

THE DUFF

Written by

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Based on the book by Kody Keplinger

INT. MALLOY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

It's a few minutes before homeroom, and kids are scurrying to their classes. A BUNCH OF DUDES are standing by their lockers.

One of them checks the time on his phone, and holds it up to his buddies.

DUDE #1
OH, COME ON!

DUDE #2
The waiting IS the hardest part.

We see the clock the wall CLICK from 7:44am to 7:45am.

DUDE #3
Showtime.

Everything goes into SLOW MOTION as we see the TWO UNBELIEVABLY GORGEOUS 17 YEAR OLD GIRLS: JESS & CASEY.

They both look and dress like models. Jess is more traditionally glam, Casey is a little artsier and edgy.

DUDE #1
Jess and Casey.

DUDE #2
Part of your well-balanced daily dose of HOTNESS.

We close up on Jess, the taller of the two. Her name appears underneath her face, as three sort of "Pop up windows" pop up around her. Each window shows a part of her life.

WINDOW ONE: TITLE CARD: "VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL" We see Jess hitting a 3 pointer.

WINDOW TWO: "PRESIDENT: DRAMA CLUB," She's playing Hamlet.

WINDOW THREE: "SELF-STYLED INTERNET FASHION ICON," Jess snaps a picture of herself as she puts the finishing stitches into an AMAZING dress. While she's wearing it.

The windows disappear as we pan over to Casey. She rocks the "Hot Indie Rock Librarian" look.

DUDE #3
Jess is obviously hotter.

DUDE #4
 You're high. It's Casey all the way.

Again, Casey's name appears underneath her, as the pop up windows pop up around her.

WINDOW ONE: "PRESIDENT: DEBATE CLUB" She slams her fist onto her podium. Her opponent breaks down crying.

WINDOW TWO: "YOUNGEST BIKRAM YOGA INSTRUCTOR IN SEATTLE" She holds a difficult pose as students pass out around her.

WINDOW THREE: "WEB GURU" She uploads the picture Jess just took of herself to Jess' website. Soon, hundreds of pics pop up in response, all of girls wearing a dress like Jess'.

The windows disappear. Casey and Jess are fully around the corner. Then, a few seconds behind them is their best friend, BIANCA.

Bianca, like most ordinary teenagers, dresses like she realized she had to get dressed two minutes before school started.

DUDE #1
 (sad trombone noise)
 Wah-WAHHHHHHH.

Bianca's name POPS UP over her head, along with these windows":

WINDOW ONE: "THRIFT SHOPPER" She's trying on various crazy outfits at the local Thrift Store.

WINDOW TWO: "HONOR ROLL STUDENT" She gets an 102 on a test.

WINDOW THREE: "INSTAGRAM GURU" She posts a picture of her cat to Instagram, and it immediately gets 500 likes.

DUDE #4
 Show's over. It's just their DUFF.

Freeze on Bianca. All of her windows disappear, and are replaced by this one, directly over her face.

NEW WINDOW: "THE DUFF"

That window EXPANDS until it fills the entire screen, bringing us to our...

OPENING CREDIT SEQUENCE

MUSIC: SCHLONG'S cover of "I Feel Pretty"
 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aTjju2OQa8>)

We see various pictures of groups of famous attractive people and their entourages. The pictures are in black and white, but each one has the least attractive person highlighted in color.

EXAMPLES:

*KHLOE KARDASHIAN with her sisters

*SNOOKI with J-WOWWW

*PEREZ HILTON with anyone.

*And finally, a photo of Jess, Casey and Bianca.

TITLE CARD: THE DUFF

INT. OFFICE - DAY

We cross-fade from the picture of Bianca to a close-up of the real McCoy.

Lingering on her face as we are, we see that she is a pretty young woman. Not a stick-figure American standard of beauty, but a funky, earthy, gal who's smile radiates warmth.

She is being interviewed by an OFFSCREEN INTERVIEWER. Maybe for a job, maybe for college, it's not important right now.

OFFSCREEN INTERVIEWER
 Favorite color?

BIANCA
 What do people usually say?

OFFSCREEN INTERVIEWER
 Gree-

BIANCA
 RED.

She smiles. The interviewer laughs.

OFFSCREEN INTERVIEWER
 Are you a naturally contrary person?

BIANCA
 No.

They both laugh.

OFFSCREEN INTERVIEWER

So let me ask you one more question. What was the most pivotal moment in your life?

Bianca gets contemplative.

BIANCA

You have a few minutes, right?

OFFSCREEN INTERVIEWER

Take as much time as you want.

Bianca takes a deep breath, and a sip of Diet Coke.

BIANCA

High school. Junior year.

INT. MALLOY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

We pick up right where we left off, with the dudes walking off in a huff. The girls don't notice at all.

JESS

Wanna hit that new H&M after school?

CASEY

Jesus, Jess, it's 7:45 in the morning and you want to talk about shopping?

JESS

I wanted to talk about shopping at 4:45 this morning, but I showed restraint.

BIANCA

(checking her schedule on her phone.)

Damn. I wish I could. I'm booked.

(she swipes the screen)

And so are you two! Jess, you have play practice, and Casey, you have your "Firefly" meet-up!

JESS

I'm not called until 7.

CASEY

And my meetup got called off
because the organizer got mono.

BIANCA

(pockets her phone)
You should really send me schedule
updates.

JESS

And you should go shopping with us.

INT. GYM CLASS - AFTERNOON

The three girls are warming up for class. Jess does push-ups.
Casey is doing yoga. Bianca drinks a Frappuccino.

JESS

(to herself)
"Or not TO be." "OR not to be." "Or
not to BE."

CASEY

You don't have to buy anything,
Bianca.

BIANCA

To buy or not to buy is not the
question.

JESS

(looks up)
Say that again?
(to Casey)
Record that?

Casey points the phone at Bianca.

BIANCA

(sighs)
"To buy or NOT to buy."

JESS

Nailed it. Email that to me.

BIANCA

You'll get my invoice at the end of
the month.

JESS

I will pay you in AWESOME SHIT FROM
H&M. Besides!

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

We need to get our homecoming looks in order, ladies! It's only a month away!

Bianca sighs.

CASEY

You ARE going to homecoming, right?

Bianca leans back. She gets a sad look on her face. This is obviously a discussion they've had before.

BIANCA

More than anything. But...

Jess puts a hand on her shoulder.

JESS

You talk to your dad lately?

BIANCA

We're scheduled to have a catch-up phone call early fourth quarter.

Pause.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Look, normally I'm up for everything, you know that. But I always had this vision of Dad being there to, like, take my picture and hassle my date for my first really important dance. And he can't do that from 3000 miles away.

Jess hugs her.

JESS

You take all the time you need, buddy. You don't have to do anything you don't want to do.

Casey's eyes narrow. She obviously disagrees with Jess.

JESS (CONT'D)

I feel a wave of Casey tough love coming on.

BIANCA

Oh, Jesus. Assume the crash position.

CASEY

Your parents got divorced a year ago. It's time to stop moping, get out there, and make things HAPPEN.

BIANCA

You sound like my mom.

CASEY

(sheepish)

Well...I think she makes some good points.

Bianca rolls her eyes.

BIANCA (V.O.)

Casey wasn't the only one.

INT. ADULT ED CENTER (HALLWAY) - EVENING

On a classroom door, we see a sign that says, "TONIGHT! DOTTIE PIPER: 'STOP MOPING, GET OUT THERE, AND MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!'"

There is a LINE OUT THE DOOR of people waiting to get in.

INT. ADULT ED CENTER (CLASSROOM) - A LITTLE LATER

Dottie addresses a packed room of rapt listeners. Bianca sits in the very back row.

BIANCA (V.O.)

Mom didn't handle the divorce particularly well, originally.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. PIPER HOUSEHOLD LIVING ROOM - 4:00AM

Dottie is sitting on her couch crying and drinking Pinot Grigio out of a beer stein.

She's watching a rerun of the ancient "Simpsons" episode, "One Fish, Two Fish, Blowfish, Bluefish."

BIANCA (V.O.)

Then, one night, inspiration struck, in the form of Homer J. Simpson.

We watch the episode along with Dottie.

DR. HIBBERT

Now, a little death anxiety is normal. You can expect to go through five stages. The first is denial.

HOMER

No way! Because I'm not dying!

DR. HIBBERT

The second is anger.

HOMER

WHY YOU LITTLE...!

Dottie's eyes go wide. She puts down her stein, grabs her laptop, and types in "Five Stages of Grief."

BIANCA (V.O.)

Mom realized three things. 1. The stages of grief weren't just for blowfish poisoning victims. 2. Pinot tastes better out of a wine glass. And 3....

END FLASHBACK

INT. ADULT ED CENTER (CLASSROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Dottie is pointing to a piece of foam-core with the five stages of grief on them. (DENIAL, ANGER, BARGAINING, DEPRESSION, ACCEPTANCE) The title on the board reads, "THE FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF."

DOTTIE

I was in the "Depression" stage.
But not for long!

BEGIN "OVERCOMING ANYTHING" MONTAGE:

We zip through all of the various self-help classes she teaches. The stages on the chalkboard remain the same, but the title and the students change.

*TITLE: "THE FIVE STAGES OF UNEMPLOYMENT" Students are all dressed in sweatpants and crummy shirts.

*TITLE: "THE FIVE STAGES OF PET LOSS" Students are sad old women wearing cat sweaters.

*TITLE: "THE FIVE STAGES OF MALE PATTERN BALDNESS" Students are all bald guys.

END MONTAGE**INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY**

Dottie is shopping, surrounded by a CROWD OF PEOPLE vying for her attention.

PERSON #1

Dottie! I just want to stick pins
in my husband's eyes!

DOTTIE

Anger!

PERSON #2

I think if I keep eating
cheesecake, I won't care about
being fat!

DOTTIE

Denial!

PERSON #3

If I clean the fish tank, my
girlfriend will stop sleeping with
her softball coach!

DOTTIE

Here's my card. You might need a
private consultation.

BIANCA (V.O.)

Don't get me wrong. I'm proud of my
mom for finding happiness.

Bringing up the rear is Bianca. She watches her mom and her admirers from afar, and smiles a melancholy smile.

BIANCA (V.O.)

I just keep waiting for it to
trickle down to me.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The girls are walking to class.

BIANCA

After MINUTES of thinking it over,
I've decided I can go shopping with
you guys.

JESS

And there was much rejoicing!

They laugh. Just then, a bunch of POPULAR GIRLS approach Jess and Casey.

A POP-UP WINDOW appears over all of them that reads, "POPULAR GIRLS. PRETTY. VACANT."

POPULAR GIRL #1

Hey, Casey and Jess! You guys going to the party at Tony's Friday night?

POPULAR GIRL #2

His dad works for Red Bull, so it's going to be a serious all-nighter.

BIANCA

(excited)

Sounds great!

The two popular girls look at each other, and then at Jess and Casey. It's obvious to everyone but Bianca that she was not part of this invite.

Casey's not having it. She gestures to herself, Jess and Bianca.

CASEY

WE'LL ALL be there.

The popular girls shrug and smile. Ultimately, they don't care.

POPULAR GIRLS #1&2

AWESOME!

The popular girls walk off. Just then, Bianca's phone BUZZES. She looks. It's a reminder that reads, "TOBY GUITAR PRACTICE."

Bianca SMILES.

BIANCA

Would you guys excuse me? I have serious business to attend to.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Leaning up against a brick wall, playing guitar, is TOBY. a floppily haired, semi-awkward, black-wearing, guitar playing kid who straddles the divide between "dreamy" and "dweeby."

BIANCA (V.O.)
That's Toby.

THREE POP-UP WINDOWS appear around him.

WINDOW 1: "DREAMY" - We see Toby flipping his floppy hair in slow motion.

WINDOW 2: "DREAMY" - We see him trying on a new leather jacket.

WINDOW 3: "DREAMY" - We see him reading feminist magazine "BUST," and nodding his head in agreement.

The windows DISAPPEAR.

He strums out chords, and hums over them. While he's doing this, the camera circles around the wall, and we see Bianca sitting on the other side of it, out of his view.

Her eyes are closed, and she's listening to Toby's music. She's enjoying it very much.

BIANCA (V.O.)
In addition to all of that, he's strumming my pain with his fingers...

We see an ARROW pointing at Toby's fingers, with the words "MY PAIN" next to it.

BIANCA
...Singing my life with his words.

An ARROW points at Toby's mouth, with the words, "MY LIFE" next to it.

She SIGHS loudly. The music stops. Toby pokes his head around the wall, and sees Bianca.

TOBY
Hope I wasn't oppressing you with my music. Just like an entitled white guy to think his actions don't have ramifications, right?

She scurries away. Toby shrugs, and goes back to playing.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - A LITTLE LATER

Bianca is tromping to her next class, angry from so thoroughly boning her encounter with Toby. A VOICE calls to her.

DUDE'S VOICE
HEY! B-GIRL!

Bianca rolls her eyes.

BIANCA
("oy vey.")
Wesley.

