

BLACK MITZVAH

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BLACK MITZVAH

BLACK UNICORN

noun \ˈblak\ uni-corn

1 : A black suburban person. A suburbanite so rare, it's like spotting a live unicorn.

2: See one North West. A Calabasas dwelling black unicorn and Phoebe Johnson's style icon.

Phoebe Johnson is a black unicorn and so am I. I grew up on the North Shore of Chicago—the same cluster of suburbs that inspired Tina Fey's "Mean Girls." To say Fey's depiction of my hometown was an exaggeration would be a lie. In fact, a teacher really *did* confuse me for a transfer student from Kenya—who incidentally ended up being a white girl named Chanel...

The suburb I grew up in was mostly white, wealthy, and Jewish. That makes me a black person who truly can recite "Baruch Atah Adonai" as fast as I can recite "Fuck Tha Police."

All of these characters are inspired by real people. The kids I grew up with were very raunchy, ratchet, entitled, and bored. Think blow jobs and rehab in seventh grade. Kylie Cohen? Well, she grew up to become friends with Lindsay Lohan... at a time when nobody should admit to being friends with Lindsay Lohan. That should tell you everything you need to know.

BLACK MITZVAH is a coming-of-age story about a black pre-teen trying to figure out who she is in a sea of chaos. This is the kind of intersectional comedy I wish I had growing up... to show that there were other black girls figuring out how to maintain their identities in places where nobody wants them to be who they are. Instead of movies (which had mostly white leads), I had Kanye West to teach me those things...

Rap signified confidence at times in my life when I didn't have it. Friends and crushes weren't always in my vocabulary. Kanye's presence in rap (with his pink polo and backpack) helped show that black people aren't monolithic. Especially to the white kids asking me how my life was growing up fatherless... My parents have been married for over thirty years. Oy...

Kanye's ego was the steam I used to power my own dreams. Being a fan of (*old*) Kanye helped make me a fan of myself. He had me at "George Bush doesn't care about black people." Little did I know, he'd grow up to become a Kardashian and inspire the documentary "Get Out." Say what you want about him now, he helped me at a time when all the kids around me were telling me not to believe in myself: "You can't be smart, you can't get into a top 10 college, your dad can't be a doctor, you can't live in that house, you can't be on the same level as us." Or as they say in "Mean Girls:" "You can't sit with us."

Kanye's music made me believe I could sit anywhere I want. And my parents made me believe if I worked hard enough, I really could. Being black is exhausting. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah isn't just about becoming a woman for Phoebe, it's also about accepting who she is... a black woman who doesn't need the validation of others to believe in herself. Kinda sorta like Kanye or Drake's rap personas... Whether or not a rapper like Drake or Kanye agrees to do this movie, think of Kanye as a placeholder. He's a character that represents the ego Phoebe needs as the steam to power her dreams... and gain the confidence she needs to maintain her sense of self as the only black kid in a white environment. Even (new) Kanye would toast to that. L'chaim.

Over black, we hear a pre-pubescent male voice.

MIKE (O.S.)

This is so low budget. It looks like a sex tape. Not that I would know what a sex tape looks like...

PHOEBE (O.S.)

Your finger's on the lens!

INT. MIKE SCHWARTZ'S BEDROOM - DAY

A finger is removed from the camera lens. Now all we see is a camera pointed at some **KID'S** blurry shirt.

PHOEBE (O.S.)

And it's pointed at yourself.

The camera spins around while the voice keeps talking.

MIKE (O.S.)

Confession. My cousin *may* have left some pictures of tits open on his laptop...and I *may* have looked...but it wasn't *porn* porn...

After some shaky cam, **PHOEBE JOHNSON** (black, dope AF 13 year old, awkward but thinks she's cool) comes into focus.

She stares directly at the camera. Looks annoyed.

MIKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I'm lying. It was porn. I can't unsee it. It feels great to get that off my chest. Like the cum--

PHOEBE

Mike! I don't know why you feel so comfortable being yourself around me, but you need to hide some of that like you do with other people.

CHYRON: This is Phoebe. 13. The year is 2016.

Phoebe looks nervous. We hear **ADULT PHOEBE'S** (think Jessica Williams) voice.

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)

Dear Phoebe, it's me. Phoebe. Right now, you're almost 13 and this is an important year for you. It's the year of your Bat Mitzvah...

Phoebe fixes her hair. Puts some lip gloss on. Checks her reflection in her phone's camera.

INSERT: FAMILY ALBUM

It's Phoebe's family album. Speed flip through photos of Phoebe's family. Hanukkahs. Shabbat dinners. Passover Seders.

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)

Quick pause to explain. Long story short. Your mom is Jewish. Like Drake's mom. And your dad converted...like Sammy Davis Jr... Your being black and Jewish confuses a lot of people... A lot of things confuse you too... like why white people whisper things they think are offensive to make them sound less offensive.

SHOT SERIES

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)

Take history class, for example.

-A **TEACHER** stands before the class. Phoebe sits in the front.

TEACHER

Today we're going to learn about...
(whispers while looking at Phoebe)
...*Slavery*.

Everyone looks directly at Phoebe who shrinks into her seat.

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)

Or chorus...

- A bunch of **WHITE KIDS** singing an a cappella version of "New Slaves." They whisper the word "ninja."

Phoebe's in the center of the chorus. She's not singing.

WHITE KID CHORUS

Doin' clothes you woulda thought I had help/
But they wasn't satisfied unless I picked the cotton myself/
You see it's broke *ninja* racism...

The **CHORUS TEACHER** looks moved. He's standing in front of an African-American history month banner and wearing Kente cloth. It looks as ridiculous as it sounds.

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)
 And last but not least, the first
 day back from spring break...

-**KYLIE COHEN** (12, white) enters the classroom in inappropriate clothes, sporting a tropical tan and the braids with beads that white kids love to get when they go to Mexico. She places her arm against Phoebe's.

KYLIE
 Oh my God. I'm like tanner than
you. I win. I look...
 (whispers)
Black.

Kylie's now comparing tans with her posse-- white girls with identical braids and tropical tans. Off Phoebe's look...

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)
 And anytime you express irritation
 with any of this, you're hit
 with...

-A **WHITE GIRL** (12) looks straight to camera, interview style. She's standing in front of lockers.

WHITE GIRL
 What's your problem, Phoebe? It's
 not like you're...
 (whispers)
 ...*Black, black.*

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)
 Sigh. But as Larry Johnson always
 says, everybody got haters...it's
 how you stunt on em' that matters.

EXT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - PAST

Birdman and Lil Wayne's "Stuntin' Like My Daddy" plays as Phoebe's dad, **LARRY** (40s, black, think Dave Chappelle) pulls out of the garage in a black Range Rover Sport.

Toddler Phoebe pulls out after him in a mini Range Rover Power Wheels version. They nod at each other, then put their sunglasses on at the same time.

Phoebe peels out onto the sidewalk when... A **WHITE TODDLER** pulls out in a COP CAR and blares his siren at Phoebe. It looks like a high speed chase.

Toddler Phoebe speeds up and flips him off.

We pan out to see how slowly they're actually going.

As Phoebe rounds the corner, we see her Power Wheels has a license plate that reads "F*CK Tha Police."

ADULT PHOEBE (V.O.)

As you enter womanhood, there's only one thing you want more than anything in the world. And that's for one Kanye West to attend your Bat Mitzvah... Don't worry. Obama was still president. And the only time Kanye has mentioned Trump was in a song lyric.

INT. MIKE SCHWARTZ'S BEDROOM - DAY

Phoebe takes a deep breath. She's wearing grills.

CAMERA'S PERSPECTIVE

PHOEBE

(beat, then)

Dear Kanye, I can't talk in these...

She pops the grills out.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Dear Kanye, my name is Phoebe. Please come to my Bat Mitzvah. Also, sorry about my participation in 6th grade chorus. That teacher got fired. Well not for racism, for butt grabbing teachers. They didn't care about the racism.

ESTHER (20s, think Awkwafina) steps into frame, blocking Phoebe. We're extremely close on Esther's face.

ESTHER

Kanye ain't coming to your party unless you were a Make-A-Wish kid or something.

We pan out into Mike's room. Typical pre-teen shit. Photos of Ariana Grande, Lebron, etc, etc. **MIKE SCHWARTZ** (13, thinks he's got swag, but doesn't) turns off the camera.

MIKE

God, Esther, don't you knock?

ESTHER

No. What would I look like knocking? You could be making pornos in here which is all types of illegal.

(beat, then)

Do I look like a middle-aged housewife that doesn't care if her kids drink in the house to you?

MIKE

No one's making porn!

PHOEBE

Yeah. What's wrong with you?

ESTHER

I'm still babysitting in my late 20s. That's what's wrong with me. Phoebe, it's time to go.

Phoebe collects her stuff.

MIKE

Esther won't make you leave.

Esther throws a tube of ointment over to Mike.

ESTHER

Your mom told me to remind you to use this butt cream on your hemorrhoids.

MIKE

Damn it Esther! Have some chill!

Phoebe laughs as she walks out. Mike looks at the tube.

MIKE (CONT'D)

This is Neosporin!

ESTHER

Test my authority one more time, boy.

Mike looks out the window... Watches Phoebe crossing the lawn over to her house. She waves to Mike before she walks inside.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

She got you more whipped than Cool Whip.

MIKE

Shut up. She's like my sister...

Off Mike looking out the window into the night...

PRE-LAP: An alarm sounds.

INT. PHOEBE'S ROOM - DAY

Phoebe wakes up and immediately checks her Facebook. There's an alert that 500 hundred people are attending Kylie Cohen's Bat Mitzvah. She groans. Opens insta. No likes. Stares at pics of Kylie.

She flips to Youtube. We see she and Mike have made many "Dear Kanye" videos. They all have zero views. She turns on photo booth and starts recording herself.

PHOEBE

Dear, Kanye. It's me. Phoebe.
Again. Please come to my Bat
Mitzvah. I've been a fan since 2009
when you interrupted Taylor Swift.
I was only six, but I
understood....

Phoebe flips through Kylie's expertly curated Insta. Phoebe's voice carries us into...

SHOT SERIES

PHOEBE'S HOUSE 2009

A 6 year old Phoebe watches as Kanye interrupts Taylor's VMA's acceptance speech. She's transfixed by the moment.

PHOEBE (V.O.)

There's this girl Kylie. She thinks
she does everything better than me.

SCHOOL FAIR 2010

Phoebe stands proudly next to an intense volcano model -- it even has lava oozing out of it.

Meanwhile, an 8-year-old Kylie pours vinegar into baking soda. It fizzes. Kylie gets the blue ribbon.

Phoebe throws her volcano in the trash. It starts to melt the trash can. It smokes. The fire alarm goes off.

A **TEACHER** glares at Phoebe.

PHOEBE (V.O.)
 But really, Kylie's just a girl
 with thin vocals who keeps on
 winning when she shouldn't.

GYMNASTICS CLASS 2012

Phoebe does a flip off of the uneven bars. She plants her feet proudly, only to find no one saw because everyone is watching Kylie do a dinky cartwheel. Phoebe shakes her head.

PRESCHOOL 2007

PHOEBE (V.O.)
 Since pre-school, the girl has had
 it out for me...

GRASS

TODDLER GIRLS who look like mini housewives play duck duck goose in the grass. **TODDLER KYLIE** is the ringleader.

TODDLER PHOEBE
 (approaching the group)
 Can I play?

TODDLER KYLIE
 No.

The girls cackle. **PHOEBE** turns to leave, looking on the verge of tears. **TODDLER CHASE** approaches Phoebe.

TODDLER CHASE
 You wanna play on the tire swing
 with me?

TODDLER PHOEBE
 Sure, Chase.

PHOEBE (V.O.)
 I should've known it was a trick,
 but I've been a hopeless romantic
 from an early age.

Phoebe skips over to the tire swing with Chase.

GRASS

Kylie sees Chase and Phoebe swinging on the tire swing, rage in her toddler eyes.

TIRE SWING

Phoebe and Chase are laughing and having fun. They lock eyes and have a moment.

PHOEBE (V.O.)

I thought we had something when--

Chase PUSHES her off the tire swing.

CHASE

Tag!

Phoebe catches a mouth full of sand. Kylie and co. pelt pebbles in Phoebe's direction. Phoebe runs.

MINI HOUSEWIVES

Chase the African girl!

Toddler Phoebe looks at the camera, confused. Freeze frame. She spits out sand.

TODDLER PHOEBE

Why does everyone think I'm African?

Older Phoebe enters the frame. Talks to younger Phoebe.

PHOEBE

Good question mini-me. The point is, Kanye. You HAVE to come to my Bat Mitzvah. It'll be the equivalent of interrupting Kylie on stage for me and--

PRE-LAP: BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.

END SHOT SERIES

INT. PHOEBE'S ROOM - DAY

Phoebe is interrupted by tons of FACEBOOK NOTIFICATIONS about Kylie's party. She sighs. Shuts her laptop and goes back to sleep, no fucks to give.

Her mother, **APRIL JOHNSON** (think Tracee Ellis Ross, 40s) enters the room holding a box of cupcakes.

APRIL

Phoebe, how many times do I have to tell you to close the box? I can't take these to my open house, they're all crusty.

Phoebe lifts her head up slightly.

PHOEBE

Sorry. I was stress eating. Just leave me here to die.

APRIL

You can't die yet. I want grandchildren.

PHOEBE

Five hundred people are going to Kylie Cohen's Bat Mitzvah today. I don't even know why I got invited. The girl hates me.

(beat, then)

How am I gonna measure up to that? I can't even get a like on Instagram.

April puts the box down and pulls all the covers off of Phoebe's bed.

APRIL

I like you.

PHOEBE

You have to like me, you're my mom.

A beat. April picks up a cupcake and playfully smashes the cupcake into Phoebe's face.

APRIL

I don't have to like you.

PHOEBE

Mom!

April smears more frosting on Phoebe's face.

APRIL

Your face is as crusty as these cupcakes... Get dressed for the party!

Begrudgingly, Phoebe crosses towards the bathroom while wiping frosting off her face, then SMEARS some on April.

Phoebe enters the bathroom smiling and shuts the door behind her. April laughs.

APRIL (CONT'D)

I deserved that.

INT. PHOEBE'S BATHROOM - DAY

Phoebe's brushing her teeth when her phone dings. She excitedly checks it. One new notification on Instagram.

It's a photo of Phoebe drinking a giant Frappuccino with sunglasses on. It's captioned "**Thirst Trap.**"

CHYRON: Comment from: Pop Goes De Chairy:

PRE-PUBESCENT BITCHY VOICE (V.O.)

Phoebe's the kind of girl who wears pads because tampons are too much penetration for her.

Phoebe puts her phone down. She looks at herself in the mirror. Closes her eyes. Opens them.

KANYE WEST is looking back at her.

MIRROR KANYE

If you're a Kanye West fan, you're not a fan of me. You're a fan of yourself. You will believe in yourself. I'm just the espresso. I'm just the shot in the morning to get you going to make you believe you can overcome that situation that you're dealing with all the time.

Phoebe opens her eyes. It's her again. She smiles at herself in the mirror. Grabs her phone. She deletes "Pop Goes De Chairy's" comment.

PHOEBE

Yeah. You're my espresso.

Gives herself a pound on the chest. Ow. Boobs. Off Phoebe grimacing...

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Phoebe's dad, Larry, is driving her to the Bat Mitzvah.

LARRY

You excited?

