

LIFE OF THE PARTY

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EXT. NEW ORLEANS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SITE - DAY

JUSTIN MILTON, a handsome 17-year-old burn-out wearing a Habitat for Humanity t-shirt, surreptitiously puffs on a joint behind a newly built three-story home.

INT. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE - DAY

Justin enters as the FOREMAN (40s) finishes giving an inspirational speech to a GROUP OF TEEN VOLUNTEERS.

FOREMAN

(addressing the crowd)

In all my years in this line of work, this is one of the best volunteer groups I've ever seen. We should all be proud of what we've done these past two weeks. But it's not about us -- it's about the Gonzalez family and their new home.

(spotting Justin)

Justin, buddy, welcome back. You missed the sharing circle. Anything you want to add?

He shakes his head.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Great. Hands in! Gonzalez family on three.

The group crowds in. Justin rolls his eyes and walks upstairs.

EXT. NEW ORLEANS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SITE - CONTINUOUS

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #1 and #2 look at the house with disdain.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #1

I hate these teen tragedy tours. We always have to go back in there and redo all their shoddy work.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #2

Yeah, you see what that burn-out Justin did on the third floor? I tried to show him where the bearing wall is, and he says he doesn't need help. Says something about watching a bunch of "Property Brothers" on the plane ride here.

INT. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Close on Justin's feet as he climbs the stairs to the third floor. They creak with each step.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #1 (V.O.)
Hey, did you know there's a third
Property Brother?

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #2 (V.O.)
No shit.

EXT. NEW ORLEANS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SITE - CONTINUOUS

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #2
Yeah, but he's all jacked up. I
guess lightning doesn't strike
three times.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #1
You made sure the third floor's all
blocked off, right?

INT. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Justin tears away a piece of caution tape at the third floor landing.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #2 (V.O.)
Yeah, yeah, I took care of it.

EXT. NEW ORLEANS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SITE - CONTINUOUS

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #1
Good. Can you imagine if another
kid died in one of these?

They laugh.

INT. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Justin steps onto the landing. It looks terrible. He lights his joint again.

The floor gives out underneath him. He screams as we...

CUT TO:

INT. CAROLINE WALTON'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Justin's screams fade into LIZZIE'S (17, chubby and totally owning it), who shakes CAROLINE (17, a smart and sarcastic young woman of color) by the shoulders.

We're in a teenage girl's messy room, complete with string lights, an overflowing hamper, and posters of Billie Eilish and Mae Jemison. By the window is a small tank, holding two frogs. Several plaques and trophies boasting scientific achievements sit on the bookshelf.

Both girls are mid-outfit change. Lizzie has a denim vest over a bra.

CAROLINE

Do we have to go? We're three weeks behind on *Stay At Home Moms IRL*.

LIZZIE

Yes, Caroline. This is our last last-weekend-before-our-last-first-day-of-school-last-day-of-summer party!

CAROLINE

I spent the whole summer without seeing a football player. Can't I just live in ignorance of that one heinous subset of the patriarchy 'til Monday?

LIZZIE

...Do you not understand that this is the last one?

CAROLINE

(bratty)
Fine-uh.

Caroline starts to dig through a pile of shirts on her bed.

LIZZIE

It'll be a rad time, okay? And you haven't made an appearance at a party since freshman year. Do you wanna graduate with everyone thinking you're a snob?

CAROLINE

That works.

LIZZIE

Well, as your best friend, that reflects poorly on me.

CAROLINE

Can't you carry the burden of having a "rad time" for the both of us? You're so good at that.

LIZZIE

Is it because it's at Henry's? You gotta chill with that ancient sixth grade business. There's no way he remembers that you --

CAROLINE

It's not about that!

LIZZIE

Look, I get it. If I'd been the one in that hot tub --

CAROLINE

(jumping in)

Maybe I don't wanna go because you'll just ditch me for whoever you're all horned up for this week.

Caroline's brother, WILL (12) peeks into the room.

WILL

Who's all horned up?

CAROLINE

GET OUT!!!!!!

He does. Lizzie takes the vest off and puts her own shirt on.

LIZZIE

I'm not going to "ditch you" for Buzz. I have a plan. We go to this party, I land Buzz and you land some other guy, TBA, and then we go on double dates at Pop's and lose our virginites holding hands and we're never sad again.

CAROLINE

If the best you can pull out of your ass is Buzz, I think I'm good on the boyfriend front.

LIZZIE

Fine, Buzz isn't perfect, but until you use --

(re: science books)

(MORE)

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
-- these things for good and find a way to fix all the men, he'll have to do.

CAROLINE
Yup, that's my first priority.
Fixing all men.

Offscreen, we hear the raised voices of Caroline's parents, RUSS and KIM WALTON, both late forties. Caroline and Lizzie stop to listen.

KIM (O.S.)
Are you kidding me?!

Russ's response is unintelligible, but it doesn't sound good.

LIZZIE
(re: Russ and Kim)
Yikes.

CAROLINE
Okay, let's go.

Caroline throws on the first top she sees -- an oversized orange 5K turkey trot t-shirt -- and heads for the door.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
(calling to the frog tank)
Bye Harold. Bye Maude.

LIZZIE
Bitch, your favorite movie's "Mamma Mia 2".

CAROLINE
Excuse me, it's called "Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again".

EXT. HENRY CLARKE'S HOUSE - LATER

A suburban lawn is littered with drunk kids. Caroline and Lizzie make their way up the steps.

INT. HENRY CLARKE'S HOUSE - LATER

Caroline and Lizzie enter the house. A group of kids notice their arrival and cheer. Someone hands them each a shot.

LIZZIE
Ready?

CAROLINE

No.

They down their shots. Caroline gags, then follows Lizzie to the kitchen, where HENRY CLARKE (17, a football player with a soccer player's heart) taps the keg.

LIZZIE

Henry, get me Buzz.

HENRY

Hi, Lizzie. I'm fine, thank you.
(noticing Caroline)
Oh, hey! You're here! I didn't think you'd come. Can I get you a drink?

LIZZIE

Henry, I'm losing my virginity.

HENRY

... right now?

LIZZIE

Let's give it ten minutes.

HENRY

Alright. Keep me updated. How's it going, Caroline?

CAROLINE

I mean, I can't beat that.

Henry turns to pour another beer.

HENRY

I heard your mom won that research award. That's so cool. No wonder you aced Mr. Z's bio final last year without studying --

Henry turns to offer Caroline a beer, but Lizzie has already dragged her away. She grabs a cup off the counter and drinks.

CAROLINE

(re: drink)

I think this was someone's.

Henry sighs and tries to pour the extra beer into his Solo Cup. It overflows.

Caroline and Lizzie find a quiet corner and watch BUZZ (17, chiseled) from a few feet away. Lizzie stands with her back to him and points behind her.

LIZZIE
There's Buzz.

CAROLINE
Go talk to him!

LIZZIE
God, no. We have to do the dance,
my sweet, sweet baby. Push me.

CAROLINE
Don't talk to me like that.

LIZZIE
Do it, nerd.

Caroline shoves Lizzie in Buzz's direction a little too hard. Lizzie falls to the floor and Buzz helps her up.

BUZZ
Are you okay? You just ate shit.

LIZZIE
(laughing too hard)
I'm totally okay. I'm not even
bleeding.

She is. Caroline tentatively starts back to Henry. A few girls intercept and get his attention, and she backs off.

CLIFF (O.S.)
Caroline! Holy shit!

Caroline turns to see CLIFF and JADE (17, stoney skaters) waving her over, and she approaches them.

CAROLINE
'Sup a-holes.

JADE
You finally let the old ball and
chain drag you out?

CLIFF
First of all, sick shirt. Second,
check out this gnarly sunburn.

Cliff rips of his shirt to reveal a really red back with a pale imprint of a hand in the center.

JADE
(proudly, re: hand)
I did that.

CAROLINE
Cool. Sweet melonoma.

JADE
He's an impressionist, right?

CAROLINE
No. I was talking about skin cancer.

JADE
Oh. So you're still a bummer?

A ping-pong ball lands in Caroline's cup. We see GOOSE and RICHIE (17, the worst jocks you know) with their hands in the air victorious. They yell to Caroline:

RICHIE
Nice shot, Goose! Chug, Walton.

CAROLINE
No, thank you.

GOOSE
Those are the rules! Chug!

CAROLINE
I didn't sign up for this game.

GOOSE
That's the beauty of Goose-pong, my debut beer pong affiliate. If you're in striking distance of my balls, you're playing.

JADE
Girl, don't drink that ball water.

Caroline takes out the ball and throws it back to them. Richie catches it and turns to Goose.

RICHIE
This is why we need you to run for School King. When you're in charge, no more of these pussy parties.

GOOSE
Well, some pussy parties.

Goose and Richie high-five. Caroline asks Jade:

CAROLINE
Is he running for student body president?

CLIFF
Oh, shit. Lizzie's gonna freak.

LIZZIE
(approaching)
Why am I gonna freak?

JADE
Goose is running for King.

CLIFF
President.

LIZZIE
(darkening)
What?

CAROLINE
You'll be king. Goose is nothing.
Where's Buzz?

LIZZIE
He's getting me Neosporin for my
head. Isn't he nice? It is so on.

CAROLINE
Uhh...

ANGLE ON: Buzz who's brushing hair off a CUTE BLONDE'S face.

ANGLE BACK ON:

LIZZIE
Fuck. This. Party.

CAROLINE
Great, can we go?

CLIFF
Later, dudes.

Lizzie storms out. Caroline follows. Henry sees her starting to leave and catches up with her.

HENRY
Are you leaving already?

CAROLINE
Yup. Smell ya later.

Caroline tries to crush her empty Solo cup on her head but can't. She crushes the cup against Henry's chest and exits.

HENRY

Whoa. Bye!

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - LATER

Lizzie and Caroline pass a joint back and forth as they walk home. It's drizzling lightly.

LIZZIE

Don't ask me if I want to talk about it, because I don't.

CAROLINE

Okay. Did you see Jamie Dun--

LIZZIE

(breathlessly)

I'm just sick of it, you know? This is exactly what happened with that guy at camp. And with Dan Stein in fourth grade.

CAROLINE

Oh, we're talking about Buzz? I thought you'd be more upset about the whole Goose thing.

LIZZIE

Exactly! I should be. The worst person in the world might steal this presidency from right under my nose and all I can think about is putting boys inside me!

CAROLINE

So just put one inside of you. And then our campaign starts.

LIZZIE

I'm not putting just anyone inside me. I may be a hopeless pervert, but I have standards.

CAROLINE

Same. That's why sex is for college. Like communism or world music.

LIZZIE

Speak for yourself. I must be unburdened by my virginity.

(MORE)

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

I've been sexually activated and I need to complete the transaction before the portal closes.

CAROLINE

God, you're burning through a lot of metaphors.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Caroline and Lizzie enter. Lizzie turns on the light revealing Russ asleep on the couch. Caroline quickly turns the lights back off and ushers Lizzie up the stairs.

INT. CAROLINE WALTON'S BEDROOM - TEN MINUTES LATER

Caroline and Lizzie are splayed out on the bed, with a pile of leftover take-out, zoning out in front of the laptop.

INSERT: AXE COMMERCIAL. A LOSER GUY is on a date with a hot girl, KAYLA. He's nervous and she's very bored.

LOSER GUY

Wow, your job seems really interesting. Tell me more about yourself. Who is Kayla?

Kayla rolls her eyes and HOT GUY enters the frame, inexplicably shirtless, awash in steam.

HOT GUY

Someone who's not going on another date with you if you don't stop boring her with all your questions.

Kayla looks up at Hot Guy, swoons.

HOT GUY (CONT'D)

Be a man. Use Axe.

Hot Guy fireman-carries her out of the bar as he tosses a can of Axe to Loser Guy. He sprays himself and a WAITRESS stops dead in her tracks, takes her ponytail out, and mounts him.

LOSER GUY

Thanks, Axe. It's me, a man.

ANGLE ON: Caroline and Lizzie, mouths agape.

CAROLINE

Was that commercial... legal?

LIZZIE

This is what a Goose Administration
looks like.

Caroline walks over to close the window against the rain. She notices the frog tank and TAPS THE GLASS.

TV ANNOUNCER (ON LAPTOP)

Back to tonights scheduled program:
Gene Wilder in Young Frankenstein.

Caroline takes Harold out of the tank and examines him, GASPS, and holds him out to Lizzie.

CAROLINE

No!

LIZZIE

Ew, it's dead. Don't touch that.

CAROLINE

Maude's gonna be so lonely.

LIZZIE

Who's the lonely one, really,
Caroline?

On the laptop, Gene Wilder brings his monster to life. Thunder claps outside, and the lights in her room flicker. Caroline looks between the laptop and Harold. Huh.

