

THREE MONTHS

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EXT. OCEAN DRIVE, MIAMI BEACH- EARLY MORNING

TIME CARD: MAY 15, 2011

The sun ascends over the boardwalk, storefront shutters open to a quiet beach, and a jogging group of senior citizens is interrupted by the sound of a bike bell.

CALEB KAHN rides his grandmother's tandem bike alone. His eyeliner channels Courtney Love and both of his shoes are untied. He has a Jansport on his back and a Nikon slung around his shoulder.

Caleb is the kind of high school senior that stopped giving a fuck last year when he discovered vintage gay porn and Ziggy Stardust. To say he's hung over and struggling would be putting it mildly. The jogging group glares at him.

CALEB

We get it. You're old and fit. You don't have to rub it in everyone's face.

He continues to ring the bell and the sea of seniors parts, like Caleb is some kind of punk Moses. As he rides in between the joggers, a black elderly runner named BENNY squirts his water bottle at Caleb.

BENNY

Aren't you supposed to get someone to ride that with you?

CALEB

Who says I haven't?

BENNY

I'm going to tell Meryl about this.

CALEB

If you're referring to my grandmother, she hasn't heard from you since Monday Bong Night. She probably thinks you're dead, or even worse, screening her calls.

BENNY

Liar. I saw her yesterday. And she wants to know where you've been.

CALEB

Around.

Caleb flashes the Nikon in Benny's face before pedaling away. Benny shields his eyes and calls out after him:

BENNY
You look like shit!

Caleb holds up the finger and turns the corner to...

EXT. GAY HEALTH CLINIC - CONTINUOUS

It's got that off-white antiseptic look from the '70s when everything was all stucco and angular.

There's a rainbow flag next to a banner reading: WRAP YOUR JUNK, A MEN OF MIAMI HEALTH MOVEMENT.

As Caleb rides up to the clinic, a HOMELESS MAN calls out to him from an adjacent bus bench.

HOMELESS MAN
Hey! You got any food?

Caleb locks up his bike on a NO PARKING sign before running to a trash can and vomiting his stomach lining out. He screams like that kicker who misses the winning field goal.

Caleb takes a 7/11 container from his bag and hands it to the homeless man, who looks at it skeptically.

CALEB
Take it. The puke was from a nasty combo of Schnapps and Nyquil. This weiner will only bring you joy.

Caleb walks inside. The homeless man opens the tray: it's a day-old 7/11 hot dog. The man shrugs and takes a bite.

INT. WAITING ROOM - SHORTLY THEREAFTER

Only a table of pamphlet racks sits between a cross-legged Caleb and a hot, ripped GUIDO bawling his brains out.

Caleb tries to ignore the relentless sobs and stares at the informational posters cluttering the wall: METH ANONYMOUS, HIV COUNSELING, DRAG KARAOKE NIGHT. He nervously starts to make origami hearts out of nearby paper pamphlets when-

JAMAICAN NURSE
Kahn, Caleb.

CALEB
Present!

Caleb jolts up, knocking over the racks on the table.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Sorry! I'm sorry.

He quickly and awkwardly attempts to reassemble them, but ends up pushing pamphlets onto the melancholy guido instead.

CALEB (CONT'D)
I think, I'm just-
(beat)
-I'm gonna go with her.

Caleb grabs his bag and follows the nurse inside.

INT. WAITING ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Caleb has fallen asleep on the examination table when a knock at the door wakes him up. DOCTOR REID comes in. He's wearing dad jeans and a Hawaiian shirt.

DOCTOR REID
Sorry to wake you.

CALEB
Are you...a doctor?

DOCTOR REID
Only if my mother asks, Mr...

He examines a chart.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)
Kahn. So what can we do you for this morning? STI check?

CALEB
Yes, ma'am.

Doctor Reid sits at the computer.

DOCTOR REID
Let's start with some questions.
How many men have you been sexually active with in the past three months?

CALEB
Four and a half.

DOCTOR REID
Alright, and in the past year?

CALEB
I guess five and a half?

DOCTOR REID
Was that a monogamous relationship?

CALEB

Almost.

DOCTOR REID

Right.

(beat)

How many women have you been sexually active with?

Caleb stares at him blankly.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)

I'll take that as "zero." Do you remember the last time you were tested?

CALEB

About six months ago.

DOCTOR REID

And do you always practice safe sex?

CALEB

So here's the thing.

Doctor Reid turns to Caleb and removes his glasses.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I always practice safe sex, but like a shitty boyfriend, safe sex has rejected me.

DOCTOR REID

I wasn't aware that someone could be rejected by safe sex.

CALEB

I'm gifted.

DOCTOR REID

When did safe sex reject you?

CALEB

Last Thursday night. I'm going through this 'breakup' thing and this 'can't afford college' thing, and so I went out to this new queer biker bar, which I'm pretty sure is just a front for guys to wear leather suspenders. Anyway, I met an Argentine dude who did this crazy thing with his tongue and so I had no choice but to bone him.

DOCTOR REID

Is that it?

CALEB

Well, I may or may not have taken a Vicodin and it's possible that not enough lube was used. Before I knew it, there was blood and the condom looked like the victim of a Freddy Krugar hand job.

DOCTOR REID

Did you give or receive anal sex?

CALEB

I'm a bottom. Borderline vers if Mercury's in retrograde.

(beat)

Mercury was not in retrograde.

DOCTOR REID

Okay. Do you know his status?

Caleb takes out a letter. It is sopping in sweat and Svedka. He reads it aloud without even attempting a Spanish accent.

CALEB

"Querido Caleb, te gusta mucho, pero necesito decirte algo importante: tengo VIH. Lo siento que no te lo dije antes. Tienes un pene bonito. Que tenga suerte"

DOCTOR REID

I don't speak Spanish.

CALEB

He thinks my penis is pretty. And he has HIV.

DOCTOR REID

If this happened last week, why didn't you come in immediately?

CALEB

I don't know. I had shit to do, groceries to bag, the usual.

DOCTOR REID

I don't mean to overstep my bounds here, Mr. Kahn, but you need to take this more seriously. Time is of the essence with these things.

CALEB

I know. I will. I am. I'm sorry. I guess I was just kind of-
(beat)
-scared.

Doctor Reid stares at Caleb, trying to figure this kid out. He returns to his computer.

DOCTOR REID

There is a drug called Post Exposure Prophylaxis that you could have taken up to 72 hours after being "rejected by safe sex." I'm not sure how effective that treatment would be at this point. It's also quite expensive.

CALEB

I have a gold filling I could pawn for thirty bucks. That's about it.

DOCTOR REID

Do you have any symptoms of other STIs? Colored discharge, burning sensations when you urinate?

CALEB

Peeing's a dream, but that's why I'm here, doc. Let's test the crap out of me so this can all be over.

DOCTOR REID

We'll test for gonorrhea, chlamydia, HPV, and syphilis today, and you can make an appointment at the front desk to come back for HIV.

CALEB

Um. I think your priorities are a bit twisted, doctor-man. I want to be tested for HIV. Like, right now.

DOCTOR REID

We can test you now, but it won't say whether or not you got HIV from your safe sex rejection. The test looks for the virus' antibodies in your system and they take time to develop.

Caleb officially looks freaked out. He lays down.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)

In the meantime, here are some pamphlets with HIV information and a flyer for the support group I run twice a week.

CALEB

Okay, calm down. I might not have
(beat)
'it'. Let's not get 'support-group-excited' just yet.

DOCTOR REID

It's not just for HIV positive people. It's for their friends, family, and people in your position. Really anyone who has been affected by the disease.

CALEB

And exactly how long do people in my position have to wait before they can get tested?

DOCTOR REID

Three months.

CLOSE UP on Caleb's face. He's quietly terrified.

CUT TO:

Black screen. In small white writing, we see: DAY FOUR.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEVADA STREET, MIAMI BEACH - AN HOUR LATER

Caleb's face is pale and pained as he rides down a city street. There's gauze taped to his arm from the STI tests.

As he passes a house with a yellow mailbox, he slows down some. A WOMAN in traditional Jewish garb steps out of her Honda Odyssey and pulls a small CHILD from a car seat.

The woman and Caleb make eye contact before she averts her gaze: they know each other. Caleb pedals away.

EXT. GRANDMA MERYL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The house is a one story with walls browning from dirt and neglect. A broken basketball hoop leans awkwardly in the driveway. Caleb props his bike against the side of the house.

INT. FOYER- CONTINUOUS

Caleb licks down his hair and composes himself in the mirror.

The house looks like an abandoned book shop: texts like THE GERMAN IDEOLOGIES and THREE GUINEAS are scattered around the room. Meryl's Doctor of Philosophy from Yale hangs on a wall.

INT. KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS

MERYL sits at the table in hair curlers and a nightgown. She's that grandma-kind-of-plump with a smile for days.

She scrawls notes on index cards while reading John Stuart Mill's ON LIBERTY. Infamous elderly jogger Benny sits beside her, working on a newspaper crossword.

They pass a joint and turn to Caleb as he grabs a Minute Maid juice box from the fridge.

BENNY

I told you he looked like shit.

MERYL

Talk about my grandson like that again and I'll neuter you during our next coed shower.

BENNY

Is that a promise?

Benny and Meryl kiss passionately. It's an unkosher mix of intriguing and uncomfortable.

CALEB

I'm begging you to stop.

Caleb slumps down in a chair and spills a glass of water on Meryl's index cards. She quickly dries them with her nightgown.

MERYL

Careful! I'm working on my lecture series for the fall. This time it's on Mill. You know, utilitarianism, happiness, the ability to crap rainbows, that sort of thing.

Caleb is distracted and not really listening. He massages his temples and rubs his face. Meryl notices.

MERYL (CONT'D)

And where have you been, Cay? I haven't seen you since Thursday.

CALEB

I picked up extra shifts at 7/11 and crashed at Wei's. Trying to bring in that extra cash money so I don't have to live with my grandma until I'm a grandma.

BENNY

Liar.

Caleb squirts his juice at Benny. Pay back. Benny scoffs.

MERYL

Well a phone call would have been nice.

(beat)

Speaking of 'cash money,' I finally got my last check from FIU. I put some of it in your college fund bucket. We're at a grand now.

Meryl points to a blue bucket on a shelf in the kitchen. It's labelled with a sharpie, THIS IS A COLLEGE FUND BUCKET.

CALEB

Great. Now all I need is another \$199,000 for Parsons' Photography Program. Luckily, I've enrolled at Miami Dade Community.

MERYL

Have you been filling out those college grants? Ruth Schwartz's grandson got a full-ride to John Hopkins for accounting.

CALEB

Well a million mazels to Ruth Schwartz's closeted grandson.

She glares at Caleb.

CALEB (CONT'D)

You know I've been working on the grants.

Meryl's face gets hard and she deeply inhales the joint.

MERYL

Well that cunt has all the money in the world. Let's pray someone drops a house on her and we get it all.

CALEB

That's my mother you're talking about. But cunt works too.

Caleb takes the joint from Meryl and hits it.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I saw her today.

MERYL

(beat)

I thought you didn't ride that way.

CALEB

She was taking Zev out of the car seat. He looks less like an alien and more like a small human now. And they painted the mailbox a dehydrated urine yellow. I would have never approved if I were still allowed to live there.

BENNY

(beat)

It's a damn shame she won't let you see your brother.

Meryl takes Caleb's Minute Maid and squirts it at Benny.

CALEB

I think I'm gonna go work on that grant application.

He takes the joint and gets up to leave.

MERYL

Hey, Cay.

Caleb turns to look at his grandmother. She studies his face.

MERYL (CONT'D)

Your graduation is tomorrow night.

CALEB

Is that tomorrow?

MERYL

I know you think that all your classmates are, quote, unquote "Douche-Bubbles," but still. You should go.

CALEB

I don't know. I have this Bagel Bites thing at 8 and then a Golden Girls marathon til my eyes bleed.

MERYL

Well, let me know if you change your mind.

Caleb walks away while Meryl calls out to him.

MERYL (CONT'D)

And try to get some sleep! You really do look like shit.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caleb staggers into his room. The walls are plastered with Ziggy Stardust, angsty Simic poetry scrawls, and a hand-painted mural of the New York City skyline.

Origami and underwear are strewn atop the shelves. On his desk, there's a Parsons acceptance letter and applications for financial grants and art scholarships.

He sits at his desk and turns a lamp on. He tries to focus. He examines one of the grant forms, which reads, "*...your grant application should be supplemented with a creative portfolio that explores a theme that is important to you.*"

Caleb sifts through the different photographs he's taken: black and whites of Meryl and Benny being affectionate, a homeless woman sleeping on a lifeguard stand, seagulls.

He comes across an old Polaroid of a young Caleb wearing an 'I <3 NY' t-shirt. He's sitting on a man's shoulders in the middle of Times Square.

Caleb pushes the photographs aside. He takes out the letter he read to Doctor Reid and places it next to his Parson's letter. He starts to hyperventilate.

He walks quickly across scattered pictures to-

INT. CALEB'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caleb locks the door and looks at himself in the mirror. He takes makeup remover pads and wipes off his eyeliner. He rubs and rubs and rubs til his eyes are a mean kind of red. When the makeup is gone, he keeps rubbing.

His panic attack worsens: he can't catch his breath and he's dizzy. He lights the joint and sucks hard and fast, puffing til a frozen numbness.

He collapses in the bathtub as white noise audio crescendos loudly. Suddenly, all becomes eerily silent. He hears heavy breathing that seems to emanate from nowhere.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL - FLASHBACK

CALEB'S POV: As his eyes blink, Caleb sees flashes of a dark motel ceiling. The heavy breathing continues. Caleb's getting fucked by a DARK FIGURE who thrusts over him. The man's fists violently punch the head board with a loud crack.

TIME CARD: Day 5

EXT. MIAMI BEACH HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BUILDING ROOF- EVENING

WEI LING (butch, a tad chubby) sits atop the science building, drinking a forty in sweats. She looks across the parking lot to the graduation ceremony taking place in the football stadium.

Her classmates sit in the stands and wait for their diplomas. Their families cheer in the opposing bleachers.

Caleb appears, wearing a backpack. He sits beside Wei.

WEI

Yo, bitch. It's about time.

CALEB

Sorry. I had to borrow this from work.

He pulls a bottle of cheap wine and two paper cups from his back pack. He pours generously and they toss 'em back.

CALEB (CONT'D)

What'd I miss?

WEI

Fuck if I know. I fell asleep when class treasurer Jen Lee dedicated her diploma to Jesus and Justin Bieber.

CALEB

God I hate them all.

WEI

I'll fucking cheers to that.

Wei drinks from her cup. Caleb chugs straight from the bottle like it's his job.

CALEB

They make it to the M's yet?

WEI

Caleb. Dom broke up with your ass cause he's moving to LA and selling his soul to the devil or Ryan Seacrest or some shit. Get over it.

Wei rips the bottle from Caleb.

CALEB

You don't get it, Wei. I would have adopted Chinese babies with him.

WEI

Gays can't adopt in Florida.

CALEB

Well I'm trying to get out of Florida.

Wei, too, chugs straight from the bottle.

WEI

Oh right, academy for hipster queers who Instagram weird shit.

CALEB

Also known as art school.

Caleb squints in the distance.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Is that Naya Lopez?

WEI

Ugh. Dom hasn't walked yet, Caleb. Now stop being a pussy and bend over for someone else already.

CALEB

(beat)

I did.

Wei punches him in the arm.

WEI

That's what I'm fucking talking about! That's why you've been so MIA and weird.

CALEB

What do you mean, "weird"?

WEI

Well there's video of you crashing
in the storage room for the past
four fucking days. Suzanne's
pissed.

CALEB

Shit.

