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# felicity.

"Hot Objects"

Episode #F702

Written by:

J.J. Abrams

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**FIRST DRAFT**  
July 20, 1998

**FELICITY**  
**"Hot Objects"**  
**CAST LIST**

FELICITY PORTER  
BEN COVINGTON  
NOEL CRANE  
JULIE EMRICK  
ELENA GORDON

Meghan  
Dominic

Jerry  
Alice  
Mitch  
Sensa Porchova  
Mr. Blake  
Debbie  
Dr. William Garibay  
Yuri  
Sean

**FELICITY**  
**"Hot Objects"**  
**SET LIST**

**INTERIORS:**

FELICITY'S ROOM - DAY, NIGHT, LATE NIGHT & DAWN  
NOEL'S ROOM - DAY & PRE-DAWN  
KELVIN HALL  
DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT  
MAIL ROOM - DAY  
HALLWAY - DAY  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - CORRIDOR - DAY  
CAFETERIA - DAY & NIGHT  
BOOKSTORE - DAY  
ACTING CLASS - DAY  
CHEMISTRY CLASS - DAY  
BEN'S LOFT - DAY  
DR. GARIBAY'S OFFICE - CORRIDOR - DAY  
KOREAN DELI - NIGHT

**EXTERIORS:**

NEW YORK - NIGHT  
KOREAN DELI - NIGHT

FELICITY

## "Hot Objects"

## ACT I

FADE IN:

1 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - NIGHT

1

The dark, seemingly empty room. Suddenly FELICITY enters: wearing a party dress and in tears, she catches her breath in a moment of pure crisis. From behind her closed door, we HEAR DANCE MUSIC... the MUFFLED SOUNDS of a party coming to life. But she just stands here, sobbing.

JERRY (OS)

Hey--

Felicity JUMPS -- SCREAMS -- realizing two STUDENTS (JERRY and ALICE) lie, make-out interruptus, on her bed.

JERRY (cont'd)

Is this your room?

FELICITY

Who are you?

JERRY

No, we're just making out.

FELICITY

Could you, uh, make out somewhere else?  
Please.

Jerry and Alice get up, leave -- we note the CROWD in the hallway: there's some kind of dorm party in the hall.

Felicity just sits on the bed, in tears. After a moment, Jerry returns. Felicity looks up at him.

JERRY

My jacket.

Felicity looks over, grabs it and tosses it to him. The guy leaves, closes the door. Felicity just sits there in the dark, head hung low. Over this sad, mysterious image, we HEAR an upbeat voice:

FELICITY (VO)

Dear Sally. I... love it here. I swear to God, I don't know what it is. But things... remarkably... are going great.

2 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - DAY (DAYS EARLIER) 2

Felicity sits on her bed, cheerfully makes the tape:

FELICITY

First of all, there's this dorm thing on Friday -- you know, sort of the first real official college party. Which, for some reason, I think is going to be really memorable.

3 INT. KELVIN HALL - DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT 3

NOEL, with a clipboard, oversees the floor meeting of thirty-odd students. As Noel talks, we see Felicity in the group, sitting on the floor beside JULIE.

FELICITY (VO)

I mean what's so great is, no one really knows anyone yet. So, you know. Unlike high school parties, it'll be like a level playing field.

A short Boston guy (MITCH) stands, addresses Noel:

MITCH

This party's gonna need a good band, and I know some bands that are mint, and they'll come down.

NOEL

Okay, like I said, I think, six times, we're gonna have to use CDs and tapes. That's just, a university ordinance.

MITCH

I think we should have a band.

NOEL

I think everyone's aware of that. And somewhat concerned you're not giving it up.

(to the group)

Now I haven't heard back from the A/V department -- does anyone have access to a good sound system?

We go TIGHT ON Felicity and Julie. There's a tension between them they're both trying to ignore:

JULIE

(sotto)

So hey, I didn't see you at Lucky Strike.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

FELICITY

When?

JULIE

Last night, there was a thing.

FELICITY

Oh.

We're ON NOEL again as he looks over his clipboard.

NOEL

Okay, we still haven't resolved the following party issues: sound system, food, beverages, decoration, and clean-up. Essentially, we haven't resolved anything.

Then, a VOICE:

SENSA (OS)

I can do it.

Noel looks up -- people turn. And SENSA PORCHOVA makes a startling appearance: Dark, pretty, strangely intense. A young woman with either a horrible secret or no fear whatsoever. She chews on a straw. Noel is suspicious.

NOEL

You can do what?

SENSA

The party, the whole thing. I'll take care of it.

NOEL

... the whole party.

SENSA

I got a big family. My cousins, I mean it, they'd kill for me.

NOEL

(beat)

We just want to throw a party.

There's a repetitive BEEP -- without even looking at it, Sensa reaches to her beeper, shuts it off.

SENSA

I know, I'll take care of it. You can meet Yuri tomorrow, he'll get us whatever we need. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

MITCH

Like a band?

NOEL

Mitch?

SENSA

You'll love my cousins. They're a great bunch of guys.

On FELICITY again, as she says to Julie:

FELICITY

(casually)

Was Ben there? Last night?

JULIE

No, I don't think he was there.

FELICITY

(nods, fine with that)

Just curious.

4 INT. ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - CORRIDOR - DAY

4

Felicity stands at the bulletin board of class postings, reading the latest results of who-got-which-class. She finds the class she was looking for and reacts, thrilled. She writes down pertinent info as we HEAR:

FELICITY (VO)

I also got this class I'm really excited about. Dr. William Garibay wrote the entire series of chemistry books I used all through high school. So when I found out I could take a class taught by the man who actually wrote the book... I don't know. It was one of those big moments.

BEN

Aw, damnit.

RACK FOCUS -- BEN stands beside Felicity, pissed, also looking at the postings.

FELICITY

Hey.

BEN

Yeah, hey.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

FELICITY

You okay?

BEN

There was... nah...

FELICITY

What?

BEN

A mistake. I don't know.

FELICITY

You didn't get a class?

BEN

There's... I signed up for a language class. But they gave me drama.

FELICITY

You're in drama?

BEN

No. No, that's a mistake. Obviously.  
D'you get what you wanted?

FELICITY

Inorganic Chemistry.

BEN

You got that and you're happy? That's...

FELICITY

This teacher's someone who, uh...  
(sees it means nothing)  
I just really wanted the class.

BEN

(nods for a moment, then:)  
So you didn't go last night.

FELICITY

What?

BEN

Lucky Strike. There was a... thing.

FELICITY

(beat)  
Really? Did Julie go to that?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

BEN

Yeah, she was there. Thought I'd see you too, but...

Felicity nods, considers...

BEN (cont'd)

So congratulations on your, uh... chemistry... victory.

FELICITY

Thanks. Good luck with the acting.

BEN

(amused)

Yeah, right.

(moving off)

That's a mistake.

And Ben leaves. Felicity watches him go...

5 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

5

Felicity loads up on books, referring to her syllabi. She moves down a row of books, stops at a shelf where there's only one book left: INORGANIC CHEMISTRY by Dr. William Garibay (A DISTINCT ORANGE/BLACK COVER). She reads the back cover, then sets the book down for a moment, checks her notebook.

In that instant, another hand grabs the book -- Felicity looks up -- ELENA GORDON now walks off with it. Even from behind, we can tell: Elena's Upper East Side-bred and confident as all hell.

Felicity looks back: no more books. She follows Elena.

FELICITY

Excuse me.

(as Elena heads off)

Excuse me -- that was my book.

ELENA

What?

FELICITY

That book. I was about to buy it, I had it.

ELENA

I have it.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

FELICITY

I know, but I had it.

ELENA

And now I have it.

FELICITY

Look, I was just checking if it was the right one.

ELENA

And I knew it was the right one. So I took it.

Elena walks off. Felicity follows, toughening up:

FELICITY

Listen, I need that book for my class, okay?

ELENA

(not stopping)

Okay.

FELICITY

And there aren't any left. I think that's my book.

Elena whips around -- pointing a finger at Felicity.

ELENA

Where are you from?

FELICITY

... what?

ELENA

Where'd you grow up? Where'd you come from?

FELICITY

Um... California, what do you...?

ELENA

Okay. You know the cliché about people from New York. That they're abrasive, they're uncompromising, they're like freight trains in that way -- bullet trains -- you know what a bullet train is?

FELICITY

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

ELENA

They stop at nothing, New Yorkers. They see what they want, they go after it -- New Yorkers don't ask questions. They're assertive -- some say belligerent. You're familiar with that. That cliché.

FELICITY

Yeah.

ELENA

Okay. It's a cliché because it's true. New Yorkers are more unyielding than people from California. It's just a fact.

FELICITY

You... must be from New York.

And with a look that says, "Born and raised," Elena turns and walks off. Felicity watches that storm of a person go. She blurts out an appalled laugh.

FELICITY (VO)

I met this girl. Elena. I didn't know people like her... actually exist.

6 INT. ACTING CLASS - DAY

6

MR. BLAKE, the acting teacher, addresses the class from the room's small stage.

MR. BLAKE

So an actor's responsibility... is to communicate. To convey truth. To understand and express an internal life, subjective motivation.

Sitting among the THIRTY STUDENTS is Ben. We've never seen him so uncomfortable. He fiddles with his KEYS. Meanwhile, other students take serious notes.

MR. BLAKE (cont'd)

Next week I want you to bring an object to class that has meaning to you. Our first exercise is designed to reveal the hidden life -- not within characters -- but within things.

A pretty intense acting student sitting near Ben (ALICE, the girl kissing Jerry from the opening) raises her hand. Mr. Blake calls on her.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ALICE

Would this be considered a Meisner exercise?

MR. BLAKE

(with a smile)

No, hopefully there won't be any repetition in this class.

Most of the students laugh at this inside "acting" joke. Ben just looks around, lost.

MR. BLAKE (cont'd)

First, I'll ask you to describe the object physically. Objectively. And then, I'll ask you to tell me what the object means to you.

Ben stares at the floor in disbelief that he's even here.

7 INT. ACTING CLASS - DAY - LATER

7

As students file out of the room, Ben moves to Mr. Blake, stealing a private moment.

BEN

Mr. Blake? Hey. Excuse me -- could I, uh...? Talk to you?

MR. BLAKE

Sure.

BEN

Okay -- I applied for Russian. Language. And they gave me drama by accident -- I shouldn't even be here.

MR. BLAKE

It might not be an accident: theater's a communications elective, just like language.

BEN

Okay.

(beat)

No -- I can't take drama.

MR. BLAKE

So you're dropping this course?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

BEN

As soon as there's an opening in Russian -  
- Ms. Petesky's class -- I'm transferring  
over. They say there's usually at least  
one drop, and I'm first on the waiting  
list, so...

MR. BLAKE

I'll tell you what. I hope you get all  
the classes you want.

BEN

Thank you.

MR. BLAKE

But while you're my student, you're  
obligated to participate.

BEN

Okay. Okay. But that doesn't mean I  
have to get up there.

MR. BLAKE

It means you have to get up there.  
(beat, kindly)  
Next class. Bring a hot object.

8 INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

8

Julie sits, eating dinner. DEBBIE, an intense, red-haired  
Freshman, sits across from her.

DEBBIE

You're saying you don't agree with me?

JULIE

I don't really understand you.

DEBBIE

Okay, listen: "L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S..."  
You don't hear it?

JULIE

You think Q comes too early in the  
alphabet.

DEBBIE

No, I know it does. Q should be at the  
end. "Q, X, Y, Z."

JULIE

Okay, but why?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

DEBBIE

Because it's not like Q comes right after "O", which at least Q resembles. And if you move Q to where it belongs, at the end, R would follow P. Which is so clearly the way it should be. I'd even say P should come before R, but whatever.

Ben pulls up a chair, sits near Julie, who isn't entirely comfortable with his presence.

BEN

Hey.

JULIE

Hey.

BEN

I don't want to bug you. You know, you don't need to call me back, but Chavez is playing at Tramps on Friday. They're supposed to be pretty good.

JULIE

Friday...?

BEN

You wanna go?  
(after looking at Debbie for a beat)  
You can come too.

DEBBIE

Thanks, okay.

BEN

I'm Ben.

DEBBIE

(shakes hands)  
Debbie.

Now Julie shakes hands with Debbie.

JULIE

Hi, I'm Julie.

DEBBIE

Debbie, nice to meet you.

BEN

So Friday, right?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

JULIE

(hating turning him down)

Um... we're throwing a party on Friday.  
At Kelvin, so I can't.

Ben looks at Julie, then laughs.

BEN

You're never going out with me again, are  
you?

(to Debbie)

We had a bad first date.

DEBBIE

So... are we still on for Friday?

And Julie -- clearly torn -- watches Ben walk off.

9 INT. KELVIN HALL - DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT - LATER

9

Elevator opens -- Felicity, brimming with frustration, exits,  
heads down the hall. Passing Noel's open door, he comes out  
with his clipboard, follows her to her room:

NOEL

Hey -- d'you have any special needs for  
the party? Food or drinks or music...?

FELICITY

How about a copy of "Inorganic Chemistry"  
by William Garibay.

NOEL

Is -- am I supposed to understand that?

FELICITY

I used up my whole MetroCard today.  
Going up to Columbia. Down to Hunter.  
Over to the Strand -- back up to  
Shakespeare & Co.. I've been to every  
Barnes & Noble, every college bookstore--  
it's out of stock.

She starts to unlock her door. Noel assumes:

NOEL

"Inorganic Chemistry" by William Garibay.

FELICITY

Without which, I can't do the required  
reading, or keep up in class. Which  
begins tomorrow morning.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

NOEL

Just keep repeating the phrase: it's only college. That helps sometimes. For me. Any requests for the party?

