

A MAGICAL PLACE CALLED GLENDALE

Written by

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INT. SOMEONE'S GARAGE - **FLASHBACK** - NIGHT

The door BANGS open and out steps KATE BENCOMO (12), Hapa, a little shit. This won't necessarily change with age.

KATE
It's time we get serious here.
(pulling out a bottle)
Who's up for Spin the Bottle?

A mix of WHOOPS and nervous MURMURS spread through this SEVENTH GRADE PARTY.

TITLECARD: Seventh Grade. Palos Verdes, California

The place is littered with middle school awkwardness. Braces, tall girls, short boys, and slouching. *So much slouching.* Kate greets every pimply pre-teen like she's a politician. She even attempts a secret handshake with ONE KID, but they just aren't in-sync. Whatever!

She finally spots a girl in the corner who looks like she's about to bolt -- CHRISTINE BRODEUR (12), a little unsure of herself. This also won't necessarily change with age.

KATE (CONT'D)	CHRISTINE
No. No.	I'm not feeling all that well from all the Rocky Road.
But I ate most of yours!	Tonight's not the night.

Kate SIGHS. Grabs Christine's shoulders.

KATE (CONT'D)
Christine, what do you want?

CHRISTINE
To make my parents proud.

KATE
Jesus Christ. You're such a fucking Girl Scout.

CHRISTINE
I am though!

Kate spins Christine around and points her towards DEVON RUSSEY (12), Black, the runt of the cool kids.

KATE
Do you remember how hot Devon Russey was in PE after he won at tetherball? What did you think?

CHRISTINE

That I wanted to... lick the sweat off of him. But only if he wanted.

Kate TICKLES Christine. She LAUGHS.

KATE

Relax. This will be fun. All you have to do is sit across from Devon Russey and the bottle will land on him. I had Regina rig it.

CHRISTINE

What? How?

REGINA SHOR (12), Black, a child MacGyver, passes by.

REGINA

I put a rock in the bottle.

Beaming, she pats Christine on the back and moves on.

KATE

See? Now grab Devon and go get your rocks off.

CHRISTINE

I don't necessarily need *him* for that, but sure.

Christine freezes, now BEET RED. Kate's genuinely puzzled.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

I-- no. I'm joking.

KATE

Why wouldn't you need him...

CHRISTINE

(rambling)

I do! I don't do that by myself, obviously. I'm not like *Jeremy*, who clearly can't stop. I can stop whenever I want. Not that I do that. I'm not like *Jeremy*. It's...

Christine awkwardly stops rambling. Kate is still confused. But then the realization hits Kate. Both girls are horrified.

INT. SOMEONE'S GARAGE - **FLASHBACK** - LATER

Still horror-stricken, Kate and Christine sit next to each other in a circle of kids. The group cheers on Christine.

Christine barely pays attention as she SPINS THE BOTTLE. Kate refuses to meet her eye.

CHRISTINE

I know I'm gross and perverted. I know. I don't do it all the time.

(off Kate's silence)

Please don't tell anyone.

(more silence)

Kate, promise me?

Kate glances at her as the bottle slows. It passes Regina. Even passes Devon. And then-- It lands on Kate.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. RITA'S HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAWN

Kate Bencomo (now 18) cringes at the memory as she mows a lawn aggressively.

TITLECARD: **Senior Year. Palos Verdes, California.**

Through her AirPods, Kate increases the volume on "What Makes You Beautiful" by One Direction to distract herself.

KATE

(angry sings)

*"Don't need make-up to cover
up/Being the way that you are is
enough/Everyone else in the room
can see it/Everyone else but you."*

MUSIC CUTS OUT for the audience as Kate shout-sings the chorus. RITA ORSON (40s but looks way older) watches this train wreck performance from the porch, completely riveted. Despite being hooked up to a nasal catheter and an oxygen tank, Rita pounds back a Bud Light like a lady.

That's when the lawn mower hits a rock, SLAMMING Kate into the handle. She collapses to the ground.

KATE (CONT'D)

Mother--!

The engine dies. On the ground, Kate realizes in horror that her white sneakers are smudged.

RITA

White sneakers were a choice.

KATE

You should really get a gardener or something. This shit is gross.

RITA

Isn't that what you're for?

KATE

When I offered my services, I was expecting to like organize your closet. Do some inside work. Aren't you a hoarder?

Kate cracks her back dramatically. Joins Rita on the porch.

RITA

If you're not going to mow my lawn, then I kindly ask you to get the fuck off my property.

KATE

Aw Rita, I love that neighborly spirit of yours.

(off Rita's look)

All I'm saying is a heads up would have been nice. These sneakers were a thousand dollars.

RITA

For those?!

KATE

Relax, I didn't pay for them.

Kate helps herself to a beer.

RITA

Shouldn't you be busy winning Prom Queen? Or getting pregnant?

KATE

One: Did that last year. Two: Did that last year.

(off Rita's look)

Kidding! I was runner-up.

RITA

So what? Helping me is your penance for coming in second?

While Rita's being playful, the comment unnerves Kate. She grows serious. A haunted look flashes across her face.

KATE

I did something bad last weekend.

QUICK FLASH: A BOY (18) that Kate has sex with finishes with an embarrassingly loud MOAN. He's truly roaring. END FLASH.

Kate is horrified by the memory.

KATE (CONT'D)

It's maybe the worst thing I've ever done. And trust me, I've done some fucked up shit.

QUICK FLASH: From afar, Kate (12) watches Christine (12) open her locker. A DOOR KNOB falls out. Someone coughs out, "**Door Knob Humper!**" at Christine, prompting passing pre-teens to LAUGH. Another person coughs out, "**Pervert.**" Devon (12) looks at her, totally grossed out. Christine is CRUSHED. She catches Kate's eye, completely betrayed. END FLASH.

Kate outwardly winces at that one.

KATE (CONT'D)

I need to turn this ship around before--
(gestures to the sky)
Climate change.

RITA

Huh. And all you had to do was mow half a lawn? That's incredible. Hey, maybe I'll mow the other half and it'll cure my cancer.

Kate glares at her.

A car pulls up into Rita's driveway, sending Kate and Rita into a panic. They quickly hide their beers, but it's too late. JERRI (40s), stern soccer mom, Rita's hospice nurse, storms out of the car. Kate's already on the move.

JERRI

Bencomo! You can't give beer to a woman with terminal liver cancer! You are here to help.

KATE

I am! She's dying anyway.

Jerri SMACKS Kate with a newspaper.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAWN

A beautifully decorated kitchen that was built to frame a 1999 Academy Award for Best Directing. Along the walls are signed posters of a YA Blockbuster trilogy -- *that's* really what bought this house.

A VOICEMAIL currently plays from the landline.

ANN BENCOMO (VOICEMAIL)
Hi honey! Looks like we keep playing phone tag. Texas has been fucking insane. I'm seriously convinced a higher power does not want me to get this movie made.

As the voicemail goes on, Kate stares at the following LIST:

WAYS TO IMPROVE

- 1) **Help Rita organize her closet???**
- 2) **Invite everyone to my parties**
- 3) **Donate (Dogs? Cancer? War?)**

ANN BENCOMO (VOICEMAIL)
First off, we've had to shut down production three separate times because of tornadoes. TORDANOES, KATE! One of them almost got one of the actors. Could you imagine?

ANN BENCOMO (40s), Kate's *amazing* mother, CRACKS UP--girl clearly has not had a lot of sleep! Kate shoots the landline a concerned look. Then she goes back to writing.

- 4) **Never tell Regina what you did**

Kate pauses on this one. Crosses out the NEVER. Pauses again. Which is better?

ANN BENCOMO (VOICEMAIL) (CONT'D)
Anyway, we have one more day left and then I'll be home on Sunday, but if you need anything, Rita's next door. Love you, Kate! Kisses!

Kate continues writing.

- 4) **Never tell Regina what you did, but start doing more nice things for her. Cupcakes?**
- 5) **Christine**

Kate stares at Christine's name. She crosses it off.

EXT. PALOS VERDES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Home of the Sea Kings. Home of Kate Bencomo. People NOTICE her when she strides down these halls.

Her JUNIOR MINIONS fan out behind Kate as they all pass out FLIERS to passing students. People grab them like they're golden tickets.

KATE

Party tomorrow at my place. Niall Horan from One Direction is going to be there. Spread the word.

JUNIOR MINIONS

Spread the word.

Kate pauses when she reaches a LOCKER. She takes a moment to contemplate, then finally decides to put a flier in the slit.

She smiles at this grand gesture, but just as it's about to fall through--

KATE

Fuck.

Quickly changing her mind, Kate desperately tries to pull the flier back out. But oops, she's too late.

Regina Shor (now 18) SNORTS from behind her. Yup, she definitely just saw that whole thing. OF NOTE: Regina holds a GOLDFISH IN A BAG.

REGINA

Kate, why are you inviting Christine Brodeur to your party?

KATE

(embarrassed at being caught)
Regina, why do you have a goldfish?

REGINA

Oh, this? It's for the Keep a Goldfish Alive Scholarship. Winner gets two grand.

KATE

No. That doesn't exist.

REGINA

There are a lot of bullshit scholarships no one applies for because people think they're too stupid. Which is perfect for me.

KATE

For the last time, you're not dumb! You got into freaking UCLA!

REGINA

Any idiot can get into college.

This stings Kate, but we don't know why yet. A GOTH KID passes Kate and takes a flier. Off Regina's look:

KATE

I need fliers because I don't have everyone's numbers. I'm not psychotic.

REGINA

Then don't text everyone?

KATE

Regina, I'm trying to be inclusive. Finally let everyone in on the fun.

REGINA

Christine's not going to go. I don't even know why you're trying.

KATE

I... we don't know that for sure. And even so, it's the thought that counts. Right?

REGINA

No.

KATE

No, it's all about the gesture.

REGINA

Absolutely not. She hates you.

KATE

I only told two people she masturbated! I wasn't expecting there'd then be a fucked up game of Telephone. Door knob humper is literally so stupid.

(then)

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I just think it'd be nice to do something nice.

Regina shoots her one hell of a look.

KATE (CONT'D)

Okay, fuck you! I can be nice. I'm literally planning on making you cupcakes. At some point.

REGINA

What? Why? Are you okay?

KATE

I'm fine!

REGINA

You could just apologize to Christine, you know.

Kate pauses. Visibly sags.

KATE

She wouldn't want to hear it.

Just then, STEVEN WHITE (18), fuckboi, grabs a flier from Kate's hand. His presence UNNERVES Kate, but it sends Regina into a full-blown frenzy. We'll recognize him as the BOY Kate had awkward sex with in the opening.

REGINA

No, no. Not you, Steven. You're too busy fucking Monica FUCKING Hutcherson to attend any more of Kate's parties.

Steven flees, freaked out. Kate catches Steven's eye just as he rounds a corner.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Go play with your small dick, that is if you can find it!

(to Kate)

Sorry, I know I should be over it by now. I'll get there.

Regina doesn't notice Kate's uneasiness.

INT. CHRISTINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Christine Brodeur (now 18) and her young father, JEREMY BRODEUR (late 30s), eat lunch and watch BEVERLY HILLS 90210. Father and daughter are crying at the episode.

Her mom, MEGAN BRODEUR (also late 30s), would have been in a sorority if she hadn't gotten pregnant, comes home early. She's surprised to see Christine here.

MEGAN BRODEUR
Christine, what are you doing here?

CHRISTINE
Seniors get to leave school for lunch. You know that.

MEGAN BRODEUR
Do you come here every day?

Both Christine and Jeremy are like deer in the headlights. Megan pointedly looks at her husband.

JEREMY BRODEUR
We've been honoring Luke Perry's memory with a re-watch.

CHRISTINE
Dad! Have a backbone.

JEREMY BRODEUR
I'm sorry, honey. You know I'm physically incapable of lying.

MEGAN BRODEUR
Christine, go interact with people your own age.

CHRISTINE
School is over in two months. I'll just meet people at Stanford.

MEGAN BRODEUR
I met your dad at a party two weeks before we graduated high school.

JEREMY BRODEUR
The best one night stand I've had.
(off Christine's horror)
I'm physically incapable of lying!
What do you want me to do?

CHRISTINE
My classmates are... How do I put this mildly? Psychopaths.

Megan and Jeremy share a look.

JEREMY BRODEUR

It's been a couple years since you've found a door knob in your locker. Perhaps people have forgotten.

CHRISTINE

Sad. I was getting a real collection going.

MEGAN BRODEUR

What about the Robotics Club? They're your friends.

CHRISTINE

Not really. All we talk about is robotics. And *that's it*. We won the BattleBots competition a month ago and they're still making adjustments to it. We already won!

MEGAN BRODEUR

They're... dedicated.

CHRISTINE

I asked Rinaldi what his favorite movies were and he said *AI*, *I, Robot*, and *Wall-E*. Come on!

Megan pulls Christine up and pushes her towards the door.

MEGAN BRODEUR

As your mother--

CHRISTINE

I'm calling social services!

MEGAN BRODEUR

I'm ordering you to go MINGLE.

CHRISTINE

Ugh!

She pushes Christine out the door. Jeremy presses play on Dylan McKay and gets misty-eyed. Megan sighs.

