

# A FAREWELL TO YOUTH

Coming of age at 30'Something

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT (08/14/2024)

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MATTY (O.S.)

What about the one with the guy's name?

JACK (O.S.)

Oh the barista... No.

MATTY (O.S.)

Why not dude? I thought you liked her. What was her name again?

JACK (O.S.)

Jeremy, and I never said I liked her. I said she was good in bed.

MATTY (O.S.)

What's not to like about that?

The title comes in one letter at a time as if being pound in by a typewriter. We hear the strike of each key.

**SUPER TITLE: A FAREWELL TO YOUTH**

We hear the typewriter's carriage return slide back to start a new line and ding!

CUT TO:

JACK, black, tattooed, bearded, sits across the booth from MATTY, extremely tall, new-aged hippy type. They're halfway through their breakfast. They're the epitome of an odd couple of friends but it's clear they've been friends for years.

JACK

She bought me a tie.

MATTY

So what? She bought you a gift.

JACK

Not just any gift. A fucking tie. We weren't even dating. I used to flirt with her so she would give me free coffee. One thing led to another and we hooked up a couple of times. This is right before the holidays.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

So she goes home to Ottawa for Christmas and I purposely avoid her texts while she's gone. I was hoping she'd get the hint and then just fuck off when she comes back to the city. Christmas comes and goes and a week later she actually shows up at my door with a present. And I mean, like wrapped in shiny foil paper and a bow, not just a dollar store gift bag.

MATTY

The tie.

JACK

The fucking tie.

MATTY

Okay, so she thought of you and tried to be nice.

JACK

No, she was trying to mark her territory. A tie says I own you. That's some husband and wife shit. I don't even wear ties, like ever. My neck is too thick, I look stupid. Anyway it was fucking presumptuous. Plus, she cut her hair short. I mean right off. It's bad enough her name is Jeremy, but now she has a boy's hair cut too. How am I supposed to get off when she looks like a guy from behind.

(Performing a crude pantomime)

Oh yeah, take it Jeremy.

(stops, shakes head)

Not for me. Definitely a deal breaker.

Matty tries not to laugh but does.

MATTY

Alright, what about that travel agent?

JACK

Too old.

MATTY

How old is she?

JACK

44.

MATTY

That's not that much older than you  
dude.

JACK

Fuck you, I'm 38. She's pushing 45,  
and that's besides the point. Older  
is older.

MATTY

Fine, what about your hometown girl  
you're always talking about?

JACK

Kori, I like her but...

MATTY

Let me guess, more issues with the  
androgynous name?

JACK

No, she spells it with a K, so it's  
okay. And she's got really gorgeous  
long red hair so it wouldn't be an  
issue.

MATTY

Well?

JACK

Well, first of all she still lives  
in Grimsby and you know I avoid  
going home.

MATTY

And second?

JACK

She's got a kid.

MATTY

So what? You're dating in your  
forties -

JACK

Late thirties.

MATTY

People are going to have kids.

JACK

Dating a single mom is like doing hard time for someone else's fuck up.

MATTY

Well you have to bring someone to the party tomorrow.

JACK

Why are you so insistent I bring someone to your wife's Instagram photo op.

MATTY

Its a gender reveal.

JACK

It's a photo op.

MATTY

Emma doesn't want you to come stag and hit on her friends.

JACK

Are her step sisters going?

MATTY

Man, don't.

JACK

Shit, is her stepdad going to be there?

MATTY

You mean my father in-law?

JACK

Step father in-law.

MATTY

That's not a thing, and yeah, it's at his house. He's gonna be there.

JACK

Is it better if I don't come?

MATTY

Dude, I want you there. This is a big deal.

JACK

I know man. I get it. I'm excited for you.

MATTY

No you're not.

JACK

I am. You're going to be a dad.  
That's crazy. I'm happy for you.

MATTY

Well then please, just come, eat  
some cake, say congratulations and  
don't try to hook up with my sister-  
in-laws.

JACK

Step sister-in-laws.

Their waitress, KELLY, approaches..

KELLY

How is everything so far?

JACK

Excellent, as always. Hey, can you  
settle something for us? I need  
your opinion. Is it inappropriate  
to try to pick up women at a gender  
reveal party?

KELLY

Depends if you're the father.

JACK

I like how you think, but I'm  
keeping you from the other  
customers. Here, why don't you give  
me your number and we can get  
coffee or something sometime.

He hands her his phone. She puts her number in.

KELLY

Okay, cool. Sounds good.

JACK

Can we grab the check.

KELLY

Okay, I'll be right back.

She smiles, turns, and walks away. Jack grins at his phone  
and shows it to Matty.

JACK

Kelly, with a little heart emoji.  
She's cute. Maybe I'll bring her.

MATTY

She's like nineteen.

JACK

Exactly, barely legal.

