

Cougar Town

by

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DOOZER PRODUCTIONS
NETWORK (2ND) DRAFT
2.05.09
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INT. JULES' BATHROOM - EVENING

CLOSE ON a picture of JULIA "JULES" COBB IN HER TWENTIES, stunning in a bikini. Jules has no filter, and if she weren't so aggressively friendly, you'd say she was pushy, sarcastic -- even relentless. CUT WIDE TO REVEAL JULES AT 40, NAKED (post shower), comparing the old picture to her current self in the mirror. She pokes at her body, tugs at her arm skin, pulls her belly tight so there's no wrinkles, etc. Then, re: her reflection, pissed:

JULES

Fuck!

SHE DIMS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS, THEN TAKES ANOTHER LOOK:

JULES (CONT'D)

Much better.

As she checks out her butt and shrugs, pleased:

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME - NIGHT

SEAHAVEN is a small town on Florida's Gulf Coast where everyone turns out for high school football games. The crowd is full of a specific type of woman: 40s, dressed young for her age: too much skin, too much Botox, just too much. ANGLE ON a banner that reads "Welcome to Cougar Town!" The Seahaven Cougar football team bursts through the sign, TRAMPLING the Cougar mascot. As the team bounces around the field, we hear Jules' dialogue as narrative V.O.:

JULES (O.C.)

You know how they say fifty percent of marriages end in divorce...

JULES (dressed appropriately cute) sits with her son TAD (17) and friend/assistant LAURIE KEENAN (28). Tad is quietly handsome, sarcastic and his relationship with Jules VACILLATES BETWEEN FRIEND AND PARENT. Laurie is a happy-go-lucky townie, but she can stand up for herself. Jules sees her potential and treats her like a little sister/protege.

JULES (CONT'D)

... Around here it seems like ninety percent. And I know I'm one of them, but I don't feel like one of them, you know?

LAURIE

Will you look at all these old ass bitties trolling for action.

Jules SEES A VERY BIG CHESTED WOMAN.

JULES

Aw, Tad, your math teacher, Ms. Pritchett, got new boobs. Have the kids noticed her new boobs?

TAD

We have, Mom.

LAURIE

Jules, you're old. You had any plastic surgery?

JULES

I got Botox once, but I didn't like it.

TAD

You looked like Mickey Rourke. Never again, right?

JULES

Sweetie, when a woman says "I got Botox once but I didn't like it" it just means that from now on she only gets a little so she can still smile and frown. See? Happy.

(smiles, then frowning)

Mad. Grrr. Plus, if my waddle thingy here gets any bigger --

(re: skin under her chin)

I'll disappear for two weeks on a "vacation" and when I get back I might talk a little differently but it will be gone -- Laurie, stop staring at Ms. Pritchett you'll make her self-conscious. She's obviously not used to them yet.

Ms. Pritchett is awkwardly trying to flaunt her breasts.

LAURIE

I can't help it. They look like gorilla heads.

TAD

Check it. Ryan promised me he'd do something during warm-ups.

RYAN, the quarterback, rifles a pass into the head of the Cougar mascot, who drops. Tad and Laurie ad-lib cheers (Yes! Outstanding!) As Ryan points up to them:

JULES

He's a good friend.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTER THE GAME

Laurie reads a text as Jules watches Tad talk to friends.

LAURIE
Your new realty signs are ready.
I'll put them out in the morning.

JULES
Tad's a great kid, isn't he?

LAURIE
Yeah. Can I take his virginity?

JULES
Again, no.

LAURIE
Come on, I want it.

JULES
I'm hoping my son's first time is a
little more romantic and a little
less reverse cowgirl. Besides, we
don't even know for sure that he's
still a virgin.
(they both laugh, then)
Be nice.

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' DEN - NIGHT

Jules dials the phone. When it's answered she holds the receiver out as she pours a glass of wine. Then, into phone:

JULES
Elle, that's your wine being
poured. Get over here.

INT. ELLE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

ELLE KELLER, 42 and attractive, is on her phone. An upper-east side type, Elle is mean, scary, and fiercely loyal to Jules. She's wearing a CLEAVAGE REVEALING NIGHTGOWN.

ELLE
I can't, I promised my husband that
we'd start having sex once a month
without it having to be a quickie
and the fucker actually called me
on it. Andy's in the shower
shaving his beard because if he
doesn't, forty minutes from now my
inner thighs will look like someone
took a disk sander to them.

JULES
Graphic. Why so pissy?

ELLE
I'm fat.

JULES
You're not.

ELLE
I am. I woke up fat.

JULES
Yeah, I'm not buying it.

Jules goes to her window and pulls up the shade REVEALING
ELLE IN THE HER WINDOW TEN YARDS AWAY (they're neighbors).

JULES (CONT'D)
Wow, you look slutty.

ELLE
(touched)
Really?

