

Something Beautiful

EXT. GREYHOUND BUS STATION- STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT- MORNING

Bright, sunny, winter day; a long line of BUSES in the station with PEOPLE milling around, loading LUGGAGE and boarding buses. Camera zooms in on a window in Bus #5, showing ROMAN (ROME) MONTAIVO, 22, looking out.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS- CONTINUOUS

Rome is sitting sullenly in his seat on an almost completely FULL bus. An ELDERLY WOMAN bumps him with her BAG as she passes.

ELDERLY WOMAN

(chuckling)

Oh, dear. I'm sorry, darlin'. My bags are a little heavy.

Rome only glares at her, and she sits in the LAST OPEN SEAT across from him.

ROSALIE (ROSE) CAPEZZO, 20, makes her way down the aisle, carrying 2 SMALL BAGS. Rome is looking out of the window, and doesn't see her, but she appears to RECOGNIZE him.

She appears TORN between choosing to sit next to Rome, or the elderly woman. She SIGHS INWARDLY and moves to sit next to the elderly woman, but then PAUSES, gathers her courage, and turns to Rome.

ROSE

(shyly)

Is this seat taken?

ROME

Yes. (looks up) I mean, no.

Rome STRAIGHTENS UP as Rose sits and adjusts her bags. Rome watches her with interest from the corner of his eyes.

ROME (Cont'd)

I'm Rome.

ROSE

(shyly)

I know. Hi, I'm Rosalie. My friends call me Rose.

ROME

(surprised)

You know?

ROSE

Yeah, we went to the same high school. I was a year behind you.

ROME

(leaning towards Rose)

I'm going to be completely honest with you, okay, Rose?
(whispering) You are probably the most beautiful person I
have ever met in my entire life, so you can understand why
I'm shocked I don't remember you.

ROSE

(looking away)

Thanks. (looking back at him) I guess you haven't met that
many people then.

Rome laughs and leans back in his seat, looking smug. There is a moment of
silence as he waits and she blushes.

As she leans in to talk to him, the BUS DRIVER's voice is heard off camera and
she leans back quickly.

BUS DRIVER (O.S.)

Welcome to Greyhound Bus Lines, I will be your driver, Kyle
Matthews, so if you have any questions please feel free to
ask. Remember, this is not a plane so if you need to get up
to use the bathroom, please use the tops of the seats to
support yourself. We should be arriving in Hartford in
about an hour and a half, and then on to Providence, Newton,
and finally Boston. Thank you for choosing Greyhound, and I
hope you enjoy your trip.

ROSE (V.O.)

(over the Bus Driver's lines)

I was a regular girl of no particular consequence. I'd
never done anything really wrong, or outlandish, or even
scary. I was a virgin. I didn't date. I had never even
kissed a boy. At a certain age, though, you start to
question the necessity of such a carefully lived life,
especially when that caution prevents you from actually
living your life.

Small moment of silence again as Rose builds up her courage.

ROSE

(clearing her throat)

So, Rome, where are you headed?

ROME

Back to school, you?

ROSE

(nodding)

Me, too. I go to Northeastern.

ROME

That's a pretty good school. I go to B.C. What's your major?

ROSE

Human Services. You?

ROME

Human Services? Why?

ROSE

What do you mean?

ROME

I don't know. Human Services just seems like a lame thing to go to college for.

ROSE

Excuse me for wanting to help people.

ROME

Will you even get paid for it?

ROSE

(annoyed)

It depends on what I choose to do! What's YOUR major?

ROME

(laughing)

Hey, don't get mad. I'm Pre-law, minoring in Business.

ROSE

How cool are you?

Rose flips her hair and turns away from Rome, crossing her arms.

ROME

Really, don't get mad. I wasn't trying to be rude.

ROSE

Maybe not, but you were.

ROME

I didn't think you'd get so mad.

ROSE

(turning and glaring at Rome)

What, you think Pre-law with a Business minor's so great, that you can make fun of what I want to do?

ROME

If it makes you feel any better, I don't really know what I want to do.

Rose remains miffed and doesn't respond.

ROME (Cont'd)

My dad pays for school, and he expects me to carry on with the family business. He picked the major, not me.

ROSE

So, he wants you to be a politician.

ROME

(nodding)

Pretty much, yeah.

ROSE

Well, a word of advice, Rome. No one's going to vote for you if you make fun of other people, especially if you don't know what you-want to do with your own life.

ROME

Touché.

Rose sits back in her seat, looking sideways at Rome, who is still gazing intently at her.

ROSE

What?

ROME

I'm sorry.

ROSE

You already said that. I'm over it.

ROME

Where do you live?

ROSE

I'm not telling you.

ROME

Come on. We obviously live near each other. You're from Stamford, aren't you?

ROSE

(trying not to smile)

Yes, but I don't need you mocking my life while I'm enjoying my time at home, too.

ROME

I won't do that. I promise I am actually pretty awesome once you get to know me.

ROSE

(raised eyebrow)

Oh, okay. You must be one of those people that grows on people after a terrible first impression.

ROME

(leaning closer)

You got it.

ROSE

(leaning back)

Back up, cowboy.

ROME

Oh, sure, but you might as well know, I'm gonna make you my girl.

ROSE

No, you're not.

ROME

Yeah, I am.

ROSE

(rolling her eyes)

Oh, my God. You are soooo cocky.

ROME

Admit it. Deep down, you like it.

ROSE

I wouldn't say I like it. It's different, but I wouldn't say I actually like it.

Camera pans out. The two talk, music rolls. Camera shows bus driving down highway.

ROSE (V.O.)

I yearned for love. I wanted it all, and I wanted it now. However, there's a difference between who we love, who we settle for, and who we are meant to be with. I wanted deep seated, overwhelming passion that would last forever. But, sometimes, that's not really important. Who we love may not be the one we are meant to be with, but who we settle for just might be.

Title Fades Up.

INT. BOSTON BOWL - BOWLING LANE- EVENING

Rome and Rose are at the bowling alley on a date. They are talking and laughing, and having a great time. Rose stands up to bowl her turn.

ROME

Aren't you glad you came out with me?

ROSE

(turning to look at him)

Ask me at the end of the date. (begins to walk towards the lane)

ROME

(calling after her)

So this is a date?

Rose throws him a grin over her shoulder, then bowls a STRIKE. She's excited and exuberant, jumping up and down.

ROSE

I bet you can't do that!

ROME

Rose, I've been doing that. (laughs) That's why I'm winning.

ROSE

(sitting down)

Shut up. I told you I suck at bowling.

ROME

(sitting next to her)

But you're getting so much better.

ROSE

You're a pretty good teacher...

Their eyes meet and Rome LEANS in for a kiss, but Rose DEFLECTS and stands up, uncomfortable.

ROSE (V.O.)

I dreamed of love, but I was afraid of love. I didn't want to love for just a night. The kind of love that I had to offer couldn't be contained in a single night. My love could carry, sweep, fill, lift, and warm... and I refused to be shamed into compromising that.

ROSE (Cont'd)

It's your turn, right? (leans in to look at the scores) Wow! You only need one more strike to bowl a perfect game.

ROME

(sighing and standing up)

Yeah, yeah, okay.

Rome bowls a STRIKE.

ROSE

(clapping)

Very nice. Do you get an award for that, or something?

ROME

(laughing)

Nah, I do it all the time.

ROSE

How cool are you? Oh, my God! (points off camera) That's a photo booth! Do you have three dollars?

ROME

Of course.

INT. PHOTO BOOTH- CONTINUOUS

Rome and Rose take 2 sets of cute photos together. The first set is funny faces. The second set is:

Rose and Rome looking at each other.

Rome kissing Rose.

Rose looking shocked and Rome grinning.

Rose kissing Rome.

Montage of Rose and Rome's dates including at the BOSTON HOUSE OF PIZZA, the MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, playing pool at JILLIAN'S, eating at BOLOCO, watching television at Rome's dorm at BOSTON COLLEGE.

ROSE (V.O.)

I suppose people could love each other without actually being in love. But you can always see suspicion in their eyes. Love is too binding, they say. I just want to have fun, they say. But I had promised myself to love on my own terms. I wore my ring as a reminder- on my own terms, in my own way, with no doubts.

INT. BC CAMPUS - ROME'S DORM- LATE NIGHT

Rome and Rose open the door to the room, KISSING passionately.

Rome picks Rose up and carries her to the BED. Rose sits up quickly and moves away from him before he can lie on top of her.

ROME

(still standing)

What's wrong?

ROSE

(adjusting her shirt)

I ... I can't do this. I'm sorry.

ROME

(sitting next to her)

I don't get it. A second ago you seemed ... (attempts to touch her but she moves away)

ROSE

I just... Look, I really like you... But...

Rose raises her hand and shows him the purity ring on her pinky and he grabs her hand to take a closer look.

ROME

A purity ring? Is that what this is? Like the "no sex until marriage" purity ring?

ROSE

(taking back her hand defensively)

I haven't defined the terms of it. I've just been wearing it since I was a little girl and it means a lot to me. It just means that I won't until I know I'm ready.

ROME

(moving close to her)

But, Rose, I love you!

ROSE

You love me? (crosses arms) Come on, now. We've been dating for like two months.

ROME

Time doesn't matter when it comes to how you make me feel.

ROSE

(disbelievingly)
Are you being serious?

ROME
Of course, and whether you realize it or not, you love me too. When two people are in love, sex is the natural next step.

ROSE
(sighing)
I know, but this is my promise to myself! There's a difference between feeling ready and being ready.
(hangs her head)
I'm sorry.

ROME
You could take the ring off... (waits a beat, then sighs) It's okay. I understand.

ROSE
(leaning closer)
You do?

ROME
(turning away a little)
Of course.

ROSE
(kissing him on the cheek)
You're amazing.

Rome doesn't look at her, so she turns his face and kisses him on the mouth. He deepens the kiss and starts to push her back her back onto the bed. She slides out from under him and he falls on his face.

ROSE
I said, no, Rome!

ROME
(sitting up)
You know it would be special though, right, Rose?

ROSE
For me, maybe.

ROME

It would be my first time, too.

ROSE

(disbelievingly)

Are you serious?

ROME

Yeah. I just never found a girl that I was in love with enough to do it.

ROSE

(excited)

Are you serious?

ROME

I wouldn't lie to you about something like this, Rose.

ROSE

(shocked and happy)

Oh, wow. I don't even know what to say. It's like, incredible.

(hugs him)

I love that we're on the same wavelength!

Rome leans in and starts to NUZZLE her, attempting to push her back onto the bed. She stops him.

ROSE (Cont'd)

That doesn't mean we should do it right now. We can wait.

Rome falls on the bed, exasperated.

ROME

Fine. We're waiting.

Rome rights himself on the bed, grabs the REMOTE and turns on the TELEVISION. He pulls Rose into an EMBRACE and they snuggle.

ROSE (V.O.)

The promise was waning, and I was too blind to see it. Or maybe I just didn't care. Some things are just so good when they're good, they become addicting. The thing about addiction, though, is eventually, whatever it is you're addicted to stops feeling good, and starts to hurt. The

problem with addiction is that once it's got you, you cease to care about the hurt and can only focus on the good, no matter what it costs you.

INT. NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY - ROSE'S DORM- EARLY EVENING

Rose and Rome are lying on her bed, snuggling and watching a MOVIE. Neither one of them is actually paying attention to the movie, as he is concentrating on suggestively RUBBING her legs, and she is clearly wrestling with herself about what to do.

ROSE

(taking a deep breath)

I think... I think I'm ready.

ROME

(excited pause)

Really?

ROSE

(nervous)

I think. I mean, yes.

(nodding)

Yes, I am.

ROME

Great!

(whips out a condom from his wallet)

I have a condom!

ROSE

(slightly panicked)

Do you know what you're doing?

ROME

(hesitating)

Oh, um, yeah, kinda. I mean, I've never actually done it before, but I know how it's done.

ROSE

(scared)

Okay, okay.

Rome rolls on top of Rose and KISSES her to make her more comfortable, but she is very RIGID.

They proceed to engage in the typically awkward, "FIRST-TIME" SEX. It hurts her slightly, but he is very gentle. It almost appears as though he has experience in things like this.

After they are done, he kisses her, and pulls her into a "big-little spoon" EMBRACE, and they lay there together. Rose looks DISTRESSED, Rome looks content and happy.

ROME

(softly)

Are you okay?

ROSE

(quietly)

Yes.

ROSE (V.O.)

All your past experiences led you to this moment. It's a strange feeling, knowing that in the instant you make a choice to change your path, in that split second, you affect your entire life; past, present, and future. Under those circumstances, sometimes it seems better to not think about it; to just live in the moment. Once you make a choice, you might as well own it, no matter what the choice was. Regrets only diminish dreams.

ROME

(concerned)

Are you sure you're okay?

ROSE

(firmly as she turns to kiss him)

Yes.

EXT. NORTHEASTERN CAMPUS - AU BON PAIN- THE NEXT MORNING

PEOPLE are walking around in summery clothing, enjoying the SPRING WEATHER. STUDENTS are sitting at the TABLES outside of AU BON PAIN. Rome and Rose are among them, chatting.

ISABELLA, 22, walks by, does a DOUBLE TAKE, then turns and comes back to their table.

ISABELLA

ROME?

ROME

(surprised and uncomfortable)

Oh, Bella, hey! How are you?

ISABELLA

(looking annoyed)

I'm fine... What are you doing here?

ROME

(uncomfortable)

I'm just... visiting... for the day.

ISABELLA

Interesting. Is this your new flavor of the week?

ROSE

Excuse me?

ISABELLA

Oh, hi. I'm Bella. Last semester's flavor. Take it from me. He'll give you a good time, but when's he's done, he's done.

ROME

Come on, Bella. It wasn't even like that.

ISABELLA

Oh, of course it wasn't. Asshole. (stalks away.)

ROSE

(hissing)

Rome, what the hell was that?

ROME

Just a girl I kinda... sorta dated last semester. It wasn't serious.

ROSE

Wow. I've never seen a girl act like that over something that wasn't serious. I mean, I'd probably be that mad if I

saw you with someone new, especially now, after we.. (breaks off in horror)

ROME

What?

ROSE

(softly)

You slept with her, didn't you?

ROME

(squirming)

No... I mean.. not really, it wasn't like that... I mean...

ROSE

(jumping to her feet)

Did you, or didn't you?

ROME

Only once.

ROSE

(slowly sitting again)

Only once? You... you lied to me? About being a virgin? You lied to me?

ROME

It wasn't really a lie, Rosie... I was just trying to make you more comfortable.

ROSE

Comfortable?! Oh, my God.

ROME

I'm sorry, Rose. I didn't think it was such a big deal.

ROSE

Oh God. I gave myself to you. I thought you gave yourself to me!

ROME

I did give myself to you. Don't freak out, Rose.

ROSE

Don't freak out? Omigod. I trusted you! How could I be so stupid? (buries her face in her hands) This is the worst mistake of my life.

ROME

Really? The worst mistake of your life? Rose, we're great together!

Rome moves to touch Rose but she pushes her chair back in horror.

ROSE

(furious)

Don't touch me! You don't ever get to touch me again. You manipulated me! You're... You're...

ROME

I'm what, Rose? Calm down. One little white lie doesn't change what we have together. (grabs her arm to stop her from leaving)

ROSE

(smacking his hand)

I don't know who you are anymore! (angry) You need to leave. You need to leave and not come back.

Rose starts to storm off, and Rome jumps up and follows her, walking ahead of her.

ROME

(walking backwards)

Come on, Rose. You know I love you! I wouldn't do anything to intentionally hurt you. I just wanted you so bad, I couldn't help myself.

ROSE

(stopping)

Couldn't help yourself? You knew how important my virginity was to me! And you let me give it away to someone like you. You are not the person I thought you were. I fell in love with a lie.

Rose steps around him and continues walking. After a pause, Rome runs after her.

ROME

Rose, I'm begging you. Don't do this. Let's just go back to the beginning and start over.

Rose stops walking and Rome almost bumps into her back. She turns around slowly.

ROSE

(angry)

Start over? You think this goes away?

ROME

(holds out his hand, pleading)

Hi, I'm Rome. I'm not a virgin, but I wish I could have been for you. I love you.

ROSE

You don't know what love is, asshole. You ruined something that could have been perfect.

(turns to walk away)

Don't follow me.

