

READY SET CHOKE

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FADE IN:

INT. CASTING OFFICE - DAY

A foot taps. Hands curl a script, tightly. Many people line the walls. Waiting. A WOMAN comes out with a sheet of paper.

CASTING ASSISTANT

Next.

LARRY, 20's, stops tapping his foot and looks around, nervous. He toggles his vision from the woman to the others.

CASTING ASSISTANT (CONT'D)

Who's next?

He's at the front of the line. He gets up and leaves. Someone else goes into the room.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dozens of people go in and out of the house. Groups cluster together, CHATTING. A party's in full swing.

LANDON, 20's, tries to warm up a prospective girl.

LANDON

You know what they say about guys
who are tall...

She looks uninterested.

LANDON (CONT'D)

They sleep longer in bed.

He smiles. She turns and ankles away.

LANDON (CONT'D)

It's about height...

He chases after her. ALAN, 20's, SINGS karaoke. He's drunk.

ALAN

(animated)

...Sprung from cages on Highway 9
Chrome wheeled, fuel injected, and
steppin' out over the line
Oh, baby this town rips the bones
from your back - it's a death trap,
it's a suicide rap...

People dance and CHEER. Larry dances amongst the crowd.

ALAN (CONT'D)

'Cause tramps like us, baby, we
were born to run. Yes, Larry, we
were...

Larry smiles and bumps into LARKIN, 20's. She drops her cup
of beer on to her shoes.

LARKIN

Watch where you're flailing those
things. That's expensive beer
you've spilled on my inexpensive
shoes.

LARRY

I was born to run, baby. What's
your name?

LARKIN

Larkin.

He continues bouncing around. She smiles. He grabs her hand.

LARRY

Larkin, come with me. I know where
they keep the stash.

They pass SONNY, 20's, as they exit to the backyard. Sonny
checks his phone. There's a missed call from Mildred.

He pockets his phone as RENE, 30's, comes over.

SONNY

You know Alan, right?

RENE

I was one of the producers on the
last film.

SONNY

I'm Sonny.

He shakes her hand.

RENE

Rene. What do you do?

SONNY

We just shot a film I directed.

RENE

What's it about?

SONNY

It's kind of a cross between horror and comedy, but more experimental.

RENE

How avant garde of you. Where can I see it?

SONNY

It's not quite finished. We have to do some re-shoots.

She pulls a business card from her purse and hands it to him.

RENE

Call me when you have a cut of the film. I gotta run.

SONNY

I will. Thank you.

He looks at the card. Smiles back to her. She leans closer.

RENE

Or call before...

She smiles and heads through the crowd. He watches her as she goes. His PHONE rings. It's Mildred, again. He answers.

SONNY

Hey, babe...

BACKYARD

Many people scatter the lot. Larry and Larkin are at the beer table. He hands her a fresh one. She accepts.

LARRY

Here ya' go. But you have to get the next one.

LARKIN

So this constitutes as you buying me a drink?

LARRY

Unofficially. Although it wouldn't be a date. I have a girlfriend.

LARKIN

Oh, and where is she tonight?

LARRY

She's more of a chamomile tea and Netflix kind of gal. Parties aren't really her thing.

LARKIN

And what kind of gal are you?

LARRY

A loud mouth, Bruce Springsteen dancing, spilling beers on girl's shoes kind.

They LAUGH.

LARKIN

More of a Streisand fan, myself.

LARRY

The river? Thunder road?

She shakes her head.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Okay, favorite bands on three. Ready, set, go.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Springsteen. Bowie. The Clash.

LARKIN

Tegan and Sara. Sia. Streisand.

LARRY

Did you say Tegan and Sara?

LARKIN

You a fan?

LARRY

They're the lesbian sisters, right?

LARKIN

You say it like there's something wrong with that.

LARRY

No. Nothing wrong. Just don't buy lesbians is all.

She looks turned off.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I can buy gay guys because everyone needs dick. They just need it. Lesbians just need a good dicking.

She's stunned.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Chasing Amy? You seen it?

LARKIN
Sounds like a great movie...

LARRY
One of my favorites.

LARKIN
Is that what you do?

LARRY
I'm on the cusp of my acting
career. More so a writer. My
friends and I shot a film that I
wrote. It's kind of cool.

LARKIN
Hopefully more complex than non-
chivalrous banter about sexuality.

LARRY
It is.

Alan stops singing as they sip their beers.

LARKIN
You sing too?

LARRY
I act, I write, I sing. I'm a
myriad of talent. Don't let your
boyfriend get jealous.

LARKIN
Sly way of asking if I have a
boyfriend.

LARRY
I wasn't...

LARKIN
I don't.

LARRY
Either way. I have a girlfriend so
don't be getting any ideas.

They head towards the front. ROBBIE, 20's, steps out.

ROBBIE
Hey, it's late. I open tomorrow.

She notices Larry.

LARKIN
Robbie, this is...

She pretends to forget his name. He holds out his hand.

LARRY
Larry.

Robbie gives a fake smile and shakes his hand.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Nice to meet you.

ROBBIE
Likewise.
(to Larkin)
Ready?

Larry looks excited. Larkin annoyed.

LARRY
Want to join us in karaoke?

ROBBIE
If you want to stay -

LARKIN
No. It's fine.

ROBBIE
Larkin, it's okay.

LARKIN
No. Let's go home.

A wry smile from Robbie.

ROBBIE
I'll be in the car.

She heads away.

LARRY
Looks like somebody's in trouble.

She pounds the rest of her cup.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Don't think I could live with
roommates again.

LARKIN
This isn't your house?

LARRY
I live with my girlfriend.

LARKIN
Aren't ya'll roommates?

LARRY
Technically. We weren't friends
before we started dating. Kind of
have that divide. Know what I mean?

LARKIN
Yeah. I do. See ya' around, Larry.

She cheers' her empty glass with his, then hands it to him.
She goes. Larry watches her disappear as Sonny approaches.

SONNY
I may have found us a producer.

LARRY
Nice. Who is it?

Sonny eyes the business card.

SONNY
Rene Curuthers. She was an EP on
the film Alan did.

LARRY
Ah.

They look disappointed.

SONNY
I know. The film sucked. But, she's
a contact.

LARRY
Better than what we got.

SONNY
How'd the audition go earlier?

LARRY
You hear of a film casting a mute,
sweaty ball of nerves, I'm the guy.

SONNY

You're a good actor.

LARRY

You've never seen me act.

SONNY

I know you and I know you can do it. If Alan can do it, so can you.

They look over to Alan. He's LAUGHING with two girls. Landon comes over. Alan looks over and gestures getting head.

LANDON

Look at him. Lands a leading role and the women swarm. And I'm over here like fucking Icarus.

LARRY

Gotta spread your wings. You'll meet someone.

SONNY

Yeah. You're a great guy. Be glad you're not like Alan or Icarus.

They sip their beers and look back to Alan again.

SONNY (CONT'D)

We all know what happens when you fly too close to the sun.

INT. PHELIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

PHELIA, 20's is asleep in bed. Larry comes into the darkened room. He kicks the corner of the bed. She wakes up.

LARRY

Shit!

PHELIA

What time is it?

LARRY

It's late. Or early I guess.

He crawls into bed and tries to kiss her.

PHELIA

You smell like beer.

LARRY

I just brushed my teeth.

PHELIA

I have a showing early. Would you mind sleeping on the couch?

Caught off guard.

LARRY

Sure.

She touches his arm affectionately, then turns over.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sonny turns out the light in the bathroom. He lies down beside MILDRED, 20's. She's excited to see him.

MILDRED

How was the party?

SONNY

It was good.

He gives her a kiss. She enjoys it. She kisses him again.

MILDRED

Make any contacts?

SONNY

It was more of an Alan show. Did meet someone though. We'll see.

MILDRED

You're so talented. You're going to be an amazing filmmaker.

He smiles and kisses her again. She pulls him close.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

I was thinking earlier, you know how you're such a horror fan? Wouldn't it be really fun if our wedding was costume themed?

SONNY

That's a little unconventional.

MILDRED

We used to be unconventional. I don't want a big wedding. Something small and cute.

Sonny looks uncomfortable. He pulls off the covers.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Sonny, I'm talking about way in the future. You don't have to leave.

SONNY

I want to do some work before bed.

He kisses her head, then leaves the room. She's heartbroken.

LIVING ROOM

Sonny watches edits of the film on his computer. He studies Rene's card. The film trails on.

INT. PHELIA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Larry wakes on the couch. He's a mess. He finds a note on the kitchen table. He smiles.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

JACKIE, EVALYNN and LYNETTE, 40's, African American, sit at a table CHATTING and LAUGHING.

EVALYNN

We used to be a hot spring of romance. Over time he became more distant - never wanting to do anything with me. Finally one night he comes home drunk on la vostra, smelling of cheap perfume - a little lipstick around his collar and tells me the embers have burned out. Our divorce was finalized six months later. He was right about one thing. The embers may have burned out, but the alimony hasn't.

The women LAUGH as Mildred saunters over.

MILDRED

Hi. I'm here for the meet up.

The women look up at her in question.

LATER

The women are entranced.

MILDRED

It was our sophomore year of college. We were both at a party. Not together. Just at the same place at the same time. Some girlfriends and I were taking a photo and he jumped in. I thought it was cute. And he was obviously really cute. So, I took a picture with just him. We didn't speak the whole rest of the night. When I posted the pictures on facebook someone tagged him in it. I stalked him virtually for a few days until he finally messaged me. We've been together ever since.

The women are silent. Lynnette, leans forward.

LYNNETTE

And you suspect he's cheating!

MILDRED

No. I don't think he's cheating.

EVALYNN

If he's not now than he will.

Mildred looks over the women. Jackie, leans forward.

JACKIE

Honey, sounds like you're in a relationship. This is divorcee's unanimous.

MILDRED

That's just it. I am in a relationship. We've been together for five years. We used to be spontaneously in love. Now I'm afraid he might be bored of me.

EVALYNN

You want him to put a ring on your finger, is that it?

MILDRED

Isn't that what every girl wants?

EVALYNN

Baby, they say hindsight is twenty-twenty. If I could do it again -

JACKIE

Let's not discourage the poor girl.
All marriages don't end in divorce.
That was our unfortunate outcome,
but there are many good things
about marriage.

The women SIGH in agreement.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

How's the sex?

MILDRED

The sex is good. Although, there's
no real comparison. We've only been
with each other.

LYNNETTE

That's it right there!

MILDRED

What?

LYNETTE

If you're wondering why after five
years he's not asked you to marry
him - knowing he'll ever be with
only one woman is the reason.

MILDRED

You really think so?

EVALYNN

Men weren't meant to be monogamous.
It's our job to keep them in check.

The woman agree.

JACKIE

Try doing something spontaneous
again. Help him remember why ya'll
fell in love in the first place.

EVALYNN

If that doesn't light a fire under
him - I'm afraid nothing will.

Mildred sits back, horrified.

EXT. BURBANK MOUNTAIN - DAY

Larry is a sweaty mess, hyperventilating as he ascends the
mountain. Phelia jogs in place at the top. Waiting.

LARRY

I made it. Doesn't look that difficult from the bottom, but once you get going...

He comes near her. She hands him a bottle of water. He chugs.

PHELIA

How are you feeling today?

LARRY

Kind of hung over. I'm burning it off. This is good.

He tries to kiss her. She gives him a cheek and a hug.

LARRY (CONT'D)

How'd the showing go?

PHELIA

It sold.