JULES
Total riverboat whore.

ELLE
Love you. I thought you had a date
tonight with Larry the lawyer.

JULES
Yeah, I had to cancel it.

ELLE
Why?

JULES
Because he's ugly and sixty.
Fucking Florida.

ELLE
Hey, if you're bored and want to
hate yourself, do what I did and
try on all your old lingerie.

JULES
Yeah, I only model lingerie by
myself on Saturday nights. On
Friday nights I look up old high
school boyfriends on the internet.

ANDY (O.C.)
Let's do this, woman.

ELLE

Ugh, I have to go.

Elle hangs up. ANDY KELLER is 40, sweet, not as hot as Elle and is unaffected by her edge. Though she'd never admit it, she LOVES HIM DEEPLY. Currently Andy's thumb is fairly deep INSIDE HIS NOSTRIL, PICKING. HE DOESN'T STOP:

ANDY

I have a little scab up there.

ELLE

You are so sexy.

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' DEN - LATER

Jules (in sweats) looks through her old lingerie. She grabs the two glasses of wine (hers and Elle's) as Tad comes down.

JULES

If you don't have plans tonight we could hang out on the couch and watch a movie.

TAD

(re: two wines)
Are you hitting on me?

JULES

Huh? Oh, no, this wine is for Elle. That's why I have my lingerie out. She's coming over later and we're going to experiment a little.

(off Tad's stare)

Okay, that was supposed to be a joke but you seem really uncomfortable.

THIS IS HOW SHE TALKS TO HIM SOMETIMES. IT MAKES HIM CRAZY.

TAD

Ryan's picking me up. Where's my jacket?

Tad EXITS, looking. Jules picks up a RED BRA/PANTIE combo:

JULES

I wonder if I could still pull this off? Honestly, the whole ensemble creeps me out. But that might be because it was a Christmas gift from your shithead Dad's shithead brother. Lovely family.

TAD
 (returns wearing jacket)
 Ryan's mom just says "good night".

JULES
 Love you. And remember, home by twelve, and if I ever catch you or Ryan drinking and driving I'll show everyone that baby picture of you two holding each other's penises.

TAD
 Bye, Mom.

And he's gone. Bored, Jules looks at the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

The room is black, the phone rings and an OLDER, ODD-LOOKING MAN (60ish), wakes, turns on the light and answers the phone.

LARRY
 This is Larry.

INT. JULES' DEN - CONTINUOUS

Jules talks to Larry the lawyer. From now on we INTERCUT:

JULES
 It's eight-thirty on a Friday night, why are you already asleep? I guess I'm no better, I'm just sitting in my den, all by myself...
 (beat, then, tersely)
 Larry!

REVEAL Larry is asleep on the phone. Startled, he wakes.

LARRY
 This is Larry.

Jules hangs up and sits back on the couch. She sighs, and looks around, lonely. Fed up, she grabs her keys and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. MINI-MART - NIGHT

Jules is in line at the counter holding various junk treats and magazines. She looks down the aisle and sees an incredibly HANDSOME YOUNG MAN (20s) DRINKING FROM A MILK CARTON. Lost in his looks, Jules reacts. TIGHTER ON THE YOUNG MAN'S FACE as rivulets of milk run down his cheek and neck. Flushed, Jules turns back to the counter.

The young man, NOW SHIRTLESS, ENTERS THE FRAME BEHIND HER AND KISSES HER NECK. Jules moans:

JULES
Holy crap.

Jules is snapped out of her fantasy by the cashier, who waits to ring her up. He knows she's ogling the handsome guy.

CASHIER
Ma'am, whenever you're done.

JULES
(flustered)
Sorry. He is a cutie.

The MARRIED COUPLE in line behind Jules shake their heads judgmentally. Mortified, Jules addresses them calmly:

JULES (CONT'D)
Please don't shake your heads at me. It makes me want to cry.
(they stop)
Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NEXT MORNING

Jules (in robe) grabs her paper. Across the street, GRAYSON ELLIS (40s, handsome, closed off, and calmly emotionless) ushers a pretty young CLUB GIRL (23) into a cab.

GIRL
I'd hook up with you again just for the jacuzzi tub.

GRAYSON
I'll file that under 'classy'.

GIRL
Call me later, my number is 349--

He CLOSES the DOOR on her mid-sentence. The cab leaves as Jules approaches, playfully smiling; she loves torturing him.

JULES
Aw, Grayson, that was so sweet. I think she might be the one. What?

GRAYSON
Nothing. This is how I always look at annoying people.
(gives same look)
This, on the other hand, is the look I give to neighbors when I don't give a shit what they think.

JULES
They're very similar looks.

GRAYSON
(walks off)
Have a grand morning.

JULES
(follows him)
You know what drives me nuts?

GRAYSON
Great, let's talk more.