INT. CHRISTINE'S CAR/EXT. PV HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Christine pulls into the school parking lot, singing along to "(You're the) Devil in Disguise" by Elvis.

Suddenly, a beautiful creature catches her eye. He's just run track and he's so *goddamn* sweaty. His "RUSSEY" jersey glistens in the sunlight.

It's Devon Russey and *boy, did he grow up.*

Christine's brain has died.

OVER TO KATE: She sits in her parked car, putting away leftover fliers. Kate glances up to see Christine's car headed straight for her.

Christine is absolutely not focused on the road. Kate follows Christine's line of sight to--

Devon Russey.

Pouring water on his head.

Like a fucking supermodel.

Kate panics. Christine's still driving straight for her.

KATE

Christine! Watch the fucking--

Christine's car SLAMS into Kate's driver side. EVERYONE turns to look, including Devon. He immediately runs over as other people go to get more help.

Christine stares at Kate. Both are equally stunned.

DEVON

Woah, woah. Are you guys okay?

Devon helps both girls out of their cars. Kate nurses her shoulder.

KATE

Fucking ballsack.

CHRISTINE

I'm so sorry. I guess I wasn't paying attention.

KATE

Oh, you were. Just not to me.

Christine balks at having been caught.

DEVON

What were you paying attention to?

CHRISTINE

A dog. A, uh, hot dog...

An awkward beat. Christine shifts uncomfortably.

DEVON

Are you sure you're okay?

CHRISTINE

Really, I'm--
(off Devon's stunning
eyes)

Ah.

(sudden shift to Kate)

Let me see your arm.

Christine immediately begins inspecting Kate's arm. Devon mouths "Is she okay?" to Kate. She nods back.

KATE

It's fine. I deserved this.

Devon chuckles as Christine continues her inspection.

DEVON

And why is that?

KATE

You know, Devon Russey, I've
sacrificed some virgins over the
years and it didn't please the Gods
like I had thought-- OW!!!

Christine POPS Kate's shoulder back into it's socket.

DEVON

Oh my god!

KATE (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

CHRISTINE

My dad and I used to play Airplane
when I was a kid and every time my
arm would pop out of it's socket.
So I learned how to pop it back in.

They just stare at her in silence. Christine's uncomfortable.

INT. NURSE'S OFFICE - DAY

Shoulder in a sling, Kate fucks around in a wheelchair. She's clearly not supposed to sit in it. Christine knows it, but doesn't comment.

KATE

I thought you were squeamish. Do you remember when I convinced you I was a robot in a skin suit after we saw *Terminator* and I would threaten to peel back my skin? You were so freaked out.

CHRISTINE

Yes. We were twelve.

Kate falters. *Right.* She accidentally rams the wheelchair into the sink. Christine sighs, but holds back her comments.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

I'm going to pay for your car repairs and any medical bills. So you know.

KATE

Seriously, it's chill.

CHRISTINE

Chill? I hit you with two-tons of accelerating metal.

KATE

I have money shooting out of my asshole. We'll just call this even.

CHRISTINE

Even?

KATE

Yeah. This is like the universe balancing itself out.

Christine doesn't respond, trying to contain a growing fury. Kate doesn't notice, too focused on balancing the wheelchair up on the back of its wheel. Christine forcefully pushes the wheelchair back down.

CHRISTINE

You're straining your arm.

KATE

I'm not! It feels fine.

CHRISTINE

The nurse is going to walk back in any minute.

KATE

Buzzkill.

They fall into silence. Kate taps the armrest nervously. Finally, she pulls out a crumpled flier.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hey, you should come to my party tomorrow night.

(off her silence)

I was going to invite you before the two-tons of accelerating metal bit. I'm inviting everyone, to clarify. I'm just trying to do something nice. For everyone.

CHRISTINE

And you thought of me?

KATE

Yeah!

CHRISTINE

Even though we haven't spoken a single word to each other in six years?

KATE

Yeah...

Christine clenches her jaw. Kate plays with the wheelchair.

CHRISTINE

I'm working on something with the Robotics Club that night.

KATE

On a Saturday night? Didn't you guys just win that Battle Robot thing-a-ma-jig?

(off Christine's look)

I read it in the school paper.

(then)

I'm just saying, I know you have other interests besides that. You can't be working all the time.

This throws Christine. It's exactly what she was saying to her parents earlier. Kate pops a wheelie again.

KATE (CONT'D)

Niall Horan is going to be at my house. Singing. You don't want to miss that.

CHRISTINE

Who's that?

KATE

From One Direction??? It's literally going to be a free One Direction concert.

CHRISTINE

Actually, I'll pay. Would you take thirty-three door knobs? You know, so we're even.

Christine SLAMS the wheelchair back to the ground where it belongs. Kate goes quiet.

JUST THEN-- a BELL rings from the FRONT OFFICE.

DEVON (O.S.)

Hello? Is anyone here?

INT. FRONT OFFICE - DAY

Devon and SAI LAMBA (18), Indian, life of the party, stand at the front desk, which is currently unoccupied.

INTERCUT BETWEEN DEVON/SAI AND KATE/CHRISTINE AS NECESSARY:

Sai is currently texting.

SAI

My dad just found out you're in the school musical and he thinks that's going to make me gay.

DEVON

Well, my singing does have that effect on people.

SAI

This is serious, dude. He's not going to let me come with you to Kate's party tomorrow.

DEVON

Tell him I'm not going anymore. You can't miss 1D just because he thinks we're fucking.

Devon TAPS on the bell.

DEVON (CONT'D)

Hello? Devon and Sai here.

Kate's about to walk out front and say hi, but Christine holds her back. Kate shoots her a questioning look.

SAI

What are we doing here?

DEVON

I'm worried Christine has a head injury. She could barely speak when I was there.

Christine puts her head in her hands. *Great.*

SAI

Christine who?

DEVON

Brodeur.

SAI

Oh right. Didn't you have a thing for her at one point?

Kate and Christine freeze.

DEVON

In like seventh grade. And then something happened with a door knob?

Christine is crushed. So is Kate.

SAI

How's that even work? Like is she tall enough to--

They think about the logistics for a second.

DEVON

It looks like no one's here. Maybe they left.

SAI

Do you think I should roll into oncoming traffic before I go home?

They exit. The girls are REELING from the news.

EXT. PALOS VERDES HIGH SCHOOL - AMPHITHEATER - DAY

Christine storms off. Kate runs after her.

KATE

Christine, wait. That was huge. You actually had a chance.

CHRISTINE

Not anymore.

KATE

If he liked you once, he could like you again. You gotta go for it.

CHRISTINE

No.

KATE

Why not? You literally hit me with your car because you couldn't take your eyes off of him.

Christine spins on Kate.

CHRISTINE

You need to stop what you're doing.

KATE

What?

CHRISTINE

Talking to me like the last six years didn't happen. Are you insane?

KATE

(winks)
Clinically.

Christine walks away, not in the mood to joke.

KATE (CONT'D)

Wait, I just-- I can help you.

CHRISTINE

What?

KATE

We both know my resume shows I'm expertly qualified here. I've dated five guys in the last three years and four of them were hot.

CHRISTINE

Of course you would view that as a resume. Instead of one that actually matters.

KATE

This matters. College is a scam, which is why I didn't apply.

A moment of shock passes across Christine's face. Then--

KATE (CONT'D)

You can't ignore this. He liked you. Something you dreamt about every day of seventh grade. And it turns out it was real.

CHRISTINE

Was!

KATE

It could be "is." Feelings from seventh grade don't just change.

CHRISTINE

Believe me, that is so not true.

Christine glares at her POINTEDLY. It stings Kate.

KATE

You'll always wonder "what if" if you don't try.

CHRISTINE

Helping me now won't make up for the fact that you didn't apologize when I needed it the most. It's all I needed.

She leaves Kate to ponder that.

QUICK FLASH: Back to Spin the Bottle. The bottle has just landed on Kate. Both girls go beet red as everyone ooh's.

REGINA

DO IT!!!!!! Kiss! Kiss! Kiss!

As everyone chants, the girls turn to each other. END FLASH.

INT. RITA'S CAR - DAY

A pissed Rita drives home Kate.

RITA

I had big plans to bring my TV into my bathroom and watch Wheel of Fortune in the bath. Big plans.

KATE

Really sorry me getting hit by a car has ruined your day.

RITA

I'm just saying, your mom promised me this would be a hands-off situation.

KATE

Look, she comes back in two days and then you can go back to being a prune-y, drunk asshole. Lucky you.

Kate looks out the window. Rita softens. She takes an OLD BABY RUTH out of her bag. Hands it to Kate.

RITA

It's a couple years old. And probably not good.

KATE

Thanks.

Kate eats it.

EXT. RITA'S HOUSE/KATE'S HOUSE - DAY

Rita pulls into her driveway. Next door, Regina sits on Kate's stoop, crying. Kate gets out of the car and runs over.

KATE

What happened?

REGINA

Car problems are really going around today. I was at the gas station and I had just finished the Elderly Appreciation Scholarship where you handcuff yourself to an elderly person for an afternoon and write a paper on what you learned.

KATE

What the fuck...?

REGINA

I saw there was a cheaper gas at the gas station.

KATE

Oh, no.

REGINA

I put diesel in my mom's car. I didn't know there were two types of fuel and one of them literally destroys your car. Why don't they tell you that?!

KATE

They... do.

REGINA

Fuck. I'm going to have to use all my savings for this. My mom's going to be so mad.

KATE

I know you don't want my help, but--

Regina puts her head on Kate's good shoulder.

REGINA

This is all I need from you.

(then)

Do you think this is why Steven cheated on me?

Kate grows very uncomfortable.

KATE

Because of diesel?

REGINA

Because I'm stupid.

KATE

Oh, honey. You're so not. He cheated because he's a piece of shit with a small dick.

(catches herself)

I assume.

(then)

You did a stupid thing, but that's not who you are.

REGINA

Even when I tried to make my own poke bowl and ate raw salmon from Ralphps?

KATE

Honey, you're making this pep talk hard for me.

Regina laughs through her tears. Kate hugs her.

INT. CHRISTINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Christine and the all male Robotics Club tinker with a BATTLE ROBOT. RINALDI ALVI (17), hyper, somehow got his hands on an energy drink he definitely shouldn't be drinking.

RINALDI

And what we could do is put wings on this shit and have her fly. Oh my god, what if we sent her to SPACE?! We could do it. We just need to meet up every night and find some money for the parts. I could sell my plasma! Christine, you could sell your eggs. You don't need all of them.

Christine's eyes are wide as fuck.

INT. CHRISTINE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Wearing her best party sweater, Christine bounds down the stairs. Stops when she sees her parents holding the car keys, ready to go.

CHRISTINE

How did you know?

MEGAN BRODEUR

We were hoping.

JEREMY BRODEUR

We're so proud of you. Please don't get pregnant. Or bring a book.

Christine rolls her eyes.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A MASSIVE rager is in full swing at Kate's house. Niall Horan from One Direction is singing "One Thing" solo. Some kids are doing lines openly. One couple is *possibly* having sex against a wall.

A fucked up Kate (who no longer needs an arm brace) and Regina grind on a table at the center of it all. Sai jumps up on the table and grinds against Kate. Nothing sexual. He just wants to talk.

SAI

Kate! Come do a keg stand.

KATE

Don't you think we're getting too old for those, Sai.

SAI

Aw, come on. Everyone wants to see Ann Bencomo's kid get wild.

A FLASH of annoyance crosses Kate's face just as Christine enters the party. They catch each other's eye. Christine's weirded out by this grind line.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - LATER

Christine pours herself a drink. Sees Devon on the other side of the kitchen getting himself some water. He's alone.

CHRISTINE

(to herself)
Just do it.

She doesn't move.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

(to herself)
Move. Your legs.
(beat)
Just one leg.
(beat)
Foot?

Nothing. A JOCK (18) interrupts her dilemma as Regina comes to pour herself a drink.

JOCK

Hey, do I know you? Maybe from like middle school?

CHRISTINE

It doesn't matter.

REGINA

Christine Brodeur. Hi. I wasn't expecting to see you here.

CHRISTINE

I'm just as surprised.

REGINA

I heard what happened. You okay?

JOCK
 Christine Brodeur. I've definitely
 heard that name.
 (remembers)
 Oh, right! You were--

CHRISTINE
 I'm not a door knob humper! Okay?
 It was a rumor that some bored,
 vapid girls started.

JOCK
 I was going to say you were in my
 eighth grade Spanish class.

Christine nods. *Oh right.* She quickly rushes out, passing
 Kate. Mid-Facetime, Kate heads for the back door.

KATE
 Hey, what's up?

EXT. KATE'S BACKYARD - POOL - CONTINUOUS

On the other end of the line is Ann Bencomo.

ANN BENCOMO
 Honey! You look old.

KATE
 I look fine!

ANN BENCOMO
 I'm just saying laugh lines can
 become a problem. I have this
 amazing cream--

KATE
Mom.

ANN BENCOMO
 Just try it for a week and you'll
 notice a difference.

Behind Kate, a NAKED DRAMA KID belly-flops into the pool.

ANN BENCOMO (CONT'D)
 Who was that?

KATE
 My drug dealer.

ANN BENCOMO

Great.

(then)

I'm calling because you know that script I've been chasing for the past year?

