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**LOVERBOY**

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LOVERBOY

Written by

Mariepet Mangosing

INT. FRANKIE'S RESTAURANT (JERSEY CITY, NJ) - NIGHT

Mid-century, airy decor. Speckled dishes. Millennial pink and textured light fixtures. Urban Outfitters meets Australian fare.

JONAH (30s, handsome, charming as hell, Asian-American) leans forward, his left hand rests on his hip while the other waves.

JONAH

Essentially, I want the kind of love that makes me want to love myself more. The kind that augments to my life rather than take anything away.

He takes a sip of his fruity drink.

JONAH (CONT'D)

And dating in this digital age is contrived and brutal, who knows who is being genuine or simply posturing for instant gratification.

Jonah snaps his fingers.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Rome wasn't built in a day and yet here we are. I blame these phones.

Jonah holds his phone up, on the screen are a ton of notifications. Popular dude.

JONAH (CONT'D)

But you see, all that to say, I just really want to find the person that is my forever. You know?

Across the table sits a PRETTY GIRL (30s), absolutely smitten with this take, nods in agreement as she sips her wine.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Maybe that's corny.

PRETTY GIRL

Yeah, it is.

They both laugh.

PRETTY GIRL (CONT'D)

My bad, I just -- all men have a line they'll tell you to look good.

JONAH

I appreciate that candor but not all men have a pre-downloaded spiel on love. Next thing you're gonna say is that we only want sex, too.

PRETTY GIRL

You do.

JONAH

Have a little more faith than that.

PRETTY GIRL

Most girls want that, too. Just so you know.

She cocks a brow, Jonah nods.

JONAH

I'll be back.

INT. CORNER MARKET - NIGHT

On the counter, multi-pack with bonus deal condoms. Jonah taps his foot impatiently.

SAD SACK CLERK (18) attempts to scan the barcode. Scanner lights up but no beep.

Clerk tries again, no luck. He slowly types the SKU code on the back. Jonah shifts.

JONAH

Sorry, man. Is there a problem?

BEEP IN ERROR. The clerk picks up the phone.

SAD CLERK

(into phone)

Can I get a price check?

Jonah taps his fingers on the counter. STORE MANAGER (40s) waddles over, he takes the box and punches something on the computer then scans the barcode.

BEEP. Finally.

STORE MANAGER

Are you interested in any KY? We currently have a deal.

A line queues up behind him.

JONAH

No. That's OK. Actually--

SAD CLERK

You can't make any assumptions  
these days. Every woman's body is  
different--

Jonah looks at the lube again.

INT. FRANKIE'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jonah takes his seat again, out of breath.

PRETTY GIRL

I thought you were blowing me off.

JONAH

Me? Never.

PRETTY GIRL

Good. I hate when people blow off  
dates or ghost them. It's inhumane.

JONAH

I cannot agree more.

He clears his throat.

EXT. FRANKIE'S RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Jonah and his date step outside then stand, facing each  
other. Their eyes meet each other's -- Jonah bites his bottom  
lip.

JONAH

I'd love to kiss you, is that OK?

PRETTY GIRL

Sure.

They do, soft, slow. Then part. She's smiling.

PRETTY GIRL (CONT'D)

I was hoping that we could maybe  
take things slow. I'm just not  
ready for anything physical yet.  
You know?

JONAH

Definitely, absolutely.

Jonah backs up into a bag of TRASH, tripping. Condoms, lube and a receipt fall out of his pockets.

PRETTY GIRL  
Not all men, huh?

INT. ARCHER BAR - NIGHT

Jonah downs a beer when he waves for another at the CASEY (20s, 90s grunge reincarnate, red pixie cut, bartender). She leans over the counter.

BARTENDER  
Another round?

JONAH  
Stella.

Jonah checks her out. She slides the beer across the counter.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Not to be all Single White Female  
but where'd you get your flannel?

She looks down at herself.

BARTENDER  
I love that movie.

JONAH  
Jennifer Jason Leigh's performance?  
Groundbreaking. And that post  
makeover hair? Radiant!

She strokes her hair and pushes a beer in front of Jonah.

BARTENDER  
You ever try it with a splash of  
Sprite?

JONAH  
No but I'll try anything sweet.

INT. UBER CAR - NIGHT

The bartender and Jonah make out, quick, heavy panting, they don't even come up for air.

UBER DRIVER (20s) shakes her head in the rearview mirror, miffed. She rolls her eyes.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT (BEDROOM) - DAY

Jonah wakes up to a tuft of red hair. He rolls over, Bartender yawns.

JONAH  
Hi.

BARTENDER  
Morning.

She attempts to cuddle.

JONAH  
You want water, K--

BARTENDER  
Casey. Sure.

JONAH  
How do you take it?

CASEY  
Stirred.

JONAH  
I'll be back.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT (KITCHEN) - DAY

Jonah pours water from a Brita pitcher into a glass with some ice when STEPHANIE (28, cheeky, Jonah's younger sister, put together) startles him from behind.

JONAH  
You're always doing that.

STEPHANIE  
You forget that I live here, too.

JONAH  
Can you live here just a little quieter?

STEPHANIE  
Why? Kyle's not here. He's already left for work to get art supplies for the kids. It's just us.

Casey steps into the kitchen.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)  
Or, not.

CASEY

I'm so sorry! Oh my god. Is this your girlfriend?

STEPHANIE

That is abhorrent. I'm his sister.

JONAH

You know what they say! Blood is thicker than water.

He hands Casey the glass. There's another awkward silence then Casey throws on her jacket.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Hey! I'm not kicking you out or anything I'm just a little--

CASEY

No sweat. I'll see you around.

JONAH

So I'll text you?

Casey slips into her heels.

CASEY

Whatever.

She pecks his cheek then closes the door behind her. Stephanie shakes her head, while Jonah looks a bit confused.

STEPHANIE

Guess the date went well.

JONAH

Oh no, it was not a date.

STEPHANIE

Wam bam thank you ma'am.

JONAH

She knew the deal. Besides, primates swing branch to branch in finding a mate.

STEPHANIE

Oh, the lies you tell yourself to avoid feeling like an animal. Very Dad behavior.

JONAH

I'm not lying. And never bring up Voldemort again. I'm far from him.

(MORE)



JONAH (CONT'D)

The girl I went on a date with actually bailed on me, I'll have you know.

STEPHANIE

What did you do?

JONAH

Why do you assume I *did* something?

Stephanie pounds her chest like a gorilla.

JONAH (CONT'D)

A box of condoms *might* have fallen out of my pocket after she wanted to "go slow."

Stephanie continues to pound on her chest.

JONAH (CONT'D)

It wasn't my finest moment. But it worked out after a few drinks. Casey was tending bar.

STEPHANIE

Uh huh. Looks like you're really getting far on that journey to love.

JONAH

It's not even 9AM, Steph. Why are you on my case?

STEPHANIE

Because I worry you're going to turn out like our parents: constantly searching for the next exciting thing, ignoring details, never appreciating what they had. Or, worse! The weird uncle that only wears fedoras and hosts poker night every week.

JONAH

This would all mean more coming from someone else. You've been with Kyle for years and I haven't heard a single wedding bell.

STEPHANIE

We're not talking about me here.

JONAH

I thought girls plan their weddings from birth. You work at a bridal store for heaven's sake.

STEPHANIE

Not every woman's dream is to be married!

JONAH

You also said that you would find a new job years ago. I think you and I aren't that different, you know?

STEPHANIE

Don't you have some other entanglement to attend to?

INT. CAFE - DAY

Jonah waits in line, concentrating on the menu when he sees a KISSING COUPLE (20s). They have no self-awareness, just in it together.

Jonah looks on wistfully when a BARISTA (20s) shouting for his attention.

BARISTA

Sir? Can I help you?

JONAH

I'll have the Americano. Actually, no. I'll take regular drip. Wait!

BARISTA

Please decide.

JONAH

Reg drip. I'm certain.

Barista puts the order into the computer.

BARISTA

That'll be--

JONAH

Can I get the Americano?

Barista rolls their eyes.

INT. CITY HALL (OFFICE CUBICLES) - DAY

Jonah walks into the building, coffee in hand, walking past WENDY (20s, Jonah's assistant), who smiles at him.

JONAH  
Looking good, Wendy.

WENDY  
Only good?

JONAH  
Beautiful.

WENDY  
Mhmm.  
(whispering)  
Healy's waiting.

JONAH  
Sorry, Wen. Owe you big time for stalling.

WENDY  
Bill could use the tee time.

JONAH  
Done. How's getting him off the pipe going?

WENDY  
All I care is that he stopped smelling like an ashtray. Gotta work on that cholesterol now.

JONAH  
Will have to send a steady Cheerio regimen, then?

WENDY  
Rather you send him a clue on an anniversary gift.

JONAH  
That gold plated Swarovski bracelet? How could he not know?

Wendy nods.

WENDY  
Get in there, boss. Healy's probably thought you've certainly abandoned her by now.

INT. JONAH'S OFFICE - DAY

MAYOR HEALY (40s, sounds like a Kardashian, trendy, hoop earrings) sifts through files behind Jonah's desk.

JONAH

Mayor! I thought you were working from your home office today.

HEALY

That was until James came home and wanted to have some time with Willow.

JONAH

James is back.

HEALY

I cannot wait until our divorce is finalized and we can be free of each other's shit.

JONAH

Remember who you are, Healy. You're a doll. He's the idiot.

HEALY

Yes well, can't convince my kid otherwise. Anyway. I gotta save face for this upcoming election. As open minded as the city claims to be..

JONAH

Everyone loves a good dramatic story. We'll be fine for re-election. You're a staple in the community. What would the Ashbury do without you?

HEALY

I think it's too naive to employ the same strategy so I've gone ahead and vetted a few potential candidates to hire.

JONAH

For?

HEALY

Oh, relax. Not for your job. Just some campaign help.

(MORE)

HEALY (CONT'D)

You won't even feel their presence around but it'll be someone to keep things in line. If you catch my drift.

JONAH

I don't think I'm following.

HEALY

Ducks in a row.

JONAH

Still not.

HEALY

They're gonna keep any of our bullshit in line especially off socials and out of the mouths of our most elite residents. Do you get it?

JONAH

So, keep our shit offline, technically.

HEALY

Aren't you funny. Maybe you could be a doll and hire a woman. Clearly dudes are slow on the uptake.