LARRY

That's great.

He goes for a kiss again. She declines.

LARRY (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Why are we up here?

Phelia paces toward the edge. Turns back, facing him.

PHELIA

Have you ever been up here before?

LARRY

I've scaled every mountain in LA. One of the many perks of being an Angelino.

She looks at him incredulously.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm not an Angelino.

She continues to scrutinize him.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Okay, I've never been up here. Big deal.

PHELIA

Nothing's a big deal to you.

LARRY

Are you pissed you didn't come to the party last night?

(beat)

I asked you - you declined.

PHELIA

This has nothing to do with the party. Which I declined to attend because I have a job. Places to be. People count on me.

LARRY

Wait. Are you saying you can't count on me? I take you places. I pay my share of the rent.

(pissed)

I'm up here, aren't I? Where is this coming from suddenly?

Two joggers stride passed.

JOGGER

How's it going?

Phelia and Larry wave them off.

PHELIA

Larry, it's not sudden. The signs were there?

LARRY

What signs?

PHELIA

The distance between us. Shorthand conversations.

LARRY

I thought you were just giving me space to work on my acting and writing. Being supportive like a good girlfriend.

PHLEIA

How'd the audition go? Did you actually say any lines this time?

Larry's embarrassed. She turns and looks out over the city.

PHELIA

Look at this.

He comes over and peers out.

LARRY

Looks like an Anna Schmidt painting. What's a landscape have to do with anything?

PHELIA

You see places and stuff you may not notice up close until you look at it from a distance. Puts things in perspective, you know?

(faces him)

I don't think I see us going the distance. Not anymore.

LARRY

Are you using a tourist trail as a metaphor to break up with me?

PHELIA

I just realize I've got a career and my boyfriend's an aspiring hyphenate who still collects an allowance from his father.

Larry takes a few steps back in disbelief.

LARRY

At least he supports my career.

She's put back.

PHELIA

When's the last time you spoke to him?

Silence. She starts to jog in place.

PHELIA (CONT'D)

I've given this a lot of thought. I'd like you out of the apartment by the end of the week.

LARRY

Where am I supposed to go in two days?

PHELIA

You've got nothing but time and an expansive bank account. You'll figure it out. I'm sorry, Larry.

He watches her jog away toward the top of the mountain.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alan opens the front door - revealing Larry with some boxes.

LARRY
Honey, I'm home.

ALAN
I know you're method, but damn -
this is extreme even for you.

LARRY
This isn't me acting, Alan. She
really broke up with me.

ALAN
I know you're not acting. I
actually believe you.

He LAUGHS as Larry comes in.

LARRY'S ROOM

Alan opens the door. It's cluttered with film equipment and
miscellaneous stuff. He and Larry come in.

ALAN
This should do for now. We'll find
a place for all this shit.

Larry sets his boxes down in a corner.

LIVING ROOM

Alan and Larry come in.

ALAN
Everything's figured into the rent.
Don't worry about this month.

LARRY
Money's not an issue.

ALAN
Not that I mind or nothing, but why
don't you get your own place? If my
dad funded me I'd have a sick pad
to bring women over to.

LARRY
I'm going through a break up.
That's the last thing on my mind.

ALAN

Hey, I get it. It's cool. You need to forget about Phelia though. She was a total bitch.

Silence.

LARRY

She's not a bitch.

ALAN

She broke up with you. That's bitchy.

LARRY

Yeah, but she's not a bitch.

ALAN

Maybe just a little.

Larry stands back, awkwardly.

LARRY

Okay. She's kind of a bitch. Thanks for putting me up.

ALAN

I'll get the blow up mattress

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mildred stares at her reflection and takes a deep breath. Sonny bursts in, scaring her. She SCREAMS.

MILDRED

Don't do that.

SONNY

You love it.

They hug and LAUGH.

SONNY (CONT'D)

I was going over the footage. We have to do more re-shoots.

MILDRED

I'm sorry, babe.

SONNY

Got to get it perfect.

He kisses her forehead and walks out into the -

KITCHEN

She follows behind.

MILDRED

Sonny, I need to tell you something.

He grabs some leftovers from the fridge and prepares a meal. She watches him. His back to her.

SONNY

What is it?

MILDRED

I'm - I'm pregnant.

She stands, uneasy. He slowly looks at her over his shoulder.

SONNY

We haven't had sex in awhile. Are you sure?

She nods. He comes over to her. She sways, nervously.

SONNY (CONT'D)

This - is great news.

MILDRED

You're okay?

SONNY

Of course. Are you okay?

MILDRED

Yes.

SONNY

We're going to have a baby.

He gives her a big hug. They both look concerned.

MILDRED

I think we should wait awhile before we tell anyone.

SONNY

Okay...

INT. LARRY'S ROOM - NIGHT

The room's cluttered. Larry airs up a blow-up mattress. He stops and grabs his phone.

INTERCUT BETWEEN: INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME

A PHONE rings on a bedside table. MIKE comes in and answers.

MIKE
Go for Mike.

Larry jumps up and steadies himself.

LARRY
Dad. It's Larry.

MIKE
Larry? Is that you?

LARRY
Yeah, it's me.

MIKE
You get a new phone?

LARRY
No, same phone.

MIKE
I didn't recognize the number. How
you doing? You get the deposit?

A CAR pulls up outside.

LARRY
Yeah, thank you. That's actually
not what I was calling about.

MIKE
Listen, right now's not a real good
time. But, let's get together
sometime. How's that sound?

LARRY
You really want to?

The front door opens. Kid YELLS. Door SLAMS.

MIKE
Why don't you call me back in half
an hour? We can talk about it then.

LARRY
Okay. Looking forward to it, dad.

MIKE
Alright. Talk soon.

Larry hangs up and looks upset.

Mike hangs up his phone. RACHAEL, 40's and her son ALEX, 12, come in. Alex has football gear on and runs over to Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

There he is. How was practice?

He picks him up and kisses Rachael.

RACHAEL

I think we have the next Tony Romo on our hands.

MIKE

That's my boy.

RACHAEL

Who was that?

He sets Alex down.

MIKE

Work stuff. Who's hungry?

Alex CHEERS and runs out of the room. Mike kisses Rachael and follows. His phone's still on the table.

LARRY'S ROOM - LATER

The mattress is fully blown up. Larry puts stuff away. Hours have passed. He grabs his phone and calls again.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME

His phone has five missed calls. A DOORBELL fades as -

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Larry answers the front door. Sonny stands, jubilant.

SONNY

She's fucking pregnant!

(realizing)

What are you doing here?

BACKYARD

Alan, Larry and Sonny sit around a fire pit. Beer cans splay the surrounding area.

ALAN

You continue to sleep with the same girl it's only a matter of time.

LARRY

So she's pregnant. Ya'll were heading that way eventually.

Landon comes out. He hands everyone a beer. He sits beside them and loads a pipe.

SONNY

Eventually. Yeah.

LANDON

Don't see how it's not great news. I'd love to have a kid.

Sonny pops the tab and downs the beer.

LANDON (CONT'D)

You're going to ask her to marry you, right?

Sonny looks them over.

SONNY

How many girls have you guys been with? Not you Alan. Probably can't even count 'em all on one hand.

ALAN

What can I say? I'm talented.

Alan pops his tab close to Landon's face as he hits the pipe.

SONNY

Larry, I know you're in the middle of a break up. Sorry. But how many do you wonder ever think about you?

The guys sit back.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Ever think about that?

LARRY

I am now. And I feel worse. Why do you want to cheat on Mildred?

LANDON

Ya'll are the epitome of a perfect relationship.

Larry cracks open his beer.

SONNY

I don't want to cheat on her. I just want to know what it's like with someone else. To be missed by someone else. I do want to marry her. Yes. But now that she's pregnant - it's got me questioning would I be doing it out of love or necessity.

ALAN

There's far too many women to just settle for one.

LANDON

Maybe you disconnect the notion of monogamy to satiate your ego. Ever think about that?

ALAN

Fuck you, sound guy. Always with your boom pole in my face. Sound speeding. Sound speeding.

LANDON

At least I'm secure in what I do. Not always chasing an identity.

LARRY

Guys, a little empathy right now...

The guys settle.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Necessity? Sonny, you met the love of your life young and sidestepped bad relationships and the one break-up you thought you'd never have.

Alan stands and faces them.

ALAN

Listen. I've been with the most women here so - hear my two cents. Landon you may want to listen too.

Landon gives him the bird.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Sonny, I say experience another woman before you tie the knot. It'll give you peace of mind.

(MORE)

ALAN (CONT'D)

Don't want to go all your days
never knowing what it's like. Larry
get over the bitch who broke your
heart. I know she's not a bitch.
But she is right now. And there's
someone better. And Landon
(looks them over)
Just fuck someone already.

The guys explode in LAUGHTER. They cheers their beers. Landon
cheers' his pipe.

SONNY

Okay, okay. Enough with the
relational repartee. Can we discuss
the shoot tomorrow?

ALAN

Yes. Thank you.

He sits back down.

LANDON

How long are we looking at?

SONNY

Call time's nine thirty. Should be
no longer than six hours.

ALAN

Is this the only scene we're doing?

SONNY

Tomorrow. Yes. We'll schedule the
other scenes later. Once we get
these, we're set!

LARRY

We're still good for Halloween?

LANDON

What's Halloween?

ALAN

The release, stupid.
(smiling)
I'm kidding.

SONNY

Alright. Let's finish this movie!

INT. JUICE SHOP - DAY

A BLENDER shuts off. Robbie cuts fruits and vegetables. She pours a drink and comes over to the counter.

ROBBIE
Ginger peach with soy.

She hands a customer the smoothy. They leave. ROY, 40's, comes in with a clipboard, checking inventory.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Add peaches to the list.

ROY
On there.

He looks up at her.

ROY (CONT'D)
Peaches aren't one of our tops. How are we out already?

Robbie pops a peach into her mouth. He goes back to writing.

ROY (CONT'D)
You two are going to put me out of business.

ROBBIE
Last I heard, business is thriving. Seattle won't know what hit 'em.

ROY
They better. I'm loosing my two favorite employees. Unless ya'll want to stay. Or one of you?

She smiles, empathetically.

ROBBIE
A new city will be good for us.

ROY
Big step. Where is Larkin? She's scheduled today, right?

ROBBIE
She visited her parents last night. Ya know - the talk.

Roy emotes total understanding.

ROY
Yikes. In that case moving may be
your only option.

ROBBIE
Thanks for the reassurance.

He smiles and hands her the list of inventory.

ROY
Head over when she gets here.

He goes to the back. Robbie cleans behind the counter. Larkin
rushes in. Hair a mess. Unshowered.

LARKIN
Roy here?

ROBBIE
Don't stress. I talked to him.

Larkin hangs her coat on a rack in the back and comes around
the counter. She ties an apron around her waist.

LARKIN
Traffic was abysmal. They've got
the 405 totally backed up.

Robbie grabs her purse and comes over, antsy.

ROBBIE
So, spill it. How'd it go?

LARKIN
What?

ROBBIE
Your parents. Did you talk to them?

Larkin looks shocked.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
You didn't come home. I figured
they killed you or something.

LARKIN
Oh, yeah. No, I did.

ROBBIE
And...

Larkin takes a minute.

LARKIN

To my astonishment, they were really cool about it.

Robbie is gleeful. She gives her a big hug.

LARKIN (CONT'D)

Don't know why I was stressing.

ROBBIE

Larkin, this is so great.