KATE

Uh, no?

ANN BENCOMO

The guy who was attached to direct molested some underage girls-- *shocking*--and I've been tapped to step in!

KATE

That's amazing!

ANN BENCOMO

I mean, those poor girls...

KATE

Of course.

ANN BENCOMO

But this is the kind of project that could win me another Oscar. We're filming in Botswana and I leave tomorrow!

Kate's face falls.

KATE

Oh. Will you be back for my graduation?

ANN BENCOMO

Well. I mean, didn't you say at one point that you weren't even going to go? I thought you said that.

KATE

I-- Maybe?

ANN BENCOMO

Great. So we'll both just skip it. Play hookie.

Someone off-screen catches Anne's attention.

ANN BENCOMO (CONT'D)

What? How is there another FUCKING tornado?! Texas can go fuck itself!

As Anne freaks out, she doesn't notice that Kate is completely destroyed.

INT. KATE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kate and Steven SLAM into Kate's room, aggressively kissing.

STEVEN

I thought you said last time was
the last time.

KATE

Shut the fuck up, Steven.

She pulls him in for a kiss and grabs his groin.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Christine reads a BOOK in the bathtub. She stops when she hears MOANING from the room next door. Huh.

INT. KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate sucks in air to calm herself. She's clearly pained, but ignores it and pushes Steven onto the bed.

She pulls her shirt over her head. Just as it falls to the floor, Kate looks down at Steven, the reality of the situation SLAMMING her in the face.

Kate's now hyperventilating on top of Steven.

STEVEN

Kate? Are you okay?

She stumbles towards the door.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Christine hears the door in the next room OPEN and SLAM shut. Then the bathroom door opens.

Bra-clad, Kate hastily enters and sits on the floor. She puts her head in her hands. Breathes shakily.

Christine clears her throat loudly. Kate jumps. Sees it's Christine with a book.

KATE

Party animal over here.

CHRISTINE

Don't be a dick, Bencomo.

Kate shuts her eyes, close to a full blown panic attack.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

KATE

I just need another minute.

But Kate's getting worse.

CHRISTINE

Deep breaths. In and out. In and out. In and out.

Kate tries breathing in and out, but she's barely taking in air. She's totally panicked.

KATE

Am I dying?

CHRISTINE

Kate, watch me breath and follow my lead. In and out.

She tries again, but--

KATE

I can't die an asshole.

Kate completely breaks down. Christine's bewildered by that comment. Studies this broken girl unable to calm herself.

Christine picks up her book.

CHRISTINE

(reading)

"George's shoulder socked against the cement of the curb and Dave Gardener, who had stayed home from his job at The Shoeboat that day because of the flood, saw only a small boy in a yellow rain-slicker, a small boy who was screaming and writhing in the gutter with muddy water surfing over his face and making his screams sound bubbly. "Everything down here floats," that chuckling, rotten voice whispered, and suddenly there was a ripping noise and a flaring sheet of agony, and George Denbrough knew no more."

Christine glances up. Kate's understandably horrified.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
I find Steven King calming.

KATE
Continue.

CHRISTINE
(reading)
"Dave Gardener was the first to get there, and although he arrived only forty-five seconds after the first scream, George Denbrough was already dead."

Kate smiles.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Now wearing Christine's sweater, Kate sits closer to the bathtub. The girls are mid-debate, laughing as they argue.

CHRISTINE
Palos Verdes is a swirling cesspool of unhinged wealth and privilege. How can you like this place?

KATE
There's so much to do! You've got tide pools and lighthouses--

CHRISTINE
--and surf gangs made up of rich white people and--

CHRISTINE (CONT'D) Trump Golf Course. KATE Trump Golf Course.

Christine is horrified.

KATE (CONT'D)
It's a good golf course!

CHRISTINE
Kate, you are-- You are--

KATE
--someone who leaves people speechless. I have that effect.

They lock eyes for a split second.

KATE (CONT'D)

Where do you like to go, Master of Travel?

CHRISTINE

Glendale.

KATE

No one goes to Glendale on purpose. No one. Glendale is what happens when you get off the wrong exit.

CHRISTINE

Don't be a dick.

KATE

How did you even find it?

Christine says nothing. Kate throws her hands up in triumph.

CHRISTINE

It's so cute. They have a mall--

KATE

Oh wow.

CHRISTINE

They have this roller rink, Moonlight Rollerway, my parents take me to that brings out a slew of weird people. Almost everyone is bad, so it's easy to fit in. I always forget my problems there.

A beat as Kate takes this in.

KATE

Right, but they filmed part of *The OC* in Palos Verdes, so--

CHRISTINE

(laughing)

Screw you.

They lock eyes, both alight with the passion of debate. Then Kate grows very serious.

KATE

I'm so sorry.

Christine takes this in, unsure if it's genuine. But Kate looks really fucking sorry.

Just then, the door SLAMS open. It's Devon, who stops abruptly when he sees Kate and Christine.

DEVON

Oh, sorry. Is it cool if I wash my hands real quick? I spilled cranberry juice all over them.

KATE

Yeah, go for it.

He goes to the sink. Christine is very quiet.

DEVON

(to Christine)
How's the head?

CHRISTINE

Cool. It's cool.

Kate shoots Christine an exasperated look.

KATE

(to Devon)
You were really our knight in shining armor.

DEVON

Nah, I just kinda stood there. Christine was the real hero.
(to Christine)
You should be a doctor.

CHRISTINE

Okay.
(catches herself)
I, uh-- No, I don't know what I'm saying. Blood is-- No. I've been dreaming about working at NASA since I was five.

DEVON

Dig the passion. Maybe I'll see you lift off one day.

He throws her a breathtaking smile like it's nothing. Exits. Christine looks at Kate like she can't believe that happened.

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rager still going, Kate waits with Christine on the lawn.

CHRISTINE
My mom should be here soon.

KATE
Great.
(off her silence)
For what it's worth, I think you
have a chance with Devon.

CHRISTINE
I might.

KATE
You should go for it.

CHRISTINE
I might.

The short replies are killing Kate.

KATE
But I think it would be really
shortsighted of you to not take my
help because I know I'm an asshole,
but I'm also really good at helping
and I can be better than I was.

CHRISTINE
Kate.

KATE
I can't guarantee it'll work, but I
can at least open the door for you.
Please let me open the door.

Christine takes a beat to think it over.

CHRISTINE
It might be a little sticky.
(off Kate's confusion)
When you open the door. The door
knob might be a little sticky.

She winks at Kate, who BURSTS into a wide smile.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
What else am I doing anyway?

KATE
Yes! Let's make Devon our bitch!

Kate high-fives Christine.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Kate stands in the living room the next morning, unsure what to do with herself. She dials a number. It rings. Then--

ANN BENCOMO (VOICEMAIL)
 You've reached the voicemail of
 director Ann Bencomo. If this is a
 press inquiry--

Kate hangs up.

INT. RITA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAWN

Rita enters to find Kate making pancakes and listening to some dumb pop song.

RITA
 How the fuck did you get in here?

KATE
 I broke in.

RITA
 Either mow the rest of my lawn or
 get out.

KATE
 But I'm making pancakes.

RITA
 I'm not in a pancake mood.

KATE
 You're being confrontational for no
 reason. Everyone is in a pancake
 mood in the morning. Even your rat.

Next to Kate is an ugly looking rat dog thing, FLIPPER (18-
 years-old, the same age as Kate). Kate feeds him a pancake.

RITA
 Flipper's not a rat!

KATE
 That seems wrong...

Jerri enters the kitchen, but she's on her way out. She stops
 when she sees Kate.

JERRI
Kate.

KATE
I didn't bring beer. I'm just
making pancakes.

JERRI
(ignoring her)
Medicine, Rita.

RITA
I know!

Rita takes her medicine as Jerri exits.

RITA (CONT'D)
Your mom sent me your medical
records last night, which I thought
was a pretty bold move of her if
I'm being frank here.

KATE
Yeah, she doesn't really ask. She
kind of just does.

RITA
I'm not good with kids. So if you
could just handle your own shit.
Maybe go to the dentist finally.
Your file says it's been six years.

KATE
Is that long?

RITA
Yes.

KATE
That seems wrong...

RITA
There's a reason I have Flipper
instead of kids.

The mole rat dog eats the pancake in a very unattractive way.

KATE
I know. Kids are the worst.
(realizing)
Hey, maybe I should get a dog too!
But like a real one.

Rita SIGHS loudly.

INT. KATE'S CLOSET - DAY

As Kate and Regina walk over to sit on the sofa (yeah, that's how big this closet is), Kate pauses in front of Christine.

KATE
Thanks for coming.

CHRISTINE
Thanks for doing this.

Kate smiles and then sits with Regina. They take her in and whisper to each other. Christine is wearing a sweater that's kind of just fine. She squirms under the scrutiny.

KATE
You wear a lot of sweaters, huh?

CHRISTINE
Yes.

REGINA
But we live in Los Angeles?

CHRISTINE
Yes?

KATE
I was looking for your Instagram,
but I couldn't find it. Do you have
it on private or something?

CHRISTINE
I don't have Instagram.

The girls throw up their hands horror.

REGINA
How are we going to do this? The
pool party is in a week!

CHRISTINE
(horrified)
What does that have to do with
Instagram?

KATE AND REGINA
Everything.

There's a COMMOTION coming from downstairs. Christine hears the front door open. People laughing. Someone WHOOPS. Regina and Kate don't react to it.

REGINA

The *number one* way guys ask out girls is on Instagram. You're going to need one before he sees you at the pool party.

CHRISTINE

Why wouldn't he ask me out in person?

KATE

Because it's 2019 and everything is terrible. You have to up your online cred to up your in-person cred. Does that make sense?

CHRISTINE

From a psychotic perspective.

MUSIC starts playing downstairs.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Are there people here?

KATE

Oh, yeah. I kinda have an open door policy on weekends for anyone who wants to do coke in a safe place.
(off Christine's look)
Kidding. We're too old for coke.

CHRISTINE

(ignoring this)
Did the guy you were with last night ask you out on Instagram?

REGINA

What guy?

KATE

I-- um. You're thinking of someone else. I feel like I saw Simone hooking up with Jasper...

Christine picks up the deflection, but doesn't comment on it.

CHRISTINE

So how do we... up my online cred?

Off Kate's smile.

EXT. KATE'S BACKYARD - POOL - DAY

Now wearing a fly outfit, Christine poses in Kate's sick backyard. Regina's snapping photos on her phone. A small party in the house can be heard.

REGINA

Try sexy.

Christine "tries sexy." It's awkward.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Okay. Try sexy this time.

She does another awkward pose. Kate shakes her head. Christine's getting more anxious with each photo taken.

KATE

So Brodeur, *Star Wars* kind of sucks, huh?

CHRISTINE

Are you trying to be funny here? It's a classic.

KATE

Just because it's a classic doesn't automatically mean it's good.

CHRISTINE

The special effects were revolutionary for the time.

KATE

Still sucks.

Christine shoots her a LOOK. Regina snaps a picture.

Kate pulls Christine's shirt just off her shoulder. Christine shrugs her shoulders up in response.

CHRISTINE

Stop. None of this is me.

KATE

We're just trying to get a hot photo here.

CHRISTINE

Why are you trying to change me?

KATE

I'm not. You are hot.

Christine BLUSHES. So does Kate.

CHRISTINE

I-- no. I mean. I have other good qualities. It's just--

(then)

We need to do different kinds of photos. I don't want people to see me like this.

KATE

Like what?

CHRISTINE

Like I'm some kind of pervert!

She's surprised by her own admission. Regina comes up and shows Christine the photos she just took. She got some good sexy/angry photos from that Star Wars argument.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Oh, these are actually quite good.

KATE

See? Super not perverted of you.

(then)

Just kidding about *Star Wars* by the way. I've never seen it.

Christine is horrified.

EXT. RITA'S FRONT LAWN - DAY

Kate finishes mowing the other half of Rita's lawn. Then she looks at Instagram. Christine's photo has sixty likes.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - FOYER - LATER

Kate opens the door, not looking up from her phone.

KATE

You got sixty likes, none of which are from Devon. I just shared it on my account so hopefully by the end of the day--

She looks up at Christine, who's wearing a lot of make-up.

KATE (CONT'D)

Ah.

CHRISTINE

What?

INT. KATE'S ROOM - DAY

Sitting on the floor, Kate uses a make-up wipe to clean Christine's face. Christine's eyes are closed.

KATE

Less is more. You can't look like you're trying too hard.

Kate pauses, having a surprising amount of trouble focusing on her task while this close to Christine's face.

CHRISTINE

What?

KATE

Um. You're-- Stanford. You excited?

Kate now begins applying a light amount of make-up.

CHRISTINE

I can't wait. I always knew that I'd thrive once I got out of here. You get to pick what you want to study. You get to pick your friends and there's no reputation you have to worry about.

(off Kate's silence)

What?

KATE

Don't take this the wrong way, but you're the one giving your reputation all the power. I guarantee no one would care as much if you stopped fixating on it. You are so much more than a door knob humper. Again, it's so stupid.

Christine opens her eyes.

KATE (CONT'D)

"Don't be a dick, Bencomo." I know, I know.

CHRISTINE

No. I think I agree with you.

KATE

Call the presses.

