

"DON'T TRUST THE BITCH IN APARTMENT 23"

by

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PRE-TABLE DRAFT  
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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A WOMAN (mid-20's, big city beautiful) opens the door to her darkened apartment.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Living in New York has taught me that life is full of surprises. They can be scary, but if you're open to them, they can also change your life.

She sees something O.S. and stops.

WOMAN

(surprised)

Steven.

A man, STEVEN, sits on the couch. Champagne chills in an ice bucket, a gorgeous cake sits on a table next to a dozen red roses, lit candles are everywhere.

STEVEN

Chloe.

A beat, then the Woman (CHLOE) smiles sexily.

CHLOE

I knew this was going to happen.

STEVEN

(beat)

So did I.

They attack each other and begin furiously making out.

IN A SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS:

-- They GUZZLE CHAMPAGNE as they tongue wrestle.

-- KNOCK OVER FURNITURE as they rip off each other's clothes.

-- CHLOE'S ASS SMUSHES INTO THE CAKE as they have sex on it. She pummels him with the roses as they pound, petals flying.

Suddenly, the door of the apartment opens again and the lights CLICK ON. A SECOND WOMAN (also mid-20's) stands in the doorway. Shocked, she lets out a blood-curdling scream!

And now, for the first time, we can clearly see the room. A "Happy Birthday" banner hangs from the ceiling. Wrapped presents are scattered on the floor.

On the mashed cake, around Chloe's ass cheeks, we can make out the words 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE'.

SECOND WOMAN

What the hell is going on?!

As Steven scrambles to pull his pants up:

STEVEN

June, I can explain--

CHLOE

No, Steven. Let me.

(deep breath)

June, sweetie, I fucked your fiancé on your birthday cake. And I'm going to be late with my half of the rent.

FREEZE FRAME on June's stunned face. It was HER VOICE we heard at the top of the show.

JUNE (V.O.)

That's right. My roommate slept with my fiancé on my birthday cake.

(beat)

And it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

SMASH CUT TO:

Main Titles: **"DON'T TRUST THE BITCH IN APARTMENT 23"**

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT./ESTAB. - NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - SAME

CHRYON: '1 Week Earlier'.

The empty apartment is incredible. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, amazing views. A DOORMAN opens the front door and steps aside, REVEALING a wide-eyed June holding a suitcase.

JUNE

(awed)

It's just like in "Friends"!

She walks over to the huge bay windows overlooking the city.

JUNE

New York City... have you ever seen anything this beautiful??

DOORMAN

This morning I saw two homeless guys sharing a dead cat.

She takes a camera out of her bag.

JUNE

I have to take a picture for my parents. They won't believe it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - INDIANA - DAY

June's MOM and DAD talk to CAMERA.

MOM

I'm so excited for you, living your dream! I've heard bread out there is over four dollars a loaf, don't buy bread, I will send you bread!

DAD

And don't touch the pigeons, the TV says they're filthy with disease! Don't get bird flu, you're my angel!

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - BACK TO SCENE

June and the Doorman are as we left them.

JUNE

My parents are so proud.

DOORMAN

Mine drank heavily and favored my  
sister.

A giddy June walks through the apartment, taking it all in.

JUNE

Wait until Steven sees this place!  
His head will explode! He's my  
fiancé. He's getting his master's  
in behavioral psychology.

INT. LABORATORY PLAYROOM - DAY

Steven (in a white lab coat) stands in the FOREGROUND. In  
the BACKGROUND a morose 13-year-old kid, JEREMY, sits at a  
table, constructing something. Steven talks to CAMERA.

STEVEN

Once I'm done with my thesis  
project, I'll join you in New York  
and we'll get married. I'll be  
counting the days, June-bug.

JEREMY

(calling)  
I made a cat out of pipe cleaners.

STEVEN

(calling back)  
Excellent Jeremy, you've earned one  
song during lunch. Any song you  
want. Any Josh Groban song you  
want.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - BACK TO SCENE

June and the Doorman are as we left them.

JUNE

I know what you're thinking. How  
did I get here?

DOORMAN

It's like you're inside my mind.

JUNE

Buchwald Mortgage Company. They  
paid to relocate me, they're giving  
me this company apartment... I  
start tomorrow. Can you believe  
it, I got my dream job in this  
economy!

(MORE)

JUNE (cont'd)  
I'm turning 25 next week and my  
life plan is right on schedule.

DOORMAN  
I know the feeling. I wanted to be  
a doorman by the time I was 51.

June looks around, amazed.