FELICITY

How about chocolate?

NOEL

What kind? Milk? Dark? Nuts? Pieces? Bark? Nestles? Hershey?

FELICITY

Or is chocolate not a party food?

NOEL

Sure it is -- I'm gonna take care of it. Done. Go freak out about your book. Oh - - if you need to special-order it, I know the guys at the bookstore. Okay?

Felicity just stares at him. Smiles.

NOEL (cont'd)

What?

FELICITY

Nothing. I just... you're very sweet. To me.

NOEL

(smiles, angst-ridden)

I... hate being the nice guy.

FELICITY

I know, but you are.

NOEL

I know. Chocolate.

With a wave, he heads off. Felicity watches him go.

10 INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - DAY

10

SLOW MOTION as STUDENTS enter the class. And we find Felicity among them as we HEAR:

FELICITY (VO)

So it's my first pre-med class. The beginning of my life as a doctor.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

Felicity's POV -- DR. WILLIAM GARIBAY sits at his desk, reading the "New York Observer." An open Thermos of coffee beside him. This 70-ish man has had tenure for years.

FELICITY (cont'd) (VO)

Because I'm not at Stanford, now I get to study under someone who, in a way, I've idolized. For years, through his books, I'd learned so much from him. I kind of feel like I've met him already.

We're OUT OF SLOW-MO as Felicity approaches Dr. Garibay:

FELICITY (cont'd)

Excuse me, Dr. Garibay? Hi, I'm Felicity Porter. I'm in this class -- could I... ask you something?

Garibay just stares at her.

FELICITY (cont'd)

I couldn't find the book anywhere. I ordered a copy from the publisher, but in the meantime I was hoping you'd have a copy I could borrow.

DR. GARIBAY

(re: book on desk)  
There's my copy.

FELICITY

(goes to reach for it)  
Thank you so much.

But Garibay puts his hand on the book.

DR. GARIBAY

No no, I said, "My copy."

FELICITY

Um... okay, but if I don't have the book today... will I be able to follow what we're doing?

DR. GARIBAY

No. I call it required reading.  
Because it isn't optional.

FELICITY.

But I couldn't find the book anywhere.

Suddenly Dr. Garibay addresses the class:

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

DR. GARIBAY

Pardon me! Everyone who did not get a copy of the textbook, raise your hand!

He and Felicity look out to the class. Not one hand goes up. Dr. Garibay looks back at Felicity.

DR. GARIBAY (cont'd)

I don't know what to tell you.

FELICITY

Well look, obviously someone didn't order enough books.

Dr. Garibay just stares at her. She realizes she's crossed the line.

FELICITY (cont'd)

I'm sorry.

DR. GARIBAY

Go sit down.

FELICITY

I didn't mean to imply that you--

DR. GARIBAY

I don't care. What you meant to imply. Go sit down.

FELICITY

(nervously)

Yessir.

She turns, and with her backpack, knocks over his Thermos -- coffee spills everywhere on his desk.

FELICITY (cont'd)

Oh God--

The Students who see this just freeze in horror -- some cover their mouths. Others laugh -- Felicity tries to help but he stops her --

DR. GARIBAY

I got it. I got it.

Felicity, mortified, moves away from his desk... past Elena whose eyes are locked on Felicity... and into the class, where she takes a seat. Watching her professor clean up the mess.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

FELICITY  
(to herself)  
It's only college... it's only college...  
it's only college...

END ACT I

FADE OUT.

## ACT II

FADE IN:

11 INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

11

At the food bar, Ben, troubled, builds a sandwich. Felicity approaches.

FELICITY

Hey.

BEN

How's it going?

FELICITY

Good. Look, um... I'm sort of just telling people about this party we're having on Friday? At Kelvin? It's at 8:00, if... you know. You want to go.

BEN

Oh yeah...

FELICITY

(beaming)

Yeah? So you're coming?

BEN

I don't know. I mean Julie told me about it.

FELICITY

(beat, heavy-hearted)

... Julie did?

(hiding everything)

Oh, great.

BEN

Yeah, but there's a band I'm supposed to go see.

FELICITY

Oh. Well it's just a party, no big deal.

BEN

Yeah. But, you know, thanks for asking.

FELICITY

Sure. Hey. Come on.

BEN

I gotta go. Act.

(CONTINUED)

11. CONTINUED:

11

He shakes his head at the situation, then heads off.  
Felicity watches him go. Concerned.

12 INT. ACTING CLASS - DAY

12

Alice is on stage. She holds up a program from a junior high school play. Mr. Blake sits in the front row of the class.

ALICE

It's... paper? Stapled together.

MR. BLAKE

Don't name the paper or the staples.

ALICE

Don't name... oh. Okay... it's, uh...  
it's smooth... thin... material... and  
it's folded... held together by... small,  
hard, sharp... pieces...

MR. BLAKE

Good.

ALICE

... with print on it--

MR. BLAKE

Don't say "print."

ALICE

Oh. With... color. On it. In shapes.

MR. BLAKE

Good.

Ben sits there, watching this as if it were an alien talk show. Still fiddling with his keys.

ALICE

And it's... that's pretty much it.

MR. BLAKE

Okay, Alice, now be subjective. What  
does it mean to you?

Alice stares at the program. Her face subtly changes.

ALICE

Um... it's a program. From a play I did  
in ninth grade. "Blood Wedding." Lorca.

MR. BLAKE

Keep going.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

ALICE

And, uh, there are pictures of the cast  
and a history of the author.

MR. BLAKE

Good... go on...

ALICE

(begins to get emotional)

And, uh... after it was over... the  
play... my brother... he, uh... gave me  
his program. He, like, never talks.  
About emotional things. To me.

MR. BLAKE

Keep your center...

ALICE

Okay. So, uh... anyway, I thought, "Why  
is he giving me back a program?" But  
then I opened it. And he'd written  
something. Inside the cover. Here.

She shows the class some handwriting on the inside cover.  
The students are transfixed -- except Ben, who couldn't want  
to be here less.

MR. BLAKE

What did your brother write?

ALICE

Just, uh... it's short. Um...  
(reads, tears come)  
'Alice. You were wonderful. Love Josh.'  
(smiles but wants to cry)  
Which, uh... was the first time he  
ever... you know, showed he might be  
proud. Of me.

Ben looks over -- other students are actually crying.  
Impossibly, he becomes more uncomfortable.

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. ACTING CLASS - DAY - LATER

13

Jerry is on stage now, holding a baseball glove. Not the  
emotional type. Yet he's in tears.

JERRY

... Owen said he didn't care... that I  
didn't make the catch.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

JERRY (cont'd)

But everything between us totally changed  
after that game.

Ben watches as before, hating this. Mr. Blake is sitting in  
the front of the class again. He offers a tissue box. Jerry  
grabs a few.

MR. BLAKE

Good. Okay, who's next? Ben, let's give  
it a go.