They lock eyes.

QUICK FLASH: Back to Spin the Bottle. Cheering from the other seventh graders eggs on Christine, who nervously leans towards Kate. END FLASH.

Oh, they *definitely* both remember that. Christine quickly closes her eyes for Kate to continue applying make-up. Kate lets out a breath she didn't know she was holding. The fuck?

CHRISTINE

So, uh. I'm surprised you didn't apply anywhere. I feel like you'd want to at least join a sorority.

KATE

You really do think poorly of me!

CHRISTINE

You're a little basic.

KATE

This honesty is refreshing and does not hurt at all.

Christine LAUGHS.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'll be busy traveling the world telling tales of your great love story with Devon Russey.

CHRISTINE

Nice deflection.

KATE

I-- uh. What?

CHRISTINE

You deflect when someone asks you a personal question.

KATE

I don't do that.

CHRISTINE

Is that so? Then who's that mystery man from the party?

(off Kate's silence)

I was in the bathroom one room over. I heard.

Christine opens her eyes as Kate flushes in embarrassment.

KATE

I-- It was-- You don't-- I just--
 (off Christine's smile)
 Why are you smiling?

CHRISTINE

I've never seen you be awkward.
 Good to know you're human. And not,
 you know, a robot in a skin suit.

Kate lightly chuckles. They lock eyes again.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

How does my make-up look?

KATE

You're ready.

EXT. KATE'S BACKYARD - POOL - DAY

Everyone is at this party. A mini Bellagio-style fountain is at the center. Two CHEFS prepare burgers-- a sign next to it reads "Weed Burgers." Just your standard high school party.

Christine is wildly uncomfortable.

CHRISTINE

You two don't know this about me,
 but I have a bit of crippling
 social anxiety.

REGINA

You? No.

CHRISTINE

Maybe we should have focused more
 on my shit personality before we
 came here, huh?

Regina grabs Christine's shoulders.

REGINA

Repeat after me: I am worthy.

CHRISTINE

I am worthy.

REGINA

Devon and I belong together.

KATE

We don't quite know that yet...

REGINA

Kate, Jesus Christ.
(to Christine)

You and Devon Russey are fated for each other. You've been dancing around each other since you were twelve. That's so freaking cute I want to vomit. So go out there and get your soulmate's dick.

Christine's a little freaked out. Kate stands on a chair to make an announcement.

KATE

Swines! This is Christine Brodeur.

SOMEONE IN THE CROWD

(coughs loudly)
Door knob humper.

Some people GIGGLE. Christine is dying.

KATE

You might remember Christine as that whip-smart movie buff who sits at the front of a math class or two. Well, she's also a beer pong champion. So, we will be at the beer pong table if anyone dares play us.

Murmurs spread throughout the crowd. Christine is horrified.

CHRISTINE

I've never played beer pong.

KATE

But you drink, right?

CHRISTINE

I get wine drunk with my parents when we're trying to be classy.

A bare-chested Devon passes by. Christine is unwell. She takes Kate's drink and DOWNS it.

EXT. KATE'S BACKYARD - LAWN - LATER

Kate and Christine wait for any takers as a crowd gathers around the beer pong table. Devon and Sai approach.

DEVON

Beer pong champion, huh?

CHRISTINE

Yes.

Kate waits for her to say something else. She doesn't.

KATE

Christine has this unique ability where she only gets better the drunker she gets. It's pretty fucking spectacular to watch.

SAI

Alright, we'll play you.

Sai steps up. Kate turns to Christine.

KATE

You have to say something when people talk to you.

CHRISTINE

I know. I know. I will.

We think Devon is going to be Sai's partner, but someone weaves through the crowd. It's MONICA HUTCHERSON (18).

REGINA

What is Monica FUCKING Hutcherson doing here?

MONICA HUTCHERSON

That's not my middle name.

REGINA

(pointedly ignoring her)
Christine. Beat. Her. ASS.

Kate throws and makes it. Christine picks up her ball.

CHRISTINE

(to Sai and Monica)
You two are going down like a frowny. Face. Clown.

Kate stares at her, wide-eyed, as Christine shoots and misses. Devon is intently watching.

DEVON

Champions, I see.

CHRISTINE

We are. I learned from the best.

Monica's about to throw.

REGINA
 Hey batta batta.
 (off Monica's miss)
 Swing, and a miss from the whore to
 the right.

KATE
 Regina.

REGINA
 What? I didn't say anything that
 wasn't true.

MONICA HUTCHERSON
 You are so dumb if you think this
 was entirely my fault.

REGINA
 What did you just call me, Monica
 FUCKING--

MONICA HUTCHERSON
 My middle name is Elaine!

REGINA
 --*FUCKING* Hutcherson!

Kate pulls Regina towards the house. When they're out of sight, Sai makes his shot. Christine drinks a beer and gags. It's gross. Devon gives her a suspicious look.

DEVON
 Learned from the best, huh?

CHRISTINE
 Yes. Um. Seth Rogen taught me.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Kate waits for an unsettled Regina to speak first.

REGINA
 Look, I know I'm being unfair. You
 shouldn't slut-shame, especially
 when he's so much at fault for what
 happened. When I see him, I just
 want to plunk out all his eyebrows.
 (crying)
 I loved him. How could he do that?
 (trying to compose
 herself)
 I can't put all my anger on Monica.

KATE

She deserves some of it. But I wouldn't recommend yelling at her in public.

REGINA

How rational and logical of you.

Regina gives a little laugh. So does Kate, but it's hollow.

EXT. KATE'S BACKYARD - LAWN

Kate and Regina come back outside just as Sai lands his fifth cup. Christine drinks it. Then goes back to her story.

CHRISTINE

So we get there and Seth Rogen approaches me and he says, "Hey. You. Be my partner." So we beer pong it and he shows me some moves. But it was awkward because I've never seen his movies. I'm more versed in Hitchcock and Godard.

KATE

Oh my god.

CHRISTINE

Kate. This beer is odd.

Kate sees Christine's neck is starting to break out in hives.

KATE

Are you allergic to beer?

CHRISTINE

I don't know, but maybe get some Benadryl. My throat is closing up.

KATE

What? I don't have any!

CHRISTINE

(barely audible)
Of course not, you perfect robot.

Christine gasps for air. The crowd freaks as Devon runs away.

MONICA

Someone call 911!

Christine turns red. Just then, Devon parts through the crowd with an EPI-PEN and charges at Christine. He SLAMS the needle into her thigh like a goddamn knight in shining armor.

Christine GASPS in a huge breath of air.

DEVON

Thank god I'm allergic to everything, huh?

Christine makes an odd noise of approval. Without anyone paying attention, Regina shoves Monica in the pool.

INT. HOSPITAL - CHRISTINE'S ROOM - DAY

Christine's perched in her bed, watching something on the hospital TV. A knock gets her attention. It's Kate.

CHRISTINE

Hi.

KATE

Hi. I got you something.

Kate hands her the bag. As Christine opens it--

KATE (CONT'D)

I was going to get you chocolate, but I wasn't sure if you were allergic to that. So I Googled what foods no one could be allergic to.

It's a bottle of water and a container of salt.

KATE (CONT'D)

It was a surprisingly small list.

CHRISTINE

Thank you.
(then)
So that was a bust, huh?

KATE

What do you mean? You got his attention. On Monday you can thank him for being your knight in shining armor. What a great conversation opener.

CHRISTINE

Opener. But then what? I don't know how to talk to him without saying something really stupid. I'm not like you.

KATE

Then fake it. Act like you have confidence and then you will. It's what I do when I'm nervous.

CHRISTINE

Like you have anything to be nervous about. You're beautiful.

Kate blushes. Quickly looks for something else to say.

KATE

On the bright side, this has probably made people forget about the whole masturbation thing.

CHRISTINE

What's so stupid is that masturbation is very normal! What backwards society do we live in where everyone can talk about male masturbation, but not female masturbation.

(off Kate's discomfort)

Kate, how are you *still* uncomfortable with it?

(realizes)

You haven't masturbated?! But you have sex! With people! How do you even know what you like if you haven't touched yourself?

Kate stands abruptly.

KATE

I should go. I have homework.

CHRISTINE

(pulling out her phone)

You sure do. I'm buying you a vibrator right now.

KATE

Christine, no.

She lunges for her phone as Christine fends her off.

CHRISTINE
I'm just being a good friend!

Kate falls on Christine and RIPS the phone away.

KATE
Not today, bitch!

Kate's breath halts. They're *inches* away.

QUICK FLASH: Back to Spin the Bottle. Kate and Christine are about to kiss, but just before they do, Kate BOLTS up, freaked the fuck out.

KATE (CONT'D)
This is a childish game. Let's just get drunk like adults.

Off Christine, upset. END FLASH.

Yup, they both haven't forgotten that one. Kate quickly gets off her while Christine clears her throat.

Moment gone, Kate glances at Christine's phone.

KATE (CONT'D)
Holy shit. Devon liked your photo.

Christine pulls back her phone to check.

CHRISTINE
What does this mean?

KATE
We have some momentum.

BEGIN QUICK CUTS:

1. EXT. PALOS VERDES HIGH SCHOOL - AMPITHEATER - NIGHT

Devon, as Rafiki, opens Palos Verdes High School's rendition of LION KING with "Circle of Life."

DEVON (AS RAFIKI)
"Nants ingonyama bagithi baba!"

Kate, Christine, and Regina stare, wide-eyed. He's an *incredible* singer, but man is this intense.

KATE
(to Christine)
I just want you to think of this image when he goes down on you.

Christine BLUSHES.

KATE (CONT'D)
You *will* compliment him on this.

Christine nods back as Devon continues singing.

In the crowd, SAI'S FATHER (50s) watches Sai's reaction like a HAWK, looking of any signs of gayness. Sai's freaked out.

2. EXT. PALOS VERDES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER

Christine and Regina walk to class. As they pass Devon--

CHRISTINE
Hey, you were great as Rafiki.

DEVON
Thank you!

3. INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Kate gets a text from Christine.

Christine: I did it!

Kate: Way to go, Rafiki-fucker!

Christine: I'm deleting your number.

4. INT. MATH CLASS - DAY

Christine and Regina sit down, mid-convo as Christine stares at her phone. Regina is showing Christine her DUCK WHISTLE.

REGINA
This bad boy took me five tries
with a grand total of fifty-eight
hours to complete.

Kate: Would your kid be Rafiki Jr. or

REGINA (CONT'D)
I'm going to a pond after school.
Need to prove to the Duck Whistle
Scholarship that it works.

Christine: Excuse me, he'd be Christine Jr.

REGINA (CONT'D)
Christine! Pay attention.

5. INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Kate smiles at Christine's last text. The HISTORY TEACHER (40s) is mid-lecture. Devon walks into class.

HISTORY TEACHER
Devon, what did I tell you? This is the tenth time you've been tardy. You know my rule. Detention.

DEVON
What the hell!

HISTORY TEACHER
Cursing won't help your case.

6. INT. MATH CLASS - DAY

As the MATH TEACHER (30s) prattles on, Christine sneakily glances at her phone.

Kate: Devon just got detention! This is your PERFECT opportunity

Christine sits back, pondering the idea. She's unsure.

Kate: One detention won't fuck up your future

Kate: But one detention could get you fucked in the future

Kate: [WATER DROP EMOJI] [TONGUE EMOJI]

Christine nods. She can't argue with that logic. She scans the classroom. Spots Regina's Duck Whistle.

Christine picks it up. Just as she's about to blow--

END QUICK CUTS.

EXT. POND - DAY

Regina BLOWS on it. She's at a POND with Kate, testing out that Duck Whistle. Regina BLOWS again. They wait.

No ducks.

KATE
Maybe they died.

Regina shoots her a LOOK as Christine runs up to them.

REGINA
Christine! How was detention?

CHRISTINE
I think I did it.

INT. HISTORY CLASS - **FLASHBACK** - DAY

Christine and Devon silently write lines on a whiteboard as the History Teacher does work. She's faced away from them.

Christine glances over at Devon. He's bored out of his mind.

She taps on the board to get Devon's attention. He looks over and sees a HANGMAN GAME on her side of the whiteboard. One four letter word followed by one five letter word.

Devon smiles. Writes "O" on his side of the white board. Christine draws a circle for the head of the hangman and puts an "O" in the corner. He got it wrong.

Devon writes "I." He got it right. Christine writes it in.

They go back and forth like this until Devon has guessed the word. It spells out **I HATE THIS**.

Devon lightly laughs. Then stops to see if the History Teacher heard. She didn't, so Devon draws his own Hangman.

Christine's guessing letters left and right until it spells out **KILL ME**. Christine chuckles.

After this, they stop with the game and just start writing on the board.

Christine: WISH I HAD AN ALLERGY ATTACK NOW.

Devon: WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU THIS TIME.

Christine: COME TO MY FUNERAL?

Devon: ONLY IF SETH ROGEN IS THERE.

Christine chuckles. Then pauses to debate something. Then--

Christine: GOING TO KATE'S PARTY ON SATURDAY?

Devon: YES.

Christine: WILL I SEE YOU THERE?

EXT. POND - DAY

Back to the previous conversation.

CHRISTINE

And he said yes!

REGINA

WHAT?! Oh my fucking god! What did I fucking tell you about fate, dude? Yes!

