as hearts start to pour out of his mouth like bubbles when he speaks:

DANIEL
Did I do something wrong?

She shakes her head but doesn't turn, sits up at the edge of the bed. He stares at her, gently kisses her shoulder blade. He starts to trace patterns on her back. Then he squeezes her sides, three times. She jumps as he laughs:



DANIEL

That was the code my mom would do when I was little. I hated noisy places and if we were out and I started to lose it she'd grab my hand and squeeze it three times. I. Love. You. It would calm me down.

He reaches his arm around her, kisses up and down her body, tries to lay back on top of her.

ELAINE

Stop touching me.

Daniel abruptly stops. His hands raise up in the air. She leaves him frozen on the bed.



CUT TO:

INT BATHROOM MOMENTS LATER

Elaine wipes a tear from her face, looks herself in the mirror.

ELAINE


You got what you wanted.

She stares into her own eyes. Her brown irises flicker, glowing yellow for a brief moment.

ELAINE

You are happy. You are happy.

She closes her eyes, willing herself to calm down. We cut to a Snapchat video. Elaine smiles, stares into the camera. The text over the video says, "I am happy."

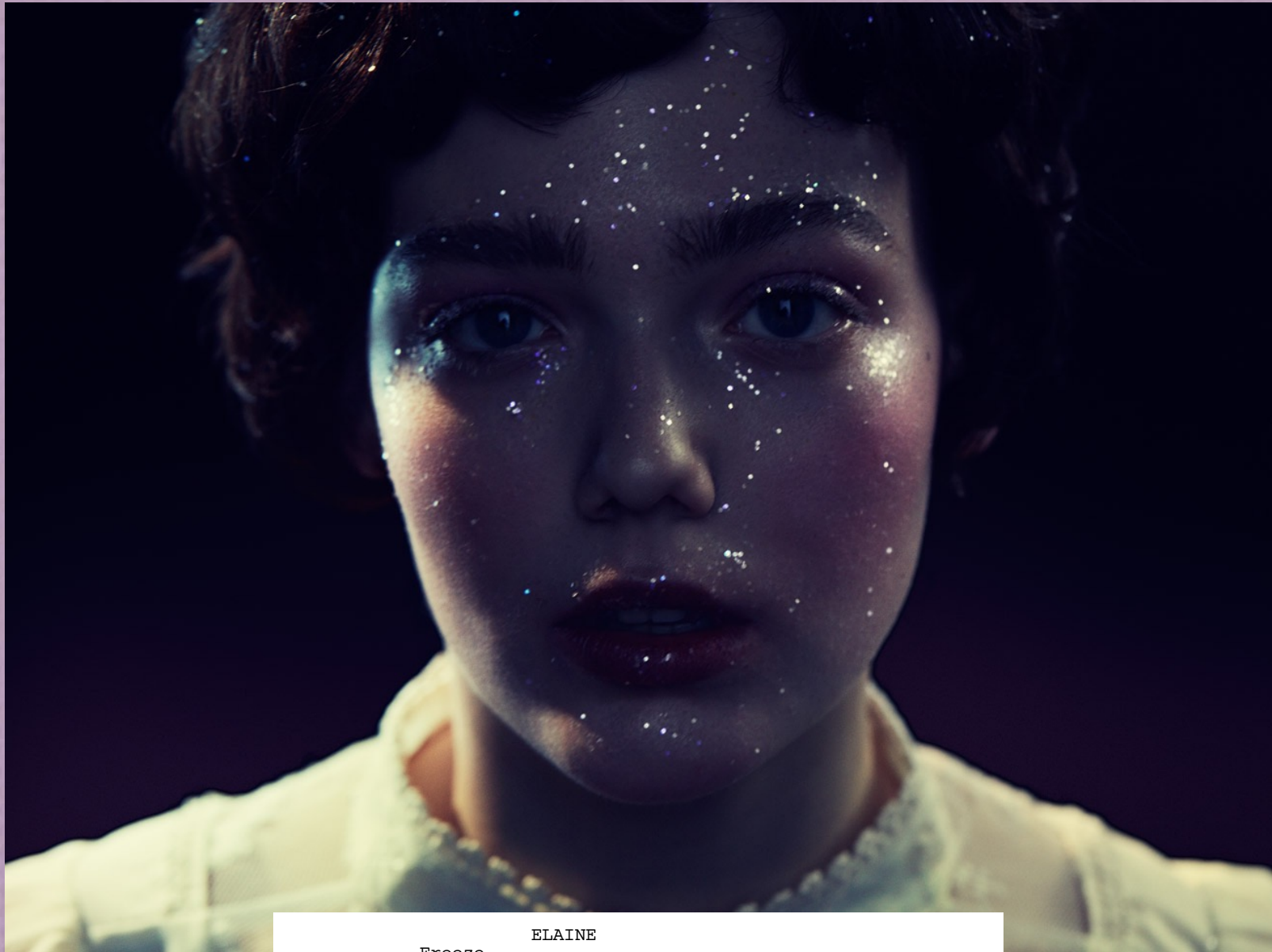
A young man with dark, wavy hair is sitting on a bed with white linens. He is shirtless and looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. In the background, there is a window with white shutters. A small, dark rectangular object, possibly a phone, is on the bed near his hand.

