

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Isabella (19) is asleep on her bed, fully dressed and with her jacket on. There's a suitcase on the floor beside her feet.

Her cell phone is laying on the bed right next to her head and starts to ring. It wakes her up and she looks at the caller ID and answers.

ISABELLA

Oh my God dad, where are you?!

DAD (O.C.)

I'm sorry Bella, I'm not gonna make it tonight baby.

She sits up abruptly.

ISABELLA

What? Dad! See, I told you I could take the bus. You're the one that insisted on driving all the way up here to get me. Everyone else is gone. I'm the only person in the dorm!

DAD

I know baby. I'm sorry.

ISABELLA

What happened, where are you?!

DAD

I got caught up honey, got a late start. I'm sorry. I'll tell you what. Why don't you get a good night's sleep and catch the first bus out in the morning. I'll cash app you some money.

ISABELLA

Now you want me to take the bus?

She hears another voice in the background.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Who was that?

No answer.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Dad? Dad, what's going on?

DAD  
Honey, I gotta go.

ISABELLA  
What? Where are...

DAD  
Hey, relax sweetie. Everything is fine okay. Get some rest and I'll see you when you get home in the morning.

ISABELLA  
Dad...

DAD  
I'm so proud of you honey. My busy Izzy. And your mother would be so proud of the woman you've become.

Isabella walks over to the window, her anger has given way to concern.

ISABELLA  
Daddy you're scaring me now.

DAD  
I'm sorry. Don't be scared. Everything is okay.

She hears another voice again.

DAD (CONT'D)  
I have to go now honey.

ISABELLA  
Daddy no, wait. Who...

He hangs up.

EXT. 85 NORTH -CONTINUOUS

A multi-car pile up has traffic at a stand still. Emergency vehicles light up the night sky with red and blue lights. Flares line the road while police direct cars to the shoulder to pass the accident.

One car was rammed into the steel barrier and a piece of steel has sliced through the car and right through the driver. A fireman approaches the driver's window.

FIREMAN  
You ready sir?

Dad is still holding his phone and looks up through tear-filled eyes and sees a sign that says "State College Next Exit". He can't help but laugh at the irony.

FIREMAN (CONT'D)

We're gonna get you outta there  
sir, don't worry.

DAD

(acceptance sinks in)

I'm a doctor son, you don't have to  
bullshit me. I know exactly what's  
going to happen when you pull this  
rail out of my stomach.

The fireman lowers his head to avoid eye contact. Dad reaches over and places his hand on top of the fireman's hand.

DAD (CONT'D)

It's okay. Do your job son.

FADE OUT.