PHOEBE

Not really. Nobody gets me. Josh said I'm not really black because I talk white and don't wear FUBU.

LARRY

No one's worn FUBU since 99'.

Phoebe doesn't laugh. Stares sadly out of the window. A beat.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Do you know the ONLY time Sammy Davis Jr. didn't wear his mezuzah around his neck, he got into a car accident and lost his eye?

PHOEBE

It's supposed to go outside the door.

LARRY

Yeah, but he wore his around his neck because he thought it brought him luck. After the accident, he never left the house without it, then he researched and realized black people and Jewish people? Similar plight. So he converted. Said it was the most understood he ever felt.

(beat, then)

And I thought to myself... that nigga might be on to something.

(beat, then)

Don't say nigga. Your mother will get mad.

Larry pulls out a mezuzah tucked behind his shirt. He takes it off. Hands it to Phoebe. She takes it.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Don't let these white people tell you how to feel.

Phoebe smiles, distracting Larry from the road. He SLAMS the brakes to avoid rear-ending the person in front of him.

PHOEBE

Are you trying to kill us?!

LARRY

Girl, gimme that mezuzah back. I'll get you your own.

EXT. AM SHALOM TEMPLE - DAY

KIDS line up for a shuttle bus. Phoebe exits Larry's car. She's Bat Mitzvah chic and is carrying a mini clutch and a blue Tiffany's gift bag.

She immediately meets up with Mike who's scanning the crowd.

MIKE

Thank God. For a second, I thought I was gonna have to make small talk about Carol Goldman's breast reduction and shit.

(off Phoebe's look)

I overheard Janice gossiping about it. Apparently, she's much more balanced now. Meanwhile, Rochelle is sleeping with a trainer. He's uncircumcised. She's debating if he should have an adult Brit Milah...

PHOEBE

Does this dress make me look penetratable?

MIKE

Is that even a word?

PHOEBE

Fucking Dave De Chair. Just because he's gay, he thinks he can say whatever he wants.

Phoebe and Mike are about to continue walking inside when **CHASE SMITH** (13 year old heart throb) pulls up.

He exits his mom's car, dressed in a suit. Phoebe is mesmerized into a trance... Time slows... They lock eyes.

MIKE

Phoebe. Phoebe. Phoebe! Ugh. He's not even that hot. He's so obsessed with his facial hair and chest hair. He has one chest hair. It looks like a pube sprout.

PHOEBE

Did he smile at me? Or was he trying not to sneeze? Maybe he wants to hit this.

MIKE

That sounds wrong. And, no. He just has a weird face.

PHOEBE

Hater.

Phoebe walks forward, still mesmerized when...BAM. Phoebe bumps into a pole.

MIKE

Well, the pole wanted to hit that.

INT. FANCY COUNTRY CLUB - NIGHT

Kylie Cohen's Bat Mitzvah reception is as lavish as a million dollar wedding with ratchet sensibilities.

Think ice sculptures in the shape of gangsta dollar signs, a million blown up selfies of Kylie, coffee table book centerpieces called "THE BOOK OF KYLIE." There's even a video montage of Kylie reenacting Nicki Minaj videos (Only, Monster, etc).

There are **BURLESQUE DANCERS**, **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL DANCERS**, it's absurd. Kids pop bottles of Martinelli's over the crowd. It's a wild night at the club for pre-teens.

Phoebe and Mike are sitting in the back next to the bar sipping Shirley Temples. Phoebe slams her empty glass down.

PHOEBE

Ugh. Look at all this. Her parents didn't even make her have a service in front of everyone.

The **BARTENDER** (think Pete Davidson) shakes his head.

BARTENDER

I was a nerd too.

PHOEBE

I'm not a nerd.

He slides them two huge glasses of Shirley Temples.

BARTENDER

I still think about Timmy Rickson's birthday party where they dunked my head in a toilet. But you know what? Timmy is an adult named Timmy and me? I'm a bartender. Women love bartenders. Well not all women. My girlfriend left me. Actually I caught her blowing my best friend, and then I told her to leave. And she said "ok." And took my dog.

They back away from the bartender.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
 (to himself)
 But it could be worse. I could be
 an adult named Timmy.

A **DJ/HYPE WOMAN** (think Tiffany Haddish) hypes the crowd. The guests are playing an uncoordinated game of Coke, Pepsi.

A **KID WITH A POPPED COLLAR** approaches the booth.

POPPED COLLAR
 You got some Migos?

The Hype Woman plays Migos "Fight Night." The **WHITE KIDS** go wild! They form a mosh pit while YELLING.

KIDS
 Broke niggas stand to the left.

HYPE WOMAN
 Oh no. I don't get paid enough for
 this.

She changes the song to One Direction's "Night Changes."
 Everyone GROANS.

KIDS
 MIGOS. MIGOS. MIGOS.

HYPE PERSON
 Y'all ruined it with your inability
 to keep slurs out yo mouths. It's
 time for SNOWBALL! SO GRAB SOMEBODY
 AND SLOW DANCE.

Phoebe watches longingly as Kylie chooses Chase.

Phoebe and Mike look like they have a force field around them. No one picks them.

A **BOY** approaches her. Her heart swells, palms sweat. Is this what love feels like?

BOY
 Hey, you're blocking the kiddie
 cocktail line.

No. This is not what love feels like. She moves out of the way. Continues to watch the slow dancing. Anxious.

As the song ends, Chase walks up to Phoebe.

CHASE
Hi, Phoebe.

PHOEBE
I-- I--

MIKE
Use your words.

She cuts Mike a look.

PHOEBE
You know my name.

CHASE
Of course. You're the only--

PHOEBE
Black girl. But I'm not the only
one. It's not my fault Chelseigh
Grubbs' white parents lied to her.

ANGLE ON: CHELSEIGH GRUBBS (12, black but doesn't know it).
She's hanging with Kylie and the rest of the **COOL GIRLS**.

KYLIE
Chels, where'd you get that spray
tan? It's to die.

CHELSEIGH
Oh, I don't spray tan. I'm just
very hashtag blessed.

Back to Phoebe and Chase.

CHASE
I thought Chelseigh was Italian.

PHOEBE
Right. The H at the end of her name
is as silent as her blackness.

CHASE
And I don't know your name because
you're the only black girl. I know
it because you were the only one
who turned your science project
into a rap sing along.

Chase smiles. Phoebe loses it, whispers to an annoyed Mike.

PHOEBE
(to Mike)
That's a smile, right?!

CHASE

You wanna get out of here? A bunch of us are gonna go outside and ride golf carts.

MIKE

Because that sounds fun...

PHOEBE

Sure!

(then collects herself)

I mean, cool. Mike, you coming?

MIKE

No, because I like to follow the rules! And that sounds like some whack ass shit.

PHOEBE

Ok. Be right back.

Phoebe leaves a scandalized Mike behind.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - NIGHT

A bunch of **PARTY GUESTS** are crowded around golf carts as Phoebe and Chase walk out. Chase looks at Phoebe.

CHASE

You wanna try?
(off her look)
Golf cart drag race.

Phoebe laughs. Tries to be cool.

PHOEBE

May the best woman win.

She hops into the golf cart opposite Chase. One of the kids counts down and Phoebe takes off. Chase's cart won't move. The battery died.

Meanwhile...Phoebe's cart CAREENS off the putting green into a pond. She emerges from the water looking like a moss-covered swamp monster. Her blowout is now curly and drippy.

Chelseigh and **TALIA MEYERS** (12, white) are CACKLING...next to a stunned Chase...who is still in his golf cart.

TALIA

WTF happened to her hair?

Phoebe watches as everyone laughs at her.

PHOEBE

(to self)

Why would he like you, Phoebe?
Stupid. And now you're talking to
yourself which doesn't help.

She steels herself and blows past Chase who exits his golf
cart and runs after her.

TALIA

Why are you chasing after that
troll?

INT. BAT MITZVAH - NIGHT

Mike is back with the Bartender.

MIKE

So this Timmy dude, what does he do
now? Something bad. Like an anal
expresser at the dog groomer?

BARTENDER

Nah. He invented vape pens. His
life is pretty lit.

Before Mike can respond, he sees Phoebe walking in looking
like the swamp monster. Everyone stares. Chase is following
her towards the dance floor but can't catch up to her.

MIKE

Holy shit.

STAGE

Kylie is on stage giving a speech.

KYLIE

Thank all of you so much for
coming...unless you gave me a check
for exactly 18 dollars instead of
some higher *multiple* of 18 dollars.
All of the 18 dollar guests are
currently being escorted out.

EXIT

A BUNCH of **ADULTS** are indeed being escorted out by security.

STAGE

KYLIE (CONT'D)
But the person I'd like to thank
the most is...me...and...

Phoebe is trying to stealthily cut through the party to the bathroom.

Kylie SCREAMS at the sight of Phoebe. Focusing everyone's attention on her. Phoebe stands awkwardly at the center of the dance floor as an enormous cake with Kylie's picture on it is wheeled out.

Everyone gasps at the sight of her. Phoebe starts backing up out of embarrassment and TRIPS into the cake, destroying it.

Kylie SCREAMS a maniacal cry.

KYLIE (CONT'D)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

Talia and Chelseigh run in assessing the scene.

TALIA
God, she is such a loser. I bet she
has the world's biggest bush.

They laugh harder. Phoebe's eyes well up with tears. As Mike runs over to help her up.

MIKE
I'd shade you for breaching social
etiquette and leaving me earlier,
but you've learned your lesson.

Phoebe is on the verge of sobbing.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Just act unbothered.

Phoebe does her best unbothered look. Sticks her finger in the cake. Puts it in her mouth. The crowd GAGS.

PHOEBE
This cake is delicious...

KYLIE
GET OUT.

PHOEBE
Cool. Cool. Cool. Can I get a
giveaway shirt since I need to
change...

KYLIE

GET OUT! YOU WEREN'T EVEN INVITED.
YOUR MOM LITERALLY BEGGED MY MOM TO
INVITE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE SAD AND
LONELY AND ONLY HAVE ONE FRIEND AND
YOU'RE A LIP VIRGIN.

Everyone starts laughing. Even the SHALLOW PARENTS.

Chase starts heading in her direction. It's too much for Phoebe. She starts scrambling up but keeps slipping and sliding in the cake.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

SECURITY!

Security comes and grabs Phoebe. Everyone is recording as Phoebe is being carried out.

RANDOM PARTY KID

Snapchat, bitch.

ANOTHER RANDOM KID

Snapchat's over. It's going on
Insta story.

Mike grabs some giveaway shirts and some food. Runs out.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

Phoebe walks outside, she's hyperventilating.

PHOEBE

My life is over. I knew Kylie
wouldn't invite me on her own. My
mom is such a yenta.

MIKE

Our life is over. We in this
together.

Mike takes a bite of Bat Mitzvah leftovers when Esther pops out of a bush. They scream.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I texted her to come get us.

ESTHER

Yo, I saw your epic fail on Insta
story. I'm chaperoning y'all home,
but you gotta keep a respectable
distance. Kylie's mom promised me
one of those iPads.

They scowl at Esther.

ESTHER (CONT'D)
Don't look at me! You guys don't
know me...

She goes back into the bushes while keeping an eye on them.

Phoebe and Mike trudge forward. Mike looks towards the bushes
at Esther.

ESTHER (CONT'D)
No eye contact, Mike. God!

Off a miserable looking Phoebe...

INT. HEBREW SCHOOL - DAY

Phoebe is sitting in Hebrew School with a bunch of **KIDS**. The
GIRLS all look at her and snicker/whisper.

GIRL 1
She's never been kissed. Tragic.

GIRL 2
I heard she only got mono once
because she shared someone's *drink*.

Phoebe sighs. A **HEBREW TEACHER** leads the class.

HEBREW TEACHER
Today we learn the meaning of
receiving an aliyah.

A nerdy kid, **RYAN**, is staring at her.

RYAN
I've always wondered how are you...
(whispers)
Black?

PHOEBE
Why are you whispering the word
black?

RYAN
My grandma does it when she doesn't
wanna be offensive.

PHOEBE
The word black isn't offensive.

RYAN
 So no offense, but how are you?
 (whispers)
Black.

Phoebe rolls her eyes.

PHOEBE
 How do you have a tiny...
 (whispers)
Dick?

Everyone cackles. Ryan scowls. The Hebrew Teacher is appalled.

HEBREW TEACHER
 Phoebe! That was extremely inappropriate.

PHOEBE
 You're right. I'm sorry, Ryan. What I meant to say is how do you have a tiny *penis*.

Everyone howls. The teacher GLARES at Phoebe.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

April, Larry, Phoebe and Phoebe's little brother **SEAN** (10) are sitting at the dinner table.

APRIL
 You got kicked out of Hebrew School! Who gets kicked out of Hebrew School?! Oy, now I'm gonna have to get you a private tutor.

LARRY
 Kid's lucky she didn't kick him in the nuts.

APRIL
 Larry!

PHOEBE
 I don't wanna have a Bat Mitzvah. Besides, dad, can you tell mom, I'm not talking to her right now because she helped embarrass me by begging Kylie's mom to invite me to her party?

APRIL

You don't have a Bat Mitzvah. You become a Bat Mitzvah.

PHOEBE

Dad. Can you tell the woman who is speaking to me that I already became a woman when I menstruated?

Sean pushes his dinner away and gags.

APRIL

Look, you only have one mother so you're gonna have to get over this. Preferably before I die and you regret how horribly you treated me for the rest of your adult life.

LARRY

True. We checked with all the foster families when you were little. No one else wanted you. So we had to keep you.

SEAN

You did?!

APRIL

(to Larry)

Stop. No one knows when you're joking.

(beat, then)

And you're becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Everyone gets embarrassed sometimes. It makes you stronger.

PHOEBE

It didn't make your bladder stronger. Remember when you tried FitTea and then peed your pants at Target because you couldn't find the bathroom?

Larry and Sean look aghast.

APRIL

That was supposed to be between us.

PHOEBE

I wanted you to know what embarrassment feels like.

Phoebe walks out dramatically. Sean looks at April.

SEAN

You didn't sit on anything after
you peed did you? Like that I
touched?

INT. PHOEBE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Larry walks in while Phoebe hides under the covers.

Larry sits on the edge of the bed.

LARRY

Lemme tell you a little story. It
was about this little black baby
that died, right.

PHOEBE

This is supposed to cheer me up?

LARRY

So the black baby dies and goes to
heaven. And he's thinkin', well all
right! So he gets up there, gets
his angel wings, finds God, looks
at God and he says "God, am I an
angel now?" And God took one look
at him and said "nah, nigga you a
bat."

Phoebe laughs.

LARRY (CONT'D)

The point is, Phoebe. You're gonna
deal with shit, it's how you choose
to deal with it that matters. You
think Rosa sat on a bus for you to
sit in your bed feeling sorry for
yourself?

A beat.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Become a Bat Mitzvah. Or don't. But
Imma tell you this. You got one day
to wallow and be sad. Over Kylie
Cohen?! God, she's the kind of girl
whose picture makes you wanna take
a nap.

Phoebe sinks back into her covers as Larry exits. She scrolls
through Insta. People hanging. Brunching. Happiness. She
chucks her phone.

EXT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - DAY

Phoebe exits her house. Mike is waiting for her. They chest bump. Esther calls over to them from Mike's lawn.

ESTHER

Mike! You don't chest bump a woman,
what's wrong with you?

MIKE

She's not a woman! She cancelled
her Bat Mitzvah.

ESTHER

Probably wise after all those L's
she took last weekend.