JULES
How come when a 40 year-old guy gets divorced and starts violating sorority girls everyone's like, "Way to go", but you see a divorced... mature woman with some hot young thing and it's more disturbing than the Holocaust? And you're not the least bit self-conscious about the age difference. I mean, don't you get insecure about your grey hair, your pot belly, your skin tags--

GRAYSON
What's a skin tag?

JULES
You know, those gross, little, mole thingies older people get.

GRAYSON
I don't have those, but I'm sorry you do.

JULES
I don't have skin tags.

GRAYSON
For someone that doesn't have them you seem to know a lot about them.

JULES
Fine, I have a big one in my armpit.

GRAYSON
I may vomit. Can I ask you something personal?

JULES
Don't be mean, I can't handle mean.

GRAYSON

When was the last time you had sex?

JULES

I almost got together with my son
last night.

GRAYSON

Maybe you just covet what you
pretend to despise. Maybe what
really "drives you nuts" is that
you couldn't bag a "hot young
thing" if you tried.

JULES

(beat, then points at him)
Mean. You don't think I could--
No. No. Don't give him the
satisfaction...

(she steps off, then steps
back)

The hell with it. Hey kid!

As a BOY (15) ON A BIKE looks over, Jules opens her robe
flashing him, revealing the RED BRA/PANTIES from last night.

JULES (CONT'D)

Pow!

The boy BIKES INTO A PARKED CAR. Jules turns to Grayson:

JULES (CONT'D)

Yes! Suck it!

GRAYSON

(looking off)
I think he broke his face

JULES

(realizing)
Right. Go get some ice.

As Jules rushes over to help:

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. SEAHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

STUDENTS GAWK and react as Jules drops Tad off at school.

JULES
I'm guessing the kid I flashed goes
to your school.

TAD
He does.

JULES
Would it help if I explain to him
what I was going through
emotionally?

Tad exits the car. RYAN (17, black, studly quarterback but a good guy) walks up. As Jules drives off, out window:

JULES (CONT'D)
Tell him I love him, Ryan.

RYAN
She loves you.

The class prick, BJ, approaches. Tad turns to Ryan:

TAD
Great, here we go.

BJ
Hey Cobb, I heard your mom's got a
porn star body.

TAD
(sincere)
Thanks, BJ. That's really nice of
you to say. I'll let her know.
(to Ryan as they walk off)
Does he look confused?

RYAN
Mm-hmm.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Elle HOLDS her baby and talks on the phone.

ELLE
Stan. My baby's name is Stan. How
ridiculous is that?
(MORE)

ELLE (CONT'D)
 He'd be Spencer if my husband's
 stupid father hadn't gone and died,
 like, a week before he was born.

CUT TO:

INT. COBB REALTY OFFICE - DAY

It's a modest office. Laurie sits at her desk as Jules talks on the phone and gathers her things. WE INTERCUT:

JULES
 Honey, is this call about anything?
 I have to go sell a house.

ELLE
 That means your little, baby
 assistant is there with you. Say
 out loud that you're better friends
 with me than with her.

JULES
 Why are you in your crazy place?

ELLE
 I haven't seen you in person for
 weeks and we live next door to each
 other! You're coming over tonight
 to play Scrabble after I put this
 thing to bed.

JULES
 Fine. And don't call Stan a thing.

Jules hangs up and they head out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' CAR - SAME TIME

Jules drives through Seahaven, an odd mixture of old Florida and a new town trying to be trendy. Laurie sits next to her.

LAURIE
 This town has changed so much since
 I was a kid--

Jules SLAMS ON the brakes. Laurie lurches forward:

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 Give a girl a warning. My uterus
 almost shot out.

EXT. YARD - CONTINUOUS

Jules walks to a "Jules Cobb Realty" for-sale sign. It's a VERY SEXY PICTURE OF JULES; LOW-CUT TOP, SULTRY EXPRESSION.

JULES

What did you do?! That's not the photo I picked. That's from the night we got drunk on Amaretto and played dress-up.

LAURIE

I don't care if you fire me. This is marketing for Jules. I'm putting you back out there. You've been divorced for five months and you're not having any fun.

JULES

(beat, then)
I'm not, am I?

LAURIE

No.

JULES

I want to go out tonight, and I want to go somewhere where I can get a hot neck kiss from a handsome young man. Preferably while he's drinking milk.

LAURIE

We can do that.

JULES

Good. And I don't care what people think of me.

LAURIE

Yeah, you do.

JULES

I know. It's an issue.
(then, vulnerable)
Am I going to be like one of those cougars at the game -- doesn't everyone think they look desperate and inappropriate and just... sad?

LAURIE

Jules, you could never be like them. Look how beautiful you are.

JULES

(looks at sign, smiles)
Thanks.

LAURIE

Friends look out. It's like when you finally convinced me that Dale was a loser and I had to stop dating him. What?