She pulls out of the hug and faces her. She sniffs.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Did you shower this morning?

LARKIN

Didn't have time.

Robbie grabs her hands and smiles big.

ROBBIE

This is a big step for us.

She pulls Larkin close and gives her a sensual kiss.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Never know how parents will take news of you having a girlfriend. Let alone moving to a new city.

Robbie gives her a small peck, then heads away. She throws Larkin a stick of deodorant.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Off to the market. Need anything?

LARKIN

I'm all set.

Larkin smiles anxiously as Robbie leaves. She squats down and applies the deodorant. The door CHIMES.

LARKIN (CONT'D)

Welcome to moon juice. Be right with you.

She grabs supplies out of the fridge and rises to see Larry. Instant recognition.

LARRY

Hey, Streisand.

LARKIN

Mister born to run, spilling booze
on girls shoes singing Larry.

LARRY

You remember. Sorry about that.

LARKIN

I've recovered. Although my shoes
have taken a turn for the worst.

LARRY

I'll get you new shoes.

LARKIN

I'm kidding.

LARRY

You work here?

LARKIN

No, I have a fruit fetish. I just
have to be around them. Mango's and
oranges...

She starts messaging the fruit. Larry smiles, sheepish.

LARKIN (CONT'D)

You're supposed to be an actor.
That's your que. Improve.

LARRY

Ahh.

She drops the fruit and comes closer.

LARKIN

Forget it. The scene's ruined.
(laughing)
What are you having?

Larry looks over the menu. He's undecided.

LARRY

I never know what to order in these
places.

LARKIN

You go to these places a lot?

LARRY

Not as often as I probably should.
I need to hydrate.

LARKIN
I'll fix you up.

She starts preparing a drink.

LARRY
Nothing too fruity. Or tangy.

LARKIN
I got you. So, what are you doing
in this part of town?

LARRY
Remember me telling you about the
film my friends and I shot?

LARKIN
Yeah.

LARRY
Well, we're doing some re-shoots.

LARKIN
At Echo Park lake?

LARRY
Yeah.

LARKIN
Just don't go there at night. The
dregs of this illustrious city
amass with their guns, drugs, and
gangs oh my.

LARRY
Jesus.

LARKIN
Just stay away at night.

LARRY
I will. Thanks for the tip.

She brings over his drink.

LARKIN
Here you are, sir.

He sips it.

LARRY
It's good. Not tart. Not too sweet.

LARKIN

Coconut milk, coconut water, mango,
orange and Ice. All the body needs.

LARRY

I'm feeling hydrated already. How
much do I owe you?

LARKIN

This constitutes as me buying your
drink. Don't tell your girlfriend.

LARRY

Ah. I wouldn't. She broke up with
me anyway.

LARKIN

Ouch.

LARRY

Guess it would've been wise to be
friends before we dated after all.

Larkin looks understanding.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I should get back. Thank you.

He holds up his drink. She gestures a gun, winks and CLUCKS
her tongue. He smiles and leaves.

EXT. ECHO PARK LAKE - DAY

A small film crew is in place. Sonny's behind the camera.
Landon holds a boom mic over a bench. Alan acts the scene.

SONNY

Cut. That was great. Let's move on.

ALAN

I'll be in my trailer.

Larry comes over. Landon meets them.

LARRY

Guess who I just ran into.

LANDON

You didn't get us drinks?

LARRY

What?

LANDON
You went to get us all drinks.
Where's ours?

LARRY
Oh, shit. Here.

He holds out his smoothie. Landon sips it.

SONNY
Who'd you run into?

LARRY
Larkin. The girl from the other
night. She works at the juice shop.

SONNY
Yeah? Did you get her number?

LARRY
We got to talking - she was making
my drink...

SONNY
So, that's a no.

LARRY
Maybe I'm not ready.
(looks at Landon)
Give me that.

He grabs his drink back. It's empty.

LANDON
Ahh.

LARRY
Dick. How's the shoot?

SONNY
Going good. Got about five more
shots and we'll be wrapped.

ALAN O.S
Are we ready yet?

SONNY
Let's get back to it.

They head back to the crew.

LANDON
Can't believe you didn't get us a
drink.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mildred watches tv from the couch in one of Sonny's shirts.
Sonny comes through the door with sacks of groceries.

SONNY

Hey, babe.
(shuts door)
What're you watching?

MILDRED

Big Brother.

SONNY

That show's still airing?

MILDRED

Twenty one seasons strong.

She runs over to him.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

I love it.

SONNY

I know you do. Nice shirt.

He kisses her forehead.

MILDRED

What did you get?

SONNY

One percent milk. Fruits, granola
green leafy vegetables high in
protein.

He un-sacks the groceries from atop the counter.

MILDRED

Are we dieting?

SONNY

I thought it would be good. For the
baby in all.

Mildred smiles, uneasy.

SONNY (CONT'D)

You shouldn't be the only one
making changes.

She watches him load the fridge.

MILDRED

Do you think we should talk about
the next step.

He slams the drawer in the fridge and comes over to her.

SONNY

Mildred, I don't think right now's
the best time to discuss marriage.

MILDRED

I thought you loved me.

SONNY

I do love you.

Agitated.

MILDRED

So, that's what couples do after
years of being in a relationship.
They get married or break up.
(tears up)
I don't want to break up.

SONNY

We're not breaking up, Milly. I
just don't think right now's the
best time to think about that.
Especially with a baby on the way.

He kisses the top of her head. She smiles.

SONNY (CONT'D)

I love you.

MILDRED

I love you.

He takes off his jacket and heads away.

SONNY

I'm gonna jump in the shower.

She watches him go into the bedroom.

SHOWER - LATER

The water cuts off. Sonny steps out and dries himself. His
PHONE chimes. He sees a text from Rene: Hey director man!

He contemplates responding.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sounds of SEX resound from Alan's room. Three used condoms are strewn on the floor near the waste basket.

Landon stands at the doorway in contempt. Larry comes over.

LARRY

What are you doing?

LANDON

Came in here to take a piss to the sight of that.

He points to the condoms.

LARRY

You do know what that is, right?

LANDON

I may not have sex that often, but I'm not a rookie.

LARRY

I don't have sex either.

LANDON

You just got out of a relationship.

LARRY

We'll be single together.

He pats Landon's shoulder and leaves. Landon uses the toilet brush to throw the condoms down the commode. He flushes.

LARRY'S ROOM

Larry's on his blow up bed, browsing backstage and various acting websites. His focus is drawn to facebook.

He scrolls through a woman's page who looks happy. He frowns.

BACKYARD

Larry's at the fire table with his phone to his ear.

LARRY

Carly?

EXT. PARK - DAY

Larry smokes a cigarette in a swing. He looks up as CARLY, 20's, approaches with a bag of lunch.

CARLY

I'm sorry. I don't have much time.

He stands. She hugs him.

CARLY (CONT'D)

I was so surprised to see Larry Rivers calling me out of the blue.

LARRY

Been awhile. I know.

They sit in the swings. She munches on a sandwich.

CARLY

How are you? God, it's been ages.

He's distraught.

LARRY

I know. How - how are you? Seem to be doing quite well.

CARLY

I am. I've been working for a new tech company. Got myself a fella. A couple kids.

LARRY

Whole new you. Barely recognize you. You look great.

She smiles with a mouthful.

CARLY

So, come on. What's the story with you? Kids, a girlfriend, career?

He takes a long drag of his cigarette.

LARRY

No kids. As of a few days ago no girlfriend. And still chasing a dismal future in the film industry.

CARLY

Any luck?

He makes a "zero" with his fingers.

CARLY (CONT'D)
It'll happen. You had a lot of
tenacity from what I remember.

LARRY
And you had a lot of talent.

CARLY
It used to be fun.

LARRY
Yeah, well it's all kind of got me
rethinking everything.

CARLY
What?

LARRY
The break up. The success. Lack
there of, rather. Kind of wanted to
ask you something.

CARLY
Shoot.

LARRY
Do you ever think about me?

Silence.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Your silence says it all.

CARLY
Let me swallow, jerk.

LARRY
Did that a few times.

She hits his arm, playful.

CARLY
Do you ever cross my mind? Sure.

LARRY
What happened to us?

CARLY
What naturally happens when people
start to drift apart. What do you
want me to say?

LARRY

Guess I'm just wondering how it feels to be missed. Feel important.

CARLY

We had some good times together. I miss them occasionally, but that was a long time ago. We're both different people than we were then.

LARRY

We did have some good times.

Larry tries a smile. She LAUGHS.

CARLY

Remember the time we went to that party and convinced everyone we were the shit? And everyone believed us. God, that was fun.

They LAUGH.

LARRY

Why'd you quite acting? I was sure you were one of the ones who was going to make it big.

CARLY

I did too for a long time. Then I was inundated by the hustle. It was either waitressing to do auditions or get a real job. I got lucky. Found a start-up where I met my husband. Never looked back.

LARRY

Would you do it again if you could? Achieve your acting goals?

CARLY

You mean would I do it differently if I could go back?

He nods.

CARLY (CONT'D)

I've got two beautiful kids. A husband I'm hopelessly in love with and a successful career. Acting led me to achieve my goals.

He thinks. Her ALARM chimes.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Shit. I have to go.

They stand and hug.

LARRY
I'm happy for you. Really.

CARLY
You've got a drive a lot of people
don't. I didn't.

She kisses his cheek and dashes off. He heads the other way.

CARLY O.S.
Larry!

He faces her.

CARLY
You're important. You just need to
surround yourself with people who
make you realize it.

He smiles. She waves and heads away.

EXT. BURBANK MOUNTAIN - DAY

Larry slowly climbs his way to the top of the mountain. He
grabs at his ankle as he stops and looks out over the edge.

LARKIN O.S.
Are you following me?

Startled, he turns to see Larkin sitting on a bench.

LARRY
Call it serendipity.

He paces over.

LARKIN
Serendipity only exists in cheesy
romance movies.

LARRY
I used to love Cusack.

LARKIN
All icons eventually crash and
burn.

He sits beside her.

LARRY
This is where she did it.

LARKIN
Did what?

LARRY
Broke up with me.

LARKIN
My guess - she used the city scape.

LARRY
Spoken truly as one versed with the
sentiment.

LARKIN
I've brought someone up here a time
or two.

LARRY
What are you doing up here?

LARKIN
Avoiding.

LARRY
Avoiding what?

She checks her phone.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Phelia used to speak in shorthand.
Told me I'd never reach the top.

LARKIN
Nonsense. All you need's endurance.
Doesn't require any skill.

He smiles.

LARKIN (CONT'D)
Come on. We'll do it together.

LARRY
Maybe another time. I think I
disjointed my ankle on the way up.

LARKIN
Let me see.

He wobbles up and rests his foot on the bench. She starts to
massages it.

LARKIN (CONT'D)

Anything?

LARRY

I'm feeling something. What are you, a masseuse?

LARKIN

Maybe one day. How's that?

He steps down and walks it off.

LARRY

You're good.

LARKIN

Let's do this.

She stands, ready to ascend the mountain.

LARRY

Want to grab a bite? Can't climb mountains on empty stomachs.

Larkin checks her phone. There's an unread text from her mom.

LARKIN

Yeah. Let's do it.

They descend the mountain.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Kids run around the play scape. Mildred sits with Jackie, Lynette and Evalynn.

MILDRED

I told him I was pregnant.

JACKIE

You don't look pregnant. How far are you?

MILDRED

I'm not pregnant. I was just following your advice.