We see WESLEY, the prototypical high school dreamboat who is VERY aware of his status. Bianca is 100% immune to his charm, however.

BIANCA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Wesley Rush was known amongst his friends, of which I was not one, as "The Bone Machine."

He gets the pop-up windows.

WINDOW 1: "JUNIOR VARSITY QUARTERBACK." We see him playing football.

WINDOW 2: "LOVER OF ALL THE LOVELY LADIES." We see him dancing at a party, utterly SURROUNDED by ladies.

WINDOW 3: "BIANCA'S NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR." We see him through his bedroom window, hitting it with a CHEERLEADER. Bianca, who's trying to study slams her window SHUT.

The windows disappear.

BIANCA (V.O.)
I thought he was kind of gross, he thought the same thing about me.
But he needed me, occasionally.

WESLEY
Where are Jess and Casey?

Bianca pulls out her phone to consult.

BIANCA
Jess, Home Ec, Casey, Spanish class.

WESLEY
They going to the party tonight?

BIANCA
Haven't discussed it.

WESLEY
Can you tell Jess and Casey I'm going?

BIANCA
They won't care.

WESLEY
Awesome. Gotta jet.

He takes off.

BIANCA (V.O.)
It's not like I got anything out of talking to him...

She checks out his butt as he walks away, and smiles.

BIANCA (V.O.)
For the most part.

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The three girls are trying on clothes. Jess is looking at herself in the mirror, in a cute new tank top and skirt.

JESS
I think I'll wear this. What are you wearing tonight, Bianca?

CASEY
Did you even buy anything at H&M?

Bianca holds up a new hair-thingy.

CASEY (CONT'D)
That's all you're wearing?

JESS
Certainly a bold statement.

BIANCA
I didn't see anything else I really liked...Or that fit.

JESS
What have I told you over and over and over again? Clothes don't just magically fit. I can tailor them for you.

BIANCA

Yes. I'm sure I'm just a few deftly placed stitches away from being Megan Fox.

CASEY

Can you sew her mouth shut?

BIANCA

Nice. I'll probably just wear what I'm wearing.

JESS

What if Toby's there?

Bianca smiles.

BIANCA

Toby doesn't go to parties. He's too cool. And if he was there, he wouldn't judge me by what I was wearing.

Just then, Dottie walks into the room.

DOTTIE

Bianca, are you wearing that *schmata* to the party tonight?

BIANCA

...Unlike some people.

DOTTIE

You can do better than that. Bianca, come with me. Jess and Casey? No meth labs or anything while we're out of the room.

The three friends share a look.

INT. DOTTIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dottie has her closet open to Bianca. It looks like a "Chico's" outlet. Lots of beige. Lots of earth tones. Lots of shoulder pads.

Bianca is wearing a beige blazer with shoulder pads. She's not happy about it.

DOTTIE

Now THAT'S a look.

BIANCA
Can't disagree with you there, mom.

DOTTIE
You don't like it.

BIANCA
Well, it would be great if I were
doing stand-up about how men always
leave the toilet seat up...

Dottie arches an eyebrow at her daughter.

DOTTIE
Point taken, rotten, ungrateful
child.

Dottie looks at her daughter in the mirror, and squeezes her
cheeks. Bianca looks less than thrilled.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
Did I ever tell you-

BIANCA
(rote)
-That I'm the prettiest girl in the
whole wide world, and as soon as I
manifest my inside potential on the
outside, I-

DOTTIE
-Will shine like a thousand suns.
Okay. We've been through that, I
guess.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
I mean it, though. Do you?

Pause.

BIANCA
I'm gonna get back to Jess and
Casey.

Bianca exits. Pause. Dottie puts on the jacket, grabs a
hairbrush, and turns to the mirror.

DOTTIE
(using brush as mic)
"Men! They always leave the seat
up, am I right, Ladies?"

She nods. That's good stuff.

INT. SUBURBAN TEEN HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

What seems like a very nice suburban house is getting torn apart by what appears to be about a million high school kids.

We see Wesley arguing with a very attractive girl we'll come to know as ROBERTA.

ROBERTA
ARE YOU GONNA HIT ON EVERY GIRL AT
THIS PARTY?

WESLEY
YOU BROKE UP WITH ME MONTHS AGO!

ROBERTA
I'M BREAKING UP WITH YOU AGAIN!

Wesley walks to the basement, shaking his head. Roberta turns to SALLY ANN, a gawky freshman girl who's at her beck and call.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
SALLY ANN! DIET COKE ME!

SALLY ANN
Sure thing, Roberta.

INT. SUBURBAN TEEN HOUSE PARTY (BASEMENT) - CONTINUOUS

There's a BUMPING dance party in the basement. Jess and Casey are in the thick of it.

Bianca hangs out in a corner and nurses a Diet Coke. Jess and Casey wave to her, and motion for her to join them. Bianca thinks about it, but then she sees TOBY across the room. Panic.

She smiles and shakes her head, "No," to Jess & Casey. They go back to dancing.

Bianca takes a few tentative steps towards Toby, but is immediately stopped in her tracks by Wesley.

WESLEY
Hello. Your girls look good out
there. LOOK at them. It's like they
choreographed all of their moves!

BIANCA
Well, they knew you were going to
be here, Wesley.

WESLEY

Really?

BIANCA

Yes, I told them just like you asked, and their eyes sparkled with childlike wonder, and then they just started dancing. It was beautiful.

Wesley isn't listening.

WESLEY

They sure are. Let me ask you, do they always dance like that together?

BIANCA

What?

WESLEY

Do they do...You know...Other things together? Other things I might be able to join in on?

Bianca turns to walk away. Wesley follows her.

BIANCA

WESLEY! It's not my job to stand here and parse out pervy intel about my besties!

Wesley's genuinely confused.

WESLEY

Well, yeah it is. I mean, everyone always asks you about them, right? Right. Because that's your job, as their DUFF.

BIANCA

Their WHAT?

WESLEY

DUFF. "Designated Ugly Fat Friend."

Bianca freezes in her tracks. She's stunned.

BIANCA (V.O.)

SPOILER ALERT: This was NOT the most pivotal moment in my life.

Wesley keeps talking. It is SUPER IMPORTANT to note that even though he's saying pretty awful stuff, he is obviously not aware how much he's hurting Bianca.

WESLEY

I mean...Look around the room.
Every group of friends has one. And
if you don't know who it is, then
chances are, it's you.

Wesley points to a GROUP OF GIRLS. All of them are attractive, except one, who is acne-riddled and pudgy. An arrow with the word "DUFF" appears over her.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

But it's not just for girls. Like,
over there...

We see a GROUP OF GUYS, four of which look like Zac Efron, and one who looks like Zack Galifinakis. He gets the DUFF arrow as well.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

It's just how things work. DUFFS
are an important part of any group.

Arrows that say DUFF pop up all around the party, with a final, gigantic one appearing over Bianca's head.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

See, DUFFS have two jobs. To look
not as good as their friends, which
makes their friends look better...

Bianca's eyes go wide. We see her fists clench. She may actually punch this jerk.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

And then the other job is to be
their friend's...Assistant.

We PAN over to the group of hot guys and their one weird looking friend. A HOT GIRL walks up to the weird looking guy.

HOT GIRL

Hey! Your buddy Tom. Is he single?

MALE DUFF

(taking a very long time
to check her out)
He sure is.

HOT GIRL

Thanks! You're sweet.

The Male DUFF smiles. Back to Wesley and Bianca.

WESLEY

See! She got her info, he got to talk to a hot girl, and his friends didn't have to do anything. Everyone wins. Kind of like us right now.

BIANCA

That's nothing like us.

WESLEY

What period does Jess have AP English tomorrow?

Bianca starts to reach for her phone.

BIANCA

Third, but let me-
(She realizes what she's doing)
OH GOD.

WESLEY

See? Being a DUFF, it's a BIG JOB. And one that you do really well, which is why you've been friends with them, for, like, EVER.

Bianca THROWS HER DRINK RIGHT IN HIS FACE. He's genuinely shocked by this turn of events.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

What...What was THAT for?

She high-tails it out of the party before anyone realizes what happened.

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Bianca is putting on her pajamas, while still talking to herself.

BIANCA

"Designated Ugly Fat Friend?" I mean, I'm not even-

She turns, and looks at her half-undressed self in the mirror.

She's wearing granny panties and a very utilitarian bra. Neither do her any favors.

She turns sideways, and sees her "not bad, but could be better" midsection. She swats the bottom of her untuned arms. She runs her fingers through her mop of hair.

She looks like she might cry, but then squeezes her eyes tight, and shakes her head while putting her pajamas on.

She climbs into bed, and stares at the ceiling.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
I'm not The DUFF.

As she lies there convincing herself, the camera pulls out of the room, and down the hallway. It stops on a framed copy of the five stages of grief.

We PULL IN on the words, "THE FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF," and before our eyes, it turns into "THE FIVE STAGES OF DUFF."

Then it pans down to stage one: "DENIAL."

TITLE CARD: "DENIAL"

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Bianca is sleepily getting ready for school. She, charitably, looks like a total mess.

She walks by her window, and sees Wesley in his bedroom. He is still wearing his Diet Coke-stained shirt from last night.

They catch each other's eye. He points to the stain on his shirt, as if to say, "What the hell was THAT about?"

She slams the shades shut.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MONDAY MORNING

Bianca is walking to her locker. She sees Jess and Casey standing there.

BIANCA (V.O.)
I hadn't talked to Casey and Jess since the party. But I couldn't bring myself to talk to them. Because...What if Wesley was...

She turns the other way.

BIANCA (V.O.)
...Right?

INT. 3RD PERIOD SCIENCE - LATER

Bianca sits in the back of the class, staring out the window. But really, she's looking at her own faint reflection.

TEACHER'S VOICE (O.S.)

Bianca?

BIANCA

(surprised)

I'm not The DUFF!

The teacher, MR. HENDERSON, is confused. The class snickers.

MR. HENDERSON

I was just handing back last week's tests. You got an "A."

She takes her test, smiling.

MR. HENDERSON (CONT'D)

Wesley Rush...Not as good news. Another "F."

Wesley walks up to the desk and takes his test. He plays the whole thing off as a joke.

MR. HENDERSON (CONT'D)

Yes. Laugh it up. It'll be hysterical when you can't play football next season.

Wesley slinks back to his seat. Bianca smiles. Good.

INT. 1ST PERIOD SCIENCE - LATER

Bianca is dissecting a frog, alone. Wesley wanders over.

WESLEY

Hey, Duffy! Shouldn't you be working with a partner?

BIANCA

Shouldn't you be working?

WESLEY

My lab partner's on top of it.

We see his lab partner, A HOT CHICK. She is staring into space, applying lip balm.

BIANCA

A real Madam Curie. (Pause) I prefer to work alone. Take the hint.

He doesn't. Instead, he leans on the table.

WESLEY

I'm the one who should be mad, you know. You ruined my favorite shirt.

Bianca slams down her scalpel.

BIANCA

Of COURSE I should be mad, dickhead! You called me fat! You called me ugly!

WESLEY

No I didn't! I called you THE DUFF!

BIANCA

"Designated Ugly Fat Friend."

WESLEY

That's just what it's called! I mean, Troy Aikman was a Dallas Cowboy, but it's not like he ever rode a horse!

BIANCA

Just go back to your lip balm receptacle, asshole.

WESLEY

Look, I'm sorry I said it. If it makes you feel any better, you're not as heinous as a lot of DUFF's I've seen.

BIANCA

Urge to kill RISING...

WESLEY

Man, you are TOUCHY. Forget it.

He wanders away, she goes back to work.

BIANCA (V.O.)

While I was imagining I had Wesley under the scalpel, I was devising an experiment of my own. I had to prove to myself and Wesley that I wasn't The DUFF.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Bianca strides down the hallway.

BIANCA (V.O.)
I would keep avoiding my two best
friends for the next few days.

She walks right past Jess and Casey. They start to walk after her, but she walks into a classroom and closes the door. Jess and Casey look at each other. What the hell?

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bianca's phone rings. It's CASEY. She turns her phone off.

BIANCA (V.O.)
I had to prove that I didn't just
live to serve them, and all that
other DUFF bullshit.

She turns off the light in her room.

BIANCA (V.O.)
Was I ever in for a surprise.

INT. LOCKERS - MORNING

Bianca is opening her locker. A KID standing next to her is having trouble with his.

BIANCA
(helpful)
Hey, sometimes you have to push in
a little and-

The KID just walks away from his locker, taking no notice of Bianca.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Bianca walks down the hall. One of her TEACHERS passes her.

BIANCA
Morning, Ms. Adams.

MS. ADAMS
Can you tell Jess and Casey-?

BIANCA
I haven't seen them.

Ms. Adams walks off.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Kids walk by with their trays, and the LUNCH LADY scoops food onto them, almost like an assembly line. Bianca gets to the end of the line, and looks at her tray. Empty.

BIANCA
(peevied)
GOD DAMN IT!

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Bianca is going through a shoebox of old photos.

BIANCA (V.O.)
My worst fears were realized.