JULES

You have a giant hickey, and I can tell it's Dale's because whoever did it has a tooth missing.

LAURIE

Uncalled for.

They drive off. ANGLE ON SIGN. A BOY (14) walks by, does a double take, looks both ways and STEALS IT.

CUT TO:

INT. EMPTY WATER FRONT HOUSE (FOR SALE) - MINUTES LATER

BARBARA (50s), a conservative realtor, shows her clients (MAN 60, WOMAN 24) the home. Jules speaks to the woman.

JULES

Take as much time as you need. The master bedroom is upstairs...

(under her breath)

If you want to see where your husband will eventually croak on top of you.

Laurie laughs. Barb approaches demurely.

BARBARA

Good morning, girls. How is everything?

LAURIE

Awesome, Barb. I finally got Jules off her ass and tonight we're going to get us some--

JULES

Excuse us.

Jules pulls Laurie outside.

EXT. EMPTY WATER FRONT HOUSE (FOR SALE) - CONTINUOUS

Jules steps in front of Laurie and walks backwards.

JULES

I have to deal with Barb professionally, my personal life is none of her--

Right then, Jules TOPPLES OVER backwards.

LAURIE
You know you're not coordinated
enough to walk backwards in heels.

REVEAL Jules facedown in a bush.

JULES
I will kill you.

CUT TO:

EXT. JULES' HOUSE - MORNING

Jules pulls up to see an old convertible, golf clubs in the back. Her ex, BOBBY COBB (42), a loser yet somehow disarmingly charming, sits out front.

JULES
What do you want, Bobby?

BOBBY
I was hoping I could get a little
advance on my next alimony check.
(he follows her inside)
C'mon, J-bird. Not a lot of people
are taking golf lessons lately.
I've got Tad tonight, I'd like to
be able to, you know, feed him.

INT. JULES' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jules enters and starts filling out a check, annoyed.

BOBBY
You know, Oprah said that when a
marriage falls apart, both people
need to take responsibility for
their roles.

JULES
I dropped out of college to support
you and raise our kid while you
spent twenty years trying to make
it on the tour and drilling
anything that moved.

BOBBY
Right. And maybe you should ask
yourself what you did to make me do
that.
(off her glare)
Kidding. I know I was an ass.

JULES
 (smiles, hands over check)
 Hey, for old time's sake, you want
 to go upstairs and have sex?

BOBBY
 Uh, yeah.

JULES
 I don't.

BOBBY
 That must have felt good.

JULES
 It did.

He smiles and exits. Jules reacts casually (this is normal).

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Jules and Tad walk toward a house. Jules eats her cuticle.

TAD
 Can you please not eat your finger?

JULES
 Give me a break, I'm hungry.

TAD
 Why do I still have to see a
 shrink?

JULES
 You're a child of divorce, Tad.
 Own it.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tad and Jules enter the home office waiting room.

JULES
 Plus, I list Dr. Ellis' house for
 him, so you get free sessions.

GRAYSON EMERGES (He's the Shrink! Yay!) escorting out a
 SOBBING TEEN. Jules and Tad AWKWARDLY LOOK AWAY.

GRAYSON
 I'll call later to check on you.

The second the sobbing girl exits, Jules sighs with relief:

JULES
 Wooo! What's wrong with her?

GRAYSON

I don't know. She wasn't crying
when she came in. You're up, Tad.
(as Tad heads in)
And do not take your shoes off
again if you aren't wearing socks.
It's disgusting.

JULES

I figured out how to get you back
for yesterday.

GRAYSON

Please God, let it be the silent
treatment.

JULES

I decided that we're friends.
(off his reaction)
When we see each other we'll talk
about your life, whether you're
happy or sad - we're friends.

GRAYSON

You can't just decide that we're
friends.

JULES

Uh, I just did.

GRAYSON

I don't like this.

JULES

That's okay. Sometimes friends are
mad at each other but they always
go back to being friends.

GRAYSON

Stop it.

JULES

Bye, call you later.

As she leaves, we stay on Grayson's reaction.

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' BEDROOM - LATER

Laurie sits in an armchair. She calls out.

LAURIE

Why aren't you ready yet?

Jules pokes her head out of the bathroom, still in a towel.

JULES

Well, I can't find my favorite base. Also, I'm old and saggy and disgusting and I never really had my twenties so I have no idea how I'm supposed to act or look, and even though I made fun of stupid Larry for going to bed early, if I'm out after ten o'clock, I get sleepy, and I hate you.

LAURIE

Wow, that came out all at once.

JULES

I'm not doing this. I'm happy the way things are.

Laurie grabs the long pillow placed vertically on Jules' bed.

LAURIE

Twenty bucks says you sleep wrapped around this thing like it's some kind of pillow-man.

JULES

His name is Jonathan. What am I wearing?

