



THE OUTSKIRTS

By

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THE OUTSKIRTS

FADE IN:

EXT. RICHARD MILLHOUSE NIXON HIGH - DAY

A typical suburban high school. A sign out front reads "RICHARD MILLHOUSE NIXON HIGH SCHOOL, HOME OF THE MINUTEMEN." The sign is accompanied by a life-sized MINUTEMAN complete with a tricorn hat and breeches.

The BELL rings and students file outside. A V.O. breaks in. It's an adolescent girl with an unfortunate LISP. The voice belongs to one MINDY O'DOYLE (17).

MINDY (V.O.)
Tricky Dick high wasn't the worst
place to spend four years.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - AFGHANISTAN - DAY

BURKA CLAD YOUNG GIRLS walk to school. An old Russian car speeds up next to them. The BOYS inside throw rocks.

AFGHANI BOYS
(in Afghani)
Whores!!!

MINDY (V.O.)
Sure it had its share of riffraff
like most schools do.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

A group of JOCKS have DUCT-TAPED a FRESHMAN to the wall.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

CARMEN, an angry goth in a wheelchair, wheels down the hall utterly unconcerned with running into or over other students.

MINDY (V.O.)
But by and large, it was a paragon
of suburban normalcy...

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT -- DAY

Students hang out by their cars, excited to be out of school.

MINDY (V.O.)
A utopia of self-segregated
diversity...

A GROUP OF FILIPINO GIRLS walk towards the tennis courts all wearing perfect polo's and white skirts.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Faux urban culture...

The girls pass EMO KIDS on a stoop listening to iPods. One EMO BOY wears a t-shirt with a CASSETTE TAPE on it.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And unsupervised youth with access
to disposable income.

Emo Boy breaks away from the group and walks past...

The POPULAR KIDS, gathered by a suped up Suburban, a beautiful BLONDE GIRL at their center.

This is WHITNEY BENNETT -- 17, a 5'7" C cup, blemish free and loving life. By her side is her main crony PRITHI, an Indian wannabe fashionista who doesn't quite manage to pull off the latest trend seen in US Weekly.

Tossing a football back and forth are the popular boys --

COLIN, Whitney's boyfriend and future disgraced senator, DAVE, a heavy-set class clown type, not particularly good looking but has likeable down pat, and RICK, a letterman-clad hottie, dumb as a box of hair.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(voice turning dark)
And just as in every utopia since
the ill-fated celestial paradise of
Eden, the apple seeds of discontent
had taken root and were already
growing.
(calmer now)
That's me, Mindy O'Doyle.
(a beat)
In the background.

Between Whitney and Colin is a BLURRY BLOB. We focus in and begin to see two GIRLS at a bike rack --

NEW ANGLE - BIKE RACK

MINDY, tiny with mousy brown hair, puts on a bike helmet painted like a brain. She wears tapered jeans and an MIT sweatshirt over a turtleneck.

WHAM! A football SMASHES into her head. Her face contorts as the screen FREEZES.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The assault victim.

Behind Mindy, JODI SCHELLENBERGER looks on in horror. Jodi is about 9 inches taller than Mindy, curvy, with poker straight large bangs, and dressed in thrift store geek chic.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And the girl with the Jackie Kennedy
look on her face?

Jodi pipes in on the V.O. --

JODI (V.O.)
Aw, thanks.

MINDY (V.O.)
That's Jodi, my best friend. We've
been best friends since 3rd grade.

GRAPHIC - A 3RD GRADE CLASS PICTURE

An 8-YEAR-OLD MINDY in a mini version of her MIT sweatshirt sits cross-legged in the front row. An ARROW points to her.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
There I am in the front.

JODI (V.O.)
And the girl who looks like a
teacher's aide --

Another ARROW appears pointing to 8-YEAR-OLD JODI -- same big bangs standing shoulder to shoulder next to the TEACHER.

JODI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
That's me. We were an odd couple.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

A LARGE JODI and a TINY MINDY are unbalanced on a see-saw. Jodi's planted on the ground and Mindy awkwardly attempts to get off from her perch.

MINDY (V.O.)
But like Cagney and Lacey...

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

A 10-YEAR-OLD JODI pushes a smaller BOY that's picking on Mindy into the water.

JODI (V.O.)
Or Xena and Gabrielle...

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

A 15-YEAR-OLD JODI & MINDY stand in an autograph line dressed as Xena & Gabrielle respectively.

MINDY

We just worked. I was the yin to
Jodi's --

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. BIKE RACK - DAY

The FREEZE FRAME of Mindy and Jodi unfreezes. A quick look reveals the perpetrators, Colin, who is high-fiving Rick, and Whitney who is smiling maniacally.

Jodi picks up a rock, winds up to hurl it back towards them.

JODI

FR--

We FREEZE on her mouth, about to yell a four letter-ish word.

JODI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

-- lack of impulse control.

MINDY (V.O.)

I'd like to say that the football to
the temple was an isolated incident,
but unfortunately it wasn't anything
extraordinary.

LIGHTNING QUICK MONTAGE:

- A THUGGISH KID hits MINDY with a spit ball in class. Her hair is full of them.

- A GROUP OF FUTURE FRAT BROTHERS hit a PICCOLO-PLAYING JODI with an egg during MARCHING BAND practice. She immediately HURLS her piccolo at them.

- Several MEAN GIRLS hold MINDY'S BATHROOM STALL DOOR CLOSED. They throw in water-soaked tampons, bottles of soda and squirt ketchup and mustard all over. Mindy starts to scream and we --

SMASH CUT BACK TO:

EXT. BIKE RACK - DAY

Jodi finishes her thought as the rock leaves her hand --

JODI

--aking cum dumpster!!

MINDY (V.O.)
And neither was Jodi's aim.

The ROCK SOARS through the air, towards the POPULAR KIDS.
We FREEZE on WHITNEY BENNETT laughing.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Intended target -- Whitney Bennett.
5 feet and 7 inches of sculpted,
flawless sociopath. People didn't
wear anything, go anywhere, or do
anything unless she said it was okay --
and she almost never did. Rumor had
it she killed her twin sister in the
womb for stealing her food. Bottom
line -- she was feared AND loved.
But mostly feared. Actual target --

UNFREEZE. The rock soars over the popular kids and hits the
windshield of PRINCIPAL LES WHITMORE as he pulls out of his
assigned spot. He SLAMS on his brakes.

JODI (V.O.)
Les Whitmore -- School Principal,
member of eHarmony and table for one
at Hooters.

MINDY (V.O.)
And that's how it all started. The
football that launched a thousand
ships. Sort of.

NEW ANGLE - SCHOOL ROOFTOP

VIRGINIA PENDERGAST sits smoking a clove as she silently
observes. She's 17, pretty and petite, dressed in black --
an existentialist Audrey Hepburn.

She lets her still lit clove drop, then stands and leaves.

Below her EAGER STUDENTS run a CANCER AWARENESS TABLE.
Virginia's LIT CLOVE lands in their DONATION JAR.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Les Whitmore pops Roloids and chews angrily as he walks a
pissed Jodi and a scared Mindy down the hall.

JODI
Whitney Bennett and her mandroid
Colin Dunne attack us and we're the
ones that get detention?! This is a
miscarriage of justice, Mr. Whitmore.

LES WHITMORE

Spare me the hyperbole, Ms. Schellenberger. Frankly, I'm shocked by this behavior. Especially from you, Mindy. Someone with a clean record and a future.

Jodi looks vaguely offended.

MINDY

Please, Mr. Whitmore, we --

He holds up his hand to stop her.

LES WHITMORE

Because I'm such a nice guy, and because I don't want to deal with the paperwork, I'm not putting this on your permanent record. But I strongly suggest if you still plan on attending MIT next year and...

(looks Jodi over)

Doing whatever it is you'll be doing when you graduate, you make sure this is the last I hear from you.

Mindy nods vigorously. Jodi pouts. He opens a class door...

INT. DETENTION HALL - DAY

Mindy and Jodi enter a room full of the usual suspects. The TEACHER at the front works on "Sudoku for Beginners."

Mindy nervously takes a seat next to a BLACK GIRL in a leather jacket. This is SUGAR JONES -- quite large and even more intimidating. Mindy shoots a nervous smile Sugar's way. Sugar glares back. Mindy gulps.

EXT. BIKE RACK - DAY

The girls unlock their bikes, Mindy still shell-shocked.

JODI

X-Files marathon tonight?

MINDY

I have homework.

Jodi's gaze catches on the school steps.

JODI

Unbelievable.

Mindy follows her gaze -- Whitney exits with Whitmore in tow and Colin following behind. Whitney works over Whitmore.

He laughs, enthralled. Whitney sees them and smiles, evilly.

JODI (CONT'D)

What the eff? We get detention and Whitney does a hair flip and gets off scott free? She's like the... the President of Suckistan!

MINDY

Actually, it's Prime Minister.

JODI

Um, Suckistan isn't a real place.

MINDY

Yeah, but it's a play on Pakistan, which has a Prime Minister, so....

JODI

Whatever. Somebody needs to stuff them in a locker for a change.

MINDY

If it makes you feel better, in at least one of the infinite multiverses, someone has.

(off Jodi, still pissed)

Look, I know right now high school seems like the center of this universe, but --

JODI

Do not say, "It gets better." Next year, you'll be in nerdvana at MIT, and I'll still be here dropping plates at TGIFridays.

Mindy is not unsympathetic, but they're at a standstill.

MINDY

I better go. If I'm not home by 5, my parents'll activate the GPS.

Jodi nods as Mindy jumps on her bike. With a conciliatory smile at Jodi she rides off.

JODI

Weirdo!

MINDY

(fading)

Maniac!

INT. KITCHEN - JODI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jodi pulls a meatloaf out of the oven. The kitchen is cramped and dated, yet homey. Jodi's dad, HERB, enters wearing a POSTAL UNIFORM as Jodi starts to prepare two plates of dinner.

HERB
Hey kiddo, smells delicious.

Jodi hands him a plate and takes her own as they sit. They clink forks before digging in.

HERB (CONT'D)
How was school?

JODI
Legalized torture paid for by the
American taxpayer.

Jodi violently stabs a huge bite and shoves it into her mouth.

HERB
Did you make that appointment with
the college counselor yet?

Jodi purposefully ignores him as she devours her food.

HERB (CONT'D)
Jodi, you're graduating this year.
Don't you think it's time to start
figuring out where you're headed.

JODI
Into lots of therapy, most likely.

HERB
Very funny. But you can't fend off
your future with one liners. You
have to find something you want to
do. Look at your brother. All those
"stupid pictures" he used to draw
for fun? Look where he is now.

JODI
An underpaid assistant tattoo artist
in Jersey City?

HERB
Exactly. Well, not exactly. He's
following his dreams, is my point.

JODI
Following your dreams is overrated.

(MORE)

JODI (CONT'D)

(off his look)

Turn on the TV for five seconds -- those people you see pimping out their own kids to live out their fantasies, or sleeping with some tool for an extra minute of screen time -- you know what those people are doing? Following their dreams.

Jodi gets up and clears her plate -- finished in record time.

JODI (CONT'D)

And anyway, like you're one to talk.

HERB

What's that supposed to mean?

JODI

Sooo, single, 40-something, postal carrier in suburban New Jersey with a Pez collection was what you put under your yearbook photo?

HERB

Those Pez are gonna be valuable one day. And single and widowed are different.

JODI

I know. But it's been 5 years now. You're not getting any younger.

HERB

Hey, age is just a number.

JODI

That closely correlates with death.

Point taken.

HERB

So, you want me to date?

JODI

I just want you to follow your dreams, Herb.

With a sardonic smile, she heads upstairs. Herb calls out --

HERB

I'll find a date if you find a direction!

JODI

One of those things is a lot easier
than the other!
(to herself)
And it's not finding a direction.

HERB

(to himself)
And it's not finding a date.

INT. JODI'S ROOM -- NIGHT

An OIL PAINTING OF TINA FEY hangs above Jodi's headboard, while another wall is decorated with a poster and magazine collage of ADAM SCOTT. Jodi grabs her GUITAR and sits in front of her computer. Jodi brings up her YOUTUBE PAGE --

There are DOZENS OF VIDEOS of her singing with the guitar. Jodi turns on a WEBCAM that sits on top of the computer.

JODI

Hey, so here's a new song I wrote.
It's called Suburbaggedon...

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Mindy sits in class. MR. SAMUELS -- 30-something, cute and dorky -- finishes up as the BELL RINGS.

MR. SAMUELS

Bernoulli's theorem will be on the
test next week.

The students GROAN and start to exit.

MR. SAMUELS (CONT'D)

C'mon folks. Help me help you.
(to Mindy)
Mindy, stick around for a sec.

Mindy packs up as everyone leaves. She comes to the front.

MINDY

Did something happen to my
spectrophotometer? Are my numbers
off? I knew I should have used my
first set --

MR. SAMUELS

Slow down, Sonic. What I wanted to
tell you is I talked to my old
roommate who's on the alum board at
MIT, and she agreed to set up a
special interview for you.

MINDY
Are you serious?!

MR. SAMUELS
As a radiation leak.

Mindy looks about to internally combust.

MR. SAMUELS (CONT'D)
You okay?

MINDY
I just don't want to let you down.

MR. SAMUELS
Mindy, you're smart, capable, and an amazing scientist. You're not going to let me down. Just be confident.

MINDY
Confidence isn't really my strong suit. I'm more of a hide awkwardly in the shadows type.

MR. SAMUELS
You'd be surprised what happens when you just put yourself out there.
(off her skepticism)
The math's clear. If you put yourself out there, you've got a 50% chance of things working out. If you don't, then it's 0%. Pretty simple.

Mindy nods, contemplating.

MINDY
Thanks, Mr. Samuels. Really.

Mindy heads for the hall, smiling. Mr. Samuels calls out --

MR. SAMUELS
The world is yours for the taking!

Mindy enters the hallway and gets STAMPEDED by a JOCK MOB.

JOCK
Move, loser.

MR. SAMUELS
(to himself)
Eventually.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The MARCHING BAND disperses after a practice. Jodi, in uniform, walks to the bleachers with her piccolo. Mindy is waiting. There's still a slight tension between them.

JODI

Hey, what are you doing here?

MINDY

I've been thinking. Maybe there is something we can do about Whitney and her cronies.

JODI

Really? Because I've been thinking too. And here's what I figure -- if we can get Whitney's locker combo --

MINDY

That's not what I mean. I thought maybe we could try talking to her.
(off Jodi's incredulity)
Whitney's a person too, right? I think if we just talk to her like mature adults, maybe we can figure out how to coexist in peace.

JODI

Are you crazy? Of all the douchenozzles in this school, Whitney is the worst.

MINDY

She hasn't been *that* horrible.

Off Jodi's look --

SERIES OF SHORT SHOTS:

- Quick flashes of Mindy getting tripped throughout the years by WHITNEY'S CRONIES as Whitney looks on in satisfaction -- in class, on the bus, in the cafeteria.

- Quick flashes of Jodi walking throughout the years with signs stuck to her back -- "LARD ASS," "WHITE TRASH," "HOMOSEXUAL" -- as people laugh behind her back.

- 6th Grade Jodi and Mindy carefully carry a MODEL VOLCANO. Whitney and her Cronies tip the volcano into Mindy and Jodi.

- Jodi opens her locker. Issues of HUSTLER spill out.

- Mindy gets on her bike and starts to ride. The front tire comes off, and Mindy crashes to the ground.