MATTY

DUDE, You gotta stop.

JACK

What? What'd I say?

MATTY

You sound like a predator. You  
can't talk about women like that.  
It's not okay,

JACK

I wish it were still the 2000s.

MATTY

it never was okay.

JACK

Are you "me tooing" right now? I  
feel like you're "Me tooing" me.  
Like I'm fucking Harvey Weinstein  
or something.

MATTY

Dude, I'm not - "Me tooing" you. It  
wouldn't be my place to do that and  
you shouldn't even joke about that.  
It's a serious movement that you're  
belittling.

JACK

Holy fuck man! Are you fucking  
serious right now? I was just  
kidding.

MATTY

And I'm just saying you can't joke  
like that anymore. Times have  
changed.

JACK

Fuck'n eh man. You use to say shit  
way worse than that on stage. What  
happened to you?

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

You used to be funny before you turned into this button-down politically correct drama teacher.

MATTY

I grew up dude.

JACK

What, and I didn't?

Matty just shrugs.

JACK (CONT'D)

Fuck you. You're the one still living with your parents, sorry, her parents.

MATTY

We don't live with her parents dude, we're staying there while our place is under renovation. There's a big difference.

JACK

Tomato, Potato. I'm just saying, glass houses and shit.

MATTY

Okay, dude, I hear you and I respect your feelings. I just wish you could be serious for a change. Think about the future. I'm just trying to help you.

JACK

Help me? Is this you talking or Emma?

MATTY

Dude, don't start with all that. You know we love you.

JACK

Emma tolerates me.

MATTY

Yeah, because she loves you. You've been my best friend for almost twenty years. I want you at this party. Please, for me, just bring a nice girl. Don't hit on Emma's friends and especially not her sisters.

JACK  
Step sisters.

MATTY  
Dude, I'm serious.

JACK  
Okay fine. When you ask nicely like  
that. Okay.  
(beat)  
So you wanna get out of here?

3

EXT. DINER -- MORNING

3

Jack and Matty step out onto the sidewalk. Jack's Cadillac is parked out front.

MATTY  
Hey, what are you doing after this?  
Do you want to maybe come check out  
my rehearsal?

JACK  
Rehearsal? You working on a new  
set?

MATTY  
What? No dude, my drama class.

JACK  
Isn't school out.

MATTY  
Yeah, man, the summer classes I'm  
teaching. I told you this.

JACK  
Right yeah.

MATTY  
A lot of these kids want to get  
into acting. I'm sure they would  
love to pick your brain. Talk to a  
real director.

JACK  
I don't think so.

MATTY  
Why not?

JACK  
I fucking hate kids.

MATTY

Nice. Tell me again how happy you are for me.

JACK

That's different. I'm sure I'll love your fucking kid, it's just, other fucking kids.

Matty walks away, heading to his car parked down the street.

MATTY

Alright man, I gotta get going.

JACK

Don't be mad.

MATTY

I'm not mad dude. I'm just going to be late. I'll see you tomorrow. Three o'clock.

JACK

Looking forward to it. Love you man!

MATTY

Love you too dude! Don't be late.

The two friends climb into their cars and drive off, going in opposite directions.

4 EXT. JACK'S PLACE - AFTERNOON 4

Jack parallel parks his Cadillac on Queen Street West and heads towards his apartment.

5 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - AFTERNOON 5

Jack enters his apartment, dominated by a large TV and window. The walls are covered with framed posters of Ernest Hemingway book covers. He sits, placing cocaine and his wallet on the coffee table. He dumps, cuts, and snorts two lines of coke throwing his head back.

MATTY (V.O.)

Take a deep breath, hold it...

He leans forward snorts another and throws his head back.

CUT ON ACTION:

6

INT. DRAMA ROOM - AFTERNOON

6

MATTY

... and let it out-

Matty energetically flips into view, leading a drama warm-up exercise with a dramatic exhale. The kids follow, each mirroring his dramatic breath as they flip into frame.

MATTY (CONT'D)

Okay, guys, uhh why don't you partner up. We're going to do the repetition exercise.

The kids start to pair up and spread out around the room.

LATER --

Matty circulates the room, pausing to observe and guide different pairs of kids as they try the exercise.

ANI

You look tired.

SARAH

I look tired?

MATTY

No. You're forcing a conversation. I don't believe you. Take a breath, take a second, and don't start until you really notice something.

He walks away and the kids shake it off, stare at each other and get ready to go again. Matty moves onto another pair.

PAYTON

Your shirt is yellow.

JORDYN

My shirt is yellow.

PAYTON

Your SHIRT is yellow.

MATTY

NO!

The whole class stops and looks at him.

MATTY (CONT'D)

Where's the honesty guys? You know how to do this. Get focused. Come on.

The kids shake it off and try to start the exercise. Matty wanders over to another set of kids.