PHOEBE

She's standing right here!

Esther walks back towards the house and trips over Mike's skateboard and falls. Phoebe laughs, then grimaces.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

She's right. That was so much
easier before puberty. Boobs ruin
everything. They're just sacks of
fat that get in the way.

Mike tries very hard not to look at Phoebe's boobs.

MIKE

They don't ruin *everything*.

Phoebe is completely oblivious to Mike's reaction, because she sees Chase biking down the street. Longing in her eyes. Time slows to something romantic like Frank Ocean's "Self Control" or "Thinkin Bout You." Mike snaps her out of it.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I thought you hated him.

PHOEBE

The heart wants what it wants.

Off Phoebe pining...

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Mike and Phoebe walk up to school. Kylie, Talia, and Chelseigh march up to Phoebe.

KYLIE

So. We've conferred. And you're officially banned from any and all Mitzvah celebrations for the rest of the year.

CHELSEIGH

Mazel tov, bitch.

MIKE

You can't do that.

KYLIE

You too. You're guilty by association. You should choose your friends more carefully, Peter.

MIKE

It's Mike.

TALIA

We'd know that if we cared.

CHELSEIGH

And don't try to crash. Everyone's on notice.

All the **STUDENTS** give the girls a head nod like they're in a secret society.

KYLIE

Got it maxi-pad?

PHOEBE

That's literally the best you could come up with? That's not even shade. Shade would be talking about how my clothes look like Stevie Wonder picked them out from Helen Keller's closet.

CHELSEIGH

Who's Stevie Wonder? Does he go here?

PHOEBE

Really? Your parents kept Stevie from you too?

Chase walks up and Kylie beelines to him. She hangs all over him. This gut punches Phoebe. Talia interjects.

TALIA

Chase, do you know what kegels are?
Because we've all been practicing
them.

CHASE

What?

KYLIE

Shut up, Chase. You're so funny.

Kylie hugs him, and glares at Phoebe.

Phoebe stares Kylie down. Chase is oblivious. Kylie releases
him, then walks away with her posse. Chase walks away.

ANGLE ON: Kylie, Chelseigh, and Talia.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Kegels. Really, Talia? That's for
loose vaginas. You told him our
vaginas are loose.

TALIA

So? He'll be thinking about sex
then.

CHELSEIGH

And isn't that better? Why would
you wanna have sex with a tight
vagina? That sounds like it'd hurt.

KYLIE

God, you guys are like twelve!

She stalks off.

Back to Phoebe. She's still staring down Kylie.

MIKE

Do you think Chelseigh's gonna have
to come out of the closet as a
black person one day?

Phoebe is still eyeing Kylie. Off her silence.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Was that one of those things that's
only okay when you say it?

PHOEBE

She can't keep me out of Bat
Mitzvahs. It's like keeping Kanye
out of fashion.

(MORE)

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Bat Mitzvah is uncanceled. I'm about to have the best Bat Mitzvah of all time. Steve Jobs. Walt Disney.

MIKE

Are you okay? You sound crazy.

Phoebe puts her arm around Mike.

PHOEBE

When I try to be great, people are always gonna try and tell me "nah nigga you a bat..." Why? Because they wanna put me in my place. Not today. Kylie's the bat.

(beat, then)

And that's one of those things only I can say.

Phoebe is determined. Off Mike's weary expression...

CHYRON: 90 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT. PHOEBE'S PARENTS' ROOM - NIGHT

April and Larry are in bed watching TV. Phoebe barges in.

PHOEBE

Hi, parents. I mean shalom.

APRIL

Larry. Tell her I'm not speaking to her right now.

LARRY

I'm gettin' off this merry go round.

PHOEBE

Bat Mitzvah is back on.

APRIL

Forget what I just said, it was all a bunch of mishegas. I forgive you.

PHOEBE

And I forgive you, mother. Haftarah, Torah portion. Whatever you want. I love you. You're the only mother I have. Thank you for giving birth to me.

She kisses April on the cheek, then exits. April is elated, Larry is befuddled.

APRIL

We're such good parents.

LARRY

I dunno, you think we let her hit her head a few too many times?

APRIL

What were we supposed to do? Her head was too big for a helmet.

INT. PHOEBE'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Phoebe makes a Bat Mitzvah vision board. Her phone beeps and she starts scrolling through Finsta (fake Insta) stories on Instagram. It's seventh grade hell.

PHOEBE'S PHONE

SHOT SERIES OF STORIES

EMO GIRL cries while listening to Lana Del Rey's "Summertime Sadness." Captioned: "I have so many feelings."

BLONDE GIRL twerks to "Started from the Bottom."

A REDHEADED GUY RANTS:

REDHEADED GUY

I don't like how everyone thinks I have a chode now. I said I like to play with TOAD on Mario Kart, not CHODE.

Phoebe quickly swipes away. A DM comes in from CoolGuy13.

CHYRON: COOLGUY13 DM: I like you. A lot.

Phoebe looks around her room, panicked.

CHYRON: COOLGUY13 DM: I just don't know how to talk to you...

A beat while Phoebe thinks.

CHYRON: PHOEBE DM: Either I'm being Catfished or you should go to jail.

Phoebe clicks off Instagram and goes to bed.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Phoebe and Mike are walking down the hall. They pause, noticing that STUDENTS are whispering and back up from them as if they have a disease.

MIKE

Did you see that? Diabetic
Stephanie just gave me the stink
eye? Me!

They get closer to **STEPHANIE (12)**, a nerdy girl with an insulin satchel. She stink eyes Mike and Phoebe.

STEPHANIE

Get away from me, Mike. I have a
rep to protect.

She puts a hoodie on and walks away like she's nervous to be seen with them.

MIKE

Are you kidding me with this Kylie
ban?! I gave Stephanie the last
slices of apples and honey at Rosh
Hoshana potluck two years ago
because her blood sugar was low! I
should've let her ass faint.

(beat, then yelling at
Stephanie)

I SHOULD HAVE LET YOU FAINT,
STEPHANIE AND I HOPE YOU HAVE A
BITTER ASS NEW YEAR.

Everyone stares at Mike like he's crazy. Stephanie hurries up down the hall, pulls the hoodie COMPLETELY over her face.

Some **JOCKS** toss a football. A **TEACHER** tries to stop them.

TEACHER

Stop. Stop. Oh what do I care? Lost
control of them like I lost control
of my life 10 years ago.

The teacher slyly sips from a tiny flask while the jocks
BULLDOZE into Phoebe.

JOCK 1

Tackled the black girl!

They cackle and run away. Mike helps Phoebe up.

PHOEBE

Look, I didn't say overcoming this was gonna be an overnight success, but it's not like anything worse can happen.

Off Mike's skeptical expression...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Phoebe is standing in front of a classroom. Kylie waves her hand wildly while a beleaguered teacher, **MR. YOUNG** (30s, completely over it) sighs.

PHOEBE

Think about chocolate chip cookies as a representation of like America. Like the chocolate chip makes the cookie better. More complete...

CHELSEIGH

I don't like chocolate chip cookies unless they don't have chocolate chips in them.

PHOEBE

Of course. I bet the only chocolate you like is "white."

TALIA

Stop saying "white" like that. You make "white" sound like a slur.

CHELSEIGH

Yeah... It's offensive.

Phoebe looks at Chelseigh disturbed she has no allies.

PHOEBE

First of all, Chelseigh...

Mr. Young shoots a "don't go there" look at Phoebe.

MR. YOUNG

How about we're done for the day, since none of you are capable of going five minutes without being triggered?

Talia points at Phoebe in horror.

TALIA

Oh my God, are you on your period?

MR. YOUNG

We didn't even make it five seconds.

Phoebe looks down, she is. Shit. Everyone starts cackling.

CLASS

Maxi-pad! Maxi-pad!

Phoebe is frozen. Mr. Young hands her a hall pass.

MR. YOUNG

Maybe you want to go to the nurse?
That looks like a lot of blood.

(awkward beat)

I'm not looking! Your pants are just *white*.

(beat, then)

Wow. Saying white like that does sound slurry.

Phoebe starts scooting out trying to cover up, mortified and unable to speak.

INT. NURSE'S OFFICE - DAY

The school **NURSE** hands Phoebe some gym shorts. Phoebe takes them.

NURSE

There comes a time in every girl's life.

PHOEBE

Save it. I know what a period is. I just couldn't give Kylie the satisfaction of wearing a pad, and I read online that tampons give you toxic shock and then you die.

NURSE

Phoebe--

PHOEBE

And then there's the diva cup. But that's literally the grossest concept I've ever heard of. A vampire wouldn't even wanna drink out of that cup.

NURSE

So you thought it would be better to just come to school in *white* pants and pray?

PHOEBE

Oh. Saying white like that does sound a little slur-ish. You've made some good points, I'd take death by tampon at this point. It's a death worth dying for.

Phoebe walks out.

CHYRON: 75 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT. ONCE UPON A BAGEL - DAY

Phoebe waits at a table. She's morose. Eyes a **SOUP LADLER** at the buffet sipping soup directly from the ladle. Ew.

A beat. She sees **SAM** (30s, think Seth Rogen) ladle some soup into a bowl. She's horrified. He takes a seat at Phoebe's table. She stares at the bowl.

SAM

Phoebe, I'm Sam. Your new Hebrew tutor.

Phoebe is staring at his soup. The **SOUP LADLER** returns and sips soup from the ladle again. He smiles like he's taunting Phoebe.

Off Phoebe's awkward silence, Sam keeps talking.

SAM (CONT'D)

I still get paid whether you talk or not.

Sam waves his hand in her face. She snaps out of it.

SAM (CONT'D)

Your mom says you've made every Hebrew Teacher you've had cry and I'm the last resort.

PHOEBE

I mean. Define cry.

SAM

Lemme ask you something. What do you want to get out of your Bat Mitzvah?

PHOEBE

I want it to be more than a party.

SAM

Good.

PHOEBE

I want it to be like a feeling.
Like life is better because this
happened. Everyone remembers it.
Like a Kendrick performance when
everybody's about to fall asleep at
the Grammys.

SAM

Bad. It's about becoming a daughter
of the commandments.

Phoebe watches as Sam is about to take a slurp of soup.

PHOEBE

Lemme ask you something. If there
was like hair or something in your
food. Would you want to know or
would you want to eat it in peace?

SAM

What kind of hair is it?

PHOEBE

What kind of question is that? A
hair is hair.

SAM

A hair is not hair, there are
different kinds of hairs. Not all
hairs are created equal.

PHOEBE

That's disgusting. I bet you're the
kind of person who doesn't wash
your hands.

SAM

Eh. You say kippah, I say yalmulke.
(off Phoebe's non-
reaction)
Like tomato, tomahto. Light humor.
Tough crowd.

He's about to take a sip of soup, Phoebe knocks the spoon out
of his hand.

PHOEBE

A dude was drinking directly out of that vat of soup. I can't have my Hebrew tutor getting SARS even if you don't care about germs.

SAM

I'm seriously debating whether or not I wanted to know that. That soup looked like it was en fuego.

(beat, then)

How do you even know what SARS is? That disease scare is older than you.

PHOEBE

Ooo girl, your breath is harsh. Cover your mouth up like you got SARS.

SAM

College Dropout.

PHOEBE

You like Kanye?

SAM

He's only one of the most misunderstood artists of our time.

PHOEBE

Like me. No one understands me except my friend Mike.

A beat while Sam absorbs this.

SAM

Getting ready for your Bat Mitzvah is kind of like "Workout Plan."

PHOEBE

How?

SAM

It's a glow up into adulthood. I mean look at me. I'm glowed up.

He is not glowed up.

PHOEBE

I can't glow up. Kylie won't let me. I need Kanye to come to my party.

SAM

Another person can't stop your glow up. You gotta figure out what it means for you.

(beat, then)

Also. No chance Kanye is coming to your Bat Mitzvah.

PHOEBE

We'll see.

SAM

I'd shave my eyebrows off if Kanye came to your Bat Mitzvah. You need to just focus on the glow up.

Off Phoebe thinking...

INT. MIKE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Esther stands in front of a white board she has affixed to the wall. It's emblazoned with the words "**GLOW UP.**"

Phoebe and Mike watch on the couch.

ESTHER

A glow up is a very specific process. Usually takes between two and seven years to complete.

PHOEBE

We have three-ish months.

ESTHER

That's like asking me to create diamonds out of farts.

PHOEBE

Fine. If you can't glow me up, I'll glow myself up.

ESTHER

Nah. I'll glow you up. It'll be better than watching Mike's parents pretend they didn't stumble upon his Internet search history.

MIKE

God, can't you keep ANYTHING to yourself?

ESTHER

I cannot, Mike. Besides...when Ms. Whitney Houston died I made a vow to myself to help sad cases. Because I, too, believe children are our future.

PHOEBE

So what does that mean?

ESTHER

You gotta change the game up. New clothes. New friends. Some dude everybody wants to bang. Talent. You got talent?

PHOEBE

I can roll my tongue like a body roll.

She does it. It's creepy.

ESTHER

No. Absolutely do not do that under any circumstance. We'll start with your clothes.

PHOEBE

What's wrong with my clothes?

ESTHER

Girl...

Off Whitney's "Greatest Love of All."

CUT TO:

INT. PHOEBE'S ROOM - DAY

Phoebe's rifling through her closet.

ESTHER (V.O.)

You need something that says swag without trying.

PHOEBE (V.O.)

This is terrible glow up music. May Whitney rest in peace though.

Music changes to "Only" by Nicki Minaj. Phoebe continues changing outfits. Esther puts the finishing touches on her. We can't see what Phoebe looks like.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Phoebe and Mike walk down the hall in slo-mo. Phoebe looks absurd in Esther-approved clothes.

She smiles at a **CUTE GUY**. He grimaces. Disappointed, she turns to Mike.

PHOEBE

(to self)

How am I supposed to glow up if everybody is racist?!

MIKE

You have spinach in your teeth.

PHOEBE

What?!

She opens her locker and looks in the mirror. She does.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Why wouldn't you tell me I had spinach in my teeth?!

MIKE

I thought it was part of some girl power "I don't really care what I look like statement."

PHOEBE

Why would I do that while we're trying to glow up?! What kind of friend doesn't tell their friend they have food in their teeth?!

MIKE

I don't know! There are a bunch of models with gaps in their teeth. I thought it was the same concept!

Phoebe looks at Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I'm hearing what I'm saying.

Phoebe shuts her locker and walks away wordlessly.

MIKE (CONT'D)

My b. This L is on me.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Phoebe is picking the spinach out of her teeth. She looks at herself in the mirror. Sighs. She blinks and Kanye stares back at her.

KANYE

People in this world shun people for being great, for being a bright color, for standing out. But the time is now, to be OK with being the greatest you. You feel me?

PHOEBE

Yeah.

KANYE

Nah. Say it with your chest. Fuck them niggas, you feel me?!

PHOEBE

Fuck them niggas, I feel you.

Kanye paces back and forth in the mirror, full Kanye.

KANYE

You're Steve Jobs. Walt Disney! People doubt you, tell em' "how Sway"?!

A toilet flushes. Stephanie The Diabetic exits. Stares at Phoebe who is mortified.

CHYRON: 70 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Phoebe sits in front of the **PRINCIPAL** (40s, white).

PRINCIPAL

You were overheard saying the n word to yourself in the bathroom. That's extremely inappropriate, Phoebe.

Phoebe stares at the Principal wordlessly.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

You should really think about how words have power. I don't think I've ever used that word.

Phoebe stares at him dumbfounded.

