

UNTITLED ROBERT PADNICK PROJECT

"The Space"

Written by
Robert Padnick

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COLD OPEN

EXT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hirsch's car is parked in the driveway of Lauren's Silverlake bungalow, blaring Aerosmith's "Don't Want to Miss a Thing."

HIRSCH (V.O.)
*I don't want to faaaall
 asleep, yeah.*

LAUREN (V.O.)
*I don't want to faaaall
 asleep, yeah.*

INT. HIRSCH'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

HIRSCH (early 20's, charming overthinker, sincere and scrupulous -- always strives to do right) sings along with LAUREN (warm, earthy).

HIRSCH
*And I don't want to miss a
 thing.*

LAUREN
*And I don't want to miss a
 thing.*

The song fades out.

HIRSCH
 I think we killed it.

LAUREN
 We totally killed it. Somewhere, right now, Steven Tyler is weeping.

HIRSCH
 Yes. Not because of us though. Just some stuff going on in his life. I'm sure our killing his song didn't help.

Lauren laughs. Hirsch does a Steven Tyler impression:

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
 Whaz that? Hirsch and Lauren did what?
 Yowww!

They laugh. Lauren quiets and smiles at Hirsch. The moment is right for a kiss, but Hirsch gets flustered.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
 Um... so...

Hirsch can't meet Lauren's eyes. He grasps for the right words to say, but he panics and changes the subject.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
 Actually that's one of my go-to
 karaoke songs.

Lauren doesn't follow.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
"Don't Want to Miss a Thing."

LAUREN
(patiently)
Oh.

HIRSCH
Yeah. It's kind of one of my show-
stoppers. That and "Kiss From a Rose."
Remember that one?
(singing)
*Bay-beh! I compare you to a kiss from
a rose on the gray, ooh!*

EXT. LAUREN'S DOORSTEP

Lauren fishes for her keys while Hirsch prattles on.

HIRSCH
"Limp" by Fiona Apple. "You Oughta
Know," Alanis Morissette, also a good
one. I think people enjoy seeing a man
do an angry woman's song. Something
about a man singing about a man who
spurned him. It's transgressive. And I
don't change the "he's" to "she's" --

LAUREN
Found them.

HIRSCH
Ah! Good. Found at last. The infamous
keys.

LAUREN
Yep. Keys. So --
(opens her arms for a hug)
Thank you for tonight.

HIRSCH
Yeah, absolutely. My pleasure.

As they hug, Hirsch tentatively tries to transition into a
kiss, but Lauren doesn't notice. They pull away.

LAUREN
Well, goodnight.

HIRSCH
Yeah... goodnight.

Lauren goes to the door. Hirsch kicks himself for letting his chance slip away. Lauren is about to close the door when --

HIRSCH (CONT'D)

Wait!

Lauren turns around. Now Hirsch is really on the spot.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)

Um... Well I... I just... um...

He stammers and tries to will his body to move to her. Lauren sighs nervously -- it's abundantly clear what's going on. Eventually Hirsch gives up.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)

Yeah, okay, sorry. Goodnight.

Lauren smiles sadly.

LAUREN

Drive safe.

HIRSCH

You too. I mean, no. You're not driving. I will drive safe. Thank you.

Hirsch watches the door close on him, then lets out a miserable moan.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. HIRSCH-ARTHUR LOFT - NEXT DAY

Hirsch recounts the date to his roommate ARTHUR (incurable romantic, self-styled Renaissance man, wears vests without irony), TEDDY (schlubby tech guy, zero social filter, loves to argue) and Teddy's girlfriend MAGGIE (type-A overachiever, thick-skinned from being "one of the guys" for too long).
 Hirsch and Arthur live in an industrial loft in Downtown, LA, strewn with Arthur's abandoned hobbies: canvas on easel, turntables, a Bowflex, etc.

*
 *

ARTHUR

Ugh, Hirsch! What do you mean "you couldn't kiss her"?

*
 *
 *

HIRSCH

I mean I couldn't! It was like there was this space between our faces, and I couldn't figure out how to get from one side to the other.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *

ARTHUR

This may be a stupid question. Did you try moving?

*
 *
 *

TEDDY

Oh man, did that story make anyone else's butt clench up?

*
 *

MAGGIE

Okay.

TEDDY

Seriously, I feel like I could crush coal into diamonds with my butt, it's so clenched right now --

MAGGIE

Teddy! Stop it! No one wants to hear about your stupid butt.

ARTHUR

It's okay, Teddy. I enjoy hearing about your butt.