EVAN  
You're bored.

The words halt Matty, transfixing him as the kids act. He tracks their exchange like a ping-pong match.

TIVON  
I'm bored.

EVAN  
You're bored.

TIVON  
I'm bored.

FADE TO:

7 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - (TIME LAPSE) 7

Time-lapse: Jack's day unfolds in his apartment - sifting DVDs, skimming a graphic novel, *sitting at his typewriter, trying to write but being blocked*, snacking on leftover Chinese, punctuated by cocaine lines.

EVAN (V.O.)  
You're bored.

TIVON (V.O.)  
I'm bored.

EVAN (V.O.)  
You're bored.

FADE TO:

8 INT. DRAMA ROOM - DAY 8

EVAN  
You're bored.

TIVON  
I'm bored.

EVAN  
You think you're better than this.

TIVON  
I think I'm better than this.

EVAN

You think you're better than this.

TIVON

I think I'm better than this.

Matty snaps out of it, shaking his head to clear it.

MATTY

Good, alright guys, that's good.

FADE TO:

9

INT. DRAMA ROOM - DAY

9

Matty watches the students leave, then grabs his briefcase. A few students giggle over a phone, drawing his attention. Their laughter intensifies under his gaze.

MATTY

Something funny guys?

TIVON

(cocky)

Yeah, you.

MATTY

What?

PAYTON

We found this on YouTube.

They flip the phone. It's an old video of him doing stand up.

MATTY

Ohhh. Yeah that's ancient.

PAYTON

I think it's pretty funny.

ANI

Me too.

SARAH

Where can we see your new stuff?

MATTY

I don't, I don't really have new stuff. I don't do it anymore.

PAYTON

Oh, well you should. You're funny.

The kids leave. Matty flops into his chair, pulls out his phone, and opens YouTube. He finds his old standup videos, but hesitates, quickly closing the app. He swivels in his chair, lost in thought.

FADE TO:

10 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE - EVENING 10

Matty pulls up to a giant mansion of the house. There's a gate with a buzzer. He rolls down his window and tries to intercom. He buzzes several times but no one answers. Finally, he backs up and parks off to the side. He climbs out and makes the long trek up the driveway to the front door.

11 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - EVENING 11

Matty pushes the door open and peeks his head in. Emma and her family are gathered around the kitchen table, eating and talking animatedly. EMMA, radiant in her simplicity, her mother TINA, her stepfather RICARDO, and his two daughters, OLIVIA and MARIA. Matty's entrance goes unnoticed at first, but as he closes the door, Emma looks up and smiles. Matty's entrance goes unnoticed at first, but as he closes the door, Emma looks up and smiles.

MATTY

I buzzed the gate but-

Emma pops up and heads toward the oven and pulls out a plate of chicken tenders and fries.

TINA

Matthew sit, sit.

Tina stands and pulls out a chair for him. He sits and she pushes his chair in, "helping him".

TINA (CONT'D)

Emma pass me that, you shouldn't be on your feet.

MATTY

I can get-

TINA

No, you sit too.

EMMA

Mom, don't be ridiculous DOCTOR says I should do everything like normal.

Tina takes the plate and sets it down in front of Matty.

RICARDO

What is this, chicken nuggets? He's a man not a toddler. What kind of man only eats chicken nuggets?

MATTY

They're chicken tenders and I don't only-

OLIVIA

Daddy leave Matty alone. He's just a big kid at heart.

RICARDO

I only joke Matthew, you know this.

MATTY

No, I know. It's-

MARIA

So Emma, who all knows?

EMMA

The gender? Just Olivia.

MARIA

So just Olivia and me?

EMMA

What! Olivia you told her? ...

As the conversation continues around him, Matty grabs a chicken tender and sinks lower in his seat.

FADE TO:

12

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- EVENING

12

Jack sits at the kitchen table staring at a blank page in his typewriter. There's a small mirror with a line of cocaine on one side of the typewriter and a bottle of whiskey on the other. He sniffs, then leans down to do the line, he sits back sniff again then grabs the whiskey bottle, and downs a gulp. He stares at the blank page, rips it out and crumples it. His phone vibrates. KORI's face flashes on the screen. Jack quickly sniffs and wipes his nose before answering.

JACK

Hey.

KORI  
(on FaceTime)  
Hey stranger, how have you been?

JACK  
I've been good. How's life in  
Grimsby?

KORI  
Same as usual. What are you up too?

JACK  
Actually, I was just thinking about  
you.

KORI  
And what exactly were you thinking?

JACK  
I was thinking that we should  
finally actually hang out. What do  
you think?

KORI  
I think that sounds like a good  
idea.

JACK  
What are you up to tomorrow  
afternoon? I have this thing-

ANNA (O.S.)  
Mommy?

