

INT. SUBURBAN ILLINOIS BASEMENT- NIGHT- EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO

PAN across a gaggle of nine year old girls, asleep in sleeping bags, the light of an old tube TV reflecting off of them.

YOUNG NORAH (O.S.)
C'mon, it's not even midnight.

PAN OVER to a couch, where NORAH, energetic and already far too confident, shakes ALLISON, her dweeby bespectacled best friend.

YOUNG NORAH (CONT'D)
Allison, you can't go to sleep. We said we're gonna stay up all night.

YOUNG ALLISON
(Yawning Hard)
I'm not. I'm up, I'm up.

Norah hops up off the couch and heads toward the TV.

YOUNG NORAH
We need to watch something to stay awake.

Norah inspects the VHS collection as Allison joins her.

YOUNG ALLISON
Ooh, what about "The Parent Trap?"

YOUNG NORAH
We've seen that a jillion times. I want to watch something new.

Her hand stops on a white VHS BOX, with a girl in a pink dress stroking the face of a hunk in a tight black shirt.

YOUNG NORAH (CONT'D)
What... is this?

She holds it up in the light of the TV. CLOSE on the glistening packaging for "**DIRTY DANCING.**" Allison grabs it, panicked.

YOUNG ALLISON
(Nervous Whispering)
That's my Mom's, we can't! Besides...
I think it has naked people in it!

Norah smirks at the idea of naked people and pulls the tape out of the box.

YOUNG ALLISON (CONT'D)
Norah, no. If she catches us watching it, she'll kill me!

Norah turns to Allison, it's clear even their young friendship consists of a lot of calm down talks.

YOUNG NORAH

She'll never know. Besides, as the two best friends who stayed up the longest, we deserve to watch it.

Allison blushes.

YOUNG ALLISON

Are we really best friends?

Norah happily side hugs Allison.

YOUNG NORAH

Of course. Why do you think I come over all the time?

YOUNG ALLISON

I just thought it was 'cause you don't have cable.

Norah laughs, and before Allison even realizes, the tape has been popped in the VCR. Allison fearfully looks over at the other girls, rustling but still asleep on the floor.

YOUNG NORAH

Come on, it's PG-13. How dirty could it be anyway?

As the movie starts, Allison looks guilty of high crimes. Norah looks starry eyed, as if witnessing one of the wonders of the world.

INTERCUT famous scenes of "DIRTY DANCING" with shots of Norah and Allison watching, almost hypnotized. As the movie ends, Young Norah looks positively enthralled.

YOUNG NORAH (CONT'D)

...Oh my god.

BEGIN MONTAGE SET TO "BE MY BABY" BY HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF.

-9 Year Old Norah buys the soundtrack CD at an F.Y.E.

-10 Year Old Norah and Allison re-enact the "LOVE IS STRANGE" crawl in the basement, which Allison seems especially into.

-11 Year Old Norah takes a DANCE CLASS. It's clear she's getting pretty good at this.

-12 Year Old Norah and Allison perform a clumsy version of the "Time Of My Life" number at a FAMILY DINNER PARTY.

Parents clap as "THE LIFT" sends them tumbling into the living room.

-14 Year Old Norah watches the Baby/Johnny SEX SCENE alone in her room. All flushed, she REWINDS it. Again. And again.

-15 Year Old Norah expertly does the MERENGUE at a DANCE RECITAL. She gets raucous applause, especially from Allison.

-16 Year Old Norah and Allison sing along to the soundtrack in Allison's car.

-17 Year Old Norah out-dances all the boys at a SCHOOL DANCE. Only Allison can keep up.

-18 Year Old Norah waits in the wings of a DANCE COMPETITION. She looks around at her very talented looking rivals.

CLOSE on her face, we can't tell if the look is excitement or utter dread as we **FADE TO BLACK...**

INT. XSPORT GYM- PRESENT DAY

A spirited DANCE CLASS is in session, the music thumping out into the main gym. PAN over to a row of EXERCISE BIKES, where NORAH, now 27, looking great even drenched in sweat, huffs her way through a work out.

She briefly gazes over at the dance class, a pining glance, before being brought back to Earth by her phone BUZZING. She looks at the reminder: **SHOWINGS @ 2, 3, 5, and 6:30**

She nods and resumes her cycling. She's on a damn schedule.

INT. FANCY CHICAGO HIGH RISE APARTMENT- LATER THAT DAY

Norah, now in an expensive dress, looks out a massive picture window into a Chicago summer sunset.

NORAH

Okay... Here we go.

SERIES OF SHOTS- NORAH THE REAL ESTATE AGENT

-Norah walks through the living room with a HAPPY TWENTYSOMETHING COUPLE.

NORAH (CONT'D)

This neighborhood is the true hotspot of the city. It's only a couple blocks from downtown.

-Norah walks through the kitchen with a FRAZZLED THIRTYSOMETHING COUPLE and their two kids.

NORAH (CONT'D)
And the best pre-school in the city
is just a train stop away.

-Norah shows off the view to a weak-chinned WEALTHY NERD.

NORAH (CONT'D)
Plus the view is spectacular!

WEALTHY NERD
I don't know. Isn't it a bit much?

Norah stares him down, knowing just how to reel him in.

NORAH
Sir, this is the kind of view that
will astound your friends,
devastate your enemies, and will
set the mood better than any slow
jam playlist ever could.

Norah gives his shoulder the subtlest of grazes, which causes the Wealthy Nerd to sweatily nod in agreement.

WEALTHY NERD
I'll take it!

Norah, nods as if she had no doubt this would occur as she slides some paperwork his way.

INT. HIGH RISE ELEVATOR- MINUTES LATER

Norah talks on her phone while in the elevator with her BOSS.

NORAH'S BOSS (O.S.)
Sold in thirty six hours! That's a
July record! Way to be, Stephens!

NORAH
Thank you, sir.

NORAH'S BOSS (O.S.)
Now get going on that West Loop
property. Keep up that hot streak!

Norah winces before re-composing herself.

NORAH
You can count on me.

As she hangs up, Norah looks down at a reminder on her phone.
HINGE DATE WITH JEREMY.

Norah sighs before reading the next reminder. **CANCEL DATE WITH JEREMY?** She smiles as she begins typing up an excuse.

INT. NORAH'S APARTMENT- LATER THAT NIGHT

Norah enters her sleek but sterile downtown apartment. She sits on her couch, which has a pile of laundry and a note: **"FUTURE NORAH, PUT THIS AWAY, MORNING NORAH."**

NORAH
Morning Norah sucks.

She shoves the laundry to the side, and turns on her TV. She mindlessly scrolls before throwing her head back in indecisive bored anger.

She goes to her Movie Library and presses RESUME on "Dirty Dancing." Norah looks immediately relaxed and mindlessly mumbles along every line as she folds her laundry.

NORAH (CONT'D)
"Look, Spaghetti Arms! This is my dance space, this is your dance space... You gotta hold the frame!"

She dances a little in her seat as she folds, but it all feels second nature, like she's barely there.

Her phone buzzes. She sees a TEXT FROM GEOFF. **"Hey, cool if I come by?"** Norah sighs as if conceding defeat.

INT. NORAH'S BEDROOM- LATER THAT NIGHT

Norah lies awake next to GEOFF, some boring dude. We don't even need to see his face, really.

She stares up at her ceiling fan, following one blade as it spins. Anything to distract from the lonely darkness.

EXT. CHICAGO BRUNCH SPOT- DAY

ALLISON, now a pretty and confident woman in chic glasses, sits at a table on a bustling patio. As Norah arrives, Allison lights up as she waves her over.

ALLISON
There she is! I thought you forgot!