Rose starts walking away again, leaving Rome standing there. She starts to CRY.

ROSE (V.O.)

When considering the choices that we can make, I don't think we ever stop to consider how those choices affect those around us. It's just love, right? It can't hurt that much, right? We all do the best we can with what we have, right? But, sometimes, that's not enough. By nature, we are selfish, and by nature, we are destructive. Eventually, lovers become strangers; friends become enemies. Rationale and morals disappear, swallowed by life.

INT. BC CAMPUS - ROME'S DORM ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Rome is laying on his bed with his cell phone against his ear, waiting.

ROME

Rose, please call me back. It's Rome. I don't know if you got my other messages. Actually, I know you got my messages and you're just ignoring me. Look, I'm gonna be at Northeastern tomorrow and I just want to talk, okay? Just, call me back.

INT. BC CAMPUS - ROME'S DORM ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Rome is laying on his bed in a different position, clearly exhausted, with the cell phone against his ear.

ROME

Come on, Rose. This is getting ridiculous. Just call me back. You're being completely immature and unreasonable about this.

INT. BC CAMPUS- ROME'S DORM ROOM- AFTERNOON

Rome is pacing around his room, leaving another message for Rose. His clothes are wrinkled and it looks as though he hasn't left his room in awhile.

ROME

Rose, honey, I'm really sorry. I honestly didn't mean to hurt to you. I'm just so used to saying things without thinking. You deserve better and I know I can be better for you. You'll understand if you just let me talk to you. Please, meet me somewhere. Or, at least just call me back. (pause) I love you.

INT. BC CAMPUS - ROME'S DORM ROOM- EVENING

Rome is lying under the covers, completely hidden, with his CELL PHONE resting on his face. There is a KNOCK at the door.

ROME

(muffled)

Come in.

MAX MAGUIRE, 22, enters and pulls the covers off Rome's face, TOSSING Rome's phone onto the floor.

MAX

What's going on? You've been in this room for the last three days. Paul said you haven't even gone to class.

ROME

I'm sick.

MAX

No, you're not. This is a sad state of affairs, Rome, my man.

ROME

(annoyed)

You think I don't know this?

MAX

What is there to get? You're mooning over some girl and it's... well, it's embarrassing.

ROME

(sitting up, angry)

You think I'm doing this on purpose? You think I like sitting in my room, tweaking out over some girl? This is the most pathetic I've ever been in my entire life and have no fuckin' idea why.

MAX

(palms raised)

Hey, man, sorry. I was just trying to help you snap out of it.

ROME

You really don't get it do you?

(gestures)

It's like she's lodged herself in the pit of my stomach and I can't breathe when I think about her. It's like I feel like I need her in order to be okay.

MAX

(cautiously)

You only dated for, like, a semester.

ROME

(falling back on the bed)

Never mind. I should just go home for a little while.

MAX

I mean, the semester ends next week anyways. Have you even started studying for-

A muffled BUZZING sound is heard.

ROME

(sitting up in bed)

Shh! Where's my fuckin' phone? Dammit! Where'd you put it?

Rome starts scrambling around his bed, gets tangled in the sheets and tumbles to the ground.

Max exits, shaking his head.

MAX (O.S.)

So sad.

Rome finds his phone and answers it frantically.

ROME

Hello, Hello?! Oh... (disappointed) No thanks. I'm not interested.

INT. NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY - ROSE'S DORM ROOM- EVENING

Rose and her roommate, JASMINE, 20, are in the room. Rose is lying facedown on her BED. Jasmine is in a CHAIR next to the bed. A loud BUZZING is heard from the Rose's bedside TABLE.

JASMINE

It's him again.

ROSE

(muffled)

Don't answer.

JASMINE

This is like the tenth time.

Rose doesn't answer and Jasmine picks up the phone, which is still ringing, to stare at it.

JASMINE (Cont'd)

Have you read his texts? He's, like, the most adorable thing ever. You could just talk to him at least. What harm would that do?

ROSE

(sitting up)

Don't answer it!

(snatches the phone and throws it across the room)

I don't want to talk to him. I don't want to see him. I don't want to even think about him.

JASMINE

Girl, if he didn't cheat on you, or beat you, what's the big deal? Guys think it turns girls on if they think the guy's a virgin. Everyone makes mistakes. It's not like you slept with him.

ROSE

(after an awkward pause)

I just don't want to deal with it.

(lays on the bed)

It's easier to just not feel.

JASMINE

It's bad to not feel anything. You'll get depressed.

ROSE

I won't get depressed. I'm just... empty. I don't know. I don't even know what I'm saying.

JASMINE

I do. You're in love and it hurts.

(sits on the bed)

It's better to cry.

ROSE

(sadly)

I don't want to cry.

JASMINE

It's okay to cry.

ROSE

(softly)

I can't cry.

JASMINE

Yes, you can.

Jasmine HUGS Rose, and Rose bursts into TEARS.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - ON HIGHWAY HEADED TO STAMFORD - LATE AFTERNOON

Rome is slumped in his aisle seat. The OLD MAN next to him is fat, messy, and talkative.

OLD MAN

So, where are you headed?

ROME

Home.

OLD MAN

Yeah, me too. My daughter lives in the Boston area. She's a psychiatrist, or something like that. You can only spend so much time with them, you know? Not when they're all grown up, you know?

Rome doesn't answer. Old man takes out a BOTTLE OF WATER and a PAPER CUP and starts to pour the water into the cup. The bus goes over a bump and the water DUMPS into Rome's lap. Rome buries his face in his hands.

EXT. GREYHOUND BUS STATION- GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT- EVENING

Rome exits the bus with 1 BACKBACK. His best friend, MADDOX FRANKLIN, 22, is waiting for him by his white Mercedes Benz.

MADDOX

Welcome home, buddy!

He lopes towards Rome grinning, but STOPS when he notices Rome's dejected look.

MADDOX

Okay, what's wrong? Someone hit you with their bag on the bus?

ROME

(putting his bag in the car)

I don't want to talk about it.

MADDOX

That works for me. (pause) Where's the rest of your stuff? I know you don't think I'm going to carry your shit from the bus...

ROME

(slumping into the passenger seat)

I left it all at school. I paid some guys to move it to my new apartment. I'm supposed to take summer classes 'cause I failed most of my finals.

MADDOX

You're shitting me! Why didn't you tell me before? What the hell am I supposed to do all summer?

ROME

Sorry. Can we go now?

MADDOX

Okay, for real now. What the fuck's wrong with you? You seem really... depressed.

Maddox gets into the car and starts the engine before looking at Rome.

MADDOX (Cont'd)

Come on, you can tell me.

ROME

(sighing)

I met this girl on the bus to school in January..

MADDOX

Please do not tell me that any of this has to do with a girl.

ROME

Rose was different. I think I'm actually in love with her.

MADDOX

No offense, man, but you have no idea what love is.

ROME

Neither do you.

MADDOX

Exactly. We are not meant to be in love. We're meant to play the field. That's what our twenties are for. You're just caught up 'cause she turned you down.

ROME

She didn't turn me down.

MADDOX

Okay, so what exactly is the problem?

ROME

You do realize who I'm talking about here, right?

MADDOX

Some chick at your school.

ROME

No, dumbass. Rosalie Capezzo. Sabrina's best friend?

MADDOX

(feigning disinterest)

Who?

ROME

Sabrina! You know, your Sabrina.

MADDOX

(looking disbelievingly at him)

That's who you fucked? The president of the Purity Club? How in the hell did you manage that?

(under his breath)

And she's not my Sabrina.

ROME

(sighing)

I told her I was a virgin.

MADDOX

(laughing)

Oh man! This is literally too good. You're so wrong for that.

ROME

Shut the fuck up!

MADDOX

Dude, guys like us do not go with girls like Rose. We are assholes. They're not. But good job, bro. I'm impressed.

ROME

(sullenly)

It wasn't like that at all.

MADDOX

(exasperated)

Look, it's about time to get over it. Another girl will come along soon enough, so shut up about it already.

ROME

Can you just let me be mad? Damn.

MADDOX

Whatever, bro. You better snap out of it soon, though. You are not a fun guy right now. I need a fun guy.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION- ROSE'S BEDROOM- LATE NIGHT

Rose is sitting at a VANITY with a huge MIRROR. She is BRUSHING her hair, clearly sad.

ROSE (V.O.)

I think that all of our actions are just tiny steps leading us up to that moment. Everything we do is in preparation for that, so we can become the people our soul mates can love. It's why we go to school, get jobs, make mistakes, learn from mistakes, own pets, make friends, have boyfriends. That's all we want. It's really all we need. There shouldn't be anything wrong with that.

Rose's younger cousin, JULIET TAYLOR, 16, flounces into the room and flops onto the bed. She is tall, willowy and lovely, but with few curves.

JULIET

(dramatically)

I heard a secret!

Rose doesn't answer, and Juliet sits up in annoyance.

JULIET (Cont'd)

Don't you even want to know what the secret is?

ROSE

(turning in her chair)

Fine, I'll bite. What's the big secret?

JULIET

(standing to leave)

If you don't really want to know, then I won't tell you.

ROSE

(grabbing her arm)

No, I really want to know.

JULIET

(secretively)

Well, I was at school today and I heard from Samantha that Palmer is going to ask me to prom! I'll be, like, one of the few juniors that get to go to Senior Prom!

ROSE

(dryly)

How exciting for you. Who is Palmer again?

JULIET

Only the sexiest guy in the senior class. His brother, Maddox, graduated a year ahead of you, I think. Obviously Palmer realized that the two most beautiful people clearly have to go together. It's so romantic.

Juliet puts her face next to Rose's in the mirror and then blows a KISS at her own reflection.

ROSE

(sarcastically)

That must be it. Have you ever talked to him before?

JULIET

(kneeling in front of Rose)

A couple of times, I guess. I just can't really remember. Isn't this exciting, though! (dreamily) What a wonderfully romantic story to tell our children.

ROSE

Yeah, well, don't get too excited. He hasn't asked you yet. Just because he says he will do something, doesn't mean he will. There is no honesty in men. Even when one says he loves you, he is either not as good as he seems, or he is lying. (fingers her purity ring wistfully)

JULIET

Oh, Rose, You need to regain your faith in love. Love is limitless, love is boundless! Love is the greatest thing anyone can ever experience.

(begs)

Can't you tell me his name? It's not like I know him.

ROSE

Nope. You might know him, and it's not your business.

JULIET

(groaning)

Fine. All I'm saying is that I get that he lied about being a virgin, but it's not like you did anything with him.. so what's the big deal?

ROSE

(Going to lie on her bed)

You have an awful lot of opinions for someone who's never been in love.

JULIET

(laying next to her)

I'm just trying to stop you from ruining my night with your grumpiness. I didn't have to let you share my suite, you know. I could have made you go home and live with your own parents.

ROSE

(chuckling)

Go to sleep, Juliet.

JULIET

You're not listening to me. Besides it's only 9. I know you don't think I'm going to bed right now.

A loud BUZZING is heard and Rose sits up and picks up her CELL PHONE off of her vanity. Juliet sits up as well.

ROSE

Hello?... This is she... Oh, hi! How are you?... I'm doing great (pause) Oh, my God! Thank you so much! (pause) Hang on, let me check. (she scrolls through her phone)

Juliet emits a loud GROAN and FLOPS back onto the bed.

ROSE (Cont'd)

Yes, I'm free! 11 am?... Wonderful, I'll be there. (pause) Um, yes. What should I wear? (pause) Okay, great. No

problem. (pause) Thank you so, so much! I'll see you then... Bye.

JULIET

(sitting up)

What was that about?

ROSE

I got a summer job!

JULIET

What do you want a job for?

ROSE

To become a productive member of society. Unlike some people.

JULIET

Ouch. Where is it?

ROSE

Morello Bistro!

JULIET

That's the restaurant I went to for my birthday last year!

ROSE

I know, dummy. I was there. I applied to like ten thousand different places, but they wouldn't hire me because I didn't have any experience

(sits back on the bed)

Honestly, do you want to explain to me how I am supposed to get experience if no one will hire me?

JULIET

But one of the nicest places in Greenwich hired you with no experience? As a waitress?

ROSE

Yeah. (laughs) Go figure.

JULIET

(laughing)

Yeah, go figure. Okay, so I'm going out. Wanna come?

Juliet rolls over and kisses Rose on the cheek.

ROSE

(raising an eyebrow)

Out where? You have friends?

JULIET

Don't mock me, young lady. Unlike you, I can't stay cooped up.

(throws back her head)

I need to shed this skin and fly!

ROSE

Not in my room, you don't. Do that skin shedding in your own room.

JULIET

(cheerfully exiting)

Shut up. You don't know what you're missing . . .

INT. MONTAIVO MANSION- ROME'S SUITE- MID DAY

Living room area with white walls, mini basketball hoop on the back of the door, autographed posters of different basketball players, two huge panels are hung on the back wall laminated with pictures from the New York Knicks championship season.

Rome is lying on the dark brown COUCH in the middle of the room with one leg slung over the back, appearing as though he hasn't moved in awhile. The flat screen TELEVISION embedded in the wall across from him is on and he is mechanically clicking through channels.

The door BANGS open and EARL JR. (EJ) MONTAIVO, 26, enters and stands in the doorway scowling at Rome.

EJ

Get the fuck up. You've been watching that damn TV for the last week. Get up, or I'll make you get up.

ROME

Go away, EJ. I'm tired.

EJ

Fuck that.

EJ GRABS Rome's leg and FLIPS him off the couch, making him land on the floor. Rome jumps up, furious.

ROME

What's your problem, man?

MADDOX (O.S.)

It's not his fault.

Maddox enters the room cautiously.

MADDOX (Cont'd)

I told him to get you up. You wouldn't listen to me.

EJ

We're going to play basketball. And you're coming.

Rome crosses his arms and glares at his cousin.

MADDOX

Come on, Rome. You're being ridiculous. You love ballin' at SAC. Just get the hell up and come.

ROME

I don't feel like it today, alright? Maybe tomorrow.

MADDOX

You are going to force us to replace you with Benny. Are you trying to make us lose?

ROME

You guys really suck.

EJ

(exiting)

Hate us now, thank us later. Get your ass moving. Lance is waiting in the car; Nick and Benny are already there.

Rome groans and KICKS the couch forcefully, then exits.

INT. STAMFORD ATHLETIC CLUB - BASKETBALL COURT- SOME TIME LATER

2 teams of five guys are playing. On one team there is Rome, EJ, Maddox, LANCE MONTAIVO, 23, and GERALD (NICK) MONTAIVO, 25, and on the other is TONY, 19, RICHARD, 22, BILL, 25, TREVOR, 25, and LAMAR, 21.

Several players are on the sidelines, talking and laughing, while the game is going on, including BENJAMIN (BENNY) MONTAIVO, 18.

Rome is at the top of the key, fakes right, does a hard spin move left, then drives it into the basket. He alley-oops it to EJ, who dunks it.

ROME

Game point. 10 - 6.

RICHARD

(teasing)

You sure that wasn't a travel?

ROME

Shut up and play.

Lamar takes the ball and passes to Max who scores from outside the three-point line.

BILL

9-10.

NICK

That's only two points. Its 10-8.

BILL

Whatever.

Rome takes the ball, passes to Maddox, who double-shot fakes, drives it into the lane, and goes for the lay-up. Tony jumps to stop him and slams Maddox into the ground.

MADDOX

(jumping up)

What the fuck was that?

TONY

What? I'm just playing the game. No harm, no foul. What's the matter? Can't take a little foul?

MADDOX

(getting in Tony's face)

That was a blatant foul.

TREVOR

You need to relax.

MADDOX

Don't tell me to relax! He plays like an idiot!

TONY

Chill out, dude.

EJ

How about everyone just shut the fuck up?

Players start to argue.

INT. LILA'S DRESS BOUTIQUE- STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT- SAME TIME

Rose and Juliet are standing in front of three, full-length MIRRORS. Rose is wearing her regular clothing, and Juliet is parading around in a pretty PROM DRESS. Rose looks grumpy and keeps playing with her PURITY RING.

ROSE (V.O.)

So, what happens if you make the wrong choice? The ring knows of my sin, and it burns me every day for it. Should you hate someone else for a choice you made?

ROSE (sighing)

That one's nice. Buy it, and let's get out of here.