ANNA, Kori's 3 year old daughter calls from off screen.

KORI  
One sec sweetie, Mommy's on the  
phone.

ANNA  
But Mommy I have to poo.

KORI  
Okay go and I'll come up when you  
need me to wipe. Jack, I'll call  
you back in a little bit, duty  
calls.

JACK  
Sure. I'll talk to you-

The call ends and Jack looks at the screen for a minute. He leans back in the chair and pulls a baggy of coke out of his pocket, but then checks his phone. 10:30. He hesitates, counting on his fingers.

JACK (CONT'D)

10 to 11, 11 to 12, 12 to... Shit.

He hides what's left of his cocaine in his typewriter and grabs his bottle of whiskey, He turns and walks into the bedroom, undressing on the way.

JACK (CONT'D)

Alright bed time. Just go to fucking bed.

INT. JACK'S PLACE, BEDROOM -- EVENING

Jack grabs sleeping pills from his nightstand as he sits on the edge of the bed. He swallows a handful, washing them down with whiskey. He throws back the covers, climbs in, and tries to sleep.

FADE TO:

15

INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BEDROOM -- NIGHT

15

Matty lies in bed, eyes on the ceiling fan, half-listening to Emma's chatter as she paces, getting ready for bed.

EMMA

You never told me, how did it go with Jack this morning?

MATTY

Good.

EMMA

How's he doing? I feel like he's been distant since you told him about the baby.

MATTY

Yeah, I think he's alright. He's just adjusting.

EMMA

You'd think he'd be happy for you.

MATTY

He is, he's weird about kids. He's adopted.

EMMA

What does that have to do with anything? Lots of adopted people end up having huge families. I read that somewhere. With him it's like a phobia or something. I think it's Peter Pan syndrome.

MATTY

Maybe.

EMMA

Do you ever wish you could be like that?

MATTY

Like what, Jack?

EMMA

Yeah, just free, and wild and-

MATTY

No of course not. I love our life.

She just looks at him, smiling.

EMMA

Uh, god I love you.

She gives him a kiss and rolls over to go to sleep.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Good night.

MATTY

Night.

Emma has a thought and turns back to Matty.

EMMA

He's still sober right?

MATTY

Of course.

CUT TO:

16

INT. JACK'S PLACE, BEDROOM -- NIGHT

16

Jack lies in bed, foot shaking. He rolls over, eyes drawn to the typewriter on the kitchen table. The drugs beckon. He hesitates, then sits up, and hurries to the table.

17 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- NIGHT 17

Jack rushes to the typewriter, digs for his coke, finds it, but glances at his watch: 3:00 AM. He exhales, looks in the mirror on the table, eyes the baggy, then tosses it back in the typewriter. He hesitates, then turns and walks back into the bedroom.

INT. JACK'S PLACE, BEDROOM -- NIGHT

He grabs sleeping pills, taking more as he lies back down.

FADE TO:

18 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 18

Emma sleeps soundly. Matty stares at the ceiling fan, then glances at his phone. He opens YouTube, finds his stand-up video, and presses play, volume low.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

Jack's alarm on his phone begins to chime.

19 INT. JACK'S PLACE, BEDROOM - AFTERNOON 19

Jack sleeps soundly, a montage of snoozed alarms and the clock ticking closer to 3:00 PM.

20 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON 20

The driveway is full of cars and a catering van. Guests are streaming in from the street.

21 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 21

Matty steps outside through french back doors that are flanked by large abstract sculptures, scanning the party.

22 INT. JACK'S PLACE, BEDROOM -- AFTERNOON 22

He reaches for his phone, clicks off the alarm and is about to lie down again but then he jerks awake and looks at his phone screen. It's 3:35 pm.

JACK

No, oh shit.

He rolls over and looks at his clock, double checking.

JACK (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Jack jumps into action, rushing to get dressed and stumbles out of the room.

23 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 23

Ricardo waves Matty over. Matty crosses the party, scanning for Emma, passing a large canvas covered in a satin sheet.

24 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- AFTERNOON 24

Jack snorts a line off the mirror by the typewriter, shaking his head, but still groggy. He slaps his cheeks, then does two more bumps. He grabs his keys and rushes out the door.

26 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - DAY 26

Emma walks up to Matty and taps his elbow.

EMMA

We should probably get things started soon. Where's Jack. He's not here yet?

MATTY

No.

EMMA

You should call him.

Matty nods, and steps away as he dials Jack.

MATTY

Yeah, okay.

27 INT. CADILLAC - AFTERNOON 27

Jack weaves through traffic, quickly snorting a bump before his phone vibrates. Matty's calling. He reaches for it, but the car in front breaks hard and he swerves. His phone slips onto the floor.

JACK

Shit.

28

EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON

28

JACK (V.O.)