BACK TO SCENE

Mindy winces in acknowledgement.

MINDY (CONT'D)
 Okay fine. But people change.
 (off Jodi's skepticism)
 It's either try or suffer through
 another year of abject humiliation.
 What do we have to lose?

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

A typical high school cafeteria. Whitney and Prithi sit at their reserved table. Prithi wears a ridiculous FASCINATOR.

PRITHI
 So I said to her, you're a whore,
 and you are not pulling off that
 color, and if you don't stay away
 from Rick I will call the police and
 say that you molested my cat. And
 you have to register for that.

Colin, Dave and Rick join before Whitney can respond.

PRITHI (CONT'D)
 (batting eyelashes)
 Hey Rick.

Rick ignores her. Colin looks at Prithi's fascinator.

COLIN
 What is that on your head?

PRITHI
 It's called a fastener. Kate
 Middleton wore this to her cousin's
 wedding last week.

DAVE
 Was she trying to get hit by
 lightning?

PRITHI
 Oh my god. You are sooooo funny,
 Dave. It's such an absolute shock
 that you can't find a girlfriend.

MACKENZIE, a neurotic and high strung mean girl in training, approaches with TAKE OUT BAGS.

WHITNEY
 Took you long enough.

Mackenzie starts pulling out the orders.

MACKENZIE

(to Whitney)

One steak, rare.

(to the boys)

Three meatball subs.

(to Prithi)

A kombucha and a hard boiled egg.

PRITHI

(off Dave's look)

Gwen Pal swears by it.

As Whitney starts in on her steak --

WHITNEY

You know what I love about you,
Prithi? You don't even have to know
that it's *actually* called a fascinator
to look stupid in it.

NEW ANGLE - LUNCH LINE

The LUNCH LADY spoons a heap of DISGUSTING CHILI onto a hamburger bun. Virginia Pendergast looks up from reading *NAUSEA* by Jean Paul Sartre, to take the plate. She looks at the food with disgust then takes her tray and passes --

Mindy and Jodi, who stand by the entrance mustering up their courage as they look at Whitney's table. With a deep breath, Mindy starts towards Whitney's table. Jodi follows.

JODI

I'm going to die a virgin and you
don't even care.

They approach Mackenzie who is standing guard.

MACKENZIE

You guys selling band candy or
something?

MINDY

Actually we were wondering if we
could talk to Whitney for a second.

MACKENZIE

Do you have an appointment?

JODI

This is stupid. Let's just go.

Before she can turn around, Whitney approaches.

WHITNEY

It's okay, Mackenzie. I want to hear what the turtleneck and the lesbian have to say.

She gestures for them to sit. Mindy and Jodi warily sit down across from Whitney. Whitney's crew looks on in surprise. Mindy summons her resolve.

MINDY

We know there's been some bad blood between us throughout the years, but we're seniors now, and there's no reason we can't put all that behind us and finish out the school year being civil to each other.

Whitney scrutinizes them. Mindy and Jodi shift uncomfortably.

MINDY (CONT'D)

We thought maybe if we came and spoke to you like adults, we could come to some sort of mutually beneficial agreement.

A long beat. Jodi looks like she's about to throw up.

WHITNEY

Wow. No one's ever had the courage to come talk to me face to face.

Mindy gives Jodi a dorky thumbs up. A beat. Whitney nods.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Okay.

JODI

Wait, what?

WHITNEY

It didn't occur to me until this exact moment that I kind of respect you. You never changed who you were to blend in. That's more than can be said for most of these automatons.

MINDY

Well I'm glad we could come to this understanding.

WHITNEY

Me too. Actually Colin's having a party Saturday. Why don't you come?

Colin starts to protest. Whitney elbows him.

JODI

I feel like I'm in the *Twilight Zone* right now.

PRITHI

I know. It's like if Edward and Jacob decided to become friends.

INT. COLIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A suburban mansion with absurdly loud MUSIC. People are everywhere. Mindy and Jodi stand at the entrance. Mindy has done her hair. Her typical soccer mom garb has been replaced by "soccer mom goes to The Olive Garden."

JODI

You realize this is it, right? This is the moment we both become school shooters.

Mindy is looking nervous as well but tries to remain upbeat.

MINDY

Beer?

Jodi nods, and they weave their way through the packed crowd to the KEG. Mindy grabs a cup and starts pumping -- a lot. She pours a cup for herself and one for Jodi. There's synchronized sips and then matching FOAM MUSTACHES.

Mindy looks at her cup in disgust.

MINDY (CONT'D)

I think mine's gone bad or something.

Jodi looks at it, and then takes a test sip.

JODI

That's what beer tastes like.

MINDY

Oh.

Just then, DAVE arrives at the keg.

DAVE

Hey MIT and, uh --
(looking over Jodi)
Wellesley.

Jodi rolls her eyes.

DAVE (CONT'D)

How's it goin'?

JODI
Well, we haven't been date-raped
yet, sooo --

DAVE
(to Mindy)
Is she always this pleasant?

MINDY
No. This is her trying to be nice.

JODI
I'm hoping to get time off from this
conversation for good behavior.

DAVE
You're funny, Wellesley.

JODI
Thanks, Penn State.

Dave laughs.

DAVE
I'm Dave by the way.

MINDY
We were lab partners for three years.

DAVE
Oh, totally. Right. Mandy.

MINDY
Mindy.

DAVE
Mindy. Mindy. Yep, Mindy.
(to Jodi)
And is there any reason it would be
awkward for me not to know your name?

JODI
Not unless you're an avid follower
of the piccolo section in the school
marching band.

DAVE
I'm more of a tuba section guy myself.

JODI
Well then I'm Jodi.

They shake. For a second it looks like Jodi might even be
enjoying herself.

WHITNEY

There you guys are! Now that you've hit your obnoxious creep quota for the night, I'll show you around.

With a snide look at Dave, she ushers them off. Dave rolls his eyes and heads back into the thick of it.

EXT. COLIN'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Whitney leads Mindy and Jodi, who look around in awe.

MINDY

The mean attractiveness of this party is statistically significant.

A STREAKER runs through and jumps in the pool.

JODI

Oh my god. Is that really just how I saw my first human penis?

Whitney leads them to Colin, Rick, Prithi and Mackenzie. Rick hits on Mackenzie as Prithi glares.

WHITNEY

Mackenzie, drinks.

Mackenzie leaves to obey orders. Rick stands to follow.

PRITHI

Do not sleep with the help, Rick.

Rick ignores her. Prithi looks back to the group trying to maintain her dignity.

PRITHI (CONT'D)

I like a guy I can't order around.

Nearby, two FRAT BOYS at a pong table look at Mindy and Jodi.

FRAT BOY

Dorks. Balls. Now.

Mindy and Jodi, taken aback, look to Whitney.

WHITNEY

Go. Mingle. Let people get to know you.

LATER:

Mindy and Jodi at the pong table with a GIANT STACKED PYRAMID OF BEER. They look in trepidation at the pyramid. Mindy tentatively throws the ball... and totally misses.

The Frat Boy takes the ball and sinks it in the top cup.

FRAT BOY

Boom! Drink!

Mindy and Jodi share the cup, sputtering. Jodi serves. As they play, the game SPEEDS UP until we are in FAST MOTION --

FAST MOTION MONTAGE:

Mindy and Jodi get increasingly into the game as they get increasingly drunk. They beat a series of opponents, Mindy calculating the perfect arc for the ball, as people start CHEERING them on. They're HIGH-FIVING random people, DOING SHOTS, and generally having a great time.

They get pulled onto the DANCE FLOOR. For a second they are nervous and then they totally go for it -- the Sprinkler, the Robot, the Worm, the Running Man -- they are pulling out all the stops as people CHEER them on. Total glory.

BACK TO SCENE

Mindy and Jodi, happy and drunk, hang out on the patio.

MINDY

I'm so happy I could throw up.

JODI

What?

BLLLAAGH. Mindy throws up all over the ground. Jodi just raises an eyebrow. Suddenly, WHITNEY gets on the DJ mic.

WHITNEY

Excuse me, everyone.

Everyone, quiets and looks at her. A LARGE PROJECTOR SCREEN has been erected behind her.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

As you may have noticed, we've got some new additions tonight. Mindy and Jodi. Now, most of us walk past these girls each and every day in the hallway and have never bothered to get to know them. So I put together a little video about our very own Jodi, so we could all get to know her a little better.

Whitney steps aside as the projector screen turns on --

ON VIDEO:

INT. JODI'S ROOM - DAY

Jodi types at her computer, the video recorded off her WEBCAM.

BACK TO SCENE

Mindy glances at Jodi -- what's going on?

WEBCAM VIDEO OF JODI'S BEDROOM:

Jodi continues to type.

HERB (O.S.)

Hey hon. Got your tampons.

Jodi turns and looks towards the door.

JODI

Dad! I need maximum flow!

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone at the party bursts out laughing. Whitney shoots Jodi a perfect smile as growing horror dawns on Jodi's face.

JODI (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

WEBCAM VIDEO OF JODI'S BEDROOM:

Jodi plays "Part of This World" on the piccolo as she sits in a circle with her STUFFED ANIMALS. The song ends.

JODI (CONT'D)

Not bad, right guys?

CUT TO:

Jodi awkwardly flits around her room wielding a pair of NUNCHUCKS against an imaginary foe.

CUT TO:

Jodi sits across from Herb, who looks nervous.

HERB

It's like -- when two people have feelings for each other... Okay, you know how there are birds, and there are bees?

(off her confusion)

How familiar are you with male anatomy?

JODI
Oh my God, dad. I'm 17!

CUT TO:

Jodi, dressed in a ONESIE, plays her guitar and SINGS --

JODI (CONT'D)
Ooooooh, eczema, I'm gonna vanquish
yaaaaa...

BACK TO SCENE

The party is in HYSTERICIS. Only Dave looks at Jodi with sympathy. Mindy is too stunned to do anything. Jodi bolts for the exit as the LAUGHTER follows her. A beat and then Mindy follows.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Mindy runs out. Jodi is BIKING AWAY as fast as she can.

MINDY
Jodi, wait!

Jodi doesn't stop. Mindy watches her recede into darkness.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The hall buzzes with student activity. A path begins to clear as students step aside for --

WHITNEY, PRITHI and MACKENZIE, striding in SLO-MO. STUDENTS look at Whitney in awe and fear as she passes.

Whitney, Prithi and Mackenzie stop at Whitney's locker.

MACKENZIE
That prank you pulled was epic.
Everyone is talking about it. Our
grandchildren will still be talking
about it.

Whitney takes a BOOK from her locker and hands it to Mackenzie --

THE 48 LAWS OF POWER

WHITNEY
If you're going to be in power next
year, this is your new bible. *The
48 Laws of Power*. Make sure you
heed Law number one.

Mackenzie carefully opens the book to the first chapter --

"NEVER OUTSHINE THE MASTER"

PRITHI

Mark Burnett was a nanny before he read that book.

Off Whitney slamming her locker shut --

NEW ANGLE:

Mindy wanders through the hall self-consciously. People LAUGH and WHISPER as she passes. She pulls out her cell, checks for calls. Nothing. She SPEED DIALS. A beat.

MINDY

Hey Jodi. It's me. Again. Just call me, okay. I'm at school, and it's really not so --
(trailing off)
Bad.

Before her is JODI'S LOCKER -- it's decorated with items referencing the video -- TAMPONS, NUNCHUCKS, JODI'S YEARBOOK PICTURE photoshopped onto a FOREVER LAZY AD, etc.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Whitney and her crew hang in the back of Colin's Suburban drinking beers. Dave silently nurses his beer.

MACKENZIE

Did you guys see Jodi's locker? Someone did something with a piccolo and a Paddington Bear that is really... not right.

DAVE

That was seriously twisted, Whitney. Even for you. I mean how mental do you have to be to put in that much effort into messing with a couple of nerds just trying to make peace?

WHITNEY

What do you mean? All I had to do was get Jodi to respond to a spyware email, figure out her IP address, and learn how to hack into a webcam. After that, it was just going through the 84 hours of footage to edit together the best bits.

DAVE

Here's an idea. Why don't you just leave them alone?

WHITNEY

Because, Dave, if I left them alone, it would make me look weak. And I will not allow that creepy giant and her frizzy-haired lapdog to roam the halls of this school thinking that, for one second, they are my equal.

Mackenzie holds up the *48 Laws of Power*.

MACKENZIE

Law 15 -- crush your enemy totally.

DAVE

You know, I'm so glad I'm not a girl, and it's not just because of your plumbing and status in society. It's because girls are demonic. You're like medieval to each other.

PRITHI

Oh, shut up. Guys are just as bad.

DAVE

No. Freaking. Way. When a dude has a problem with another dude, you know what he does?

Dave PUNCHES Colin in the chest. Hard. Colin wheezes.

DAVE (CONT'D)

He punches him. And then, after we fight. We drink.

Dave hands his Tall Boy to Colin.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Drink up, buddy.
 (to Whitney)
 And then we apologize.
 (to Colin)
 Sorry I punched you. We cool?

Colin nods through his pain. Dave turns back to Whitney.

DAVE (CONT'D)

And then we make up. And that's how it works. No passive aggressive, evil arch nemesis bullshit.

WHITNEY

Perhaps that's why, by all measures, your gender is increasingly falling behind in education, employment, and financial status.

DAVE
 Whatever. You're a jerk.

INT. JODI'S ROOM - DAY

Jodi lies in her pajamas despondently watching "Party Down."
 Mindy enters. Jodi looks at her then turns back to the TV.
 Mindy looks over to see a giant strip of DUCT TAPE has been
 placed over Jodi's webcam. Mindy sits by Jodi's bed.

MINDY
 You know, one day we're going to
 look back on this and --

JODI
 Just stop, Mindy. I told you this
 was going to happen. I should have
 never listened to you.

Mindy doesn't know what to say.

JODI (CONT'D)
 And I knew I shouldn't have clicked
 on that attachment.

QUICK CUT:

Jodi opens and EMAIL:

CASTING CALL FOR NEW TINA FEY SERIES!!! PICCOLO PLAYERS
 WANTED!!!

Jodi clicks on the attachment excitedly.

BACK TO SCENE

JODI (CONT'D)
 How am I supposed to go back to school
 after this?

Mindy hates seeing Jodi like this. Something has to be done.

MINDY
 I'll tell you how. 'Cause this isn't
 over. We're going to win this one.

JODI
 I'm not sure if you understand the
 definition of winning. This...
 (gesturing to herself)
 Not winning.

MINDY
 No, I'm serious. You were right.
 We've gotta stand up for ourselves.

JODI

And how are we going to do that?

MINDY

We're gonna beat those fascists at their own game. We're gonna be popular. And not lame Top 40 popular. Awesome popular. All of us. All the people they've ever treated like second class citizens and then copied their Calculus homework.

JODI

Popular people don't take Calculus.

MINDY

Exactly. Because they're stupid dolts who'll go to below average universities, get mediocre grades and still end up being our bosses unless we do something about it now.

JODI

Just like that? We're going to overthrow generations of ingrained high school social strata.

MINDY

Sure. Is there anything we've ever put our minds to that we haven't accomplished?

(cutting her off)

Besides getting *Firefly* back on the air.

JODI

Then, no, I guess not.

MINDY

Exactly. So let's do this thing.

Jodi nods. She's in. The two grasp each others' pinkies, doing an elaborate pinkie agreement shake.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And so it was, that the revolution was born.

JODI (V.O.)

