

Scene 1

This initial part of the scene will happen slowly. I'm planning to use hard pauses to make sure the player can't skip ahead. It isn't actually that long anyway, so it hopefully shouldn't bother the player too much.

Fade in, a face. Guy, early 20's, unruly hair. Scruffily dressed. He is smiling goofily. It very slowly pans out to reveal more of the scene.

"One year can be an awfully long time."

The image has panned out enough to show a girl to his left. Giving a forced smile.

"Long enough for the whole world to turn upside down."

The scene begins to move. We see that it was actually a photo that has just been dropped. The photo lands on a desk and the camera pans up to show the same young man. A circle and some text is visible at the top left to indicate that he is being filmed and the player's view is from the video camera itself.

He now has a shorter, stylish hair and is well dressed. There is a scar along the side of his face, and he seems to have lost the playful expression he had in the photo. His eyes are full of determination.

"I don't want you to forget what you've been through... what we've been through. Not again."

The scene starts to fade to black.

"Zettai wasurenai de, Rika."

The scene gradually fades in the exact same scene as in the photo. We can see that the same two people plus one more are in a bar.

"It all began in early June, 2015. The three of us were hanging out at a bar together after graduation. Just Izzy, Hannah and I."

The text from characters will appear at a textbox at the bottom of the screen, in a speech bubble style. The pointy part of the speech bubble will be closest to whomever is speaking at that time. Anything else will be narrator. In this case, the narrator is Jack, the male protagonist.

Hannah

"Turned out beautifully, don't you think?"

Jack

"Yeah, looks good. Thanks for taking it."

Isabella

"When Hannah told us to say 'cheese', I don't think she meant 'pull the cheesiest expression humanly possible'."

Jack

"C'mon, loosen up. I mean, you're the only one not getting into the spirit."

"Hannah and Isabella had been best friends ever since they were young, Hannah being the bubblier one of the pair. Actually, that's not fair. Izzy was usually quite friendly too, but recently she'd seemed distracted."

Hannah

"Sorry Izzy, but I'm siding with your brother this time. You're not your normal, cheery self tonight."

Isabella

"I'm happy, don't get me wrong, but I've also got a lot on my mind. This is where life really begins. Job hunting in particular is going to be rough."

Hannah

"You'll be fine. You're the smartest, prettiest person I know. If talent isn't enough for job interviews, just bat those eyelids and they'll be putty in your hand."

Isabella

"Ha! Not sure I'd want to work anyone who would hire based on looks. Seriously though, it wasn't really that difficult. Even Jack could have got a higher level qualification if he'd applied himself more and spent less time getting into trouble."

"Isabella, has always been a very focused, very determined person. Anything less than 100% was simply unacceptable to her. Pretty much the complete opposite to me. I think that's one reason why we always knew how to push each other's buttons so well."

Jack

"If you want to spend your youth with your head buried in textbooks, fine. But I want to make the most of this time, before being shackled to a desk for the rest of my life."

Hannah

"Are you kidding? Working leads to money, and money can buy cool things. You could buy a jet ski! It's pretty hard to be unhappy on a jetski."

Jack

"Hell yeah! From today, the world is our oyster."

Hannah

"I think Izzy's just feeling antsy because Aaron isn't here yet."

Isabella

"He said he'd be here soon. I'm not really sure what's going on with him lately. He's been a bit distant."

"To this day, I have no idea what she saw in him. Aaron had been Isabella's boyfriend since high school, but they'd been getting into arguments with each other more and more often. Even before the verbal sparring, something about

that guy rubbed me up the wrong way, despite Izzy insisting that he was usually really sweet, and put my feelings down to a case of Over-Protective Brother syndrome. But this was our celebration and I certainly didn't need him around to make it awkward."

Hannah

"Uh, I'm sure it's nothing. He's probably just running late because of traffic."

Jack

"Did you really have to invite him? It's not like we couldn't celebrate with just the three of us."

Isabella

"And THIS is what I was worried about. Just leave off for one night, will you?"

Jack

"Fine, fine. Gotta take a slash, anyway. Back in a sec."