INT. CAROLINE'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Caroline, holding Harold, sneaks past her sleeping dad to a bookshelf. Among family photos are Russ and Kim's med school diplomas. She takes a medical textbook off the shelf. Lizzie waits in the doorway, yawning.

INT. CAROLINE'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Caroline studies the open book on her dad's workbench. She holds an X-Acto knife over Harold's lifeless body. Lizzie sits on the hood of a car, drinking wine from the bottle. Caroline takes a deep breath.

LIZZIE

(slurring)

This is a fucked up idea.

CAROLINE

I'm so sorry, Harold. Or, you're
welcome.

Lizzie recoils as Caroline makes two incisions into the back of Harold's head and neck.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Holy shit, holy shit, holy shit...

With her free hand, she flips a page and sees a defibrillator diagram. She turns around and sees a set of jumper cables. She looks at the Volvo parked in the garage. She looks at Harold. That's not gonna work.

She looks around and spots a kid-sized Barbie Jeep.

CUT TO:

INT. CAROLINE'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Harold lays on the workbench with tiny jumper cables attached to his incisions. The cables are hooked up to the toy car battery. Lizzie tunelessly sings some Drake. Caroline takes a gulp of wine and turns the Barbie Jeep on.

EXT. CAROLINE WALTON'S HOUSE - SIMULTANEOUS

Thunder claps and lightning strikes the house.

INT. CAROLINE'S GARAGE - SIMULTANEOUS

The lights flicker in the garage and Caroline recoils from a tiny shock. She turns the Jeep off and walks towards Harold. He lays there, motionless. Lizzie bursts out laughing.

LIZZIE
You're an idiot.

Caroline takes a cable off the frog. As she reaches for the second, Harold hops up and croaks... he's good as new! Caroline catches Harold and holds him at arms length, stunned.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
(whispers)
What the fuck.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - MONDAY MORNING

Lizzie stands at her open locker. Caroline approaches with a hefty binder, wearing glasses.

CAROLINE
I have a proposition.

LIZZIE

Who do you think you are,
propositioning me before nine AM?
Where did you get those glasses?

CAROLINE

I liberated them. From Rite Aid.

LIZZIE

Oh my God, you stole them? I love
that. You look amazing!

CAROLINE

Thank you so much! I love those
pants.

LIZZIE

Thank you, they're not too -- ?

CAROLINE

Enough! Listen to me! I know what
I'm going to do with my...
(whispers)
Gift.

LIZZIE

(not hearing)
Your what?

CAROLINE

My gift!

She mimes being dead, then coming alive. It's pretty good.

LIZZIE

Oh. Okay, what?

CUT TO:

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Lizzie slams her gym locker closed. The girls are now in
matching gym class uniforms. Lizzie laughs, but then realizes
that Caroline is serious.

LIZZIE

Really? No. What? You want to bring
a human boy back to life?

CAROLINE

Look, man, I need this. Right now, I'm just like every other high-IQ teenage science freak applying to MIT. I need to stand out.

LIZZIE

So you're going necromance a corpse and then tell MIT about it?

CAROLINE

Only if it goes well! Best case scenario, they erect a statue of me. Worst case, the CIA studies me in a lab like ET.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY GYMNASIUM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

A WHISTLE BLOWS. Caroline and Lizzie are jogging slowly around the indoor track.

CAROLINE

I can live the rest of my life in a lab. Talk about hands-on experience!

LIZZIE

Why can't you just write about Harold? He's already been zapped.

CAROLINE

I love the bastard, but Harold's small potatoes. I need to do something huge. And I figured, while I'm at it, I could take care of your problem.

LIZZIE

What problem? I have no problems. Shut up.

CAROLINE

You said it yourself. You're wasting too much time trying to pin down these worthless, human jock straps and not enough time on your plan for world domination. Let me take the search off your plate.

LIZZIE

Okay, but what you're talking about is definitely, like, impossible.

CAROLINE

In science, and maybe magic,
anything's possible. You saw it
first hand!

LIZZIE

You were wasted.

CAROLINE

You were wasted.

LIZZIE

I know, I threw up in the shower.

CAROLINE

I know, I cleaned it up. And now
you owe me.

Caroline grabs Lizzie's arm and they stop running.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Buddy, what's say we acquire you
some prime cut, currently deceased
man-meat, bring him back to life,
and make all our wildest dreams
come true?

Henry approaches in his gym uniform and stops in front of
them, running in place.

HENRY

What are you guys talking about?

LIZZIE

Caroline's a freak. She wants to --

CAROLINE

Shut up, Lizzie!

Caroline jogs away. Henry follows. Lizzie takes a breather.
COACH GIUSTI (50s, round) blows his whistle.

COACH GIUSTI

McGuire! Get those knees up!

CUT TO:

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LATER

Lizzie stands in the lunch line with her tray. Caroline cuts
the line to stand next to Lizzie, plopping her binder that
says "TOP SECRET" on the lunch belt.

CAROLINE

I'm honestly surprised you're not more excited about this.

LIZZIE

You just cut, like, fifteen people.

CAROLINE

I mean, once we have the guy, game over, he's clay: we can shape him and educate him and dress him. We can make the perfect, third-wave feminist boy. Doesn't that rev your eng? Get the juices going?

LIZZIE

How do you know he won't just turn out like every other shitty guy?

CAROLINE

Excuse me, I'm a scientist! I've been monitoring Harold and it's like he has amnesia. All of the things he used to know how to do, like find the water cave or ride his tiny little skateboard, were totally gone.

LIZZIE

We gotta get him back on that board.

CAROLINE

I already did! He's even better than before. He did a kick-flip!

LIZZIE

So what, your plan is just to find some guy, kill him and... ta-dah?

CAROLINE

Don't be insane. I found the perfect dead guy. We just gotta snatch him, fill 'er back up, and no one will even know he's gone.

LIZZIE

I'm not "snatching" a corpse with you. You're sick, you know that?
(to the lunch lady)
She's sick.

Lizzie takes her tray and leaves, Caroline hot on her heels.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - FRENCH CLASS

Caroline and Lizzie sit in French class. Henry sits between them. As MADAME HUBACHER leads the class in a vocab lesson,

MADAME HUBACHER
Maintenant, je...

ALL
... mourus.

The class conjugates as Caroline whispers to Lizzie.

CAROLINE
Did you see the text I sent you?
He's hot, right?

LIZZIE
Of course. I could swim in those
eyes if I wanted to. Which I don't!
Because they're probably filled
with maggots right now.

Caroline pulls out corresponding paperwork from the binder.

CAROLINE
Actually, he was embalmed, like Eva
Peron, so he's definitely still
sexy. He died tragically on -- get
this -- a Habitat for Humanity trip.

LIZZIE
Aw, a sweet boy.

CAROLINE
Right? And then was flown, on ice,
from New Orleans to Tambora, where
he's currently buried in a cherry
oak casket.

LIZZIE
You shouldn't know any of that.

The bell rings and students file out.

CAROLINE
So we're good to go, yeah?

LIZZIE
 Why does he have to be my
 boyfriend? Leave me out of it.

CAROLINE
 Oh, I can't get emotionally
 involved in this, I'll taint the
 experiment.

LIZZIE
 Ha. Taint.

They giggle.

CAROLINE
 Come on. We can't risk you losing
 the election to Goose because
 you're busy finding a boyfriend.
 Can you imagine? I believe he does
 have the political sway to get us
 nacho fountains, and I don't think
 that's good for us.

LIZZIE
 There'd be ants everywhere.

Lizzie mulls this over.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
 No. Too weird, sorry.

Lizzie walks away, leaving Caroline to pout.

INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN - LATER

Russ and Kim make dinner together, Will sits at the table.
 Music's playing, and they actually look like a warm, happy
 family. Caroline enters, takes in the scene from the doorway.

KIM
 (to Will)
 I thought it was Sam's Bar Mitzvah
 this weekend.

WILL
 No! It's Ethan Landsberg's.

RUSS
 Are you gonna ask that little
 blonde to dance again?

KIM
 Oh, Katie! I like her.

WILL

I don't know. She's taller than me.

RUSS

When I met your mother, I was scared shitless of her.

KIM

You were not.

RUSS

I was! Top of our class, teacher's pet, could drink any of us under the table. Every intern at the hospital tried to get a date with her, and she turned them down, stone cold.

CAROLINE

And she went out with you?

RUSS

I've got a few tricks up my sleeve.

WILL

Like what?

RUSS

I didn't give her the time of day. She knew she could have any guy she wanted, except for me. So when she finally asked me for a "study session", I knew where I stood.

Kim slams a pot on the stove.

KIM

Yes, your father has always succeeded in wearing me down.

RUSS

You know that's not what I meant.

She doesn't respond, goes back to cooking. Russ kisses Kim on the cheek and she takes it, icily. Caroline exits.

INT. CAROLINE WALTON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caroline enters and throws herself on her bed. She takes out her phone and calls Lizzie. This is intercut with:

INT. LIZZIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie's doing homework on her bed. She picks up the phone.

CAROLINE (ON PHONE)

Fine, you caught me. It's possible I have more of a personal stake in this than I initially let on.

LIZZIE

No doy.

CAROLINE

My mom found more texts from that 25-year-old phlebotomist on my Dad's phone.

LIZZIE

Hoo-boy.

CAROLINE

From what I can gather, they're fully having an affair but he's still allowed to live here for some reason. I dunno, it's tense all the time.

LIZZIE

If my dad ever cheated on my mom, my mom'd shoot him in the penis.

CAROLINE

I'll pitch that.
(then)
How is that my dad?

LIZZIE

I don't know, it fucking sucks.

CAROLINE

It does. So sue me for trying to use my powers --

LIZZIE

I wouldn't call them powers.

CAROLINE

-- or whatever, to try to bring something we actually need into this world. What if, as much as possible, we can take the man out of the system that turns them into Goose. Or my Dad. Or... anyone named Logan.

LIZZIE

You're not God, Caroline.

CAROLINE

I know. But what if I am? Or at least, what if I'm as smart as everyone's always telling me I am? Both seem equally likely. Please, Lizzie? Let me do this for you. For us. And - dare I say - the world.

LIZZIE

When?

CAROLINE

Seriously?

LIZZIE

Fuck it, I'm not turning down making my own boyfriend. For the good of the world, of course.

CAROLINE

Of course! You're a perfect human goddess. I can't believe I get to be friends with you. Tomorrow?

LIZZIE

I can't. I have Model U.N. How about Wednesday?

CAROLINE

I have chem club on Wednesday. Thursday?

LIZZIE

I have jazz band. Did I tell you I got a solo on "Moondance"?

CAROLINE

Oh, my God! Congrats!

LIZZIE

Thank you so much. Friday it is. Then we can have a sleepover!
(then)
Are you sure this is a good idea?

CAROLINE

I'm positive. It'll be a graveyard smash.

CUT TO:

EXT. TAMBORA GRAVEYARD - A FEW NIGHTS LATER

Caroline and Lizzie stand solemnly over a grave. It's quiet for a few moments before Lizzie breaks the silence.

LIZZIE

Well, this is a quirky meet cute if I ever saw one.

CAROLINE

I know. This is so you guys.

LIZZIE

You know, I was nervous at first, but I gotta say, now I'm excited. I'm getting a boyfriend tonight.

CAROLINE

And I'm getting into MIT. Let's get started. I wanna beat the rain.

Lizzie grabs a nearby shovel as Caroline walks away.

LIZZIE

I'll take the first shift, I guess. How hard could it be?

Lizzie struggles to break the ground. Caroline yells at her from the seat of a backhoe.

CAROLINE

Are you insane? You thought we were gonna do this by hand?

LIZZIE

What are you doing? Put that back!

Caroline approaches in the backhoe.

CAROLINE

We can't dig up a full grave in a night! Think about it like this: Stanley Yelnats dug holes way smaller than this, and that took him an entire day. Even Zero couldn't do it in under five hours.

LIZZIE

I guess you can't argue with facts.

CAROLINE

It's chill. The backhoe operator's shift doesn't start 'til nine.

(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 After we fill the hole back in,
 it's a two hour operation, tops.

LIZZIE
 Do you know how to use that thing?

CAROLINE
 (holding up her phone)
 It's fine, I have a WikiHow.

EXT. TAMBORA GRAVEYARD - AN HOUR LATER

Lizzie keeps a lookout and guides Caroline in the backhoe.
 Caroline scoops the last of the dirt out of the grave and
 hops off the backhoe.

CAROLINE
 Alright, hop in.

LIZZIE
 What? This was your crack-pot idea.
 I'm not going in.

CAROLINE
 Come on, you're the brave one!
 Unless, of course, you're not
 strong enough...

LIZZIE
 Of course I'm strong enough, don't
 be stupid.
 (then)
 Goddamnit, that works every time.

Lizzie hops in the grave and lands on her feet with a thud.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
 Nice casket. Ten bucks says this
 bad boy's lined with velvet.