As the girls jump up and down with joy, Kate is suddenly not in the mood to celebrate.

A duck QUACKS next to them. They're not dead!

INT. RITA'S CAR - DAY

Rita drives a pissed off Kate. She's mid-rant.

KATE

The thing with Devon is that he's kind of a selfish prick. He's a track star AND a musical prodigy? Like COME THE FUCK ON. Pick one! You can't be all these things. Give someone else a chance here.

RITA

And she'd definitely be dating up. It's not a good idea to date up.

KATE

Are you for real?

RITA

From the photos you've showed me, he looks like a Ken doll.

KATE

Exactly. He's basically cauliflower. She's at least unique.

RITA

You're very upset for someone who succeeded in helping this girl.

Before Kate can respond, she realizes something is off.

KATE

Wait, isn't the mall on Beverly?

RITA

Is it?

Rita pulls up to a DENTIST'S OFFICE.

KATE

No! You can't make me! What the fu--

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

Rita reads a magazine. A DENTAL HYGENIST (30s) enters.

DENTAL HYGENIST

You're good to come back.

RITA

What? No, I'm not--

DENTAL HYGENIST

She's asking for you.

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Rita enters to see Kate in the dentist's chair. The DENTIST (50s) is preparing something in the corner.

RITA

You interrupted a thrilling article about celebrity babies.

But Kate isn't listening. She's totally freaked out.

RITA (CONT'D)

Kate?

KATE

I have some cavities.

DENTIST

Twelve to be exact. I've never seen this many in someone of her age and affluence. Truly stunning stuff.

He flicks a GIGANTIC needle in preparation. Kate goes white.

RITA

Woah, woah. What are you doing?

DENTIST

It's Novocaine. She's going to need it if we're going to get them all.

(to Kate)

(MORE)

DENTIST (CONT'D)

This isn't going to be a fun procedure, but we wouldn't be here if you had come in earlier. I know candy and drugs are fun, but you should be taking care of yourself.

Kate looks away. She's trying not to cry. Rita notices.

RITA

Are you a therapist?

DENTIST

No. I'm a dentist.

RITA

Exactly. Maybe re-think your place next time you give out judgmental life advice to a child you don't know and don't have an relationship with, you dickless piece of shit.
(off his stunned silence)
Now, do what we're paying you to do and fix her mouth. And button your shirt correctly. You're an adult.

Rita sits down next to Kate, who is moved by Rita's outburst. The Dentist fixes his buttons.

DENTIST

My apologies if I offended.
(RE: the needle)
You'll only feel a pinch.

He puts the needle in her mouth. Kate grabs Rita's hand.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kate has gauze in her mouth. She prepares for a sleepover, putting out snacks, queuing up *High School Musical*.

Her phone vibrates. Kate sees who it is and picks it up.

KATE

(singing in phone)
"I'm soaring! Flying! There's not a star in Heaven that we can't reach!"
(talking in phone)
Just a quick spoiler from the best movie ever: *High School Musical*.

She's cut off when she hears an argument.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
 Mom, you can't have it both ways.

MEGAN BRODEUR (O.S.)
 I want you to go out and have fun.
 But in the past couple weeks you've
 been hospitalized and gotten
 detention. I'm right to be worried.

KATE
 Yo! Think you butt dialed m--

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
 So you won't be happy until I'm
 socializing, but not too much?

MEGAN BRODEUR (O.S.)
 I wasn't expecting you to hang out
 with the girl who broke your heart.

Kate's face falls.

INT. MEGAN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Megan drives Christine. Christine's phone is sticking out of her butt pocket, currently mid-call with Kate.

CHRISTINE
 That's an over-exaggeration.

MEGAN BRODEUR
 You listened to the *Prisoner of Azkaban* audiobook on repeat for a year straight. You didn't even move on to the next one.

CHRISTINE
 It's not as magical.

MEGAN BRODEUR
 Don't let her hurt you again.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate hangs up, unable to listen to the rest.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kate, Christine, and Regina watch *High School Musical*. Christine is in pain. Kate's zoned out, gauze now out of her mouth. Regina is typing a paper on her computer.

CHRISTINE

This is trash. I can't believe I
let you guys talk me into this.

Kate doesn't respond. She's lost in thought.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Kate?
(off her silence)
Are you okay?

KATE

Fine.

Regina's clacking away at her computer.

CHRISTINE

Am I the only one watching this?
Because if so, we're changing it to
Vertigo like I wanted.

REGINA

Oh, sorry. This is due tonight.

CHRISTINE

What is it?

REGINA

It's for the Superhero Scholarship.
You write a paper on someone who
inspires you.

KATE

Who are you doing?

REGINA

No one.

Now Christine and Kate are really interested. They look like they're about to pounce on this computer. Just as they do, Regina JUMPS away with her computer, now standing.

REGINA (CONT'D)

I knew you fuckers were going to be
like this! I'm going home so I can
finish this in PEACE.

CHRISTINE

Come on. We'll be good.

REGINA

Kate won't be.

KATE

I won't be.

Regina and Kate LAUGH. They know each other so well.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Don't make me regret writing this about you.

Kate's face falls.

CHRISTINE

That's so cute.

REGINA

Yeah, well. Best friends are inspiring or whatever.

(to Kate)

Steven, of course, was a close second, so don't get too high on your horse here. And no, you're never reading it. Telling you this information is all I'm giving you.

(to both of them)

Goodnight fools.

Christine laughs as Regina leaves the house. Kate is completely destroyed.

CHRISTINE

Kate?

Kate runs out of the room.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kate rummages through her purse in search for her keys. Christine runs in after her.

CHRISTINE

Kate, what's wrong?

Christine grabs Kate's keys. Kate won't look at her, hiding her tears instead. But Christine puts a hand on Kate's shoulder and turns her around. Kate's crying.

KATE

I'm a monster.

CHRISTINE

No, you're not.

KATE

How could you believe that?

CHRISTINE

You've changed.

KATE

I slept with Steven a couple weeks ago. I haven't changed.

Christine absorbs the news.

KATE (CONT'D)

I lied. I did apply to a couple colleges and when I found out I didn't get in anywhere... I was so sad. And he was nice.

(then)

I don't know what makes me more of a monster: telling Regina or not telling Regina.

Christine's expression is unreadable. Then in a move that surprises Kate, Christine brings her in for a hug. Kate grabs her tightly, bawling freely.

INT. KATE'S ROOM - DAWN

Eyes still puffy from crying the night before, Kate wakes up in her bed, surprised to be face-to-face with a sleeping Christine. Kate watches her, totally reeling.

Christine's eyes flutter open and stare at Kate. Despite being recently asleep, both are very alert.

There's an electricity that is almost suffocating. Did Kate just inch forward?

CHRISTINE

I think you know what the right move is here.

Kate's breathing stops. What is she talking about?

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

For the Regina thing.

KATE

Oh. I really don't. I never do.

CHRISTINE

You're a good person who makes mistakes. You're human.

KATE

I make too many. They're always so bad. What I did to you was so bad.

CHRISTINE

You're making up for it now. Find a way to make it up to her. But don't tell her. She's in a good place and you shouldn't ruin that just to clear your guilty conscience.

Kate nods. They keep staring at each other. Christine's basically glowing in the sunlight. It's breathtaking.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Tonight's the big night.

A gleeful Christine hops out of bed, leaving Kate to process this probably nothing event.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The bass DROPS as kids get FUCKED UP. This is the biggest party we've seen Kate throw. Kate and Christine are pouring themselves drinks. Regina approaches, miserable.

REGINA

Steven is here with Sky Mackley.

Steven whispers in the ear of SKY MACKLEY (18).

KATE

He's a piece of shit. You need to remember that.

REGINA

I know. I need a distraction.

KATE

(yells across the room)
Rob! Dance with Regina. She needs a partner.

ROB (18) shrugs. Then pulls Regina onto the dance floor. Christine smiles at Kate.

CHRISTINE

How are you so good at wingmaning?

KATE

I'll tell you, young Padawan. I just don't give a flying fuck.

CHRISTINE

"Young Padawan" is a *Star Wars* reference.

KATE

Is it now?

CHRISTINE

You can't use it if you don't know what it is! You know there's a screening of *New Hope* at The Egyptian tomorrow, which doesn't happen. It's going to be a huge event. You should come with me.

KATE

Not to be dramatic, but I'd rather die than see it. It's a point of pride at this point.

CHRISTINE

Stubborn girl.

IN THE CORNER: a group of people play SPIN THE BOTTLE. Christine and Kate stare at them for a beat too long.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

You would have been my first kiss.

KATE

Me too. I ended up kissing Reece Spade at Soak City a couple months later. He then made it his mission to pee on every waterslide.

CHRISTINE

(laughing)

Ew.

KATE

Who was yours?

CHRISTINE

Someone from camp. You wouldn't know her.

Her? But before we can unpack that, Devon approaches.

DEVON

Hey, Brodeur! Bencomo!

CHRISTINE

Devon, hi.

Kate walks away, now deeply troubled. They don't notice.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
How, uh, how's it going with all
the detentions?

DEVON
I did it with you, so you tell me.

CHRISTINE
Right, right. Absolutely.

DEVON
How come I haven't really seen you
around? I feel like you only really
popped up in the last month.

Christine takes a sip of her drink to compose herself. As she
pulls the cup away, she has a COCKY smile. Time to act.

CHRISTINE
I'm what you'd call a mystery.

DEVON
Is that so?

CHRISTINE
Oh, yes. I've been traveling far
across the world learning about
different cultures and dancing
naked in the moonlight.
(then)
And watching a lot of movies.

OVER TO KATE: She watches Devon laugh at what Christine just
said. Furious, Kate DOWNS a shot. Then another.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Kate and SOME GUY (18) are drunkenly making out/dancing on a
table. Across the room, Christine watches, worried.

DEVON
I don't know. I like track and I
singing's fun, but I'm not addicted
to them like other people are.

CHRISTINE
Really? But you're amazing.

DEVON
Maybe. I like a lot of things, but
I wish I loved one thing. Like you
with NASA. I don't have that.

CHRISTINE
I think you will.

Kate is now making out with a NEW GUY (18).

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
Hey, I'll be right back.

DEVON
Sure thing.

Christine moves over to Kate's side. Grabs her hand. Kate stops kissing this guy and looks down.

KATE
You grace me with your presence.

CHRISTINE
Come down here. I want to talk.

Kate jumps off the table. Stumbles a little.

KATE
How's it going with Cauliflower
Boy? Is it awkward?

CHRISTINE
No, I got in character of a
confident person and it worked. I
actually channeled you.

KATE
Me? Why the fuck would you do that?

CHRISTINE
You're the most confident person I
know. Why are you mad?

KATE
I'm not.

CHRISTINE
Then what's wrong? You only drink
this much when something's wrong.

KATE
You don't know that. You don't know
me. You literally just proved that.

Kate storms off, leaving behind a bewildered Christine.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kate stumbles into the bathroom and tries to close the door, but Christine pushes it open. Kate rounds on her.

KATE

Since when do you kiss girls?

CHRISTINE

What? Why does that matter?

KATE

You're so fucking casual about everything! It's really annoying.

CHRISTINE

Why are you acting so weird?

KATE

I've been acting weird a lot longer than tonight. I was fine before you walked back into my life.

CHRISTINE

I beg your pardon?

KATE

I beg your pardon? My GOD. You're so pretentious.

CHRISTINE

And you're so basic!

KATE

Then why are you taking my advice when you know that? I'm the worst person you could have turned to.

CHRISTINE

I'm so confused. It's working.

KATE

It's not fucking working if you're pretending to be me!

Kate steps closer to Christine, who's now trapped between a drunk, angry Kate and a door.

KATE (CONT'D)

I am not confident at all. That's why I called it an *act*. I'm pretending to be something I'm not. It's fucking awful. I'm nervous all the time. I can't sleep.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I've lost like fifteen pounds in the last couple weeks and trust me, I'm not bragging. It's actually concerning and *god*, I just want it to stop--

Kate cuts herself off and KISSES Christine.

Christine is frozen in place. When Kate realizes, she slowly pulls back. They lock eyes. Christine is totally bewildered.

Kate books it the fuck out of there.

INT. RITA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Rita's passed out on the La-Z-Boy, her respiratory monitor beeping loudly. Flipper has a nightmare on Rita's lap. Kate's on the couch. She's the only one not sleeping.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAWN

Kate enters her TRASHED HOUSE. It's empty. Kate dials a number on her phone. It rings.

ANN BENCOMO (VOICEMAIL)

You've reached the voicemail of director Ann Bencomo. If this is a--

Kate hangs up. Calls a new number.

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - LATER

Clearly a nervous wreck, Christine stands in front of Kate's front door. Takes a moment to compose herself.

She knocks. Kate opens the door in a bathrobe.

KATE

Sup?

CHRISTINE

Hi.

Silence.

KATE

Did you need something?

CHRISTINE

Where did you go last night? Regina was trying to reach you.

KATE

I was at Rita's. I don't really check my texts when I'm that drunk.

CHRISTINE

Oh.
(off the silence)
About last night--

KATE

Girls make out at parties all the time to get guys attention. It's not a big deal.

CHRISTINE

But we were in a bathroom alone.

Kate bites her lip. Right.