SAMUEL (20s, gawky, Healy's assistant) runs in, drops all of his papers, and startles Jonah in the process. Samuel scrambles to pick it all up.

HEALY (CONT'D)

Look through these and get someone in here by end of week. *Please.*

Samuel hands Jonah the stack.

HEALY (CONT'D)

Keep it hot, sexy! You already know the drill! Don't mess this up!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

SARAH (30s, street smart, chatty) sits across from her DATE (30s, art film himbo). She leans forward in her chair.

SARAH

Then, I told her that "it's something borrowed then something blue" and she still went with a lilac scarf.

Date has another sip of his wine but he doesn't seem super interested in what is happening at this table.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Listen to me. I'm rambling! Curse of the gab. I just love my job and love. What do you love? Tell me everything.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE (BACK OFFICE) - NIGHT

Sarah steadies her phone between her cheek and shoulder, she counts out tips and has an Excel sheet open on her computer.

SARAH

(into phone)

He was so cute. I think we really connected!

(beat)

And he works at the Historic Landmark Theater. They only play *classic* films. That's a great date idea.

(beat)

I'll have to suggest that next time! All right. I gotta go. Going to this party tonight. No, it's just a few friends.

(beat)

Love you, Mom.

Sarah's phone DINGS.

A text from Jason reads: you're lovely but I'm not looking for anything serious right now. Good luck in all your endeavors!

She's gutted and deletes the contact.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Jonah googles the Swarovski bracelet, he hits PURCHASE. He then sends a text to Casey.

Message gets a READ check mark but no response. Jonah raises a brow as Stephanie pummels through the door.

STEPHANIE  
I have to pee!

JONAH  
TMI.

FLUSH. She walks out.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Did you wash your hands?

STEPHANIE  
Don't be gross.

JONAH  
You wanna get some takeout? I was  
thinking Chinese.

STEPHANIE  
First of all, we order Good Fortune  
too much. Secondly, I told you a  
million times that I'm having  
people over tonight and soon!

JONAH  
Who's all coming?

STEPHANIE  
Not you.

JONAH  
I live here!

STEPHANIE  
For the night, you live elsewhere.  
Come on buddy.

She starts to usher him out.

JONAH  
Why am I being ousted from my own  
home?

STEPHANIE  
We all know what happens after a  
few drinks. Fraternizing with my  
friends. Go to your sneaky link's  
place or whatever!

JONAH  
What even is a sneaky link? Stop.  
I'm not gonna go anywhere.

STEPHANIE

I don't want you to cause drama  
amongst my friends.

JONAH

There won't be any drama.

STEPHANIE

Remember what happened with Jackie?

JONAH

That was not a big deal.

STEPHANIE

She quit the shop after that!

JONAH

She went on to do girl boss things!

STEPHANIE

Then, don't drink.

JONAH

I'll have a respectable amount.  
Three MAX.

STEPHANIE

Bad things happen in 3's.

JONAH

Who's being dramatic now?

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT (KITCHEN) - NIGHT

Jonah drinks a beer and flits around the room amongst elder  
Millennial hipster GUESTS.

Stephanie takes a hit of a joint and shotguns the hit into  
KYLE'S (30s, grown skater boi) mouth.

Jonah covers his nose and mouth to evade the plume of weed  
smoke wafting into his face but gets a whiff anyway. He  
starts to cough and ducks into--

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT (BATHROOM) - NIGHT

Jonah stands at the sink, coughing. A cloud of vape smoke  
meets his nose. He turns to see vape smoke from behind the  
shower curtain.

JONAH

Blueberry?



He pulls the shower curtain aside. Sarah looks up at him.

SARAH  
What?

JONAH  
Your vape.

Sarah looks between her fingers.

SARAH  
Yeah.

JONAH  
Do you mind?

Sarah looks down at him but shrugs.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Had a bad day?

Sarah takes another pull of her vape.

SARAH  
What are you, James Blunt? No.  
Millennial dating is a hellscape.

JONAH  
Another bad date?

SARAH  
It takes time to know people! How  
do you write someone off after one  
date?

JONAH  
People are dicks.

SARAH  
Men.

JONAH  
Not all--

SARAH  
If you give me that not choosing  
the right person spiel again, dude,  
so help me god.

JONAH  
I won't.

Sarah winces.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Come on. Let's just have a good  
time tonight? Deal with whatever  
you might be feeling tomorrow?

SARAH  
Always a procrastinator.

JONAH  
Perfect for working in government.

Sarah reaches for the bottle of Cuervo next to her in the  
tub.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Lemme get a hit.

She hands him the vape.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Not that.

She hands him the Cuervo.

LATER

Jonah and Sarah sit in the bathtub, laughing, Cuervo almost  
drained. There's a KNOCK on the door.

JONAH  
Use the other bathroom!

Sarah continues to laugh.

SARAH  
People must think we're banging in  
here.

Jonah looks over to Sarah, their eyes lock then they start  
making out. Sarah pulls away from Jonah.

JONAH  
What?

SARAH  
I don't know if this is a good  
idea.

JONAH  
It never really is.

SARAH  
Let's not tell Stephanie.

JONAH  
 Yep. Good plan. Idea. Love it.

They lean into each other again, ravenous.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT (BEDROOM) - DAY

Sarah faces away sleeping, Jonah looks over at her and quietly gets out of bed. He searches for his shoes in the dark, trying to be quiet. Sarah turns around.

SARAH  
 Sneaking away?

JONAH  
 Oh, no.

He leans over for a kiss.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
 I thought it's time for a coffee.

SARAH  
 Mmmm, you've convinced me.

She starts to get out of bed.

JONAH  
 Cool.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Jonah and Sarah wait in line behind a FIGHTING COUPLE (30s).

FIGHTING WOMAN  
 They don't have oat milk so just get almond or soy. Let's not make this poor barista wait now as usual, *hun*.

SARAH  
 Oof.  
 (to Jonah, quietly)  
 How long do you think they've been together?

Jonah looks over at her.

FIGHTING MAN (O.S.)  
 Really? I'm causing the scene?

JONAH

Early 30s, college sweethearts. I'd say at least five.

They finished up their order and continue yelling at each other from afar.

SARAH

I'd probably guess four but there was definitely a "break."

JONAH

The man who is yelling was the one who dated somebody else in that time.

SARAH

As usual.

Jonah and Sarah exchange a "yeaaaahhh" kind of look then turn back to the couple again, who have resolved the fight and are making out.

JONAH

It's always a choice, right?

SARAH

What is?

JONAH

Staying together.

Sarah peers up at him, leaning into him a bit. Barista waves them next in line.

BARISTA

Hey there! You having the Americano today?

JONAH

Actually I'll have two regular drips.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jonah and Sarah sip on their hot coffees, walking leisurely.

JONAH

I've gotta rinse off and get to a meeting in an hour but we can hang out later?

SARAH  
Ah, yes. Answer the bat signal.

JONAH  
Aren't I lucky? Text me later?

SARAH  
Oh, yeah. Totally.

JONAH  
Also, maybe we keep this low key until after the election? Healy's paranoid and doesn't want another thing to have to deal with.

SARAH  
Ouch.

JONAH  
Not that you're someone I have to deal with. Privacy and the like.

SARAH  
Political pawn. Got it.

JONAH  
Thanks and no Stephanie.

SARAH  
No Stephanie.

Jonah smiles, pecks her on the cheek, squeezes her arm and walks in the opposite direction.

INT. JONAH'S KITCHEN - DAY

A disheveled Jonah tosses his keys and his coffee on the table. He opens the fridge for an OJ when Stephanie pops out of nowhere. Again.

STEPHANIE  
What you get into last night?

JONAH  
You for real gotta stop doing that.

STEPHANIE  
You disappeared!

JONAH  
Didn't you want me to make myself scarce?

KYLE

Stephanie, come on. Jonah's a grown ass man. He doesn't need an interrogation squad on him.

Kyle stands next to Stephanie.

JONAH

Yeah, I'm not planning a coup.

STEPHANIE

We're not Irish! You can't just leave without saying good-bye to me!

Kyle nervously laughs.

KYLE

It's all right, man. You didn't really miss much.

Jonah turns his head and there's a hickey.

STEPHANIE

Nice neck tat.

Jonah covers the right side of his neck.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Other side. Whoever she is, I hope she knows what she stepped into.

JONAH

Late for work. Thanks for the morale boost, sis. Kyle, hoops tomorrow?

KYLE

Roger.

Jonah heads out.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

Art deco building, marble columns. Archways hanging over the front entrance. Jonah climbs the front steps and through the doors.

INT. CITY HALL HALLWAYS - DAY

Jonah makes his way down the halls, some office doors open, others shut. Lots of chatter and bustling around. People dressed in business casual. Government issued.

INT. CITY HALL (CONFERENCE ROOM) - DAY

Jonah walks into the room. Samuel struggles to set up the speaker phone with Healy on the line, causing loud feedback to sound on.

HEALY (O.S.)  
Jesus Christ, Samuel!

The feedback settles.

HEALY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Let's keep this quick, I've got a hard out in an hour. My CBD masseuse awaits! Send in the masses!

Samuel dramatically swings the conference room doors open. No one rushes in while Jonah takes his seat at the head of the table.

JONAH  
So what is the bare minimum you're looking for, Heal? Talk to me.

HEALY (O.S.)  
Someone with a Comm degree and at least 1,000 followers on socials. Not a loser. Chop chop!

JONAH  
All right, team. Let them in.

RBEGIN MONTAGE

- Various INTERVIEWEES (ranging from 20s to 40s) of different shapes and sizes come in. Quick cuts between them.

- Jonah reaches over, shakes their hand, and most of the time shakes his head "no."

- Wendy crosses name after name on list. Samuel hangs up the conference room phone (bye Healy).

END MONTAGE

INT. JONAH'S OFFICE - DAY

KNOCKS. Wendy stands in the doorway, Jonah runs his fingers through his hair.

WENDY

We've got a few more resumes off  
LinkedIn. Should I schedule them?

Jonah pinches the bridge of his nose and nods.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Curated, tailored, clothes in delicate lace sway back and forth, as Stephanie smooths out wedding dresses on tall racks. Sarah measures a CUSTOMER (20s).

SARAH

This two-piece gown is so cute.

CUSTOMER

I'm in LOVE. It's exactly what I  
wanted.

Stephanie walks next to them.

STEPHANIE

We have similar cut two-piece gowns  
that are more trendy in our  
catalog, if you wanted to check it  
out before ordering.