CAROLINE
 Yeah, sure. Are you okay?

LIZZIE
 I'm fine. Who hasn't gone to crazy
 lengths for love?

CAROLINE
 Loving the enthusiasm. You got it?

Lizzie digs her foot into the dirt, cracks open the casket
 and gingerly steps inside. "

Justin", now just a dead body, lays inside in a nice suit, on a bed of velvet. The girls recoil from the smell.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Oh, my God.

LIZZIE
It's loud. Can a smell be loud?

CAROLINE
Just tie him up, the faster we do this, the sooner we get him in a shower.

Caroline throws down a rope. Lizzie holds her breath and ties it around The Body's waist. Lizzie notes the casket's lining.

LIZZIE
You owe me ten bucks, by the way.

Lizzie leans down and cups The Body's face in her hands.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
(to body)
I will make you fall in love with me. Over your dead body.

CAROLINE
How's it going?

LIZZIE
I think we're good to go. Pull.

Lizzie squeezes behind him as Caroline pulls the rope, bringing The Body to its feet. Caroline pulls and the head pops up above the side of grave.

CAROLINE
He's crowning!

CUT TO:

INT. CAROLINE'S CAR - LATER

Caroline's driving, with Lizzie in the passenger seat. "Justin" is in the middle back seat in his suit, seat belt on. Everyone is covered in dirt. It's raining.

LIZZIE
That was... easy. Like, how did the old-timey grave robbers even get caught?

CAROLINE
They wouldn't take the time to put
the dirt back.

LIZZIE
They'd leave the hole wide open?
Amateurs!

CAROLINE
Exactly, it's like, just put the
dirt back! No one would even know
something's missing.

LIZZIE
Stop, you're just giving me ideas.
My bitch grandma was buried in a
pantsuit I was hoping to inherit.

Caroline looks at the body in the rearview mirror.

CAROLINE
Can we put some sunglasses on him
or something?

Lizzie unbuckles and puts sunglasses on "Justin's" head.

LIZZIE
Come here, babe.

CAROLINE
You can't call him that yet.

Lizzie sits back in her own seat.

LIZZIE
Let's crank some tunes.

Lizzie leans over and turns on the radio. "Zombie" by The
Cranberries is playing.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Ohhhhhh shit! How insane is this?!

The girls sing along loudly. "Justin's" head slumps over.

EXT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - A FEW HOURS LATER

A thunder and lightning storm rages.

INT. CAROLINE'S GARAGE - LATER

"Justin" sits backwards on an office chair as Caroline tinkers over him. Lizzie enters snacking on chips.

LIZZIE

I'm sure you already worked it all out, but what are we gonna do with him? Where will he live, per se?

CAROLINE

The shed in my backyard. Next?

LIZZIE

Great. What will he do all day?

CAROLINE

Come to school with us. Do you know how easy it is to fake paperwork for a public school?

LIZZIE

Why would I know that? Why do you know that?

CAROLINE

It's one of those things you pick up along the way. Anything else?

She walks over to the body.

LIZZIE

Let's talk about how hot my soon-to-be BF is. Or, will be, once he gets some sun.

Lizzie holds one of "Justin's" hands. She examines it.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Oh, yes. This is nice. Great hands, great boyfriend hands. Our fingers interlock perfectly.

Lizzie takes the hand and puts it on her boob.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Yup. That's a nice fit.

CAROLINE

I'm a born matchmaker, what can I say?

Lizzie bends down and wraps his arm around her shoulder.

LIZZIE

Oh, I like that weight. I feel so safe.

CAROLINE

It's go-time, get in the car.

Lizzie gets into the driver's seat, Caroline attaches the jumper cables to The Body and rolls him in front of the car.

LIZZIE

You ready?

CAROLINE

Open the door.

EXT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The garage door slowly opens as Caroline pushes the body into the driveway.

CUE: "O Fortuna" by Carl Orff.

Lightning strikes around them. It's all very dramatic.

CAROLINE

Lizzie! Turn that off!

The music stops.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

My parents are sleeping.

Thunder crashes as the storm gets closer.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Okay. Gun it.

Lizzie starts the engine. Simultaneously, lightning strikes The Body. Caroline ducks behind the car. Lizzie turns off the car. The Body slumps down.

Lizzie gets out of the car and they walk over to The Body. His hands twitch. They rush over to him as he lifts his head and starts groaning like an animal.

LIZZIE

Oh, no. We ruined his beautiful brain.

CAROLINE

Shit.

LIZZIE
Babe, are you okay?

He lets out another groan.

THE BODY
Fuck.

Caroline and Lizzie jump back.

THE BODY (CONT'D)
I think I'm gonna throw up.
(then, swallowing)
No, I'm not. I'm good.

He gags, then throws up.

THE BODY (CONT'D)
Sorry. I wasn't good.

LIZZIE
Holy shit. God is a woman.

EXT. CAROLINE'S BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Caroline and Lizzie lead The Body through the backyard to a tiny shed on the corner of the property.

CAROLINE
It's actually pretty simple. I made an incision at your sciatic nerve, and another at the base of your spine, and used a surprisingly pedestrian electric current. Then there was the lightning conductor, which may be a little bit magic, I'm not entirely sure. And here you are.

LIZZIE
(winking)
Right on time.

They reach the shed. Lizzie opens the door.

INT. THE SHED - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie, Caroline, and The Body enter. It has a small cot.

CAROLINE
It's not much, but it'll do until we find you something more permanent.

(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

And I sprayed Lizzie's perfume on your pillows. Let's get the pheromones working, no?

The Body sits down on the bed and smells the pillow. He shudders, then his face relaxes into a soothed smile.

THE BODY

Woah. That smell. My brain feels... nice.

Caroline takes out a notebook and jots something down.

CAROLINE

Fascinating. I'll make a note of that. Smells. Do you mind if I ask you a couple intake questions?

(off his nod)

What's the last thing you remember?

THE BODY

The garage.

CAROLINE

Great. And nothing before that?

He shakes his head.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

But you're good on the moving, the walking, the talking... ?

He nods, looks at his hand and slowly forms a thumbs-up. He proudly presents it to Caroline.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

And you've got that covered. What year is it?

THE BODY

2020, right?

LIZZIE

Very good! You're doing amazing.

CAROLINE

(showing him a photo on her phone)

Do you know who this is?

THE BODY

Beyonce. Of course.

CAROLINE
Do you like her music?

He shrugs. Lizzie gasps. Caroline holds a hand up to her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
What kind of music do you like?
(off his shrug)
Any favorite foods? Sworn enemies?
Beloved child memories?

THE BODY
(at a loss)
I don't know.

LIZZIE
Aww. Poor baby.

CAROLINE
Perfect! Tabula rasa! Any questions?

THE BODY
Who am I?

CAROLINE
Slow down, cowboy. We'll take care
of that.

THE BODY
But what's my name?

CAROLINE
Oh, right. Huh. Stuart?

LIZZIE
Ew. No, I already thought about it.
It'll be an homage to our nation's
dreamiest actor, a climate warrior,
and proud lover of young women. The
one. The only.

Leo. CAROLINE Leo. LIZZIE (CONT'D)

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Leo Seacrest.

CAROLINE
What? Why?

LIZZIE
For balance.

CAROLINE
(to Leo)
Does that work for you?

THE BODY/LEO
Sure. Goodnight.

Leo lies down.

CAROLINE
Oh. Of course. Goodnight, Leo.
(to Lizzie)
Now, blow him a kiss.

Lizzie blows Leo a kiss and they exit.

EXT. CAROLINE'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Caroline and Lizzie exit the shed. They high-five.

INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Caroline flips the last of several pancakes onto a plate.
Lizzie grabs a candle and sticks it in the pancake.

LIZZIE
(off Caroline's look)
What? It's basically his birthday.

Will enters holding Harold.

WILL
Where's Mom and Dad?

CAROLINE
Ask me before you take Harold out!
Mom and Dad are at the marriage
counselor. As if some shrink is
gonna save that sinking ship.

LIZZIE
I'm sure it's not that simple.

CAROLINE
No, it is. It's so embarrassing,
she's this boss ass bitch doctor at
work, but then she comes home and
she's a total doormat. Get a
divorce already.

WILL
Shut up! Or you'll be sorry.

CAROLINE

I doubt it.

Will grabs a can of Axe from his nearby backpack, aiming at Caroline's face.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Ew, when did you start carrying around Axe, you little maniac.

WILL

I'm just trying to smell sweet on these streets, homie. Some of us don't want to be single forever.

LIZZIE

Wow. Way harsh.

Will sprays a little in the air and Caroline screams. He sprays some on Harold, who jumps out of his hands.

CAROLINE

Will! Put him back.

Will exits after Harold, who keeps jumping out of reach. Caroline and Lizzie exit.

INT. THE SHED - MOMENTS LATER

Leo opens up the door to find Lizzie and Caroline

LIZZIE

Good morning, starshine!

LEO

Cool. Hey.

CAROLINE

You must be starving. Do you like pancakes?

He thinks - does he?

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

It's fine. Give 'em a try.

LIZZIE

Wait a second!

Lizzie pulls out a lighter and goes to light the candle. Leo jumps back and screams. Lizzie stops.

LEO
I don't like that.

LIZZIE
Okay, baby! It's okay!

Leo cautiously approaches the tray, grabs it, and sits on his bed. He tries a bite of pancake. He does like it! He folds it up and shoves the whole thing in his mouth. Caroline nudges Lizzie, and Lizzie sits next to him on the bed.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
By the way, I know we met last night, but again, I'm Lizzie. Three things about me, I'm an Aries, Libra rising, future president of these here United States, and, based on your consent, you're my boyfriend.

LEO
Huh?

LIZZIE
Technically, that's a thing about you. Do you want to date me?

LEO
(mouth full)
Yeah, you're pretty.

LIZZIE
And smart. And deceptively strong.

Caroline lights the lighter again and holds it up to Leo. Again, he screams. She takes out her notebook and writes.

CAROLINE
Leo, you're giving me some very good stuff here.
(then)
Let's go over the plan. We need to get you up to date on current events, submit your school forms, brush up on some basic feminist theory, get rid of that smell, the usual. But first, let's get you out of your... death suit?

LIZZIE
Tomb digs.

CAROLINE
Funeral clothes.

LEO
What?

LIZZIE
We're going shopping!

CUT TO:

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

MUSIC CUE: "Whatta Man" by Salt-N-Pepa and En Vogue

1. INT. TARGET - DAY

Caroline, Lizzie, and Leo (in his dirty suit) walk down an aisle. On one side, Caroline piles books into Leo's arm. On the other, Lizzie drapes shirts and pants.

CAROLINE
You've got your bell hooks, your Adrienne Rich, and your Judith Butler. This is all mostly just well-written common sense.

LIZZIE
Pants should be junk-hugging and never bootleg. Tank tops are a no. Henleys are always good. Very hot, very Newsies, very now.

2. EXT. DINER - DAY

Caroline leads Lizzie and Leo up to the door of a diner.

CAROLINE
Opening doors is a bit of a minefield.

LIZZIE
You don't have to open a door for a girl, but you should.

Caroline nods.

LEO
Isn't it... not feminist to think you guys can't open the door?

Caroline and Lizzie look at each other.

CAROLINE
That was a test. You passed. But
also, do it. It's nice.

Leo opens the door. They all file in.

3. INT. TARGET - AS BEFORE

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Isabel Allende and Alice Walker for
your stories. For your poetry,
Warsan Shire and Gwendolyn Brooks.

LIZZIE
No tiny eyewear. This isn't The
Matrix.

4. INT. DINER - MINUTES LATER

Caroline sits in a booth across from Lizzie and Leo.

CAROLINE
Leo, can I have a fry?

Leo shrugs.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I need a verbal yes or no.

LEO
No, you have your own.

CAROLINE
Great. I will not take one of your
fries. Against your will. Because I
am not a rapist. Get it?

LIZZIE
(beat)
Um...

5. INT. TARGET - AS BEFORE

They reach the Men's Deodorant display. Leo reaches for Axe.

CAROLINE
No, no. That shit will break your
brain.

Lizzie and Caroline redirect his arm to a different
deodorant: "Ira Glass' This American Spice." Leo smells it,
and with the same relaxed, soothed smile:

LEO
That's a good smell.

LIZZIE
And it comes with a tote bag.

6. INT. DINER - AS BEFORE

CAROLINE
Here's a list of all the terms you
should never use to describe women
under any circumstances.

Leo watches the girls rapid fire like it's a tennis match:

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Crazy.

LIZZIE
Slut.

CAROLINE
Bitch.

LIZZIE
(whispers)
The C-word.

CAROLINE
Emotional.

LIZZIE
Needy.

CAROLINE
And of course, we reserve the right
to add or subtract from the list at
our discretion.

Leo nods.

7. INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATER

Leo steps out of the dressing room in a killer outfit. He
looks amazing. The girls look at each other, thrilled.

LIZZIE
He's ready.

CAROLINE
He's ready.

END MONTAGE.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - MONDAY MORNING

The hallways are bustling with students chatting, slamming lockers, and rushing to class. The bell rings.

SLO MO: Leo in sunglasses with his arm around Lizzie, and Caroline beside them, burst through the front doors as other students watch on. Lizzie hands out campaign posters with her face on them. Leo whips off his sunglasses and they hit Caroline in the face. Leo makes a show of apologizing and they all bend over to pick them up. Once back up, Lizzie pulls Leo into a deep kiss. Caroline hangs back while Lizzie and Leo keep walking down the hall. END SLO MO.

Caroline stands with an awestruck EMILY (16).

EMILY

(re: Leo)

Who is that?

CAROLINE

That's Leo. Leo Seacrest.

EMILY

Like... Ryan?

CAROLINE

No relation. He's Lizzie's boyfriend. They met at the bowling alley and now they're going steady.

EMILY

He's really hot.

CAROLINE

He's not just a piece of meat.

EMILY

(hypnotized by Leo)

Sure.

CAROLINE

Actually, maybe it is kind of feminist to treat men like pieces of meat. Take back the power. I changed my mind. Way to go, Emily.

EMILY

(drooling)

Whatever.

Caroline leans back and watches as Lizzie and Leo strut down the hall, all eyes on them.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY GYMNASIUM - THAT AFTERNOON

Dodgeball. Leo and Lizzie are on one team, occasionally stopping to make out. Henry and Caroline are on the other team. Henry is playing his heart out, while Caroline writes in her journal on the sidelines. Henry approaches Caroline.

HENRY

You good, Walton?

CAROLINE

Truly never better.

HENRY

You sure? Because you're staring at the new guy and writing in your diary. Do you like, like the guy Lizzie's dating?

CAROLINE

Who, Leo? No way. I'm practically his mother.

HENRY

Okay. Just saying, that would be hard for me. If my friend was dating someone I liked.

COACH GIUSTI

Walton! You can't say that you're menstruating every class. It's impossible. Get in the game!

Caroline slowly stands up, tucking her journal into her shorts. Henry walks with her to the middle of their side. As they talk, he blocks balls from hitting them with ease.

HENRY

And you could do better, you know.

CAROLINE

At dodgeball? I'd rather die.

HENRY

No, I meant the new kid.

CAROLINE

He's basically perfect, so watch your mouth.

HENRY

Okay, fine. We could actually use a guy like that on the team.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)
 He hasn't missed a ball yet, even
 with Lizzie all over him.

He points at Leo whipping and catching balls across the gym,
 as Lizzie tenderly hangs on to him.

CAROLINE
 Ha! Absolutely not. He's not
 playing football. I can't have him
 getting that concussion disease and
 murdering Lizzie.

HENRY
 I mean, it's pretty rare that a
 high school athlete would get
 Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy.

CAROLINE
 I'm not taking that risk, playboy.

HENRY
 But, to be clear, you don't have
 crush on him.

CAROLINE
 Shut up. You know what? Screw Coach
 Giusti, he's a meatball. I'm
 conscientiously objecting. This is
 barbaric.

Henry watches as Caroline walks away, taking her journal out
 of her shorts. Eyes off the game, he gets hit by a ball
 lobbed by Leo.

LEO
 (re: Henry)
 Out! He's out!

CAROLINE
 (to Henry)
 Walk much?

Henry walks off. Across the court, Leo blocks a ball from
 hitting Lizzie.

LEO
 Was that okay? I know you could've
 done it yourself.

LIZZIE
 You're so hot right now.

They start furiously making out.

COACH GIUSTI

Is that how a future president acts, McGuire? What are you, a Kennedy?

EXT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Caroline walks with Lizzie and Leo to the parking lot.

CAROLINE

Great first day, everyone. Loved the hustle out there.

LIZZIE

Yeah, good job, hon. Everyone thought you were a real boy.

CAROLINE

He is a real boy.

LEO

Thanks, Lizard.

Leo and Lizzie kiss.

CAROLINE

Gross. Let's hit the diner for a notes sesh? I have approximately ten million questions for you, Leo. And I'd say let's go to my house, but it's a war zone right now.

LEO

Oh, I was actually going to take Lizzie on our first official date.

LIZZIE

But just to the diner to get fries! You should come. You can still get your notes.

LEO

(to Lizzie)

You're really cute when you're being nice to your friends.

Leo and Lizzie cuddle up as Caroline backs away, trying to hide her grimace.

CAROLINE

No, no, you're right. That's part of the experiment. Go on a date!

LIZZIE

You sure? Don't go home! Come!

CAROLINE

No, I've got data to log anyway.
Go.

LEO

Bye, Caroline. See you at home!

Lizzie and Leo walk away, leaving Caroline dejected.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

MUSIC CUE: "All By Myself" by Celine Dion

1. INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

SLO MO: Caroline looks bummed as she walks down the hallway with Emily, who's yapping away. She gazes longingly at happy pairs of friends: two girls putting on matching BFF temporary tattoos, a punk boy braiding another punk boy's hair.

2. INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SLO MO: Caroline approaches the counter. A BARISTA recognizes her and holds up two fingers. Caroline sadly shakes her head and holds up one finger. His face falls and he hands her a cup that reads "Caroline :("

3. INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Caroline sits at her desk, with an open MIT application and her notes on Leo. She looks out her window at Lizzie and Leo running into the shed. She checks her phone. Her background is a photo of her and Lizzie as kids. No new messages.

END MONTAGE.

INT. CAROLINE'S LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

Caroline enters through the front door. Her parents are sitting in the living room, facing Will.

CAROLINE

Hey, guys.

KIM

Caroline, sweetie, I'm glad you're home. Come, sit down.

Caroline drops her backpack and sits down next to Will.

KIM (CONT'D)

We love you guys so much, you know that right?

Caroline sighs and slouches in her seat.

RUSS

Caroline, come on.

WILL

What's going on?

RUSS

We're separating. I'm moving out this weekend.

WILL

For how long?

CAROLINE

Forever, stupid. That's the point.

RUSS

Caroline, that's not helping.

CAROLINE

It's not my job to help. I'm the kid.

KIM

Caroline --

CAROLINE

What? We all knew this was coming. Way to go, guys. Congrats.

Caroline gets up and storms up the stairs to her room.

RUSS

We're not done here!

CAROLINE

(from the stairs)
Oh, yes we are!

INT. CAROLINE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Caroline slams through the door and flops on her bed. A CREAK from the corner. She rouses herself, goes over to the frog tank. Harold hops, over and over again, on Maude. Caroline scoops him out of the tank.

CAROLINE

What the hell, Harold? Leave Maude alone.

Harold nips at her and she drops him.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Ouch! Since when do you bite? Those teeth are for flies and grubs only, mister!

Caroline crouches over lamely, trying to catch Harold. Every time she lunges, he hops just out of reach. It's sad.

INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN - A FEW DAYS LATER

Caroline sits in the breakfast nook eating a bowl of cereal. She can see Russ in the living room packing up a box of his knick-knacks. There's a HONK from outside. Caroline peers out the window and sees Lizzie idling in her car. She jumps up and runs out the door.

EXT. CAROLINE WALTON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Caroline runs out of the house toward Lizzie's car. She sticks her head in the window.

CAROLINE

Thank God you're here, you're like a mind-reader. My dad keeps sighing really loud while he packs his loser Steely Dan albums like I'm supposed to go in there and comfort him and jam out?

Before Lizzie can respond, Leo walks up to the car and squeezes his head into the window next to Caroline.

LEO

Hey, Caroline. I left my breakfast tray in the shed for you.
(to Lizzie)
Ready?

LIZZIE

Babe, slight hitch, would you mind returning to your lair? I have to hang with Caroline today.

Leo takes his head out of the window.

CAROLINE

You don't have to hang out with me.

LIZZIE

That's obviously not what I meant. I didn't realize this was happening today. I want to hang out.

Russ comes out of the house with a box, calls:

RUSS

Hey Liz! Who's the fella?

Caroline and Lizzie freeze, then:

CAROLINE

Lizzie's boyfriend.

LIZZIE

My cousin!

RUSS

Not really my business, I guess.

Caroline silently berates Lizzie ("What the fuck?"). Everyone looks at Leo, who's staring straight ahead.

CAROLINE

Okay, cool, bye Dad.

RUSS

Bye, Lizzie.

Russ throws his box in the car and heads back to the house.

LIZZIE

Now what? Your dad saw him. What should we do?

CAROLINE

He's moving out today, it doesn't matter. Besides, it's my problem. Go on your date.

LIZZIE

Come with us! We're going apple picking. Please.

CAROLINE
No, that's dumb. No one actually
likes apple picking, they just go
for the picture.

LIZZIE
Well, I'm going for the hot cider.

CAROLINE
And for him.

They look over at Leo, who hasn't moved. After a few seconds,
he notices them looking at him and gives them a thumbs up.

LIZZIE
Come on, get in the car.

CAROLINE
It's really okay. This is why I
made him. Can you just take notes
for me while you're there?

LIZZIE
Of course. And we'll bring you back
a cider donut.

Caroline switches places with Leo and he gets in the car.

CAROLINE
(to Leo)
Don't fall out of a tree.

Lizzie and Leo drive away. Caroline heads back inside.

INT. APPLE ORCHARD FARM CAFE - LATER

Lizzie and Leo sit across from each other sipping hot cider.
Leo is looking out the window and bouncing his leg.

LIZZIE
I know she has a lot going on, but
what am I supposed to do? I can't
be there for her if she literally
won't let me be there.

She waits for a response, then, re: Leo's leg:

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
You okay? Got the Sunday Scaries?

LEO
I just wanna get back out there.

LIZZIE

Do you really need more apples?

We pan down to see, like, five dozen apples.

LEO

That's why we're here, right?

LIZZIE

Technically, yeah, but this is the best part. Sitting all cozy by the fire, eating donuts...

LEO

Yeah, I guess I just disagree. I don't really see the point of...
(gesturing to their donuts)
This.

LIZZIE

Oh.

A long silence. Lizzie and Leo avoid each other's eye line.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Oh! I've been working on my student body stump speech, I'd love you to read it. I mean I know the position is mostly symbolic, but it's good practice for my inevitable gubernatorial run.

LEO

What's a "gubernor?"

LIZZIE

It's the race for governor.

LEO

Oh. I don't know if I'll be helpful. I've been reading up on politics and it's kind of a bummer.

LIZZIE

Huh. Not sure how that slipped through Caroline's cracks. Okay, I lost my virginity to someone apolitical. Sorry, processing.

LEO

It's okay. There's so many other things we both like.

LIZZIE
Like what? Science fiction?
Sustainable textile brands?

LEO
Like dogs!

LIZZIE
I like dogs!

Another long silence.

LEO
Wanna make out?

LIZZIE
Not really.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY LIBRARY - A FEW DAYS LATER

Caroline sits at a table in the library. Lizzie approaches, holding some flashcards.

CAROLINE
Why do you have flashcards?

LIZZIE
I have a few things I need to say.
I hope you don't mind, but I'll be
relying on a visual aid so I don't
get thrown off my groove.

CAROLINE
Alright, color me intrigued.

LIZZIE
(reading from flashcards)
Okay. While my time with Leo was
wonderful and sexy, once the
initial excitement of sleeping with
a dead boy wore off, I found that
we had no real connection.
Especially after I met Theo.

CAROLINE
I -- what in God's name is Theo?

LIZZIE
He's new, his family just moved
here from Sweden. Can you say
"socialized medicine?"

An icy stare from Caroline. Lizzie turns back to her cards.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

After a difficult discussion, Leo and I agreed that it would be best for us to buy a condo in Splitsville. I wish him nothing but the best in all his future endeav--

Caroline snatches Lizzie's cards and throws them on the floor.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Hey! Stop being mean.

CAROLINE

I'm not being mean!

GREG (15, nerd) shushes them from a nearby table.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Greg, if you want a quiet place, go stick your head in a toilet.

Caroline pulls Lizzie into the stacks. They whisper-yell.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

How could you do this to me? You're tanking the experiment.

LIZZIE

Caroline, Theo's amazing. We met in jazz band. He has two moms and he plays the French horn and we really get along. It's so different than being with Leo.

CAROLINE

How? Leo, Theo. Do you not hear it?

LIZZIE

I know Leo sounds great on paper, but chemistry's not a science.

Caroline lets out a frustrated muffled scream.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

You know what I mean.

(then)

Maybe we were wrong. There might be good guys out there in spite of the world's bullshit.

CAROLINE

Sure. Call me in two weeks when he does something horrible and you hate him, too.

LIZZIE

Caroline!