WEI

Don't sweat it. I'll calm her down.

CALEB

Please keep your inappropriate
lesbian relationship to yourself.
I'm in the middle of dinner.

Caleb takes a swig from the bottle.

WEI

Shut up.

(beat)

So. Who is this dude?!

CALEB

His name was Matias. He didn't
speak a word of English and was
part Argentine, part horse.

WEI

Was?

CALEB

He flew back to Buenos Aires a few
days ago. He either had to go back
to work or had to get work done, I
couldn't really understand.

(beat)

He left me a letter.

Caleb hands Wei the letter. Over the football loud speaker we
hear the principal call a name:

PRINCIPAL

Dominic Marquez.

Caleb takes out his Nikon and looks through the zoom. He sees
his ex walk across the stage to get his diploma.

Dom does the touchdown 'one knee' move and the crowd erupts
in laughter. Caleb looks like he could die.

WEI

Caleb.

As Wei reads, she goes ghost white. She puts the letter down.

WEI (CONT'D)

I failed Spanish both times, but
does this say-

Caleb doesn't turn to look at her but instead tracks Dom as he goes back to his seat. He snaps out of it and jumps a bit when he feels Wei give him a hug.

CALEB

Well this hasn't happened since I
punched Mike Hammer for calling you
Plus Size Sailor Moon.

WEI

Did you get tested?

CALEB

I can't. Apparently HIV takes three
months to come out of hiding.

WEI

Do you need me to cover your shifts
or something? I could probably
convince the boss to let you take a
few weeks off.

CALEB

Just because you're playing find
the hole with our middle aged boss,
doesn't mean you're the queen of
7/11.

WEI

Stop giving me shit about Suzanne.
She's hot.

CALEB

She's *married*. To a gentleman named
Henry who sells vacuum cleaners.

WEI

Bitch isn't fulfilled by his dick.

CALEB

Well thanks, but no thanks. I need
as many hours of minimum wage as I
can get if I'm going to get the
fuck out of here.

He drinks. Wei stares into her cup for a beat, then-

WEI
Have you told your grandma?

CALEB
That you're fucking our boss? No.

Wei punches him in the arm.

CALEB (CONT'D)
No, I haven't told her. Why scare a
70 year old who has already had two
heart attacks when I can quietly
die alone inside?

They sit without talking for a beat and then-

WEI
Seriously, man, you gonna be okay?

Over the loud speaker, the class president's lisp is heard.

CLASS PRESIDENT
Congrath, clath of 2011. We did it!

The graduates throw their hats in the air while Caleb and Wei look on. He chugs the wine.

EXT. MIAMI BOARDWALK - LATER THAT NIGHT

Post graduation, a drunken Caleb rides his tandem bike along an empty boardwalk, swerving from side to side.

After one swerve too many, he crashes into the three foot wall separating the path from the sand. He flies off the tandem and lands on concrete. A beat passes before he lifts himself off the pavement.

Caleb dusts off his knees and touches his lip: it's split open and bleeding. He stares at the blood with horror and confusion before wiping it on his shirt.

He looks down at the blood-stained shirt and becomes infuriated. He tries to rip it off, but it hilariously gets stuck over his head.

Once he finally removes it, he throws it in a nearby trash can. Caleb takes a bottle out of his backpack and pours some alcohol over the shirt. He sets it on fire with a match.

The blazing garbage is the only source of light behind Caleb as he walks his bike toward the water...

Caleb starts acting like a crazy person and punches the air. He screams again and again and again. The creepy dude runs.

Caleb stands alone. After a beat, he slowly laughs to himself-schizophrenic clown style-when he hears police sirens. In the distance, a cop car pulls up to the garbage can, which is now engulfed in flames.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Shit.

Caleb hops on his bike and rides across the wet sand of the shoreline, lit only by the moon.

CUT TO:

TIME CARD: Day 10

INT. 7/11 - AFTERNOON

Caleb stands behind the register. He has a financial aid essay prompt in front of him but he can't pay attention to it. Instead, he merely stares into space.

Wei is stocking sodas in the aisle when their boss SUZANNE, a middle aged woman past her prime (but still hot in a mom way,) appears.

SUZANNE

Hey, Wei? Can I get your help with these Nestle boxes?

WEI

Yes, ma'm.

They turn to leave when-

SUZANNE

And, Caleb.

He looks up at her.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

We need to have a talk later.

Caleb doesn't respond. Wei follows Suzanne into the closet, but not before winking at Caleb.

Caleb flips her off as a teenage BOY and GIRL walk up to the cashier. They are giddy, like they know a fun secret. The boy lays lube and condoms on the counter.

BOY
Just these. Oh.

He takes a box of spearmint Altoids from a counter rack and puts it in front of Caleb as well.

BOY (CONT'D)
These too.

Caleb looks at them giggling and, for just a second, wishes he was a murderer of sexually active teens.

CALEB
Those don't always work, you know.

BOY
Oh. Okay.

The boy picks peppermint Altoids instead. The girl whines.

GIRL
But I like bubblegum!

CALEB
(mocking)
But I like bubblegum!

They stare at him, a bit in shock.

CALEB (CONT'D)
The condoms. I was talking about the condoms.

GIRL
What do you mean?

CALEB
Sure. You guys get handsy in the back of his mom's Jetta. He says some cheesy line about how special you are and you massage his nipples. Then after warming up his stick shift with your Cabbage Patch lip gloss, you gently slip on a Trojan, the mightiest of soldiers, thinking, "great. Now I won't get pregnant." But you're wrong, Hannah Montana. Maybe there's no baby, but sure enough you have gonorrhea, God's punishment for the sexually active, and you have to get a shot in the ass from your judgmental pediatrician who still wears Mickey Mouse Ties.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

But you better hope that's all you get, because worst case scenario, you're pregnant and dead. All because he stuck his dick in some Kardashian wannabe before he shoved it in you.

The teenagers stare at him in complete and utter shock. After a beat the boy puts a twenty on the counter.

BOY

Asshole.

They leave in a hurry while Caleb calls out after them.

CALEB

But remember, no glove no love!

Caleb takes a pack of cigarettes and removes his name tag.

He walks to the storage closet and opens the door. Wei's hands are beneath Suzanne's blouse as they make out.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I'm taking my smoke break early.

WEI

What the fuck, dude! Shut the door.

SUZANNE

Shit shit shit.

She buttons her shirt as Caleb shuts the door. He walks out onto the street.

EXT. 7/11 - CONTINUOUS

Caleb sits on his tandem bike and shakily lights a cigarette. He sees a YOUNG MAN helping an ELDERLY WOMAN pump her gas.

Caleb takes the HIV pamphlets out of his bike basket when a flyer for Dr. Reid's meeting falls out. It reads "THE YOUNG AND THE SEXLESS: HIV SUPPORT GROUP, CHRIST THE ROCK CHURCH BASEMENT, WEDNESDAYS, 7-9pm. KARAOKE NIGHT TO FOLLOW."

Caleb mouths the word "karaoke" and scoffs.

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK BASEMENT - EVENING

Caleb walks into the basement with his headphones blaring. He ignores the ten or so people chatting and goes to a back table with coffee and snacks. He eats a donut and stuffs three more in his bag when he's tapped on the shoulder.

ESTHA (O.S.)

I saw that.

Caleb turns around. Behind him, ESTHA (18), a tall, clean cut Indian, holds a bag of Kettle Corn. His accent is slight but present. Estha is cute and Caleb is caught off guard.

CALEB

Would you like a prize?

ESTHA

Not if it's one of those donuts.

Caleb takes one of the donuts out of his bag and mockingly eats it in Estha's face. Estha smiles.

DR. REID (O.S.)

Alright guys, let's rein it in.

Behind them, Dr. Reid calls everyone over to a circle of ten chairs. Estha almost says something but takes a seat instead. Caleb sits in the only empty chair, next to Estha's.

DR. REID (CONT'D)

Hi and welcome to the Young and the Sexless support group. I see we have a new face or two in the circle tonight, so let's go around and introduce ourselves. You can share what you feel comfortable sharing or, if you're here to just sit and listen, that's okay too.

(beat)

I guess I'll start. My name is Carl Reid and I have a partner living with HIV.

JIM (50), a bald man next to Dr. Reid, raises his hand.

JIM

Bonjour!

DR. REID

And we've been together for about twenty five years.

JIM

Twenty six, but who's counting?

They've done this before. The group laughs.

DR. REID

I started The Young and the Sexless in '94, to help young men living with HIV understand that their lives, and their sex lives, aren't over after infection. Over the years the group's changed into a place where anyone can come and share their story, but we decided to keep the name anyway.

JIM

It gets a lot of hits on Google.

Caleb smiles and takes off his backpack.

DR. REID

And also that. Alrighty, Jim, you're up.

JIM

And I didn't even have to take any pills! Just kidding.

(beat)

Maybe. Hi guys! I'm Jim Jenson Reid, and I'm married to Dr. Oz. I'm a part-time attorney and a full-time cabaret comedienne. You can catch me at the Palace on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

DR. REID

Less marketing, more sharing, Jim.

JIM

Right. Well, I've been HIV positive for about 24 years. Carl, I mean, Dr. Reid, and I were in an open relationship for about the first ten years of being together. God I miss the seventies!

(breaks for laughs)

I had some irresponsible sexual encounters. I was young, stupid, and a total size queen.

DR. REID

Jim!

Laughs again.

JIM

What? It's a safe space!

Jim kisses him on the cheek. A queer Abbott and Costello.

JIM (CONT'D)

Anywho, once we found out I was positive, we took the proper steps so that Carl was never infected. Condoms really do work, people!

The group laughs and Caleb starts to get the spins.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL - FLASHBACK

CALEB'S POV: He drunkenly stumbles out of the bathroom and tosses a condom on the bed where a man sits in the shadows.

Blurred images of underwear, a cheap ocean watercolor, and a suitcase under the bed flash by and Caleb is on his back atop the mattress getting fucked. The man suddenly stops thrusting and takes himself out of Caleb. He looks down.

CALEB

(muffled)

Why'd you stop?

The man smiles and puts himself back in. Caleb moans.

BACK TO:

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK BASEMENT - MINUTES LATER

Caleb snaps back to the present at the sound of a loud POP: Estha opening his bag of Kettle Corn. Caleb zoned out during the previous participant's story. They're waiting on him.

DOCTOR REID

Caleb? You still with us? Would you like to share?

CALEB

Oh, uh. Sure. My name is Caleb Ka-I mean Caleb K-or I...

There's an awkward pause. Estha chews very loudly on popcorn. Caleb stares at him, intrigued.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I'm Caleb. I'm sort of new to this whole thing, sorry. I'm here because. Well, because a condom broke. The guy had HIV and now I'm just waiting to find out, I guess. Oldest story in the-

Estha's chewing is louder and it's distracting Caleb.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(beat)

Book. Or. Something.

Jim smiles at Caleb.

JIM

That depends on what kind of books you're reading, sweetie. But let's hear more about *you*.

CALEB

Oh. Well, I just graduated from high school. I live with my grandma, but she's like, a cool grandma, the kind that went to Yale and bitch-slapped Judy Chicago in the seventies. Her son, my dad, died when I was thirteen and that's when my mom found Moses or something. She married a real dick rabbi and went all wig-wearing Hasidic on me. I take pictures too. Photographs really, but that sounds super douchey. I'm supposed to go to Parson's for it, but their tuition probably costs as much as a small chain of islands, so we'll see. Oh, and I work at 7/11. So slushie discounts all around.

Jim laughs and Estha chews the popcorn loudly. The rest of the group smiles at Caleb politely.

DOCTOR REID

That's great. Thanks, Caleb.

All eyes look to Estha who is still chewing.

ESTHA

Hello, I'm Estha. My family moved to the States from India when I was twelve. I'm following in my father's footsteps and studying engineering at Cal Tech in the fall.

Caleb chuckles at the stereotype. The group glares at him.

ESTHA (CONT'D)

And I'm also waiting.

Estha and Caleb lock eyes.

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK HALLWAY - POST MEETING

The group gathers their things and Caleb tries to make a quick exit when Dr. Reid stops him.

DOCTOR REID

I'm glad you actually came. How are you doing?

CALEB

I'm alright, considering.

DOCTOR REID

Good. That's good to hear.

An awkward beat.

CALEB

Soooo, he's yours?

Caleb points to Jim, who is trying to talk to OLD LARRY by the snack table. Old Larry is hard of hearing.

JIM

NO. I SAID, DO YOU TAKE YOUR COFFEE WITH MILK?

OLD LARRY

YES! I LOVE HATS.

Doctor Reid laughs.

DOCTOR REID

Very much so.

CALEB

He's funny. I like him.

DOCTOR REID

Most people do.

Another awkward silence. Caleb looks around and then at the imaginary watch on his wrist.

CALEB

Oh wow, it's late. Well this was really-

(beat)

-informational. I think I'm gonna head out.

DOCTOR REID
You're not going to come to
karaoke?

CALEB
You know I'd love to, but I really
shouldn't. It's a school night.

DOCTOR REID
You just said you graduated.

CALEB
Someone, somewhere has school
tomorrow.

Doctor Reid stares at him. Caleb rolls his eyes.

INT. PALACE KARAOKE BAR - EVENING

The bar is lit by deep pink lights and has mirrors for walls.
The Young and the Sexless occupy a few tables near the stage.

Caleb returns from the bar with a Stella, which is quickly
taken by Doctor Reid.

CALEB
What the shit? I had to tell the
bartender I was homeless and
pregnant to not pay for that.

DOCTOR REID
You're eighteen. And I'm gonna need
it.

Just then, Jim, who appears on stage in a purple blazer,
starts to sing Cyndi Lauper. He's theatrical and tone deaf.

JIM
*"All through the night. I'll be
awake and I'll be with you."*

Doctor Reid takes a long sip and raises the bottle to Jim,
who blows him a kiss in return.

DOCTOR REID
(beat)
You really should talk to him.

CALEB
In the middle of a power ballad?
They'd take away my gay card.

Doctor Reid motions to a table where Estha helps Old Larry
turn up his hearing aide. Estha winces at Larry's volume.

OLD LARRY
 (screaming)
 I STILL CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING. ARE
 YOU SURE THEY'RE ON?

ESTHA
 (yelling back)
 THEY'RE IN MY HAND. I HAVEN'T PUT
 THEM BACK IN YET.

OLD LARRY
 OH.

Old Larry sways to an imaginary beat he can't hear while Estha attempts to put the aide back in. Caleb laughs. Doctor Reid watches with a motherly contentment.

DOCTOR REID
 You know, the point of this whole
 group thing is to find someone you
 can talk to.

Estha puts the aide in and Old Larry covers his ears.

OLD LARRY
 TOO LOUD!

Caleb laughs.

CALEB
 Weird popcorn boy?

Estha tries to take out the hearing aide but Larry swats his hand away.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 He seems busy.

DOCTOR REID
 Oh, Larry won't mind. There are
 four other people in his head that
 he can verbally abuse.

He hands Caleb a karaoke song book. Caleb hesitates before taking it and walking over to Estha.

JIM
*"We have no past, we won't reach
 back. Keep with me forward all
 through the night."*

CALEB
 It's Raja, right?

Estha turns to look at Caleb just in time for Old Larry to snatch the hearing aide and turn back to Jim. Larry sways off rhythm in the background during the following conversation.

ESTHA

Estha.

CALEB

Right right. Well, Estha, I didn't know if you had a karaoke book and thought you might need one.

He hands the book to Estha.

ESTHA

I don't do karaoke. I'm pretty tone deaf.

PAN TO Jim, who is LIVING on stage while giving the audience the cool vocal stylings of a dying, rabid cat.