PHOEBE

I mean. That's a good thing...

PRINCIPAL

Stephanie was very upset by what you said.

Phoebe sighs. Off her look...

INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Phoebe's sitting at the dinner table with April, Larry, and Sean. She's feverishly swiping through inane shit on Instagram.

PHOEBE

I don't understand why I have to watch what I say to make diabetic *Stephanie* comfortable. Shouldn't she be busy watching her sugar levels? Besides, nobody cares about making me comfortable when they're using my arm to test their tans.

Larry laughs. April shoves him.

LARRY

She has a point.

APRIL

Larry, stop encouraging this. It's your fault for buying her the unedited version of N.W.A.

PHOEBE

Nigga with an attitude, I feel like O'Shea! That's my forever mood.

SEAN

Ohhhhh. She said nigga again. What y'all gonna do?

APRIL

Phoebe!

LARRY

Should we be mad about this? She's speaking with 6'4" confidence, albeit in a Kevin Hart height tone of voice, but still...

Phoebe continues swiping without looking up. She gets another DM from CoolGuy13.

CHYRON: COOLGUY13 DM: Your look today was fire. Still think I'm catfishing????

She looks around the table. Messages back.

CHYRON: PHOEBE DM: Alright if you know me, who's my worst enemy?

CHYRON: COOLGUY13 DM: Kylie. She's basic AF.

Phoebe smiles.

LARRY (CONT'D)

If I had my phone at the table, my mom woulda smacked the black off me.

PHOEBE

They didn't have phones back then.

APRIL

Oh no she did not.

Phoebe puts her hand up to silence everyone.

PHOEBE

Shhhh.

APRIL

Phoebe Alexis Johnson.

CHRYON: PHOEBE DM: Good answer. Who's my favorite human?

CHYRON: COOLGUY13 DM: Kanye West. Easy. I've liked you forever.

Phoebe slips into a dumb, stupid reverie until...

PHOEBE

My hair!

Sean flings mashed potatoes into her hair while April snatches the phone out of her hands.

LARRY
You deserved it.

They all laugh at her.

APRIL
And don't say "nigger" at school.

Everyone drops their forks.

APRIL (CONT'D)
It sounded really bad when I said
it, didn't it?

LARRY
You should never say that again.

PHOEBE
The hard "E.R." didn't help.

They all laugh again.

PHOEBE (V.O.)
Vay'dabeir Adonai...

INT. DELI - DAY

Phoebe and Sam sit across from each other.

SAM
Nah. Needs more chutzpah.

Phoebe sighs, looking out the window.

PHOEBE
(morose)
Vay'dabeir Adon--

She sighs. Sees Chase outside chatting with friends.

SAM
Who's the guy? You have a definite
"I have a crush" look.

PHOEBE
It doesn't matter. No one will ever
like me. Not like they like Kylie
and Talia.

SAM
What does chutzpah mean?

PHOEBE

Confidence. Being a fan of yourself.

SAM

Of yourself, not Kylie. One of the commandments is not to worship false idols. What do you think that means here?

Off Phoebe, thinking...

EXT. STARBUCKS - TOWN - DAY

Phoebe stands in front of Mike.

MIKE

This is the worst idea you've ever had.

PHOEBE

This'll bring Kylie down and we shouldn't worship false idols... besides, Esther said I need to find a dude everybody wants to bang.

MIKE

His bang-worthiness is questionable. And I have experience. I made it to second base with this girl at camp last summer.

PHOEBE

When? You didn't tell me that.

MIKE

Well technical second base. We were playing softball. She slid into me while I was manning second.

PHOEBE

Ok, just pretend you're Chase.

MIKE

Yo. Check out my one chest hair. Be careful with it. It's fragile.

PHOEBE

Mike. Seriously.

MIKE

Hey, Phoebe.

PHOEBE
Hey, Chase. Would you. Would you.
Would you.

MIKE
Spit it out, I don't have all day.

PHOEBE
MIKE!

Mike sighs. Stares into Phoebe's eyes.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)
I really like you, Chase. I have
for awhile. Would you wanna come to
my Bat Mitzvah?

Mike gazes at Phoebe.

MIKE
Phoebe. I like you too. And not the
way I like deep dish over thin
crust pizza. I like you as much as
I like watching clips of Jordan in
game six. I like how funny you are.
How you like weird shit like
figuring out which dude Dumbledore
would date in the real world. How
you're so nice to people that don't
deserve you being nice to them.
Like trying to invite everyone to
your Bat Mitzvah because you want
everyone to have an awesome time.

They look into each other's eyes. A little too long.

PHOEBE
Mike?

MIKE
Chase. I'm pretending to be Chase.

PHOEBE
Right. Chase. I can do this.
Thanks, Mike.

Phoebe walks out. Mike stares after her, a little shaken.

EXT. CHASE'S HOUSE - DAY

Phoebe marches up to Chase's door. Resolve in her eyes. She
takes a deep breath while talking to herself.

PHOEBE
(to self)
Chase. I like you. I like you.

She knocks on the door. Kylie answers, slurping an iced tea.

KYLIE
We don't want any.

She shuts the door in Phoebe's face.

PHOEBE
(eyes narrowing)
I will crush her into dust.

INT. CHASE'S HOUSE - DAY

Chase hands Kylie a backpack.

CHASE
Here's your sister's backpack. Did you answer my door?

KYLIE
It was one of those people trying to raise cash for hunger. I told them we do credit now.

Chase looks out the window. Sees Phoebe dancing down the sidewalk. He laughs.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Phoebe is listening to K-Ci and Jojo's "Tell Me It's Real." She's overcome by the music. Daydreams herself looking longingly into Chase's eyes, then dances right into a tree and falls.

A **DOG WALKER** steps over her.

CHYRON: 60 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Phoebe is sitting in Sex Ed class. Looks at scribbles on her desk. "Blow job kweens: Talia, Amy, Becca."

A **FAUX WOKE TEACHER** hands eggs to each of the students.

FAUX WOKE TEACHER

These represent your children, class. Drop the egg, and it means you're not responsible enough for the responsibilities of adult relations.

Chelseigh raises her hand.

CHELSEIGH

Why did you give me a brown egg?

FAUX WOKE TEACHER

Oh. I didn't want to assume you'd want a white one...

CHELSEIGH

I'm white.

The Faux Woke Teacher looks at Chelseigh. Is she serious?

FAUX WOKE TEACHER

I understand.

(to class re: Chelseigh)

They feel white on the inside.

Phoebe looks at her desk. She also has a brown egg.

PHOEBE

Who's "they"?! Why do I have a brown egg?

CHELSEIGH

No, I don't feel white. I am white.

PHOEBE

Who is "they"?! I don't feel white.

Phoebe gets up and snatches a white egg off the desk. Cracks her brown egg and the white egg on her desk. The **STUDENT** whose egg she snatched starts crying.

STUDENT

I'm gonna fail now!

PHOEBE

The eggs look the same when you crack them, what are you even talking about?

The Faux Woke Teacher GASPS.

FAUX WOKE TEACHER
 Did you just kill your baby?!
 (points at Phoebe)
 Class, they get detention for
 disrespecting life.

CHELSEIGH AND PHOEBE
 Who is "they"?!

FAUX WOKE TEACHER
 Phoebe. In this class, we don't use
 gendered pronouns.

PHOEBE
 And I respect everyone's pronouns,
 but we use colored people eggs?!

She cracks another egg and walks out. Everyone is shocked.

INT. DETENTION - DAY

Phoebe sits in detention. The **TEACHER** is snoring. Talia walks
 in with Kylie.

TALIA
 Ugh. I'm so hungry.

KYLIE
 I know. Keto is like the worst. All
 I've had today is kosher bacon.

TALIA
 Bacon isn't kosher.

KYLIE
 It is when I'm on Keto.

A **NERD** runs up to Talia.

NERD
 You want my turkey sandwich?

TALIA
 I don't eat meat.

A **GOTH GIRL** snorts.

GOTH GIRL
 Not what I heard.

Phoebe laughs. Kylie stares at her. Smiles menacingly.

KYLIE

So. Chase told me he's like in love with me but I was all slow down. His kisses are wetter than Chez's slip 'n' slide at his Bar Mitzvah last week.

TALIA

Omg, that Bar Mitzvah was dope as fuck.

(off Kylie's look)

I mean not better than yours.

They look at Phoebe, pointedly.

PHOEBE

This doesn't bother me. I'm having my own Bat Mitzvah.

They stare at her.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

And you can come.

They keep staring.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Because I like to bring people together, not divide them.

The girls look at each other.

KYLIE

Do you hear something?

TALIA

Nope.

The girls continue to pretend Phoebe isn't there.

INT. MALL - DAY

Phoebe and April wander through Neiman Marcus. April clocks a **SNOOTY SALES ASSOCIATE** following them.

PHOEBE

I hate Kylie.

APRIL

What am I paying for these Bat Mitzvah lessons for? You don't hate anybody. We forgive.

April picks up a dress.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Do you wanna wear white during the service?

PHOEBE

To really highlight the virginal aspects of my life? No one likes me. I mean Mike likes me like a friend. But no one *likes* me likes me.

April looks at her, slightly awkward. The Sales Associate continues to trail them. April clocks it.

APRIL

Ugh, I knew this day would come.

April puts down the pants she's holding. The Sales Associate sighs with relief. April picks them back up to mess with her.

The Sales Associate follows them more closely.

PHOEBE

I wouldn't even know what to do if someone did like me.

APRIL

Okay. Ask me anything. I'm open.

PHOEBE

Why do they call it a blow job if it's supposed to be fun? It sounds like work.

APRIL

I will kill your father for letting you watch American Pie.

PHOEBE

Oh relax, I'm not gonna go out and try to have sex with a pie.

April sips a long sip of an iced coffee.

APRIL

When you get older, and I mean old enough to pay for a child, and when I say old enough to pay, I mean not paying with money you take from me, you'll realize guys like virgins.

The Sales Associate is behind April. April quickly turns around.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Boo!

The Sales Associate startles backwards. Scurries away. Phoebe laughs.

INT. PHOEBE'S ROOM - DAY

Phoebe's in bed. She gets another DM.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: Biggest pet peeve is people who don't wash their hands.

CHYRON PHOEBE DM: THE WORST. I HATE PEOPLE.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: Even me?

CHYRON PHOEBE DM: Dunno. For all I know you're SIRI w/ an Insta account...

CHRYON PHOEBE DM: Have you ever like kissed someone?

CHRYON COOLGUY13 DM: Yeah. Have you?

Phoebe sighs heavily.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: I don't care... Kinda curious if you like anyone tho...:)

CHRYON PHOEBE DM: Not telling unless you say who you are.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: I'll tell you you're pretty when you smile.

Phoebe smiles, likes the message, then logs out of Insta.

Phoebe googles "how to kiss someone."

She looks at herself in the mirror. Wraps her arms around herself. She leans in to the mirror when... Her phone rings.

INT. MIKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mike is on the phone looking out his window.

MIKE

(into phone)

What the hell are you doing?

INT. PHOEBE'S ROOM - INTERCUT

Mortified Phoebe runs to the window. She pulls the curtains down.

PHOEBE
(into phone)
Can I live?! I was cleaning my
mirror!

MIKE
(into phone)
Sure...

PHOEBE
(into phone)
Also stop playing around on Insta.

MIKE
(into phone)
I'm not on Insta. My parents
parental controlled all my shit.

Off Phoebe's confused expression. She quickly hangs up.

Phoebe makes sure the curtains are closed. Resumes her stance in front of the mirror when Larry walks in. Phoebe falls backwards. She scrambles back up.

PHOEBE
Doesn't anybody knock?!

LARRY
In my own house? No. Your mother
says we need to have a sex talk.

PHOEBE
We do not.

Larry sits down at the edge of the bed.

LARRY
I don't want you learning stuff
from those little urchins you go to
school with, so I brought aids.
(beat, then)
I mean I brought props. Aids is
what you get if you don't use a
condom.

Larry pulls out a box of condoms.

PHOEBE
Dad! STOP.

He pulls out a cucumber.

LARRY

So you put the condom on the cucumber. And you better not be doing this for at least fifteen years. But you know what? Teaching you this now is important. Because a broke ass you learning how not to have a baby equals some peace of mind for me.

Phoebe is appalled.

PHOEBE

I get it. I know how everything works. And if you continue, I will die. I will actually die.

LARRY

Thank God, because I didn't want to pull out anything else. Speaking of which, pulling out is not a form of birth control...

PHOEBE

DADDY! STOP! You don't even have to worry anyway. I'm a germaphobe, plus no one at school wants to date a black girl. I'm like guy repellent.

A beat.

LARRY

They don't deserve to date a black girl.

PHOEBE

According to "Don't Hurt Yourself," the most neglected person in America is the black woman.

LARRY

Malcolm X said that, not some song.

PHOEBE

I know who said it, just wanted to make you sweat since you came in here with condoms and cucumbers.

Larry laughs.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

But you know what. Beyonce got cheated on. You can like literally be like perfect and like it's still not enough. Like how else can you explain me not having a boyfriend?

LARRY

Your gratuitous use of the word "like" helps explain it.

Phoebe throws a pillow at him.

PHOEBE

You can leave now.

Larry pulls a mezuzah out of his pocket.

LARRY

Not before I give you this.

Hands the mezuzah to Phoebe.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Don't let anybody make you feel like you're not enough. There's power in this, use it wisely.

Larry begins walking out.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Why does your mirror have lipstick marks all over it?

PHOEBE

Daddy, get out!

Larry walks out while Phoebe looks at the mezuzah.

CHYRON: 40 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT. DELI - DAY

Phoebe sits with Sam.

SAM

The crux of the halakhah is the 613 mitzvot that God gave to the Jewish people.

PHOEBE

So how do I apply that to my life?

SAM

It includes all of the commandments in the Torah, but in the everyday sense? Good deeds.

PHOEBE

So like if I were to do some good deeds. That'd make me better? Faster? Stronger?

SAM

A better person. Yeah.

Phoebe pulls out her mezuzah. Rubs it between her fingers.

PHOEBE

So if I do a bunch of good deeds, it'll be like eating a Mario magic mushroom for my lucky mezuzah? Like it'll increase it's luck?

SAM

That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard you say.

PHOEBE

Not according to Sammy Davis Jr. And I don't remember asking for your opinion, Sam. Goodbye. I have deeds to do.

Phoebe walks out. And we...

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF GOOD DEEDS

EXT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Phoebe holds the door for an **ELDERLY WOMAN**. The woman doesn't say "thank you," then Phoebe gets stuck holding the door for a bunch of **CUSTOMERS**. None of them say "thank you."

PHOEBE

You're welcome, everyone.

She lets go of the door, thinking the person behind her will hold it as she walks through. He lets it hit her instead.

EXT. GYM FIELD - DAY

Mike and Phoebe finish the mile. Stephanie the Diabetic looks like she's about to pass out. Phoebe starts sipping from her water bottle. Stephanie approaches them.

STEPHANIE

Can I have a sip of your water?

MIKE

Pretend you don't see it like you don't see us.

Phoebe looks at Stephanie then her water.

PHOEBE

I don't really "share" water. I mean the germs just swirling around and--

Phoebe stops herself.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Nevermind. You can have it.

MIKE

No, Phoebe! Let her ass faint!

PHOEBE

It's a mitzvot, Mike! I need good karma.