CAROLINE

Whatever. Live your life. Just give me the notes from your dumb apple date so I can figure out where this went wrong.

LIZZIE

Oh, shit. I might've forgotten to do those.

(off her look)

I'm sorry!

CAROLINE

God, is this a joke to you? You're like, addicted to the boys and the drama. It's so lame.

LIZZIE

Can you stop treating me like I have a medical condition? It's called being a teenager, you should try it sometime!

CAROLINE

I would, but I'm a little busy dealing with the goddamn Frankenstein in my backyard. Oh! And my deteriorating family, which you would know about if you were ever around.

LIZZIE

That's not fair. You told me to leave.

CAROLINE

Yes, so you could help me with Leo, and now you're doing neither.

LIZZIE

Dude, Leo and I are not good together. And I may not have taken notes, but I've spent enough time with him to know that this thing isn't working as well as we thought it would.

CAROLINE

It would be if you were cooperating!

LIZZIE

No, it wouldn't! Wake up, this works because I'm the passion and you're the ration.

CAROLINE

Jesus, first I'm not being enough of a stupid teenager, and now I'm being too stupid? What do you want from me?

Leo approaches them in the stacks, followed by Henry, Goose, and Richie. They're all wearing letterman jackets.

LEO

Caroline, look! Look what I did!

CAROLINE

What is this?

LEO

I made the football team.

CAROLINE

Like, to infiltrate their ranks and write an op-ed on toxic masculinity in American high schools?

LEO

No, like, to play.

Caroline groans loudly and storms away. She shoves Henry aside and knocks a binder out of his hands.

HENRY

Caroline, what the hell! That hurt.

Caroline flips him the bird without turning around. Lizzie storms away, also knocking Henry's binder out of his hands, just as he's standing up. As Henry follows the girls out:

HENRY (CONT'D)

Why are you guys being so weird?

The boys laugh at Henry. Goose catches a whiff of Leo.

GOOSE

You smell like a pussy. Take this.

He throws Leo a can of Axe.

LEO

Caroline says this stuff is bad for you.

RICHIE
Who's Caroline?

Goose grabs the Axe and sprays it all over Leo. He coughs and waves it out of his face, but Goose keeps spraying.

A LIBRARIAN (old) approaches them, waving the fumes away.

LIBRARIAN
Boys, take it outside. Greg's got asthma.

GREG
(to Librarian)
Mom, shut up!

The boys file out, laughing, spraying, Leo still coughing.

INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN - THAT EVENING

Caroline sits in the breakfast nook watching TV on her laptop. *Stay At Home Moms IRL* ends a segment and the AXE COMMERCIAL starts. She spots her mom in the yard carrying a box towards the shed and runs after her.

EXT. CAROLINE'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Caroline sprints to intercept her mom.

CAROLINE
What are you doing? What's that?

KIM
Gear from dad's SCUBA phase. It's going in the shed.

CAROLINE
Let me do it.

KIM
I'm right here.

CAROLINE
Let me. I want to. Who knows when I'll offer to help you again? Take the win, Mom.

Kim looks at her suspicious, but hands over the box.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Doesn't that feel better? Burden lifted.

KIM
Thank you?

CAROLINE
Thank you. You're welcome.

Kim goes inside. Caroline brings the box to the shed.

INT. LEO'S SHED - THAT NIGHT

The shed is a bit more personalized now -- there are clothes strewn around and schoolwork covering the bed. Leo sits on his cot, staring blankly at the wall. There's a KNOCK, and he snaps back to Earth. He opens the door to reveal Caroline.

LEO
Hey, Caroline.

CAROLINE
Hey, man. Can I put this in here?

Leo nods, takes the box and starts to close the door.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Wait, is it cool if I hang out in here for a minute?

LEO
Sure.

Caroline enters the shed. Leo sits on the bed and flips through a book, too quickly to be reading it. Caroline looks for a chair, but can't find one. She sits next to him.

CAROLINE
So, Lizzie told me what happened.
I'm sorry.

Leo shrugs.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Why didn't you tell me?

LEO
I don't know.

CAROLINE
Well, are you okay?

LEO
Yeah. It kind of came out of nowhere, though.

CAROLINE

Right? Things were going so well!
She's being so unreasonable-- I
mean, you get it.

LEO

Mm-hmm.

CAROLINE

Obviously, I've been mad at her
before -- once she took me to the
bathroom at a party and she pooped
and blamed the smell on me. But
this is way worse than that. And
you know she's the one I'd talk
about something like this with. And
between her and my parents, and
you... it's just a lot.

LEO

It sounds like a lot.

CAROLINE

Sorry, I shouldn't be complaining
about this to you. You don't even
have a family. Sorry, that was
rude, too.

LEO

(touching her arm)

Hey, relax. "And the day came when
the risk to remain tight in a bud
was more painful than the risk it
took to blossom."

CAROLINE

What?

LEO

It's Anais Nin.

CAROLINE

Right. Does that... ? It doesn't
really apply here.

LEO

Oh. Well, you said it once. I
thought it sounded nice.

CAROLINE

I can't believe you remembered it.

LEO

I remember everything you say.

Caroline's touched, but then groans and puts her head in her hands. Leo laughs softly and moves closer to her.

CAROLINE
What are you laughing at?

LEO
I don't know. You're not like other girls.

Leo tucks a piece of Caroline's hair behind her ear. She's startled, but doesn't pull away.

CAROLINE
What's wrong with other girls?

LEO
I'm not sure. It was in a Katherine Heigel movie I saw yesterday.

Leo kisses Caroline. She pulls away.

LEO (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, do I have your consent?

CAROLINE
This is a bad idea. I shouldn't get involved with... the experiment.

LEO
Well, I've wanted to do that for a long time.

CAROLINE
(checks behind her)
To me?

LEO
Yeah. You're like, cool. And fun. And pretty.

Caroline kisses him. She runs her hand through his hair, revealing the two scars from her experiment on his neck.

CAROLINE
I guess I've wanted to do that for a long time, too.

LEO
Do you feel better now?

CAROLINE
Yeah. I actually should go. I have some... observations to log...
(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 in my notebook. It's not at all a
 diary. I don't have any stickers.

Leo takes Caroline's hand and squeezes it.

LEO
 Okay, cool. Goodnight.

Leo lies down on the bed.

CAROLINE
 Oh, okay. Goodnight.

Caroline stands and exits the shed.

EXT. CAROLINE'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Caroline closes the door to the shed. She pauses on the steps
 and smiles, giddily, before walking into the house.

EXT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - A FEW DAYS LATER

Caroline paces in the lot between the gymnasium and the
 football field, checking her phone. She stops.

CAROLINE
 (sotto)
 Jesus, Caroline. What are you
 doing?
 (she looks at her bracelet,
 which spells out
 "WWFBLAMJD?")
 What would first black lady
 astronaut Mae Jemison do?
 (gasps)
 Give him some space!

She chuckles and high-fives herself. She turns to leave and
 bumps directly into Leo's chest as he and the team jog up.

LEO
 Hey! What are you doing here?

CAROLINE
 Ouch. Hey! I have chem club, but I
 was thinking about blowing it off.
 (pretend lightbulb!)
 Oh! Idea! If I blow it off, are you
 free to hang out?

LEO
 You are smart, huh? Let's do it!

CAROLINE
Cool. Meet me at the lockers?

LEO
Great, gimme like anywhere between
ten minnies and an hour. I just
gotta go rinse off.

Leo kisses her and follows the guys into the gym.

CAROLINE
Have fun showering with dudes!
Ignore society's homophobic
propaganda and enjoy being intimate
with your friends!

LEO
(calling back to her)
What's up?

CAROLINE
Have a nice shower.

Leo gives her a thumbs up.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY BOY'S LOCKER ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Leo is in a towel, rummaging through his locker. Goose, Richie, Henry, and a few other guys hang around in various states of undress. Goose and Richie approach Leo.

GOOSE
Props, Leo. You move pretty fast.

RICHIE
Yeah, bruh. We saw you mackin' on
Dirty C out there.

GOOSE
So, who's better? Physically,
Lizzie to Caroline is a lateral
move, but in terms of getting
actual ass, Lizzie's your girl.

RICHIE
No way, Caroline's definitely a low-
key freak. Those nerdy chicks are
always... "you know," if you know
what I mean.

Leo looks at them blankly.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
Sex. Sex with Caroline. Discuss.

LEO
Oh. We haven't had sex. We've only
kissed.

GOOSE
WHAAA? It's been, like, a week!
Doesn't a girl like Caroline have
something to prove?

Henry pipes up, unable to stand it any longer.

HENRY
What does that mean?

RICHIE
How do you go from freaking it with
Lizzie to "kissing"? What even is
that?

LEO
We do other stuff. Sometimes she
just talks so much, we forget to
"kiss." Which I guess, Richie, if I
had to describe it, is when --

GOOSE
So you're telling me you have to
listen to her yap all day and you
get nothing in return?

HENRY
Well, company, for one --

LEO
I guess I do miss sex. That was
pretty cool. But what can you do?

GOOSE
Let her know you've got options, so
she'll work for it.

RICHIE
Yeah. Like, when you know she's
watching, pick up another girl and
tell her she's light. Caroline will
hate that.

LEO
Alright. Got it.

GOOSE
Or just get a couple drinks in her.

HENRY
Dude, come on.

GOOSE
She could just be a little nervous.
Girls want it just as much as we
do. Even Caroline. Ask Eric.

RICHIE
Yeah, last year at homecoming she
had four beers and made out with
Eric for like, seventy minutes.

ERIC (17) calls from far across the locker room.

ERIC
I got one whole palm on her butt.
Under the jeans, over the panties.
Then she hit me.

Henry looks pained.

GOOSE
Yeah, if she hits you, you stop.

LEO
I don't know. Using beer for sex
seems... what's the word?

HENRY
"Fucked." Caroline's cool. She likes
you. You don't need to trick her.

GOOSE
Relax, Ted Mosby, no one's tricking
anyone. If she doesn't want to do
it, don't do it, we're just
greasing the runway.

LEO
(to Henry)
Sorry Ted, I think I'm going with
Goose's plan. How will I buy beer?

RICHIE
Oh, shit! We should have a party.
My cousin can get us a keg.

HENRY
Caroline hates parties.

GOOSE

Do you know how stupid you sound right now? Nobody hates parties.

(to Leo)

Tell her it'll be good for your relationship or some shit.

LEO

She has been pretty down lately.

RICHIE

Ugh. TMI.

LEO

This is exciting! I can't wait to do something nice for her.

GOOSE

Ha, sure. "Nice."

Leo finishes changing and puts on his This American Spice deodorant. Goose grabs it and replaces it with Axe.

GOOSE (CONT'D)

I thought I told you to stop using that shit. Ira Glass is a vagina.

Leo takes a sniff of the Axe and winces. He looks around, and sprays it all over his body.

INSERT: Osmosis Jones-style animation tracking the Axe fumes entering Leo's brain. Pictures of Susan Sontag, the word "Intersectionality", and the Equal Rights Amendment are eaten up by the Axe molecules and replaced with a cartoon football, the Pornhub logo, and picture of Joe Rogan.

ANGLE BACK ON: Leo, who lets out a primal scream and shoves Eric against a locker. Then:

LEO

Woah. Spicy.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - SIMULTANEOUS

Caroline strolls down a row of lockers plastered with Goose's campaign posters. They read "GOOSE CAN'T LOOSE," and as she passes them, she's crossing out the erroneous O's. She stops in front of one and crosses out the T, too, so it says "GOOSE CAN LOSE." She has a hearty chuckle. She thinks, and instead tears the poster down, revealing one of Lizzie's posters.

Shocked, she tears down a couple more before she's distracted by OFF-SCREEN GIGGLING and turns around to see Leo picking up a CHEERLEADER. Leo wears a backwards cap and stands a bit more confidently than he did before he sprayed the Axe. Caroline beelines toward them.

LEO
(to cheerleader)
You are so light.

CAROLINE
(too loud)
Hey, Leo. Ready to go?

CHEERLEADER
Oh my god, Leo, you're so funny.
I'll see you tomorrow.

Cheerleader walks away, smirking at Caroline.

CAROLINE
Tomorrow? What's tomorrow?

LEO
School. We have that tomorrow,
right?

Leo starts walking out. Caroline follows.

CAROLINE
Oh, that's cool. She seems, like,
really nice. Like, super cool,
like, a really cool, nice, pretty,
but just like cool and nice person.

LEO
Yeah, she really is.

CAROLINE
Okay, I know I sounded really calm
back there but are you, like,
trying to date her?

Leo shrugs.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Sorry, what's happening here? Are we
not dating each other? And why do you
smell like Axe? If you start using a
new product, you're supposed to tell
me. I need to know this stuff.

LEO

You know what I think we need? Some time together where we're just having fun. Where we're not thinking about all that Lizzie stuff, or your parents -- just you, me, good friends, good vibes.

CAROLINE

You sound like an Outback Steakhouse commercial.

LEO

Now you're thinking. That place rules.

CAROLINE

I mean, we're going to that Agnes Varda retrospective Friday night.

LEO

And that's obviously gonna be a blast. But what if we threw a party?

CAROLINE

A party? Like a teen party?

LEO

I just want you to blow off steam. And I think it'll be really good for our relationship.

CAROLINE

So there is a relationship?

Leo puts his arm around her, massaging her shoulder.

LEO

Sure. Come on. You're so tense. Let loose. Enjoy your youth.

CAROLINE

But I hate my youth.

(then)

I mean, my mom is going to visit my grandparents all weekend. I guess I could set up a sleepover for Will.

LEO

You're a capable woman who can do anything she sets her mind to.

CAROLINE

You promise it won't get too crazy?

LEO
 You're adorable. It'll be fun. You
 love having fun, right?

She squints, thinks:

CAROLINE
 Yes.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - SATURDAY NIGHT

A teen party rages, clearly beyond Caroline's control. Goose, Richie and Leo shotgun beers in the kitchen. They're cheered on by two DRUNK GIRLS, giggling and drinking White Claw. Richie scrote-taps Goose, who snorts out some beer. Leo finishes his beer and raises his arms in triumph. Beer drunk and dressed in a South Orkney High football jersey and his backwards hat, he moves with swagger, now in full bro-mode.

GOOSE
 (to Richie)
 Stop it, man. You're always trying
 to touch my junk.

RICHIE
 I said "no homo."

GOOSE
 No, you didn't! It's officially
 "homo."

Goose scrote-taps Richie.

LEO
 (genuinely observing)
 Huh. Now you're both "homo."

GOOSE
 Shut up.

DRUNK GIRL #1
 Goose, chill out. Let's smoke.

She pulls out a joint. Drunk Girl #2 reaches over Leo to light the joint. Leo jolts back, letting out a monstrous scream and flailing his arms, then checks himself.

LEO
 Sorry. I'm not really into fire.

DRUNK GIRL #2
 (to Drunk Girl #1)
 These guys are wild.

Caroline watches from the doorway, sipping a drink. Lizzie and THEO (17, adorable, has a light Scandinavian accent) enter and approach her.

LIZZIE

Hey. I didn't know if it would be weird if we came, but--

THEO

I'm Theo! You have a lovely home.

CAROLINE

Thank you. It is the site of my father's affair.

THEO

I guess you never really know who you're marrying. I once read that sociopaths hide in plain sight. I'll bring you the book, ja?
(looking into kitchen)
Is that Kahlua?

Theo goes into the kitchen.

CAROLINE

He doesn't spook easy.

LIZZIE

I knew you'd like him.

ANGLE ON: the kitchen doorway, where Theo approaches Leo and holds out a hand.

THEO

Allo! I'm Theo.

Leo scrote-taps Theo, who crumbles to the ground.

ANGLE BACK ON: Caroline and Lizzie.

LIZZIE

This doesn't need to be weird. If you like Leo, I'm happy for you. Maybe this is how it was supposed to be the whole time.

Caroline fills two Solo cups from the crystal punch bowl. She walks past Lizzie and drinks from both cups at the same time.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

So goddamn petty.

Caroline walks through the kitchen, stepping over Theo, and exits out the sliding doors into the backyard.

EXT. CAROLINE'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Eric and Emily walk past Caroline, into the house, arguing.

ERIC

I only did a body shot off Lauren because you have an outie! It wouldn't work on you. The science just isn't there yet.

Henry is outside, drinking with Cliff and Jade. He sees Caroline sit on a lawn chair and approaches her.

HENRY

Hey, dude.

CAROLINE

Oh. Hey.

HENRY

Are you having a good time drinking as much alcohol as you feel comfortable drinking? Feeling safe?

CAROLINE

What?

HENRY

Never mind. Great party! I didn't know alcohol could taste good. I thought we were all pretending.

CAROLINE

Thanks. It's a Barefoot Contessa recipe.

HENRY

You would be an Ina Garten stan.

CAROLINE

What is that supposed to mean?

HENRY

Wasn't she, like, a nuclear physicist in the seventies?

CAROLINE

Oh. Yeah. Fine. I do "stan" her.
(then)

(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Why aren't you with the team,
touching their testicles in the
room where my family prepares food?

HENRY

Yeah, I need a break from those
guys... most of the time.
(catching himself)
But Leo's not like that! Right? And
it's going well with you guys?

He sits next to Caroline and gestures to the house, where,
through the glass doors, we see Leo and Richie put beer boxes
on their heads and charge straight towards each other.

CAROLINE

Yeah. It's good. I guess he's
different than I thought he'd be.
(covering)
I mean, like what my first
boyfriend would be like.

HENRY

What does Lizzie think?

CAROLINE

Ugh, who cares?

HENRY

Oof. The boyfriend swap didn't go
over well?

CAROLINE

Actually it's a lot more nuanced
than that. We're just not talking
right now.

HENRY

Shit, that's heavy. I don't know
what I'd do if I couldn't talk to
Cliff. He's my rock.

Cliff hears his name and calls over.

CLIFF

You talking about me? I love you,
man.

HENRY

I love you, too, brother!
(to Caroline)
Well, I know you'd never talk to me
about it, but you can borrow Cliff.
He's a really good listener.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)
(off her laugh)
See? Remember? Friendship? It's so nice when you're not yelling at me.

CAROLINE
Look, you can't expect me to be nice with the ammo you've got on me.

HENRY
What are you talking about?

CAROLINE
Come on. When we were on vacation in Tulum with our parents...

Henry shrugs.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
In the hot tub...

Henry looks at her, blankly.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
When I... got sick...
(deep breath)
Pooped. I pooped in the hot tub.

Henry thinks, then a flash of recognition.

HENRY
Oh, my God! Holy shit! I completely forgot about that.

CAROLINE
(ashen)
You did?

HENRY
(laughing hysterically)
Yes! I can't believe you told me that! We could've gone our whole lives with me never remembering that and you just told me. You idiot!

Caroline starts laughing, pained.

CAROLINE
Oh, God. Well, I'm gonna go somewhere and die. Goodbye forever.

She stands up and Henry pulls her back down to the chair and pats her on the back.

HENRY

No, don't go! Please, tell me about more jacuzzis you've defiled.

We see Goose watching them from inside.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Leo and Richie are still wrestling with the boxes on their heads when Goose calls out.

GOOSE

Yo, Leo.

Leo stands to attention and pulls the box off his head.

LEO

(out of breath)

What's up?

Goose gestures to Caroline and Henry outside.

RICHIE

You called dibs, fair and square.
I'm gonna break that guy's dick!

LEO

I did call dibs, fair and square.
(then, menacing)
I'm gonna go fix this.

Leo exits to the backyard.

EXT. CAROLINE'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Henry and Caroline are still giggling. Henry has a friendly hand on Caroline's back. Leo steps outside.

LEO

Hey. What's going on here?

HENRY

Caroline was just reminding me of the time she --

Caroline screams and lunges to cover his mouth.

LEO

Caroline, let's go inside.

CAROLINE

Right now?

LEO

Yeah.

CAROLINE

Okay, give me a second.

LEO

Now. I don't want to do this here.

HENRY

(standing)

Why don't I go inside and give you
guys a minute --

LEO

Caroline. Inside.

HENRY

Really. I'll go.

Henry starts inside and Leo stops him with a hand on his chest. Caroline, diffusing:

CAROLINE

That's okay. We'll go inside.

HENRY

Are you sure?

LEO

She's sure.

Caroline pulls Leo inside. Calling out behind her:

CAROLINE

(saving face)

He's just drunk. Don't worry!

HENRY

Okay... Later. Remember, you're in
the driver's seat.

Henry watches as Leo and Caroline walk back into the house. Cliff calls across the lawn to Henry.

CLIFF

You okay buddy? Why are you all
alone? Sad? Cranky? Hungry?

HENRY

Cliff! Come sit with me, man!

Cliff walks over to Henry.

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Leo pulls Caroline into the bedroom.

CAROLINE
What's going on? Are you okay?

LEO
I'm great.

CAROLINE
You seemed mad. Are you mad at me?

LEO
Of course I'm not. I just wanted to have you to myself for a minute. I really love being with you.

CAROLINE
Oh. That's really sweet, I --

Leo interrupts her with a kiss. She pulls away.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
We should get back to the party.

LEO
You hate parties.

He kisses her again, laying her down on the bed. Then, a CRASH from the kitchen. Caroline sits up.

CAROLINE
I should check on that.

Leo pulls Caroline back down.

LEO
In a minute.

They make out and within a few seconds, Leo tries to take off Caroline's shirt. She pulls it back down. He tries again.

LEO (CONT'D)
I just like you so much.

CAROLINE
I like you, too, but now's not the time.

Caroline stands and goes to open the door. Leo follows and lays a hand on it, trapping her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Cut it out.

Caroline opens the door a smidge only to have Leo close it.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Seriously, stop. I want to leave.

Leo kisses her neck. She lightly jabs him in the ribs, he backs off.

LEO

So you spend the whole night
flirting with other guys, but now
you're a prude?

CAROLINE

J'excuse?! I have not consciously
flirted with someone in my entire
life. And I'm always a prude.

LEO

Then how am I supposed to know
where I stand?

CAROLINE

Just stand where I tell you to!

LEO

I threw you a party! I listen to
all of this stuff about Lizzie, and
your Dad, and the frogs, and what
do I have to show for it?

CAROLINE

My company, for one --

LEO

Well I don't want it.

CAROLINE

Fine!

Caroline leaves in a huff. Leo SLAMS the door behind her.

EXT. CAROLINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caroline collects herself. Offscreen, Leo SLAMS his fist
violently against the door. She winces.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY BOY'S LOCKER ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Leo enters the locker room angrily as Goose, Richie and a few other guys are getting ready for practice.

GOOSE
Well? Did it happen?

LEO
No! None of your advice worked.
Were you guys punking me?

RICHIE
C-dog really didn't give it up?

LEO
No. Now I don't even think she's
mine anymore! I miss Lizzie. That
was simple. And supple. And sexy.

GOOSE
Sorry, bro. Guess you have to fly
solo for a while. Did Lizzie leave
you any breadcrumbs?

LEO
She wasn't much of a cook.

GOOSE
Naw, bruh...

RICHIE
Nudes, dude.

LEO
Oh! Boobie pictures. Of course.

GOOSE
Well, there you go! Cough 'em up.

INSERT: Another "Osmosis Jones" into Leo's brain. A black background and Lizzie's moving mouth over it, saying:

LIZZIE (V.O.)
In our tech-forward world, nudes
are not only inevitable, but
empowering. However, accessibility
to a nude does not override
consent. To share a nude you must
have explicit...

Her voice morphs into the "wonh wonh" Charlie Brown voice.

BACK IN THE LOCKER ROOM:

LEO
Okay, I'll airdrop them.

Leo pulls out his phone and sends them. A PING, then Goose and Richie check their phones. Their mouths drop open.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - THAT AFTERNOON

Lizzie rushes to Caroline, who is opening up her locker. Caroline sees Lizzie coming and stops.

CAROLINE
Well, well, well, well, well, well,
well. If it isn't old --

LIZZIE
Shut up. We're done fighting.

CAROLINE
-- Adolf Titler.

LIZZIE
It's serious. I need you.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

Leo, Goose, Richie, and the team sit on the bleachers. Caroline and Lizzie storm over.

CAROLINE
Leonardo Seacrest, you piece of
shit!

The guys collectively "OH!" as the girls reach the bleachers.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
You think you can commit a sex
crime right under my nose? I will
have Detectives Stabler and Benson
here in a New York minute. This
woman is a special victim!

GOOSE
Sex crime?

CAROLINE
We're minors, dipshit. This deviant
trafficked child pornography.

GOOSE

Relax, Shrill Nye. He just sent them to me and Richie. And then me and Richie sent them to... everyone.

CAROLINE

SEX CRIMINAL! This is a citizen's arrest. I'm citizen's arresting you.

LEO

Look, if you want to get me alone in handcuffs, just say the word.

More "OH"'s from the boys.

LIZZIE

You're disgusting. I can't believe two perfect, perfect women ever even looked at you.

LEO

I wouldn't say "perfect."

LIZZIE

Fine, "flawless!"

LEO

Is there any way that this could be more... hormonal than anything real? Maybe we could just table this and pick it back up in three to five when we're all more rational.

Lizzie lets out a long, haunting laugh and storms away. Caroline tries to respond.

CAROLINE

I -- you -- agh!

She turns and catches up to Lizzie.

RICHIE

Damn. Caroline wants you so bad.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Lizzie and Caroline head back towards the school.

LIZZIE

Okay, don't freak out, but I think we made a mistake.