JULIET

(tugging her dress down and plumping her breasts)
Oh, stop being such a grouch. I have to have the perfect dress!
her own (eyes Rose's more ample chest, then thrusts out)
I think I should get implants.

ROSE

Oh, my God, Juliet. He hasn't even asked you yet.

JULIET

(unconcerned)
Oh, he will.

Rose rolls her eyes, then grabs a WHITE DRESS off the RACK and gives it to Juliet.

ROSE

Try this one on.

JULIET

Wait!

(rummages through rack and gets a DRESS)

You try this one on.

ROSE

For what?

JULIET

So you'll stop being such a grouch.

Both girls go into their separate dressing rooms and put on the dresses, emerging a little while later.

ROSE

(gasping)

Juliet! That's perfect on you!

JULIET

Me? You're freakin' gorgeous in that!

ROSE

I don't know. I feel kinda slutty. It's not hiding anything.

(nervously spins her purity ring)

And it won't let me wear a bra with it.

JULIET

You need to live a little!

Juliet grabs Rose's hands and twirls her around as they laugh together.

JULIET (Cont'd)

Be wild!

ROSE

(laughing)

Are you good then? Finally?

JULIET

Oh yes! Let me show Grammy. You know she won't let me buy a dress without her seal of approval. Time to work my magic.

(sticks her head out of the dressing room)
Grammy! Come see my dress!

MILDRED (GRAMMY) TAYLOR, 83, enters the dressing room and gasps at Juliet's dress.

GRAMMY
That's very... pretty, little love. But it leaves nothing to interpretation, does it?
(gestures towards Juliet's chest)
All of the men's eyes will be focused right there.

JULIET
Oh, come on, Grammy! Men's eyes were made to look, so let 'em look!
(shimmies her shoulders)
Please, Grammy! Please!

GRAMMY
I don't know. I'm not sure your mother would approve.

JULIET
Grammy! I'm almost 18. I think I can pick out my own dress. I'm a woman. You promised to buy me a dress. This is the one I want!

ROSE
Really. In what world does sixteen equal almost eighteen?
(to Grammy)
But, it does look quite fetching on her, you have to admit.

JULIET
Thank you! See, Grammy? Don't be a spoilsport. Please, please, please!

Juliet turns to Rose and mouths "fetching?" with raised eyebrows and Rose grins and shrugs.

GRAMMY
Fine, I'll buy it.
(begins to exit, shaking her head)
I know I'm going to regret this.

Grammy exits.

JULIET

Yes! Yes! Yes!

(to Rose)

Want to get some food?

ROSE

I can't. I promised Sabine I'd meet her for lunch.

JULIET

Oh, can I come? Brie-Brie loves me!

ROSE

I'd love for you to come, but I promised her it would be just the two of us. I haven't seen her since I've been back yet.

Rose's CELL PHONE BUZZES and she goes into her BAG to get it.

ROSE (CONT'D)

(walking into her dressing room)

It's her. Love you, Juliet. Gotta go.

Juliet HUFFS and walks into her dressing room while Rose answers her phone.

ROSE

Hello?

SABRINE (O.S.)

How are you, sexy mama?

ROSE

Hi Brie, where are you?

SABRINE (O.S.)

I'm at the gym!

ROSE

Um, why? I thought we were eating...

SABRINE (O.S.)

We are! I'm not working out or anything. We can go as soon as you come pick me up!

ROSE

Let me guess. You must be at SAC.

SABRINE (O.S.)
(chuckling)

Do you even have to ask?

ROSE
Say no more. Give me fifteen minutes.

INT. STAMFORD ATHLETIC CLUB - BASKETBALL COURT- MID AFTERNOON

Players have stopped arguing and are resuming the game. Rome takes the ball, shot fakes, passes to Lance, who passes to Nick. Nick drives in, spots EJ down low and passes to him. EJ goes for the shot, misses, but Maddox gets the rebound and puts it back in.

ROME
That's game. Good job, guys.

Rome walks to the bleachers as Tony and Maddox bump fists.

NICK
Who's got winner?

MADDOX
Give us a break, man. Next game in 15.

NICK
Alright. Let the losers play.

TONY
Shut the fuck up.

The remaining players, and the ones who have just lost, set up at half court and begin to play. Rome, Maddox, Nick, EJ, Lance, and Benny sit on the bleachers, drinking their water and talking amongst themselves.

The gym doors bang open and ANTOINE MITCHELL, 13, rushes in excitedly.

MADDOX
What's up, my man?

Ant and Maddox HIGH-FIVE.

ANT
(to Rome)

You never told me you were back in town! Why didn't you call me?

ROME

Does your mom know you're here?

ANT

(puffing out his chest)

I'm a man. I do what I want.

ROME

So, she knows you're here.

ANT

Yeah. (grins) You know, just because I don't need you to babysit me anymore doesn't mean we can't hang out...

ROME

My bad, Ant. I've been laying low for the last week. Just staying indoors and stuff.

BENNY

Yeah, he's been in bed, pining over Rosalie Capezzo all week.

ROME

Benny. Mind your own business.

ANT

Seriously? Over a girl?

MADDOX

(leaning forward to Ant)

Are Palmer and Adriana fighting? I haven't seen her around at all.

ANT

(shrugging)

I dunno. The whole prom thing seems to be bugging her I guess. Oh, I almost forgot.

(to Benny)

Adriana wants to know if you'll take her to prom.

BENNY

What?

ANT

(hesitantly)

Yeah... she said you guys are in the same math class. And she thinks you're cute. (wrinkles his nose) I dunno.

ROME

Just take her, Benny.

BENNY

I mean, I wasn't going to prom... but... sure. I guess. Do I have to ask her or what?

ANT

Nah, I'll tell her for you. She'll probably go over the details and stuff with you later.

BENNY

(Unenthusiastically)

Great.

ANT

(turning back to Rome)

I didn't think you were the lovey-dovey type!

LANCE

Yeah. It's pretty sad actually.

ROME

Shut up.

BENNY

Don't be mad, because it's the truth. You have this weird obsession with Rose and you're not even doing anything to stop it.

ANT

(pointing to the door)

I forgot I just saw her best friend outside.

MADDOX

(sitting up straight)

Sabrina? Outside?

(nonchalantly stretches)

I'm gonna go to the bathroom.

NICK

Please. We all know you and she bone. Stop acting like it's some big secret.

MADDOX

No, we don't. (pause, then laughing) Who am I kidding?

Maddox mimes a spanking motion and all the boys start to laugh except for Rome, who sits on the bleachers and looks sulky.

MADDOX

(to Rome, very serious)

Look dude, it's one thing to mess with a fine girl and all, but it's another to get all twisted because of it. You got to get over it and find something else.

(heads towards the door)

And with that said, I'm out. Benny, you can play for me. I gotta go work out a different part of my body.

Maddox exits.

ANT

Maddox and Sabrine go out?

EJ

No. She wishes.

LANCE

HA! He wishes.

EJ

Maddox is a confirmed bachelor, man. Always has been, always will be.

LANCE

Times change. You saw him just now, didn't you?

NICK

True that. I never thought I'd see Maddox actually get excited to see a girl he'd already gotten with.

ANT

I can't wait to have a girlfriend.

EJ

Wrong, my friend. You don't want a girlfriend. Trust me on that.

ROME

(annoyed)

Just because you've never found someone who loves you, other than your mother, doesn't mean having a girlfriend is bad.

EJ

Rome, you sad little romantic!

(to Ant)

Take a good look and tell me which one of us you'd rather be. Happy and horny me? ...

(points to Rome)

Or a pussy-whipped wimp?

ANT

(frowning)

Well...

BENNY

Ignore him, Ant. Just because Rome is looking particularly pathetic right now doesn't mean he won't be happier in the long run.

ROME

(sarcastically)

Thanks, Benny.

EJ

Please. I can have anyone I want, at any time. That's how I like it.

LANCE

Trust me when I say, he's not lying.

ROME

And you'll end up, every night for the rest of your life, going home to an empty house.

ANT

I'd rather not have an empty house.

NICK

(yelling to the players on the court)

Travel!

EJ

My house will never be empty. It will have a different girl in it every week. I will never be bored.

BENNY

Yeah, you will. Bored and lonely.

LANCE

Do you ever have an opinion that didn't come from Rome? What are you, his echo?

BENNY

I think I could say the same thing for you and EJ, asshole.

INT. STAMFORD ATHLETIC CLUB - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

There is a desk with an ATTENDANT standing behind it in the far corner, a seating area with plush COUCHES and CHAIRS in front of it. The doors to the basketball court are directly ahead, across from the entrance doors. There is a dimly lit CASE OF TROPHIES on the left side of the room.

SABRINE GRAY, 21, a petite, curvaceous girl, is standing with her back to the basketball court, partially obscured from the attendant at the desk.

Maddox enters from the basketball court, his face lighting up when he spots her. He composes his face and sneaks up behind her, wrapping his arms around her slender waist. She squeaks in fake alarm before turning to face him, still enveloped in his arms.

SABRINE

Maddox! I didn't expect to see you here!

MADDOX

Oh, really? Then, what are doing here wearing those tight-ass jeans?

(presses her against the wall)

Did you miss me?

SABRINE

Hmm, well, maybe a little.

He KISSES her passionately for a moment, before she pulls back.

SABRINE (Cont'd)

I guess I did miss you.

They resume KISSING as Rose enters through the entrance. She waits for a moment, unnoticed, and then clears her throat SOFTLY. They don't hear her, so after another moment she clears her throat LOUDLY.

Maddox and Sabine release each other immediately.

MADDOX

Hi, Rose.

ROSE

(laughing)

Hi, Maddox. Honestly. You two are ridiculous. There's a guy standing behind the desk right over there.

(to Sabine)

I'll be in the car. You have five minutes and then I'm leaving. I'm hungry.

Rose exits.

ROSE (V.O.)

Love doesn't have to be hard. I guess some people think if it's too easy, then it can't possibly be real. I don't believe that.

MADDOX

(wrapping his arms back around Sabine)

I can do you in five minutes easy.

SABRINE

(stepping out of his embrace)

That's not something to brag about.

MADDOX

(grabbing her waist)

Hang on.

(turns her to face him)

Am I going to see you this weekend?

SABRINE

I don't know. I'll let you know.

Sabrine runs out of the gym. He watches her go, admiring her, before walking to the COUCHES in the opposite corner and sliding onto one, a satisfied smile on his lips.

Rome enters the foyer, looking for Maddox, clearly annoyed with his friend. He approaches and sits in the chair next to him.

ROME

I see you saw Sabrine.

MADDOX

(running his hands through his hair)

Yeah, man. She's, well, she's... damn. (laughs) Yeah, she's something else.

ROME

(sullenly)

At least one of us is happy.

MADDOX

For crying out loud! Knock it off.

ROME

It sounds like you're falling for her.

MADDOX

(appalled)

Me? No! Hell, no! (pause) Uh, Rosalie picked her up.

ROME

(sitting up quickly)

What? Why didn't you say something? Where are they going?

MADDOX

(trying not to smile)

Well... I'm not really sure...

ROME

What do you mean, 'you're not sure?'. I know you stalk Sabrine, Maddox! Don't play games with me!

MADDOX

I do not stalk her! Have some respect. And that's really no way to talk to someone you want something from, is it?

ROME

Sometimes you can be the biggest asshole. (sighs) Okay, what do you want?

MADDOX

Hm. I want that autographed, life-sized Shaq board in your room that was in the Knicks old locker room.

ROME

What?!

MADDOX

I'm not finished... And you have to promise to stop being a bitch and sitting at home all day.

ROME

(after a long pause)

Fine. Tell me where they're going.

MADDOX

You didn't promise...

ROME

I... promise...

MADDOX

They went to go eat. I'm not sure where, though.

ROME

(leaping out of his chair)

I know where! I know all of Rose's favorite restaurants.

MADDOX

(grabbing Rome's arm)

Come on, Rome, please. Let it go. You're starting to creep me out.

ROME

Don't worry about me. I just want to talk. I'll be fine.

MADDOX

Fine. Yeah, okay. Whatever. Just have that board dropped off at my house tomorrow.

ROME

You're crazy if you think I'm giving up my Shaq board.

MADDOX

Don't play me. A deal's a deal.

ROME

Live and learn, chump.

Rome slaps him on the shoulder and exits the foyer as TYLER TAYLOR, 23, enters. Maddox stands up immediately when he spots Tyler and they smile coldly at each other, their dislike evident.

MADDOX

You should probably stop coming to the gym until your neck reappears, Tyler.

(shakes his head)

Dude, you answer phones for a living. You're mad big for no reason.

TYLER

Some of us are built like men.

(looks Maddox up and down)

Some of us are built like boys.

MADDOX

Does it come out of your check if you accidentally smash stuff when you walk around the office?

TYLER

(walking by him)

That's real funny. Ask Sabrina what she thinks about my...
(clears throat) size.

Maddox is caught off guard and doesn't answer, so Tyler smirks and EXITS. Maddox KICKS his chair in anger.

ATTENDENT

(startled)

Um, sir..?

MADDOX

(muttering)

Yeah, yeah, I'm going.

INT. HOPE PIZZA RESTAURANT - BACK BOOTH IN THE CORNER- LATE AFTERNOON

Almost all of the tables are filled with CUSTOMERS, and the air is warm, friendly, and bustling. The interior has been painted to look like a Greek village.

Sabrine and Rose are eating Greek salads, sitting across from each other.

ROSE

So, Brie, since when do you and Maddox publicly suck face?

SABRINE

(fanning herself)

He's damn sexy, isn't he?

ROSE

I can't believe you slept with him. He's such a whore.

SABRINE

You should try it sometime. (Rose makes a horrified face)
Not with Maddox! I meant sex in general. Trust me when I say it's not something you want to miss out on. You could be having a lot of fun instead of waiting until you're married.

ROSE

Okay, first of all, as my best friend, you're supposed to support me in my choices, not try to get me to be a slut.

(Sabrine tries to interrupt but Rose talks louder)

And second of all, you already know what happened with Rome. I am so ef-ing glad I didn't sleep with him.

SABRINE

(gasping)

Rose, you dirty girl! I've never heard you swear before! I kinda like it.

ROSE

That wasn't a real swear; I auto-bleeped myself.

(waves her hand in the air impatiently)

I'm just saying. How are you going to feel about yourself when Maddox betrays you, after you've given him the most precious part of yourself?

SABRINE

Slow down there. Maddox didn't even get that, Rose. That was given away like three years ago, so, no harm there, right? (Rose crosses her arms, annoyed) Okay, sorry. Yes, I get what you're saying, but stop trying to pin what Rome did on Maddox. They aren't the same, and you and I aren't the same. (pause) I am glad you didn't sleep with Rome, though. (softly) Even though he's really not as bad as you think he is.

ROSE

He lied to me...

SABRINE

Yeah, he did, but everyone makes mistakes. You can't condemn someone for an eternity for one silly mistake.

ROSE

(getting worked up)

It wasn't a silly mistake. Imagine what would have happened if I had gone through with it. If I had sex with him, thinking we were both on the same level, then found out about this other girl after? There could have been hundreds of other girls! There probably were hundreds of girls! (stops, panting a little)

SABRINE

(amazed)

What? Whoa, wait! Are you saying you almost had sex with him?

(gets up and sits on the same side of the booth as Rose)

Oh, my God. Details, now!

ROSE

(concerned and grabbing at her purity ring)

No! It's private!

SABRINE

So, underneath all that chastity, Miss Capezzo is a bona-fide freak. Good to know.

ROSE

(muttering)

Oh, my God.

SABRINE

I mean that in the nicest possible way, babe. I'm proud of you.

ROSE

No, not that! He's here.

SABRINE

Who's here?

ROSE

Crap. I have to hide before he sees me.

SABRINE

(looking around)

Where is he? We're talking about Rome, I assume?

ROSE

Don't look around, you idiot! I saw him through the window. He's coming in the back entrance. We need to leave, now!

SABRINE

This is sad. (pause) Fine, I'll go get the check.

Sabrine slides out of the booth and walks away as Rome enters the restaurant, still in his gym clothes. He sees Rose almost immediately, and pauses, just looking at her. She is pretending to not notice him, staring out of the window.

Rome approaches her and slides into the booth across from her.

ROME

(with a bit of swagger)

Hi, Rose.

ROSE

(not looking at him)

Rome.

ROME

(wilting)

Why won't you talk to me?