EVALYNN

I don't remember us telling you to lie.

MILDRED

Ya'll said I should do something spontaneous again. To reignite the spark. So I did.

JACKIE

A little white lie may seem like a good idea to get the ball rolling, but it always bites you in the end.

MILDRED

I could be pregnant. I'm feeling a little nauseous right now.

LYNETTE

Let me tell you something. In my heyday I had the men lined up. Couldn't get away from 'em. But my eyes were set on just one. He never showed me the time of day. So, I found out what he was into and that's who I became. We fell in love, started a life together, but eventually the truth came out.

MILDRED

But that's only one relationship. You eventually found your husband and got married.

LYNETTE

Honey, that was my husband and we did get married. But my lies were the basis of our relationship which gradually became the precursor to my divorce.

A ball rolls up to them. An African American man jogs over and grabs it with a smile. They check him out.

He smiles and runs off. Lynette refocuses.

LYNETTE (CONT'D)

If lies are the foundation to your relationship, sooner or later it's going to give way and collapse.

Mildred sits back, apprehensive.

BEGIN MONTAGE: EXT. CITY - DAY

Larry and Larkin ride scooters through the city.

EXT. FOOD TRUCK - DAY

Larry and Larkin grab food. Sit in the park. Laugh.

EXT. ECHO PARK LAKE - DAY

Sonny, Alan, Landon and Larry are among a small crew filming.

INT. JUICE SHOP - DAY

Robbie and Larkin are working. They seem distant. Larry comes in. She laughs. Robbie watches, concerned.

EXT./ INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Larry and Larkin pull up on scooters. Browse through clothes.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mildred and Sonny lay in bed. She stares at the wall. He faces away, texting Rene.

INT. PSYCHIC HOUSE - NIGHT

Larry and Larkin get their palms read. They make fun of it.

END MONTAGE: INT. JUICE SHOP - DAY

Robbie's behind the counter, hanging Halloween decorations. Happy couples litter the lobby. Roy comes up to her.

ROY

Store will be operational early
November. You and Larkin still
interested?

He crosses his fingers.

ROY (CONT'D)

(soto)
No. No. No.

ROBBIE

We still want to go.

He looks bummed and hands her two forms.

ROY

Here are the transfer forms. Can't
change your mind, can I?

Robbie looks to the couples, then back to him.

ROBBIE

Nothing's going to change our mind.

He smiles and heads away.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Larry and Larkin work a puzzle and sip whisky.

LARKIN

I can't remember the last time I
did a puzzle.

LARRY

My dad and I used to do puzzles
when I was a kid.

LARKIN

I'm sure whisky wasn't involved.

LARRY

Maybe there should've been.

LARKIN

Ya'll aren't close now?

He shakes his head.

LARRY

We rarely saw each other after my
parent's split. He's got a new
family now and a monthly deposit's
the closest relationship we have.

LARKIN

Parent's can be assholes.

LARRY

You don't get along with your
parent's either?

LARKIN

Don't think they'd support my
lifestyle.

LARRY

What? You not having a boyfriend?

This tilts the mood.

LARRY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I didn't mean...

LARKIN
Little more complicated than that.

LARRY
This puzzle's complicated. Got to be more specific.

LARKIN
A puzzle just takes time.

LARRY
Well, you have to put in the time if it's going to work.

She stares at him.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Maybe I should have worked harder for Phelia.

LARKIN
Maybe ya'll just weren't meant to be together.

LARRY
Or maybe I was too complacent.

LARKIN
How'd ya'll get together?

LARRY
Movies. Ironically.

LARKIN
Why's that ironic?

LARRY
She thought it was cool to date an actor. Ultimately, it was the fact that I wasn't a working actor that led her putting my heart in a blender and watching it spin around to a beautiful oblivion.

Larkin SINGS the lyrics with him.

LARKIN
You're a myriad of talent from what I recall.

(MORE)

LARKIN (CONT'D)

Don't let some shallow broad sway you from your dreams. I'm trying to figure out how ya'll dated so long.

LARRY

You know when you've been in one bad relationship after another then you finally find one that works?

Larkin really gets hit by this.

LARKIN

I do.

She leans in. This could be a moment, unbeknownst to him.

LARRY

Think that's all it was. We worked until we finally didn't anymore. She wanted someone with a stable career. Not someone quoting pop-culture, fixated on becoming a Matt Damon or John August.

LARKIN

I love Big Fish!

LARRY

Me too!
(beat)
Favorite movies on three. Ready, set, go.

LARKIN

Steel Magnolias. Mystic
Pizza. Pretty Woman.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Good will Hunting. Dead Poets
Society. Point break

LARRY (CONT'D)

1991 Point Break. Not the remake.

LARKIN

Never saw either.

LARRY

That's because you were consumed with all of Julia Roberts' movies.

LARKIN

Shut up.

LARRY

Steele Magnolias was my favorite movie at one point. Swear to God.

LARKIN

You just became my new favorite person.

LARRY

I like romantic movies on occasion. When they're actually good.

LARKIN

Name one you've seen recently.

He thinks for a moment.

LARRY

Okay. This one kind of flew under the radar. Celeste and Jesse...

LARKIN

...Forever! I loved that movie!

LARRY

They were such a great couple. Bummer they didn't end up together.

She puts a puzzle piece in. It's a little awkward.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Can't believe we actually finished.

LARKIN

Put the final piece in.

LARRY

I don't have it. Must have fallen on the floor.

They lean over and crawl around, searching. They come face to face. Another opportunity. They stare into each other's eyes.

Landon comes into the house. Moment dismissed.

LONDON

What's up guys?

LARRY

Hey. What are you up too?

LONDON

Had to get some new batteries for my boom.

He holds up a bag.

LANDON (CONT'D)
I'll leave you two.

He smiles and heads out. Larry and Larkin smile.

LARRY
Re-shoots.

LARKIN
Gotcha. I'm gonna use the bathroom.

LARRY
Okay.

INT. LANDON'S ROOM - SAME

Landon places new batteries into his boom mic. He puts his headphones on. The front door is super loud as it opens.

ALAN V.O.
Hey, everybody.

Landon jerks the headphones off and sets the mic aside. He exits his room.

LIVING ROOM

Alan stands in front of Larry with CELIA, 20's.

ALAN
This is Larry. He wrote the script.
Tries his hand at acting.

Alan LAUGHS, sarcastically. Larry waves. Landon comes out, rubbing his ear.

LANDON
Thanks for the announcement. Nearly
blew out my eardrum.

Alan looks over.

ALAN
That stiff breeze is Landon. He
does sound.

Landon waves.

ALAN (CONT'D)
This is Celia. We met on set
earlier. We're going to run lines.

LANDON
Try to keep it down.

He wonders out. Alan throws a script down on the puzzle.

LARRY
What's this?

ALAN
I stuck my neck out on the line for
you. Got you an audition.

Larry flips through it.

LARRY
Don't think I'm much of an actor.

ALAN
Not going to know if you don't try.

He winks to Larry as he and Celia leave the room.

ALAN O.S.
Don't fuck it up or it's my ass.

Larry flips through the script as Larkin comes back in.

LARKIN
You got an audition?

LARRY
Yeah. Hopefully I don't fuck it up.

LARKIN
First step - get inside the room.

LARRY
As the late George Burns said,
acting's all about honesty. If you
can fake that, you've got it made.

He LAUGHS. Larkin's uncomfortable.

LARKIN
I should probably go. Didn't
realize how late it was.

She heads for the door. Larry follows.

LARRY
We haven't found the missing piece.

LARKIN
I can't tonight. Call you tomorrow.

She gives him a quick hug and darts out of the front door.

INT. SONNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sonny's on the couch watching a horror flick. He texts on his phone with a smile. Mildred comes in the room.

MILDRED
What are you watching?

SONNY
The Omen.

MILDRED
I liked Julia Stiles' better.

SONNY
You're kidding, right? It's
pointless and distasteful liken to
Gus Van Sant's remake of Psycho.

MILDRED
It's just a movie, Sonny.

She starts to head away. He gets up and follows her into the -

KITCHEN

She eats pickles straight from the jar.

SONNY
They both abridge future
generations from appreciating the
encapsulated classics like this,
The Excorcist and Rosemary's Baby.

She sets the jar aside and finds a pot.

SONNY (CONT'D)
All of which have led me to
entertain the idea - you may be
birthing the Antichrist.

He does jarring gestures to scare her.

MILDRED
Don't say that.

SONNY
I'm kidding. Our kid's going to be
a saint.

She fills the pot with water from the faucet.

MILDRED

I need to tell you something.

She starts to fidget. He comes near.

SONNY

What is it?

MILDRED

Are you hungry? I'll make dinner.

She puts the pot on the stove and lights the burner.

SONNY

Milly. You've been acting strange
all week. What's going on?

She steadies herself.

MILDRED

(whispering)

I'm not pregnant.

SONNY

What? I can't hear you.

MILDRED

(whispering)

I'm not pregnant.

SONNY

Milly! Just say it!

MILDRED

I'm not pregnant!

Sonny takes a step back. Catches his breath.

MILLY

Please say something.

SONNY

You lied to me?

MILDRED

A white lie. Remember how we used
to be - in love and spontaneous?
Now it feels like we're just
together for the sake of being
together. Evalynn, Jackie and
Lynnette said I should do something
to bring back the spark.

SONNY

Who? Who? And who?

MILDRED

The girls from my meet up.

SONNY

Wait - what? Milly, what the hell
are you talking about?

She turns the burner off and wonders away from the stove.

MILDRED

You never talk about marriage.
Statistically, if a couple's
relationship lasts longer than
three years and they aren't married
they likely never will.

SONNY

Where did you hear that?

MILDRED

From the meet up.

SONNY

Why are you going to a meet up?

MILDRED

I feel like I'm not enough for you
anymore and maybe that's why you
don't want to get married.

SONNY

Instead of just talking to me, you
thought lying would prompt me to
want to marry you?

She starts crying.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Why are you so fixated on this?
We're together. Why can't you just
be happy with that?

MILDRED

Sonny...

SONNY

I never said you weren't enough. I
never stopped loving you - and I
never lied to you.

He grabs his jacket. Looks at her one last time, then leaves. She falls to the floor, SOBBING.

INT. ROBBIE & LARKIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Larkin comes in. There's a plate of food next to a lit candle. Robbie meets her in the kitchen.

ROBBIE
I made you a plate hours ago.

Larkin kisses her.

LARKIN
I'm sorry. I was out with Larry and lost track of time.

Robbie looks at her, inspecting.

ROBBIE
Larkin, should I be worried?

LARKIN
What do you mean?

ROBBIE
You know what I mean.

LARKIN
We're passed this, Robbie. We're just friends.

ROBBIE
He knows you're gay right?

LARKIN
Of course...

Larkin kisses her again. Robbie sticks the plate into the microwave. Larkin takes off her coat and sits at the table.

She notices the transfer forms. One signed. The other blank.

LARKIN (CONT'D)
What's this?

ROBBIE
Transfer forms for Seattle.

LARKIN
I thought we still had some time.

Robbie sets the plate in front of her.

ROBBIE

This is what we both wanted. And you've already told your parents, didn't you?

Larkin nods as she browses the forms. Robbie sits beside her.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

We both still want this, right?

LARKIN

Yes.

ROBBIE

That's convincing. When you first purposed this idea it was you and me. Remember? Forget all the bull shit and start over. Together. Tell me I'm crazy, are you pulling away?

Larkin grabs her hand.

