

VALLEY KIDS

written by

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Los Angeles

INT. HOUSE, GARAGE - NIGHT

Zoomed into someone's hands opening a box. We only see the hands of the person taking out a half broken mug, when she turns it, we see parts of, "Class of 2013" and "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step".

ESTABLISHING SHOT

ANNA NEMEROFFSKY (early 20s), dressed in flannel and jeans, walks into the living room of the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SOPHIE ARAMYAN (early 20s), dressed edgy, petite but comfortable with taking up her space, is looking into her phone sitting on the couch.

KEVIN LEE (early 20s), fashionably dressed with a very leveled and serene demeanor, is making avocado toast.

PATRICIA GUTIERREZ (early 20s), dressed more colorfully than the rest with a louder presence, is looking inside the fridge for something to eat.

BEN BERNSTEIN (early 20s), dressed most comfortably is doing the dishes.

IN THE KITCHEN

KEVIN

My uber driver was listening to a Ben Shapiro show, and I had to like keep myself from barfing in the car.

BEN

Who the fuck is Ben Shapiro?

KEVIN

He's like this homophobic Jewish dude that works for this shitty conservative media outlet and can't make his wife cum.

(beat)

You need to use the internet more, dude.

BEN

Why would I wanna know those kind of people?

IN THE LIVING ROOM

SOPHIE

I had to change my number for work,  
and I keep telling the wrong number  
to people cuz I'm like  
automatically writing "818" as the  
area code.

PATRICIA (WHILE EATING)

Your "818" area code never made you  
ghetto, pendeja.

SOPHIE

That's rude... I thought it made me  
a *little* ghetto.

Anna walks in carrying the mug.

ANNA

Guys! Look what I found.

Shows the mug.

SOPHIE

What is it?

ANNA

It's the senior gift. I broke it  
like a week after we got it but  
then kept it like a statue in my  
room. My mom must have boxed it up  
when I moved out.

CHRIS JOHNSON (early 20s), seeming like he has it together  
the most, walks in from outside.

CHRIS

Guys, come on! We're gonna be late  
to this thing if we don't leave  
now.

BEN

Alright, alright. We're coming!

They all start to walk towards to the door.

ANNA

Is seeing people from high school  
gonna be awkward?

BEN  
I'm legit looking forward to seeing  
some people I've kinda been in  
touch with.

SOPHIE  
We had an AP Spanish Class reunion  
like five years ago.

KEVIN  
Why didn't we have a French class  
reunion?

PATRICIA  
Mmm, no one planned it probably.

They step outside.

EXT. STREET (FRONT OF THE HOUSE) - NIGHT

BEN  
Whose cars are we taking?

ANNA  
Mine.

Everybody heads towards Anna's car with her except for Ben.

PATRICIA  
Annie, come with me!

ANNA  
No, you drive like a crazy person.

PATRICIA  
Screw you guys, Ben will come with  
me.

Ben opens the side door and sits in the car.

BEN  
Apparently, I'm suicidal.

PATRICIA  
Oh, shut it doctor.

Patricia starts the car. Both cars head out of the driveway.

FADE TO:

TITLE: 6 YEARS BEFORE

## INT. PATRICIA'S FAMILY HOUSE - NIGHT

People standing scattered around with snacks and drinks everywhere. Patricia is dancing like no one's watching and singing along.

PATRICIA

A little bit of Monica in my life,  
 A little bit of Erica by my side,  
 A little bit of Rita is all I need,  
 A little bit of Tina is what I see,  
 A little of Sandra in the sun,  
 A little bit of Mary all night  
 long, A little bit of Jessica, here  
 I am, A little bit of you makes me  
 your *woman*

Walks over to eat chips and salsa while dancing and sees new people arrive. Walks over to greet them with a hug.

## INT. SOPHIE'S PARENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sophie's dad ROBERT (50s), is dressed up to leave the house, and Sophie is picking out an alcohol beverage from the bar to give to her dad.

SOPHIE

Alright, dad. You gotta take this wine. Vodka is too last century. Wine is booming, especially now with Armenian manufacturing.

ROBERT

Yeah? Let me see.

Sophie hands him the bottle.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

You sure it's good quality?

SOPHIE

Yeah, I mean. They say so.

Sophie starts to check her phone. He leaves the room to call his wife to hurry up.

## INT. THEATER/STAGE - NIGHT

Kevin is sitting along without about 20 other people, most around his age. He is sharing chips with the guys next to him.

STAGE DIRECTOR

.... the actor wants out of the  
 bounds we've put on ourselves  
 (Beat)  
 the actor wants freedom....  
 (Long beat)  
 but with that freedom, the actor  
 makes the ultimate sacrifice  
 (Beat)  
 sacrifice of the self in order to  
 be anyone because actors love and  
 accept everyone like themselves

pause.

STAGE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

You know like God...

(beat)

STAGE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

The actor is playing god -- or more  
 specifically...

(beat)

STAGE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Trying to be completely human...

Pause.

STAGE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Are you with me, or have you lost  
 me?

Close up on Kevin.

KEVIN

We've lost you. We're starving.

The GUY SITTING NEXT TO HIM hisses.

INT. CHRIS'S ROOM

The room is messy and colorful. He is sitting on the computer  
 and has snacks and beer next to him. We see complex graphics  
 on the computer. He is eating something when his phone rings,  
 and he needs to clean his hands to pick it up. Puts it down  
 on speaker.

CUT TO:

INT. ANNA'S ROOM

The room is clean and minimal. She is sitting on the computer and only has water next to her. We see writing on the computer, barely any of it on the page. She's drinking water when her phone rings, so she puts it down to pick it up.

BACK TO:

CHRIS  
Speak, babygirl.

SOPHIE  
You coming tonight?

CHRIS  
You know...

Pause.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
I was gonna...

SOPHIE  
Chris

CUT TO:

INT. ANNA'S ROOM

ANNA  
Umm...

Pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Sure.

SOPHIE  
Great.

BACK TO:

INT. CHRIS'S ROOM

CHRIS  
It doesn't look like I can now.  
Just got too much to do, love.

SOPHIE  
You being nice won't save you. You owe me.

CHRIS

Okay, whatever you say.

INT. BEN'S MOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rosh Hashanah festivities. The table is set with all the right foods, but most of it is already eaten. Ben, two other guys, STEVEN (Early 30s) and JORDAN (late 30s) along with a wise-looking relaxed OLD MAN at the head of the table are conversing loudly. Sophie and Anna arrive. JESSICA (50s), standing next to the table and taking plates to the kitchen walks over to them.

JESSICA

Girls! Come, come sit with us.  
There's still some food left.

SOPHIE

No, thank you so much. We're not hungry, just here to pick up Ben.

JESSICA

Just a while. There's too much testosterone in the room. Help me out.

ANNA

We could spare some time.

SOPHIE

Yeah, alright if you insist.

They both walk over to the dinner table. Anna continues to the kitchen to give Jessica what seems like dessert.

ANNA

We didn't wanna come empty-handed.  
Sophie's doing.

Jessica shakes her head.

JESSICA

Thank you.

Back at the dinner table.

SOPHIE

Hey!

BEN

Someone decided to drop by from New York.



Steven raised his hand, and Sophie noticed looking in his direction.

SOPHIE  
Oh, it's been too long.

STEVEN  
It has indeed.

JORDAN  
Don't say it like it's a good thing.

Steven is on his phone extra focused. Meanwhile, Ben is busy passing food to Sophie.

STEVE  
Hey, do you guys remember this scene from Boy Meets World ...

JORDAN  
They're too young. They don't remember the 90s.

ANNA  
We remember the 90s.  
(beat)  
Besides, the 90s didn't end till like 2006 so...

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Kevin is walking with the same friend sitting next to him in the theater.

FRIEND  
Gonna call it a night?

KEVIN  
I might be meeting someone at a bar.

FRIEND  
A gay bar?

KEVIN  
Yes.

FRIEND  
Is it the kind with male strippers?

KEVIN  
Dude, you sound like an older  
comedian trying not to sound  
homophobic but now knowing how to.

Friend becomes a bit self-conscious.

FRIEND  
Sorry...

Kevin does a hand gesture as if to say, "no worries". He then  
checks his phone.

KEVIN  
Oh, shoot.

FRIEND  
What?

KEVIN  
I totally forgot. One of my close  
friends from high school wanted to  
do something tonight since we're  
all in town.

FRIEND  
She didn't know you had a late  
class?

KEVIN  
No, dude. I forgot to tell her.

They reach their cars in the parking lot.

FRIEND  
Alright, man. I'll see you Monday.

Kevin opens his car door.

KEVIN  
Yeah.

INT. BEN'S MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Steven and Jordan are drying the washed dishes.

JORDAN  
Was it me, or are you trying to uhh  
(beat)  
wife up Sophie when your divorce  
still isn't finalized.

Jordan hands him a new dry towel.

STEVEN

Yeah, well paperwork takes time.

JORDAN

How much can there be to figure out  
in two years?

(beat)

And you guys barely lived together  
even during that time.

STEVEN

Fuck knows. I'm just tired, man.

Steven opens the kitchen cabinet that he's about to store the  
wine glasses in.

INT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sophie's sitting on the couch with her ROOMMATE (early 20s),  
who has a face mask on. Sophie's on her laptop.

ROOMMATE

Wait, you're talking about his ex-  
wife?

SOPHIE

Well yeah, if I'm interested in  
someone, then I have to accept  
their baggage, and his ex-wife is  
part of the baggage. I can't just  
like the parts of him that are easy  
to like, right?

ROOMMATE

You are much more secure that I am,  
my friend. I can't really stand a  
guy talking about other women.

SOPHIE

Ah, I don't know about being more  
secure. I'm probably just trying  
harder.

ROOMMATE

Sure are.

Roommate gets up, and Sophie continues on her laptop.

INT. CHRIS'S FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

There's a commotion with a lot of people talking at the same. Chris is very frustrated, and his hand movements are directed at a teenage girl that resembles him. We see Patricia in the midst.

PATRICIA  
 Everybody be quiet!  
 (beat)  
 Let her speak, so we can understand  
 what's going on.

We see Chris's cousin, SHARNISE (mid 20s), whose presence in the room outshines the rests' what with the way she's dressed and the way she carries herself.

SHARNISE  
 She's being blamed for this boy  
 kissing her at a party because she  
 apparently stayed till morning.

PATRICIA  
 Wait, why is that a problem?

CHRIS  
 The motherfucker got a girlfriend,  
 and that white girl is after her  
 like a bitch.

PATRICIA  
 Let's let her speak for herself  
 please.

CHRIS  
 Okay, Go ahead, Mikayla.

MIKAYLA was close to sobbing, but she looked clearly eager to justify her actions.

MIKAYLA  
 I was drunk, and I honestly didn't  
 realize we had stayed the whole  
 night.

Pause.

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)  
 And I felt safe around him because  
 he's my best friend's older  
 sister's baby daddy.

The tone of her voice is of surprise and betrayal.

CHRIS

See, what I mean? That dickhead.

Patricia is taking in the information attentively.

SHARNISE

And that friend isn't even fully hearing her out.

(beat)

Although she's being way more mature about it than her older sisters.

Mikayla is more UPSET.

PATRICIA

Okay.

(beat)

Let's start from the beginning.

Pause.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

He is the one who kissed you, and it's absolutely ridiculous that you're being blamed for just being there.

(beat)

Like, yo a woman's presence is not the problem here.

(beat)

His behavior is.

AAW

Amen to that.

CHRIS

I still need to beat the shit out of him.

AAW

No, you don't.

Patricia walks over to Sharon to hug her and comfort her.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

We see Patricia and Sophie in the car with 2 other girls (early 20s), AMANDA who's standing by the car filling up the tank and SARAH sitting in the back next to Sophie.

SARAH

Hey, does any of you have lotion in your purse?

(beat)

My hands get so fucking dry after I wash them.

SOPHIE

No, sorry.

Patricia starts searching in her purse.

PATRICIA

Yeah, here.

She hands it to Sarah, sitting in the back.

SARAH

Thanks.

She starts putting it on.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Dude, this is more perfume than lotion.

PATRICIA

It's expensive.

SARAH

Yeah, you're mostly paying for the perfume.

Patricia looks to be reevaluating her skincare choices.

PATRICIA

Hmm.

Anna starting walking towards the car from the gas station store.

SOPHIE

Finally...

ANNA

There was someone ahead of me.

She gets in the car, and they start blasting 90s pop music and starting singing along.

INT. BAR - DAY

Kevin and Ben are sitting together on a round table with high chairs with full glasses of beer in front of them.

KEVIN

Are we really day-drinking now? We never used to do that.

BEN

We just graduated. We deserve it.

KEVIN

By the way, do you know what you're doing?

BEN

I'm still waiting to hear from UCLA.

(beat)

But if not, then I have to go to New York.

KEVIN

Are you gonna live with your brother?

Sighs.

BEN

I don't really know yet.

Kevin starts looking at his phone and sees some instagram stories of the girls.

KEVIN

What's up with this road trip? And why were we not invited?

BEN

Soph said it's a girls' trip.

Ben takes a sip of his beer.

KEVIN

What?

(beat)

Don't I kinda count?

BEN

No, my man. You're unqualified.

Ben take another sip of his beer.

KEVIN  
But I like 90s pop music, too.

BEN  
Yeah, I remember.

Ben notices Kevin's buff arms.

BEN (CONT'D)  
You've been working out a lot,  
dude.

KEVIN  
Thanks.

BEN  
No, but I mean like a lot.

KEVIN  
Don't hate on the biceps.

BEN  
I'm not. It's just kind of a new  
thing.

Kevin becomes slightly uncomfortable.

KEVIN  
I guess I just want to keep the  
appearance, you know?

BEN  
Of being tough?

KEVIN  
Yeah, or whatever.

BEN  
I get it.

Pause.

BEN (CONT'D)  
What are YOU doing in the Fall? Do  
you know yet?

KEVIN  
If I don't book an agent by then, I  
might kind of lose my mind.

BEN  
You'll be fine.



KEVIN  
Yeah, let's hope.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Chris is driving and his phone rings. He answers it on speaker.

CHRIS  
Hey, ma.

Chris's mom, JASMINE (50s) replies on the other end of the line.

JASMINE  
Son, where are you?

CHRIS  
I'm coming. I just had some errands to run and stuff.

JASMINE  
You're not empty handed, are you?

Chris sighs.

CHRIS  
Oh, shit. I forgot a gift.

Pause.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
You know what? I'll get flowers on the way.

JASMINE  
Alright.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The girls are dressed comfortably, some in pajamas. Patricia is holding a wine bottle. There are a bunch of products layed on the bed

JESSICA  
Okay, people. I've got a face mask for everything. What do you want? Moisturizing, nourishing, clearing, shining...

She's reading her face masks off the bed. Patricia gets close to her to pick one while opening the wine bottle she's holding.

PATRICIA

Let me see. I could use some  
shining on my face, not that it  
already doesn't but --

Anna yells from the other side of the room.

ANNA

Just pour the wine, pendeja!  
(beat)  
Get over yourself.

Patricia points the middle finger to her. Jessica laughs. Sarah is sitting on the chair in the corner, flipping the channels.

SARAH

We need to find a good movie, you  
guys.

Sophie gets out of the bathroom. Anna gets closer to her as if not wanting the others to hear. The rest are looking at something on Sarah's phone intensely.

ANNA

So, what's happening with school.  
Are you doing the master's program?

SOPHIE

Yeah, I think so.

ANNA

But do you want to, or does your  
mom want you to?

SOPHIE

I want to.

Anna's not convinced.

ANNA

Okay...

Pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)

What about the thing you and Chris  
are doing?

SOPHIE

We got this space like in the industrial area in Chatsworth.

(beat)

They're transforming those old buildings to tech savvy working spaces.

She walks over to take one of the wine glasses.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

It's a hundred bucks a month for a room. It's perfect.

ANNA

So, it's just you and Chris --

SOPHIE

Like three other people, but I think we need an adult for budgeting

Anna nods.

ANNA

Right.

SOPHIE

Okay, what are we watching?

INT. CHRIS'S COUSIN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Chris walks into a room full of people. He starts searching for the birthday girl with a bouquet of flowers in his hands. He finds her in the kitchen with him mom.

JASMINE

Finally, he arrives.

His cousin, Sharnise, big hair, bright face, wearing a dress with a lot of pattern, turns around and is happy to see him. Chris goes in for a hug.

CHRIS

Happy birthday.

Sharnise takes the flowers.

SHARNISE

For me?

Pause.

SHARNISE (CONT'D)

Thank you!

JASMINE

He forgot a real gift.

CHRIS

Wow... Thanks ma.

SHARNISE

It's fine. I like flowers.

Somebody calls Sharnise. She goes back to the main room.

JASMINE

The errands you had to run. Were they for the business you have going on with Sophie.

CHRIS

What do you really wanna say, ma?

JASMINE

It just seems like you're the one doing all the running.

CHRIS

That's not true. She does the pitching. I do the organizing. It's fine. We have it down. Stop thinking like that, jeez.

JASMINE

Alright. Whatever you say, son. I just don't know of a tech graduate, who's not trying to get a job at one of them big companies and running around like you are.

CHRIS

You don't know any tech graduates except for me, ma.

JASMINE

I'm just saying.

Chris opens up a beer can.

CHRIS

I'ma go say "hi" to people.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The girls are sitting or laying comfortably on the hotel beds, except for Patricia who's standing on her phone.

ANNA

Dude, sit the fuck down, so we can watch the movie.

SOPHIE

Wait, I forgot to ask you guys.

(beat)

Can you make it to the graduation party my cousin is throwing next weekend?

PATRICIA

I can't. I'm going to Disneyland with the kids next weekend.

JESSICA

With the kids?

(beat)

You don't have kids.

PATRICIA

You know what I mean.

ANNA

Just say your nieces.

(beat)

You're their aunt,

(beat)

not their mother.

Patricia gets defensive without losing her sense of humor.

PATRICIA

Alright, bitch. First of all, I am not their aunt;

(beat)

I'm their second mother.

She has her hand up as if to be putting Anna in her place.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

And second of all,

(beat)

they're my replacement children until I have some of my own.

(beat)

Then, they'll be my children once removed.

ANNA

Okay. Whatever you say.

SOPHIE

Is it me or is it super crazy to talk about having kids now?

SARAH

Maybe in like 10 years?

SOPHIE

Yeah, definitely not earlier.

(beat)

That'd be insane.

ANNA

It's just not a definite "yes" or "no" for me.

SOPHIE

Yeah, I remember.

(beat)

Still undecided.

ANNA

And might just forever stay undecided, honestly.

AMANDA

It's a definite "no" for me, but I don't know, should I be like tying my tubes now or?

SOPHIE

I'd wait.

Sarah nods.

AMANDA

Hmm.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Anna opens the door and hurries to get inside, almost panting. Her THERAPIST, (40s) seeming powerful but at the same time endearing looks up.

THERAPIST

You're 20 minutes late.

ANNA

I know. I'm sorry. There was too much traffic.

Puts down her bag on the chair and sits down.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
I'll talk fast.

THERAPIST  
We left off at your mom, right?

ANNA  
Um, yeah. You were explaining to me  
how our attachment is too deep and  
unhealthy and stuff.  
(beat)  
And how her lack of love in her  
partner has made her turn to me to  
fill that gap or something.

The therapist stands up.

THERAPIST  
Can you stand up with me, please?  
(beat)  
We're gonna do a bit of an  
exercise.

Anna stands.

ANNA  
Okay.

THERAPIST  
Stand next to me and hold my hand.

Anna does as she's told.

ANNA  
Are you her?

THERAPIST  
Yes.

ANNA  
Got it.

Anna is visibly impatient in getting to the point of the  
exercise.

THERAPIST  
Let's start walking.

They start walking in the room.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)  
How does this feel?

ANNA

Alright, I guess. It feels nice.

THERAPIST

This is how we want it to be right?  
You and your mom.

ANNA

Yes, ideally.

THERAPIST

Okay, now let's walk back and be  
the way you have been. Is it  
alright if I pull your hand a  
little?

Anna looks at her with the point of the exercise clear now.

ANNA

Yeah.

The therapist pulls her hand to her side.

THERAPIST

Now, you pull it to your side.

Anna pulls the therapist's arm.

ANNA

Are we going back and forth?

The therapist lets go.

THERAPIST

No, but you and her are. Back and  
forth.

ANNA

Right.

THERAPIST

It's not your fault. You both love  
each too much. It's a strong love,  
but the way it's being used is  
currently destructive.

Anna looks away.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Kevin puts down a huge sports down on the floor. We see Chris  
coming in while drinking water from a bottle.



CHRIS  
Is that it, man?

KEVIN  
Yeah. I come with small baggage.

CHRIS  
How does the couch look?

KEVIN  
Looks just fine.

Pause.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
But seriously, thanks for doing  
this man. I just couldn't go home  
after six months of rejection.  
(beat)  
They kept waiting to hear I booked  
the job after every audition. It  
kind of felt like senior year of  
high school after I came out to  
them. They kept expecting me to say  
I was kidding like every day I'd  
get home from school. That longing  
for the change they want in their  
eyes but not saying it out loud,  
just couldn't take it anymore.

Chris keeps drinking his water and going back to the kitchen  
counter in the room.

CHRIS  
It's all good, man. But you only  
get the couch for three months,  
then you gotta pay me something.

Kevin looks back at him smiling.

KEVIN  
You got it. I'll manage, somehow.

CHRIS  
If you do the cleaning, maybe I'll  
bump it to six months!

Kevin smiles more deeply and endearingly.

## INT. TECH NETWORKING EVENT - DAY

Sophie and her friend, LARA (early 20s) who looks like the meticulous genius kind that had upper division math classes in college and did well in them, walk into a large hall with many booths with a representative behind each one and an auditorium following it with chairs in rows. There is an undeniable sense of the room being full of almost only men.

LARA

Jesus, are we the only females in here? Is this what walking into a bank felt like for women in the 70s? 80s? Wait, no that feels too recent for comfort.

They are walking along, taking papers from the different booths.

SOPHIE

You'll see like maybe 10 more. But yeah basically this room is gonna be 98% male.

LARA

But like other entrepreneur events don't feel like this. Maybe it might be more men if you counted, but it's evened out enough not to feel this way. This is too overwhelming.

(looks directly at Sophie)

Do you ever get used to it?

SOPHIE

No, but it starts getting used to you.

They take their seats on the chairs.

## INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

ANNA

Last time, you labeled me as a savior.

(beat)

The narrative that I've felt responsible to save her. We made it clear that she never needed saving.

The therapist looks at her more intently.

THERAPIST  
Yes, that narrative.

ANNA  
It's in my head.

Pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
I'm aware of that. What I have trouble with is the feeling of guilt. I can't stop the feeling of guilt.

THERAPIST  
You think that's what's lagging your action.

ANNA  
I guess.

THERAPIST  
No, that's not it.

ANNA  
Is it the excuse I'm using?

THERAPIST  
You tell me.

ANNA  
Or myself.

THERAPIST  
Ultimately, yes.

Pause.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)  
Anna, your problem is not wit or capability. You are wiser than most of us and more capable than most of us.

ANNA  
My problem is action.

Pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
I can't stick to one thing I start for too long. I have no fucking discipline. I get overwhelmed on the thousands of things I wanna do.

THERAPIST

Alright. You have two exercises for this week.

ANNA

Lay them on me.

THERAPIST

First thing is nicely voicing your own will to your mom when it's different from what she wants from you in the tiniest of tasks.

ANNA

Right.

THERAPIST

Second thing is giving yourself a specific task for the day. A specific amount you want to write, an amount that's doable within that time period.

Anna sighs.

ANNA

Okay.

EXT./INT. CAR - DAY

Sophie is sitting back in the driver's seat beginning to LOSE HER PATIENCE. Proceeds to call Steven. We hear the phone ringing.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY (SAME TIME)

Steven is looking in the mirror and putting on a gel-like hair product when the call comes in. He picks up.

STEVEN

Hey, you.

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

SOPHIE

You texted coming 5 minutes ago.

STEVEN

Yeah, sorry. I'm just getting pretty for you. I'll be right there.

Sophie accepts the humor but doesn't laugh or smile.

SOPHIE  
Right, make sure to use the right  
foundation.

STEVEN  
I only used face cream. I'm already  
doing this wrong.

SOPHIE  
Mhm. Another 5 minutes, and I'm  
eating lunch alone.

Steven smiles as he opens his apartment door to leave. She sees him walking towards the car.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Sophie and Steven are sitting across each other, both eating mouthfuls from their plates. Sophie pauses for a second and looks at him. He's on his phone.

SOPHIE  
Steven?

He puts his phone down.

STEVEN  
Yeah.

SOPHIE  
The divorce papers.  
(beat)  
They're done?

STEVEN  
Yeah. I mean, why does that matter?

SOPHIE  
Well, the legality of it doesn't.

Pause.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
I just want to make sure I'm not in  
the way.  
(beat)  
If there is any chance of  
reconciliation between you and -

STEVEN

There isn't.

(beat)

Alright?

(beat)

Stop worrying that you're doing something wrong.

SOPHIE

I'm not worried about my doing. I just want to make sure you're sure about yours.

STEVEN

I am.

SOPHIE

Okay.

STEVEN

Okay?

SOPHIE

Yeah.

Steven starts using his phone again.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

So, how's Ben handling New York?

STEVEN

Haven't you talked to him?

SOPHIE

Been over a month I think. Don't wanna be bothering the med school student too much.

(beat)

That's actually kind of bullshit. I've been too busy with the launch.

STEVEN

I still can't believe you're not letting me be an investor.

SOPHIE

I can't accept charity.

STEVEN

It's not charity. I believe in its potential.

Sophie smirks playfully.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

You have issues. Like pride issues  
or whatever.

SOPHIE

It's just what I'm doing. If it  
were something we were doing  
together, then your money would be  
accepted.

STEVEN

Alright... whatever you say.

Sophie smiles at him again.

EXT. BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL - DAY

Patricia is walking with a schoolbag on her shoulders looking  
at her phone and looking worried.

She overhears a couple of guys talking to each other.

GUY #1

Have you seen her though, dude?

GUY #2

Yeah, she's like a 7 on a good day.

GUY #1

On a good day?

She rolls her eyes.

She enters her apartment and throws her bag down. Her  
roommate, DIANA (early 20s), seemingly someone who's  
unbothered from anything in life, looks at her from the  
couch.

DIANA

Hey, something wrong?

PATRICIA

Dude, I think I really fucked up  
this semester. I'm like for sure  
off the running for any decent  
fucking firm.

DIANA

What? No, it can't be that bad.

PATRICIA

It can. I don't know what the hell  
is even going on this week.

(MORE)

PATRICIA (CONT'D)  
Mercury's in retrograde or  
something.

DIANA  
Yeah, it's definitely Mercury's  
doing.

Patricia goes to the kitchen and opens the fridge.

PATRICIA  
Do we have any food? I'm starving.

DIANA  
I was gonna order in.

PATRICIA  
Okay.

Diana jumps up as if she just remembered something.

DIANA  
Ooh, I forgot to tell you. My  
cousin is gonna be visiting next  
weekend to stay over. That's cool  
with you, right?

PATRICIA  
Yeah. That's cool with me.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sophie and Chris are getting out of the same car and start  
walking towards an entrance door of a building.

SOPHIE  
If they don't invest. We don't have  
enough money. We have to nail this  
pitch.

CHRIS  
Yeah, no pressure.

SOPHIE  
Sorry, I'm just more nervous than  
usual, and it's honestly bothering  
me that you're not nervous enough.

CHRIS  
You know I don't do freaking out.

They enter the building.



CUT TO:

INT. AUDITION ROOM - DAY

Kevin is standing in front of casting directors after having finished saying his lines for the audition. They look at him and pause as he's anxiously waiting for their reaction.

CASTING DIRECTOR #1

Um, you're a gay actor right?

KEVIN

Uh, yes. I am.

CASTING DIRECTOR #1

Right. And you know the character is gay.

KEVIN

Yeah. Yeah, I know the character is gay.

Pause.

CASTING DIRECTION #2

Okay, so you were playing him as gay.

Kevin is subtly starting to get annoyed.

KEVIN

Yes. I was.

(beat)

The character was clear to me. I mean, the sexual orientation of the character was clear to me. Yes.

One of the casting directors is writing something down.

CASTING DIRECTOR #3

Alright. Thank you.

Kevin steps back.

KEVIN

Okay. That's it?

CASTING DIRECTOR #1

Yeah. Thank you.

KEVIN

Thank you.

Kevin walks out of the room and takes a deep breath and checks his phone. There are a few other people sitting in the waiting room.

One of of the GUYS IN THE WAITING ROOM, around the same age, leans in a bit as he's walking out.

GUY IN WAITING ROOM  
Hey, man. Any tips?

KEVIN  
Um, you're not gay, right?

GUY IN WAITING ROOM  
No, I'm not -  
(beat)  
But the character is.

KEVIN  
Yeah. I know.  
(beat)  
You'll be fine, man. Don't worry.

GUY IN WAITING ROOM  
Okay. Thanks.

KEVIN  
Mhm.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. APARTMENT, NEW YORK - EVENING

Ben is in the kitchen of the apartment. He is wearing a medical uniform. He is getting food out of the fridge and counters and eating whatever he can find while listening to music.

His brother, Steven comes into the room, and the counter is a mess. Ben is rushing out the door.

STEVEN  
Yo! Where are you going? Who's gonna clean up this mess?

He moves closer to the kitchen counter.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Why are you eating cereal at 6pm?

BEN  
There's nothing else to eat.

STEVEN

There is, bro. You just have to cook.

BEN

Steve, I gotta go. I'm on rotation today.

STEVEN

Fine.

Ben stops by the door.

BEN

Oh, before I forget. Did you postpone your flight because of Sophie, or what was it?

STEVEN

Yeah and no.

Steven pauses to figure out how to say what he's about to say.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Grandpa is not doing well. Mom didn't ask me to stay, but I did cuz she's just so overwhelmed.

Pause.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

And none of us are there now.

Ben is overcome with sorrow and guilt. We get a sense that his grandpa means a lot to him.

BEN

I can't believe I'm not there next to him.

Pause.

BEN (CONT'D)

He's the reason I'm in med school right now.

STEVEN

I mean, the doctors are saying he's still got some time.

(beat)

When's the first weekend you can fly to LA?

BEN

I'm not sure yet. I'll have to figure it out though.

STEVEN

I was gonna tell you last night when I got in, but you looked busy.

Ben opens the door back up again to leave.

BEN

Yeah, don't worry.

Steven looks at the stuff on the counter and begins to clean it up.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Sophie and Chris are walking in a modern looking building towards a room with windows as walls where LARA, sharp but stylishly dressed, and JACOB (early 20s) of Persian/Middle Eastern descent, dressed much more casually are talking intensely to each other while eating, barely paying attention to Sophie and Chris.

JACOB

But the economic model of a free market tell us --

LARA

Yeah, exactly. Model, which is a theory different from what's happening in practice where monopoly wins. So, how's that different from government incentives if we're getting the incentives from a singular source anyway?

Jacob notices them come in.

JACOB (TO SOPHIE AND CHRIS)

Hey!

LARA

Oh, hey. How did the meeting go?

Chris takes food from Jacob. Sophie looks tired and beat while taking off her jacket.

JACOB (TO LARA)

Your argument is that the model isn't working?

LARA

My argument is you keep trying to fit it, and it's not fitting. A model is exactly that

(beat)

A model that should be subject to change in practice, or else it's not working. Not that it doesn't have a logical basis, just that it needs to be improvised...

Sophie interrupts.

SOPHIE

The investor backed out.

They both look up.

JACOB

What?

LARA

I thought they already said "yes", and you were supposed to just finalize today.

CHRIS

The fools changed their mind.

Sophie gets out her laptop.

SOPHIE

Um, we have to overview the budgeting and see where we're at.

Sighs.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

It's gonna be a long night.

LARA

Okay. We just ate, but you guys must be hungry. Should I order postmates?

CHRIS

Yes, please. I'm starving.

SOPHIE

Whatever he wants.

THE CAMERA ZOOMS OUT WHILE MUSIC STARTS PLAYING.

We see Chris telling Lara what he wants to eat, and Sophie and Jacob on the other side of the room looking at their screens and beginning to write stuff on the whiteboard in the room with markers.

INT. KEVIN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Kevin's mom, MIN-JI (early 50s), carrying about her infinite warmth and devotion to her role, is cooking in the kitchen where she's most comfortable as Kevin walks in and smells the air delightfully.

KEVIN

What are you making, ma?

MIN-JI

Well, since you decided to show up  
(beat)  
Your favorites: hobakjuk [oh-back-juke] and hotteok [ho-tok].

Kevin hugs her affectionately and kisses her forehead.

KEVIN

I don't tell you enough, but you  
are the best.  
(beat)  
And I love you the most.  
(beat)  
Don't tell dad.

MIN-JI

I don't need to. He already knows.

She starts chuckling. Kevin joins her.

KEVIN

Hey, where's Gigi? Isn't it after  
school hours?

MIN-JI

She has afterschool activities.  
(beat)  
I think it's choir today, but she  
should be home soon. Her friend's  
dad is picking them up.

Kevin leans on the kitchen counter.

KEVIN

I wanted to tell you I just booked  
a commercial, and Chris and I will  
be getting a new place, where I  
will have a bedroom of my own.

Min-ji is listening, and her facial expression becomes more  
serious, but she remains silent.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

So, that's good news, right?

MIN-JI

Yes.

She continues with her cooking.

MIN-JI (CONT'D)

I've told you. If that's what you  
want...

KEVIN

I know you're worried, and I don't  
really know how to tell you not to  
be.

(beat)

I know my choices have been  
especially difficult for you.

(beat)

I just want to let you know how  
much I appreciate you putting aside  
the picture you had of what you  
wanted for me and are giving my  
picture a chance.

Min-ji sighs.

MIN-JI

I'm your mother, Kevin. What else  
am I supposed to do?

Kevin's little sister, GIGI (12) walks in playfully with her  
school backpack on her shoulders and sits on one of the  
chairs.

KEVIN

Hey, kiddo!

GIGI

Hey, I didn't know you'd be here  
today.

KEVIN

What do you mean? I texted you like a few days ago that I'd have dinner with you today.

GIGI

I forgot.

Kevin goes and sits next to his sister.

KEVIN

How was your choir lesson?

GIGI

Good.

KEVIN

I didn't know you could sing.

Amanda rolls her eyes.

GIGI

Better than **YOU**.

Kevin makes funny faces at her.

GIGI (CONT'D)

When will the food be ready? I'm so hungry!

MIN-JI

15 minutes. Go wash up and change your clothes, and it'll be ready.

KEVIN

I feel like I should help, ma. What can I do?

MIN-JI

You can but wash your hands first.

KEVIN

Right. On it. I'll be right back.

INT. ANNA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Anna's mom, NADIA (early 50s), simultaneously sweet and robust in an effortless way is bringing desserts in nice plates to the coffee table in the living room where her two friends of the same age are seated.



NADIA'S FRIEND #1 (IN A RUSSIAN  
ACCENT)

Oh, finally.

(beat)

You're giving us some real food.

Nadia smiles.

NADIA

I made that one myself.

Points to one.

NADIA (CONT'D)

With zgushchyonka. Tastes really  
good.

NADIA'S FRIEND #2

I'm full.

NADIA'S FRIEND #1

Oh, nobody asked you.

Nadia and the other friend laugh.

CAMERA MOVES TO THE KITCHEN.

Anna, dressed to go out, and her dad, ROBERT (mid 50s),  
exhibiting the essence of both a clownish and aggressive  
nature, are tasting the same dessert.

ROBERT

Not bad. Not bad.

ANNA

Are we allowed to eat it? What if  
she needs is for the design and  
stuff.

ROBERT

I don't know about you, but I'm  
eating the leftover crumbs not full  
pieces like you.

Robert notices she's dressed up.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Are you going somewhere?

ANNA

Yeah, one of the writers -- it's  
her birthday, and she's having a  
dinner.

Anna leaves the kitchen. As she walks in the living that's on the way to the front door, Nadia's friends call her to come sit with them.

NADIA'S FRIEND #1

Anyachka!

ANNA

Hi, how are you?

She comes closer.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It's been a while.

NADIA'S FRIEND #1

I've been traveling.

ANNA

Yeah, I know. Mom showed me photos. How was the trip?

NADIA'S FRIEND #1

Good. Good. Lots of sun and water, which I love. You know, the beach.

ANNA

Yeah, yeah. Sounds really fun and relaxing.

NADIA'S FRIEND #2

So, how have you been, Anyachka?

(beat)

Any boy right now?

ANNA

Not right now.

Anna seems uneasy and hiding her annoyance to be polite.

NADIA'S FRIEND #1

No marriage candidate yet? I mean, you're still young, but you know -- not early anymore.

Anna laughs somewhat inauthentically.

ANNA

Honestly, I'm not even sure I ever want to get married.

NADIA

She's kidding.

ANNA

No, I get paid to kid, and you're not paying me.

They all laugh.

NADIA'S FRIEND #2

Oh, that's right. She writes skits and things.

ANNA

Yeah, I actually can't stay long. I was on my way out.

(beat)

It was really nice seeing you both.

She gives them a hug and kiss and waves to her mom before leaving.

INT./EXT. BRUNCH CAFE - DAY

Sophie and her two cousins, MARIAM (early 30s), minimally dressed and taking up little space and NELI (late 20s), loudly dressed and taking up much more space, are waiting for their brunch orders to arrive.

SOPHIE

Dude I cannot believe you're getting married. That's so crazy.

Looks at Neli.

MARIAM

I know. I still don't have my dress. I can't decide if I want the puffy or the slim.

NELI

Girl, you need the full big gown!

SOPHIE

You could do both then like change later to a silk plain one.

NELI

Yeah.

MARIAM

No, I just want like a plain one, but it's an Armo wedding, so there's all this pressure to "wow" with all the glamour, but that's just like not me.

(MORE)

MARIAM (CONT'D)

(beat)

My mom made me invite like 50 more people than I was planning to. I feel like I've totally lost control to planning my own wedding. I'm basically Cinderella in a play I'm not even sure I agreed to be in.

SOPHIE

Are you gonna wear crystal shoes?

Neli laughs.

MARIAM

Sto-o-op. It's not funny.

Mariam can't help but laugh also at her own misery.

MARIAM (CONT'D)

I'm ready to elope at this point.

NELI

Go for it, man.

(beat)

Oh, before I forget: Our dance show is in three weeks. Do you guys want tickets?

SOPHIE

I do.

(beat)

I think.

(beat)

If I don't bring my mom, she's gonna be like, "Why aren't we there to watch your cousin's performance?"

(beat)

But if I do, she's gonna be like, "Why did you quit? You were so good," which will kind of take the enjoyment out of it.

The waiter brings their food.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

NELI

Thank you.

MARIAM

Thanks.

INT. PATRICIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Patricia, Diana, and Diana's cousin, LINA (late 20s), wearing a plaid cardigan and could fix your car if it broke down at first glance, are eating pizza sitting on the couch.

Patricia and Diana are drinking wine, while Lina is drinking beer.

LINA

Did you have a gothic stage in middle school?

PATRICIA

I remember listening to Panic! At the Disco like all the day I think in like 6th grade, and I would tell everyone about them.

LINA

Because you were cooler than everybody.

PATRICIA

Because I was cooler than everybody, obviously.

(beat)

No, but honestly, I hate how everyone hates on pop so much, and yet most of our top listened songs on Spotify are pop. Most of pop is pop rock or pop soul anyway.

LINA

I remember most of my Limewire downloads being the Kooks and the Strokes.

(beat)

Brits just hit that sweet spot.

PATRICIA

Brits? Not the Scottish?

LINA

The Scottish are British, just not English.

PATRICIA

I knew that. I knew that.

Lina smiles at Patricia like she finds her adorable. Diana is busy turning on something on their TV.

LINA  
You're so girly right now, though.  
I don't think I believe you.

PATRICIA  
I am. I'm pretty sure watching  
Legally Blonde was what inspired me  
to go to law school.

LINA  
I actually recently binged 'How to  
Get Away with Murder', and you're  
on your second year -

PATRICIA  
Yeah.

LINA  
So, it's safe to assume you've  
murdered someone already and gotten  
away with it.

PATRICIA  
Could be.

DIANA  
Okay, shut the fuck up you two. I  
found the movie.

Patricia gets up from the couch.

PATRICIA  
I'd love to sit and watch with  
y'all, but I got torts.  
(beat)  
I hate it, but I gotta do it.

She's moving away into her room. Lina watches as she  
disappears out of their sight.

LINA  
Hey, is she bisexual? Patricia.

Diana raises the TV volume.

DIANA  
Yeah, but she's actually had really  
bad experiences with a guy I think  
like end of high school, early  
college and with a girl like much  
more recently before law school.  
And she's like kind of an all in at  
once kind of person.

LINA  
I like all in at once kind of  
people.

DIANA  
Yeah, but she's pretty closed off  
right now. I'm just saying.

Lina sips her beer.

LINA  
Alright.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Ben is surrounded by other med school students who all have a  
drink in front of them sitting around a table.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #1  
I bet Ben decided to go to med  
school after watching Grey's  
Anatomy cuz like since when are  
doctors this attractive?

BEN  
I've literally never seen a medical  
show on TV.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #2  
Well, not like watched every  
episode but -

BEN  
No, never seen a single episode of  
any medical show.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #3  
I have, and none of them are really  
that accurate.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #2  
Yeah like how friendly we become  
with dead people.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #3  
And none of us are having sex.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #1  
Except Ben.

BEN  
No, I'm definitely not having sex.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #2  
Technically, the medical shows are usually about residency not med school so...

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #3  
Nobody would watch that show.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #1  
Nope.  
(to Ben)  
Hey, dude your head is somewhere else. You alright?

Ben appreciates getting asked but doesn't feel close enough to the group to share too many details.

BEN  
Um, yeah. My grandpa is just not doing well, and I'm trying to figure out when I could get to LA.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #3  
I mean, for sure not for another month.

BEN  
Yeah, I know. That's what's kinda worrying me.

Ben takes a sip of his beer.

INT. CHRIS AND KEVIN'S NEW APARTMENT - MORNING

Chris is making breakfast. Kevin walks in still looking sleepy.

KEVIN  
Hey, man! Is that my birthday breakfast?

Chris forgot it's his birthday.

CHRIS  
Sure it is.

Pause.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
And you ruined it by waking up early.





ANNA  
I haven't had breakfast.

CHRIS  
Make ya own.

Anna frowns at him.

SOPHIE (TO KEVIN)  
Is it just gonna be us tonight or?

KEVIN  
Yeah and a few people from my  
improv. You know one  
(beat)  
Lizzy.

SOPHIE  
Oh, yeah. I like her.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ben is in his room studying. Steven knocks on the door and opens it, breaking Ben's concentration but doesn't actually come inside the room.

STEVEN  
Sorry, I was just gonna ask if  
you're coming to Jordan's gig  
tonight.

BEN  
I don't know.

STEVEN  
I feel like you should get your  
mind off things a little.

BEN  
Okay. I'll come.

STEVEN  
You can bring someone.

BEN  
Yeah, I'll see.

STEVEN  
Alright.

He closes the door back.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Kevin is sitting a table with his family, all of them nicely dressed looking at the menus. We see Kevin's dad, IAN (late 50s) for the first time. He has a tranquil energy about him but also appears very sturdy and tough.

IAN

I think I will have shrimp.

GIGI

I want sushi.

KEVIN

Mom, what are you having? I think we should decide together, so I can have some of yours, and you can have some of mine.

MIN-JI

I don't know yet.

Ian looks at Gigi like they share a buddy system.

IAN

They take so long, right? We know want we want right away.

Ian gives Gigi a high-five.

GIGI

Yup.

KEVIN

Okay. Alright. Mom and I just have more refined palates that require more thorough consideration.

MIN-JI

That's right.

She kind of winks at him.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE ROOM - DAY

Patricia is sitting in class. The professor is talking. She gets a text from Lina, which reads, "I'm baking today. What do you like?"

She texts back, "Um, brownies?"

She gets another text that reads, "You got it!"

The professor continues talking in front of the lecture room. Patricia puts her phone a way to revert her attention to the professor.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUNGE BAR - EVENING

Ben, Steven and Med Student #2 are sitting with drinks listening to Ben's eldest brother, Mark play his set. It's a soft-tuned melody reminiscent of alternative rock.

After he finishes. The group of people sitting in the audience clap, Ben and Steven are cheering him on, especially Steven.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Kevin, Chris, Sophie, Anna and a few of Kevin's actor friends arrive at the club. The drag show has already started. The girls are yelling and enjoying themselves.

The waiter approaches them.

Music is playing, and we see the group starting to dance. Anna is dragging Chris to dance, and he joins, but clearly unlike the rest of the group, he's not much of a dancer.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ben, Steven and Med Student #2 are walking.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT #2  
I gotta leave you guys here. My  
place is that way.

Points the opposite way.

BEN  
Alright, man. Thanks for coming.  
Get home safe.

Med Student #2 walks off and waves. Steven and Ben continue walking.

STEVEN

How are you feeling?

BEN

Good. I guess.

STEVEN

Dude, you used to be so reckless. Now your sense of remorse has caught up to you, but you're beating yourself up too much. You need to get to the part where you fucking forgive yourself for shit and move on and be better or whatever. You can't keep dwelling on how every decision is not the perfect one because no decision is. You just have to own up to what you choose and be okay with it. Mom and grandpa will understand. They want you to be making something out of your life more than they want to be spending time with you.

BEN

I could've gone to a closer school. I got into SD.

STEVEN

Stop. You'll try to do your residency there. You're missing what's happening in front of you. This is fucking New York. You can't complain in New York about New York. I'm pretty sure that's a state felony.

Ben smiles. He appreciates his brother's attempts at making him feel better. It almost seems like he might start letting go of his guilt and notice the present life around him.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Anna is sitting in front of her therapist, more upright than relaxed.

THERAPIST

Last time, you said your dad's behavior had changed over the years for the better.

ANNA

Yeah, I think I started having these hysterical fits when I was 15 up until I was about 17, and during that time, I think he became aware of how destructive it was for me, his lack of control.

(beat)

I remember seeing in his eyes, and in the questions he would desperately ask me that he cared very deeply about my perception of him. And I think ultimately, that was the element that forced the change of behavior, but even in recent years, as the aggression would pop up in different situations, my anxiety would elevate.

(beat)

And yeah, anyway, it reached a breaking point a couple years ago. I had become insanely sensitive to the tiniest of things in my environment. I was starting to get scared it might be early symptoms of schizophrenia.

THERAPIST

That hypersensitivity is gone now?

ANNA

Yeah. It is.

THERAPIST

That trauma is subconsciously affecting your decision-making, and I want you to do an exercise where you make a list of every guy you've ever had feelings for from 11 till now because we need to figure out where you're drawing the line, where the point is that's making you run from taking things further.

ANNA

From when I was 11?

THERAPIST

Yeah, it'll help us see where the change happened.

Pause.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Last time, when I gave you a date scenario, you said the guy telling you he's not looking for something serious would not put you off.

ANNA

No because I'm not looking for something serious either, at least that's not the initial intention. It's absurd to me to make long-term decisions without knowing what I'm getting into.

THERAPIST

So, you don't put any conditions.

ANNA

No.

THERAPIST

Kind of like a guy?

ANNA

Um, no. That's just the stereotype. Kind of like *myself*.

THERAPIST

Right. But do you see how that extreme caution with which you go into things is really *fear*.

(beat)

The methods you've developed to cope as a kid are not your fault, but it is up to you break the barriers that are getting in your way as an adult.

ANNA

Yeah, I know. I know.

INT. WEDDING HALL - NIGHT

Sophie is sitting with Neli and some other cousins and relatives around one of the tables at the venue with a very large centerpiece. They're both wearing gowns. Everyone we see is dressed to impress.

Neli is devouring the food on her plate, while Sophie is checking her phone.

NELI

Dude, you have to try this dolma.  
It's so good.

(beat)

What are you doing on your phone at  
a freaking wedding!?

Neli is irritated.

SOPHIE

Sorry. It's work stuff.

NELI

On a Saturday night?

SOPHIE

Yeah, we don't really have legit  
work hours.

Sophie looks around the food on the table to decide what to  
put on her plate. She picks something.

We see Mariam with her groom. They both get up from their  
table to dance. The music playing is Armenian.

One of the guests comes to Sophie's and Mariam's table and  
starts talking to them and others sitting at their table.  
He's pretty drunk, but they laugh with him. Then, a woman  
approaches and puts her hand on his shoulder.

SOPHIE (IN ARMENIAN) (CONT'D)

Ani, can you remove your husband  
from our table so we can dine in  
peace please?

Neli catches Mariam's wave from the dance floor calling them.  
She grabs Sophie.

NELI

Come on!

SOPHIE

Yes!

They join Mariam on the dance floor, and the three of them  
form the perfect display of the most carefree kind of fun and  
own the dance floor right away.

INT./EXT. - STEET, NEW YORK/STEVEN'S APARTMENT

Sophie and Steven are walking with their arms around each  
other on the street leading to Steven's apartment.



STEVEN

I'm still waiting for you to say  
it, but you're not saying it.

SOPHIE

Saying what?

STEVEN

How much you love the city.

SOPHIE

I mean, who doesn't love New York.  
I might not love it as much as you  
but --

STEVEN

So much that you might consider  
moving?

Sophie's cheerful mood shifts a bit.

SOPHIE

Maybe not that much just yet.

They enter the building.

WE SEE INSIDE THE APARTMENT AS THEY OPEN THE DOOR.

Ben comes out of his room. Sophie takes off her coat.

BEN

Hey!

SOPHIE

Hey!

Sophie and Ben hug like they haven't seen each other in a  
while.

BEN

How's New York been treating you so  
far?

SOPHIE

Um, I don't know how to cross a  
street. I almost died like three  
times.

STEVEN

Okay, I gotta go. I'm gonna be late  
to my meeting.

SOPHIE

Okay.

Steven comes over and kisses her for a second in a rush.

STEVEN

Bye.

SOPHIE

Bye.

Sophie turns back to Ben.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I'm excited to spend the day with you, dude. We have so much to catch up on. I know from some sources that you've been kind depressed lately.

BEN

Really? I know from some sources that you've been too overwhelmed and stressed lately.

Sophie smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)

Put your coat on. We need to get out of this apartment. I feel suffocated.

SOPHIE (WHINING)

I just took it off.

Ben opens the door, holds it for Sophie to pass then closes it.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Sophie are walking out of a coffee shop with coffee cups in their hands.

SOPHIE

I know you're down about not being there when your grandpa is sick, but I'm sure he's more proud of you for going to med school. I mean, if anyone told me you'd be in med school right now like five years ago, I would think they're insane.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

The kind of doctor you wanna have is one who was not enforced, encouraged or expected to be in medicine. He chose it. And that's you my friend.

BEN

I just don't know, man. I'm not having second thoughts, but I'm like having thoughts about having second thoughts.

SOPHIE

I mean, you should be sure about it. If I wasn't sure that I wanted what we're doing even though 98% of the time, I have no fucking clue what we're doing. All I'm sure about is that I want control of what I create, not be forced to conform to things I don't agree with, and there's way too much about tech I don't agree with.

(beat)

But you're not like that, you need stability.

BEN

Nothing about medicine is stable.

SOPHIE

No, I meant like there will always be people who will need help getting better. Health is most important. It takes priority over everything. It's not something you have to convince people they need.

They're both sipping their drinks as they walk.

BEN

How are you and Steven doing? I remember you saying before how you didn't believe in long-distance. I'm not gonna lie. I'm surprised you two are working.

SOPHIE

He's kind of concerned that you don't have a personal life.

Ben shakes his head a bit in annoyance.

BEN

He just thinks you always have to be in a relationship to be fine, kind of like you.

SOPHIE

What!?! That's not true!

BEN

Yeah, it is. I don't remember you ever not in a relationship. You're a relationship person,  
(beat)  
which is completely fine.

Sophie actually considers the truth of that statement and doesn't fight it.

SOPHIE

Well, still. I had to hear from you that there's literally no one like not one involvement or at least a one night stand. I just don't fucking believe you. I know you too well.

BEN

Okay, there may have been a one night stand.

SOPHIE

I knew it!

BEN

But, I'm actually not sure if it was or, it wasn't. I was too drunk. Think it was like third week. I think it was actually in this neighborhood.

SOPHIE

Ooh, I have an idea. Can we go to her place to find out?

BEN

Are you insane? It's been months.

SOPHIE

Pleaseee. What if I dare you? We can make up a story like you lost some valuable item that night, recently realized it was gone, and you were wondering if you left it there.

BEN

Nope.

SOPHIE

Come on! How about if she remembers you, I owe you a hundred. And if she doesn't, you owe me a hundred?

BEN

I am poor and living off my brother.

Sophie makes encouraging gestures.

BEN (CONT'D)

Fine.

SOPHIE

Yesh!

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Patricia is sitting in the passenger seat, while her older sister, MELISSA (mid 30s), who has the whole nice but not a pushover semi-mature soccer mom look is driving.

PATRICIA

Mom, for sure doesn't know I'm here, right?

MELISSA

No, I left the kids with her. I told her I have a doctor's appointment and can't take them with me.

PATRICIA

Okay, good.

MELISSA

Oh, also, are we not mentioning Lina to mom?

PATRICIA

No, not yet. She never acknowledged Sarah. So, I just need to be 100% sure it's worth the trouble.

MELISSA

Right.

Melissa pulls up to the yard. They get out of the car, and Patricia takes her luggage out of the trunk. Her niece notices her from the backyard and runs to hug her. Patricia picks her up.

PATRICIA

Hey, chiquita. I've missed you so much!

Patricia starts walking towards the backyard. Her mom, MARIA (late 50s), embodying the essence of home and coziness, gasps as she sees Patricia.

MARIA (IN SPANISH)

I didn't know you'd be coming.

Patricia lets down her niece to hug her mother. Maria points to Melissa.

MARIA (IN SPANISH) (CONT'D)

I'll deal with you later for not telling.

MELISSA

It wasn't my idea.

There are tamales and other foods on the table in the backyard where the kids have clearly been playing and making a mess.

PATRICIA

Oh, I'm starving.

She takes a tamale and bites into it.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Ben is standing in front of a door. He proceeds to knock it. Sophie is standing about ten steps behind, waiting like a child waits for candy.

A young woman opens the door. Ben and she talk inaudibly. At one point, the woman notices Sophie, and Sophie smiles at her conspicuously like a goof.

Ben walks away from the door towards Sophie.

SOPHIE

And?

BEN  
You can pay up, sis.

SOPHIE  
Really?  
(beat)  
I'm not liking this day so far.

INT. ANNA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Anna, Kevin and Anna's roommate, RIMA (mid 20s) Eastern European, dressed in comfortable shorts and a T-shirt is making pancakes/crepes while Anna and Kevin are sitting on the couch on their phones.

ANNA  
Have you seen Call Me By Your Name yet?

KEVIN  
Yeah, and it deserves all the praise it's getting, but honestly there was this British movie God' Own Country that moved me more, and it's not getting as much attention. It was reminiscent of Brokeback Mountain but had more depth now that audiences can handle LGBT love stories ending well.

ANNA  
Let me look it up.

Rima brings a plate of crepes. She's eating one as she comes over to them.

RIMA  
It's really good. You're welcome.

KEVIN  
Thanks, Rima!

ANNA  
Is it like blinchiki?

Anna bites into it.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
It's super soft. I like it.

Kevin is also eating it.

KEVIN

It's kind of sweet. I have such a spice-oriented palate. Anything sweet is like extra sweet to me.

RIMA

Try it with sour cream or something to even out the taste.

KEVIN

Okay, I'm gonna raid your fridge.

ANNA

Go for it.

Anna and Rima continue eating sitting on the couch.

RIMA

So, you remember how I watched the film about Lithuanians living in the Baltic region during World War II that got exiled to Siberia by Stalin.

ANNA

Yeah. Ashes in um

RIMA

Ashes in the Snow

ANNA

Right.

RIMA

Turns out it's an adaptation of this book, *Between Shades of Grey* by a Lithuanian American writer, Ruta Sepetys. The story has fictional characters, but she based on accounts of all these people she interviewed when she visited her relatives there.

ANNA

That's really cool. It's probably what inspired her.

RIMA

Yeah.

Anna's phone rings.



ANNA  
Hey! Are you here?  
(beat)  
Okay, I'm coming.

As Anna passed by the kitchen, Kevin notices.

KEVIN  
Is Patty here?

ANNA  
Yeah.

KEVIN  
By the way, you guys got some  
expired stuff in here like in the  
back.

Kevin is spreading yogurt in the crepe and rolling it.

Anna and Patricia come in through the door.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
Ayeeee.

Kevin and Patricia run to hug each other and start spinning  
still hugging each other.

Rima joins them. Patricia and she are friendly but not  
friends.

PATRICIA  
Hi Rima, how are you?

RIMA  
Good. Thanks. How was your flight?

PATRICIA  
Too early in the morning.

Anna starts walking in the direction of her room.

ANNA  
Okay, I'm going to get dressed then  
we have to go, or else we won't  
make it to the Yayoi Kusama  
exhibition.

Patricia follows her. When they enter her room, the whole  
wall next to the door is covered in flash cards of different  
colors with different sections. It's the first thing Patricia  
notices.

PATRICIA

Oh my god, pendeja. What is this?

ANNA

Oh, I don't know. I'm kind of losing my mind over it, but the idea is that the industry doesn't think you can write a script with over two protagonists, so naturally I have to prove them wrong.

PATRICIA

Naturally.

Anna opens her closet to look for what to wear. She takes something off the hanger.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

Are you close to finishing?

ANNA

No, it's pretty chaotic. I have dozens of partial dialogue written in the notes in my phone. I'm trying to sort it out.

PATRICIA

When did you start?

ANNA

Can't remember exactly, but it was a year after writing the first one I scribbled the idea down in a notebook. So, two years ago?

Anna puts the clothes she picked out on her bed.

ANNA (CONT'D)

My problem is I don't have any discipline

(beat)

or an attention span. All I have is ambition. And I'm just hoping that it somehow carries me through.

PATRICIA

You have purpose too. You have more purpose for what you're doing than most people.

Anna takes in Patricia's words.

Beat.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna go steal steak Kevin's  
food.

Patricia goes to the door.

ANNA  
Okay, I'll be out in two.

Patricia comes to the kitchen where Kevin is still eating  
crepes.

PATRICIA  
What are you eating?

KEVIN  
This yogurt with the crepe is  
really bomb. Try.

Patricia looks at the brand/look of the yogurt.

PATRICIA  
Oh, I thought Trader Joe's  
discontinued this yogurt. They  
must've brought it back.

She opens one but doesn't eat it with the crepe.

Anna comes out of her room.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)  
Hey, pendeja. Remember we used to  
eat this yogurt at lunch like  
sophomore year and say it's better  
than sex -- before we even had sex.

ANNA  
Oh my god, yeah!

Beat.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Still true...

They laugh.

Rima joins.

RIMA  
Let's go. I'm driving.

They all leave the apartment.

EXT. FOODTRUCK SOMEWHERE IN DOWNTOWN LA - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Patricia step to the side with their food while Anna and Rima are still in line.

KEVIN

This is my favorite taco place.

Patricia takes a bite of hers.

PATRICIA

Oh yeah.

She gives it a thumbs up. Kevin looks at his phone concerned.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

Something wrong?

KEVIN

No, I'm just being a lunatic with my agent asking her about this independent film role I auditioned for a few weeks ago.

PATRICIA

What is she saying?

KEVIN

No news yet. I've been on this roller coaster of getting callbacks, and it gets like down to me and two or three others, and they always go with the ones that already have credits. And it's like I get it --they're making a business decision, but how the fuck am I supposed to have the experience without getting the experience?

Patricia understands.

PATRICIA

Yeah, I feel you. It's the same with every job. Every entry level job wants at least a year of experience, but you need a job to get the job. It's a Catch 22.

They continue eating. Anna and Rima join them.

ANNA

You were right. This is so good.

KEVIN  
The best -- I'm tellin' ya.

They all start walking.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD, L.A. - DAY

Chris and Ben are playing basketball together. Ben is wearing a "Kobe" jersey.

CHRIS (PANTING)  
Hey, man. It's my ball.

Ben gives him the ball.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
You're getting tired too quick.

BEN  
I haven't really been working out.  
There's no time, but I have been  
walking a lot.

They continue playing, but Ben is clearly more worn out than Chris.

CHRIS  
Are we done?

BEN  
Yeah.

Ben walks and gets his water bottle and start to drink from it. Chris gets his towel and throws it around his neck.

CAMERA FOLLOWS THEM INTO THE HOUSE.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ben sits on the couch. Chris is grabbing something from the kitchen.

CHRIS  
So, what did you say was going on  
with your folk?

BEN  
I have no idea. It's like I want to  
be helpful, but I don't know how.

Ben runs his hand through his hair.

BEN (CONT'D)

My grandpa wanted me to play the saxophone, and I hadn't played since middle school. I didn't even know where it was, but my mom had it in some box in the garage. And she legit brought it to me.

CHRIS

Did you play it?

BEN

I tried. I mean what the fuck else are you supposed to do when your dying grandfather has a request, no matter how unusual.

CHRIS

Shit. Yeah. Makes sense.

BEN

And then Briana's been texting recently, which is super weird. It's been over a year. I don't know what the fuck she might want from me.

CHRIS

Shorty's lonely. Don't be a dick. Are you responding?

BEN

I'm responsive, but I'm not responding like it's normal for us to have a conversation.

CHRIS

Wasn't she the one that broke things off?

BEN

It was mutual.

CHRIS

Right -- right.

Ben throws a pillow at him, nonchalantly. Chris's mom, Jasmine walks in with groceries in her hands. Chris goes to her to help. Jasmine notices Ben.

JASMINE

Ben!

BEN

Hey, Jasmine. How are you?

Ben walks over and hugs her.

JASMINE

Good. Good. You've gotten thinner, son. Let me whip up something for you.

Ben chuckles.

BEN

No, thank you. I can't stay long. We were just catching up.

JASMINE

Oh, how long you here for?

BEN

A week.

INT./EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT)

Anna, Patricia and Kevin are in the car with Rima driving. Music is blasting on the radio, and they're singing along.

PATRICIA

Your last text to me, I think you were drunk or something, was, "I wanna go to Iceland before we can't call it Iceland anymore"

Patricia laughs.

KEVIN

Leave me alone. I'm having a quarter life crisis.

Anna is looking at her phone.

ANNA

You guys, is it just me, or does it annoy you too when people go to vacation and like post pictures from their vacation, and then the picture after -- they caption it, "back to reality" -- like bitch, the vacation is part of your reality -- if you were able to cheat the cosmos and somehow escape it, please let me know how...

Patricia laughs.

PATRICIA

What?

KEVIN

My mind is blown.

CUT TO:

INT. SOPHIE'S PARENT'S HOUSE - EVENING

Sophie's mom, SYLVIA (mid 50s) is in the kitchen with a bunch of different dishes and food plates on display around the counters. She's clearly in charge of the room and whatever situation is going on.

Sophie's brother, ALEX (Early 30s), kind but emotionally tired face is trying to help her unsuccessfully.

Sophie and Steven walk in with a gift bag in her hand.

SOPHIE

Hi!

She goes to kiss her mom, who is holding kitchen utensils in both of her hands and has to hold them far to her sides to kiss her back. Steven does the same then lightly shakes hands with Alex.

ALEX (TO SOPHIE)

Hey, I texted you about what you got dad, and you didn't tell me.

SOPHIE

Oh, sorry. I thought I did. I got him a driving cap, you know like the leather one he had that he used to wear when we were kids.

ALEX

Ooh, that's a good gift. He does need to up his style game.

SOPHIE

What's yours?

ALEX

A watch. He recently broke his fixing stuff in the garage.

Alex eats something from one of the intricate plates his mom made for the dinner table. She reacts.



SYLVIA (IN ARMENIAN)  
 Don't eat from the ones that are  
 decorated for the table!

She takes the same thing out of the fridge in a container and  
 puts it in front of him.

ALEX (IN A SINGING TONE)  
 Thank you.

We hear the doorbell in the distance.

SYLVIA  
 Can you guys greet the guests while  
 I finish this please?

ALEX  
 Yes ma'am.

STEVEN  
 I'm gonna go find your dad.

SOPHIE  
 Okay.

Sophie and Alex head to the door. They open it and welcome  
 guests allowing them and hugging them.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

We see Kevin and a few BARISTAS making coffee and serving  
 customers. A FEMALE BARISTA #1 comes in for her shift.

MALE BARISTA #1 (LOOKING AT HER)  
 Heyyy... Did someone forget to wear  
 pants today?

FEMALE BARISTA #1  
 Did someone forget their brain  
 today?

The MALE BARISTA #1 goes inside. THE FEMALE BARISTA #1 turns  
 to Kevin and another one male and one female BARISTAS beside  
 her.

FEMALE BARISTA #1 (CONT'D)  
 I fucking hate the new guy.

KEVIN

Same.

FEMALE BARISTA #2

Me too.

The FEMALE BARISTA #1 is looking at the other MALE BARISTA #2 to respond the same way. He looks up from what he's doing.

MALE BARISTA #2

I've never had a shift with him.

They all turn to him.

MALE BARISTA #2 (CONT'D)

Okay, yeah. We hate the new guy.

The FEMALE BARISTA #2 takes an order to the front.

MALE BARISTA #2 gets closer to Kevin.

MALE BARISTA #2 (CONT'D)

How's the apartment hunt going?