Hey, why are you calling? You can leave a message but I won't call you back. Text me. BEEEEEP!

Matty shakes his head and ends the call.

EMMA

He didn't answer?

MATTY

No.

EMMA

I don't think we can wait for him. We should really get things going. I know you wanted him here but it's gotta be almost 4:00. What time is it?

MATTY

It's ten after.

EMMA

Yeah, okay, we have to start. Come on.

She leads him to the table with the cake.

29

INT/EXT. CADILLAC, EMMA'S PARENT PLACE, GATE - AFTERNOON

29

Jack is at the front gate, holding down the buzzer for an obnoxiously long time. BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ! No one answers.

JACK

Come on!

Finally the gate trundles open.

JACK (CONT'D)

About fucking time.

He hits the gas and speeds in.

30 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 30

Emma grabs a microphone and taps it. Feedback from the speakers causes everyone to turn toward them.

EMMA

Hello everyone can we have your attention please. We would like to thank everyone for being here especially those of you who came from out of town.

31 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON 31

Finding no spots, he turns around and pulls right up in front of the front door.

32 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 32

EMMA

We know everyone's hungry and can smell the amazing meal our wonderful caterers have prepared for us. So lets get to the reason you're all here.

She returns with two smoke canons and hands one to Matty. She then pushes a small foot pedal towards Matty to launch larger confetti canons.

33 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON 33

Jack jumps out of the car and looks at the shocked waitresses, standing outside on their break.

JACK

(shrugs)  
No valet.

The girls laugh as he hurries through the front door.

34 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 34

EMMA

Okay, so we're going to do a count down from ten.

She fumbles with the canon and mic, trying to hold both, causing feedback. Everyone chuckles. Olivia takes the mic.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Whoops, sorry guys. Can everyone still hear me?

35 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - AFTERNOON 35

Jack rushes through the front door and almost knocks into some of the wait staff who are preparing to serve the meal.

EMMA (O.S.)

Okay, is everybody ready?

36 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 36

EMMA

10,9

The crowd continues the countdown ...

37 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 37

Jack follows the sound, stepping out the french doors and trying to blend into the crowd.

The crowd continues the countdown ...

Jack realizes he's on a balcony looking down at the party below, he turns to go back in and knocks into a sculpture by the back door. Jack grabs it, but it's too late. The large concrete sphere at the top falls off.

The crowd continues the countdown ... 3 .. 2 .. 1 ...

The sphere crashes onto a glass table below where everyone has put the gifts, shattering the table and crushing most of the presents. Simultaneously, the crowd turns toward the sound as Matty and Emma release the smoke cannons.

Jack freezes, looking sheepish as everyone stares. He's the only one still looking at the shocked couple, who stare back as pink smoke pours out of the cannons.

JACK

It's a girl, yay...

People, confused, turn back to Emma and Matty. Matty accidentally steps on the confetti canon trigger. A boom, and pink confetti pathetically rains down. The crowd claps politely, but the moment is ruined.

CUT TO:

38

EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON

38

Everyone is seated, impressed by the large seafood buffet. People line up, slurping oysters and cracking crab legs.

JACK (O.S.)

Man, I'm so fucking sorry.

MATTY (O.S.)

It's fine dude.

JACK (O.S.)

Emma, if it takes me a million years I swear I'll make this up to you.

At the head table, Emma is clearly upset. Everyone except Matty has a plate of seafood.

EMMA

Jack, accidents happen, it's fine.

JACK

I mean, if you think about it, I sort of did you guys a favour. That thing was really unstable. You're about to have a kid running around here. Better it happens to me than fall off and land on your baby.

MATTY

Dude,

JACK

I'm just saying. It was dangerous--

Mic feedback causes everyone to look up at Ricardo, standing near the covered canvas with the mic.

RICARDO

Hello everyone, and welcome. I hope everyone is enjoying the feast. I have a few surprises for everyone. Back home in Lisbon, when we celebrate, we always celebrate with seafood. It's just the Portuguese way. However, Matthew doesn't like sea food, so what do we do? Well, my first surprise is for you Matthew. I have had the kitchen prepare your favorite meal.

A waitress brings Matty a serving platter with a cloche. She reveals a fancy version of chicken nuggets and fries.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Chicken nuggets and French fries.

Everyone laughs and claps. Matty grins, playing along, but Jack looks pissed.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Go ahead, take a bite.

Matty awkwardly has a bite of a nugget and everyone claps.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Emma, there's one more surprise. I came into your life when you were a young woman. You had every reason to be unsure of me, but you embraced me with warmth and understanding. As my love for your mother grew, so did my love for you. I've watched you blossom from a bright and intelligent young girl into an incredibly talented woman. Your writing is truly inspiring. We've been blessed with **three** amazing daughters, each with their own artistic gifts. Olivia has her music **and** Maria is apprenticing with a guitar maker in Spain this summer. Emma, I'm so excited to meet my first granddaughter! I have no doubt she'll continue this incredible tradition of artistic excellence in our family.