And Tina Fey, if you're listening, I'd still play piccolo for you.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Mindy and Jodi march down the after-school hall with resolve.

MINDY (V.O.)

The facts were simple -- there were more of us than there were of them. So all we had to do was convince the outsiders, misfits and weirdos of the school to band together.

JODI (V.O.)

Basically, we were going to unionize the outcasts.

QUICK SHOTS: Mindy and Jodi talk to various factions -- from the ORCHESTRA NERDS to MATH GEEKS to GOTHS and STONERS. They put up SIGNS advertising a meeting with the slogan "POWER TO THE PEONS!!!"

MINDY (V.O.)

Unfortunately, it was a lot harder than we expected.

Mindy and Jodi sit alone in an empty room.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We were getting desperate.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Mindy and Jodi stop by a classroom with a poster board --

TWI-HARDS! TUESDAYS AFTERSCHOOL, ROOM 301

Mindy and Jodi peak in. A GIRL SOBS HYSTERICALLY as other girls and one boy nod in total understanding.

TWI-HARD

(between sobs)

He just... loves her... so much.

JODI (V.O.)

Buuut not that desperate.

Mindy and Jodi glance at each other, then keep going.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CLASSROOM - DAY

Mindy and Jodi, deflated, stop in front of a doorway labeled GIRL SCOUTS. They look at each other skeptically but enter.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The room is empty, all except for CLAIRE STEWART. Innocently adorable, she sits in her GIRL SCOUT UNIFORM building an elaborate TOOTHPICK SCULPTURE of a unicorn. She looks up and sees them, then stands abruptly, excited.

CLAIRE
Holy cannoli! Hi, come in.

JODI
Where is everyone?

CLAIRE
Oh, this is it. Just me. I'm Claire.

Claire stares with wide-eyed enthusiasm, especially at Jodi.

JODI
Hey, Claire. So we're going around to everyone because we're trying to gather people together to make a change. Basically, we're --

CLAIRE
I'm in! Whatever you guys need.

Jodi glances at Mindy. That was strangely easy.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Yay!

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Jodi and Mindy wander the deserted halls after school.

JODI
So we've pretty much talked to every misfit toy in this school, and the only thing we have to show for it is Marcia Brady.

MINDY
Revolutions have to start some --

They stop short as they see SUGAR JONES walking straight for them looking like she's about to rip their heads off.

MINDY (CONT'D)
(whispering, scared)
It's Sugar Jones. Why is she coming towards us?

They look around frantically but they are alone in the hall.

JODI
Whatever it is, no eyewitnesses.

They quiet as Sugar stops in front of them. They gulp.

SUGAR

I hear you're trying to obliterate the asshole-normative power hierarchy of this pathetic excuse for a school.

MINDY

Uh, obliterate's kind of a strong word, but yeah.

SUGAR

I'm in.

Jodi looks hesitant, but one look from Sugar convinces her.

JODI

Okay.

Sugar nods, then turns and walks away. Mindy and Jodi look at each other. What the hell just happened.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mindy, Jodi, and Claire sit waiting. Claire smiles eagerly at Jodi and Mindy. Sugar enters and takes in the three girls.

SUGAR

Are you kidding me? Charles Manson had more followers.

MINDY

I know right now we're a small group, but we're all here for a reason, right?

CLAIRE

Right. Wait, why are we here?

JODI

Jesus Christ.

SUGAR

If this is all we've got to show, I say we just burn this mother down and be done with it.

JODI

Nice. Arson sounds like a fabulous plan.

CLAIRE

If we need to get more people, we could go door-to-door like I do with cookies. It's an excellent way to meet people in a place they feel comfortable --

SUGAR

Screw Girl Scout cookies. An obvious conspiracy to subjugate girls and force them into traditional gender roles by selling overpriced, unremarkable, and nutritionally deficient baked goods.

Okkkaaaay. They stare at each other in awkward silence.

JODI

We suck at this. Look at us. This isn't a revolution, it's a girl band. We need someone who can work the system. Karl Rove, good witch style.

MINDY

Wait...

Jodi and Mindy exchange a look. Eureka.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Virginia.

JODI

Virginia.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Virginia, the girl from the roof, stands at a podium, except instead of her usual existentialist garb, she is dressed out of a J Crew catalogue and emanates an upbeat can-do attitude.

VIRGINIA

As president of the History --

CUT TO:

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Young Democrats --

CUT TO:

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Model United Nations club --

MINDY (V.O.)

Virginia Pendergast had locked up "Most Likely to Succeed" in elementary school. Every club, every activity. She even played a sport.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Virginia tees off perfectly.

MINDY (V.O.)

Our junior year, Virginia launched
the culmination of all her hard work --
a campaign for student council
president.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Virginia is dressed impeccably. She hands out FLYERS, PINS,
AND #2 PENCILS WITH HER PICTURE and the words "YES I CAN."

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Virginia CAMPAIGNS in the lunch room, going table to table.

MINDY (V.O.)

But despite a well-oiled political
machine, and the endorsement of
several key teachers --

INT. AUDITORIUM -- DAY

Virginia sits alone, balloons and confetti everywhere.

MINDY (V.O.)

She lost. To Kyle McDevitt -- a
sophomore basketball star whose
campaign speech consisted of a Journey
song and free Chipotle gift cards.

CUT TO:

KYLE enthusiastically belts out "Don't Stop Believing" as
CHEERLEADERS dance backup behind him and throw GIFT CARDS to
the CROWD OF STUDENTS eating it up. Virginia looks on aghast.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

After her crushing defeat, she went
where many a depressed and disgruntled
American has gone before...

INT. CHARLES DEGAULLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

The scene is chaotic -- people are smoking everywhere and
the loud speaker is blasting FRENCH. Virginia stands in the
middle of it all, eyes closed, soaking it in.

MINDY (V.O.)

France.

LIGHTNING QUICK SHOTS:

- Virginia at a CAFE chain smoking and reading beat poetry.

- Virginia at a FRENCH MOVIE starring a weird talking cow. She laughs and cries at the same time.

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Needless to say--

EXT. RICHARD MILLHOUSE NIXON HIGH - DAY

Virginia smokes a clove. She wears a shirt that reads "L'enfer c'est les autres." Another SMOKER observes her.

SMOKER
What's your shirt say?

VIRGINIA
Hell is other people.

She flicks her clove and walks away.

MINDY (V.O.)
-- she didn't come back from summer
break the same.

EXT. PENDERGAST ESTATE - DAY

Jodi, Mindy, Claire and Sugar stand before a giant gate. They look up at the intimidating Gothic estate.

JODI
Who's their architect? Tim Burton?

Mindy finds the "V. PENDERGAST" buzzer and pushes it.

MINDY
Um, hi Virginia. It's Mindy, Jodi,
Sugar and Claire from school. We're
trying to figure out how to upend
the social hierarchy of the school --

SUGAR
Or destroy it.

MINDY
And we could use your help.

A VOICE comes on the intercom --

VIRGINIA (V.O.)
I'm not interested in your futile
attempts to make sense of the world's
chaos.

CLICK. The line goes dead. Jodi presses the button.

JODI
We're actually thinking more along
the lines of revenge.

A beat. The gate starts to open.

EXT. VIRGINIA'S ROOM - PENDERGAST ESTATE - DAY

Not a color to be found. Poetry is scribbled on the walls.
Virginia sits blandly regarding Mindy and Jodi's motley crew.

VIRGINIA
So how, exactly, are you going to
pull off this little experiment?

MINDY
That's where you come in. We tried
to talk to the different groups at
school, but no one wanted to take up
the cause.

VIRGINIA
(laughs)
Of course not. You know how all
Asian people look the same but then,
underneath it all there's 3000 years
of genocide and the rape of Nanking?
Well, that's outcasts. You think
we're all the same but really we're
like snowflakes. Snowflakes that
hate each other. Look, let me break
it down for you. You've got your
basic over-achievers...

SERIES OF SHORT SHOTS:

A TYPE-A NERD frantically raises his hand in class.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)
Your under-achievers...

In the back, a GRUNGY BOY carves the desk with a switchblade.

VIRGINIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Then you've got the kids lost in the
past...

TWO BOYS DRESSED AS AN ELF and WARLOCK fight in the woods.

VIRGINIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Kids lost in the future...

TREKKIES dressed up in uniform line up at a convention.

VIRGINIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Kids still obsessed with Lost...

A GIRL pauses on a scene in "Lost" and grabs her notebook.

LOST FAN
I've seen that number before.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)
Kids who are lost.

STONERS watch *The Simpsons* as they pass around a bong.

VIRGINIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Then there are the Emo's --

The Emo's from before sit on the same stoop.

VIRGINIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The kids who hate Emo...

A car of GOTHs passes. Goth Girl sneers at the Emo's.

GOTH GIRL
Freaks.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)
Kids with foreign parents --

Several ASIAN GIRLS walk down the school hall past a group of GIRLS IN HEAD SCARVES. They roll their eyes at each other.

VIRGINIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Parents --

A JUNO-ESQUE GIRL waddles through the hallway.

BACK TO SCENE:

VIRGINIA
And we haven't even touched the whole nerd/geek/dork debate yet. There're more strains of loser out there than the herpes virus. Uniting them under one banner -- that's no easy task.

JODI
So we're screwed.

VIRGINIA
I said it wasn't easy. I didn't say it was impossible.

Off Virginia, the wheels already turning --

INT. WAR ROOM - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Virginia leads the girls into a subterranean chamber with a giant WAR TABLE and remnants from Virginia's campaign.

CLAIRE

What is this place?

VIRGINIA

It used to be my campaign headquarters. Prior to that, it was used by my father to house his miniature horse collection. And prior to that, it was used by my schizophrenic grandfather to interrogate imaginary communists. He won an imaginary medal for it.

She points to a BOWLING TROPHY on a shelf.

SUGAR

Man, rich white people are messed up.

Claire nods.

VIRGINIA

When I was running for office, I did a little research on the voters.

We PAN OUT to reveal she is standing before a wall to wall bookshelf of INTEL FILES that would make the Patriot Act blush. They approach in awe.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

This represents the entire student body. Each file contains your standard class list, activities, hobbies, GPA, psychological evaluation, past and current lovers, and most importantly, weaknesses.

JODI

No goddamn way.

Jodi immediately finds her file and pulls it. She opens it --

INSERT JODI'S DOSSIER --

Jodi's CLASS PICTURE with a list of activities, classes, etc. GPA reads 3.7. PAST AND FUTURE LOVERS is blank.

BACK TO SCENE

JODI (CONT'D)

(reading)

Weaknesses -- Tina Fey, piccolo.

(looks up)

Jesus, am I that transparent?

The other girls read from their files --

MINDY

Latent Napoleonic tendencies?

SUGAR

Overtly aggressive, lack of impulse control, militant with anarchist undertones.

(beat)

Nice!

JODI

What does yours say, Claire?

Claire shuts the file, uncomfortable.

CLAIRE

It just says Girl Scout.

Virginia looks at her knowingly.

MINDY

Virginia, where's your file?

VIRGINIA

I have no weaknesses.

Virginia retrieves FIVE FILES.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

These four files represent the kingpins of the school's underclass. Convince these five to join your side, you've got a shot at this thing. The key is finding out what makes someone tick. And then exploiting it mercilessly.

SUGAR

I like her. Even if she is named after a slave state.

Virginia opens a file. She takes out the DOSSIER...

VIRGINIA

First up...

She stabs a DOSSIER violently into a cork board.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Howard Chang. Leader of the Young Entrepreneurs. Points of weakness -- the word "billion," black mock neck turtlenecks, and tall women.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The five girls sit across from HOWARD -- Asian, officious, always on his iPad, dressed exactly like Steve Jobs. Behind him TECH NERDS work on APPLE PRODUCTS in front of GIANT PICTURES of STEVE JOBS and MARK ZUCKERBERG.

HOWARD

I get what you guys are going for, I think it's very innovative, but it's just not right for us. We're working on an app right now that's gonna blow up -- Asia Vous. Facebook for Asians. And besides I've gotta look to the future, not worry about high school. I still have to get into Harvard, then drop out of Harvard, before I can start my first company.

Mindy leans forward, doing her best sell.

MINDY

Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things.

Jodi stands up. Howard looks up at her, towering over him.

JODI

You know who said that? Steve Jobs. And that's why he made a billion dollars.

Howard looks at them. Sold.

INT. WAR ROOM - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Virginia stabs another DOSSIER into the cork board.

VIRGINIA

Martin Vimmel. Head of the Science Fiction club. Points of weakness -- hard sci-fi, the sound of his own voice, very aggressive women.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CLASSROOM - DAY

The girls, have just made their pitch to MARTIN -- thin, bespectacled, arrogant -- as SCI-FI NERDS hang behind him.

MARTIN

Just because you're a science geek doesn't mean we're your comrades in arms. Science is about what is. Any idiot can do that. Science fiction is about what could be.

JODI

We love science fiction too! We're huge *Doctor Who* fans.

MINDY

I mean the Matt Smith years... completely turned the series around.

Martin looks at them with withering derision.

MARTIN

I'll tell you what. Give me the title of one Neal Stephenson novel, just one, and I'll join your little --

Sugar butts in --

SUGAR

You think skinny anemic fanboys have a monopoly on the one fictional genre where women and people of color get to exist outside of backwards societal norms and traditional confinements? Not to mention a genre largely premised on the idea that future dystopia is the inevitable outcome of the current system of patriarchal excess?

(before he can protest)

Idiot. Oh, and *Cryptonomicon*, *Snow Crash*, *Anthem*. Want me to go on?

Martin looks at her, impressed. Maybe a little turned on.

INT. WAR ROOM - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Virginia stabs another DOSSIER into the cork board.

VIRGINIA

Louis Hammerschmidt. Head of the Fantasy Club. Points of weaknesses -- Elven languages, heroic aspirations, any woman.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The five girls stand before LOUIS, a portly fantasy nerd with tragic facial hair and a cloak. Behind him FANTASY NERDS play Dungeons & Dragons. Louis looks unconvinced.

LOUIS

Whitney Bennett is the Cersei Lannister of high school, and you guys are idiots if you think you can play the game of thrones with her. I'm sorry, but I'm not gonna end up like Ned Stark.

MINDY

Louis, think of it like this. What if Frodo hadn't left the Shire and fought against the Dark Lord?

VIRGINIA

(in Elven)

Join us, Louis.

INT. WAR ROOM - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Virginia stabs a DOSSIER into the cork board of the GOTH IN THE WHEELCHAIR running people over in the opening.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)

Carmen Espinoza. Leader of the gamers. Points of weakness -- first person shooters, custom dog collars, spinal cord.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The girls stand before Carmen, who's playing a first person shooter. The room is drenched in the sound of GUNFIRE and EXPLOSIONS as GAMERS frantically tap their controllers.

MINDY

We just think, if we can bring everyone together, we can --

CARMEN

BAM!

The girls jump.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Head shot! Suck it, bitches!

(turns to them)

I'm all for war. But you guys are worse than noobs, and we don't follow noobs into battle.

CLAIRE
Care to shoot for it?

Claire nods to the game. Carmen looks at her, incredulous.

LATER:

Carmen and Claire engage in a head-to-head FPS battle. Claire gets the winning shot. Carmen's screen goes RED. Disbelief.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Me and my brother play Duck Hunt
after school every day.

INT. MINDY'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

The girls raise juice boxes to their success.

MINDY
To the beginning of a new world order!

They clink and sip.

VIRGINIA
Now the real work begins.