She hears someone coming up the stairs, turns away from the camera.

CUT TO:

INT HALLWAY MOMENTS LATER

A hand pushes the bedroom door open, in the background we see Daniel, still frozen on the bed. We tilt up to reveal Elaine's MOM, 44, wearing hospital scrubs, in shock.



ELAINE

Freeze.

A FLASH of Elaine looking straight into camera. Mom freezes.
Her eyes try to turn but her body won't play along.

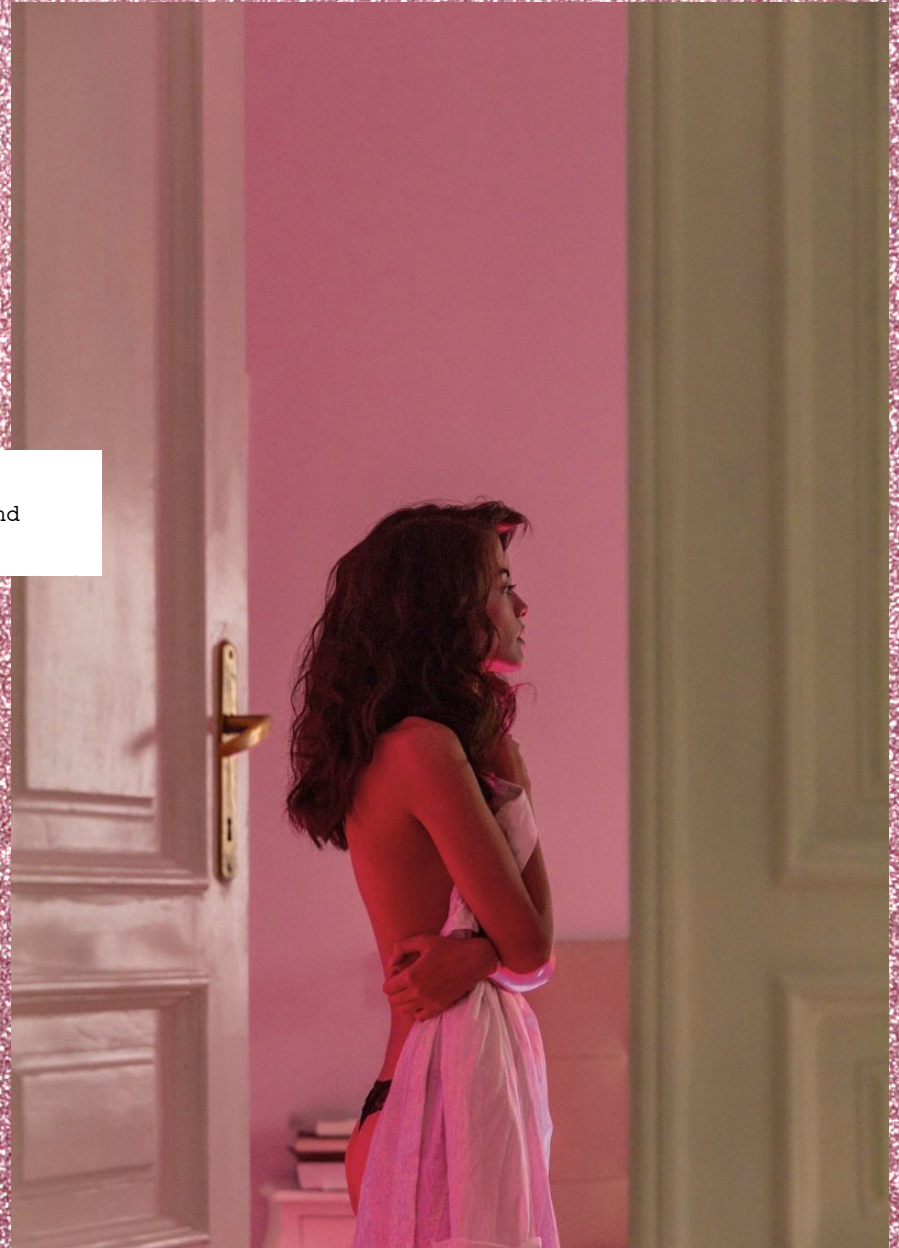
ELAINE

Mom. I'm fine. Please go for a walk
and forget this.

Her body releases. She turns, walking away from the bedroom
and passing Elaine on her way to the stairs.

MOM

Okay, Bug. I'll take a walk around
the block.



Elaine approaches the doorway, hesitates as she looks into