KEVIN

Not well, bro. I can't afford anything without at least 2 roommates, and I'm running out of friend's couches to sleep on. And going home is just not an option. I was premed in college, my parents thought I'd be in med school right now.

MALE BARISTA #2

Well, my lease is up next month, and my current roommate is moving out. You can just pay me for the room.

KEVIN

You sure?

MALE BARISTA #2

Yeah, man. Don't worry.

KEVIN

I love you. But not to worry, I don't wanna fuck you.

MALE BARISTA #2

I wouldn't mind it if you did.

KEVIN

There it is.

INT. SOPHIE'S PARENT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The guests are scattered throughout the house, some sitting, some standing. Robert is greeting an elderly couple inviting them in. As soon as Sophie and Alex notice them, they get up abruptly to offer their seats in the living room to them.

Sylvia comes in to call everyone to the dinner table. They all begin to move and take their seats.

We start circling AROUND THE TABLE and get glimpses of various conversations happening.

NELI (TO SOPHIE SITTING NEXT TO HER)

I'm literally choking from all of this perfume and cologne. My throat is too sensitive.

Close up on the next.

SITTING GUEST #1

Yeah, when I visited Armenia last year. My cousin who's a gynecologist was telling me how much genital mutilation is going on there, and it was just too disturbing. I was like hoping for better...

The next.

SITTING GUEST #2

Bro, that's insane -- the analogy you're making -- you get to decide who enters your house, not the country. The country doesn't just belong to you.

We stop at the next GUEST #3.

SITTING GUEST #3 (IN ARMENIAN)

Sylv, this stalichniy looks so good.

ALEX

Tastes really good too. I had some earlier.

SITTING GUEST #3 laughs lightly. Another guest stands with a shot glass in his hands.

SITTING GUEST #4

Before we begin, let's all toast to Robert and wish him a happy birthday properly.

Turns to Robert.

SITTING GUEST #4 (CONT'D)

Robert, can you bring toast with your gift?

ROBERT

Oh, yes. Of course.

Sylvia gets up and runs to the kitchen.

SYLVIA

I'll bring it.

SITTING GUEST #4

Thank you.

We see other people on the table engaging, holding their glasses up.

Sylvia comes back with a Kantsi, a traditional Georgian drinking horn, originally real ram horn, but this modern version is silver shaped like a horn. She gives it to Robert who pour the wine from his glass into it.

ROBERT

Okay, ready.

Robert holds it up.

SITTING GUEST #4

Let's drink to Robert for being a great friend, a good husband and father, and most importantly a good drinker.

SITTING GUEST #4 takes the full shot and everyone else follows.

CUT TO:

INT. SOPHIE'S PARENT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sylvia is having trouble with the sink.

SYLVIA

Rob! Can you come for a second,  
please?

Robert comes to see what's wrong going, checking under the sink.

Most of the guests have left minus a few. Sophie, Alex and Steven are standing talking to each other.

ALEX

I used to get yelled at all the time. She's gotten yelled at like three times in 20 years, and even then, I would interfere and defend her, so technically I got yelled at more during those three times.

Sophie takes a sip of her drink.

SOPHIE

That is false information.

Sylvia is walking and talking to the few guests that are about to leave. As they're walking out the door, Sophie and Alex say their goodbye in Armenian and step out with them. Steven heads to the kitchen.

THE CAMERA FOLLOWS HIM.

As he enters the kitchen, Robert has his tools out and lying under the sink trying to fix it.

STEVEN

Can I help with anything?

Robert looks up.

ROBERT

No, no. I got it. Thank you for asking.

STEVEN

Since I have you alone for a minute, I just wanted to talk to you about Sophie.

Beat.

STEVEN (AWKWARDLY) (CONT'D)  
 I just wanted to make sure I have your -- I guess not blessing, but just informing you that I wanna ask her to marry me and just know that you and Sylvia -- Ideally, I wanted to talk to you both together, but I guess I'm just looking for a positive reaction to the idea from you both.

ROBERT  
 Well, if you have her blessing, then you have ours. Her decisions are up to her, aren't they?

STEVEN  
 Yes, yes. Of course.  
 (beat)  
 Right. Um, that's great to hear.

We see Sophie and Alex coming back inside the house from a distance.

INT. BEN'S MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben's grandpa, GEORGE (80s) is sitting on a supportive sofa chair while a nurse is giving him a shot. Ben and his mom, Jessica are standing on the side. The nurse finishes.

JESSICA (TO THE NURSE)  
 Thank you.

Pause.

JESSICA (TO BEN AND GEORGE) (CONT'D)  
 I'm gonna go make dinner.

BEN  
 Alright, ma.

GEORGE  
 Ben, come sit. We've been talking too much about me. I wanna know how you're doing.

Ben sit on the couch right across from George.

BEN  
 I don't know, grandpa. To be honest, I'm not feeling as confident about it as I thought I would.

GEORGE

Let me tell you something important  
that I want you to always keep in  
mind.

BEN

I'm all ears.

George wants to move a certain way, but he's struggling. Ben  
gets up to see how he can be helpful.

BEN (CONT'D)

What do you wanna do? Is that  
pillow bothering you?

Ben removes the pillow George was leaning on.

BEN (CONT'D)

Better?

GEORGE

Yeah.

BEN

All comfortable?

GEORGE

Yes.

(beat)

Now, where was I?

BEN

You were going to tell me something  
important that I should always keep  
in mind.

GEORGE

Oh, yes.

(beat)

I wanted to elaborate on "failure".

Pause. Repositions himself.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Think of failure as your friend  
that's telling you to change  
direction and even cheering you  
while you move ahead.

Pause.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

It took me a long time to recognize failure as my friend since we were told to avoid it so much. It's exactly what made me defined myself by it.

Pause.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

It wasn't until I started loving my failures that I let them teach me something essential that I needed in order to get where I wanted. I don't want it to take as long for you. Time is precious, son. Fail as many times as you can. Learn more than I did.

Ben holds his grandfather's hand. The words don't sink in as they should, but Ben looks admirably at George as if to appreciate everything that he has been for him.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Chris and Anna are warming up by a fire pit. Rima and Patricia are covering themselves in blankets sitting down on the sand. Sophie is on Steven's shoulders closer to the water. Kevin with beer in his hands and Ben with pizza in his hands are walking up to them. Alex is opening up a stack of Cards Against Humanity.

BEN

Pizza's here!

PATRICIA

Great, I'm starving.

RIMA

It's so fucking cold, you guys.

ALEX

Sit closer to the fire.

ANNA

I've gotten cold to the point where I can't feel the coldness, and it no longer matters.

They start forming a circle on the sand. Alex starts passing out the cards. Steven is helping with the beer. Ben places the pizza in the middle.



SOPHIE

Ah, I am not liking my cards y'all.

They start playing the game. Music starts playing, maybe  
Sweater Weather by Arctic Monkeys?

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Sophie is walking through a wide working space with parallel desks and people working on them with coffee in her hands. A sapphire ring is visible on her engagement finger. She reaches Lara.

LARA

Hey!

SOPHIE

Hey!

LARA

Ooh nice ring, boss.

Pause.

LARA (CONT'D)

It's not a diamond.

SOPHIE

No, he knew I don't like diamonds.

LARA

This totally fits your character  
more.

SOPHIE

Right?

Lara picks up a binder from the desk next to her.

LARA

I wanted to talk to you -- since  
there are over twenty of us now, we  
kind of need HR.

SOPHIE

Oh, yeah. We do. We also need to  
look at budgeting for the next  
year. That's this Friday, right?

LARA

Yeah.

They enter an office.

INT. BACKSTAGE THEATER - EVENING

Kevin and other stage actors are preparing for a show putting on their costumes in heavy makeup.

One of the actors next to Kevin is having trouble with the costume.

KEVIN

Do you need help? Here, let me do it.

Kevin tries to zip up the back of the costume.

STAGE ACTOR

Thank you!

The Stage Actor tries to move around to check whether the costume stay on and holds.

STAGE ACTOR (CONT'D)

Are you feeling nervous?

KEVIN

Not for this, just this audition I have next week. I just have a feeling about it after reading the script like it's the one.

STAGE ACTOR

You'll be fine. You're always the most prepared on stage. I doubt you're different in your auditions.

KEVIN

There's like a safe distance between us and the audience onstage whereas with auditions, they're not there to enjoy your performance; they're there to judge it and approve of it. Something about that just always gets to me to throw me off my game. And I keep hoping it'll go away.

STAGE ACTOR

I don't think it goes away. I think you have to control how much it affects you.

KEVIN

It's also set in London, and I've never been and always wanted to go.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Is it weird that I wanna get the job for the travel like that it's one of the motivational factors?

STAGE ACTOR

Okay, so I was watching this SAG-AFTRA interview the other day of John Krasinski I think it was, and the advice was from Ed Harris. Basically, he was explaining how you have to shrug all of that off and just perform. Like you can't be approaching it as a means to an end. Just do it purely for sake of doing it and how much you value it. It's the most you can do.

KEVIN

Right.

Pause. Kevin reflects on what he heard.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Honestly, that might be the most useful thing no acting coach has ever told me.

A PA comes in quickly with a mike and appropriate attire.

PRODUCTION WORKER

We are ten minutes away from the opening!

The actors start moving out of the dressing room. The STAGE ACTOR gives Kevin a pat on his back.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Patricia is in the middle of cooking in the kitchen. She's stirring, cutting and pouring etc.

Lina comes into the room.

LINA

Let me help with something.

PATRICIA

No, I'm done. This is my treat! Don't distract me.

LINA

Alri-i-i-ight -- smells good.

Patricia puts the food on the table where two plates are already set. Lina sits down and starts putting some of the food on her plate right away.

PATRICIA

I know we're eating, but I have this UTI that just won't go away. Think I need to see a gynecologist, but my old one is in LA.

LINA

You could go to mine: David Sherman. I'll give you the info.

PATRICIA

No, I'd rather it be a female gynecologist.

LINA

Oh, just preference?

Patricia is uneasy.

PATRICIA

I had a bad experience when I was 19.

Lina becomes more attentive.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

What I mean is I was assaulted by one.

Pause.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

And yeah anyway, it's been years, but I'm not ready to --uh

LINA

Yeah, yeah. I get it. Your call.

Lina puts her elbows on the table and one of her fists to her chin looking at Patricia as if looking for the right thing to say next.

LINA (CONT'D)

I don't wanna seem like I'm pressing you to say more, but if you need to

PATRICIA

The physical pain was not the problem, but my body experienced insane shock, and that's what created the trauma.

(beat)

I was pretty sure, but I questioned it and told my mom that night. She wasn't dismissive but just sort of said those exams can be invasive. I knew that wasn't the issue, and I was too busy. It wasn't until months later when the memory brought on major anxiety and not until over a year later to really acknowledge it, and then it grew into a lot of anger.

(beat)

I never reported it because it -- just didn't make sense to put myself through that with him being so revered in medicine with 35 years of experience. I just did not feel empowered enough then to do that. I'm just hoping he's no longer practicing. I guess it's one of the many reasons I went into law. I wanted to be armed I guess for me and others who need it, whatever that means.

LINA

Want us to find him and make sure he

Makes a gesture of cutting the throat. Patricia smiles. It's a sad smile.

PATRICIA

It actually hasn't crossed my mind in a while, so I must be healed from it.

Lina takes a bite of her food.

LINA

This is the best roasted chicken I've ever tasted.

PATRICIA

Don't humor me, you fucking liar.

LINA  
 No I'm dead serious. The flavoring  
 is so good.

Patricia smiles again, but it's a happy smile this time.

EXT. SEMETARY - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT

Ben, his brothers, Steven and Mark, their mom, Jessica and other relatives and friends are all dressed in black standing in front of a coffin. There's a Rabbi reading a text that's barely audible. Mark has his arm around his mom. Ben and Steven are less useful and more in their heads. Ben starts walking slightly to the opposite direction like he needs more air and sits on a stone leaning forward with his elbows on his legs, hands together and head resting on the outer hand.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO BUILDING - MORNING

Anna is walking through the building and looking at the time on her phone, realizing she's late and trying to hurry and find the office she's supposed to go to looking around for office numbers. She gets in the elevator.

ANNA (WHISPERING)  
 Come on. Come on.

Starts walking quickly once she gets off. As she's walking in through the door --

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
 What's is happening? This is a  
 comedy show with no Jews on the  
 writer's list?

She's looking through the names. Anna walks in panting.

ANNA  
 Sorry, I'm late. I'm the Jew. I was  
 just hired.

The producer looks at her like she's measuring who she is.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
 Oh,  
 (beat)  
 Are you -- um, Nemerofsky?

ANNA

Yes.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Is that Russian?

ANNA

Ukrainian, technically.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Hm, alright. You need to head that way.

Points to the room.

ANNA

Okay. Thank you.

INT. CHRIS'S & KEVIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sophie is sitting up on the kitchen counter. Chris is standing, and their friend/coworker, Jacob is on his laptop sitting around the kitchen table.

JACOB

No matter how I'm plugging in the numbers, we have six months, eight tops.

CHRIS

Soph, there is no other way. We have to sell. We have a buyer.

SOPHIE

We're not selling.

CHRIS

I'm just saying, if we wait too long, the offer might be off the table.

SOPHIE

We're not selling!

Jacob, feeling like he's extra at this point, begins to get up and pack his laptop.

JACOB

Okay, it's late, and I gotta go. I'll see you guys Monday.

Pause.

SOPHIE  
Okay, bud. Thanks so much for doing  
this after work hours.

CHRIS  
Drive safe, man.

Jacob waves then leaves.

Sophie gets off the counter.

SOPHIE  
You know there's a point where the  
cynical tactic that you always have  
stops working.

CHRIS  
I'm being realistic.

SOPHIE  
You're being pessimistic.

CHRIS (LOUDLY)  
Alright. I seriously don't know  
anymore what the fuck people want  
from me. My mom's been on my case  
about not being active enough in  
the community like some of my  
cousins, and it's like doesn't  
being part of the 4% of black  
people in tech count as activism.  
I'm just not openly showing off  
what I do, but I'm pretty sure I've  
fucking donated to BLM more than  
them combined. Just don't know what  
the fuck people want from me.

SOPHIE  
I don't think it's a matter of what  
people want from you but what you  
want from yourself.

CHRIS  
Don't think I've really asked  
myself that.

SOPHIE  
I don't know. Maybe you should  
start asking yourself.

Pause.



SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
I have an idea that could work. Can you trust me and wait a couple months before we make a decision?

CHRIS  
Yeah, if anyone can solve the big problems, it's you.

They hear a shout from another room.

SOPHIE  
Was that Kevin?

Kevin joins from his room.

KEVIN  
You guys, everybody shut up!

CHRIS  
No one's talking.

Kevin looks like he's in shock.

SOPHIE  
What is it!?

Kevin's eyes are gleaming as he looks at them.

KEVIN  
I got the role!

SOPHIE  
What?

KEVIN  
The London role, I got it!

SOPHIE  
Really?

Sophie hugs him.

CHRIS  
Congrats, man.

Chris pats his head messing up his hair.

SOPHIE  
We need to celebrate. What do you have in here?

KEVIN  
I have this cheap fruity champagne.

Chris shakes his head.

SOPHIE  
Let's open it.

Kevin gets it from behind the fridge and pops it open.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
Yay!

He pours it in glasses.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Ben is doing rounds at the hospital. He's in the ER. He's checking a patient and hears a lady in the bed next to his telling another MALE INTERN that her pain persists in the lower abdominal area.

Both of them leave the beds and start doing the paperwork.

BEN  
Are you discharging her?

MALE INTERN  
Yeah, we checked everything. It's not organ based.

BEN  
Yeah, but if she's in that much pain, you should be running more tests. It could be presenting differently.

A FEMALE INTERN comes near the desk to also do her paperwork. Ben looks up.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Long day, right.

FEMALE INTERN  
Yeah. This was my 12th.

BEN  
What kind of idiots do their residency in New York?

FEMALE INTERN  
We do.

BEN  
Listen, would you wanna join me and Joe and a few others?  
(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

We're gonna be at the bar down street, the first intersection on the right.

FEMALE INTERN

Yeah, I know it, but I can't. I'm babysitting my sister's baby. What I mean is I need to be present in their home while their baby sleeps, so they can go out.

BEN

Right.

FEMALE INTERN

Sorry, rain check?

BEN

Yeah.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Anna is sitting with five other writers. The one sitting next to her is JASON (LATE 20s), has the charm and charisma.

WRITER #1

Dude, you can't sell that storyline? The girl next door doesn't want to fuck you.

WRITER #2

She might.

WRITER #3

Okay, can we not talk about storylines right now? It's Tiffany's birthday.

Anna gets up.

ANNA

Guys, I'm gonna call it a night. I have to be up early tomorrow. Happy birthday Tiff.

Jasons gets up too.

JASON

She's my ride, so I'm going to, but thanks for tonight, Tiffany.

They leave the bar together and get into her car.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

JASON

You said were a lit major?

ANNA

Philosophy major. Wait, your degree is in Literature? How much exactly of your parents' money did you waste?

JASON

I mean, did you need your degree to learn to think? You equally wasted your parents' money.

ANNA

Okay, fair enough. Did you not put your address in your phone's GPS?

JASON

No, I don't need directions.

ANNA

Fine.

INT. PATRICIA'S FAMILY HOUSE - NIGHT

Patricia and her first cousin, MELODIE (20s), quirky and life of the party type without any social complexes, are drinking wine and eating cookies near the kitchen counter.

MELODIE

Girl, your mom makes the most bomb cookies, I swear.

PATRICIA

I know. I'm actually dreading talking to her.

MELODIE

About what?

PATRICIA

My girlfriend. She's my plus one to your birthday party. I thought it'd be good to introduce them in a public environment.

MELODIE

Wait, she doesn't know about her yet?

PATRICIA

No.

MELODIE

Why don't you talk to my mom about how to talk to her or like have her be there.

PATRICIA

Yeah, that's a good idea, but I just think it should be the two of us because this is like that relationship. It's just so weird that they're sisters but yet so different.

MELODIE

Right-t-t?

Melodie is enjoying the cookies. Patricia's brother, DAVID (teenager) walks in wearing a T-shirt that reads, "Don't worry Gringo, I'm legal"

PATRICIA

Why are you still up? It's like 2 am. You have school tomorrow.

DAVID

I was studying for a test and got hungry.

He takes stuff out from the cabinet.

MELODIE

Holy shit, you got so tall, hermano. When are you graduating? This year? We should get a gift right?

PATRICIA

No.

DAVID

Next year.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sophie has just entered the apartment. Alex is standing next to her, and Alex's roommate, KEITH (Early 30s) dressed like the average guy, looks friendly and trustworthy, comes in and hugs Sophie.

SOPHIE

It's been so long since I've been in here. Did you guys change the furniture?

KEITH

Yeah, your brother changed the coffee table.

ALEX

I didn't like the glass.

SOPHIE

I didn't eat beforehand because you guys said you were gonna feed me.

ALEX

I ordered pizza, but it hasn't been delivered yet. Should be like 5 10 minutes max.

KEITH

I made a potato salad.

SOPHIE

Uhhh, maybe after the pizza?

KEITH

Whatever floats your boat.

SOPHIE

I'm gonna go to the bathroom. I needed to pee the whole ride here, and I'm dying.

She heads to the bathroom.

Alex answers the door and takes the pizza from the delivery person.

Sophie is washing her hands and dries with a towel. Then she seems to be looking for something.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Do you guys have lotion in here?

She checks the bottom cabinet. Then she opens the top cabinet and something looking like prescribed medication falls out of it. She picks it up and looks at it.

CLOSE UP

It reads, "ADERALL". She looks further in that level of the cabinet and sees about seven or eight more bottles and checks their labeling. Closes it and has a concerned look on her face as she gets out of the bathroom.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Pizza's here!

Carries herself as normal.

CUT TO:

INT. CHRIS'S APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment looks like it's being emptied like the tenant is moving out. There are boxes some open, some sealed laying about the floor. Chris is putting stuff in one of the boxes and closing it up with tape. His STEPFATHER (LATE 50S), tall and robust for his age is carrying a box in his arms, puts it outside the door and comes back in.

STEPFATHER

I'm feeling that burn now. I didn't used to get tired so quickly.

CHRIS

Just a few more boxes left.

STEPFATHER

Chris, I wanted to talk to you about something your mother's being concerned with lately.

CHRIS

She's always concerned with something when it comes to me. I'm used to it.

STEPFATHER

She's just concerned that you're lacking direction, son. The other day, she was saying how she thought she'd have grandchildren by now.

CHRIS

That's because she married right out of high school. I can't be following her timeline.

STEPFATHER

Yeah, but you're 26 and haven't had a serious girlfriend yet.

CHRIS

I don't know what to tell you. When I have a "serious" girlfriend

Shows the quotes with his hands.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

You two will be first to know.

Pause. Stepfather gets up and starts walking around.

STEPFATHER

You were 10 when your mother and I got married, and I knew then you were stubborn, but you've always been such an individual son, not one to follow the crowd.

Pause.

STEPFATHER (CONT'D)

But -- you know now -- you seem a little lost, and I can't help thinking if it's been my fault.

CHRIS

I'm not lost. And whatever you think is your fault is not your fault. Now, can we please get these boxes out of here. The place needs to be emptied out by 6.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT)

Sophie and Alex are sitting watching something on the couch. Keith is dressed up and walking towards the door. Sophie looks at him passing.

SOPHIE

Leaving already?

KEITH

Yeah, the friend that's picking me up is here.

SOPHIE

Okay, bye Keith.



KEITH

Bye!

Keith leaves.

Sophie turns to Alex.

SOPHIE

Hey, I didn't want to say anything while Keith was here, but I saw like 10 bottles of Adderall in your bathroom counter. I thought you had stopped using after college. What's going on?

Alex gets uncomfortable.

ALEX

I had, but recently I've been working over 60 hours a week, and most of my job is paperwork. A ton of shit goes into human rights law, and the cases are usually so heavy.

SOPHIE

I think you should go to rehab -- one with good therapists. I'll ask Anna. She would know.

ALEX

And do what with work?

SOPHIE

Can't take time off?

ALEX

Not now.

SOPHIE

Maybe, it's time for a change?

ALEX

And what the fuck would I tell mom and dad? You know mom would never be able to handle it. It'd be like you moving out before marrying times a thousand.

Sophie stares keenly at her brother like he's being a coward but also with a deep understanding of where he's coming from.

SOPHIE

I'll cover for you.

They both sit back on the couch and get comfortable.

ALEX

Hey Soph, I've never really apologized to you about how neurotic and overprotective my behavior used to be towards you when we were kids. You've always held your own more than I ever could.

SOPHIE (LOOKING AT HIM)

We've kind of reversed roles, huh?

INT. ANNA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Anna's in the shower. We see Jason getting dressed. He leaves the room and walks to the kitchen where Rima is making food. There are glass containers on the kitchen counter. Rima is filling them up with food.

JASON

Hey. What's up?

RIMA

Hey, just doing meal prep.

JASON

Listen, I have a question about um... about Anna... Well, I just wanted to know if she's always quiet... you know during

RIMA

What?

(beat)

Speak more clearly, buddy.

JASON

During sex, is she quiet?

RIMA

I don't think her quietness is reflective of your performance if that's what you're asking. She's just like super unnecessarily considerate of me probably or anyone else in the same house.

Pause. She continues her food organizing.

RIMA (CONT'D)

You should be talking to your partner about it.

JASON

I know. I know. I just figured since you've been her roommate for a few years -

RIMA

Talk to her-r-r-r.

JASON

Alright, alright. I got it.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Patricia and her mom are walking through the store. Patricia is driving the cart. Maria stops to pick fruit, and Patricia holds a bag for her to put in.

PATRICIA (IN SPANISH)

Ma, I've been meaning to talk to you about something.

Maria continues to her second type of fruit picking.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

There's a girl -- a woman that I've started a relationship with in Boston for a while now. She's a journalist.

(beat)

And Melodie invited her to her birthday party. So, you'll be meeting her there.

MARIA

Mija, you know I've told you before that I am willing to put my personal beliefs aside for your happiness. If you're happy, then I'm happy to meet her. You grandma, however, does not share my sentiment. I hope you know.

PATRICIA

Yeah, I know.

Patricia hugs her mom and rubs her arm. Continues helping her placing the ready fruit bags in the cart.

INT. ANNA'S PARENTS' HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Anna and her mom are making pilmenis (Russian dumplings) in the kitchen.

ANNA  
I'm actually so excited. I haven't had pilmenis in so long.

NADIA  
They used to be your favorite food as a kid.

ANNA  
I know!

She continues putting the mix into the dumpling one by one.

NADIA  
Do smaller meatballs. They need to be really tiny.

ANNA  
Right.

Pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Oh, mom. I just saw your Instagram post. Super cute, but the grammar is off when you write, "old pictures of Christina and I". It's "Christina and me".

NADIA  
Oh, but everybody on the Internet writes it like that, no?

ANN  
Maybe, but everybody on the Internet is wrong. "I" is used as the subject, "me" is the object after a preposition.

NADIA  
Okay, I shall remember.

Beat.

NADIA (CONT'D)  
You know with all your potential, I always wonder if you continued and went to graduate school...

Anna stops moving and looks at her mother with a mixture of anger and disappointment that's coming from an old wound.

ANNA

Ma, why do you always do this?  
You're either too supportive and believe in me more than I believe in myself, or you question every decision I make.

(beat)

You either trust me, or you don't?  
I mean, I trust me, so it's fine either way, just --

Anna's hands are slightly shaky.

Nadia looks at her feeling guilty for the offense.

NADIA

I trust you. Of course, I trust you. I always just think whether I could have done better for you.

ANNA

Ma, you've done everything you could and more. I couldn't have had any better.

Nadia hugs Anna endearingly.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Sophie and Steven are riding in an elevator alone.

STEVEN

I totally forgot to tell you. Jenny is probably going to be at this party.

SOPHIE

You mean, Jenny -- your ex-wife Jenny?

STEVEN

Yeah.

SOPHIE

That's fine. That's good, actually. I wanna meet her. I know about her career, and she's kind of goals to be honest.

STEVEN  
Okay -- that's great.

They get off the elevator.

EXT. ROOFTOP PARTY - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT)

Sophie and Steven walk outside where a work friend, ZACK spots Steven.

ZACK  
Hey, man. Glad you could make it.

STEVEN  
Hey, me too.

Points to Sophie.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
This is my fiancée, Sophie.

SOPHIE  
Hi, nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

ZACK  
Likewise. Do you guys want a drink?

Heads to the bar. Sophie and Steven follow.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD PARTY - NIGHT

The backyard is filled with hanging lights and a row of tables and chairs, people gathered in groups eating and talking and a space where people are dancing to blasting Latin music.

Anna and Patricia are eating tacos. Lina is dancing with other people.

Melodie goes to Anna and Sophie and pulls on their arms to join them to dance.

MELODIE  
Come on, it's time to shake your  
booty with me.

ANNA  
We're still eating.

MELODIE

It's not my fault y'all were late.  
Most of us are done eating.

PATRICIA

I don't know about you, but I'm  
never done eating.

MELODIE

Okay, come on. Salsa is literally  
my fave.

They give in and stand up.

ANNA

Just to let you know, I don't know  
how to dance under this music.

PATRICIA

I'm pretty sure she's the only  
Russian Jew in the valley that  
never took ballroom dance lessons  
as a kid.

ANNA

Lay off my dick -- I went to ballet  
when I was like 5.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP PARTY - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT)

Sophie is standing next to the bar talking and drinking with  
a LONG-HAIRED WOMAN.

LONG-HAIRED WOMAN

It's just we've been together since  
high school, and at this point I'm  
just starting to question monogamy.  
Not that I don't love him or  
anything, it just feels a bit too  
limiting like I've missed out or  
something, you know?

SOPHIE

Right. Yeah. I get it.

LONG-HAIRED WOMAN

Okay, I really need to use the  
restroom. It's really nice meeting  
you.

SOPHIE  
Nice meeting you too!

LONG-HAIRED WOMAN leaves from the bar.

Steven's ex-wife, JENNY (early 30s), Asian American walks up to her from behind.

JENNY  
Hi!

Sophie turns around to her as she puts down her drink, caught off guard.

SOPHIE  
Hello.

JENNY  
You're Steven's fiancée?

SOPHIE  
Yes, and you're?

JENNY  
His ex-wife.

SOPHIE  
Oh, Jenny! Hi, it's great to meet you. I told him he should've introduced us.

JENNY  
He should've. So, have you guys set a date yet?

SOPHIE  
No, not in a rush. To be honest, being a fiancée feels really weird. It kind of makes me freak out -- is that normal? Or is it supposed to only feel good?

JENNY  
I mean, who the hell knows, right?

SOPHIE  
Right. If you don't mind me asking, what did you file as the reason for divorce? I don't think Steven's ever specified.



JENNY  
 No, I don't mind.  
 (beat)  
 Irreconcilable differences.

Steven walks up to them.

STEVEN  
 Hey-y-y, you guys already met.

JENNY  
 Yeah, don't worry. We weren't  
 talking about your penis.

SOPHIE  
 Nope, not a lot to talk about.

STEVEN  
 Alright. Okay.

EXT. BACKYARD PARTY - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT)

A Latina lady comes out through the door of the house into the backyard holding a cake with candles shaped like the number, "25" with David helping her hold the cake singing.

LATINA LADY  
 Happy birthday to you...

Other PARTY GUESTS join and gather in one circle around Melodie.

PARTY GUESTS  
 Happy birthday to you! Happy  
 birthday to you! Happy birthday  
 dear Melodie! Happy birthday to  
 you!

Most of the Spanish-speaking guests continue singing in Spanish.

PARTY GUESTS (CONT'D)  
 Feliz cumpleaños a ti...

Melodie blows out the candles to claps and "yay"s.

CUT TO:

INT. CHRIS'S NEW APARTMENT - NIGHT

There are about twenty or so people huddled together in the apartment. There's booze and food around. Chris is in the kitchen making drinks.

There's a group of people who are playing a game on an iPad, where one of them is holding it up and guessing names of celebrities, and another person is giving the person holding the iPad descriptions to guess from. One of the people in the group of GAME PLAYERS calls Chris.

GAME PLAYER #1  
Chris! Come! You're next!

CHRIS (YELLING)  
What!? What's the game?

GAME PLAYER #1  
It's Blebrity. You have to guess the name of a Black celebrity.

CHRIS  
I don't know no famous people.

GAME PLAYER #1  
It's your new place, man. You've gotta play once.

Others in around him start joining to encourage Chris.

CHRIS  
Alright, alright.  
(beat)  
But if I don't know them, it doesn't make me a bad black person.

GAME PLAYER #2  
You'll know it. It's a lot of old school like 50 Cent and Snoop and like Denzel Washington.

GAME PLAYER #3  
Tyra Banks was in there.

GAME PLAYER #2  
Yeah. You got it.

Chris takes the iPad and holds it up to start the round.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD PARTY - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

People are standing around the pool. Melodie is about to jump in with A PARTY GUEST. She is plugging her nose with her fingers as she is about to jump. Patricia is standing across the pool on the other side.

PATRICIA (YELLING ACROSS)  
Dude! You are an adult human! You don't need to plug your nose, just gotta not breathe while underwater.

The PARTY GUEST next to Melodie starts laughing.

MELODIE  
I can't!

They jump in.

INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sophie and Steven are undressing from their party attire.

SOPHIE  
I really liked Jenny. She kind of felt like the older version of me.  
(beat)  
She asked if we had set a date yet, and I realized I've been so preoccupied with the business that there's a ton of shit we haven't talked about yet.

STEVEN  
Like what?

SOPHIE  
Like where we're gonna live.

STEVEN  
I assumed you'd be moving to New York.

SOPHIE  
My business's headquarters are in LA.

STEVEN  
Aren't you selling?

SOPHIE  
I'm trying not to.

STEVEN  
Yeah but most likely, right?

SOPHIE  
I'm sorry why am I the one that  
needs to change cities and not you?

STEVEN  
I can't picture myself living  
anywhere other than New York. You  
know that.

SOPHIE  
I didn't think you were completely  
serious about that. What are you  
like Woody Ellen or something?

STEVEN  
I have so many ties here.

SOPHIE  
I have so many ties there.

They both stop moving.

STEVEN  
What are you saying? You don't want  
to move here?

She looks at him without saying anything, but the look in her  
eyes indicates she's already made her decision.

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

Ben is walking dressed in a medical uniform. He looks tired  
and distressed. He stops walking when he hears his phone  
ring.

INT. ANNA'S ROOM - EVENING

ANNA  
Hey, I just got your text.

Anna's walking as she's talking.

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

BEN  
Hey.

He leans on the wall.

## INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

ANNA

Look, you can't be beating yourself up. This wasn't your fault.

BEN

I feel like I've fucking killed someone.

He slides from his leaning position and sits on the floor with dread in his eyes.

ANNA

No, Ben! You haven't killed anybody. You just weren't able to save *that* patient. You kept him alive for longer than he would've been without your care.

BEN

I took a vow to cure people.

ANNA

No, you took a vow not to hurt people, and you haven't done that.

A pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It's important that you see this the right way.

A pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Ben.

BEN

Yeah, I'm here. I heard you.

ANNA

You know when you went to med school, I thought, "Oh, that makes sense," given how arrogant you are, but I was never actually worried because your compassion always exceeds your arrogance. You need to remind yourself of that often.

BEN

Thanks Annie. Your ability to be offensively blunt and undeniably sweet at the same time is always appreciated.

ANNA

Sure, anytime.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

INT. ON A MOVIE SET - DAY

Kevin is getting ready for a scene with other actors on the set and the director giving direction explaining things with hands with the rest of the crew moving as they should and all doing their job.

FADE TO:

INT. THEATER (UPRIGHT CITIZENS BRIGADE, LA) - NIGHT

Anna is standing on stage with other comedy writers interacting with audience and then reenacting scenarios.

FADE TO:

INT. WORK OFFICE - MORNING

Chris is waiting in an office sitting on the couch when someone calls him to a room where he shakes the hand of a man and sits down to what looks like an interview. They begin to converse. Chris hands him a folder of papers.

FADE TO:

EXT. STREET GATHERING/PROTEST - DAY

Patricia is standing on a podium and addressing a group of people gathered with other organizers of what looks like a protest. After she pauses, the crowd reacts in claps and gestures of agreement.

FADE TO:

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Ben is in a surgery assisting the attending, holding a surgical tool and handing the surgical tool, deeply focused in all of his movements.

FADE TO:

INT. CONFERENCE/LECTURE HALL - DAY

Sophie is speaking to an audience dressed business formal with a microphone clipped on her and a remote to change the slides that are projected on the large screen behind her.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Sophie walks into the bar where Chris and employees of the company, including LARA and JACOB are sitting. She walks up to them. They look at her with anticipation.

SOPHIE

Drinks on me people! We are staying  
in business!

EMPLOYEES

Ayeeee!

Chris comes up to her and hugs her. They move slightly to the side from the others who are busy talking to each other.

CHRIS

This is hella great news. I'm  
really happy for you friend.

SOPHIE

Thanks friend.

CHRIS

I have some news too.

He starts walking towards the exit door. She follows.

SOPHIE

Yeah?

CHRIS

I took a job at Microsoft. You know  
they got a lot of benefits, and  
it's stability.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

You know how much I like stability.  
Not having to worry too much.

They continue walking.

SOPHIE

Yeah, I'm so glad you did.

Sophie looks at him more closely, genuinely happy for him.

CHRIS

I mean, you saw it coming.

They are outside the bar on the sidewalk.

SOPHIE

I saw it coming. Congratulations,  
you completely deserve it.

She pats him on the arm and then looks away towards the street as if to compose herself.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I've been... um...I've been meaning  
to ask if... if my behavior has  
ever felt... like inferior or...  
like if I've ever exuded white  
savior vibes I guess without  
intending to or having awareness...

Sophie is nervous waiting for Chris's response. He smiles.

CHRIS

Do you need confirmation for your  
conscience, or do you want me to be  
real?

SOPHIE

Be real.  
(beat)  
Please.

CHRIS

You've become more aware over the  
years, and I've always been able to  
call you out on your shit. So, I  
don't have anything unsaid.

Sophie is relieved.

SOPHIE

Okay. Good.

Chris puts his arms around her shoulders to ease her tension.



CHRIS

Come on, let's get inside. People  
wanna party with their boss.

Sophie returns the affection. They get back inside.

INT. BEN'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Ben is sitting in his room on his bed, and we his phone  
calling to Facetime. Kevin picks up on the other end, and we  
see him on the screen.

BEN

Dude, finally! How are you my  
brother?

KEVIN

Hey, doc. Glad you could make time  
for me.

BEN

Shut up, how is the movie and  
everything?

KEVIN

Good, good. I love everyone I'm  
working with. I love the food, but  
I mess up the names. Pie and  
pudding apparently aren't sweet. I  
keep having to pronounce my Ts like  
in "twen-t-y," or they keep making  
me repeat myself everytime I buy  
something. And grocery stores  
cashiers do their thing sitting,  
which seemed weird for like a  
second but makes way more sense  
since they're doing it for hours --  
shouldn't be standing in the first  
place.

(beat)

Oh, and there are CCTV cameras  
everywhere including like public  
bathroom entrances, which honestly  
I don't mind cuz what's even  
privacy in the times we live in.  
And I love using the Tube.

BEN

The Tube?

KEVIN

Yeah, it's what they call the  
subway system.

BEN

Right.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Anna and Jason are sitting across each other looking at the menu.

ANNA

So, is this supposed to be a date?

JASON

Yes.

ANNA

Oh, no. Are you gonna ask me about my favorites? Because let me save you time, I don't have favorites. I like everything in general and nothing in particular.

JASON

Can you be serious for a second and choose what you're ordering?

ANNA

I'm just saying, this was forced on kids whose parents chose to marry them like pre-20th century or in some cases post and had them have dinner to get acquainted. It's not a natural thing. It's just a weird formality that we're still following for some reason.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

The waiter bring the check. Jason takes it.

ANNA

I'll pay for myself because my pussy's priceless. Thank you very much.

Anna takes the check to look at the bill.

JASON (SMILING)

I'm well aware.

ANNA

Great.

## JASON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Anna and Jason get inside the apartment and start kissing, still dressed in their restaurant clothes. They get to the couch. Jason right after stopping, his eyes and face an inch in front of Anna's -

JASON

We're alone. No one you know can hear you. You don't need to have any restraint.

Anna looks back into his eyes as he makes his way down. We see his head in between her legs, and then her face close up beginning to moan quietly at first, increasingly becoming louder and louder.

## INT./EXT. CAFE (SANTA MONICA) - NIGHT

Sophie, Patricia and Lara are getting their drinks (smoothie/late/juice) from the counter of the cafe.

SOPHIE

Should we sit inside or outside?

PATRICIA

Let's sit outside. You guys okay with that?

SOPHIE

Yeah.

LARA

Yeah.

They all sit down.

PATRICIA

Dude, so now that you're single, are there any rebound candidates.

SOPHIE

What? No?

PATRICIA

She did have a late night work thing with that new hire last week. He's like really hot.

SOPHIE  
He's like 22, just out of college.  
He might be 21.

PATRICIA  
So?

LARA  
She has this "no younger" and "no  
one who works for me" rule.

Patricia is giving Sophie a stare like that's a ridiculous  
rule.

SOPHIE  
Don't look at me like that. It's a  
practical rule.

PATRICIA  
You don't have like a company  
policy, do you?

LARA  
No, we still don't have an HR  
department.

SOPHIE  
We will soon.

Looks at Lara.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
I've also never been with anyone I  
wasn't in a relationship with.

PATRICIA  
Oh, baby. You've never had casual  
sex.

SOPHIE (FAKE ANGRY)  
Don't call me a baby! I run a tech  
company.

Lara chuckles.

LARA  
Speaking of new hires, that guys  
that drives a motorcycle and is  
always wearing a leather jacket.

SOPHIE  
Think he's like 40, which is  
actually fine now.

LARA  
Yeah, in your late 20s, 40 no  
longer feels too old.

SOPHIE  
No, but in your early 20s -

LARA  
It'd be disgusting.

SOPHIE  
Yeah.

LARA  
Like exploitation.

SOPHIE  
Totally.

Patricia is drinking her juice and looking in her phone.

PATRICIA  
Okay, I'm not supposed to be  
telling anyone yet, but I can't  
really hold it in anymore.  
(beat)  
Lina and I are getting married  
after graduating.

Sophie almost spills her drink out of her mouth.

SOPHIE  
What!? That's amazing.  
(beat)  
Wait since you told me first, I'm  
your maid of honor, right?

PATRICIA  
I don't know if I'm doing maid of  
honor. I mean Melissa said she'll  
plan the bachelorette party.

Sophie frowns but in a funny way, not confrontational.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Ben is doing his rounds in the ER. He comes to an ELDERLY  
WOMAN and opens her curtain.

BEN  
Hello, ma'am. What seems to be the  
problem? Where do you feel pain?

The nurse is setting things up.

NURSE

Checked in for a possible head injury.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I fell in the kitchen. I was making soup. I remember hitting my head. My neighbor helped me up.

BEN

Do you have a headache now? Do you have pain anywhere else?

He checks her eyes with a light

BEN (CONT'D)

Alright if I press here?

ELDERLY WOMAN

Yes.

Lightly touches different spots on her head.

The nurse steps out.

BEN

I need to put pressure on certain points on your back. Is that okay?

ELDERLY WOMAN

Yes.

Ben proceeds to check those pressure points.

BEN

Still good?

ELDERLY WOMAN

Mhm.

BEN

Let me know when to stop if you feel pain.

Ben continues checking.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Stop!

Ben stops.

ELDERLY WOMAN (CONT'D)  
 Doctor, you look very young.

BEN  
 I'm a third year resident.

Ben starts writing on his ipad.

ELDERLY WOMAN  
 No, I don't doubt your skills, son.  
 I just have a question.

BEN  
 Sure.

ELDERLY WOMAN  
 Do you think everything happens for  
 a reason?

Ben stops writing on his notepad.

BEN  
 I believe we give reasons to things  
 that happen. It helps us maintain  
 our sanity. It's just how the human  
 brain works. It needs to make sense  
 of things.

The ELDERLY WOMAN smiles.

ELDERLY WOMAN  
 You're wise for your age.

BEN  
 Uh, thank you. You're the first  
 person to tell me that.  
 (beat)  
 We are going to need a head CT. The  
 nurse will tell you the details,  
 and someone will take you in a bit.  
 Alright?

ELDERLY WOMAN  
 Okay, thank you.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Chris is sitting down alone at a table waiting when a YOUNG  
 WOMAN FROM HOUSEWARMING PARTY shows up looking concerned and  
 reserved walks up to the table and sits down in front of him.

CHRIS  
 Hey... So, what's up? What did you  
 need to talk to me about?

She looks up.

YOUNG WOMAN FROM PARTY  
 Um, remember a month ago... the  
 party in your apartment...

CHRIS  
 Yeah. Sure, I do.

YOUNG WOMAN FROM PARTY  
 Well, I um, missed my period.

Chris is slightly in shock.

CHRIS  
 You... you what?

Pause. Chris is registering the information.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
 But we used a --

Pause.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
 Are you, um... do you plan on  
 keeping --

YOUNG WOMAN FROM PARTY  
 I'm still processing it myself.

CHRIS  
 Yeah, please keep me in the loop of  
 what you're doing, and let me know  
 when I'm...needed.

YOUNG WOMAN FROM PARTY  
 I have a gynecologist's appointment  
 next week. I don't know if you'd  
 want to be there.

CHRIS  
 Uh, yes, yes. I should be right?

YOUNG WOMAN FROM PARTY  
 It's up to you.

CHRIS  
 Yeah, yeah, yeah. Let me know when  
 and where.



YOUNG WOMAN FROM PARTY

Okay.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna and Jason are sitting on the couch with a 4-year-old who's watching a cartoon. Jason is interacting with the child.

ANNA

So, I just found out my best friend Patricia is getting married.

JASON

Oh, the law school, bisexual -

ANNA

Yeah, I want you two to meet before the wedding since you're my plus one.

JASON

Okay.

Jason gets a text.

JASON (CONT'D)

Oh, shit. I forgot. I have to meet with Mark. I thought it was tomorrow.

ANNA

When?

JASON

Now.

ANNA

No! You can't live me alone with a child! You know I can't communicate with children!

Jason is heading out.

JASON

You'll be fine. Just no candy and no cursing.

ANNA

What!?

Jason shuts the door.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Shit! Oh, fuck! Sorry!

Anna looks at THE KID next to her.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
You didn't hear that from me. Can we shake on it?

Anna attempts to take the child's tiny hand.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Your uncle is a douche, isn't he?

THE KID just stares.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Yeah, I agree.

INT. CHRIS'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Chris and his younger sister, MIKAYLA (early 20s) are eating steak on his kitchen table.

CHRIS  
Don't I make the best steak?

MIKAYLA  
It's alright.

Chris is biting hard into it.

CHRIS  
This might be the best steak I've ever had.

Mikayla rolls her eyes.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
By the way, how's the job hunt going?

MIKAYLA  
Not as well as I hoped. I don't got a white name like you.

CHRIS  
My name ain't that white. Not like Jake or Zack.

MIKAYLA  
White enough, though.

CHRIS

You'll be fine. Might not get what you want right off, but -- if I've been fine, you'll definitely be fine.

MIKAYLA looks down like she's preparing to say something that might not be well received.

MIKAYLA

So, the girl that was here earlier... is she a girlfriend? You just introduced her by name.

CHRIS

Nope.

MIKAYLA becomes more adamant to push on the subject.

MIKAYLA

You think it's normal for you to be in your late 20s and not have been in a relationship?

Chris gets up unwilling to hear her further.

CHRIS

I don't want to talk about this with you.

MIKAYLA

You know mom always did the best that she could for us. You need to let go of the resentments.

CHRIS

I know she did, and I don't carry any resentment. Your reasoning is wrong.

(beat)

I just like my freedom.

MIKAYLA

A good relationship doesn't take away your freedom.

Chris approaches her and playfully touches her nose. MIKAYLA shakes off his hand.

CHRIS

I'll keep that in mind.

INT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sophie and CUTE GUY enter the apartment while kissing heavily. As Sophie turns, CUTE GUY begins to kiss her back.

SOPHIE

Hold on.

Sophie moves to the kitchen. He follows her. She quickly takes a sip of water. When Sophie turns back to him, they resume kissing as she begins to unbutton/remove his shirt. He then picks her up to the counter, and they get as close as possible.

CUTE GUYS

You good?

SOPHIE

Yeah.

He kisses her neck as her hands run up his arms, feeling his muscles.

She then removes her shirt and then unhooks his pants and runs her hand down his pants and then kisses him.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Sophie is laying in bed undress but covered up. She gets woken up by her alarm. She picks up her phone to hit "snooze" and --

CUTE GUY

Morning! How do you prefer your eggs?

She looks up.

SOPHIE

Um, scrambled.

CUTE GUY

Coming right up.

Sophie puts her hand over her face.

SOPHIE (UNDER HER BREATH)

Oh, fuck.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sophie is dressed to leave.

SOPHIE  
Aren't we late for work?

CUTE GUY  
I'm off on Friday.

SOPHIE  
Oh, right.  
(beat)  
Well, thanks for the breakfast.

Pause. CUTE GUYS looks at her and smiles.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
And... last night.

CUTE GUY  
You're welcome.

CUTE GUY smirks.

CUTE GUY (CONT'D)  
Should I be expecting a raise or?

CUTE GUY smirks again. Sophie forces a gesture that one would make as a response to a bad joke.

CUTE GUY (CONT'D)  
Kidding... Are you not going to  
finish your breakfast?

SOPHIE  
No, I'm running late.

Sophie heads to the door.

CUTE GUY  
Can I use your shower?

SOPHIE  
Yeah, just lock up before you  
leave.

CUTE GUY  
You got it, boss!

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

We see Ben looking up at the girl on top of him, FEMALE  
RESIDENT (FEMALE INTERN) from before. He is about to come --

BEN (MOANING)  
Uhh, Briana...

The FEMALE RESIDENT looks at him confused while breathing heavily herself.

FEMALE RESIDENT

What?

Ben finishes.

FEMALE RESIDENT (CONT'D)

Did you just say your ex's name?

FEMALE RESIDENT gets off the bed pissed.

BEN (HURRYING)

No, no, no. I don't even know what that was. It was just reflex.

FEMALE RESIDENT

Or maybe you're still hung up on her.

BEN

No, trust me, please. That's not it.

Beat.

BEN (CONT'D)

I think it's just been a while since I've been with someone I have serious feelings for, and I was with her a pretty long time.

Pause.

BEN (CONT'D)

It literally meant nothing.

The FEMALE RESIDENT stares at him contemplating, almost convinced.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Anna is sitting across her therapist with her feet crossed.

THERAPIST

How you say things are between you and your mom? Are you still pulling each others' hands?

ANNA

No, we're very much giving each other the space we need to just be holding hands without getting in each other's way.

THERAPIST

And what helped you finally put the necessary boundaries with her?

ANNA

Intellectually I've known what I need to do to move forward for a while, but I want to say what emotionally made it possible was justifying that I have the right to have complete control over my life. That's ultimately what helped slowly feel less and less guilty.

THERAPIST

Loving yourself more?

ANNA

Yeah, we can put it that way.

THERAPIST

And your dad?

ANNA

Better than ever, really. He is probably the best version of himself that I've ever seen. I no longer feel any anger towards him. I've let all of that go. It's mostly warmth between us. He's trying his best, both with her and me, and I appreciate it.

THERAPIST

And how are we doing with --Jason was his name?

ANNA

Uh, yeah. Good.

THERAPIST

What would you say he is to you? Can we call it a commitment?

ANNA

I guess, yeah. I mean up to a point, I think. I can't really give it a label.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

Saying "boyfriend" in your late 20s sounds too silly. And I used to like the term "partner," more, but now it sounds too serious.

THERAPIST

Does the word "husband" have potential?

ANNA

No... I mean, with spouses -- they can legally make decisions for each other, even if it's within fully respectful mutual trust, I just don't know if I can ever be that closely tied with another person. I guess I'm just not willing to compromise any part of myself. It's a deal breaker.

Pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)

When coworkers or mutual friends and acquaintances ask, I usually say, "We're together".

THERAPIST

"Together" is a good word.

Pause.

ANNA

The reason I have trouble committing is not because I don't take commitment seriously. It's really the opposite. I take it so seriously that I never want to be misleading anyone until I'm 100% sure. And I apply that philosophy with everything.

THERAPIST

I know.

Pause.

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Last time we left off on your parents' marriage. You thought their relationship was never healthy.



ANNA

No, it never was, but I also in a way admire their endurance for their ideals.

THERAPIST

But you wouldn't make the same decisions?

ANNA

No,  
     (beat)  
 I would not.

THERAPIST

What do you value most that you got from them?

ANNA

Um -- integrity. They both share that, if nothing else. It's the asset I value most in them and in myself.

Pause.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I also finished the screenplay, and I'm almost done with the book. I forgot to say that at the beginning of the session.

THERAPIST

That's great! What helped get past the paralysis that being a perfectionist was causing that you used to talk about?

ANNA

I mean, I made sure I was putting in something every day even if it was just one scene. It only took me so long to learn consistency and discipline.

    (beat)

I sometimes talk to mom about that time when I was 3 or 4, and she had me write the number "1" on a notebook paper as many times I had to -- to get it right and only then be able to get up. She feels guilty about the toughness of her early parenting, but I'm so glad about it.

    (MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

My obsession with striving to write the perfect "1" will never stop. I've just learned to forgive myself for not being perfect, and that's exactly what's allowed me to keep trying while accepting me just being what I am at any point in time.

The Therapist smiles contentedly.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Patricia, Lina, Patricia's law school roommate, DIANA, Patricia's sister MELISSA, Anna, Sophie, Patricia's cousin, MELODIE are all dancing together. Patricia and Lina are wearing stashes that say, "BRIDE".

Anna, Lina and Melissa head to the bathroom.

INT. NIGHTCLUB BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lina goes into a stall.

LINA

I'll be quick.

ANNA

Take your time, babe.

MELISSA

Today turned out way better than I thought it would.

ANNA

It's great. She's having a lot of fun. It was all exactly what she wanted. I honestly don't know how you pulled it off in such a short amount of time.

A GIRL FROM A STALL is asking

GIRL FROM STALL

Hey, sorry you guys. Do any of you have a tampon? I thought I had one in my purse, but I just realized I don't.

Anna and Melissa try to make out where the noise is coming from.

MELISSA  
Um, yeah. I actually have one.  
Should I hand in to you from above?

GIRL FROM STALL  
Yeah, please. Thank you so much!

MELISSA  
Sure.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

Sophie is by the bar. The BARMAN is making her drink.

BARMAN  
You look Middle Eastern.

SOPHIE  
Pardon?

BARMAN  
What's your ethnicity?

SOPHIE  
Armenian.

BARMAN  
Oh, are you from Glendale?

SOPHIE  
No.

BARMAN  
Burbank?

Shakes her head.

BARMAN (CONT'D)  
Hollywood?

Shakes her head again.

SOPHIE  
Can I get my drink, please?

BARMAN hands it to her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben and Chris are playing a video game sitting on the couch. There's beer on the coffee table. Kevin is in the kitchen talking inaudibly and intimately with SAM, a BRITISH GUY (Late 20s). He kisses SAM, the BRITISH GUY, takes a sandwich made for him, then proceeds to walk to the couch, eating the sandwich.

KEVIN

Yo, Patty said we need to give a speech tomorrow. The three of us.

CHRIS

What? Doesn't her sister give a speech and the girls?

KEVIN

No, she said she wants us to give one too. We need to think about what we're gonna say.

Ben and Chris continue playing the video game. Ben is intensely clicking the button on the remote and becoming frustrated.

BEN

Ahhghhh, I hate this game!

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

Sophie, Anna, and Lina are sitting and talking. Melodie is talking to a MIDDLE EASTERN LOOKING GUY next to them.

MIDDLE EASTERN LOOKING GUY

Are these your friends?

They look at him.

MIDDLE EASTERN LOOKING GUY (CONT'D)

Hi, nice to meet you. Aria.

He shakes hands with Lina.

LINA

Tiffany.

Anna tries to hold in her impulse to laugh.

MIDDLE EASTERN guy shakes hands with Anna.

ANNA

Jessica.

He shakes hands with Sophie.

SOPHIE

Maddie.

MIDDLE EASTERN LOOKING GUY

You're gonna put in your number.

MELODIE

Yeah.

She takes his phone and starts adding her number. Hands it back.

MIDDLE EASTERN LOOKING GUY

Alright, let me just call it.

Lina is annoyed. Anna responds to her expression by smiling.

Melodie's phone rings.

MELODIE

Got it.

MIDDLE EASTERN LOOKING GUY

Okay, have fun you guys. We gotta head out.

MIDDLE EASTERN GUY walks in the opposite direction with his friends.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Chris is now playing the video game with Kevin. Ben is in the kitchen with beer in his hands. He puts the beer on the kitchen counter and proceeds to go behind the counter where the SAM is making food and puts his hands on his shoulders and presses them down affectionately like one does to a fellow player on a sports team.

BEN

Sam, I already like you. The food smells really good, and I'm starving.

KEVIN (FROM THE COUCH)

Ben, don't scare off my boyfriend please!

BEN

What? I'm a doctor, you asshole! I don't scare people. I heal them.

KEVIN

Not when you're drunk...

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

The girls are all at the entrance/exit of the club. Lina is taking pictures of Melodie and Sophie posing together. Patricia is clearly tipsy. Anna is holding her jacket, making sure she's able to walk right.

ANNA

Dude, put on your jacket. It's fucking cold.

PATRICIA

I don't give two fucks.

ANNA

You do realize when you say you don't give two fucks, you could be giving one, right? You should either be saying you don't give a fuck, as in a single fuck, or you give zero fucks.

PATRICIA

Shut the fuck up!

ANNA

Okay.

The light switches for them to cross the street. While they're crossing, a car is speeding at them then stops abruptly.

Patricia yells in its direction.

PATRICIA

Run me over! I dare you!

SOPHIE

Can you not?

MELISSA

We're trying not to die tonight, Pat.

Lina walks faster to catch up to Patricia and puts her arm over her shoulder.

EXT. GARDEN WEDDING VENUE - DAY

The two brides are standing facing each other holding hands. There are both bridesmaids and groomsmen on both sides. Melissa, Melodie, Sophie, Anna and the three guys, Chris, Ben and Kevin on the end are standing on the left behind Patricia in that order. Diana is officiating the wedding.

They are saying their vows to each other.

PATRICIA

Lina, I'm so glad you were my roommate's cousin that had to stay with us probably for too long until finding your place five years ago.

Pause.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

From the beginning, I made it so clear how much baggage I was carrying, but that never scared you off. You so gently and considerately found your place in my life and made me feel safe in a way I never had before. And all my pain began to be irrelevant. I'm pretty sure all those things are green flags according to a BuzzFeed article.

Light laughter.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

I promise to always be the same home for you that you have been for me.

Lina takes the microphone from her.

LINA

Patricia, since I've met you, I've been so awed by your passionate soul and how deeply you care about things. You're the one person I've met who I can have no doubts that regardless of the difficulty of circumstances will always do the right thing. I'm always inspired by your courage and undying charisma.

Pause.

LINA (CONT'D)

When you have someone like that who loves you, it'd be stupid to ever let them go. And I hate to break it to you -- but I'm never letting you go.

DIANA

I now pronounce you wife and wife.

They kiss lightly and turn around, throw their hands up.

LINA

Woohoo!

PATRICIA

Yee-ahhh!

FADE OUT.

EXT. SOMEWHERE NEAR SANTA MONICA PIER (SIDEWALK) - DAY

KEVIN and his boyfriend, SAM, BRITISH GUY are walking. We hear them mid-conversation.

KEVIN

You know besides the Asian thing off -- having instilled me the need to be an overachiever -- it's also always been I guess the pressure when you parents are immigrants and have started over in their late 30s early 40s, you just feel like you have to be worth those sacrifices they made because they made them for you and your future.

BRITISH GUY

Yeah, I get it. I just feel like it's already time for you to start being easier on yourself. You deserve to feel proud of yourself.

They continue walking.

BRITISH GUY (CONT'D)

What was that throwback picture you posted today? Your haircut was funny.



KEVIN

Oh, it's from high school. Our ten year reunion is next week.

BRITISH GUY

Right. Where did you go to high school?

KEVIN

Woodland Hills. West of Calabasas.

BRITISH GUY

That like a diverse spot?

KEVIN

Oh yeah, we said our "WELCOME" in 50 different languages for graduation. Can't get more diverse than that.

CUT TO THE BEGINNING:

INT./EXT PARKING LOT OF SCHOOL - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Both of the cars arrive and park. All of them get out of the cars they rode in. They start walking towards to entrance.

ANNA

Is it just me, or are you guys also overwhelmed by nostalgia?

There is a group of PEOPLE FROM HIGH SCHOOL walking in the same direction as the same time. They see them from a distance.

HIGH SCHOOL PERSON #1

Hey-y-y!

PATRICIA

Hi-i-i-i!

HIGH SCHOOL PEOPLE

Hey!

BEN

Are we late?

They go inside.

KEVIN

No, but it seems like most people  
who are here are already in.

Chris starts walking across the street.

CHRIS

I'ma get coffee and a snack!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They are walking past lockers.

ANNA

Oh my god, I can't remember my  
locker.

Anna goes close to a section of them.

SOPHIE

Mine was the second one.

Sophie is standing at a row of them ahead of Anna.

PATRICIA

I'm gonna catch up with you guys. I  
need to use the bathroom.

Patricia opens the door to the bathroom where there are a  
bunch of YOUNG WOMEN of Middle Eastern/Asian/Latin/Eastern  
European descent.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

Hey, you guys!

YOUNG WOMAN #1

Hey!

PATRICIA

Do you guys remember that one week  
they closed all of girls' bathrooms  
except the outer one like a  
thousand feet away to take off the  
mirror since we were apparently  
late to class from looking at  
ourselves too long and doing makeup  
or whatever.

YOUNG WOMAN #1

Yeah, I remember I had Matt check  
the guys bathroom so I could use  
it, but it smelled so bad I  
couldn't be there for over five  
second to use a stall.

INT./EXT. COFFEE PLACE ACROSS THE STREET - NIGHT

Chris is getting his coffee when an OLD CLASSMATE, walks up  
behind him.

CLASSMATE #1

Hey!

CHRIS

Hey! How you been?

CLASSMATE #1

Good.

CLASSMATE notices a picture of Chris holding a baby as his  
phone screenshot when he picks it up from the counter.

CLASSMATE #1 (CONT'D)

Is that?

Points to the phone screen.

CHRIS

Mine. Yeah. 10 months.

Classmate looks overjoyed when finding out.

CLASSMATE #1

Why haven't I seen like a post on  
social media?

CHRIS

I don't announce things on social  
media.

TWO OTHER OLD CLASSMATES walk in.

Classmate #1 turns to them --

CLASSMATE #1

This one has a 10 months old kid!

The two CLASSMATES also react positively. Chris shows them  
the picture.

CLASSMATE #2  
I haven't seen any posts about it.

CLASSMATE #1  
That's what I said!

CHRIS  
It should just be their choice once  
they can use the internet  
themselves.

CLASSMATE #3  
People cover their kids' faces with  
like emojis.

CHRIS  
I feel like that's worse than not  
posting a picture of them.

CLASSMATE #3  
Are you married to the mother?

CHRIS  
No.

CLASSMATE #3  
Not together?

CHRIS  
Nope.

CLASSMATE #3  
But the coparenting is --

CHRIS  
Good. It's great so far, yeah.

CLASSMATE #3  
I mean, that's what's most  
important, right?

Chris nods.

CLASSMATE #3 (CONT'D)  
What's that like, if you don't mind  
me asking?

Chris thinks about it to give a coherent answer instead of a  
bullshit one.

CHRIS

Um... This is gonna sound kinda weird cuz I'm not religious at all, but I went to church a lot with my mom as a kid, and that concept of the Trinity... them being, **distinct but not seperate**. Never really made sense to me until now. You know... co-equal, co-eternal, whatever it is.

CLASSMATE #3

Right.

CHRIS

Yeah.

The barista calls for CLASSMATE #3 to get his coffee.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The auditorium is filled with round tables and chairs surrounding them.

Chris, Sophie, Anna, Kevin, Patricia and Ben are all seating conversing with each other and people around them.

A PERSIAN WOMAN takes the stage. The poster on the stage reads, "CLASS OF 2013. ONLY THE 13EST SURVIVE".

PERSIAN WOMAN

Hello, Class of 2013. Thank you all so much for coming and thank you to the organizers of this event.

(beat)

For those of you who don't remember me, I was and still am your class president. I'm sure you do because I was as insufferable then as I am now. Not much has changed.

(beat)

Food and drinks are on the side tables against the walls, so if you haven't already done so, please help yourselves.

(beat)

Now, I'm going to pass the mike to our valedictorian because ten years ago, he promised he'd give another speech ten years later, so here we are.

Light applause.

THE VALEDICTORIAN, Chris goes up on stage and takes the microphone from her.

CHRIS

Hey guys. It's good to be here. I was watching the tape from our graduation from ten years ago to see what I said then, so I could figure out what I can say now, but it was mostly some juvenile nonsense. The jist of it though was that our generation will be first to never lose touch because of social media.

(beat)

Now, that's partially true. I mean, obviously social media looks a lot different now. We're not posting a hundred pictures from a party. Instagram took care of that habit. And we're not liking weird phrases on our Facebooks walls and becoming fans of TV shows and Apps like we used to -- most of which we had to unfollow since they most have really weird content

(beat)

But, nevertheless, it's nice to see life updates from each other once in a while because we obviously care about how people went to high school are doing in life.

(beat)

Even though social media along with the internet is a much more global entity of connection now rather than a communal one when we started using it, it's a tool that's made our generation more aware and informed about what goes on in the world and how it affects all of us, which had made us more empathetic to the suffering of others, perhaps more so than previous generations - - just throwing some boomer shade there, no big deal -- and provided a new space for expression.

(beat)

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

When the platform is used correctly, which I believe most of us do, it becomes a tool to being active members in our communities and involves us in helping solve societal problems, whether domestic or global, that falls on us to figure out.

(beat)

I'd like to give a shoutout to all our teachers who were monumental in shaping us and basically served as our second parents.

Loud applause and noise.

Pause.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

So, the statistical studies are basically right. Most of us who were top of our class have chosen more conventional professional fields, while those who were smarter but probably procrastinators and rebels are entrepreneurs and in the arts now.

(beat)

Whatever field or fields you are in, or whether you are still searching for the right thing for yourself, which is equally fine because we're still pretty fucking young, we all have something essential to offer. And we've made it to the ten year mark. So, congratulations, Class of Twenty-Thirteen.

Applause and whistles.

VALEDICTORIAN looks at the poster behind him.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Only the best survive.

(beat)

And we're the best.

FADE OUT.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL (GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY) - MORNING

Anna, Chris, Ben, Patricia, Kevin and Sophie are walking up the hills. Patricia and Ben are behind.

ANNA

Come on, you guys are being slow.

PATRICIA

I'm hung over and thirsty, and it's too sunny today.

KEVIN

Stop whining. It's a beautiful day.

CHRIS

Did you just say "too sunny" in LA?  
As opposed to what?

SOPHIE

My toes hurt.

They look at the view.

BEN

This really must be the most spread  
out city on the planet.

They stand and look towards the city. The frame freezes.

"VALLEY KIDS" appears on the screen in green or blue 90s font letters.

MUSIC STARTS PLAYING.

THE END.