EXT. MINDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jodi, Claire, Sugar and Virginia exit Mindy's house as they all exchange happy goodbyes. Virginia hops on a Vespa and Sugar heads to her car. Jodi walks to her bike.

CLAIRE
Need a ride?

INT. CLAIRE'S VW BUG - NIGHT

Claire looks a little nervous as she drives Jodi.

CLAIRE
I'm really glad I'm helping you guys
with this whole thing. I've always
really admired you, you know.

JODI
Really? Why?

CLAIRE
You're just so unapologetic about
who you are.

JODI
That's been a recurring problem.

CLAIRE

No, it's awesome.
 (beat; nervous)
 So when did you know?

JODI

That I rubbed people the wrong way?

CLAIRE

Haven't heard that one before. But yeah.

Jodi looks at her oddly but then shrugs.

JODI

It was pretty obvious since I was a kid. But I really hit my stride in middle school.
 (pointing to house)
 I'm that one there.

Claire pulls over. She hesitates a moment, then speaks --

CLAIRE

I... rub people the wrong way too. I mean I haven't actually yet. But I want to. Someday. First I have to figure out how to tell them.

JODI

Tell them that you're rude and obnoxious?

CLAIRE

(confused)
 No. That I'm gay.

JODI

Wait, what?

CLAIRE

It's so great talking to someone who's already out. You're like my hero. When you walked through the school with that sign announcing you were gay, I couldn't believe how brave you were.

JODI

Someone put that sign on my back as a prank.
 (off Claire's confusion)
 Why does everyone think I'm gay?

Off Claire's look --

SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS:

- Jodi dressed up as XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS.
- Jodi plays the guitar and bellows out the Indigo Girls's "CLOSER TO FINE" in one of her YouTube videos.
- Jodi opens her locker to reveal a picture of RACHEL MADDOW.

BACK TO SCENE

CLAIRE

And you do wear a lot of vests.

JODI

Huh.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry, I just always thought --

JODI

No, I'm sorry.
(awkward beat)
So when did you know?

CLAIRE

I think it finally clicked when I realized that I didn't love *Veronica Mars*. I loved Veronica Mars.

Jodi puts his hand up in the air like a Reverend.

JODI

Preach.

The two exchange a smile.

INT. JODI'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jodi enters smiling. Herb sits at an outdated computer.

JODI

Things are happening, Herb. Things are happening.

HERB

Yes. They. Are.

Herb hands her a BROCHURE for a NEW YORK PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL. Before Jodi can protest --

HERB (CONT'D)

A deal's a deal.

He points to his new DATING PROFILE.

HERB (CONT'D)

I have a date with Carol, and you
have a date with destiny.

Off Jodi considering the brochure --

INT. WAR ROOM - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Carmen, Howard, Martin, and Louis sit at the war table. They're still skeptical. The five girls sit nervously on the other side, except for Virginia who coolly observes. Mindy clears her throat and starts woodenly reading cue cards.

MINDY

Raise your hand if you've ever eaten
lunch in a bathroom stall...
(no hands)
Completed someone else's homework...

Still nothing. Mindy continues, increasingly uncomfortable.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Made fun of because of your weight,
ethnicity, sexual orientation, or
knowledge of the periodic table of
elements.

The Kingpins are unimpressed. The girls shift, anxious.

CLAIRE

Well it's time we did something about
it!

HOWARD

It's time to get to the point. It's
been 42 seconds and I still don't
know your product, your plan or your
profit point. If you want to
endlessly pontificate, start a blog.

SUGAR

We have a blog. It's called shutup
andletusfinishsowecantellyouthetheplan
.tumblr.com.

CARMEN

Oh no, here comes angry black girl.

Sugar looks at her in disbelief.

SUGAR

I'm not angry because I'm black.
I'm angry because I'm paying
attention.

(MORE)

SUGAR (CONT'D)

Are you honestly going to sit there and tell me you're happy with the way things are?

MINDY

All we're saying is if we don't stick together, we don't have a chance of standing up to the evil Empire.

MARTIN

So what you're proposing is like the rebel alliance.

JODI

Exactly! *Star Wars*. Classic sci-fi.

LOUIS

I'm sorry to interrupt, but I think *Star Wars* technically constitutes fantasy.

MARTIN

Are you serious?

LOUIS

It's an archetypal hero's quest. That's fantasy.

MARTIN

Um, yeah. Set in a technologically advanced society with spaceships.

LOUIS

And swordfighting.

MARTIN

Lightsabers are not swords.

LOUIS

What about the Force? That's magic.

MARTIN

Which was scientifically explained by midichlorians.

LOUIS

Are you actually citing the prequels to me right now?

HOWARD

I don't get it. Why do we have two sci-fi nerds here?

She has their attention. Jodi steps up, feeling the momentum.

JODI

The plan's simple. Popularity is 9/10th's posture. So you see each other in the halls -- you say hello. You see someone getting roughed up -- you back 'em up. From now on, the lines that divide us are gone. We are one united front of misfits!

The Kingpins exchange glances. They're in.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Students stream through the halls between class.

MINDY (V.O.)

And so it began. Our independence day. At first the changes were small. A smile here.

Howard and Sugar pass each other and exchange a nod.

JODI (V.O.)

A random act of non-douche-baggy-ness there.

CARMEN races her wheelchair down the hall. About to sideswipe a group of NERDS, she slows down, goes around them.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Louis, wearing a *LOTR* tee, searches for a seat. He spots Martin, wearing a *Star Trek* tee. The two lock eyes and squint at each other. A beat then Martin offers up a seat.

As they start to eat, they each pull out a tab of LACTAID. They nod solemnly at each other. Lactards, unite.

MINDY (V.O.)

Some of us learned the ancient art of not getting our asses kicked.

INT. FANTASY CLUB CLASSROOM -- DAY

LOUIS, in a white gi and a PURPLE BELT, demonstrates a self-defense move on Howard to rows of dorks on exercise mats.

LOUIS

You want to grab, twist and push. Pair off and give it a try.

Everyone starts practicing. Sugar and Martin, who are adjacent, glance at each other, then hesitantly pair off.

MARTIN

So, I'll try not to --

Sugar grabs him and body slams him onto the mat. Martin sputters. He looks up at Sugar impressed as she glares.

MINDY (V.O.)

Some of us combined forces to design innovative solutions to age-old problems.

INT. VIDEO GAME CLUB - DAY

Carmen and her GAMERS lecture people on battlefield tactics as she points to a blueprint of the school with a stick.

CARMEN

If you get in trouble, head for these safe points where patrols will be.

(thwacking map)

Do not get isolated in these chokes points where you will get pinned.

But if you do, that's the time to activate Howard's alert system.

She glances at Howard who nods. People scribble down notes.

MINDY (V.O.)

And slowly, things began to actually change.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

A TINY FRESHMAN closes his locker as THREE JOCKS corner him. He grabs his iPhone and presses a GIANT RED BUTTON.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Several MISFITS, feeling their phones vibrate, take them out. A RED ALARM flashes "ALERT" with a GPS hallway location.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

At the end of the hallway, a SHADOWY FIGURE appears and begins RUNNING (like, weirdly full speed) towards the jocks, a CLOAK billowing behind him. The shadowy figure arrives --

It's Louis. The jocks laugh. Louis KARATE CHOPS one in the neck then makes a ninja "come hither" hand motion. The Jocks, furious, go after him, who leads them round a corner to --

An virtual MISFIT ARMY, led by Carmen. The Jocks stop short.

INT. SCHOOL STAIRWELL - DAY

A FUTURE STRUGGLING MODEL approaches a GEEK with her homework. He puts his hand out. She reluctantly produces a debit card.

The geek swipes her card on an iPhone. A RECEIPT prints from a mobile printer he wears like a fanny pack. He offers it to the model, who gives him the FINGER and walks.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Rick scores a touchdown against the opposition, but only Whitney and her crew are in the stands.

PRITHI

Where IS everyone?

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

A DEBATE NERD stands at a podium arguing. As he finishes, the audience goes wild. Every seat is filled. The SCHOOL MARCHING BAND, crammed in the aisle, plays a celebratory tune. The other school's team looks on in awe.

MINDY (V.O.)

And once the outcasts became a united front, the rest of the school fell like dominoes. Political power?

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Principal Whitmore stands in front of the student body.

LES WHITMORE

Sooo let's give a hand to your new student government.

The student government stands -- Carmen, a MINIATURE BLACK GIRL with thick glasses, and a sad looking EMO KID.

MINDY (V.O.)

Check. Gym class reform?

INT. GYMNASIUM -- DAY

Two team captains -- a GOTH GIRL and TINY ASIAN BOY have picked teams leaving only the MEAN JOCKS and POPULAR KIDS.

MINDY (V.O.)

Check.

JODI (V.O.)

Dork was the new popular.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Whitney, Prithi and Mackenzie are forced to squeeze through the crowded hallways that used to part like the Red Sea.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

The cafeteria is now a utopia. Tables co-mingle, share notes, laugh and more. The five girls sit at a central lunch table. Surveying their work, they exchange smiles.

MINDY (V.O.)

We had just pulled off the bloodless
coup of the century and it was --

NEW ANGLE:

Whitney and her crew sit in the corner of the lunch room.

PRITHI

Far-reaching bullshit. I feel like
that Rosa Parks lady when they made
her sit on the back of the bus.

RICK

Dude. Spoiler alert.

COLIN

Yeah, something weird is going on.

WHITNEY

What tipped you off? The empty
football games? Our special Olympics
student government? Or the fact
that you're all failing science now?

PRITHI

Chill, Whitney. It's probably just
a phase or something. Like, I heard
Mercury is supposedly going retrograde --

WHITNEY

What is law number 5?

Mackenzie scrambles for her copy of *48 Laws of Power*.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Much depends on your reputation.
Guard it with your life. Get it
now? We ARE our reputation. So
right now, I'd say it's pretty clear
that we are --

Whitney is hit in the head with a piece of TOAST, flicked by
a KID from an adjacent table.

The Kid looks at Whitney, terrified. Rick picks up the toast, and takes a bite.

RICK

Mmmm. Toast.

Dave laughs, amused. Whitney just glares, scary calm.

WHITNEY

The thing about power is, if you don't have it, someone else does. So you say "phase," I say insurrection. And if Stalin taught us anything, the only response to insurrection is to crush it. Quickly.

They regard her, a bit scared.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

One day I will be in a place where power isn't determined by acned suburban subliterates, but in the meantime, I have to cater to these morons, who apparently think they can just pretend they're popular. But here's the thing -- at the end of the day, we're better looking, we dress better, and we have more money. Except you Dave. And those are the things that give you power in high school. So we're throwing a party. And let's see how long these losers want to go to debate tournaments when they have the carrot of real popularity dangled in front of them. And now for the stick. Mackenzie --

Whitney nods to the boy who hit her with toast by accident.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Patsy Cline.

Mackenzie walks towards Toast Boy. She crosses behind him, slipping something unseen into his backpack. Off Mackenzie's cue, Whitney crosses to the SECURITY GUARD talking to him in mock concern as she points in Toast Boy's direction.

The Security Guard crosses to Toast Boy, grabs his backpack and pulls the WEIRDEST PORNO MAGAZINE EVER out of it. Off Toast Boy sputtering in shock as everyone stares at him --

EXT. JODI'S HOUSE - DAY

Jodi stands before the mailbox with a large MANILA ENVELOPE in her hand. She looks at the envelope addressed to --

NEW YORK CITY PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL, ADMISSIONS OFFICE.

Jodi takes a deep breath, and drops the envelope in.

INT. MINDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mindy alternates holding two MIT SWEATSHIRTS up to herself in front of the mirror. They're practically identical, but you'd think she were picking an outfit for the Oscars.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Mindy sits across from the FEMALE INTERVIEWER (late 30s), a leather jacket type with a slight air of rebellion. She looks bored out of her mind.

MINDY

And in tenth grade I received second place at the state science fair for my project "Isotropic Versus Anisotropic Materials: The Effect --

INTERVIEWER

Let me just stop you there. It's obvious you're a very talented scientist, good grades, good test scores. But what makes you special? What makes you tick?

Mindy doesn't say anything, stumped.

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

Like when I was at MIT, I was a member of the Hacks. Learned more from pulling off those pranks than any class I took.

MINDY

Well, as I mentioned, I am president of our high school's science club. I'm also a National Merit Scholar...

The Interviewer sits back disappointed.

INT. RECORD STORE - DAY

Jodi sifts through a record bin stopping on a Bowie album.

DAVE (O.S.)

And I thought I was the only person under 60 who came to this place.

Jodi looks up to see Dave holding a record. He points to the Bowie album.

DAVE (CONT'D)

That one's awesome. You should totally get it.

She looks at him skeptically then glances at his record.

JODI

What's that? Smash Mouth?

He shows her the album -- it's an old Carol King album.

JODI (CONT'D)

You like Carol King?

DAVE

Um... yeah. I used to listen to her in the car with my mom all the time.

(singing)

You make me feel like a nat-ur-al woman...

(beat)

Who can't relate to that?

She smiles despite herself. Then she shakes her head.

JODI

Look, I don't know what you're trying to do, but you can stop with the whole nice guy routine. Let's not forget that last time I saw you, you and your friends orchestrated the most humiliating moment of my life.

She movies away from him to another bin. He follows.

DAVE

Hold up. First of all, I did not know that was going to happen. And second of all...

(searching)

...it wasn't that humiliating.

(off her look)

Okay, I'm surprised you didn't transfer schools. But on the positive side, that eczema song? Ridiculously catchy. Any chance you can write one about rickets for my grandpa?

She is again charmed despite herself. She looks him over.

JODI

I don't get it.

DAVE
Rickets? I think it's usually caused
by a vitamin D deficiency --

JODI
No, I mean... you seem like you, you
know, have at least a modicum of a
soul, and aren't a completely heinous
human being --

DAVE
Aw shucks, thanks.

JODI
How can you hang out with Whitney?

DAVE
Trust me, I know how awful Whitler
can be. But Colin and I have been
friends since second grade. What am
I supposed to do? Not everyone has
the guts to stage a full scale
rebellion against Cruella de Vil.

Jodi can't help smile at the compliment. He regards her.

DAVE (CONT'D)
And for what it's worth, I'm glad
you didn't transfer schools.

They exchange smiles. A cute moment.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Soooo, I'll see you round. Soon.
Like. At school. Because that's
where we both go.

He heads off, then turns and points to the record bin.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Bowie totally made weird awesome.

He exits. Jodi smiles as she watches him.

MINDY (V.O.)
Ah, young love.

JODI (V.O.)
Really?

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Samuels sits grading papers. Mindy enters, excited.

MINDY

Hey, Mr. Samuels! I had my interview yesterday. I think it went really well. Did you... hear anything?

Mr. Samuels smiles a little weakly and shakes his head.

MR. SAMUELS

Amy just said you seemed very... competent.

Mindy nods relieved. Les Whitmore pops in.

LES WHITMORE

Hey, sweater vest, do I need to get a chaperone in here for you two?

Mr. Samuels shakes his head in distaste but doesn't respond.

MR. SAMUELS

Can I help you, Mr. Whitmore?

LES WHITMORE

Yeah, I need those reports on my desk by noon.

MR. SAMUELS

I put them in your inbox yesterday.

LES WHITMORE

I said on my desk, not in my inbox. I hope your students follow directions better than you do.

Just then Louis, wielding a plastic broad sword, and Martin, wielding a double lightsaber, duel past the doorway as people follow and cheer them on. Mr. Whitmore does a double take.