ROSE

We got along just fine before we met. I don't see why now should be any different.

ROME

(frustrated)

Are you actually being serious right now? You sound crazy, you know that?

ROSE

(glaring at him)

Are you being serious? Pretty sure it's my prerogative to decide how to deal with what you did to me. Don't call me crazy.

ROME

I'm not calling you crazy. I'm calling this crazy!

(gestures)

This whole situation is crazy!

ROSE

(trying not to cry)

I don't think you understand how your lie affected me.

(turns to leave the booth)

I have to go.

Rome quickly slides into her side of the booth, blocking her in. She is appalled.

ROSE (Cont'd)

What's the matter with you?

ROME

I'm not gonna let you run away from us over something stupid like this.

ROSE

(frustrated)

God, you will never get it, will you? The problem here is that you and I are clearly two very different types of people. You are not a good person. You lied when you said you loved me, you lied when you said you were a virgin and you got me into bed under false pretenses. Think whatever you want to make yourself okay with what you did, but trust me... You are not a good person. (pause) Move.

Rome stares at her in shock for a moment, then ABRUPTLY leaves the booth. He stalks out of the restaurant, banging the door behind him as he leaves.

Sabrine approaches the booth.

SABRINE

(cautiously)

So... how did it go?

ROSE

(still breathing hard)

It's time to go.

SABRINE

That bad, huh?

ROSE

I hate boys.

The two girls exit and head to Rose's car.

ROSE (V.O.)

Hopefully, by the time we see each other again, the pain will have faded, and we will have forgotten everything that we once were to each other. This should be enough. There should be no later. There should be no next time, and that should be okay.

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM- EARLY EVENING

PALMER FRANKLIN, 18, is sitting on the COUCH talking to his grandfather, ERNESTO FRANKLIN, 92, who is in a WHEELCHAIR.

PALMER

You haven't seen her, Pop. She's the most beautiful girl I've ever seen.

ERNESTO

A real catch, eh? What's her name?

PALMER

(reverently)

Juliet. "What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun."

ERNESTO

(quirking an eyebrow)

So you're Romeo, are you?

PALMER

I'm gonna ask her to prom, Pop.

ERNESTO

Eh?

PALMER

(raising his voice)

I'm gonna ask her to prom!

Maddox starts to enter from the back, hears Palmer, then darts out of sight to EVESDROP for a moment.

ERNESTO

No need to shout. I can hear just fine. You kids just talk too damn fast.

PALMER

Sorry, Pop.

ERNESTO

Let me see. When I went to prom, I took your grandmother. She was something, alright. She didn't even go to my school, but I saw her at the bus station. (pauses and gazes off in the distance)

PALMER

(softly)

Pop?

ERNESTO

(coming to)

Oh, yes. It was two weeks before prom. Saw her at the bus station on Sunday. She had just come from church. I sat down next to her and said, "You remind me of my mother. You both have a mustache right here." (points to his upper lip)

PALMER

(aghast)

No, you didn't.

Maddox bursts out laughing, revealing his hiding place, and walks over to sit beside Palmer on the couch.

MADDOX

He's just pulling your leg, Palm.

ERNESTO

(shaking his head)

I most certainly am not! Love at first sight, that was.

PALMER

Pop, you can't say stuff like that to girls nowadays. It's not a compliment.

ERNESTO

(chuckling)

I'm not saying there aren't different ways to catch their attention.

(leans in)

The key here, son, is to get to her house and ask the parents first.

PALMER

(frowning)

Ask her parents?

ERNESTO

Oh, yes. Then take her out on a little date and be a gentleman. The ladies love a gentleman. (winks) I was something of a heartbreaker myself.

MADDOX

(rolling his eyes)

I'm sure you were, Pop.

(to Palmer)

Who is this you're taking to prom?

PALMER

Juliet Taylor.

MADDOX

Never heard of her.

PALMER

(grinning)

Pop says I gotta go to her house and ask her parents for permission first.

MADDOX

Yeah, I heard... be a gentleman.

ERNESTO

And bring a present.

PALMER

(dubiously)

What kind of present?

MADDOX

Condoms.

ERNESTO

A rose. The ladies love roses.

PALMER

Okay that's what I'll do. Tonight.

(to Maddox)

How's it going with Sabrina?

MADDOX

(shaking his head)

I don't know. I don't know what to do.

PALMER

Did you see her today?

MADDOX

Yeah, she came to see me at the gym.

PALMER

Did you tell her?

MADDOX

I couldn't! What if she doesn't feel the same way? Brie's like the female equivalent of me. She doesn't want a man... just a hook-up.

PALMER

Maddox, no girl goes all the way to a gym to see a guy she only views as a hook-up.

MADDOX

(nervously)

Maybe she wasn't there to see me. I don't know.

PALMER

(rolling his eyes)

You're so lame like this.

MADDOX

I know. I'm freaking myself out. I can't even look at other girls anymore.

(sits back against the couch)

What if telling her makes her not want to see me anymore? I can't have that.

ERNESTO

Does she have a mustache?

MADDOX

No, Pop. She's facial-hair free.

ERNESTO

(aghast)

No eyebrows?

MADDOX

Pop. Of course she has eyebrows.

PALMER

(interrupting)

Maddox, you just have to do it. I need my normal brother back.

(stands up)

Come on. I'm going to Juliet's and you're going to Sabrina's.

(to Pop)

Pop, we're going out.

ERNESTO

Eh?

PALMER

(grabbing Maddox's arm and hoisting him up)

I'm going to ask Juliet to prom. Be back later.

ERNESTO

Sure, sure. If her grandmother's single, send her over.

PALMER

I'll be sure to do that, Pop. Let's go, Mad.

(stops and looks at himself)

Oh man. I better go put on a suit or something.

Palmer exits, dragging Maddox.

EXT. SABRINE'S HOUSE- STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT- SOME TIME LATER

Palmer pulls up to the front of the house and parks. He gets out of the car, runs around it, opens the passenger door, and then drags Maddox out.

PALMER

You'll thank me later. I gotta go buy a rose, then go to Juliet's, then I'll be back for you in an hour.

MADDOX

Actually, now that I think about it, Sabrina's really not my type like that. I don't really want more than this "friends with benefits" stuff.

PALMER

Shut up.

(gets back in his car)

I'll be back later.

As Palmer pulls away, the front door opens and Sabrina steps out. It is clear she is excited to see him, but composes herself before saying anything.

SABRINE

Um, Maddox? What are you doing here?

MADDOX

(spinning around and putting on a smile)

Hey, babe! Thought you might be lonely.

SABRINE

(confused and coming down the stairs)

Were we supposed to meet up today? Not that I'm complaining or anything, of course.

MADDOX

(smile faltering)

Uh, no. (rambling) I just... actually, I was in the neighborhood with my brother and he's going to ask some girl to the prom. I guess she lives near here and I didn't want to go 'cause I figured that would be boring as shit, so I remembered that you lived around here and thought I could have him drop me off for a little... (trails off)

SABRINE

(frowning)

Are you okay?

MADDOX

(breathless)

Yeah, of course, why?

SABRINE

You're acting strange.

MADDOX

You know what? I'm gonna go. It's not that far to her place.

SABRINE

No! I mean, you can come in, if you want. No one's home.

MADDOX

(breathing heavily)

Ok. Thanks.

Sabrina turns and walks back towards her house with a confused expression on her face. Maddox follows her, silently berating himself, but when she turns to shut the door behind him, composes his face into his seductive smile.

EXT. TAYLOR MANSION- STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT- EARLY EVENING

Palmer pulls up in his car and parks. He takes a moment to compose himself, holding a WHITE ROSE behind his back, before ringing the doorbell. A couple of seconds go by, and then Tyler, Juliet's older brother, answers the door.

TYLER

Can I help you?

Palmer panics. He pulls the rose out from behind his back and thrusts it at Tyler, unsure of what to say.

TYLER

(raising an eyebrow)

I'm flattered, but to be honest, you're not really my type.

PALMER

(stuttering)

No, I mean... It's for Juliet. Is Juliet home?

TYLER

(frowning)

Maybe... what do you want?

PALMER

I, uh, wanted to talk to her... very quickly... briefly... for a minute?

Tyler just stares at him.

PALMER (CONT'D)

(gulping)

Hello?

TYLER

(intimidatingly)

That's a real nice car you got there.

PALMER

(gulping again)

Huh? Oh, yeah, thanks. My, uh, dad bought it for my eighteenth birthday.

Tyler steps back and allows Palmer to enter their spacious foyer.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

TYLER

I'll go get her.

PALMER

No, wait!

Tyler stops and looks at him, skeptically. Palmer blushes.

PALMER

I kind of wanted to talk to her parents first.

TYLER

Her parents? What- for permission? Then I'm the one you want to talk to, kid, not them. (folds his arms across his massive chest)

PALMER

(nervously)

Oh. Then, um, do you think it would be okay if I took Juliet to prom?

TYLER

(raising an eyebrow)

And who are you?

PALMER

Palmer... Palmer Franklin.

TYLER

(circling around Palmer)

Franklin, huh? You wouldn't happen to be related to Maddox, would you?

PALMER

(relieved)

Yes! He's my brother!

TYLER

(nastily)

Well, here's the thing, Palmer. My baby sister is one of the most important things to me, and I know your brother. There is no way that a Franklin is good enough for her.

PALMER

I'm not like my brother at all.

(brandishes the rose)

I brought a rose!

TYLER

(snorts)

Are you a virgin?

PALMER

Uh, what? S-sorry? Am I? Um...

TYLER

That's probably a yes.

(calling up the stairs)

Juliet! Someone here to see you!

(turns back to Palmer and leans towards him)

Don't fuck up, kid.

There are noises upstairs, and then Juliet appears on the landing.

JULIET

(with quiet excitement)

Palmer...

Juliet walks composedly down the stairs, taking her time. Tyler rolls his eyes and EXITS.

Palmer stares, taking her in until she is standing in front of him.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Hi, Palmer. What can I do for you?

PALMER

I brought you a rose. (hands it to her)

JULIET

Oh, it's beautiful. White roses are my favorite. Thank you so much.

PALMER

(taking a deep breath)

Juliet... I was wondering if you would like to go to prom with me.

Juliet beams, but purposely takes her time answering.

PALMER (CONT'D)

I'll pay for your ticket and the limo.

JULIET

Oh, Palmer. I would love to go with you!

PALMER

(grinning hugely)
That's great! So, how would you feel about going out with me
Wednesday night?

JULIET
Like a date?

PALMER
Yeah. We could go to the movies, or to dinner...

JULIET
Oh, yes! Of course!

PALMER
Wonderful.
(awkwardly kisses her on the cheek while trying
to shake her hand)
I'll pick you up at seven.

Palmer turns and leaves, barely able to contain his excitement. Juliet closes
the door, close to swooning.

JULIET
(to herself)
I'll bet our kids are gorgeous, too.

EXT. TAYLOR MANSION - FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Palmer is walking back to his car, dialing a number on his CELL PHONE.

PALMER
Adrianna? She said yes! (pause) Yeah, I know, I'm stoked!
(pause) He's gonna call, Ana. (pause) Why wouldn't he?
(pause) Oh, shut up. You're beautiful and you know it.
(pause) Naw, I can't, I gotta go scoop Maddox, but I'll
stop by tomorrow if you're free. (pause) Awesome, bye!

EXT. SABRINE'S HOUSE- STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT- A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Palmer is waiting outside, impatiently HONKING his horn.

Maddox finally exits the house and gets in the car. Palmer drives away.

INT. PALMER'S CAR - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

PALMER

So, are you guys a couple now, or what?

MADDOX

No.

PALMER

Oh, man. She turned you down?

MADDOX

No.

PALMER

I'm confused.

MADDOX

I didn't tell her.

PALMER

Are you kidding me? You were in there for over an hour and you didn't tell her? Do I even want to ask what you did do?

MADDOX

Probably not. It wasn't PG.

PALMER

What a waste.

MADDOX

Why do I feel like I'm the younger brother most of the time?

PALMER

'Cause you're immature as fuck, that's why.

MADDOX

Shut up. (PUNCHES Palmer in the arm.)

INT. BENNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- LATE EVENING

Benny is sitting at his desk, glaring at his CELL PHONE and not moving. Every now and then he glances at the clock impatiently. It appears as though he's waiting for something.

The front doorbell is heard and he straightens up, but doesn't move to answer it. Muffled voices from downstairs are heard, then loud footsteps.

Benny's bedroom door opens and Rome enters, looking exasperated.

ROME

What's the emergency, Benny? I thought something was really wrong!

BENNY

You have to help me with this.

ROME

With what?

BENNY

This prom thing! You volunteered me to go to the stupid prom with Antoine's sister so you're going to help me! I have to call her tonight to discuss details!

ROME

That's it? What the hell, Benny? Please. There are more pressing concerns in life.

BENNY

Yeah, like your inability to hold an erection.
(smiling evilly)
Maybe that's why Rose turned you down again.

ROME

(furious)

Who the fuck told you that?

BENNY

Are you kidding me? Travis was in Hope Pizza with his parents. I already heard the whole story.

ROME

Great. Now everybody can know how pathetic I am.

BENNY

Guess so. Can we get back to me, please?

ROME

What's the matter? Ant said you didn't have to ask her.

BENNY

Yeah, but what was I going to say? Now I can't back out.
Rome, you haven't seen this girl. She's got this ridiculous
mess of poufy, curly hair.

ROME
(dramatically)

Oh, no!

BENNY
(gesturing)

And she wears glasses. But not the cute ones either; these
huge circular ones.

ROME
(clutching his head)

God, no! The horror!

BENNY
And her eyebrows are, like, mad bushy.

ROME
Please, make it stop! I'm going to have nightmares for
weeks!

BENNY
Shut up, Rome. You don't have to take her to prom and take
pictures with her.

ROME
Maybe we should shoot her with a tranquilizer gun and bury
her until prom's over. Come on, Benny. It's not that big a
deal. You're only doing her a favor.

BENNY
You don't understand. This is the type of girl that's gonna
get a crush on me. And follow me everywhere. And profess
her undying love to me. (pause) Kind of like what you do to
Rose.

ROME
That's not funny.

BENNY
It is a little.

ROME

Look, I could help you out, just because you're like a brother to me, but a little respect, if you don't mind. When you call her just say that you wanted to make sure she knows you're just friends, that you won't be going to an after party together, and- What are you doing?

Benny has taken out a PAD OF PAPER and is taking notes.

BENNY

What? This is good stuff. I don't want to forget.

ROME

Jesus Christ. And ask her what color dress she's wearing.

BENNY

What about the whole dancing thing?

ROME

Do you want to dance with her?

BENNY

Uh, no.

ROME

Then you can't dance.

BENNY

I can dance!

ROME

She doesn't know that.

BENNY

Okay, okay, I get it. I'm gonna call her now.

Benny picks up his cell phone, dialing Adriana's number, and Rome sits on his bed, rolling his eyes.

BENNY (CONT'D)

(to Rome)

I can't believe I'm actually doing-

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Hello?

BENNY

(flustered)

Hello? Who's calling?

Rome smothers his laughter with a pillow.

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Excuse me?

BENNY

(embarrassed)

Sorry. Hey, it's Benny. What's up?

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Oh, hey! Are you calling about prom?

BENNY

Yeah...

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Okay, great. I'm wearing a red dress, so you should make sure your tux matches, okay? I'll text you a picture of the color later.

BENNY

(gulping)

Okay.

Benny stares at Rome, panicked in the silence. Rome rolls his eyes and gestures towards the paper in Benny's hands. Relieved, Benny reads it.

BENNY (CONT'D)

(too fast to understand)

Uh, I just wanted to make sure that we're going as friends and that there's no after party and that it's okay I can't dance.

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Sorry?

BENNY

(slower)

I just wanted to make sure that we're going as friends and that there's no after party and that it's okay I can't dance.

ADRIANA (O.S.)

(laughing)

Of course! I mean, there is an after party that I was going to go to, but you don't have to come. And I don't care if you can't dance. I assumed we'd be dancing with different people anyways.

BENNY

(exhaling hard)

Oh, okay good. So, send me that pic and everything.

ADRIANA (O.S.)

I will. And don't forget to buy me a corsage.

BENNY

Uh, sure, yeah. No problem.

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Great. See you at school on Monday!

BENNY

Bye.

Benny hangs up and then looks at Rome, who is still laughing into his pillow.

BENNY (Cont'd)

What's a corsage?

Rome roars with laughter as Benny's phone starts to BUZZ again. Benny looks down at it, then panics.

BENNY (CONT'D)

It's her, again!

ROME

So, pick it up, dumbass. She knows you're there.

BENNY

(answering the phone tentatively)

Hello?

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Hey, I almost forgot! We're meeting at the fountain at 6:30 to take pictures, and then a limo is going to take us to the prom.

BENNY

(gulping)

The fountain?

ADRIANA (O.S.)

Of course. That's where Palmer is having the limo pick us up. See you!

Benny puts the phone down, and then looks at Rome severely.

BENNY

You're coming.

ROME

Coming where?

BENNY

To the fountain.

ROME

No, I'm not. You don't need back-up at the fountain.

BENNY

Oh, yes you are. This is your fault. I told you I didn't want to take pictures with a bushy-haired, glasses-wearing, uni-brow girl.

ROME

Whatever. But I'm not going to the actual prom with you.

BENNY

Of course not. You'd need seventy-five bucks for that.

EXT. MORELLO BISTRO- GREENWICH, CT- EARLY EVENING, FIRST DAY OF WORK

Rose drives into the parking lot, parking in front of the entrance.

There is a GROUP OF OLDER PEOPLE sitting outside the kitchen area, including JACKIE GALIANO, 40, the owner of the restaurant. Rose waves to them, and it

is clear that they have all met before. As she is walking around to the front, Jackie calls to her.

JACKIE

Rose? Are you working today?

ROSE

Yes.

JACKIE

You can't park here. This is for the customers.

ROSE

Oh, I'm sorry. (pause) Where should I park?

JACKIE

There's a lot around the back. Just follow that long driveway on the side of the building. You can park anywhere back there.

ROSE

Okay! I'm sorry!

Rose quickly gets back into her car and drives around, parking in the back. She feels embarrassed. She continuously checks her WATCH as she runs down the driveway and rushes back to the entrance, concerned that she is going to be late.

INT. MORELLO BISTRO - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rose enters the restaurant and is greeted by JESS, 28, the manager. It is evident that Jess is in a rush and is just going through formalities with Rose.

JESS

Hi, Rose. How are you today?

ROSE

I'm good. Super nervous, but good.

JESS

That's fine, nothing to worry about. Follow me.

Jess quickly walks with Rose to the back where the kitchen is, talking as she goes.

JESS (Cont'd)

You'll be training with Jarrett today, so I'll just pass you off to him.

ROSE

(nodding fast)

Okay, no problem. Great.

INT. MORELLO BISTRO - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rose and Jess enter the kitchen, a huge place with lots of activity. There are WAITRESSES milling around, including JARRETT GALIANO, 25, a very handsome guy with many FACIAL PIERCINGS and more than a few TATTOOS, wearing clothes that are not in keeping with the restaurant dress code; EMILY, 21, and DANIELLE, 23. Jess approaches Jarrett, who is writing the daily specials on his PAD.

JESS

Jarrett, this is Rose, she'll be training with you tonight.

Jarrett

Hey, Rose. Nice to meet you. I'll try not to bite.

EMILY

(passing by)

Don't listen to him. He's as harmless as a neutered bull.

DANIELLE

(laughing)

That doesn't sound harmless.

JARRETT

(with a fake evil laugh)

That's because I'm dangerous.

ROSE

(laughing, feeling more comfortable)

I'll be careful, then.

JESS

Well, I've got to go man the bar tonight, so just take her through clean-up and set-up and such.

(to Rose)

Have fun.

Jess EXITS and everyone commences to doing their own thing. Rose stands awkwardly by Jarrett while he continues writing the specials down. When he finishes, he turns back to Rose.

JARRETT

So, basically, you're like my assistant for the night. I'll show you everything from how to make bread baskets, to how to open a wine bottle.

ROSE

Opening a wine bottle? Good. That's what I was most worried about, since I don't know anything about liquor at all.

JARRETT

How old are you?

ROSE

(pulling a face)

I'm 20. It's, like, the worst age to be.

JARRETT

You're telling me. That sucks. You can't even sit at the bar with us after work, even if you don't have a drink.

(checking his watch)

There's a show at 7:30 tonight, so the rush will start around 5:30 most likely.

ROSE

Show?

JARRETT

Yeah, the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra is down the street. Almost all of our business comes from their customers; those going to or from the show.

ROSE

That's pretty cool.

JARRETT

Yeah, so basically I have about 30 minutes to show you where everything is.

A quick montage of Rose's first day at work follows: her making and delivering bread baskets, folding silverware and laughing with the other waitresses, following Jarrett around, and serving water to customers.

Later, Jarrett and Rose are standing by the computer, inputting a check.

ROSE

So, how come you don't have to wear the dress code?

JARRETT

(pressing buttons rapidly)

Well, technically I'm supposed to, but I also don't technically work here.

ROSE

What do you mean?

JARRETT

(ripping the paper coming out of the printer)

I just help out my parents here on random nights. I keep my tips, but don't get paid salary.

ROSE

Oh! That's really nice of you.

JARRETT

(winking at her)

I thought so. Come on.

Jarrett leads the way to a table, and on the way a GROUP OF GIRLS he knows waves and flirts at him. He almost doesn't notice them and stumbles in his attempt to say hi while still moving.

ROSE

(laughing)

Very smooth.

JARRETT

You liked that, did you? I patented that move.

ROSE

I'm sure it works every time.

JARRETT

I'd say nine out of ten times, at least.

INT. MAX AMORE RESTAURANT - STAMFORD, CT - EVENING

Dim lights, soft music, and the WAITSTAFF are dressed in all BLACK and WHITE.

Palmer and Juliet are seated in a back BOOTH opposite each other, dressed up, and chatting.

JULIET

I have to admit I heard you were going to ask me out from Samantha last week. What took you so long?

PALMER

I had to find the perfect way to do it.

JULIET

You did a great job.

(leans in)

So, listen. I'm wearing a white dress with gold jewelry, so I'm thinking you could wear a black tux with a gold vest, gold cover bunt, and a white and gold tie. You'll look so handsome.

PALMER

Okay, I can do that.

JULIET

And, also, when you buy my corsage, make sure the rose is white, and the ribbon is gold. (sighs happily) It'll be like a fairy tale.

PALMER

I like it when you take charge.

(reaches over to grab her hand)

That reminds me: do any of your friends want to come in the limo with us? Me and Adriana got a few of our friends, but I'm sure we have room for some of yours?

JULIET

(slightly concerned)

Adriana?

PALMER

Yeah, we've been best friends since we were like two years old. She'd kill me if I didn't at least ride to prom with her.

(shakes head)

I felt so bad when she couldn't find a date; I didn't wanna ask you until I knew she was all set.

JULIET

Oh, that's so cute! I wish I had a best friend like that. But, yeah, no, actually, none of my friends were invited to Senior prom.

PALMER

Okay, great. Don't worry. All my friends will love you.

JULIET

(sighing dramatically)

Prom is like the most important night of our high school lives. It will be perfect. We're like the perfect couple.

PALMER

My grandfather compared us to Romeo and Juliet.

JULIET

(clapping her hands)

I love it!

A WAITER brings their food and they both sit back in their chairs, silent as he serves them.

He EXITS and Juliet leans forward again.

JULIET

So, tell me, what's your sign?

PALMER

Scorpio.

JULIET

I'm a Capricorn! We're like the number one love match for each other.

PALMER

Oh, really? Let's see then. Favorite song?

JULIET

That's easy. Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars. (Laughs)
I would marry any man who sang that to me.

PALMER

Well, I'm out, then. I can't sing.

JULIET

I could make an exception for you, I guess.

PALMER

You're so sweet.

They beam at each other, and start to eat.

INT. MORELLO BISTRO - DINING ROOM - LATE EVENING

The restaurant is very QUIET, as it is almost time to close. There are a few MEN around the bar still, including several of the wait staff.

As Rose ENTERS from the kitchen, a DRUNK MAN approaches her and brandishes a TWENTY DOLLAR BILL at her.

DRUNK MAN

(slurring)

This is a tip for you.

ROSE

(uncomfortable)

Oh, thank you. For what?

DRUNK MAN

(leering)

For being so beautiful.

He grabs her hand and shoves the money into it, but then won't let go.

ROSE

(trying to pull away)

That's very sweet of you, but I can't accept this.

DRUNK MAN

Why not? I'm not a bad guy... and I don't usually drink.
This is a special occasion. My brother forced me to.

ROSE

(trying to back away)

I'm sure.

DRUNK MAN

(following her and invading her space)

Can we go somewhere quiet and talk? I live right up the street.

Emily comes out of the kitchen and STOPS when she sees the interaction.

EMILY

You okay, Rose?

ROSE

Uh, this gentleman was just...

(backs up to the kitchen)

It was nice talking to you. Bye.

Rose escapes into the kitchen, Emily following her.

INT. MORELLO BISTRO - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Emily and Rose enter; Jarrett is already there, gathering his things to leave.

EMILY

Rose, what the hell was that?

ROSE

I have no idea! I was just walking out, and he, like, jumped me and tried to get me to take some money! And then he wanted me to go home with him.

JARRETT

(shaking his head)

Shit like that happens here sometimes. You have to ignore it.

EMILY

And you have to be more careful!

ROSE

Oh, I know. I'm just gonna wait in here for a little before I leave.

JARRETT

(peering out of the window)

Is it that pudgy guy? Well, he's leaving.

ROSE

Good. Geez, that was scary.

EMILY

(patting her on the arm)

No worries. We got you.

ROSE

Thanks, babe.

Jarrett and Emily exit and Rose clocks out.

EXT. MORELLO BISTRO - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Rose leaves the restaurant and heads up the long driveway to the employee parking lot in the DARK.

As she is halfway there, the Drunk Man accosts her and grabs her arm. She shrieks and tries to get away, but he's stronger than her.

DRUNK MAN

What's the matter? Relax! I told you I'm not a bad guy. I just wanna get to know you better.

ROSE

Let go of me! What the fuck is wrong with you?

DRUNK MAN

(struggling with her and overpowering her)

You're so pretty. How about a kiss goodnight?

ROSE

Get the hell away from me!

Jarrett JUMPS out of his VAN parked near where they are struggling. He grabs the Drunk Man and throws him away from Rose. The Drunk Man ATTACKS him and Jarrett PUNCHES him in the face, knocking him down.

JARRETT

Get the fuck out of here.

DRUNK MAN

(sullenly getting up and rubbing his jaw)
What's your problem, man? I only wanted to have a little fun. What's the crime in that?

Drunk Man EXITS into the night.

JARRETT

(to Rose)
Are you okay?

ROSE

(panting)
Ohmigod. I mean, I'm fine. I'm just really shook up.

JARRETT

(wrapping his arm around her, shaking his head)
I should have waited and left with you. Girls shouldn't walk in the dark alone. Come on, I'll walk you to your car.

ROSE

Oh, you don't have to... I mean, my car is right over there.

JARRETT

(pulling her along)
Did you hear what I said? Don't be stupid. I'll walk you.

They continue walking up the long hill, Jarrett's arm still wrapped around her, and he begins to flirt.

JARRETT (Cont'd)

So... is that what you usually bring out in guys?

ROSE

What? Rape attempts? No, actually, that was a first for me.

JARRETT

Well, I suppose you could take it as a compliment.

ROSE

What? (chuckles) He would have ignored me if I was ugly?

They reach her car and stand behind it, looking at each other awkwardly.

JARRETT

(clearing his throat)
Well, my ride's back down the hill. Being related to the boss has its privileges. (turns to walk away)

ROSE
Hey, do you want me to drive you back down? Then you won't have to walk...

JARRETT
Oh yeah? That'd be sweet... if you don't mind, of course.

ROSE
No, of course I don't mind. I mean, you definitely just saved my life. I think I can handle driving you down a driveway.

Rose unlocks her car and quickly throws the junk in the passenger seat into the back of the car so Jarrett can get in.

JARRET
This is a pretty dope car.

ROSE
I know. I was so stoked when I got it.
(starts the engine and begins to drive)
There are little TVs on the backs of our seats.

JARRETT
Oh, yeah? That's cool.
(pointing)
That's my van, there.

ROSE
(stopping the car)
You drive a van?

JARRET
Yeah, I bought it from my grandmother real cheap.

ROSE
Your grandmother's van? Kinda sketchy.

JARRETT
You're telling me.

ROSE

Okay, well, thanks again... for, like, saving me.

JARRETT

No worries.

(reaches into his pocket and pulls out a BUSINESS CARD)

Just so you know, I'm a videographer and I've got my own graphic design business, so if you need anything or know anyone, give them my number, okay?

ROSE

(taking the card and looking at it)

Okay, cool. I'll see. That's pretty cool.

JARRETT

Sure beats waiting tables.

(opens the door, but looks back at Rose)

That's my cell on there. You should just text it so I have yours.

ROSE

(blushing)

Okay. Cool.

Jarrett gets out of the car and walks to his own. Rose slumps against her seat, letting her breath out loudly.

ROSE

(to herself)

Ugh. So cute, but so not my type.

Rose shakes her head, picks up her CELL PHONE, and dials Sabrina.

ROSE (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

Brie Brie? You would not believe what just happened to me!

SABRINE (O.S.)

(furious)

What just happened to you? Are you kidding me right now, Rose? How about starting with what's been happening with you?

Rose

Wait, why are you mad?

SABRINE (O.S.)

You had sex with Rome?!

ROSE

(horrified)

Omigod. Who told you?

SABRINE (O.S.)

Who do you think? Why didn't you tell me? I've been sitting here thinking you were a psycho bitch for the last few weeks 'cause you had your panties in a twist over nothing! I'm your best friend! How could you not trust me with something like this?

ROSE

Brie, I'm sorry! I didn't tell anybody. I was ashamed.

SABRINE (O.S.)

Come on, Rosie. We've been best friends our whole lives. You could've told me.

ROSE

I know. I'm sorry. I'm glad you know now, though. I needed to talk about it with someone.

SABRINE (O.S.)

(after a slight pause)

So, um, you kinda went all out with it, didn't you?

ROSE

What?

SABRINE (O.S.)

I'm not judging you, or anything, I'm just surprised that you, being you, would do all that.

ROSE

Do all what, exactly?

SABRINE (O.S.)

Maddox told me that Rome said you let him do everything... like everything.

ROSE

(appalled)

No, he didn't. He wouldn't lie like that.

SABRINE (O.S.)

Okay, well, yeah... I didn't think that sounded like you.

ROSE

What a jerk. Look, Brie Brie, I gotta go so I can drive home. Some guy just tried to jump me in the parking lot and I don't feel safe just sitting here like this.

SABRINE (O.S.)

Omigod, Rose! I had no idea. (hastily) Bye, be safe!

Rose hangs up the phone, and sits in her car for a minute, furious and beginning to cry. She peels out of the driveway and heads home.

ROSE (V.O.)

We built it together. Just because it was time to walk away doesn't mean we had to destroy it... we should have been proud to leave something beautiful behind.

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BATHROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

Rome is sitting on the toilet seat in the bathroom and Maddox walking around in a TOWEL, getting ready to shower.

MADDOX

So...

ROME

Yes?

MADDOX

Nothing.

ROME

I know you had me come over here for a reason...

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rose and Sabine are sitting on her bed.

ROSE

Okay, so enough about me... tell me about Maddox!

SABRINE

Omigod, Rose. It's the best story ever.

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

MADDOX

So, I went to Sabine's job today.

ROME

Oh, yeah?

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SABRINE

Maddox showed up, completely randomly, at my work today!

ROSE

Omigod, that is so cute!

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maddox is in the shower now, talking to Rome through the curtain.

MADDOX

We talked for a little, you know, whatever.

ROME

Randomly, in the middle of her job?

MADDOX

She works at Pier 1, so it's not like she's all that busy.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SABRINE

And he was making small talk, so it was totally obvious he was trying to get at something.

ROSE

Well, duh, after he went to your house last weekend and was Mr. Awkward, that was obvious.

SABRINE

Right, so, I was like, "Is there something I can do for you, Maddox?" You know, super coquettish and all.

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDUX'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

MADDUX

So, after awhile I could tell she was getting annoyed with me, because she goes, "Is there something you want?" Like, I'm bothering her or something.

