

ABOUT LAST NIGHT

Written by  
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Based on the film "About Last Night"  
by Tim Kazurinsky & Denise DeClue

Based on the play "Sexual Perversity in Chicago"  
by David Mamet

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1 EXT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

1 \*

LA's downtown nightclub set in full effect. Good music. Mixologists at work. SEXY PEOPLE flow into soon-to-be packed bar... \*

TWO GUYS sip beers and watch the game. \*

DAN MARTIN is handsome with a personality that suggests he wasn't always this handsome. BERNIE LITKO is a mischievous hedonist and loyal friend. \*

DAN  
So tell me.

BERNIE  
Tell you what?

DAN  
About last night.

BERNIE  
Are you fucking kidding me?

DAN  
I'm here, aren't I?

BERNIE  
Check it out. Rooftop bar at theWit. Good DJ. Ladies night.

DAN  
Shit.

BERNIE  
I told you to come out! This one chick-- Cute. Tight.

DAN  
Model tight?

BERNIE  
Naw. No more anorexic girls. They're like fucking a ten-speed bike with daddy issues.

DAN  
True.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

BERNIE

This chick is tits, hips and thighs. Whole package. Also, I sorta know her.

CUT TO:

2 INT. ROOF BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

2

\*

Last night. Swanky club. SEXY SINGLES dance. DJ spins. Bernie approaches a LADY. We only see her from behind.

BERNIE

Hey. Bernie. You're friends with Angela. I know her.

JOAN (O.S.)

Yeah, you used to fuck Angela.

BERNIE

(charm for days)

Is that what she called it?

REVERSE ANGLE: The Lady is JOAN. In-your-face sexy and definitely a "whole package" of something.

\*

JOAN (V.O.)

At this point-- I'm intrigued.

3 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

3

\*

Almost sunset. Debbie and Joan walk.

DEBBIE SULLIVAN is a preppy beauty saved from primness by her palpable sexuality. Her dry wit compliments Joan's exhibitionism.

JOAN

Nothing makes a guy sexier than if he screwed over a chick you hate.

DEBBIE

Yeah, it's like a revenge fuck by association.

JOAN

So this Bernie's got a pair. I'm DTF. It's ladies night. We get drunk.

4 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT 4 \*

Dan and Bernie drink.

DAN  
You buy?

BERNIE  
What am I? A noob? Of course, I  
buy. She gets drunk. I get drunk.  
We go back to my place.

DAN  
Shaved?

BERNIE  
Brazilian. Clean as a whistle.

Dan whistles.

BERNIE (CONT'D)  
This chick is insane.

5 INT. BERNIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 5 \*

Last night. Hallway of apartment complex. Bernie and Joan  
make out ferociously. Joan goes to Bernie's crotch.

BERNIE  
Whoa. Whoa. You gotta give me a  
minute to get... inside! I can't  
get sexual in the hallway. This is  
a co-op!

ANGLE ON: Joan looks at his crotch, disappointed. \*

JOAN (V.O.)  
Of course, he's got whiskey dick.

6 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 6 \*

DEBBIE  
You always let them drink too much.

JOAN  
For Chrissakes I have enough going  
on. It's not my job to regulate his  
lubrication.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Except it is. You gotta pay up front or later. Because I bet you had to blow him for what--

JOAN

Twenty minutes! Haven't done that since I didn't know any better.

DEBBIE

Any longer than twenty minutes...

DEBBIE/JOAN

...you might as well charge.

DEBBIE

Size?

JOAN

Impressive but not threatening. It's the John Legend of penises.

Debbie whistles.

JOAN (CONT'D)

So I'm down there and it's the--

7 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

7 \*

Dan and Bernie drink at the bar and check the room for HOTTIES.

\*  
\*

BERNIE

Best. Head. This year. Took her time, thorough, attention to detail. Took pride in her work.

DAN

Did she do your taxes as well?

BERNIE

Snarky. I'll allow it. But only because you've been crying into your beer over Alison since you two broke up A YEAR AGO--

DAN

I'm taking my time.

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE

You know what you need to take? You need to take a lovely female back to your apartment. And TURN HER OUT. Make her feel things.

DAN

You made Joan feel things?

BERNIE

I nailed her like good and evil hung in the balance. Like we were at peace talks and her orgasm was the end of genocide. I saved the world last night.

DAN

On behalf of the world, thank you.

BERNIE

You're welcome. Then she's like--

8 INT. BERNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

8 \*

Bernie and Joan have sex. It's loud and phenomenal. Arms and legs everywhere. Then...

JOAN

Stop! Stop!

Bernie obeys.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Never mind. Keep going.

Bernie thrusts.

JOAN (CONT'D)

No! STOP!

BERNIE (V.O.)

And I'm like: "Bitch, which is it?"

BERNIE

(polite)

What's wrong? You okay?

9 EXT. THE BROADWAY BAR - EVENING

9 \*

Joan and Debbie arrive outside the club.

\*

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

JOAN

I got a charley horse--

DEBBIE

Ugh. Was your leg up around his--

JOAN

--Obviously! Then I have to stretch  
which is so annoying 'cuz I was  
ABOUT to--

10 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR NIGHT

10

Dan and Bernie.

BERNIE

COME ON! Finish your yoga so we can  
get it going again.

DAN

Right. But the headline there is:  
"Again".

BERNIE

Yes sir. We did it AGAIN!

They clink glasses.

11 EXT. THE BROADWAY BAR - EVENING

11

\*

Debbie ponders. Joan reapplies lipstick.

JOAN

We had to start all over.

DEBBIE

So if it was bad sex, why're we  
hanging out with this guy?

JOAN

It wasn't BAD. It was--  
(searches for the word)  
*imperfect.*

DEBBIE

Isn't that the same thing?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

JOAN

Heads up, Little Miss Overachiever.  
When it comes to sex, you got  
nowhere to go if you get it right  
the first time.

They walk into...

12 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - EVENING

12

\*

Debbie and Joan scan the crowded bar for...

\*

ANGLE ON: Dan and Bernie at the bar. Bernie waves.

\*

JOAN

(waves)

There he is. Why is he waving?

DEBBIE

The other one is cute.

JOAN

That must be his "this isn't a  
date" friend.

They approach the guys. Dan and Debbie clock each other.

BERNIE

Isn't this place awesome?

JOAN

PLACEHOLDER: LINE TBD

\*

\*

BERNIE

You need to be drunk right now.

(to Bartender)

Another round.

(to the girls)

This round's on you.

JOAN

Charming. This is my roommate,  
Debbie Sullivan.

BERNIE

Bernie Litko. This is Dan Martin.

We work together.

DAN

Nice to meet you.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

You too.

Dan and Debbie are undeniably attracted to each other. It's the kind of attraction that makes you feel like you're in high school again.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

So what d'you guys do?

DAN

Restaurant supply.

JOAN

That sounds like you guys're either waiters or in the mafia.

BERNIE

That reminds me. Where're we gonna dump these girls' bodies later?

DAN

LA River.

Debbie laughs at his joke. Dan moves in.

DAN (CONT'D)

Wanna grab that table?

JOAN

On that romantic note? Sure...

BERNIE

Hey princess, you wanna take the unsolicited attacks down a notch? Save your crazy for later. When I have use for that shit.

He squeezes Joan's ass. She enjoys it.

CUT TO:

All four at a table. Empty shot glasses. Everyone is tipsy but Joan. She is DRUNK. She snuggles with Bernie. Dan and Debbie eye each other. \*

JOAN

I'm having so much fun! Your friend is fun.

(CONTINUED)

DAN

That he is.

JOAN

Even his name is fun. BERNIE! Like he's a Muppet or something.

DAN

He's definitely something.

BERNIE

Another round?

DEBBIE

No. I'm good.

JOAN

YES!

JOAN

We NEVER go out. Well, Debbie never goes out unless I DRAG her.

DEBBIE

Not true.

JOAN

She only sleeps with guys at her advertising firm because she never goes out! How sad is that? She has to fuck at work!

DEBBIE

Also, NOT true.

BERNIE

(re: Dan)

This one's been a non-stop yawn-fest since his ex broke up with him A YEAR AGO--

DAN

Easy, man.

JOAN

He should hook up with Debbie! So they can be boring together!

Debbie KICKS Joan under the table.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Oww!

(to Bernie)

Did you kick me?

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE

No. Do you want me to?

JOAN

You kinky bastard.

Bernie and Joan make out. Dan and Debbie watch, stunned.

DEBBIE

What's up, public place?

JOAN

See! I told you! Boring. I'm going to that place where you pee.

She executes an exaggerated wink at Bernie and then exits. Bernie sits for an awkward moment.

BERNIE

I'm going to that place where she pees too.

(sotto; to Dan)

Sorry I said that thing about Alison. I was just trying to--

DAN

I get it, man. Go.

He exits. Dan and Debbie both try to look cool. Silence.

DEBBIE

I'm not boring.

DAN

Me neither.

DEBBIE

Some times I have to be "boring" so she can be the crazy one.

Debbie looks a little awkward. Dan breaks the ice.

DAN

This is the worst date I've ever been on and it's not even my date.

DEBBIE

(laughs)

I've definitely had worse.

DAN

Oh yeah?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

DEBBIE

That's actually why I don't go out much.

DAN

Isn't worth it.

DEBBIE

Nothing annoys me more than wasting time. Why even try something when 95% of the time it's epic failure?

DAN

Because that other 5% is pretty mind-blowing.

They exchange a look. Both are game to blow the other's mind.

CUT TO:

14 INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

14

Bernie and Joan attempt to have sex in a TINY single-occupant bathroom. They rip their clothes off, kiss, and turn each other on. But...

They can't find a clean surface. Joan keeps nixing places that Bernie puts her on.

JOAN

Nope. No. Nope.

BERNIE

Well, those are our ONLY options. Toilet with the seat down. Bent over the sink. OR I lift you up and we do it against the door. The last one is the most sanitary.

JOAN

Yeah but I have vertigo.

BERNIE

Then let's BLOW this place.

JOAN

But I want you NOW!

They kiss and grope. He lifts her against the door.

CUT TO:

15 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 15 \*

A long line of GIRLS wait for the bathroom.

Debbie scans the line. As she moves closer to the bathroom,  
we hear the SQUEALS and GRUNTS of good sex.

Debbie KNOCKS on the door. Joan sticks her head out.

JOAN  
I TOLD YOU five more minutes!  
DebbieeeeeeeHeeeeeey!

DEBBIE  
I'm leaving.

JOAN  
Sorry I was a bitch before.

DEBBIE  
It was fine. Good night.

JOAN  
Great. I love you. See you  
tomorrow.

BERNIE  
Bye, Debbie.

DEBBIE  
Bye, Bernie.

Debbie looks down averts her eyes.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
Goodbye, Bernie's ballsack.

Debbie exits. IMPATIENT GIRL tries to get past Joan.

JOAN  
Hands off. He's mine.

Joan SLAMS the door in her face.

16 EXT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT 16 \*

Dan and Debbie step outside the packed club and head down the  
street... \*

DAN

You've lived in L.A. for six years  
and never been to a Dodgers game?  
I'll take you. I have sick seats.

DEBBIE

Are you asking me out?

MICHAEL (O.S.)

Debbie?

Dan and Debbie turn to see...

MICHAEL (late 20s), a boorish drunk guy, flanked by several  
FRAT-LIKE GUYS. Debbie recognizes him and...

She clasps Dan's hand in hers. Dan registers this with a  
small look to her. \*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Deborah Sullivan.

DEBBIE

Hello Michael. Been awhile.

MICHAEL

Six months. You're too good to  
return my calls? Bitch move, Deb.

DAN

Dude--

DEBBIE

It's okay. Michael's vocabulary is  
limited. Even when he's sober.

MICHAEL

(to Dan)

Good luck with that buddy.

Michael's GUYS laugh, high five. Dan pushes past them with  
Debbie. When they've made some distance...

DEBBIE

Remember that 95% epic failure...

DAN

He's Exhibit A?

DEBBIE

Yeah. Was that weird?

(CONTINUED)

DAN

No! I'll be your fake boyfriend  
whenever but I wouldn't do this.

He holds up their clasped hands. Debbie didn't realize they  
were still doing that. She lets go, embarrassed.

DEBBIE

Sorry.

DAN

It's fine! But who holds hands?  
Even fifth graders don't do that  
shit anymore. They're blogging.

DEBBIE

So, if holding hands is officially  
extinct, what would you do? If you  
were my boyfriend, I mean.

Dan offers Debbie his arm. She takes it. They walk. Her  
body subtly leaning into his. He can smell her hair.

DAN

Nice, right?

DEBBIE

Very. What else?

DAN

Well, I'd push away this little  
strand of hair that's been  
bothering me all night.

He does so. The electricity between them builds. \*

DEBBIE

And then what?

DAN

I guess this is when I'd  
probably...

He moves his face toward her. Her eyes betray how much she  
wants him. He lets her wait for a second. Then...

He kisses her deeply. They wrap their arms around each other  
as if they've been kissing like this for years.

17 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 17 \*

Hours later. King-sized bed. The bedroom, like the loft is a quintessential modern bachelor pad. \*

Dan is dead asleep, half-covered. Debbie, wearing only her shirt and bed-head, tip-toes around and picks up articles of her clothing. \*

18 INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 18 \*

FLUSH! Debbie exits the bathroom and feels her way to the front door in the half-lighted hallway.

DAN (O.S.)  
You don't have to run right off.

Debbie is startled. Dan enters from the bedroom.

DEBBIE  
Yes. I do. It's been a slice of heaven. Really. But I have to go right home. It's a rule of mine.

DAN  
You've been breaking a lot of rules tonight. You know, I can turn on a light--

DEBBIE  
No! I'm fine.

DAN  
Why?

DEBBIE  
It's another rule of mine.

DAN  
(laughs)  
You got a lot of rules, lady. \*

(continues) \*

Do you want these?

He holds up her underwear. Cute but not "I know I'm sleeping with someone tonight" underwear.

DEBBIE  
Um... Yes. I do.

She takes them. Awkward moment. They kiss briefly.

(CONTINUED)

DAN  
Should I walk you out?

DEBBIE  
No. We both know what happened last  
time you did that... Yeah. Okay...  
Thank you.

She exits.

DAN  
(amused, to himself)  
Thank you.

19 INT. JOAN AND DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

19 \*

Nice digs long-inhabited by two best girlfriends. Joan makes  
coffee. Debbie enters, same outfit as last night.

JOAN  
WALK that SHAME! Look at you! You  
look like a human being!

DEBBIE  
Oh my god, Joan. I can't believe I  
slept with him. On the first date!

JOAN  
It wasn't even your date. It was  
mine!

DEBBIE  
Is Bernie here?

JOAN  
What do you think!? We're just a  
couple of sluts! I'm so proud of  
you! Tell me everything!

DEBBIE  
Dan is... oh my lord. His eyes. His  
body! His MOUTH!

JOAN  
HE DIDN'T! You lucky bitch.

DEBBIE  
Bernie doesn't--

JOAN  
Of course not!

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Why?

JOAN

I should go in there right now and force him to wear the thigh muffs...

(Walks to Bernie)

Hey Bernie--

\*  
\*

ANGLE ON: Bernie, half-dressed, brushing his teeth.

\*

JOAN (CONT'D)

--why don't you eat pussy?

BERNIE

Okay. First off, since when are there two of you. Second, Joan, if I wasn't eating your pussy last night what WAS I eating?

The girls look at each other and giggle.

20 INT. AFFINITY FOOD SERVICES OFFICE - DAY

20

\*

A functional suite of glass-walled offices perfectly suited to the job of selling restaurant supplies.

\*  
\*

Dan, on the phone. Bernie runs in, same outfit as last night, and sits at his desk across from Dan.

DAN

(on the phone)

--Food Handler and PIP brands. Temperature and cut resistant protection-- Can I call you right back? Thanks.

He hangs up. Bernie extends his hand and shakes Dan's.

DAN (CONT'D)

What's happening?

BERNIE

I'm shaking your hand.

DAN

Dear God, why?

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE

Because today is the day you grew  
your dick back. You scored with  
Debbie.

DAN

How did you know that?

BERNIE

She told me after I nailed her this  
morning. I'm playing. Your girl, my  
girl they live together.

DAN

She's not my girl.

BERNIE

Uh... Don't look at me with those  
shining icy baby blues and tell me  
that young lady is not your girl.

DAN

She's not.

BERNIE

You text her yet?

DAN

I don't have her number.

BERNIE

No worries. After what you did to  
her. She'll find you.

DAN

What do you think of her?

BERNIE

She's gorgeous, smart, solid wife-  
up material.

(then...)

And, honestly, she might be Alison  
all over again.

DAN

I'm gonna be a good friend and  
pretend you didn't say that.

BERNIE

I'm gonna be a good friend and  
pretend I didn't see you checking  
your Facebook like a thirteen year  
old girl.

(CONTINUED)

Dan turns to see...

ANGLE ON: Dan's Facebook page. There's a new notification. "NEW FRIEND REQUEST" Debbie friend requested him. He accepts. He smiles. \*

BERNIE (CONT'D)

You cover me with the midget?

DAN

Told Keller you were at the dentist. You might wanna brush your teeth to make it believable.

RYAN KELLER (30's), a yes-man, approaches them. Keller has a forced laugh that he thinks diffuses conflict but actually creates it.

KELLER

Hey buddies! "Dudes." Co-colleagues if you will. Bernie, the corporate office guys are here. They didn't buy the dentist thing so I should tell them you were...

BERNIE

...eating pussy all morning?

KELLER

What? You were...oh!  
(forces a laugh)  
That could be frowned upon but, you know, in some countries, consuming feline is a delicacy.

DAN

Right. Why is corporate here?

KELLER

Asset review. They just showed up. I was like "No phone call?"  
(forces a laugh)  
And they said if I tried to be funny again they'd "rip my throat out." Which is so THEM, you know? Luckily Bernie's prepared. Right?

BERNIE

Let's go, fearless leader.

Bernie and Keller exit the room and walk towards other offices.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

Dan's phone rings.

DAN  
Land of the Robots. I mean,  
Affinity Food Supplies. What can I  
do for you today? \*

21 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

21 \*

Several nights later. Dan and Debbie lie in bed, post-coital,  
sweaty and glowing.

DAN  
How was that?

DEBBIE  
Pretty life-changing.

DAN  
Did you...

DEBBIE  
Yeah! Couldn't you tell?

DAN  
It's complicated with ladies. Guys  
are simpler. Guys are like an  
action movie. Big Finish. Money's  
worth. Women, sometimes, it's like  
one of those mind-bend-y movies  
where at the end you're like "Was  
it all a dream?" Like Memento.

DEBBIE  
So... giving me an orgasm is like  
watching Memento?

DAN  
Yeah. Sometimes I'm down there and  
it's like I can't trust my own  
mind.

DEBBIE  
Right. Guys are simple. Women are  
complicated.

DAN  
Yes. That's a medical fact.

DEBBIE  
I think you guys are more  
complicated than you let on.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

Debbie gets out of bed and puts on her shirt.

DAN  
Are you going home?

DEBBIE  
I was just gonna get some water. Do  
you want me to go?

DAN  
Do you want to stay?

DEBBIE  
Do you want me to stay?

DAN  
I want you to stay if you want to.

DEBBIE  
Then... I'll stay.

DAN  
See. Complicated.

She throws a pillow at him. They wrestle playfully, ready for  
round two.

Over the next few weeks...

22 INT. CARLSON & ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY 22 \*

Ad agency. Conference room. Debbie's work. Debbie listens as  
her fellow COLLEAGUES pitch a campaign. She checks her  
blackberry, discreetly. The text makes her blush. \*

23 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT 23 \*

Dan and Bernie drink with fellow SALESMEN. Dan gets up to  
leave. They protest. Bernie is DRUNK.

BERNIE  
Do not leave. Do not leave right  
now. If you stay, I will have sex  
with you. I will do it! I am better  
at sex than your fuck-buddy I  
promise. I will fuck you. Not  
because I'm gay but because I love  
you. Let's get bikini waxes first.

Dan laughs but leaves.

24 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 24 \*

Dan and Debbie kiss and undress, approaching the point of no return. Debbie is super turned on.

25 INT./EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MONTAGE 25 \*

Dan and Debbie receive several texts, emails, wall posts from each other. Flirting. Inside jokes. Some sexts.

26 INT. AFFINITY FOOD SERVICES OFFICE - DAY 26 \*

Dan's empty desk. Bernie fields awkward inquires from a SUPERVISOR about Dan's whereabouts. Bernie plays dumb. \*

27 EXT. DAN'S APARTMENT - DAY 27 \*

Debbie buzzes Dan's apartment. Above her...  
Dan sticks his head out the third floor window.

DAN  
 Coming down!

28 INT. DENTIST OFFICE - DAY 28 \*

A Dentist Office. Joan stands in a white coat, goggles and face mask. She makes a call on her cell.

JOAN  
 (into the phone)  
 Debbie, where are you? I need one more teeth cleaning for my log!

29 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 29 \*

Debbie's blackberry FLASHES: New Voicemail.

JOAN (O.S.)  
 If you're with Dan, don't brush after. I need a challenge.

In the background, Dan and Debbie have a mid-day tryst.

30 EXT. CASEY'S - DAY

30 \*

A decades-old bar, full of charm. Dan and Bernie deliver a shipment at the loading elevator on the street in front to CASEY MCNEIL (early 60's) owner and barkeep going on twenty-five years. \*

CASEY

Thanks for covering my ass again, Dan. I'll get you the last two months next week, I promise.

DAN

I don't get it. Why can't you pay your bill?

CASEY

It's tough times right now.

BERNIE

Doesn't seem so tough. Everyone in here is drinking.

CASEY

Yeah, but it doesn't mean they're paying.

DAN

Are they running tabs? What is this, 1978?

BERNIE

Are the Bee Gees climbing the charts, did the Jonestown massacre just happen-- I gotta stop Wikiapia-ing first thing in the morning.

CASEY

What am I gonna do? They're my regulars.

BERNIE

Get'em a MasterCard.

DAN

Yeah, man. It's not your problem.

CASEY

It is my problem. They're my friends.

(CONTINUED)

DAN

You need to start thinking of these guys as your customers. THAT's your problem.

CASEY

What's up your ass? Did you get back together with Alice?

BERNIE

Oh you did NOT just call her Alice. Like you don't know her name is pronounced: SATAN!

DAN

It's Alison. And, actually I'm sort of seeing someone new.

BERNIE

And when he says "new" he means "hot."

CASEY

Good. Cause not for noth'n, when you were with Alison you were not the coolest guy in the world to be around.

Dan reflects on this. Casey exits.

BERNIE

Don't let him psych you out. Will I see you tonight?

DAN

Yeah. Yeah I'll be there.

Dan is a little thrown by Casey's remark.

31 INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

31 \*

Debbie and Joan shop.

JOAN

You coming to the movies tonight? Or are you still majoring in "flake-onomics"?

DEBBIE

I don't know. Is Dan going?

(CONTINUED)

JOAN

Yeah. It would be good for you two to go out in public together. Instead of being vampires.

DEBBIE

I don't know. I've never done the "serious" relationship thing. But I smell "not ready" all over him.

JOAN

Maybe you're not sniffing in the right places.

DEBBIE

I just don't know if Dan is...

JOAN

What? "The One"?

DEBBIE

I don't want "The One". But I also don't want... like, the guy who when I'm looking at a photo album from this time in my life and my son points to a photo of Dan and says: "Who's that?" I have to say: "That's mommy's friend."

JOAN

A) If there are still photo albums when you have children, the future sucks. And two) Dan is Mommy's "friend?" Ouch. Give a brother a chance.

32 INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

32 \*

Action flick. Loud. Bad dialogue. Bernie and Joan make out. Debbie is bored and annoyed. She checks her blackberry:

Nothing. (Consider moving to Joan and Debbie's apartment if better for schedule -- Bernie and Joan entwined on the couch - \*  
- Joan sitting in a chair, uncomfortable) \*

33 INT. GYM - DAY

33 \*

Dan and Bernie swim laps. They take a break.

BERNIE

Why'd you bail Saturday?

(CONTINUED)

DAN

I was busy.

BERNIE

Doing what? Writing diary entries?  
If you don't wanna date Debbie, why  
are you still putting parts of you  
inside parts of her?

DAN

Do you have a problem with that?

BERNIE

I got an earful from Joan. Nothing  
makes you less attractive than YOUR  
boy fucking over HER friend.

DAN

I'm not fucking Debbie over.

BERNIE

But you're doing the fuck-buddy  
dance. At some point somebody gets  
hurt. Usually the person with a  
vagina. I can't be fraternizing  
with the enemy.

DAN

That's the stupidest thing I've  
ever heard.

BERNIE

It's the Lando Calrissian effect.  
I'm pulling pussy in Cloud City.  
Giving Han Solo a run for his  
money. When she finds out I'm dudes  
with Darth Vader, I get stuck in  
the Millennium Falcon with a  
racially offensive fish-faced co-  
pilot. The Star Wars equivalent of  
castration. Get in or get out.

DAN

Fine. But I'm NOT the bad guy.

BERNIE

(in a Yoda voice)  
"You will be. You will be."

34 EXT. DODGER STADIUM - DUSK

34 \*

A lovely September evening. The DODGERS warm up at batting practice. Thousands of FANS file into seats and cheer on their favorite players. \*

Far above Center Field, in the worst section sits Dan, with Dodgers hat and cooler in hand.

DEBBIE (O.S.)  
Hey there, stranger.

He turns to see Debbie who looks stunning. \*

DAN  
I told you I had great seats!

DEBBIE  
Yeah! How did you ever land these great seats? So far away. Can't we move closer?

DAN  
We could but these are my seats.

Debbie points to empty seats in front of them.

DEBBIE  
Those could be our seats. Just by walking like twelve rows down.

DAN  
It doesn't work that way.

DEBBIE  
Are there seat cops?

DAN  
No. These are my dad's seats. He inherited them from his dad. It's a thing.

DEBBIE  
It's a thing.

DAN  
You get it, right?

DEBBIE  
(smiles)  
Yeah. I do.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

DAN  
Where's Joan?

DEBBIE  
She said she's gonna meet us here.  
Where's Bernie?

DAN  
He's gonna meet us...

They realize what's happened.

DEBBIE Right. DAN Right.

35 INT. BERNIE'S BEDROOM - DUSK

35 \*

Bernie and Joan have amazing sex. Porn star sex.

JOAN  
Do they know we set them up?

BERNIE  
Yes. Because they are not stupid.

JOAN  
Yeah but I wanna be a... oh GOD...  
a good friend. She needs a little  
push, you know, OH YES PUSH!

In between thrusts...

BERNIE  
I'll make you a deal. You can keep  
talking if you put that pillow  
under your stomach.

Joan puts the pillow under her stomach. She moans with  
pleasure.

36 INT. DODGER STADIUM - DUSK

36 \*

Dan and Debbie watch the game. He puts his coat around her  
shoulders.

DEBBIE  
You know, this is sweet. But you  
don't have to do that.

DAN  
Do what?

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

I think we've passed the point of you being chivalrous.

DAN

Ouch.

DEBBIE

I just mean, like, we already had sex with each other. You don't have to give me your coat.

DAN

You'll need it when the sun sets.

DEBBIE

Sun sets? How long are these?

DAN

Depends on how good the game is!

A double play. Dan leaps up and screams at the top of his lungs. He does a little victory dance. Debbie watches his enthusiasm and passion with astonishment.

DEBBIE

Did they win?

DAN

No! It was just a great fucking play. Man! Did you see that?!

DEBBIE

Unfortunately I blinked and something happened that made you dance.

DAN

That's this game! You gotta stay in the moment. You can't worry about what's GONNA happen--

He looks at Debbie. He is so taken by her. She's beautiful and lovely. He gets lost in her for a moment.

DAN (CONT'D)

--Or you'll miss the best part.

CRACK! A decent hit. Everyone stands in the crowd. Except Dan and Debbie. They kiss.

37 INT. BERNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

37 \*

Bernie and Joan. New position. Joan stops him.

JOAN  
Wait. Wait.

BERNIE  
You need to stretch again? You need  
a pilates class? I'll teach it  
right now.

JOAN  
This isn't just sex, right?

BERNIE  
This is technically sex. Yes.  
There are a couple variants on this  
theme we could do.

JOAN  
But we mean something to each  
other, right?

BERNIE  
Yeah.

JOAN  
Am I your girlfriend?

BERNIE  
Uh...

She smacks him. WHACK!

BERNIE (CONT'D)  
Yes! Dammit! Fine! "Girlfriend"!

JOAN  
And you feel something for me?

BERNIE  
(honestly)  
Yes.

JOAN  
You do?

BERNIE  
I feel something.

She starts writhing on him again.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

JOAN  
You feel it.

BERNIE  
Oh yes. I feel it. I FEEL that. Hit  
me again!

38 INT. CASEY'S - NIGHT

38 \*

Later that night. The few PATRONS there celebrate a Dodger win. Dan and Debbie at the bar, both sufficiently lubricated. Dan relays the double play to Casey.

DAN  
--In time to get Madison out at  
third. BOOM! They should frame that  
throw and hang it in the Louvre  
next to the Mona Lisa.

CASEY  
I saw it on TV, Danny.  
(to Debbie)  
Always comin' in here. Tellin' me  
shit I already saw.

DAN  
But you weren't THERE!

CASEY  
I can't be there! I'm too busy  
filling out Master Card  
applications for my customers. You  
know who had horrible credit? Your  
DAD! Didn't stop me from serve'n  
him.

Dan nods. He gets it.

DAN  
He brought me here after games when  
I was a kid.

DEBBIE  
Your dad brought you to a bar?

DAN  
Casey's isn't just a "bar." Look  
around.

She looks around genuinely.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Um... is there another room?

DAN

Shut it. This place is like a second home to me. I've been coming here since--

CASEY

--since he could wrap his little fat fingers around a baseball.

DEBBIE

You used to be fat?

DAN

That. Is an entirely different story. I'm gonna piss.

Dan exits to the bathroom.

DEBBIE

You and his dad still friends?

CASEY

No, he fucked me over and died of bone cancer twenty years ago.

Debbie registers this.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Danny's never brought a lady in here before. Interesting.

DEBBIE

Really. I'm the first?

CASEY

Yep. Swear on Michael Jordan's grave.

DEBBIE

Michael Jordan's alive. Michael Jackson is dead.

CASEY

You all look the same to us.

DEBBIE

Michael Jackson was basically white!

39 EXT. CASEY'S - NIGHT 39 \*

Dan and Debbie walk.

DAN  
He said that? What a basket case.

DEBBIE  
Is it true? You've never brought a girl there?

DAN  
Not on game night.

They walk. They let the last several hours sink in. This feels special. Like a date.

DEBBIE  
So... what now?

Dan offers her his arm. She takes it. Just like he did when they were pretend dating. Only now it's for real.

40 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 40 \*

Dan and Debbie make love, stare into each other's souls.

41 INT. DAN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 41 \*

In the shower, Dan and Debbie simultaneously orgasm.

DEBBIE  
You're so good. You are.

DAN  
I bet you say that to all of the four guys you've slept with.

DEBBIE  
Nope. Never. None of them.

DAN  
I love-- doing this.

DEBBIE  
I love-- doing this too.

42 EXT. DAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

42 \*

Dan and Debbie sit on the roof of his apartment. Gorgeous skyline. Romantic.

DEBBIE

What annoys you most?

DAN

(thinks then...)

Amusement parks.

DEBBIE

What?! Do you also hate America?

DAN

I can't stand the concept of organized fun. It's like "Have fun... NOW! And... NOW!"

DEBBIE

Ugh! Yeah. Or, like, New Years Eve. "Resolution... NOW! Better life... NOW!"

DAN

New Years is awesome. You're stupid.

DEBBIE

You're stupid.

DAN

You're face is stupid.

DEBBIE

You're penis is stupid.

DAN

Oh yeah? We'll see if you still feel that way in about ten seconds.

DEBBIE

How can you still be ready to go?!

He gets on top of her.

DAN

(faux serious)

I've been meaning to tell you something. Debbie. It's really important. Stop laughing.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

Debbie stifles her giggles.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Are you listening?

DEBBIE  
Yes!

DAN  
This is something I've never told  
anyone. I'm... Spiderman.

Debbie laughs. They kiss. The sky burns with a sunset.

43 INT. DAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

43 \*

At the kitchen table. Dan and Debbie eat Chinese takeout in their underwear. It's quiet. Then...

DEBBIE  
I don't want this to end.

DAN  
Good news. You're only halfway  
through your Chicken and Broccoli.  
You only ate the broccoli.

DEBBIE  
No. I mean, "this".

DAN  
What? Lying around all weekend,  
eating crappy food, never getting  
dressed? I could check you into an  
insane asylum.

DEBBIE  
I'm serious! I hate Sunday  
afternoons. Countdown to reality.

DAN  
I usually play marathon sessions of  
Uncharted Deathmatch online.

DEBBIE  
I masturbate and watch old episodes  
of House.

He turns and stares at her.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

(Pause)

Just go with it.

(Pause)

I don't wanna look at my phone. \*

DAN

Here. We'll do it together.

They get their blackberries. They have the same phone.

DAN (CONT'D)

Count of three. 1,2,3!

They turn them on and scroll through texts. They read. They look at each other.

DEBBIE

Shit.

DAN

Shit.

44 INT. NAIL SALON - DAY

44 \*

Debbie sits with Joan, who gets a manicure-pedicure from KOREAN LADY. Debbie carries a BACKPACK. Tags still on it.

Joan drinks vodka from a bottle in a brown paper bag.

JOAN

Bernie Litko is an ASSHOLE! And I really liked him! I was so into him. And now I hope he gets hit by a car. And doesn't die but his dick gets paralyzed. And he can only have sex through a series of handsignals--

DEBBIE

Jesus. Slow down. What happened?

KOREAN LADY

Miss, you cannot drink in here.

Joan points to a sign: "BYOB: Bring your own beverage".

KOREAN LADY (CONT'D)

Alcohol only after six p.m.

JOAN

Isn't it AFTER six p.m. in Korea?

Korean Lady makes a face that reads: "True."

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Wow.

JOAN

I'm in a crisis and you stopped to buy a backpack!? What are you going camping? Did you get a tent?

DEBBIE

Just... start from the beginning.

JOAN

He broke...

45 INT. GYM - DAY

45 \*

Dan and Bernie play racquet ball.

BERNIE

up with me!!

DAN

Get out of here.

BERNIE

I tried to explain to her that we weren't technically boyfriend-girlfriend so technically, she couldn't break up with me...

DAN

Did she give a reason for "not technically breaking up" with you?

BERNIE

You know chicks. She wiggled about some minor thing. My parents--

46 INT. NAIL SALON - DAY

46 \*

Same as before. Debbie checks the time. It's 1:30 p.m.

JOAN

-- are gonna be in town next week. And I'm like "I wanna meet them" and he's like "No way" and I'm like "Why not?" And he goes "You're not Jewish."

DEBBIE

He's Jewish? Talk about random.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

A MANICURIST approaches Debbie.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
(politely waves off)  
No thank you. I have to get back to work.

JOAN  
You're not listening. I had to break up with him because I'm NOT Jewish! What kind of weak-ass--

DEBBIE  
Hold up. I thought you said he broke up with you.

JOAN  
He did! Because I did the only thing a red-blooded woman CAN do in that situation. I forced an ultimatum! Choose me or choose his family and heritage.

DEBBIE  
And he chose three thousand years of beautiful tradition.

JOAN  
Can you believe that asshole!?

47 INT. AFFINITY FOOD SERVICES OFFICE - DAY 47 \*

Dan and Bernie pass out coffees to fellow SALESMEN, all appreciative. They walk and talk, ending up at their respective desks.

DAN  
You're Jewish? How did I not know that.

BERNIE  
Because when we were fucking you never asked to meet my parents.

DAN  
True. \*

BERNIE  
So, I dropped the Jew bomb. So what. She can't say anything about that or she's racist.

(CONTINUED)

DAN  
Jew bomb. After fucking her for months. Real mature.

BERNIE  
Look. I like Joan. She's great in bed. Her ass should be worshipped by indigenous peoples. But meeting the parents? Boyfriend-girlfriend talks? Exit time.

DAN  
Weren't you the one who said "Get In or Get Out?"

BERNIE  
Part of "Getting In", genius, is knowing when to get out.

Dan is about to say something when... Keller approaches them, reading from some documents. \*  
\*

KELLER  
Casey McNeil. This guy hasn't paid us since July. And we're still making deliveries?

DAN  
I gave the guy a break. He's a friend of the family.

KELLER  
Oh. Yeah. Well, you know, if it were up to me I'd say "EFF the MAN" and fight the power!  
(forces a laugh)  
But the corporate office--

DAN  
--is in St. Louis. They're never gonna know. McNeil will pay us at the end of the month. I promise.

KELLER  
I know I seem tough and savvy. But I'm a bad liar.

DAN  
Just explain to them that human beings aren't computers. Smaller businesses are hurting right now.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

KELLER

Yeah... corporate won't like that.

DAN

Then, what do you want me to do?

KELLER

I guess... Your job. Sorry, Dan.

Keller exits. Dan sulks.

48 EXT. DAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

48

\*

Debbie buzzes Dan's apartment, grocery bags in hand. Above her...

Dan sticks his head out the third floor window.

DAN

Coming!

49 INT. DAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

49

\*

Dan and Debbie eat at the kitchen table. Debbie cooked.

DEBBIE

How's Bernie?

DAN

Fine. How's Joan?

DEBBIE

Fine. How's work?

DAN

Good. You?

DEBBIE

Great.

Dan takes a bite of Debbie's food. It's gross.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Is it okay?

DAN

Terrible.

DEBBIE

Really?

(CONTINUED)

Debbie takes a bite. She spits it out.

DAN

So you're not a great cook. You're good at other things.

DEBBIE

Like what?

DAN

Like this.

He leans over and kisses her. They keep kissing. It gets heated.

DEBBIE

I thought about you all day.

DAN

I thought about me all day too.

DEBBIE

You're such a dick.

DAN

You love it.

They wipe the food off the table and go at it hard.

50 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

50 \*

Dan wakes up to Debbie rushing to fill her BACKPACK with her clothes and do her makeup simultaneously.

DAN

You've been wearing a backpack for longer than three weeks. You are officially a lesbian.

DEBBIE

Some people don't live here. Or roll out of bed looking perfect.

DAN

Are you coming back here tonight?

DEBBIE

Yes. I'm gonna be late. I have to stop by my place to get my clothes for tomorrow. Crap! And my steamer. Keep forgetting it.

(CONTINUED)

DAN  
You gonna stay over tomorrow night?  
And the night after that? And the  
night after--

Debbie slows down. Despite her rush, she looks perfect.

DEBBIE  
Why? Is something wrong?

DAN  
No. It's just... You're here all  
the time. Leave some stuff. Take a  
drawer.

DEBBIE  
(sarcastic)  
A drawer? A whole drawer? Wow.  
Are you sure? This is a BIG step.

DAN  
Some of the closet then.

DEBBIE  
It looks like a Goodwill threw up  
in there. I would have to organize.  
Then that will annoy you.

DAN  
It can't be any more annoying than  
running down three flights of  
stairs to let you in every night.

DEBBIE  
(mocking)  
Relationships are so hard.

DAN  
Here.

He tosses her the apartment key.

DEBBIE  
(fake tears)  
Oh my god. A drawer AND a key?!  
Pinch me. Really.

DAN  
Keep talking like that and I'll  
make SURE you're late for work.

He grabs her. They make out. Debbie holds up the key.

DEBBIE

It's just a key, right?

DAN

It appears to be that, yes.

DEBBIE

No. I mean, keys are gateway drugs to other things.

DAN

Like what? PCP? Heroin?

DEBBIE

Dan. Is this what you want? I mean, a drawer to a key? We made that leap in about 30 seconds.

DAN

It's not like we're living together.

DEBBIE

Right! And if we did live together, we'd totally make the decision based on mutually agreed on criteria that made the most sense for our lifestyles.

DAN

You look so cute when you're organizing the fun.

DEBBIE

I'm gonna be late.

DAN

So be late. We don't need to plan everything. There are no rules. We can just be us. It's working.

Their kissing and touching gets more and more intense.

DEBBIE

No quick decisions based on our sexual attraction to each other.

DAN

Never.

More intense. Debbie's eyes roll back in her head.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Oh god. We have to do it fast!

They fall into each other's arms. Debbie is definitely going to be late.

51 INT. JOAN AND DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

51 \*

Boxes and plastic containers everywhere, all meticulously labeled and carefully packaged. Debbie packs. Joan eats Nutella straight out of the jar.

JOAN

I knew this would happen! I KNEW you would move in with this guy!

DEBBIE

Adults don't have roommates. They live with significant others.

JOAN

Oh thanks. So now I'm suddenly a child because you found a guy you THINK you like.

DEBBIE

Dan and I talked about it--

JOAN

For what? Five minutes? In bed?

DEBBIE

I'm paying you two months extra rent so you can find someone else--

JOAN

I didn't think you were one of those girls who drops her friends the second she gets regular dick.

DEBBIE

So at the first sign of responsibility I should force a break up, sit around stuffing my face and complain CONSTANTLY.

JOAN

I'm down if you are.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

If you want your thirties to be a blur of parties punctuated by teeth cleanings, that's your life. I want something different. And that means being spontaneous sometimes.

JOAN

Is that why you packed a week before the UHaul? Because you're such a WILD CARD!?

Debbie exits. Joan stands alone, surrounded by boxes.

JOAN (CONT'D)

(calling after)

I give it two months!!

52 EXT. JOAN AND DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

52 \*

A week later. Outside Joan and Debbie's apartment. Dan and Bernie with a UHaul van. They buzz up to the girls.

BERNIE

When I said "get in or get out", I didn't mean put a loaded gun to your head.

DAN

Come on, we gotta get the couch.

BERNIE

You have a couch.

DAN

Not a nice one.

BERNIE

This isn't gonna be free blow jobs and nice couches for the rest of your life. You hear that sound? That's nail meeting coffin.

DAN

Thanks for the support.

BERNIE

Why don't you knock her up while you're at it? Your life is over. No more staying out all night. No more one night stands--

(CONTINUED)

The door flings open. Joan scowls at both of them.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Oh heeeey. How you doin', honey?

JOAN

Are you my dad?

BERNIE

Uhhh... I don't think so. Unless you count when we role-played--

JOAN

Are you my mommy?

BERNIE

That is a question I can confidently answer "no" to.

JOAN

Then don't call me "honey". And also, fuck off.

She exits. But leaves the door open for them. Dan smiles.

BERNIE

Wipe that smile off your face. You're gonna be me T-minus two months from now.

53 INT./EXT. JOAN AND DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

53 \*

Bernie and Dan help Debbie move out.

MONTAGE OF SCENES

Outside, Dan and Bernie move cumbersome pieces into truck. Inside, Joan tries to trip up Bernie at every turn. He almost drops many important things.

Eventually, the apartment looks half-empty. Dan approaches Joan.

DAN

I know this sucks for you, I feel really bad.

JOAN

(passing right by him)  
Shut the fuck up.

She exits.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

BERNIE

God, I miss that woman like having  
a growth removed.

54 INT./EXT. DAN'S APARTMENT - DAY 54 \*

Debbie moves into Dan's apartment!:

-- Bernie and Dan struggle with a giant plant as Debbie supervises...

-- In the bathroom, Bernie takes a piss. The shower looks like Bed Bath and Beyond exploded. Girl products.

-- Dan and Debbie rearrange Dan's closet to make room for her things...

-- Dan teases Debbie as they toss aside a ridiculous amount of pillows and start to fool around on the bed...

Over the next few weeks...

55 INT. H.D. BUTTERCUP - DAY 55 \*

Debbie shops. She picks out a rustic coffee table...

56 INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - DAY 56 \*

Debbie enters with bags from the Container Store.

57 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - DAY 57 \*

Debbie organizes Dan's closet. Containers labeled. She's gutted it. It looks ten times larger and resembles a filing cabinet.

58 INT. DAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 58 \*

Dan cooks for Debbie. It's an excellent meal. Debbie can't decide whether she wants to kiss Dan or eat his food. Both taste great.

A blackberry RINGS. Debbie picks it up to answer...

**Caller ID: ALISON**

DEBBIE

Oh.

(CONTINUED)

DAN  
What is it?

DEBBIE  
Sorry. It's your phone. We have the  
same phone.

She hands it to him. Dan sees Caller ID. RING RING!

DAN  
Let me explain.

DEBBIE  
You don't need to.

RING RING!

DAN  
She does this. She has a psycho  
antenna that tells her: "Somewhere  
out there Dan is happy. I should  
swoop in and blow it all to shit."  
I just ignore her.

DEBBIE  
But you're not ignoring it! You're  
letting it ring!

DAN  
If I ignore it, then it goes  
straight to voicemail and she knows  
I ignored it and then she sticks a  
pin in a voodoo doll of me.

RING RING!

DEBBIE  
Oh my God! People know when you hit  
the "Ignore" button?!

DAN  
Yes.

DEBBIE  
Why didn't anyone tell me that?! I  
feel like a criminal! Like when I  
found out Napster was illegal.

His blackberry finally stops ringing.

DAN  
Deb, I'm sorry I--

DEBBIE

Maybe we aren't ready for this.  
For this... kind of commitment.

DAN

We don't have to make this about  
us. This is Alison being crazy.

DEBBIE

But I'm crazy too! Shit! We're  
crazy! We moved in together after  
one ten-minute conversation.

DAN

Yeah. You're right. We gave it our  
best shot. Let's call UHaul--

DEBBIE

You never SAID you wanted this. I  
need to know you do.

DAN

I just spent a week moving you in  
and rearranging my life. Doesn't  
that SAY I want to do this.

DEBBIE

Are we fighting? Is this our first  
fight?

DAN

Yeah! And I think we're coming out  
of the gate pretty strong.

DEBBIE

I just need to HEAR you say it.

DAN

I want to do this.

DEBBIE

Why?

DAN

Because I want, like, a home. I  
haven't had one in a long time. You  
being here makes this place a home.

DEBBIE

Whoa that was amazing. Can we  
always be honest like this?

(CONTINUED)

DAN

Sure! What level of honesty would you like? "I don't like when you play Rihanna's music" honest or "I imagine having a threesome with you and Rihanna" honest?

DEBBIE

(laughing)

God, I love you.

A beat. Neither of them has said this before.

Debbie is embarrassed it came out so quickly but looks imploringly at Dan. She's out on a limb now.

DAN

I... love you too.

Debbie is relieved. They kiss. Then hug.

ANGLE ON: Dan's face. His expression reads: "Oh Fuck." \*

59 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

59

\*

Halloween. Tons of PEOPLE IN COSTUMES party hard. Dan and Bernie drink. Dan is dressed as Samuel L. Jackson in "Pulp Fiction". Bernie is shirtless.

BERNIE

Dan. Dan. Dan. No. Who said it first?

DAN

She did. I don't think she meant to-

BERNIE

Women approach that phrase with a tactical strategy normally reserved for an anti-terrorist strike team.

DAN

I think it was an accident.

BERNIE

No, this was no accident. This was an AMBUSH. This was definitely--

CUT TO:

60 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - WOMEN'S BATHROOM - CONT.

60 \*

Single occupant. Joan pees in front of Debbie. Debbie is dressed as Uma Thurman in "Pulp Fiction". Joan is dressed as Rhythm Nation-era Janet Jackson.

DEBBIE

Not like I PLANNED it.

JOAN

This is a disaster. Listen, we should just go to his place and move all your stuff out. Disappear. Start a new life in another state. Join witness protection. You're fucked.

DEBBIE

Is it THAT bad to say it first?

Joan stands and flushes. Debbie looks down.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Jesus. Your yard work is incredible. Who's your waxer?

JOAN

Ming. And you can't have her. She's my secret. Listen, in all relationships everywhere there's a person who cares MORE than the other person. And whoever says "I love you" first--

CUT BACK TO:

61 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - CONT.

61 \*

Dan and Bernie do shots.

BERNIE

--CARES more. The other person has to match that caring which will be impossible because she will always care MORE. And the next thing you know you're saying things like "I just don't FEEL the SAME WAY."

DAN

(joking)

So we should have counted to three and said it at the same time?

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

BERNIE  
(serious)  
When you were with Alison, who said  
"I Love You" first?

We can tell from Dan's reaction. Dan said it first.

BERNIE (CONT'D)  
Exact-o-mundo.

BARTENDER serves them two shots.

DAN  
We didn't order these.

Bartender points to: Slutty Costumed Girls waving and  
flirting.

DAN (CONT'D)  
I love Halloween.

BERNIE  
I love Halloween.

\* \*

CUT TO:

62 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - CONT.

62 \*

Debbie and Joan exit bathroom. Head back to party. Drunk  
ASSHOLES catcall Joan.

JOAN  
I hate Halloween. What is your  
costume by the way? Are you a  
waiter?

DEBBIE  
I'm Uma Thurman in Pulp Fiction. It  
makes more sense if I'm standing  
next to Dan.

JOAN  
Right. Like that's not a metaphor  
for something.

They see...

63 JOAN AND DEBBIE'S POV

63 \*

Dan and Bernie oogling the Costumed Sluts.

JOAN AND DEBBIE

\*

(CONTINUED)

JOAN

There they are. Like worms  
wriggling on hooks. Is it weird  
that I miss Bernie?

Debbie's a little distracted by Dan's fascination with the  
Sluts.

DEBBIE

Not weird at all. Because you like  
things that hurt.

JOAN

My only regret is that he didn't  
let me clean his teeth. I bet that  
fucker is the Sistine Chapel of  
hardened plaque.

(turned on)

Ooooooh! Panties ruined.

DEBBIE

Vomit swallowed. Divide and  
conquer?

JOAN

Let's do it.

ANGLE ON: Dan and Bernie. Bernie points out CHICKS across the \*  
bar.

BERNIE

The slutty angel likes anal. The  
slutty nurse called me "Dad" once  
during sex. And it's on with the  
slutty nun.

A SLUT dressed as a nun also eye-fucks Dan. Dan and Bernie \*  
toast.

DAN

Here's to another night of sexual  
perversity in Los Angeles.

BERNIE

Too bad for you. You've been  
banished to the world of couple  
costumes. I can't think of anything  
more emasculating.

DAN

Well, who are you supposed to be?  
Aren't you cold?

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2)

BERNIE  
I'm D'Angelo. And no. D'Angelo is  
never cold.

Debbie walks up. \*

DEBBIE  
Hey, I gotta meet with a client  
first thing in the morning. Is it  
cool if we head out soon?

DAN  
We JUST got here. It's a holiday!

DEBBIE  
It's not a real holiday. It's a kid  
holiday. Grown-ups work tomorrow. \*

BERNIE  
Great attitude. While you're at it  
why don't you tell him there's no  
Santa Claus?

DEBBIE  
Aren't you Jewish?

Bernie dodges this.

DAN  
I'm having fun. Aren't you?

Debbie eyes the Drunk Sluts. She's pissed.

DEBBIE  
No. Not really.

BERNIE  
I am! And will continue to with or  
without you assholes.

He turns to leave but sees...

ANGLE ON: Joan talks to Drunk Sluts. They look at Bernie.  
Sluts are disgusted and trot off. \*

Bernie bolts over to Joan.

BERNIE (CONT'D)  
What did you just say to her?

JOAN  
I told her you gave me herpes.

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE  
I DON'T HAVE HERPES!

PARTY-GOERS quiet down to listen to this confrontation.

JOAN  
All's fair, Litko. What're you  
gonna do? Cry about it?

BERNIE  
If you didn't have a pussy, there'd  
be a bounty on your head!

JOAN  
You're a psychopathic social misfit  
who's clearly in the middle of a  
deep homosexual panic!

BERNIE  
If I'm gay it's only because after  
fucking you for three months. It  
seemed like the next logical step.

The PARTY-GOERS audibly react to this one.

Bernie and Joan continue fighting as...

ANGLE ON: Dan and Debbie as they watch them. The fun is  
officially over.

DEBBIE  
Promise me we won't end up like  
them.

DAN  
If we end up like them, let's meet  
at the top of the Empire State  
Building and blow each other's  
brains out.

DEBBIE  
Can we go home now?

DAN  
Yep.

He downs his free shot. They exit.

The next day. Dan works away, relatively chipper mood. Bernie  
enters, hung-over, barely able to walk.

BERNIE

Shoulda stayed out last night. Too bad you're pussy whipped and had to go home like a punk.

DAN

Oh yeah. I'm super jealous of you right now.

Bernie winces.

BERNIE

You don't have to scream at me. Just because you're a vagina now.

DAN

I'm speaking in a totally normal voice. And you know what? I don't have to party. I can have a perfectly enjoyable night at home.

BERNIE

You're really selling me on it. Keep talking. On second thought, don't. My head feels like it's in a bag full of bees.

Over a loudspeaker...

KELLER (O.S.)

(clears throat)

Daniel Martin, please come to the upper level. Daniel Martin.

The loudspeaker makes Bernie fall out of his chair in pain.

DAN

Why does he insist on using that? I'm not a lost kid at Chuck-E-Cheese.

BERNIE

He hates us. Me specifically.

Dan goes to the upper level and enters...

KELLER'S OFFICE - TWO CORPORATE SUITS hover over a sweaty Keller.

KELLER

Hey, buddy. This is Mr. Savelson and Mr. Greenberg. They want to talk about your accounts.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2) 64

KELLER (CONT'D)  
Specifically Casey's. And how he  
hasn't... um... paid us.

Dan braces himself.

65 EXT. CASEY'S - DAY 65 \*

Casey follows Dan out of the bar.

CASEY  
They can't cut me off. I've been  
giving them business for years. I  
always pay... eventually.

DAN  
There's no more eventually. I told  
you, it's not 1978.

CASEY  
Why do you keep arbitrarily picking  
that year? I'm gonna talk to them.  
They can't do this to people.

DAN  
There is no "they." It's a gigantic  
company. I don't even know who my  
boss' boss is! They don't care  
about you OR your bar.

CASEY  
What about you? Do you care?

Dan looks at him. There's nothing he can do.

66 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 66 \*

Debbie hangs drapes. A distracted Dan opens the front  
door.... \*

DEBBIE  
You're home early.

Throws down his keys and goes to the kitchen. \*

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
You okay?

DAN  
Sure.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

DEBBIE  
Honestly?

DAN  
Yeah.

Dan hits the couch and turns on the TV. Dodgers game. \*

DEBBIE  
Don't forget about the thing  
tonight.

DAN  
Oh shit. Debbie!

DEBBIE  
You said you'd come. I want you to  
meet some of the people I work  
with.

DAN  
Fine, but I'M inviting Bernie.

DEBBIE  
Well, then I'M asking Joan.

DAN  
Fine.

DEBBIE  
Fine.

Dan returns to the game. Debbie to her drapes. Both regret  
being curt with each other but don't say anything. \*

67 INT. ROOF BAR - NIGHT 67 \*

After-work drinks. A lot of SUITS. Debbie mingles with her CO-  
WORKERS. At the bar...

Dan and Bernie stand around feeling awkward.

BERNIE  
So what is this? Now you're  
auditioning for her co-workers.

DAN  
That's not what this is. I don't  
know what this is. But it's not  
that. I'm supporting her.

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE  
You're supporting her?

DAN  
Yeah.

BERNIE  
Like financially?

DAN  
NO! She's... Actually she makes  
MORE money than I do.

BERNIE  
Exactly. Her JOB supports her. Her  
bitch friend Joan listens to her  
problems. You know what you bring  
to the picture?

DAN  
My huge amazing cock?

ANGLE ON: Debbie chats with STEVEN THALER (late 30s, early  
40s, her boss). There's an easy rapport between them. They  
joke. She laughs. He touches her arm. \*

BERNIE (O.S.)  
Let me break this down for you. If  
Debbie's life is a bike. You are  
not the tires, you are not the  
handlebars, fuck, you're not even  
the seat. You know what you are?

BACK ON - Dan and Bernie. Dan is suspicious of Steven.

DAN  
You're the little bell she dings as  
she drives by places to say "LOOK  
AT ME I'M SO FUCKING CUTE I HAVE IT  
ALL--"

A PRETTY GIRL walks by.

BERNIE  
Hello lovely. How're you--  
She blows him off.

BERNIE (CONT'D)  
--tonight. That's good.  
(to Dan)  
Definitely a lesbian.

(CONTINUED)

DAN

Nice one.

BERNIE

These rich fucks. If these are the kind of people Debbie hangs with, you're gonna have to hang with them too if you want to continue being the little dingy bell on her lifebike-- Oh My Lord on A Stick.

His motor-mouth slows to slack jaw. He stares at...

ANGLE ON: Joan waltzes into the place. She is decked out. If Joan is a solid 10, tonight she's a lucky 13. She fits right in with this high brow crowd. \*

Bernie is practically catatonic.

DAN

Okay. I'll leave you with that.

Dan exits. Bernie moves to Joan as if pulled in by a tractor beam. He approaches her. She knows what's up.

BERNIE

Hey girl. You look good. And when I say "good" I mean "TREMENDOUS". So I was thinking--

JOAN

You were "thinking"? You shouldn't do that. You'll hurt yourself.

BERNIE

Aww, see that's what I like about you, Joan. Feisty. Feistiness.

JOAN

Why don't you go bother some other girl?

BERNIE

(suddenly sincere)

Because maybe I don't want some other girl. Maybe I want feisty.

Joan melts for a moment. A HANDSOME GUY joins them.

(CONTINUED)

JOAN

Bernie, this is... Your name is escaping me because I'm distracted by how straight and white your teeth are.

HANDSOME GUY

Derek. Like Jeter.

JOAN

Right. Derek, this is Bernie. He has gingivitis as a result of not flossing enough.

BERNIE

Well, I was gonna--

JOAN

Bernie is gonna go to a shitty dive bar now and pick up a chick with no self-esteem.

BERNIE

Nah I think I'll head home. You're the only chick with low self esteem that I wanted tonight.

He exits. Joan feels sort of bad.

CUT TO:

68 INT. ROOF BAR - NIGHT

68 \*

Dan has joined Debbie, Steven and some CO-WORKERS. Steven holds court. Everyone hangs on his every word. Except Dan.

STEVEN

You wanna clear 400K at the end of the year without lifting a finger? Invest. Passive income. That's what's gonna pay your taxes.

The CO-WORKERS laugh as if this were a joke. Debbie along with them. Dan studies her.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

What do you do Dan?

DAN

Restaurant supply.

Blank stares.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

Oh really. Interesting. In what aspect?

\*  
\*

DAN

I work. It's active income. Kind of a cause and effect deal. You actually work. And then someone pays you for that work. It's an experimental thing some companies are trying out.

\*  
\*

Awkward.

DEBBIE

Dan's a salesman.

STEVEN

I can tell. He's really selling me on something. So how did you and Debbie meet?

DAN

We're cousins.

DEBBIE

Dan.

STEVEN

I'm just making conversation.

DAN

Don't let me stop you.

He downs his drink and exits.

DEBBIE

Will you all excuse me for just a second?

She exits.

Dan storms into the elevator. The elevator door begins to close. Debbie, a few feet behind him, has to rush to get on before the doors shut. She just makes it.

DEBBIE

What the hell was that?

DAN

That was a fun night of watching Steven wipe his dick with money that would save people's businesses. That's what that was.

DEBBIE

Why are you so angry?

DAN

Who said I'm angry!?

DEBBIE

What the hell is this, then? Calm? \*

Debbie slams on the Emergency Stop button. The elevator suddenly STOPS. Dan might hyperventilate.

DAN

What're you doing?

DEBBIE

Let's get some SERENITY up in this bitch!

Dan goes to push the Emergency Stop button. Debbie bats his hand away.

DAN

I can't breathe.

DEBBIE

My boss is not why you're mad. You're scared about something--

DAN

Seriously I'm seeing white. I'm stroking out.

DEBBIE

I'm sick of being your roommate! Why don't you want to TALK to me about this?!

DAN

BECAUSE IT ISN'T PRETTY! And you'll run away when I can't be what you want.

DEBBIE

I'M NOT ALISON!

A beat. Dan steadies his breathing. Then...

(CONTINUED)

DAN

I hate my job. It means I have to do things I know aren't right.

DEBBIE

Then why don't you quit?

DAN

(explodes)

--Because I have you now! I appreciate you wanting me to "Follow My Dream" but that's not realistic--

DEBBIE

If you're only hanging on to that job because of me, then you're doing it for the wrong reasons.

DAN

You say that. But you don't MEAN that. You're a successful, put-together person and you want me to be part of all that--

DEBBIE

I slept with my boss.

A beat.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Before I met you. Before he was my boss. When we were both junior associates. And then he got promoted and I was scared to tell you because you'd think I was a slut or that I can't handle seeing Steven every day. I didn't think I could handle it at first but every time I look at him I feel nothing, when I look at you I feel everything and realize how lucky I am to have you in my life.

\*  
\*  
\*

She turns away from Dan. It's an attempt to hide the tears she knows are coming.

She hits the Emergency Stop button. The elevator continues its decent.

He embraces her from behind. She turns to face him.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: (3)

69

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
I'm not pretty either.

They kiss.

70 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

70 \*

Dan and Debbie make love. They caress each other, hold one another, never losing eye contact. They orgasm together with an intense vulnerability.

71 INT. KELLER'S OFFICE - DAY

71 \*

Two weeks later. Keller sits, fidgeting. Dan enters.

KELLER  
Hey, buddy. You wanna sit down?

Dan does so. Keller is nervous.

KELLER (CONT'D)  
Um... Look, Dan, I'm not really good at communicating. Except with my Japanese love doll. There's my sense of humor again!

DAN  
What's up, Keller?

KELLER  
So it seems like two weeks after our meeting with corporate a delivery went to CASEY'S. Was this a computer glitch or...

DAN  
No. I made the delivery.

KELLER  
Right. Okay. So since you violated and misappropriated company materials... um... I'm gonna have to... ah...

Keller is at a loss. He doesn't have the stones.

DAN  
I'll make this easier.

Dan exits...

(CONTINUED)

He makes his way down to the Lower Level. Bernie eats a croissant at their desks. Dan collects his things. Keller follows him.

KELLER

Are you mad at me? Where are you going?

DAN

I'm walking out! That's what people do when they quit.

(to everyone)

Did you all catch that?! I quit! That's right! I'd rather nose-dive into unemployment than spend another second here sniping people's souls. Namaste!

He exits. Bernie starts a SLOW CLAP. When no one joins in, he pretends he's getting rid of croissant crumbs.

Dan and Debbie stroll. They carry shopping bags full of fresh vegetables. Debbie checks items off a list. \*

DEBBIE

Cranberry sauce, onions for the stuffing-- Oh! Is Bernie coming tomorrow? Is he gonna bring that weirdo chick he's seeing? I should warn Joan.

DAN

I'll ask. Gonna see him tonight.

DEBBIE

You're going out tonight?

DAN

It's Trent's birthday. We always go out. I didn't tell you that?

DEBBIE

No. It's fine--

DAN

It's tradition. I mean, we can still see our friends without each other. Right?

DEBBIE

Whatever.

DAN

Are we arguing?

DEBBIE

No. We're talking.

DAN

You're mad I didn't ask you out tonight.

DEBBIE

No.

DAN

You're mad I'm going out the night before Thanksgiving.

DEBBIE

I'm CONFUSED 'cuz you said you were gonna cook Thanksgiving dinner. It's my favorite holiday. You eat crap all day but someone has to actually make the crap. And I'm a terrible cook.

DAN

I'll whip up something tomorrow morning.

DEBBIE

Okay.

DAN

Are we making up now?

DEBBIE

We weren't fighting!

DAN

Can we make up anyway?

DEBBIE

Lay it on me.

They kiss. Some cute and tasteful PDA.

They walk on and pass a dog adoption stand. A sign: BARK AVENUE RESCUE. Puppies crawl over each other, look cute.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
Oh my God! Look at them!

A VOLUNTEER hands a PUPPY to Debbie.

VOLUNTEER  
They need good homes.

DEBBIE  
Oh Dan! This is OUR dog! Think  
about how great it would be. Walks  
in the park, snuggles--

DAN  
Chewing up stuff, pooping on  
furniture, vet bills--

Debbie reluctantly puts down the puppy. They walk on.

DAN (CONT'D)  
It's a lot of responsibility.

DEBBIE  
Yeah. I just feel ready. But you  
don't. So WE aren't.

DAN  
Now we ARE fighting.

She hurries her step. Dan slows his.

73 INT. CASEY'S - NIGHT

73 \*

Dan and Bernie drink with their buddies ISAAC and TRENT. \*

DAN  
Should we get a dog?

BERNIE  
All of us together? Collectively as  
a team?

DAN  
Let me rephrase this. The woman,  
Debbie, who I live with is  
interested in procuring an animal  
to domesticate.

BERNIE  
Isn't she busy domesticating you?

(CONTINUED)

DAN

Fuck off.  
(Beat)  
Is it that bad?

BERNIE

Yeah. It is. Your balls have fallen  
into your vagina.

ISAAC

Dogs are practice babies. Don't do  
it.

TRENT

Or better yet. GET OUT OF THERE!

DAN

I can't get out! I live there!

BERNIE

Maybe you could fake your own  
death.

DAN

I'm still into Debbie. Things are  
fine. It's just... a lot of work.

BERNIE

Maybe you should drop a Jew bomb.

DAN

I'm not Jewish.

BERNIE

Details.

A DRUNK REGULAR stumbles, getting out his car keys. Casey  
intercepts him.

DRUNK REGULAR

(belligerent)  
I'm fine! I can drive!

CASEY

Danny!

Dan rushes over to help restrain the Drunk Regular.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Watch the bar for a second. I'm  
gonna put this high-functioning  
well-respected citizen into a cab.

(CONTINUED)

Casey exits with Drunk Regular. Dan jumps behind the bar. Bernie, Isaac and Trent gather around.

DAN

What the fuck you want, assholes?

BERNIE

Jameson!

ISAAC

Two more beers.

Dan expertly readies their orders.

TRENT

Finally something you're good at!

DAN

I learned the trade by following the legendary drunks. Hemingway. Bukowski. Your Dad.

BERNIE

On top of being the shell of the man he once was, he's gonna bartend at thirty? Dear God, I know it's not much to offer but take Dan now.

DAN

Don't get me wrong. Casey's is a nice place to visit but I wouldn't want to live here.

ISAAC

Any job where I can drink you guys under the table is fine by me.

DAN

Is that a challenge?

BERNIE

It's a holiday, isn't it?

They toast and drink.

QUICK MONTAGE - Dan and Bernie and friends get completely shit-faced. They go nuts.

CUT TO:

Debbie chops veggies. She has put together a makeshift Thanksgiving dinner. Dan enters SUPER HUNG OVER. Debbie's chopping hurts his brain.

(CONTINUED)

DAN  
What time is it?

DEBBIE  
Almost noon.

DAN  
Shit. I'm sorry, Deb--

DEBBIE  
Can you take the turkey out of the oven? I think it's done.

DAN  
What can I do to help?

DEBBIE  
(matter of fact)  
You can take the turkey out of the oven.

DAN  
Right. Okay.

DEBBIE  
And maybe you could... be unequivocally supportive of everything I do for the next twenty-four hours?

She kisses him on the nose. Dan's face reads: "Uh Oh."

Doorbell rings.

75 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

75 \*

Thanksgiving dinner spread. Buffet-style.

Dan and Debbie's FRIENDS mingle. Some eat. Most drink.

JOAN holds court with the GIRLS. She looks over at...

BERNIE has brought a DATE, hot but sort of trashy. She licks Bernie's ear. She laughs loud and annoying.

Dan holds court with the rest of the GUYS. Dan looks at...  
DEBBIE, stressed out, making dessert in the kitchen.

\*  
\*

76 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 76 \*

ANGLE ON: Joan joins Debbie, who stirs cake batter and reads a recipe on her blackberry. Joan offers a joint. \*

DEBBIE  
I get paranoid when I smoke.

JOAN  
Right now paranoid would be relaxed for you.

Deb lights up. Joan eats cake batter.

DEBBIE  
Do I seem different to you?

JOAN  
Not yet. You just lit it. See the way it works is: You inhale. Then you become this thing called "High."

DEBBIE  
No. I mean in general.

JOAN  
It's a little weird everyone's having a good time and you're acting like a rodent on crack.

DEBBIE  
Dan said he'd cook but he got drunk last night and I had to make this entire goddamn spread. I'm overworking myself instead of expressing my feelings... And officially becoming my mother. Oh God! It's way worse than that. I'm the person who says things like "officially becoming my mother."

JOAN  
Okay. Now you're high.

She snatches the joint from DEBBIE. \*

77 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 77 \*

ANGLE ON: Football game blasts. GUYS and GIRLS mingle. \*

Bernie's DATE is officially drunk and getting slutty.

(CONTINUED)

A stoned JOAN is super pissed.

Trent puts his beer on the coffee table. A STONED Debbie slips a coaster under it. She pulls Dan aside.

DEBBIE

Can you make sure people use the coasters?

DAN

Should I enforce this with a zero tolerance policy and an iron fist?

DEBBIE

Whatever you think is fine.

Dan studies her. She's out of it.

DAN

Are you stoned?

DEBBIE

No! Yes. A little. My forehead weighs so much right now.

Bernie stands, beer in one hand. The other on DATE's ass.

BERNIE

I wanna propose a toast. To Debbie and Danny.

Everyone applauds. Dan and Debbie smile. His is strained. She's not sure how lips work right now.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

If it weren't for them, we would've celebrated this holiday with binge drinking and weird sex. Keep drinking. We could still get lucky.

Smatters of laughter. Bernie and DATE make out.

JOAN

Some of us have standards.

BERNIE

Some of us are proof that if you get drunk enough, your standards drop significantly.

JOAN

Obviously. I fucked you.

BERNIE

Is that what you'd call it?

JOAN

Don't you DARE treat me like some random chick!

(to DATE)

What's your name?

DATE

Um, I'm--

JOAN

EXACTLY! NO ONE CARES! Because you're just making a brief cameo in a bad porno.

(to Bernie)

You and I. We meant something. You felt something. You CRIED during sex with me.

BERNIE

I challenge any man who has sex with you NOT to cry.

JOAN

Debbie. Dan. This is what you have to look forward to.

Joan jets for the door. Bernie follows her.

BERNIE

You're leaving? No! I'm leaving.

Joan and Bernie fight over coats. Date is bewildered.

JOAN

I'M LEAVING FIRST, BERNIE! YOU HAVE A DATE HERE!

Bernie backs off. Joan exits. Bernie waits.

BERNIE

(to Date)

Why are you just standing there? Can't you see we're storming out in a dramatic fashion?

Date scurries over to him.

Debbie goes over to the buffet. She opens the window, picks up the turkey, and tosses it out the window onto the street.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

I don't know about you guys but  
THAT needed to happen. Who wants  
cake batter?

Guests are mystified. Dan joins her.

DAN

Baby, you just threw a turkey out  
the window.

DEBBIE

Unequivocally supportive.

DAN

(to everyone)  
Mmmm! Cake batter!

78 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT

78 \*

Later that night. Debbie asleep on the couch. We hear...

The front door opens. Dan enters. Debbie wakes up.

DEBBIE

What happened?

DAN

You passed out mid-rant about how  
much you didn't understand  
Inception.

DEBBIE

Oh Lord. I'm a mess.

DAN

No. Come outside for a second. I  
have something--

DEBBIE

Wait. I AM a mess though. I wasn't  
being honest with you.

DAN

I know. You're mad 'cuz you did  
all the work and I didn't help.

DEBBIE

I don't care about that. I don't  
wanna do all the work with US. I  
wanna know that it's leading  
to...to something I guess.

(CONTINUED)

DAN

We don't get a prize for staying together.

DEBBIE

I don't want a stupid ring or a stupid baby. I just want to know you're in this as much as I am. And that we're not wasting time.

DAN

Come outside with me.

DEBBIE

Changing the subject much?

DAN

Not at all.

He opens the front door...

In the hallway. The PUPPY from Bark Avenue chews on left-over turkey. His tail wags enthusiastically. Debbie is so surprised she giggles like a kid on Christmas.

DEBBIE

You're shitting me!

DAN

I thought what the hell. He needs a good home and we have one. Even if we did ruin Thanksgiving.

Debbie picks up the puppy and kisses him. Then she kisses Dan. She kisses them back and forth.

Over the next few weeks...

79 INT./EXT. DAN'S APARTMENT - DAY - MONTAGE

79 \*

Debbie picks up the puppy (PACINO) as he pees on the carpet.

Dan drags a reluctant Pacino on a leash down the street. Bernie yells at the dog.

BERNIE

Just pick him up!

DAN

Then he'll get used to it. No. He has to walk. Come on, Pacino.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

Pacino won't move.

BERNIE

I told you to name him after a less  
difficult actor.

(to Pacino)

Scent of a Woman is overrated!

Pacino starts walking.

Debbie pays bills and rent. Dan looks on guiltily. Pacino  
eats a check. Debbie rips it from his teeth.

80	INT. OFFICE - DAY	80	*
	Dan at a job interview. After a moment, he gets the brush off from an EXECUTIVE.		*
81	INT. CARLSON & ASSOCIATES OFFICE - NIGHT	81	*
	Debbie struggles to finish her work. Steven enters with a pile of paperwork and dumps it on her desk.		
82	INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT	82	*
	Dan returns home, dejected, to find Pacino eating toilet paper.		
83	EXT. STREET - DAY	83	*
	Dan walks Pacino. They are doing better.		*
84	INT. CORPORATE LOBBY - DAY	84	*
	Job interview. Dan rejected by a COMPANY MANAGER.		
85	INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT	85	*
	Debbie and Steven entertain CLIENTS. Debbie checks the time. It's midnight.		
86	INT. DAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT	86	*
	Midnight. Dan eats pizza. Pacino eats his dinner. Dan gives Pacino some pizza.		

87 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 87 \*

Debbie comes home late. Dan is asleep in bed. Pacino is asleep in Debbie's spot.

88 EXT. CASEY'S - DAY 88 \*

Dan walks Pacino. Casey approaches them.

CASEY  
Who's this?

DAN  
His name's Pacino.

Pacino barks.

CASEY  
(to dog)  
You talk'n to me?

DAN  
That's DeNiro.

CASEY  
I know. I'm DeNiro talk'n to Pacino.

DAN  
Listen, Casey. I need a favor. I need a job.

89 INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 89 \*

Three AM. Dan enters. Pacino greets him.

DAN  
Shhh.

Dan gets a beer. Debbie enters, wide awake.

DEBBIE  
How was your first night bartending?

DAN  
Fine. Thought you'd be sleeping.

DEBBIE

My flight's at seven. Thought I'd stay up, sleep on the plane. I wanted to see you.

She puts her arms around him. Dan is tired.

DAN

You're only in Detroit for two days. I think we can go two days without seeing each other.

DEBBIE

Yeah but it was your first night--

DAN

It's a stupid in-between thing until I get a better job. You don't need to make it a big deal.

DEBBIE

Okay...

Debbie back off.

DAN

What're we fighting about NOW?

DEBBIE

You tell me. You're picking one!

Dan looks around.

DAN

I'm pick-- Wait. Where's Pacino?

90 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

90 \*

Pacino is in Debbie's suitcase. He chews Debbie's expensive high heel. Dan and Debbie enter.

DEBBIE

NO! NO! BAD DOG!

She grabs her heel. A tug-of-war ensues.

DAN

Pacino, drop it!

Pacino drops the heel. Debbie inspects the damage.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Dammit!!

DAN

Why are you packing them anyway?  
You wanna look nice for Steven?

Debbie glares at him. She grabs her suitcase.

DAN (CONT'D)

What? Did I hit a nerve there?

DEBBIE

You don't need to throw that in my  
face to make yourself feel better.

DAN

All I wanted to do was come home,  
have a beer, watch some  
Sportscenter and go to sleep.

DEBBIE

All I wanted to do was spend a few  
hours with my boyfriend before I  
left but this asshole showed up  
instead.

Debbie exits. Dan follows her to...

91 INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - THE FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

91 \*

Debbie throws on her coat.

DAN

You're storming out now?

DEBBIE

I'm going to Joan's. I'll see you  
when I get back.

DAN

Why do you get to storm out?

DEBBIE

Because this is YOUR apartment  
moron.

She leaves.

DAN

(to Pacino)  
Did she just call me a moron?

92 EXT. JOAN'S APARTMENT - DAWN 92 \*

A CAB waits.

93 INT. JOAN'S APARTMENT - DAWN 93 \*

Debbie's face looks like she's been crying. Joan is half-awake.

DEBBIE

I don't know what to do. Should I call him? I don't want to leave angry but I AM angry and if I pretend like I'm not just so we can be better, this entire thing will start all over again.

Joan yawns.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

I'm boring you.

JOAN

It's five-thirty. Only babies and Starbucks employees are up this early. I'm exhausted. And yes, you're also boring me.

DEBBIE

I really want this to work but I feel like he's giving up which makes me work harder. Then I become a bitch!

BEEP! Joan gets a text. She checks it. Texts back.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Who is texting you at this hour?

JOAN

You don't know him.

DEBBIE

What should I do about Dan?

JOAN

Why do you want my advice all of a sudden? You moved in with him despite all my excellent advice NOT to. You have my permission to move out if that's what you want.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

Debbie reflects on this. Then...

A LOUD PEE.

DEBBIE  
Did you get a new roommate?

JOAN  
After you abandoned me, I had to  
replace you. Wasn't that  
difficult.

DEBBIE  
Is it a guy??

JOAN  
Basically...

Joan's NEW ROOMMATE enters. Rather unfortunate-looking GIRL  
and not the best at personal hygiene.

NEW ROOMMATE  
'Sup.

She exits to her bedroom.

JOAN  
I hope she remembered to lift the  
seat.  
(to Debbie)  
Please come back.

94 INT. CASEY'S - NIGHT

94 \*

Christmas decorations. Busy night. REGULARS drink. Dan serves  
as fast as he gets orders.

GIRL  
Barcadi and lime. With a splash of  
Diet Pepsi.

Dan recognizes this drink. He looks up to see...

ALISON (late 20s), his ex-girlfriend. She's well-dressed,  
confident, a stone cold fox. \*

DAN  
Alison.

ALISON  
I thought I might run into you  
here. Not behind the bar.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALISON (CONT'D)  
Shit, Daniel. I must've really  
broken your heart.

DAN  
(sarcastic)  
You are the cause of all things.

ALISON  
We can be friendly, right?

Dan makes her a drink. She gets out her wallet.

DAN  
Put your money away.

ALISON  
Willing to take my tip?

She tips him with a twenty.

ALISON (CONT'D)  
So what's up with you, Daniel?

DAN  
Oh you know... living the dream.

ALISON  
You got a lady?

DAN  
Yeah. Debbie.

ALISON  
Debbie? What is she? A cheerleading  
virgin?

DAN  
I got other customers.

ALISON  
I'll be here all night.

She sips.

Debbie pitches an ad campaign to fancy CLIENTS. Steven  
watches with some CO-WORKERS. She's visibly exhausted.

She nails it anyway. Handshakes all around.

96 INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

96 \*

Later. Debbie finishes a martini. Steven joins her.

STEVEN

You okay?

DEBBIE

What's the matter? Never seen a grown woman drink by herself? It happens on basic cable all the time.

Steven sits with her. Signals to bartender.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Don't.

STEVEN

Don't what. Buy a sad lady another drink?

DEBBIE

I don't need the Steven charm right now. In fact, I never really need it again.

STEVEN

Debbie, seriously. Are you okay?

DEBBIE

I don't need your pity either. I landed the account, didn't I?

STEVEN

You know, you were only this bitchy one other time in the two years I've known you. And it was because some devilishly handsome and charming prick broke your heart.

\*  
\*

Debbie looks at him. Steven is talking about himself.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I would hate to think you were in that same predicament. Wanna talk about him?

Their drinks arrive.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

No. I don't. But I will drink my drink next to you drinking your drink. Only because you admitted you are a prick.

STEVEN

I WAS a prick. You left out devilishly handsome and charming

DEBBIE

You ARE a prick.

STEVEN

Was.

DEBBIE

See! You're being a prick right now!

STEVEN

No. Right now I'm being a shit.

Debbie laughs.

DEBBIE

Alright, you're being a shit.

They clink glasses.

97 INT. CASEY'S - NIGHT

97 \*

A few hours later. Casey closes up. Dan washes down the tables. Alison is shit-faced and the only person left.

DAN

I don't know where she lives now. She won't tell me. Should I call her a cab?

CASEY

You can't put her in a cab like that.

DAN

What should I do?

CASEY

Put her on a train.

Dan looks at Casey.

\*

(CONTINUED)

CASEY (CONT'D)  
I'm kidding. But we can't leave her here.

ANGLE ON: Dan. He knows what he has to do. \*

Steven drops Debbie off at her room. Neither are drunk. They are laughing though.

DEBBIE  
Thanks for the "drink". You're suite is on this floor?

STEVEN  
Nope.

Steven leans in for a kiss.

DEBBIE  
Stop it.

STEVEN  
He won't know.

He tries to kiss her again. A little more forcefully this time. She stops him.

DEBBIE  
But I would.

STEVEN  
You're acting like there's a ring on your finger.

DEBBIE  
I don't need a ring! Look at me! Don't I look different? I'm crazy about this guy! I live with him! We have a life together. Doesn't it show?

STEVEN  
Does he love you?

DEBBIE  
I... don't know.

STEVEN

(softly)

If he doesn't he's an idiot. Good  
night. \*

DEBBIE

Good night. \*

She opens her door. He turns to walk away and she stops. \*

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Hey Prick. \*

He turns back. \*

STEVEN

You talking to me? \*

She smiles. \*

DEBBIE

I'd forgotten what a nice guy you  
can be. \*

STEVEN

Yeah, I hate that about me. \*

DEBBIE

(smiles)

Night. \*

STEVEN

Night. \*

She smiles and closes the door. He smiles and walks away. \*

She collapses on the bed. Her land line rings. \*

DEBBIE

Oh my God. I'm so glad you called  
me. I'm getting on the next flight  
home. Steven just tried to kiss me.  
And it's my fault because I had a  
drink with him. But I only had a  
drink with him because you are  
being such a dick lately and...  
Dan?

100 INT. JOAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 100 \*

Joan is on the phone. Exfoliating mask. Glass of wine.

JOAN

Okay. I'm gonna be a good friend  
right now and tell you NOT to  
repeat any of that to Dan.

101 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 101 \*

Dan enters, carrying a drunk Alison. Pacino greets them. Dan gives Alison a glass of water.

ALISON

What a cute puppy!

Pacino growls at Alison. Dan scoops him up.

102 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 102 \*

Dan places Pacino down on the ground. Pacino barks and whines. (Either Dan uses a dog gate, or a dog crate to put Pacino away?) \*

DAN

Will you shut up?!

Pacino looks sad. Dan looks at him.

DAN (CONT'D)

It's okay, kid. She's gonna drink  
some water, tell me where she  
lives, I'll call a car and then  
jerk off like I do when Mommy's not  
here. And sometimes when Mommy IS  
here.

He exits.

103 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 103 \*

Alison lounges seductively on the couch. Her glass of water is on the coffee table.

ALISON

This Debbie girl really changed  
you, didn't she?

(CONTINUED)

DAN

More like makes me want to change myself. I mean, she pushes me. You know? It's good.

ALISON

You like being pushed around?

She pushes him playfully.

DAN

She's different, Alison. She's not a sociopath who drops me the second she finds something better.

ALISON

(suddenly sober)

I made a big mistake, didn't I?

DAN

Not from where I'm sitting.

She leans in to Dan, pressing her body against his. But he notices...

Her glass of water on the coffee table. No coaster.

Dan stands abruptly. Alison isn't deterred.

DAN (CONT'D)

You should go.

ALISON

Come on, Dan. Gimme a chance to do right by you.

He gives her back her twenty and hands Alison her coat.

DAN

That's exactly what I'm doing.

She gets it and exits.

104 INT. BERNIE'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY

104

\*

Bernie's place is exactly what you'd expect -- man cave meets well, a man cave. Dan and Bernie play Call of Duty: Black Ops online on a new Sony Playstation. Headsets and all. \*

\*

\*

\*

DAN

What upsets me most is not that I had Alison over.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAN (CONT'D)

Or that she wanted my junk like I've never seen. It's that I've become the guy who cares about the goddamn coaster.

BERNIE

(preoccupied)

Yeah. That's some rough shit.

(into headset)

Boom! Suck it StankbudNYC! Right between the eyes!

(pause)

Oh yeah? Guess what, fucko? I've seen pussies before and you haven't! That's why being 9 is shitty! Scoreboard, bitch!

DAN

I would rather lick your asshole than hear the shit I'm gonna get from Debbie for this.

BERNIE

Dude, if you're gonna lick my asshole you gotta come up with a way better come-on than that.

DAN

I don't know what the hell to do.

BERNIE

Won't LOVE get you through this? LOVE and your "practice baby?" Seriously, you're like one of those gay couples that only stay together for the dog.

Bernie puts his controller down to write a text.

DAN

Who're you texting? Come on, tell me. So I can live vicariously.

BERNIE

It's nobody. Maybe Debbie won't care about the coffee table.

DAN

Let me see your photos, man.

BERNIE

No way!

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED: (2)

DAN  
I know you've got naked photos.  
Show them to me!

BERNIE  
Get your own titty photos!

They wrestle.

105 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 105 \*

CLOSE ON: Ring from Alison's glass. \*

Debbie glares at Dan. Dan stares at the floor. Pacino looks back and forth at both of them.

DEBBIE  
Did you sleep with her?

DAN  
No.

DEBBIE  
I'd rather you tell me if you--

DAN  
Jesus! I said no.

DEBBIE  
Okay.  
(pause)  
Did you want to sleep with her?

DAN  
If I'd wanted to, I would have.

He walks away. Over the next few weeks... \*

106 INT./EXT. DAN'S APARTMENT - MONTAGE 106 \*

Dan and Debbie get cabin fever.

-- They avoid each other during their nighttime bathroom rituals. \*

-- Dan plays his guitar. Debbie puts on her headphones and blasts her iPod. \*

-- Dan comes home from work, dead tired. Pacino hasn't been walked. \*

(CONTINUED)

- 106 CONTINUED: 106
- Debbie rifles through the closet. It's a mess again. She can't find anything. \*
- Debbie's blackberry RINGS. Caller ID: Joan. Debbie ignores the call.
- 107 INT. ROOF BAR - NIGHT 107 \*
- Joan on her cell. SINGLES party in the background.
- JOAN  
Don't "ignore" me, Debbie. I've earned a courtesy ring through to voicemail. Get Dan's dick out of your ears and rejoin the humans.
- 108 INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 108 \*
- Dan's blackberry rings. Caller ID: Bernie. Dan ignores the call.
- 109 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT 109 \*
- A drunk Bernie leaves Dan a voicemail.
- BERNIE  
Dude. Brutal "ignore" right there. Where are you?! You're officially MIA. I know you're probably knee-deep in domestic bliss but if you can tear yourself away from the thrill ride of your relationship: COME GET SHITTY! \*
- Dan plays Uncharted 3 online deathmatch. \*
- Dan and Debbie mirco-manage their Christmas tree and exchange gifts. \*
- Debbie gives Dan a present. Dan gives Debbie a jewelry box. She can't help but get excited. She opens it... \*
- A nice gold ring. Pretty but not a diamond.
- 110 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 110 \*
- New Years Eve. Dan pops open champagne. Debbie sets the table with dinner. They are both dressed up. They sit.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE  
A toast?

DAN  
Sure.

DEBBIE  
To you and me. To us. To a new  
year. Together.

They clink glasses. Dan downs his drink. They eat.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
Is it okay?

DAN  
Yeah.

DEBBIE  
Really?

DAN  
Very good.

Dan's blackberry RINGS. Saved, he rushes to answer it.

BERNIE (O.S.)  
(drunk)  
You still grounded? Tell the ball  
and chain to lighten up and get  
your asses here! I've got a  
surprise for you.

He hangs up. He rejoins Debbie.

DEBBIE  
Bernie?

DAN  
What's left of him.

DEBBIE  
Everyone's at the bar?

DAN  
Who would've thought that'd end up  
being the cool place tonight.

DEBBIE  
Let's go.

DAN  
You sure?

\*

110 CONTINUED: (2)

DEBBIE

Yeah. We should have fun. I need some fun.

DAN

Me too! I'll walk Pacino.

Dan leaps up to get his things together. A little TOO eager to get out of there.

111 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

111

\*

(SUBJECT TO REWRITE) A raucous party. EVERYONE is there and WASTED. We're past the cool part of the night and rounded the corner to BAD DECISIONS. \*

Dan and Debbie enter. Dan goes straight to the bar. He JUMPS behind it. He gets a WHISKY and pours it down his throat. PATRONS cheer! \*

More cheering. PATRONS crowd to get served. They STAMPEDE over Debbie.

DEBBIE

(shouts, to Dan)

I'm gonna go to the bathroom!

DAN

What?!

DEBBIE

(shouts)

I'll be right back!

DAN

I love you too!

Bernie approaches. He's drunk, wearing some New Years garb. Dan pours more alcohol down his throat. Does the same for Bernie.

BERNIE

Danny Boy! You just get out of jail or something?!!

DAN

Basically. What's the surprise?

Bernie looks around.

BERNIE

I lost her in the crowd!

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED:

111

DAN  
 Maybe she got sucked into the  
 Debbie sadness vortex.

BERNIE  
 (not hearing him)  
 What?!!

DAN  
 NOTHING!

BERNIE  
 AWESOME!

They drink.

112 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - BATHROOM - NIGHT

112

\*

(SUBJECT TO REWRITE) Debbie washes her hands. She takes off  
 her gold ring, Dan's Christmas present. \*

There is an ugly green stain on her ring finger where an  
 engagement ring would be.

Debbie tries to wash out the stain. It won't fade.

Two UNDERAGE DRUNK GIRLS enter. One of them starts PUKING  
 into a nearby trash can.

Joan enters, also drunk.

JOAN  
 Girl! You came out!! Come on!

DEBBIE  
 I can't do this.

JOAN  
 We'll find Dan and--

DEBBIE  
 Dan's acting like a teenager.

JOAN  
 So...

DEBBIE  
 So we're not teenagers. This isn't  
 fun anymore.

JOAN  
 So let's make it fun!

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

DEBBIE

That's what I've been doing for the past three months! Organizing the FUN! I'm done! Okay!? I'm over this shit!

She storms out. Joan follows.

113 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

113 \*

(SUBJECT TO REWRITE) Dan and Bernie carouse. Debbie and Joan enter. \*

DEBBIE

I'm going home.

DAN

(joking)

Joan, you were right about her being boring.

Debbie is hurt by this joke. Joan picks up on it.

JOAN

Hey! No one calls my friend boring except me, dick-breath!

DAN

(to Joan)

I'm joking! Shouldn't you be picking a fight with Bernie not me? That's what you do best.

Joan glares at Dan.

BERNIE

(to Dan)

You okay, dude?

He pours alcohol for himself and Bernie. Bernie and Joan awkwardly drink while Dan and Debbie fight.

DEBBIE

You're not helping him. You're using this place as your own personal liquor cabinet.

DAN

I don't want to spend tonight of all nights doing what we're gonna be doing all next year. Fighting.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

Debbie storms out of the bar.

DAN (CONT'D)

Great.

He goes after her.

BERNIE

They have really gotten good at fighting.

JOAN

Yeah. I mean, that's some legendary Olympic, 100 meter hurdles shit.

BERNIE

I know.

(beat)

We gotta up our game.

PARTY-GOERS count down.

PARTY-GOERS

10, 9, 8, 7...

They think for a moment... Joan throws her drink in Bernie's face. SPLASH! Then hits him in the face with her handbag. WHAP! He falls off his bar stool.

114 EXT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

114

\*

(SUBJECT TO REWRITE) Dan goes after Debbie. She hails a CAB. Inside we hear:

\*

PARTY-GOERS (O.S.)

6, 5, 4...

DAN

Deb! Come on! We're too young to be acting like an old married couple.

DEBBIE

And we're too old to pretend like this is working anymore.

Ouch. She gets into the cab. It speeds off.

DAN

See you NEXT YEAR!

PARTY-GOERS (O.S.)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

115 INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

115 \*

Later. 3 AM. Debbie packs her belongings. Dan enters.

DEBBIE

I'll be back tomorrow afternoon to get the rest of my stuff. Please don't be here.

DAN

Honestly? Over a stupid New Years party?

DEBBIE

Yes. And while we're on that subject of honesty, why don't you just say it?

Debbie looks at him. No turning back now.

DAN

I'm not happy.

DEBBIE

That has been completely obvious since Alison.

DAN

Hey! Stop treating me like I cheated. I NEVER cheated on you!

DEBBIE

I didn't realize it was such a sacrifice! I wonder what your medal will say! You think you're the only one turning down sex from third parties!

DAN

See! You're not happy either. So why would we still try to do this?

DEBBIE

Because I LOVE you. And just because shit is fucked right now, doesn't mean you stop TRYING! Did you ever love me? Or was it just a three-month one-night stand.

DAN

I don't know.

She exits into...

116 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

116 \*

Debbie puts a leash on Pacino. Dan enters.

DAN  
You can't take Pacino! He's MY dog.

DEBBIE  
You didn't even want him! He was my idea.

DAN  
Yeah but I got him. And I feed him.  
And I walk him.

DEBBIE  
Fine. Let's let him decide.

She places Pacino in the middle of the room.

DAN  
That isn't fair to do to him.

DEBBIE  
Pacino! Choose! Mommy or Daddy?

Pacino looks confused. Doesn't move.

DAN  
Come here, Pacino!

DEBBIE  
Don't do that. You have to stand perfectly still.

Dan does so. Pacino looks at Dan. Dan seems to be communicating with him silently.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
What're you doing?

DAN  
Nothing!

DEBBIE  
You just did something with your hand. Do you have a treat?

DAN  
I keep treats with me because I actually train him.

(CONTINUED)

116 CONTINUED:

DEBBIE  
Drop it!

Dan drops the treat. Pacino goes straight for it.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
That doesn't count! Do-over!

DAN  
Do-over? What are we? Twelve?

A tense moment. They both laugh. They know they're being ridiculous. Then seriously...

DAN (CONT'D)  
That was the first time you laughed  
in weeks.

DEBBIE  
What are we doing?

DAN  
The right thing.

DEBBIE  
But I love you.

She tries to kiss him. He stops her.

DAN  
I just don't think I feel the same  
way.

DEBBIE  
Well, there it is.

Debbie exits the apartment. Dan sits - alone. After a beat he goes to the window, sticks his head out as Debbie exits downstairs.

DAN  
(out window)  
Debbie! Debbie!

She ignores him and keeps walking.

117 INT. JOAN AND DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

117 \*

Debbie's belongings are still in boxes and suitcases. Debbie cries on the couch with Joan. Joan gives her the Nutella, a large pizza, an economy-sized bottle of vodka.

118 INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - DAY 118 \*

Joan picks up the rest of Debbie's stuff. MOVING MEN cart the coffee table and several heavy boxes out of the apartment. Dan stands helpless. \*

JOAN  
Is there anything else she wanted  
me to pick up?

She deliberately looks around Dan then straight at him.

JOAN (CONT'D)  
Let me see... couch, coffee table,  
sad excuse for a man... Nope. She  
specifically said she didn't want  
that shit anymore.

She goes to the door then turns to Dan...

JOAN (CONT'D)  
(snarky)  
I know this sucks for you, I feel  
really bad.

DAN  
You've been waiting a long time to  
say that, haven't you?

JOAN  
Too long.

She exits.

Over the next month...

119 INT. CARLSON & ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY 119 \*

Debbie overworks herself, staying busy. She stalks Dan on Facebook then deletes him as a friend.

120 INT. CASEY'S - NIGHT 120 \*

Dan racks up tips while he serves drinks. FEMALE ADMIRERS line the bar, hoping to get thrown a fuck. Dan doesn't engage. None of them are Debbie.

121 EXT. COLE'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT 121 \*

Bernie, wearing a SUIT, celebrates his promotion with Dan and the other SALESMEN. \*

BERNIE

Hey! Hey! Guys, seriously. The only reason I was promoted was because this man--

(hugs Dan)

--threw his job away on a dream and a prayer. So, let's drink to Dan. For dropping out so dumb fucks like me can get ahead.

Cheers. Dan takes this joke in stride.

122 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 122 \*

Debbie sits across from one of the AD EXECS at her firm. They are on a date. He won't stop talking.

123 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 123 \*

AD EXEC walks Debbie to her car. He tries to kiss her with not an ounce of game. She gets into her car.

124 INT. JOAN AND DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 124 \*

Debbie cries. Joan brings her McDonalds, a bag of Krispy Kreme and starts rolling a joint. Debbie eats.

JOAN

Do me a favor. Don't floss after you eat all that.

125 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY 125 \*

Pacino, bigger now, jumps up on a PRETTY LADY passing by. From behind, she could be Debbie. Dan corrals Pacino. The PRETTY LADY turns around. \*

DAN

He thought you were someone else.

PRETTY LADY

What a cute doggie!

She pets Pacino and smiles at Dan.

126 INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

126 \*

Dan and the Pretty Lady enter, hands all over each other. They make out and fall onto the couch. She moves down to his crotch. Undoes his pants.

Dan leans his head back... After a moment...

DAN  
I'm sorry. Stop.

PRETTY LADY  
What's up?

DAN  
I'm thinking about someone else.

PRETTY LADY  
So.

DAN  
I know. I usually wouldn't care so  
it's weirding me out that I do.  
You're really--

PRETTY LADY  
Nice? No thanks. I'm good.

She gets up to leave. Dan looks out the window...

DAN'S POV - The front of his building. No one there. He misses running down to get Debbie.

He takes out his Blackberry. Dials Debbie's number.

A few RINGS. Then straight to voicemail...

DEBBIE (O.S.)  
You've reached Deborah Sullivan--

He hangs up. He's been "IGNORED".

127 INT. AFFINITY FOOD SERVICES OFFICE - DAY

127 \*

Bernie's new office. Bernie in a suit. Dan sits across from him, dressed like a bartender. They eat lunch.

BERNIE  
You didn't close?! You leave a  
classy chick like that hanging?

(CONTINUED)

DAN

Classy? She picked me up at a dog park!

BERNIE

I'm sorry. Did I miss the wealth of black tie events you've been attending? What the hell, Danny boy?!

DAN

I don't know.

BERNIE

So don't know! But, look at me, that's dark. You gotta move on.

DAN

Speaking of which, I should leave before Keller gets back.

BERNIE

Hey, I can probably get you your job back here. Now that I've got string-pulling ability.

DAN

I'm good.

BERNIE

Oh yeah. Real good. Passing up perfectly, decent, dog-park pussy.

DAN

There is something you could help me with though. If you're really willing to pull those strings.

Bernie mimes being a puppeteer.

BERNIE

The puppet master!

128 INT. CASEY'S - NIGHT

128 \*

Dan and Casey close up the bar. Dan does the register.

DAN

Have you ever thought about doing something more with this place?

(CONTINUED)

CASEY

Like what? If you say host a sketch comedy night I'm going to punch you in the face.

DAN

I mean like serving food.

CASEY

Sure I thought about it, but do you know how much it costs to do something like that?

On Dan. He smiles.

129 EXT. BERNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

129 \*

Dan buzzes up to Bernie. No answer. A NEIGHBOR exits the building. Dan slips in.

130 INT. BERNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

130 \*

Hallway. Dan knocks on Bernie's door.

DAN

Bern, come on. We gotta get the stuff to the bar.

No answer.

DAN (CONT'D)

I can't steal shit without the puppet master!

He notices the door is unlocked. He pushes it open and hears the faint sounds of fucking. Dan enters...

The living room. The noises get louder. It sort of sounds like someone is being choked.

BERNIE

ACCCKKKK! HELP! STOOOOOP!!  
AAACCCKKK! Pineapples!

Dan kicks the bedroom door open to...

131 INT. BERNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

131 \*

Bernie, naked, flat on his back, getting ridden by a NAKED CHICK in a ski-mask.

(CONTINUED)

At the sight of Dan, the Naked Chick stops.

BERNIE  
 (to Naked Chick)  
 No! You're not supposed to stop  
 unless I say the safe word.

DAN  
 Oh shit. I'm sorry.

Bernie looks up...

BERNIE'S POV - Upside down Dan.

BERNIE  
 Danny boy! Fuck-a-baby. Is it three  
 already?

DAN  
 I can come back.

BERNIE  
 We're almost done.

DAN  
 Is that...

The Naked Chick takes off her ski mask. It's Joan.

JOAN  
 Don't tell Debbie.

Dan and Bernie unload supplies from an AFFINITY FOOD SUPPLIES truck. Dan has a huge smirk on his face. Bernie busies himself unloading until finally... \*

BERNIE  
 Okay. I didn't tell you because  
 this is what works for us. You  
 know? It's so sexy. We treat each  
 other like shit in public and then  
 we fuck like porn stars. All that  
 pent up energy and shit. And, I  
 don't know, it's like WHO CARES?  
 Why do we have to do what everyone  
 else does? We can be a couple  
 without all the bullshit. We didn't  
 get it right the first time. Fuck!  
 Who said we had to get it right at  
 all?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED:

132

BERNIE (CONT'D)

If you take away all the conventions, being in a relationship is, like, the most freeing thing in the world. Because I get to be me. *With her.*

Dan continues grinning at him.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Do you get what I'm saying?

DAN

Yeah. Been there, man. It's...

Dan looks down.

DAN (CONT'D)

...mind blowing.

BERNIE

Awesome. Good talk. Let's get a beer.

133 INT. CASEY'S - DAY

133 \*

A couple days later. DAN instructs some STAFF where to set up their new supplies. Casey paints the walls a new vibrant color.

DAN excuses himself into...

The Men's Room - He checks under the stalls. He's alone. He gets out his blackberry. He dials.

DAN

(Sotto)

Supercasual.

134 INT. CARLSON &amp; ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY

134 \*

Debbie at her desk. Her phone RINGS.

DEBBIE

Deborah Sullivan.

DAN (O.S.)

Hey, stranger. How's it going?

DEBBIE

(sighs)

I really need an assistant.

(CONTINUED)

DAN (O.S.)

We have a bad connection. I can't hear you. Let's talk over lunch.

DEBBIE

You're serious.

DAN

Yeah. Hold on.

135 EXT. CASEY'S - DAY

135

\*

Dan paces around the courtyard outside the bar...

\*

DAN

I'm sorry. I don't know what I was trying to figure out. These last few weeks... They've been miserable. I can't stand going out or being at home, because it reminds me of you. I can't sleep. Everything is falling apart... because I miss you. I need to see you again. No. I want to see you.

DEBBIE (O.S.)

I'll send you a picture.

DAN

Just give me one more chance.

DEBBIE (O.S.)

I don't want you to bother me ever again.

CLICK! She hangs up on him.

136 INT. CARLSON & ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY

136

\*

Conference room. Debbie in a meeting with Steven and other AD EXECS. They go through accounts.

STEVEN

Which brings us to Debbie. Deb, you wanna wow us with your campaign ideas.

AD EXEC #1

Can't we just skip her?

(CONTINUED)

AD EXEC #2

She lives at the office.

AD EXEC #1

Just say everything's perfect and we'll move on to us mere mortals.

ANGLE ON - Debbie.

DEBBIE

I gotta go.

She gets up and starts to exit.

STEVEN

Where're you going?

DEBBIE

I'm taking the day off. The week actually. I'm taking the rest of the week off. Um. Bye.

She exits. Steven and the Execs look bewildered.

137 INT. JOAN AND DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

137 \*

Several days later. Debbie watches episodes of House. Joan comes home with groceries.

JOAN

First vacation in three years and you spend it with Hugh Laurie.

DEBBIE

Sometimes I feel like he's the only person in the world who understands me. He's so smart.

Joan turns off the TV.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

NO! I need to know what happens!

JOAN

You know what happens? He figures out the diagnosis and saves the patient and everyone's happy except him. You know why? Because Dr. House knows something Debbie Sullivan has yet to discover. All the answers in the world won't solve your problems.

(CONTINUED)

137 CONTINUED:

137

Debbie sulks.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Call him. Also, I'm fucking Bernie again.

DEBBIE

I know.

JOAN

How?

DEBBIE

Come on. I'm depressed, not stupid.

138 INT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

138 \*

St. Patrick's Day. The bar is packed. REGULARS as well as HIPSTERS celebrating this arbitrary but rowdy holiday.

Debbie is out with Steven. As friends. Nothing romantic. They do green-colored shots with CO-WORKERS. Debbie is having FUN. Then she sees...

DAN enters. He's wet. It's raining outside.

DEBBIE

Oh shit. I'm gonna have to start drinking in the Valley.

Dan's FRIENDS wave him over to join them. He notices...

DEBBIE. She grabs Steven's hand. Steven reacts positively. Dan sees them and approaches.

DAN

Hey!

DEBBIE

Hi.

Awkward silence. Dan eyes Steven.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Heard things are going well at Casey's.

Dan notices Debbie's hand clasping Steven's hand.

(CONTINUED)

DAN

Are you a real boyfriend or a fake boyfriend?

STEVEN

What?

DAN

I've been both. Real is way better. Let's put it to the test. Where is Debbie from?

STEVEN

Uh...

Dan mimes hitting a buzzer.

DAN

DING! Outside Boston. Her parents are divorced and she avoids going home at all costs.

STEVEN

Dude can you just leave her alone?

DAN

What does Debbie's breath smell like in the morning?

DEBBIE

Not funny.

DAN

DING! Sunshine and rainbows. The judges also would've accepted expired milk.

DEBBIE

Okay. We get it, Dan.

DAN

What is Debbie's favorite thing in the world?

STEVEN

(hopefully)  
Work?

DAN

Ding! Being held late into the night by someone who has no idea how good he has it.

(CONTINUED)

Debbie makes an "incorrect answer" buzzer sound.

DEBBIE

ERREH! The correct answer is Debbie loves NOT wasting her time.

DAN

I love you.

She gathers up her things.

STEVEN

Heeey! Wait a minute!

She exits. Steven starts after her. Dan stops him.

DAN

No. I get to follow her out. You get to stay here and pay the bill.

Dan exits.

139 EXT. THE BROADWAY BAR - NIGHT

139 \*

Sheets of rain drench Dan and Debbie.

DAN

I love you!

DEBBIE

Just get away from me.

DAN

I love you.

DEBBIE

When we were together you couldn't say it.

DAN

I did say it.

DEBBIE

Once. You didn't even mean it.

DAN

I did. I love you.

DEBBIE

It will pass.

(CONTINUED)

DAN  
I miss you. I miss what we had.

DEBBIE  
We had nothing.

DAN  
It's not true. It was the best.

DEBBIE  
We had nothing. We had good sex.

DAN  
Don't say that. I love you.

DEBBIE  
Bullshit. You don't know what love is. You got everything you wanted but now there's something you want that you can't have. But you had it. I gave it to you.

DAN  
Let's talk about this.

DEBBIE  
It took me a long time to get over it, and it was so hard. Dan, get on with your life.

DAN  
I've been DOING that! Why does it still hurt so much?!

DEBBIE  
Because that 5% was mind-blowing.

She leaves. He watches her go.

140 EXT./INT. CASEY'S - DAY - MONTAGE

140 \*

Over the next few months...

-- Dan rebuilds and outfits the kitchen of Casey's. \*

-- Dan cooks away for CUSTOMERS, using Affinity Food Supplies. \*

-- Dan and Casey fix up the seating and tables. \*

-- They put up a new sign. \*

(CONTINUED)

140 CONTINUED: 140

-- CUSTOMERS pack the place on Saturday night. \*

141 INT. DENTIST OFFICE - NIGHT 141 \*

Bernie, nervous, is dressed up with flowers. He KNOCKS on the door. Joan opens it. She wears her dental hygienist's coat, sexy white stockings and her goggles.

Bernie steps into the room. Joan's dentist's chair is surrounded by candles for a romantic evening.

Bernie sits in the chair. Joan gets out her tools. Bernie opens his mouth.

POV INSIDE BERNIE'S MOUTH - Joan peers inside.

JOAN  
(so horny)  
Valhalla.

142 INT. JOAN AND BERNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY 142 \*

(THIS NEEDS REVISION) Knock on the door. Joan opens it to Debbie. Debbie has a bottle of wine in her hand. \*

JOAN  
Get in here, Rosemary's Baby!

They enter. Joan has completely redone her apartment. It's decorated more like a couple lives here now.

DEBBIE  
Wow. Nice job.

JOAN  
You aren't mad?

DEBBIE  
Of course not.

JOAN  
Because if you were mad at me I would totally understand. I gave you so much shit about moving in with a dude and then I turn around and have Bernie move in. ALTHOUGH we were together longer than you and What's-His-Name even if we weren't "technically" together--

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Joan, it's fine. We're good honey really. You're my girl and you always will be.

At the dining table, three places are set. A dinner is ready. It doesn't look totally appetizing.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Heeey... look at that. You... really made an effort.

JOAN

Are you coming to my birthday next week?

Debbie gives her a look.

JOAN (CONT'D)

He won't be there.

DEBBIE

That's not fair. He's Bernie's best friend.

Bernie enters. He's cleaned up quite a bit himself.

BERNIE

Me? Friends? I don't have any friends. I don't believe in friendship. I only believe in Joan and whatever undiscovered mysteries lie between those legs of hers.

Bernie and Joan make out.

JOAN

Anyway, it's MY birthday. And what I say goes. Right?

BERNIE

Obviously. Done.

JOAN

I'm gonna go wash my hands.

Joan exits.

DEBBIE

Bernie, you look like... a completely different person.

Bernie hands Debbie a plastic baggie.

(CONTINUED)

142 CONTINUED: (2)

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
What... what is this?

BERNIE  
This food is vile. Bitch cannot cook. Whatever you do, do not swallow it. I repeat: Do not swallow it. Wait til she isn't looking then spit it into this bag. Throw it out immediately after dinner as it might eat through the plastic.

He slaps Debbie on the back.

BERNIE (CONT'D)  
Godspeed. Just because I'd die for her doesn't mean you should have to.

He sits down for dinner. Debbie looks incredulous.

143 INT. CASEY'S - DAY

143 \*

Brunch CROWD. Dan does the afternoon count. WAITRESSES flitter from table to table.

Reviews from food critics hang behind the bar. Along with a photo of Casey and DAN AS A CHILD. A CHEF enters.

CHEF  
Danny, we're low on everything.

DAN  
I'm seeing Bernie tonight I'll let him know.

CHEF  
So we have to sneak shit in? On a Sunday?

DAN  
We're a legitimate business now. We can afford to pay. The shipment'll be here Monday.

A cute DOG WALKER enters with Pacino, who is now HUGE.

DAN (CONT'D)  
How was he today?

(CONTINUED)

DOG WALKER

Great! He's getting really strong and pulls a lot. You should think about getting him a harness.

DAN

Will do. Thanks for watching him.

Dan pays her in beer.

DOG WALKER

So... what're you up to tonight?

DAN

It's my best friend's girl's birthday. Gotta make an appearance. Why?

The Dog Walker is shy.

DAN (CONT'D)

Oh! Oh yeah. Um... what're you doing Tuesday night?

DOG WALKER

Nothing.

DAN

Maybe the three of us catch a movie? Pacino loves anything with Nic Cage in it.

DOG WALKER

Me too.

She obviously doesn't but she really likes Dan.

DAN

It's a date then. Or not a date. Whatever.

DOG WALKER

No! It can be a date.

She leaves. Dan watches her go.

CASEY

Nice girl. Not the love of your life or anything.

DAN

Stay out of it, old man.

(CONTINUED)

143 CONTINUED: (2)

143

Casey smiles. Dan exits.

144 EXT. MUSIC CENTER - EVENING

144 \*

Beautiful sunset. Dan walks Pacino. His blackberry RINGS.

DAN

Dan Martin. Professional friend.

BERNIE (O.S.)

Are you coming to the Broadway Bar?

DAN

I'm right around the corner. I just gotta walk Pacino home.

BERNIE (O.S.)

Hurry up. Tell him "Crusing" is coming out on BluRay. That always makes him poop when I walk him.

Dan hangs up. Pacino pulls on his leash.

DAN

Hey! Knock it off.

Pacino pulls harder. He's after something. Dan can't hold onto the leash. Pacino runs away.

DAN (CONT'D)

Pacino!

Pacino sprints across the street into traffic.

BWAAAAAAH! Cars HONK as Dan chases after him. Pacino dashes around a corner. Dan gets scared. \*

DAN (CONT'D)

NO! BAD DOG! NO!

He rounds the corner to see...

Pacino, tail wagging, licks the face of...

Debbie. She is very happy to see her old dog.

DAN (CONT'D)

Hey.

DEBBIE

Hey.

(CONTINUED)

They look at each other for the first time in a long time.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

(re: dog)

He's so big!

DAN

Yeah. He's all grown up.

DEBBIE

I'll say.

DAN

I want to be just like him one day.

DEBBIE

You going to Joan's?

DAN

Yeah. They told me you weren't coming. I would've--

DEBBIE

I'm sure they couldn't resist. Old habits die hard with them.

DAN

Ya think? You look good.

DEBBIE

You too. And Pacino looks very handsome and happy.

She pets Pacino. Pacino barks.

DAN

I was gonna walk him home. You wanna come? Pacino would love some quality time.

DEBBIE

Sure.

Bernie and Joan sit with drinks and a chocolate cake between them. Joan texts frantically.

JOAN

She's not responding.

BERNIE  
I think he's gonna flake too.

JOAN  
They know we tried to set them up?

BERNIE  
They're not retards.

JOAN  
I feel really bad for them. Always dodging each other. Avoiding awkward run-ins. They were so in love too.

BERNIE  
That's how it goes. Is this cake chocolate?

JOAN  
Yep.

BERNIE  
I'm allergic to chocolate.

JOAN  
(seductively)  
I know.

BERNIE  
I love you.

Bernie realizes what he just said.

JOAN  
Did you just say "I love you"?

BERNIE  
Yeah. Like, as a joke.

JOAN  
You're such a girl.

She raises her glass.

JOAN (CONT'D)  
To Dan and Debbie. May we never end up like them.

Bernie clinks her glass. He eats the cake.

145 CONTINUED: (2)

145

JOAN (CONT'D)  
 Promise me we won't end up like  
 them.

Bernie opens his full mouth to answer and we...

CUT TO:

146 EXT. GRAND PARK - NIGHT

146 \*

Dan and Debbie walk down the stairs for the fountain.  
 Reliving old times. \*

DEBBIE  
 God, that nightmare Thanksgiving?!

DAN  
 No. New Year's takes the proverbial  
 cake though.

DEBBIE  
 (laughs)  
 How did we manage to ruin every  
 major holiday?

DAN  
 I don't know but we really fucked  
 them up, didn't we? \*

DAN (CONT'D)  
 Hey look. I'm really sorry about...  
 everything.

DEBBIE  
 Me too. I'm glad you're doing so  
 well.

DAN  
 You too. I'm gonna stay in tonight.  
 You should meet up with Bernie and  
 Joan.

DEBBIE  
 I think I will.

DAN  
 Good to see you.

DEBBIE  
 You too.

A beat. He starts up the stairs...

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Do you wanna... I don't know. Go out. Sometime.

DAN

Yeah. We should catch up.

DEBBIE

How's Tuesday?

DAN

Great. Oh wait. I can't Tuesday. What about Wednesday?

DEBBIE

I'm going on vacation for two weeks on Wednesday.

DAN

Vacation! Look at you.

DEBBIE

Yeah. Staying at my uncle's beach house in Michigan. Just me. I'm looking forward to it.

(pause)

Maybe when I get back.

DAN

Yeah.

An OLD MAN passes them. He greets Pacino.

OLD MAN

Hey there puppy! What a great dog you have, young man.

DAN

Thank you.

OLD MAN

And a pretty girlfriend.

Debbie blushes. She doesn't correct him.

DAN

Thank you.

Old Man continues his stroll.

DAN (CONT'D)

Let's do once more around the block. What'd'ya say?

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Sure.

Dan offers Debbie his arm. She takes it.

They walk together with Pacino for a long time.

FADE TO BLACK.

Andrew Ferguson