LES WHITMORE (CONT'D)

Jesus. It's like Pandora's Box opened up and it was full of losers.

(back to Samuels)

Those reports, on my desk. Today.

As Whitmore heads off, Mr. Samuels glances at Mindy, a bit embarrassed. Mindy looks at him with sympathy. He shrugs.

MR. SAMUELS

Every scientist needs an arch nemesis.

(off her grin)

He's right though. The school has been different lately. You have anything to do with that?

MINDY

I can neither prove nor disprove
this hypothesis.

He smiles as she tries, but fails, to conceal her pride.

INT. THE GIRLS' BEDROOMS - NIGHT

FIVE-WAY SPLIT SCREEN SKYPE CONVERSATION:

The five girls are on a five-way video call. Behind Mindy is her Einstein poster. Behind Jodi, Tina Fey. Behind Claire, the Girl Scout motto. Behind Sugar, a Gloria Steinem / Phyllis Shlafly poster. Behind Virginia, *The Scream*.

MINDY

Did you see how many people came out
for mathletes?

VIRGINIA

Even the goths are starting to look
kind of happy.

JODI

We should do something to celebrate
how awesome we are.

CLAIRE

How about a party? I make a mean
bundt cake and iced tea.

SUGAR

Slow down, Betty Crocker. You don't
want to get us all arrested.

JODI

Yeah, a party. But on our terms.
Not some lame kegger. Something
people will talk about for years to
come.

The girls nod in excitement. Mindy's wheels are turning --

MINDY

Three words. Science. Lab.
Equipment.

EXT. VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Two FLUORESCENT LIQUIDS are poured from BEAKERS into the top
of a FLUX CAPACITOR ICE LUGE. The liquids merge and combine
at the base of the Y, then pour into MINDY's open mouth.

PARTYGOERS

Mindy! Mindy! Mindy!

The party is in full-swing. Martin raises the beakers.

MARTIN

1.21 gigawatts of power! Next up!

NEW ANGLE:

A STUDENT wearing a motorcycle helmet gallops on a MINIATURE HORSE with a HOMEMADE SHIELD and LANCE...

SMASH! He's knocked from his horse by his JOUSTING OPPONENT as people cheer, going crazy. Louis equips the next opponent.

NEW ANGLE:

Howard and other students play BEER PONG, but using ELABORATE RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINES. Howard calibrates his machine, then sets the ball in. After going through the series of mechanisms, the ball lands in the other side's CUP.

INT. VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The inside of the house is equally packed.

INT. MAKEOUT ROOM - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A FEMALE NERD and a MALE NERD nervously sit on opposite ends of a couch. They sneak furtive glances at each other.

MALE NERD

You wanna?

FEMALE

(beat; coquettish)

Okay.

They reach for VIDEO GAME CONTROLLERS. A WORLD OF WARCRAFT style game is on the TV SCREEN in front of them. The Nerds make their AVATARS kiss. A PARTYGOER walks in and sees the screen. He backs out.

PARTYGOER

My bad, sorry.

EXT. VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mindy, Jodi, Claire, Sugar and Virginia observe the party. Nearby, Carmen leads a rousing game of LASER TAG.

JODI

This is the greatest party in the history of the world.

They all nod.

EXT. BACKYARD - COLIN'S MANSION - NIGHT

Whitney and her crew hang out. The party is completely dead. Whitney fumes. Prithi hits on a bored Rick.

PRITHI

With your looks and athletic ability, and my fashion sense and personality, it's just a complete waste for us not to date. We're total shoo-ins for celebrity couple status.

MACKENZIE

Whitney and Colin are already the school's celebrity couple.

PRITHI

There's room for more than one. Me and Rick would be the Posh and Becks to Whitlin's Brangelina.

Dave lies on a beach chair tossing a ball up and down.

DAVE

So would you and Rick have a celebrity couple nickname?

PRITHI

Duh. Prithi and Rick. Pri --

She stops short realizing what she's about to say.

DAVE

Prick.

Prithi glares as Rick and Colin guffaw. Whitney's had enough.

WHITNEY

Where the hell is everyone?

Colin tries to rub Whitney's back. She hits his hands away. Prithi gets a text. A bit sheepish --

PRITHI

I think everyone's at the lame party.

Whitney is about to blow a gasket. Dave laughs to himself.

DAVE

That's awesome.

Whitney grabs the ball mid-air as he tosses it.

WHITNEY

WHAT. IS. YOUR. PROBLEM?

Dave stands. Colin prays to Dave with his eyes to say nothing. Nope, not this time.

DAVE

YOU. SUCK. I think I'm gonna check out that "lame" party. Plus, I heard the hosts aren't, you know --

(to Whitney)

TOTAL SOCIOPATHS.

He leaves. Nobody knows what to say.

RICK

I'm gonna go to that other party. Sounds like there are girls there.

PRITHI

Um, hello.

RICK

I've already made out with you and Mackenzie. And Whitney scares me.

PRITHI

Someone should probably check it out to, like, do some double agent shenans. I mean, right?

Prithi stands and runs after Rick. Colin tries to follow but is stopped cold by Whitney's laser beam eyes.

EXT. VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Virginia inhales from a gas mask. The mask is connected to a small gas tank. Mindy, Jodi, and other party-goers watch.

MINDY

This is my own personal homemade blend. A dash of nitrous oxide, a dash of sodium thiopental, a dash of genius. Effects: decreased inhibitions, increased veracity, and occasional cachinnation -- that's laughter for you non-Latin speakers.

Virginia removes the mask, deadpan as always.

VIRGINIA

You're right. I do feel the vague urge to laugh.

MINDY

It's still a work in progress.

The mask is passed to a NERDY TYPE-A GIRL. She puts it to her face then quickly removes it.

NERD GIRL
Will this help me study?

MINDY
Maybe.

She puts the mask to her face then removes it again.

NERD GIRL
Is this FDA approved?

MINDY
This isn't a street drug. It's science.

JODI
So is meth.

Just then Dave approaches.

DAVE
Meth. I knew I picked the right party.

Jodi is surprised but happy to see him.

DAVE (CONT'D)
So I may have just told Whitney off.

JODI
Oh my god. Tell me everything.

She pulls him away. Mindy turns with the gas mask.

MINDY
Jodi. Your --

Mindy sees Jodi and Dave walking off.

INT. VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Claire and Sugar hang on the couch.

CLAIRE
So Mr. Whitmore gave you 2 months detention for protesting the summer reading list? I always heard it was because you threw a flash bomb into glee club.

SUGAR
Nah, that was just a rumor I started.

CLAIRE

We should organize a protest!

SUGAR

What do you know about protesting,
Pollyanna?

CLAIRE

I know you think the Girl Scouts are
silly, but the whole point is to
empower girls so we can change the
world. You know, Gloria Steinem,
Hillary Clinton and Sandra Day
O'Connor were all Girl Scouts.

Sugar regards her.

SUGAR

Maybe you're not as Brady Bunch as
you seem.

CLAIRE

And maybe you're not as scary.

They exchange a smile.

SUGAR

I'm gonna get a drink. Want anything?

Claire shakes her head. Sugar crosses to Virginia's BLACK
BUTLER who stands holding a tray of smoking beverages in
TEST TUBES. Behind him there is a STATUE OF A BLACK BUTLER.

NEW ANGLE:

Rick enters, followed by Prithi. He scouts the room and
spots Claire sitting sweetly alone. Easy prey. He crosses
and sits next to her turning on the charm. Prithi follows.

RICK

Hey.

CLAIRE

Hi!

Prithi scowls. Rick is thrown by Claire's obliviousness.

RICK

So are we gonna make out now?

Claire sputters, blushing furiously.

RICK (CONT'D)

I mean you're hot, I'm hot, and it's
a party. What's the problem?

Claire doesn't know what to say, totally uncomfortable. He looks at her expectantly. Finally --

CLAIRE

I'm gay.

PRITHI

You are?

CLAIRE

Well, I mean sort of... I guess it depends on... I mean... Yes. I am.

Silence. Prithi looks her over a long moment.

PRITHI

That's so cool. Gay is totally the new straight. And bi is so five minutes ago. Oh my god, you know what we should do?! Threesome!

Claire looks horrified. Sugar comes up.

SUGAR

I think the lady said she wasn't interested. Come on, Claire.

Claire, relieved, leaves with Sugar.

RICK

So wait, is that a no?

INT. SALON - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jodi and Dave enter the empty room. They're both a bit tipsy.

JODI

You have to admit we totally beat you. Our party is way better.

DAVE

Agreed. Though I always thought I'd be better at jousting.

Jodi smiles. A beat.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Write any new songs lately?

JODI

I just wrote one in my head called "Our Party is Better Than Your Party."

Dave smirks. Jodi becomes suddenly more shy.

JODI (CONT'D)

Actually, I am working on one now.
It doesn't have a title yet, but...

She looks at the GRAND PIANO in the corner. She sits and plays, singing along a few lines. She looks up, nervous.

JODI (CONT'D)

That's all I have so far.

DAVE

It's great.

He comes and sits next to her on the piano bench.

DAVE (CONT'D)

What if, for the chorus, you did something like this --

He plays a few chords and sings. She looks at him, impressed.

JODI

You play?

DAVE

Just a little.

They look at each other, gazes locking.

JODI

That was really good...

DAVE

Thanks...

They move in for the kiss. Mindy enters, interrupting them. Mindy stops short as they abort --

MINDY

Oh. Hey guys. I was just going to tell you they're reenacting the Battle of Trafalgar in the pool.

Dave and Jodi glance at each other, Jodi torn.

DAVE

Cool.

The moment over, they stand and follow Mindy out. Awkward.

INT. COLIN'S SUBURBAN - NIGHT

Whitney and Colin slow as they approach Virginia's house. They can tell it's epic even from afar. Whitney seethes.

COLIN
Why don't we just go in?

WHITNEY
Is Rick's dumb rubbing off on you?

COLIN
Whatever. You're the one that started
this whole war.

She squints evilly.

WHITNEY
And I'll be on the one to finish it.

COLIN
Dude. You're kind of creepy
sometimes.

Whitney still just stares at the party.

WHITNEY
Thank you.

INT. VIRGINIA'S BUNKER - DAY

The nerd leaders are assembled around the war table, Godfather
style. Mindy presides over the meeting.

MINDY
I think I speak for everyone when I
say that our party will go down in
history as one of the best -- nay --
THE best party of all time.

Everyone claps.

MINDY (CONT'D)
Now, does anyone have anything they'd
like to bring to the council's
attention? Upcoming events to
promote? Seminar ideas?

Claire raises her hand.

CLAIRE
Sugar and I did some research, and
it turns out 92.3 percent of the the
school library's collection are books
written by dead white males, so we
want to circulate a petition to --

MARTIN
What about sabotaging the lacrosse
team? Those guys have it coming.

LOUIS

(nods in shared trauma)
I'm still waiting for my arm hair to
grow back on my left arm.

MARTIN

A few drops of saline into the team's
water coolers and we could give them
all explosive diarrhea.

The Kingpins nod eagerly in agreement. Claire and Sugar
look a bit deflated by the brush-off.

MINDY

Isn't that sinking to their level?

HOWARD

Every second we rest is a second our
competition catches up to us. Do
you think Steve Jobs became the
greatest visionary of all time by
being satisfied with creating the
iMac? No, he changed it up and went
on to create the iPod, then the
iPhone, then the iPod Touch, then --

MINDY

Okay, I got it.

She's still uncertain. She exchanges a look with Jodi.

CARMEN

Come on, Mindy. Unleash the Kraken.

MINDY

I guess a little explosive diarrhea
never hurt anyone.

The Kingpins cheer. Jodi looks surprised, maybe a bit
disappointed. Virginia just observes the situation.

LATER:

The meeting just adjourned, Mindy and Jodi come together.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Wanna play Settlers of Catan?

JODI

I can't. My dad's new "lady friend"
is coming over with her son so we
can all meet each other.

MINDY

Ah, cute. A new mom and brother.

JODI

Shut up.

VIRGINIA

Sorry guys, you gotta clear out.
You know how my parents feel about
organized labor.

EXT. MINDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Mindy arrives home on her bike and stops at the mailbox to retrieve the mail. As she goes through it, she stops short --

It's a letter from MIT ADMISSIONS. Mindy stares at it, a bundle of nerves. She opens it.

INT. JODI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Herb is a bundle of nerves as he checks himself in the mirror. Jodi's putting the finishing touches on the perfect pot roast.

HERB

Part left or part right?

JODI

Herb, it's been awhile since you've dated so I feel the need to tell you that at your age, women aren't super concerned with the side you part your hair on as much as they're impressed you still have hair to part.

The door RINGS. Herb's eyes go big. Jodi walks to the door.

JODI (CONT'D)

Relax. Awkward doesn't suit you.

She opens the door and steps into... Awkwardville. Standing before her is CAROL, a plainly pretty middle-aged woman. And besides her? DAVE. Holy holy.

INT. MINDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mindy paces on the cell phone.

MINDY

Jodi, it's me. Call me.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jodi's CELL PHONE VIBRATES on the counter with a new message.

INT. JODI'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The four sit around the table. Herb and Carol are totally smitten. They hold hands and can't stop smiling at each other. Jodi and Dave are silent and horrified.

HERB

So, I say to the kid, "Your package is too heavy. You'll have to add more postage." And the kid says, "So, if I add more postage, it'll get lighter?"

He and Carol bust up, practically nose to nose. Jodi kind of throws up in her mouth. Dave fake laughs with them.

DAVE

(to himself)
Kill me.

HERB

How about some Pictionary!?

INT. MINDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mindy looks at the letter from MIT -- WAITLISTED.

INT. JODI'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The group plays Pictionary. Herb is drawing something that looks like a complete blob of nothing.

CAROL

The Sound of Music!?

He points -- got it! She jumps up and they hug and jump.

Jodi and Dave sit on the couch with a high pile of pillows placed between them as a barricade.

HERB

Okay, kids! Your turn.

Jodi rolls her eyes, takes the marker and walks to the board.

CAROL

Don't forget to grab your clue.

JODI

Goin' rogue, Carol.

Dave sighs and sits up. She begins drawing a dark hole.

DAVE

Bottomless pit of despair.

She puts her finger on her nose to indicate that he got it right, drops the marker into the tray, and walks off.

JODI
I'll start cleaning up.

She walks towards the kitchen. Dave goes after her.

DAVE
I'll help.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jodi roughly loads the dishwasher. Dave approaches.

DAVE
(loudly whispering)
What are we supposed to do?

Jodi thrusts a wet plate at him.

JODI
Start drying.

LAUGHTER erupts from the living room.

DAVE
What if they get married?

JODI
Then we almost committed step-cest.

A new level of horrorification registers on his face.

JODI (CONT'D)
Hey, you're the one who went in for
the kiss.

DAVE
No. Way. Your eyes were practically
undressing me!

JODI
Undressing you?! Are you serious?
(mocking him)
Oh, let me just show you a few chords.

Herb and Carol stumble in. Aaand, they're holding hands.

HERB
We're gonna go grab some ice cream
in town. Wanna come?

JODI
Oh, no. You two lovers have fun.

Herb and Carol canoodle their way out the front door. As they do, Carol, yells back.

CAROL

Be good kids. Don't do anything we wouldn't do!

They both look at each other. A beat. Then they immediately start cleaning dishes.

INT. MINDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mindy sits in bed morosely. She looks down at her cell phone expectantly. Nothing.