Ben can't believe this moment. He stands up -- grabs a paper  
bag he's brought with him. He gets on the stage.

MR. BLAKE (cont'd)

Begin objectively.

BEN

Sure. Okay.

Ben pulls from the bag a paper-wrapped SANDWICH he just made.  
As he unwraps it, some of the students start to smile. One  
laughs quietly.

BEN (cont'd)

Okay, so it's a multi-layered object.  
The top and bottom layers are white and  
soft. With dark edges. And between  
those layers -- sandwiched -- are  
additional layers. Including a crispy  
green layer, a softer yellow layer, and a  
layer that's roast beef-color.

By now a few more students are laughing. Even Mr. Blake's  
amused.

MR. BLAKE

And why is this object so important to  
you, Mr. Covington?

BEN

Because I love sandwiches.

(he takes a bite)

Wow. That's even better than I thought.

The class is mostly laughing now.

BEN (cont'd)

The end.

And Ben takes a bow. Students APPLAUD.

14 INT. KELVIN HALL - DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT

14

Noel sits with Sensa and YURI, her dark-suited 26 year-old cousin. It almost seems as if this guy operates in slow-motion. His Russian accent is thick. He smokes, writing things on his Palm Pilot.

YURI

Sound system... foods... beverage...  
janitorial... for how many people?

NOEL

Maybe... a hundred?

YURI

I say two-hundred.

NOEL

You understand we don't have a budget for  
this party. At all.

YURI

I understand. You should have disco  
light, yeah?

SENSA

(to Noel)

We can get whatever we want.

NOEL

Wait a minute, I don't think we really  
need disco lights...

YURI

Is party. You need disco light. Now,  
for deliveries, eh... you have beeper?

NOEL

What, like a pager? No.

YURI

You don't have beeper?

SENSA

Really?

NOEL

It's not like everyone has a beeper...

YURI

(to Sensa, in Russian)

I'll call you later to schedule a time.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

SENSA

(to Yuri, in Russian)  
Yuri, thank you so much.

YURI

(to Noel, in English)  
You, I get you beeper.

NOEL

Thanks, I don't need one.

YURI

You get beeper? You can't believe for  
one day you never had beeper.

As Yuri heads off, Noel follows...

NOEL

Hey, one more thing: do you have access  
to, uh... chocolate?

15 INT. BEN'S LOFT - DAY

15

Ben desperately searches the drawers of the kitchen. Then  
SEAN enters, carrying a huge burlap bag of coffee.

SEAN

Hey, is Shopsin back yet?

BEN

No, I haven't seen him.

SEAN

(beat)

Whatcha doin'?

BEN

(resentfully)

Looking for an object that's important to  
me.

Watching Ben, Sean moves to the kitchen with the big bag of  
coffee.

SEAN

You left it in the kitchen?

BEN

I don't even know what it would be.

SEAN

(nods, confused)

But you think it's in the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

BEN

As far as I know, it could be that bag of coffee.

SEAN

... is it this bag of coffee?

BEN

It's for an acting class.

Ben starts looking throughout the apartment.

SEAN

I didn't know you're an actor.

BEN

I'm not an actor. Man, it's so crazy: people bring these things into class. That have these personal stories attached that are like no one else's business. You know? I mean we're all listening to these stories about these people that I don't think we should know about!

SEAN

And now you gotta do it.

BEN

I tried -- you know, to make a joke of it. But the teacher said no way, I gotta do it for real. Tomorrow morning. So I'm screwed tomorrow morning.

SEAN

If you want to borrow an object that's important to me, you can borrow this.

(holds up his watch)

My uncle gave it to me when I was sixteen.

(slightly emotional beat)

He was always my favorite uncle...

BEN

No -- look, before you start to cry. I need my own thing. But thanks.

(heads off)

I gotta find my own thing.

16 INT. NOEL'S ROOM - DAY

16

Noel reads on his bed -- through his open door he sees a big Russian Delivery Guy #1 rolling by with a FIVE FOOT TALL SPEAKER on a dolly.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Then he sees ANOTHER Delivery Guy #2 with ANOTHER SPEAKER. More Delivery Guys with KEGS and DISCO LIGHTS and BOXES. Noel can't believe it. Then he sees Sensa in the hallway -- he moves to her.

NOEL

What is this?!

SENSA

It's for the party, don't worry, they're putting whatever fits in my room.

NOEL

Come here for a second.  
(he pulls her aside)  
This is getting out of control.

SENSA

What do you mean?

NOEL

I mean those speakers are taller than my dad. And let me ask you this: how are we getting all this stuff for free?

SENSA

They're family.

NOEL

I think you know what I'm asking you.

SENSA

Look, they're not gonna take it back, they want us to have a good party.

Then Yuri approaches, beside another Delivery Guy with three large BOXES on a dolly.

YURI

So I got it for you.

NOEL

What?

YURI

Three gross Estonian chocolate. Best in whole world.

NOEL

Oh...

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

YURI

(hands him a pager)  
And here is beeper. Alpha-numeric.

NOEL

(beat, defeated)  
Thanks.

17 INT. KELVIN HALL - MAILROOM - DAY

17

Felicity, tense, stands at the busy mail counter with Julie, who sorts through her mail and college fliers.

JULIE

So my roommate -- who uses a toothbrush sterilizer -- said to me: "For the party on Friday? I'm putting plastic on my bed." I was like, congratulations.

FELICITY

(beat, then blurts it out)  
So here's the thing: I invited Ben to the party. On Friday. And he said you'd already invited him.

Julie looks off uneasily as, behind the counter, DOMINIC arrives.

DOMINIC

What can I do?

FELICITY

Hi, I'm Felicity Porter. I'm expecting a package.

DOMINIC

Did you get a slip? In your box?

FELICITY

No. But could you check if it's back there? It's a book that I really need, or my teacher's going to hate me even more than he already does.

DOMINIC

No slip in there, no package back here, okay?

FELICITY

Would you just look please?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

DOMINIC

Here in the mailroom we are not idiots.  
Our package system is well-established  
and, I would go as far as to say, Ms.  
Porter, fool-proof.

FELICITY

Dominic? Do me a favor -- just go back  
there and check.

DOMINIC

(to himself)

Young women never listen to me.

But he goes off to check. Felicity, annoyed by Dominic,  
turns back to Julie.

FELICITY

I wasn't even going to say anything...  
except. I did.

JULIE

(awkwardly)

Look, yeah, I mentioned the party to Ben.

FELICITY

At Lucky Strike? The other night?

JULIE

(very awkwardly)

Ben and I are just friends.

FELICITY

Is that what you want? I mean I made  
this executive decision that we shouldn't  
talk about what happened with you guys --  
maybe that was a mistake.

JULIE

I -- look, if you want to talk about that  
stuff --

FELICITY

I don't -- I just want to make sure  
you're being honest -- I don't want us to  
resent each other. Ever.