Stephanie takes the water, slobbers all over it. Hands it back to a repulsed Phoebe.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

You just keep that.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Phoebe sees a **HIPPIE DUDE** collecting money for the Salvation Army. She hands them a bill. The Hippie Dude lights up.

HIPPIE DUDE

One hundred dollars! You shouldn't have!

PHOEBE

Wait no. I didn't. That was my Hanukkah money, I meant to give you a ten.

HIPPIE DUDE
No take backs.

The Hippie runs away. Phoebe chases him. Off Phoebe, out of breath.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Phoebe and Mike sit in front of Esther. Phoebe clutches her mezuzah, then ties it around her neck.

PHOEBE
I've done like a million good deeds. I'm ready to glow up.

ESTHER
Isn't that supposed to go outside the door?

PHOEBE
Sammy Davis Jr. wore his because he thought it was lucky. Only time he didn't, he almost died. Don't question blewish girl magic.

ESTHER
If you wanna take down Kylie, you're gonna need a Beyoncé lights off at the Super Bowl moment.

PHOEBE
How?

ESTHER
I'm just a vessel of information. I can't do everything. God.

Esther walks out exasperated. Off Phoebe, annoyed.

INT. SEX ED - DAY

A **BLAND TEACHER** drones on. Chelseigh is sitting in the corner with bleach blonde hair. It looks insane. Phoebe can't stop staring.

BLAND TEACHER
So now we have to have sensitivity training due to a skin colored egg scandal. I'm your new teacher. I'm just gonna play a video.

The teacher turns on a movie about the reproductive system.

Phoebe feels something taped underneath her desk. It's a card with her name on it. She opens it.

The front is a picture of Kanye and says "My Presence is a Present."

Phoebe smiles. Looks around. Opens the card. "CoolGuy13 hopes you used hand sanitizer before and after reaching underneath this desk. DM later?"

Phoebe laughs. Looks around the class. Can't detect who it could be.

All of a sudden there's a THUD. The teacher shrieks.

TEACHER

Oh my my my my my my.

The teacher covers his eyes. A **DOUCHEY KID** is on the floor with an obvious BONER. All the kids laugh.

The Bland Teacher throws a cloth over the student's boner area and snatches his phone.

BLAND TEACHER

OH HOLY HELL.

It's a suggestive photo of Talia.

The Douche Kid and the teacher make eye contact. Everyone in the class looks at the Douche Kid. They all lose it.

BLAND TEACHER (CONT'D)

Class is over everyone.

The Douche Kid tries to get up. Has trouble.

BLAND TEACHER (CONT'D)

Not for you. You stay here.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is bustling with **STUDENTS** whispering to each other.

KID 1

Talia totes gave Chris a handy during study hall.

KID 2

I heard it was a blow job.

KID 1
(spits out a Frappucino
he's sipping)
She took a sip of my Frappucino!

Kid 1 RUNS away disturbed.

Mike and Phoebe are standing at Phoebe's locker when there's
a PSA ANNOUNCEMENT.

PSA ANNOUNCEMENT
Students, there will be a mandatory
emergency assembly tomorrow
regarding both the incident
regarding skin colored eggs as well
as sexual safety.

Phoebe looks at Mike.

PHOEBE
Do you know what that means?

MIKE
My science test is canceled. Thank
God, because I didn't study shit.

PHOEBE
No...everyone locked in an
auditorium. This is our chance.
Come on...

Phoebe drags Mike down the hallway.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Phoebe and Mike stand before Esther.

ESTHER
What y'all mad about today?

PHOEBE
We need your help.

MIKE
Are you good at tech?

ESTHER
Are you asking me that because I'm
Asian, Mike?

MIKE
No! No! No! What. No!

PHOEBE

We're asking because we know you hacked the nanny cam when you were trying on Mike's mom's clothes. So help us or we tell.

Esther chuckles.

ESTHER

Ohhh. Look who's tryna glow up into grown folks' business...

Off Phoebe smiling...

SHOT SERIES

-Phoebe watching music videos. She dances along.

-Phoebe rifling through her closet.

-Esther buying cases of tampons.

-Esther and Mike filming Phoebe in various outfits.

-Esther editing on her computer, she falls asleep.

INT. SCHOOL ASSEMBLY - DAY

A **NERDY TEACHER** is leading a seminar about sexual safety, the dangers of nudes, etc.

The students are intensely bored.

NERDY TEACHER

Kids. The thing about the Internet is it lasts forever and ever and ever and ever...and then you die. And it'll be the thing people google at your funerals. Post a nude and it's how you'll be remembered for all time. By your grandchildren, by your employers, by your love interests when they google search you to make sure you have no priors...

Talia, Kylie, and Chelseigh sit in the audience, unbothered.

TALIA

Duh. Everyone should wanna be remembered when their body's the hottest.

CHELSEIGH

Does my hair look more Taylor Swift
or Lady Gaga?

All of a sudden, the lights turn off.

NERDY TEACHER

What's going on? Ugh. Did Janet
forget to pay the bill again?

He walks off.

A projector screen rolls down like a pop concert. It flashes
the name **PHOEBE**. Then goes dark. Then flashes again.

Lily Allen's "Sheezus" begins. Phoebe starts strutting across
the stage.

LILY

*Been here before, so I'm prepared.
Not gonna lie low, I'm kinda
scared.*

AUDIENCE

Kylie looks on, irritated.

KYLIE

What is she doing?

OFF STAGE

We see Esther has managed to lock the **TEACHERS** out of the
auditorium. Gives Phoebe a thumbs up in the window.

STAGE

Phoebe continues to dance like no one's watching.

LILY

*I'll take the hits. Roll with the
punches. I'll get back up it's not
as if I've never done this.*

OFF STAGE

Mike controls the screen. We see various videos of Phoebe
imitating her favorite divas. Beyonce in FORMATION. Mariah.
Rihanna. Lady Gaga. Ariana Grande.

STAGE

Phoebe stands in the center. Starts singing.

PHOEBE

Riri isn't scared of/Katy Perry's roaring/ Queen B's going back to the drawing/ Lorde smells blood, yeah, she's about to slay you. Kid ain't one to fuck with when she's only on her debut...GIVE ME THAT CROWN BITCH, I WANNA BE SHEEZUS.

AUDIENCE

They look dumbfounded. Is she serious? Kylie eyes Chase who's transfixed by the screen. More shots of DIVA PHOEBE.

STAGE

Phoebe grows more confident in her dancing.

SCREEN

More footage of Phoebe. Now she's going through a variety of Beyonce 7/11-esque poses, but doing goofy things in each one.

The screen reads **EMBRACE THE WEIRD.**

BACKSTAGE

Esther struggles to hold the teachers back. Phoebe notices, but doesn't break.

AUDIENCE

Kylie stares daggers at Phoebe. Phoebe smiles, marches right up to her and sings in her face.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

I'm switching off. No longer listening. I've had enough of persecution and conditioning.

Kylie is momentarily stunned. Phoebe runs up to the stage.

SCREEN

"Being a fan of Phoebe is being a fan of yourselves."

STAGE

Phoebe stands in the middle of the stage.

LILY

It makes me angry, I'm serious/ But then again, I'm just about to get my period/ Periods, we all get periods/ Every month yo, that's what the theory is.

A bunch of TAMPONS fall from the rafters. Phoebe starts throwing them out into the audience.

AUDIENCE

KIDS start cracking up, much to Kylie's chagrin.

SCREEN

The projector changes: "GOT MAXI-PADS?"

"You can't shame someone who has no shame."

The lights cut off again. Phoebe freestyles.

PHOEBE

My name is Phoebe. It ain't easy to be me. But what y'all don't know is none of y'all can see me. Kylie says I'm banned, but I got another plan...Black and Jewish, but you can call me blewish. What's wrong Ky? You're lookin slightly fluish.

(beat, then)

I don't believe in Jesus, but I believe in Sheezus. Before y'all get excited, don't worry you're all invited...

SCREEN

PHOEBE'S BAT MITZVAH 5.27.16. Screen changes.

YOU'RE ALL (EVEN KYLIE, TALIA AND CHELSEIGH) CORDIALLY INVITED TO PHOEBE'S **BLACK** MITZVAH.

STAGE

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Give me that crown, bitch. I wanna be Sheezus.

She drops the mic.

BACKSTAGE

The teachers escape, but Mike cuts the lights.

STAGE

Phoebe disappears. Lights come back on and a video about the reproductive system begins to play.

AUDIENCE

Everyone CHEERS while the teachers try to regain control. Except for Talia, Kylie and Chelseigh who remain seated and salty.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Phoebe is in the **PRINCIPAL'S** office.

PRINCIPAL

You've broken I don't even know how many rules.

Phoebe's phone vibrates.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: A BUNCH OF FLAME EMOJIS.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Oh great. There's another one. Phone, please.

Phoebe smiles. Hands over her phone.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

You're usually such a good kid, Phoebe. Because of that. You'll just get detention. Was it worth it?

PHOEBE

If I said no, that'd be a lie. I can't lie while doing mitzvot.

Phoebe hears her phone blowing up across the desk.

PRINCIPAL

Why would you do this?

PHOEBE

To be Sheezus.

She smiles.

CHYRON: 30 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Phoebe and April are driving.

APRIL

You can't break rules like the other kids, Phoebe. You have to be...

PHOEBE

Twice as good to get half as much. I know. I know. I know. But it's not fair. It's exhausting.

April looks at her for a beat.

APRIL

What'd that trife heifer Kylie's face look like after you did it?

Phoebe smiles. April laughs.

INT. DELI - DAY

Sam sits across from Phoebe. Phoebe is enthralled by her phone.

PHOEBE

I have like 100 new followers.

SAM

Recite the Shema.

PHOEBE

And like 50 new likes on this picture.

SAM

That's 5th grade level likes.

PHOEBE

Stop hating.

SAM

Recite the Shema. God doesn't care about your likes.

Phoebe continues scrolling. Sam snatches her phone.

SAM (CONT'D)

Mitzvot #53 is to destroy idols and their accessories. I think we can agree a phone is an accessory.

Sam drops the phone in a cup of water. Phoebe screams.
Everyone stares, horrified.

SAM (CONT'D)
She's fine. Her phone broke.

Everyone nods, understanding.

SAM (CONT'D)
You can't scream like that,
people'll think I kidnapped you.

PHOEBE
My phone!

Sam looks at the phone in the cup of water.

SAM
That was an extremely absurd
overreaction on my part. I'm gonna
have to pay for that now.

CHYRON: 25 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Phoebe and Mike walk through the hallway. People are paying attention to them this time. High-fives, head nods. Jay-Z's "SomewhereinAmerica" plays as they slo-mo walk with swag.

As they walk, people gossip and whisper around them.

GIRL 1
I heard she's Drake's cousin
through black and Jewish geography.

GIRL 2
Her dad was like *almost* in the NBA.

BOY 1
I like lip virgins.

GIRL 3
I wonder if she can twerk.

Phoebe and Mike feel eyes on them. They look at each other.

PHOEBE
Are we...

MIKE
Popular?

GIRL 3 scurries up to them, eagerly.

GIRL 3
Phoebe, can you teach me how to
twerk?

PHOEBE
No one twerks anymore.

GIRL 3
Oh. Ok. Oh.

Girl 3 walks away, bummed. She curses at herself.

GIRL 3 (CONT'D)
That was about as cool as telling
her I pluck my pubic hair.

Everyone stares at her. Chase walks by, he smiles at Phoebe.

Phoebe goes weak. Dizzy. Leans against a locker.

PHOEBE
He definitely smiled that time,
right?

MIKE
I dunno. He could also be
constipated.

Phoebe glares at him when Stephanie the Diabetic approaches Phoebe and Mike. She bows her head in shame. Doesn't look Phoebe in the eye when she speaks.

STEPHANIE
I'm sorry, Sheezus. Please forgive
me.

MIKE
You should be sorry, Stephanie.

Stephanie bows to Phoebe.

PHOEBE
Mike, shut up. You don't have to
bow, Stephanie, it's weird.

STEPHANIE
I'm sorry. I'm just so sorry. Can I
be invited to your Black Mitzvah?

PHOEBE
Everyone's invited.

STEPHANIE
Is it okay that I said
(whispers)
black?

PHOEBE
(shakes her head)
Yes, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE
What's your give away? I heard
Drake's your Jewish cousin due to
black and Jewish geography and he's
gonna perform.

Mike and Phoebe look at each other.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
What DJ did you get? Are you
raffling stuff? What *is* a Black
Mitzvah?

Stephanie's ramblings fade into white noise as Phoebe grabs
Mike and runs to the bathroom.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - DAY

Phoebe and Mike stand in the men's bathroom. Phoebe paces
while hyperventilating.

PHOEBE
(panicked)
Mike. I'm freaking out.

MIKE
You should be. You're in the men's
bathroom.

PHOEBE
We didn't plan anything! We were so
focused on getting people to come!
This Bat Mitzvah is gonna be weak
as fuck.

MIKE
You're right.

PHOEBE
You're supposed to reassure me!

MIKE

Nah, a real friend tells you the truth. This Bat Mitzvah is about to be weak as fuck.

PHOEBE

What are we gonna do?! I need someone to give me a sign.

She pulls her mezuzah off her neck. Rubs it like it's a lucky Buddha. Mike snatches it.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Mike, don't touch it! You're gonna fuck up the vibe.

MIKE

Relax.

A **NERDY GUY** walks into the bathroom. He and Phoebe look at each other.

He SHRUGS and proceeds to start peeing in a urinal next to Phoebe. He has horrible aim. Pee splashes onto her shoe. She shrieks.

PHOEBE

Mike. Is there pee on my shoes?

The Nerdy Guy shrugs while zipping.

NERDY GUY

It happens.

Phoebe snatches the mezuzah back.

PHOEBE

Don't question it again.

Phoebe walks out.

INT. PHOEBE'S PARENTS' ROOM - NIGHT

Phoebe barges into her parents' room.

LARRY

You gotta learn how to knock.

PHOEBE

You never knock.

APRIL

You don't pay bills.

PHOEBE

Sooo, like, speaking of money.
Everyone wants to come to my Bat
Mitzvah.

APRIL

See! I told you.

PHOEBE

I need like two hundred thousand
dollars to cover Kanye's or some
lesser known rapper's performance
fee.

Her parents look at each other, they start CRACKING UP.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

I'm willing to forfeit my college
fund for this.

They're still laughing.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Why can't you throw money at me
like all the other kids' parents?!

Larry reaches for some coins on the nightstand. He throws
them towards Phoebe.

LARRY

There ya go, make it drizzle.

PHOEBE

You're ruining my life!

She walks out.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Phoebe is in bed scrolling through Instagram. Her followers
are growing. She sighs. Stressed. She clicks her DMs.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: Maybe we'll finally meet at your Bat
Mitzvah?

Phoebe hyperventilates.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Phoebe and Mike sit together at a table.

MIKE

We gotta step it way up, like you gotta give away laptops and shit.

PHOEBE

My dad won't even do iPads, he called it reverse reparations.

Kylie walks in with Talia and Chelseigh. They start handing out elaborate invitations to everyone emblazoned with "Kylie's Super Sweet Half Birthday."

She walks over to Phoebe.

KYLIE

Sorry, Phoebe. I'd invite you, but it's on the same day as your little Bat Mitzvah.

Kylie turns to all the kids in the cafeteria.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

This will be even better than my last party. Expect special guests. I understand if you want to go to Phoebe's, but choose wisely, my personal family friend *Britney* is flying in.

Stephanie the Diabetic is intrigued.

STEPHANIE

Britney who?

Mike scoffs at Stephanie.