JIM

"All through the night stray cat is crying so stray cat sings back."

ESTHA

Maybe you should sing something.

Estha pulls out a chair and hands the book back to Caleb.

CALEB

No thanks. Last time I did karaoke I totally butchered my favorite Bowie song. I still feel the shame.

Estha shrugs his shoulders. Caleb sits next to him.

ESTHA

I don't know who that is.

CALEB

Bowie? David Bowie?

Estha shrugs again.

CALEB (CONT'D)

C'mon, you HAVE to know *David Bowie!* Ziggy Stardust? Kind of looks like a woman, kind of looks like a man, kind of looks like someone you'd want to avoid in a dark alley?

ESTHA

Nope.

CALEB

Do you live under a rock or something?

ESTHA

No. I'm from India.

CALEB

There are plenty of rocks in India.

(beat)

I can't believe you don't know Bowie.

ESTHA

Sorry.

CALEB

It's cool.

(beat)

So who would you sing?

ESTHA

Out of American music? Probably Taylor Swift.

Caleb breaks out hysterically laughing. Estha stares blankly.

CALEB

Oh my God you're serious.

ESTHA

What? I like her songs. Sometimes I think she steals my journal and writes about my life.

CALEB

Really? Is her next crossover hit going to be called "This is what I get for riding bareback?"

Estha's face shows no emotion. Caleb immediately feels like he wants to fall into a hole and never climb out. A beat and then Estha breaks out laughing.

ESTHA

Let's hope not.

They smile. Jim finishes up on stage.

JIM

"Until it ends there is no end."

EXT. THE PALACE BAR - LATER THAT EVENING

The Young and the Sexless stand outside the bar and give lingering goodbyes. Estha says goodnight to Jim and starts to walk away. Caleb involuntarily stops him.

CALEB

Hey!

Estha turns around.

CALEB (CONT'D)

It was cool to meet you.

Estha smiles and offers out his hand.

ESTHA

It was good to meet you too.

Caleb awkwardly shakes it. He soon starts to ramble and Estha watches him with a foreign fascination.

CALEB

Sorry for the weird Taylor thing. She's really nice, just not my style. But I bet people love her in India. Cause she's blonde and stuff. Not that they only like blondes, I'm sure they like all different kinds of hair colors. I bet gingers are really big in India.

(beat)

So did you drive here or..?

Estha laughs.

ESTHA

No, I took the bus. I have to ask permission to use my parents' car and they think I'm at a friend's.

CALEB

Oh. You haven't-

(beat)

I haven't told my grandmother either.

ESTHA

It's just easier since they don't know about the whole homosexual thing. I think they'd kill me.

CALEB

Yeah. I get that.

(beat)

Do you want a lift or something? I have this tandem bike. That means two people can ride it.

ESTHA

I know what a tandem bike is.

CALEB

Well you didn't know Bowie, so I don't want to assume.

ESTHA

My house is a couple miles away.

CALEB

Doesn't matter to me. I charge by the minute.

ESTHA

(beat)

Oh. It's okay. I think I'll just take the bus then.

Caleb can't help but smile. He's never met someone like this.

CALEB

I was kidding. My bike's locked up in that creepy back alley.

(beat)

But don't worry, I won't rape you.

Estha looks at him, half in wonder, half in confusion.

ESTHA

You say very strange things.

CALEB

I get that a lot.

As they walk to the alley, Doctor Reid smiles at them.

EXT. MIAMI STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Caleb takes the front seat and steers the bike while Estha pedals in the back. They'd be a funny sight to see, but it's late in the evening and no one is around.

CALEB

How's it going back there?

ESTHA

I'm afraid you're going to crash.

CALEB

This is the only bike I've ever had. I could ride it with my eyes closed.

ESTHA

I'd appreciate it if you didn't.

CALEB

Noted.

(beat)

So how long have you been going to the meetings?

ESTHA

A couple weeks since...you know. Right around the time I could have taken the PCR test.

CALEB

(clueless)

Oh. Right.

ESTHA

I decided not to though. When I know, I want to really know. For sure.

(beat)

It's a left up here.

CALEB

Cool. Hold on.

Estha giggles as the bike smoothly wraps around the corner.

CALEB (CONT'D)

So PCR. That sounds very interesting.

ESTHA

(beat)

You didn't read the pamphlets, did you?

CALEB

I'm really more of a skimmer.

ESTHA

You can take it two weeks after exposure. It tests for RNA rather than antibodies.

(MORE)

ESTHA (CONT'D)

(beat)

But there can be false positives,
so.

CALEB

Oh. Right. RNA, false positives. I
totally remember now.

Caleb brakes when they get to a red stop light. A beat then:

CALEB (CONT'D)

So how'd you get into all of this?

Estha is silent.

CALEB (CONT'D)

You know what, it's alright, we
don't have to-

ESTHA

I was new to the gay thing. It's
not something we talked about back
home. Then I came here and my
parents kept going on about
arranged marriages through the
temple and I nodded politely. There
was a lot of polite nodding. But I
met this guy at school and-

CALEB

Wait. I'm sorry, arranged
marriages? That's, like, still a
thing people do?

ESTHA

It's a thing my people do, yes.

The light turns green and they ride.

CALEB

Fuck. That blows.

ESTHA

It does-

(beat)

-blow. My parents had an arranged
marriage. It hasn't been working
out so well.

(beat)

It's a right up here.

Caleb abruptly veers right without warning. Estha screams.
Caleb steadies the bike as they turn the corner.

ESTHA (CONT'D)

Could you not drive so recklessly,
please? Lately I've been afraid of
dying.

Caleb brakes hard and Estha grabs on to his shoulders. Caleb
smiles.

CALEB

Well it would certainly be a shame
for you to miss all that nodding.

EXT. ESTHA'S BLOCK - LATER

As they round the far corner...

ESTHA

You can stop here.

Caleb slowly brakes. He steadies the bike as Estha gets off.

CALEB

This is you, huh? It's cool. You've
got a great lawn. That says a lot
about a person. I mean, look at
those really nice-

(beat)

-bushes. Perfectly trimmed. A Plus.

ESTHA

Actually I live down the street.
But it's better if you let me off
here.

Caleb's taken aback.

CALEB

Wow. Do I give off a serial killer
vibe or something?

ESTHA

No. My dad stays up late and I
didn't want him seeing a white boy
drop me off on a gay, two man bike.
It'd raise a lot of questions.

CALEB

Oh. Right.

Estha almost walks away but turns around.

ESTHA

You seem nervous.

CALEB

Well I'm-
 (beat)
 -sometimes I get too talkative
 around guys. I ask a lot of
 questions. It's a thing I do. That
 I might be working on.

ESTHA

I meant nervous about what's
 happening. The three months.

CALEB

Oh. Yeah I guess. Sleeping's hard.
 (beat)
 That was really embarrassing, by
 the way. Implying I get nervous
 around you. For being a guy.

Estha laughs.

ESTHA

If you can't sleep, you can call
 me. Sometimes I can't sleep. And I
 can't really talk to anyone either.

Caleb starts to say something but, for the first time, can't.

Estha pulls a crumpled coupon and a pen from his pocket. He
 begins writing his number down, when-

CALEB

Wait. I'm sorry. Are you writing
 your number on the back of a Subway
 coupon? What is this, 1997? Just
 put it in my phone.

And embarrassment comes full circle. Estha blushes as he
 takes Caleb's phone and enters his number. He starts to walk
 toward the house when Caleb calls out (a bit too loudly.)

CALEB (CONT'D)

Are you going to eat popcorn?

Estha turns and tells him to "shh." He smiles while doing so.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Or kettle corn? If that's more your
 thing.

This time Estha shushes with attitude. Caleb scream whispers:

CALEB (CONT'D)

Sorry!

He texts Estha his name and number before pedaling away.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Caleb wakes up when his cell phone starts to ring loudly on his dresser. He puts the pillow over his face and lets the phone go. A beat later, it beeps.

Caleb groans and grabs it: there's a text from Estha and a voice mail. For a moment, Caleb forgets his life and giddily opens Estha's text. It reads:

ESTHA: Thanks for the ride home last night. I appreciate not being raped.

Caleb triumphantly punches the air. He checks his voice mail.

DOCTOR REID (O.S.)

"Hey Caleb, it's Doctor Reid. Stop by the clinic when you can today. We'd like to talk about your results. Call me if you have any questions. My number is--"

Caleb hangs up and looks toward the ceiling in terror.

INT. KITCHEN- 15 MINUTES LATER

Meryl is reading her index cards at the kitchen table and Benny is stretching for a run when Caleb walks in. He tries to hide his face and makes for the college fund bucket.

He closes his eyes, takes a deep breath, and grabs all the money he can. He quickly heads to the fridge for a Minute Maid. Meryl looks up and is elated to see him.

MERYL

There you are! It's time to celebrate! I finished the first half of the series and I think I'm going to change the name of the class from 'On John Stuart Mill' to 'Fallacy of Composition? Pound Sign, Or Not.'

CALEB

Pound sign?

Meryl raises her index card, revealing a Twitter Hashtag.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Oh. Yeah. Pound sign.

He heads for the door.

MERYL

Wait! Where are you going? I wanted you to take a picture of me to remember this joyous milestone! Then maybe we can order Chinese, play mahjong, hang out.

CALEB

I have work.

MERYL

C'mon, Caleb. One picture.

CALEB

My camera isn't on me and I don't have time to look for it. Suzanne, Duke of the Lesbians, is already up my ass for being late last week.

BENNY

At least grab a granola bar or something.

Caleb takes a deep breath and heads for the pantry.

MERYL

(beat)

Hey, Caleb. You alright?

He takes out one of the bars and bee-lines for the door.

CALEB

Yeah I'm good. I'll see you later.

He heads out of the house. Meryl turns to Benny.

MERYL

Does Caleb seem different to you?

BENNY

When does Caleb not seem different?

Meryl thinks about this before heading to the backyard.

MERYL

I'll be working out back.

Meryl leaves and Benny's face drops. He takes a paper out of his pocket and unfolds it: it's one of Caleb's HIV flyers.

INT. GAY HEALTH CLINIC EXAMINATION ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Caleb is awake and alert on the examination table this time when Doctor Reid comes in.

DOCTOR REID

Hi, Caleb.

CALEB

Am I dying? Because that would really, really suck.

DOCTOR REID

Caleb, no matter what happens, you're not going to die. I swear.

CALEB

Can doctors promise those things? I think that's illegal.

DOCTOR REID

Even if you are positive, HIV isn't the death sentence it used to be.

CALEB

So you freaked me out this morning because...

DOCTOR REID

You have anal gonorrhea, Caleb.

CALEB

Oh.

(beat)

Is that different from regular, normal gonorrhea?

DOCTOR REID

No, it's just in the anus.

CALEB

That word is gross.

DOCTOR REID

Gonorrhea?

CALEB

No, well yes, but I was talking about anus. Why don't you just say butt?

DOCTOR REID

I'm a doctor. I can't say butt.

CALEB

Fine.

(beat)

But I don't have any symptoms.

DOCTOR REID
It can be asymptomatic...that
means-

CALEB
I know what it means.

DOCTOR REID
I'm also obligated to inform you
that the presence of gonorrhea
helps the contraction of HIV.

CALEB
Wait.
(beat)
Does that mean I-

DOCTOR REID
That doesn't mean anything yet.

Caleb stares at the floor, thinking.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)
Are you allergic to any
medications? Like penicillin?

CALEB
No, I don't think so.

Doctor Reid opens the door and calls to the nurse.

DOCTOR REID
Jennifer? Could you get a dose of
penicillin for Mr. Kahn? Thanks.

He shuts the door and sits back down.

CALEB
So is this a good time to ask you
about this PCR test?

DOCTOR REID
Wow. You read the pamphlets?

CALEB
(beat)
Sure. What's all that about?

DOCTOR REID
It's a test we can do sooner than
the antibody test.

CALEB
Why didn't you tell me this before?

DOCTOR REID
You left quickly. It's also not
always accurate and expensive.

CALEB
How not accurate and how much are
we talking here?

DOCTOR REID
The test could come back positive
and you might not be positive.
There are a lot of emotional
implications to that kind of
experience. It's also a few hundred
dollars.

CALEB
I have the money. And I'd like to
get that done. Please.

Doctor Reid almost says something, but instead nods.

DOCTOR REID
Absolutely.

Jennifer, the Jamaican nurse, comes in with penicillin and a
medical smock.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)
Put this on and knock on the door
when you're ready. We'll just be
outside.

Jennifer and Doctor Reid step out of the room.

Caleb sits on the table for a minute, thinking. He looks
around him and takes in this sterile, awful place.

Caleb puts on the smock and knocks. Doctor Reid returns.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)
Hop up on the examination table and
get into the fetal position.

CALEB
Story of my life.

Caleb climbs atop the table. Doctor Reid readies the shot.

CALEB (CONT'D)
So this should take care of it?

DOCTOR REID

Yep. Penicillin is pretty amazing. Alexander Fleming discovered it in the 20's.

CALEB

Please spare me the history lesson. It's bad enough I'm getting a shot in my ass.

Doctor Reid puts the shot in Caleb's butt. Caleb groans from the pain.

DOCTOR REID

He left his lab a mess for the weekend, and when he came back, a weird fungus was growing in a petri dish. And from that fungus, we have penicillin.

CALEB

That sounds really gross.

Doctor Reid puts a band-aid on Caleb, who sits up.

DOCTOR REID

Yeah, but it's pretty amazing what you can discover after shit gets fucked up.

EXT. 7/11 - LATER THAT DAY

Caleb walks up to the door of the 7/11, limping from the penicillin shot in his ass. There's gauze around his arm again from the PCR test.

INT. 7/11 - CONTINUOUS

When Caleb walks in, Wei is holding back tears while restocking the Hot Cheetos.

CALEB

Hey. You okay?

WEI

Bitch called it off. She said I was just a kid and that she has a shitty family to think about. But here I am. Still stocking her fucking Cheetos.

She suddenly notices the gauze around his arm and tenses up.

WEI (CONT'D)

-shit. Is that?

(beat)

Are you okay?

CALEB

Yeah, yeah. I'm totally fine. Just some blood tests and needles. Another casual Tuesday.

Suzanne comes out of the stock room. She won't look at Wei.

SUZANNE

Caleb. My office. Now.

CALEB

(to Wei)

Excuse me while I try not to kill myself.

INT. SUZANNE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

There's a corkboard with two pictures of Suzanne's family on it: her husband, her kids, and three border collies. Caleb wants to light them on fire.

SUZANNE

Sit.

Caleb abides.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

I'm not happy, Caleb.

CALEB

I can see that.

SUZANNE

You've been consistently late to work, you've been consistently leaving early, and you've been consistently not paying for cigarettes.

CALEB

Well at least I'm consistent.

SUZANNE

I won't take that tone. I'm trying to run a business here. A profitable, *respectable* business.

CALEB

It's a 7/11. We serve day old hot dogs and ten types of Funyons.

SUZANNE

Do *not* test me, Caleb. I *will* fire you.

He composes himself. He knows he's tight on cash.

CALEB

I'm sorry. It won't happen again.

SUZANNE

I'm not sure I believe you.

CALEB

Suzanne, I need this job. I need to save money for school. I promise. It won't happen again.

She makes him sit and sweat for a beat or two, then-

SUZANNE

Well it better not. And if I catch you sleeping here or coming in after hours one more time, I'm calling the cops.

Suzanne starts filing through papers on her desk. She looks back up to Caleb.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

(beat)

That's it. Get to work.

INT. 7/11 - CONTINUOUS

Caleb emerges and Wei runs over to him.

WEI

Well?

