EXT. PAINT BALL – DAY

Five kids play paintball in a makeshift course built under the highway, where 695 and 702 connect. They each wear full gear, including facemasks.

The camera follows SEAN (15), as he navigates the course, mostly on the defensive against attacks from his friends. Finally, he’s hit, and walks to the edge of the field. He pulls off his mask to reveal long hair and a serious face.

INSERT: SEAN INTERVIEW

The game ends when all but one are eliminated: CODY (20), DUSTIN (23), TONY (16) and JIMEE (17).

The group gathers their equipment and follows the highway back to their cars.

INT. SPIKE’S HOUSE – DAY

SPIKE (an old 35) sits on the edge of the couch in the front room of his apartment, tattooing a CLIENT. He has long, blonde hair and arms covered in jailhouse ink. He tells stories as he works, as if being interviewed for a documentary: “I shot a guy in the face on Putty Hill. Then I got lunch and waited for the cops to come…”

EXT. DOUBLE ROCK PARK – DAY

JENNY (17), ASHLEY (15), and AURORA (15) walk through Double Rock Park.

Morning light shines down through a canopy of trees. There’s a slight breeze. Though it’s late summer, the forest remains lush and bright green.

The girls ascend a hill and emerge from the trees to find Belair Road, which they follow north.

EXT. BUS DEPOT – DAY

Zoe, just off the bus, exits the terminal. She smokes a cigarette and waits for a friend.

INSERT: ZOE INTERVIEW

ALEX (21) arrives. She interrupts Zoe’s monologue. They get in Alex’s car and drive off.
INT. RAY HOUSE - DAY

Cody and Dustin arrive home.

MATT (20), Cody’s identical twin, sits (16) on a white, wraparound sofa watching skate videos. Cody enters the kitchen to find his girlfriend, AIDAA (20), and their baby, KAYLA. Dustin goes upstairs to his room.

INSERT: DUSTIN INTERVIEW

INT. SEAN’S HOUSE - DAY

Sean returns home to hear his mother, CATHY (38) calling his name. Sean runs up the stairs to the second floor.

Sean walks out onto the balcony. Cathy finds Sean and asks him to pick up his sister from the library. She tells him she’s going out in the evening to visit her mother.

INT. ASHLEY’S HOUSE - DAY

Ashley’s bedroom is covered floor to ceiling with graffiti, poster art, photographs, and stickers. Aurora sits on Ashley’s bed, drawing on her leg.

Ashley tries to find her cigarettes as Jenny lies down. She stretches out and tells Ashley and Aurora about falling asleep in the bathtub and nearly dying.

INSERT: JENNY MONOLOGUE

The camera does a slow 360° around the room until it finds Ashley and follows her into her walk-in closet, where she plops down next to her friend LIZ (15) to smoke a cigarette. Before long, Aurora joins them.

When the doorbell rings, Ashley hops up to answer it.

Downstairs, Jimee and Tony are waiting on the front porch, hoping to mow the lawn. Ashley calls her Mom on the phone to make sure it’s okay. She gives the boys permission and goes back in the house.

EXT. ASHLEY’S HOUSE, FRONT YARD - DAY

Tony starts one mower. Jimee pushes the other around back.
EXT. ASHLEY’S HOUSE, BACKYARD – DAY

Ashley’s brother, JEFF (21), floats in the pool: a pallid dirt-punk drug dealer, soaking up some vitamin D. Only his head is visible. His long hair spreads across the surface of the water.

INSERT: JEFF INTERVIEW

EXT. HEMLOCK GORGE

ZOE (19) swims off some rocks with a bunch of friends.

INT. DUSTIN’S CAR – DAY

TYRELL (23), riding in the passenger seat, monologues about a boy who died, a boy he and Dustin knew growing up. A song comes on the radio that they both like. They stop talking and nod their heads to the beat.

INT. HARFORD CARE NURSING HOME – DAY

Jenny walks down the only corridor, past an old woman on her way to lunch, and enters a resident’s room at the end of the hall. The quarters are small and efficient with very little character. There’s a handmade quilt on the hospital bed, framed pictures on the wall, and photographs on the mantle; on the table there are faux-flowers and fruit.