EXT./INT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT / LES WHITMORE'S CAR - DAY

Les Whitmore spots Mr. Samuels walking to the school carrying a large MODEL of a MOLECULE. Whitmore shouts at him --

LES WHITMORE

Nice balls, Samuels!

Mr. Samuels just shakes his head. Chuckling, Whitmore pulls into his parking spot. He gets out and walks towards school. Whitney sidles up, doing her best dutiful schoolgirl.

WHITNEY

I don't want to get anyone in trouble, Mr. Whitmore, but I've come across some, well, disturbing information regarding one of our school clubs.

LES WHITMORE

And what club would that be?

WHITNEY

The Science Club.

Whitmore stops in his tracks. He glances at Mr. Samuels.

LES WHITMORE

(to himself, pleased)
No shit.

INT. LES WHITMORE'S OFFICE - DAY

Mindy sits in pissed off defiance in front of Whitmore who pops Roloids, fuming. Mr. Samuels sits next to her.

LES WHITMORE

You know, as an Eagles fan, I know the sting of disappointment all too well.

(MORE)

LES WHITMORE (CONT'D)

But this... this is a new level.
Stealing chemicals and lab equipment
from the school?

MR. SAMUELS

Mr. Whitmore, this must be a mistake.

Whitmore throws down a pile of BLOWN-UP PICTURES of the party.
Mr. Samuels looks through -- the luge made out of lab
equipment, kids doing test tube shots, Mindy in a meth lab.

MINDY

Okay, that one's clearly photoshopped.

Mr. Samuels looks at her in disappointment.

LES WHITMORE

Well guess what, sweetie? You're
out of Science Club. Forever.

Mindy shakes her head and scoffs. One more disappointment.

LES WHITMORE (CONT'D)

Hear that sound? That's the sound
of your future deflating like a
goddamned life raft on the Titanic.

MINDY

The Titanic's lifeboats weren't
inflatable.

MR. SAMUELS

I'm sure we can work something out
here. Mindy has always --

LES WHITMORE

Save it, Samuels. You clearly don't
know how to control your students.
You're suspended as head of Science
Club for the rest of the year.

Mr. Samuels's face drops as Mindy shoots up in her chair.

MINDY

No, Mr. Whitmore. Please. Mr.
Samuels had nothing to do with it --

LES WHITMORE

We're done here.

INT. WAITING ROOM OUTSIDE WHITMORE'S OFFICE - DAY

An upset Mr. Samuels and a chagrined Mindy exit.

MINDY
Mr. Samuels...

MR. SAMUELS
Not right now, Mindy.

He turns and walks away from her.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Mindy glumly loads books into her locker. Jodi approaches.

JODI
I've been looking for you all day.
Oh my god, last night was like the
seventh circle of awkwardness.

MINDY
I called you.

JODI
I'm sorry. It was insane --

MINDY
I got wait-listed at MIT.

A beat as Jodi figures out what to say.

JODI
But... that's not possible. There
must be a mistake. I want names.

MINDY
It doesn't matter.

As Jodi is about to reply, Dave approaches.

DAVE
Heyyy. Soooo... how about last night?
(to Mindy)
Did you hear? Her dad, my mom --
dating.

MINDY
Wow. Crazy.

DAVE
(to Jodi)
And, sidenote, I think I know the
perfect song for your audition.

MINDY
Audition?

DAVE

Jodi's got an audition at the New York School for the Performing Arts!

Jodi grimaces as Mindy's goes from miffed to hurt.

JODI

Thanks, Dave. I'll take it from here.

(to Mindy)

I was going to tell you. It's no big deal. It's just an audition.

MINDY

Of course it's a big deal. I'm sure you'll get in. And good thing you'll have Dave to help you with your audition.

JODI

Mindy, don't be mad --

The BELL RINGS. An awkward beat between them.

JODI (CONT'D)

I'm that way.

Mindy nods in the other direction.

JODI (CONT'D)

We'll talk later, okay?

Mindy just nods. She watches Jodi and Dave walk off. As she heads in the other direction, she sees Whitney chatting at her locker with Prithi and Mackenzie. Whitmore passes them and they have a quick exchange before he continues on.

Mindy stops to watch, her gaze narrowing onto Whitney. Whitney and Mackenzie see Mindy watching them.

MACKENZIE

Oh my god, she looks like she's about to cry now that you got her kicked out of science club. You totally broke her.

WHITNEY

Law 42. Strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter.

MACKENZIE

Straight back to you.

PRITHI

You guys are being super Gargamel
right now.

INT. WAR ROOM - VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - DAY

CLOSE on Mindy as she paces giving a Patton-esque speech.

MINDY

The time has come and the truth cannot
be ignored. The world is not fair.
The world is not just. There are
people who, despite our best efforts,
rise up to thwart ideas of fair play
and decency. Who manipulate the
system. Who thrive on cruelty and
injustice. And those people must be
stopped. We all know who I'm talking
about. Whitney Bennett. She has
been a scourge on this school for
too long, and so long as she retains
one ounce of influence and control,
there can be no true peace. And so
she must be crushed. Let us never
breathe another day under her reign.

The KINGPINS cheer in battle lust. The girls look hesitant.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Jodi walks, passing two DORKS who are harassing a CUTE
FRESHMAN. Nearby, Howard bosses around his new intern. On
a nearby wall, a basketball poster has been vandalized.

A NERD HOARD rounds the corner led by Carmen and Louis.
Louis fake lunges with a karate move at a JOCK, who flinches.
Jodi shakes her head as she enters...

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

Mindy combines smoking chemicals. Jodi watches.

JODI

Soooooo... that speech yesterday.
That was kind of intense.

MINDY

Yeah, well, if Whitney thinks we're
going to back down just because she
has Whitmore wrapped around her
finger, she has another thing coming.

JODI

I guess I just thought things were going really well before. Why create conflict when we don't have to?

(beat)

Look, come over tonight. We can play Risk. Get a chance to talk.

Mindy considers, uncertain. She finally relents.

MINDY

You know I can't resist the game of global domination.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Mindy exits school at the end of the day. As she heads to her bike, she sees Whitney with her crew...

Mackenzie has organized a celebration for Whitney with various PRINCETON themed paraphernalia. BALLOONS decorate the area saying CONGRATULATIONS and PRINCETON. Mackenzie presents Whitney with an orange and black PRINCETON CAKE.

Mindy just stares at them. Whitney turns and sees her.

WHITNEY

Hey, Mindy. Where's your MIT sweatshirt?

Mindy glares back at her. It's on.

INT. VIRGINIA'S BASEMENT - DAY

Mindy stands in front of Virginia and her wall of files.

VIRGINIA

Are you sure you want this?

Mindy hesitates a moment, then...

MINDY

I want it.

Virginia gives a resigned smile and hands a file to Mindy. It reads "WHITNEY BENNETT." Mindy takes it greedily and opens it. As she reads it, her eyes open wide in disbelief.

INT. JODI'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jodi sits waiting by a set-up Risk board. Herb passes by.

HERB

Mindy's not coming?

JODI

I don't know. I guess not.

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Samuels deals with a rowdy class. Suddenly, a CRACKLE sounds and the AV PA system lights up. A video plays.

ON VIDEO: Black screen. A NARRATOR speaks, the voice disguised ala Anonymous -- "anonymous" with a lisp, that is.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR

Brothers and sisters. It is time to open your eyes.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Claire and Sugar glance at each other in confusion.

ON VIDEO: WHITNEY'S SCHOOL PICTURE. High school perfection.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR

Whitney Bennett. For four years, she has ruled this school. Money, clothes, looks, family -- if you did not meet her standards, you were made to suffer.

Pictures of Whitney with her friends flicker on the screen.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Whitney watches icily. Prithi preens at a picture of herself.

ON VIDEO: The pictures have stopped on an image of Whitney riding in Colin's SUV. The picture fades to black and white and a giant image of the word "LIES" is stamped on screens.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR

Well brothers and sisters, Whitney Bennett is not who you thought.

INT. SPANISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Jodi looks on in confusion.

ON VIDEO: The image flickers to a PICTURE taken on a long-angle zoom -- Whitney entering a RUN DOWN TRAILER HOME.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR

This is the real Whitney Bennett.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Everyone turns to Whitney in surprise. Prithi tries to contain her schadenfreudic glee. Whitney is stonily silent.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR
The mother who works in fashion?

ON VIDEO: A PICTURE of an OVERWEIGHT WHITE TRASH woman hanging up laundry on the clothelines outside the trailer.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Only if *this* constitutes working in the fashion industry.

The LIES STAMP comes down on the image.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Her father, the banker...

The image changes to a MIDDLE AGED MAN, beer belly and TRUCKER HAT, sitting in a LAWN CHAIR out front drinking beer.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Collecting unemployment for two years.

The LIES STAMP comes down on the image.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Her older brother attending Wharton?

The image changes to a 20-SOMETHING LOSER in a WIFE-BEATER.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Currently out on probation for possession of methamphetamine.

The LIES STAMP comes down on the image.

INT. FRENCH CLASS - DAY

Virginia watches the presentation, unreadable.

ON VIDEO: Whitney's picture is now polarized. Her eyes GLARE.

ANONYMOUS NARRATOR
The truth is revealed. The only reason Whitney was always so intent on exposing all of your weaknesses was so you would never discover hers -- Whitney Bennett is white trash.

A huge WHITE TRASH stamp comes down on Whitney's face.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

You could hear a pin drop. Everyone looks at Whitney. Without a word, Whitney stands up and walks out of the room.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Jodi pulls Mindy into an empty classroom.

JODI

Dude, what was that?

MINDY

That was our victory over Whitney.

JODI

You do realize you just did the same thing to her that she did to me?

MINDY

Yes. Exactly. It's called revenge. This is what you wanted. I don't get what your problem is. We set out to change things, and we did. Now the people calling the shots are the ones who deserve to call them. It's not the people with the best hair. Or the most money. It's the smartest. The most creative. We did it. We won.

JODI

Then how come it doesn't feel like we won? How come it feels like we're becoming the things we used to hate?

MINDY

Look, my whole life, I played by the rules. Did my homework. Colored in the little bubbles with my number 2 pencil. And what did it get me? Teased. Tortured. Ignored. Wait-listed. You know what turning the cheek gets you? Two black eyes.

JODI

The old Mindy --

MINDY

The old Mindy was a stupid pushover who thought she was going to go to MIT, perfect the hydrogen fuel cell, and get an element named after her.

JODI
There's nothing dumb about dreaming.

MINDY
Well, I'm awake now.

They both look at each other. Impasse.

JODI
If this is what it is, I'm out.

Jodi walks away. Mindy watches her go, her face hardening --

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The hallways are crammed with students. Suddenly, a path clears as students make way for...

Mindy and the Kingpins. They stride (and wheel) their way down the hall. There's a new sheriff in town.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Jodi, Sugar, Virginia, and Claire sit at a new lunch table. Mindy and the Kingpins have staked their claim on the table that used to be theirs together.

MINDY (V.O.)
So we had succeeded in creating a
New World Order at Richard Millhouse
Nixon High School.

JODI (V.O.)
And it blew.

MINDY (V.O.)
That's a little extreme.

JODI (V.O.)
What? It's true. Turns out the
only thing worse than pretty people
with too much power is ugly people
with too much power.

Prithi walks towards her lunch table dressed in her usual trendy, gawdy chic. From one table over we hear:

RANDOM DORK
Dude, look. She's wearing 7 Jeans.

RANDOM DORK 2
They look more like 12's to me.

They laugh and pound fists. Elsewhere, UPPERCLASSMEN GEEKS throw food at FRESHMAN. JOCKS sit alone.

Back at the girls' table, everyone eats in silence. The depression is palpable.

JODI

This sucks.

SUGAR

I told you we should have just burned this mother down.

Virginia sits reading *Human All Too Human* by Nietzsche.

VIRGINIA

Here, here.

CLAIRE

Has anyone seen Whitney?

SUGAR

She's been absent all week.

They all contemplate this in silence. Jodi's eyes rest on the table where Whitney would normally sit.

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mindy walks down the hall as people step out of her way. But she doesn't look happy. She stops at her locker. Mackenzie approaches. Mindy looks at her in surprise.

MACKENZIE

I'm going to cut right to the chase. I intend to rule this school next year, but the only way you become the best is by working for the best. I thought that was Whitney. But apparently I was wrong. I can't say I think much of your fashion choices, but I think you've got a lot to teach me, and I'd like to offer my services as your intern for the rest of the school year.

A beat, then Mindy shakes her head in disgust and walks away.

EXT. WHITNEY'S TRAILER PARK - DAY

Jodi rides her bike up to a trailer. She stops, not sure how to proceed. She turns, looking around the yard and sees --

Whitney sits alone in a broken, gutted car. Jodi approaches. Whitney glances at her, then turns away.

JODI

Look, I want to apologize. I didn't know Mindy was going to do that.

WHITNEY

Whatever. Fine.

Jodi tries to join her in the car but the passenger door is rusted shut. Jodi climbs into the open back seat. She looks around, noting their odd configuration

JODI

(in Miss Daisy voice)

Mr. Coburn, won't you take me to the Garden Club for a mint julep?

Whitney just shoots her a withering look. Jodi smiles weakly.

JODI (CONT'D)

I never meant for things to go down like that.

WHITNEY

Oh, come on. Don't tell me you aren't loving this.

JODI

Fair enough. But look on the bright side. It's all out in the open now. Nobody likes having to carry around secrets. Right? So in a way, now you're free.

WHITNEY

And cue violins.

JODI

Look, let's not forget that you did pretty much the same thing to me. And did I go into hiding?

WHITNEY

Yeah, but look at your wardrobe. Your bar for humiliation was already so high.

Jodi just shakes her head and moves to get out.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

No, wait.
(Jodi pauses)
I'm so --

She chokes on her own words.

JODI

Were you just trying to apologize?

WHITNEY

It just gets stuck in my throat, you know? But you're right, okay? I know you're right.

A beat. This is odd. Then --

JODI

I'll see you tomorrow then?

Whitney nods, appreciative. With a last nod, Jodi gets out and heads off.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mindy sits at the head of the table with the Kingpins.

MARTIN

Prom is almost here and we still don't have a theme, so I'd like you to rally your various factions to support my proposal --

CARMEN

Is the theme *Carrie*? I vote for *Carrie*.

HOWARD

Support my bid for prom king, I'll vote for whatever theme you want.

LOUIS

Wait. I'm running for prom king.

CARMEN

I thought we were letting Colin win so we could prank him.

Mindy watches them as they squabble.

MINDY (V.O.)

As I sat there listening, I realized how ridiculous it all was -- bickering over who was going to be prom king of a school that three months ago they couldn't wait to leave. We had pretended we cared about coming together, but in the end, it had all been a lie, and everyone only cared about themselves.

(MORE)

MINDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Which was fitting, since when you think about it, most of high school is a lie. Everyone faking it, trying to act cooler or older or smarter or just more sure of themselves than they really are. And I couldn't help but think, wouldn't it be nice for once if people just told the truth?

INT. MERCEDES / EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Mindy sits in a tinted out black on black Mercedes SUV.

MINDY
 And that's the plan.

Mackenzie sits next to her in the driver's seat.

MACKENZIE
 So you're going to drug prom?

MINDY
 It's not a drug. It's just a very mild form of a truth serum in gaseous form. Think of it like a smart person's version of spiking the punch.

MACKENZIE
 I'm totally fine with you drugging prom.

Gee, great. Mackenzie glances at Mindy.

MACKENZIE (CONT'D)
 So what changed your mind about working with me?