JULIE

There is nothing going on with me and  
Ben. And I'm fine with that.

Just then Dominic arrives, casually hands a package to  
Felicity.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

DOMINIC

Yeah, it was back there.

FELICITY

Thank you. From young women everywhere.

Dominic heads off as Felicity rips open the package. Then goes pale.

FELICITY

No!

JULIE

What?

FELICITY

They sent me the wrong book! I had them read the ISBN number back to me and everything! I can't believe this!

18 INT. KELVIN HALL - HALLWAY - DAY

18

Felicity knocks on a dorm door -- Elena opens it.

FELICITY

It's your book. I know that. Keep it. But I'm in trouble. Okay? Now I'm not sure how a "New Yorker" would deal with this, but here's the thing: I need to borrow your book -- for half an hour -- so I can photocopy the chapters we're studying. Please.

ELENA

No.

FELICITY

No?! You're incredible!

ELENA

Look, it's not that I don't feel sorry for you, but I'm in the middle of studying myself.

FELICITY

You feel sorry for me?!

ELENA

If I had two books, I'd give you one.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

FELICITY  
(just pissed now)  
What if you had four books? Would you  
give me three of them?

ELENA  
What?

FELICITY  
(heads off)  
Forget it. That was a... Californian  
thing.

ELENA  
(calls after her)  
Try the bookstore at Columbia.

FELICITY  
(turns around, furious)  
Yeah, thanks! Fantastic idea!

ELENA  
(indifferent)  
You're welcome.

19 INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - DAY

19

Dr. Garibay speaks to the class, Felicity among the students.

DR. GARIBAY  
-- negative thermal expansion may then be  
produced in two dimensions. Although at  
the atomic level, there is apparently no  
known example of this mechanism.  
(then, with a small smile)  
Which we'll discuss next time.

Abruptly, class is over. Felicity gathers her things as  
students file out. Felicity moves to Dr. Garibay's desk.  
He's now reading the "New York Observer."

FELICITY  
Doctor? Excuse me. Felicity Porter.  
Again. I just wanted to say that I  
realize now that asking to borrow your  
book was sort of out of line. As was  
spilling your Thermos. Of coffee. Just  
so you know, I went to the library and  
photocopied the pages I need -- twenty  
dollars later -- but anyway, my book  
should be here by Monday. And I just  
wanted to make sure that we're okay.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Slowly Felicity's smile begins to fade as Dr. Garibay just stares at her, intensely.

FELICITY (cont'd)

Dr. Garibay?

DR. GARIBAY

You want to make sure we're okay.

FELICITY

(uncomfortable in front of  
Elena)

Yeah.

DR. GARIBAY

Uh-huh. And what do you think? Do you think we're... okay?

FELICITY

(intimidated).

Uh... I was hoping so.

DR. GARIBAY

Then we must be just fine.

FELICITY

Okay, good.

DR. GARIBAY

You and I must be doing exceptionally well.

FELICITY

... great.

DR. GARIBAY

In fact, you and I are on such good terms, I have an idea. Forget the assignment.

FELICITY

... what?

DR. GARIBAY

The weekend assignment. Don't do it. Instead, write an essay on how... okay you and I are.

FELICITY

I can't -- I don't know what you mean.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

DR. GARIBAY  
(dead serious)  
Then ask yourself if you belong in my  
class.

Felicity is suddenly on the verge of tears.

FELICITY (VO)  
Dear Sally. You know that party I told  
you about? I'm not going.

20 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - NIGHT

20

Felicity sits on her bed, mournful, making the tape:

FELICITY  
Mostly because I'm realizing... that my  
expectations for things are just too  
high.

Just then MEGHAN enters, looks at Felicity judgemental.

FELICITY (cont'd)  
Hi.  
(re: tape)  
Oh, this is, uh -- I make tapes to my  
friend. Sally. Instead of writing, we  
make tapes.

MEGHAN  
(sarcastic)  
So who are you making that tape for?

FELICITY  
... what?

MEGHAN  
Nothing.

Meghan grabs the jacket she came for, and is gone. After a  
beat, Felicity falls back, onto her bed.

FADE OUT.

END ACT II

## ACT III

FADE IN:

21 INT. DR. GARIBAY'S OFFICE - CORRIDOR - DAY

21

Felicity waits on a bench outside Dr. Garibay's closed-door office. She waits for a long time. Suddenly Ben sits beside her. She's surprised...

FELICITY

Hey.

BEN

Hey.

FELICITY

You okay?

BEN

Uh... no. How's, uh... chemistry?

FELICITY

Crisis. My teacher hates me.

BEN

Come on.

FELICITY

I swear to God. I have a meeting with him, which was scheduled for forty-five minutes ago.

BEN

And he's blowing you off? No way.

FELICITY

How's acting?

BEN

Disaster. I'm about to go get an incomplete in a class I don't even want.

(sighs)

They don't put problems like this in the university brochure, you know?

FELICITY

(laughs)

No, they don't.

She stares at him for a moment:

BEN

So's this party still on? Tonight?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

FELICITY

Yeah. It's, uh... I think so.

BEN

So I'll see you there.

FELICITY

Yeah? You're going?

BEN

I think so. Yeah.

Ben looks at her for a moment. Sighs.

BEN (cont'd)

I gotta go fail acting.

(stands)

Wish me luck.

FELICITY

Break a leg.

22 INT. ACTING CLASS - DAY

22

Mr. Blake at the front of the class. Ben sits in class, again, fiddling with his keys.

MR. BLAKE

... and then we'll try some trust exercises that will help us work together as an ensemble. But first... although a huge hit with his exploration of the sandwich, Ben will grace us with one more try.

Some mocking APPLAUSE as Ben uncomfotably gets up and moves to Mr. Blake. They talk quietly:

BEN

Look, I don't think I can do this.

MR. BLAKE

Did you bring an object?

BEN

I'm just not so comfortable doing this.

MR. BLAKE

There are no grades for this exercise. But if you don't participate, you get an incomplete. So it's your call.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

Ben considers this. Fiddles with his keys. He finally takes the stage. He sits on the chair, sighs, then holds out his set of keys. Many students smile -- here he goes again. Mr. Blake seems disappointed.

BEN

Okay, it's a smooth, hard, round loop.  
Connecting five shiny, sharp... metal --

MR. BLAKE

Don't say metal.

BEN

Um... sharp... thin... hard strips.  
With, uh, teeth. Sort of. And they're a  
little heavy and they fit in your hand.  
You can take them anywhere.

A couple students laugh with anticipation.

MR. BLAKE

Now describe the object subjectively.

BEN

They're my keys. To my apartment.

MR. BLAKE

And why are those keys important to you?

Ben stares at the keys... we can even see in his face that they truly have significance. A beat.

BEN

I don't know.

Another student laughs. Ben moves to leave the stage.

BEN (cont'd)

Yeah, this is stupid.

MR. BLAKE

No, you're doing fine, just talk about  
the object.