JUNE  
All my hard work and dedication is  
finally paying off!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BUCHWALD MORTGAGE COMPANY OFFICES - MORNING

Ding! The elevator doors open and June steps out, box of  
personal items in her hands, big smile on her face.

JUNE'S POV: it's total chaos. People run through SCREAMING,  
setting fire to files, smashing computer hard drives...

JUNE  
What... what's going on?

A guy, MARK, stands at a nearby desk, shredding documents.

MARK  
We've been shut down. The  
government froze all our assets.

JUNE  
(stunned)  
What?

MARK  
Apparently, Mr. Buchwald's been  
embezzling investors out of  
billions of dollars. The police  
are looking for him right now.

WHIP PAN TO: an empty corner office. TWO POLICEMEN question  
an assistant.

POLICEMAN  
Where's Buchwald?

A guy holding a water bottle over his shoulder walks by. He  
has a cap pulled down low over his eyes. The Policeman  
removes the cap REVEALING an ELDERLY GENTLEMAN. They grab  
him and drag him out.

MR. BUCHWALD  
 NO! NO! I work for Sparkletts!  
 My name is Chad!

INT. EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Massive looting. People grab cases of soda, bags of snacks, coffee filters, etc. Mark enters, followed by June.

JUNE  
 You don't understand. I moved all  
 the way from Indiana for this job!

MARK  
 Oh, you're June Colbern. Mark  
 Reynolds. I would've been your  
 associate mentor.

He starts shoving bagels down his pants.

MARK  
 A little advice? Take whatever you  
 can carry and get out of here.

The EMERGENCY ALARM sounds as the SPRINKLER SYSTEM goes off.

MARK  
 I said grab the big peanut butter  
 and run!

The Policemen drag Mr. Buchwald through. He calls out.

MR. BUCHWALD  
 MAIL MY JEWELRY TO RUSSIA!!

EXT. JUNE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

June steps out of a cab, still holding her box of items (which now includes a tub of peanut butter). Police tape is stretched across the entrance way. A COP stands outside.

JUNE  
 Oh my g-- what happened?

COP  
 This building is an asset of  
 Buchwald Mortgage Company and has  
 been seized by the government.

JUNE  
 But I live in there!

BEEP-BEEP-BEEP. June looks and sees a moving van backing up.

DRIVER  
Delivery for June Colbern?!

JUNE  
Oh. No.  
(calling)  
Look, I know we just met and this is New York, but I smell friendliness! I'm sensing the seeds of a friendship! You are gonna laugh when you hear this story, friend!

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

A shell-shocked June sits at a table, a small coffee cup in front of her. A MAN approaches.

MAN  
Excuse me. You can't squat here.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL she's surrounded by all her possessions (boxes, dresser, lamps...).

JUNE  
I am not squatting! I ordered a small coffee! They said I could sit here if I ordered a small coffee!

MAN  
June? It's me, Mark!

He sits down and shows her his nametag.

MARK  
I just got hired as the manager here. It's not ideal, but in these tough times you gotta do what you gotta do, right?

JUNE  
Right. Meanwhile, I'm doing great. Great might not be the best word. But I'm fine. Not fine, but... I have a plan.

MARK  
Good, because your dresser is blocking the emergency exit.

JUNE

Of course, the plan doesn't involve going home and telling my parents I'm a failure. They spent every penny they had putting me through graduate school. My little sister had to wait to get braces.

She pulls a picture out of her wallet and shows it to him.

MARK

(recoils)

Oh god! Is that the front of her??

JUNE

I have to make it. This financial crisis can't last forever, right? Like I always say, my smile is my insurance policy. Right, Ducky?

REVEAL a framed "Successories"-type poster among June's stuff. A smiling duck wearing bifocals sits behind a desk above the caption: "My smile is my insurance policy!"

JUNE

(lost in thought)

How'd they get that duck to smile?  
It must have taken hours.

INSERT SHOTS: a bag being unzipped... a lap-top... the Craigslist NYC home page... typing in the 'Search' box...

JUNE

Roommate... wanted.

INT. VARIOUS APARTMENTS - ROOMMATE MONTAGE

-- A GUY holds several giant cats. Many more roam around in the BACKGROUND. He points at each one as he talks to CAMERA.

CAT GUY

...and that's Billy and that's Joanne and that's Karen and that's Michael, who's dying.

(whispered)

Because I'm slowly poisoning him.

(too loud)

Why the sad face, Michael? You've been sleeping so much, lazy bones!

-- A stripper pole is in the middle of the living room. A FORTY-SOMETHING WOMAN hangs upside down by one leg. She slowly lowers herself as she talks to CAMERA.

