

LOVE IS RELATIVE

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INT. ROSE AND NATE'S HOUSE. DAY

It's a humble but beautifully decorated house, contemporary and stylish, but still homey. Four six year old girls are playing boisterously. NATE, 32, cool and casual is watching over them, joining in. One of the 6 year olds, CASEY, is jumping up and down on the sofa. MAGGIE, another 6 year old and NATE'S daughter watches disapprovingly.

MAGGIE

Daddy, Casey's jumping on the sofa,  
Mom says we're not allowed to jump  
on the sofa.

NATE

Chill out honey, we're just having  
fun, right Casey?

He looks to Casey as if to say 'what's her problem?'

CASEY

You're so cool Mr Lofton.

NATE

Please, it's Nate.

CASEY

You're so cool Nate, much cooler  
than Ellie's Dad.

Her sofa jumping becomes even more frenzied.

NATE

Really? Who wants a chipwich? FYI,  
I mix in gummi bears. I call it the  
Natewich.

All the children shout 'yay' as Nate heads into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN. DAY.

Nate enters the kitchen where he finds ROSE, his beautiful, but harried looking wife. Despite the fact she is making healthy carrot, tomato and cucumber snacks for the kids, Rose exudes an air of effortless cool, looking slightly out of place in this suburban kitchen, exacerbated by the presence of Dylan, their 18 month old son in a baby chair.

NATE

It's going pretty well, I think  
Casey really likes me.

ROSE  
Mazeltov. She's six years old.

NATE  
She says I'm cooler than Ellie's Dad. How you like me now? That guy's so arrogant with his Hello Kitty Cupcake Kitchen, such a hack, she can see through that.

ROSE  
Wow, that's awesome. So you think there's a chance she'll ask you to see 'Dolphin Tale 2' with her? \*

She ironically crosses her fingers. Casey enters with Maggie.

CASEY  
Hey, Nate, any sign of those Natewiches?

Rose looks at Nate, horrified. She silently mouths 'Nate?'

ROSE  
Sorry honey, I thought we'd go with something a bit more healthy.

CASEY  
But Ellie's Dad gave us ice cream.

Nate looks imploringly at Rose.

NATE  
Honey, if she wants a Natewich...?

The doorbell rings. A surprised Rose goes to answer. \*

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

Rose opens the door to reveal JOSH, 34, handsome, but looks broken. He carries a large bag. Rose is shocked to see him.

ROSE  
Josh?

JOSH  
Hey Sis, sorry. I didn't know where else to go.

ROSE  
Why? What's wrong? Erm... Come in ... That is a *big* bag.

JOSH  
I forget, is this a shoes off  
household?

ROSE  
We have no set policy. Are you OK?

As Josh enters he carefully takes his shoes off.

JOSH  
It's Amber, I caught her cheating,  
my whole world's just fallen apart.

As he speaks he spots a painting is off kilter on the wall  
and straightens it.

FLASHBACK - INT. KITCHEN. 3 HOURS AGO.

A palatial house, a spectacular kitchen all marble and  
brushed steel. Josh enters carrying a bunch of flowers.

CLOSE ON: Josh's face freezes in horror, the flowers drop to  
the floor as we REVEAL.

AMBER, 32, beautiful, rich looking, is having sex on a  
kitchen counter with ROBERT a relatively skinny looking 30  
year old wearing only an untied bath robe and some sneakers.  
Amber is lost in the throes of passion.

AMBER  
Josh, oh god ...

Despite their shock it soon becomes clear that Amber and  
Robert do not stop having sex when they see Josh.

JOSH  
Amber? What are you doing?

AMBER  
I'm so sorry, I was going to tell  
you... \*

ROBERT  
Listen, there's no need for drama  
here ... \*

As he speaks, Robert is continuing to have sex with Amber.

JOSH  
Can you stop doing that.

Robert stops.

AMBER

I didn't want you to find out like  
this...

Robert starts again, just very subtly moving his hips as  
Amber speaks.

AMBER (CONT'D)

But I think you know things haven't  
been right. You're so focused on  
work, we've been together since we  
were 21, it's become so stale...

\*  
\*  
\*

Josh notices the hips moving.

JOSH

Hey, seriously...

Amber reluctantly nods to Robert to stop, he uncouples  
himself and closes his bath robe.

JOSH (CONT'D)

What are you doing? This our  
kitchen, that surface is where we  
prepare fresh poultry. And Amber,  
how many times do I have to ask you  
to tell guests this is a shoes off  
household.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

ROBERT

I can't believe this is the asshole  
husband who you're married to.

\*  
\*  
\*

Josh pops a few antacids. Robert's hand is underneath his  
robe. He is subtly fluffing himself.

\*

JOSH

It's the asshole husband 'whom'  
she's married to, and FYI, it's  
very inelegant to end a sentence  
with a preposition... (he notices  
the fluffing). Christ, can you just  
leave it alone for one minute?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

INT. ROSE AND JOSH'S KITCHEN . DAY

A desolate Josh is pouring his heart out to Nate and Rose.  
Dylan watches from his baby chair.

JOSH

She said life was dull, that it was  
like being married to her Dad, but  
with a bit less casual racism.

NATE

I'm sure it's just a hiccup, she'll come running back.

JOSH

It's been going on for three months. The guy's a football player, for the New York Jets.

NATE

(Much too excited)

*He is?* That's awesome!... I mean, not, but... what's his name?

JOSH

Robert Mackie.

Nate's face falls. He's palpably disappointed.

NATE

Oh, the punter.

JOSH

(defensive)

And holder. He's got a net average of 43.3 Yards, third in the AFC.

ROSE

Look, you can stay as long as you need to, we can put you in Maggie's room, but you're going to have to make an effort with her.

JOSH

Are you kidding? I love that little rascal. Where is she?

INT. SITTING ROOM. DAY

Josh heads into the sitting room where he finds the children playing. He smiles awkwardly, goes up to hug IMOGEN, Maggie's Asian friend.

JOSH

Hey there, and how's my favorite little niece?

ROSE

Wrong one, Maggie hasn't become Asian.

A chastened Josh tentatively points to Casey, Rose shakes her head 'no', then he points to Maggie, she nods.

JOSH

Hello honey. Wonderful to see you.  
Look what Uncle Josh got you.

He rummages in his pocket, hands Maggie something.

ROSE

Seventy four dollars and some hand  
sanitizer.

NATE

What do you say Maggie?

A reluctant Maggie takes her gifts and sheepishly gives Josh  
a hug and kiss.

JOSH

Actually do you mind if I...

He takes back the hand sanitizer and sanitizes where she's  
touched him, Maggie looks upset.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I can't get it out of my head, they  
were in my kitchen...

Josh starts to cry.

CASEY

Wow, I've never seen an adult man  
cry, it's awesome.

\*  
\*  
\*

ROSE

Nate, just get them a chipwich.

NATE

Natewich...

CASEY

Best. Playdate. Ever.

NATE

(Delighted)  
Really? Cool.

He goes to high five Casey, Rose glares at him.

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Maggie is tossing and turning trying to sleep in her  
adorable, archetypal 6 year old girl bedroom. It is festooned  
with princesses, fairies and a riot of pink.

We pan up from Maggie to find Josh on the top bunk, barely covered by his Fancy Nancy duvet, sobbing gently to himself.

MAGGIE

Uncle Josh, can you please try and stop crying. It's really hard to sleep with all that sobbing.

JOSH

Well maybe if you'd given me that bottom bunk like I asked...

MAGGIE

I get scared at the top.

JOSH

Why are you so immature?

MAGGIE

I'm six years old. You're a jerk. I'm happy your wife left you.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Rose is in bed in her comfy pyjamas on her ipad. Nate gets in next to her.

NATE

You want to...?

Rose doesn't bother to look up, is super matter of fact.

ROSE

Ach, god no. I'm exhausted, I could think of nothing worse. You?

NATE

Well, now that I'm super turned on...

ROSE

We did it last Thursday, and it's our anniversary on Tuesday, I presume we'll have to do it then.

NATE

Convention does dictate...

They hear a faint sob from next door.

NATE (CONT'D)

How long do you plan on letting him stay?

(MORE)



NATE (CONT'D)

Even after six years I still have no clue what to say to him. We just don't *get* each other. I'd like to like him, for your sake, but we always just end up talking about wi-fi speeds.

ROSE

Will you please try and make the effort, his life's fallen apart. Josh loves you, just last week he said you were ... An awesome dude.

NATE

No he didn't. Josh has never said 'dude' in his life, apart from maybe when he was talking about the film 'Dude where's my car', and he would have said 'I definitely don't want to see that film 'Dude where's my car' because it has the word 'dude' in it'.

ROSE

Well he said it about you, we were talking about the dudes he thought were awesome and he mentioned Josh Brolin, that guy from Man Vs Food, and you.

NATE

Swear on Maggie's eyes.

ROSE

I am *not* swearing on my daughter's eyes.

NATE

Why not? You swore on her eyes that Lyndon Johnson owned an amphibious car.

ROSE

And he did.... (SHE CRUMBLES). Look, you just need to spend more time with each other, he needs to see how great you are. It's not immediately obvious, you're a slow burner, initially lots of people think you might be a bit 'simple'.

NATE

Simple, as in uncomplicated?

ROSE

No, as in they want to print your face on a t-shirt and run a charity 5k for you. Listen, you and Josh just need to find common ground ... I mean, you both like soup.

NATE

Great, we'll talk about soup.

ROSE

It would mean a lot to me.

NATE

How much?

He sidles over to try and get frisky.

ROSE

Not that much... I'll give you \$20 if we don't have to do it.

NATE

Sure, I'll take it.

ROSE

Can you lend me 20 bucks?

INT. KITCHEN. NEXT MORNING.

Josh and Nate sit together silently at breakfast, both clearly looking for something to say. Josh's cell phone pings an email comes through, he checks it.

JOSH

You've got awesome wi-fi here. What speed are we talking, 120mb?

NATE

Something like that. I can even stream movies on this thing.

He holds up his iphone. There is another awkward silence.

NATE (CONT'D)

Technology huh? First there was the iphone, then the iphone 2, then the iphone three, then there was the four now the iphone five. You've got to wonder what they're going to come up with next.

Another awkward pause. Rose enters.

\*

JOSH  
Is Maggie OK?

ROSE  
She'll be fine. We'll move her in with Dylan, it's probably best that you have her room to yourself.

NATE  
I should go and check on her too.

Nate takes this as his excuse to leave.

JOSH  
Those Ambien knocked me out. What did I do?

ROSE  
Apparently there was a lot of sobbing, punching the wall and shouting the word 'whore'. I told Maggie it was a type of Italian bread.

JOSH  
Sorry.

ROSE  
It's fine, things are going to be rough for a while, but let's focus on the positive. Maybe now that Amber's not around we can spend more time with each other.

JOSH  
Did you *really* hate her?

ROSE  
Like poison. When she visited last Thanksgiving she told me staying here was less fun than being repeatedly smashed in the jaw with a broom.

JOSH  
I sure know how to pick 'em. What would Mom say? I can't believe you turned out to be the stable one. We all assumed you'd end up living under a bridge giving hand jobs to truckers to feed some crippling meth habit.

Rose is niggled by this, as Nate re-enters, half dressed in his work suit, it completely changes who he is, no longer a free spirit he looks like any other office guy.

ROSE

Yeah? Well you were wrong I *am* incredibly stable and incredibly happy. Nate is my rock.

NATE

Really? I *am*?

She gives Nate a kiss, he seems taken aback.

ROSE

Is Maggie OK?

NATE

Yeah, she just thinks her Uncle *really* hates Italian bread.

JOSH

Look at you both, so perfect, the perfect marriage.

ROSE

I don't know that it's *perfect*, we just love each other and share our thoughts, our hopes, our worries, don't we honey?

Nate twigs what's happening.

NATE

Totally, for example if I told her that I accidentally bought a \$800 vintage Fender on Ebay last week, she'd completely understand and respect that, wouldn't you?

ROSE

Completely, 100%.... Can we just?

\*  
\*

Rose beckons Nate outside, he ignores her.

\*

NATE

Actually, I should go, I don't want to miss my train.

\*

ROSE

Josh is going into Manhattan as well, aren't you? You should go together.

After a beat they both look at each other.

\*

NATE  
Great.

JOSH  
That would be great.

Rose, aware of the awkwardness tries to smooth things along.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
And while you're on your way I  
might just have myself some  
delicious *soup*. But which type?

They both just look at her blankly.

INT. TRAIN. DAY

Josh and Nate sit together on a packed commuter train. They sit in silence, until Josh starts letting out weird guttural moans. He doesn't seem to realize, but people on the train start to stare. An embarrassed Nate eventually nudges him.

NATE  
Dude, are you OK?

JOSH  
No, I'm not OK, I'm the opposite of  
OK. I'm 33 and basically my life is  
over, I never saw it coming.

A pensive Nate thinks for a moment, then leans in, earnestly.

NATE  
Josh, can I be honest with you? You  
don't know how lucky you are, you  
should see this as a new start, a  
chance to finally get some joy in  
your life.

JOSH  
How? We're not all like you,  
thinking everything can just be  
fixed with a bong hit of marijuana  
spliff. My wife was screwing a New  
York Jet on my Italian marble  
counter.

NATE  
And you should be buying them both  
a trip to Cancun. Look, I don't  
know you that well, but I do know  
that you're still pretty young,  
you're OK looking and you run a  
company that is blowing up.

(MORE)

NATE (CONT'D)

I see 'Fruitful' smoothies literally everywhere. You spent your entire twenties working your ass off, married to woman with all the appeal of cholera and now you have the chance to make up for lost time. Look at *her*.

There is fantastically beautiful 25 year old girl sitting a few seats away.

NATE (CONT'D)

I think about having sex with her every single morning. You could actually do it.

JOSH

Right... You are married to my sister.

NATE

And I love her more than anything, but that doesn't mean that every now and then I wouldn't mind swapping the diaper changing and talking incessantly about colic, for threesomes with 23 year olds who find my jokes funny and my sexual techniques novel.

JOSH

Where would I even start? I couldn't have a threesome, I wouldn't know what bits to touch when, I haven't had sex with anyone but Amber since I was 20 years old, and we pretty much stick to the basics, a few bells, no whistles.

NATE

*Exactly*. You threw away your twenties on love and commitment, you've been an idiot, but you've had a reprieve. We never had a chance with those hot 24 and 25 year olds when we were their age because they were always going off with creepy older guys... now you can be that creepy older guy.

A stern and miserable looking older guy BRIAN, gets on the train walks past Nate.

NATE (CONT'D)

Hi Brian.

BRIAN

(stern)

Nate.

\*

NATE

You're at a crossroads, you can be like my head of marketing, Brian, who hates his life, and slip into middle age; or you can make up for the time you've missed and be *that* guy.

He points to a hip 25 year old looking at his phone.

NATE (CONT'D)

Right now he's probably looking at a photo some girl has sent him of her bleached asshole. Those kids, they're constantly sending each other pictures of their junk, now I'm not sure why that's nice or whether mine would bear up to the scrutiny, but I do know it's better than getting texts like this.

Nate hands Josh his phone. Josh reads a text.

JOSH

"Some feces has got under Dylan's foreskin, it may have gone septic. PS Can you bring me home some panty liners"

\*

NATE

I love Rose so much, you have no idea, but you've got a free pass, a second chance, don't waste it.

There is a beat, it sinks in.

JOSH

Deepak from work asked me to a club in a condemned synagogue in Queen's tonight. It's called 'Spastic Colon'. That could be neat.

NATE

Go! You have to go, as long as you absolutely promise not to say neat.

INT. PARTY. NIGHT.

Josh arrives at the party, it is ridiculously fashionable, set in a crumbling Synagogue. Everybody is about 21 and either gorgeous, weird, or both. Josh walks past a 6ft 3 guy in a wedding dress, another dressed as a baby and people playing hopscotch. His instinct is to turn back, but Deepak sees him and drags him in before he can leave. DEEPAK is ridiculously cool, 24 , and despite his name is not Asian.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DEEPAK

Hey! Josh! I didn't think you'd come. It's amazing, right? It's by the same guys who opened Anal contusion and Spleen. Super cool, they only employ burns victims as DJ's.

JOSH

This place is a health and safety minefield. That lintel looks perilous, classic wet rot. It needs to be replaced by some form of galvanized steel or resin injection.

They arrive at a table with one person dressed as a Smurf, and eight ridiculously hot girls.

DEEPAK

Hey, guys this is the guy I told you about, my boss, Josh.

JOSH

Hey guys... I was just talking to Deepak about the wet rot...

They stare blankly at him, Deepak rescues him.

DEEPAK

His wife just left him.

They all super relax and create a space for him at the table, next to Emily (ideally Emily Ratajkowski from the 'Blurred Lines' video, or someone similarly ludicrously gorgeous).

EVERYONE

Really... Oh no... Sorry etc.

JOSH

Yup, I caught her having sex on my on my kitchen counter, with a New York Jet.



CLUBBER 1  
Really? Which one?

DEEPAK  
(dampening expectation)  
Kevin Mackie, the punter.

CLUBBER 2  
(disappointed)  
Oh.

JOSH  
(defiantly)  
He was a Pro Bowl alternate in  
2009.

EMILY  
You poor thing, you must really be  
hurting. You want some bath salts?

JOSH  
I'm actually more of a shower  
person, I find it odd when people  
soak in their own dirt. How is that  
sanitary?

The whole table of incredibly beautiful young people laughs,  
he's not sure why, but it feels good, he smiles back.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Rose and Nate are in bed again, pajamas on, ipads out. This  
time Rose leans over to give Nate a kiss, testing the water.

NATE  
Sorry. Not going to happen. I just  
swabbed Dylan's septic foreskin, so  
to be honest anything genital is  
basically a no go. I *could* do it,  
if you're desperate, but at best  
it's going to be perfunctory. You  
want perfunctory?

ROSE  
You really know how to make me feel  
alive with desire, I'll pass on  
perfunctory sex.

She returns to her ipad and after a beat.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
 I hope Josh is alright, it's gone  
 eleven and he's still not home,  
 would it kill him to call?

INT. PARTY. NIGHT.

A drunk Josh is grinds against Emily as they dance on a  
 derelict Synagogue altar surrounded by defunct religious  
 paraphernalia. He's having the time of his life.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

The clock reads 03.17. Rose stirs as she hears footsteps  
 outside the house.

EXT. ROSE AND NATE'S HOUSE. NIGHT

A very drunk Josh and Emily are outside the front door,  
 giggling as they struggle to unlock the door and attempt not  
 to make too much noise.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Rose tries to rouse a sleeping Nate, he tries to ignore her  
 as she listens to footsteps coming up the stairs.

JOSH (O.C.)  
 Sorry to be annoying but this is  
 actually a 'shoes off' household.

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

A giggling Josh and Emily fall into Maggie's bedroom and  
 Emily puts on the light. She is stunned by what she sees, the  
 bunk beds, the princess decorations etc.

EMILY  
 This is so cool, so post modern.

JOSH  
 Sure... I'm so over modern, modern  
 is old, I'm *post* that.

They start to undress as they kiss.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
 It's kind of bright, we should have  
 some mood lighting.

He switches on Maggie's bedside light, it projects butterflies and fairies onto the ceiling and walls.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Rose, now sitting up, attempts to wake Nate again, he's intent on staying asleep, but Rose persists.

NATE

What is it?

She shushes him, and gets him to listen to the noises coming from next door.

ROSE

He's brought somebody back.

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Josh and Maggie are now lying on Maggie's too small bed, Emily tries to get on top of Josh but can't really fit under the top bunk, she keeps banging her head.

EMILY

Ow, crap !

Josh tries to shush her.

JOSH

We should have some music.

He scrabbles around for a CD, he finds one, looks for the CD player and sees it's inside the TUMMY of one of her TEDDY BEARS. He inserts it and turns it on. It's a BARNEY the dinosaur silly songs alphabet CD. They carry on undeterred, ripping clothes off each other as Barney sings about the letter 'D', and all the things that start with 'D'.

EMILY

(Putting on a baby voice)

Oh, Mr Josh, I've been very naughty  
can you punish me.

Josh stops.

JOSH

Sorry, I don't mean to ruin the mood, but can you please not do that voice? This is kind of creepy enough as it is, that just tips it over the edge.

EMILY

You prefer slutty? Sure...

They start getting into it again, the song on the CD asks...

BARNEY CD

I'm an animal that starts with 'E'  
starts with 'E', starts with 'E'  
I've got a trunk and tusks that you  
can see, what animal could I be?

EMILY

I know this one, Elephant, it's  
elephant!

BARNEY CD (V.O.)

That's right, Elephant!

EMILY

Yes!

JOSH

Excellent work, good girl.

BARNEY CD

Now it's 'F', can you think of  
something that starts with 'F'.

EMILY

I can think of something.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Rose's face is frozen in a rictus of horror.

ROSE

They're literally having sex in our  
daughter's bed, on her Spongebob  
Squarepants sheets.

NATE

I guess he's exploring Bikini  
Bottom... (explaining his joke)  
That's where Spongebob is set,  
so...

ROSE

(Interrupting)

I get it, I'm just utterly  
traumatized you idiot.

A yelp of pleasure comes through the wall.

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

They are now writhing semi naked on Maggie's bed.

EMILY  
Ooh, you dirty boy, what are you  
doing back there?

JOSH  
What? I'm not...

Emily suddenly produces a My Little Pony from her ass area.

EMILY  
Ah, it's Twinkle Wish, I used to  
have one of these.

JOSH  
Here, I'll get rid of it.

EMILY  
Not on my account...

JOSH  
We can't, she loves that thing, we  
could lose a hoof.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Rose is still listens, horrified, as the groans re-commence.

ROSE  
Listen to them, just devouring each  
other in some gymnastic frenzy of  
unbridled lust... It's revolting.

NATE  
Totally.

Rose turns to notice a tent has formed around Nate's groin  
under the duvet.

ROSE  
Oh no, you disgusting...

NATE  
What? It's involuntary! It's just a  
full bladder. You know what I'm  
like in the mornings...

She gets her ipad and hits him hard on his erection with it,  
as the moans crescendo from next door.

INT. KITCHEN. NEXT MORNING.

A very stern, silent Breakfast scene. Rose barely contains her fury. Nate is walking on eggshells as Josh emerges.

JOSH  
(Sheepishly)  
Happy Anniversary!... Guys, this is  
Emily, she's a friend of mine.

\*

Emily emerges, even in the morning she is stunning, Nate and Rose's mouths drop open in awe, they are speechless.

EMILY  
Hey guys, happy anniversary, how  
many years?

ROSE  
Six years.

NATE  
Not sure...

Rose glares at Nate.

MAGGIE  
Are you Uncle Josh's friend? Were  
you having a playdate?

EMILY  
I suppose we were.

Emily heads to the toaster, she looks for some bread to toast

MAGGIE  
Do you like My Little Pony?

EMILY  
Very much so... I thought I'd make  
your Uncle some toast. Is there any  
bread he doesn't like?

MAGGIE  
(Emphatically)  
Whore!

Emily looks horrified. Meanwhile, Nate and Josh have sneaked off and are huddled secretively in the downstairs bathroom.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM. DAY

NATE  
So?

JOSH

Nate, you have no idea, none. It's a whole new world. It's like they re-invented sex in the last ten years.

NATE

All hail internet pornography.

JOSH

Amen, it may be poisoning young minds and destroying lives, but it is also raising the game out there.

NATE

She is ridiculously hot, how the hell did you manage that?

JOSH

Like you said, she wanted an older man. Thank you so much. She said she liked how sad and broken I seemed.

NATE

Awesome. I wish I was sad and broken.

They high five.... Just as Rose enters and catches them. Nate tries to cover up, by looking in the toilet bowl

NATE (CONT'D)

Fantastic. Really good one. Nice consistency. You must be eating a lot of fiber. Good job.

So pathetic. They look like a pair of teenage boys who have been busted by their Mom. As Rose storms out Nate follows.

NATE (CONT'D)

What? What is it? What?

INT. KITCHEN. DAY.

Nate trails Rose into the kitchen where Emily is getting ready to leave.

EMILY

Sorry guys, I have to go. I'm shooting a moisturizer commercial, so I'll be spending the day naked, covered in baby oil.

\*

\*

\*

NATE

You too? Welcome to my life. I'm so bored of being objectified.

She laughs.

EMILY

If you guys aren't busy, my bestie Sienna, is having having a house party tonight Josh has the deets. Thanks for the coffee, I better bounce.

NATE

Sure, cool, totally. Bounce away, stay bouncy. Boing!

She exits, giving Nate a peck on the cheek, then Rose a hug - she's ridiculously sweet and nice. As she leaves, there is an awkward silence as Rose seethes. Nate assesses the situation.

NATE (CONT'D)

She seems nice...

Silence.

NATE (CONT'D)

Did you see that mole she had on her cheek though? Kind of gross, no? (More silence)... And where does she get off with that 'thanks for the coffee' BS? Such a fake.

Silence again, as Josh comes in, looking like the cat that got the cream. This is the final straw for Rose who explodes.

ROSE

What the hell were you thinking, bringing her here, to my daughter's bedroom?

JOSH

Whoa, calm down, sorry.

ROSE

You're a guest here, I'd just like you to show some consideration.

JOSH

Wow, sorry... Mom.

Nate laughs, Rose looks at him feeling slightly betrayed.



ROSE

Whoa there. I'm sorry, when exactly did this turn into a frat house?

\*

NATE

You said you wanted us to bond...

ROSE

Yes, but ideally not over some young girl you both want to defile.

JOSH

I thought you'd be happy, I was just having fun.

ROSE

You're not supposed to be having fun. You're supposed to be at rock bottom and coming here me for help, not to have sex *four times* with a girl who makes Gisele look like Gollum.

\*

\*

JOSH

Why can't you be pleased for me? This is precisely the kind of thing you would have done, this is textbook Rose. While I was spending my twenties married and boring you were vomiting on Elvis Costello's shoes or having sex with 3/5ths of the New York Ranger's starting line up.

She shakes her head at a shocked Nate, but it's patently true.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I'm just trying to make up for a bit of lost time. The old Rose, the Rose I know would have been congratulating me. Right?

Josh looks to Nate for support. Rose turns and does the same. Nate looks tentative.

NATE

Really? This is all new information. I'm sort of trying to process the whole New York Rangers thing right now... Three of them?

There is a beat, Rose is clearly affected by what Josh has said and for the first time shows real vulnerability, she looks like she's about to cry.

ROSE

(Frustrated)

You really think I *like* being like this? You think I like constantly inspecting children's buttocks; I mean really getting in there. No! I've got no desire to be an adult, but somebody has to, and it sure as hell isn't going to be you.

\*  
\*  
\*

NATE

I'm not saying...

ROSE

I'm sorry if you find it dull, I'm sorry if life's not all tea bagging and crotchless panties. Maybe you'd like Josh's life, would you?

\*  
\*

NATE

Of course not, I love you, I love you so much, but sometimes love can get a bit... boring.

ROSE

Oh, *excuse me*. It's not like you're so dynamic, Mr. Perfunctory. What amazing surprise have you booked for our anniversary? Oh yes, Martino's for the millionth year in a row, and I guarantee you've bought me a stinking ornamental elephant of some description again, because you're somehow under the illusion that I like ornamental freaking elephants.

Behind him in the hallway we clearly see a wrapped gift obviously in the shape of an elephant.

NATE

No, not true, totally false, and actually hurtful... Well, at least I don't bring a towel to bed when I know we're due to have sex.

JOSH

You do that?

ROSE

Well, excuse me Mr. 'I eat beef jerky in bed'.

JOSH

You're excused, Mrs. 'I used to wear stockings for my husband, now I just use them to strain vegetables'.

ROSE

How the hell did we get here? I used to be Emily, but have you got any idea how much effort it takes to be that carefree? I wish I had the time to shave my pubic hair into interesting shapes and make dried macaroni pictures of cats, but I don't, I had to make a choice.

Josh inspects the macaroni picture pinned to the fridge door.

JOSH

Is that supposed to be a cat? It's appalling; zero attention to detail. I hope you're not as slapdash around your pubis, you could really injure yourself.

\*

NATE

Look, I love the macaroni pictures, but I have to be honest, I also love the pubic hair, I'll never forget what you did down there that St Patrick's Day. I just think that somewhere we lost the balance, some of the fun; too much macaroni, not enough bush.

ROSE

(Pumped)

So, you want fun, huh? I'll give you goddam fun. I'll be so much stinking fun you'll have a fun overdose, you'll be frothing from the mouth and convulsing from fun. You ready for that?

Nate and Josh look petrified.

NATE

I guess... as long as we're not going to an Ice Hockey game.

\*

\*

ROSE

Then cancel Martino's, we're going to a party.

EXT. HOUSE PARTY. NIGHT

Rose, Nate and Josh pull up outside a smart house, the music is thumping and a party is in full flow. They approach the door together, Rose looks unbelievable, cool, sexy and young. Nate has made an effort to look fashionable he's wearing a beanie and looks like a slightly too old member of One Direction, Josh looks the same as usual. As they get closer to the door a partygoer is exiting. He's young and cool.

NATE

Yo, s'up dog.

The partygoer gives him a casual nod. Rose glares at Nate.

NATE (CONT'D)

What? What did I do?

JOSH

Guys, be cool, I invited you along on the express proviso you did not cramp my style.

ROSE

Your shoes fasten with velcro and you just used the phrase 'express proviso' you have no style to cramp. If anyone's cramping anything it's Harry freaking Styles here.

She then grabs his beanie and throws it in the bushes.

NATE

Hey! That completed my look.

ROSE

What? Of a skeevy old guy who found Justin Bieber's wardrobe from 2011? Don't worry it still comes across.

\*

Josh laughs, Nate looks at him, betrayed. They've reached the front door, there's no turning back.

INT. HOUSE PARTY. NIGHT.

The trio enter the party, it is rammed with fashionable and beautiful 21/22 year olds.

\*

They immediately feel out of place, but as soon as Josh enters he is greeted like an old friend, an extraordinarily sexy girl, DAVE, comes up to him. \*

SEXY GIRL

Hey Josh, how you doing? Starting to heal?

JOSH

(Earnestly)

Slowly but surely Dave... Hasty is he... who hurries... the heart, no?

SEXY GIRL

You're so wise, Emily's in the kitchen, she'll be psyched you're here.

She gives him a kiss and leaves, Nate gives Josh a high five.

JOSH

That's how we do it, wing man.

Nate looks delighted to be called 'Wing Man'.

NATE

Move over Josh Duhamel, you are basically my new hero.

ROSE

*Josh Duhamel?* Really?

MC NEAT, a ridiculously hip tattooed guy walks past.

JOSH

Oh, you guys should meet MC Neat, or to give him his full title, Master of Ceremonies Neat

NATE

Yo! Big up yourself. Diggin' the ink, that is tight... (studying it)... Is that a dog vomiting out a typewriter?

It is indeed a tattoo of a dog vomiting a typewriter.

MC NEAT

It represents both sides of my character, I'm loyal like a dog, but intensely creative...

NATE

Hence the typewriter, true 'dat...  
Yeah, I've toyed with inking up. I  
wanted to get 'Believe' written in  
Sanskrit on my ankle when I was in  
Thailand... But in all honesty I  
was worried about infection...AIDS  
... hepatitis, that's the big one  
isn't it?

\*  
\*

At this point Nate is floundering, Rose and Nate look at him  
horrified, they are witnessing a car crash.

NATE (CONT'D)

There are three types of Hepatitis,  
aren't there? A, B and C... C's the  
one you want... C is totally off  
the hook hepatitis wise...  
everytin' irie?

\*  
\*

MC NEAT

I'm just going to...

JOSH

Me too, sorry...

ROSE

Me too...

Simultaneously they all abandon the sinking ship that is  
Nate, who is left alone. MC Neat turns to Rose, we hear  
their conversation as they head off.

MC NEAT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Can I just say I love that top. You  
want a drink?... Is your friend a  
bit simple? I'm running a 5K...

INT. HOUSE PARTY. KITCHEN. 30 MINUTES LATER.

Josh is holding court with a group of girls including Emily.

JOSH

Will I ever learn how to love  
again? I don't know, it just feels  
very raw.

As he speaks a young partygoer brings RYAN, over. He's  
slightly older and slightly better looking than Josh.

PARTYGOER

Ryan knows all about that. Ryan  
lost his wife in a plane crash last  
year, didn't you?

Attention immediately switches away from Josh to Ryan as the girls all direct their doe eyes his way.

EMILY

Oh my god, you poor, poor thing, I can't even imagine.

RYAN

It's something that you never recover from, something that never goes away.

Josh tries to butt in...

JOSH

Amen brother, totally true...

Nobody pays any attention as they all focus on Ryan and his tragedy, Josh looks annoyed.

INT. HOUSE PARTY. NIGHT.

Back in the main throng of the party Nate is awkwardly dancing by himself, trying to endear himself to people as they pass by and generally ignore him. His humiliation is exacerbated when he makes eye contact with Rose across the room, she's really holding court. \*

ROSE

I was thinking of going on vacation to Mogadishu. Taking a Vespa. I hear there's an amazing underground techno scene there.

GIRL 1

You're so cool.

Rose looks pleased with herself.

ROSE

Loving the tunes, what is this? Tiesto?

GUY 1

I wish my Mom was this cool, I'd never bring my parents to a party like this, but you rock.

ROSE

Sorry, what?

GIRL 2

You're Sienna's Mom, right? I thought her folks were away for the weekend, but I get why she'd want you to come, you're like the dopest old person I've ever met.

ROSE

I'm not Sienna's Mom, and I'm not a goddam old person.

A worried Nate sees what is happening and makes his way over.

GUY 2

Whatever, it's fine, we're down with you.

ROSE

So what? Do you think you invented cool? I was self harming, talking about Tibet and pretending to enjoy french rap when you were working out which ninja turtle you wanted to bang.

NATE

Are you OK honey?

ROSE

I've got this, it's fine. Look at you; soon you'll realize how pointless this all is. Right now there's nothing more important to you than knowing whether it's fashionable to ironically enjoy quilting, but then the next batch of cool people will come along and decide hula hooping while eating crabsticks is 'in', and you'll suddenly discover that you're a dope old person, and realize that making sure your son's foreskin doesn't turn gangrenous is more important than having asymmetric hair.

NATE

This woman is smarter, sexier and cooler than any of you people will ever be. She can make filling out an application for tax relief on primary infant care cool... She's had sex with 3/5ths of the New York Rangers!



They all grimace, an appreciative Rose gently stops him. Nate gives Rose a huge kiss.

NATE (CONT'D)

We don't need you, or this to make us hip. We're done here. Let's bounce.

They exit leaving a group of stunned hipsters in their wake.

ROSE

Seriously, that was awesome, but please don't ever say 'bounce'.

After a beat the coolest guy turns to his friends.

GUY 1

(concerned)

So I don't understand, should we be hula hooping and eating crabsticks? Is that the thing now?

INT. HALLWAY. DAY

Nate and Rose are together in the hallway, by the staircase, getting ready to leave.

NATE

I meant what I said. You're cooler than anyone here. I wish I'd met you when you were their age.

ROSE

You have no idea how hot I was. The New York Rangers lost 13-1 the night after I finished with them. I'd have eaten you alive.

NATE

So why don't we turn the clock back? Crank up some Hoobastank and get busy?

He gestures up the stairs.

\*

INT. KITCHEN. NIGHT

Josh is still with Ryan, Emily and all the girls, but they are all clearly in the midst of a heated discussion.

JOSH

I'm just saying that in some ways, my wife cheating is *worse* than the plane crash. The thing about the plane crash is that your wife had no *choice*. She didn't *want* the plane to go up in a fireball over, where was it?

RYAN

Turks and Caicos...

JOSH

Turks and Caicos, but Amber *meant* to have sex on my kitchen counter, arguably making it worse, you see?

RYAN

Not really, no.

JOSH

Are you being deliberately dense? I'm saying it's a matter of intent, the fact that she's dead is basically irrelevant...

Everybody stares at Josh horrified, he has gone much too far.

JOSH (CONT'D)

*What?* What did I say?

Just as it seems Josh has dug himself a hole he can't get out of, there is a commotion happening elsewhere in the party.

EMILY

Oh crap, it's Sienna's parents, they must have come back early.

A furious middle aged woman, SIENNA'S MOM, marches in.

SIENNA'S MOM

What the hell are you all doing here! You need to leave before we call the police.

A man's voice, SIENNA'S FATHER booms from the sitting room.

SIENNA'S DAD (O.C.)

All of you, out! Now! OUT!

INT. SIENNA'S PARENTS BEDROOM. NIGHT

The lights are off in Sienna's Parents' very elegant bedroom, as Rose and Nate lustily rip off each other's clothes, like a pair of horny teenagers. They fall on to the bed. \*

NATE

Should I get a towel?

ROSE

Screw it.

They launch back into each other with gusto, lost in passion, they don't hear the kerfuffle going on outside.

INT. HOUSE PARTY. NIGHT.

People are clearing out the party as Sienna's Mom continues to shout. From behind we see Sienna's Dad marching up the stairs and angrily ushering out young partygoers. He is marching inexorably towards Rose and Nate.

INT. SIENNA'S PARENTS BEDROOM. NIGHT

Rose and Nate are deep into it now, his head disappears below the sheets. There are groans of pleasure, then a beat...

NATE

Oh my god, you *didn't*. Really? For me?... Does that say F.U.? Kind of aggressive, but kind of hot.

ROSE

It meant to say 'FUN', but I kind of ran out of real estate.

NATE

You should have used a smaller font, or different type face, maybe Helvetica?

ROSE

Can we please not talk about fonts  
.... Right there, oh yes...

There is a plethora of gasps and groans as they really get into it until... The door opens and Sienna's Dad bursts in...

SIENNA'S DAD

What the hell do you think you are doing?

Startled, Nate and Rose immediately sit up. Nate looks especially mortified and freezes in horror when he realizes Sienna's Dad is in fact BRIAN - his director of Marketing who he saw on the train.

SIENNA'S DAD/ BRIAN  
I suggest you kids leave before ...  
Nate Lofton?

NATE  
Brian?

SIENNA'S DAD/ BRIAN  
What the hell are you...

NATE  
Sorry, so sorry, I didn't  
realize... Rose, this is Brian from  
work, this is my wife Rose ...

ROSE  
Brian Ellwood? The head of  
Marketing, I've heard so much  
about...

BRIAN  
Get the hell out of my bedroom.  
NOW!

He starts forcing them out as they try and gather their clothes that have been scattered all over the floor.

INT. HOUSE PARTY. NIGHT.

Brian is basically forcing them down the stairs semi naked, Rose is covered only by a bedsheet as they exit through the slowly dispersing crowd, who stare at them as they leave.

NATE  
May I say you have a lovely home.

ROSE  
I wanted to ask where you got your  
sheets, I've been looking ...

BRIAN  
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!

A truly ashamed Nate and Rose make their way through the remaining party guests.

SIENNA'S MOM

They're Pottery Barn and I want them back.

Sienna's Mom pulls the sheet away from Rose leaving her totally naked in front of the whole party, there are audible gasps, then total silence, until a voice pipes up...

PARTYGOER 1 (O.S.)

Not a bad bod for an old woman.

ROSE

I AM NOT OLD! (beat)... but thank you, I Zumba.

PARTYGOER 2

OMG what has she got shaved down there ?

The entire party starts to squint and try and make out what is happening in Rose's nether regions, including Nate, but she quickly covers up, Josh hastily hands her his sweater.

JOSH

I think it's time we bounced.

ROSE

Definitely happy to bounce at this point.

Partygoers are still discussing the shaving.

PARTYGOER 4

It looked like something in Hebrew.

INT. NATE AND ROSE'S SITTING ROOM. NIGHT.

Nate and Rose are sitting contentedly snuggled up on the sofa eating Martino's takeaway, watching TV, Josh enters holding a wrapped gift.

JOSH

Happy Anniversary guys, I wanted to say thank you for looking after me the last couple of days. I worked out I hadn't had fun since 2009. I went to 'Stomp', they use things that they're not supposed to as drums.

He hands over the gift to Nate.

ROSE

You shouldn't have, but thanks, it's been so great spending time together. Plus you're a perfect reminder that *our* lives aren't so crappy after all.

They laugh.

JOSH

Are you kidding? I gotta tell you, so far divorce is awesome, I cannot recommend it highly enough.

ROSE

Trust me, we have everything to make us happy right here. I think you'll find endless nights of no holds barred sex with super models and a complete lack of responsibility and commitment are soon going to get *pretty* boring.

NATE

Which reminds me, we're going to Betty Bumble bee's bonkers ballet show and then feeding the ducks tomorrow, if you fancy it. Maggie's doing her school project on ducks.

JOSH

Can I? It'll be a chance for us to bond. Did you know that ducks are the only species in the animal kingdom that practice homosexual necrophilia?

ROSE

Great, but I think she's going to lead with they go quack and have webbed feet. Honey, if you're going to stay here you have a lot to learn about how family's work.

JOSH

I can stay? Really?

NATE

We've discussed it and we'd like that, it's been fun hanging out, you're going to need a wing man... and the towel's awesome.

Nate has unwrapped the gift and revealed a huge towel.

JOSH

And I want you to use it, don't end up like Amber and I.

Rose takes Nate's hand and starts to lead him upstairs.

ROSE

There is no danger of that, we just needed a little excitement, and you gave it to us. You OK on your own down here?

JOSH

Yup, I'm just going to make a little soup before bed.

Nate stops in his tracks.

NATE

What you thinking? Mulligatawny?

JOSH

*Please!* No, that's for hacks. I'm thinking lemon grass chicken.

NATE

Grow up! That, my friend, is a broth, if you want lemon grass...

Nate is now lost in a deep soup chat with Rose as she heads to their marital bed, she stands on the stairs bemused, and then coughs to remind him of her presence. He stops and continues up the stairs. Josh smiles. Nate shouts from the stairs.

NATE (O.C.) (CONT'D)

All I'm saying is, if you want lemon grass, start thinking Thai coconut.

\*

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM. FIVE MINUTES LATER.

Lights off, Josh lies in Maggie's bed. Faint moans and a vague rhythmic banging comes from next door. Josh smiles.

INT. ROSE AND NATE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Rose and Nate are sitting, with ipads making groaning noises and bouncing up and down against the headboard, simulating the noises and rhythm of sex. In between moans they chat.

NATE

Can we stop yet?

ROSE

No, I want him to know we have an amazing sex life, without actually having to have sex. I'm so bloated.

NATE

It's fine, that Puttanesca has turned my irritable bowel furious. We have the rest of our lives to do it.

He leans over to kiss her, they continue to simulate sex.

ROSE

Tomorrow night, I promise, with bells *and* whistles.

NATE

And I'll wake up with Dylan in the morning, you have a lie in. I love you honey.

He makes some sexy grunts to keep up the charade.

NATE (CONT'D)

Can I stop now?

ROSE

Of course not, and FYI, we're going to pretend to do it four more times tonight, show him how it's done.

Rose slaps her own thigh and gives a little yelp.