Everyone claps. Jack reluctantly joins in.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

So in honor of our little artist-to-be, I've created this.

Ricardo pulls the cover from the easel revealing a very large and abstract painting. The crowd gasps and applauds.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Not only is this work for you, but it will also be the cover of my new book, "Art In The Family"

Everyone explodes into applause. Jack looks around in disbelief, then slowly stands, leaning into Matty to whisper.

JACK

Where's the bathroom?

MATTY

Up through the kitchen, turn right.

Jack weaves through the crowd. Ricardo shakes hands as people approach.

39 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BATHROOM - AFTERNOON 39

Jack snorts three lines, closes his eyes, then opens them and shakes his head. He forces a smile. Shakes his head. Tries again. He wipes the counter with a finger, rubs it on his gums, and throws open the bathroom door.

40 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, HALLWAY - AFTERNOON 40

Jack bursts out of the bathroom, nearly colliding with the two waitresses he'd seen earlier. One of his nostrils is smeared with coke and blood.

JACK

Hey, I know you two.

PETRA

You have a little ...

She taps her nostril.

JACK

Oh shit, rusty pipes.

He wipes his nose, then his hand on his jeans, and holds a finger to his lips and winks.

JACK (CONT'D)

Shhh.

KARA

Your secret's safe with us.

Jack winks and walks past and the waitresses watch him go.

41 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BACK YARD - AFTERNOON 41

Ricardo, seated at the head table with Matty and Emma, stops talking when he sees Jack approaching.

RICARDO

Matty tells me you're a filmmaker.

JACK

Writer/Director, yeah. More so writing recently.

RICARDO

Have you written and directed anything I might have seen?

JACK

I did a film called Skin the Kat. It did pretty well in the festival circuit. You might have seen that one.

RICARDO

I did indeed. It was pretty good if I remember correctly. Sort of a dark look at rural life and the loss of innocence. That must have been over a decade ago. You haven't worked on anything more recent?

MATTY

You just finished up a series of commercials didn't you?

JACK

It was nothing.

MATTY

It was a big contract. What was it. Uhh..

JACK

It was for PlayMax

Ricardo makes no attempt to hide his amusement.

RICARDO

Tampon commercials?

JACK

Pads actually and commercial work allows me to take my time with my writing.

RICARDO

Someone has to shoot the tampon commercials of the world. It's just a shame that you've sold out when you were once such a promising talent.

JACK

Sold out? Please. At least I know who I am. You're the smug wannabe that's spun bullshit to trick the masses into thinking you're some sort of art Jesus.

Ricardo straightens in his chair, gets up and walks around the table. He places one hand on Jack's shoulder.

RICARDO

I'm going to have to ask you politely to leave.

Jack can tell he's getting to him. Encouraged, he pushes harder as he stands.

JACK

Okay, I'll leave. In all fairness, I haven't even seen much of your work. But I know a bullshitter when I see one. And you my friend are so full of shit I can almost smell it on your breath-

Ricardo punches Jack, who stumbles back into another table. The crowd gasps, a woman cries out. Stunned, Jack is helped up by Matty who quickly walks Jack through the crowd toward the French doors.

JACK (CONT'D)

He fucking hit me!

MATTY

Come on man, let's go.

Jack shouts back at Ricardo.

JACK

FYI, It's not that Matty doesn't like seafood, he's fucking allergic you unsympathetic prick.

That seems to land with Ricardo.

42

INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- AFTERNOON

42

Matty walks Jack through the house to the front door.

JACK

I'm sorry man I just couldn't take it anymore. The way he talks down to everyone. Especially you man

MATTY

He doesn't talk down to me.

JACK

Yes he fucking does man, that stunt with the fucking chicken nuggets.

MATTY

He was just kidding.

JACK

Just kidding? He treats you like a fucking joke and it pisses me off. I love Emma, you know that, but since you married into the Portuguese Hepburns its like you've turned into a self-doubting asshole.

MATTY

Me the asshole? You just got into a fist fight with my father-in-law at our gender reveal.

JACK

Step father-in-law.

MATTY

That's not a fucking thing dude!  
(shakes head)  
Just go home Jack. Thanks again for coming.

Matty pulls the door open and Jack steps outside.

EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE -- DAY

Jack turns back to Matty.

JACK

Come on.

MATTY

Go home.

Matty shuts the door. Jack stares for a moment, then notices the two waitresses smoking again.

JACK

We have to stop running into each other like this.

(has a thought)

Do you wanna get outta here?

Petra and Kara look at each other, confused.

PETRA  
Which one of us?

JACK  
Both.

The girls exchange a look then smile.