Isabella

"Charming. I'd go too, but it's looking rather crowded over there, and I don't want to miss my man when he arrives. If he arrives."

Hannah

"Don't worry, I can ask him to wait if you aren't back by then. Want me to watch your drink?"

Isabella

"Sure, thanks."

Hannah

"No prob. Take your time."

"Sometimes I wonder what my life would be like now if I hadn't gone at that moment. A prime example of the butterfly effect, if I had to give one."

Both Jack & Isabella move off screen, to their respective bathrooms. Scene fades again.

When the scene fades back in, Jack is returning from the bathroom, which is shown at the far right."

"I thought it was odd that Hannah wasn't there when I returned. I figured she might have stepped out to meet "Prince Charming" when he arrives, so I decided to head out too."

As he moves, the scene pans left, where we can see Hannah and Aaron through the doorway, near his car, kissing.

"The sounds from the bar seemed to fade away. All my focus was on those two, as my hands tightened into fists. I had no idea that this moment would be the catalyst for so much change."

Jack

"What the hell do you think you're doing?!"

Hannah

"Jack! It's not what you think. We were just..."

Aaron

"Back off bro. It's none of your business."

Jack

"None of my business? Seriously? What about my sister?"

Aaron

"What she doesn't know won't hurt her. She's not going to believe you over me anyway, so piss off."

During this next line, Isabella will start to become visible from the doorway too.

"Something inside snapped. All the years of drama he'd put my sister through had finally reached a boiling point."

Bam! Cut to a moving CG of Jack punching Aaron in the face and Aaron hitting the ground.

Isabella

"Aaron!"

Jack

"You come near her again and I'll beat you within an inch of your life!"

"And I meant it too. I'd never been so furious in my life."

Aaron

"S-stay the hell away from me, psycho! Both of you! I've had enough of all the craziness and drama that comes with your family."

"He stormed off. I suspect his ego was hurting more than his face. He jumped in his car, revved it in a childish rage, and took off at a breakneck speed."

Aaron disappears from the scene, appropriate sounds playing.

Isabella

"You better have one hell of an excuse!"

"If looks could kill, I would have been annihilated on the spot."

Menu:

Option 1: They kissed

Option 2: ...

Option 1: They kissed

Jack

"Ok, I know this looks really bad, but hear me out for a sec. When I came out of the bathroom, I went to look for her, and I saw those two with their tongues down each other's throats!"

"Honesty is the best policy. Right?"

Isabella

"What?! Hannah, is that true?"

Hannah

"Uh, he just gave me a friendly peck on the cheek. Jack must've seen that and misunderstood."

Isabella

"You're so dead, Jack. I'm going to find Aaron and try to calm him down. After that, I'm coming for your head!"

"She'll forgive me eventually. At least, that's what I thought at the time."

Isabella leaves the scene.

Option 2: ...

Jack

"You deserve better."

"In retrospect, it wasn't the best response, but as they say, hindsight is 20/20."

Isabella

"You hit him over something petty like that? Aaron was right, you are a psycho! What kind of lunatic hits people for no reason?!"

"I'm going to find Aaron and try to calm him down. After that, I'm coming for your head!"

Isabella leaves the scene.

Hannah

"Thanks for not telling her what really happened."

Jack

"I didn't do it for you. I did it for her."

Hannah

"For her? I don't understand."

Jack

"Well, Isabella will need a shoulder to cry on, and I'm pretty sure she'll want it to be the shoulder of her best friend, not the jerk who just decked her boyfriend."

Hannah

"You're a good brother."

Jack

"And you're a terrible friend. How dare you betray her like that!"

Hannah

"I know, you're right. The three of us have spent so much time together and things just kind of started to happen at a party one night."

"For what it's worth, I truly am sorry."

Jack

"Whatever. Instead of hollow apologies, how about pretending to be a decent human being? By the way, if I find out you even glanced in Aaron's direction after tonight, I'll tell my sister everything."

Hannah

"You have my word, which probably doesn't mean much right now. I feel so awful."

Jack

"Ugh, I need another drink..."

"...or five."

Fade out to the next day.