CUSTOMER

I'm absolutely certain I'm good  
with this dress. I'm the type of  
person when I find something that  
works, I commit all the way. I  
gotta have it all.

SARAH

When you know, you know.

Stephanie looks uneasy. The customer turns to leave.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Take care!  
(to Stephanie)  
I loved her energy.

STEPHANIE

You're in a good mood.



SARAH  
What do you mean?

STEPHANIE  
Last week, you vaped in the store  
then yelled at a customer for  
hitting her Juul.

SARAH  
I'm not always a grump.

STEPHANIE  
You haven't "taken a sad nap" today  
so I'd say that you're in a good  
mood. Did you get laid or  
something?

SARAH  
No.

Beat.

SARAH (CONT'D)  
Fine. Yeah.

STEPHANIE  
There it is. Why'd you try to lie  
to me? You're the worst.

SARAH  
I didn't wanna, I don't know, get  
your hopes up.

STEPHANIE  
Last I checked, you were the  
hopeless romantic. Not me.

Sarah thinks for a minute, realizing.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)  
But talk away. I totally bitch  
about Kyle all the time! Least I  
can do.

SARAH  
So far so good but don't want to  
jinx it. Don't want the groom to  
get a sneak peak right before the  
wedding, yanno?

STEPHANIE  
Sex must be bomb if it makes you  
hear wedding bells.

INT. JONAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jonah and Casey fuck doggy-style on his bed. Casey muffles her moans in a pillow, Jonah's concentration face suddenly relaxes. They fall back on the bed, next to each other. Casey high fives Jonah.

INT. STEPHANIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Stephanie and Kyle exchange glances at each other as the distant moans from Jonah's room come to a halt.

STEPHANIE

We really need to sound proof this apartment.

KYLE

Maybe it's time you get out of here, if you really hate it so much.

STEPHANIE

Jonah would be screwed.

KYLE

I think he's got that covered.

STEPHANIE

Kyle! He can't afford rent on his own.

KYLE

Like I've said a million times before, Jonah's grown. He'll figure it out.

STEPHANIE

And where do you suggest that I go?

KYLE

I was hoping with me.

STEPHANIE

Going where with you?

KYLE

In my apartment.

STEPHANIE

Oh.

KYLE

Your enthusiasm is killing me.

STEPHANIE

No, no. It's not that. I'm just surprised is all.

KYLE

That I'd want to live with you?

STEPHANIE

Not that part. Your crib is a total frat house.

KYLE

How different is that from literally listening to your own flesh and blood boning in the next room?

Stephanie goes quiet.

STEPHANIE

Uh, well, I'm a bad roommate. What if we end up hating each other?

KYLE

You don't gotta answer me now. I know you need time to stew.

Kyle kisses her cheek, turns the side lamp off, then settles under the covers. Stephanie sits, stunned.

INT. CITY HALL (CONFERENCE ROOM) - DAY

Jonah, Samuel, Wendy and Healy sit around the table, a bunch of resumes laying out in front of them.

JONAH

Anything of note, boss?

HEALY

I like this girl's logo. It's edgy.

The logo is a bit phallic.

JONAH

That's a word to describe it.

WENDY

(stifling laughter)  
It's provocative.

Healy looks up.

HEALY

That's what we're looking for. I think Jersey City needs a refresh. We're New York City's younger but cooler family member!

JONAH

I don't think New York would appreciate the relation. Besides technically, Jersey City was founded first.

SAMUEL

I thought New York would be.

JONAH

Jersey was founded by Paulus in 1618. NYC became a thing in 1624.

HEALY

Ah, yes. The NJ versus NY thing. Not relevant to this re-election though boys. Focus.

JONAH

We have invited a candidate to interview today. Graduated from Columbia. Great references.

Jonah slides one of the resumes towards Healy.

WENDY

Interned with Councilwoman Tessa? Rumor has it she's after your job, Mayor.

JONAH

Consider her poached.

HEALY

Oh, I'm not worried about her involvement with Tessa. She tries to win every election and never makes it on the ballot. What's this candidate's Instagram following?

SAMUEL

Under 1K.

HEALY

Never mind.

JONAH

Mayor, I don't have many Instagram followers. Poaching from the other team could be very valuable.

Healy looks at him, takes a moment then shrugs.

HEALY

You can always buy them.

Just then, LEE (30s, confident, aloof) traipses in, her head high, her short fringe effortlessly sways as she moves. Je ne sais quoi.

LEE

Can I come in?

JONAH

Sure.

Jonah stacks the other resumes and shoves them into a folder.

LEE

I'm actually here to interview for the Campaign Director job. Oh god, am I in the wrong place?

WENDY

No, you're in the right place!

LEE

I'm always a little early. Sorry about that.

HEALY

A great trait to have. Time is of the essence. But welcome in. I'm Mayor Healy. I'll let my comrades take care of you now.

LEE

It's so nice to meet you, Mayor. I've heard so many good things.

HEALY

The rumors that I got a Brazilian Butt Life are not true.

LEE

Oh, no. I was just going to say that you're considered the cool Mayor amongst the Millennials in town.

HEALY

Oh. Of course. Well, I'm off.  
Jonah, do your whole thing. Come  
on, Samuel.

Healy gets up, grabs her bag and leaves. Jonah clears his throat. Samuel follows behind her. Wendy ushers Lee to a chair.

WENDY

Need a water or anything?

LEE

Would love some. You're Deputy  
Mayor, right?

JONAH

That is correct.

LEE

I've heard some things about you,  
too.

JONAH

All good, I hope. Was it Lee? Tell  
me a little about yourself.

LEE

I'm a Columbia grad, magna cum  
laude. I interned with Councilwoman  
Tessa and worked for the non-profit  
Physicians for Reproductive Health.  
I have been a Jersey City resident  
for a few years. I love this town.

JONAH

It's a great city. Why do you want  
to work for Healy?

LEE

She aligns with my values.  
Liberally minded and that sort of  
thing.

JONAH

Yet you interned with someone from  
the Green Party.

LEE

I had a comeuppance of sorts.  
Realized that there were other  
objectives I had in mind working in  
government.

JONAH

Such as?

LEE

For one, I think that Healy's personable nature amongst the newer residents in the town is respectable. You grow community from that.

JONAH

For Healy's upcoming campaign, we want to secure her re-election with ease. As you know, the divorce cramped her style a bit but your job would be to mitigate that.

LEE

That divorce was very messy. Hard not to talk about.

Jonah goes quiet.

LEE (CONT'D)

I mean, it's no one's business.

JONAH

Right.

LEE

So, what are next steps?

JONAH

We have a few other candidates we're considering but we will definitely give you a call either way.

LEE

Thanks.

She gets up, waits a moment, then turns back to Jonah.

LEE (CONT'D)

I really want this gig. I'd do anything.

Jonah nods.

INT. SARAH'S CAR - DAY

Sarah and Jonah make out then pull apart.

SARAH

Hard day?

JONAH

Just having trouble finding a suitable candidate for Campaign Director. Until then, it's on Wendy, Samuel, and I.

SARAH

And where's Healy?

They look at each other, pause, then start laughing.

SARAH (CONT'D)

She's

EXT. SIDE WALK - DAY

Stephanie totes a bag of groceries and looks over to see Sarah and Jonah in the car, kissing.

Stephanie stands with her mouth hanging open then drops the bag on the ground.

She looks around and hides behind a utility pole to hide herself from them. She goes in for another look but the car drove off.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Jonah goes in for a layup. Kyle blocks him.

JONAH

Your game got tighter. Are you playing without me?

KYLE

Lucky streak, I guess.

JONAH

What's up with Stephanie, though? She was especially venomous yesterday.

KYLE

I'm not sure. She's been acting really weird to me lately, too.

JONAH

Maybe she's on the rag.



KYLE

Come on, man. You gotta stop saying  
shit like that.

JONAH

What? It's science!

KYLE

This is why you stay single, dude.

JONAH

For your information, I might be  
seeing somebody.

KYLE

Whaaaat? The bartender?

JONAH

Some Tinder girl.

He lies.

KYLE

I thought you hated the apps.

JONAH

Decided to give them a whirl.

Jonah shoots a three pointer and misses completely.

KYLE

Your three's are shit.

Kyle flicks his three pointer and also misses.

JONAH

Instant karma.

KYLE

But really, who is this girl? Maybe  
you can tell Steph and she can stop  
digging into you deep.

JONAH

I'm taking my time. Speaking of  
time, hasn't it been forever for  
you two? I figured you'd have the  
whole house, dog, wedding, kid  
thing by now.

KYLE

Do you know your sister? She's not  
too jazzed about change.

JONAH

She's definitely taken a unique approach to life.

KYLE

I saw this perfect apartment the other day. It's a huge step up than, what Stephanie called, a frat house. City views, laundry in unit.

JONAH

In unit? Really?

KYLE

I don't know. Maybe it'll convince her to embrace change.

JONAH

Whoa. That's a step forward. But maybe start with having her tooth brush at your place or something first. Or, a drawer for her things. Sloth pace, yeah?

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sarah carefully prepares a grilled cheese. Jonah hugs her from behind and takes a bite of the sandwich. With his mouth full, he starts kissing her.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Post-coital, Jonah's phone lights up while Sarah sleeps. He turns the volume down then swipes through dating apps.

On screen: LEE, 33. He panics, dropping the phone on his face which accidentally swipes RIGHT.

It's a match! A message appears:

Lee: Sorry, this was a cordial match with who you know type of deal.

Jonah writes back: I was never here.

Lee: :X

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sarah tries on a dress. It's a sweetheart neckline, A-Line silhouette. She looks perfect.

STEPHANIE

What are you doing?

SARAH

This is a new style and it came in my size. I'm just curious. Don't you ever fantasize?

STEPHANIE

I'd rather stay in this realm. Fantasizing feels like a waste of energy.

SARAH

But it's so important to dream big. And my biggest dream is to have a perfect wedding.

STEPHANIE

Uh huh. Do you maybe have any other dreams?

SARAH

I don't know, I guess I'd like to sell my stocks or something.

STEPHANIE

You're loaded?

SARAH

No. I just know they exist and I can make more money.

STEPHANIE

Right. So, anyway. Speaking of fantasies and big dreams, got anything going on with you lately? Maybe a new beau you wanna talk about? A friend turned more?

SARAH

Um. No, no new beau. Just swiping on the apps. It's brutal out there.

STEPHANIE

Right.

SARAH

I'm gonna change.

Sarah darts into a dressing room. Stephanie gawps behind her.

INT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kyle wipes down some empty drawers, Stephanie walks in and puts her bag down.

STEPHANIE

Kyle! I have something to tell you... what are you doing?

KYLE

Hey! I made some room for your stuff.

STEPHANIE

For what?

KYLE

I don't know. I thought to like soft launch into the real thing.

STEPHANIE

I haven't made my mind up yet.

KYLE

I know, I know. But I thought it'd be easier to just transition into having stuff in a shared living space.

STEPHANIE

Totally.

KYLE

You can put your stuff in here!

Stephanie opens her weekender and takes out four pairs of panties.

KYLE (CONT'D)

That's all you got?

STEPHANIE

I didn't bring all of my clothes.

KYLE

I figured you'd have more. Or, like extra pairs of period panties?

STEPHANIE

Period panties?

KYLE

There was a Tampon wrapper on the bathroom counter.

STEPHANIE

I told you I was a horrible roommate! Plus, bigger and more important things are afoot!

KYLE

No, no. It's OK. Really. Take your time, I don't want you to freak out. Plus, I kind of want to move out of this place anyway and I found this perfect new apartment.

STEPHANIE

Did you hear me-- wait, what? A new apartment? You're moving?

KYLE

Potentially. Nothing to fret about. I'm just looking.

STEPHANIE

Anyway, I gotta tell you something about Jonah.

KYLE

I think we should stay out of his business, Steph. It's always Jonah this and Jonah that. I've said it time and time again, he's grown. I'd really like to think about us more.

STEPHANIE

But today, I swore to god I saw him and Sarah.

Kyle quietly heads out of the room.

INT. CITY HALL (HEALY'S OFFICE) - DAY

Healy scrolls through Instagram. She looks at her recent post then shrieks in frustration.

INT. CITY HALL (JONAH'S OFFICE) - DAY

Jonah sits at his desk when Healy prances in.

HEALY

I only got half of the number of likes I usually get on my latest post. I had to hide them today! Have you hired anybody yet?

Lee knocks on the window then stands in the doorway.

LEE  
Actually, he has.

Jonah looks at her in shock.

JONAH  
Lee. I didn't realize the time.

LEE  
You told me to come early to fill  
out some paper work? What was it -  
an NDA?

Lee raises a brow, Jonah remembers.

LEE (CONT'D)  
I make good on my promises and even  
better keeping things close to my  
chest.

Jonah clears his throat.

HEALY  
Get you onboarded then. Jonah?

EXT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - NIGHT

Stephanie and Sarah lock up the store front.

STEPHANIE  
What you got on deck tonight?

SARAH  
I don't know. I'm shot. Maybe I'll  
take an Epsom salt bath and take it  
easy. How about you?

STEPHANIE  
I'll probably follow suit.

SARAH  
I'll see you tomorrow.

Sarah starts walking away. Steph hangs a beat and then  
follows her.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Stephanie walks close behind but just far enough to stay  
concealed.

Sarah looks behind her, thinking she hears something.  
Stephanie ducks behind a USPS mailbox.

EXT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sarah unlocks the front door and lets herself into the vestibule.

Stephanie tries to catch the swinging door to get in but isn't able to.

She looks up at the windows, defeated.

INT. CITY HALL (LEE'S DESK) - NIGHT

Lee packs her work bag, shutting off her desk lamp. She looks over at Jonah's office -- still lit up.

INT. CITY HALL (JONAH'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Lee stands in the doorway. Jonah looks up from his computer.

LEE  
Working late?

JONAH  
As usual. Thanks for keeping the  
Tinder thing--

LEE  
Mum's the word, as long as I can  
keep this job.

JONAH  
Sure. Tomorrow Healy would like to  
know the SEO strategies and maybe  
how we can appeal even more to the  
residents.

LEE  
Yeah. Right. SEO.

She smiles, all smug, slipping her hand bag around her forearm. She starts to make her way out of the office.

Jonah sits back in his seat, suddenly wary.

EXT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Stephanie sits on the stoop. She takes her phone out and texts Jonah: "where are you?" No reply.

INT. CITY HALL (JONAH'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Jonah looks at his phone and ignores the messages from Stephanie. He picks up the phone.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sarah sits in her bathtub. Her phone RINGS.

SARAH  
(into phone)  
Hey! No worries. I'll just see you  
tomorrow.

She hangs up the phone, a little disappointed. She dunks her head into the water.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT (KITCHEN) - DAY

Jonah reaches into the fridge for coffee creamer. When the door SHUTS, Stephanie is waiting on the other side.

JONAH  
Jesus, Steph!

STEPHANIE  
Good morning, Jonah.

JONAH  
Why are you being weird?

STEPHANIE  
What do you mean?

JONAH  
You look like you haven't slept.  
Where's Kyle?

STEPHANIE  
Home. Where would he be?

JONAH  
Isn't he always over here to  
sleepover?



STEPHANIE

Have you had any sleepovers lately?  
Anybody new you want to talk to me  
about?

JONAH

If this is about that Tinder girl I  
told Kyle about, there's nothing  
really to tell yet.

STEPHANIE

Tinder girl? What do you mean?

JONAH

Oh, Kyle was just going on and on  
about how I can't seem to hold down  
a girl and well, I wanted to share--

STEPHANIE

You have a new girlfriend?

JONAH

Not exactly.

STEPHANIE

Dude. I've been waiting for ya'll  
to come clean or I'd at least catch  
you but damn!

JONAH

What?

Stephanie's eye twitches.

STEPHANIE

You and Sarah!

JONAH

Oh, uh, we're still figuring things  
out. I'm unsure if she's into me.

STEPHANIE

She is!

JONAH

Why are you too pleased about this?

STEPHANIE

Your future might not have be a  
weird uncle after all!

She hugs him.

INT. CITY HALL (CONFERENCE ROOM) - DAY

Healy sits and watches Jonah pointing at a Powerpoint presentation on the projector screen. Her expression is neutral but curious.

JONAH

Managing the budget, the controller told us that we should raise some funds to really spearhead this campaign. The crowd favors the incumbent but we can't be too careful.

Jonah thinks for a moment.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Let's lean into the positives of this term and go from there. I believe Lee has some strategies -- up our search-ability, make sure our analytics are up to snuff.

HEALY

Great.

They turn to Lee, who goes pink.

LEE

(weakly)

Uhhh, I can make... infographics about the things we care about?

HEALY

I never thought of that! Brilliant! Jonah, she's better than you.

JONAH

Doubtful.

Lee looks at him and he narrows his eyes at her, competitive.

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sarah massages Jonah's shoulders.

JONAH

I can't believe that Healy trusts this new girl over me.

SARAH

I think you're getting ahead of yourself, Jonah. She does a whole other job entirely.

JONAH

But I'm her right hand man! I have the brilliant ideas! I trusted the new hire and she made me look at fool. Healy's eating out of her hand.

SARAH

What are you going to do about it now, though?

JONAH

That girl is going down.

SARAH

While I do love a revenge plan, maybe we can be more present?

Sarah nudges his shoulder with her nose.

JONAH

You're right.

Sarah attempts to bring Jonah closer to her but he resists.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Oh, by the way, I know these things feel pretty frivolous and full of pretentious upper class folks but it seems that there will probably be a fundraising event.

SARAH

I'd love to accompany you.

JONAH

Yeah, sure.

SARAH

That was convincing.

JONAH

No, no. Come. Of course.

Jonah kisses her cheek.

EXT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lee unlocks her car. COUNCILWOMAN TESSA ADAMS (40s, grey suit, pointed) shouts.

TESSA

Lee!

LEE

Councilwoman.

TESSA

What you got for me?

LEE

We cannot talk out here, get in.

INT. LEE'S CAR - NIGHT

Lee and Tessa close the car doors behind them.

LEE

What are you doing here? I can't be seen with you.

TESSA

When I employ somebody, I expect some kind of results. What information do you have?

LEE

I'm working on it!

TESSA

What's your plan?

LEE

I wasn't even gonna get the job, you know. I blackmailed the Deputy Mayor.

TESSA

Excuse me. Why not just use that? Certainly Healy would lose voters that way. What's the central juicy scandal?

LEE

It's not really a scandal but Jonah's on the dating apps.

TESSA

That's peanuts.

LEE

We matched and he didn't want anybody to know.

TESSA

Wait a minute. Romance him. He must be hopeless in the dating department.

LEE

How do you know?

TESSA

He's on Tinder.

LEE

You think that I could find some more stuff just by romancing?

TESSA

Nuclear codes have probably been exchanged during pillow talk.

INT. BODEGA - DAY

Jonah places another box of multi-pack condoms and lube. Same Sad Sack Clerk from before.

SAD SACK CLERK

We don't have that deal anymore.

JONAH

I'll take them anyway.

The scanner gun fails to beep. Jonah taps his foot but then stops.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Take your time.

Jonah looks around the store. He notices Lee perusing the vitamins aisle, holding a magazine and some skin products.

Jonah turns back to the clerk.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Any luck?

BEEP. Jonah shoves his card in the reader. It PINGS.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Thank you. I'll take a bag.

Sad Clerk hands him a bag. He shoves it in when Lee finally gets to the counter.

LEE  
Jonah!

JONAH  
Lee.

LEE  
Funny to catch you here.

Lee puts down all of her items. The Sad Sack Clerk struggles with that damn scanner gun again.

JONAH  
It's the only bodega around here  
that has it all.

LEE  
Except maybe a working scanner.

JONAH  
You'd think there'd be a working  
one around these parts of town.

LEE  
Small town, I guess.

SARAH (O.S.)  
Jonah!

JONAH  
Increasingly shrinking. Sarah!

Sarah leans in for a kiss but Jonah turns away from it.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
This is Lee. My co-worker. She's  
the campaign director I was telling  
you about.

He takes a step away from Lee.

SARAH  
Oh, it's nice to meet you. That  
moisturizer is great.

LEE  
It's the best. Holy grail product.

Jonah gets awkward, he clutches the condoms in the bag.

LEE (CONT'D)  
So, how do you guys know each other?

Jonah and Sarah exchange looks.

JONAH  
Yes, my friend. Really close.

Sarah seems hurt by this.

LEE  
Sweet.

SAD SACK CLERK  
Next!

LEE  
That's me. I've gotta get going.  
See you at work?