In every picture, they look amazing, and Bianca sort of fades into the background.

We flash through the photos...

PICTURE: Jess as Juliet in "Romeo & Juliet" Bianca is the dowdy nurse.

PICTURE: Casey and Jess dressed for some kind of formal dance, and Bianca serving punch.

PICTURE: Halloween. Jess and Casey are dressed as Charlie's Angels. Bianca is dressed as Bosley.

Bianca THROWS the box on the floor.

She looks at the pictures scattered everywhere. She picks up the Halloween picture.

BIANCA
And WHY did I dress as Bosley?
THERE WERE THREE ANGELS!

EXT. BIANCA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bianca holds the box of photos over the garbage can, and drops them in with a THUD.

BIANCA (V.O.)
For those of you playing along at home, this was not my most pivotal moment. But it was a big one.

We slowly close up on her scowling face.

BIANCA (V.O.)
 You know in "Batman," when the guy falls into the vat of acid and becomes The Joker? This was my vat of acid moment. I would never be the same. Because at that moment, I knew Wesley was right. That I was The Duff. And that. Made. Me...

Close up on her lips. They speak.

BIANCA
 Angry.

TITLE CARD: "STAGE 2: ANGER"

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

We see a picture of Bianca as a six year-old on her dresser. She wears her hair in messy pigtails, a ringer T, and overalls.

She OZES attitude, and a "don't-give-a-crap" vibe.

Bianca is staring at it.

BIANCA (V.O.)
 I thought to myself, "Who was I before Jess and Casey?" Before I was their DUFF?

Bianca grabs her hair in a way that approximates ponytails.

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE (FRONT HALLWAY) - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Dottie is fixing herself up in the mirror before she goes out for the day.

DOTTIE
 BIANCA! Time to seize the day!

We hear Joan Jett's "Bad Reputation," fire up on the soundtrack.

Bianca walks down the stairs dressed in her overalls, a wrinkled ringer-t, and mismatched socks and sneakers. Her hair is in ratty ponytails.

She does NOT look like a person dressed up like a six year old, just to be clear. She looks like a pissy, rebellious teenager.

 DOTTIE (CONT'D)
You look crazy!

 BIANCA
 (not missing a beat)
Crazy AWESOME.

And with that, Bianca's out the door.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca drives to school, BLASTING music out of her stereo.

 BIANCA (V.O.)
The world had given me a gift. The
gift of invisibility. A licence to
do whatever the hell I wanted, look
however the hell I wanted and
generally not give a shit.

She looks at herself in the rear-view mirror, and scowls.

INT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca parks her car on a diagonal, taking up two spaces. She gets out of the car, and admires her work.

 BIANCA
Sweet.

She passes a COUPLE OF BURNOUT KIDS smoking cigarettes before class. She takes a cigarette out of one of the dudes' hands.

 BIANCA (CONT'D)
Not my brand, but thanks.

The burnouts look at each other. Bianca leaves them in the distance as she strides towards school.

Triumphantly, she takes a deep inhale of her cig.

Pause. She looks over her shoulder to make sure the burnouts aren't paying attention, and then coughs up a lung.

EXT. SCHOOL FRONT STEPS - CONTINUOUS

As kids rush past her, Bianca sits on the steps, taking a picture of a caterpillar on her foot with her iPhone.

The homeroom bell RINGS. The kids are all now inside. Bianca stands up, stretches, and checks her watch.

BIANCA
Goodness. I'm going to be late for
homeroom.

She shrugs, and goes back to her caterpillar.

INT. HOMEROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The HOMEROOM TEACHER drones on about school stuff.

HOMEROOM TEACHER
...And Homecoming is right around
the corner, so get your tickets
now...

Bianca walks into the classroom, and flops down in a chair.

HOMEROOM TEACHER (CONT'D)
Bianca? Little late today?

BIANCA
Yep.

HOMEROOM TEACHER
Well, don't let it happen again.

BIANCA
I make no promises.

She goes back to fiddling with her phone.

HOMEROOM TEACHER
Okay! Varsity Chess Club is meeting
in the basement today...

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Bianca is eating some pudding while reading "US MAGAZINE."

BIANCA
Lindsay, Lindsay, Lindsay. Cocaine
IS a hell of drug.

The magazine is then PULLED out of her hands. Standing by her table are Jess and Casey. Both have their arms folded.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
 (snatches magazine back)
 I'm sorry? Do you people have an appointment?

Casey sits at the table. She's a little emotional.

CASEY
 You ditched us at the party. You've been avoiding us for days.

JESS
 You're acting crazy.

BIANCA
 What the hell do you care? I mean, the crazier I act, the better you look in comparison!

Bianca stops.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
 Ladies, I thought we could do this over the social networking site of our choosing, but...This isn't working out. I quit.

CASEY
 You quit...What?

BIANCA
 I'm tired of "Casey Jess Bianca." I just want to be "Bianca." So get over it, leave me alone, and find yourself a new DUFF.

She walks off. Jess and Casey are stunned and sad.

CASEY
 What the hell's a DUFF?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Bianca storms down the hallway. She is at once sad and victorious, which reads as "Steely Resolve."

BIANCA (V.O.)
 I did it. Ties with my blonde overlords had been severed forever.

We hear a TOBY'S VOICE from off screen.

 TOBY (O.S.)
Cool socks.

We pull back to see that Toby is standing there, holding his guitar case. All of Bianca's bravado disappears.

Toby smiles, and points to her mismatched socks.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
That's kind of awesome. You don't care about the American paradigm of beauty. I respect that.

Bianca looks like a deer in the headlights.

 BIANCA (V.O.)
Here it was. Minutes into my emancipation, and the guy of my dreams actually talked to me. My retort?

Bianca opens her mouth. Nothing. Then this comes out:

 BIANCA
Socks are cool.

Toby looks at her. She turns bright red and walks away.

INT. 1ST PERIOD SCIENCE - MORNING

Bianca is busily mixing chemicals together. Wesley chats with his hot chick lab partner.

 WESLEY
...I wouldn't call myself an expert, but I go to a restaurant, I know what kind of wine to order.

She GIGGLES. Bianca looks at them, and rolls her eyes.

 BIANCA (V.O.)
It was all so easy for Wesley. He was never tongue-tied. He could talk to anyone. ANYONE.

 MR. HENDERSON
WESLEY! Get back to work!

 BIANCA (V.O.)
Except his science teacher.

WESLEY

Aw, MAN! Why are you always on my case?

MR. HENDERSON

Because I don't want you in my class next year, bitter and angry that you got kicked off the football team because you failed THIS YEAR.

Wesley slumps back to his seat. Bianca raises an eyebrow.

INT. CLASSROOM - END OF PERIOD

Bianca is hanging by the door of the classroom, while Wesley and Mr. Henderson finish up a heated discussion.

MR. HENDERSON

...Look, son. Do you think I WANT you to fail? Not play? Lose your scholarship? Do you think I want the Coach to wait by my car with a lead pipe?

WESLEY

Depends if that last part actually happens.

MR. HENDERSON

I'll ignore that. Just...Please. Apply yourself. Pass this class. I don't want to have this conversation with you again. You understand?

Wesley walks out without responding, past Bianca.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Bianca catches up to Wesley.

BIANCA

Hey, can I talk to you?

WESLEY

You want to yell at me, too?

BIANCA

Always. Every day. Every second of every hour. It's what I love best. EXCEPT right at this moment.

WESLEY
What do you want?

BIANCA
I want to make a deal with you.

Wesley looks curious.

TITLE CARD: "STAGE 3: BARGAINING."

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - AFTER SCHOOL

Wesley and Bianca are talking by the brick wall. Wesley looks incredulous.

WESLEY
You want...What?

BIANCA
There's a guy. I can't talk to him without making an ass out of myself. You never seem to have this problem.

WESLEY
You're asking me for...Dating advice?

BIANCA
I know. It sounds completely insane. But I've been the DUFF for so long...So wrapped up in Jess and Casey's lives...I lack...Skills.

WESLEY
And I don't.

BIANCA
There are many things you lack. Skills are not one of them.

Wesley leans against the wall.

WESLEY
Don't you hate me?

BIANCA
Great question. Yes, because you're a dipshit and a man-whore. And you called me the DUFF.

Wesley frowns.

WESLEY

Yeah. I did.

BIANCA

But. You're the only one in this whole school who actually TOLD me exactly where I stand. Jess and Casey didn't. You're a dipshit, but you're an honest dipshit.

WESLEY

Thank you?

BIANCA

So here's my offer: A trade. You teach me...Skills. Enough skills to ask Toby out on a date. Enough to ask him out to Homecoming.

WESLEY

And...What do I get?

BIANCA

I'll take you on as my science partner, and make sure you pass the class with flying colors.

For the first time in his young life, Wesley is actually giving something serious thought.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Well?

WESLEY

Well...You have the easy part of the deal. I mean, you could pass that class in your sleep. But I have to make you date-able?

Bianca cradles her head in her hands.

BIANCA

Oh, God. Bolt of lightning. Him or me. It doesn't matter.

WESLEY

Not to mention that we'd have to hang out, right? In public? I mean, I'm a pretty sensitive guy-

Bianca GUFFAWS.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
 -But my friends are dicks.
 Especially if they see me with you.

Bianca, grossed out, turns to leave.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
 Wait! I'm sorry. I didn't mean it
 like that.

Bianca stops.

BIANCA
 How could you have POSSIBLY meant
 that? I get it! I'm gross! I'm
 disgusting! I...Can't believe I
 thought this was a good idea.

She turns to leave.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
 Enjoy playing intramural "Wii Golf"
 next year, you TOOL.

Pause. Wesley takes a deep breath.

WESLEY
 Nobody's ever asked my advice on
 anything before.

BIANCA
 What?

WESLEY
 I don't know if you've heard, but
 I'm...Uh...Dumb. Dumb guys don't
 give great advice.

Pause.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
 What if I mess it up? What if I
 can't help you? Not because you're
 gross and disgusting. Because
 you're not. But because I'm...An
 idiot?

Bianca softens.

BIANCA
 It's not like you can make me any
 more awkward.

WESLEY

That's tr-

Bianca shoots him a look.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

See? Dumb.

BIANCA

Yeah. So you'll do it?

WESLEY

It's a deal.

BIANCA

Awesome.

She puts out her hand to shake on it. He puts his hand up for a high-five. She awkwardly high-fives him.

BIANCA (V.O.)

And awesome it was. In theory. Not everyone agreed, however.

As this is happening, we see a TWO GIRLS observing this from afar. We pull in on them. One of them is Roberta, from the party. Wesley's ex. The other is Sally Ann, her minion.

ROBERTA

What the hell is this about?

SALLY ANN

Want me to do some recon?

ROBERTA

Stat.

SALLY ANN

Copy that.

INT. CASEY'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Casey and Jess are staring at something off-screen.

BIANCA (V.O.)

This was a question a lot of people were asking about a variety of topics.

We see what Casey and Jess are looking at. A whiteboard, with the words I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR DUFF written on it, and question marks around it.

CASEY
What the hell is *this* about?

JESS
(reading off her laptop)
"Duff: A stiff flour pudding boiled
in a cloth bag."

CASEY
I bet that's not what she meant.

JESS
(reading more)
"Bad or useless, as by not working
out or operating correctly."

Casey shrugs, and writes it down.

CASEY
She HAS been pretty down in the
dumps lately...

JESS
Yeah, but we never told her she was
bad or useless! We love her!

CASEY
Hold it together, girl. We'll
figure this out. We're insanely
smart. Keep reading.

Jess takes a deep breath, and goes back to her laptop.

JESS
(reading further)
"Also slang for buttocks."

CASEY
"I don't want to be your butt?"

JESS
(thinking)
Maybe it's a "Human Centipede"
thing? Like if we were all sewn
together, she wouldn't want to be
the butt?

Casey looks at her.

CASEY
I'm going to tell your parents to
revoke your pay-per-view
privileges.

INT. COFFEE SHOP/BAKERY - AFTERNOON

We pan over from a glass case of cakes to Wesley and Bianca sitting and drinking coffee.

Well, Bianca drinks coffee, Wesley drinks Red Bull.

BIANCA
You SURE you wouldn't rather have a coffee?

WESLEY
Nah, that stuff's gross.

He takes a big gulp of Red Bull.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
AHHH. Okay. My mind is Bull'd UP!
Now tell me about...Tobor?

BIANCA
Toby.

WESLEY
Tuba. And you want to blow his horn.

Bianca quietly laughs.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
Was that a laugh?

BIANCA
No, I'd chalk it up to a small stroke.

WESLEY
Like a midget jerkin' it.

Bianca GUFFAWS.

BIANCA
STOP!

WESLEY
I'm sorry, "Little Person."

BIANCA
Okay, okay. That. Let's start there.

WESLEY
With little people j-

BIANCA
 Stop. No. It's the fact that you
 will say anything. Anything that
 pops into your head.

WESLEY
 What about it?

BIANCA
 Do people ever call you on it?

Wesley thinks.

WESLEY
 No. They just laugh, high-five me,
 and occasionally make out with me.

BIANCA
 Why is that?

WESLEY
 I assume it's because I'm so
 handsome.

BIANCA
 (sarcastic)
 So Step 1: "BE HANDSOME."

WESLEY
 You gonna write that down?

Bianca rolls her eyes at him, but then kind of smiles.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
 You should do that more.

BIANCA
 I don't know, I roll my eyes at you
 a lot.

WESLEY
 Smile. You should smile more.

BIANCA
 I...What?

WESLEY
 Do you have one of those lady
 mirrors?

BIANCA
 A...Compact? No.

WESLEY
(thinks)
Let's move.

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

They're standing in front of a store window. We don't see what kind of store it is.

WESLEY
This is my favorite shop in town.

We pull back to see that it's a store that sells MIRRORS. Wesley checks himself out from every angle.

BIANCA
Man, you LOVE you. You should totally ask you out to Homecoming.

WESLEY
Yeah, I'm pretty amazing. Now call me a jackass.

BIANCA
(flat)
Gladly. Jackass.

WESLEY
No, like you mean it. Like I said something totally stupid. Like, "I want to take all you ladies for a ride on my disco stick."

BIANCA
(grossed out)
UGH, you jackass!

WESLEY
Now say it again, but smile.

BIANCA
Also, you're into Gaga?

WESLEY
From the neck down. From the neck up she looks like the lunch lady who only knows the English word for "CORN."

She laughs, in spite of herself.

BIANCA
(while laughing)
Jackass.

She looks in the mirror, smiles again, and says it again.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
(smiling)
"Jackass."

WESLEY
So let's say you're talking to
Timmy.

BIANCA
Toby.

WESLEY
Whatever. Let's say you get tongue-
tied. Or maybe you say something
completely inappropriate. Just
smile. He'll know you're happy to
be talking to him.

Pause. Bianca gets a pen and paper, and scribbles some notes.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

BIANCA
I'm writing that down.

WESLEY
Wait, that was good advice?

BIANCA
It was.

Pause. Wesley throws both fists in the air.

WESLEY
WOOOH! I SAID A SMART THING!

BIANCA
Don't get cocky. Now run along. I
have to go do our homework.

WESLEY
More tomorrow?

BIANCA
Yeah.

WESLEY
You have my number?

BIANCA
I live next door to you, dork.

WESLEY
Take this anyway.

He reaches into his pocket, and pulls out a card. Bianca reads it: "WESLEY RUSH: AWESOME DUDE - 424-3193"

BIANCA
Why do you...?

WESLEY
My mom made them for me. She thinks I'm awesome. HIGH FIVE!

They high five. Wesley takes off. Bianca watches him walk away.

BIANCA
Jesus, what a dork.

She gets a funny look on her face.

BIANCA (V.O.)
As I said the words, I realized something about Wesley that never occurred to me before.

Wesley stops to pet a dog, being walked by an ATTRACTIVE CHICK.

BIANCA (V.O.)
Sure, he was a player, a popular kid, and attractive enough under certain circumstances...

WESLEY
Who's a good boy? WHO'S A GOOD BOY?
Ah-WOOF! Ah-WOOF!

BIANCA
But was he also, secretly, a dork in wolf's clothing?

Wesley's now talking to the dog's owner.

WESLEY
...And who's a good girl?

The Attractive girl GIGGLES.

BIANCA
 (rolling eyes)
 Oy.

Just then, Bianca's PHONE BUZZES. She checks it. "BOOK SIGNING."

BIANCA (CONT'D)
 Double oy.

INT. THE GLOWING CHAKRA - DAY

We're in THE GLOWING CHAKRA, a local spiritual health and well-being bookstore. The sort of place that sells crystals and dream-catchers and whatnot.

There is a line out the door. Not because Dottie is so popular, but because she is gossiping with Bianca. They share an orange and chat as people filter through with their books.

DOTTIE
 Oh, I just don't know, Bianca.
 Wesley? The kid who ate mud pies in
 my garden when he was five? And
 six? And that one time when he was
 15?

BIANCA
 I'm tutoring him in Science, mom.
 Believe me. It's not going to turn
 into anything else.

An INTENSE CUSTOMER comes up to the table.

DOTTIE
 Who am I making this out to?

INTENSE CUSTOMER
 "To Phil: The World Is Against You,
 But I am Your Rock and Salvation.
 Love Forever, Dot-"

DOTTIE
 Yeah, let's just go with "To Phil,
 Cheers! Dottie."

INTENSE CUSTOMER
 May angels bless you.

DOTTIE
 Charming. Move it along.

He walks away.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
 What about that nice Toby boy?

 BIANCA
 Wesley's tutoring me in how to talk
 to Toby. So I can ask him out on a
 date, and hopefully to Homecoming.

Dottie is impressed.

 DOTTIE
 Who's idea was this?

 BIANCA
 (smiling)
 Mine.

 DOTTIE
 That's taking control! That's
 maxifying your potential!

 BIANCA
 That's...Not a word?

 DOTTIE
 It is now!

Dottie stands up.

 DOTTIE (CONT'D)
 Attention, Chakra Shoppers! My
 daughter is MAXIFYING her
 potential, thanks to my book!

 BIANCA
 Well...

Dottie shoots her a look.

 BIANCA (CONT'D)
 (changes her tune)
 I only wish I had two pairs of eyes
 so I could read two books at the
 same time!

 DOTTIE
 MAXIFIED!

An IMPATIENT WOMAN IN LINE is tired of not having her book
 signed.

 IMPATIENT WOMAN IN LINE
 Excuse me, is this going to take
 much longer? I'm on my lunch-break.

DOTTIE
I suggest you use this as an
opportunity for a teachable moment.

 IMPATIENT WOMAN IN LINE
How?

 DOTTIE
 (grasping)
Focus on your...Goals?

 IMPATIENT WOMAN IN LINE
 (Demeanor changes)
Oh, right on. Good point.

The impatient person closes their eyes.

Dottie and Bianca smile.

 DOTTIE
Maxified.

 BIANCA
Totally.

INT. MALL - THE NEXT AFTERNOON

Bianca and Wesley are standing outside of a "Victoria's Secret." Bianca shoots him a look.

 BIANCA
Are you kidding me and my ass?

 WESLEY
What? Look at me! My look is TIGHT!
That's half the battle, right
there.

 BIANCA
I am not going to let you Tim Gunn
me.

 WESLEY
Is that legal in this state?

 BIANCA
Forget it. Next lesson.

 WESLEY
Look. You play World of Warcraft,
right?

Bianca is surprised.

BIANCA
Uh...Yeah? How did you-

WESLEY
I've seen you questing around
Outland. Anyway, would you go into
battle without the right armor?
And, uh, under-armor?

Bianca thinks about this.

BIANCA
But my bras are fine-

WESLEY
(pretending to cough)
COUGH - uniboob - COUGH...

BIANCA
OH, SHUT UP.

Pause. She looks down at her chest, and sighs.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
Fine. But you're not coming in with-

WESLEY
Wouldn't dream of it. Let me just
set you up.

He takes a step in the store.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
Ladies?

All of the women working at Victoria's Secret turn their
heads. They all know him.

VICTORIA'S SECRET WOMEN
Wesley!/What's up, foxy?/He's
back!/Guten Tag, Herr Wesley!/etc.

WESLEY
This is Bianca. Take good care of
her. I've got a date with Panda
Express!

He takes off. The women watch him walk away, and then turn to
Bianca.

VICTORIA'S SECRET WOMAN #2
(German, Heidi Klum type.)
Ach! Das Unibooben.

Bianca sighs.

EXT. VICTORIA'S SECRET - 30 MINUTES LATER

Bianca walks out. She is wearing a new bra, not that we can see it. But certainly, we see the results. It's not a HUGE difference. But it is a difference nonetheless.

WESLEY

Hey! They- I mean YOU, look great!

BIANCA

Watch it. And thank you.

WESLEY

I know my boobs. Now let's keep it moving. We've got one more place to hit.

Wesley starts walking. Bianca checks herself out in the store window one last time. She straightens her posture, and smiles. They do look great.

BIANCA (V.O.)

I have to say, I was getting a little tired of Wesley making sense.

EXT. FOREVER LEGAL - MOMENTS LATER

"Forever Legal" is a young women's store. It could charitably be described as "Modern Tart Wear."

INT. FOREVER LEGAL - CONTINUOUS

Bianca has a horrified look on her face.

BIANCA (V.O.)

Luckily, it was short-lived.

We see what she's looking at. Wesley is holding up a pair of stripper shoes, and a dress that seems to not exist more than it does.

BIANCA

Oh, HELL to the no.

WESLEY

What? These shoes are the shit!
Katy Perry has 50 pairs of these!

BIANCA
(turning to leave)
I'll be in the food court, asking
random homeless people for clothing
advice.

Wesley follows her.

WESLEY
Okay. Okay. Maybe those aren't your
jam-

BIANCA
No, bunions and crippling back
problems are TOTALLY my jam.

WESLEY
-But right now, I don't know who
you are from your clothes. I mean,
I know who you are, because I do,
but if I didn't, I wouldn't. You
need to dress more like you, and
less like nobody.

Bianca stops in her tracks.

BIANCA
Oh, god help me. That aphasia-
flavored word salad made sense.

WESLEY
I don't know what any of that
means. But does it mean you'll try
this stuff on?

BIANCA
No. Frakking. Way.

WESLEY
You know, we DO have a deal going
here.

BIANCA
Yeah, nowhere does it stipulate you
humiliate me publicly.

WESLEY
I'm not going to march you through
the mall. Look. If you're going to
get Toby, you gotta get out of your
comfort zone a little.

Bianca sighs.

BIANCA
Let's do this.

BEGIN TRYING ON CRAZY CLOTHES MONTAGE

As AQUA's "Barbie Girl" plays, we see Bianca emerge from the Dressing room, wearing a variety of absolutely batshit crazy outfits.

From gold lame tops, to leggings and legwarmers, from miniskirts to mini-mini skirts, she gives it all a shot.

The good news is, at no point does she look like "Dumpy Girl in Tight Clothes." Everything fits, her dignity remains compromised. Mostly.

She even begins to ham it up for Wesley, striking dramatic poses as he mimes taking pictures. They're both giggling like school kids playing dress-up, which of course, they are.

We pull back to see, peeking over a rack of clothes, Sally Ann, Roberta's minion.

She has a cameraphone.

Click.

END MONTAGE

INT. FOOD COURT - CONTINUOUS

Roberta is eating a cup of lettuce. Her phone buzzes. She looks at it. We don't see what she sees. But it makes her MAD.

ROBERTA
Oh, it's ON.

She takes an angry bite of lettuce.

INT. FOREVER LEGAL - CONTINUOUS

Wesley and Bianca are walking out of the store.

WESLEY
I can't believe we were here for two hours, and all you bought was a hair thingy.

BIANCA
You're lucky I agreed to this at all.

WESLEY
(smiling)
I can't disagree.

Pause.

BIANCA
Does that mean I looked...Good?

Wesley collects his thoughts.

WESLEY
Uh...

BIANCA
Oh, HERE we go. Just say it. I
looked like an idiot.

WESLEY
You looked...Good. The clothes
looked good. Just...Not...

BIANCA
Together?

WESLEY
That.

BIANCA
So what you're saying is, clothing
like this isn't my jam.

WESLEY
Not your jam. But you are...Your
own jam. And you should know that.

Pause.

BIANCA
Well. I do now.

There's a tiny, tiny little moment between them. Broken by something catching Bianca's eye. It's a TOTALLY cute little black dress.

Bianca is kind of enamored with it, in spite of herself.

WESLEY
Oh, WOW.

BIANCA
That is AWESOME. But I require a
smoothie.

WESLEY

You tried on the Ke\$ha wear, but
you won't try this? You could
totally rock this at Homecoming!

Bianca takes the dress off the rack, and stares at it.

BIANCA (V.O.)

There was no way I could tell him
that I KNEW the other clothes were
going to look goofy on me. But this
dress...I wanted to look good in
it. And I knew I wouldn't.

BIANCA

What can I say? Chicks, man, we're
weird and mercurial.

ROBERTA (O.S.)

WesLEY?

WESLEY

Oh, god.

BIANCA

Who's that?

WESLEY

Roberta. My ex.

Roberta approaches them, looking like a mannequin from the
store come to life. Leading the way is Sally Ann.

She then turns her attention to Bianca.

ROBERTA

And what's this? If this is what
you're hooking up with, you've hit
rock bottom.

Bianca winces.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)

(to Bianca)

So THIS is what rock bottom looks
like.

SALLY ANN

Oh, snap.

BIANCA
Do people still say, "snap?"
Anyway, we were just screwing
around. Not in that way. I'm...I'm
gonna go.

Bianca places the dress on the rack, and high-tails it out of the store.

WESLEY
Nice, Roberta. Real nice.

Roberta smiles smugly.

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bianca's room looks like her entire wardrobe exploded. She's trying on various outfits, and looking at herself in the mirror.

She frowns, and flops on her bed.

BIANCA
Ugh.

She sits up, and looks at herself in the mirror. Roberta appears in the mirror for a split second.

ROBERTA (V.O.)
...Rock bottom...

Bianca grabs a flannel shirt, and lobs it at the mirror, covering it up.

BIANCA
(looking around)
What a mess.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Bianca walks down the hall, lost in thought. She nearly bumps right into Sally Ann, who is standing stock still in the middle of the hallway. Waiting.

BIANCA
...Hello?

Sally Ann hands her a piece of paper.

SALLY ANN
From Roberta.

BIANCA
Don't people text anymore?

Sally Ann walks off. Bianca looks at the paper.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
Oh. Oh, no.

We see the paper. It's Bianca, trying on an outfit at "Forever Legal." It's taken at just the right angle for her to look absolutely horrific and three times her normal size.

Written underneath it in big letters, "FOREVER DUFF."

Off Bianca's horrified reaction, we FREEZE FRAME...

BIANCA (V.O.)
Back it up.

BEGIN REVERSE SEQUENCE

We quickly RUN THE FILM backwards from Bianca getting the picture to Bianca trying on clothes at "Forever Legal."

END REVERSE SEQUENCE

INT. FOREVER LEGAL - YESTERDAY

We see Sally Ann snap the picture, and send it to Roberta.

INT. FOOD COURT - YESTERDAY

We see Roberta receive the picture, take an angry bite of her lettuce, AND THEN, send it to two of her friends.

ROBERTA
You're playing with the big girls,
now, big girl.

We zoom in on her phone, and then into...

INT. THE INTERNET - CONTINUOUS

Following the various beams of light, TRON-like pulses of energy, and cute cat pictures that make up The Internet, we see BIANCA'S PICTURE split into 2 versions of itself.

They streak through cyberspace like tiny, poorly cropped comets.

INT. FANCY COFFEE JOINT - CONTINUOUS

The TWO POPULAR GIRLS both pick up their phones, and laugh at the same time.

POPULAR GIRL #1
Is that Jess and Casey's friend?

POPULAR GIRL #2
Viral?

POPULAR GIRL #1
Viral.

They both hit "Send" on their phones.

BEGIN "PICTURE" MONTAGE**INT. THE INTERNET - CONTINUOUS**

The pictures split into 10 versions of themselves, all of which streak into ten different directions around cyberspace.

Some float to a giant "T" for Twitter. Others to a giant "F" for Facebook. None float to the rickety, tiny "M" for MySpace, however.

The screen splits 10 ways. We see various kids from all corners of high school life receive the picture on their various social networks, laugh, and send it off.

The screen splits 20 ways, same deal.

Pretty soon, the screen is just hundreds of little squares, each with a mocking kid receiving and then re-sending the picture.

We pull back, and all of the little boxes become a pixel in...

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY = CONTINUOUS

...The picture of herself that Bianca is holding.

BIANCA
Oh, no.

She looks up. Everyone in the hallway is looking at their phones, pointing, and laughing at Bianca.

BIANCA (V.O.)
So much for invisibility.

INT. CAFETERIA - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Bianca sees Wesley chatting with HIS BUDDIES. They're laughing and carrying on, as dumb boys do.

Bianca approaches them. She's still pretty emotional. People are still pointing and snickering.

BIANCA

Hey, Wesley, I gotta talk to you about-

The guys all look at her, and then at Wesley.

Wesley's eyes go wide with fear, but before he can say anything-

BUDDY #1

Oh, shit! It's the chick from the picture!

All of the guys BUST OUT LAUGHING.

BUDDY #2

You sure? Hey, babygirl, bend over a little and hike up those pants so I can be sure.

Bianca looks to Wesley for some kind of lifeline.

BIANCA

Wesley?

All he says is...

WESLEY

Her boobs look okay. New bra?

Bianca goes from emotional to PISSED.

BIANCA

My hero.

She dumps a plate of food in his lap, and storms off.

Wesley's pals laugh it up. Wesley stares at his lap. He knows he screwed up.

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Bianca is crying in her bed. Suddenly, she hears a THUNK on her window.

She looks up. It's WESLEY, from his bedroom, throwing pencils at her window to get her attention.

She's about to shut her blinds, when she sees that he is holding a sign that says, "I'M SORRY."

She grabs a piece of paper. She writes something on it, and holds it up. It says, "COME OVER." He nods, and dashes out of his room.

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE (FRONT HALLWAY) - MOMENTS LATER

We hear a doorbell and knocking.

Bianca opens the front door. It's Wesley.

WESLEY

I'm glad you wanted to-

Without a second thought, Bianca lays him out with a right cross to the chin.

She slams the door.

Pause.

The doorbell rings. She opens the door. Wesley is still on the ground.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

May I come in?

BIANCA

(sighs)

Sure.

INT. BIANCA'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Wesley and Bianca sit at her kitchen table. Wesley has a bag of frozen okra on his face. Bianca has a bag of broccoli on her hand.

This is the first time we see a more contemplative side of Wesley. He seems tired. Upset with himself, and his friends.

WESLEY

You had every right to do that.

BIANCA

You're goddamn right I did.

Pause.

WESLEY

Roberta was way out of line. But she understands what she did...Was wrong.

BIANCA

OF COURSE IT WAS WRONG, YOU SHIT-TARD! THAT'S WHY SHE DID IT!

WESLEY

I know. There's nothing I can really do about her.

Pause. They both slump back in their chairs. Bianca looks at Wesley's hand. It's red and swollen like hers.

BIANCA

Why is your hand messed up?

WESLEY

You're not the only one exercising their right hook today. Like I said. I can't do anything about Roberta sending the pictures, but...

BIANCA

But?

WESLEY

The receivers are a different story.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM - EARLIER THAT DAY

Wesley has a scrawnier JOCK DUDE up against a locker.

WESLEY

NOBODY ELSE SEES THAT PICTURE. TELL EVERYONE.

JOCK DUDE

I don't know that many people!

WESLEY

MAKE MORE FRIENDS AND TELL THEM.

INT. BIANCA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Wesley rubs his hand.

WESLEY

You do that four or five times in a day, suddenly everyone finds something else to talk about.

BIANCA

I've never had anyone go on a punching spree for me before.

WESLEY

Don't get used to it. There's rumors going around that I'm on the 'roids.

BIANCA

I'm sure you're not telling them any different.

WESLEY

How?

BIANCA

That you were sticking up for me. Because you're a good guy. And we're, you know, friends.

Pause.

WESLEY

Are we friends?

Bianca doesn't know what to say.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

I mean, I know we have this deal, but...I mean, I didn't think you thought of me as a friend.

Pause.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

I just figured you were kind of too smart and funny to be friends with a dipshit like me.

BIANCA

I'm pretty sure I am.

Wesley stands up. We see that he has a tiny bag with him.

WESLEY

Irregardless-

BIANCA
-Not a word.

WESLEY
Well, irregardless of *that*, what happened today will never, ever happen again.

He hands her the bag.

BIANCA
What's this?

WESLEY
A peace offering. If you want to keep doing...Whatever this thing we do is, I'm around.

He turns to leave.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
Can I keep this Oprah?

BIANCA
Okra.

WESLEY
Right. I'll, uh...See you around.

Pause.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
Oh, and I'm sorry I ever called you the DUFF. I was an idiot. You're awesome. I'm still an idiot.

He exits. Pause. She waits to hear the door close, and looks in the bag.

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Bianca has her eyes closed. She tentatively opens them, and looks at herself in the mirror.

She is wearing Wesley's peace offering. The little black dress.

It neither looks great or terrible on her.

BIANCA (V.O.)
In my head, I was expecting some big reality show reveal.
(MORE)

BIANCA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 But it was just me. Me in a dress
 that wasn't me.

Bianca goes to take it off.

BIANCA (V.O.)
 Still. It was nice of Wesley. It
 didn't make him less of an idiot,
 but it made him less of an
 egregious idiot.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Bianca is sitting with her back to the brick wall, listening
 to Toby on the other side.

Wesley, in his football uniform, takes a break from practice
 to run over.

WESLEY
 Hey, B! We on for this weekend?

BIANCA
 (panicky, whispered)
 SHH! He doesn't know I'm here!

WESLEY
 (whispering)
 Who doesn't know you're where?

She points to the other side of the wall.

Wesley pokes his head around. He sees Toby. Toby stops
 playing, and looks at him.

TOBY
 Hey.

WESLEY
 Hey. There's nobody on the other
 side of this wall.

TOBY
 Huh?

WESLEY
 Just so you know.

Wesley walks back around to Bianca.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
 You're clear. He doesn't suspect a
 thing.

Bianca puts her head in her hands.

One of Wesley's buddies yells to him.

BUDDY #1
WESLEY! GET BACK HERE! WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU DOING?

WESLEY
I'M TALKING TO MY FRIEND BIANCA!
WHO IS TOTALLY MY FRIEND, NO MATTER
WHAT YOU DICK-HEADS HAVE TO SAY
ABOUT IT!

Now it's Toby's turn to poke his head around the wall. Toby, Bianca, and Wesley all stare at each other.

WESLEY (CONT'D)
(to Toby)
Oh, hey. Turns out there IS
somebody here.

Toby smiles at Bianca.

TOBY
Oh. With the cool socks.

BIANCA
That's me.

TOBY
Bianca.

BIANCA
Yeah.

TOBY
Cool.

He goes back to the other side of the wall. Pause.

WESLEY
Hey! You didn't freeze up!

BIANCA
I didn't? (beat) I didn't!

WESLEY
You didn't ask him out, either.

BIANCA
SHHHHHHH!!!!

WESLEY

Right. Sorry. I'm gonna go throw a ball and tackle people.

Wesley runs off. Bianca looks bewildered.

BIANCA

What just happened?

She watches Wesley back on the field.

TEAMMATE

Hey! Wesley! You still talking to that big ugly DUF-

Wesley tsckles him.

WESLEY

'ROID RAGE!

BEGIN "BIANCA'S SLOW TRANSFORMATION" MONTAGE

We watch Wesley and Bianca working together on both school-work and Bianca work.

BIANCA (V.O.)

What happened was, for all of his millions of shortcomings, Wesley was having an effect on me.

We see:

*Bianca and Wesley studying in the library and laughing.

*Bianca getting ready for school. Instead of putting on her usual no makeup, she puts on a vaguely tinted lip balm.

BIANCA (V.O.)

And the truth is, he didn't really have millions of shortcomings.

*Bianca and Wesley in science class. They are dissecting a fetal pig. Bianca makes the first cut. Wesley looks like he might pass out.

*Bianca getting ready for school. A thought occurs to her, and she reaches for her hairbrush. She blows the dust off of it, and brushes her hair.

BIANCA (V.O.)

Certainly, he was no Toby.

*Bianca sees Toby in the hall. She straightens her posture, and smiles as she passes by him. He smiles at her. They pass each other. She exhales and slouches.

BIANCA (V.O.)
But he was Wesley. And as far as
Wesleys go, he wasn't bad.

*Bianca and Wesley in science class. Tests are handed back. She gets an "A," he gets a "C-." They're equally psyched.

*Bianca getting dressed in the morning. Her jeans have a giant rip in them. She trades them out for jeans with a slightly smaller rip.

A pencil THUNKS on her window. She looks. Wesley is in his room, holding up a sign that says, "KILLER JEANS, B." She smiles.

END MONTAGE

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Bianca, walking to class, is stopped by the two POPULAR GIRLS from the beginning of the movie.

BIANCA
Ladies?

POPULAR GIRL #1
Hi, Bianca!

POPULAR GIRL #2
Hi, Bianca!

BIANCA
Hi, Bianca!

They look at her a little funny.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
What can I do for you?

They hand her a FLIER.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
What, is this a picture of me
flossing?

POPULAR GIRL #1
It's an invite to the Homecoming
Afterparty.

POPULAR GIRL #2
We wanted to make sure you got one.

BIANCA
(confused)
Why?

POPULAR GIRL #1
You've got Wesley punching out
dudes in your name.

POPULAR GIRL #2
You've ARRIVED.

They walk away. Bianca smiles.

EXT. WESLEY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Bianca walks next door to Wesley's house, and knocks on the door. She hears shouting, and looks concerned.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
WESLEY, GET THE DOOR!

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
STOP BOSSING HIM AROUND!

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
MAYBE IF YOU DIDN'T CODDLE HIM, HE
WOULDN'T BE FAILING EVERY GODDAMN
CLASS!

WESLEY (O.S.)
I'LL GET IT!

Wesley opens the door.

BIANCA
Ready to go?

WESLEY
Yeah.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca drives, and Wesley stares at his shoes.

BIANCA
So...Library? Mall?

Wesley doesn't say anything.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
Surface of the Earth's sun?

WESLEY
That sounds good.

Pause.

BIANCA
Want to talk?

WESLEY
I want to not talk.

Pause.

BIANCA
I know just the place.

EXT. LOCAL PUBLIC PARK (WOODED AREA) - A LITTLE LATER

In the foreground, we see a large, flat rock in a clearing. Bianca clears some branches out of the way, and she and Wesley walk towards it.

BIANCA
I give you, "Think Rock."

WESLEY
Did you discover it?

BIANCA
Yep. 1492. Claimed it for Spain.

Wesley laughs.

WESLEY
So, what happens here?

BIANCA
You sit on the rock and think. Or,
I do anyway.

They sit.

WESLEY
How long have you...

BIANCA
Since my parents' divorce last
year. I needed a quiet place, that
wasn't filled with angry, screaming
people.

WESLEY

Yeah. That.

BIANCA

Are your parents getting...?

WESLEY

God, I hope so.

Pause.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

If I'm not at school, I'm at football practice. Or at games. Or with my friends. Or out on dates. Or just sort of walking around.

Pause.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

I don't love being at home.

BIANCA

I don't blame you.

Pause.

WESLEY

Is it gonna get better?

BIANCA

It has for my mom. Took her a while.

WESLEY

And you?

BIANCA

Let's just say I've logged a lot of time on this rock.

Wesley hangs his head down. He's a little weepy.

WESLEY

I hate them. I hate that I have to smile, and be cool and pretend that everything's fine. And none of my friends care, anyway. They don't want to hear that "poor me" shit from me. And girls just want to get to it. And that's great. Because then I don't need to think about...Anything else.

Bianca tentatively puts an arm around him.

BIANCA
It's okay.

WESLEY
It's not okay.

BIANCA
It's okay that it's not okay.

Pause. Wesley looks at her.

WESLEY
I like you, Bianca. You're not
okay.

BIANCA
I like you too, Wesley.

Pause. They lean in, and kiss.

They enjoy it for a few seconds, and then they both nervously
pull away.

BIANCA (V.O.)
I swear to god, there's a pivotal
point in my life in here somewhere.
This ain't it, though. I had no
idea what the hell it was. And
neither did Wesley.

WESLEY
Woah.

BIANCA
Yeah.

WESLEY
That happened.

BIANCA
It totally happened.

Pause.

WESLEY
Practice.

BIANCA
What?

WESLEY
It's part of the plan. Our plan.
Um, you know, in case you've never
kissed anyone before-

BIANCA
I have. I mean, what is summer camp
if not Club Med for kids?

Wesley laughs.

WESLEY
I...Figured. But maybe you needed a
refresher course?

Pause.

BIANCA
Yeah. Let's go with that.

WESLEY
Okay. Well. Good practice!

They both laugh.

BIANCA
Yeah! Good game.

WESLEY
Good game!

They bump fists.

BIANCA
Library?

WESLEY
Library.

They get up to leave. The camera slowly pans away from them,
to a bunch of bushes.

BIANCA (V.O.)
Know how they say, "The hills have
eyes?"

We see Sally Ann has been hiding in them. And taking notes.

BIANCA (V.O.)
Well, so do the shrubs.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Bianca confidently walks down the hall towards her locker. A few kids smile and wave.

BIANCA (V.O.)
 Finally, I had a basic
 understanding of what it was like
 to not be a total freak. And I
 LOVED IT.

She smiles and waves back, whistling contentedly as she opens her locker. Suddenly, it SLAMS SHUT.

BIANCA
 What the-

We see ROBERTA standing there.

ROBERTA
 Stay the hell away from Wesley,
 freak.

BIANCA
 JESUS, you scared me.

ROBERTA
 I can be a whole lot scarier.

BIANCA
 How? Fangs and a cape? Zombie
 makeup?

ROBERTA
 Did you like that photo of you I
 sent around? I have TONS more like
 it. From "Forever Legal," from
 "Victoria's Secret..."

Bianca's eyes go wide.

BIANCA
 The Victoria's Secret pictures are
 in 3D. Better for the cellulite.

Pause.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
 What do you want?

ROBERTA
 I want you out of Wesley's life.

BIANCA

I thought you dumped-

ROBERTA

Well now, I want him back. He's obviously deranged with sadness over losing me, which has sent him to YOU.

BIANCA

Speaking of "Obviously deranged-"

ROBERTA

I'm not going to stand by and watch Wesley ruin his status in this school by chasing the likes of you. Thank god people just assume he's on steroids.

BIANCA

He doesn't care about any of that!

ROBERTA

Oh, wake up! He's a MESS. He mopes around all day. Obviously, it's because of YOU.

BIANCA

I think his parents might have something to-

ROBERTA

He doesn't give a crap about his parents. They're losers. He's a WINNER. He needs to be around WINNERS like ME. Not losers like you.

Roberta lets this sink in, and then she moves in for the kill.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)

Wesley will be back in my arms by Homecoming, bitch. You got that? **I'm** going to be Homecoming Queen, and **he** will be **my** King. YOU? He'll forget about you in two weeks.

Roberta storms off. Bianca sighs.

BIANCA (V.O.)

In the past, this would have been enough to get me to hide under my bed.

Her phone buzzes. "TOBY GUITAR PRACTICE."

She gets a determined look on her face.

BIANCA (V.O.)
But I had a job to do.

INT. GIRLS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bianca fixes her hair, applies her vaguely tinted lip gloss, and smiles determinedly.

BIANCA (V.O.)
The fact was, in her own crazy-bitch scented way, Roberta had reminded me of a two very important facts. One: I didn't set out to bag Wesley Rush. And two: I didn't want the entire school knowing the topography of my ass.

BIANCA
(Practicing into mirror)
Hi, there. Hi there! Yo. Hey.

BIANCA (V.O.)
I was in it to be able to talk to Toby. And to have him talk to me. And to have things go from there.

BIANCA
Let's do this.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

Toby is playing. Bianca takes a deep breath, and then sits next to him.

BIANCA
Hey. Mind if I have a seat?

TOBY
Looks like you have.

BIANCA
Aren't you observant.

She smiles. He smiles.

TOBY
Bianca, right?

BIANCA
Yeah. And you're Toby.

TOBY
Indeed I am.

BIANCA
Let me ask you a question.

TOBY
Shoot.

BIANCA
Would you like to grab dinner or
something this weekend?

Toby straightens up.

TOBY
Are you asking me out on a date?

BIANCA
(unwaveringly confident)
I am.

TOBY
But...Aren't you with that jock
kid? The one on the 'roids?

BIANCA
NO! No. No way. He's a buddy.

TOBY
A buddy.

BIANCA
That's right.

TOBY
It seems strange that an advanced
woman of the new millennium would
be hanging around with a caveman
like that.

BIANCA
I'm tutoring him in science. And
teaching him how to walk erect.
(pause) NOT LIKE THAT.

They both laugh.

TOBY

Well, I'm glad to hear that. I figured I couldn't compete with a guy like that.

BIANCA

Compete? Over me? Hilarious.

TOBY

Why is that hilarious?

BIANCA

I'm not the competing over type.

TOBY

You could have fooled me.

Bianca smiles.

TOBY (CONT'D)

So. Yes. I would like to grab some dinner. With you. My place? Saturday? 8?

BIANCA

Yes to all of the above.

TOBY

Sweet.

BIANCA

Sweet.

Pause.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Mind if I...

She gestures to his guitar.

TOBY

I was hoping you would.

She listens to him while he plays.

BIANCA (V.O.)

After three years, I had finally made it to the other side of the wall.

She closes her eyes and smiles.

BIANCA (V.O.)
And right then, I *thought* that was
the most pivotal moment in my life.

INT. SCIENCE CLASS - AFTERNOON

Wesley is working on an experiment before class starts.
Bianca rushes in.

BIANCA
I DID IT!

WESLEY
What?

BIANCA
I asked out Toby! And he said YES!

She puts up her hand for a high-five. Wesley high-fives her,
but we get the sense his heart isn't in it.

WESLEY
Way to go.

BIANCA
Saturday! 8pm! IT'S ON! And I never
could have done it without you!

Wesley smiles.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
But don't worry about this class.
We're acing it. Mr. Henderson will
never trouble you again.

WESLEY
I appreciate that.

The bell RINGS.

BIANCA
Hey, you okay?

WESLEY
Yeah. Happy for you. Glad I could
help make it happen.

BIANCA
Me too! And-

WESLEY
Class is starting.

BIANCA

Oh. Okay.

The teacher begins to drone on. Wesley stares straight ahead. Bianca looks at him sideways.

BIANCA (V.O.)

The hell was his problem? Isn't this what we've been working towards? Wasn't this the plan all along? You'd think he'd be psyched!

Bianca shrugs, and turns her attention to the teacher. Wesley looks at her, and then back to the teacher.

INT. BIANCA'S LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Close-up on Bianca as she trots down the stairs.

BIANCA

(shouting)

MOM! I'M OFF TO HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENING OF MY-

DOTTIE (O.S.)

SHHH!

We PULL BACK to reveal that Dottie is standing on the couch, as a ROOMFUL of WEIRD PEOPLE crawl around the room on their hands and knees.

BIANCA

What-

DOTTIE

(to the crawling people)

...In order to evolve to the acceptance stage in your mind, you have to evolve with your BODY. Right now, you're primates. Skittering around the...Uh..Veldt.

The people begin to make primate/monkey type sounds.

WEIRD PEOPLE

OOO OOO OOO!/AAA-AAA-AAA!/Ca-CA! Ca-CA!

One guy begins to mime throwing his poop.

DOTTIE

Mr. Dobraux! There will be no poop flinging in my encounter session!

MR. DOUBRAUX
 (As if saying "Sorry.")
 CHEE-chee.

DOTTIE
 That's okay. Now, in your own
 time...EVOLVE! Stand up! Explore
 the space!

Everyone begins to stand up, and climb over the furniture. A
 bookcase gets knocked over in the process.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
 That's okay! It's a safe space!

Bianca has had enough.

BIANCA
 I'll see you later, Mom.

DOTTIE
 Be back by 11.

Bianca rolls her eyes as she walks out the door.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
 Okay. Let's take a few minutes to
 discuss. Linda? How did you feel?

LINDA, a large, sweaty woman, speaks in a deep voice.

LINDA
 Like I wanted to present myself and
 be mounted. Mounted in the veldt of
 my personal evolution.

Dottie is grossed out.

DOTTIE
 Okay. Discussion time is over.
 Silent reflection time.

EXT. TOBY'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Bianca rings the bell. She holds a bouquet of gladiolas. Toby
 opens the door. He holds a bouquet of gladiolas.

TOBY
 Well this is the nicest kind of
 awkward.

BIANCA
 Trade ya.

They trade bouquets.

 TOBY
Come on in. Dinner's getting warm.

 BIANCA
"Warm?"

INT. TOBY'S HOUSE (DINING ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

The lights have been dimmed, and the table is set with an Asian theme. There's an awesome looking sushi dinner spread out on the table.

 TOBY
I hope you like sushi.

 BIANCA
It's my favorite. How did you know?

 TOBY
It's exotic, raw, natural...Like you. My dad is teaching me how to make it...I hope it came out okay.

Bianca seems like she might melt.

 BIANCA
Well, I'm speechless.

 TOBY
Then I've done my job. Mind if we listen to Joni Mitchell over dinner?

 BIANCA
That...That would be perfect.

Toby pulls out her chair for her. She sits.

 BIANCA (CONT'D)
Thank you!

 TOBY
No prob.

He sits, and using a remote, turns on the stereo. Joni Mitchell's "Coyote" plays.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
I've been trying to teach myself this on guitar for FOREVER.
(MORE)

TOBY (CONT'D)
 Joni Mitchell is such an artist,
 it's hard to even come close,
 y'know?

Pause. Without even knowing it, we're into a QUICK FANTASY SEQUENCE.

BIANCA
 Take me. Take me on this table
 right now.

Toby brushes all of the food off the table, and they begin to make out. He pulls away for a minute, and when he pulls back, we see that he's somehow morphed into Wesley.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
 What the-

IMAGINARY WESLEY
 S'up! I'm AWESOME!

And just like that, we're BACK TO REALITY.

CLOSE-UP ON BIANCA'S FACE

Her eyes are closed. When she opens them, the table is exactly how it was a few seconds ago, and Toby is staring at her.

TOBY
 You okay?

BIANCA
 (shakes it off)
 Yeah...I just really like this
 song.

TOBY
 Me too.

Bianca pops a California roll in her mouth.

BIANCA (V.O.)
 When I got home, I was going to
 give my brain a stern talking-to.
 Here I was on a perfect date, with
 my perfect guy...

We pan over to Toby, who's talking dreamily about whatever.

TOBY

...Yeah, it's just, the poetry of the chord progressions intertwines with the poetry of Mitchell's lyrics...Like lovers, almost...

Just then, Imaginary Wesley pops up behind him.

IMAGINARY WESLEY

Like a midget jerkin' off!

Bianca LAUGHS OUT LOUD. Then she blinks, and it's just Toby, looking at her oddly.

TOBY

I mean, I guess it's kind of funny.

BIANCA

No! I wasn't laughing at you...It's just so surprising to hear a guy talk that intelligently about music. It makes me happy.

TOBY

Well, I like that. It reminds me of a poem I wrote a few weeks ago. Maybe I can read it to you later.

BIANCA

Oh, yeah. You TOTALLY can.

TOBY

It's a deal. I like poetry. I'm not very good at it, but I almost feel like if you get TOO good at it, it's not real. Not from the heart.

BIANCA

Oh, yeah, absolutely.

Imaginary Wesley pops up right next to her, and whispers in her ear.

IMAGINARY WESLEY

Like this one: "Hickory Dickory Dock/The mouse ran up my c-"

Bianca stands up.

BIANCA

Would you excuse me a second?

INT. TOBY'S HOUSE (BATHROOM) - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca is splashing water on her face.

BIANCA
 (to reflection)
 What the hell, brain?

Her reflection shrugs.

BIANCA'S REFLECTION
 Dude. You're into Wesley. Deal with
 it.

Imaginary Wesley also pops up in the mirror.

IMAGINARY WESLEY
 NUMBER ONE IN YOUR BRAIN!

Bianca sits on the edge of the tub, and massages her temples.

BIANCA (V.O.)
 The perfect date. The perfect guy.
 And only my Wesley-infected brain
 standing in the way of true
 happiness.

She takes a deep breath.

BIANCA
 Okay. I got this.

INT. TOBY'S HOUSE (DINING ROOM) - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca enters, re-energized.

BIANCA
 I think I'd like to hear that poem
 now.

TOBY
 I wasn't that hungry anyway.

BIANCA
 Me neither.

EXT. TOBY'S HOUSE (BACK PORCH) - MOMENTS LATER

Toby and Bianca sit on his back porch. He's tuning his guitar. She shivers.

TOBY
You cold?

 BIANCA
A little chilly.

Toby takes off his jacket, and puts it over her shoulders.

 BIANCA (V.O.)
Like, seriously. Wesley WHO?

 TOBY
Better?

 BIANCA
Oh, yeah.

 TOBY
Check this out.

Toby sort of speak-sings over his playing. It's freaking awful, but to Bianca, it's THE GREATEST.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
Woman...
Strong and powerful...
You will rise up...
Against your white male
oppressors...
Like a mighty warrioress...
Like Harriet Tubman
And Diane Sawyer...
And also Hillary Clinton...
Hillaaaaary Cliiinton!
Hillaaaaary Cliiinton!
Hillaaaaary Cliiinton!

He finishes with a flourish.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
It's not quite done yet.

 BIANCA
It's great. Really.

 TOBY
Thank you.

They stare up at the sky.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
But enough about me. How are you?

BIANCA

It's been a weird month. But it's getting better.

TOBY

Weird how?

BIANCA

Well, I kind of found out that my two best friends...Weren't.

TOBY

Jess and Casey?

BIANCA

(off-guard)

Wha- Yeah. Jess and Casey. Anyway, I haven't talked to them in forever, and I'm not sure if I made the right call.

TOBY

You should talk to them. They seem like really caring, understanding people.

BIANCA

Do you...Know them?

TOBY

Jess is in my drama class, and I have Trig with Casey. They're both very cool.

BIANCA

Well...I don't know. But anyway-

TOBY

Jess is a terrific actress.

BIANCA

She's very good. Why don't you play another-

TOBY

And Casey. So...Firey.

BIANCA

She's the whole book of matches and a couple extra. But I'm not really talking to them.

TOBY

Sure. Is it intimidating?

BIANCA

What?

TOBY

Being friends with such...And it's so rare that I point this out, because I don't subscribe to the American ideal of feminine beauty...Such, POWERFUL women.

We pull in on Bianca. She's been down this road before.

BIANCA (V.O.)

Oh, NO. NO, NO, NO, A MILLION GOD FORSAKEN TIMES NO.

TOBY

A friend of mine was wondering...Do they have homecoming dates?

Bianca is horrified.

BIANCA (V.O.)

This is what I wanted to do. Scream, cry, set him on fire, bulldoze his house, throw up, and explode.

TOBY

I mean, it's DEFINITELY not for me, because, you know, I'm not hung up on physical beauty...But...

BIANCA

Are you DUFFING me?

TOBY

Excuse me?

BIANCA

You are. Jesus. I feel diseased.

TOBY

I don't know...

BIANCA

You're using me to get a date with Jess or Casey!

TOBY

(caught)
No...No...For a friend...

BIANCA

You PHONY! You POSEUR! You...Excuse me.

She gets up to leave. Walking by the trash cans, she sees bags and takeout containers from "Mr. Sushi."

BIANCA (CONT'D)

TAKEOUT?

TOBY

(sheepish)

The poem was mine.

BIANCA

Obviously! It was AWFUL! Good night, and DROP DEAD.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca is driving, crying, and dialing.

WESLEY'S VOICE MAIL (V.O.)

This. Is. WESLEY!

BIANCA

Wesley. I get it. I get why you were bummed out in science. Toby...He's a fake. He was using me as the DUFF the whole time. I...I need to talk to you. I need to talk to somebody. I...Call me.

EXT. WESLEY'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Bianca walks from her house to Wesley's Pause. We hear a GLASS BREAK. Bianca winces.

She knocks on his door. The door opens a crack.

WESLEY'S DAD

You looking for Wesley?

BIANCA

I-

WESLEY'S DAD

He's not here.

Wesley's dad closes the door.

EXT. LOCAL PUBLIC PARK (WOODED AREA) - A LITTLE LATER

It's a bright, moonlit night. Bianca makes her way to Think Rock.

BIANCA (V.O.)
I needed to clear my head. Get my thoughts in order. I mean, maybe it was crazy, the idea that Wesley and I could be a thing, but-

She sees TWO SHADOWY FIGURES on Think Rock. They're in a hot and heavy embrace.

She takes a step closer. It's **Wesley and Roberta**. Bianca's lip begins to quiver.

INT. BIANCA'S LIVING ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER

Bianca is sitting on the couch, staring at QVC. She looks...Blank.

There's a knock at the door.

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE (FRONT HALLWAY) - MOMENTS LATER

It's Wesley.

WESLEY
I got your call, and my dad said you...

BIANCA
Forget it. Go home.

Pause.

WESLEY
Sorry about Tob-

BIANCA
I saw you and Roberta.

Pause.

WESLEY
What are you talking about?

BIANCA
(laughs, darkly)
I was going to MY Think Rock to think.

WESLEY
You said I could use it.

BIANCA
Not as a Motel 6.

Now it's Wesley's turn to laugh, a little.

WESLEY
...I think there's still a way we
can be-

BIANCA
No. You belong with Roberta. I
belong with nobody. I'm releasing
you from your duties. There's no
reason for you to go around
pretending you're on steroids and
threatening freshmen so we can
be...Friends.

WESLEY
But I like threatening freshman.
It's kind of what football players
do.

BIANCA
It is. Football players also date
hot chicks like Roberta. And they
don't hang out with DUFFs. It's the
natural order of things.

WESLEY
But...I...Care about you.

BIANCA
I have it on authority that you'll
forget about me in two weeks.

WESLEY
But-

Bianca closes the door on Wesley, sighs, and walks up the
stairs.

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Without taking off any of her clothes or her shoes, she
climbs into bed.

BLACKOUT.

TITLE CARD: "STAGE 4: DEPRESSION"

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Bianca is sitting in bed, wearing an old bathrobe. She looks like she has not showered in a while.

BIANCA (V.O.)
 So this was it. 17, alone,
 friendless, single, destined for a
 life of TV dinners and bumper
 stickers that said, "My Other Car
 Is A Cat."

There's a knock on the door.

BIANCA
 GO AWAY!

CASEY
 We've done that already.

JESS
 We'd like to come back now!

BIANCA
 (weak)
 Okay.

The door opens, and it's Jess and Casey with snacks, magazines, makeup, etc.

CASEY
 Okay. First thing, open a window.
 It smells like Sylvia Plath's
 kitchen in here.

JESS
 On it!

Casey begins to attempt to tidy up a little.

CASEY
 I do believe there's a floor under
 all this.

BIANCA
 Why...Why are you guys here?

CASEY
 For the record, I don't want to be
 here, as I'm, like, RIP-SHIT mad at
 you.

JESS
Your mom called us. And I bribed Casey with a lifetime "WIRED" subscription.

CASEY
(scoffing)
Lifetime. Like there's gonna be such a thing as magazines in 5 years.

Jess dumps a variety of magazines on her bed.

Bianca smiles, and then immediately starts crying. Jess gives her a big hug.

CASEY (CONT'D)
Still pissed.

Jess shoots her a look. Casey harumphs, and joins in the hug.

JESS
Bianca? Sweetie? What the hell is a DUFF?

Bianca sighs.

BIANCA
So we were at that house party. And Wesley came up to me...And...

BIANCA (V.O.)
And...Let's skip ahead. You guys know this stuff already.

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER

The room is now cleaned and livable, thanks to Jess and Casey.

BIANCA
...And then I got into bed.

CASEY
So...You stopped being friends with us because Wesley said you were ugly? But then you fell in love with him? You are SO going to lose your gold commenter star on "Jezebel."

JESS
Stockholm Syndrome. Happens all the time.

BIANCA
He's a shithead. But he's a sweet, thoughtful, funny...

JESS
Shithead?

BIANCA
Yeah.

CASEY
Okay, that aside, why didn't you ever come to us?

BIANCA
Because, I'm the ugly one out of all of us. That's just fact.

Pause.

JESS
(quietly)
Well...No. If anything, it's me.

Bianca lets out a hearty laugh.

BIANCA
Oh, NO WAY am I going to believe that, you supermodel-shaped vision of wonderment.

CASEY
She's right. It's me.

BIANCA
OUT. BOTH OF YOU. I don't buy this at all.

CASEY
Do you know why I never wear above the knee skirts?

Casey pulls up her skirt just high enough to reveal WEIRDLY KNOBBY KNEES.

CASEY (CONT'D)
Knobby old lady knees. *I* haz them.

JESS

I can top that. You know why I never wear anything backless? Three words: Mad. Ass. Backne. I'll show you-

She begins to pull up her shirt.

CASEY/BIANCA

NO!/OH, GOD STOP!/Etc.

CASEY

I have a lumpy butt.

JESS

One of my boobs is smaller than the other.

CASEY

I go through a bottle of foundation a week.

JESS

I bathe in Proactiv.

Bianca flops back on her bed.

BIANCA

Ladies, ladies. Stop fighting. You're both hideous, apparently.

CASEY

We clean up well. But we didn't always.

JESS

Do you still have that picture on your phone?

CASEY

You know it.

Casey busts out her phone, and pulls up a picture of the THREE OF THEM AS 10 YEAR OLDS. Jess is giraffe-gawky. Casey is deathly pale with coke-bottle glasses. Bianca, on the other hand, looks relatively normal.

JESS

Look at those two dweebs.

BIANCA

Why do you have this?

CASEY

Because I never want to forget who my friends are. Who stood up for me-

JESS

And me-

CASEY

When we were kids. You did, Bianca.

JESS

You were always there for us. Never as our DUFF. As our friend. Our best friend.

Bianca is deeply moved.

BIANCA

I...Love you guys. Thank you.

Hugs all around.

JESS

You know how we should celebrate this emotional reunion?

BIANCA

Shakey's?

JESS

That. And...
(perks up)
HOMECOMING! LET'S ALL GO!

Jess is jumping up and down on the bed with excitement. Bianca looks like she needs 20 Advil.

BIANCA

PLEASE don't remind me.

JESS

TONIGHT! WE'LL BE EACH OTHER'S DATES AND IT'LL BE FUN FUN FUN!

BIANCA

Look. I hate to take the T-Bird away. But NO.

Jess sits down.

JESS

I'll make my poutiest face.

BIANCA

I love you guys. And I'm sorry. But I can't see Wesley. I can't see Toby.

CASEY

Well, then, we'll stay here with you.

BIANCA

No. Go. Have fun. Let me wallow for the rest of the weekend. And then Monday, we'll be back to normal.

JESS

Promise?

BIANCA

Promise.

JESS

Hug?

BIANCA

I'm so hugged out.

CASEY

Me too.

EXT. BIANCA'S HOUSE (FRONT PORCH) - CONTINUOUS

Jess and Casey pull away, as Bianca waves to them.

BIANCA (V.O.)

Well, I had my friends back. So I wasn't 100% alone. But I had a nagging question on my mind.

BIANCA

What now?

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE - FRONT HALLWAY

Bianca wanders back in.

BIANCA (V.O.)

I mean, if only there was some kind of road map to get you through crazy, painful experiences-

She walks by one of Dottie's many visual aids with the 5 stages on it. Pause, she stops, and stares at it.

BIANCA (V.O.)
Oh. Right. That.

Bianca runs her finger down the list.

BIANCA
Denial, did it. Anger, did it.
Bargaining...Close enough...
Depression...Right.

She lands on ACCEPTANCE.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
I guess...

TITLE CARD: ACCEPTANCE

INT. BIANCA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bianca is draped over the couch, watching a "TEEN MOM 2" marathon on TV.

Dottie enters, after a long day of making life better for people.

DOTTIE
Hey, sweetie!

BIANCA
Hey, mom.

DOTTIE
You seem like you're doing better.
You've moved from the bed to the
couch.

BIANCA
The girls came by today.

DOTTIE
Everything better?

BIANCA
Yeah. Thanks for calling them.

DOTTIE
I can't help but see you didn't go
to Homecoming with them.

BIANCA
Couldn't do it. But Rome wasn't
built in a day.

Dottie sits next to her.

DOTTIE
I'm sorry I haven't been around...

BIANCA
No, as it turns out, you really helped me.

DOTTIE
I did? Wow, I'm GOOD.

BIANCA
I realized that this whole time...I've been following the five stages. And now I'm at Acceptance.

Pause.

DOTTIE
And what do you accept, exactly?

BIANCA
I accept that I'm not the DUFF...

DOTTIE
What the hell is a-

BIANCA
Long story. Trust me. It's not a good thing to be.

DOTTIE
Fine.

BIANCA
I accept that I have a lot more strength and self confidence than I was aware of, and I should use it more. And I accept I have two amazing friends.

DOTTIE
Wow! You're accepting the hell out of Acceptance!

BIANCA
And finally, I accept that I'm kind of a weirdo, and I'm going to be dateless for the rest of my life. And that's...Okay.

Pause.

DOTTIE

Okay. That last one doesn't work for me.

BIANCA

Me neither. But that's Acceptance, right? The good and the bad. Right?

Dottie takes a deep breath.

DOTTIE

Okay, first of all. You must be the first teenager in the world to take anything her mother says seriously.

BIANCA

Believe me, I didn't want to.

DOTTIE

Second of all, what I say is not gospel. I say it so scared, worried people will give me money, so I can provide us with the life's little luxuries, like food.

BIANCA

But...It happened! Every stage! Just like you've always said!

Dottie pulls out a sharpie, and walks over to yet another copy of the stages.

DOTTIE

Fine. Then I'm creating another stage. Just for you.

She writes underneath ACCEPTANCE, "STAGE 6: ACCEPTANCE PLUS."

DOTTIE (CONT'D)

Acceptance Plus. That's when you know who you are, you accept it, and then you...Turn it up to 11. You're a weirdo? Then be the best weirdo ever.

BIANCA

...How do I start?

DOTTIE

You clean yourself up. You go to that dance. And you rock that jock's world.

Bianca takes a deep breath, and whips out her phone.

BIANCA
 Jess? Get over here. Bring your
 sewing machine.

TITLE CARD: "STAGE 6: ACCEPTANCE PLUS"

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

The three girls work together, ripping apart pieces of Bianca's wardrobe, as Jess reassembles them on her sewing machine.

Casey, meanwhile, is designing patterns on the fly on her laptop. Bianca gives them the once-over, as Dottie helps her try things on.

It's a whirlwind of activity, but everyone is PUMPED.

INT. BIANCA'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Everyone stands around the mirror in such a way that they can see Bianca's outfit, but we can't. By the look on everyone's faces, the operation was a success.

BIANCA
 We're clear on the plan?

JESS
 Oh, HELL yeah.

CASEY
 Double hell yeah.

Bianca smiles.

BIANCA
 Let's DO this.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - AN HOUR LATER

The dance is in full swing. Kids are dancing up a storm.

Roberta and Wesley are dancing, but she stops, suddenly.

ROBERTA
 Wesley. I need a drink. I need a
 Diet Coke.

WESLEY
 I think they only have punch.

ROBERTA
 There's a machine in the hall,
 sweetie!

Wesley sighs, and then puts on his best smile.

WESLEY
 Okay, babe. Be right back.

ROBERTA
 Please. After tonight, you can call
 me "Queen."

Wesley shlumps off. We pull back to see Jess and Casey giving her the evil eye.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
 What the hell are you looking at?

JESS
 Nothing.

CASEY
 Absolutely nothing.

Roberta walks away nervously. Jess and Casey both check their phones.

JESS
 The eagle.

CASEY
 She has landed.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Wesley is going through his pocket, trying to find change.

WESLEY
 What the hell kind of machine
 doesn't take dollars?

Just then, 4 quarters drop at his feet. He bends over to pick them up. As he does, he sees who dropped them.

It's Bianca. The camera follows her from the feet up.

She looks amazing. It's not a "movie" makeover. She literally looks like Bianca, only the best version.

She and her friends have stitched, taped, and stapled bits of her favorite wardrobe pieces (The overalls, her ringer-t, etc), and sort of done a fashion "mash-up" with the dress that Wesley gave her.

And down the side of one sleeve, in Bedazzled letters, it reads, "D.U.F.F."

WESLEY (CONT'D)

Hey.

BIANCA

I'm into you. I'm pretty sure you're into me.

WESLEY

(without thinking)

Yeah. But...Why?

BIANCA

Because you're better looking on the inside than you are on the outside.

WESLEY

But...I'm so handsome!

BIANCA

My point exactly. You're a genuinely good person. You're honest, you're funny, and you're also a total weirdo. And so am I. So I propose that we be weird together.

Wesley considers, as he looks at her outfit. He points to her sleeve.

WESLEY

You're definitely not that.

BIANCA

The "D.U.F.F.?" Sure I am. It's a made up phrase. It can stand for whatever I want it to stand for.

WESLEY

Like what?

BIANCA

"Don't Underestimate Flighty Females." Or maybe, "Do U Fancy a Fling?"

WESLEY

(torn.)

I do...What about Roberta?

BIANCA

Are you into her?

WESLEY

Not at all. I just thought...That's what I deserved.

BIANCA

You don't. You know why? Because you're not just a dumb jock, who deserves a dumb girl who treats you like shit.

WESLEY

She's awful. She's the worst. So...

BIANCA

So. I think we should dance. And kiss. And not in that order.

WESLEY

Practice kiss?

BIANCA

Oh, no. Practice is over. This is the real deal. C'mere.

They kiss. It's a long one.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

Roberta is checking her watch.

ROBERTA

Where is he?

Jess and Casey flank her on either side.

JESS

Right there, sweetie.

Wesley and Bianca enter the gym, hit the floor, and start dancing like there's no tomorrow.

ROBERTA

What? Her? EWWWW!

She marches over to them. Jess and Casey smile.

CASEY
Give her a minute.

JESS
Naturally.

Roberta taps Wesley on the shoulder.

ROBERTA
What the HELL IS THIS?

WESLEY
They were out of Diet Coke?

ROBERTA
Wesley, take your hands off this disgusting piece of trash THIS INSTANT.

Bianca gets in Roberta's face.

BIANCA
Or what?

Roberta pulls out her phone.

ROBERTA
You know, "Or What." I unleash on this school, this TOWN, so many photos of your chunky ass that you'll want to LIVE in a paper bag.

BIANCA
Go ahead.

Roberta goes to hit SEND, but doesn't like what she sees.

CLOSE UP on Roberta's phone. It just reads: "ALL FILES DELETED." Then the :(emoticon, followed by, "YOU BEEN HACKED, BITCH! ;)"

ROBERTA
What the...

The camera whip-pans over to Jess and Casey. Casey is typing away furiously at her 11 inch MacBook Air. She slams it shut.

CASEY
Thank YOU Rupert Murdoch, for making cell-phone hacking the new black.

JESS
Let's finish this.

Jess and Casey TEAR A VELCRO STRIP off their sleeves, also revealing the letters "D.U.F.F." Just like Bianca. They flank Bianca on either side.

ROBERTA

Whatever. I have the photos on my home comp-

Casey just shakes her head, "No."

CASEY

You don't. And unless you want US to show the world YOU singing Rebecca Black's "Friday" into your, ahem, marital aid, you'll shut your trap.

ROBERTA

You're blackmailing me?

JESS

Rebecca Blackmailing you.

Roberta takes a step back.

ROBERTA

Okay. Fine. You know what? It's immaterial. Because any minute now, they're going to call MY NAME, and WESLEY'S name, and we are going to be the goddamn king and queen of this school!

Now it's Wesley's turn to shake his head, "No."

WESLEY

I forgot to tell you something.

ROBERTA

What...?

The lights DIM. A spotlight hits the stage. THE PRINCIPAL takes the mic.

PRINCIPAL

Okay, kids, I hope everyone's having a good time. Not TOO good of a time, I hope. Not like last year. With the "special ingredient" brownies on the refreshments table.

Everyone laughs. The principal doesn't.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)
IT'S NOT FUNNY, KIDS. Mrs. Leopold
spent 5 hours crawling around the
ventilation ducts.

Everyone laughs louder. The principal smiles.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)
Okay, that was kind of funny.
Anyhoo! Let's get to it! The Queen
of Homecoming is...

Roberta takes a deep breath. In spite of being surrounded by
people who loathe her, this is still her moment.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)
Ms. ROBERTA SMALLWOOD!

Roberta squeaks, jumps up and down, squeaks again, and turns
to Wesley.

ROBERTA
Let's go, Wesley. They're just
about to say your name!

PRINCIPAL
And our King, in a landslide
victory, thanks to the tireless
campaigning of Jess and Casey...

The girls smile.

ROBERTA
Oh, shit.

PRINCIPAL
BARRY HOROWITZ!

The MALE DUFF from the party at the beginning of the movie,
confidently takes Roberta's hand, and walks/drags her to the
stage.

ROBERTA
Stop! Don't touch me!

BARRY
Please, baby, let's just enjoy the
moment.

The two of them stand up on stage. Barry is beaming, and
Roberta looks utterly, totally humiliated.

ROBERTA
SALLY ANN! DO SOMETHING!

But over at the bleachers, Sally Ann is locking eyes with Toby.

SALLY ANN

Wanna blow this shit-show and go make out in the bathroom?

Toby shrugs.

TOBY

Sure?

They exit. Roberta growls.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM (DANCE FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Wesley and Bianca dance, blissfully happy.

BIANCA (V.O.)

And THAT was the most pivotal moment in my life. Not because I got the guy. Not because I had my two best friends back. But because that night, I came into my own. I left my old DUFF self behind, and became a whole new DUFF...And so did a lot of other people.

We hear the hubub of VARIOUS KIDS looking at Bianca, Jess and Casey. Chatter spreads around Homecoming like wildfire.

KID #1

Why do they all have DUFF on their sleeves?

KID #2

Wait, they can't all be "DUFFS!"

KID #3

Maybe DUFF stands for something else!

KID #4

"Designated Ultimate Foxy Friend?"

KID #5

"Divine Unbridled Far-out Famous?"

KID #6

Damn, I wanna be The Duff.

KID #7

Me too!

But Bianca and Wesley take no notice of this. They just lock eyes, and kiss like they were born to do it.

FADE TO:

INT. OFFICE - EARLY EVENING

...And we're back in the office, at Bianca's interview.

BIANCA

...And that's that. You know the rest of the story.

We pull back to reveal that Bianca is, in fact, sitting behind HER desk.

A WINDOW POPS UP over her head. It reads "DUFF." She stares at it for a second, and arches an eyebrow.

The WINDOW shimmers, and then reads, "BIANCA PIPER, CEO: DUFF FASHION INDUSTRIES"

BIANCA (CONT'D)

That's better.

This is, in fact, HER office. It's a cramped loft space with desks, computers, and a LOT of sewing forms and equipment.

The person she's talking to? A REPORTER.

We see that Bianca is wearing a very funky, professional outfit, with DUFF on the sleeve. The reporter also wears a shirt with a DUFF sleeve.

REPORTER

Who doesn't know the rest of the story? "DUFF-WEAR" goes viral, Chloë Sevigny wears a DUFF shirt to the Independent Spirit Awards, the three of you go into business...

We see Casey working away on a new website design, while Jess is fitting an outfit on a form.

CASEY

Bianca, can you proof the copy for the new DUFF-Wear website?

JESS

I need her to okay this design first, bossy-boots.

BIANCA
Settle, ladies. All in due time.
It never ends.

REPORTER
And you're not even out of high
school. But what happened to...

We hear a HONK! HONK! Bianca turns to the window. We see Wesley in a baby-blue convertible with DUFF-WEAR on the side.

BIANCA
He passed science. He's going to
Notre Dame in the fall. Full ride
scholarship.

She waves to Wesley. He gives the "Thumbs up."

REPORTER
Any last thoughts?

Bianca thinks.

BIANCA
It's not about the success. It's
not about getting the guy. It's
about believing in yourself. And
having the people you care about
believe in you.
(she leans in)
That said, all that other stuff is
pretty frakking cool, too.

And with that, she marches out of the office.

THE END

OVER THE CLOSING CREDITS:

We see all of the celebrity DUFFS from the opening credit sequence...Each one of them starts with a DUFF bubble over their heads, which is then crossed out and replaced with the following text...

* KHLOE KARDASHIAN - Star of her own highly rated reality series. Landed an NBA player.

* SNOOKI - Recieves \$35,000 to show up at a club and pass out. Currently on the university lecture circuit.

* PEREZ HILTON - Oversees a multi-media gossip empire.

*