CALEB

I can't believe you like her. She's five kinds of evil. Luckily she didn't fire me...yet.

WEI

I meant did she say anything about me?

CALEB

No, Wei. She didn't.

WEI

Fuck, man. What do I do? Maybe I'll show up to her house. With like a sign or a boombox or something.

CALEB

This is not an 80s rom-com, Wei. She lives with her *husband*. And *children*.

WEI

I know, but-

CALEB

Wei. I can't right now, okay?

WEI

Fine.

(beat)

We're still going to get hammered and watch Spiders from Mars later, right? I got some sh-weed.

CALEB

I don't know. I close tonight.

WEI

So after.

(beat)

Oh. Some kid was looking for you. He came in to buy Pop Secret. I think he's still waiting outside.

Caleb darts his gaze to the store front window where Estha stands by the curb. Estha waves to him. Wei looks worried.

WEI (CONT'D)

Dude. Are you. Fucking him? Can you-

(beat)

-do that?

CALEB

No, I'm not. He's just a friend.

WEI

Sure.

CALEB

Oh, go organize the canned tuna. I'll be right back.

WEI

You're leaving? You almost got fired for leaving.

He ignores her and walks outside.

EXT. 7/11 - CONTINUOUS

Estha stuffs popcorn in his mouth when Caleb walks over.

CALEB

You *do* know that popcorn isn't the
only food group?

Estha holds out the bag to Caleb. Caleb eats some.

ESTHA

Jim's got a cabaret show tonight.
Do you want to go?

CALEB

That depends. Are you asking me
out?

ESTHA

That depends. Can you give me a
ride?

CALEB

Maybe.

ESTHA

Then maybe.

They smile.

CALEB

I don't get off until 8.

ESTHA

The show starts at 9.

CALEB

Should I pick you up at your-

ESTHA

I'll meet you here.

CALEB

Oh. Okay. Cool.

A beat. No one speaks and then-

ESTHA

Is she your friend?

He points to a sad Wei who vacantly restocks the chips.

CALEB
She's kind of my only one.

ESTHA
I figured.

CALEB
How?

ESTHA
You both say very strange things.

He takes another bite and walks away. Caleb watches him go.

From the exterior, we watch Caleb walk inside the store. He finds Wei in the aisle, taps her on the shoulder, and hugs her. It's robotic and awkward. She's taken aback for a beat or two before closing her eyes and returning the gesture.

EXT. 7/11 - EVENING

It's dark. Caleb walks out of the store and Estha is waiting. Caleb unlocks his tandem and steadies it, helping Estha climb on back. Then, they ride.

A beat afterward, Wei rides up to the 7/11 on her skateboard. She looks inside the darkened windows: no Caleb. She looks at her phone and we see a few texts she sent to him earlier.

WEI: We still good for tonight?

Caleb hasn't responded. Wei walks inside the 7/11. We see her grab a bag of Cheetos and sadly start eating.

INT. THE PALACE BAR - LATER

The only people at Jim's comedy cabaret are members of The Young and the Sexless and a disgruntled bartender. Doctor Reid sits with Old Larry while Caleb and Estha occupy a neighboring table. Jim's on stage and owning it.

JIM
When a hot red head walks down the
street, does anyone else imagine
God knocking over a bottle of
Siracha?

The seven or so people laugh. Caleb checks his phone and sees five missed calls from Wei. Doctor Reid leans over to Caleb and whispers over Jim's set.

DOCTOR REID
 Hey, Caleb. Jim asked if you could take photographs of the set. He wants to put them in the group's newsletter.

JIM (O.S.)
 Like he's all, "hey, St. Peter, could you pass the hot sauce?"
 (pretends to knock it over)
 Whoops. Oh my God! It's Lindsay Lohan circa 2005!

CALEB
 Wait, we have a newsletter?

DOCTOR REID
 What kind of support group doesn't have a newsletter?

CALEB
 I don't know. I haven't-

DOCTOR REID
 Great! Thanks.

The group laughs while Doctor Reid goes back to his table. Caleb hesitates before pulling a camera out of his backpack.

He starts to take pictures. When Estha laughs at one of Jim's ginger jokes, Caleb takes a photograph of him.

JIM
 Well I think it's time for a song.

The bartender rolls his eyes. Jim points to the DJ.

JIM (CONT'D)
 This is a special request from an audience member in the front row!
 Everyone wave to Estha!

Estha blushes as SPACE ODDITY by David Bowie starts to play. Caleb's mouth drops. Estha smiles sheepishly. In an exaggerated British accent, Jim croons.

JIM (CONT'D)
*"Ground control to Major Tom.
 Commencing countdown, engine on."*

EXT. MIAMI STREET - LATER THAT EVENING

Caleb and Estha ride in the dark.

ESTHA
 It looked like you got some great pictures.

CALEB

Let's hope so.

ESTHA

Is that what you want to go to school for?

CALEB

That was the plan. Go to college in New York, eat lots of Ramen, become a photographer, open a gallery by the time I'm thirty. But now. Things have gotten complicated.

ESTHA

Can you even make a living taking pictures? That doesn't seem practical.

CALEB

Practical is very 2010.

(beat)

But I've been shitty at it lately anyway. I can't seem to focus.

ESTHA.

Yeah.

(beat)

Today I was sending out financial aid forms and I accidentally switched the return and sender addresses.

CALEB

Is that an Indian thing?

No response.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(beat)

I've only slept about six hours in two days.

ESTHA

I said you could call me.

CALEB

I know.

Caleb looks at the street. The ground is wet from rain and the road is slicked and slippery. The surrounding houses on the street are asleep. Even a stray cat dozes on a driveway.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Do you ever think about what you would do? If it-

ESTHA

No. I try not to.

CALEB

Yeah. I mean. I know that if you take everything you're supposed to, it doesn't kill you. At this point, you'd probably have worse luck with cancer. But-

(beat)

-I don't know. I kind of wish it were something else instead. Anything else.

ESTHA

You'd rather have cancer?

CALEB

No. Well. Maybe. At least then it's not. I don't know. It's not-

ESTHA

Your fault?

They let that sit for a minute.

CALEB

Are you going to go to sleep when you get home or...

ESTHA

Am I going home?

Caleb smiles.

CALEB

Have you ever been to shul?

EXT. CALEB'S OLD SHUL PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Caleb locks his bike on one of the playground fence posts while Estha waits by the gate. He looks around nervously.

ESTHA

Are we going to get into trouble?

CALEB

It's always a possibility.

Caleb's phone starts to vibrate: it's a call from Wei. As he lets it ring, Estha stares at the temple.

ESTHA

Is this where your step dad works?

The phone goes quiet. Caleb puts it in his pocket.

CALEB

He's not my step dad.

ESTHA

So what is he?

CALEB

An asshole.

ESTHA

Why would your mom marry an asshole?

CALEB

Because she's an asshole.

Estha looks down and puts his hands in his pockets.

ESTHA

(beat)

I know she's not great but you really shouldn't talk about her like that. She's still your mom.

Caleb looks up from the bike lock.

CALEB

Moms aren't supposed to forget to pick you up from middle school because she's too busy finding a new husband. Moms aren't supposed to say that you have to live with your grandma because your gay lifestyle doesn't go with said husband's mezuzah. Moms aren't supposed to pretend like you're a total and complete stranger.

ESTHA

(beat)

What's a mezuzah?

CALEB

It's like this thing you nail to your house that has the bible in it or something.

ESTHA

Why would you nail the bible to your house?

CALEB

Your people would too if they were constantly being robbed of shit since the dawn of Jew.

ESTHA

Hey, Indians have their problems too. Haven't you heard about Kashmir?

CALEB

You know I'm not into fashion.

Caleb puts an arm around his shoulders, lightening the mood.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Now, come on. This jungle gym is gonna blow your mind.

INT. PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

There are monkey bars, a blue tunnel, and a slide sticking out from a mini jungle gym. Caleb gives a tour.

CALEB

So I lost three baby teeth after falling off these monkey bars. The tooth fairy was supposed to give me money, but instead I got two carrot sticks and a pack of Chiclets.

ESTHA

That's upsetting.

CALEB

It was pretty hilarious actually. My dad was always doing stupid shit like that.

(beat)

I had my first kiss inside this tunnel with Jordan Levinson during first grade day care. She smelled like apple sauce and always had glue in her hair. Needless to say, I was smitten.

ESTHA

What happened to him?

CALEB

Jordan was a girl. I didn't kiss a boy until Ryan Green's 15th birthday party.

ESTHA

(beat)

I meant your dad.

CALEB

Oh. He had a heart attack. Nothing super glamorous.

(pointing to the jungle gym)

I once peed down this slide.

(beat)

Okay, I'm lying. I peed down this slide a lot.

ESTHA

That's hard.

CALEB

I've got great aim.

ESTHA

I was referring to-

CALEB

I know what you were referring to.

Caleb walks to the other side of the slide.

ESTHA

When did he-

CALEB

I'm sorry, but I kind of can't talk about it.

ESTHA

Oh. Okay.

The ensuing silence isn't so much awkward as it is sad.

ESTHA (CONT'D)

So about this tunnel.

INT. THE BLUE TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

The tunnel is large enough for Caleb and Estha to sit Indian-style. They stare at each other.

ESTHA

I think I'm sitting on a dead spider.

CALEB

Welcome to the blue tunnel.

ESTHA

I can't believe this is outside the place where you pray.

CALEB

I mean, sure there's a sanctuary in there, but it's also a preschool and a catering hall. We're nothing if not an economical people.

Estha grabs Caleb's face and kisses him. It's quick and they soon separate, staring at one another.

Caleb suddenly grabs Estha's face and they go at it again, harder this time. It lasts for a few seconds before Caleb gets the spins.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - FLASHBACK

The dark figure pushes Caleb hard against the wall. He grabs his face and kisses him violently, biting his lip.

The figure picks Caleb up and throws him on the bed.

Caleb's drunk and can't focus. The figure mounts him and licks his neck. He starts to pull down Caleb's pants.

CALEB

(muffled)

Wait. Wait one minute.

Caleb slips off the bed and heads toward the bathroom, exaggerating his hip movements from side to side as he walks. When he opens the bathroom door, he looks over his shoulder to the bed and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BLUE TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Caleb pulls back from Estha.

ESTHA

Are you okay?

CALEB

Yeah. Yeah, I'm good.

Caleb pop kisses Estha on the cheek.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Ready to go?

ESTHA
Sure.

Caleb turns around and crawls out of the tunnel. We linger on Estha's face.

TIME CARD: Day 35

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK BASEMENT - AFTERNOON

The regular group sits in a circle while Estha shares. He intermittently eats handfuls of popcorn.

ESTHA
I've been okay. I'm trying to keep my mind busy as much as I can. I cooked last night for the first time in a while. That was nice.
(beat)
Well, it was more distracting than nice I guess, but, for now, distracting is-

He looks at Caleb. They smile.

ESTHA (CONT'D)
-nice. I put some leftovers on the back table. It's Meen Vevichathu. Fish curry.

Old Larry turns to Caleb.

OLD LARRY
(meant to be a whisper)
SOMETHING SMELLS VERY STRANGE!

DOCTOR REID
(ignoring Larry)
Thanks, Estha.
(beat)
And how about you, Caleb?

CALEB
Yeah, you know, I'm pretty good. Things have been looking up recently. My job's great. I talked to my boss last week and we're both excited to take our work relationship to the next level.
(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

I get my PCR results back tomorrow, and I'm strangely zen about the whole thing. I think it's this new sleep regimen I'm on.

(beat)

Oh. And I've been riding my bike everywhere lately, so I'm both saving the planet and engaging my core.

DOCTOR REID

That's great, Caleb.

The group politely smiles at Caleb. Estha gives him an encouraging nod. Caleb smiles back.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Caleb looks like he's peacefully asleep in bed. For a few beats, he breathes rhythmically, cradling his pillow.

Suddenly, he whips his eyes open and snatches the clock off his dresser. He brings it to his face: 1:00am. Caleb groans and hits the mattress with his fists.

He stares at the ceiling and breathes deeply, face twisted in pain. After a beat, he gets up, turns a record player on, and removes a joint from the night-stand.

NIGHT MONTAGE

Each segment starts with a shot of the clock.

1:30 am - Caleb sways stoned to YOUNG AMERICANS.

2:00 am - Caleb drinks a Minute Maid lemonade while putting on eyeliner. He starts to draw random shapes on his face.

2:30 am - Caleb floats two recently folded origami swans in a bowl of water. He lights them on fire with a match. They start to really burn, hilariously startling a stoned Caleb.

3:00 am - He cuts out the heads of models in magazines and mismatches their facial features. He takes photographs of the Picasso-esque creations and even holds up some cut outs to his own face. He takes pictures of that too. He sees the grant forms sitting on his desk.

3:30 am - Caleb attempts to fill out the grant paperwork. He shuffles through his photographs and tries to come up with a collection of pieces he likes. He hates everything. After a beat, he ends up slamming his head on the desk in frustration.

4:00 am - Caleb is under the sheets, masturbating.

4:30 am - Caleb stares vacantly at the ceiling before reaching for his phone. He scrolls through his contacts and comes across Estha's name. He hesitates and brushes his finger over the CALL button for a beat or two.

He calls. But, after it rings four times, he hangs up.

As Caleb places the phone back on the dresser, it starts to ring. He answers:

CALEB

Hey.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - LATE MORNING

Caleb's eyes have more bags than a Japanese tour group when he tries to slip out, unnoticed. As he makes his way past the kitchen table, someone grabs his backpack from behind.

BENNY

And where are you going?

CALEB

Work.

BENNY

And where are you really going?

CALEB

To do drugs and graffiti buildings
and tee pee the principal's house.

BENNY

Caleb.

CALEB

Not now, Benny. Please.

Benny lets go and Caleb makes for the door.

BENNY

The Young and the Sexless?

Caleb stops in his tracks. Benny unfolds the flyer.

CALEB

Where'd you find that?

BENNY

You left it in your bike basket.

Caleb doesn't flinch.

CALEB

Oh, right. I'm just doing this photo series about gay men in crisis: the HIV positive, homeless youth, those that can't dress for their body type.

BENNY

Liar.

CALEB

Go fuck yourself, Benny.

Caleb opens the door.

BENNY

Tell her. Or I will.

Caleb stops. He turns and looks at Benny, half in rage, half in despair. Benny's stomach drops when he sees Caleb's face.

BENNY (CONT'D)

You're still a kid, Caleb.

Caleb slams the door.

EXT. ESTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

Caleb peeks out from behind an oak and watches Estha unload groceries from his mother's car.

Estha is orderly about unloading, organizing the groceries on the concrete driveway before placing them into a cart.

He rolls them toward the house when his mother appears. She looks at the bags and reprimands him in Hindi. Estha takes a deep breath and recombines the various food items into different bags. Caleb watches in wonder.

Caleb hides behind the tree and logs onto a website from his phone: LAB RESULTS ONLINE. There's an unopened message that reads, RESULTS. He puts it back in his pocket.

Caleb sees Estha give his mother a kiss on the cheek before walking down the driveway. His mother watches him closely as he goes.

When she disappears inside the house, Caleb makes himself known. Estha rushes over to him in a panic.

ESTHA

What are you doing? You were supposed to meet me at the corner!

CALEB
They had their sprinklers on. I
wasn't going to get wet for you.

ESTHA
My mother could have seen you.

CALEB
So what?

ESTHA
What do you mean "so what?" You
know "so what."

CALEB
Yeah. Sorry.

ESTHA
It's fine.
(beat)
Did you fall back asleep?

CALEB
No.

ESTHA
Did you check your results?

CALEB
Too nervous.

ESTHA
Do you want me to check them for
you?

CALEB
I'm good.

ESTHA
You're being difficult.

CALEB
Benny found the support group flyer
and today is PCR day, so I'm in a
shitty mood. Sorry.

ESTHA
Let's do something about that.

EXT. BOOMERS THEME PARK - AN HOUR LATER

Caleb and Estha are surrounded by Cuban regulars and the guests of a seven year old's birthday party at a run-down theme park. They walk past cotton candy stands, bumper cars, and an embarrassingly small roller coaster.

CALEB

What are we doing here?

ESTHA

Having fun. Have you been here before?

CALEB

Twice. But luckily I was drunk both times. The roller coaster was decent though.

Estha ignores his attitude.

ESTHA

Do you want to check the message now or-how are you feeling?

CALEB

Anxious.

(beat)

I mean look at all these little people. We're practically bathing in e.coli.

Estha stops walking and turns to him in a way that intimidates the shit out of Caleb.

ESTHA

Listen. I'm trying to help. I really am. But if you're going to keep acting like this, I'm going to leave. You don't have to turn everything into a joke all the time. Not with me.

CALEB

I'm sorry. Everything is just crap for me right now and I-

ESTHA

Yeah. Everything *is* crap. But not just for you. The world doesn't revolve around Caleb Kahn.

CALEB

I never said it did-

ESTHA

Don't you remember how we met? I'm in crap too. And I get that you're scared about today, but you don't have to take it out on me.

CALEB

Okay okay. I get it. I'm sorry. You're right.

ESTHA

Thank you.

As soon as Estha says this, a little girl in a pink princess dress runs over and vomits on Estha's shoes. Her mother hurries over and picks her up, murmuring "lo siento" before whisking the girl away.

Estha's mouth is agape in shock. Caleb laughs.

CALEB

Looks like everyone is taking things out on you today.

ESTHA

I hate you so much right now.

They start to laugh.

CALEB

Maybe we should find a bathroom.

ESTHA

Please.

EXT. CAROUSEL - CONTINUOUS

On their way to the bathroom, Caleb sees a Cuban kid holding a little girl's hand by the carousel. He whips around.

CALEB

Fuck.

ESTHA

What's wrong?

CALEB

Um...nothing.

ESTHA

It doesn't sound like nothing.

CALEB

Let's just wait here for a second.

ESTHA

Caleb. I'm covered in vomit. Can we please just go to the bathroom?

CALEB

Do you see a kind of cute Latino heading in this direction.

Estha looks over Caleb's shoulder to see Dom walking over.

ESTHA

I mean he's not my type but if that's what you're into.

Caleb looks around for a place to run to, but they're out in the open. After a beat, Dom taps Caleb on the shoulder.

DOM

Caleb?

Caleb tries to act "super chill."

CALEB

Oh. Hey, man. What's up?

DOM

Just here for my cousin's birthday.
(beat)
It's good to see you.

CALEB

Yeah, back at ya.

A beat. It's very awkward.

DOM

You weren't at graduation.

Estha watches this exchange with amusement.

CALEB

Oh, yeah. Graduation. I just couldn't make it. You know. I had some shit to do.

DOM

You always did.
(beat)
I heard about Parsons. Congrats.

CALEB

Yeah, thanks.

DOM
When do you leave?

Estha looks to Caleb, who swallows hard.

CALEB
Oh, you know, probably late August
or something.

DOM
That's great. I leave for Cali in a
few weeks.

CALEB
Right. I forgot. Have fun with
that.

Now even Estha feels awkward. A beat and then:

DOM
Listen. I'm sorry about-

CALEB
Fuck, man. Sorry. We have to run.
My really good friend Estha and I
need to find a bathroom.

Estha offers his hand to Dom.

ESTHA
Hi, I'm Es-

Caleb grabs Estha's hand and pulls him away.

CALEB
Okay it was great to see you bye!

Caleb drags Estha to the bathroom. Dom remains standing
there, half upset, half confused.

INT. BOOMER'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Estha washes off his shoes and Caleb's lost in thought.

ESTHA
That was interesting.

CALEB
I know. I haven't been vomited on
in years.

ESTHA
(beat)
Who was he?

CALEB

No one really. Just my ex-boyfriend.

ESTHA

Was he the one that gave you-
(beat)
I mean, might have given-

CALEB

Oh. No no no. He never even liked to have sex. Just a lot of blow jobs and the occasional dry hump.
(beat)
God, that would be shitty. Getting it from a slutty boyfriend. Can you imagine?

Estha looks down sadly. He keeps wiping the vomit off of him.

ESTHA

Yeah.

Silence.

CALEB

Oh. I. I didn't know. We never really-

ESTHA

It's alright.
(beat)
You should check your phone soon.

CALEB

Yeah. Definitely.
(beat)
But maybe we should eat first or something. Don't want to have a panic attack on an empty stomach.

Estha turns off the sink.

EXT. BOOMERS THEME PARK - CONTINUOUS

Estha and Caleb wait in line at a popcorn stand.

CALEB

I was thinking more along the lines of pizza.

ESTHA

I want popcorn.

CALEB

Why? What the fuck is so good about popcorn?

A mother in line with her son scowls at Caleb's cursing. She picks her kid up and quickly exits the line.

ESTHA

Back in Kerala we used to go to the American movie theater on Sundays. It was called Golden Cinema and my mother made me wash the car for two hours before going. For us, it was an event.

CALEB

Sounds like it.

ESTHA

I would look forward to it all week. They only ever played the classics, like *Breakfast at Tiffany's* or *A Star is Born*.

CALEB

Those are great movies. Audrey Hepburn is my spirit animal.

ESTHA

Well I didn't really care what the movie was anyway. I just liked the popcorn and being somewhere that wasn't home. Then when stuff got bad with my parents, I'd eat the stale popcorn I stashed in my coat pocket and pretend I was still at Golden Cinema, watching Holly Golightly look for her cat.

It's their turn in line.

POPCORN VENDOR

How many bags?

ESTHA

Two, please.

As he scoops their popcorn:

CALEB

Well now you're here and you can get away whenever you want. So maybe try a vegetable.

ESTHA
I still like eating it. I don't
know. It helps me not be-

Estha thinks of a word.

CALEB
Sad?

ESTHA
(beat)
Present.

A moment of silence

POPCORN VENDOR
Five dollars please.

Estha hands him the money.

EXT. WOODEN ROLLER COASTER - MOMENTS LATER

Estha and Caleb are in line for the wooden roller coaster.
Estha has finished his popcorn. Caleb hasn't touched his.

CALEB
Okay. I'm going to do it.

ESTHA
Yeah?

CALEB
Yeah.

Estha puts his hand on Caleb's shoulder.

Caleb takes out his phone and takes a deep breath. The roller
coaster car arrives and more people get on. Suddenly they're
next in line. Estha starts to nervously eat Caleb's popcorn.

Caleb gets on the web browser and hesitates before hitting
RESULTS. He clicks it and closes his eyes. He opens them.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Shit. It's still loading.

Estha looks like he's going to vomit, but when Caleb looks up
at him, Estha forces a smile. When Caleb looks back down at
his phone, the web browser says ERROR.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Error? Are you shitting me!?

He refreshes the page. The browser says NO DATA SERVICE.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Now no service? This is a fucking
joke.

The roller coaster car comes back and it's their turn to get on. Everyone hops in but Caleb and Estha. The RIDE OPERATOR reprimands them.

RIDE OPERATOR
Dudes, I have to ask you to get in
the car or get out of line.

CALEB
This is some bullshit.

RIDE OPERATOR
You have five more seconds.

Caleb hurriedly enters the car. Estha follows. The car moves around the corner and begins the infamous roller coaster slow climb to the top. Caleb keeps hitting refresh.

CALEB
Of course this would happen. Of
course the moment I fucking go on,
it-

Caleb refreshes the page again and this time, there's no error. His results pop up: INCONCLUSIVE.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Inconclusive.

ESTHA
What?

CALEB
It says it's-
(beat)
-it says inconclusive.

ESTHA
Inconclusive?

CALEB
Inconclusive.

As they go to the top, Estha says it a little louder.

ESTHA
Inconclusive.

CALEB
Yeah, inconclusive. I said it like
four fucking times.

This time, Estha almost shouts it.

ESTHA
Inconclusive!

CALEB
Keep your goddam voice down.

Estha smiles and raises his hands in the air, roller coaster style, and screams as loudly as he possibly can.

ESTHA
INCONCLUSIVE!

CALEB
What are you-

Estha grabs Caleb's hand and holds it up in the air with his.

ESTHA
INCONCLUSIVE! INCONCLUSIVE!

Estha looks at Caleb and smiles. Caleb takes a deep breath. He says it loudly, but not as loudly as Estha.

CALEB
Inconclusive.

ESTHA
INCONCLUSIVE!

Caleb gets it. He screams.

CALEB
INCONCLUSIVE!

As the roller coaster almost reaches the top, they keep screaming. The other car passengers look at them like they've just escaped from the mental ward.

ESTHA
INCONCLUSIVE!

CALEB
INCONCLUSIVE!

As the car is about to go over, there's a shudder. Both Caleb and Estha immediately bring their hands down and hold on to the car tightly.

Everyone whispers concerns around them. After a beat, the ride operator talks over the loud speaker.

RIDE OPERATOR (O.S.)
 Sorry, people. It looks like Wacky
 Wooden Coaster has malfunctioned.
 Please keep your hands and feet
 inside the vehicle until it comes
 to a complete stop. There will be
 absolutely no refunds.

The car slowly and hilariously starts to descend back down
 the track. After a beat of this, Estha turns to Caleb.

ESTHA
 Are you alright?

CALEB
 Yeah. It could have said something
 worse, right?

ESTHA
 Definitely.

Caleb and Estha both wearily look off into space as the car
 continues its way down to the platform.

EXT. CALEB'S OLD HOUSE - THAT EVENING

Caleb sits on his bike and stares across the street at his
 mother's mailbox. Even at night, it still looks the color of
 urine.

He suddenly sees a nice sedan driving down the street. It
 parks on the side of the road in front of the house. Caleb
 retreats into darkness so he can't be seen.

His mom's HUSBAND (an average, zaftig rabbi) gets out of the
 car. As he walks to the house, Caleb watches him closely.

When he approaches the door, it opens. Caleb's mom greets him
 with a kiss and lets him in. Caleb stares at the closed door.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT EVENING

The house is quiet. Caleb walks into the kitchen, but we
 can't quite make out the look on his face in the dark. He
 grabs a juice box and makes his way toward the hall.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Caleb trudges slowly toward his room. Just before he opens
 his door, he hears a car skid to a stop and he suddenly gets
 the spins again...

EXT. CAR - FLASHBACK

Caleb is in the passenger seat of a car jerking off the dark figure as he drives. The figure's moans are interrupted when the car screeches to a halt.

The car has knocked over a garbage can and scratched the Prius in an adjacent parking spot. Caleb giggles. Outside the windshield, he sees a poorly lit motel.

EXT. MOTEL ROOM - FLASHBACK CONTINUOUS

Caleb and the dark figure make out and stumble down the outdoor corridor hallway to a motel room. The figure pushes Caleb up against the door and bites his ear. The following conversation is muffled.

CALEB

You clean?

The figure pulls back and smiles. Then he continues to make out with him. Caleb pushes away.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Are. You. Clean?

The figure pulls back.

FIGURE

No entiendo.

CALEB

Clean. Limpio.

FIGURE

Si. Si, con condom.

They make out again and the figure opens the motel door. They fall through while making out as we...

CUT TO:

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caleb stumbles through the door into his bedroom. He makes it to his bed and sits on the edge.

After a beat, he pulls out his phone and accesses the results website again: INCONCLUSIVE. He reaches into a drawer.

Caleb pulls out a joint and lighter. He attempts to light the weed but his hands are too shakey. He drops the joint.

Caleb doesn't pick it up and he doesn't move. Instead, we CLOSE UP on his face, which blankly stares at the wall.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

CLOSE UP on Meryl's face. She's crying, but calmly. We pull out to see Caleb awkwardly sitting across from her.

MERYL

Oh my God, Cay. How long have you- when did this-why, why are you just telling me now?

She pulls him into her bosom and hugs him while she cries.

CALEB

Seriously, I'm fine. I don't know if I have it. I could not have it. Honestly, I probably don't have it.

MERYL

Who did this to you? I'm getting my gun. I'll kill him.

CALEB

No no no. Don't do-
(beat)
-wait, you have a gun?

MERYL

Of course I have a gun. We live in Florida.

CALEB

That makes me uncomfortable.

MERYL

CALEB!

CALEB

It was a stupid one night stand. He doesn't live here anymore anyway.

Meryl composes herself.

MERYL

Cay. Whatever you need. Whatever I can do. Everything's going to be fine. I promise. You're going to be just fine. No matter what happens. You're going to be great.

She looks at him for a beat and then breaks out into hysterics again, pulling him in close.

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK BASEMENT - THE FOLLOWING EVENING

DOCTOR REID

How did it feel telling your grandmother?

CALEB

Good. It was good.

(beat)

And terrifying.

DOCTOR REID

I think you did the right thing. It's always good to have someone you can talk to at home.

CALEB

Yeah. And the PCR inconclusive? That was shitty. But, it's also kind of the first time I didn't react to bad news like a fucking nut job. I mean, I did freak out a little bit, but I didn't drink or do something too reckless. I'm kind of proud of myself? I don't know if that makes sense. I'm definitely not going to take the PCR again though.

Caleb looks at Estha.

CALEB (CONT'D)

When I know, I want to know for sure.

JIM

That makes perfect sense. Good for you, sir.

DOCTOR REID

And, Estha, how are things going with you?

Estha looks a bit nauseous.

ESTHA

They've been better. I find out two weeks from tomorrow and days have been passing pretty slowly.

DOCTOR REID

That's very normal.

Estha seems to get lost in thought. He doesn't grab popcorn this time. Instead, he lets go of the bag and it falls next to his chair.

ESTHA

I'm also scared that my parents will find out and never talk to me again.

Caleb looks down at his feet and Estha looks at Caleb.

ESTHA (CONT'D)

No, I'm sorry. It's not. I didn't mean that-

(beat)

-my cousin had a friend back home who was caught kissing a boy. No one has seen him since. His parents told everyone he went to stay with an uncle in Bombay, but I never thought they knew anyone in Bombay and I'm almost positive he didn't have an uncle.

Estha starts to tear up: Estha, for the first time, starts to lose it.

ESTHA (CONT'D)

I just don't want to be here anymore. I want to go back, I would even go forward, no matter what that means. It's here. Here is where I'm having a problem. When I can't even watch the news with my parents without thinking that they know it's there. That they can smell it on me.

JIM

(softly)

Honey. Trust me. With enough deodorant, the HIV doesn't smell.

Dr. Reid leans over and hits Jim in the arm. Jim winces.

ESTHA

I'm not talking about HIV.

DOCTOR REID

Then what are you talking about?

ESTHA

Shame.

TIME CARD: DAY 50

EXT. ESTHA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Caleb sneaks around Estha's house when his phone rings. It's Wei. She's at the 7/11, whispering into her cell phone behind a counter. Suzanne is screaming at someone in her office in the background. INTERCUT between Caleb and Wei.

CALEB
(whispered)
What?

WEI
Happy fourth to you too, dick. You
wanna get high and light fireworks
on my roof like last year?

Caleb stalks around the side of Estha's house.

CALEB
No. I can't, sorry. There's
something I have to do.

WEI
Why do you keep ditching me and why
the fuck are you whispering?

CALEB
Sorry, I'm on a mission of a
delicate nature.

WEI
Are you with that weird Indian dude
again?

CALEB
His name is Estha.

WEI
Alright whatever, but I gotta tell
you about Suzanne later, man. She
said she loved me this morning.
That she fucking LOVED me! Can you
believe it?!

CALEB
No, actually.

Caleb steps on a fallen branch and snaps it. It's loud. He looks around nervously to see if he's been spotted.

WEI

She said she was thinking about separating from her guy for a while. How sick is that!?

CALEB

Define sick.

WEI

Whatever, man. I think I-

CALEB

Sorry, Wei. Can't talk. I'll call you later.

Caleb hangs up and continues to stalk. Wei hangs up, annoyed.

EXT. ESTHA'S BEDROOM WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

Caleb crouches beneath Estha's window and taps on it. Estha peeks through the blinds and Caleb does a lewd gesture. He opens the window.

ESTHA

Get out of here. Go!

CALEB

Meet me outside.

ESTHA

I can't believe you're here. You know my parents are crazy. You have to leave.

CALEB

I'm not leaving until you promise to meet me around the corner.

ESTHA

Fine. I promise.

CALEB

Good. If you don't I'm coming back to-

ESTHA

(scream whispered)

Go!

Caleb sneaks away.

EXT. AROUND THE CORNER - 5 MINUTES LATER

Estha walks down the street to Caleb, who waits with his bike. Estha looks like complete shit: his hair is messy, he hasn't slept in days, and his outfit, for the first time, is not neatly pleated.

CALEB
Ready to go?

ESTHA
Where?

CALEB
Where? It's the fourth of July!
Anywhere!

ESTHA
I'm not feeling well.

CALEB
But it's a holiday.

ESTHA
I don't celebrate American
holidays. I'm not from this
country.

CALEB
What's more American than that?

ESTHA
Caleb, I-

CALEB
I'm sorry, but if you made me go to
a run down theme park, I can-

ESTHA
It's tomorrow, Caleb. I get my
results tomorrow.

CALEB
I know what tomorrow is.

Caleb reaches into his bag and pulls out kettle corn. He throws it to Estha. Estha catches it hard and the bag pops, startling him awake.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Get on.

EXT. THE BEACH - THAT AFTERNOON/EVENING

MONTAGE

The montage plays over a song that may or may not be SHOT AT THE NIGHT by The Killers. It's a purposefully indulgent Instagram/music video romantic escapade.

-Caleb and Estha arrive at the beach amidst a bunch of people. They park their bike on a NO PARKING sign and walk around the boardwalk.

-Estha looks sad as Caleb buys ice cream. Caleb sees Estha sulk and abruptly smushes his ice cream on Estha's nose. Estha freezes in shock and throws his cone at Caleb. Caleb laughs.

-They play mini-golf by the boardwalk. Caleb makes a really insane hole in one and does a funky victory dance. Estha merely looks down at his shoes. Caleb jumps on Estha's back, giggling. Estha finally smiles.

-As the sun is setting, they eat hot dogs on a blanket in the sand, surrounded by other July Fourth-goers. As Estha opens his mouth wide to take a bite, Caleb takes a picture of him putting the long weiner in his mouth.

-After the sun has gone down, Caleb puts his arm around Estha as they watch fireworks.

-As others are leaving the beach, Caleb takes off his and Estha's shoes and drags Estha to the water. They frolic like the queens they are in the high tide, splashing one another.

EXT. LIFE GUARD STAND - EVENING

The music fades out as Caleb and Estha finish carving something next to KAHNED BY THE KAHNS on the lifeguard stand. It reads: The Young. And the Sexless?

ESTHA

Thanks for kidnapping me.

CALEB

I'm a surprisingly good kidnapper.
I feel like I should be more
alarmed about that.

ESTHA

(laughing)

I am.

(beat)

I live so close to the beach but I
never come.

CALEB
 Congratulations. That means you're
 officially a true Floridian.

Estha gives a cheap smile, but as he looks out at the water,
 he starts to tear up. Then he starts to cry.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 Estha, I'm. You know I'm here for
 you.
 (beat)
 Please don't cry. I suck at that
 stuff. Ever since this one time in
 the fourth grade when Wei-

Estha starts to sob and puts his head on Caleb's shoulder.
 Caleb stops talking and starts to awkwardly pat his back.
 After a beat, he puts his arm around him.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 It's going to be okay. It's really
 going to be okay.

ESTHA
 (crying)
 No. No it's not. You know it's not.
 You know everything could change
 tomorrow. I could live with this
 thing inside me. This violent awful
 thing that will make everyone in my
 life leave me.

CALEB
 (beat)
 I won't leave you.

ESTHA
 (hysterical)
 You say that now.

CALEB
 I won't leave you.

Estha looks up at him. Caleb kisses him. It's different than
 before. Caleb's lost in it.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Caleb opens his bedroom window and climbs inside. He helps
 Estha climb in afterward. They make for the bed, kissing like
 crazy the whole way.

Estha is still crying, but this only makes the kissing more
 intense. Caleb rips off his shirt and then Estha's.

Caleb looks at Estha, who is still a weeping mess. Caleb smiles. They start making out again.

Caleb takes off their pants. They roll around in their underwear and bump loudly into the headboard. This time, Caleb shushes.

CALEB
Shh! Meryl's asleep.

Estha starts ferociously making out with him again. As Caleb goes down to take off Estha's underwear, Estha stops him.

ESTHA
Caleb. This is bad.

CALEB
This is fucking great.

ESTHA
I know but. I can't. We can't have sex.

Caleb pulls back and thinks for a minute. Then, he smiles.

CALEB
Who said anything about sex?

Caleb finds his backpack on the floor and pulls out the half-eaten bag of popcorn. He returns to the bed, where Estha lays on his back.

ESTHA
What are you doing?

Caleb smiles and spills the popcorn all over Estha's chest. Estha involuntarily tries to sit up, but Caleb pins him down.

ESTHA (CONT'D)
What are you-

CALEB
Relax.

Caleb positions himself in a push up over Estha. He goes down and eats a piece of popcorn off of Estha's chest.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Salty.

He does it again. On the third round, he picks up a piece of popcorn with his mouth and feeds it to Estha. It turns into a deep kiss. He returns to Estha's chest, picks up another piece, and feeds it to Estha with his mouth.

Caleb hovers over Estha, just looking at him.

ESTHA

Again.

They do it again and again and again, til both are so turned on they want to rip each other the fuck apart. They lock eyes, forget the food, and start hooking up hard.

Caleb brings his body down on Estha's, and there's a loud CRUNCH from the popcorn kernels still left on Estha's chest. Caleb laughs and Estha smiles.

CALEB

That'll be a bitch to clean tomorrow.

Estha slowly slips his underwear off. Caleb does the same. They continue to kiss and Caleb goes under the covers.

ESTHA

No.

Caleb pops his head back out and Estha shakes his head no.

Instead, they make out while jacking each other off underneath the sheets. Caleb stares at Estha while Estha closes his eyes and moans.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - A HALF HOUR LATER

They lay in Caleb's bed. Estha stares wide-eyed at the New York skyline mural on Caleb's wall. Caleb sees him staring.

CALEB

I painted that myself when I was fifteen.

ESTHA

You've wanted to go for a long time?

CALEB

A very long time.

They lay silently. A beat, then-

CALEB (CONT'D)

Are your parents going to wonder where you are?

ESTHA

I don't care anymore.

CALEB

Alright.

(beat)

I can go with you tomorrow if you want. I'm pretty good company. I can help you make origami hearts or self-medicate with marijuana.

ESTHA

No. I think I'd rather go alone.

(beat)

I don't know what I'm going to do. If.

CALEB

You're going to take the medication and you're going to be fine.

Estha stares blankly at the wall.

ESTHA

Caleb. I don't think I'd make it. I'd rather die. I'd rather just not be here.

Caleb sits up and looks at him.

CALEB

Don't even say shit like that. That's not something you joke about.

ESTHA

Look who's talking.

Caleb grabs his face.

CALEB

Promise me you won't do something stupid.

Estha stares back at him, unflinching.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(beat)

Do you even know what death is?

ESTHA

That's a stupid question.

CALEB

No, it's not. Have you lost anyone?

ESTHA

(beat)

No.

CALEB

Then you have no idea what death is. It's not some bullshit concept. It's not the ultimate freedom from sadness or arranged marriages or fucking AIDS.

Estha is shocked. Neither have said that before: AIDS. The smell of the word lingers in the air like rotten garlic.

CALEB (CONT'D)

It's the complete opposite of that. It's the shittiest kind of finite.

ESTHA

That's not what I believe.

CALEB

You can believe whatever the fuck you want to believe. But when it comes down to it, death is no more Sunday barbecues, it's no more boring Dolphin games, it's no more bike rides or box ball or Marx Brother movie nights. It's fucking nothing. That's all it is. Nothing. Don't do that to the people who love you. Don't leave them with nothing.

ESTHA

The people that love me won't love me anymore.

CALEB

I'll ask you not to speak for me, thanks.

Estha looks at him with surprise. Caleb kisses him and lays back down.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Now let's get some sleep.

ESTHA

I can't sleep.

CALEB

Fine. Have it your way.

Caleb attacks Estha and starts to make out with him. After a beat of resisting, they go at it again.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Caleb's sleeping in bed, smiling. He rolls over and awakens when he feels that Estha is gone.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - LATER

Meryl is talking to Caleb while Benny makes them eggs.

MERYL

So my research said that you have a pretty good chance of not catching it from a one-time exposure. Apparently it's hard to get. We can look up some more stuff after I finish my last lecture.

Caleb isn't paying attention. He's staring at a text he sent to Estha thirty minutes earlier:

CALEB: Good luck today. Let's watch Hepburn find her pussy later. Text me, fool.

Estha has not responded.

MERYL (CONT'D)

Caleb?

He looks up.

CALEB

Yeah, sorry. What's up?

Benny brings over three plates of eggs.

MERYL

I asked if you want to research stuff with me? We can break out the pot, learn a little bit, maybe watch a movie. Doesn't that sound great, Benny?

BENNY

You had me at pot.

CALEB

I have work but maybe later. Thanks.

Benny sits. They all eat their eggs in silence.

INT. 7/11 - LATER THAT DAY

Wei and Suzanne are talking quietly in the corner. Wei turns from Suzanne but Suzanne puts a hand on her shoulder and whispers in her ear. They walk into the back storage room. Caleb's behind the counter and couldn't care less.

He checks his phone. He sent another text to Estha an hour ago.

CALEB: How'd it go? You okay?

He stares at his phone when a MAN that looks vaguely familiar walks in the store. He looks around frantically and goes up to the counter.

MAN

Where's Suzanne?

Caleb has a flashback to a picture on Suzanne's corkboard. It's her husband. He hears something fall in the storage room, where Suzanne and Wei are.

CALEB

She...left. She said something about a dog having worms? Or worms having a dog? It sounded disgusting and urgent.

MAN

(beat)

Where is she?

CALEB

Um. I told you, *sir*. She left. That means she is no longer here.

Another sound from the back room. The man hears it this time and makes his way to the door. Caleb shouts so Wei can hopefully hear him.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, that's for employees only SUZANNE'S HUSBAND MAKING HIS WAY TO THE DOOR WITH A SERIAL KILLER SPARK IN HIS EYE. YOU CAN'T GO BACK THERE.

Caleb runs from behind the counter and tries to block the door. The man pushes him out of the way hard. He busts through the door.

MAN (O.S.)

What the FUCK, Suzanne? What the fuck are you doing?

SUZANNE (O.S.)

Henry, stop. Calm down. I was just helping her-

HENRY (O.S.)

Helping her what? Find your tits?

All of a sudden Henry is dragging Wei by the sweatshirt into the front room. Suzanne follows, pleading.

SUZANNE

Let her go, Henry.

Henry lets her go. Wei backs into one of the refrigerators and Henry has her cornered. He gets into her face and she can smell the Makers on his breath.

HENRY

Should I knock the dike out of you or her first, Suzanne? Huh? Who?

Caleb looks at Suzanne.

CALEB

Are you going to fucking do something?

Suzanne has her hands over her mouth and is frozen with fear.

HENRY

You like touching my wife?

His nose is an inch away from hers. Caleb runs up to Wei and pulls her behind him.

CALEB

Back off.

HENRY

Fuck you.

He tries to get to Wei but Caleb continues to block his way.

CALEB

I said *back off*.

Henry pushes Caleb and knocks him into a rack of peanut bags. It falls to the ground. Henry's up in Wei's face again.

SUZANNE

I'm calling the cops, Henry! Get out of here. Leave them alone.

Henry looks back and forth between Wei and Suzanne. He screams loudly. He heads toward the door. Before he leaves he turns to Suzanne.

HENRY

(to Suzanne)

We're done! Enjoy your fat bitch.

He walks out of the store and Suzanne runs after him. Caleb lifts Wei off of the floor.

CALEB

Are you okay?

WEI

She left! I can't believe she fucking left. She just promised me she wouldn't leave.

CALEB

(taken aback)

I'm sorry. Did you not just see what happened? Her crazy husband almost tried to KILL YOU!

WEI

I gotta go after her.

Wei goes to leave but Caleb grabs her.

CALEB

Are you serious, Wei?

WEI

Oh, so now you give a shit about what's happening in my life? Because it's suddenly dramatic and interesting enough for you?

CALEB

What the fuck has gotten into you?

WEI

Me? What's gotten into me? Caleb, what the fuck has gotten into you? Banging weird dudes and ditching me for that Indian shit and doing everything you can to fuck yourself over?!

CALEB

Screw you, Wei. You're the one going after an old lady whose husband wanted to OJ Simpson you!

WEI

Yeah. Well at least I don't have fucking AIDS.

Caleb freezes. Wei can't believe she just said that. She pauses for a beat, as if she's going to say sorry. But instead of apologizing, she turns and runs out of the store.

Caleb is left alone among the wreckage. He touches his lip: it's bleeding. But he doesn't wipe it off this time. Instead, he simply stares at it.

EXT. ESTHA'S HOUSE - LATER

Caleb sneaks around to Estha's window. The blinds are closed and the lights are off. He puts his ear to the glass, but there's only silence on the other side.

He knocks gently and waits. No response. He lingers for a second before knocking again. Nothing. He leaves.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - TWO WEEKS LATER

Caleb looks like hell. He stares at his phone on the dresser before dialing. A few beats while it rings and then-

CALEB

Hey, Estha. It's me. Taylor Swift. Just calling you for the five millionth time to let you know I've written a song about you called, "Pick Up The Phone, Bitch." Anyway. It's been like two weeks and I just want to make sure that you're-

VOICEMAIL

Sorry. The person you've called has run out of inbox space. Please try again later.

Caleb screams and knocks off all the papers on his desk.

He sees his art grant forms fall to the floor. He angrily throws them in the garbage.

EXT. ESTHA'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Caleb rides slowly past Estha's house on the street. It's just getting dark. As he approaches the house, he sees that Estha's blinds are closed.

Caleb almost stops to get a closer look when he sees Estha's FATHER sitting in a chair on the driveway. He's an intimidating man who just stares out onto the street. He locks eyes with Caleb and Caleb rides away.

INT. MERYL'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Caleb, Meryl, and Benny sit on the couch while a Marx Brothers movie plays on the television.

None are actually watching the film: Caleb browses through tens of unanswered texts to Estha, Meryl stares sadly at her grandson, and Benny does the crossword. A beat and then-

CALEB

Hey, can you pass the paper?

Benny hands over the paper, barring the crossword. Meryl pretends not to notice Caleb hold his breath while he scans through the obituaries. Estha's name is absent.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I gotta run out for a bit.

MERYL

No, Cay. Please. Just stay with us tonight. You're always running off to go to 7/11 for cigarettes and paychecks and-

(beat)

-you should be here with your family. Maybe we can even help you put that grant stuff together? I saw that the deadline was coming up and it'd be a shame to let it slip by.

CALEB

I'm not applying anymore.

MERYL

What? Why not?

CALEB

Because I don't fucking want to.
Because my photos are shit.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

Because they shouldn't have accepted me in the first place and they're sure as fuck not going to give me any money.

MERYL

What has gotten into you? Of course they should've accepted you. You're talented. You can't let what's happening control you like this, Caleb.

Caleb stands up and walks toward the door.

MERYL (CONT'D)

Caleb, do you hear me?

CALEB

I have to go.

Caleb walks out. Meryl barely holds it together. Benny scoots closer to her and the two of them stare at the television.

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK BASEMENT - LATER

There is one chair vacant beside Caleb in the usual circle.

JIM

...and that's why I've decided to start my own web site called "From Him to Jim: A Cabaret Artist's Interweb Memoir." If anyone knows a good web designer-

(beat)

-or *photographer*. I'd pay a hefty sum to ensure a job well done. Maybe someone could even put it toward a certain college fund.

Caleb stares into space.

JIM (CONT'D)

I'm looking at you, Caleb.

CALEB

What?

(his brain catches up)

Oh. Yeah, sure.

JIM

Great.

DOCTOR REID

Well thanks, Jim.

(to Caleb)

And is there anything you'd like to share this week?

CALEB

No, I'm good.

DOCTOR REID

Are you sure? Anything at all-

CALEB

I said, I'm good.

Doctor Reid looks at him with concern.

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK BASEMENT - POST MEETING

Caleb rushes up to Doctor Reid by the coffee table.

CALEB

Where is he?

DOCTOR REID

Where is who?

CALEB

Tupac.

(beat)

Estha. Where is Estha?

DOCTOR REID

I'm not sure.

(beat)

Is everything okay?

CALEB

No. It's not. I haven't heard from him since he went for his results. I've texted, I've called-I even checked the fucking obituaries for 'Estha Indian-last-name-I-can't-pronounce.' It's like he disappeared.

DOCTOR REID

You know I can't reveal a patient's medical information.

Caleb looks like he's going to sob or punt something breakable. Doctor Reid throws him a bone.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)

But I can tell you he hasn't come to a meeting this week.

(beat)

It's going to be okay, Caleb. Maybe this is a good time to focus on you and your stuff right now.

Caleb explodes.

CALEB

Focus on me? You're the one who wanted me to get close with someone who understands what I'm going through. And now that someone has Harry Houdini-ed into a fucking black hole.

DOCTOR REID

Just calm down. I'm sure he's taking his time to process what's going on.

Caleb can't listen. He walks toward the exit.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)

Caleb!

Caleb leaves.

DOCTOR REID (CONT'D)

Shit.

EXT. ESTHA'S HOUSE - ONE WEEK LATER

Time card: DAY 60

Caleb stands behind the hiding tree. It's clear that he hasn't slept in weeks. He stares at Estha's house the way a little kid looks at an ice cream truck driving away.

Suddenly, the light in Estha's room turns on. A decent-looking Estha appears in the window and shuts the blinds.

Caleb almost falls over. He leans on the tree to catch his breath and smiles. He sprints toward Estha's window.

EXT. ESTHA'S BEDROOM WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

Caleb sneaks up beneath the window and taps on it. A few beats later and no response. Caleb taps again. Still, no Estha. He starts to knock more loudly and eventually starts banging the window.

ESTHA (O.S.)
 (scream whispered)
 You need to leave!

CALEB
 It's good to see you too, you fuck.
 And there's no way I'm leaving.

ESTHA (O.S.)
 I can't talk now.

CALEB
 That's not my problem. Open the
 window.

Estha is silent. A beat and then-

CALEB (CONT'D)
 Open the window or I'll scream my
 fucking face off.

Another beat passes and Estha slowly opens his window. Caleb
 grabs the window and pushes it up quickly, jumping inside
 Estha's room. Estha shows no emotion.

INT. ESTHA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is neat and orderly. A Taylor Swift poster hangs on
 the wall, as does a banner reading CAL TECH UNIVERSITY. There
 are lots of books around the room.

Caleb runs over to Estha and hugs him hard. Estha does not
 return the hug.

CALEB
 Holy shit. You're okay.

Caleb hits him. Estha doesn't move.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 What the hell is going on? Why
 didn't you return any of my calls?!
 I told you no matter what happened
 I'd be there. Negative, positive-I
 don't give a shit.

ESTHA
 I need you to leave.

CALEB
 What? No. I'll be quiet. Your
 parents won't even know I'm here.
 Scout's honor.

ESTHA

Caleb.

CALEB

Estha. I told you. I don't care if you're positive. Whatever it is we'll find a way to-

ESTHA

I'm not positive.

Caleb takes a step back and stares at him. Estha won't look him in the eye.

CALEB

You're not positive?

ESTHA

No.

A beat and then Caleb starts laughing and dancing.

CALEB

That's incredible! Oh my God! We need to celebrate. Let's go to the beach or karaoke our brains out or-

ESTHA

(cutting him off)
Caleb. You can't be here.

Caleb looks at Estha strangely. He can't figure him out.

CALEB

Estha. What's going on?

ESTHA

You were a great friend to me this summer.

CALEB

Wait. I'm sorry. Friend?

ESTHA

But I need to focus on the fall now. And Cal Tech.

Caleb starts shaking his head 'no.'

ESTHA (CONT'D)

I need to get out of this town and this place and I need to put this-
(beat)
-thing behind me.

CALEB
This "*thing?*"

ESTHA
I'm sorry.

Caleb can't catch his breath.

CALEB
So you weren't trying to kill
yourself. You were just...ignoring
me?

(beat)
Why is that so much worse.

A light bulb goes off in Caleb's head and he feels like he's going to be sick.

CALEB (CONT'D)
It's because you're fine now, isn't
it?

Estha looks away.

CALEB (CONT'D)
And I might not be fine.

ESTHA
Caleb, you need to go.

Caleb has a panic attack. He sees a half-eaten bag of kettle corn rolled and sealed off with a clip next to the bed.

CALEB
(to himself)
I was your popcorn.

ESTHA
What?

CALEB
(grows to a yell)
That's all I was? A fucking
distraction for you? A way to help
you pass the fucking time until you
go to your perfect college with
your perfect new friends and your
perfect fucking future?!

Caleb grabs the bag of popcorn and rips it open. He starts throwing it at Estha and around the room like a maniac.

ESTHA

(scream whispered)

I'm sorry, Caleb, but you're crazy!
You've always been crazy. And I
can't stay in the summer anymore. I
just can't. Now stop yelling!

CALEB

Well I'm so sorry I tainted your
perfect FUCKING life with my unholy
blood, you dick!

Estha's parents start to knock loudly on the door.

ESTHA'S FATHER

Esthappen, what's going on in
there?!

ESTHA

Just watching a movie, pita!
(mouthed to Caleb)
Go!

Caleb glares at him.

CALEB

I wish you had killed yourself.

Caleb kicks Estha's dresser and makes for the window.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(screaming)
AND TAYLOR SWIFT FUCKING SUCKS!

He climbs out.

EXT. MIAMI STREET - CONTINUOUS

Caleb's holding back tears as he rides with intense speed
down the street. He hyperventilates and can barely see
straight. His panic attack escalates as he gets the spins.

INT. DIVE BAR - FLASHBACK

Caleb sits alone and checks his phone: he has sent countless
texts to Dom, but Dom has not responded.

The figure sits next to him and orders a drink. Caleb looks
back and forth between his phone and the figure, then-

CALEB

Hey.

The figure turns to him. He nods his head.

FIGURE

Hola.

Caleb looks back down at his phone. Still nothing from Dom. After a beat, he looks back at the figure.

CALEB

What are you drinking?

The figure is confused. Caleb makes a 'drinking' hand motion.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Tu bebida.

FIGURE

Ah. Tequila.

Caleb scoots closer and puts his phone away.

CALEB

Tequila! Me gusta tequila.

The figure laughs and downs his drink before motioning for the bartender.

FIGURE

Tequila, por favor.

The figure smiles at Caleb.

FIGURE (CONT'D)

Dos.

Caleb smiles back. The bartender returns with two tequilas.

FIGURE (CONT'D)

Para ti, guapo.

The figure slides one to Caleb. They cheers.

CALEB

Hola.

EXT. DIVE BAR/STREET - FLASHBACK

Caleb and the figure walk out of the bar. They make out.

As they head to the figure's car, Caleb checks that his bike is firmly locked to a nearby NO PARKING sign. After, he gets in the car and they ride. The car pulls out and we follow it for a few frames as it makes its way down the street.

EXT. STREET/DIVE BAR - PRESENT

On that same street, present Caleb rides toward the bar. He returns to that very parking sign and falls off his bike. He picks himself back up, locks the tandem to the NO PARKING sign, and trudges into the bar.

INT. DIVE BAR - CONTINUOUS

Caleb enters. It's empty except for a few stragglers. He spots an OLDER MAN drinking alone at the bar.

Caleb takes the stool next to him. He shakily grabs a napkin and starts anxiously folding it into origami. The older man looks at him and smiles.

CALEB
(voice cracking)
He-y, wh-at are..

Caleb takes a deep breath and clears his throat.

CALEB (CONT'D)
What are you drinking?

The man looks surprised that Caleb is talking to him.

OLDER MAN
Uh. It's a Manhattan.

Caleb's stomach sinks. He continues to fold.

CALEB
Never had one of those before.

The older man taps on the bar.

OLDER MAN
Hey, Joel. Another Manhattan over here.

The bartender passes down a drink. Caleb tastes it. It's awful.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
You look too young to be here.

Caleb continues to drink the awful drink.

CALEB
Yeah. I probably am.

Caleb downs the entire thing. The older man smiles.

OLDER MAN
There he goes. Like a champ.

A beat.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
You have a boyfriend?

Caleb shakes his head no.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
A good looking kid like you should
have a boyfriend.
(beat)
I live around here, you know.

The older man puts his hand on Caleb's shoulder. After a beat of Caleb not moving, he slides it down his back. Caleb doesn't even move.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
You into role play? PNP? I've got
good stuff.

Caleb's hands are shaking.

CALEB
I'm into good stuff.

The man takes out a pen and grabs a napkin. He writes down an address.

OLDER MAN
This is my address. Maybe I could
order a pizza and take a liking to
the delivery boy. You know any good
delivery boys?

CALEB
Yeah.

The older man smiles.

OLDER MAN
That's good. Maybe I'll head out
and maybe the delivery boy could
come to my house in...twenty
minutes?

He leaves money on the bar for the drinks and hands some more to Caleb.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
Have another drink on me.

He gets up and starts to leave.

 OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
I'll see you soon. Knock twice.

He leaves. Caleb orders another drink. He shakes so much that, when it arrives, he can barely sip it.

EXT. DOOR - LATER

CLOSE UP of Caleb's hand knocking twice on a door. As it opens, we see a CLOSE UP of Caleb's face. He smiles weakly.

 CALEB
Hi.

CUT TO to Honda Odyssey woman (Caleb's mother EDITH) standing in the doorway. She has Caleb's hair and eyes (except Caleb's hair is knotted and his eyes are red.)

She is terrified to see him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The modest living room has blatantly Jewish decor: shabbos candles on the table, a framed map of Israel on the wall, and pictures of Edith's new family on the mantel.

Caleb's on a cushion chair opposite his mother, who stares at him from the couch. They're silent for a beat, then:

 CALEB
So how've you been?

 EDITH
Good. Fine.
(beat)
How's your grandmother?

 CALEB
Alive.
(beat)
You could call her.

Edith crosses her legs.

 EDITH
I've been busy with Beth Ahm's
sisterhood. And Zev.

Her eyes dart around. They look for a reason to leave.

 EDITH (CONT'D)
Can I get you something to drink?

CALEB

Okay.

She goes into the kitchen. While she's gone, Caleb takes deep breaths. He studies this foreign place.

EDITH (O.S.)

What do you want?

CALEB

Whatever's good.

She comes back out and hands Caleb a Minute Maid juice box.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(beat)

Nice mailbox.

Her face is hard, but she shows signs of breaking a smile.

EDITH

I didn't pick the color.

CALEB

Thank God.

She stares at him.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I mean.

(beat)

That's a relief.

(beat)

Where's Aaron?

EDITH

He's working late.

CALEB

Rabbis work late?

EDITH

He's paying a shiva call.

Caleb sips on the juice box. He eyes a rattle on the floor.

EDITH (CONT'D)

You look terrible.

CALEB

Disheveled is really in right now.

EDITH
You shouldn't-
(beat)
-you're not supposed to be here. Do
you need a ride back ho-

Home. She stops herself at the sound of the word.

EDITH (CONT'D)
-to your grandmother's?

Caleb doesn't answer. Instead, he looks around the room.

CALEB
(beat)
The house is different.

She goes to say something, but stops herself.

EDITH
I've done some redecorating.

CALEB
Oh. Cool.

Edith fidgets with her dress. Caleb sips the last remnants of juice loudly. Another awkward beat and then-

CALEB (CONT'D)
So where'd you put them?

She looks confused.

EDITH
Where'd I put what?

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

Edith leads Caleb into the attic and pulls the string of a light bulb.

EDITH
Be quiet.

The room is filled with boxes. Edith motions to one in particular. Caleb opens it up.

There are hundreds of colored origami figures stuffed inside. Wedged between two pieces of origami is a picture of Caleb's dad: the man from the New York photograph in Caleb's room. This is a clearer image of him. He's got a nice smile and Caleb's build.

CALEB

Swans don't go with shabbos
candles?

EDITH

They're not appropriate.

Caleb takes one out and studies it. It's made perfectly and carries a high level of paper-folding craft, despite being violently stuffed in an attic box.

CALEB

I don't think I'll ever be as good
at this as he was.

EDITH

Consider it a blessing. There's not
much use for paper folding.

Caleb scoffs. Then he stiffens with fear. But she says nothing.

CALEB

Can I have them?

She hesitates.

EDITH

Yes. I'll mail them to you. Now
it's time to go.

He sits on the floor and puts the box on his lap. He takes out another swan and studies it.

CALEB

(beat)
I ride his bike too.

EDITH

I saw.
(beat)
I thought he left that to Meryl.

CALEB

He did.

Caleb puts the swans back in the box and drops the box on the floor with a thud. Edith glares at him and, a beat later, a baby starts crying.

EDITH

I told you to be quiet!

She leaves the attic quickly. Caleb follows her.

EXT. ZEV'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caleb stands outside his half-brother's room while Edith coos and cradles the baby inside. Everything is blue and there's a great big rocking chair in the corner.

EDITH
 Shhh...Zev. Shh.
 (singing)
*Numi, numi yaldati, Numi, numi,
 nim.*

Caleb sees his brother's face for the first time and can't help but smile.

CALEB
 (beat)
 Can I hold him?

Edith looks up at Caleb in the doorway. She's stern.

EDITH
 No.
 (beat)
 You shouldn't even be here.

CALEB
 So I've heard.

Edith turns from him while bouncing the baby in her arms. Zev faces Caleb now. They, too, have the same eyes.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 Please. Just for a second. I'll be careful, I promise.

She looks at Zev and back to Caleb.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 Please?

EDITH
 I can drive you back. Aaron will be home soon.

CALEB
 I swear I'll leave if you let me hold him.

A beat.

EDITH
 Do you even know how?

CALEB

Remember Aunt Shelby's 50th birthday? I held Jacob all afternoon.

EDITH

Didn't he spit up in your face?

CALEB

But my cradling technique was a ten.

Edith hesitates. She takes a deep breath and hands Zev to Caleb. Caleb can't believe this is happening. As soon as he feels his brother in his hands, something in him changes.

He looks into Zev's eyes and Zev smiles.

EDITH

He-

(beat)

-I think he likes you. He doesn't smile often. Or ever, actually.

CALEB

Hey, little guy. Your fingers look like baby shrimp. That's definitely not kosher.

Edith stifles a laugh. Caleb looks up at her, back to Zev, and then back to his mother.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Mom. I'm not doing too good.

EDITH

No you're actually doing fine. Just make sure you hold his head.

CALEB

No, mom. I.

(beat)

I'm not doing good.

Caleb starts to tear up.

EDITH

(beat)

Is it the college thing? I asked Aaron if we could find the money but-

CALEB
No. That's not it. I-
(beat)
I might be really sick.

EDITH
What do you mean? Are you okay?

And, for the first time, Caleb starts to cry.

CALEB
(his crying intensifies)
I. I don't think so, mom. I don't
think so.

Edith puts her hands on his shoulders.

EDITH
What is it? What's wrong?

CALEB
I was dumped and I worked so hard
to get into school. So hard, mom.
You know how hard. And now I can't-

EDITH
I know.

CALEB
And then I was stupid. I was really
sad and he was a complete stranger.
And I liked that. I liked that he
didn't know me. I was just so drunk
and the condom must have been old
or something. But I didn't know. I
swear I didn't know until it was
over.

Edith's eyes light up with fear. She rips Zev from Caleb.

CALEB (CONT'D)
I might. I might be really sick,
mom.

Caleb's crying turns into weeping and this makes Zev bawl.
The baby screams and screams without end.

EDITH
You are sick.

Edith puts Zev back in the crib.

CALEB
I know. I'm sorry. I know.

He goes to hug her and she backs away.

EDITH

No. YOU are sick, Caleb. You're not well. You've never been well.

She starts to push him out of the room.

CALEB

No. But. Mom. Wait please. Please don't leave me. Please please please don't leave me.

EDITH

You're not supposed to come back here. You're not welcome here.

She forces Caleb out of the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zev is still screaming upstairs and Caleb is crying.

CALEB

No! Let go! Please just listen. Just let me stay!

Edith opens the front door and forces Caleb out. She can't look at him.

EDITH

Please don't come back.

She slams the door.

EXT. EDITH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Caleb stands shaking. Zev wails inside his room. Caleb leans against the house.

We stay on him for a beat while he weeps. Beneath him is a welcome mat that says, SHALOM.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Caleb walks in still bawling. He hyperventilates and gets the spins, but this time, there are no more flashbacks.

A beat or so later, Meryl runs out of her room in pajamas. Benny follows her.

MERYL

Holy shit. Caleb. What's wrong?

Caleb says nothing and instead collapses in her arms. He can't get out words in between the sobs.

MERYL (CONT'D)

Oh, Cay. It's alright. It's going to be okay.

BENNY

Come on, kid.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Each of Caleb's arms is wrapped around Benny and Meryl's shoulders. They walk slowly to Caleb's bed, where he collapses. Benny and Meryl sit next to him. Meryl strokes his hair. He cries throughout the following conversation.

MERYL

What happened?

CALEB

Everyone leaves me.

MERYL

That is *not* true.

CALEB

Yes it is! Dom, Estha, dad, her. They all leave. No one lets me stay.

MERYL

I don't know what an *Estha* is, but your dad didn't want to leave you, Caleb.

CALEB

That's only because he didn't know *this* me. The reckless one who can't sleep. The one with the fucked up blood.

BENNY

Caleb, that is not who you are.

CALEB

It is! And now all that's left is a life of 'if' and 'you fucking idiot' and 'you did this to yourself. You got what you deserve for being who you are, so desperate for someone to give a fuck about you.'

MERYL

Caleb, honey. You might feel this way right now, but under all this shit, there's a man who will grow up to do great things. Positive or negative, there is a happy life ahead of you.

Caleb is hysterical.

CALEB

No! My out was Parsons. But now everything is so fucking fucked.

MERYL

I need you to hear me now, Caleb. You're my grandson. You're what I love most in this fucked up universe. And for those reasons alone, you will create great things and you will find great love. And you will get out of here. We will find a way to get you out of here.

CALEB

When? Fucking *when*? I'm so tired of waiting.

MERYL

That's just what being alive is. It's waiting. But it will come, Caleb. You're too good for it not to.

Caleb's exhausted from the weeping and starts to whimper. She bends down and strokes his cheek. As the whimpers get softer, she starts to detangle his hair.

MERYL (CONT'D)

But waiting doesn't mean shutting down. Waiting doesn't mean you turn yourself into the kind of person who lets the world decide who you are and what you can do. You fight for what you want. You fight for what you deserve. You wait, but you wait with your fucking fists in the air.

She looks at Caleb. He's finally stopped crying completely. He wraps his body around her in the fetal position. Meryl looks at Benny and nods.

They lay down on either side of him and hold him as he falls asleep.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - EARLY, THE NEXT MORNING

Caleb wakes up as the sun barely starts to make his curtains glow orange. He looks to either side of him, where Meryl and Benny are passed out. Benny snores like a train.

EXT. CALEB'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Caleb rolls his bike out from the side of Meryl's house. He hops on and rides.

EXT. LIFE GUARD STAND - LATER

Caleb sits on the life guard stand and looks out at the beach. No one's around and it's peaceful. He sits for a beat before taking a knife out of his backpack.

He goes to the wooden banisters where the engravings are. He puts his knife to 'the Young. And the Sexless?'. He starts to scratch it off but stops.

He looks at KAHNED BY THE KAHNS 12/2002. He contemplates something when he receives a text message from Meryl. It reads:

MERYL- Where are you? Are you alright? Please come home.

EXT. LIFE GUARD STAND - LATER

Caleb walks his bike back to the boardwalk. As he heads out of frame, we CLOSE UP on the wooden banister.

Caleb didn't finish scratching off the engraving he made with Estha. Instead, the knife he used to mark the original message lays alone, on the floor of the lifeguard stand.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY

Benny, Meryl, and Caleb eat sandwiches.

BENNY

You like the tuna?

CALEB

It's good. Really good. Thanks.

MERYL

(beat)

How are you feeling?

CALEB
Shitty. But in an almost manageable way.

MERYL
I'll take it.

They all bite their sandwiches. Then-

BENNY
(beat)
Someone dropped off a box this morning.

Caleb looks up at him.

BENNY (CONT'D)
It's in your room.

CALEB
Cool.

Benny and Meryl look at one another.

BENNY
And, Caleb. We were also wondering if you'd let us come to one of those meetings?

MERYL
If that's okay.

CALEB
(beat)
Yeah. It's fine.

Benny and Meryl nod. They keep eating. A beat later:

CALEB (CONT'D)
I'd actually really like that.

Caleb gets up from the table and kisses his grandmother on the head. She looks at Benny and smiles with surprise.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caleb sits down on his bed next to the familiar box. He opens it up and starts to take out his father's origami. He studies each one before laying it out on his bed.

Next to the box he sees a manila folder with a note on it. It reads: Great things. Love, Grandma.

Caleb takes out the papers from inside the folder: they're the crumpled art grant forms he threw away.

CLOSE UP on "...your grant application should be supplemented with a creative portfolio that explores a theme that is important to you." He thinks.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - LATER

Caleb has hung the origami around his room with string.

He takes his Nikon and photographs the different pieces from various angles. He's moving around the room quickly and with purpose: he's inspired.

INT. CHRIST THE ROCK BASEMENT - A WEEK LATER

The Young and the Sexless sit in a circle. Estha is still gone but, instead, Meryl and Benny sit next to Caleb. Old Larry stares at Caleb intently as he talks.

CALEB

I. I'm not sure how I'm feeling.
And I think that's okay. At this
point, I'm just ready to know. And
move on.

(beat)

I'm definitely scared, though. Like
crap in my pants scared.

Doctor Reid nods. Meryl holds his hand.

DOCTOR REID

That's normal, Caleb. Totally and
completely normal. You've come a
long way.

The group looks to Jim, who is next to share.

JIM

Well, this week, thanks to Caleb's
fabulous photography skills, I'm
launching-

OLD LARRY

YOU'RE LUCKY, GUY.

Old Larry speaks loudly and seriously. The group watches in awe.

OLD LARRY (CONT'D)

WHEN THIS STARTED, HARDLY ANYONE
MADE IT. PEOPLE WOULDN'T TOUCH YOU.
THEY WOULDN'T LOOK AT YOU.

(MORE)

OLD LARRY (CONT'D)
 YOU WERE ALREADY DEAD. NOW, YOU'RE
 NOT GOING TO DIE. AND YOU SHOULD BE
 DAMN HAPPY THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO
 DIE.

Caleb nods.

CALEB
 Thanks, Old Larry.

A beat.

OLD LARRY
 DID YOU JUST CALL ME *OLD*?

CALEB
 (beat)
 No.

OLD LARRY
 OH. GOOD.

Everyone stifles a laugh.

TIME CARD: DAY 89

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Caleb puts together his grant portfolio when there's a knock
 at the door.

CALEB
 Come in.

It's Meryl.

MERYL
 You have a visitor.

She pushes open the door, revealing Wei, holding a DVD and
 looking very apologetic.

MERYL (CONT'D)
 I'll give you two a moment.

Meryl leaves. Wei motions to the bed.

WEI
 Can I-

CALEB
 Yeah.

She approaches the bed. She hands him the DVD.

WEI

I got you this.

It's 'The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars' on DVD.

CALEB

This is the collector's edition!
How much did you pay for it? You
didn't have to do that.

WEI

I didn't. I stole it.

CALEB

Right.

An awkward beat-

WEI

Caleb, I'm sorry.

CALEB

Look, I'm sorry.

They laugh.

WEI

Listen, I didn't mean to say that
stuff, man. I don't think you fuck
weird dudes.

(beat)

Well, you have fucked some pretty
weird dudes. But. I know you're
going through hell right now. And
I'm really sorry.

CALEB

It's alright. I was a total dick
for thinking my situation was an
excuse to check out on you. Out of
everyone on the planet, you're the
last person I should have ever
checked out on. I'll never do it
again. I swear.

Wei looks choked up. She almost starts to cry, but punches
him instead.

WEI

Thanks, man.

(beat)

Damn. It's weird to feel shit.

CALEB

Tell me about it. I think I've experienced *all* the feelings at this point. And if there are more, please shoot me.

Wei sits next to him on the bed.

WEI

(beat)
You know I quit. Right after it happened.

CALEB

Good for you.

WEI

Yeah.
(beat)
She had a loose pussy anyway.

Caleb gags.

CALEB

Was that necessary?

WEI

It's true! That's what happens when you pop out a kid, man.
(beat)
So. Are we good?

CALEB

We're good.

They finally hug it out.

CALEB (CONT'D)

And now that you're here, I could really use your help with something.

WEI

Whatever it is. I'm down.

INT. EDITH'S CAR - THAT AFTERNOON

Edith drives her Honda Odyssey down her street. Zev is in the backseat. She's listening to Bruce Springsteen but changes it to Jewish music as she gets closer to her house. As she pulls onto her street, she squints at something in the distance.

EXT. EDITH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Edith parks her Honda on the street and gets out of the car.

CLOSE UP on her face as she stares at something, bewildered.

CLOSE UP on her mailbox, which is no longer yellow. It is now painted purple and is bedazzled with hundreds of sequins and googly eyes.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Benny, Meryl, and Caleb talk over spaghetti dinner.

MERYL

So I told Janet that I don't need that pre-pubescent, fake boobed Ashley to be my TA. If I wanted to distract my students, I'd just show up to class without a bra.

Caleb smiles.

BENNY

Good for you, honey.

They eat in silence for a moment. Meryl looks up at Caleb.

MERYL

How are you feeling about tomorrow?

CALEB

I'm trying not to think about it.

BENNY

Do you want us to come with-

CALEB

No. I think this is something I'd rather do Han Solo, if that's okay.

MERYL

Sure.

Caleb takes another bite and then-

CALEB

Well. The vandalizing took a lot out of me. I think I'm going to hit the sack a bit early tonight.

He gets up and kisses Meryl good night.

MERYL

I'll be here when you get back.

Caleb starts to walk to his room.

BENNY

And what about me?

Caleb goes up to Benny and he kisses him on the cheek.

BENNY (CONT'D)

I'll see you in the morning, kid.

INT. CALEB'S BATHROOM - LATER

Caleb washes his face like he did when he first came home from the clinic. He doesn't wipe wildly at his make up and he doesn't collapse in the bathtub this time. He takes a deep breath in the mirror and has a spoonful of Nyquil (nobody's perfect.) Then he heads to bed.

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

As he gets into bed, he notices that Meryl left her lecture cards next to his pillow. He gets under the blanket and starts to shuffle through them. He focuses in on one quote in particular.

"The amount of eccentricity in a society has generally been proportional to the amount of genius, mental vigour, and moral courage which it contained. That so few now dare to be eccentric, marks the chief danger of the time."

Caleb puts the cards down, shuts the light, and goes to bed.

TIME CARD: DAY 90

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Caleb opens his eyes. He takes a deep breath and gets out of bed.

As he makes his way to the bathroom, he stares at one of the pieces of origami hanging from a string. He takes it down and looks at it for a beat.

Caleb puts the swan in his backpack. He slips his grant forms and creative portfolio into a large addressed envelope. He puts that in his bag too.

INT. CALEB'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caleb brushes his teeth and stares at himself in the mirror. He takes out a comb and starts to brush his hair.

INT. MERYL'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The house is quiet. Meryl is still asleep but there's a pot of coffee still warm from Benny in the coffee maker. Caleb goes to the fridge and takes out a Minute Maid.

As he grabs it, he hesitates. He puts the juice back.

Caleb goes over to the pot of coffee and pours himself a mug. He blows on it and sips it: it tastes disgusting. He hilariously spits it out everywhere and makes a gross face.

He spills the coffee out in the sink and grabs a water bottle from the fridge instead. He takes a granola bar from the pantry.

EXT. MERYL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Caleb wears a blue t-shirt and a backpack. He walks his bike down from the side of the house. At the bottom of the driveway, he gets on.

He takes out headphones and puts them in his ears. He presses play and SPACE ODDITY starts to hum through the speakers.

DAVID BOWIE (O.S.)
"Ground control to Major Tom."

Caleb rides.

EXT. MIAMI STREET DAY - CONTINUOUS

Caleb bikes down a neighborhood street. He sees a Post Office mailbox. He hops off his bike, opens up his bag, and drops the grant envelope in.

DAVID BOWIE (O.S.)
"Take your protein pills and put your helmet on."

EXT. OCEAN DRIVE, MIAMI BEACH - CONTINUOUS

The storefront shutters open as Caleb rides by.

As he makes his way down the boardwalk, he spots a seniors jogging group. He rings the bell again.

DAVID BOWIE (O.S.)
"Check ignition and may God's love be with you."

He passes by Benny, who doesn't squirt water this time. Instead, he merely nods. Caleb nods back and continues to ride.

EXT. GAY HEALTH CLINIC - CONTINUOUS

Caleb locks his bike on the NO PARKING sign. He hops off.

DAVID BOWIE (O.S.)
*"Now it's time to leave the capsule
if you dare."*

The same homeless man sleeps atop a bunch of blankets. Caleb quietly puts a granola bar down by his head.

Caleb stares at the Gay Men's Health Clinic. The glass doors leading inside are pristine and reflect his face back at him.

DAVID BOWIE (CONT'D)
*"This is Major Tom to Ground
Control. I'm stepping through the
door. And I'm floating in the most
peculiar way."*

Caleb readies himself, takes a deep breath, and walks inside.

THE END