Lee leaves them. Jonah looks at Sarah, about to open her mouth.

JONAH  
Shit, I forgot I have something with Kyle. I'm late.

SARAH  
Jonah!

JONAH  
I'll text you!

He darts out.

EXT. BODEGA - DAY

Jonah pants as he rounds the corner and bumps into Casey.

JONAH  
Casey.

He runs. Casey watches, kinda laughing.

INT. STEPHANIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Stephanie meticulously scrolls through Jonah and Sarah's social media.

KYLE

Scroll any harder, I think you're thumbs are gonna fall off.

STEPHANIE

I just want to view any interaction they might have had on socials.

KYLE

Jonah already told you that they're in the talking stages. I wouldn't pry so deep.

STEPHANIE

They lied to me at first.

KYLE

I don't know. Sometimes these things take some time to grow before anything else. Maybe neither were ready to talk about.

Steph's barely listening, she continues to scroll.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Hey anyway, I think I want to get that apartment. Do you maybe wanna check it out with me?

STEPHANIE

Mhmm.

KYLE

OK, great. I thought you'd put up more of a fight. Can you be there by 7 tomorrow?

Steph nods, blindly. Kyle returns to his book.

INT. CITY HALL (CONFERENCE ROOM) - DAY

Healy, Jonah, and Lee sit around. Jonah has a notepad while Lee has her laptop.

HEALY

It's gotta be at The Ashbury.

JONAH

But of course. Your beloved there.

LEE

What's the Ashbury?



JONAH

Surprised you haven't been there.  
It's a night club downtown. An  
exclusive crowd.

LEE

But it's a night club. Isn't that  
taboo?

HEALY

Look at AOC. She has a good time.  
Why can't we?

JONAH

Plus, Healy's most loyal supporters  
frequent there. I'm sure it'll make  
them nice and generous.

LEE

I thought I was the one directing  
the ship.

JONAH

But you didn't even know what the  
Ashbury was.

Lee seethes a bit.

LEE

I sent you some flyers for the  
event, Healy. I also went ahead and  
posted infographics about Women's  
Month on our Instagram. So far, 145  
likes.

HEALY

Sounds like the Lee's got it.

JONAH

You mean, the team.

HEALY

Don't be so sensitive, Jonah. We're  
all in this together! Why don't we  
do happy hour tonight?

Lee gives Jonah a shit eating grin.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Line of tequila shots on the counter. Healy picks up one,  
raises it.

HEALY  
To a successful re-election!

JONAH  
Cheers!

He grabs his then Lee.

LEE  
Cheers?

They all drink.

HEALY  
It burns!

JONAH  
Bad bad bad.

LEE  
Oh, come on. You can't handle a  
little tequila?

JONAH  
I can handle my liquor. I'm just a  
whiskey man.

LEE  
Aren't they all?

HEALY  
Relax, you two. You have to show up  
to the press conference tomorrow.  
We find out who we're up against.

LATER

Jonah and Lee line up another set of shots. Some are whiskey,  
the others are tequila. They down them all.

JONAH  
You're like 5 inches off the  
ground. There's no way you're out  
drinking me.

LEE  
I was in a sorority, I think I got  
you beat.

JONAH  
That makes sense.

LEE

Is this the part where you finally say something overtly sexist?

JONAH

No. I was just gonna say that's why you're easily swept in competitive fervor. I was Alpha Sigma Phi at NJCU.

LEE

Oh. Come on, next up.

MONTAGE

- Lee takes a shot then Jonah.
- Jonah tries to drink water, Lee punches it out of his hands.
- Lee takes one more shot but then falls off the chair.
- Jonah begs a MAN on the street for a smoke, he passes it over for a drag when Lee runs away with it.

EXT. BAR PATIO - NIGHT

Jonah and Lee sit on a bench, slightly bent over. They're wasted.

LEE

I think I gotta tap out.

JONAH

No, I think I gotta tap out.

LEE

I said it first.

JONAH

Well I said it second.

There's a brief pause and then a combustion of laughter.

LEE

We're fucked tomorrow. Shit.

JONAH

Nah, come on. I got you.

INT. HOLLYWOOD FRIED CHICKEN - NIGHT

COUNTER PERSON (40s) points at Jonah.

COUNTER PERSON  
Yes? What you want?

JONAH  
I'll have a combo #4.

Lee snorts.

LEE  
You said mambo.

JONAH  
Extra ketchup.

COUNTER PERSON  
\$9.75.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD FRIED CHICKEN - NIGHT

Jonah and Lee inhale fried chicken and french fries, drinking giant water bottles, sitting on the curb.

Lee's phone DINGS. She looks at it. Tessa. She tries to pick up her phone but her greasy fingers tell her otherwise.

LEE  
Ah, fuck.

JONAH  
I got it.

LEE  
NO. I got it.

JONAH  
OK, OK. You got it.

Lee picks up the phone and pockets it.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Maybe I was wrong about you.

LEE  
Probably not.

She laughs.

JONAH  
You're fun is all I'm saying.

LEE

I usually don't eat fried chicken.  
So, maybe you're not so bad  
yourself.

JONAH

Thanks.

LEE

I'm shocked all of that cost under  
\$10. Everything's so damn  
expensive.

JONAH

Tell me about it. We easily went  
over budget for the gala. But Healy  
had a maneuver up her sleeve.

LEE

What maneuver?

JONAH

Nah, never mind. Forget I said  
anything. I should get going.

Jonah gets up, clumsily. Lee helps him and they lock eyes.  
Jonah kisses her but Lee pulls away.

JONAH (CONT'D)

That was bad. Bad bad.

LEE

Don't worry about it.

JONAH

Oh god.

Jonah leaves, mortified.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sarah tries on another dress, this time a lilac bridesmaid  
one. It's short.

SARAH

What do you think?

STEPHANIE

What's the occasion? Another  
wedding?

SARAH

No. Just dinner.

STEPHANIE  
Seems too fancy for a dinner.

SARAH  
The guy's pretty rich.

STEPHANIE  
Uh huh. Well...

Stephanie walks over to a rack of ivory midi dresses.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)  
You look great in satin. Go with  
this.

Sarah enters the dressing room, closing the curtain behind her.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)  
Do you know where you're having  
dinner yet?

SARAH (O.S.)  
Um, he didn't say. Wait, actually,  
he did. Some Moroccan spot.

STEPHANIE  
There's Moroccan food in Jersey  
City?

SARAH (O.S.)  
Heh. It's new.

Stephanie knows she's lying but Sarah comes out.

SARAH (CONT'D)  
What do you think?

STEPHANIE  
Gorge.

INT. LEE'S CAR - NIGHT

Lee dials a number on her phone. Councilwoman Tessa is  
appears on the screen.

INTERCUT PHONE CALL

LEE  
Healy overspent the people's taxes  
on this gala. I'd start digging  
there.

TESSA  
She's unbelievable.

LEE  
Maybe she used taxpayer money,  
intending to pay it back.

TESSA  
Wonderful. Perfect ammo. If we go  
all the way, you'll be my Deputy  
Mayor. Consider it done.

Both Lee and Tessa smile into their phones.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jonah notices Lee sitting in the car, talking on the phone.  
He looks at her, a bit wistfully.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sarah and Stephanie set up new fixtures. Sarah smiles to  
herself while she works when a COUPLE (30s) walk in, holding  
hands.

WOMAN  
Hey, I'm looking for a co-  
ordinating set. Do you have any of  
those?

STEPHANIE  
Of course. This way.

Stephanie pulls a geometric pattern set and shows her.

WOMAN  
This is rad. Can I try it on?

Stephanie takes the set back and walks her to the dressing  
room. The woman walks into the room then Stephanie pulls on  
the velvet curtain that offers privacy.

SARAH  
Can I ask you something?

STEPHANIE  
Is it Jonah related?

SARAH  
You found out.

STEPHANIE

Yeah, of course I did. I know you're going that gala, too.

SARAH

Not exactly.

STEPHANIE

What do you mean?

SARAH

He like half-heartedly invited me.

STEPHANIE

Are you wanting to know if he does that?

SARAH

No. Ugh, yes.

STEPHANIE

He's got wishy washy tendencies just like any other guy.

SARAH

Except for your guy.

STEPHANIE

We aren't talking about Kyle. Listen, he invited you. You're good, girl. Don't be pressed.

SARAH

He's just been so distant lately. Anytime I ask if he's OK, he just blames Healy and his job.

STEPHANIE

Do you want to be assistant Mayor of this town? You couldn't take any vape breaks.

SARAH

I don't know. Maybe I'm just being paranoid.

STEPHANIE

Like I said. My brother's never been around someone this long. I think it's a good sign.

This soothes Sarah.



INT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kyle wipes down some empty drawers, Stephanie walks in and puts her bag down.

STEPHANIE  
What are you doing?

KYLE  
Hey! I made some room for your stuff.

STEPHANIE  
For what?

KYLE  
I don't know. I thought to like soft launch into the real thing.

STEPHANIE  
I haven't made my mind up yet.

KYLE  
I know, I know. But I thought it'd be easier to just transition into having stuff in a shared living space.

STEPHANIE  
Oh.

KYLE  
You can put your stuff in here!

Stephanie opens her weekender and takes out four pairs of panties.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
That's all you got?

STEPHANIE  
I didn't bring all of my clothes.

KYLE  
I figured you'd have more. Or, like extra pairs of period panties?

STEPHANIE  
Period panties?

KYLE  
There was a Tampon wrapper on the bathroom counter.

STEPHANIE

I told you I was a horrible roommate!

KYLE

No, no. It's OK. Really. Take your time, I don't want you to freak out.

Kyle hugs her, she looks unnerved.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I can also get like extra store cubes or something - if you think that's not enough room.

STEPHANIE

Kyle.

KYLE

Maybe I just get a whole new place. How about that?

STEPHANIE

If you want to.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jonah and Sarah make out. They're about to get into it.

SARAH

Do you have anymore condoms?

JONAH

Shit. No. I've been so distracted at work that I haven't had the chance to pick any up.

SARAH

Aw. Mister. You know my rule.

JONAH

Can we make an exception? I promise to pull out.

SARAH

I don't think so.

JONAH

Fair.

He turns over, lays down on his back.

SARAH

I mean, I only reserve that for a boyfriend.

Jonah bites his lip.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Or something of that nature.

Jonah kisses her then rolls on top, she's smiling.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sarah stares at her phone but no new notifications.