As Laurie tosses her an outfit:

CUT TO:

INT. GRAYSON'S INNER OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Grayson sits angrily in thought. Tad slumps on a chair.

GRAYSON

We may have to talk about me killing your mother.

TAD

Why was that girl crying?

GRAYSON

She snapped and cut off her dog's feet.

TAD

Really?

GRAYSON

No, I'm not allowed to tell you. How's your dad?

TAD
Still talking about how he knows
Tiger Woods.

GRAYSON
Does he?

TAD
He knows who Tiger Woods is.
(then)
At least with my mom, I always come
first, you know?

GRAYSON
And you need that?

The following line bridges the cut as VOICE OVER:

TAD
Yeah, maybe I do. Mom's okay. I
mean, I wish she didn't have to say
exactly what's she's thinking the
second she thinks it...

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WESTSIDE BAR - NIGHT

Jules and Laurie stand in front of a HANDSOME BLACK BOUNCER
with VERY DARK SKIN.

JULES
Wow, you are really black. It's
very handsome on you.

BOUNCER
Yeah it is.

He pulls back the rope. Laurie enters. Jules hesitates.

BOUNCER (CONT'D)
It's okay, you'll be fine. Go get
'em.

As Jules smiles, takes a deep breath, and enters, we...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. THE WESTSIDE BAR - CONTINUOUS

Jules enters to see Florida's idea of a Manhattan bar. Young people interact with older men and cougars. MS. PRITCHETT NOW PROUDLY FLAUNTS HER NEW BOOBS IN A TANK TOP.

LAURIE

Look, she's getting used to them.
(re: Jules)
You seem nervous. Say something judgmental about me, that always loosens you up.

JULES

You can't wear fake nails on just one hand. It looks insane.

LAURIE

I only had four left. And this is the hand I smoke with. Better?
(Jules nods)
First round's on me.

Laurie goes to the bar. Barb approaches looking different; tight dress, heels, make-up -- She is Barb, QUEEN COUGAR.

JULES

Barb? What are you doing here?

BARBARA

Having a glass of Pinot with my sister, trying to score some dick.

JULES

Oh, well... Good luck with that. I have to go over here.

Jules turns away KNOCKING INTO MATT (26, attractive). His drink explodes all over his shirt. He looks at Jules.

JULES (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Jules.

TIME CUT TO:

LAURIE LOOKS OVER AT Jules and Matt now in mid-conversation.

JULES (CONT'D)

... I can't believe you went to college in London. I always wanted to do stuff like that.

MATT

Why didn't you?

JULES

You know how it goes. I was
nineteen, met a guy, started
thinking with my hoo-hoo, and boom--
I jammed out a kid.

(finishes drink)

Boy, you are hot as balls. Sorry,
this is my second drink and all
I've eaten today is finger skin.

MATT

Gross. Want me to get you a water?

JULES

Yeah, but have them put it in a
drink glass with a lime so I still
look cool.

Matt exits, REVEALING BARB, who mouths "hit that". Jules
turns to see Ms. Pritchett all over a young man. Jules looks
at a MIRROR and sees herself surrounded by youth (guys in
baseball hats, young girls, etc.). HORRIFIED, JULES LEAVES.

CUT TO:

EXT. JULES' HOUSE - NIGHT

As Jules EXITS A CAB, she sees GRAYSON with another YOUNG
CLUB GIRL (24). She yells across the street:

JULES

Stop having sex with babies!

GRAYSON

(calmly to girl)
That's my new friend.

INT. JULES' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jules enters to a ringing phone. She answers it.

INT. ELLE'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

Elle sits on the phone, by a Scrabble board. WE INTERCUT.

ELLE

I can't believe you stood me up.
I'm so pissed at you--

JULES

Sorry, sorry, I totally forgot.
I'll be right over.

Jules hangs up and rushes upstairs, then:

TIME CUT TO:

Jules (hair up, wearing sweats) rushes downstairs and opens her front door. MATT'S there, STARTLING HER. Laurie leans out the window of A RANDOM GUY'S car:

LAURIE

You left that at the bar! I'm either going home with this nice gentleman or I'm having him drop me at Dale's. I haven't decided yet.

JULES

Not Dale's!

They DRIVE OFF. Jules looks at Matt for a beat, then:

JULES (CONT'D)

This is so awkward I feel like my face might explode.

MATT

May I come in?

JULES

Uh... sure, okay, yeah.

As he enters, she frantically lets her hair down and shakes it out, sexy. It doesn't work. Then, re: her hair:

JULES (CONT'D)

That didn't work. Can I get you a snack? That's what I do for my son's friends, I get them snacks. Do you like crackers with peanut butter on them?

MATT

I'm okay. I hope it's not too forward - coming over here.

JULES

(turns away)

Look, Matt, you're a good kid, but this isn't really how I roll--
(he kisses her neck)
Oh my god, that's a neck kiss.