LARKIN

I'm not pulling away. It's still you and me. But moving may not be the best idea. Not right now.

Robbie sits back, deflated.

ROBBIE

Does your not wanting to move have anything to do with Larry?

LARKIN

Don't be silly. I can still have friends.

ROBBIE

As long as that's all it is.

LARKIN

It is...

Robbie gives her a sensual kiss. They both enjoy it.

ROBBIE

We can wait. If you want. Give you time to tell your friend goodbye.

She heads out of the room. Larkin watches her.

LARKIN

I've got a sneaky suspicion he's gay and not ready to face it.

ROBBIE
Everyone faces it eventually.

LARKIN
What?

ROBBIE
The truth.

Larkin stares, blankly.

EXT. BAR PATIO - NIGHT

Sonny and Rene are at a table. Sonny's drunk. He takes shot after shot. Slurps his drinks down.

SONNY
She told me she was pregnant.

He slams a shot. Rene's entertained.

SONNY (CONT'D)
Her relational group put her up to it. All because I haven't asked her to marry me.

He finishes his drink. Rene takes a small sip. He BELCHES.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mildred cries on the couch. A reality show plays on the tv.

EXT. BAR - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Rene aids Sonny to her car. He's wasted.

SONNY
Maybe I thought about never being with another woman.
(hick-ups)
But it was never serious because I love her. And she loves me. That's all that matters, right?

RENE
What's your address?

EXT./INT. RENE'S HOUSE - SAME

Rene pulls into the driveway. She aids Sonny out of the car.

SONNY

We've only been with each other.
And that's okay. She's the only one
I want. I want to marry her.

LIVING ROOM

Rene comes in with a glass of water. She hands it to Sonny and sits beside him. He's really drunk.

SONNY

I love her. So much. I shouldn't be
here. I need to go home.

RENE

Maybe you should lay down.

He looks at her, then pukes wildly on himself.

INT. RENE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

The room is bright. Sonny wakes up in bed. Alone. He looks around confused. He lifts the sheets. His eyes bulge.

He lays back, rubbing his head.

SONNY

What have I done?

Rene stands in the threshold, clothed and sipping coffee.

RENE

Morning.

Sonny jolts up. She comes into the room.

SONNY

Oh, god. I took advantage of you.
I'm so ashamed of myself.

He sits on the edge of the bed.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Where are my clothes?

RENE

In the dryer.

SONNY

In the dryer? Why?

He tries to think.

SONNY (CONT'D)

I didn't...

He gestures with his hands.

RENE

Just a little.

She gestures also and smiles.

SONNY

God. I'm so embarrassed. So we didn't...

She shakes her head.

RENE

Maybe take it easy on the vodka cranberries.

He jumps out of bed, excited.

SONNY

I have to go tell her that I love her. I have to ask her to marry me.

RENE

May wanna put on some pants first.

EXT. BJ'S RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Rene pulls up beside Sonny's car. He opens the door.

SONNY

I'm really sorry about last night.

RENE

We've all been there.

SONNY

I never want to go there again.

He gets out. Shuts the door.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Thank you for taking care of me.

She smiles.

RENE

Call me when the film's finished.

SONNY

Only then.

They smile. He heads away.

RENE

Hey, Sonny.

He faces her.

RENE (CONT'D)

She's a lucky girl.

EXT. FARMERS MARKET - DAY

The place is happening. People scatter the lot. Stopping at vendors buying things. Larkin and Larry approach a tent.

LARRY

This is where you shop? Who eats this stuff?

LARKIN

It's healthy.

LARRY

But not filling. My parent's used to make me eat this shit. Don't know how you do it volitionally.

They walk on.

LARRY (CONT'D)

You know what I hate most about shopping?

(beat)

Toilet paper. I know everyone uses it. I'm just embarrassed buying it.

LARKIN

Know of another way of wiping your ass the rest of us are unaware of?

LARRY

Not yet. But when I do I'll let you know. All that paper for shit. Such a waste. No pun intended.

LARKIN

That's the most environmentally conscious thing I've heard you say yet.

LARRY

I care about the environment. To some extent. I mean, how else are you going to get your vegetables?

They stop at a vendor. She loads a sack. He looks around.

LARKIN

I thought more on what we talked about the other night.

LARRY

What, Eve Six?

LARKIN

No. Begrudgingly. About your dad.

LARRY

What about him?

LARKIN

I think you should call him. Tell him how you feel.

LARRY

Tried that. All I am to him is a monthly expense.

They stop. She faces him.

LARKIN

I don't believe that. You should tell him how you feel. If he's still not receptive, to hell with him. At least he heard you say it.

Larry thinks for a few moments.

LARRY

How about this? I'll call my dad, but you have to tell your parent's whatever the hell it is you're so afraid of telling them. Deal?

Larkin's hesitant.

LARRY (CONT'D)

That's the only way.

LARKIN

If you call your dad, I'll talk to my parents.

She holds out her pinky. He hooks his around hers. They go.

LARRY

What are you getting me into?

LARKIN

A healthier lifestyle, hopefully.

They stop at another tent. She grabs some vegetables.

LARKIN (CONT'D)

We got to get you eating better.

LARRY

I'll eat better, but I get to cook it for you.

LARKIN

You make me dinner?

LARRY

You think just because I'm a guy I can't cook? That's widely sexist.

LARKIN

I've seen the things you eat. No thanks.

Larry grabs some vegetables.

LARRY

Come on. Let me make you dinner. You pick it - I'll cook it.

He grabs a few other various vegetables.

LARRY (CONT'D)

We'll do a little of this. Some of that. I don't know what this is.

He puts a vegetable back.

LARRY (CONT'D)

What do you say?

LARKIN

You think you can swing a swanky, healthy, emphasis on healthy, dinner - I'd love to see it.

LARRY

How about tonight - your place?

LARKIN

My place?

LARRY

Yeah. Unless you and Robbie have something planned already.

She thinks for a moment.

LARKIN

Robbie'll be at the store all night. Let's do it.

He smiles and starts loading a sack of vegetables.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - DAY

Sonny burst through the door with a SCREAM to scare her.

SONNY

Milly, you home?

He runs around the house. It's empty. He stops and thinks. He finds her laptop on the couch.

He grabs it and sees an invitation for a relations meet up at moon juice. He slams it shut and runs out of the house.

INT. JUICE SHOP - DAY

The shop is busy. Evalynn, Lynette and Jackie console Mildred as she CRIES.

EVALYNN

It's okay, sweetheart.

JACKIE

So, you had a fight. You told a lie, but at least you had good intentions.

MILDRED

My good intentions may have ruined the only good thing in my life.

LYNETTE

Hey, come on now. If he's too blind to see what he's got in front of him - it's his loss.

EVALYNN

It's not over yet, baby.

Sonny comes through the doors. Robbie's at the counter.

ROBBIE

Welcome to moon juice.

Sonny looks around. Spots Mildred in the back. Comes over.

MILDRED

We were fine until I kept pressing him to get married.

Lynette hands her a tissue. She blows her nose.

LYNETTE

It's natural for a woman to want marriage and a family.

MILDRED

We already were a family. We had a great relationship. So many good times. He criticizes the movies I like. I think he thinks I hate it, but I love it. Because that's what he's passionate about. I love how he scares me randomly, then wraps his arms around me. The way he calls me Milly and kisses my forehead. Or the times we just lay together in total silence.

Sonny stands behind them. The women notice.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

I let my insecurities get in the way of the best thing in my life. Title or no title - it doesn't matter because I already had the relationship that I wanted. Now I'm not sure if he still loves me or if I'll ever be good enough again.

Mildred notices the women staring behind her.

SONNY

You were always good enough.

She faces him.

SONNY (CONT'D)

I don't want to talk about marriage because it scares me. That I won't be good enough. You're the only girl I've ever wanted. Sure I wonder what it may be like apart, but then I realize I wouldn't know what to do. I only know you.

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

I only know us. I love the way you eat pickles straight from the jar and how you wear my clothes when you watch reality tv. The way you pull me close in bed at night. The way you grab my face when you kiss me. That's all I want to know. I want to make you happy because, Milly, you make me happy and I couldn't do this life without you.

He bends down on one knee. The woman gape. Milly's a mess.

SONNY (CONT'D)

I should've done this a long time ago. I let fear guide me instead the one emotion I know the most. I love you Mildred. Will you be my wife? Will you marry me?

Milly jumps up and hugs him so tight. The lobby of patrons watch the scene. She grabs his face and kisses him.

The women and the lobby APPLAUD. Robbie watches from the counter. Sonny puts a ring on Mildred's finger.

MILDRED

I can't wait to spend the rest of our lives together and make so many more good times.

SONNY

You were always my best time.

He kisses her. It's a beautiful moment.

INT. LARKIN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Steaming pots boil on the stove. Vegetables and food strewn across the counter. Larry and Larkin dance and cook.

LARRY

Try this.

He spoon-feeds her a bite of food. She enjoys it.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Vegan or not - this guy can cook.

LARKIN

So you can saute' vegetables. I'm mildly impressed.

LARRY

You haven't tasted anything yet.

He ladle's some sauce from a pot. Some drips onto his shirt as he wields it over for her to taste.

LARKIN

Shit. Sorry.

LARRY

There goes one of my three shirts.

He LAUGHS.

LARKIN

Wait here.

She runs into the other room. Larry stands, contemplative.

LARRY

How's the sauce?

LARKIN O.S

I like.

(beat)

Take your shirt off.

Intrigued, he does as he's instructed. He slowly starts unbuttoning his shirt. Larkin comes in with a bag.

LARRY

What's this?

She sets the bag on the counter and helps him unbutton his shirt, lasciviously. They're getting closer.

He lifts his arms out of his shirt. She tosses it aside and pulls out a nice button down shirt.

LARKIN

Something to wear for your audition.

He slides it on. They button it together.

LARRY

Larkin, this is great.

The chemistry's palpable. The moment's interrupted by her PHONE ringing. She looks at it, then to him.

LARKIN

Should we?

He smiles. She answers. They SCAM THE CALLER and LAUGH hysterically as Robbie comes through the door.

She drops a bag of groceries, startling them. They go silent.

ROBBIE
What's going on?

Larry and Larkin try to be nonchalant. Robbie comes closer. Bouquet of flowers in her hand.

LARRY
Apparently it was the IRS...

Robbie's uninterested.

LARKIN
Larry wanted to try his hand at cooking. Prove men are just as fit to be in the kitchen as women. I thought you were working tonight?

Robbie comes into the kitchen. Larkin steps away from Larry.

ROBBIE
Usually unbutton your shirt to cook, Larry?

LARRY
I spilled some sauce - I was going to clean...

LARKIN
It's not what you think, Robbie.

Larry looks at her, then to Robbie.

ROBBIE
Do you really think I'm that naive?

LARKIN
We're just making an innocent dinner.

Robbie's on the verge of tears.

LARRY
Maybe I should go.

LARKIN
No. You don't have to leave.

LARRY

I don't want to get in between
roommates.

Robbie shoots Larkin a dagger.

ROBBIE

Roommates?

Larry edges away.

LARRY

I'll call you later.

He shoots out of the house.

ROBBIE

He doesn't know about us, does he?

LARKIN

He's just a friend. You're blowing
this out of proportion.

ROBBIE

Out of proportion? Friends don't
make romantic dinners!

LARKIN

We used to. That's who we were. And
now we're - this.

ROBBIE

This? What do you mean this? I
thought you were happy.