Mindy considers for a moment.

MINDY
 At least you're honest about what you want. I'll see you on Saturday.

Mindy gets out of the car...

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

And joins the hoards of students heading into school.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Jodi is at her locker. Whitney approaches. Jodi cowers instinctively. She catches herself and straightens up.

JODI

Sorry, habit.

WHITNEY

So are you going to prom tomorrow?

Jodi just keeps staring. Whitney snaps in her face.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Come on. Speed up the cycle of your bewilderment. Prom. Are you going?

JODI

Hell no.

WHITNEY

You don't need a date to go to the prom. Did not having dates stop Madeline Albright?

JODI

The date. The dress. The revelry. I don't even know where to begin with my hatred. And don't say one day I might regret it. That's just one of those things people say to get you to do crap you don't want to do. "It'll build character." "If it doesn't kill you." "Just use your hand." No thank you.

(suddenly a bit sad)

Mindy and I always had a plan to do a *Star Wars* marathon on prom night. Even the prequels.

WHITNEY

I get it. It's just --

She stops herself.

JODI

What?

WHITNEY

I had a chat with Mackenzie. Duplicitous little bitch is apparently Mindy's intern now. She wouldn't tell me anything, but it sounds like Mindy is planning some sort of crazy prank at prom. I guess she's not done getting her revenge.

The BELL rings and Whitney heads off. Jodi closes her locker, letting this sink in.

INT. JODI'S HOUSE - DAY

Jodi sits disinterestedly watching *Star Wars: Episode 3 - Revenge of the Sith* on TV with Herb.

JODI

God, this movie is like evidence of early onset Alzheimers.

ON TV:

The final battle between Obi-Wan and Anakin begins.

ANAKIN

If you're not with me, then you're my enemy.

OBI-WAN

Only a Sith deals in absolutes. I will do what I must.

ANAKIN

You will try.

They pull out their light sabers and go at it.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Mindy gets off her bike and looks around warily. A 20-something, SKEEZY-LOOKING NERD gets out of a nearby car and looks her over. He begins talking -- with a LISP.

SKEEZY NERD

Did you bring the payment?

Mindy brandishes two TICKETS.

MINDY

Two Dragon Con tickets. Now where's the sodium thiopental?

He opens the trunk to reveal two large CHEMICAL CANNISTERS. He sets them on the ground. Mindy hands him the tickets.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Pleasure doing business with you.

SKEEZY NERD

You too.

He looks her over appreciatively.

SKEEZY NERD (CONT'D)

Nice lisp.

MINDY
 (a bit flirty back)
 Thanks.

INT. JODI'S HOUSE - DAY

Jodi continues to watch the *Star Wars* scene but with a little more interest now.

ON TV:

Anakin and Obi-Wan fight on a hovercraft above molten lava.

ANAKIN
I should have known the Jedi were plotting to take over.

OBI-WAN
Anakin, Chancellor Palpatine is evil!

ANAKIN
In my point of view, the Jedi are evil!

OBI-WAN
Well then you are lost!

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Mindy waits with the canisters. Mackenzie pulls up in a black Mercedes SUV and gets out. They load in the canisters.

MINDY
 God, we are so *Breaking Bad* right now.

INT. JODI'S HOUSE - DAY

Jodi is now totally engrossed in the *Star Wars* battle.

ON TV:

Obi-Wan stands above Anakin.

OBI-WAN
It's over Anakin! I have the high ground.

ANAKIN
You underestimate my power.

OBI-WAN
Don't try it.

Anakin jumps and flips towards Obi-Wan. Obi-Wan CHOPS OFF HIS LEGS. Anakin screams in agony as he writhes on the floor.

Jodi stares at the screen.

JODI

Shit. I gotta go to prom.

Herb looks at her confused.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The school is being set up for prom. A SECURITY GUARD stands near the back entrance. Mackenzie and Mindy sneak in behind him, rolling the cart of chemicals inside.

INT. JODI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jodi frantically looks through her closet.

JODI

(shouting downstairs)

Dad! Is there anything in mom's old clothes I could wear?

INT. JODI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jodi stands in front of the mirror in a HIDEOUS PANT SUIT. Think the worst of Hillary Clinton's 1990s wardrobe. Jodi looks appalled, but there's no other option. Herb peaks in.

HERB

What a vision! I just got off the phone with Carol. Dave doesn't have a date either so she's going to bring him over here so you guys can carpool!

JODI

Daaadd.

HERB

It's fine. You're just carpooling. It won't be awkward at all.

INT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jodi and Dave enter. A GAWDY PHOTO SET stands between them and the gymnasium. A PROM CHAPERONE approaches.

PROM CHAPERONE

Alright, you two just hop on up there.
(off their protests)
Don't be silly! Tonight only happens once.

He shoves them towards the seedy PHOTOGRAPHER who grabs their hands, thrusts them onto the platform, and steps back to take pictures. They stand as far away as two people could.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Squeeze in a little bit.

They barely move.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)
Ok. I need you both in the frame and I need it now. You -- guy -- grab her waist. And you -- girl -- you smile like you like it when he grabs your waist.

They oh so awkwardly oblige. He snaps.

FREEZE FRAME: Worst. Prom. Photo. Ever.

They step off the platform looking like POW's. They take one look at each other and then head in opposite directions.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A stretch limo arrives. A dapper looking Rick emerges. He turns and offers his hand to a MODEL BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

Behind them, another HAND emerges waiting for Rick's assistance. He doesn't notice. The hand waits.

WHITNEY (O.S.)
It's not going to happen, Prithi.

An annoyed but still smiling Prithi emerges gracelessly. She takes Rick's other arm. He rolls his eyes but relents.

Whitney and Colin exit behind them. As they exit, Whitney pulls out her phone. She has a new TEXT MESSAGE.

ON PHONE:

From Jodi -- "I'm coming to prom. We have to stop Mindy."

INT. PROM GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Jodi stands alone scanning the crowd for any sign of Mindy or something out of place. Her phone buzzes. A TEXT MESSAGE --

From Whitney -- "Meet me in the hallway in 15."

NEW ANGLE:

Sugar and Claire mill around.

CLAIRE
What is this theme, anyway?

SUGAR
The patriarchy.

A Flo Rida song comes on. Martin approaches Sugar.

MARTIN
Ah. Flo-rida. May I ask for this
dance with the woman who taught me
his name wasn't Florida?

Sugar looks uncertainly at Claire who nods to the dance floor.

SUGAR
Fine. Whatever.

They depart. Claire smiles after them.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

Mindy stands next to a CONTRAPTION consisting of three
canisters feeding into each other through hoses. One large
hose emerges from the largest canister, which Mindy is FEEDING
INTO THE OPEN CEILING above her.

INT. AIR DUCT - NIGHT

The hose inches down the duct, being fed from the other end.

INT. PROM GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Mackenzie stands beneath and air vent. She sees the end of
the hose inch out. Mackenzie puts her finger to her ear.

MACKENZIE
Okay, stop. We're good.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

Mindy gets the message from Mackenzie. She goes to the
canisters. A beat of hesitation, then she turns the nozzle.

INT. PROM GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The ripples of the gas start seeping into the room.

NEW ANGLE:

CLOSE ON: Whitney stands against the wall behind the
bleachers. She gets a text and looks at her phone.

WHITNEY
I gotta run.

Colin stands up from below the screen. He gives her an incredulous look as she adjusts her dress and walks away.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

Mindy stands before the gas contraption looking at her work. She glances over the wall with framed PICTURES of the SCIENCE CLUB. She looks at a picture of her in her MIT sweatshirt, smiling wide next to Mr. Samuels.

INT. PROM GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The effects of the truth gas are starting to kick in. Two STUDENTS dance. The girl is decent. The guy, not so much.

FEMALE STUDENT

You suck at dancing.

He pouts. Then he gives the girl a petulant, childish shove.

NEW ANGLE:

A JOCK comes up to Mr. Samuels, who chaperones, bored.

JOCK

Dude, Mr. Samuels, I totally cheated on the science midterm.

MR. SAMUELS

Yeah, I know. I just didn't want you in my class another year.

NEW ANGLE:

Colin, Prithi, Rick and his date sit at a table.

COLIN

Sometimes I start to think that Whitney doesn't actually like me that much, but then I realize that would be impossible.

RICK'S DATE

(to Colin)

You're incredibly boring.

PRITHI

Is there any way to deny that all human suffering originates from human desire? And thus, the only way to end suffering, is to end desire? But the illogical and futile nature of desire will inevitably win out over our rational natures. So we're doomed to suffer.

RICK
This punch is good.

NEW ANGLE:

Jodi ladles punch. She looks up to see Dave across from her. They make eye contact, then can't seem to look away.

DAVE
I find myself incredibly attracted
to you despite that pantsuit.

JODI
You're really sweet. I wore matching
bra and panties just in case.

Off them staring at each other in lust --

INT. JANITOR'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Jodi and Dave furiously go at it.

JODI
Our babies would be so tall.

DAVE
You're a little flabbier than I
imagined.

JODI
You're exactly as flabby as I
imagined.

LATER:

Jodi and Dave lay post-coital in their tuxedo and pant suit.

JODI (CONT'D)
Thank God I'm not going to leave
high school a virgin.

DAVE
Me too.
(turns to her)
I really like you, you know.

She smiles, about to say something, but her phone goes off. She looks at it.

JODI
Damn it, I gotta go.
(kisses him)
I'll find you later.

DAVE
You promise?

Jodi smiles.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Whitney waits in the hallway. Jodi comes hurrying around the corner, trying to tidy herself up.

WHITNEY
Where have you been?!

JODI
I'm sorry. I just lost my virginity in the janitor's closet to my step brother.

Whitney suppresses her gag reflex.

WHITNEY
We have to find Mindy.

JODI
And before her plan goes into effect. God knows what she could do! You know, she's a really good chemist.

NEW ANGLE:

From the other end of the hallway, Mindy stands watching Jodi and Whitney colluding. Her face drops.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

Whitney leads Jodi towards the science lab.

WHITNEY
Alright, think. You used to be her best friend. If she were hiding anywhere, where would it be?

Jodi thinks. She glances to the science lab door. Epiphany.

JODI
The science lab.

Jodi steps forward. Whitney follows as Jodi opens the door.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

They step into the room to find Mindy's contraption.

JODI
Oh my God. What is this?

WHITNEY

Do you think she's trying to poison the school?

JODI

I wouldn't put it past her at this point.

(examining contraption)

What does this thing do?

MINDY (O.S.)

It exposes the truth.

They turn to see Mindy. She shakes her head.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Nice. Some best friend you are.

JODI

I'm sorry, is the person pumping chemicals into the prom questioning my integrity in this scenario?

MINDY

Relax, it's just a prank. I thought it was about time we cut through all the bullshit so we got to see who people really were. The truth is out there.

WHITNEY

I told you you couldn't trust her anymore.

Mindy looks at Whitney in disbelief, then turns to Jodi.

MINDY

I can't believe you. This whole year was supposed to be about me and you standing up to Whitney and the rest of the jerks. And now you're all of a sudden BFF with her? I feel like I'm in bizarro land.

JODI

Yeah, no kidding. Because honestly, between you and Whitney right now, Whitney is the one acting less like an evil dictator.

Mindy scoffs, hurt. She lashes back --

MINDY

You're just pissed off that I was the one who finally stood up to Whitney and did what you've always been too scared to do.

Jodi shakes just her head. She looks at the contraption's on/off nozzle. Mindy sees what she intends. She steps between Jodi and the nozzle.

MINDY (CONT'D)

If you're not with me, then you're my enemy.

JODI

Only a Sith deals in absolutes. I will do what I must.

MINDY

You will try.

Jodi lunges for the nozzle. Mindy intercepts her. Thus begins an epically inept nerd fight. Mindy and Jodi slap, kick and pull at each other as Mindy keeps Jodi away.

JODI

Whitney! Turn off the gas!

Whitney suddenly reverts to her old nonchalant disdain.

WHITNEY

No thanks.

With a smirk of victory, she strolls out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

As Whitney walks out, Mackenzie rounds the corner. Whitney nods to her, and Mackenzie takes her place at Whitney's side.

INT. SCIENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Mindy and Jodi continue their struggle. As Jodi tries to wrestle Mindy free, they SLAM into Mindy's contraption.

The CHEMICAL CANNISTERS come loose and topple to the floor, the CHEMICALS spilling out towards the doorway.

Mindy and Jodi push away from each other. They glare, sizing each other up. Mindy picks up a LASER POINTER. She POINTS THE BEAM AT JODI'S EYES.

Jodi shields her face, then hurls a FOAM MOLECULE at Mindy. Mindy catches it and sets it down carefully.

Mindy and Jodi face off again. Then with a PRIMAL SCREAM, they run towards each other to engage in battle --

INT. PROM GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The students have gathered around the front stage. Whitmore stands at the mic. The effects of the gas continue to show.

LES WHITMORE

Ok, the votes are in for Prom King and Queen, and your Prom King is...
(opening card)

Louis Hammerschmidt. Wow. Really?
You guys suck at this.

Louis springs onto stage. Whitmore places the crown on his head. Louis almost has an orgasm. He steps up to the mic.

LOUIS

My fellow classmates, I intend to rule you all with an iron, but noble, fist. And to whoever my Queen is, I trust you will bear me many sons --

Whitmore cuts him off and moves him out of the way.

LES WHITMORE

Settle down, Attila. Okay, the Prom Queen is... Claire Stewart.
(somewhat sexual)
Now that's a Queen I could get behind.

Ew. Claire is surprised but flattered. She walks onto the stage. Whitmore crowns her and hugs her. For way too long.

LES WHITMORE (CONT'D)

Anything you want to say?

She steps up to the mic and speaks to Mr. Whitmore.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry about your hair loss. And I felt kind of funny about that hug --

Whitmore steps in and cuts her off.

LES WHITMORE

And now let's let Beauty and the Beast regale us with a dance.

The MUSIC begins playing. Louis and Claire dance in a painfully first-cousin platonic way. Other students join. Claire notices two JOCKS have started dancing together seductively. She raises an eyebrow.

NEW ANGLE:

Sugar and Martin dance together. Sugar regards Martin.

SUGAR

I find everything about you repulsive,
yet I'm strangely drawn to you.

MARTIN

That's the nicest thing a girl has
ever said to me.

NEW ANGLE:

Carmen sits in her wheelchair next to a disgruntled Howard.

CARMEN

I've always wanted to pull a fire
alarm in a crowded room.

HOWARD

You should do it. Carpe diem.

A beat then Carmen STANDS FROM HER WHEELCHAIR, WALKS TO THE SWITCH, AND PULLS THE FIRE ALARM. The ALARM sounds. She walks back to her chair and gets in. Howard stares at her.

CARMEN

What? You never asked.

As the ALARM BLARES, there is a collective groan from the crowd, but everyone slowly begins to evacuate.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

The FIRE ALARM sounds as Mindy and Jodi wrestle on the floor in ridiculous fashion. Jodi pushes Mindy's face into the ground as they finally register the alarm.

MINDY

Wait.

Jodi releases some of the pressure.

MINDY (CONT'D)

I'm a fire captain. I have to bring
out the first aid backpack.

Jodi considers then gets off her.

JODI

This isn't over.

Mindy stands and retrieves a first aid backpack as they continue to glare at each other.

Mindy slings the backpack over her shoulder and heads for the exit. Jodi follows...