The phone rings, snapping Jules out of her bliss:

CUT TO:

INT. ELLE'S DEN - SAME TIME

Elle is on the phone. From now on WE INTERCUT.

ELLE

Where the hell are you?

JULES
 (whispering)
 There's a man in my house.

ELLE
 Should I call the police?

JULES
 No. I went to a bar, and-- just go
 look at him.

Elle puts the phone down and runs out of the room.

INT. ELLE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Elle enters and flicks on the lights even though Andy is sleeping. He momentarily stirs.

ANDY
 What...?

Elle goes to the window, LOOKS OVER AT MATT in Jules' window, reacts and runs out without shutting off the lights.

ANDY (CONT'D)
 Come on!!

INT. ELLE'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

Elle runs back in and picks up the phone.

ELLE
 Go do horrible things to that young
 boy right now.

JULES
 No, I need time to prepare. I have
 to go buy candles, I look good in
 flickering light. Oh my God, what
 if he wants to keep the lights on??

ELLE
 Alright, deep breath. You're good
 at sex, right?

JULES
 I'm like a seven.

ELLE
 I'm a nine. Now look...

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' BATHROOM - MINUTES LATER

As Jules frantically gets ready we hear Elle's speech:

ELLE (V.O.)

...No matter how hot he is, he's still a man, so he's less confident than you, sexually. Just take charge of the situation the second you enter the room.

Ready, Jules turns confidently to enter the bedroom.

INT. JULES' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Matt lies on the bed. The room is BRIGHT. The bathroom door opens a crack, and ONLY JULES' ARM COMES OUT, BLINDLY SEARCHING FOR THE DIMMER. She finds it, turns the lights down, then ENTERS THE ROOM, POSING CONFIDENTLY. From the bed, MATT TURNS THE LIGHTS BACK UP.

MATT

I want to see you.

JULES

Here I am.

MATT

What's that scar from?

JULES

I got knifed when I was a kid.

MATT

Really?

JULES

No, it's from my C-section.

(re: armpit)

And this little fella here is a skin tag -- What am I doing?

Moment of truth. Jules TAKES CONTROL:

JULES (CONT'D)

Okay, listen up. Lights off, condom on, and put Jonathan under your hips.

MATT

Who?

JULES

The big pillow. No more talking.

As Jules hits the lights:

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' DEN - LATER

The lights are dim. ANGLE ON Jules, on the couch, in heaven.

JULES
I feel like I can see colors again.
That was amazing.

REVEAL Matt next to her eating crackers with peanut butter.

MATT
Yeah. And thanks for making these.
After you offered before I couldn't
get them out of my head.

JULES
Three times. We had sex three
times without you needing a nap, or
pills or anything. How fun is
that?

MATT
Pretty fun.

JULES
Would it be okay if I did something
I haven't done in years? I always
told my husband that I hated it,
but I don't hate it, I love it.

MATT
You can do anything you want to me.

JULES
Fun!

MATT
So what are you going to--

JULES
Again, no talking.
(she slides down)
Just watch.

Jules undoes his jeans (suggesting oral-sex). ANGLE ON door.
Tad enters and reacts. Then, Jules badly covers to Tad:

JULES (O.S.) (CONT'D)
There he is!

REVEAL Bobby is at the door, too. He calmly addresses Jules:

BOBBY
You said you hated that.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ANY RANDOM HOUSE FOR SALE - MORNING

A new day. The SAME BOY from before CASUALLY WALKS UP AND STEALS ANOTHER ONE OF JULES' SEXY "FOR SALE" SIGNS.

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' KITCHEN - MORNING

Jules sits, the weight of last night on her shoulders. She casually prepares to eat a banana. Tad enters, snatches it from her hand and throws it away.

TAD

You're not allowed to eat those anymore.

JULES

Look, Tad, I hope you know what you saw is very natural. You're seventeen, of course you know that. It's probably been done to you a number of times. Has it? You know what, that's probably off topic.

(Tad leaves)

We'll talk later.

CUT TO:

INT. COBB REALTY OFFICE - MORNING

Jules enters to see Laurie.

JULES

Well, I may have to kill myself--

Jules stops when she sees Elle (with stroller).

JULES (CONT'D)

Why are you here?

ELLE

You never called and told me what happened. See, I used to be your best friend. But now that I'm stuck at home and you blow me off to go to bars and chase men, my only option is to come here and listen to you share everything about your life with this dummy.

LAURIE

She's been here forty minutes and that's the nicest thing she's said.

ELLE
Go push Stan around the block,
we're having grown-up talk.

LAURIE
Stan? Is your baby sixty?

JULES
Laurie, please? For me.

As Laurie reacts and pushes Stan out, Jules turns to Elle:

JULES (CONT'D)
You'd like her if you gave her a
chance.

ELLE
Pass.

