

YOUR TITLE HERE

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First Draft - [DATE]

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY SKYLINE - DAWN

The city wakes slowly. Streetlights blink out one by one as the sun crests the horizon.

A single window glows on the fourth floor of a brick walk-up.

INT. MAYA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

MAYA CHEN (28, sharp-eyed, sleeps in her work clothes) jolts awake. Her phone buzzes against the nightstand -- and keeps buzzing.

She grabs it. Squints.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN

"47 Missed Calls -- DAD"

BACK TO SCENE

Maya sits up. All the way up.

MAYA
(whisper)
No, no, no --

She's already moving, one shoe on, grabbing keys.

CUT TO:

INT. ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Maya pushes through the double doors at a near-run. Fluorescent lights. The squeak of her sneakers on linoleum.

She counts door numbers as she goes.

MAYA
210... 212...

She stops at 214. Her hand hovers over the handle.

A long beat.

She opens the door.

INT. ROOM 214 - CONTINUOUS

DAVID CHEN (61, thinner than she remembers) turns his head from the window. A slow smile.

DAVID

You still run like you're late
for school.

Maya laughs -- and it breaks into something else halfway through.

MAYA

Hi, Dad.

FADE OUT.

HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE

This is standard US screenplay format: 12pt Courier, 1.5" left margin, 1" right/top/bottom. One formatted page is roughly one minute of screen time.

SCENE HEADINGS (sluglines): INT. or EXT., the location, a dash, then time of day. Always capitalized.

ACTION: present tense, full width. Only describe what the camera can see or the audience can hear.

CHARACTER names sit about 2.2" from the left margin, capitalized. A character's FIRST appearance in action is also capitalized, with age and one telling detail.

DIALOGUE sits about 1.1" from the left margin in a narrow column. Parentheticals -- used sparingly -- go between the name and the line.

TRANSITIONS (CUT TO:, FADE OUT.) are right-aligned. Modern specs use them only when the cut itself means something.

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