the bedroom.

CUT TO:



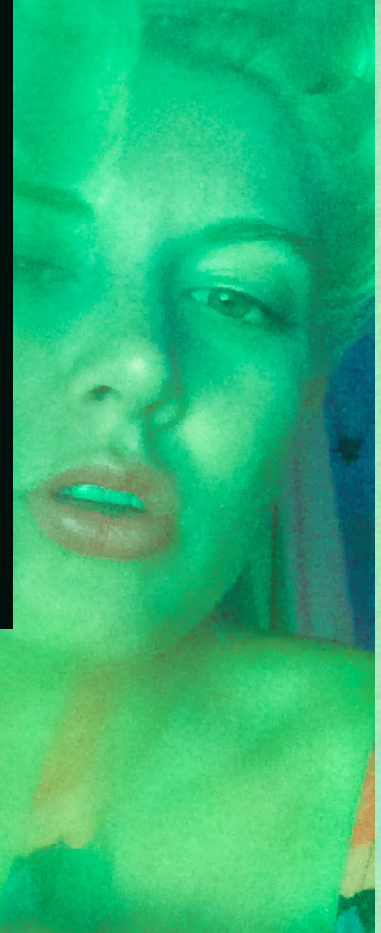
INT ELAINE'S BEDROOM CONTINUOUS

Daniel, arms still raised, watches as Elaine approaches.

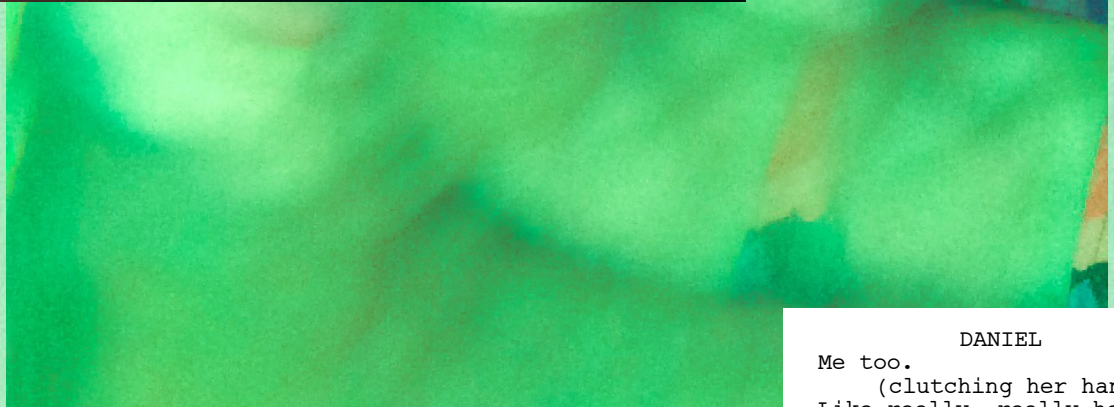
DANIEL
Are we in trouble.

ELAINE
No. Everything is fine.

She speaks like she was talking to the mirror again:



ELAINE
I am happy.



DANIEL
Me too.
(clutching her hand)
Like really, really happy.


She stands up on the bed, pulling him up.

ELAINE

Lets just have fun and jump on the

bed.






Daniel springs up, starts jumping. Elaine joins, they laugh together. Elaine jumps on his back and brings Daniel down onto the bed next to her. They playfully wrestle.

DANIEL
Hi.