CAROLINE

I am freaking out! I created a monster. I don't know how this happened.

LIZZIE

What do we do?

CAROLINE

I'll handle it. It's not your problem.

LIZZIE

Shut up. It's our problem.

Caroline stops walking.

CAROLINE

Look. This isn't easy to say because I've never had to say it before in my entire life, because, like you said, we're flawless, but I'm sor--

LIZZIE

I know. It's okay.

CAROLINE

Really?

LIZZIE

Yeah. I'm sorry, too. I should have stepped up. I guess I kind of got swept up in Theo.

CAROLINE

I like him, by the way.

Caroline and Lizzie link arms and smile at each other.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Come over after school? I think we can fix this.

LIZZIE

I can't, I have Model U.N.

CAROLINE

And the imaginary fate of our nations is of the utmost importance to me, too, but can you skip just this once?

LIZZIE

Ugh, fine. I guess I'll just be another white woman leaving Ghana in the dust.

CAROLINE

It's a time honored tradition.

Arm in arm, they walk into the school.

EXT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - THAT AFTERNOON

Caroline and Lizzie start up the walk as Will runs out of the house, holding something. He's practically in tears.

WILL

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry...

He holds out his hands to reveal TWO DEAD FROGS.

CAROLINE

What the fuck...

WILL

He was freaking out on Maude and when I took him out to separate them, she was already dead! And then he jumped out of my hands and I lost him and then I sat down on the couch and he was under my butt and I squished him. I'm so sorry.

Caroline takes the frogs in her hands, turning them over.

LIZZIE

Dude. Are you okay?

CAROLINE

They're dead. My babies are dead.

WILL

I swear it was an accident. Leo told me not to tell and just put them back in the cage but I couldn't lie to you.

LIZZIE

What? You talked to Leo?

WILL

Yeah, he's always waiting in the yard for you guys. He's cool.

Caroline grabs Will by the shirt.

CAROLINE
Don't talk to him. Leo's a bad guy.
If you see him again, come get me.

WILL
(cowering)
Okay. Fine. I'm sorry.

Caroline lets Will go and hands the frogs back to him.

CAROLINE
I know. Put them in the freezer. I
need to write a eulogy.

Will takes the frogs back into the house.

LIZZIE
If you'd like, I can prepare a song
for the memorial.

CAROLINE
They would've loved that.

Caroline and Lizzie head to the backyard.

INT. LEO'S SHED - MOMENTS LATER

A KNOCK. Leo opens up to reveal Caroline and Lizzie.

CAROLINE
Can we come in?

Leo wordlessly steps aside to let them in, then whines:

LEO
Whaaaaaaaaaat.

LIZZIE
I think there's something you need
to say to us.

LEO
Oh, my God, yes! I forgot to tell
you that Richie told Eric told
Goose who told me to tell you...
(deep breath)
That you suck. Thanks for reminding
me.

CAROLINE

Are you kidding me? You owe her at least one million apologies.

LEO

I didn't say she sucked. Don't shoot the messenger.

CAROLINE

What is with you? Between Saturday night and these pictures, it's like you're a different person.

LEO

All I did on Saturday was show you how much I cared about you.

LIZZIE

What happened Saturday?

CAROLINE

I'm fine, it doesn't matter.

LEO

Great, clean slate.

CAROLINE

No! Not clean slate! Do you not care that you hurt our feelings?

LEO

Your feelings are always hurt.

CAROLINE

What?

LEO

You guys are so needy! You're always complaining about something. You made it seem like the world was so bad, I thought something was wrong! Turns out, nothing's wrong. I'm actually having a great time.

LIZZIE

Of course you're having a great time! You're a straight, hot, white guy living rent free in the suburbs.

CAROLINE

Okay, wait. What happened to everything we taught you? Did you just forget it?

LEO
I didn't forget it. It just sucks.

LIZZIE
Judith Butler does not suck!

CAROLINE
So that's it. Those guys win? And there's nothing we can do about it?

LEO
Your stuff is hard! I don't wanna live like that. It just felt like I was doing more work than them, like I was sticking up for people that weren't even there and getting shit for it. Like Henry! You can't do anything fun around Henry, he's such a girl. It's just easier this way.

CAROLINE
Don't you see that it's only easier for people like you?

Leo groans, flops onto his bed, knocking over his backpack. Everything falls out. A can of Axe rolls across the floor.

LIZZIE
(re: Axe)
What happened to Ira?

LEO
He's a vagina.

A light goes off in Caroline's head.

CAROLINE
Oh, my God. It's not just football. It's the Axe. Just like Harold.
(to Leo)
You have to stop using that.

LEO
I'm so sick of you trying to control me! Enough!

CAROLINE
This is serious. Will sprayed Axe on Harold! And he's been acting nuts since then. He just --

LIZZIE
Oh my God, he killed Maude.

Leo pulls Lizzie aside, conspiratorially.

LEO

Don't listen to her. She's being crazy, I'm not trying to kill anyone. I'm just trying to talk.

Leo puts a hand on Lizzie's lower back.

LIZZIE

That's not talking.

LEO

Come on.

Leo grabs Lizzie's arm and pulls her towards him. Caroline tries to intercept and he throws her off, onto the ground. Caroline feels the back of her head, she's bleeding.

LEO (CONT'D)

Good, someone needed to teach you a lesson.

LIZZIE

Don't touch her!

Leo turns to Lizzie, now wild-eyed.

LEO

What, Lizzie? Getting jealous?

LIZZIE

Caroline, run.

LEO

No one's going anywhere til I know you're gonna stay out of my way.

He pulls his arm back, ready to strike and Lizzie takes the chance to shove him, hard. He stumbles, tripping over Caroline, still on the floor, and falls, hitting his head on the edge of his desk. He lands next to Caroline with a thud.

LIZZIE

Holy shit.

Caroline scrambles to her knees and checks his pulse. Nothing. She and Lizzie lock eyes.

EXT. WOODS - DUSK

In the clearing behind Caroline's house, the girls pile the last bit of dirt from a shallow grave on Leo's body.

LIZZIE

I don't think it's deep enough.

CAROLINE

It's fine. We'll bring him back to the cemetery this weekend, but this will have to do for now.

LIZZIE

Fuck. What did I do?

CAROLINE

It was an accident. And it was self-defense. He was going to hurt you.

LIZZIE

I know, but he's dead.

CAROLINE

Technically he was already dead. This is like, a net zero. At the end of the day, all you did was pull the plug on an experiment that needed to be over.

LIZZIE

I guess.

CAROLINE

Are you okay?

LIZZIE

Are you?

KIM (O.S.)

Caroline! Dinner!

CAROLINE

Oh, shit. You gotta go.

LIZZIE

What? Why?

CAROLINE

My mom's making us have dinner with the Clarkes. Some bullshit push for normalcy.

LIZZIE

I skipped Model U.N. to become a murderer and I don't even get to stay for dinner?

CAROLINE

If you're there, I won't be able to hold it together in front of my mom. Just go home and I'll call you later. Besides, it's a pork chop night, I'm doing you a favor.

LIZZIE

Ugh. You should've led with that. No thanks.

Caroline hugs Lizzie. Lizzie's surprised, but she accepts.

KIM (O.S.)

Caroline! Now!

CAROLINE

(pushing Lizzie off)
Okay. No more touching.

She hurries off, Lizzie behind her.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - TEN MINUTES LATER

Caroline eats at the dining room table with Kim, Will, Henry, and LISA CLARKE (40s, fun mom). It's quiet, but comfortable.

LISA

What a spread, Kim! I've missed these dinners.

HENRY

This is delicious, Dr. Walton.

KIM

I'm sorry we haven't had you over in so long.

CAROLINE

Yes, between the four of us and my father's mistress, the house was a little full.

There's a pregnant silence. Lisa, chipper:

LISA

Ever since these guys got to high school, it's so hard to pin them down for a meal. This one's all "football, football, football."

HENRY

Mom, I've never said that.

LISA

Caroline, how was that chemistry class you took this summer? Do you think you'll go into medicine, like your mom? Dr. Caroline! What a thrill!

CAROLINE

I'm pretty sure I'll be taking a different path than my mother's.

Kim takes the hit silently. Henry, uncomfortable, speaks up.

HENRY

Caroline, you still got those frogs?

WILL

(to Caroline)
You told him?!

CAROLINE

(to Henry)
It's a sore subject. Expect a Paperless Post about an upcoming celebration of life. Donations encouraged.

LISA

I love that you guys are always making your own fun.

KIM

Caroline, did something happen to Harold and Maude? We can go to Petco tonight if you want.

CAROLINE

No, I don't think I should be letting any more animals into our home. That's your job.

Kim's finally had it. She stands and takes Caroline's plate.

KIM

You're done. Goodnight.

CAROLINE

What?

KIM

Excuse yourself.

A mother and daughter staring match. Caroline blinks first.

CAROLINE

Fine. The pork chops are overdone.
Excuse me.

Caroline storms upstairs. Kim takes her plate to the kitchen.

LISA

(to no one, really)
I actually think these chops are
delicious.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

Caroline and Lizzie are at their lockers. Cliff and Jade approach.

CLIFF

(carnival barker)
Ladies, ladies, ladies! It is my
utmost pleazh to invite you two
PYT's --

CAROLINE

You can't quote him anymore.

CLIFF

Fair enough, HYT's -- H for hot --

LIZZIE

Aww.

CLIFF

To Henry's all-Hallow's-eve bash
tonight. Annual bonfire lighting at
midnight! Costumes encouraged, the
smaller the better.

JADE

But equal opportunity skimpiness.

CLIFF

I, for one, will only be wearing a
diaper.

LIZZIE

Are you gonna be a... baby?

CLIFF

Diaper Boy.

JADE

(holding her hands over her
eyes)

(MORE)

JADE (CONT'D)
And I'm gonna be this guy from
Pan's Labyrinth!

CLIFF
See you at eight! And invite Leo,
we couldn't find him this morning.

Cliff and Jade exit.

LIZZIE
Fuck, we should have told him he's
sick or something.

CAROLINE
No. We don't know anything.
Remember? Just be normal.

LIZZIE
So you're going to the party?

CAROLINE
Does that seem normal to you? And
do you actually feel like going to
a party tonight?

LIZZIE
Um, kind of? You said be normal! I
can't sit around thinking about
what we did all night.

CLIFF (O.S.)
(as before)
Ladies, ladies, ladies! It is my
utmost pleazh...

CAROLINE
No! We need to bring him to the
cemetery tonight. Then you can
sleep over and we'll watch the new
Stay at Home Moms and all will be
right with the world.

LIZZIE
Can we please do that tomorrow?

CAROLINE
Don't you want to get this over
with?

LIZZIE
Caroline, there's nothing I want
more than for this to be over. What
happened last night was insane.
(MORE)

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

But if I don't take my mind off of what I did, I'm gonna lose it. Besides, it's not like he's going anywhere.

CAROLINE

Come on! It's Halloween! A cemetery is exactly where we should be.

LIZZIE

No, dude. I need a break tonight. Tomorrow.

CAROLINE

Well, I have to go to my Dad's sad divorce condo tomorrow.

LIZZIE

Even better. Sunday. We'll lay him to rest on the day of rest.

CAROLINE

Fine. I'd argue, but that makes a lot of sense.

LIZZIE

So I'll see you tonight?

CAROLINE

No. I'm not up to it. Have fun.

LIZZIE

I'll come over after, I promise.

Lizzie closes her locker and walks away.

INT. CAROLINE'S ROOM - THAT AFTERNOON

Caroline's sprawled on the bed watching *Stay at Home Mom's IRL* on her laptop. We hear a snippet.

VICKIE (O.S.)

A real friend would've come to my bankruptcy party!

CHLOE (O.S.)

Well, a real friend wouldn't have made a Tik Tok out of my DUI video!

A KNOCK at the door, quickly followed by Kim walking in.

CAROLINE

I hadn't decided if I was gonna let you in yet.

KIM

I pay for this place. Doors are theoretical.

Kim sits down in the window seat.

KIM (CONT'D)

Okay. Let's do this. Lay it on me.

Caroline looks up. What?

KIM (CONT'D)

After last night, you've made it really clear that you're angry with me, but I can't do anything about it unless you tell me what you're angry about. So tell me.

Caroline pauses her computer and sits up.

CAROLINE

Full immunity?

Kim nods. Caroline takes a breath.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

If you knew he was cheating, why did you keep him around for so long? I think it's weak, and weird and embarrassing. I mean, aren't you embarrassed?

(voice rising to a yell)

You're the smartest person I know. By like, a billion. And not just doctor stuff, anyone could do that. But about life stuff. About being-a-woman stuff. But then Dad does something like this. And then he does it again. And I think he did it once when I was in sixth grade with that girl Jamie's mom, but we'll never know, will we, because they moved! And you kept letting him back in! And I know I have to deal with "the patriarchy" and let men skate by at the bare minimum when I'm out there, but your job was to keep it out of here.

Kim, stoic, lets Caroline calm down, catch her breath. Then:

Caroline nods.

KIM (CONT'D)

You know you could talk to me, if you were in a relationship like that, right?

CAROLINE

Yeah. But I haven't... I don't think.

KIM

If you ever are and you need help, gimme a call. I'll kill him.

Caroline sits next to Kim, head on her mom's shoulder.

CAROLINE

I can kill him myself.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE SEQUENCE:

MUSIC CUE: "Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett

1. INT. HENRY'S BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Henry pulls on a hot dog costume, looks in the mirror. Nice.

2. INT. LIZZIE'S BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Lizzie pulls on a blazer and helps spike Theo's hair.

3. INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Caroline pulls on a pair of sweatpants, flops on her bed.

4. EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE - THAT EVENING

Jade and Cliff, in the costumes they described, roll a keg into the house. Costumed party-goers follow them inside.

END MONTAGE

INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Caroline enters. Kim looks up from washing the dishes.

KIM

Really, no plans tonight?

CAROLINE
I'm not really in a spooky mood.

KIM
(sarcastic)
Well, that's new.

Caroline laughs, mockingly. Kim crosses to the freezer.

KIM (CONT'D)
Okay, well in that case, two scoops
of Rocky Road coming up.

She opens the freezer door and Harold JUMPS OUT!!

KIM (CONT'D)
Oh! My Goodness. Ooh! He's cold!

CAROLINE
Harold!

KIM
Jesus Christ, I thought this
disgusting thing was dead.

CAROLINE
What about Maude?

KIM
(looking in freezer)
Nope, as always, only the man comes
out unscathed.

Caroline chases down Harold and picks him up.

KIM (CONT'D)
How the hell did he survive that?

Caroline runs to the window and sees LEO'S SHED LIGHT IS ON!

CAROLINE
I have no idea.

INT. ???? - AT THE SAME TIME

CU: Leo brushing dirt off his arms.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Caroline sprints up the stairs and takes out her phone.

INT. CAROLINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caroline bursts in, on the phone.

CAROLINE

Lizzie, call me back as soon as you get this. Harold's alive. Or, he's back. Whatever. I think that means Leo is, too. You need to get over here ASAP.

Hanging up, she runs to her desk and starts flipping through her Leo notebook, and her eyes rest on a page of notes. She found something!

INT. HENRY'S LIVING ROOM - AT THE SAME TIME

Lizzie is in the middle of a wild costume party. She and Theo, dressed as AOC and Guy Fieri talk to Henry.

INT. ???? - AT THE SAME TIME

CU: Leo's feet as he ties his shoes with Dexter-like precision. He stands, fixing his backwards cap. He sprays a long stream of Axe on himself and starts walking.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Caroline races down the stairs, past Kim watching TV in the living room.

KIM

Hocus Pocus is on!

Caroline exits through the back door.

KIM (CONT'D)

In another life, I could've been Bette Midler.

EXT. CAROLINE'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Caroline runs across the lawn to the shed. She throws open the door and braces herself. BUT...

INT. HENRY'S LIVING ROOM - AT THE SAME TIME

The front door opens and the room erupts in CHEERS.

ERIC
Leo! You made it!

REVEAL Leo has arrived. Lizzie spots him and panics.

EXT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Caroline puts on her helmet and mounts her bike, pushing off.

INT. HENRY'S LIVING ROOM - AT THE SAME TIME

Lizzie abandons Theo and Henry, bobbing and weaving her way to the back door, undetected.

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie exits to the backyard and sprints around the front of the house. She pulls out her phone, but:

LEO (O.S.)
Hey, baby.

Lizzie drops her phone and turns to see Leo.

LIZZIE
...Heyyyyyy.

LEO
You didn't think I'd give up on you that easily, did you?

Leo stalks toward her. Lizzie backs up against the house. He has her cornered.

LEO (CONT'D)
I just want to talk. You could've done me the same courtesy last night.

LIZZIE
That was an accident. I didn't mean for that to happen, I swear.

LEO
Not so brave without your little friend here, are you?

CAROLINE (O.S.)
HEY! SHE FUCKING AM HERE!

Leo turns, ready to attack, then recoils. Caroline is holding out a lit purple BBQ lighter.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Back up, dickstain!

Caroline tosses another lighter to Lizzie. He's cornered.

LEO
Don't fucking touch me with those,
they're no joke.

CAROLINE
Then come with us. Let's figure
this out.

Caroline leads him to the woods behind the house with Lizzie bringing up the rear, still wielding their lighters, waving them when Leo gets off-track. Leo spots Richie and Goose, both dressed as the Joker, through a window and waves to get their attention. They don't notice.

LIZZIE
Knock it off. Those guys don't care
what happens to you.

LEO
How do you know?

LIZZIE
Do you care what happens to them?

LEO
(glumly)
No.

They lead him back further into the woods.

EXT. WOODS BEHIND HENRY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

They reach the unlit bonfire out of sight of the house.

LEO
Why are you doing this to me?! I've
been nothing but nice to you two.

CAROLINE
What? No, you haven't.

LEO

This is bullshit. You're just a fat slut and a loser who had to make me to get a little attention. Well, you have my fucking attention!

LIZZIE

Shut up!

LEO

Girls like you deserve every bad thing that happens to them. When we get out of here, you cunts are going to be fucking sorry.

Lizzie's lighter goes out. Panicked, she tries to re-light to no avail. Leo sees an opportunity and lunges, getting Lizzie in a tight chokehold.

LIZZIE

Let go of me!

LEO

(to Caroline)

If you let me go, I'll let her go.

Caroline surveys the scene, clocking the prepped bonfire.

CAROLINE

Fine.

She puts her hands up in surrender and drops her lighter, still lit. It falls in the bonfire, which goes up in a huge blaze. Leo, stunned, briefly loosens his hold on Lizzie and Caroline grabs her free hand, putting Lizzie in the middle of a tug of war. His back to the fire, Leo stumbles.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Watch out!

Leo looks behind him and freezes at the sight of the growing fire. Caroline yanks Lizzie, releasing her from his grip and throwing Leo off-balance. He pitches backwards into the fire, the flames enveloping him immediately. Caroline and Lizzie watch from the ground as his screams subside. The fire swells, and his body quickly turns to ash, all traces of Leo gone. It's science and magic, remember?

It's finally over. Dazed silence. Lizzie takes a joint out of her pocket, leans over and lights it in the bonfire, taking a puff and passing it to Caroline.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

That was, like, way too fast.

LIZZIE

It's like you said, maybe it was science, and magic.

CAROLINE

Yeah, maybe.

LIZZIE

Just to be clear, this isn't going in your MIT essay, right?

Jade runs out, followed by Henry and Cliff.

JADE

Wazaaaaap! The nineties, remember?

HENRY

What the hell!? It's only 11:30.

BOOM. The fire combusts, singeing the trees and the ground around Lizzie and Caroline. They scramble to their feet.

CHYRON: "ONE WEEK LATER"

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A hallway plastered in campaign posters and a big sign that reads: "TODAY! STUDENT ELECTIONS ASSEMBLY". A few stragglers file into the auditorium.

GOOSE (PRE-LAP)

And I'm here to tell you, you should be allowed to text in class.

INT. SOUTH ORKNEY AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Goose stands at a podium at the front of the stage. Behind him sits Lizzie, Greg, and Coach Giusti.

GOOSE

And if learning comes first, how come I still don't know how to floss?

He does a poor demonstration of the dance.

GOOSE (CONT'D)

What are my parents' tax dollars going to? And finally, Football Fridays. It's about time our Fridays were football.

ANGLE ON: Richie stands and claps, then rips off his shirt and twirls it around his head.

GOOSE (CONT'D)
Thank you, I've been Goose Strahan,
and you've been great.

The audience applauds and Goose takes a big bow. Coach Giusti takes the mic. Consulting his notecards:

COACH GIUSTI
Oh boy. McGuire, you have the
floor.

Lizzie walks up and as she passes Coach Giusti, he stops her.

COACH GIUSTI (CONT'D)
No swearing, no nudity. I'm not
having a repeat of last year.

She nods, and takes her place at the podium.

LIZZIE
I just want to start this off by
saying, none of that meant
anything. What's "Football Friday?"
I don't want to be part of that.

Coach Giusti coughs.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Okay. Anyways. As you may already
know, I'm Elizabeth, and while I
know that I'm sexy --

Caroline woops from the audience.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
-- I'm not as sexy a choice as
Goose. I base my policy on facts
and figures. He has nacho bars and
flossing, which everyone knows is
over. But you don't really want to
vote for Goose; you want to be
Goose, because his life is easy.
(to Greg, behind her)
Like, Greg, you couldn't walk
around here with Goose's haircut.

GREG
What?

LIZZIE

We'd beat the shit out of you.

(to Coach Giusti)

Sorry. And Jade, when you got a C in Trigonometry last year, you had to pull out of the Redbull Ollie-Ollie Oxen Fest. But Goose is a straight D student --

GOOSE

Allegedly!

LIZZIE

-- and the teachers staged a walkout so he could play the homecoming game. Goose's life is easy because this school -- this world -- makes it easy. And if he wins, he's in for a rude awakening. As Student Body President, you're supposed to do the hard work to make everyone else's lives easier, or at least equitable. I want to fight for Greg to have his idiot haircut. I want Jade to grind off the half-kick and catch some fat air and suck at Trig.

ANGLE ON: Jade in the audience. Jade shakes her head. That wasn't right.

ANGLE BACK ON:

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

And even more than that, I want to help create a labor union for the custodial staff, because they are woefully under-looked by this school's administration. Look, I don't think Goose is a monster.

Richie woops in the audience.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

The system is the monster and it made him this way. So why don't we overhaul the system? Make it work for us, for once. Vote for me. I'll help you. Okay, love you! Bye!

Lizzie blows a kiss. Caroline CHEERS losing her mind. Everyone follows suit. Coach Giusti approaches the podium.

COACH GIUSTI

Ballots will be distributed tomorrow in homeroom. Please, no write-ins. Somehow I won last year, and while I was happy to serve a term, I've got too much on my plate this semester.

EXT. SOUTH ORKNEY HIGH SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

Lizzie catches up with Henry, Theo, Jade, Cliff, and Caroline. Caroline squeals. The girls run to each other and embrace.

CAROLINE

You were amazing.

LIZZIE

Really?

CAROLINE

Yes. Goose will probably still win, but I'll be the first one looting when he does.

LIZZIE

Aww!

Theo comes over and kisses Lizzie.

THEO

I can't wait to commit election fraud when I vote for you twice tomorrow.

LIZZIE

I love you, but if you ruin the sanctity of democracy, even for my benefit, I will dump you.

Goose and Richie approach their group.

GOOSE

McGuire, was that speech about me?

LIZZIE

I said your name like six times.

GOOSE

God, you're desperate. Leo was so sick of you, he's doing the rest of senior year at sea.

CAROLINE

Yup. That's exactly where he is. No cell service at sea.

GOOSE

As if becoming president would actually make you fuckable.

THEO

Now listen here --

CAROLINE

Take a walk, shit stains. We don't have time for you.

RICHIE

Look, unfuckable number one and unfuckable number two!

CAROLINE

Kay, sick. Bye.

Richie and Goose exit. Awkward silence. Breaking it:

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What?

JADE

Lizzie, can I teach you how to do a kick flip? I'm worried you don't understand what that means.

LIZZIE

Yes, but this doesn't mean that I am pandering. I'm genuinely interested.

Cliff, Jade, Lizzie, and Theo walk off.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

(to Caroline)

You coming?

CAROLINE

No, I should probably finish my college essay.

LIZZIE

Okay, call you later!

They exit. Henry turns to Caroline:

HENRY

What's your essay about?

CAROLINE

I dunno, just the past couple of weeks, I guess?

HENRY

Oh. Leo?

CAROLINE

Actually, I wanted to spend some time focusing on all the people who make my life better. Like Lizzie. And my mom. And...

(really looking at him)

I dunno.

HENRY

Cool. Mine's about when I went horseback riding for the first time. My life's been easy.

CAROLINE

Question. Do you want to hang out sometime? Like on a date?

HENRY

(!!!!!!!)

Cool. Yeah. This weekend? I'll buy you some replacement frogs. Not that they're replaceable...

CAROLINE

You're gonna buy me frogs?

HENRY

Or dinner. Ice cream? Flowers.

CAROLINE

No. Frogs are perfect.

Jade runs past towing Lizzie on the skateboard.

LIZZIE

Caroline, look! I'm doing it!

CAROLINE

No fair! Let me try!

Caroline runs after and tries to hop on the back of the board, leaving a giddy Henry. CRANE UP for an aerial view of the group, laughing and taking turns on the skateboard.

FADE TO BLACK.