*

TEDDY

Thank you, Arthur. I'm sorry Maggie is being such a hater.

*

(to Maggie)

Hi, hater.

*

HIRSCH

Hey, can we get back to me here? I'm having a dilemma. Lauren is the first girl I've liked since Chloe. I don't want to mess this up.

*
*
*
*
*

MAGGIE

I just don't get it. You dated Chloe all of college. How did you kiss her? I mean, you kissed Chloe, right?

*
*
*
*

HIRSCH

Yes, I kissed Chloe. I might also add that we had a ton of sex.

*
*
*

ARTHUR

(high-fives Hirsch)
Boom.

*
*
*

HIRSCH

I just forget how I kissed her the first time.

*
*
*

TEDDY

I'm with you, dude. It's tricky crossing the space that first time. Because there's no good way to do it.

*
*
*
*

HIRSCH

Right? Thank you. There's no good way to do it. Like you can't announce your intention to kiss. Like you can't just say, "I'm going to kiss you now."

*
*
*

TEDDY

No, you can't do that. It's too forced. We're not robots.

*
*

HIRSCH

Nor can you just lunge at her face without some sort of warning.

*
*

TEDDY

No, that would be shocking. You would terrify the poor girl.

*
*

MAGGIE

I don't know. I just really feel like you're over-thinking this one.

*
*

HIRSCH

Yeah, that's what I do. Now let's work towards a solution.

*
*

(MORE)

HIRSCH (CONT'D)

I have a date with Lauren tomorrow,
and I feel like I'm going to get stuck
in another one of these horrible,
awkward situations.

ARTHUR

Ahhh. I get what's going on. See,
you're trying to avoid the horrible,
awkward situation, when, in fact, the
horrible, awkward situation is exactly
what you want.

*
*

HIRSCH

That's madness.

ARTHUR

I'm telling you. What you're feeling
is romantic tension. It's supposed to
feel bad. What you need to do is
embrace it, and allow the romantic
tension to take over until it becomes
so tense that it literally smashes
your faces into a kiss.

TEDDY

Might you be suggesting that Hirsch
should... embrace the space?

*

ARTHUR

That is precisely what I'm suggesting.

Hirsch nods, feigning like he understands.

HIRSCH

Right, right, and remind me: How would
one go about embracing said space?

INT. COLE'S

Lunch spot by day, bar by night. The group continues the
conversation over French dip sandwiches.

ARTHUR

The main thing you're going to want to
do is a ton of eye-banging.

*

HIRSCH

You mean just like, looking at someone
sexily?

*
*
*

ARTHUR

You literally send psychic messages of sex through your eyes, which the woman receives through her eyes, and then sends back to you.

HIRSCH

That doesn't sound possible.

MAGGIE

(ashamed)

No. It's possible.

ARTHUR

See? Maggie knows. For some reason, girls are uptight about flirting and touching but they love eye-banging. It's like a crazy loophole in the female defense system.

TEDDY

(to Maggie)

Really? Do I ever eye-bang you?

MAGGIE

Of course, babe. All the time.

*

TEDDY

Whoa. Am I eye-banging you right now?

MAGGIE

No.

ARTHUR

(to Hirsch)

Here, try it out on me. Give me a little eye-bang action.

HIRSCH

I'm not eye-banging you. We're at a restaurant. There's people.

ARTHUR

Who cares? It's just some sexually-charged glances amongst friends. It's only weird if you make it weird.

Hirsch looks around to make sure the coast is clear.

HIRSCH

Fine. What do I do?

ARTHUR

All right. Why don't we start with a little up-and-down action?

Arthur flits his eyes on and off of Hirsch.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

See what I'm doing? I'm looking at the sandwich... back on you. Looking at the sandwich... back on you.

HIRSCH

(tries it)
Like this?

ARTHUR

Perfect. Now give me a little "ooh."

Arthur squints at Hirsch, lips parted. Hirsch does it back.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Ooh. Ooh.

HIRSCH

Ooh. Ooh.

MAGGIE

It looks like you're smelling a stinky fart.

ARTHUR

Right there. That's the spot. Now speed it up.

HIRSCH

I'm getting dizzy.

ARTHUR

Keep it going, big boy. Stay with me.

Hirsch focuses, barely holding it together.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Harder! Harder! Yes! Yes! And...

(then)

Congratulations. Your eye-banging made me eye-orgasm.

MAGGIE

Just... gross beyond words.

Hirsch looks sullied.

TEDDY

Hirsch? You okay there, buddy?

HIRSCH
(whispers)
Don't look at me.

INT. HIRSCH-ARTHUR LOFT

Hirsch comes out of the bathroom, freshly showered.

ARTHUR
You didn't have to shower.

HIRSCH
Eh, you know, I just feel cleaner.
It's not a big deal. So what comes
next? After the eye-banging.

ARTHUR
Then it's time to kiss, and all you
have to do is follow this sequence of
events. First thing you do is make a
joke and get the both of you laughing.
So you're laughing, you're laughing.
Then suddenly you stop laughing and
get deadly serious. Like this.

Arthur demonstrates.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
You look into her eyes and just lock
it in. Then eventually she's going to
say "What?" to which you reply,
"What?"... and then you start kissing.

Arthur spreads his palms like "there ya go."

MAGGIE
That seems oddly specific.

Hirsch practices laughing and getting deadly serious.

HIRSCH
I feel like when I'm actually on the
date, I'm going to get inside my head
and not be able to pull this off.

*
*
*
*

ARTHUR
Oh, well that's easy to fix. Let's
just go to a bar tonight, and you can
practice on a random stranger.

TEDDY
That's an awesome idea. We should
definitely do that.

HIRSCH

What? You mean like kiss a stranger?
No way. First of all, that would be
even harder than kissing Lauren --

TEDDY

But that's good though, right? It's
better that it's harder. It'll be like
practice mode in a videogame.

MAGGIE

...Or just like practice in anything.

TEDDY

What? No.

HIRSCH

Guys, this is crazy. I mean --
(to Maggie)
It's crazy, right?

MAGGIE

(shrugs)
Maybe they're right. If you really
like Lauren, maybe it's not a bad idea
to get over this little hiccup.

Hirsch can't believe he's considering it.

HIRSCH

If I were to do this, it would have to
be somewhere where we wouldn't run
into anyone we know.

TEDDY

I will find a bar far away, and if
things go wrong, we'll never go back
there again. Inarguably, it would make
for a very interesting experiment.

Hirsch thinks about it and sighs.

HIRSCH

Fine, let's do it. You had me at
interesting experiment.

The friends cheer and congratulate Hirsch.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. FREEWAY - EARLY EVENING

Maggie's car zooms down the 405.

INT. MAGGIE'S CAR

Maggie drives the group. Teddy sits up front.

TEDDY

Nine more miles 'til S Bar. Get hyped!

MAGGIE

I'm hyped! We haven't been out in forever. How did you find this place?

TEDDY

Welll, I searched Yelp for lounges twenty miles or farther from Downtown. Then I filtered for "liked by 20-somethings," and then I filtered out by "good for kids," because I think we all know what ain't good for kids --

MAGGIE

Don't even --

TEDDY

Straight bonin'.

MAGGIE

Yep... You know, I brushed my hair. I put on a pretty dress. Could we just have one nice night without straight boning?

In the backseat, Arthur rubs Hirsch's back.

*

ARTHUR

How are you holding up?

HIRSCH

Oh good, good. Just thinking out my moves. Rehearsing different scenarios, contingency plans, so forth.

*
*
*
*

ARTHUR

Hey, this is going to be fun. You know, I forget that you were with Chloe for so long, you've never really played the field before. You're like one of those pandas at the zoo that forgot how to mate.

*
*
*
*
*
*

HIRSCH *
It's true. *

ARTHUR *
Luckily you have me to show you how *
it's done. I'll be like your panda *
porn. *

HIRSCH *
Thank you. *

MAGGIE *
Arthur, you're the worst person to *
give dating advice. You've never had a *
girlfriend for longer than a week. *

ARTHUR *
I'm having a conversation with my *
friend Hirsch here, thank you. *

Teddy reads from his phone.

TEDDY
Listen to this. "Wall-to-wall hotties.
S Bar is a veritable meat market."
Guys, it's veritable!

INT. S BAR - ENTRANCE

The bar is dead and decidedly un-sexy -- like The H.M.S. Bounty but not Korean. Teddy is shocked.

TEDDY *
Where's the meat market? Where are the *
hotties? I've been lied to! *

ARTHUR *
Hey, we can work with this. We came *
here for practice, and practice is *
what we shall do. Come on, Hirsch.

TEDDY
This isn't even a lounge. This is a
gastro-pub at best.

INT. BAR

Arthur and Hirsch stand in a tight huddle and survey the bar. Arthur identifies two attractive women, ANN and KIM.

ARTHUR
Stay close.

Arthur walks up to the bar, standing close to the women. He catches the BARTENDER.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
 My friend and I will have two...
 (to Ann)
 What are you drinking?

ANN
 A vodka gimlet.

ARTHUR
 Ew, yuck.
 (to bartender)
 Two Sam Adams please. And another
 yucky gimlet for my new friend.

ANN
 (laughs)
 Thanks, I guess.

ARTHUR
 I'm Arthur.

ANN
 Ann.

ARTHUR
 Ann, friend of Ann, this is my dear
 childhood friend Hirsch.

HIRSCH
 (softly)
 Hehm.

Hirsch clears his throat.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
 Sorry. I meant hi.

Arthur gives a supportive laugh -- not a great start.

INT. BOOTH

Maggie sits with Teddy and enjoys a white wine.

MAGGIE
 This is nice. Isn't this nice, Teddy?
 She notices that Teddy is scrolling through his phone.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 Teddy?

TEDDY

How could so many reviews be so off about this place? I strongly suspect that these reviews are fabricated.

MAGGIE

Who cares? We're having a good time.

TEDDY

Maggie, someone purposely wrote misrepresentative Yelp reviews to deceive the public. Doesn't that bother you?

MAGGIE

Honestly it doesn't. Just let it go.

TEDDY

I'm sorry. I can't.

Teddy catches a passing SERVER.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Hi, excuse me. Sir?

SERVER

Yeah, what can I get you?

TEDDY

Actually, I wanted to discuss your presence on the website Yelp. Some of the reviews are a bit... off the mark, let's say. And I'm wondering if perhaps the management here might have had something to do with that.

SERVER

...About the Yelp reviews?

TEDDY

Yes about the Yelp reviews. You see, sir, people come to Yelp because they're lost --

MAGGIE

Oh my God.

TEDDY

They don't know where to go, and they're looking for direction, and here you are, purposely providing false information to lead them to you.

(MORE)

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Do you know who else exhibits that
type of behavior? Sexual predators.
Yeah. That's right. I said it.

*

Maggie buries her head -- so much for a nice night.

INT. BAR

Arthur and Hirsch are having back-to-back conversations with
Ann and Kim. Arthur's conversation is going well.

ARTHUR

We care so much about what we put in
our bodies -- obviously you take good
care of yourself.

ANN

Thank you.

ARTHUR

And yet we don't offer the same care
for our dogs. So my startup would
provide high-quality, organic, locally-
sourced food for dogs.

ANN

That's amazing.

ARTHUR

Yeah. It's just terrible that dogs
have to eat dog food.

ANGLE ON: Hirsch's conversation is not going well.

HIRSCH

I grew up just north of here actually
in Cheviot Hills.

KIM

I don't know it.

HIRSCH

It's next to Rancho Park.
(off Kim)
West of Beverlywood.
(off Kim)
North of Culver City.

KIM

Oh yeah. I know Culver City.

HIRSCH

Yeah. Well it's near there. Um...

Arthur elbows Hirsch and nods to him -- "Go do it." Hirsch elbows him away, but Arthur keeps elbowing until Hirsch concedes and gives a FAKE LAUGH.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)
 Los Angeles geography. So funny. So many neighborhoods and no nexus.

KIM
 Yeah. Hilarious.

Suddenly Hirsch stops laughing and gets deadly serious.

KIM (CONT'D)
 What? What is it?

Hirsch won't respond. He tries to give Kim the eyes.

KIM (CONT'D)
 You seem to have stopped talking.

Hirsch hesitates -- this isn't part of the sequence. He returns to the game plan and gives a breathy laugh.

HIRSCH
 (flirty)
 What?

KIM
 I didn't say anything.

HIRSCH
 Um... What?

Kim shakes her head.

KIM
 You are a strange little duck.

Kim interrupts the Arthur-Ann conversation.

KIM (CONT'D)
 Hey, Ann? I'm gonna go to the bathroom. Do you want to come?

ANN
 Uh, yeah. Sure.

Ann gives Arthur an apologetic look and follows Kim. Hirsch is embarrassed. Arthur shrugs and makes the best of it.

ARTHUR
 Well, if that's as bad as it gets --

HIRSCH

That was bad enough!

INT. SIDE OF THE BAR

Teddy reads his phone with the MANAGER.

TEDDY

"The food here is the bomb. The jalapeno poppers are amazing." Seven exclamation marks.

MANAGER

We have very good jalapeno poppers.

TEDDY

Really? Are they seven-exclamation-marks good? Quite effusive praise for the humble jalapeno popper. Let's see what other reviews "Mark G." has written. Oh look at that. Zero other reviews. Mark G. loved the jalapeno poppers so much that he decided to create a Yelp account, write a five-star review, and then didn't care to have any other opinions about anything else in the entire world.

The manager thinks about it, then shrugs.

MANAGER

He likes the jalapeno poppers --

TEDDY

No one likes jalapeno poppers that much! They can only be so good! There's a ceiling! And no one is named Mark G.! That's a fake name!

INT. BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Maggie, now joined by Hirsch, watches in blank horror as Teddy argues with the manager across the bar.

MANAGER

Plenty of people are named Mark G.!

TEDDY

Oh yeah? Name one!

MANAGER

Mark Gatner!

TEDDY

Who's Mark Gatner?

MANAGER

Mark Gatner is a friend of mine! We play soccer together on Sundays!

TEDDY

Bullshit you do!

Maggie is without words. She looks over and notices that Hirsch has gotten introspective into his whisky.

MAGGIE

Are you okay?

HIRSCH

Do you ever feel like your life was on this track, and at some point it went off the track, and you have no idea how to get back on the track again?

MAGGIE

Yes, all the time. That's why I drink a lot.

Hirsch smiles.

HIRSCH

You know I would have married Chloe? If she had moved to LA, I would have married her.

MAGGIE

No you wouldn't.

HIRSCH

I would have, for sure. I never imagined a life without her.

Maggie takes a moment to let Hirsch drink in silence.

MAGGIE

You know, things happen the way they happen for a reason. I really believe that. And aren't you supposed to be single in your twenties?

HIRSCH

Says the girl in the four-year relationship.

MAGGIE

Almost five. God.

HIRSCH

Yeah, when's the wedding?

MAGGIE

Don't. That's not funny.

HIRSCH

Aw, come on, you guys love each other.

MAGGIE

We better. Love is the only thing
keeping this relationship together.

A woman, KAREN (late 30's, no-nonsense) overhears.

KAREN

Someone getting married?

HIRSCH

Oh no, not me. I am as far away from
getting married as a person can be.

KAREN

Cheers to that.

They clink glasses. Hirsch and Maggie trade a bemused glance.

KAREN (CONT'D)

You can't cheers with an empty glass.
It's bad luck.

HIRSCH

Oh it's fine. My luck is already at a
maximally low level. Extra bad luck
won't change anything.

KAREN

You know you shouldn't be saying that
sort of stuff to a woman you just met.

HIRSCH

I've long ago given up on controlling
what comes out of my mouth. If I think
it, I say it. It's a blessing and a
curse. Er, just a curse.

*

KAREN

It's cute. How about you buy me a
drink and say more weird stuff?

HIRSCH

Um, yeah. I can do that.

Hirsch looks to Maggie, who gives him a nod -- "Go for it."

INT. BAR - LATER

Hirsch and Karen are laughing and slamming shots.

KAREN
How old are you?

HIRSCH
Um... how old do you think I am?

KAREN
You look like a baby. What are you?
Twenty-seven? Twenty-eight?

HIRSCH
You tell me how old you are, and then
I'll tell you how old I am.

KAREN
I'm thirty-four.

*

Karen scrutinizes Hirsch -- "Do you dare call me on this?"

HIRSCH
(beat)
Okay.

KAREN
Now tell me how old you are.

HIRSCH
Well now that you told me how old you
are, I have no reason to tell you how
old I am.

KAREN
You lied! You sneaky little sneak!

HIRSCH
I am a sneaky sneak!

INT. ENTRANCE

Kim and Ann are leaving the bar. Arthur catches Ann.

ARTHUR
Hey, where are you going?

ANN
Oh hey, Arthur. Kim wants to go home.

ARTHUR
Great, so where are we going?

ANN

(laughs)

I am going to bed. It was really nice meeting you.

ARTHUR

Don't do that. Let's stay out all night. Let's drive somewhere. We'll watch the sun come up in Mexico.

ANN

You're ridiculous. I need to go to sleep.

ARTHUR

Let's go to sleep some other night.

Ann starts to retort but gets tongue-tied. She blushes.

ANN

You're ridiculous.

INT. BOOTH

Teddy is back with Maggie and fuming.

TEDDY

S Bar. What's the S for? Sucky?

MAGGIE

I don't think they named it Sucky Bar.

TEDDY

When we get home, I'm going to write a review that is so scathing, so completely trenchant, that it'll make "review of the day," it'll get a hundred "thank you" compliments, a hundred "good writer" compliments, and Sucky Bar will be banned from Yelp!

The server swings by and drops off a plate.

SERVER

Here are your jalapeno poppers.

MAGGIE

Great, thank you.

TEDDY

Maggie? What are you doing? Are you one of them?

MAGGIE

I just think if you're going to call these people frauds, you should at least know what you're talking about.
(tries a popper)
It's pretty good.

TEDDY

Yeah. Well enjoy your stupid poppers.

MAGGIE

You have to at least try one. Unless you don't care about... justice.

Teddy is struck. He realizes he's been caught by his own logic. He dips a popper and munches on it.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Good, right?

TEDDY

(stubbornly)
Maybe.
(then)
You should try the sauce.

Maggie kisses Teddy's cheek. Arthur returns to the table.

ARTHUR

Guys, I think I'm in love with Ann.

MAGGIE

Ann, the stranger you just met?

ARTHUR

She's really cool. She works in online ad sales. It's a fascinating space.

MAGGIE

You're not in love with Ann. You can't be in love with someone you just met.

ARTHUR

Maybe you can't, but I can't ignore the call of my heart.

MAGGIE

Do you hear yourself? When you say things like that, do you hear the words?

ARTHUR

I stand by everything I've ever said.

MAGGIE

That is a crazy mistake.

TEDDY

Whoa, whoa. Guys, look.

ANGLE ON: Karen is laughing, holding onto Hirsch for support.

KAREN

Shut up. I can't tell if you're
bullshitting or not.

HIRSCH

I'm not. I work at an old age home.
I'm the activities director.

Hirsch notices his friends across the bar, waving and urging him to embrace the space. He tries to ignore them. INTERCUT BETWEEN the friends and Hirsch.

KAREN

What does the activities director do?

TEDDY

Embrace the space, baby, yeah!

HIRSCH

Um, let's see. I plan all the trips,
like to Target or to the movies. I
book the entertainment like singers or
lecturers. I host bingo --

KAREN

You do not.

HIRSCH

I swear. You should come sometime. It
gets heated.

KAREN

Do you pinky swear?

HIRSCH

Yeah. I pinky swear.

Hirsch and Karen lock pinkies. The moment becomes intimate.

ARTHUR

Uh oh, here we go.

Hirsch resists the impulse to look away. He lets the romantic tension build until Karen blushes.

KAREN
 What?

HIRSCH
 What?

Hirsch and Karen start leaning in. The friends cringe.

ARTHUR
 Uh oh! Uh oh! Uh oh!

Hirsch and Karen kiss. The friends cheer.

HIRSCH
 That was nice. Thank you.

Hirsch gives his friends a small, proud smile. When he looks back, Karen has become lustful. She grabs his face and devours him. The friends are speechless. Arthur and Teddy give each other a no-look high-five.

INT. BAR - LATER

Karen and Hirsch sloppily PDA. She pushes him against the bar. She sits him on a chair and straddles him.

HIRSCH
 This is crazy. This is crazy.

KAREN
 Shut up and squeeze my ass.

ANGLE ON: Arthur and Teddy are enjoying the show.

TEDDY
 Is it okay that I find this erotic?

ARTHUR
 Sure. It's a compliment to our friend.

MAGGIE
 Should we step in here? I think Hirsch sufficiently embraced the space.

ARTHUR
 Are you kidding? Don't touch a thing. This is better than we ever could have hoped for. Hirsch is on his way to his first one night stand.

Maggie is unexpectedly troubled. BACK ON: Karen and Hirsch.

KAREN
 Should we go somewhere?

HIRSCH
You mean like...

KAREN
Yeah. I mean like.

Hirsch thinks about it.

HIRSCH
Okay.

INT. BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Hirsch and Karen join the group.

HIRSCH
Hey guys, this is Karen. And this is Arthur, Teddy, and Maggie.

KAREN
I love your necklace.

MAGGIE
Thank you. I love your... purse.

KAREN
Oh yeah. It's got fringes.

MAGGIE
Mm.

Awkward silence.

HIRSCH
So we're going to go um... go. We're going to go.

As Hirsch exits with Karen, he gives a parting look of nervous excitement. Maggie gives a half-hearted smile and Arthur and Teddy stand up and applaud.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. ROOM - NEXT DAY

Sunlight pours in and wakes Hirsch. He sees Karen asleep next to him.

HIRSCH

Oh God.

He gets out of bed, massively hungover. As he puts on his pants, he notices a photo: it's Hirsch as a young boy. Hirsch is confused, but then it dawns on him. He looks around the room in a panic -- a Ninja Turtles collection, little league trophies, a signed bar mitzvah poster of Hirsch's face superimposed over Michael Jordan's ("AIR HIRSCHKOWITZ!")...

HIRSCH (CONT'D)

Oh God.

Hirsch shakes Karen awake.

HIRSCH (CONT'D)

Wake up. Hey, wake up. We have to get out of here.

*
*

KAREN

Ugh, what's happening?

HIRSCH

Here's your bra. Here's pants. That's good enough.

*

KAREN

What's going on?

There's a KNOCK at the door. Hirsch freezes -- game over.

EILEEN

Matty? Are you awake?

HIRSCH

Mom! Don't come in!

KAREN

"Mom"?

HIRSCH

I took you to my parents' house by mistake. I was going off of muscle memory --

*
*
*
*

Hirsch's mom EILEEN (loving/smothering) comes in, followed by Hirsch's dad DAVID (reserved, obedient).

EILEEN

I thought I heard you come in last night, but I didn't see your car.

HIRSCH

Mom, please don't come in --

The parents see Karen and gasp. Hirsch is humiliated.

EILEEN

Oh I'm so sorry. I didn't realize --

HIRSCH

Mom!

EILEEN

(turning around)
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
(turns back eagerly)
You didn't tell me you have a girlfriend.
(to Karen)
Hello. I'm Eileen. This is David.

DAVID

Hello.

KAREN

Hi.

HIRSCH

Get out!

EILEEN

We'll let you have your privacy.

Eileen and David exit.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

Dad, you run to the store and grab some bagels, and I'll set the table.

HIRSCH

No! We don't want breakfast --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Hirsch, his parents, and Karen sit around the breakfast table. Hirsch is miserable.

EILEEN

So Karen, how did you and Matty meet?

KAREN

I thought your name was Hirsch.

HIRSCH

Hirsch is my last name. Well,
Hirschkowitz.

EILEEN

You don't know his name?

KAREN

Actually we met last night.

EILEEN

Oh.
(realizing)
Oh...

DAVID

What does that mean, "they met last
night"?

EILEEN

It means they... you know. They had a
tryst.

DAVID

Oh.

Karen gets suspicious.

KAREN

You never did tell me how old you are.

*
*

HIRSCH

Oh, maybe we could talk about that in
the future --

EILEEN

He's twenty-four.

*

KAREN

Oh my God.

*

Karen buries her head in her hands.

*

KAREN (CONT'D)

I slept with a child.

*
*

EILEEN

Why? How old are you?

EILEEN

Mm... no. It was definitely Wednesday.
I remember because I had tennis on
Wednesday.

DAVID

It was Tuesday, I'm positive.

Hirsch is about to cry.

EILEEN

Okay, well, it was Wednesday.

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE

Karen gets out of the car.

EILEEN

Very nice to meet you. Maybe I'll see
you at the Rack!

KAREN

(polite)
That would be nice.

Karen nods to Hirsch.

KAREN (CONT'D)

See you around, sneaky sneak.

Karen gives a little smile. Hirsch smiles back. Karen exits.

EILEEN

Well then...

HIRSCH

Please don't. I don't want to hear it.

DAVID

Matthew, don't be rude. Let your
mother speak.

EILEEN

Let me start by saying that I'm glad
you decided to sleep over at our house
if you were intoxicated. That's very
responsible of you.

HIRSCH

(begrudging)
Thank you.

EILEEN

Did you use protection?

HIRSCH
Mom, please --

DAVID
Matthew!

EILEEN
I have a right to ask. As your mother,
I want to make sure you're being safe.

HIRSCH
Yes, I used protection.

EILEEN
Good. Because aside from pregnancy,
there are diseases you can catch --

HIRSCH
I used protection, okay! Stop asking
me about it!

EILEEN
Jeez. Mister Grumpy over here.

David smiles.

HIRSCH
I hate this. I want to die.

EILEEN
I get it. It's not cool for a boy to
talk about dating with his parents. I
just want you to know that your father
and I love you very much, and we trust
you, and all we want is for you to be
happy. Right, David?

DAVID
That's right.

Eileen reaches back to pat Hirsch's knee.

EILEEN
When you're happy, we're happy.

INT. HIRSCH-ARTHUR LOFT

Maggie takes dictation for Teddy as he paces back and forth.

TEDDY
The jalapeno poppers were, admittedly,
very good.

Teddy nods to Maggie. Maggie is pleased.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

But the table was sticky, and the craft beer selection was unremarkable. One and half stars!

Hirsch enters, looking like a shell of a man. Teddy and Arthur give a standing ovation.

ARTHUR

There he is. The champion.

TEDDY

Let's get you settled in. I want to hear everything. No detail is too minor. Last we saw you, it was one fifteen a.m. and you were leaving the bar with a sexually voracious older woman. And go.

HIRSCH

Can we do this later? I have my date with Lauren in two hours. I haven't slept. I haven't showered. I feel disgusting.

MAGGIE

That makes sense. You slept with a gross old stranger, so what you did was technically disgusting.

TEDDY

I thought she was pretty hot.

ARTHUR

She was definitely hot. She had a toughness I found appealing, like she could do some damage.

HIRSCH

Yeah, and anyway, you told me I should do this.

MAGGIE

I told you you should kiss a girl, not have sex with her.

HIRSCH

Why are you getting so mad at me? Why do you care what I do?

Maggie instantly backs off.

MAGGIE

It's nothing. I don't care.

HIRSCH

It kind of sounds like you care.

MAGGIE

Nope. No cares here. I'm a rock.

Maggie shuts up. Hirsch rolls his eyes and lets it go.

HIRSCH

All right, well, where was I?
 (stands in a daze)
 Shower. Right. Yes.

INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT - LATER

Lauren and Hirsch clink wine glasses.

LAUREN

What did you end up doing last night?

HIRSCH

Oh, well, um... I went out with my
 friends to a bar. Just a local thing,
 kind of a low-key evening.

Hirsch feels guilty, but Lauren doesn't notice.

LAUREN

Well I probably shouldn't be saying
 this, but I kind of missed you.

HIRSCH

Really?

LAUREN

Yes, really! Jeez. Now tell me you
 missed me too or I'm going to get self-
 conscious.

HIRSCH

I missed you, I missed you!

LAUREN

Hmph. Well now I don't believe you.

HIRSCH

I honestly did. I missed you a lot.

LAUREN

Well that's a little better.

The moment is right for a kiss, and this time Hirsch is
 ready. He lets the tension build, until he touches Lauren's
 cheek and kisses her. When he pulls away, Lauren is smiling.

*
 *

LAUREN (CONT'D)

What took you so long?

Hirsch smiles. But his conscience nags at him. Lauren leans in for another kiss, but Hirsch interrupts her.

HIRSCH

If I could just... time-out. Really happy about kissing you, very much looking forward to kissing you again. Wanted to run one quick thing by you first. Just in the spirit of full honesty and starting this relationship on the right foot. Um... I slept with a stranger last night.

LAUREN

What?

Hirsch instantly realizes he made a horrible mistake. He makes a snap decision and gives a breathy laugh:

HIRSCH

(flirty)
What?

INT. COLE'S - LATE NIGHT

The group rehashes the date over beers.

ARTHUR / TEDDY / MAGGIE

What?! / What?! / What?!

HIRSCH

You know, in the moment, it felt like the right thing to do, but I can see how that might have been a mistake.

ARTHUR

How did Lauren take it?

HIRSCH

Not well, I would say. She said it was a crazy thing for me to be telling her when we're not even in a relationship. She said that we would most likely never be in a relationship --

TEDDY

Hmm. Seems like a bad sign.

HIRSCH

Yeah, look, not gonna lie, it wasn't my best.

(MORE)

HIRSCH (CONT'D)

Then I tried explaining that the
reason I slept with someone was
because I was practicing how to kiss
her for our date.

*
*
*
*

MAGGIE

Mm-hmm? And did that go over well?

*
*

HIRSCH

Oh no no no. No, it went pretty bad.

*
*

MAGGIE

(suppressing a laugh)
Oh Hirsch...

*
*
*

ARTHUR

Just curious, how did you imagine this
playing out, like, best case scenario?

*
*
*

HIRSCH

I was hoping she would say, like,
"Hirsch, while I am immediately hurt
by this news, I also understand that a
relationship is built upon a
foundation of trust and mutual
honesty... so thank you for that."

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

MAGGIE

Wow...

*
*

ARTHUR

You have so much more to learn than I
had previously thought.

*
*
*

TEDDY

That's like something a sociopath
might think before killing someone.

*
*
*

HIRSCH

Ha ha and all. I'm happy to laugh
about this in the future. But can we
maybe pull back on the meanness for
now? This literally just happened.

*
*
*
*
*

The friends AD LIB "Sorry, sorry." Then after a beat:

*

MAGGIE

Then again, we're being honest so
maybe you should thank us for that.

*
*
*

Arthur, Teddy, and Maggie stifle laughs.

*

END OF SHOW

*