FORTY-SOMETHING WOMAN  
 Can you believe I'm a grandmother?  
 Feel my thighs. Taut. Ropy.  
Madonna ropey.

-- A MAN with a neckbeard wears a t-shirt that reads 'My Other Ride is Your Face'. He talks to CAMERA.

T-SHIRT MAN  
 I don't enjoy rude women, loud  
 women, talky women or redheads. We  
 may or may not become lovers, that  
 is up to you.

INT. APARTMENT 23 - DAY

It's CHLOE. She drinks a Cosmo as she talks to CAMERA.

CHLOE  
 My last roommate moved out after  
 four years to get married. We were  
 best friends, really. Sisters.  
 That kind of connection is so  
 important, y'know? New York can be  
 a scary, lonely place, especially  
 when you first move here.  
 (offers plate)  
 Chicken satay?

June sits on the couch, mesmerized. She takes one.

CHLOE  
 Top three things in my perfect day:  
 chicken satay, Brazilian music and  
 Baz Luhrmann movies. And Prince  
 Harry in my bed!  
 (laughs)  
 I extended it! I extended it to  
 four things!

June points to a framed photo on the coffee table.

JUNE  
 Is that a picture of Lance Bass?

CHLOE  
 Ah yes. Lancelot. The Bass  
 Master. My best friend in the  
 world. Warning: he is not afraid  
 of a fattening brunch.

JUNE  
 (blurts it out)  
 You're fantastic!  
 (MORE)

JUNE (cont'd)  
 You're fantastic and you're  
 drinking a pink drink and I want to  
 live here!

CHLOE  
 (laughs)  
 I'm guessing you haven't been in  
 New York long?

JUNE  
 Long enough to lose my job and my  
 apartment. But don't let that  
 scare you, I am super-responsible.

CHLOE  
 I don't know... I'm a trusting  
 person, but I don't want to get  
 taken.  
 (sizes her up, then)  
 Okay. But it'll be first, last and  
 security to move in.

JUNE  
 Yes! Absolutely! It's all the  
 money I have in the world, but take  
 it! Thank you!

June pulls Chloe into a tight hug.

JUNE  
 (quiet)  
 A lady made me feel her thigh.

CHLOE  
 That'll happen.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

A happy June steps out of the elevators, keys in hand.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
 Psst!

June looks over and sees a WOMAN standing in an apartment  
 doorway. She gestures vigorously for June to approach.

WOMAN  
 Psst!

June cautiously makes her way towards her.

WOMAN  
 You here for the roommate posting?

JUNE  
(unsure)  
Yeah...

WOMAN  
Don't trust the bitch in apartment  
23.

Slam! She shuts the door in June's face. June knocks.

JUNE  
What was that? Hello? What did  
you-- hello?

There's an OMINOUS MUSIC STING as we come to the...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. APARTMENT 23 - EVENING

Boxes and furniture are stacked around. June writes her name on a carton of milk, cell phone to her ear. After a beat:

JUNE

Hi Steven, it's me. You won't believe what's happened. Call me. I love you.

She hangs up and puts the milk carton in the fridge.

MAN (O.S.)

Hello, neighbor.

June looks out the window and sees a GUY in a window of the apartment building across the alley. He's cute, dressed preppy, very "boy next door". He holds a mug of coffee.

ELI

I'm Eli.

JUNE

Hi, I'm June. I just moved in.

ELI

I know. That fudge on your doorstep was from me.

JUNE

Oh, thank you! It was brown and unmarked so I threw it away, but still, that's so nice!

ELI

Just my way of saying welcome.  
(then)  
You must be hot from carrying all those boxes, huh? Pretty sweaty?

JUNE

I guess I'm a little sore.

ELI

Yeah. Sore.

We notice his SHOULDER WORKING IN A RHYTHMIC MANNER. His free hand is not visible below the window frame.

JUNE

What are you doing?

ELI  
 ...mmm, so sore...

His shoulder speeds up. He spills a little coffee.

JUNE  
 Oh my god-- are you? What-- no!  
 Stop it! I'm calling the police!

June grabs her phone as Chloe emerges from her bedroom,  
 COMPLETELY NAKED (her naughty areas are fuzzed out).

CHLOE  
 What's up?

JUNE  
 Put on a towel! There's a pervert--

CHLOE  
 Hey, Eli.

ELI  
 ...hang on...  
 (long beat, then)  
 Hey, Chloe.

JUNE  
 You know that guy?!

CHLOE  
 We're old friends. He shut down an  
 underground sushi bar I worked at.

ELI  
 Health inspector. Too much rat  
 feces.

Chloe opens the fridge and takes out a Yoplait that has  
 'June' clearly written across it.

JUNE  
 Um, sorry, but that's mine. I  
 thought I would put my name on my  
 items to avoid confusion.

ANGLE INSIDE: the fridge. Everything has "June" written on  
 it except a bottle of hot sauce and a L'eggs container.

CHLOE  
 Oh. Sorry.

She puts the yogurt back in the fridge. Meanwhile, Eli  
 pounds a large bottle of water.

ELI  
 (re: bottle, explaining)  
 Fluids.

June shoots him a look. Chloe hops up and sits bare-assed on the counter.

JUNE  
 (horrified, to herself)  
 That's where I was going to make sandwiches...  
 (then)  
 Hey, so something weird happened to me today. A woman on the first floor warned me not to trust you.

CHLOE  
 Oh, that's Robin. She's in love with me. We met on a Fat Joe video shoot. She was the p.a. in charge of spraying champagne on my butt.

INT. MUSIC VIDEO SET - DAY

HIP-HOP MUSIC plays as hot girls in bikinis, including Chloe, gyrate against a Bentley. CHAMPAGNE SPRAY erupts from off-screen and onto Chloe's butt.

REVEAL: Robin, standing next to a cameraman, shaking and spraying a bottle of champagne with gusto.

ROBIN  
 Oh yeah! I'm aroused and confused!

INT. APARTMENT 23 - BACK TO SCENE

June and Chloe are as we left them.

CHLOE  
 Robin wanted to be my new roommate so she's probably jealous of you. I wouldn't worry about it. Just don't use the stairwell at night.  
 (leans in, ominous)  
 That's where she excels.

She walks off. June stares after her, a bit unsure.

INT. JUNE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

June is asleep in bed when the door to her room bursts open, revealing a STRANGE MAN. June bolts awake and screams!

The guy is unfazed (and, we now see, wearing a tuxedo) as he wobbles to a corner, unzips his fly and PEES on some clothes.

JUNE

My jeans!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

June walks out to find a drunk Chloe on the couch, holding a glass of champagne and making out with a SECOND GUY in a tux. The first guy stumbles out of her room, zipping up his pants.

CHLOE

Oh, hey roomie!

(re: extra guy)

I brought you home a doggie bag.

Guess my eyes were bigger than my--

JUNE

No! Thank you! Your "friend" just peed in my bedroom!

CHLOE

(to guy, admonishing)

Bad! Bad... extra man!

(to June)

Are you sure you won't join us for a little four-way action?

(leans in, whispers)

Take off your pants. I gave assurances.

ELI (O.S.)

I support that idea wholeheartedly!

JUNE

(shouts)

No, and stop peeping-toming us!

(to Chloe)

One, I'm engaged, and two, I have job interviews tomorrow.

June grabs cleaning spray, kitchen gloves and paper towels and exits back into her room, locking the door behind her.

CHLOE

You sure?! The one with the hair-lip claims to be royalty!

Chloe takes a sip of champagne, bored, as one of the drunk guys kisses her neck. She picks up her phone and dials.

CHLOE  
(into phone)  
Hey dung puncher.

SPLIT SCREEN WITH:

INT. LANCE BASS' LIVING ROOM - SAME

LANCE BASS sits on his couch, in the same pose as Chloe, drinking a PomAde. A HOT DUDE kisses his neck.

LANCE  
(into phone)  
Hey whore-nado. What're you doing?

CHLOE  
Just watching some TV.

She pushes her guy's head down and OUT OF FRAME.

LANCE  
Same here.

He pushes his guy's head down and OUT OF FRAME.

LANCE  
Did the new roommate move out yet?

CHLOE  
Soon. I give her three days, tops.

LANCE  
You are such a con artist.

CHLOE  
No, I'm a humanitarian.

LANCE  
A humanitarian posts for roommates, takes their money, then drives them crazy until they move out?

CHLOE  
Yes. Eventually these girls will realize they don't belong here. I'm just helping push them out. I'm part of the great digestive system that is New York City.

LANCE  
Didn't your last roommate try to kill herself?

CHLOE

She took six Sudafed. If that counts as a suicide attempt, I try to kill myself every Friday night.

LANCE

(to O.S. guy)

Can you hand me the remote?

A remote control is lifted up INTO FRAME. Lance clicks on the TV and flips channels absent-mindedly.

LANCE

So what's this one called?

CHLOE

Number 18.

LANCE

How very 1940's Germany of you.

CHLOE

It doesn't matter what her name is, you've seen a thousand of her before. Believe me, I'll be posting for roommate number 19 very soon. This one is going down.

We hear a guy's MUFFLED LAUGH O.S.

CHLOE

(to O.S. guy)

You're right. Considering the circumstances, that was funny.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - MORNING

June exits the apartment building. She strides down the sidewalk, carrying a briefcase, giving herself a pep talk.

JUNE

You can turn every obstacle into opportunity. You can turn the smallest job into a resume builder. You are J-U-N-E, that spells June!

INT. HOME DEPOT - DAY

June stands next to a MANAGER, who looks over her resumé. Through the windows in the DEEP BACKGROUND we see day-laborers outside, trying to flag down passing customers.

JUNE

...and I got my M.B.A. at Indiana University, where I graduated at the top of my class.

MANAGER

How much can you dead lift from a squat?

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

June stands next to a HOT DOG VENDOR, who looks over her resumé. He is dressed in traditional African garb.

JUNE

You know, the original CEO of Carl's Jr., Carl Karcher, started out with a hot dog stand.

HOT DOG VENDOR

They gave me a gun when I was 11.  
I ATE THE HEARTS OF MY ENEMIES!

EXT. HOME DEPOT - DAY

June now stands outside with the DAY-LABORERS. They call to passing customers.

DAY-LABORERS

Do everything. Do everything.

JUNE

I also do everything!

A truck pulls up. The DRIVER leans out and points.

DRIVER

You, you, you and you.

The guys shove June out of the way and pile into the truck.

JUNE

Julio, come on! *Qué pasa, Jorge?!*  
You know it's my turn!

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

A dejected June lies in the tub, having a bubble bath. She listens to her cell phone messages.

VOICEMAIL (V.O.)

You have one new message.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. RESEARCH CLINIC - SAME

Steven stands in the FOREGROUND, wearing a white lab coat and goggles. In the BACKGROUND we see Jeremy, in flight suit and helmet, hovering in the air above a vertical wind tunnel.

STEVEN

Hi honey, sorry we keep missing each other. Things are crazy with Jeremy. He's developed a fear of bicycles. So I put him in the wind chamber. I'll be here all night, try you again tomorrow. Love you.

He hangs up. June sighs as she deletes the message. Chloe throws open the door. She carries an expensive purse.

CHLOE

Hey. How'd the job hunt go?

JUNE

(uncomfortable)  
Um, I'd kind of like to be alone...

CHLOE

Oh, sorry.  
(beat)  
Were you masturbating?

JUNE

What? No!

CHLOE

It's okay, I get it. I have a long-standing sexual history with that tub. It's like I'm Jessica Tandy and that tub is Hume Cronyn. Don't mind me, just flick that bean.

Chloe sits on the toilet and lights a cigarette off a candle.

CHLOE

Go ahead, get your Cronyn on.

JUNE

I don't mean to be rude, but I've had a long day and we clearly have different ideas of personal space--

CHLOE

(re: purse)  
Like it? It's the new Marc Jacobs. I bought it with the extra rent money you gave me.

JUNE  
Extra rent money?

CHLOE  
The real monthly rent is much lower than what I told you, so I spent the extra money on a purse.

JUNE  
(unsure)  
You're joking, right?

CHLOE  
No. I wasn't going to tell you but then I thought, what fun is that?

Chloe smiles.

JUNE  
So... you're basically saying you stole from me.

CHLOE  
That's such an ugly word. But yes, that's exactly what I'm saying.  
(sweetly)  
You don't like it, there's the door.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - DAY

Chloe and Lance sit across from each other, having drinks.

LANCE  
Then what did she say?

CHLOE  
Something about how it was all her savings... I'm not sure, I really had to pee so that drowned her out.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Chloe and Lance walk down the sidewalk. Chloe wears a pair of oversized designer sunglasses.

LANCE  
Don't you feel the tiniest bit bad?

CHLOE  
Survival of the fittest. She'll be happier back home in Idaho.  
(to herself)  
(MORE)

CHLOE (cont'd)  
People in turtlenecks, throwing  
glasses of milk at each other...  
(shudders, then)  
I pray to God I never have to leave  
New York.

INT. APARTMENT 23 - DAY

They walk in to find the apartment completely empty.

LANCE  
It worked! All her stuff is gone.

CHLOE  
No, all my stuff is gone! Where  
the hell is my furniture?!

June walks out of her bedroom.

JUNE  
I sold it. Since you stole money  
from me, I felt like you owed me.  
(sweetly)  
You don't like it, there's the  
door.

For the first time, Chloe looks at June with admiration.

CHLOE  
Well, look who decided to pick up a  
racquet and join the game. Good  
for you.

JUNE  
Yeah, well you can go to hell too!  
Wait... what?

CHLOE  
You've surprised me. And I'm  
rarely surprised.  
(then)  
Lance. Meet June.

LANCE  
So. Its name is June.

Lance smiles as he shakes a confused June's hand.

CHLOE  
That furniture was mostly junk  
anyway. Who bought it?

INT. ROBIN'S APARTMENT - SAME

Robin is in her apartment, surrounded by Chloe's furniture. She grabs a throw pillow and SNIFFS it deeply. A long beat, then:

ROBIN  
(to pillow)  
Tell me what you've seen.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. APARTMENT 23 - SAME

June and Lance still shake hands.

JUNE

It's so nice to meet you. I am a huge Justin Timberlake fan.

LANCE

(annoyed)

How wonderfully original.

A panicked Chloe runs in from her bedroom.

CHLOE

You sold my bedroom furniture too??

JUNE

Yeah. Like you said, most of the living room stuff was junk so--

CHLOE

That ottoman had been in my family for generations, since my great-great-grandmother! My mother gave it to me when she passed away. I was 9 years old.

(devastated)

It was the only thing I owned that I cared about.

JUNE

(hard)

Yeah, well, you deserve it--

(dropping it, guilt-ridden)

--you're heartbroken, I'm so sorry, I'm not good at counter-punching, I went overboard and brought a gun to knife fight.

EXT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Robin opens her door to reveal June and Chloe standing there.

JUNE

Robin, hi. I need to buy back the ottoman I sold you.

ROBIN

(to Chloe)

How's it feel being on the short end of the stick? Yeah, it's payback time, bitch.

JUNE

(confused)

I thought she was in love with you.

ROBIN

In love with her?! I was roommate number 4! She stole my jewelry and got me fired from the hospital!

(to Chloe)

Well, I finally got you back! It feels amazing! You never say hi to me in the elevator!

CHLOE

Robin, I need that ottoman.

ROBIN

This isn't some desperate attempt to get your approval! Love me!

CHLOE

Ottoman!

ROBIN

I sold it! The fabric chafed my forearms!

CHLOE

Who'd you sell it to?

INT. BROWNSTONE - QUEENS - DAY

Chloe and June sit on a couch across from a MIDDLE-AGED TURKISH WOMAN. An OLD TURKISH MAN sits in the corner. TWO YOUNG KIDS sit on Chloe's ottoman, intently playing Xbox.

JUNE

...and her mother gave it to her before she passed away. I really need the ottoman back, Mrs. Yilmaz.

MRS. YILMAZ

I'm sorry, but my kids like to sit on it while they play the Xbox.

YOUNG BOY

There's no 'the', mom. It's just Xbox.

MRS. YILMAZ  
You want a spanking, Kadir?!

Chloe leans forward.

CHLOE  
Are you in this country legally?

JUNE  
Chloe!

CHLOE  
How about I call homeland security?  
You won't be able to print out a  
boarding pass at home ever again.

MRS. YILMAZ  
I've been an American citizen for  
30 years.

CHLOE  
(surprised)  
Really? Wow. You seem so...  
immigrant-y.

The phone rings.

MRS. YILMAZ  
Excuse me.

She exits. June turns to Chloe.

JUNE  
Look, just let me handle this,  
okay? We have to reason with her--

Chloe looks over to see the Old Man staring at her.

CHLOE  
Of course. We've been wasting our  
time talking to the woman. In  
Middle Eastern culture, the man of  
the house makes the rules.

JUNE  
What are you-- no, don't--!

Chloe strides over to the Old Man and sits on his lap. She unbuttons his shirt and twirls one of his grey chest hairs around her finger.

CHLOE

Hello, papa. Guess who wandered into your frosty forest, ready to whisper wicked promises?

OLD MAN

*Hachmon dadi!*

Mrs. Yilmaz re-enters and sees Chloe sitting on the old man.

MRS. YILMAZ

What are you doing?!

CHLOE

Going over your head and dealing with the patriarch of the family.

MRS. YILMAZ

That's our neighbor. He comes over to watch The Weather Channel.

OLD MAN

*Hachmon dadi!*

This time a SUBTITLE reads: "There's a storm front coming!" Mrs. Yilmaz grabs Chloe and June and leads them to the door.

MRS. YILMAZ

Get out.

JUNE

Look, yes, Chloe is screwed up! But she didn't start out that way! She was a child once, a normal human being before she got seduced by the dark side. This ottoman is from a time in her life when she could still care about something. Don't take away the one connection she still has to her humanity.

Chloe listens to June, taken aback. A beat, then:

JUNE

If you do, the crazy bitch will seduce your son and replace his virginity with a Mexican rash.

The family looks at Chloe, horrified. She nods.

CHLOE

I will. I'll toss my Valtrex and let it flare up, so help me God.

INT. APARTMENT 23 - LATER

June and Chloe enter, laughing, carrying the ottoman. A relieved Lance is there to greet them.

LANCE

Oh thank god, you got it back!

CHLOE

June did it, she was genius!  
 (to June, sincere)  
 What you said back there, after all  
 the mean things I've done... I  
 really appreciate it. Thank you.

June smiles at her. A beat... then Chloe pops a switchblade and slices open the ottoman cushion.

JUNE

(shocked)

What are you doing?

She removes a HUGE BAG OF PILLS.

LANCE

Oh, good. I loaned her a thousand  
 dollars to buy those.

CHLOE

Black-market Chinese Viagra.  
 Powerful and possibly toxic. Do  
 not handle broken tablets or you  
 will give birth to a fire monster.

JUNE

Wait, so that whole story about  
 your great-grandmother was a lie?!

CHLOE

Oh no, that was true. You can love  
 grandma's ottoman and still want to  
 make some money on pills. These  
 things are not mutually exclusive.

JUNE

I've paid for drugs! I have paid  
 for drugs! You've made me an  
 accomplice in drugs!

CHLOE

I sell them and give the money to  
 charity.

(beat, then confessing)

No, I don't do that.

JUNE

I can't believe you! Just stay the hell out of my life!

She grabs her purse and throws open the front door, REVEALING Steven and Jeremy.

JUNE

Steven!

STEVEN

June-bug!

JUNE

Oh my god, what're you doing here?

STEVEN

We kept missing each other and your birthday's in a few days, so I flew out to surprise you!

JEREMY

Can I have a snack?

STEVEN

I had to bring Jeremy, of course. He must be under constant observation.

JEREMY

Something salty. Like peanuts.

STEVEN

Make a note of that in the cravings journal.

He steps aside REVEALING a WOMAN (pretty, 20's) behind him. She scribbles down something in a journal.

JUNE

Who is this now?

STEVEN

Jeremy's traveling nurse, Nicole. She's here to monitor him when I can't, so you and I can spend some alone time together.

NICOLE

I've never been to New York!

Chloe and Lance exchange a look. Steven smiles at Chloe.

STEVEN

Is this your roommate?

JUNE

Oh yes, I'm sorry, how rude of me.  
Everyone, this is Chloe, the bitch  
in apartment 23.

An uncomfortable beat. Chloe holds out the bag of drugs.

CHLOE

(offering)

Anyone want to get weird and play  
Mario Kart?

INT. APARTMENT 23 - NEXT DAY

Jeremy sits on the taped-up ottoman, playing a hand-held  
video game. Chloe enters through the front door.

CHLOE

Hello, little freak Steven is  
watching. Where is everyone?

JEREMY

June's at work and Dr. Clayton and  
Nurse Nicole are in a meeting.

CHLOE

What? I thought the whole reason  
she came was so you'd be constantly  
monitored.

JEREMY

(shrugs)

Monitored? I don't know. The only  
reason I do this is to get out of  
Boy Scouts.

CHLOE

(beat, then)

Hey, you know what's fun? Drinking  
alcohol.

INT. APARTMENT 23 - LATER

Jeremy takes a swig off a beer bottle. He's shit-faced.

JEREMY

Oh yeah, they're doing it. They've  
been doing it for so long.

(takes a swig)

(MORE)

JEREMY (cont'd)  
 He's also banging Nurse Simone,  
 Physical Therapist Sheila and that  
 girl with the limp who sells car  
 insurance.

Jeremy vomits on himself, then closes his eyes and falls  
 asleep. Chloe turns and sees Eli standing in his window.

ELI  
 Know what I like best about you?

CHLOE  
 My boobs?

ELI  
 Yes. Know what I like second best?  
 You never let anyone get away with  
 anything. Find June and tell her  
 about this scum-bag.  
 (beat)  
 But first, could you walk on some  
 bubble wrap in high heels? I have  
 to keep pushing the envelope.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

June (in Starbucks apron) restocks bagels. Mark walks over.

MARK  
 If we get fired from here I'm  
 shoving those down my pants.

June laughs but stops abruptly when Chloe and Lance enter.

JUNE  
 You've got to be kidding me.

CHLOE  
 I know you're mad, but hear me out--

JUNE  
 Are you here just to cause drama?  
 Do you know how hard it was for me  
 to get this job? Thank god Mark  
 pulled some strings!

MARK  
 (modest)  
 Come on, it was nothing. I just  
 fired someone for no reason so I  
 could hire a friend. No big deal.

June angrily begins restocking biscotti on the shelves.

LANCE  
 (quietly)  
 You're breaking the biscotti...

CHLOE  
 Steven is sleeping with Nicole.

JUNE  
 Why would I believe anything you  
 say?

CHLOE  
 Jeremy told me. I got him drunk--

JUNE  
 Of course you did! And you  
 probably don't think there's  
 anything wrong with that! Look,  
 Steven loves me. He would never  
 cheat on me.

CHLOE  
 June, you're too trusting--

JUNE  
 Yeah, I guess I am. I trusted you  
 and look where it got me.

CHLOE  
 Fine, you know what, forget it! I  
 was just trying to help!

She storms out. Lance turns to June.

LANCE  
 I know you're upset, but Chloe's  
 just trying to do the right thing.  
 She may have the morals of a pirate  
 but she'd do anything for her  
 friends. Like the time she pushed  
 me out of a moving car because I  
 was running from the police.  
 (thinks)  
 Actually, she was running from the  
 police. I broke my tail-bone. Bad  
 example.

INT. APARTMENT 23 - LATER

A frustrated Chloe enters to find Steven sitting on the  
 couch. A 'Happy Birthday' banner hangs from the ceiling (the  
 apartment looks the way it does at the top of the show).

CHLOE  
 (surprised)  
 Steven.

STEVEN  
 Chloe.

A beat, as we see Chloe thinking, formulating a plan... She smiles sexily.

CHLOE  
 I knew this would happen.

The scene FAST-FORWARDS through what we've already seen in the cold open, ending on the FREEZE FRAME on June's face.

JUNE (V.O.)  
 And I believe this is where we came in.

The scene UNFREEZES and resumes. Steven points at Chloe.

STEVEN  
 She seduced me!

CHLOE  
 To prove to you he's a cheater!

JUNE  
 (reeling)  
 No, I don't-- I'm not--

Nurse Nicole and Jeremy approach from the hallway behind her.

NICOLE  
 What the hell is going on here?!

STEVEN  
 (warning)  
 Nicole...

NICOLE  
 I knew you were cheating on--  
 (indicates June)  
 --her with me, but you're cheating on me with--  
 (indicates Chloe)  
 --her?? I thought I was your only mistress, you son of a bitch!

CHLOE  
 Ask him about the girl who sells car insurance.

NICOLE  
My sister?!

She launches a lamp at Steven's head. June runs out. Jeremy reaches for another beer. Chloe stops him.

CHLOE  
You're okay.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - LATER

June sits alone at the bar. Chloe sits down next to her.

CHLOE  
I knew the only way you would believe Steven was a bad dude was to literally walk in on him in the worst scenario possible -- having sex with your roommate on your birthday cake.

JUNE  
(beat)  
That's the nicest thing anyone's ever done for me.  
(breaking down)  
How sad is that?!

Chloe places a comforting hand on June's shoulder.

JUNE  
If you hadn't stepped in, I probably wouldn't have found out for another 10 years. I'd be divorced with two kids... I'd be fat, I'm sure I'd be fat... you saved me from wasting the best years of my life.

CHLOE  
Yeah, well, it came at a price. I got a lot of frosting in my crack.

JUNE  
(beat, then realizing)  
Oh, the cake...

CHLOE  
Yes. I don't know why I brought it up. I guess genuine emotion makes me very uncomfortable.  
(calling)  
Bartender! Kamikaze shots!

The bartender sets down two shots. Chloe raises her glass.

CHLOE  
Happy birthday.

JUNE  
Happy birthday? I just broke up  
with my fiancé, I have a crap job,  
I'm \$100,000 in debt from student  
loans, I'm lying to my parents and  
I have a psycho for a roommate.

CHLOE  
But on the upside, I'm stealing  
cable. You do get free cable.

June smiles. She raises her glass. They clink and down  
their shots.

CHLOE  
Come on, let's go home.

They get up and head out.

JUNE  
Did we pay for those drinks?

CHLOE  
No, hard times, keep walking.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW