

The Unfair Journey

Scene 1 external

A plain house

Morning

A girl walks in, she looks around 16. She has a backpack thrown over her shoulder and she opens the cabinet. In the cabinet are rows and rows of the exact same mug. A basic blue mug a nice size to fit a pretty large cup of chocolate milk every morning. She grabs a bagel and pushes it into the toaster and waits for it to pop up, aimlessly scrolling through her phone. After a couple of minutes, a nicely toasted bagel pops out of the toaster and she grabs it out, places it on a paper towel, and begins to smear cream cheese on it. She eats the bagel on her way out of the house and finishes up the chocolate milk.

As she's walking out of the house with her half-eaten bagel in her hand she yells,

“Bye Mom, Love you!”

Behind her are rows and rows of identical houses.

No one responds to her.

This same scene plays a dozen more times, exactly the same

Scene 2 external

A plain house

Morning

The same girl walks in, she looks around 16. She has a backpack thrown over her shoulder and she opens the cabinet, in the cabinet are rows and rows of mugs. However, the one she has taken every day for the last two weeks is red. She is confused, she yells for her mom but just as before no one answers. She begins speaking to herself,

“I haven't seen her in the past two weeks, why hasn't this crossed my mind before... What's my mom's name? What's she even look like?”

She's spiraling at this point but at the same time her stomach audibly growls and when she reaches for her bagel it is not there. They are gone. She is running out of the house.

Entering the second house she rushes through the threshold and is racing up the stairs to the room where she saw movement from upstairs. Once she makes it into the room she recognizes the room, but she still can't place why. Talking to herself she says,

“It is like Deja vu.”

She hears a small voice out of the closet,

“It isn't Deja vu, you know the room, Jo.”

At the same time, a small girl steps out of the closet, looking strikingly like Jo.

Jo steps back taken aback by her sudden company,

“How do you know my name?”

As those words leave her mouth, she realizes exactly who this is. She recognizes the bows in her hair and the very well-worn soccer socks. It is Jo but she is 7.

“You're me...”

narrated

Jo is in disbelief as she stands in front of her 7-year-old self, she thinks she must have been going crazy. Sadly, going crazy would have been the better option.

Scene 7 external

Hospital

Flashback night

Jo is lying in a hospital bed covered in cuts and blood, every helping hand at the hospital on her, they are preparing to shock her back to life.

Narrated

She was in a car accident on her way to school. Her brand-new school tennis shoes were now splattered with her blood and dirt. When they shocked her heart, they did get a pulse back but she never woke up. She has been in a coma. She has been fighting for her life for days.

Scene 8 external

House #2

Later in the morning

Young Jo begins to speak,

“I am here to help you; we need to go! Have you seen anyone else?”

Jo replies, “No, I was searching for someone to tell me what is going on. I recognized the house and then saw you in the window.”

Young Jo grabs her hand and begins dragging her down the stairs,

“We have to go now before he finds us.”

Jo stops in her tracks, “Who is he?”

Young Jo turns to her, “We don’t have time for this, you know who it is.”

Jo has a look of pure fear on her face, “Him.” She begins to run with young Jo’s lead.

Scene 9 external

Suburb

Afternoon

They run down the street till there both gasping for air and red in the face. Young Jo pulls her in the direction of a rickety treehouse,

“Go. We will be safe here long enough for me to explain.”

Jo reluctantly agrees.

Scene 10 external

Treehouse

Afternoon

They both sit facing each other in the exact same criss-cross position you learn in kindergarten, exactly the same down to what leg is under.

Young Jo begins to speak but just as sound begins to come out, she pauses, visibly troubled by what she was about to say. She starts again.

“This is going to be hard to understand, but you’re dying, and I am not seven-year-old you at all.

I appear to you as someone you could trust and since you don’t trust that many people this was

the best option. I am a guardian angel, and I am here to make sure you safely get through purgatory and to heaven where your soul belongs.”

Jo begins to cry,

“What do you mean I am dying? I am not crazy, why does the morning keep repeating? An angel?”

Young Jo begins again, “Yes, there is no saving you either so running from me only prolongs your journey and endangers you with getting caught by him and if he catches you, he drags you to hell. He is hell’s bounty hunter, he brings the Devil souls and in return, he gets to run freely, not trapped there.”

As their conversation continues outside grows dark and lighting strikes the tree next to the treehouse, at the same time the lighting strikes Jo had an excruciating pain in her chest. She yells in pain gripping young Jo’s hand and it quickly passes.

Young Jo gets up in a hurry, “We have to move now, you don’t have much time and if your pulse stops, I can’t help you, we have to get to the Elder Oak Tree.”

They scramble down the ladder and begin down the street again.

Scene 11 external Street Afternoon

The sound of a car squealing gets their attention, fear creeps up both of their faces, young Jo says,

“It’s him, we won’t be able to take the street. Let’s go that way, there’s a shortcut over there.”

Young Jo grabs her arm and takes her to a break in the bushes.

“You need to go alone to the Elder Oak Tree, once you get there, the Tree will show you, and after you will be ready to move on.”

narrated

Jo has lived in St. Pierre her whole life, since the beginning of St. Pierre they have had a festival surrounding the Elder Oak Tree that was planted when they founded the town. The festival has happened every year since. There have always been talks that they celebrate the Tree because it guides people in their death, but it was always the town crazies. But the town crazies were not wrong, centuries ago when they were coming to find St. Pierre, an old woman into witchcraft, gave the explorers a single seed. They believed it was a poor gift but ultimately used it to mark their land.

end of narration

Jo is running to the town square that she has visited hundreds of times in her life, she is bawling, her vision blurry, snot running from her nose and she's hyperventilating. She's not ready to go. But she continues to run. She finally starts to see the top of the very familiar tree, but it looks different. All the leaves are glowing and there's a sparkly aura surrounding it. She gets to the base of the Tree and gets a closer look at the leaves. She plucks one off the tree, playing on the leaf is the first time she caught a fish with her grandpa. She moves to the next and plucks it off, on this one she's learning to ride a bike with her dad, he's gleaming in the background. She continues for what feels like forever, she sees, the first time she bought a bra with her mom, the first time she kissed a boy, and her grandma taking her for ice cream. She viewed her life one memory at a time, the aura now surrounding her and slowly she began to accept her death, she didn't live very long but her family had made her sixteen years beautiful.