Jenny calls to her grandma. A voice calls back from the bathroom, so Jenny lies down on the bed and stares at the door. A NURSE, passing by, stops in to check on her.

Before long, DOT (83) emerges from the bathroom. Jenny stands and gives her a hug. Dot asks Jenny if she’s hungry. Jenny nods and the two walk down the hall to the cafeteria.

EXT. CARROLL PARK – DAY

Cody exits a convenience store with his friend, IAN (20). They cross the train tracks with soda and candy.

Below the tracks sits a dilapidated, concrete skate park. Kids of all ages ride the ramps; Cody knows them all: Kwasi, Momo, Natalie, Ian, Hank.
INSERT: CODY INTERVIEW

Someone tags “R.I.P. CORY” on the wall of the police auxiliary gym.

INT. ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY, HARFORD ROAD BRANCH – DAY

Sean’s sister, MARINA (7), sits with a group of children listening to a story being read in a corner of the library.

Sean, arrives, pulls up a chair and listens.

INT. JIMEE’S HOUSE – DAY

Jimee enters to find his Dad asleep on the couch in front of the television. He slips through the living room and into the kitchen. Jimee pulls two beers out of the refrigerator and opens the back door.

Outside, Jimee hands a beer to Tony. The two boys down them quickly and throw the cans into a bin on the edge of the porch. They lift their lawnmowers onto the porch and fill them with gas.

INSERT: JIMEE INTERVIEW

EXT. HARFORD ROAD – EVENING

Jenny exits the nursing home and waits on the curb for traffic to pass before crossing Harford Road. A car pulls up beside her and idles its engine.

The driver is a boy she knows: CHRIS (28). Chris gives Jenny his condolences and asks her a series of questions (how long she’s in town, where she’s going, etc). Jenny answers him curtly and when he finally pulls away she crosses the street.

INT. SPIKE’S HOUSE – EVENING

Jenny enters to find Spike entertaining friends. They’ve been drinking most of the afternoon.

MEGAN (30) jumps up when she sees Jenny and begins to fuss, asking her questions and admiring her hair. Jenny is polite, but visibly upset, and when she gets the chance she slips away. Spike watches her, and after a minute he gets up and follows her down the hall.
EXT. SPIKE’S HOUSE – EVENING

Jenny sits on the tiny balcony in back of Spike’s apartment. Spike steps outside and they talk about her uncle.

INT. JAMES’ HOUSE – NIGHT

Zoe and Casey enter the quiet house. Zoe calls to see if anyone’s home.

Sean runs down the stairs and hugs his sister. Zoe tells Sean she’s going to a party for their uncle. She invites him along. Sean says he has to watch Marena. Zoe asks if she’s asleep. When Sean confirms she is, Zoe says she’ll be fine, and tells Sean to put some shoes on.

Sean runs back upstairs as Zoe and Casey walk into the kitchen.

INT. CASEY’S CAR – NIGHT

Zoe, Casey, and Sean ride in darkness. Sean asks questions about their uncle, which Zoe answers. She decides to drive by the house where he died.

INT. HARFORD CARE NURSING HOME – NIGHT

Dot sits in the recreation room, watching television. Cathy enters and sits down beside her.

INT 1400 ORIOLE AVENUE – NIGHT

Zoe pushes open the door to the abandoned house and hits a light. She enters. Sean follows her inside, while Casey waits on the porch. They walk slowly through the first floor, looking in every room. The ceiling tiles in the kitchen are caving in and there’s water on the counter. They take the stairs to the second floor, where they find their uncle’s bedroom. One window is broken and there are dead flies all over the floor.

INT. D’MITRI’S TAVERN – NIGHT

Everyone is gathered for a party, pre-funeral: Cody, Matt Dustin, Jimee, Spike, Jenny, etc. An old drunk, JOE (75), dances quietly by himself. Jenny sings ____________.