LARKIN

I was. I am. Everything happened so
fast. It's just a little confusing.

ROBBIE

Confusing? You didn't just walk in
on your girlfriend about to cheat
on you with a half naked guy.

She throws the bouquet at the wall. Pedals everywhere.

LARKIN

Nothing happened!

ROBBIE

Maybe I should have waited five
more minutes.

Larkin's silent.

LARKIN

You want us to move to Seattle. Play some pseudo fucking family and just forget I've ever been with guys. I can't do that, Robbie. This is new to me, remember? I miss having my best friend to talk to.

ROBBIE

I am your best friend! I remember deciding together to be in a relationship. You're heart trampled on so many times - I swore I'd never do that to you and now here you are doing it to me.

Robbie CRIES. Larkin stands back, unsure.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Do you want to be with me or not?

Long silence.

LARKIN

Maybe things moved a little fast.

ROBBIE

Fast as in us living together? Being in this relationship? Or deciding to move to Seattle? Which is it, Larkin?

LARKIN

We went from zero to a hundred in a short stint of time. I just need a little space to process everything.

ROBBIE

You need a little space? Okay, fine. Get the hell out.

Larkin's taken aback.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

I won't take up any more of your space. You can have all the space you need.

LARKIN

Robbie...

ROBBIE

Go!

Larkin doesn't move.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Get out! Leave - go!

Larkin scurries out of the house. Robbie careens over the table in a SOB.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Larry slogs into the house. He leans up against the door. RUMMAGING from the kitchen. He looks over.

Alan comes around the corner with two plates of food. Naked.

LARRY
What are you doing?

ALAN
Getting something to eat.

LARRY
Why are you naked?

ALAN
No one was home. Celia's here.

LARRY
Landon's car's out front.

Alan shakes his head.

ALAN
Perv. Aren't you supposed to be with Larkin?

LARRY
Didn't really go as planned.

ALAN
Sorry, bro.
beat)
Audition tomorrow, huh? Excited?

Larry sighs.

LARRY
I don't know why you guys think I'm going to be this great actor.

ALAN
(joking)
I never said great, okay?

LARRY

I'm not sure what I'm good at.

ALAN

Why don't you stick to writing? The film was pretty good.

Larry considers.

LARRY

Can I ask you something?

ALAN

Yeah, but make it quick.

LARRY

Are you happy?

He thinks.

ALAN

You know what makes me happy? That time between action and cut. In those moments I can really lose myself and totally find myself all at the same time. To me, that's happiness.

LARRY

What about a relationship?

ALAN

Everyone needs to stop obsessing over love and relationships.

LARRY

You think so?

ALAN

I really do. If you love yourself, be a good person - and stop thinking about it so hard - everything just sort of happens.

Larry thinks.

LARRY

Celia again. Some record for you.

Alan shrugs.

ALAN

You'll find what makes you happy.

He leaves the room.

LANDON'S ROOM

Landon's at his computer vigorously masturbating with headphones on. Larry burst through the door.

LANDON
What the fuck! Knock much?

Larry jumps back, shielding his face away.

LARRY
I didn't see anything. I'm sorry.

Landon closes the door. Larry leans against the wall.

LANDON O.S.
What are you doing? I thought you weren't home.

LARRY
I just got here. Was seeing what you're up too. Wish I hadn't.

LANDON O.S.
Hey, I have something I think you should hear.

LARRY
I don't want to hear your porn.

Larry opens the door and stands in the threshold. Landon's behind his computer.

LANDON
I was going through clips and I found this.

Landon unplugs his headphones and turns up the volume. ON COMPUTER - DOOR shuts. TOILET SEAT slams. PHONE rings.

LARKIN V.O.
He babe. Just at a friends house. I didn't realize how late it is. No, I'll be home soon. Love you, too.

Larry's heart sinks. Landon turns the volume off.

LANDON
I left the mic on when I changed the batteries the other day.

LARRY
That could be nothing.

LANDON
Sorry, man. I think she has a
boyfriend.

He's speechless. DOORBELL chimes.

LIVING ROOM

Larry ambles over to the door and opens it. He's surprised to see Larkin. They lock eyes, then she pounces on him.

They kiss, finally, moving further into the room. It's ferocious, but full of passion. They knock things over.

She unbuttons his shirt. His hands explore her body. In between kisses -

LARRY
Is everything. Okay with --

She takes his shirt off and throws it aside. They continue to kiss. She steadies herself.

LARKIN
Don't talk.

She continues to kiss him.

LARRY
I don't wanna cause any problems.

She slowly moves away.

LARKIN
I need to tell you something.

LARRY
Fuck. Landon was right. You have a
boyfriend, don't you?

LARKIN
I don't have a boyfriend.

LARRY
Oh, thank God.

LARKIN
I'm gay.

He's taken aback.

LARRY
Wait - What?

LARKIN
Robbie's my girlfriend.

Larry backs away.

LARRY
You're telling me that raving bitch
back there's your girlfriend?

LARKIN
That bitch is my best friend.

Larry paces away from her in thought.

LARRY
What the fuck, Larkin? Of all the
times we've been together it didn't
occur to you to mention you're a
lesbian?

Larkin CRIES.

LARKIN
I wanted to tell you, but we were
always having such a good time - I
didn't want it to end.

LARRY
What to end? Our friendship or this
clandestine relationship we've been
having?

LARKIN
We met at a pivotal point in my
life. Yeah, maybe I wasn't entirely
truthful with you, but it doesn't
change the way I feel.

LARRY
Maybe? Don't you realize someone
else's emotions are involved? Take
some fucking responsibility. How
could you do this?

Larkin comes near him.

LARKIN
It wasn't planned. Okay? Dating
guys wasn't something I was ever
good at.

(MORE)

LARKIN (CONT'D)

As you said, after being hurt time and time again, a relationship between Robbie and I just happened and it worked. Then I met you and all my emotions went for a fucking ride.

LARRY

How am I suppose to feel about this? You were keeping a secret life. You played me, Larkin. You fucking used me to give your broken heart some justification.

LARKIN

It wasn't like that. I swear to God. It was never like that.

Larry backs away. About to cry.

LARRY

How can I believe you? Our entire relationship's been one big lie.

LARKIN

But it felt right.

She tries to touch him.

LARKIN (CONT'D)

It still does.

He opens the door.

LARRY

Not anymore.

She reluctantly steps outside. Turns back, facing him.

LARKIN

So that's it? Show me out. No fighting - just throw us away.

He looks at her.

LARRY

There never was an us.

He slams the door. Larkin burst into tears and runs away.

LIVING ROOM

Larry leans against the door. Landon, Alan and Celia run in. They stare at each other, empathetically. Larry slogs out.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sonny and Mildred make love.

INT. ROBBIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Robbie CRIES with a hand-drawn sign of a heart with, "Best friends forever and her and Larkin's names" written in it.

EXT. MUHOLLAND DRIVE - NIGHT

Larkin gets out of her car with a wine bottle. She looks out over the city. She sips the wine and CRIES.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - LARRY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Larry's in bed, tossing and turning.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - LARRY'S ROOM - DAY

An ALARM blasts. Larry springs up and clicks it off.

LARRY

Oh, no!

He jolts out of bed.

BATHROOM

Larry showers. He brushes his teeth and scrubs his body.

LIVING ROOM

He finds his keys and darts out of the house.

EXT. MUHOLLAND DRIVE - DAY

Larkin's asleep in her car. Her PHONE rings. She answers.

LARKIN

Robbie? Oh shit. Be right there.

INT. LARRY'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Larry's stuck in traffic. He punches the steering wheel.

LARRY

Great!

He grabs his phone and dials.

INTERCUT BETWEEN: EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

A football practice is in full swing. Mike comes out of the bathroom. His PHONE rings. He answers.

MIKE

This is Mike.

LARRY

Dad, it's Larry.

MIKE

Hey, Larry. I meant to save your new number. Sorry.

LARRY

It's not a new number.

Mike walks along the fence toward the stands.

MIKE

How you doing? Everything alright?

LARRY

I tried calling you back. You never returned any of my calls.

MIKE

I know, son. I'm sorry about that.

LARRY

What's all that noise?

MIKE

I'm at a ball game. Now's not such a good time. Can I call you back?

Mike walks up to the stands and hands Rachael a bottle of water. She WHISTLES. The phone emits STATIC.

LARRY

You always say that.

MIKE

Listen, son. You there?

He checks his phone.

LARRY

If you don't want to talk to me -
stop answering. Stop giving me
money. Live your stupid life with
your stupid family. Forget I exist.

Larry checks his phone. It's dead. He throws it in the seat.

The stadium CHEERS. Mike CLAPS and gives a phony smile.

RACHAEL

That was him, wasn't it?

He looks at her.

RACHAEL (CONT'D)

Honey, I thought we discussed this.

MIKE

I know. I'm gonna take care of it.

She touches his leg. CHEERS.

RACHAEL

Go Alex!

Mike tries to be sincere and CLAPS. A PARENT leans over.

PARENT

That your boy?

MIKE

Yes, sir. Which one's yours?

PARENT

Number twelve.

MIKE

Boy can catch.

PARENT

Spend every moment we get
practicing.

(pats Mike's shoulder)

Gotta cherish these times, am I
right? Before we know it, they'll
be grown and we'll be lucky just to
get a hello from time to time.

The man smiles and CHEERS. Mike deliberates.

INT. CASTING OFFICE - DAY

Larry runs in past empty chairs. He checks his phone. He KNOCKS on the open door and stands in the threshold.

LARRY

Excuse me. I'm Larry Rivers. I had an audition. I'm a little late.

Two casting directors pack their things.

MALES CASTING DIRECTOR

Auditions are closed.

Larry's heart sinks. He comes into the room.

LARRY

I know. I'm really sorry. Would you please make an exception?

The casting directors look at each other, then to him. Larry smiles and stands at the front.

FEMALE CASTING DIRECTOR

We got your name. Just begin when you're ready.

Larry nods. Steadies himself. Looks at the script then tries to get the words out. Nothing. He fidgets. Tunnel vision.

The casting directors look at each other, then to him.

MALE CASTING DIRECTOR

If you don't mind, it's been kind of a long morning.

He takes a breath. He pulls up the script. He looks at them.

LARRY

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

He runs out of the room.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Larry gets into his car. He sits in silence for a moment. He breaks down in a SOB.

INT. JUICE SHOP - DAY

The shop's got some business. Larkin slouches over the counter. Roy stocks the fridges.

LARKIN
I messed up, Roy.

ROY
Yeah. You did. That girl loves you,
you know?

She sighs.

LARKIN
Why does life have to be so
complicated?
(beat)
Tell me what to do.

ROY
I can't tell you what to do.

LARKIN
How did you know this is what you
wanted to do the rest of your life?

ROY
Guess it was when Sam left me.

LARKIN
Was it difficult when you came out
to your parents?

Roy finishes and comes over to the counter.

ROY
Came out? What do you mean?

LARKIN
You know - about being gay.

He looks confused.

ROY
I'm not gay.

LARKIN
What do you mean you're not gay?
You're flamboyant and sensitive. I
thought Sam --

ROY
Samantha was my wife.

LARKIN

I'm in total shock right now.

ROY

She's the one who wanted to own a business, I never did.

LARKIN

She divorced you because you didn't want to own a business?

ROY

No. She divorced me because I was unfaithful.

LARKIN

Ah - hard forgiving infidelity. Ever think about rectifying the relationship?

ROY

I did for a long time. But never got around to it.

LARKIN

Why not?