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

They speed walk towards the exit, still eying each other.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Mindy and Jodi get outside. The students are assembled out front. Jodi looks to the ground and sees the CHEMICALS that have spilled from the lab and formed a TRAIL outside.

JODI

Dude, is this --

Mindy swings the backpack at her, hitting her in the stomach. And just like that it's back on, everything else forgotten.

NEW ANGLE:

The students mill around bored. Rick glances over and sees Mindy and Jodi fighting. He chuckles to himself.

RICK

Nerd fight!

Everyone rushes over to see the fight surrounding Mindy and Jodi, who roll on the ground, pulling each other's hair.

Dave elbows his way to the front. He watches not sure what to do as Mindy presses her forearm against Jodi's face.

DAVE

Do you need help?

JODI

No! I got this.

Dave watches helplessly as the two continue to go at it.

NEW ANGLE:

Virginia pulls up on her Vespa in her prom dress. She dismounts and walks to the crowd finding Claire and Sugar.

SUGAR

Where've you been?

VIRGINIA

(lighting a clove)

In Europe proms don't start 'til 11.

Mindy and Jodi, exhausted from wrestling, break apart, then stand dusting themselves off. Mindy pushes Jodi.

Then Jodi pushes Mindy. Mindy pushes back.

MINDY
Say you're sorry.

JODI
You say you're sorry.

MINDY
I'm not the one who's a traitor.

JODI
I'm not the one who's a psychopath.

MINDY
Yeah, well at least I'm not a liar!
You didn't even tell me you were
applying to school in New York!

JODI
Well I'm sorry, Mindy, but I don't
have to tell you every single thing.

MINDY
Yes you do! You're supposed to be
my best friend.

JODI
What did you want me to do? Just
tag along with you forever?! Why
couldn't you just be happy for me?

MINDY
Because you lied to me! And because
you were too busy trying to make out
with your new brother to even notice
when I needed you. You knew how
much MIT meant to me.

JODI
He's not my brother! And I'm sorry
that for once in my life I had a boy
who I thought was totally awesome
actually like me back --

DAVE
You think I'm totally awesome?

She turns to him, suddenly a bit shy.

JODI
Yeah.

DAVE
Cool.

She turns right back to Mindy, yelling again --

JODI

And I'm really sorry that for once in your life things didn't go perfectly, but suck it up and deal with it like the rest of us. And by the way, I looked it up, and Pakistan has a Prime Minister and a President!

Mindy considers this a moment in disbelief, then resumes --

MINDY

Screw you, Jodi. All those times Whitney picked on you because you couldn't keep your mouth shut, I was right there alongside you. I did all of this for you. And then you just walked away from me.

Jodi regards her, not sure what to say.

WHITNEY

Are you guys going to make out now?

Jodi reels on her.

JODI

You know what, Whitney. Shut up. I tried to defend you. Even after all the horrible crap you put me through, I still tried because I was stupid enough to feel bad for you.

Whitney scoffs.

WHITNEY

Do you really think that for one second I actually cared what these people thought of me? High school is over. I'm getting the hell out of here, away from these morons, and never looking back. I just wanted you two to know before we all left, that I'd won. That I will always win. And that whenever I want, I can take away that which you hold most dear and crush it.

Jodi and everyone just stare at her. That was intense.

CLAIRE

That bitch crazy.

Sugar just nods in agreement.

WHITNEY

And it barely took any push at all
to turn you two into Cain and Abel.
Frankly, I think I did you a favor.
Otherwise this little horror show
likely would have dragged on for
another few years before you two
just cut your losses and moved on.

Jodi and Mindy regard each other deflated. A beat.

JODI

Maybe she's right.

Mindy scoffs, hurt and angry.

JODI (CONT'D)

It was stupid to think that we'd
stay friends after high school.
We're both going to go off and do
our own thing, make new friends,
start new lives, and in ten years
we'll see each other at the reunion
and we'll smile and say hi. Maybe
that's how it's supposed to be.

MINDY

If that's really how you see it,
then I guess we should just cut our
losses now.

JODI

It is how I see it.

Mindy just nods in hurt resignation. They stand looking at
each other -- this is the end. Whitney looks on victorious.

Jodi turns to go. Dave follows. Everyone starts to disperse.
Claire, Sugar and Virginia look on sadly from the side.

VIRGINIA

And so it goes.

Virginia flicks her cigarette towards the school...

Beat.

BOOM!!! THE SCHOOL EXPLODES.

Everyone SCREAMS and ducks. After the initial scare, they
stand to see the school in FLAMES. Off their shock --

EXT. RICHARD MILLHOUSE NIXON HIGH - DAY

The school is now just a smoking field of rubble. The only thing standing is the MINUTEMAN STATUE.

MINDY (V.O.)
Once everything... exploded... nothing was really the same.

INT. JODI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jodi lays in her bed and stares out a window, depressed.

INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Claire sits amongst stuffed animals and stares out a window.

JODI (V.O.)
As much as we'd hated parts of high school, it was our home, too.

INT. VIRGINIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia sits in her windowsill, smoking a clove. She goes to toss the butt into her mother's garden below, but then thinks better of it and stubs it out in an ashtray.

JODI (V.O.)
And without it, nobody knew what to do with themselves.

INT. ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON: Mindy staring dejectedly out a window.

MINDY (V.O.)
So mostly, we just stared out of windows a lot, depressed.

We PULL BACK to see Mindy's in JAIL. She glances over to see her CELL MATE peeing on the ground. Mindy grimaces.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The police release Mindy to her PARENTS.

MINDY (V.O.)
The police let me go, calling it a fluke accident.

JODI (V.O.)
As for the school, it turns out their decision to invest in terrorism insurance proved to be a fortuitous one.

EXT. RICHARD MILLHOUSE NIXON HIGH - DAY

Bulldozers clear the rubble as Mr. Whitmore stands with a BLUEPRINT of the new school design.

JODI (V.O.)

And Mr. Whitmore was so excited about being able to build the Les Whitmore Amphitheater that he even let Mindy finish out the year.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Mindy stands on her bike taking in the remains of the school. She sees Mr. Samuels walking to his car with a box of charred lab equipment. He sees her and approaches. A moment between them. Mindy is sheepish and ashamed.

MINDY

I burned down the school.

MR. SAMUELS

(shrugs, deadpan)

It happens.

MINDY

I disappointed you. I disappointed everyone.

MR. SAMUELS

I'm not saying it's okay what you did, but I understand. It's hard feeling like you're giving your best and people don't see you. I know people could look at me and think here's a guy who went to MIT, and he's wasting his life with a bunch of kids who could care less about science. But here's the thing -- I love my job. And I love getting to work with a student like you, who has all the potential in the world. There are always going to be jerks. That doesn't change after high school. And you can spend your life trying to beat them or prove them wrong or get even with them, but it's just wasted energy. The important thing is figuring out what's important to you and fighting for that. The rest doesn't matter.

Mindy takes this in. She nods, appreciative.

MINDY
Thanks, Mr. Samuels.

INT. JODI'S ROOM - DAY

Dave watches as Jodi frenetically changes the strings on her guitar. Finally, he puts his hand on hers, stopping her.

DAVE
Oh my god. Are you diffusing a bomb or stringing a guitar? Relax. You're going to do great.

JODI
You have to say that.

DAVE
Actually, I don't. I was born without a filter gene. Asshole, symplex 1.

JODI
It just feels, I don't know. I feel nervous and empty at the same time. Is that possible?

Jodi looks down. Dave understands.

DAVE
Of course. She's your best friend.

JODI
Was.

DAVE
You should talk to her.

JODI
I can't. Not after what I said. It'll never be the same.

DAVE
Did you think it always would be?

JODI
Well, no...
(a beat, relenting)
Yes.

DAVE
I've said it before, and I'll say it again --

Jodi waits for a bit of Dave wisdom.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Girls are freaking craaaaaazy.

Jodi throws a pillow at him. They play fight.

INT. MIT ADMISSIONS COUNCIL MEETING - DAY

Several MIT TYPES including Mindy's INTERVIEWER sit at a table with piles of applications that they are going through.

MIT ADMISSIONS GUY 1
How about this guy? He wrote a paper on the sea snail that was published in Scientific American.

MIT ADMISSIONS GUY 2
We already let the sea cucumber guy in. Can't go too heavy on the aquatic invertebrates.

The Interviewer opens up a manilla envelope addressed to her and pulls out its contents --

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES with headlines like GEEKS UNITE and EXPLOSION AT RMNHS DETERMINED TO BE "PRANK GONE WRONG." A letter is attached and signed by Mr. Samuels. She smiles.

EXT. MINDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Mindy walks to the mailbox and pulls out the contents. She almost doesn't notice the LARGE MIT ENVELOPE.

Then she stops. Double takes. Drops the rest of the mail. Rips open the envelope. She's in! She does a super uncoordinated VICTORY DANCE in her driveway.

INT. MINDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Mindy goes for her phone. Then she remembers. There is no one to tell.

INT. WAITING ROOM - NYC AUDITION HALL - DAY

Jodi sits, a bundle of nerves. An OPERA GIRL practices perfect operatic runs. Jodi looks like she wants to vomit.

Mindy comes barreling towards her like a bat out of hell. Jodi looks up. Mindy arrives, panting heavily as if trying hold off an asthma attack.

MINDY
I had to. Catch you. Before. I couldn't let. The thing. You go.

JODI

What are you doing here?

MINDY

I couldn't let you go in there without you knowing how proud I am of you.

JODI

But --

MINDY

But nothing. You're my best friend. I got into MIT today. And it meant nothing because you weren't there to celebrate with me. I don't know how everything got so messed up --

(cutting her off)

Ok, I do know. I went a little Dr. Strangelove. But I've been thinking about what you said about us being high school friends. And it's stupid. You're not my high school friend. You're my best friend. You will always be my Xena. You'll always know about the face plant that gave me this dental bridge.

She removes a bridge, fake tooth and all, and continues.

MINDY (CONT'D)

You'll always know I prefer odd numbers to even. I don't know where life will take us. Hopefully to a lot of great places and PhD programs. But it doesn't matter. Because I want you in my life for all of it. I'm sorry. And I'm back.

Jodi smiles.

JODI

I'm so glad you're here. You don't even know. I'm totally freaking.

Mindy springs into best friend action to reassure her.

MINDY

You remember at science fair finals, I was so nervous I thought I was going to puke on my bacteria cultures?

Jodi smiles in recollection but looks reluctant.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Come on. You made me do it.

They exchange a look, then turn to stand side by side. They break into the NERDIEST HAKA ever. Opera Girl looks at them like they're crazy. They end the Haka and exchange grins.

The door opens and an INTERVIEWER pops out.

INTERVIEWER
Jodi Schellenberger.

Jodi looks at Mindy, still a bit nervous, but pumped now.

MINDY
Destroy it.

With a smile, Jodi heads in.

LATER:

Mindy waits nervously. Finally the door opens. Jodi exits. Mindy looks at her, expectant. Jodi gives the THUMBS UP. They jump up and down and yell together in celebration.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Graduation. STUDENTS get their diplomas as their families watch on, the remnants of RMNHS in the background.

MINDY (V.O.)
So high school was finally over...

JODI (V.O.)
And maybe it was just the Stockholm Syndrome talking, but for the first time, I kind of felt like I was going to miss the place.

MINDY (V.O.)
The thing was, we had tried so hard to tear down the entire system that we lost sight of what our high school really was.

EXT. ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

Baseball practice. A boy gets a hit. High fives all around.

MINDY (V.O.)
People. Just people.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

One student helps another figure out a complex problem.

JODI (V.O.)
People learning.

EXT. GLAAD MEETING - DAY

Claire sits in her first GLAAD meeting, a bit nervous, but smiling from ear to ear.

MINDY (V.O.)
Learning who they are.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Sugar watches a movie in class about the Women's Suffrage.

JODI (V.O.)
Who they want to be.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Dave passes several upperclassmen cornering a scared FRESHMAN. He tells them to knock it off. They oblige.

MINDY (V.O.)
Who they don't want to be.

JODI (V.O.)
Because no matter who you are --

MONTAGE OF MAIN CHARACTERS:

JODI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The geek, the prom king, the blow-hard, the president of the history club, or someone who never wanted a title before their name -- high school is the same. It's the best of times.

EXT. VIRGINIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

GEEKS cheer each other on during the Battle of Trafalgar.

MINDY (V.O.)
It's the worst of times.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

DRAMA GEEKS rush to the list of who's been cast in the next play. One girl's face falls in disappointment.

JODI (V.O.)
It's amazing.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

A GIRL scores the game winning shot. Her team rushes her.

MINDY (V.O.)
It's heart-breaking.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

A BOY tears up as he removes a picture of his now ex-girlfriend from her locker and rips it up.

JODI (V.O.)
Full of wonderful people.

BACK TO GRADUATION:

Dave exchanges a smile with Jodi from down the row.

MINDY (V.O.)
And awful people.

Whitney, Colin, Rick and Prithi watch the ceremony in disinterest. Prithi reads US Weekly.

JODI (V.O.)
And it's once in a lifetime.

MINDY (V.O.)
And we made it through.

In the crowd, Mindy, Jodi, Sugar, Claire, and Virginia all make eye contact with each other. A moment.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

The girls hang out around the now partially melted bike rack.

SUGAR
Whitmore's face when the marching
band played Light My Fire? Priceless.

They all laugh. Jodi takes a bow. MARTIN approaches and stops awkwardly by Sugar.

MARTIN
Um, hello, Sugar. I was, wondering
if you would perhaps do me the great --

SUGAR
I'll see you this week, Martin.

He nods in relief then departs. Off the girls' bemusement --

SUGAR (CONT'D)
Hey, the heart wants whatever twisted
bizzaro thing the heart wants.

(MORE)

SUGAR (CONT'D)

(to Claire)

And don't look so smug. Because you know what our next mission is? Getting you your first date!

Claire blushes and shakes her head.

JODI

She's right! We can't send you off to Smith having never gone on a date with a girl. That's like sending a soldier to war with a book of poetry.

VIRGINIA

Not a bad idea for Smith, actually.

CLAIRE'S FAMILY, a perfect 1950's replica pulls up in the station wagon. It's really starting to sink in -- it's over.

MINDY

See you this week.

CLAIRE

(smiles)

Deal.

She hops into the station wagon, and they depart. As she does, a blacked out Crown Victoria pulls up.

VIRGINIA

That's my driver.

SUGAR

Ok, it's time to spill it. What are you doing in the fall?

VIRGINIA

Eh. A little of this. A little of that. I'm just going to see where the wind takes me.

She waves and heads into her probably armored vehicle.

SUGAR

That girl's going into the CIA, right?

JODI

No doubt.

An stylishly upscale AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY pulls up.

SUGAR'S MOM

You ready, Dolores?

Mindy and Jodi regard her in surprise.

SUGAR

Don't even.

Sugar exchanges fist bumps with the girls, then heads off. Jodi and Mindy stand alone at the bike rack. A beat, then Jodi pulls out an ENVELOPE and hands it to Mindy.

JODI

Open it.

Mindy does. It's a TRAIN TICKET FROM BOSTON TO NEW YORK.

JODI (CONT'D)

The first of many.

Mindy smiles and they embrace in a good, long hug. They unlock their bikes, then hop on and start riding.

JODI (CONT'D)

Next year is going to be epic.

MINDY

Next year? We still have the summer.

JODI

Battlestar marathon at my place?

Mindy smiles and nods. They ride off into the Sunset.

VIRGINIA (V.O.)

Fin.

FADE OUT: