

Fractured, painful memories came to her, of everything he'd done that she wanted to forget. The graffiti. Refusing to eat for days when she refused to go vegan. Buying a motorcycle without permission. And finally running away at eighteen years old without saying goodbye.

She'd lost the dream of the future. She'd lost sight of who she was.

When she got married, her plan was to be a stable woman who wore an apron at home and cooked healthy meals for her family while growing her entrepreneurial business on the side. She would be an inspiration to the community, with a handsome, loyal husband and a hardworking, respectful, loving son who made her proud. But she'd never been the wife or mother she'd wanted to be.

Where did she go wrong? When did the rift start and how did she let it get so wide?

She loved her boy. She loved him even if he never said I love you and hugs were formalities. She didn't know how low he might have fallen by now but she was worried sick by the nagging possibility that the call might have been real.

Restless and needing to know how he was, but not knowing where he lived or how to find him, she called his old friend, Cola. Asked Cola to ask Spencer to call Matthew.

That was Aurora's only way of hearing from him anymore. Matthew's one-way communication chain through which he said, "I'm doing fine," "I'm okay," or "I'm still fine," three or four times a month. She could never send him anything in return, because his best friend Spencer was his loyal dog and prevented such a breach of his will.

By midnight, Cola had gotten hold of Spencer.

Spencer couldn't get through to Matthew.

She went to bed that night telling herself that if there was any truth to the kidnappers' call, they would call her again sooner or later, and that she had to sleep, because in the morning she was obligated to make Luke breakfast with her biggest smile like nothing had happened and go to work as usual.

But she thought of Matthew. She thought of the time she overheard him singing "Dandelions" last year, but her remembrance was muddy, and she could not quite match the sound of his voice to the song, or the song to his voice. And Aurora only listened to oldies music and couldn't remember the words, and started to get up to Google it, but then she stopped, because if she listened to it then she'd only

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Commented [AC1]: You have a great way of throwing in these large bits of information in this neat little paragraph. However, since it's the prologue, we need to just focus on the moment for what it is and let the reader learn about Matthew organically. We get Matthew's age, the 3 things he'd done to push his mother away, how his actions were towards his mother, and the fact that he'd run away. This would be better served in the beginning in the first chapter when we are getting the introduction for the MC Matthew.

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Commented [AC2]: This gives great insight into Aurora in just a few short paragraphs. But again, this is a prologue. Keep the reader in the "right now" feeling and let this information come out through Matthew's thoughts and feelings on his mother later.

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Commented [AC3]: She's gone from passive thoughts to action here. This puts the reader into the story and makes it feel it is happening in real time. This is how the prologue should feel. Aurora's reaction to the possibility that Matthew is kidnapped is what should be the focus.

Commented [AC4]: We have been given 5 names in this short prologue. Aurora, Luke, Matthew, Cola and Spencer. No need for the specifics here. The most important part to point out is how she hasn't been in contact with him. Just state that through friends of friends like it's a lengthy annoying process that yielded no results.

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Commented [AC5]: The ending of this prologue sets the tone for feeling a sense of what's at stake for Aurora if Matthew is truly in danger. It puts the reader on edge and gives tension and intrigue.

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remember the record, and whatever memory she had left of Matthew singing it would be forever **lost**

Commented [AC6]: If you're expecting readers to read the prologue, maybe one more mention of her feelings on the phone call. Maybe that it irked her, or she knew she'd have trouble sleeping because of it. This will help readers remember the fact she got the call about Matthew leading into the beginning of the story.

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