CUT TO:

43 INT. JACK'S PLACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 43

\*\*\*\*(MONTAGE: Jack, Petra, and Kara do drugs, party, and dance around to a rap song all while also having a crazy orgy)\*\*\*\*\*

Jack is on his back with PETRA on top. KARA is snorting a line off the nightstand.

PETRA  
OH MY GODDDDDD! Ugh!

She falls down beside him and then snuggles in. She gives him a kiss on the cheek but he seems disinterested. Then KARA crawls back into bed seductively.

LATER--

Jack sits up in bed, a waitress asleep on either side. His eyes are hollow. He grabs his sleeping pills off the nightstand and walks into the living room.

44 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - NIGHT 44

Jack throws a few pills in his mouth, chewing as he climbs onto the couch to pass out.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

An old doorbell whirs over and over.

FADE IN:

45 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- MORNING 45

Jack slowly opens his eyes, confused. He sits up, realizing he's in the tub. Brrrrr! The doorbell rings.

JACK  
What the fuck?

Jack's eyes flutter shut. Brrrr! He jerks awake and struggles off the couch. Brrrr!

JACK (CONT'D)  
Fuck, I'm coming.

He hurries to the door, tying his robe. He sees a woman's shape through the frosted glass. He throws open the door to reveal...

48

INT. JACK'S PLACE, FRONT DOOR - MORNING

48

LILY, young, pretty, biracial, and very pregnant, stands at the door, looking nervous and smiling awkwardly.

LILY  
Hi.

Jack looks her over, his eyes lingering on her stomach.

JACK  
Hello.

LILY  
You're Jack Morgan, right?

JACK  
Yeah, that's me.

LILY  
The same Jack Morgan that had a baby with a girl name Noelle Sullivan about 18 years ago?

He just stares at her for a few beats then-

JACK  
Wait, are you...

LILY  
I'm Lily. I think you're my birth father.

JACK  
Holy fuck.

LILY  
I know right? This is so fucking weird.

JACK

Jesus.

Jack stares at her in disbelief for a moment.

JACK (CONT'D)

Fuck, I'm sorry, hi.

Lily gestures at a small suitcase by her feet.

LILY

Can I come in? My back is killing me.

JACK

Yeah, sure, of course, come in.  
(reaches for her suitcase)  
Here, let me take that.

LILY

Oh, thank you. I can't bend over for shit anymore.

Jack leads her *inside* -

49

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - MORNING

49

*They walk through the kitchen into the living room. Jack quickly straightens the couch.*

JACK

Do you want to sit?

LILY

God, yes please. My feet are frick'n killing me.

She sits. They stare at each other in awkward silence.

LILY (CONT'D)

Ha, this is so weird.

JACK

Fuck, you can say that again.

LILY

I'm sorry. I had like this whole speech or whatever planned out and now I don't even know where to start. I'm sure you've got like a ton of questions. Like why I'm here.

JACK

Well, yeah.

(eyes drift to her belly)

Not that it's not cool to meet you.  
Cause it is. But I'm kind of  
playing catch up here. I'm trying  
to get my bearings. So you said  
you're name's Lily?

LILY

Yeah, you didn't know that?

JACK

No, we called you Hope.

LILY

Yeah, that's my middle name. My  
parents liked it. I'm sorry, I'm  
all over the place, this is  
tripping me out. You're just how I  
imagined you'd be.

JACK

How did you find me? I didn't think  
the adoption agency had any of my  
information.

LILY

Facebook. I looked you up. My  
parent's were always really open  
about the adoption. I knew your  
name was Jack Morgan. You had all  
your info right on your page.

JACK

Right... Your parents know you're  
here?

LILY

Oh god no, they'd flip. They don't  
know about any of this. That's sort  
of why I'm here.

Jack waits for her to go on but she seems stuck.

JACK

Okay?

LILY

I kind of need like a favor. I was  
hoping you would let me stay here  
with you for the summer.

JACK

Hold on, what?

LILY

I know you don't owe me anything and this is like right out of the blue. I'll stay out of your way. You won't even know I'm here. Please, my parents can't find out about this.

JACK

How do they not know about this? You're... really pregnant.

LILY

I go to boarding school in the city. I haven't been home in a couple of months. So they haven't seen me like this.

JACK

School's out. Where do they think you are now?

LILY

I've already got early acceptance to art school. I told them I signed up for a summer program to help get ready for September. They think I'm staying with a friend.

JACK

So your plan is to what? Stay here, have your baby and then, what?

LILY

I'm going to be giving it up for adoption. I thought maybe since you'd done it before you might be able to help me figure things out. Cause I honestly don't know what the hell I'm doing.

Jack stares at her for a moment, not sure to say. He opens his mouth to speak but - The bedroom door swings open and a very naked Petra steps into the living area.