STEPHANIE

You are glued to your phone. You must be down bad.

SARAH

No, just on Twitter.

STEPHANIE

I see you checking your iMessages.

SARAH

What?

Sarah hides her phone.

STEPHANIE

You, me, Kyle and Jonah should all hang out some time.

SARAH

Oh, I don't think so.

STEPHANIE

Why not?

SARAH

We're keeping things chill. For now.

STEPHANIE

I feel like dating should be more straight forward than this. I can ask for you.

SARAH

I feel like he'll hate that.

STEPHANIE

He will but I have hope for this. I want to quad date!

Sarah takes a peak at her phone. Still nothing.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

ON THE TV: News Flash - Councilwoman Tessa Adams to officially run against the incumbent Mayor Healy.

Jonah watches, his mouth hanging open.

INT. CITY HALL (CONFERENCE ROOM) - DAY

There is absolute silence in the room. Healy leans against the door, Jonah watches everybody else, Lee hangs her head low.

WENDY

I'll go grab some coffees.

HEALY

If I go down, all of you are going with me.

INT. CITY HALL (JONAH'S OFFICE) - DAY

Jonah sits at his desk and slumps into his chair. Lee appears at the door then takes a seat in front of Jonah.

LEE

That was intense.

JONAH

Oh, Lee. Hi.

LEE

Is everything OK?

JONAH

You heard Healy. You got a plan, Stan?

LEE

We just gotta keep our head down. The Gala is underway. Leave it to the pro.

She reaches over his desk to grab his arm. Jonah smiles.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sarah sulks around the cash wrap counter. She's slowly unpacking some new jewelry, laying them delicately on stands.

Stephanie looks over at her sullen expression.

STEPHANIE

Usually gold plated makes you ecstatic.

SARAH

Things kind of seem pretty dull right now I guess.

STEPHANIE

What happened?

SARAH

What? Nothing.

STEPHANIE

What did Jonah do?

SARAH

Nothing. We just haven't spoken about details of the gala. I found out where it was and how to RSVP on Instagram. I'm just bugging out a little but it's probably just anxiety.

Sarah turns and unpacks some blouses from a nearby box.

STEPHANIE

No wonder you've been Eeyore!

SARAH

Forget it. You're just gonna make fun of me.

STEPHANIE

No, sorry. Just remember that he's just a guy. They're all just guys. Nothing too special, really. They can never appreciate what they got.

SARAH

Kyle's pretty great, though.

STEPHANIE

He's an anomaly. Abnormal really. I don't really get why he's so into me.

SARAH

The grass greener on the other side?

STEPHANIE

Maybe. Come on. You're going to have a great night tonight. Enjoy it, OK?

INT. THE ASHBURY - NIGHT

Jonah dressed to the nines. DONORS donned in fancy garb make small talk in the lobby. Lee walks in and catches Jonah's eye. He gets nervous and hides behind a catering table.

Sarah arrives, looks around the room for Jonah. She sees him behind the table and walks up to him.

SARAH

Hey.

JONAH

Heyyy.

SARAH

You look so nice.

JONAH

You too.

Jonah spots Lee in his peripherals.

JONAH (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go get us some drinks.

SARAH

Oh, I'll go with you. My drink order is always pretty complicated. I like it stirred then shaken then stirred again. It's a whole thing.

JONAH

Stirred then shaken and stirred again. I got it. You can hang tight.

Jonah squeezes her hand, Sarah smiles.

INT. THE ASHBURY (BAR TOP) - NIGHT

Lee sips on a martini. Jonah approaches.

JONAH

Award for most lively and best gala goes to...

LEE

Yeah? I'd like to think I had something to do with it.

JONAH

It's great, Lee. The pledges are flooding in!

LEE

I bet they are.

Lee returns to her martini.

WITH SARAH

Sarah looks around the room at all of the pleasantries. She feels a little nervous and out of place.

She texts Steph: I feel like an alien. Sarah turns and tries to reach for a champagne flute but the SERVER walks right past her.

Steph texts back: Should I come? Sarah: Empathic yes.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Kyle checks the time on his phone in an empty apartment. He stands in front of the in unit laundry. It is really nice.

INT. THE ASHBURY - NIGHT

Stephanie surveys the room, dressed in a black dress. She's wearing sneakers. She finds Sarah.

SARAH

You're wearing sneakers.

STEPHANIE

Being the Dep Mayor's sister counts for something, right? Where's Jonah?

SARAH

He's over there with his co-worker. Hey, we're laying low. You're here to support me, OK?

STEPHANIE

Right.

WITH JONAH

Jonah locks eyes with Lee, their body language is facing each other.

An obvious vibe switch is happening between them. Lee strokes Jonah's arm.

WITH SARAH

Sarah trails behind Stephanie but sees Jonah with Lee. Her heart drops when Lee touches Jonah.

STEPHANIE

Jonah! I freaking knew you were boning!

JONAH

Steph?

LEE

Hey Sarah! And you are? His girlfriend?

STEPHANIE

His sister.

JONAH

No! I don't have a girlfriend.

\*

JONAH (CONT'D)

I mean, we're really close friends.

LEE

Phew. I thought maybe things progressed and I'd feel even worse about knowing about your Tinder account. I wouldn't have kissed you if I thought you were really dating someone else.

Sarah, crushed, darts away without Jonah noticing her.

STEPHANIE

You're an ass, J.

JONAH

I can explain it all.



STEPHANIE

Ignoring her then having her come here just for you to flit around with this bimbo.

LEE

I'm not a bimbo.

STEPHANIE

Sorry. I didn't mean that. I'm just a little angry right now. But at Jonah. Not you.

Steph turns around but Sarah is not there.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Shit, where'd she go?

JONAH

Can you go find her?

STEPHANIE

No! That's your job. I just came to support her and now that this shit happened, I gotta see Kyle-- Fuck. Kyle!

Steph runs out.

LEE

What is going on?

JONAH

My sister has lost her shit.

Just then, Healy arrives, dressed in the most ornate gala ball gown. Think Sophia Loren at the Oscar's in the Golden Age of Hollywood.

HEALY

Lee, this event is beyond gorgeous.

LEE

As are you.

JONAH

We're having a good time here.

SHOUTING. A swarm of middle aged WOMEN (30s/40s) populate the club's dance floor. In the front, Councilwoman Tessa.

The women throw up signs, protesting the gala. Healy turns red.

Jonah tries to mitigate and lead the crowd out of the place when Lee picks up a sign.

Jonah turns.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Lee?

LEE

It's nothing personal.

Jonah's crushed. He stumbles out, Healy yells for him.

HEALY (O.S.)

Jonah! Don't you leave me!

The crowd closes in on her.

EXT. THE ASHBURY - NIGHT

Jonah holds his phone up to his ear--

SARAH (V.O.)

Hey, it's Sarah. I can't come to the phone right now.

Just then, Casey walks up to Jonah.

CASEY

Good job, asshat.

JONAH

I didn't do anything!

CASEY

Then why do you look guilty?

She shakes her head at him.

JONAH

Where do you keep coming from?

INT. JONAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jonah sits on his bed, phone in hand. It RINGS. He picks it up, puts it on speaker, barely listening.

HEALY (O.S.)

Jonah, you are so fired. I can't believe I trusted you. You left me out there to die!

Jonah hangs up then lays down.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Jonah and Kyle sit on the bench. They sit in silence.

JONAH  
Did she make it to the showing?

KYLE  
Eventually. You got no girls now,  
huh?

JONAH  
Yep.

KYLE  
And no job.

JONAH  
Yep.

KYLE  
Shit. You gonna propose?

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Yep.

JONAH  
Shit.

They both take sips of their water bottles.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
What do I do now?

KYLE  
Depends.

JONAH  
No one wants to hear my  
explanations. What other choice do  
I have?

KYLE  
Leave everyone alone for awhile.

JONAH  
I gotta get my job back. Or  
something.

KYLE

Healy's not gonna get re-elected anyway.

JONAH

Because of the coup at the gala?

KYLE

Yeah. Using tax payers money is no joke. But also...

Kyle takes out his phone and pulls up IG. There's a salacious photo of Mayor Healy that was posted on the main city hall page.

JONAH

That's so.

KYLE

You'd need a new job, anyway. Maybe you could come teach at the school or something?

JONAH

Yeah, maybe.

INT. JONAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Jonah tries Sarah again but no avail.

INT. CAFE ELYSE - DAY

Stephanie sips on a latte, Kyle shifts nervously in his seat.

STEPHANIE

Do you gotta take a shit or something?

KYLE

No.

STEPHANIE

You look like your clenching something between your cheeks?

KYLE

That's not true.

STEPHANIE

You've barely had any of your Americano.

KYLE

Stephanie.

STEPHANIE

If you gotta go, just go.

KYLE

Steph! I'm trying to tell you something.

STEPHANIE

Listen, I'm sorry I was so late for the showing but I had to take care of Jonah and Sarah stuff.

KYLE

STEPH.

He takes the velvet box out. Stephanie eyes go wide.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna get on one knee.

STEPHANIE

Yeah, please don't.

KYLE

Mostly because I actually do have to poop.

STEPHANIE

I knew it.

KYLE

But I think this is right for me. I love you and--

STEPHANIE

We're just moving in together, maybe this is all moving too fast for me. \*I thought we were moving in together first..

KYLE

What?

Kyle shifts again in his seat, uncomfortable. He crosses his legs.

STEPHANIE

No, I mean.

She thinks for a second, taking a sip of water.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

You know me. I get overloaded and overwhelmed and.

KYLE

It's a yes or no, Steph.

Stephanie hangs on that for a moment too long. Kyle gets up.

STEPHANIE

Wait, where are you going?

KYLE

To the bathroom. I'm sorry.

Kyle scurries away, the velvet box sits between their coffees. Steph touches it.

IT'S A YES OK

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

Jonah checks left and right, no one around. He stares at the building -- runs his fingers through his hair, both hands on his hips.

INT. CITY HALL (JONAH'S OFFICE) - DAY

Jonah packs stuff up on his desk into a box. He makes his way out, Wendy looks sad as he leaves.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jonah throws his keys on a side table. He notices Steph's bedroom door open. He goes to it.

JONAH

Steph?

Packed suitcases, some boxes.

STEPHANIE

I'm out of here.

JONAH

So, you said yes? Ohmygod, congrats!

He goes to hug her but she shakes him off.

JONAH (CONT'D)

I thought this was supposed to be a joyous occasion.