Ben stops. He doesn't like it, but moves back to the stage... takes a seat and stares at the keys... considers them.

BEN

For this to make sense... you sort of  
need to understand that my dad and I  
never got along. Ever.

(smiles)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

BEN (cont'd)

Ever.

(smile goes away)

It's his fault, it's my fault... I don't know. He'd say it's my fault. I don't know, that's not fair -- whatever, we don't have a very good thing.

(beat)

But, uh, as bad as it gets for me and him... I think it's even worse for my mom. You know. Who's so incredible, she's so... she's beautiful and she's... you know, she's elegant...

(beat)

But she gets... so sad. She gets so upset. When me and my dad fight. Her face gets... she just cries a lot. You know.

Ben speaks very casually -- yet the room is engrossed.

BEN (cont'd)

And I've seen these pictures of them. My parents. Before they had me. And they look so happy. So I know it wasn't always like it is now.

(beat)

Anyway, it's pretty obvious, I guess. These keys... mean that I'm not home anymore. Which is great for me: I'm subletting from this guy Sean, who's, like, this really nice... frustrated entrepreneur guy. Me and three other guys. It's cool having a place... where I actually want to hang out. Big place.

(beat)

But more than all that... these keys mean that I'm not... causing anything. At home. I'm here right now, so... my dad and I don't have to deal with each other. And so my mom isn't so sad.

(smiles)

I hope.

(beat)

It's just good -- better for everyone, I really believe that. That I have these keys.

Ben's done. He looks up. To his surprise, half the students are crying. Others nodding, empathizing. Mr. Blake is pleased.

23 INT. ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - CORRIDOR - DAY 23

Felicity still waits. Checks her watch. Fed up, she finally she pulls out a sheet of paper, jots a quick note, then goes to pin it on his door.

That's when she sees, into his office... on his desk sit A DOZEN COPIES of his "INORGANIC CHEMISTRY" book. Felicity can't believe it. She crumples the letter and walks off.

24 INT. KELVIN HALL - DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT 24

MUSIC BLASTS through the massive sound system -- disco lights pulsate. There's a mammoth food spread, and an entire table set up just for the elaborate chocolate display.

But only ten people are here -- four of them Sensa's suit-wearing COUSINS -- Sensa and Yuri are dancing.

Noel comes out of his room, dressed for the party. He surveys the scene. Sensa moves to him. Over the DIN:

SENSA

It's nice, isn't it?!

NOEL

Yes! Very tasteful! Now all we need are actual partygoers.

25 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - NIGHT 25

MUFFLED MUSIC outside. Felicity wears a dress (from the opening scene), staring at herself in her full-length mirror. The cassette recorder at her mouth.

FELICITY

Okay. Here it is. Minutes before my first college party.

(beat)

Next tape I'll tell you how it turned out.

Felicity moves to her desk -- pops out the tape. Pulls out a padded envelope -- begins addressing it when there's a KNOCK at the door.

She gets up -- opens it. It's Noel. He looks at her, his breath almost taken away.

NOEL

So... God-- wow.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

FELICITY

Really?

NOEL

... oh yeah.

FELICITY

Thanks. You look nice too.

NOEL

Well, you were sort of obligated to say that, but thank you, I feel handsome. So I have a question.

FELICITY

What?

Suddenly Sensa is at the door.

SENSA

Sorry -- we're taking music requests. D'you have anything good?

FELICITY

(points)

There's some stuff over there, but I don't know if it's right for a party.

Sensa moves to Felicity's desk, grabs some tapes.

FELICITY (cont'd)

(to Noel)

So what's the question?

NOEL

(uncomfortable with Sensa there)

Um... I was, uh... wondering.

SENSA

(holds up cassettes)

Thanks!

And Sensa leaves.

NOEL

If we could dance tonight. Together.

FELICITY

(touched)

Yeah, I'd love that.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

NOEL

(smiles)

This went... exactly as it was supposed to.

26 INT. KELVIN HALL - DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT - LATER

26

New MUSIC PLAYS. The party is raging now, packed with people, dancing, enjoying themselves.

ANGLE - DEBBIE

Stands near the elevator, talking to a few STUDENTS.

DEBBIE

(over the music)

You know what word disappears after high school? "Tardy." I will bet you twenty bucks you'll never use that word again.

ANGLE - A MALE STUDENT

Stands by the chocolate table, eating the candy non-stop.

ANGLE - FELICITY

As she struggles through the dense crowd, looking for a familiar face (Ben, really). Suddenly a Guy carrying six drinks BUMPS into her, spilling a little on her dress -- she reacts --

ANGLE - YURI

At the sound system -- he pops out the latest cassette tape and chooses another from a milk crate full of tapes culled from students' rooms. He pops another cassette in, hits PLAY: MORE MUSIC.

ANGLE - JERRY AND ALICE

Sit on a sofa, absorbed in each other.

JERRY

I just think you have really pretty eyes.

ALICE

Oh my God, I was just going to say the same thing to you.

JERRY

Are you serious? Or are you just... acting?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Alice laughs.

ANGLE - FELICITY

From across the party, sees BEN steps out of the elevator with a whole entourage Felicity watches this wistfully... Ben joking with all of his new friends.

Though she's trying to keep an eye on him, suddenly Noel is here, holding two drinks.

NOEL  
Care for a beverage?

FELICITY  
Um... what is it?

NOEL  
(smiling, drunk?)  
I don't know.

Felicity takes it, watching from afar as Ben finds Julie. Ben hugs Julie -- in SLOW MOTION we watch as he whispers something into Julie's ear -- we're watching an intimate moment here. Julie laughs at whatever it was.

NOEL (cont'd)  
So... d'you feel like dancing?

Felicity watches as Ben and Julie disappear into the crowd. Suddenly Sensa is there --

SENSA  
Noel -- there's a guy over here who's pretty sick!

NOEL  
What?

SENSA  
I think you should check this out!

NOEL  
(to Felicity)  
I'll be right back!

Noel and Sensa hurry off. Felicity moves through the crowd -- clearly disconcerted. Then Julie approaches:

JULIE  
Hey! Ben's here!

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

FELICITY  
(beat, annoyed)  
Yeah, I saw that.

JULIE  
(concerned)  
What's going on?

FELICITY  
You tell me what's going on.

JULIE  
What?!

FELICITY  
Forget it, nothing--

Felicity turns and walks off. Julie follows her:

JULIE  
Felicity?!

FELICITY  
I don't know what it is with you and Ben -  
- I'm just sick of you pretending it's  
nothing.

JULIE  
God! What are you talking about?

FELICITY  
You always get really weird when you talk  
about him! And you know, I'm not like a  
paranoid person, but it really does feel  
like you're lying to me!

Julie -- rage growing -- just stares back for a beat.

FELICITY (cont'd)  
So? Are you lying? I mean just tell me!