CUT TO:

EXT. SEAHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Tad walks along, miserable. He sees BJ (and idiot friends)
waiting for him.

TAD
Not today, man. I'm warning you.

BJ
Calm down, Cobb. I did you a
solid. I walked in on my little
brother and caught him with this.
(holds up Jules' sign)
"Hi, Tad, it's me, Mom". She is
hot. And guess what all the junior
high boys are doing with these?
(holds up sign again)
"I know, and I like it."

WE PUSH IN on Tad's face, flushed with fury.

CUT TO:

INT. COBB REALTY OFFICE - SAME TIME

Jules and Elle now sit and talk.

ELLE
You know why I really came here?
Remember how Andy drinks coffee
like every sip is sooo delicious?
He was doing it this morning and it
made me want to murder him so I
need you to say your thing.

JULES

No one in the world is meant for
you more than Andy and you love him
with all your heart.

ELLE

I know, it's so annoying. Look, I
know you have your own problems...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SEAHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL - SAME TIME

TAD BEATS BJ WITH THE SIGN as the others watch. In between
each hit he says the same thing:

TAD

You think my mom's hot now? How
about now? How about now?

BACK TO:

INT. COBB REALTY OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

We rejoin their conversation.

ELLE

... But we had a plan. We were
going to have stupid cookouts with
our stupid husbands, take awful
vacations together. Now I'm always
busy with the baby and you're back
out there in the world, which I
don't like at all by the way... I
just want us to still have time for
each other. I love you.

JULES

I love you back, but twice as much,
and in a more vulnerable way. And
Elle... I always have time for you.

As Jules' phone rings:

CUT TO:

INT. SEAHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Through glass we see THE PRINCIPAL explain what happened to
Jules (Tad next to her). He MIMES BEATING SOMEONE with a
sign. Jules and Tad exit the office. Then, all business:

JULES

Go get your stuff.

As Tad moves off, Jules turns to see Bobby.

BOBBY
He does not look happy.

JULES
The school called you?

BOBBY
What? No, I'm here on an unrelated matter. Apparently they have a landscaping position that I might potentially be interested in.

TAD
(returning)
Please, Dad, cut the lawns at my school, that's exactly what I need!

Tad storms off, then Jules gets in Bobby's face.

JULES
He was supposed to sleep at your apartment last night. Couldn't you come through for me, just once?!!

Jules storms off. An ADMINISTRATOR approaches Bobby:

ADMINISTRATOR
Ready, Mr. Cobb?

BOBBY
(unconcerned)
Let's do this.

CUT TO:

EXT. JULES' HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Tad and Jules get out of the car arguing.

JULES
...Look, I know you and I had a bit of an awkward moment last night.
(off Tad's look)
Yeah, "awkward moment", that's what I'm calling it. Still, there's never an excuse for violence.

TAD
Junior high boys are stealing your signs. Do you want to know why?! They use them to pleasure themselves.

JULES
(flattered)
Really?

(MORE)

JULES (CONT'D)
(catches herself)
I mean, really?

TAD
Why can't you just be a normal mom,
and stop torturing me?

JULES
(calling after him)
I'm allowed to have a life, Tad.

Tad goes inside. Grayson approaches having witnessed it all.

GRAYSON
Don't worry, he'll be fine. You
know, as long as you don't sell my
house in the next six years because
thanks to you, that boy's going to
need some work. Of course, I'm not
speaking to you as his doctor. I'm
speaking as your friend. We're
friends, remember?

Grayson smiles, pleased with himself. Jules walks up to him,
then unexpectedly PUSHES HIM OVER. Then, from the ground:

GRAYSON (CONT'D)
Did that just happen?

Tad, watching, yells down from the upstairs window:

TAD
Never an excuse for violence, Mom!

JULES
Get back in the damn house!

Tad closes the window and Jules turns to Grayson:

JULES (CONT'D)
You know what? I'm not going to
play the "pretend we're friends"
game with you anymore. It's only
fun with someone that you're
actually, maybe sort of becoming
friends with. Not with a typical
douchebag that gets to walk away
from his marriage scot-free, no
responsibilities, nothing. Do you
know how scary it is being a single
forty year-old woman?

GRAYSON
I want to say yes.

JULES

Whatever you do, you feel judged by the world -- you feel judged by yourself. And deep down you know that even if you ever do want to get married again, it's not going to happen. Not when you're fifty, your looks have faded, and you can't make babies anymore. So you put on a brave face and try really hard not to think about the fact that maybe this is all your life's going to be.

GRAYSON

(getting up)
You know, my Grandad got a chick pregnant when he was ninety.

Jules pushes Grayson down again and marches back to her house. From the ground, Grayson turns to see Andy pushing the stroller by, drinking coffee. They speak casually.

GRAYSON (CONT'D)

Andy.