STEPHANIE

Yeah, well, I thought it was possible for you to keep your dick in your pants but instead you fucked my co-worker, ghosted her and are already dating somebody else. Kyle told me in between him crying over how I'm such a horrible person.

JONAH

Stephanie, it's not what you think.

STEPHANIE

No. It's exactly what I think.

She throws a curling iron into a bag.

JONAH

You're made of the same cloth, sis. In case you haven't noticed. Both of us kind of fucked this up, haven't we? Just like dad.

STEPHANIE

No. You're like dad. I'm not having any of that.

JONAH

You were there too, Steph. Lest we not forget.

She swings her bag over her shoulder.

Jonah lets her through and watches her, as she slams the door in his face.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Stephanie lugs a suitcase up the front porch steps. She struggles on each step.

INT. KYLE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Kyle watches outside a window, sipping a coffee.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Stephanie taps a code into a lockbox hanging off the handle. She lets herself in.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Empty mid-century decorated spot. On the table: AIRBNB rules. Stephanie sits on the couch.

INT. KYLE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Kyle watches a hummingbird fly away. He turns and views the empty apartment with packed boxes.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Jonah and Wendy sit having coffee.

JONAH

She really was working for the other team, wasn't she?

WENDY

She was heavily vetted.

JONAH

Who vetted her?

WENDY

You.

They both look each other, slightly wincing.

WENDY (CONT'D)

How could you have known?

JONAH

I should have known the second she was good to keep my secret.

WENDY

You can't really have thought that.

JONAH

How did I not see it?

WENDY

That she was an undercover spy for the opposing team or that she was just using you to get to Healy?



JONAH

Both?

WENDY

She played you as the fool. Lying through her teeth.

JONAH

I was under the assumption that if you tell yourself something enough times, it ends up being true. Or, at the very least, feels that way.

WENDY

I don't think that girl was trying to harm you. Just wanted to win.

JONAH

I've done way worse for a win.

WENDY

I wouldn't sweat it too much, Jo.

JONAH

I have no prospects right now. I'm a low life. A nothing. From Deputy Mayor to a total fool.

WENDY

Maybe you need to get out of town awhile.

JONAH

I think I gotta face the music this time around, Wen.

INT. JONAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jonah scrolls through his phone. He taps SARAH and starts typing: I just want to talk. Can we meet?

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sarah's phone dings. On screen reads: JONAH. She deletes the messages and the contact. She blocks Jonah on social media.

INT. JONAH'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jonah tosses his phone, onto the coffee table. He sinks deeper into the couch, draining the last sip of bourbon in his glass.

He gets up for more but the bottle's empty.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Jonah sips on some whiskey. He finishes then waves at the bartender over for another. He looks over across the bar and makes eye contact with Kyle, sitting alone.

Jonah looks around and then back at Kyle, who seethes. Jonah gets up to sit next to Kyle.

JONAH  
You think I can buy you a drink?

KYLE  
I'm all set.

JONAH  
What did Stephanie even say to you?

KYLE  
Why don't you ask her?

JONAH  
As pleased as pie as it might make you, she's not really talking to me right now.

KYLE  
That doesn't make me happy to see that.

Kyle takes a sip of his beer.

JONAH  
Really. What did she say?

KYLE  
Well, she said yes. But when I wanted to call my mom and dad about it and she shut down. Changed her mind.

JONAH  
Like, in a command-force closed kind of way?

KYLE  
She told me that the return policy wasn't explicitly listed and she didn't have a receipt.

JONAH  
Did she say it in a rushed way or?

KYLE  
Does it matter?

JONAH  
Yes.

KYLE  
She mumbled.

JONAH  
She doesn't like to admit that  
she's smarter than me but...

KYLE  
Actually, pretty sure she says it  
regularly that she's smarter than  
you.

JONAH  
Yeah, yeah.

KYLE  
And prettier.

JONAH  
Now I won't stand for that. She's  
still my younger sister, though. By  
the way she pivoted, I can tell  
it's our family to blame.

KYLE  
So, you're admitting that you might  
be to blame?

JONAH  
Maybe. But the rest of our family  
was not easy to contend with and  
she basically had to navigate it  
alone.

KYLE  
Do you guys ever speak to your dad?

JONAH  
Other than the occasional holiday  
text from his bed with Marta?

Jonah nods his head, "no."

JONAH (CONT'D)

He's way happier with his dream woman and kid.

KYLE

(sighs)

We've been together for years and I love her. She used to reassure that she felt the same way but lately, the only thing I'm sure of is that she doesn't like my polo shirts.

JONAH

There was this one time, before her first swimming lesson, Steph cried to my mom and dad because she was afraid her Speedo issued one piece bathing suit was too tight.

Jonah takes a sip of his drink.

JONAH (CONT'D)

She flailed in the kitchen, as my mom tried to help her out of it. When my mom couldn't convince her that it wasn't a boa constrictor snake trying to kill her, my mom let her cry and told her she didn't have to go to the lesson.

KYLE

So, you think I should tell her that she doesn't have to marry me? Like, I'm playing some sort of twisted game?

JONAH

Steph ended up going to the class. She wasn't crying because she didn't want to go, she was crying because she was scared.

Kyle takes this in. Jonah finishes his drink.

JONAH (CONT'D)

I think that's maybe why we both don't know how to choose a lane. It's more comfortable to swerve but who knew it would be more dangerous.

KYLE

Switching lanes without signaling is very dangerous. Actually.

Jonah finishes his beer then hops off the stool.

JONAH

How about you let me know about school, bud.

KYLE

No. Not still on the table.

He pats Kyle on the back, turning to leave.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sarah stares at the door, sitting behind the register counter.

The store is slow, Stephanie quietly stocks the garters, organizing them by color and size.

Stephanie looks over at Sarah. They make brief eye contact.

SARAH

Are we not going to talk about it?

STEPHANIE

Do you want to talk about it?

SARAH

I don't know. No.

STEPHANIE

(softening)

If you were just going to lecture me anyway so might as well get right to it.

Stephanie finishes a fold and walks behind the counter, next to Sarah.

SARAH

I'm in no position to dole out relationship advice.

STEPHANIE

I couldn't give Kyle an answer. Something didn't feel right. Vibes were way off.

SARAH

You're just like your brother.

STEPHANIE

I've been hearing that a lot lately  
but that isn't true at all.

SARAH

Yes, it is. Girl - you've been  
stringing Kyle along the same way  
Jonah has been stringing me along.

STEPHANIE

There's the lecture.

SARAH

I'm just being honest.

STEPHANIE

Well, you're not an angel either.  
Whenever you talked about having  
the best sex of your life, putting  
the dots together and grossing me  
out.

SARAH

That's not even relevant. You're  
doing that thing you do when you  
feel called out.

The door SWINGS open, some CACKLING echoes through. Two girls  
bop around the store, grabbing every pastel colored dress,  
accessories, etc.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I played the game. Maybe I just  
played a little too hard. All my  
eggs in one basket.

CACKLING GIRL #1

Can we get a fitting room?

STEPHANIE

Sure. I'll take those for you.

Stephanie grabs the girl's things and hangs it on a rack in  
one of the open fitting rooms.

CACKLING GIRL #1

Thanks so much!

STEPHANIE

Sure.

Stephanie makes her way back to the counter.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Is it so awful to say that yeah,  
Jonah's choices have really messed  
with my life?

She wipes the counter with a disinfectant wipe.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

First it's sleeping with you then  
it's Kyle thinking I coddle him  
and...

SARAH

What does Kyle have to do with your  
relationship with your brother?

There's a caked on stain on the counter, Steph starts  
attacking it with the wipe.

STEPHANIE

I don't know. Everything?

SARAH

Now that's some conspirator shit  
I'll never get.

STEPHANIE

I sense a bit of judgement, chief.

SARAH

Listen, if I didn't know any  
better, I'd say you're scared and  
using Jonah as your shield.

STEPHANIE

It wasn't me that I was afraid to  
hurt.

SARAH

Oh, so you wanted to warn me?

STEPHANIE

Yeah.

Girl steps out of the fitting room. Sarah and Stephanie turn  
to her.

SARAH

It looks lovely.

CACKLING GIRL #2

Doesn't it? All of my bridesmaids are going to rock this dress so hard! Do you guys have these in more sizes?

STEPHANIE

I'll check the back!

SARAH

No, I will. I'll be back.

She turns to walk towards the back stock room.

STEPHANIE

Are you excited for your wedding?

CACKLING GIRL #2

To be honest, no.

STEPHANIE

What do you mean?

CACKLING GIRL #2

I mean, yeah! Tom's amazing! But planning this whole wedding day has been exhausting. I didn't know that you pick everything from the gold ring holding the napkin to what song is gonna play when your parents come out during the reception intros.

STEPHANIE

That seems like a lot.

CACKLING GIRL #2

And then finding the perfect dress. For all of the bridal party, then me.

STEPHANIE

I wouldn't wanna do that.

CACKLING GIRL #2

But it's worth it. I know the jaded will tell me that weddings are archaic, marriage is a sham of an institution but-- it's just a party.



CACKLING GIRL #1

One that will be remembered for the rest of your lives by the people you care about in your life and importantly, the one you love the most.

STEPHANIE

And your family and friends, too?

CACKLING GIRL #2

Yeah but mostly the dude you're going to marry. Tom's amazing, gentle, puts up with my shit. Like, I have probably tried to cancel this whole thing eight times for hating his shoes.

CACKLING GIRL #1

She had other choices.

CACKLING GIRL #2

We all do. But I made the right one.

STEPHANIE

How do you know that you did?

CACKLING GIRL #2

You don't. But what's the alternative?

Stephanie stares at her. Sarah returns from the back room.

SARAH

We have every size stocked from XS to XL.

CACKLING GIRL #2

Ahhh! Perfect! We'll take the mall.

Stephanie looks out at the front door and then suddenly runs.

STEPHANIE

I gotta take a five!

SARAH

OK! Talk later!

INT. JONAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Jonah watches a LIVE VIDEO on his computer: HEALY SECURES RE-RELECTION. Stephanie, out of breath, barrels through the door.

JONAH

Steph! I was literally just going to call you. Listen, I'm so sorry.

STEPHANIE

Shut it, bro. I have a huge favor to ask you and we need to get to it like now then maybe I'll forgive you for being an idiot.

JONAH

What do you need?

INT. HOME DEPOT - DAY

Jonah and Stephanie hold a sign up in the paint can aisle -- you can't read it but the bottom of the banner hangs over their heads, propped between two of the shelving beams.

STEPHANIE

Are you sure he's supposed to be here?

JONAH

Yeah, he mentioned that while he was re-arranging his office, some paint chipped and had to get some.

STEPHANIE

Was it a big chip?

JONAH

You know that answer to that.

STEPHANIE

I can't believe I hurt him.

JONAH

You close your eyes before you leap.

Stephanie looks over at him.

STEPHANIE

Jeez, man. You really don't know how to not insert yourself in everything, huh?

JONAH  
I'm not inserting myself. I'm  
trying to be comforting!

STEPHANIE  
Let's just not talk.

Over the loudspeaker, an HOME DEPOT EMPLOYEE.

HOME DEPOT EMPLOYEE (O.S.)  
(stammering)  
Can I have someone come to the key  
kios- key... kiosk? Key. Kiosk?

Stephanie and Jonah exchange looks.

STEPHANIE  
Where is Kyle?

Jonah looks over and sees Kyle's recognizable gait.

JONAH  
There!

STEPHANIE  
Kyle! Hey!

Kyle turns around, circling in confusion, and doesn't see  
where the source of his name calling is coming from.

Jonah whistles.

JONAH  
Bud!

Just then, an employee riding one of those tractors holding a  
giant piece of plywood drives in front of him, blocking his  
view.

STEPHANIE  
Damn it.

When the tractor drives past, Kyle's gone.

JONAH  
Where'd he go?

Stephanie runs, checking every aisle. Jonah follows suit.  
They meet back in the aisle and don't see him.

STEPHANIE  
We lost him! Let me call him.

She dials her phone and hears a ring from behind her. She turns and sees a sobbing Kyle, sitting on a paint can.

JONAH

Found him.

He winces.

STEPHANIE

Hey, babe.

She reaches down and hugs him. He stays sobbing.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Did you see the sign?

Jonah tries to exit but Stephanie tugs on his jacket. Kyle looks up.

KYLE

Yes. Yes, I will.

Stephanie and Kyle kiss. Jonah gets uncomfortable.

The sign above their heads reads: "Kyle, marry me?"

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Stephanie stands in a beautiful A-line shaped dress, with a sweetheart neckline. The veil hangs nicely behind her, revealing buttons all down the back. It's an amazing dress.

SARAH

You look great.

STEPHANIE

This will be you one day.

SARAH

Yeah.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jonah tries to call Sarah but it goes straight to voicemail.

He straightens his tie in the mirror, brushes off lint on his black suit, and takes a deep breath.

Jonah grabs a card and his keys then walks out of his apartment, closing the door behind him.

INT. JONAH'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

OLD NEIGHBOR (80s) walks slowly down the hall, Jonah locks his door.

OLD NEIGHBOR

Nice meat.

Jonah looks back at her and smiles to himself.

INT. WEDDING VENUE - DAY

Stephanie and Kyle stand in front of each other, a MINISTER (50s) behind them.

MINISTER

And you guys have some words you want to share with each other?

Kyle immediately starts bawling.

STEPHANIE

Yes, yes we do. I'll start. Kyle--

Kyle's crying gets louder and louder. It fills the room.

Jonah stifles laughter but then hears a huge snort. Sarah. He turns to her and they make eye contact.

INT. RECEPTION VENUE (COCKTAIL HOUR) - NIGHT

Jonah roams around the room, Stephanie and Kyle flit around, greet people.

He makes his way to the bar. The bartender brings him a drink when Sarah taps Jonah on the shoulder.

He turns toward her.

JONAH

Didn't think you'd come up and say hi.

SARAH

I'm not. I just want to get a drink.

JONAH

Oh, right. Sorry.

Jonah starts to walk away.

SARAH

Wait.

JONAH

Sarah, I'm sorry.

SARAH

This is hardly the time for this.

JONAH

I know.

SARAH

It's your sister's day. You know how pissed she'd get if she knew?

JONAH

Yeah, I'm more concerned about Kyle, though. I feel like he'd start crying again.

They look over at them, a weepy Kyle hugs Stephanie, who is lovingly embracing him.

SARAH

She looks beautiful.

JONAH

Yeah.

SARAH

Are you OK?

JONAH

Trying. But we don't have to talk about it now. I just have so much to explain.

SARAH

Well, maybe we can meet for coffee or something.

JONAH

I'd love that.

Stephanie clocks the two of them talking to each other and starts making her way toward them.

SARAH

Shit.

She scampers the other way.

JONAH  
Hey, you. Congrats little sis!

STEPHANIE  
Where's Sarah going?

JONAH  
She was just getting a drink.

STEPHANIE  
Did you apologize to her?

JONAH  
Oh, today's not about me.

STEPHANIE  
Did you say sorry to her?

JONAH  
Yeah. I tried.

STEPHANIE  
Jonah!

JONAH  
Shouldn't you be like having your  
first dance or something?

STEPHANIE  
Dad didn't show.

JONAH  
I'll dance with you.

STEPHANIE  
Yeah. I was hoping as a wedding  
gift, you could maybe handle that.

Jonah shakes his head.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)  
I already can't get Kyle to stop  
crying.

JONAH  
His face looks puffy.

STEPHANIE  
He's gonna hate the wedding photos.

JONAH  
Remind me to pay for the reshoots.

STEPHANIE

Thanks for being here, Jo. Our family sucks but you don't. Well, sometimes at least.

JONAH

I couldn't miss it for the world.

STEPHANIE

Are you ready with that speech?

Jonah nods, emphatically.

INT. RECEPTION VENUE (DINNER) - NIGHT

Jonah stands with one hand in his pocket, the other holding a mic.

He paces back and forth, the wedding guests gently laugh.

JONAH

When Stephanie first told me that I had to do give a speech, I resisted. I thought: no one's gonna wanna hear from a man that allowed a whole swarm of protestors storm the Capitol!

One weak laugh from the back.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Tough crowd. Bad joke.

Jonah clears his throat.

JONAH (CONT'D)

I'm not a comedian. I don't do stand up and I certainly don't think I could possibly regale you with funny anecdotes or hard truths disguised in something easily digestible.

Stephanie and Kyle look at each other, sitting in front of him. Stephanie catches Jonah's eye and nods, warmly.

JONAH (CONT'D)

But I'll tell you some stuff that I know and the things that I don't.

Beat.



JONAH (CONT'D)

I always thought that the best way to live is to have cake and eat it, too. One foot out the door. Waiting for the other shoe to drop. Wait, maybe I am good at anecdotes!

Guests laugh.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Anyway, I don't really think that way anymore. I think that sometimes we get so afraid of facing the parts of us that want to stay in the dark. I mean, imagine reaching into a closet at night? You don't want to face whatever monster lurks behind the trench coat you never use.

Laughs.

JONAH (CONT'D)

But Stephanie and Kyle? You guys found a flash light and went right in there.

Stephanie and Kyle look at each other.

JONAH (CONT'D)

And for that, thank you. For teaching me how to look at things from a perspective of light.

Stephanie holds back tears.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Maybe one day, I'll be able to share it with somebody right. Cheers to Steph and Kyle. I love you guys.

Jonah raises a glass, everyone else follows suit. Stephanie gets up and slaps his shoulder.

STEPHANIE

You're so freaking corny.

They embrace each other.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Glad you exist.

They hold onto each other just a bit longer.

EXT. WEDDING VENUE (DRIVE WAY) - NIGHT

Stephanie and Kyle load into a black SUV. They wave at the guests before the car drives away.

Jonah flicks a lit but finished cigarette, a plume of smoke trails behind him.

He looks over at GUESTS, some funneling out to go home, others going back to the bar for one last night cap.

Sarah appears behind him, vape smoke, et Al.

SARAH

Nice speech. Did you steal it from Google?

Jonah turns.

JONAH

No, actually. I came up with that on the way up to the wedding.

SARAH

Crafty.

JONAH

I really meant to tell you earlier that I'm sorry. How everything went down back there.

SARAH

Yeah, it was pretty shitty.

JONAH

If it makes you feel any better, I got my heart handed to me, too.

SARAH

I don't think we should compare notes.

JONAH

You're right. Not becoming of us.

SARAH

Not at all.

Jonah points over an OLD COUPLE (80s) talking closely at the table.

JONAH

What do you think they're talking about?

Sarah looks over and starts laughing.

SARAH

They probably can't even hear each other, if I'm being honest.

Jonah chuckles.

JONAH

You're right.

There's an awkward beat.

SARAH

I should go see what the other bridesmaids are doing to get home.

JONAH

Hey, Sarah! Do you maybe wanna get coffee sometime?

SARAH

Maybe.

JONAH

That's good with me.

SARAH

See ya.

INT. JONAH'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jonah loosens his tie around his neck. He unbuttons his shirt, while staring at the mirror. His eyes are bloodshot.

He grabs a glass and a whiskey bottle on the bar cart. He gets a whiff and immediately gags.

JONAH

Nope.

Jonah reaches for his phone and texts Sarah: I'm free next Sunday, if you really wanted to get that coffee.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dressed in a robe and eye patches, Sarah reads a text from an unknown phone number.

It reads: Sunday's good.

Sarah thinks for a moment, she takes a deep breath and sends a THUMBS UP emoji. Her phone RINGS.

SARAH  
(into phone)  
Hey James. I'm on my way back from  
the wedding. I'll see you soon, I  
can't wait.

INT. JONAH'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jonah gets into bed and browses through some adult entertainment.

An alert pops up: Charge to Stephanie and Kyle's Wedding Tab?

Jonah clicks YES.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Guests filter out with weekenders. Some still in their dresses and suits from last night.

Women hold their heels in their hands. Men walk around with the dress shirts hanging out.

Continental breakfast is being served in the lobby.

Jonah looks around, hoping to see a familiar face but no one he can recognize.

He steps outside, hailing a cab.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Jonah looks behind him one last time, making sure he didn't miss anything. He tosses his weekender into the seat next to him. CAB DRIVER (40s) waves.

CAB DRIVER  
Where to?

JONAH  
Jersey City.

INT. CAB - DAY

Jonah smiles at his phone and then opens a dating app.

HINGE GIRL (20s-30s) pops up with a tantalizing message: just looking for a FWB. Is that OK?

Jonah exits the app and peers out the window.

Happy but hungover couples call their cabs, go home together.

Jonah's alone but on his way home.

**THE END.**