ROME

Maybe you were, you know, being at her work talking about stupid shit.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SABRINE

And he tells me that he's been thinking about me a lot and just can't to get me out of his head.

ROSE

Aw, Brie! That is so sweet!

SABRINE

I played cool, right? So, I said, "What do you mean?" and fluttered my eyelashes all sexy, like this.

Sabrina demonstrates and she and Rose start giggling.

SABRINE

Right, though?

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDUX'S BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

MADDUX

So, I mention that maybe we could be more than friends-with-benefits and she does this weird thing with her eyelashes.

ROME

What do you mean?

MADDUX

I dunno. Kinda like this.

Maddox sticks his head out of the shower to demonstrate and he and Rome start laughing.

MADDOX (CONT'D)
(shaking his head)

Right, though?

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SABRINE

And then, he tells me that he's seen it coming for a while and that we should try being more than friends with benefits.

ROSE

(rolling her eyes)

How cool is he?

SABRINE

And, he asks me if I would do him the honor of accompanying him on a date!

ROSE

He actually said, "do me the honor"? Really?

SABRINE

Yes, really. Very chivalrous... if you will.

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

MADDOX

So I'm like, "maybe we could go out sometime". And she's, like, "Omigod, I've wanted you to ask me that for so long!"

ROME

I knew she was hardcore feeling you, man.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SABRINE

So, I pretend to think about it, and you can tell he's getting really nervous, right? But, then, I feel bad for him, and I'm like, "I'm free Friday night." You know, to put him out of his misery.

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

MADDOX

So, she tells me she wants to go out Friday night, so I pretend to think about it, just to scare her a little, you know? But, then, I feel bad for her, and I'm, like, "Alright, where do you want to go?"

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SABRINE

He's so excited that I said yes he's like, "Awesome, we can go anywhere you want!" Like, totally adorable and babbling, you know?

ROSE

(clapping)

Yes, that is so cute!

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

MADDOX

Get this, dude. She wants to go to this place in Greenwich called Morello Bistro.

ROME

So?

MADDOX

It's where Rose works.

Rome sits up straight on the toilet.

MADDOX (Cont'd)

Don't get any dumb ideas, man. Forget Rose for a second, focus on me. Isn't it weird that she wants to go to a restaurant where her best friend works? Like she's gonna spy on us?

ROME

Who cares if that's what she's doing?

MADDOX

I dunno. It's just feels weird.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SABRINE

So, I told him I wanted to go to Morello.

ROSE

Um... Why?

SABRINE

So, you can watch us from afar and see for yourself how incredibly sweet he is!

ROSE

I believe you, Brie Brie, I believe you.

SABRINE

You so don't believe it. You can't fool me. Rose, seeing is believing, Rose, trust me.

INT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

ROME

Finish your story.

MADDOX

There isn't anymore. I just wanted you to know that I have a girlfriend now.

ROME

A girlfriend? (chokes back laughter) Well, I'm glad one of us is happy, then.

Rome grins and FLUSHES the toilet.

MADDOX

(jumping out from under hot water)

What the fuck, man! What was that for?

ROME

Payback.

MADDOX

You're an ass.

ROME

I know. It's part of my charm.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

ROSE

Well, I'm working 5 to closing tomorrow. This should be interesting.

SABRINE

I'm gonna stop by the fountain at 5 to see the prom pictures, and then Maddox is picking me up at 7 to go.
(CLAPS her hands excitedly)

ROSE

You remind me of a retarded seal when you do that.

SABRINE

Shut up.

(quirks an eyebrow)

So... Are you working with Jarrett?

ROSE

Yeah. But that doesn't mean anything.

SABRINE

(counting on her fingers)

Oh, really? We know he likes you and we know you think he's cute... please infer at will. I can check him out while you check out Maddox.

ROSE

Um, no, Brie Brie.

(holds up her hand)

Purity ring, remember?

SABRINE

(shrugging)

Not to burst your bubble or anything, but, like, you did it once already... Are you even allowed to still wear that?

ROSE

(falling back on the bed)

Brie Brie...

SABRINE

Okay, yeah, I know you're going through it right now, or whatever, but I'm just saying... you've barely scratched the surface of the human experience! Rome was a big, fat, snot of a mistake and you can't let him hold you back!

ROSE

(joking)

Quiet, slut.

SABRINE

(throwing a PILLOW at Rose)

Shut up, whore.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - JULIET'S BEDROOM - MIDAFTERNOON, PROM DAY

Juliet is sitting at the vanity in front of her dresser, wearing the WHITE DRESS from earlier. She turns and calls out.

JULIET

Rosie! I need you!

ROSE

(entering)

Oh, Juliet, you look beautiful, babe. What do you need?

JULIET

Will you do my hair for me?

ROSE

(smiling and sitting down behind her)

Of course.

INT. THE FRANKLIN HOUSE - MADDOX'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Maddox is rushing around his room, looking for something, and Palmer is standing in the doorway, looking bemused.

PALMER

You really need to relax.

MADDOX

Where the fuck are my car keys?

PALMER

What do you need your car keys for? It's only four.

MADDOX

I'm not gonna wait until last minute and then realize they're missing.

PALMER

You're freaking out and I'm the one going to prom.

MADDOX

I'm going on a date. It's the same thing.

PALMER

You're going on a date with a girl you've been fucking for the last three months.

MADDOX

Fuck you, Palmer. (straightens up and looks at his brother)
Honestly. Shouldn't you be getting ready?

PALMER

I'm going, I'm going.
(turns to leave, then turns back with a grin)
Oh, yeah.
(tosses the KEYS on the bed)
There ya go.

INT. THE MONTAIVO MANSION - BENNY'S BATHROOM - EARLY EVENING, PROM NIGHT

Benny is adjusting his TIE in the mirror in his bathroom, looking uncomfortable and dejected.

Rome sticks his head in the door and claps him on the shoulder.

ROME

Time to go.

BENNY

This could very well end up being the worst night of my life.

ROME

You might enjoy it.

Benny turns and glares at him.

ROME (CONT'D)

Come on. She can't possibly be as bad as you say she is.

Benny shrugs and turns back to the mirror.

BENNY

You have no idea, but I guess you'll find out in a little while.

ROME

(laughing and shaking his head)

You really are too much. Let's go.

EXT. THE TAYLOR MANSION - SAME TIME

Palmer pulls up in his car and gets out. He reaches into his car and plugs in his IPOD, scanning for a song and turning the volume up. "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars comes through the speakers and he looks up at the house.

INT. THE TAYLOR MANSION - JULIET'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rose has just finished Juliet's hair and the MUSIC is heard loudly. Juliet jumps out of her chair runs to the WINDOW, pushing it open.

JULIET

Palmer!

PALMER

(waving from below)

I thought this would be better than me singing! You look beautiful!

JULIET

Omigosh! Thank you so much!

(spins towards Rose)

I think tonight might be the night, Rosie!

ROSE

(frowning)

I hope you're not talking about what I think you're talking about.

JULIET

I think Palmer is the one.

ROSE

No, Juliet, no. Slow your roll, right now. We need to talk about this.

Rose is interrupted by the sound of the front door banging open. Tyler's angry VOICE is heard.

TYLER (O.S.)

What the hell?

PALMER

(turning down the music)

Sorry! Sorry! That was for Juliet. Sorry!

TYLER

(backing Palmer up against the car)

Listen, you. I'm letting you take her to prom, but that doesn't mean I like you.

PALMER

(holding his hands up)

I have the utmost respect for-

TYLER

Shut up. If I find out that you do anything that she does not like, the last thing you will see is my fist hitting your face. Got that?

PALMER

Yeah, yeah, I got it!

JULIET

(yelling out the window)

Tyler, leave him alone!

(turns inside to talk to Rose)

Rosie! Please make him stop!

ROSE

Alright, I'll go talk to him.

(points severely at Juliet)

But we are going to talk about this before you do something you're going to regret.

Rose EXITS in search of Tyler.

JULIET

(calling after her)

There's nothing to talk about! I'm almost 18!

ROSE (O.S.)

You're a baby! Babies can't have sex.

Juliet tosses her hair in defiance, then turns to gaze adoringly out of the window at Palmer.

EXT. FORBES PARK - THE FOUNTAIN - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

The edges of the park are lined with BLACK LIMOS and PARTY BUSES. The FOUNTAIN in the middle of the park is surrounded by PARENTS WITH CAMERAS, GIRLS IN PROM DRESSES, and BOYS IN TUXEDOS.

Rome pulls up in his car with Benny. They both get out and stand by the car, scanning the crowd.

BENNY

I can't believe I am doing this right now. This is the stupidest thing I've ever done.

ROME

(scanning the crowd)

Oh yeah? What about that thing you did after you read in that Cosmo that girls don't like hairy-

BENNY

(interrupting)

We said we were never going to discuss that ever again!

ROME

Just giving you a little perspective here. So, where's your bushy-haired cave woman?

BENNY

(staring awestruck past Rome's shoulder)

Whoa.

ROME

(spinning around)

What? (pauses) Whoa.

Rome and Benny make their way over to a cluster of 5 prom-bound GIRLS, both in awe. The cluster includes Juliet, and ADRIANA MITCHELL, 17. Adriana looks nothing like how Benny described her, and is, in fact, very attractive in her prom dress, which shows off her fairly voluptuous body.

The boys come to a halt at the group, and it is clear that Benny is taken with Adriana, while Rome has noticed Juliet.

Adriana has a very comfortable air to her; she knows she looks good. Juliet is hovering awkwardly around her, as she doesn't know the other 3 girls, and Palmer is nowhere in sight.

BENNY

(nervous)

Hi Adriana. You look.. really pretty.

ADRIANA

(comfortably)

Hey, Benny, thanks! And thanks so much for coming with me, too!

She holds out her wrist for the corsage, and he clumsily slides it on, still watching her in awe.

ADRIANA (CONT'D)

Thanks! We'll be leaving in about forty-five minutes so feel free to mingle around! (grins at Benny) Don't worry. You don't have to stand around me all night.

She turns away to talk to her other friends.

Juliet comes over to talk to Benny from behind Adriana.

JULIET

(relieved)

Hey, Benny! I didn't know you were coming!

BENNY

(confused)

Hey... Juliet. Yeah, it was kind of a last minute thing.

ROME

(still staring at Juliet)

You two know each other?

BENNY

Um, not really...

JULIET

(interrupting)

Um, yeah, of course! We had English together last year.

BENNY

(mumbling)

Oh yeah... I didn't remember us ever speaking.

JULIET

Well, whatever. It was really nice of you to take Adriana to prom.

(lowers her voice)

Palmer told me she was having trouble finding a date.

ROME

You know Palmer too? (smiles seductively) I can't believe I've never seen you before.

Benny fakes a smile at Juliet, grabs Rome's arm and pulls him to the side.

BENNY

(whispering in Rome's ear)

Don't even think about it. That's Rose's little cousin.

ROME

Seriously?

(looks at Juliet, a crafty look coming over his face)

No kidding.

BENNY

I'm serious, Rome. Can of worms. Leave it alone.

ROME

(rolling his eyes)

She's in high school, Benny, give me a break. I just want to have a little fun.

BENNY

I'm confused as to why you think fake-hitting on Rose's underage cousin will get you anywhere with Rose. You think she's gonna run home raving about the random dude who hit on

her during pre-prom and Rose is gonna hear it and come to her senses about how much she wants you? I don't think so...

Rome doesn't answer, and is still watching Juliet thoughtfully,

BENNY (CONT'D)

(throwing up his hands)

Whatever. Do you, bro. I gotta go talk to some people.
Behave.

Benny walks off to go talk to a different group of STUDENTS. Juliet smiles shyly at Rome, and he saunters back over to her.

ROME

So, tell me why I seemed to have missed the most gorgeous girl walking around Fairfield County.

JULIET

(giggling)

Most of the older guys don't pay attention to us.

ROME

Oh, we pay attention to the sexy ones. (winks) That's a really nice dress, by the way.

JULIET

(blushing and pleased)

Thanks.

Juliet is tongue-tied, clearly flattered by Rome's attention. He is smirking.

Behind them, Adriana and her friends are talking amongst themselves and laughing, but Adriana keeps casting jealous looks Juliet's way.

ROME

(suggestively)

So... what are you doing later?

JULIET

You mean, like, for college? Hopefully-

ROME

(silently)

No, I mean, like, later tonight.

JULIET

(wide-eyed)

Oh. Um.. after prom party?

ROME

Oh, yeah?

(leans close)

After prom is for children. You, girl, are not a child.

JULIET

I'm not?

(straightening up)

I mean, I know I'm not!

ROME

How about you let me put my number in your phone.. just in case you decide to act like an adult tonight.

JULIET

(breathless)

Huh? Oh! Um, yeah, okay!

Juliet hands Rome her CELL PHONE and he quickly inputs his number, smirking.

PALMER

(appearing at Juliet's side)

Rome? What are you doing here?

JULIET

(happily, immediately forgetting Rome)

Palmer!

ROME

(easily)

Hey Palm, long time, no see. I'm here with Benny, you know, moral support and all.

Rome notices Palmer looking in confusion at Juliet's phone still in his hand, so he quickly hands it back to her.

ROME (CONT'D)

Your date's phone froze. (grins) All better now.

Juliet is back to swooning over Palmer. Rome laughs to himself and starts to walk away.

ROME (CONT'D)

(to Palmer)

Enjoy prom.

PALMER

(grinning at Juliet)

Thanks.

Rome wanders over to where Benny is chatting with his friend MARCO, 18.

ROME

I'm about to head out, kiddo. You better go make nice with your date.

BENNY

Don't go yet!

MARCO

Yo, Adriana is bad. Like, for real.

(to Rome)

Benny can barely talk to ugly girls... how do you expect him to go talk to a hot one?

BENNY

Normally I would be offended by that, but this is serious.

ROME

Your job is not to be friends with her, your job is to be her date. Besides, (glancing over at her) between you and me, she's definitely interested in someone else.

BENNY

What? Who?

All three boys turn to look at Adriana, who is quite noticeably GLARING at Palmer and Juliet laughing together.

MARCO

Oh.

BENNY

(bummed)

Oh.

ROME

Oh, so now you don't mind if she's professing her undying love to you?

BENNY

I mean, whatever. She's cute.

MARCO

Yeah, cute and coming over here.

The boys all instinctively straighten as Adriana walks over, smiling.

ADRIANA

Benny, come take pictures with me?

BENNY

Yeah, sure!

Benny and Adriana walk off towards the Fountain, where numerous COUPLES are posing for typical prom pictures.

Marco walks off to find his date, while Rome stands back, watching the proceedings with a bemused expression on his face.

Palmer and Juliet pose for cute pictures together. Benny and Adriana pose for awkward pictures together right next to them. Adriana continuously glances at Palmer and Juliet with JEALOUSY.

Adriana opts to take funny pictures instead, and she and Benny warm up to each other quickly, LAUGHING at each other's antics.

Rome visibly SOFTENS while watching them and a WISTFUL expression comes over his face.

The students start heading towards the limos after a while, and Benny comes back over to Rome.

BENNY

Thanks for coming, man. I'm good now.

Rome doesn't answer because he's still staring thoughtfully into space.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Hello? You good?

ROME

(slowly)

Yeah... I am.

(focuses on Benny)

Have fun at prom. There's something I gotta do.

BENNY

What?

ROME

Lay all my cards out on the table one last time.

Rome sprints towards his car. Benny shrugs and turns back to where Adriana is waiting for him to go to the limo.

INT. MORELLO BISTRO - KITCHEN - EVENING

Rose and Jarrett are peering through the windows of the kitchen at Maddox and Sabrina on their date.

JARRETT

Is it weird to be spying on your best friend on her date?

ROSE

(shrugging)

I mean, that's why she brought him here.

JARRETT

How thoughtful of her. Bringing entertainment to our hum-drum lives.

ROSE

(laughing)

He's actually being a good date. I'm surprised.

JARRETT

Yeah, it was touch and go for a bit there. (laughs)
Knocking her water into her lap was probably not part of his big plan.

ROSE

Aw, but that shows how nervous he was! When a boy is nervous, that just shows how much he really likes the girl!

JARRETT

Or, he has a bomb strapped to the inside of his coat and he's not sure when it's gonna blow.

Rose raises her eyebrow and he bursts out laughing.

JARRETT (CONT'D)

You're right, yours was much more plausible. My bad.

Int. MORELLO BISTRO - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maddox and Sabrine are chatting comfortably over their FOOD in the almost completely EMPTY dining room.

SABRINE

Lucky it's prom night so almost nobody is here, huh?

MADDOX

I'm not sure about that yet. We're being gawked at from the kitchen, you know.

SABRINE

Oh, really? And I was under the impression you liked putting on a show.

MADDOX

(slyly)

Oh, you wanted to give them a show, did you?

Sabrine laughs and shakes her head, but Maddox STANDS up and PULLS her to her feet. He SWINGS her around, DIPS her, and gives her a Hollywood KISS.

A loud SQUEAL comes from the kitchen, followed by LAUGHTER.

Maddox pulls Sabrine upright and PLACES her back in her chair. She looks stunned, but pleased.

MADDOX (CONT'D)

Anything for you, baby.

(he smiles in the direction of the kitchen, then back to Sabrine)

You ready to get out of here?

She nods breathlessly and excitedly.

INT. WESLEYAN COLLEGE - BALLROOM - PROM

The ballroom is decorated like ARABIAN NIGHTS, with STREAMERS, STATUES, and PICTURES. There is a DANCEFLOOR, a DJ, and numerous TABLES and CHAIRS surrounding the dance floor.

Palmer and Benny are in line at the BUFFET in the back, getting plates for themselves and their dates.

Adriana and Juliet are sitting at the table alone. It appears as though they have made friends with each other, and are chatting amicably.

ADRIANA

I'm glad we got to know each other a bit better. You seem like a really cool girl.

JULIET

Thanks! That really means a lot coming from Palmer's best friend and all. I'm glad we're friends now.

Adriana smiles THINLY and looks away. Juliet looks around furtively, and then slides her chair closer to Adriana's.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Can I tell you a secret?

ADRIANA

(intrigued)

Of course.

JULIET

I think tonight might be the night. With Palmer.

ADRIANA

(balking)

He said that?

JULIET

Well, no...

Adriana looks visibly relieved.

JULIET (CONT'D)

But isn't it the girl's decision? Of course he'd be okay with that... right?

ADRIANA

I would be careful with assumptions like that.

JULIET

Why? Did he say something?

ADRIANA

Well, he tells me things in confidence, so I don't think I should tell you.

JULIET

(bummed)

Oh, right, of course.

ADRIANA

(quickly)

But, we are friends now, aren't we? I can trust you?

JULIET

Of course!

ADRIANA

(seriously)

Don't get hurt feelings or anything, okay? I'm just the messenger.

JULIET

(nodding fervently)

I won't, I promise!

ADRIANA

Ok. Well.

(leans in)

Palmer told me that he wants to lose it to a girl who is, well, well-endowed... if you will.

JULIET

(looking down at her chest)

Well-endowed?

ADRIANA

Yeah, you know, big boobs, curvy booty... the whole nine yards.

JULIET

(crestfallen)
Oh. Not like me.

ADRIANA
(sympathetically)
Yeah, not like you.
(pats Juliet on the arm)
Maybe he'll sleep with you after he loses his virginity
though!

Juliet sits back in her chair, looking sad; Adriana looks smug.

Benny and Palmer return to the table, each carrying 2 PLATES OF FOOD, and pass them to the girls.

Benny and Adriana share a friendly smile; Juliet watches Palmer admiringly.

Juliet leans in towards Adriana as Palmer is situating himself at the table.

JULIET
(whispering)
Maybe he won't care tonight. (grins) It can't hurt to try,
anyways!

Adriana glares at her, but Juliet doesn't notice and starts giggling with Palmer.

EXT. MORELLO BISTRO - PARKING LOT BY TRASH CANS - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Rose exits the restaurant carrying 2 LARGE GARBAGE BAGS and proceeds to throw them into the DUMPSTER.

Rome speeds into the parking lot in his car. Rose sees him, and lets out an audible groan.

He jumps out of the car, but she comes over to him before he can come to her.

ROSE
What are you doing here, Rome? I'm at work.

ROME
(pleading)
I know, I know. Just hear me out, okay?

Rose folds her arms and sighs, looking back at the restaurant, before turning back to him.

ROSE

Fine. But this is the last time. You have thirty seconds.

ROME

(taking a deep breath)

Lying to you was wrong. I'm young, I'm immature, and I do stupid things almost every day that make me ashamed of myself. You were one of the things in my life that I was never ashamed of, and I did you dirty. I know this. But knowing is half the battle. I can be better, and I will be better. You changed me. You made me into a different person, a better person! My heart never felt love before you. I can't just let you go.

ROSE

You don't even know what love is, Rome. (sad) What we had was too rash. It wasn't real; it was lust. I allowed you to break my heart, but it's not going to happen again.

ROME

I understand lust. I've felt lust. This is different. Don't turn your back on something that could be the realest thing you'll ever have in your entire life.

Rose stands there stone-faced, with her arms crossed over her chest.

ROME (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna let you run away from us like you did last time. We belong together, you and I. We aren't supposed to be separate. I know you feel it, too.

ROSE

(sighing loudly)

I honestly can't tell what is the truth, and what is lies. Trust is like china. Once it's been broken, it's never the same, no matter what you do. I can't get back what you took from me, and I have to deal with those consequences for the rest of my life. If you had actually cared about me, you wouldn't have lied to me.

ROME

Don't you remember how I was when we were together, before I lied? It could be just like that again.

ROSE

(softly)

Yes, Rome, I still remember you. But the thing is, I don't remember me and you. I don't remember us!

ROME

What do you mean?

ROSE

It can't ever be like it was before because I'm not the same person I was a month ago!

(she starts playing with her purity ring)

I don't know who I am, or what I want, but I know that I need to do some soul-searching on my own to figure it out.

Rose takes a deep breath and slides the ring off her finger, turning it over in her hands as Rome stares at her, open-mouthed.

ROSE (CONT'D)

(holding the ring out to Rome)

Here. Take it. You need this more than I do right now. Make a promise to yourself about the kind of person you want to be, and let the ring represent it.

ROME

(taking the ring)

But... what about us?

ROSE

There is no us, Rome.

INT. WESLEYAN COLLEGE - HALLWAY - PROM

Adriana and Palmer are standing in the hallway next to a BENCH with a TALL PLANT to the left, having an intense discussion. To their right is the GIRLS BATHROOM and to their left is the BOYS BATHROOM. Her back is to the wall.

ADRIANA

(horrificed)

We always said we would wait!

PALMER

(shrugging)

Come on, Ana, things change! Juliet is amazing. She's one of the coolest girls I've ever met. I thought you would be happy for me!

ADRIANA

(struggling for words)

Palm, you can't sleep with her. You just can't. Not tonight.

PALMER

(gently)

It was a nice thought, Ana, but seriously, the odds of us losing it at the same time were slim to none, anyways.

ADRIANA

(softly)

Not if we lost it to each other...

PALMER

(backing up a step)

What?

ADRIANA

(imploring)

You can't tell me you don't know how I feel about you, and don't tell me you don't feel anything for me!

PALMER

(panicked)

I swear, I didn't know. I really didn't. And I don't! You're my best friend and I love you, but that's it.

Adriana GRABS his collar with both hands and STARES into his eyes.

ADRIANA

(whispering)

Please, Palm. Just try.

Adriana KISSES Palmer on the lips.

Juliet comes out of the girls bathroom and FREEZES when she sees them. Her eyes well up with tears and she turns and runs back into the bathroom.

Palmer ends the kiss politely by taking Adriana's hands from around his neck and gently pushing her back. She looks sad and hopeful.

PALMER

(soft and ashamed)

I can't do that to Juliet, Ana. I'm sorry.

Palmer gives Adriana one last, sad look before turning and walking back to the ballroom. Adriana starts to CRY and COLLAPSES on the bench next to her.

Benny passes Palmer as he is exiting the ballroom, notices his discomfort, but doesn't say anything. As he is heading into the BOYS BATHROOM, he hears Adriana SNIFFLE.

He walks pushes the plant obscuring her to the side and FREEZES when he sees her crying.

BENNY

(uncertainly)

Hey...

ADRIANA

(wiping her face)

Go away.

Benny stands there awkwardly for a moment, and then slowly sits down on the bench next to her.

BENNY

(quietly)

No.

Adriana looks at him in surprise, and then gratitude.

ADRIANA

(nodding through her tears)

Okay.

INT. WESLEYAN COLLEGE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Juliet is standing in the bathroom staring at herself in the MIRROR, clearly unhappy with her body. She looks like she is about to cry.

She paces around the bathroom, her face going through several stages of anger and sadness.

She appears to come to an internal resolution and whips out her CELL PHONE, typing in Rome's number to text him.

It's Juliet. Come to 31 Stillview Road in an hour... I'm tired of being a child.

Juliet pauses a moment before determinedly pressing SEND. She lets out the breath she had been holding and starts to fix herself in the mirror.

EXT. MORELLO BISTRO - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Rose and Rome are still engaged in their discussion.

ROSE

Look, I don't mean to be rude about this, but I'm at work and can't really have this discussion with you. Again.

ROME

(bitterly)

Right.

They stand there awkwardly for a moment, not looking at each other.

Rome's CELL PHONE buzzes from Juliet's TEXT. He reads it, and then stands there for a moment, clearly weighing his options.

ROME (CONT'D)

(not looking at Rose)

So, that's the end, then?

ROSE

I think I've been pretty clear about that from the start.

ROME

(angry)

You're being a bitch for no reason, Rose, but if that's what you want, that's what you're going to fuckin' get. Don't come crying to me about the consequences later.

Rome stalks away and angrily jumps into his car; Rose watches him sadly for a moment, then turns and goes back inside.

ROSE (V.O.)

It we had let it be, just as it was, then maybe, just maybe, years from now we could have bumped into each other on some crowded street corner, each living our own lives exactly as we dreamed, and instead of feeling awkward and uncomfortable, we would have been able to smile in remembrance of what once was, let our hearts be touched for a brief moment, and then continue on our way.

INT. WESLEYAN COLLEGE - HALLWAY - PROM

Adriana and Benny are still sitting on the bench in the hallway. She is no longer crying, and he appears to have talked her into a better mood.

BENNY

(hesitantly)

So... how long have you be in love with Palmer for?

ADRIANA

(sighing)

As long as I can remember.

BENNY

You know, it might not be the kind of love that you think it is.

ADRIANA

What do you mean?

BENNY

(shrugging)

I just mean, sometimes when you have love for someone, it can get easily confused with being in love with someone. You don't have to be with a guy to feel a certain way about him.

ADRIANA

(thoughtfully)

You're really smart, you know that?

Benny laughs and looks away.

ADRIANA (CONT'D)

No, I'm being serious. You've been really great this whole evening.

(hugs him)

I couldn't have asked for a better prom date.

BENNY

(jokingly)

Yeah, well, don't look into it or anything.

ADRIANA

(chuckling)

I won't, don't worry.

The girls bathroom door opens and Juliet stalks out, head held high.

Adriana JUMPS up when she sees her.

ADRIANA (CONT'D)

Juliet! I didn't know you were -

JULIET

(walking by without stopping)

Yes, I saw you two. You can have him.

Juliet exits to the outside, leaving Adriana and Benny standing there, open-mouthed.

ADRIANA

(sinking back on to the bench)

Palmer is going to kill me.

BENNY

You should probably go tell him his date left.

Adriana groans and slumps on the bench.

Palmer enters from the ballroom and hesitantly approaches them.

PALMER

(awkwardly)

Hey. Um, not to be weird or anything, but have you guys seen Juliet?

Benny nudges Adriana. She glares at him, and then sighs and stands up.

ADRIANA

(seriously)

Palmer, I am so sorry about kissing you. I just got confused with all this prom hype. You're my best friend and I would never do anything to jeopardize that. Can you please, please forgive me?

PALMER

(grinning)

Of course, Ana-Banana. Come here.

Palmer grabs her and gives her a huge hug. She smiles happily.

ADRIANA

(in his ear)

I should also probably mention that your prom date saw me kiss you.

PALMER

(pushing her back)

What?

ADRIANA

(looking down)

Yeah. She might have left.

BENNY

(interjecting)

As in, she did leave.

PALMER

(to Adriana)

I'm going to kill you later. Trust me on that.

Palmer runs out the door to the outside.

ADRIANA

(calling after him)

Looking forward to it.

Adriana smiles down at Benny, who is laughing at her.

ADRIANA (CONT'D)

(offering her hand to Benny)

So... after prom?

He grins and grabs her hand.

INT. MORELLO BISTRO - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - SAME TIME

Jarrett is sitting on the COUCH in the employee lounge as Rose enters, looking TIRED. She collapses on the couch next to him, leaning back.

ROSE

Closing is hard work.

JARRETT

You're telling me. I don't even get paid for this part.

ROSE

Money is nothing compared to the warm, fuzzy feeling you get from doing something for others.

JARRETT

Yeah, tell that to my bank account.

They chuckle together and then sit in silence for a moment. Jarrett abruptly sits up and reaches towards Rose, taking her face gently in his hand and KISSING her.

Rose pulls back, her right hand automatically going to feel for her ring on her left. Her fingers meet nothing and she looks down in surprise. She bites her lip, staring at the place on her finger where her ring used to be, while Jarrett smiles gently, and goes back to how he was sitting before.

Rose thinks for a moment, and then leans forward, taking Jarrett's face between both of her hands, KISSING him firmly.

They begin to kiss passionately.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maddox and Sabine are standing in her bedroom, arms around each other, DANCING slowly in a circle to non-descript music.

MADDOX

(whispering)

I've never done this before.

SABRINE

I know. Me either.

They sway in silence for a minute.

MADDOX

Sabrine, I'm... I feel...

SABRINE

(interrupting)

Sh. It's okay.

Sabrine KISSES him gently on the lips and then HOLDS HIS GAZE. He looks very nervous.

MADDOX

It's just that making love is a lot scarier than just... y'know, banging.

SABRINE

Sh. I know.

She KISSES him again and he deepens the kiss. They make their way to her bed, still kissing, and then gently remove each other's clothes.

Instead of just having sex, like they usually do, they MAKE LOVE for the first time.

EXT. TAYLOR MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Palmer pulls up on the street, parking in the street, unsure of whether to actually pull into the driveway.

Rome's car speeds by his and swings into the driveway; Palmer instinctively ducks his head.

As Palmer watches, shocked, Rome gets out of his car as Juliet opens her front door in a NIGHTGOWN. She gives Rome a BRIEF KISS before pulling him inside and shutting the door.

Palmer is appalled and whips out his CELLPHONE.

PALMER

(on the phone)

Maddox. I know you're busy with Sabrine and all, but you need to call me back as soon as you get this message. Your fuckin' best friend is committing statutory rape with my prom date.

Palmer hangs up and drives away in a fury.

INT. TALYOR MANSION - JULIET'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Juliet is sitting on her bed, nervous, and Rome is pacing around her room, looking at things.

JULIET

(quietly)

It's okay.

ROME

(focusing on her)

Sure it is. Are you nervous? (Juliet doesn't respond) We don't have to do this, you know. I was just kidding at prom.

JULIET

(about to cry)

You don't want to with me?

ROME

(coming over to her)

Of course I do! You're a beautiful and sexy girl!

JULIET

You think I'm sexy?

ROME

Without a doubt.

JULIET

(smiling hopefully)

And you like me?

ROME

Of course I like you. Sex isn't just a physical act for me, you know, it means something.

Juliet beams, takes a deep breath, and slides backwards onto her bed. Rome pulls a CONDOM out of his pants, takes off his shirt and follows.

ROSE (V.O.)

You dream of a life filled with love. You dream of the day that you become someone else's entire world, and they become

yours. You dream of the time that you can sit across the kitchen table from someone, look into their eyes, and know, unequivocally, that all they see is you. It's the dream. It's my dream... But that's really all it is: just a dream.

INT. MORELLO BISTRO - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - LATE EVENING

Jarrett and Rose are in the throes of passionately making out on the couch. Both of their SHIRTS are off and he is on top of her. He UNBUTTONS her pants and she doesn't even attempt to stop him.

He begins to slide her PANTS off, kissing his way down her chest, and it is clear from her face that she is wrestling with herself.

ROSE (V.O)

But it doesn't have to just be a dream, does it? Isn't it true that the only things standing between us and our dreams are the choices we make?

Rose places her hands on Jarrett's as they tug on her pants.

ROSE

(softly)

Wait.

JARRETT

(looking up at her)

What is it?

ROSE

(smiling gently)

I don't want to do this right now.

Jarrett sits back on his heels and looks at her, confused.

JARRETT

Seriously?

ROSE

(nodding)

Yeah. (grins) Sorry, I'm just not ready.

JARRETT

(nodding respectfully)

Okay. I respect that.

He picks up her shirt from the floor and hands it to her.

JARRETT (CONT'D)

If you ever do get 'ready', make sure you let me know.
(winks)

ROSE

(laughing and pulling on her shirt)
I'll be sure to keep you in mind.

They laugh together and continue getting dressed, very amicably.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - JULIET'S BEDROOM - LATE EVENING

Rome and Juliet are sleeping in her bed, both naked. He wakes up ABRUPTLY and is disoriented.

His eyes fall on her, sleeping on her stomach, and he is visibly FURIOUS, silently berating himself.

He slides out of the bed as quietly as he can and gets dressed quickly.

Rome heads to her door to leave, but pauses when he gets there, thinking. He makes a face, and then goes to the window instead, deciding to try and scale down the two-story building.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Maddox wakes up in Sabine's bed, still holding her, and smiles. He sighs happily, and then notices his CELL PHONE BLINKING.

Trying not to wake Sabine, he reaches over and grabs it. As he is listening to Palmer's voicemail, Sabine wakes up.

SABRINE

(sleepily)

Babe? Who is it?

MADDOX

(confused)

Palmer.

SABRINE

Is he all right?

MADDOX

(staring at his phone in confusion)

I honestly can't tell. (frowns) If I heard him right, though, Rome is in some serious trouble.

SABRINE

(sitting up)

What happened?

INT. TAYLOR MANSION- JULIET'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Juliet is still sleeping peacefully in her bed. She wakes up with a start, looking VULNERABLE while covering herself and searching for Rome.

She makes a little GASPING NOISE and then buries her face in her hands. She sits there, crying for a moment, then grabs her BATHROBE off the floor and puts it on. She runs to the door, stopping only to get her CELL PHONE off the SIDE TABLE.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Juliet runs down the hallway to the BATHROOM DOOR at the end, wrenches it open, and then slams it shut, still crying.

Another DOOR in the hallway opens, and Tyler pokes his head out, sleepily.

TYLER

(rubbing his eyes)

What is she up to?

He walks stiffly down the hall to the bathroom. As he is about to knock, he hears Juliet's voice and puts his ear to the door instead to listen.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Juliet is sitting on the bathroom floor, crying to Rose on the phone.

JULIET

(sobbing)

You told me not to, Rosie, and I didn't listen!

ROSE (O.S.)

(concerned)

Juliet, talk slower, I can't understand you.

JULIET

(taking a deep breath)

I did it, Rosie... and he left me.

ROSE (O.S.)

(horrificed)

Oh, no, honey, I am so sorry! Why did you do it, Juliet?
Why?

JULIET

(sobbing)

I don't know! He made me feel beautiful and special and...
and... he wanted me!

ROSE (O.S.)

Oh, honey, that can't ever be the reason!

Juliet collapses from her sitting position to lying on the floor, still crying.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tyler spins away from the door and stalks back to his room.

TYLER

(enraged)

I'm going to murder that son of a bitch.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

ROSE (O.S.)

I really didn't think Palmer was the type to do that to you!
I thought he really liked you.

JULIET

(through her tears)

Not Palmer! This guy I met named Rome! (gasps) Omigod, am I
a slut? Omigod, I'm a slut!

INT. ROSE'S CAR - PARKED IN THE MORELLO BISTRO EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT -
CONTINUOUS

ROSE

(into the phone)

What did you say?

JULIET (O.S.)

(crying)

A slut! I lost my virginity to a boy I met at pre-prom.
Omigod. He was so nice and cute and he thought I was sexy!
Rosie, what did I do?

ROSE

(interrupting)

Juliet. You had sex with Rome Montaivo?

JULIET (O.S.)

Who the hell cares what his last name was!

ROSE

(horrified)

Juliet... that's... that's my guy.

JULIET (O.S.)

(through her tears)

Wh- what?

ROSE

Juliet! He's twenty-two years old! He's my guy! Who broke
my heart! He's the one?

JULIET(O.S.)

(panicking)

Omigod, omigod, Rosie, what did I do?

ROSE

No, Juliet, it's not you, you're fine. Calm down.

JULIET (O.S.)

(hyperventilating)

What do I do? What do I do?!

ROSE

Sh, Julie, it's going to be okay. Stay there and breathe.
I'm coming to you now. Don't do anything!

Rose hangs up with Juliet and stares at the phone, still in shock. Her face
hardens and she opens her phone again.

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Juliet lets the phone fall to the floor and curls up in a ball, gasping and crying.

INT. ROSE'S CAR - PARKED IN THE MORELLO BISTRO EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

ROSE

(angrily into the phone)

You son of a bitch.

ROME (O.S.)

Rose! I needed to talk-

ROSE

Do not even start, you asshole. How dare you do that to her?

INT. ROME'S CAR - PARKED ON THE SIDE OF A DARK STREET - CONTINUOUS

ROME

(stressed)

You have no idea how badly I feel. I should never-

ROSE (O.S.)

Damn right, you should have never! What was this, some sort of sick and twisted play to get back at me? Steal my baby cousin's virginity? You are literally a sociopath.

ROME

(appalled)

No, I swear to God, that wasn't even supposed to happen! I was just so hurt from what you said before, and then I got her text, and I just wasn't thinking!

INT. ROSE'S CAR - PARKED IN THE MORELLO BISTRO EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

ROSE

(screaming into the phone)

Don't you dare put any of this on her! She's sixteen years old! You should never have touched her! And then you *left* her! What the fuck is wrong with you?

INT. ROME'S CAR - PARKED ON THE SIDE OF A DARK STREET - CONTINUOUS

ROME

Rose, I can't even explain myself! I don't know what I was thinking! I promise I'm going to make it up to you, I swear... and to her!

INT. ROSE'S CAR - PARKED IN THE MORELLO BISTRO EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

ROSE

Don't you dare ever come near me or my family, ever again. You are going to jail, you sick pervert.

INT. ROME'S CAR - PARKED ON THE SIDE OF A DARK STREET - CONTINUOUS

Rome sits up straight in his car, shocked.

ROME

(softly)

Jail?

ROSE (O.S.)

That's right, creep. She's sixteen, and you're twenty-two. Have a nice life.

The line goes dead and Rome stares at the phone in horror for a second, swallowing hard.

In a DAZE, he starts his engine and begins to drive, slowly.

EXT. FORBES PARK - CONTINUOUS

Palmer is sitting on a park BENCH, still fuming and trying to work out his anger when his CELL PHONE BUZZES. It's Maddox.

MADDOX (O.S.)

What the hell happened?

PALMER

Let's try the short, fucked up version. Rome was at pre-prom for no damn reason hitting on Juliet, and the slut gave him her number. Ana came on to me at prom, Juliet saw, then ran off to go meet Rome so they could fuck.

MADDOX (O.S.)

That's not funny, Palmer.

PALMER

You think I'm joking right now? It's 1 am on a Friday night and I'm sitting at Forbes Park in a damn tuxedo because my 16 year old prom date, the girl I've had a crush on since middle school, is off boning my older brother's best friend. Tell me I'm being funny. Please.

While Palmer is on the phone, Tyler SPEEDS by the park in his car. He passes Palmer's car, recognizes it, and abruptly REVERSES, tires squealing.

Tyler jumps out of the car and runs towards Palmer.

MADDOX (O.S.)

Holy shit, Palm. I don't even know what to say. Honestly Rome doesn't do shit like this, I swear.

TYLER

(yelling and coming up the hill)

You little shit!

PALMER

(under his breath)

Jesus. Are you kidding me?

(to Maddox)

Hold on.

(yelling to Tyler)

I didn't do anything, calm down.

MADDOX (O.S.)

(slightly panicked)

What's going on, Palmer?

TYLER

(enraged)

I warned you not to fuck with her! You left her crying in her damn room and now, I'm gonna kill you.

PALMER

(to Maddox)

Um, I think I have to call you back.

Before Palmer can hang up the phone, Tyler runs up on him and PUNCHES him in the face, knocking him off the bench.

INT. SABRINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maddox is holding the phone pressed against his ear as he hears sounds of a fight. He JUMPS up in a panic.

MADDOX

We gotta go, Brie, get dressed.

SABRINE

What happened?

Maddox starts grabbing CLOTHES and tossing them to her. She begins dressing.

SABRINE (CONT'D)

Maddox, tell me what's going on!

MADDOX

(angry)

Tyler Taylor is trying to kill my little brother for something my best friend did.

Maddox pulls on the rest of his clothes and runs out the door.

INT. ROME'S CAR - DRIVING BY FORBES PARK - CONTINUOUS

Rome is driving slowly down the street, still furious at himself.

ROME

(to himself)

You really fucked this shit up, man. What the fuck was going on in your head? Fuck.

He notices MOVEMENT in the park and SQUINTS trying to see through his windshield.

Rome pulls over to the side of the street and gets out his car halfway, staring up at the park.

EXT. FORBES PARK - CONTINUOUS

Rome realizes that Tyler is beating up Palmer. As he watches, Palmer COLLAPSES on the ground and Tyler JUMPS on top of his, still PUNCHING him in the face.

ROME

(under his breath)

Oh, shit.

Rome SPRINTS up the hill and TACKLES Tyler off of Palmer, who is covered in blood and not moving.

Tyler is much bigger than Rome and THROWS him off him.

TYLER

(growling in blind rage)

Stay the fuck out of this, Rome.

Tyler starts to head back over to Palmer, but Rome GRABS his arm.

ROME

He didn't do anything, Tyler, I swear to God!

TYLER

(shaking him off)

Shut up.

ROME

(forcefully)

No, you need to listen to me. He didn't do anything. I did.

Tyler stops in his tracks, clenching his fists, and slowly turns around to face Rome.

TYLER

What?!

ROME

(holding up his hands)

It was consensual, man, I swear.

TYLER

(enraged)

You?

ROME

(backing away)

Consensual!

TYLER

She's sixteen years old, you son of a bitch!

Tyler POUNCES on Rome before Rome can run and starts aggressively beating him. Rome is not a match for Tyler, but he is attempting to hold his own. Palmer is still motionless on the ground.

A BYSTANDER walking by with their DOG sees the commotion and frantically pulls out their CELL PHONE.

BYSTANDER

(into the phone)

Hello, 911? There's a fight at Forbes Park! It looks really bad!

As the Bystander watches from the street, Tyler SMASHES Rome's face into the side of the Fountain. Rome's body goes LIMP and he COLLAPSES in the water.

Tyler FREEZES in horror and pulls Rome out of the Fountain, dropping him on his BACK on the ground.

BYSTANDER (CONT'D)

(freaking out into the phone)

Hello? Are you there? Omigod, I think he might be dead!

Tyler is PACING around the Fountain, clutching his head and freaking out.

TYLER

(gasping to himself)

What the fuck did I do?

INT. ROSE'S CAR - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Rose is driving to Juliet's house and is coming up on the park. She notices the police lights and PULLS OVER.

ROSE (V.O.)

Have you ever had a bad feeling about something? You couldn't explain it, but you knew something was wrong. You could feel it in the pit of your stomach.

Rose gets out of the car and RUNS into the park.

EXT. FORBES PARK - CONTINUOUS

Rose runs into the park and then stops, taking in the scene.

Tyler, subdued and horrified, is sitting on the bench, HANDCUFFED and head down, giving his statement to POLICE OFFICER 1.

Palmer is on the ground, with PARAMEDICS hovering over him, attempting to revive him with a DEFIBRILLATOR.

Rome is lying on his back, about 20 feet away, near the Fountain.

ROSE (V.O.)

I think I knew before I even saw. I was trying so hard to hate him for what he had done, but I just couldn't. Something in me kept stopping me. I guess it's hard to hate someone when they're -

Rose spots Rome's body and RUNS to him, but POLICE OFFICER 2 grabs her.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Ma'am, do you know him?

ROSE

Yes! I know him! What's wrong with him?

POLICE OFFICER 2

(somberly)

I'm so sorry, ma'am. We did everything we could.

ROSE

What do you mean?!

POLICE OFFICER 2

I'm so sorry. We lost him.

ROSE

(pushing the police officer away)

Get off me!

Rose runs to Rome's body and falls to the ground beside it. As she cradles his head in her lap, the shift causes the PURITY RING to fall out of his pocket and into the grass, but Rose doesn't notice.

Maddox and Sabrina arrive at the scene in her car. Maddox runs into the park ahead of Sabrina, sees his brother being defibrillated, and then spots Tyler handcuffed on the bench.

He goes after Tyler, but the 2 POLICE OFFICERS hold him back. POLICE OFFICER 1 takes Tyler away to the POLICE CAR.

MADDOX

(trying to get past the police officers)

You son of a bitch! I'll kill you for this!

TYLER

(calling to Maddox)

Maddox, I swear to God, I am so sorry! I thought it was him! I never meant-

POLICE OFFICER 1 pushes him into the car and shuts the door, cutting him off.

Maddox shakes off the 2 police officers and runs to Palmer, who has just been successfully defibrillated and is being transferred to a STRETCHER.

Rose dazedly STARES at them from by the fountain, Rome's head still in her lap.

ROSE

(hoarsely)

Maddox.

Maddox looks for her, not having seen her before, and visibly darkens when he sees Rome. He stands up and stalks over.

MADDOX

This is all his fault.

ROSE

Dead.

MADDOX

(halting several feet away)

What?

ROSE

He's dead.

Maddox makes a STRANGLED NOISE in his throat and stands there for a moment, staring at the body of his best friend.

SABRINE

(coming towards them)

Maddox? (pause) Rose? (pause) Omigod. Is that-?

MADDOX

(turning away)

We need to go check on Palmer.

ROSE

Maddox!

MADDOX

(ignoring her)

I need to go check on my brother.

Maddox walks back over to Palmer, almost in a DAZE, leaving Sabine standing there.

SABRINE

Is he...?

ROSE

Yes.

SABRINE

Oh, Rosie. (a moment of silence) And Palmer?

ROSE

(shaking her head)

I don't know.

SABRINE

I need to go check on Palmer. I promise I'll be right back.

Rose snuffles and nods, staring down at Rome, and Sabine runs to Maddox.

A CORONER, carrying a BLACK BODY BAG, approaches Rose cautiously.

CORONOR

Ma'am?

ROSE

(violently shaking her head)

No, no, no, no.

CORONOR

I'm so sorry, Ma'am. I have to take him.

The coroner begins to gently take Rome's body out of Rose's lap.

ROSE (V.O.)

(over next three scenes)

Everyone always asks you what your dream is, but they never ask you what would happen if your dream was taken from you. Things happen every day that we can't control. Even something that starts out so beautiful can have consequences. It's the choices we make. We ruin our own dreams. We cause this. And after it's all over, what is there left to do?

CUT TO:

INT. TAYLOR MANSION - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Juliet is still curled up in a ball on her bathroom floor, next to the toilet, crying and gasping.

CUT TO:

EXT. MITCHELL HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Benny and Adriana are standing outside her front door, saying goodnight. She impulsively kisses him on the lips and then runs inside. He is thrilled, takes out his CELL PHONE, and we see him dialing Rome.

There is no answer, so Benny starts leaving an excited message.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORBES PARK - CONTINUOUS

Tyler is sitting in the back of the police car, still horrified.

Palmer is being loaded into an ambulance on the stretcher, while Maddox climbs in after him. Sabrina kisses him goodbye since she isn't allowed in the ambulance.

Rose is still sitting on the ground, watching as they zip up Rome's body in the black body bag.

Sabrine comes back over to Rose, kneels next to her, and hugs her. A flash of gold in the grass catches Sabrine's eye. She recognizes it as Rose's purity ring, so she retrieves it where it had fallen, handing it to Rose.

Rose holds up the purity ring and they both look at it.

ROSE (V.O.)

I guess it's never simple. But you have to find a new dream, and start over, somehow... someday. You have to find something new and better... something beautiful.

Rose slides the ring back onto her finger, Sabrine helps her stand up and they walk off together.