MIKE

Don't come to me next time you need a sugar boost, Stephanie.

KYLIE

The Britney.

TALIA AND CHELSEIGH

It's Britney, bitch.

KYLIE

(to Phoebe)
Oops. I did it again.

Everyone GASPS. Phoebe glares at Kylie.

STEPHANIE
(to Phoebe)
Sorry, Sheezus.

Kylie stands on a chair.

KYLIE
Thank you all. For being fans. For
being supporters.

Phoebe places a chair in front of Kylie. Phoebe stands up,
blocking her. Mike looks at her, dumbfounded.

MIKE
What are you doing? We haven't
agreed on any impromptu speeches.

PHOEBE
That's really beautiful, Kylie. And
Imma let you finish in a minute,
but I'm about to have the best Bat
Mitzvah of all time.

STEPHANIE
Who's gonna beat Britney, bitch?

PHOEBE
Kanye Omari West. As you know,
Drake is my cousin through black
and Jewish geography. Drake will be
on tour, but he put in a call to
Ye. I actually personally squashed
the petty feuding they've been
doing the past few years. If you'd
prefer Kylie's bland, flavorless,
mayonnaise-drenched party to mine.
That's a "you" problem.

Everyone GASPS, including Mike.

MIKE
Have you lost your mind?

Phoebe steps down, leaving a shell-shocked Kylie standing up
on her chair. Talia and Chelseigh look at Kylie, then at
Phoebe.

TALIA
I'd rather see Kanye.

CHELSEIGH
Do you think he'll bring Kim?

Kylie is enraged, Phoebe smiles. Her work here has been done. She walks out. Trailed by Mike.

INT. MIKE'S ROOM - DAY

They sit in front of Esther who is cracking up.

ESTHER

Y'all...

She can't stop laughing.

PHOEBE

Esther, it's not funny!

ESTHER

I mean I got a friend who does improv...

Mike and Phoebe look at each other.

INT. IMPROV CLASS - DAY

Esther, Phoebe, and Mike walk into the improv class. They stand in the back and watch while **RAY** (30s, black, think Jay Pharoah) is performing with a **MOROSE GIRL** (20s).

RAY

(licks lips, a la Denzel Washington)

So I'm Denzel Washington, and it's panty-dropping season. Like cuffing season but for panties, because... did you know I am Denzel Washington?

MOROSE GIRL

I mean, I know you're not Denzel.

RAY

Damn it, girl. You're not supposed to say no in improv!

MOROSE GIRL

I'm a woman. I should be able to say no whenever I want to.

Ray walks off the stage, frustrated. He spots Esther in the corner.

RAY

Yo...was wondering what happened to you after--

Esther abruptly cuts him off.

ESTHER

Not in front of the kids, Ray.
Damn.

Ray spots the kids.

RAY

You didn't kidnap them did you?

ESTHER

I'm a nanny. Side hustle.

MIKE

Are you guys done eye-banging yet?

Ray and Esther look at each other awkwardly. Phoebe steps in.

PHOEBE

Can you do a Kanye impression? Are you funny? Tell a joke.

RAY

Girl, you can't just be askin' people to tell jokes on command. I ain't a dog.

MIKE

(to Esther)

Why'd you bring us to this whack place?

PHOEBE

Yeah we don't have time for him to pretend he's funny. Who is he even?

Ray is scandalized.

RAY

(a la Kanye)

I'm a God. I already told you who I think I am. A God, huh?! Don't tell me I ain't funny, huh?! Who you think gave Zuckerberg the idea for Facebook, huh?!

(MORE)

RAY (CONT'D)

Was supposed to be called face-ye,
where I decide if people are good
enough to be friends with
Beyoncé...who I'm not speaking to
because she ain't come to my
wedding, fam. HUH!!

Phoebe smiles at Mike.

RAY (CONT'D)

(a la Jay-Z)

Sorry fam, we ain't come to the
wedding cuz we got stuck in an
elevator.

Ray does the Jay-Z laugh.

RAY (CONT'D)

(a la Chris Rock)

That's a lie, Ye. He got a billion
dollars. He knows how to get his
ass out an elevator if he wants to!

PHOEBE

Omg. We can give him tons of outfit
changes and up the special guests.

ESTHER

Told y'all. Don't sleep on the kid.

RAY

What y'all plannin? Sounds like
some Eyes Wide Shut shit.

PHOEBE

I need you to pretend to be Kanye
at my Bat Mitzvah and whoever else
you can impersonate. We'll turn the
lights down low and pretend you
have an allergy to UV rays.

RAY

I have a performance fee for that.

MIKE

For what? You're barely doing
improv.

RAY

You think I'm gonna come out to the
suburbs for free?! Last black dude
I knew who drove to Lake Forest
never came back.

PHOEBE

Prolly because he got lost in white girls. I'll give you a cut of some of my Bat Mitzvah money.

Ray gives Phoebe the once-over.

RAY

I'll take your Yeezys.

Phoebe chokes.

RAY (CONT'D)

I need to pay rent. I'll take the Yeezys up front.

Phoebe looks at Mike, then Esther. Off her look...

EXT. IMPROV CLASS - NIGHT

Ray limps out wearing Phoebe's Yeezys which are clearly way too small for him. He turns to Phoebe.

RAY

(a la Bernie Mac)

Pleasure doin business with y'all summamabitches.

Phoebe walks barefoot to Esther's car.

PHOEBE

This better be worth it.

CHYRON: 20 DAYS TO BAT MIZVAH

MONTAGE

Phoebe walks through school. **POP FLASHES OF FACEBOOK ALERTS ANNOUNCING PHOEBE'S GUESTS:** Kanye, Jay-Z, Chris Rock, etc.

Each day she becomes cooler and cooler and cooler. High-fives. Head nods. Birthday invites. Phoebe is loving life.

Kylie notes Talia and Chelseigh looking at Phoebe longingly.

Meanwhile, Phoebe looks longingly at Chase while Kylie chats him up. Kylie glares at Phoebe.

END MONTAGE

INT. DELI - DAY

Sam sits across from Phoebe.

SAM

So as you're getting ready to receive an aliyah...

PHOEBE

Being called up is just a big performance. I need to crush it in front of everyone to seal my popularity.

SAM

Phoebe.

PHOEBE

When you listen to Robyn which song do you think came first? "Dancing on My Own," "Hang with Me," or "Call Your Girlfriend"?

SAM

Becoming a Bat Mitzvah isn't about likes, or Facebook invites, or give aways... although I do plan to collect one of those Life Of Phoebe joints.

PHOEBE

I think it was "Hang with Me" first, when she became friends with a guy. Then "Dancing on My Own"... she had to watch him kiss his girlfriend. Then "Call Your Girlfriend," she finally told him like it's time for you to glow up and be with me.

SAM

Are you glorifying adultery? That's not in your mitzvot.

PHOEBE

Chase shouldn't be with Kylie.

Phoebe takes out her phone and starts scrolling through Instagram. Her face is detached, unemotional as she blindly likes things, commenting things like "get it girl, yaaaasssss queen, AMAZE HEART."

SAM

One of the lessons here is not to seek revenge on people. Pete Dennison stuck my head in a toilet in seventh grade and what did I do? Nothing, because we forgive, work to understand others. So I turned the other cheek.

Phoebe barely looks up from her phone.

PHOEBE

And how'd that work out for you?

SAM

He punched the other cheek.

Off Phoebe's look...

INT. MALL - DAY

Phoebe and Mike are walking through the mall when Talia and Chelseigh approach.

Hey.

TALIA

Hi.

CHELSEIGH

Phoebe and Mike look at each other.

MIKE

Are you talking to us?

Talia positions her body between Mike and Phoebe.

TALIA

So like. I'm sorry for all those times I was rude to you.

MIKE

What about me?

Chelseigh also positions herself between Mike and Phoebe.

CHELSEIGH

I'm also sorry. Like I've always thought you were so funny.

PHOEBE

Really?

TALIA

Yeah SO funny.

CHELSEIGH

I heard Adam has a crush on you.

Phoebe's heart flutters. She tries to play it cool, but lets out a giggle. Not cool. Mike glares at her.

MIKE

Phoebe doesn't care.

TALIA

No one cares about you either.

PHOEBE

Stop Mike, they're being nice. Sam says becoming a Bat Mitzvah is also learning when to forgive.

Off Mike scandalized...

INT. PHOEBE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Phoebe scrolls through a bunch of dumb shit on Instagram. Refreshes her page which goes down a follower. She touches her hand to her chest, outraged.

She opens her laptop.

She writes an e-mail. Voiceover as she types.

PHOEBE (V.O.)

Dear Kanye (or his assistant or manager although he cannot be managed). My name is Phoebe Johnson. I don't think you've seen my videos, but it would mean so much to me if you came to my Bat Mitzvah. I hired a fake because white people can't tell black people apart anyway, but it's not the same. No one in this world understands me, but when I turn on College Dropout or Twisted Fantasy or 808s or Yeezus...I feel like you do. Your ego is the steam I use to power my dreams. When no one else believes in me, you're always right there, giving me the confidence I need to believe in myself. To remember that no one man should have all that power. To not let people tell me how to feel. To be me... Phoebe. And remember to love myself no matter what.

(MORE)

PHOEBE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 If I had a dying wish, it'd be for
 you to be there when I become a Bat
 Mitzvah. It's down to the wire, but
 you've made it through the wire
 before... Thanks for listening,
 Phoebe "Sheezus" Johnson.

Phoebe sits in bed with her laptop. Her phone beeps.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: Heyyyy

CHYRON PHOEBE DM: I think my aliyah is gonna be a disaster.

CHYRON COOLGUY 13 DM: No you're gonna crush it. Plus KANYE!

Off Phoebe's forlorn expression...

POP FLASH GROUP TEXT: "Party at my place this
 weekend...parents out of town bitches. BOUT TO GO APESHIT!"

Phoebe smiles, her first party invite.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Mike and Phoebe walk while eating french fries. Mike takes a
 bite of his hamburger and gags.

MIKE

The cashier is trolling, she keeps
 putting pickles on my burgers when
 I specifically said no pickles. And
 you can't pick them off. There's
 residue!

PHOEBE

Are you going to Chris's party?
 (off Mike's blank
 expression)
 Group text about my parents are
 gonna be outta town bitchesssss!

MIKE

I didn't get a text.

Very awkward silence.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Did you get a text?

PHOEBE

Huh?

MIKE

You can't lie while you're doing mitzvot! You got a text that I didn't get!

PHOEBE

Relax. He prob didn't have your number. You can still come.

They continue walking, but Mike is clearly perturbed. **POP FLASH TEXT FROM TALIA:** "Get ready for Chris's at my place?"

MIKE

Who was that?!

PHOEBE

Nobody.

She puts her phone in her pocket. Mike takes his phone out. No messages.

INT. FOYER - DAY

Phoebe runs into her house. Hears April SCREAM. Phoebe runs towards the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

April is in the kitchen scooping up melted skin wax from the floor.

PHOEBE

What are you doing?

APRIL

I spilled all this hundred dollar wax on the floor! Help me before it gets hard!

Phoebe scoops wax from the floor onto her mom's chin while shaking her head.

PHOEBE

Can I go to Talia's?

APRIL

Where's Mike?

PHOEBE

He's at home. We don't do everything together.

APRIL

Do you even like Talia? You told me she was a dusty ass witch when you were eight.

PHOEBE

People change. I mean four years ago I thought Macklemore was cool.

April looks at Phoebe, concerned.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

I'm forgiving her. That's what becoming a Bat Mitzvah is about. Learning to forgive.

APRIL

(skeptical)

Okay...

Phoebe rips the wax off April's chin. April YELPS.

APRIL (CONT'D)

I'm not forgiving that.

INT. TALIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Phoebe sits on Talia's bed while Chelseigh and Talia try on different shirts. Talia watches as Chelseigh cycles through shirt after shirt.

TALIA

Not enough cleav.

Talia turns to Phoebe.

TALIA (CONT'D)

You don't wanna borrow something? Adam likes boobs...

She takes out a shirt and screams.

TALIA (CONT'D)

My sister is such a fucking bitch, she stretches out all my clothes.

CHELSEIGH

So rude. Phoebe, maybe it'd fit you?

Rude. Phoebe is offended. Talia pulls out a box of condoms. Off Phoebe's look...

TALIA
(re: condoms)
I stole them from CVS.

She pulls out a few, then takes a pair of jeans out of the closet. Stuffs the condoms in the pockets.

TALIA (CONT'D)
Wait til mom finds these in your pants, bitch.

She tosses the jeans into a dirty clothes hamper. Then refocuses on Phoebe.

TALIA (CONT'D)
Anyway, you have huge boobs, you should show them more.

Phoebe looks down at her chest self-consciously.

PHOEBE
No, thanks.

TALIA
How far have you gone?

CHELSEIGH
You can tell us.

TALIA
Yeah. You can like totally trust us. Kylie was lying about that lip virgin thing, right? She's a chronic liar.

CHELSEIGH
I've been to 2nd base-ish.

TALIA
What about the handy you gave Matt?

CHELSEIGH
That was over clothes.

They look at Phoebe who looks terrified.

CHELSEIGH (CONT'D)
Is it true that black guys have bigger dicks?

TALIA
Omg, yeah. Is it?

Phoebe looks at her phone. It RINGS! Thank God. She runs out.
The girls shrug.

INT. TALIA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

It's Mike on Facetime.

INT. MIKE'S ROOM - INTERCUT

Mike's changing outfits.

MIKE

Where the fuck are you?

PHOEBE

Getting dressed...

MIKE

That was a test! You're at Talia's.
Your mom just told me.

PHOEBE

She's a traitor.

MIKE

Why didn't you tell me you were
going to Talia's?

PHOEBE

Get off my jock, Mike! We don't
have to do everything together!

Mike collapses onto his bed, scandalized.

MIKE

Touch my hand to my motherfucking
chest. What did you say?!

PHOEBE

I mean, we're talking about women's
issues. Stuff I can't talk to you
about.

CUT TO:

INT. TALIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Talia and Chelseigh duck-face and primp in the mirror while
taking selfies.

TALIA

If you wear Strawberry Smackers, it makes making out taste like Jamba Juice without the calories.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

MIKE

Is this PMS? I've always been supportive of your cramps. So I'll forgive this friendship transgression. But don't let it happen again. How's Talia? She talking about me? I feel like she secretly wants me.

Phoebe rolls her eyes.

PHOEBE

You are distracting me from my creative process.

MIKE

What?

PHOEBE

I'm reinventing.

Phoebe hangs up on Mike. She looks in the mirror. Studies herself and all of her imperfections. Pinches her waist. Looks at her pores. Pokes her chest.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Why do guys like these, they're literally sacks of fat.

She keeps poking, then walks back into...

INT. TALIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chelseigh and Talia scroll through Insta.

TALIA

What an uggo.

PHOEBE

Can I borrow the shirt?

Talia hands it to Phoebe. Phoebe puts it on. Looks in the mirror. Doesn't look right. Keeps pulling the sides down.

TALIA
I die for this look. Let's go
bitches.

EXT. CHRIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Phoebe arrives with Chelseigh and Talia. Mike's waiting outside. Phoebe tugs down her shirt uncomfortably.

MIKE
You're an hour late. And what are
you wearing? Aren't you cold?

PHOEBE
Mike. Be cool. No one comes to
things on time.

Chelseigh and Talia look at Mike.

MIKE
Hey.

They look at him but don't answer. Talia rings the doorbell.
CHRIS (pre-teen douche) answers.

CHRIS
What up, homies. What's the happs
on the craps?

CHELSEIGH
You're so funny.

Talia and Chelseigh giggle. They walk in. Chris takes in Phoebe's outfit, he smiles. Phoebe keeps tugging the sides of her shirt down.

CHRIS
Hey girl. You lookin straight fire.

MIKE
(to Phoebe)
He's talking straight douche.

Phoebe walks in, followed by Mike, but Chris blocks Mike.

CHRIS
Nah. We're at capacity.

MIKE
Capacity for what? Brain cells?

Chris turns to Phoebe.

CHRIS

You can stay, but he's not coming.

Phoebe hears laughter downstairs. Looks at Mike.

MIKE

Aight, let's roll out. I don't
wanna be apart of that fake shit
anyway.

Mike walks away. Turns right, then left. Realizes he's
talking to himself. Phoebe stands in the doorway.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You're just gonna leave me standing
out here like Chris's limp dick?

Phoebe's torn. Mike marches back to the door.

PHOEBE

I mean I guess if you *really* want
me to leave the first party with
guys in it that I've ever been
invited to in solidarity...

MIKE

That's exactly what I want.

PHOEBE

Sorry. I wanna stay...

Chris shuts the door, leaving Mike outside alone.

MIKE

Phoebe! Phoebe! Fuck that, I'll
have a party by myself.

Another **CHRIS LACKEY** walks up to the door and gives Mike the
onceover.

CHRIS LACKEY

Have fun with your hand tonight,
needle dick.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Phoebe and the other kids sit around a basement. Talia drinks
out of a solo cup while dancing to some angsty, too-grown-for-
her shit like Lana Del Rey.

Phoebe shivers. Spots a blanket in the corner and wraps
herself with it. She sits in the corner next to Chelseigh.

Some GIRLS twerk for a couple GUYS in the corner. Phoebe is hating all of this.

CHELSEIGH
Do you think I should go blonder?

PHOEBE
No...

Chelseigh looks at her cracked iPhone.

CHELSEIGH
Ugh. This ghetto ass phone.

Phoebe stares at her.

CHELSEIGH (CONT'D)
What?

PHOEBE
I hate the word ghetto.

CHELSEIGH
Why? You're not ghetto.

Phoebe looks around, desperate for escape. Chase walks in. Phoebe watches him, Chelseigh follows her gaze. He walks up to Phoebe.

CHASE
Where's Mike?

PHOEBE
(defensive)
At his house. We don't have to do everything together! Where's Kylie?

CHASE
(defensive)
I don't know. I barely talk to Kylie.

PHOEBE
(harsher than intended)
Lies.

Phoebe stares at him. Talia interrupts them.

TALIA
(to Phoebe)
I dare you to take a hit off this.

She hands Phoebe a rolled joint. Phoebe hesitates.

PHOEBE
What will it do to me?

TALIA
Make you forget about everything
that stresses you out. Like my
bitch sister.

Chris puts his arm around Phoebe.

CHRIS
Can guys really eat your ass like a
cupcake? Like the Nicki Minaj song
says? Like is it different?? I've
always wanted to know.

PHOEBE
(off Chris, to Talia)
Give it to me.

Still hesitant. Phoebe looks at Chase. Imagines him and Kylie
kissing. Then looks at the joint. Chelseigh snickers.

CHELSEIGH
Relax, it's organic.

TALIA
I mean you can go home with Mike...

Phoebe inspects the joint. Talia lights it.

PHOEBE
Has anyone else's mouth been on
this?

TALIA
No.

CHRIS
Can't say the same bout my dick,
right Talia?

TALIA
Shut the fuck up, Chris.

Phoebe takes the joint. Eyes it, takes a modest inhale.
Starts coughing. It's awful. She takes another, coughs. Talia
laughs.

TALIA (CONT'D)
Do you feel it?

PHOEBE

I just smoked weed. I just smoked weed. I just smoked weed.

She looks at Chase. Is he frowning? Her heart beats faster.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Why isn't this making me relaxed?

TALIA

Tell us something you hate about Mike.

PHOEBE

I don't hate anything about Mike.

She looks around. Do people's heads look bigger? She looks at her phone.

PHOEBE'S PHONE

Its background, a Marugame TEDDY BEAR from the LATE REGISTRATION cover art, blasts from its spaceship and winks at her.

BACK TO SCENE

Talia smiles.

TALIA

I heard Mike say your Black Mitzvah was gonna be weak as fuck.

PHOEBE

He said what?

TALIA

He also said he's only friends with you because he has no one else to talk to...

This is landing on Phoebe.

PHOEBE

Well. You know what, I don't need Mike. He needs me. I'm trying to take my game to the next level. I'm next level. Mike is down level.

Talia reveals Mike via Facetime. Turns the phone around.

MIKE

Oh no you fucking did not.

TALIA
Bye, Mike!

She clicks off. Phoebe looks shell-shocked.

PHOEBE
Shit. Shit. Shit.

TALIA
Relax. I just did you a favor.

PHOEBE
That wasn't me. It was the weed!

She looks around, feels like everyone is staring at her in a highly aggressive way...paranoia. Hears music.

Phoebe shakes it off. Was the music in her head?

CHRIS
(to Phoebe)
You all right boo? You look like my nig Malcolm--

PHOEBE
What did you just say?

Chelseigh drapes herself over Chris.

CHRIS
You all right?

PHOEBE
No the other part.

CHRIS
My nig Malcolm?

Phoebe looks at Chelseigh.

PHOEBE
You let him say that around you?

CHELSEIGH
"You all right boo?"

PHOEBE
No! "My nig."

Chris raises his hand for a high-five.

CHRIS
Yeeesssss! My nig!

Chelseigh laughs.

PHOEBE
Chelseigh! You're black!

CHELSEIGH
Ok, Phoebe. You're high.

PHOEBE
One day you're gonna have to come
out as a black person. I'm not
gonna be the person to out you...
Mike said that. I miss Mike.

Phoebe walks away while Chris looks at her.

CHRIS
I thought you were Italian.
(beat, then)
Can I eat your ass like a cupcake?

Chelseigh removes his arm from her shoulder. Walks away.

EXT. CHRIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Phoebe exits the house. She takes several breaths of air when she spots a pair of feet standing beneath her. She comes face to face with Kylie.

KYLIE
So everyone's just hanging out
without me? Like you're the new me.

PHOEBE
Kylie...I can't with you right now.

KYLIE
No one even invited me.

PHOEBE
If it makes you feel better, it
sucks in there and I think I lost
my best friend in the whole world.

Kylie grabs Phoebe and leads her over to a secluded treehouse in the backyard.

INT. TREEHOUSE - NIGHT

Phoebe looks woozy.

PHOEBE

I don't feel well and I feel like you're about to murder me.

KYLIE

Cancel your Bat Mitzvah.

PHOEBE

I can't cancel becoming a woman.

KYLIE

You don't need it. You're like totally fine being a weirdo who no one invites anywhere.

PHOEBE

Everyone's weird. And that's not true. Mike invites me places.

Phoebe is a little unsteady, she takes a seat.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

I think Mike may never speak to me again.

KYLIE

See! Someone who cares about what people think wouldn't be friends with Mike!

PHOEBE

I think I lost my person.

KYLIE

Cancel your Bat Mitzvah.

Phoebe stands. Still unsteady.

PHOEBE

I have to find Mike.

KYLIE

You're literally the only person I know who won't just do what I say.

Phoebe tries to move past her but Kylie blocks her. A beat while they stare at each other. Kylie looks nervous. Phoebe looks nauseous.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

You're really pretty.

PHOEBE

Is this reverse psychology? I'm not cancelling my party. Why do I feel so sick? And panicky? And paranoid. I mean I'm usually paranoid but now I'm REALLY paranoid and can't stop talking for some reason. Like do you know how hard it is to be black and Jewish? Jay-Z says I should aspire to wealth because I'm black and society thinks we're not supposed to have generational wealth. But THEN my Jewish side says that's a stereotype and I should be mad at rap lyrics that think Jewish prosperity is a compliment. I'm fucked.

Kylie kisses Phoebe. Shocking Phoebe. They part. Awkward silence.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Did we just--

KYLIE

I just assumed because you've never had a boyfriend that maybe...

PHOEBE

I thought you liked Chase?

KYLIE

Don't fucking tell anybody about this.

PHOEBE

Are you--

KYLIE

SHUT UP.

PHOEBE

It's okay, you can trust me. I think this is great...even though you're a raging bitch to me most of the time, but...OH MY GOD. Is this why you're a raging bitch to me most of the time?!

Phoebe has FLASHES of all the times Kylie has paid too much attention to her, now realizing all of Kylie's glares were really the lingering glances of an unrequited crush.

KYLIE
SHUT UP. SHUT UP.

PHOEBE
Kylie. It's ok. I won't tell anyone.

KYLIE
Tell anybody and I'll chop your body into tiny pieces and dump you into Lake Michigan.

Kylie runs out. Phoebe walks away, shocked.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Phoebe is walking home. Everything she sees and hears looks menacing. Car lights. Dogs barking. Scared, she dials Mike. Goes to voicemail. She tries again. Goes to voicemail.

PHOEBE
Mike, I'm having an out-of-body, near death experience and I really need you. How would you feel if I died? And you ignored the call? And this was the last voicemail you ever had from me? And you just had to play it over and over for the rest of your life and think "why didn't I answer the call?" Stop declining.

She hangs up. Mike calls right back. Phoebe answers.

MIKE
If you're dying, you should call 911. Bye.

Phoebe looks around, alone. She dials another number.

INT. MIKE'S MOM'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Esther tries on Mike's mom's clothes. Her phone rings.

ESTHER
Yo.

EXT. STREET - INTERCUT

Phoebe whispers into the phone.

PHOEBE
Esther...I'm high. Please help.

ESTHER
Phoebe, you're HIGH?!

PHOEBE
Shhhhhhhhh. Shhhhhhh.

ESTHER
Mike says he's not speaking to you,
this is crossing enemy lines.

PHOEBE
How would you feel if I died on
this street and you were my last
call?

Esther sighs. Looks at herself in Mike's mom's full length
mirror. Off Esther...

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Esther rolls up on Phoebe sitting on the curb, clutching her
knees to her chest.

ESTHER
You look a mess.

Phoebe runs into the car.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Phoebe gets in and buckles her seat belt.

PHOEBE
Drive really slow. My parents are
gonna kill me.

ESTHER
What did you take?

Phoebe fishes around in her pocket. Pulls out the joint.
Esther pulls over. Sniffs it. She unrolls it. Takes a deeeep
inhale.

PHOEBE
Be careful! It's powerful.

Phoebe looks out the window.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)
I'm so scared, Esther.

Esther starts CRACKING up.

ESTHER
This is oregano.

PHOEBE
No it's not, it's weed.

ESTHER
It's oregano. You smoked spaghetti
spice.

PHOEBE
Then why did I get paranoid and
panicky and puke?

Phoebe's phone beeps. Talia has posted a live story of Phoebe with the caption: Your Sheezus got oregano'd. Comments stream in: LOL, cry face emoji, so lame.

Talia posts another photo, a selfie with the caption: "WATCH THE QUEEN CONQUER."

Phoebe shuts off her phone.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)
They didn't want to be my friend.

ESTHER
Of course not, fool. Ya prolly got
panicky because you screwed over
Mike for those shit stains.

Phoebe looks out the window, crushed. Mike pulls up besides them on his bike. Esther rolls down the window.

MIKE
OH! Et tu, Brutus?!

ESTHER
Reads Shakespeare one got damn
time.

MIKE
Tell her to get out of the car.

ESTHER
Mike, I'm not leaving a woman out
on the street corner.

PHOEBE

I'm not a woman for another 2 weeks.

MIKE

She's a fake-ass friend who has to hire fake-ass impersonators to get fake-ass people to come to her fake-ass party filled with fake-ass people.

They're at a stoplight. Before Phoebe can respond, Mike speeds away on his bike.

Esther starts driving again, as she rounds the corner, REVEAL Kylie around the corner, listening to everything and smiling.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Phoebe walks in. Everyone points and laughs. There are fliers posted everywhere depicting a mugshot of a fake Kanye with the caption... "*Phoebe hired a Fake Ye.*"

Everyone laughs, Phoebe is mortified. She runs to Mike's locker.

PHOEBE

How could you?!

MIKE

How could I what? Leave you outside a party by yourself?

PHOEBE

So you're mad at me and want to ruin my party? You told!

MIKE

I'd never tell. I'm a good friend. I might speak too loudly on street corners, but I'd never intentionally tell.

PHOEBE

You have to fix it!

MIKE

Nah. You got new friends now, let them fix it.

Mike walks away. Talia and Chelseigh walk by Phoebe.

TALIA
You're expired.

CHELSEIGH
You're expired.

They snicker and walk off.

INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM - DAY

Phoebe sits in the stall by herself. She logs onto Insta. Her followers plummet. She has one DM.

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: That was messed up. What you did to Mike.

CHYRON PHOEBE DM: Ok. So this WAS Mike all along?

CHYRON COOLGUY13 DM: You were just like Kylie all along...

Phoebe logs out. Looks overwhelmed.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Phoebe sits alone. People act like there's a force field around her table. She waves at people. They either ignore her, laugh, or point with disdain. She's jittery.

Mike enters. Spots Phoebe. Sits FAR away. Phoebe snaps. She stands up on the table and paces.

PHOEBE

No one appreciates me! I'm like a vessel to awesomeness and you're all just sheep to Kylie's mind control. You think I'm fake?! She's the fake. She--

Kylie stops in her tracks. Nervous.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

She's not awesome. And I don't care if you don't wanna come to my party. My whole life! I've been in pursuit of happiness like Kid Cudi. I'm dope. I do dope shit.

Everyone stares at her like she's crazy. A beat, while it sinks in that she's yelling on a table. She faints. Everything goes black.

INT. PHOEBE'S BASEMENT - DAY

Phoebe sits in her basement in darkness. Larry comes down and sits with her.

LARRY
Your mother is worried about you.

PHOEBE
And you're not?

LARRY
Depends. You gonna tell me what got you sent home for exhaustion?

PHOEBE
Nothing.

LARRY
Alright. I know being black can be exhausting.

They sit there together in silence.

PHOEBE
I was mean to Mike.

LARRY
Apologize.

Phoebe reaches in her pocket. Hands Larry her mezuzah.

PHOEBE
I don't deserve this. I also smoked oregano because I thought it was weed. So technically I didn't smoke weed, but the impulse was there.

LARRY
That's the dumbest shit I've ever heard you say. And you've said some dumb shit.

PHOEBE
I wanted to fit in.

LARRY
So you smoked the spice cabinet. What's next? Free-basing basil? What did I tell you when I gave you this?

Larry looks at the mezuzah.

PHOEBE

Don't let white people tell me how to feel.

LARRY

And what did you do?

Phoebe is silent for a beat.

PHOEBE

Let them trick me into smoking oregano. Are you gonna tell Mommy?

LARRY

No. She'll think it was her fault for dropping you on your head that one time.

She hits him. He laughs.

LARRY (CONT'D)

No one's good all the time. People mess up, even the greats. LeBron has off games, Barack Obama didn't become Barack til' he met Michelle, and don't get me started on that knucklehead Kanye. But they get back up because nobody great makes it to greatness by being mediocre and following people around.

They continue to sit and stare in silence.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Your friendship with Mike? That's not a mediocre friendship.

PHOEBE

He hates me.