KATE

I was so drunk. I didn't know where I was.

CHRISTINE

Look, you caught me by surprise. I mean, everything you said about being nervous around me--

KATE

Dude, I say crazy shit when I'm drunk. Like, really crazy shit. I one time got so plastered I told that weird kid Edmond Green that I'd catsit for him sometime. He doesn't even have a cat. He just seems like the kind of guy who does, you know?

CHRISTINE

You were pretty convincing when you told me all of that.

KATE

Brodeur, do I look like someone who gets nervous?

CHRISTINE

No. I guess not.

Between Kate and the door, Christine sees Sai come down the stairs, mid-putting on a shirt. Christine's suddenly beaming.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Is that Sai?

KATE

Yeah. Love a good peen.
(annoyed)
Why are you smiling?

CHRISTINE

You sleep with inappropriate men
when you're deflecting from
something.

KATE

That's so stup--

Kate's voice stops short when Christine tentatively steps into her space, now only a couple inches away from Kate's face. She gauges Kate's reaction. Kate's breathing becomes shallow. So does Christine's.

CHRISTINE

Fascinating.

They stare at each other's lips. But the sound of footsteps gets Christine's attention. She backs away as Sai opens the door wider. He's surprised to see Christine.

SAI

Oh, hi. I was just, uh. I left
something here last night, so I
came to pick it up. What are you
doing here?

CHRISTINE

I was inviting Kate here to see a
movie tonight. They're playing *Star
Wars* at The Egyptian and Kate said
she's been dying to see it. Isn't
that right, Kate?

Kate is speechless.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

(to Sai)
I'd invite you, but it's a girls
night.

SAI

Totally. You girls have fun.

CHRISTINE

(to Kate)
Ten o'clock. I'll leave your ticket
at the kiosk.

As a dumbfounded Kate closes the door, Christine doubles over, her nerves finally hitting her at full force.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
Holy CRAP.

INT. THE EGYPTIAN THEATER - THEATER ONE - NIGHT

The theater slowly fills up. Christine's already seated, excessively TAPPING her arm rest.

She checks the time on her phone. It's 10:01. She swivels around to check the doors. No Kate.

Christine turns back around, upset. An USHER (20s) stands in front of the screen. He puffs out his chest in importance.

USHER
Ladies and gentleman, tonight you will be taken to a galaxy far far away where darkness reigns supreme and our only hope lies in a boy.

KATE
Jesus.

Kate sits next to Christine, who breathes a sigh of relief.

CHRISTINE
It's going to be good.

KATE
I blame you if it's not.

CHRISTINE
Screw you.

They lock eyes.

USHER
We're happy to present *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

The audience claps as the lights go down. The movie begins.

Both girls look at the screen, neither paying attention.

Kate's arms lay very still on her armrests. Christine clocks this. Moves her arms to rest on her own armrests, only inches apart from Kate's.

Kate registers the move, but she's frozen in place.

Christine's hand inches closer, millimeter by measly millimeter. Kate's breathing picks up.

Just as they're about to touch--

REGINA (O.S.)
(loud whisper)
Guys!

Kate and Christine jump apart as Regina and TWO OTHER GIRLS (18) sit down next to Kate. What fun!

REGINA (CONT'D)
What are you guys doing here?

CHRISTINE
What are you doing here?

REGINA
We don't usually come to stuff like this--

CHRISTINE
Oh, fantastic.

REGINA
--but we were in the mood to see a classic.
(realizing)
Christine, oh my god. How'd it go with Devon last night? Did you kiss? Did you fall in love?

Kate runs out of the theater, now thoroughly freaked out.

REGINA (CONT'D)
Is she okay?

CHRISTINE
Yes. I think she's sick. I'll go check on her.

Christine quickly exits the theater.

INT. THE EGYPTIAN THEATER - LOBBY - NIGHT

Christine enters and scans the lobby for signs of Kate. She catches her just as Kate pushes open the front doors.

CHRISTINE
Kate!

But she's already gone. Christine runs after her.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Christine slams open the door to The Egyptian Theater and sees Kate next door at the Pig N' Whistle. Kate FIST BUMPS the BOUNCER (40s), who laughs at something she just said.

CHRISTINE

Kate!

But she disappears into the bar. Christine sprints over to the Bouncer.

BOUNCER

ID.

CHRISTINE

I don't have one.

BOUNCER

Tough luck.

CHRISTINE

That's not fair! She got in.

BOUNCER

That's Kate, though.

CHRISTINE

Sir, you have to let me in. I know her. We're friends.

BOUNCER

Call her and have her come out.

CHRISTINE

She never looks at her phone. I could show you my breasts.

The Bouncer LAUGHS.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Sir, I'm in the middle of a pretty big moment here!

INT. PIG N' WHISTLE - NIGHT

Kate GULPS down a vodka cranberry like she's dying of thirst. Christine enters and angrily approaches Kate.

CHRISTINE

What kind of Lorelei Lee stunt was that? I had to pay him a hundred dollars to get in here.

KATE
Who's Lorelei Lee?

CHRISTINE
Marilyn Monroe's character in
Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.

KATE
I can't with your references. You
are the most pretentious person I
have ever met in my life.

CHRISTINE
And again, you're insufferably
basic. But here we are!
(off her silence)
Why did you run away?

KATE
It doesn't matter. Just go home.

CHRISTINE
If I go home, you're going to get
drunk and call someone you don't
care about because that's what you
do when you're scared. I get it.

Someone TAPS on Kate's shoulder. She turns and SOME OLDER GUY
(30s) throws her an award winning smile.

SOME OLDER GUY
Want to dance?

KATE
No, thanks.

He walks off. Christine continues.

CHRISTINE
But you've had me do scary things
for a while now and it feels good.

KATE
You're only saying that because
Devon's talking to you.

CHRISTINE
That's not it.

KATE
Bullshit. You've been in love with
Devon since seventh grade. *You're
fated*. I can't compete with that.

CHRISTINE

Do you want to compete with that?

ANOTHER GUY (20s) sneaks his way into the circle.

ANOTHER GUY

(to Kate)

Excuse me. Would you like to dance?

CHRISTINE

She's good.

He shrugs and slinks away. Christine waits for Kate's answer.

KATE

How are you not freaked out?

CHRISTINE

I'm terrified. And curious.

Kate catches Christine staring at her lips. But--

YET ANOTHER GUY

(to Kate)

Wow, you are beautiful.

CHRISTINE

Oh my god.

YET ANOTHER GUY

Do you want to dance with me?

KATE

No, thanks.

YET ANOTHER GUY

Aw, come on. Dance with me.

KATE

I'm good.

YET ANOTHER GUY

Come on. It'll be fun. Why not?

CHRISTINE

Because she's dancing with me.

Christine grabs Kate's hand and pulls her into the next room.

INT. PIG N' WHISTLE - DANCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The place is packed with sweaty dancers. Christine pulls Kate in close as they dance to the beat.

Their foreheads touch.

Christine leans in. They MAKE-OUT. It's hot. It's heavy. Kate pulls away and smiles. Then leans back in.

INT. SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Regina descends upon Kate and Christine.

REGINA

Christine, how did it go with Devon? I need details!

CHRISTINE

It was fine. Nothing really noteworthy happened.

Christine chances a glance Kate's way and catches Kate's eye. They both look away quickly.

REGINA

What did you talk about?

CHRISTINE

I don't know if there was a spark.

REGINA

But you're soulmates! Maybe you guys were just having an off night.

Christine and Kate don't say a word.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Why are you guys so quiet?
(off their odd silence)
Kate, are you feeling better?

KATE

I'm fine.

Regina's weirded out. Kate quickly searches for a deflection.

KATE (CONT'D)

Brodeur, what are you wearing?

CHRISTINE

Uh, my clothes?

KATE

What about the clothes I gave you? This whole thing with Devon is pointless if you don't do what we say. Maybe that was your problem.

CHRISTINE

Really? Because everything you've told me to do has almost gotten me killed and tarnished my record.

KATE

Through no fault of my own. I've done some amazing stuff for you.

CHRISTINE

Oh, have you?

Regina sighs in annoyance. Here we go again.

INT. KATE'S CAR - DAY

Different day. Different clothes. But Kate and Christine are still bickering. Regina's in the back seat zoning out.

KATE

You wouldn't even know who Beyonce is if I hadn't sat you down and forced you to listen to her.

CHRISTINE

I know who she is. I don't live under a rock. But honestly, I don't see what the big deal is.

KATE

Lemonade was revolutionary!

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - DAY

Different day. Different clothes. Regina has already been dropped off. But instead of driving Christine home, they exit the car and march towards Kate's house, still bickering.

CHRISTINE

You're only saying that because everyone else says that.

KATE

Are you calling me a follower?

CHRISTINE

Absolutely.

INT. KATE'S ROOM - DAY

Different day. Different clothes. Kate opens the door.

KATE

I am not.

CHRISTINE

Yes, you are.

KATE

Screw you.

Just as Christine's inside, Kate grabs her and shoves her against the door. They passionately kiss, neither coming up for air. This is their routine and they both love it.

INT. CHRISTINE'S ROOM - DAY

Kate and Christine are making out on Christine's bed.

CHRISTINE

Hey, I got you something.

KATE

Later. I'm busy.

Kate kisses her again.

CHRISTINE

It's really good.

Christine rolls off and runs to her desk. Pulls out a package and hands it to Kate.

Kate opens it. Flushes when she sees it's a vibrator.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Every girl needs one.

(off Kate's silence)

What?

KATE

Nothing.

CHRISTINE

It's not a big deal. See?

She takes out the vibrator. Pretends to talk as the vibrator.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

(Vibrator voice)

Don't let the patriarchy scare you into not enjoying yourself.

KATE

You're the one scaring me!

Without either of them noticing, Jeremy opens the door. Stops when he sees them.

CHRISTINE
 (Vibrator voice)
 Kaaaaaate.
 (turns on vibrator)
 Buzz! I'm lonely.

KATE
 Stop it!

Christine tries to kiss Kate, who isn't having it.

JEREMY BRODEUR
 WOAH THERE.

The girls jump apart.

INT. CHRISTINE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jeremy and Megan sit before Christine, who is mortified.

JEREMY BRODEUR
 So. That's actually not how you use
 a vibrator.

CHRISTINE
 Dad!

JEREMY BRODEUR
 I'm just saying, they're pretty
 straight forward.

Christine hits her head on the table dramatically.

MEGAN BRODEUR
 Are you... using protection?

CHRISTINE
 We're girls?

MEGAN BRODEUR
 And you can still get STDs. Dental
 dams are a way to protect yourself.
 I can explain how to use them if
 you'd like. I've had my fair share
 of female experience.

CHRISTINE
 What?!

JEREMY BRODEUR
 (so god damn proud)
 She did.

Christine suddenly stands.

CHRISTINE
 I'm moving out.

MEGAN BRODEUR
 Christine, wait. We don't have to
 talk about it, but I just need to
 know. Are you okay with this?
 (off Christine's nod)
 Then so are we. Even if Kate can be
 Kate.

CHRISTINE
 Only sometimes.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Kate and Christine stumble into the house, mid-make-out. They
 hear noises from the kitchen and Kate immediately SHOVES
 Christine off of her. She's a little rough about it.

Regina, Sai, Devon and a group of TWELVE PEOPLE stumble out
 of the kitchen when they hear the noise.

REGINA
 Kate!

EVERYONE
 Kate!!!

KATE
 Ha. Ha. Oh my god. I almost forgot
 about my open door policy.

CHRISTINE
 So amazing you do that...

Regina turns to Christine and mouths, "I brought Devon. Now's
 your chance." Then winks terribly at Christine.

Devon approaches.

DEVON
 Hey Christine. Did you get my
 message on Instagram? I sent it
 yesterday.

Regina and Kate shoot Christine one hell of a look. Christine catches Kate's eye.

CHRISTINE

Remind me what it says?

DEVON

It said, "Hey." So I just wanted to come up and say, "Hey."

(then)

Hey.

CHRISTINE

Hi.

DEVON

Um, do you want to get Trader Joe's tonight? Was thinking we could like get a spread of some cool shit and eat by the beach.

Christine is speechless. Regina is practically jumping up and down with joy. Kate's panicked.

CHRISTINE

Devon--

KATE

She would love to. Eight sound good?

DEVON

Uh, yeah. Perfect.

(to Christine)

Text me your address.

Devon throws Christine a winning smile and walks off.

REGINA

Can I give a speech at the wedding?
Can you promise me that honor?

CHRISTINE

Regina, I--

REGINA

Thank you, you're the best!

Regina moves off. Christine can't even look at Kate.

KATE

We have to keep up appearances.

CHRISTINE
Should I blow him too?

Christine leaves. Kate closes her eyes. Sighs.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As the small gathering has turned into a full blown party, Kate keeps checking her phone. The time is 8:00pm. Yup, Christine's on that date now.

There's some GASPS on the other side of the room that catch Kate's attention.

Regina and a group of people are watching ACCESS HOLLYWOOD. They turn up the volume.

REPORTER (ON TV)
We're getting reports that director Ann Bencomo was held at gunpoint in her Botswana hotel room. No news on her condition, but the gunman is still at large.

As everyone gasps at the news, Kate runs to the backyard, mid-dialing. Regina follows.

EXT. KATE'S BACKYARD - POOL - DAY

Kate and Regina anxiously wait as the phone rings.

ANN BENCOMO (O.S.)
Hello?

KATE
Mom! I just heard. Are you okay?

ANN BENCOMO (O.S.)
Oh, yeah. I just had this amazing breakfast. It was kind of orgasmic. Everything's so fresh here.

KATE
Mom. You were just held at gunpoint.

ANN BENCOMO (O.S.)
Oh, I paid a guy to point a gun at me for half an hour. He has six kids! Kind of a nightmare.

KATE

What?

ANN BENCOMO (O.S.)

It's just a strategy. The publicity will really do wonders for this movie come Oscar season.

KATE

Are you fucking insane?

ANN BENCOMO (O.S.)

You kind of have to be to win.

(then)

Why are you upset? This has nothing to do with you.

It's like a knife to the heart. But Kate ignores it.

KATE

Could you just... tell me before you decide to jump off a cliff or something? So I know?

ANN BENCOMO (O.S.)

Of course, dear.

Kate hangs up. Devastated. Regina gives her a look.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kate storms back inside, Regina closely following. The group pounces on Kate.

SAI

Kate, are you okay?

JUNIOR MINION #1

Kate! What happened?

JUNIOR MINION #2

Your mom's a fighter.

KATE

She's fine! I'm fine!

Everyone shuts up. Then start talking amongst themselves. Steven SNORTS a line of coke.

REGINA

Steven, save some for me.

Kate shoots her a look. Why the fuck is she talking to him?

INT. RITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kate storms into Rita's house as she's mid-Wheel of Fortune. Rita is noticeably sicker since we last saw her.

RITA

At some point, could you knock down this wall? I want to open up the space before I put the house on the market--

Kate picks up a hammer and THROWS IT at the wall in question. Flipper sprints away at the noise.

Rita watches as Kate picks up the hammers and DESTROYS the wall, getting out some much needed aggression.

KATE

What are you putting the house on the market for?

RITA

I don't know if you know this, but I'm kind of dying.

Kate SLAMS the hammer into the wall, silencing Rita. Kate breathes heavily while Rita waits patiently.

KATE

How are you so calm about this?

RITA

I'm a complete mess, actually.

KATE

Have you always been?

RITA

Yes and no. It fluctuates depending on what stage of my life I'm in.

Kate doesn't say anything. Processing.

RITA (CONT'D)

What's gotten me through the mess is surrounding myself with people I admire. That being said...

Rita gestures to her empty house.

RITA (CONT'D)

No one really wants to watch someone die.

(MORE)

RITA (CONT'D)

They come around when they can, but it's hard to not already view me as being dead. So, I started prank calling them from "beyond the grave" and I will say, it's making me feel a lot better.

(off Kate's silence)

Is there anyone you admire?

KATE

Yes.

RITA

Then tell them. I never told anyone that.

Rita breathes in a ragged breath that is seriously concerning. Kate's crushed.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Christine and Devon have a night picnic on the beach. Devon prepares a concoction for Christine. She's kinda off.

DEVON

We get some Trader Joe's Pita Bite Crackers, add a splash of Trader Joe's Vegan Pesto Dip--and seriously, I'm not vegan, but this shit is good. And finally, Gouda.

He hands the cracker to Christine, so proud of himself.

CHRISTINE

What are you, a spokesperson for Trader Joe's?

DEVON

I may follow all of their Instagram accounts and may be up to date on all their new products, sure. But that's just because I want TJoe's to kill the competitors.

Christine forces herself to smile. Then takes a bite.

CHRISTINE

(sad)

Wow, that was quite good.

DEVON

It doesn't seem like it was.

CHRISTINE

This is the first real date I've been on. It's all so lovely.

She's says that like it's a bad thing. Devon notices.

DEVON

I could make it not nice. I mean, psh. I could kick sand in your face if you want. How not nice is that?

CHRISTINE

Devon, I've spent years dreaming of this moment and you're exactly how I imagined you'd be. But I'm not how I imagined I'd be.

(off his stunned silence)

I guess when I found out you liked me in seventh grade, I thought I did too because I had a crush on you back then. But I realized that sometimes seventh grade feelings don't translate to twelfth grade interest. I'm sorry.

DEVON

How'd you know that?

CHRISTINE

I overheard you talking about it with Sai. You said the door knob thing made you stop.

DEVON

That's not why. I didn't want to rock the boat when I realized Kate also had a crush on you.

(off Christine, stunned)

I caught her staring at you a lot in seventh grade.

CHRISTINE

She did?

DEVON

You'd have to be blind not to notice.

Christine smiles. Devon notices.

DEVON (CONT'D)

For what it's worth, I've noticed her do the same thing now. Seriously, no hard feelings.

(MORE)

DEVON (CONT'D)

If you like her, you should tell her before school ends. Just my two cents. I won't say anything.

CHRISTINE

Thank you.

She looks down at her phone.

Kate: Come over after?

Kate: Please?

Christine watches Devon making himself a Trader Joes cheese cracker with such care.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Hey, you found something you're passionate about.

Devon pauses. Then BEAMS.

DEVON

I guess I did.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Christine enters with purpose and scans the now very crowded party. She catches Kate's eye on the other side of the room.

Picking up a nearby EMPTY BOTTLE, Christine spins it on a table. Kate walks closer to Christine as it keeps spinning.

CHRISTINE

Hear me out. There's a magical place called Glendale where no one knows us. I can confirm it has food. You could dress up and I could dress up and we could get off on the wrong exit. What do you say?

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The girls SLAM into the Kate's room, aggressively making out.

KATE

I'm so glad it was a bad date.

CHRISTINE

Yes, his penis tasted too tangy.

Kate pulls back, horrified, as Christine BURSTS out laughing.

KATE

So help me god, I'm going to bury myself under this house.

Christine KISSES her and LOCKS the door. Kate's eyes widen.

KATE (CONT'D)

Really?

Christine answers by pulling her shirt over her head. Kate kisses her neck and backs her against the bed.

As she falls on the bed, Christine looks up at Kate, totally in love. Kate straddles her, moaning a little as she grinds into her.

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Limbs and sheets are tangled together, both girls very happy.

KATE

I didn't know sex could be good.

CHRISTINE

Poor Steven and Sai.

Kate's stomach RUMBLES loudly. Christine LAUGHS.

KATE

I'm gonna enter the lion's den and get us some food.

CHRISTINE

Hurry back.

They KISS. Then Kate quickly puts on clothes, unlocks the door, and exits. Christine lays back down, totally content.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The house is swarming with people as Kate grabs chips and water. She catches Regina SMILING at Steven across the room.

He winks back. Kate pulls Regina to face her, furious.

KATE

I'm sorry. Did I miss something?

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Christine lies under the covers. The door opens.

CHRISTINE

Oh wow, Kate. That was fast--

Christine stops when she sees Monica FUCKING Hutcherson staring back at her. Monica quickly exits, wide-eyed.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Back to Regina and Kate.

REGINA

I've been maybe thinking about getting back together with Steven?
(off Kate's horror)

I know what you're going to say. But you don't know what these past couple months have been like. It's like a part of me has been ripped out. Kinda like in Ancient Egypt when they'd make mummies, they'd put a pick up your nose, scramble it, and rip your brain out through your nose.

KATE

Literally what?

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY/STAIRS

Monica WHISPERS to one of Kate's Junior Minions. She laughs and runs off to tell a CHEERLEADER.

We FOLLOW the Cheerleader down the stairs. She tells ANOTHER CHEERLEADER, who turns and tells her BOYFRIEND.

BOYFRIEND

Oh my fucking god! The door knob humper?

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Back to Regina and Kate. They walk out of the kitchen and into the living room.

REGINA

We talked about it last night. He apologized and, I don't know. I believe him. It was a one time mistake and he's allowed me to scream at him periodically for the past couple months.

(MORE)

REGINA (CONT'D)
(off their silence)
If I don't try, I'll always think
"what if."

KATE
Regina. You can't trust him.

REGINA
Why not?

LAUGHING catches their attention. Everyone around them is
whispering and staring at Kate.

PERSON #1
--door knob humper in Kate's bed.

PERSON #2
Kate's gay? Since when?!

PERSON #3
Christine Brodeur's naked in her
bed. Are they dating?

Round and round, people's whispering increases as the color
drains out of Kate. Regina shoots Kate a questioning look.
Now dressed, Christine comes downstairs to hear the final
round of whispers.

PERSON #4
Do you think they'll make out?

PERSON #5
They're so brave.

PERSON #6
Kate humping a door knob humper.

Kate's on the verge of another panic attack. Christine takes
a step towards Kate to comfort her.

Kate RECOILS back.

KATE
(loudly)
Were you waiting for me?

Christine stares at Kate. Stunned. Whispering surrounds them.

CHRISTINE
Kate. Please.

She silently pleads with Kate to stop. Kate's doesn't have
time to process all of this, the whispering growing louder.

KATE

Dude, I don't swing that way. What the hell?

Christine's heart plummets at those words. She can't speak. She glances at Regina, who's shocked. The entire party is going wild with the new gossip.

Christine runs out.

EXT. KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kate closely follows behind a devastated Christine.

KATE

Christine, wait.

Christine turns and tries to SLAP Kate, but Kate catches her hand mid-air. Tears brim Christine's eyes.

CHRISTINE

How could you do this to me? AGAIN.

KATE

I panicked. I'm sorry.

CHRISTINE

My mom told me this was going to happen again and I-- aagh!

KATE

I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. Fuck, I'm so sorry.

CHRISTINE

Shut up! If you were actually sorry, you would go back in there and tell the truth. But you won't now and you didn't back then either. Which is crazy because Devon told me you liked me in seventh grade, so why on earth would you tell people I masturbated when you had a crush on me? Why would you deny you're with me now when I know you love me?
(off Kate's silence)
Right?

KATE

It's not that simple.

CHRISTINE

It is. You're the problem. You can stop this.

KATE

Have some compassion.

Christine shoots her one fuck of a look.

KATE (CONT'D)

I have a reputation. I can't just blow that up in a single second.

CHRISTINE

You're blowing up mine to protect yours, then?

KATE

Yours was already bad!

CHRISTINE

Because of *you*. *Again*. All of my social highs and lows have hinged on your bullshit.

KATE

Excuse me?

CHRISTINE

You tell everyone I'm a pervert and I have no friends for six years. Then you tell everyone to hang out with me and I suddenly have friends. Then you kiss me and run away and you leave me to pick up the pieces. And now, oh screw me again! The cycle starts over!

KATE

That is so unfair.

CHRISTINE

It's true.

KATE

I haven't been in your life for the past six years. Have you made any friends in that time? Have you tried at all to connect to people? Don't use me as an excuse to hide behind your fucked up problems.

CHRISTINE

Screw you.

Like a slap to the face.

KATE

I wasn't ready for all of this.

CHRISTINE

Neither was I. But. Here we are.

Christine backs away, unwilling to look at her anymore.

WE STAY on Kate. She wears a mix of distressing emotions.

The party RAGES behind her. The lights are off at Rita's house. Almost dead in a way. Regina and Steven make-out against one of the windows.

Kate storms back inside.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is laughing. Dancing. Having such a magical time. "One Time" by Justin Bieber plays.

Kate grabs a bat leaning against a wall and SMASHES a window. Everyone immediately stops and stares.

KATE

Let's fuck shit up!

The crowd CHEERS and go ham on the house. Someone SMASHES a chair at the TV. Another person SHATTERS the Academy Award against the wall.

Kate uses the bat to DESTROY pictures of her family. She scream-sings along to "One Time" in an unhinged rendition.

KATE (CONT'D)

"You're my one love/My one heart/My
one life for sure/LET ME TELL YOU
ONE TIME!"

As she pulls back the bat, she knocks Regina in the face!

REGINA

Ow! What the fuck?

Kate drops the bat. Stares at Regina's bleeding lip.

REGINA (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing?

KATE

I fucked Steven. That's why you
can't trust him. That's why you
can't trust me.

They stare at each other as the chaos surrounds them. Regina
finally bursts into tears.

Kate walks out of her house.

INT. UBER - NIGHT

Kate's in the back of an Uber, lost in thought.

INT. LAX - CHECK-IN - NIGHT

Kate approaches a nerdy TICKET AGENT (20s).

KATE

I'd like one ticket to Antarctica.

The Ticket Agent is taken aback, but politely checks anyway.

TICKET AGENT

I don't know if we do that. Think
you might have to stop in Chile
first and take a boat from there...

KATE

Look, Antarctica isn't going to
exist soon. I just want to see it
before it's gone. Is Antarctica gay-
friendly?

TICKET AGENT

I don't really know a lot about
Antarctica. But if you want to see
something before it's gone, you
should really go to the Great
Barrier Reef. I think it's like
ninety percent bleached.

KATE

Brilliant! Australia is like made
of criminals. It's perfect for me.

TICKET AGENT

Umm...

KATE

Hold that thought.

Kate pulls out her phone and we see she has TEN MISSED CALLS from Regina.

She ignores that and dials a number. We stay on Kate during the following conversation.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hello?

KATE

Rita! Hear me out. You're not dead yet. We should go to Australia or Antarctica and see the end of the world before you go out. I'm at LAX right now, so I could send a car for you and--

JERRI (O.S.)

Kate, it's Jerri. Rita's in the hospital right now. She's not doing so well. I think she'd like it if you came by.

(off Kate's silence)

Kate?

Kate hangs up, unable to deal with this news.

INT. LAX - CHECK-IN - LATER

Kate sits on a bench watching the check-in line in a daze. She's clearly been sitting there for hours.

Regina RUSHES in. Finally spots Kate. Slows down when she sees just how out of it Kate seems.

REGINA

Hi.

(off Kate's silence)

Jerri called Rita and then Rita called me and threatened me a little. So here I am.

(more silence)

Where are you going?

KATE

Antarctica. Or. Chile. I haven't decided yet.

REGINA

But you don't even have a coat.

(off Kate's silence)

(MORE)

REGINA (CONT'D)

I called Christine when I was looking for you. She was upset. I think she's in love with you.

KATE

She told you about us?

Regina reacts to that. A little surprised.

REGINA

No.

(as it sinks in)

Oh, wow.

KATE

Well. This is who I am. Someone who makes horribly rash decisions and then has to hide those decisions for the rest of time. That's me. Now you know just how garbage I am. I can't escape from me. You should.

REGINA

But I don't want to.

KATE

Fuck off.

REGINA

No, you fuck off. We've been best friends for a decade and that's not going to change just because you fucked me over. Fight for me, damnit!

KATE

You can't seriously suggest we forget about this. You've been railing on Monica for months.

REGINA

I don't give a shit about Monica FUCKING Hutcherson, but you are Kate FUCKING Bencomo. I hate you and I need you to fight for us because that's what you do for the people you love.

Kate's barely keeping it together now.

KATE

But I'm horrible.

REGINA

You are horrible AND you are great.
You're like a beautiful disaster.
In my Superhero Scholarship essay,
I wrote about how you come with me
to the doctor and hold my hand
every time I need to get a shot.
You came when I was nine. You came
when I was ten. And eleven. And
twelve. And thirteen. And sadly
fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, and
seventeen.

(realizing)

Fuck, I have to get another one in
a couple weeks. Oh Jesus, fuck.

KATE

Hey, it's okay.

REGINA

I am also a goddamn disaster. I
need you. So please stay, let me be
mad at you, and fight for me. Fight
for Christine. Just fight.

KATE

Okay.

(then)

I'm so sorry, Regina.

They hug. Pull back.

REGINA

You're going to make it up to me by
doing my laundry for two years.

Kate LAUGHS. But stops when she sees Regina is serious.

KATE

Right, no totally.

INT. HOSPITAL - RITA'S ROOM - DAY

Kate enters. Sees Rita's not looking too good.

RITA

Regina found you, I see.

KATE

Thank you for that.

RITA
 Figured I'd do one good deed to
 scam my way into Heaven.

KATE
 You've done a lot of good deeds.

RITA
 So have you. You've kept a dying
 woman company.

KATE
 I was just doing that so you would
 will away all your money to me.

Rita CRACKS UP. But as she does, her eyes roll into the back
 of her head. Kate watches in horror as Rita CRASHES. A Crash
 Team rush into the room and take out a defibrillator.

DOCTOR
 Clear.

They SHOCK Rita. Kate holds her breath as Rita regains hers.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
 (to Kate)
 She's good. We got her.

Rita opens her eyes as the Crash Team backs away.

RITA
 Your bad joke almost killed me.

Kate BURSTS into tears, completely losing it. Rita scoots
 over as Kate gets in bed with her. She holds Kate like a
 little kid.

KATE
 I admire you.

RITA
 I admire you, too.

EXT. PALOS VERDES HIGH SCHOOL - FIELD - DAY

Graduation is in full swing. Some of the seniors stand in
 line as the Principal calls names.

PRINCIPAL
 Kate Bencomo.

People clap as Kate strides on stage and takes her diploma. She smiles at Jerri and Rita in the crowd. She's in a wheelchair looking a little better, but still not great.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Regina Shor.

In A DUCT TAPE GRADUATION GOWN, Regina strides on stage.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Winner of the Duct Tape Graduation Gown, the Elderly Appreciation Scholarship, the Duck Whistle Scholarship, the Superhero Scholarship, the Keep a Goldfish Alive Scholarship, the--

Regina grabs the mic before the Principal can finish.

REGINA

Grand total of fifty-five thousand dollars. FUCK ALL THE HATERS!

The Principal angrily grabs the mic back as people in the crowd hoot and holler. Kate LAUGHS. Notices Christine in the crowd doing the same.

They make eye contact.

As Regina strides towards her, Kate grabs her hand.

KATE

You might be the smartest person I've ever met in my life.

Regina beams.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Graduating seniors take off their graduation robes and deposit them in various boxes.

Kate sees Christine across the room. Makes a split second decision. Standing on a chair--

KATE

Hey!

She immediately has everyone's attention. Like always.

KATE (CONT'D)

Christine was waiting for me in my room. But that's because she was my girlfriend.

Murmurs from the crowd. Christine is stunned.

KATE (CONT'D)

(to Christine)

Christine, I love you. I've always loved you. I didn't quite know that's what that was when I was younger, but I do know I was freaking obsessed with hanging out with you. Then we almost kissed and you told me you masturbated and it scared me because you were so much more in tune with your sexuality than I was. But I tried it the other day and you were right. It's fucking awesome!

The students kind of laugh to themselves. There are some "awws." Christine gives a small smile.

KATE (CONT'D)

I needed to set the record straight that I am so goddamn gay for you.

REGINA

Kiss her!

Christine approaches Kate and pulls her down from her chair. They kiss. Led by Regina, the crowd CHEERS.

As the kiss goes on, Christine's brows furrow. Something's wrong. She pulls back as if she's been slapped.

Kate's breathless and smiling like an idiot. She hasn't noticed the change in Christine.

KATE

I can't believe this is real. I never thought I'd get you back.

CHRISTINE

Kate--

Some people start going back to their business. Others are still staring.

KATE

Regina was saying I should make a grand gesture, but I was like "no, that's cheesy as fuck." But I don't know. It just felt right in the--

That's when Kate realizes Christine is crying against her.

CHRISTINE

I don't-- I just-- I need--

Kate quickly pulls her into the hallway.

INT. PALOS VERDES HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

A deeply concerned Kate finds them a secluded hallway. Christine leans all her weight on Kate as she breaks down.

KATE

Hey, it's okay.
(off Christine's silence)
Maybe that was too public.

Christine continues sobbing against Kate. Kate rubs soothing circles on her back, but it ends up having the opposite effect. Christine leans back.

CHRISTINE

I'm not okay.

KATE

Huh? Really?

Kate offers a small smile for comfort. Christine is devastated by it.

CHRISTINE

I love you so much.

KATE

I love you too. Is that bad?

CHRISTINE

I'm so hurt by what you did. I don't know how those two things can co-exist, but they do.

KATE

Okay. That makes sense. But I can be better. I mean, I just professed my love for you in front of everyone. That was huge for me.

CHRISTINE
It was. For you.

KATE
I have bullshit, but I know if I
work hard I can get rid of it.

CHRISTINE
I need to get rid of mine, too.

Christine catches Kate's eye.

KATE
I don't understand.

CHRISTINE
You were right when you said I
haven't tried to connect and open
up with anyone besides you. I've
spent six years so furious at the
past that I couldn't live in the
present. How sad is that?

KATE
Okay. We're both fucked up. We can
work on it together.

CHRISTINE
I can't.

Kate backs up.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
If I let you back in, I'll fall
back into the cycle. I need to find
myself without you and you need to
find yourself without me. Does that
make sense?

KATE
From a psychotic perspective.

Christine kisses Kate. She pulls back.

CHRISTINE
Maybe with time...

She leaves that hanging as she turns away. Kate lets her go.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLECARD: **Two Years Later.**

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Sporting a CSULB sweater, Kate Bencomo and Flipper (now both 20) visit Rita's grave. Her headstone reads, "Rita Orson: 1965-2020. Mother to many."

KATE

I swear to god, I tried to convince Jerri to change your headstone to say something else. Because honestly it sounds a little whore-ish. Like anyone who walks by is going to think you were throwing your cat around left and right and popping out dozens of babies. Jerri didn't really like that argument.

(emotional)

But I think she was ultimately right.

Kate puts a BUD LIGHT next to her grave. Tears roll down her cheeks. Flipper starts peeing on her grave.

REGINA (O.S.)

Flipper! Jesus, how did that dog outlive Rita?

Regina Shor (now 20) comes up from behind Kate. A huge bag is slung over her shoulder.

KATE

The biggest mystery of them all.

Kate wipes away her tears, still staring at Rita's grave.

REGINA

She would have been proud of you.

KATE

I know.

Regina puts a reassuring hand on Kate's shoulder. Then--

REGINA

If you could have my laundry back by five tomorrow, that'd be excellent.

She swings the bag towards Kate. Pats her on the back. Then Regina gets a text. She sighs loudly.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Fuck me in the asshole.

INT. UCLA ADPI HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Regina begins unscrewing the hinges of a DOOR. Kate is deeply disturbed as another SORORITY SISTER stands by, furious.

SORORITY SISTER
Amelia, this is getting ridiculous!

AMELIA (O.S.)
(sobbing)
Go away!

Kate lowers her voice.

KATE
What happened?

REGINA
Something with her mom. I don't know. She's like this every time her mom calls.

SORORITY SISTER
TWO OTHER PEOPLE LIVE HERE, AMELIA!
You can't keep doing this!

Kate puts a hand on her shoulder and approaches the door. She gives a soft knock.

KATE
Amelia, this is Kate, Regina's friend. What happened?

AMELIA (O.S.)
My mom thinks I need to lose weight. But I've already been trying so hard.

KATE
I'm sorry. She's just wrong.

AMELIA (O.S.)
I wish she was nicer.

KATE
You can't change her.
Unfortunately. All you can do is surround yourself with people you admire and wait out the storm.
(off the silence)
Do you want to go somewhere fun?
Forget your problems for a night?

Silence. And then AMELIA (20), a total mess, opens the door.

INT. MOONLIGHT ROLLERWAY - RINK - NIGHT

Kate, Regina, and Amelia hang onto each other for dear life as they awkwardly skate around the rollerway. Amelia SCREAMS as she almost falls. Then LAUGHS.

AMELIA

What the fuck is this place?

Everyone falls around. The girls LAUGH. Kate suddenly stops, having caught someone's eye.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RINK is Christine Brodeur (now 20). Her hair's shorter. Maybe it's dyed. She waves at Kate.

Next to Christine, Devon Russey (now 20) pops his head out and beams at Kate like a puppy.

Kate WIPES OUT.

INT. MOONLIGHT ROLLERWAY - REST AREA - DAY

On the sidelines, Christine inspects Kate's shoulder.

CHRISTINE

On the bright side, your fall looked quite graceful.

KATE

That's why I did it. To look graceful.

Christine chuckles. As Devon, Regina, and Amelia skate by, Devon passes Christine an ICE PACK.

CHRISTINE

Thank you, Devon.

Devon throws back a THUMBS UP as the trio circles the rink. Kate keeps staring at Devon. Christine notices.

KATE

Could you tell me when you're going to pop it back in? Just a three second warning would be stellar.

CHRISTINE

Absolutely not. It's better if it comes out of nowhere.

KATE

No, it's not! It wasn't last time.

CHRISTINE

One. Two--

KATE

Wait! Wait! Wait! Just let me get
in the right mind space.

Closing her eyes, Kate takes in a deep breath.

CHRISTINE

Devon and I are just friends. His
dorm was across from mine freshman
year and now we're roommates. Just
so you know.

KATE

You two really were fated, huh?

Kate opens her eyes. They instantly lock onto Christine's.
That's when she POPS Kate's shoulder back into it's socket.

KATE (CONT'D)

OW! What the FUCK?!

CHRISTINE

It was going to hurt either way.

KATE

You used my weaknesses against me!

CHRISTINE

You're welcome.

Christine holds the ice pack to her shoulder. Kate's buzzing
from her proximity.

KATE

Guess what? I watched *Star Wars*.
(off Christine's shock)
I'm a film major so I kinda had to.
It was good.

Another silence.

CHRISTINE

You hated it, didn't you?

KATE

I have some notes.

CHRISTINE

You're unbelievable.

KATE

They walk around the desert for the first half of the movie. HALF!

CHRISTINE

It's world and character building!

KATE

Half a movie is a long time for nothing to happen.

CHRISTINE

You're an asshole.

Kate looks away. Focuses on the skaters.

KATE

How are you?

CHRISTINE

Great. I joined this mountain climbing club and we go camping every weekend. I scaled a one hundred foot sheer rock face the other day. I couldn't believe it. I had gone up with this girl I was--
(catching herself)
Anyway, we woke up at four AM like psychopaths. I barely ate breakfast and it was freezing. But when we finally got to the top, we watched the most beautiful sunrise. That was the first time I've done that. It was almost perfect.

KATE

Almost?

Christine catches her eye. Yup. *Almost.*

SCREAMS catch the girls' attention. Devon, Regina, and Amelia have just wiped out, now CRACKING UP on the floor.

CHRISTINE

So you missed your exit then?

KATE

No.

As they break into smiles...

THE END