ROY

I was always too afraid.

LARKIN

Never too late...

ROY

She died. Several years ago.

LARKIN

Shit, Roy. You've never mentioned this before.

ROY

It's not something I'm proud of.

He hands Larkin a picture of him and Samantha.

LARKIN

She's beautiful. Bet she would've forgiven you if you would've asked.

She hands him back the picture. He leans on the counter.

ROY

I'm sure Robbie will forgive you - if you just ask.

Larkin steps away.

ROY (CONT'D)

Or maybe you two are only meant to be friends.

LARKIN

Either way, someone gets hurt. I'm between a rock and a hard place. I've already failed my parents. I don't want to fail her too.

ROY

Fear of failure only tends to make us fail. I never got to apologize to Sam. I opened this place to honor her. Look at it now.

LARKIN

Yeah. And now you're opening a second place.

ROY

And losing my two best employees.

Larkin sighs. He hugs her.

ROY (CONT'D)

The things we keep in are sometimes the things that keep us apart. Think on it. Tell 'em how you feel. Don't make the same mistake I did.

She smiles. He heads away.

EXT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Sonny, Larry and Landon sit around the fire pit.

LANDON

Wait, is she still pregnant?

SONNY

No. Long story. I don't know why I was fighting it. I love her. I don't need gratification from anyone else.

LARRY

Congratulations. I'm happy for you.

SONNY

Thanks, guys. And I'm sorry about you and Larkin.

LARRY

I'm getting used to bad news.

Alan runs out back.

ALAN

Speaking of bad news, what the fuck happened at the audition?

SONNY

Alan, cut him some slack. He's going through a hard time.

LARRY

I'm not like you guys. I'm no actor. I'm not a filmmaker. I can't even keep relationships together.

ALAN

I told you, stop trying so hard and it'll just happen.

LANDON

Says the guy who brings home a different woman each night. Who opts to take shitty roles in shitty movies no one will ever see.

ALAN

At least I'm talented enough to be in front of the camera, Lurch. You just do sound. When's the last time you had sex or have you ever?

LANDON

Fuck off!

LARRY

Not everyone needs to have sex with different women to feel important.

ALAN

Just lesbians, though.

SONNY

Stop! Why is everyone fighting? We're all friends here.

Everyone settles. Sonny's agitated.

SONNY (CONT'D)

We made a film. Remember? We all had our roles. Larry you wrote it. Landon you did the sound. Alan, you were the lead. The premier's in two weeks. That's what we should be hyped about. Not who fucks who or who does what. What we do in our private lives is no one's business unless we choose to share it. I came over here to tell my best friends I'm getting married. And you're all going to be there. Fuck!

The guys are silent. Sonny looks them over.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Sorry for yelling. Now, I've got a wedding to plan.

He leaves. Alan, Larry and Landon sit, stunned.

ALAN

I'm sorry. I love you guys.

LANDON

I'm sorry, too.

Alan and Landon hug.

LARRY

Yeah, me too.

All three group hug. They come out of it.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about the audition.

ALAN

Maybe acting's not your gig. But you'll know what is once you do it.

He pats Larry's shoulders.

ALAN (CONT'D)

I'm meeting Celia. I'll catch you guys later.

He leaves. Larry and Landon sit in silence for a few moments.

LANDON

You want to know why I do sound?

LARRY
You're tall?

He LAUGHS.

LANDON
There's something beautiful in the
rhythmic sounds of everyday life.
Everything happening and not
happening at once. It's blissful.

LARRY
I've never heard it.

LANDON
We can all hear it when we're
really listening.

LARRY
What's it sound like?

LANDON
Listen.

Landon closes his eyes and tilts his head back. Larry does likewise. The sounds of the CITY become audible.

It's mesmerizing.

EXT. CLIVE & SANDRA'S HOUSE - DAY

SANDRA. 50's, opens the door seeing Larkin. They embrace.

INT. LARRY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Larry stares at his reflection in a mirror. He takes off his shirt Larkin gave him. He holds it, dearly.

INT. CLIVE & SANDRA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Larkin and Sandra are at a table. CLIVE, 50's, sets dinner down in front of them, then joins. Larkin picks at the food.

SANDRA
How's Robbie?

LARKIN
She's good.

SANDRA
You're looking a little thin. Are you getting enough to eat?

CLIVE
You haven't touched your plate.

LARKIN
I'm actually a vegan now.

CLIVE
Vegan? Since when?

She shrugs. Clive munches his food.

CLIVE (CONT'D)
Been awhile since we've seen you.

SANDRA
We'll just give you more of the vegetables then.

She begins to load Larkin's plate with salad.

LARKIN
Mom, it's fine.

SANDRA
You need to eat, honey.

CLIVE
Have some more potatoes.

SANDRA
There's butter in there.

He shrugs and continues eating. Sandra scoops more vegetables on to her plate. Larkin's annoyed.

LARKIN
Stop! I'm fine, okay?

Larkin CRIES. Her parents are dumbstruck.

LARKIN (CONT'D)
I don't need you worrying about me eating. I'm an adult now.

SANDRA
Why are you getting emotional?

LARKIN
I'm just a big disappointment.

SANDRA
Why would you say that?

LARKIN
I'm not married. I don't have kids.
I don't know what I'm doing with my
life.

SANDRA
That doesn't mean you're a
disappointment.

She hugs Larkin.

LARKIN
I came over here to tell you Robbie
and I are moving to Seattle.
(takes a breath)
And that we're together.

SANDRA
Together, together?

Larkin nods.

SANDRA (CONT'D)
This why you've been avoiding us?

LARKIN
Are you mad?

SANDRA
Why would we be mad?

LARKIN
Probably not how you imagined your
daughter.

CLIVE
How's that?

LARKIN
I'm a thirty year old gay barista.

SANDRA
You're exactly how we imagined you.

Clive takes a bite.

CLIVE
Are you happy?

Larkin sits back.

LARKIN

I don't know anymore. We're kind of in a fight right now.

SANDRA

Do you love her?

LARKIN

I thought I did. I think I'm falling for someone else. A guy. I don't want to hurt her.

SANDRA

Honey, happiness comes in the most unexpected ways sometimes. You have to give the heart what the heart desires. Sometimes that hurts.

LARKIN

I thought I was done hurting. I was finally starting to feel happy.

CLIVE

It may feel like it takes a lifetime to find what makes us happy, but you can't force it. You'll only be lying to yourself.

Sandra hugs her.

SANDRA

We're so proud of you. Gay, straight, kids, no kids. Wherever you are, whatever you do; You're always our baby. And we love you.

LARKIN

Thanks, mom.

Clive hugs them.

LARKIN'S ROOM

Sandra opens the door. Her and Larkin hug. Sandra leaves. Larkin sits on the bed. Looks around the room.

INT. LARRY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Larry makes a hearty dinner. He scrolls through spotify and listens to Tegan and Sara. He really enjoys the music.

INT. ROBBIE & LARKIN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Larkin comes in. Robbie meets her with a big hug. They kiss.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sonny and Mildred plan their wedding. They're so in love.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Larkin and Robbie are on a bench. A jogger is cramping at a fence. Larkin helps. He runs away. She contemplates.

EXT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alan opens a car door. He kisses Celia. She gets in. He watches her drive away.

EXT. FILM SET - DAY

Landon does sound for a shoot. He seems to enjoy it.

INT. ROBBIE & LARKIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Larkin and Robbie are curled on the couch together. Chasing Amy plays on the tv. Larkin laughs and looks over at Robbie.

INT. SONNY & MILDRED'S HOUSE - DAY

They mark the calendar on Halloween for their wedding which is also the day of their film premier. They kiss.

EXT. BURBANK MOUNTAIN - DAY

Larry climbs to the top. He looks out over the city, triumphant and alone.

EXT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mildred, Sonny, Larry, Landon and Alan are all smiles.

INT. ROBBIE & LARKIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Robbie and Larkin pack boxes. Larkin packs a closet. Finds Larry's shirt. Holds it, dearly.

INT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Larry eats cereal. Celeste and Jesse plays in the BG. Larry sits up from the couch and inspects the cereal box.

He moves his foot and finds the puzzle piece. He holds it up.

EXT./INT. JUICE SHOP - NIGHT

Robbie and Larkin are with Roy. He has the forms. He hugs both of them. He walks away. Robbie and Larkin hug.

Larry watches from the street corner. His heart sinks. He turns and gets inside of an -

INT. UBER - NIGHT

He continues to watch Robbie and Larkin as they drive away.

INT./EXT. ROBBIE & LARKIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Robbie and Larkin are both in tears. They hug and look out at the empty house.

STREET

Larkin loads a box into her car. Looks back at the house. Gets in and drives away.

EXT. SANTA BARBARA BEACH - DAY

Dozens of people sit at the edge of the beach in Halloween costumes. Larry has several cereal boxes with knives in them.

Sonny is dressed as Beetlejuice and Mildred as Lidia. They're at the front with a priest.

MILDRED

I do.

PREIST

And do you Sonny take Mildred as your wife?

SONNY

You bet I do.

PREIST

A kiss makes it official.

They smile and kiss. Larry watches, heartsick yet happy. Sonny and Mildred run down the aisle.

EXT. BEACH - DANCE FLOOR - DAY

Everyone dances in their costumes. Alan and Celia are in matching costumes.

Evalynn and Lynette are dressed like an avocado and toast. They talk with Mildred.

LYNETTE

You look so beautiful.

MILDRED

Thank you. Ya'll really helped me these past few weeks.

EVALYNN

I don't want to be seeing you coming to the meetings no more. You're married now. Be happy.

MILDRED

I enjoy hanging out with ya'll.

EVALYNN

You don't want to hang out with a couple of bitter divorcee's.

JACKIE

There's a lot more to life than complaining about failed relationships. I see that now.

She hugs Mildred and sees Landon smoking to the side alone. She walks over. Lynette hugs Mildred.

LYNETTE

Congratulations, girl. You make me feel young again.

Jackie approaches Landon. He's dressed as Gomez from The Adam's Family.

JACKIE

Who you supposed to be?

LANDON

Ever see The Adam's Family?

She steps back.

JACKIE
Who do you think I'm dressed as?

She's Morticia from the movie. He smiles.

LANDON
Where's your date?

JACKIE
Have two.

She points to a table. Two kids eat food, dressed as Pugsley and Wednesday from The Adam's Family.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
And you?

He shrugs. They stare into each other's eyes.

LANDON
I drink, I smoke, I cuss, I fuck.
Take me at face value and you won't
be disappointed.

JACKIE
I'm a middle-aged, divorced single
mother. I've been with the worst.

LANDON
Cara Mia.

JACKIE
Mon Cherie.

He holds out his arm. She takes it as they go to dance.

TABLE

Larry's alone. He chugs wine and stares at the puzzle piece.
Sonny comes over. Larry hugs him.

LARRY
I'm so happy for you. And great
costume. Really.

SONNY
Thank you.

He hugs him again.

SONNY (CONT'D)
Anything?

Larry shakes his head.

LARRY
She made her choice.

Sonny pats his shoulder. Larry smiles.

LARRY (CONT'D)
What are you doing here? Go dance
with your wife!

SONNY
Just had to check on my boy.

Sonny stands, looks to Mildred. They lock eyes.

SONNY (CONT'D)
I'm going to dance with my wife.

Looks back to Larry.

SONNY (CONT'D)
You going to be okay?

LARRY
I'll be fine.

DANCE FLOOR

Sonny and Mildred slow dance. Couples gradually join in.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Alan, Landon and Larry walk along the beach. The reception's
in the distance behind them.

ALAN
I can't believe he went through
with it.

LARRY
They've practically been married
for years. Just finally said I do.

ALAN
Landon, saw you busting a move with
that cougar. Good job.

LANDON
What can I say? Baby got back.

ALAN
Her kids may have a new step-dad.

LANDON
Don't jump the gun.

They stop.

ALAN
Speaking of that. Fella's I'd like to make an announcement. I'm officially a one woman man.

LARRY
You and Celia?

ALAN
That's right.

LANDON
Never thought I'd see the day.

ALAN
She makes me happy.
(turns to Larry)
Sorry this day's not celebratory for all of us.

LARRY
Hey, you know what? It's okay. I'm going to use this time to focus on myself. I'm happy for my friends.
(pulls them close)
Can we hug it out right now?

They all hug tight.

LARRY (CONT'D)
I may not know where I'm heading in life, but I've got some great friends who'll help me get there.

SONNY O.S.
Guys! We're setting sail!

They break the hug.

ALAN
Time to get your sea legs.

They head over to the -

DOCK

Sonny, Mildred and others are in a sailboat. Alan Kisses Celia. Landon picks up Pugsley and sets him inside.

He and Jackie smile and follow suit. Larry lags behind. His PHONE rings. He looks shocked, then answers.

LARRY

Hey. Yeah. Yeah, I'll meet you.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Larry wanders into the middle of the field and looks around.

MIKE O.S.

Catch.

Larry turns to a football coming at him. He catches it.

MIKE

What'chya wearing?

LARRY

Costume themed wedding.

He tosses the ball to Mike.

MIKE

Thought maybe it was for a movie.

LARRY

Not so likely.

MIKE

Changed your mind on the movie business?

Larry shrugs.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Remember when we used to throw a ball around when you were younger?

Larry throws the ball back.

LARRY

Don't remember much of those years.

BLEACHERS

Larry and Mike sit at the top of the stadium.

LARRY

Why aren't we a part of each other's life?

MIKE

When your mom and I separated it felt like I fell into a deep hole. And all I could do was climb my way out and start over. It was wrong and unfair. I've been a bad person.

LARRY

Everyone makes bad decisions. Doesn't mean we're bad people.

MIKE

I've always wanted to be there for you, Larry. I just didn't know how.

They sit in silence.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You familiar with the bible?

LARRY

Not really.

MIKE

There's a story in there about the Israelites escaping from bondage and one city that stood in the way.

LARRY

I think I know the story.

Mike looks at him, sincere.

MIKE

You've always been my Jericho.

(beat)

Not a day goes by I don't wish I could tear down these walls between us and start over.

LARRY

Why haven't you?

MIKE

I cower behind things I let fall apart. You're brave. You know what you want in life and go after it.

LARRY

Don't really think the acting thing's going to pan out.

MIKE

So what? Something else'll come along and you'll conquer that. As long as you're happy.

LARRY

I don't want you giving me money anymore. I want to support myself.

MIKE

Rachael and I want you in our life. I want to be a father to you.

LARRY

Be a father to me emotionally. Not financially

Larry looks like he could cry. Mike gives him a big hug.

MIKE

I want that. I've wanted that for a long time. And I'm sorry it's taken me this long to make it happen.

LARRY

I want that, too.

MIKE

Don't worry about the acting thing. I believe in you, son. Only things we can't obtain are the things we don't go after.

He pulls him into a hug. The sailboat HONKS from the ocean.

LARRY

Are you doing anything later?

Larry rises.

MIKE

I've set this time aside for you.

LARRY

A film I wrote's showing tonight. It'd be really cool if you came.

Mike smiles. Larry begins to descend the stairs.

MIKE

I'll be there. Where you going?

He looks at his dad.

LARRY

To take my Jericho.

He runs down the bleachers.

EXT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Dozens of people in costumes sit, facing a projector screen. Sonny's at the front.

SONNY

Thank you all for making this day so incredible. Mildred and I aren't much for big celebrations, but together you've made this day unforgettable for both of us.

Everyone CHEERS.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Now the moment we've all been anticipating. The world premier of Necroapocalypse.

He sits with Mildred. The MOVIE plays. He kisses her.

EXT. ROBBIE & LARKIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Larry KNOCKS on the door, repeatedly. A woman answers the door with a bowl of candy.

CANDY LADY

Aren't you a little old?

Larry shakes his head and darts off.

EXT. ALAN & LANDON'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Everyone's engaged in the movie. Landon and Jackie sit next to one another. Landon grabs her hand. She smiles.

Mike, Rachael and Alex are in the audience. Larry ambles in and sits with them at the back.

The movie ends. People APPLAUD. Sonny takes the front.

SONNY

Thank you everyone. The cast.

He opens his arm to reveal Alan and a few other actors. They smile and bow.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Where's...

He scours the audience and spots Larry with his family.

SONNY (CONT'D)

There he is. Round of applause for our writer, Larry.

Everyone APPLAUDS. Larry holds up his beer.

SONNY (CONT'D)

None of this would've been possible if you hadn't written such an amazing script.

(claps)

Once again. Thank you so much for coming out and making this day so special. The Bom Pops are setting up inside. Everyone get in there!

CHEERS. APPLAUDS. Sonny steps back and smiles to Mildred. Rene comes over.

RENE

Not bad, Sonny.

SONNY

Yeah? You liked it?

RENE

I think you've got something here.

She eyes Mildred.

RENE (CONT'D)

That the lucky lady?

SONNY

That's her.

RENE

You're gonna be a great husband.

She shakes his hand.

RENE (CONT'D)

We'll be in touch.

She heads away. Sonny goes over to Mildred. Larry's with Mike, Rachael and Alex.

MIKE
You wrote that?

LARRY
What'd you think?

MIKE
I liked it. A lot.

RACHAEL
It was really good.

MIKE
Larry, this is Rachael.

Rachael gives him a big hug.

RACHAEL
So nice to finally meet you.

LARRY
Who's this tough guy?

ALEX
I'm Alex.

They pound fists. Mike pulls Larry into a hug.

MIKE
I want us to be a part of each other's life. I love you, son.

LARRY
I love you, too.

RACHAEL
You're a part of this family, Larry.

She hugs him.

MIKE
I've got your number saved.

Larry smiles. Rene comes over.

RENE
Larry?

LARRY
Yes.

RENE
You wrote the film?

He nods.

RENE (CONT'D)
Nice work. You union?

LARRY
No. Unfortunately.

RENE
I've got many projects in
development that need a writer.

She hands him her card.

RENE (CONT'D)
Call me if you're interested.

LARRY
I am. Thank you very much.

MIKE
I'm proud of you, son.

She leaves. Rachael sees Alex dancing with Wednesday and Pugsley. She smiles and pulls Mike toward the house.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You coming in?

LARRY
I'll be in in a minute.

They smile. Mike follows Rachael inside. Larry inspects the card. MUSIC blares. Alan and Celia head in.

ALAN
Never came out and asked before,
but - will you go steady with me?

Celia laughs and kisses him as they go inside.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I need something verbal. I'm new to
this. Are we gonna be exclusive?

LIVING ROOM

People dance in costumes to the band. Landon's with Jackie. Evalynn and Lynette with young guys. Sonny and Mildred dance.

PATIO

Larry lights a cigarette. Larkin comes over wearing a white trash bag and a mask.

LARKIN
Trick or treat?

He gives her a wry smile. She takes off the mask. He's in shock when he realizes it's her.

LARRY
Nice costume.

LARKIN
I like yours, too. I saw you with your dad. Looks like ya'll made up.

LARRY
We did. I heard you moved.

LARKIN
I did.

LARRY
With Robbie?

She shakes her head. He comes closer to her.

LARKIN
I'm staying with my folks. Figuring out what I'm gonna to do next.

LARRY
So, you finally told them. Were they understanding?

LARKIN
They were.

LARRY
Larkin, I didn't handle what you were trying to tell me as best as I could. I wasn't considering your emotions or what you were going through.

LARKIN
I shouldn't have put you in that position.

LARRY
I shouldn't have shoved you out.

LARKIN

I should have been honest with you.

LARRY

I should have fought for us.

LARKIN

When there was an us.

LARRY

All I want to know is - How come you don't want me now? Why don't you wanna wait this out? Maybe you would've been something I'd be good at. And maybe I would have been something you'd be good at.

LARKIN

Are you paraphrasing different Tegan and Sara songs?

LARRY

You were right. They're so good.

LARKIN

I know! And you were right...

He looks confused.

LARKIN (CONT'D)

Every lesbian just needs some good deep dicking.

LARRY

You watched it!

He lights up.

LARKIN

Not one of my favorites.

LARRY

Nostalgia can be blinding. Where's Robbie?

LARKIN

Seattle.

LARRY

You didn't want to go with her?

LARKIN

I've been in many bad relationships
and I was gearing up for another if
I didn't tell her how I felt.

LARRY

What did you tell her?

They move closer to each other.

LARKIN

Sometimes it's the things we keep
in that keeps us apart. And I don't
want to keep anything in anymore.

LARRY

How'd she take it?

...Closer...

LARKIN

She'll be alright.

LARRY

Are you upset?

LARKIN

I'll get over it.

...Closer...

LARRY

Does that mean, you and me...

LARKIN

I'm here, aren't I?

LARRY

Are we...

She grabs his hand.

LARKIN

Ready...

He pulls her close.

LARRY

Set...

They kiss. Landon sees and kisses Jackie. Alan cheers when he
sees them kissing. He turns to Celia and they make out.

Sonny and Mildred LAUGH. They stare into each other's eyes.

SONNY

I love you, wife.

MILDRED

I love you, husband.

They share a passionate kiss. Alex, Wednesday and Pugsley are all dancing together. Mike and Rachael laugh, then kiss.

The Bom Pops start to play a Tegan and Sara cover. Larry and Larkin jump out of the kiss.

LARKIN

I love this song.

LARRY

I love this song.

They race into the crowd and dance with Landon, Jackie, Alan, Celia, Sonny, Mildred, Mike and Rachael as the song plays.

INT. LARRY & LARKIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Larry writes a script on his computer. He looks up as Larkin comes in wearing yoga attire.

LARKIN

How's it coming?

LARRY

I think it's going to be a hit.

She gives him a kiss.

LARKIN

Got my first client. Wish me luck.

LARRY

You're going to do great.

Her PHONE chimes. It's Robbie face timing. Larry runs over.

LARKIN

Robbie!

ROBBIE

Hey!

LARRY

Hi, Robbie.

ROBBIE

Hey, Larry.

LARKIN

Let me see the new place.

ON PHONE: Robbie pans around the new shop. It's really nice.

LARKIN (CONT'D)
That's so you. I love it.

ROBBIE
We like it.

LARKIN
We?

Robbie pans the phone revealing ELISE. She waves.

LARKIN (CONT'D)
Robbie!

Robbie shrugs. She zooms in on a sign hanging on the wall behind the counter.

It's the heart with, "Best friends forever and their names" written in it.

ROBBIE
We're opening. Just had to show you
the place. Love you, Larkin.

Robbie flashes a peace sign.

LARKIN
Love you, Robbie. Friends for life.

She gives a peace sign in return.

ROBBIE
Friends for life.

They click off the phone.

LARRY
She looks happy.

LARKIN
I'm happy for her.

LARRY
Are you happy?

She smiles big, hugs him, then kisses him passionately.

FADE OUT:

THE END