ANDY

Grayson. She got you twice.
(sips coffee, blissful)
Ohhh, lord, that's good coffee.

CUT TO:

INT. EMPTY WATER FRONT HOUSE (FOR SALE) - DAY

Barbara (dressed conservative) stands with Laurie and Jules as the same clients from before walk around. Then, sotto:

JULES

I think they're going to buy.
Thank God waterfront property is recession proof.

BARBARA

No shit. I need the cash to get my face done.
(pulls back face)
How does this look?

JULES

Like you're sky diving.

LAURIE

You know, it was easy pushing your scary friend's baby around. Maybe if Dale and I squirted out a kid, we'd get along better.

(MORE)

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 (Jules pulls her outside)
 How come we always have to go
 outside when I'm in trouble?

EXT. EMPTY WATER FRONT HOUSE (FOR SALE) - CONTINUOUS

Jules pulls her outside and turns, walking backwards.

JULES
 I won't let you fall into the same
 trap I did. Kids don't fix things--

She FALLS into the same bush AGAIN.

LAURIE
 You never learn, do you?

JULES
 (face down in bush)
 Shut up.

Jules looks up from the bush to see THE SAME BOY from before,
 STEALING JULES' SIGN. They lock eyes, then:

JULES (CONT'D)
 Get him!

The kid runs off.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

The kid rounds a corner, terrified. Jules and Laurie follow,
 NOW CARRYING THEIR SHOES. They chase him through bushes and
 across backyards. The boy tries to climb over a fence but
 JULES JUMPS AND GRABS HIS FOOT. The boy panics, drops the
 sign and flops over. Out of breath, Jules and Laurie watch
 him sprint into a nearby house.

LAURIE
 We got the sign back. It's over.

As Jules reacts:

CUT TO:

INT. KID'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The doorbell rings over and over. A MOM opens the door to
 REVEAL a very dishevelled Jules and Laurie.

JULES
 May I talk to your son?

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY/KID'S ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

As the Mom opens the door:

MOM

Robbie, someone wants to talk to you.

The door opens to REVEAL Robbie, in his boxers, his room covered with Jules' signs like an adolescent whack palace.

JULES

Hi, Robbie. You obviously know my name, this is my co-worker, Laurie.

LAURIE

Hey, Robbie. You're fast.

ROBBIE

This is seriously not cool.

MOM

He's never stolen things before. You know boys, his body's going through a lot of changes.

ROBBIE

MOM!

JULES

It's okay, I have a son of my own.

ROBBIE

Do you embarrass him like this?

Jules looks at this mortified kid and it hits her. Hard.

JULES

Yeah, I guess I do. Sorry, Robbie.

As Jules walks out with the Mom, Laurie gathers the signs then looks at the sad kid. She checks the door, then:

LAURIE

Give me your e-mail address, I'll send you some pictures I took of her at the beach last summer.

CUT TO:

INT. JULES' DEN - NIGHT

Jules sits, thinking. Tad comes downstairs, heading out.

JULES

Hey, before you go, I want you to know the other night was a one time deal. The last thing I want to do is have my life make your life any more difficult. I promise.

TAD

(relieved)
Thank you.
(a beat, then)
Ryan's picking me up.

JULES

(as he kisses her)
Remember, if there's any drinking and driving--

TAD

Penis picture, I got it, Mom.

And he's gone. Jules pours two glasses of wine again. She looks out the side window to see Elle and Andy dancing in their living room, a living image of what she doesn't have. Jules sits down on her couch, again alone in her den.

CUT TO:

EXT. JULES' HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Tad stands on the curb waiting. Grayson gets his mail.

TAD

I'm waiting for a buddy.

GRAYSON

That's exciting news. Looks like your mom's got a fun night ahead, too.

TAD

(looks in)
Yeah, whatever.

GRAYSON

May I tell you something I picked up on in your sessions? You're a selfish little shit.
(off Tad's look)
Sucks to hear, but you know it's true. I mean, come on, does she really look like she's enjoying her life? Still, she's doing what you want, isn't she? So I suppose that's nice.

Ryan pulls up.

GRAYSON (CONT'D)
Good night, Tad.

TAD
You're an asshole.

GRAYSON
I know. I'm okay with it.

As Grayson walks off, Tad gets in Ryan's car, lost in thought. We see his POV of his mom alone. WE END ON TAD'S FACE RACKED WITH GUILT. He knows he's a JERK.

INT. JULES' DEN - CONTINUOUS

Jules casually looks out the window to see that Tad is gone.

JULES
He's gone.

MATT STEPS OUT.

JULES (CONT'D)
Take the wine upstairs and get undressed. I'll make sure the door is locked.

Matt starts off, then stops.

MATT
Do you want the lights on or off?

JULES
No lights, I bought candles. And Matthew, no more talking.

As WE GO CLOSE ON Jules' hand locking the front door:

END OF SHOW