ELAINE
Hi.

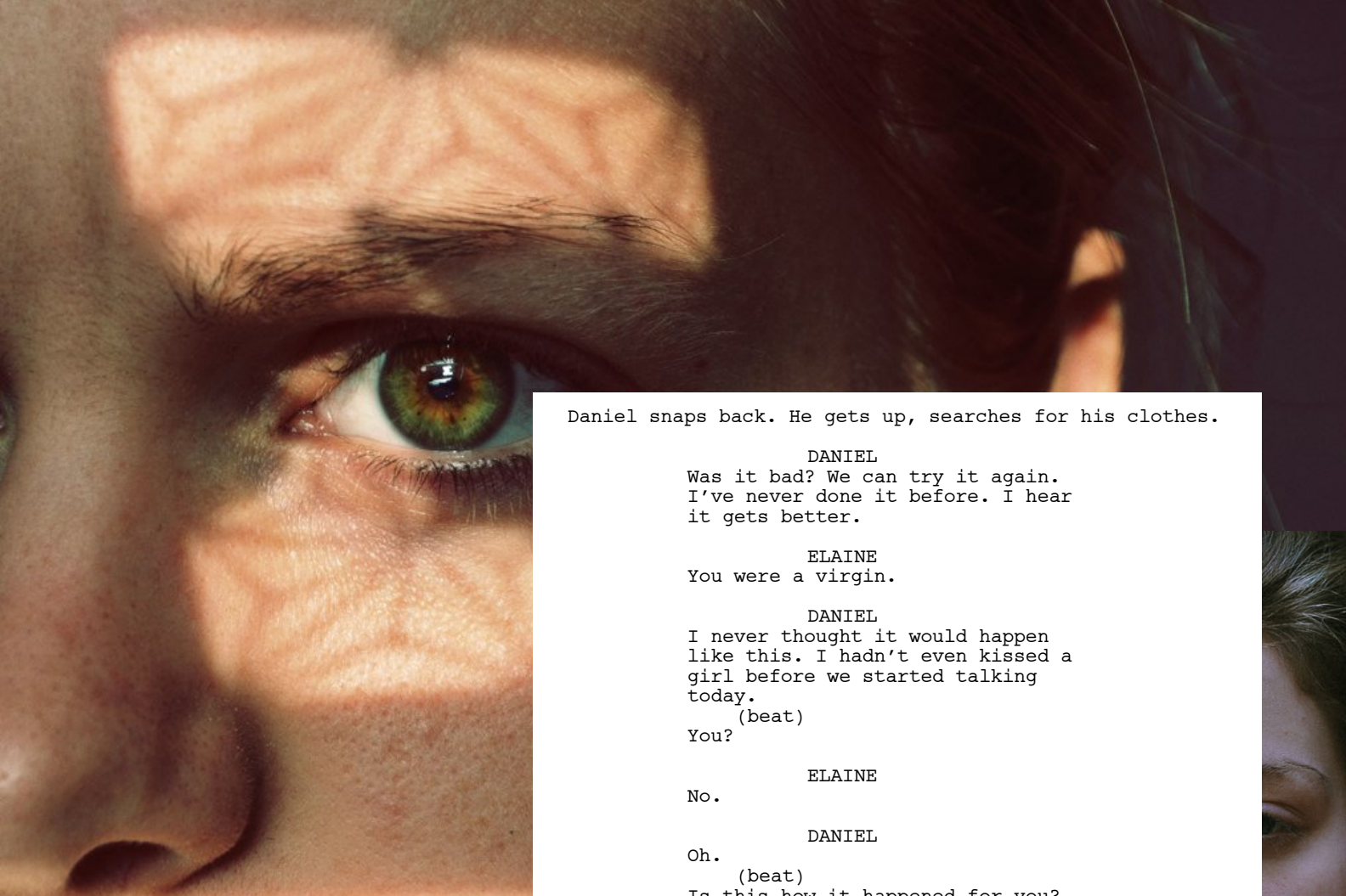
He holds her, kisses her, moves his hands down her body.

DANIEL
Elaine, I've never felt like this before.
(whispers)
I want you again.



Elaine's smile fades as he moves on top of her. She tries to turn away but he grabs her, pulls her back.

ELAINE
Get dressed.



Daniel snaps back. He gets up, searches for his clothes.

DANIEL

Was it bad? We can try it again.
I've never done it before. I hear
it gets better.

ELAINE

You were a virgin.

DANIEL

I never thought it would happen
like this. I hadn't even kissed a
girl before we started talking
today.

(beat)

You?

ELAINE

No.

DANIEL

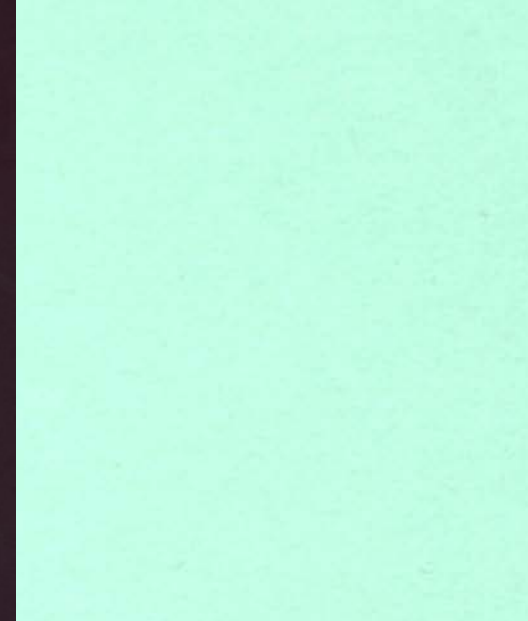
Oh.

(beat)

Is this how it happened for you?

ELAINE

It's how I wished it would have
happened.



Half dressed, Daniel looks disappointed. Elaine approaches, kisses him. He takes her hand.

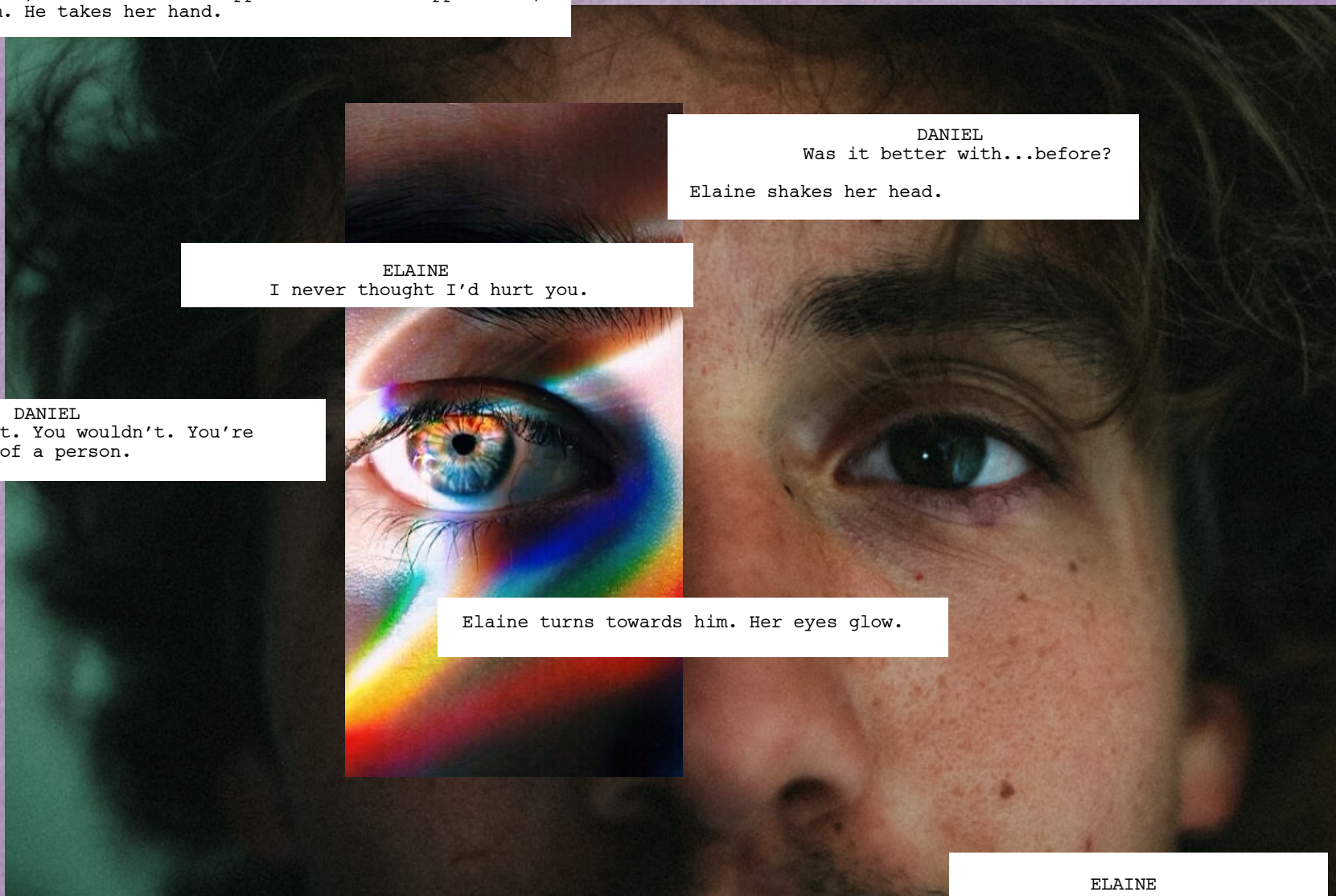
DANIEL
Was it better with...before?
Elaine shakes her head.

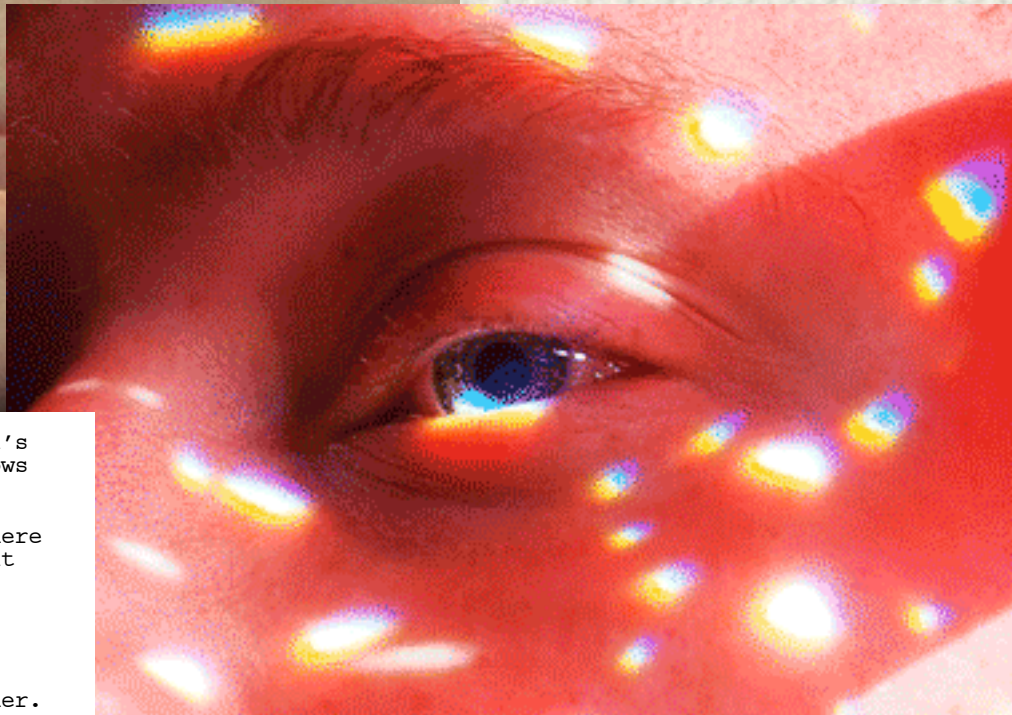
ELAINE
I never thought I'd hurt you.

DANIEL
You didn't. You wouldn't. You're
too good of a person.

Elaine turns towards him. Her eyes glow.

ELAINE
Daniel. Be yourself again. You
don't love me.





A wave of shame washes over her face as she watches Daniel's demeanor change abruptly. His shock so overwhelming he grows silent, withdrawn.

He moves back, trying to process what he's feeling, somewhere between anger and tears. Elaine takes his hand. He pulls it away.

ELAINE
Don't pull away from me.

Daniel, shaking, gives back his hand. He faces away from her.

ELAINE
Kiss me.

His eyes fill with tears as he leans in. Elaine closes her eyes, leans in, gives him a slow, soft kiss on the lips.





ELAINE

I always wanted you to be the one
who loved me.

They sit together on the bed in silence.

FADE TO BLACK.