LARRY

You'll figure it out.

PHOEBE

How do you know?

Larry hands Phoebe the mezuzah.

LARRY

Because I know.

He walks out. Leaving Phoebe alone. She hears laughter. Sean pops out of a closet, startling Phoebe.

SEAN
God, you smell. Have you even
showered today?

Phoebe throws a pillow at him.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Phoebe walks through the hallway. Everyone smirks at her. She walks up to Mike. They stand outside of a classroom.

PHOEBE
Hi.

Mike stares at her.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I didn't mean any of
those things I said. I miss you.
You're the only one I want at my
Bat Mitzvah.

She hands him an invitation.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)
You and only you are invited to my
Black Mitzvah.

MIKE
Yeah. Now that no one else wants to
come. Keep your dusty invite.

He drops it on the floor.

CHYRON: 10 DAYS TO BAT MITZVAH

INT. DELI - DAY

Phoebe sits across from Sam.

SAM
Your Shema was a million times
better today. No Insta to distract
you?

PHOEBE
Everyone hates me.

SAM
I don't hate you.

Phoebe puts her head against the table dramatically.

PHOEBE

You have to like me. You get paid.

SAM

You know how many of these little
asshats I tutor that I don't like?
I don't have to do anything.

(beat, then)

Don't repeat that. I have bills to
pay.

PHOEBE

I messed everything up. I was so
focused on having a perfect party.
Mike hates me. And he's the only
person I've ever cared about
coming. And the worst part
is...it's my fault. I can't blame
him for hating me. I hate me. I
suck. That's what should go on my
tombstone so everyone remembers how
much I suck.

SAM

You don't suck. Someone who sucks
wouldn't care about how much they
hurt another person.

PHOEBE

Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means I have
to take this L. Maybe Mike will
hate me forever, but I have no one
to blame but myself. I don't
deserve true friendship.

SAM

Taking accountability. Someone's
finally ready to receive an aliyah.

(beat, then)

You'll fix it with Mike.

PHOEBE

How?

SAM

Do something that shows him how
much you care. Haven't you ever
seen a rom com?

Off Phoebe thinking...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mike sits in class doodling while his **MATH TEACHER** drones on.

MATH TEACHER

If x plus y equals 1. What is Y.

All of a sudden, the PA system speakers go off. The opening beats to Kanye's "Runaway" play.

PHOEBE'S VOICE

Dear, Mike. I love you. Sometimes I don't have the words to express how much or how sorry I am. So I'll just use my favorite song.

The beat continues. Mike looks around.

PHOEBE'S VOICE (CONT'D)

Yeah I always find, yeah I always find somethin' wrong. You been puttin up with my shit just way too long! Mike, I'm sorry.

Everyone starts laughing. As Phoebe continues singing, a **GRUBHUB MAN** enters the classroom. He pours flutes of Martinelli's sparkling cider.

GRUBHUB MAN

Who is Mike?

Mike raises his hand. The Grubhub Man hands Mike a glass. The song continues and Phoebe walks in acting out the song before Mike while holding a glass of Martinelli's in her hand.

PHOEBE

Let's have a toast for the douchebags. Let's have a toast for the assholes! Every one of them that I know!

She raises her glass to toast. Everyone stares at her. Mike shakes his head. Phoebe approaches his desk and gets down on her knees.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

I ain't too proud to beg, Mike.
(beat, then with the song)
See, I could have me a good friend...And still be addicted to them hoodrats...And I just blame everything on you...Cuz that's what I'm good at...Mike I'm sorry. You're my best friend.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Please come to my Bat Mitzvah. This is a preview to your front row seat to me embarrassing myself during the Haftarah.

(beat, then raising her glass)

Can we toast to the biggest douchebag? Me?

Mike puts his flute down. Phoebe nods, awkwardly rejected. Drinks her Martinelli's solo.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

(sadly)

L'chaim.

Phoebe walks out. Off Mike sinking into his seat...

INT. AM SHALOM TEMPLE - TEMPLE

GUESTS file into the temple. Phoebe stands off to the side with Larry, April, Sean, and Sam. She looks around. No sign of Mike.

PHOEBE

Can we push back 30 minutes?

SAM

You're ready.

PHOEBE

No, I just don't see him.

Phoebe's **GRANDMA DOROTHEA** (think Whoopi Goldberg) approaches.

DOROTHEA

Mazel Tov, Phoebe.

She scans the room.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

Good. I see Ethel wasn't invited.

LARRY

Not after she ruined game night.

PHOEBE

What'd she do at game night?

DOROTHEA

Stay outta grown folks' business.

PHOEBE
I'm becoming an adult.

DOROTHEA
Mmhm. I'll tell you what, Imma
dance at that woman's funeral.

LARRY
Why would you go to a woman's
funeral who hates you?

DOROTHEA
Who's gonna tell her?

Dorothea saunters off.

SAM
I like her.

Phoebe keeps scanning the crowd. It's a small gathering of **FAMILY** and **CLOSE FAMILY FRIENDS**. They all approach and give Phoebe words of encouragement. But Phoebe's eyes remain fixated on the door.

Phoebe keeps looking, disappointed. She takes a seat in front with her family.

The **RABBI** takes his spot at the Bima.

RABBI
Today, we would like to call up
Phoebe Johnson to the Bima.

Phoebe walks up to the Bima flanked by her parents.

As she stands behind the microphone...she spots Mike sitting in the back. They lock eyes. She smiles. He rolls his eyes.

Larry and April wrap the tallit around Phoebe. She smiles.

PHOEBE
As I wear this tallit, it reminds
me that regardless of the direction
I find myself, I'm always in God's
presence. The tallit has four
corners which symbolize the four
corners of the Earth. There are 613
knots on the fringes to serve as a
reminder that there are 613
commandments in the Torah. By
wrapping myself in this tallit, I
seek God's warmth and security.
Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu,
Melech haolam...

Off Phoebe confidently speaking while surrounded by love...

INT. RESTAURANT RECEPTION - NIGHT

Phoebe and Mike sit together. They look at each other, slightly awkward.

 PHOEBE
Does this mean you forgive me?

 MIKE
Your "Runaway" rendition had pitch problems.

She stares at him. He lifts his kiddie cocktail.

 MIKE (CONT'D)
Toast to the douchebags?

Phoebe smiles, raises her kiddie cocktail.

 MIKE (CONT'D)
You're the douchebag, by the way.

 PHOEBE
I know.

They sip.

 MIKE
I'm sorry no one came.

 PHOEBE
I'm not. The most important person did.

They stare at each other a beat.

 PHOEBE (CONT'D)
Will you finally admit you were CoolGuy13?

 MIKE
Huh?

 PHOEBE
You have a crush on me.

 MIKE
God, you're still a narcissist!

 PHOEBE
You don't?

MIKE

I-- I--

They stare at each other. Mike kisses her. They part. A beat.

MIKE (CONT'D)

God, that was awful.

PHOEBE

Oh, thank God you thought so too or else this friendship was about to die again.

MIKE

I think that was just the hormones. I don't want to do that ever again.

PHOEBE

Me neither...We're so adult.

MIKE

Ok, well I have a surprise for you.

Phoebe looks over his shoulder.

PHOEBE

Chase?

MIKE

Why would Chase be my surprise?

PHOEBE

He's headed this way.

Chase walks up dressed in a suit. Hands Phoebe a Tiffany's bag.

CHASE

Sorry, I'm late. I couldn't get out of practice on time.

PHOEBE

Why are you here?

CHASE

Open it.

Phoebe opens the bag. It's a Tiffany's heart bracelet engraved with "Mazel Tov on your Black Mitzvah - CoolGuy13."

PHOEBE

What. What. It's YOU?!

CHASE

It's me.

PHOEBE

You don't hate me?

CHASE

Nah. I just like the old Phoebe,
straight from the go Phoebe. I hate
the new Phoebe, the bad mood
Phoebe...

Phoebe laughs.

PHOEBE

I hate her too. The always rude,
Phoebe.

As she's talking, the **REAL KANYE'S VOICE** talks over them.

KANYE

Spaz in the news Kanye, I miss the
sweet Kanye, chop up the beats
Kanye.

PHOEBE

Why does it sound like Kanye's
right behind me?

MIKE

Because he is.

Phoebe turns around and faces **KANYE WEST**. She can't speak.
She runs to her parents and Sam who is star-stuck.

PHOEBE

Omg. Omg. Omg. You're the best
parents in the whole world.

LARRY

How the hell did Kanye get to this
Bat Mitzvah?

SAM

Sorry for doubting you, Phoebe. Be
right back, gotta go shave my
eyebrows.

Sam exits. Mike and Esther approach Phoebe and her parents.

MIKE

Esther and I did it.

ESTHER

Told him you're a Make-A-Wish kid,
so cough a little or something and
go with it.

Off Phoebe's expression...

ESTHER (CONT'D)

Kidding. Or am I? Don't question my
come through again.

A PARENT runs up to Kanye.

PARENT

Can I get a picture? My kid is a
HUGE fan.

KANYE

And you're not? Why is it so empty
in here? No one cares this kid is
dying?

Kanye walks up to Phoebe holding a few boxes.

KANYE (CONT'D)

Esther told me you lost your Yeezys
to a scammer.

PHOEBE

I. You. Know. Esther. Thank yay. I
mean thank you. I mean mazel tov.
No you mazel, me.

KANYE

Where are all the people?

PHOEBE

I had a meltdown and everybody
abandoned me.

KANYE

I can relate.

Ray walks in and sees Phoebe and Kanye.

RAY

Where'd you get this other
imposter? He got a mask on?

He touches Kanye's face. Realizes it's not a mask.

KANYE

Please get away from me.

Kanye smiles, but is immediately serious again.

RAY
Yo, I'm sorry bout that.

PHOEBE
Can we do a song?

As Phoebe's talking: **POP FLASHES** of Kanye being at Phoebe's Bat Mitzvah goes wide on Insta and snap.

STAGE

Phoebe and Kanye take the stage. "Power" starts.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)
I'm livin in that 21st century.
Doin somethin mean to it. Do it
better than anybody you ever seen
do it...

She and Kanye start rapping together. Phoebe's biggest dream come true.

ENTRANCE

Hordes of kids come filing in.

KIDS
Oh shit. She wasn't lying.

They form a mosh pit near the stage.

PHOEBE
Tell em' Phoebe said they can kiss
my whole ass, I'm an asshole y'all
(looks at April)
Ninjas got jokesssss!

Kanye continues rapping while Phoebe crowd surfs. The kids put her down. Talia and Chelseigh approach.

TALIA
We're sorry.

CHELSEIGH
Also, you were right. My parents
just came clean. I was adopted. And
am black.

PHOEBE
Good for you, Chelseigh. Honesty is
the first step towards acceptance.

Phoebe starts walking away.

TALIA
Wait. You wanna come over later?

PHOEBE
No.

Kylie walks in. Approaches.

KYLIE
Why didn't you tell everyone about me? It'd make everyone like you.

PHOEBE
I don't care about being liked.

Chase approaches.

CHASE
This is...wow...

PHOEBE
I wanna talk to you about...a lot.
But I gotta do something first.

Phoebe pushes through the ever-growing crowd. Finds Mike sitting in the corner. Sits beside him.

MIKE
I thought you'd be making out with Chase by now.

PHOEBE
Mike, I'm 13. Guys are gonna come and go, but us? We forever.

She puts her arm around him. Mike smiles. They watch Kanye perform. He's rapping "Celebration."

KANYE
I hear it's time for snowball.

MIKE
Go get your guy.

Phoebe smiles. She approaches Chase.

PHOEBE
You wanna dance? Just promise not to push me off any tire swings again.

CHASE

I won't let you fall into any more
golf course ponds...

They start dancing while Kanye raps.

KANYE

You know what this is...It's a
celebration bitches!

Everyone dances. Including a *now eyebrow-less* Sam who is
acting like a thirteen-year-old. This carries us out into...

OLDER PHOEBE (V.O.)

And so that's how I became a woman.

INT. CAFE - NEW YORK - NIGHT

OLDER PHOEBE (20s) is standing on stage. Behind her is a
poster that reads "THE MOTH."

OLDER PHOEBE

So Kanye really did come to my
party. And my Bat Mitzvah taught me
how to be okay with being
different. A Cocoa Puff in a sea
Kix.

(beat, then)

Ok, I think my time is up.

A **BITCHY COFFEE SHOP EMPLOYEE** (male, 20s) sweeps the floor
and glares at her.

BITCHY COFFEESHOP EMPLOYEE

Honey, your time has been up. We're
about to close.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

I'm still here.

There's one **GUY** in the audience.

OLDER PHOEBE

Thank you, Mike.

(to Coffee Shop Employee)

Besides, I have more things to say.

BITCHY COFFEESHOP EMPLOYEE

Give it up, honey. You got to go...
now.

Phoebe sighs. Walks off stage.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - NEW YORK - NIGHT

Phoebe and Mike walk together.

OLDER MIKE

So this girl I met is throwing a birthday party. We could roll to that, but I don't want to bring her a present. That's too committal. It's also too close to the holidays, and I don't wanna have to buy holiday presents either.

Phoebe's not paying attention. A **HOT GUY** (think Drake) walks past her. Time slows. Kids See Ghost's "Ghost Town" plays.

KIDS SEE GHOSTS

I been trying to make you love me.

OLDER PHOEBE

It's the guy from the gym. Also, think he might be blewish too.

She pulls off the LUCKY MEZUZAH around her neck and rubs.

OLDER MIKE

Oh my God, you still have that?

Phoebe can't stop staring at her boo. Mike shakes his head.

OLDER MIKE (CONT'D)

Dude's not that hot. He's probably the type to spray-tan his abs. Ugh, gimme that.

He snatches the mezuzah from Phoebe.

OLDER PHOEBE

You're gonna fuck up the vibe!

An A/C UNIT falls inches away from them. Mike is shook.

OLDER MIKE

Fuck it. You can have it back.

Phoebe snatches her mezuzah back. They continue walking and bantering like old times. "Ghost Town" carries us out.

KIDS SEE GHOSTS

And nothing hurts anymore. I feel kinda freeeeee. We're still the kids we used to beeeee.

FADE OUT.

AS CREDITS ROLL, CUT TO:

It's complete darkness. We hear a SCREAM.

CHYRON: 2018.

Phoebe lights a candle. Illuminating the room. We see a picture of Kanye wearing a MAGA hat.

Mike shakes his head. He starts recording while Phoebe presses play on her speakers. The instrumentals of Barbra Streisand's "Papa, Can You Hear Me?" play.

PHOEBE

*May the light of this flickering
candle illuminate the night the way
your spirit illuminates my soul.
Kanye, can you hear me? Kanye, can
you find me in the night? Kanye,
can you help me not be frightened?*

Phoebe does her best Barbra run. She is not great.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

*Can you hear me praying? Anything
I'm saying? I know your night's
filled with Kardashian voicesssss. I
remember everything you've taught
me. Every song you've ever rapped.
All the words in all the songs help
me face what lies ahead....*

Phoebe stands.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

*Old Kanye how I miss you. Old Kanye
how I need you. Old Kanye how I
miss you singing me--*

(beat, then)

*I don't have an ending. Is this a
lost cause?*

Mike stops recording.

MIKE

Probably.

OLDER PHOEBE (V.O.)

*Dear Phoebe, You haven't quite
learned what to do when your
problematic favorites disappoint
you yet...not even in adulthood.*

Phoebe's voice carries us into **THE REMAINING CREDITS.**