JULIE  
(finally)  
Ben wanted to go out with me tonight!  
Okay?! But I told him about this stupid  
party because I knew you'd be here and  
it's what you would want!

FELICITY  
What do you...?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

JULIE

He calls me, he asks me out -- every time  
I say no! But I'm sick of protecting  
you! And that's the truth!

Felicity's just speechless -- Julie turns and storms away.  
Felicity's so unsettled she actually needs to hold the wall  
for a moment...

ANGLE - MITCH

Near the sound system, talks to another STUDENT.

MITCH

You know what would've made this party  
even better? Like... a band!

ANGLE - FELICITY

Comes to Noel, who is moving quickly through the crowd --  
he's with the chocolate-eating, heavy-breathing Male Student,  
whose skin is BLOTCHY-RED --

FELICITY

(desperate)

Can I talk to you?

NOEL

I'm going to the emergency room -- this  
guy's having a freak-out allergic  
reaction!

FELICITY

To what?

NOEL

I think Estonian chocolate!

And Noel rushes off with the Male Student. Felicity stands  
there, alone and crushed, looking out at the party. She's  
only been to a few... and this is definitely the worst.  
That's when she hears:

ELENA (OS)

What's wrong with you?

Felicity turns. Elena is there. Felicity is too fragile  
right now to put on a tough face.

FELICITY

Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (4)

26

ELENA

(beat)  
Tough day?

FELICITY

(beat)  
Tough day.

Elena nods. She and Felicity stare out at the party.

ELENA

I hate these things.  
(beat)  
Room full of junior high insecurities.  
Everyone paranoid that people are making  
judgements about them.

Elena looks at Felicity. Softens.

ELENA (cont'd)

We never really met. I'm Elena.

FELICITY

Felicity.

They shake hands. And in that moment, the SONG ENDS.

ANGLE - YURI

Pops out whatever tape was in the sound system -- and puts in another. We're CLOSE ON that tape. It says, clearly marked, "FOR SALLY." Yuri presses PLAY.

ANGLE - FELICITY AND ELENA

Who have just made a connection.

ELENA

So where in California are you from?

Felicity opens her mouth -- just about to speak -- when she --  
we -- everyone -- HEARS:

FELICITY'S VOICE

(on PA)  
Dear Sally. You know that party I told  
you about? I'm not going.

Felicity looks up -- at first in utter confusion --

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (5)

26

FELICITY'S VOICE (cont'd)

Mostly because I'm realizing... that my expectations for things are just too high.

FELICITY

Could someone turn that off, please?!

In the crowd, we see Julie stopping, listening -- Ben -- everyone --

FELICITY'S VOICE

If there's one person I can blame, it's that girl from the bookstore. Elena.

FELICITY

NO!

On Elena's horrified face as everyone HEARS -- through these GIANT SPEAKERS:

FELICITY'S VOICE

She is just a horrible person. Like, literally. The most miserable, hateful, arrogant, insolent...

FELICITY

Someone turn that off!

But everyone remains still as Felicity -- in SLOW MOTION -- desperately fights her way through the mass of people, HEARING:

FELICITY'S VOICE

Not only will Elena be there... but I'm sure it's gonna be just like high school.

Yuri looks around --

YURI

What is this crap?

Julie watches painfully as Felicity, in a panic, moves past all these students. Ben watches, too, confused.

FELICITY'S VOICE

I'll be right in the middle of a big group... but it'll feel like I'm on the outside.

Felicity finally gets to the stereo -- she hits the controls and her voice shuts off as she's saying:

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (6)

26

FELICITY'S VOICE (cont'd)  
That's a sad idea... that the key to  
happiness is low expectations.

CLICK. SILENCE. Felicity pops out the cassette -- and turns around. The entire party is quiet -- still -- all eyes on her. Felicity puts on her best, most sincere smile. Hiding the fact that she's dying inside. She holds up the cassette.

FELICITY  
That's just... between us, okay?

A horrible stillness. Then, doing the best she can, she moves toward her room -- the throng of people parting for her.

Julie watches, regretful. Ben watches empathetically.

27 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - NIGHT

27

The OPENING SCENE REPEATS: the dark, seemingly empty room. Suddenly Felicity enters, in tears. We HEAR DANCE MUSIC again... the MUFFLED SOUNDS of a party coming to life.

JERRY (OS)  
Hey--

Felicity SCREAMS at the two students on her bed.

JERRY (cont'd)  
Is this your room?

FELICITY  
Who are you?

JERRY  
No, we're just making out.

FELICITY  
Could you, uh, make out somewhere else?  
Please.

The couple gets up, leaves. Felicity sits on the bed, in tears. After a moment, Jerry returns.

JERRY  
My jacket.

Felicity grabs it and tosses it to him. Jerry leaves, closes the door. Felicity just sits there in the dark, crying. Then the door opens. It's Julie.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

JULIE

That came out all wrong. What I said  
before.

FELICITY

Could you please... leave me alone?

Julie stands there for a moment, before she turns and leaves.  
And we're watching Felicity, alone, crying, and we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT III

## ACT IV

FADE IN:

28 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - NIGHT 28

Hours later. Felicity, casually dressed, solemnly puts on her jacket.

29 INT. KELVIN HALL - HALLWAY - NIGHT 29

"End of party" MUSIC PLAYS as the evening winds down. Felicity, face ravaged from crying, leaves her room and heads down the hall. Many stare as she makes her way toward the elevator. Hits the DOWN button. Waits. Mitch quietly approaches her.

MITCH

(deeply feeling)

I heard what you said on that tape. And it was righteous.

FELICITY

(uncomfortable)

Thanks.

MITCH

I mean it, it spoke to everyone.

And Felicity gets in the elevator...

30 EXT. NEW YORK - NIGHT 30

A MONTAGE as Felicity walks the streets... MUSIC PLAYING over one lone young woman in Manhattan...

... ending as she enters:

31 EXT. KOREAN DELI - NIGHT 31

A downtown 24-hour market.

32 INT. KOREAN DELI - NIGHT 32

Felicity is at a freezer in the back. Depressed, she stares at her selection of ice creams. For a long beat. She finally selects a pint of Häagen-Dazs chocolate.

She sadly moves to the register. Until she stops.

Standing at the front counter, paying for groceries, is Dr. Garibay.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

She just watches him for a moment; now, in the store, he's just another person, performing a mundane task.

But even in her state, Felicity needs to seize the opportunity. She moves to the counter, standing right beside him. The Cashier bags the stuff. A quiet moment.

FELICITY

Dr. Garibay.

He looks down at her.

FELICITY (cont'd)

I need to know... what I did. To make you hate me.

DR. GARIBAY

(beat)

Excuse me?

FELICITY

Was it what I said about ordering the books? Or... did you look in my record and see something you didn't like? You know I scheduled a conference with you and you didn't even show up.

Dr. Garibay turns away from her to take his bagged groceries. Felicity looks down, expecting that he's just going to ignore her. But he turns back:

DR. GARIBAY

I've been a professor for a long time. Twice as long as you've been alive. Plus a few years. I've had -- and I'm rounding -- fifty thousand students just like you. If you want to be the teacher's pet, sign up for Mr. Jergenson. He's not tenured.

FELICITY

Sir... I don't need to be the teacher's pet --

DR. GARIBAY

Then you'll do just fine. Because the beauty is: you don't need to be "okay" with me in order to learn something in my class. I remember you. The coffee.

FELICITY

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

DR. GARIBAY

My advice is this. Don't worry about me.  
Worry about you.

Felicity lets this sink in. And Dr. Garibay heads out.  
Felicity stares off for a moment in thought. Then she pulls  
out her wallet, scrapes together the coins she needs to pay  
for the ice cream. Then:

DR. GARIBAY (cont'd)

Was I reading the New York Observer?

She turns to Dr. Garibay, who's returned.

FELICITY

What?

DR. GARIBAY

If I... barked at you. In class. Was I  
reading the Observer?

FELICITY

The newspaper...? I think so.

DR. GARIBAY

I'm like an old dog like that. Certain  
sacred moments I don't like broken. The  
Times, Post, I don't mind so much -- just  
don't interrupt my Observer time. And I  
think you'll find that for an old dog.  
I'm... generally agreeable.

FELICITY

Okay...

DR. GARIBAY

And I do apologize. That I missed our  
conference today. I had to get this  
tooth capped.

FELICITY

You don't have to explain all that...

DR. GARIBAY

I don't mind. I'm forced to eat...  
(pulls apple sauce from his  
bag)  
... food like this. For a while.

FELICITY

Apple sauce isn't so bad.

(CONTINUED)

32 . CONTINUED: (3)

32

Dr. Garibay looks at her, having actually enjoyed this small moment.

DR. GARIBAY

It's been a while.

(beat, snaps out of it)

Good weekend.

FELICITY

You too.

Dr. Garibay heads out... then turns back one last time.

DR. GARIBAY

I may not remember any of this come Tuesday.

FELICITY

That's okay.

And he's gone. Felicity feels strangely satisfied...

33 INT. KELVIN HALL - DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT

33

The party's basically over. Just a handful of people left -- food gone, no more music. The elevator opens. Felicity steps out. She heads down the hall carrying her paper bag with the ice cream in it. Then she HEARS:

ELENA (OS)

Hey.

Felicity turns. Elena approaches -- and it sure looks like she's on the attack --

ELENA (cont'd)

About what you said, uh...

FELICITY

Yeah, I know, I'm... really sorry...

ELENA

No. I uh... you're not the first person. To say stuff like that.

(beat)

And I just want you to know that, uh... that it's something I'm working on.

Felicity stares, shocked. Elena promptly turns and walks off.

34 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

34

Beside her open, empty carton of ice cream, Felicity lies in bed, asleep. After a moment, there's a KNOCK at the door. Then another, LOUDER. Felicity stirs. She barely opens her eyes as her door slowly opens -- and standing in her doorway is Ben.

Felicity can't believe it - though she's too tired to really react. Like a vision, he moves into the room.

BEN

It's Ben. I thought, uh... you might still be up, I'm sorry.

FELICITY

(slurring she's so tired)  
No, comein...

Ben hesitates, then enters. He closes the door behind him. Felicity, in a stupor, sits up the most that she can. She taps her bed cover, inviting him to sit. And he does -- moves to her and sits on the edge of the bed. They talk quietly. Intimate:

BEN

I was only at the party for a little bit... but, uh... I think people had a good time.

FELICITY

That's nice.  
(beat, exhausted)  
D'you hear my tape?

BEN

(beat)  
Not really.

She stares at him for a bone-tired moment. Still, is ashamed.

FELICITY

Yeah you did.  
(beat)  
How'd that... acting thing go...?

BEN

Okay. Pretty good.

FELICITY

That's great.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

BEN

Yeah, I guess.

(beat)

I'm getting the hell outta that class.

FELICITY

Oh.

BEN

Yeah.

(long beat)

So look, I got a favor to ask.

(beat)

When I was doing that stupid... exercise for drama... I sorta left my keys in the classroom.

FELICITY

(almost passed-out)

You lost your keys?

BEN

Yeah, and none of my roommates are home.

So... d'you mind if I stay in here? On the floor?

Wiped out as she is, she manages to wake up a little for this.

FELICITY

You want to sleep in my room?

BEN

If that's cool. And... if your roommate doesn't mind.

FELICITY

No, you can use Meghan's bed... she's never here. At night.

BEN

Yeah? Thanks. Okay, then I'm just gonna pass out.

FELICITY

Yeah, me too.

Felicity watches as Ben lies down on Meghan's bed. She watches him, her eyes getting heavy...

35 INT. NOEL'S ROOM - PRE-DAWN

35

Noel lies in bed, asleep and contorted. After a long beat there's a repetitive BEEP. Noel wakes up -- looks around, exhausted. Then he realizes: he grabs his beeper beside his bed. Checks the number. Picks up his phone and dials. We HEAR a RING. Then:

YURI (VO)

Hello?

NOEL

(half asleep)

... Yuri?

YURI

The beeper works.

NOEL

(checks clock: 6:08)

What? Yeah, I guess it does.

YURI

Are you in bed?

NOEL

What?

YURI

Is my cousin with you?

NOEL

Sensa?!

YURI

If she is there I break your legs.

NOEL

Hey, I have no idea where she is!

YURI

No, okay, I like you, I'm just saying. I find out you're with Sensa, I break your legs. Otherwise we have no problem.

NOEL

Then we have no problem.

36 INT. KELVIN HALL - DORM LOUNGE - NIGHT

36

We TRACK SLOWLY over the filthy floor remains of the dorm party. And we HEAR:

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

SALLY (VO)

Dear Felicity. Okay, brace yourself. A guy asked me out. He's a teacher at the elementary school. His name's Emmet. For Godssake. And... he's cute.

37 INT. FELICITY'S ROOM - DAWN

37

We MOVE ACROSS Felicity's room, finally finding Felicity in bed, gently waking up.

SALLY (VO)

But I said no. For now. I'm still not ready. To move past John. It's sort of like what you were saying on your last tape.

Felicity looks over at Meghan's bed. There he is, in the orange-red sunlight. Ben. Asleep. Felicity slowly gets up... moves toward Meghan's bed.

SALLY (cont'd) (VO)

How on the one hand, expectations can inspire you... but on the other... they can really let you down. I'm just... not ready to be let down quite yet.

Felicity kneels right beside Ben, who is dead asleep. She stares at him... studies his face... he's so close, yet so far...

SALLY (cont'd) (VO)

But you know me. I still have hope. That one day... maybe even pretty soon... I'll take a chance again. In the horrible face of expectation.

(beat)

And just maybe... maybe... it'll be worth it.

And on Felicity's face, watching Ben sleep, we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT IV

THE END