PETRA

I can't find my bra. Do you remember where you threw it?

Then Petra notices Lily and covers her nipples.

PETRA (CONT'D)

Oh shit. Sorry about my tits.

Lily blushes and struggles to get up.

LILY

Oh god, this is a bad time. I'm so sorry. I didn't realize you had company.

JACK

No, please, sit. Just give me a second. I totally forgot they were here. Just a second.

Jack backs into his bedroom, forcing Petra inside. He closes the bedroom door, leaving Lily alone. Embarrassed and confused, she looks around then mutters to herself -

LILY

They?

She sits nervously, waiting for Jack. She hears him talking in the bedroom but can't understand what he's saying. The bedroom door opens, and Jack hustles the two girls out.

JACK

Again, I'm sorry to rush you out.

PETRA

Really, it's fine.  
(to Lily)  
Sorry again for flashing you.

LILY

All good, don't worry about it.

PETRA

Nice meeting you.

Jack pushes them out quickly then closes the door behind them and turns back to Lily.

JACK

I'm so sorry. That was awkward.

LILY

No, I'm sorry. I just showed up and barged in. I didn't even think to ask if it was a good time or if you were alone. I'll just go. I can figure this out. It's really not your problem.

JACK

Wait, just a second. I didn't say no. I just need a little time to wrap my head around this. Thing is though, I have to run out for like an hour. I'm supposed to be meeting someone, but, why don't you hang out. Maybe watch a movie or something. I've got like, all the streaming services.

She considers, then nods her head.

LILY

Okay, yeah. I'm actually kind of tired. I didn't get a lot of sleep last night. I was nervous I guess. I might just lay down if that's okay?

JACK

Yeah, of course. Make yourself at home. I'm just going to get dressed and then run out and I'll be back before you know it. Is that okay? I feel bad. I don't want you to think I'm just running out or whatever. I mean I guess I could call and cancel. I-

LILY

Seriously. I'm fine. Don't even worry about it. I'll be fine.

JACK

Okay, be right back.

Jack grabs his keys and rushes out leaving Lily by herself. She looks around awkwardly, not sure what to do.

CUT TO:

50 INT. CADILLAC - MORNING 50  
The Cadillac peels around a corner. Jack dials Matty, glances at the road and puts the call on speaker.

51 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BATHROOM - MORNING 51  
Matty sits on the toilet, watching an Instagram video of him and his old friend THAIN doing stand-up.

He writes a quick comment. (*Good old days, miss ya buddy.*) As he posts it, his phone rings, it's Jack. He ignores it.

52 INT. CADILLAC - MORNING 52

Jack, shocked, redials Matty.

JACK

Pick up, pick up, pick up, pick up,  
pick up.

53 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BATHROOM - MORNING 53

Matty shakes his head and answers.

MATTY

Dude, I'm gonna need some time-

JACK (V.O.)

(on the phone)

Oh thank Christ! I need your help.

MATTY

Are you serious dude? After what  
you pulled yesterday.

JACK (V.O.)

I'm coming over.

MATTY

No, it's really not a good time.  
People are still pretty pi -

JACK (V.O.)

No time to argue this. I'll see you  
in a minute.

MATTY

Jack no! Do not come here. Jack?

54 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - MORNING 54

Matty bursts out of the bathroom wearing a bathing suit and tank top that's too tight. Emma, in a swimsuit, gets lemonade from the fridge.

MATTY

Jack's coming over.

EMMA

What, when?

Bzzzzzzz. The intercom by the door buzzes. Emma and Matty exchange a look.

CUT TO:

55

EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, GATE - MORNING

55

Jack's leaning out the window of the Cadillac, pressing the intercom button.

MATTY (O.S.)

(over intercom)

Man, I told you it's not a good time. We can talk later. I just need a little space dude.

JACK

Look, I know I acted like a complete fucking asshole and I'm sorry I ruined your party but I'm freaking the fuck out right now and I need you to tell me what to do.

MATTY (O.S.)

What you need to do is go home and I'll talk to you tomorrow.

JACK

Wait!

INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, FRONT DOOR -- DAY

Emma and Matty are both leaning on the wall beside the intercom. Jack's voice crackles through the speaker.

JACK (O.S.)

My pregnant seventeen year old daughter showed up at my door this morning asking to stay with me until she has the baby so that her adoptive parents won't know about it.

They exchange a look of surprise then Emma hits the button.

EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, GATE -- DAY

The gate trundles open and Jack hits the gas, spinning his tires and he pulls in.

CUT TO:

56 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - MORNING

56

Jack paces back and forth.

JACK

What the fuck am I supposed to do here? I think I'm having a fucking panic attack and I don't fucking panic.

MATTY

You gave a kid up for adoption? When? How have you never told me this?

JACK

Just after high school, right before we met, and it's not the kind of thing you just tell people.

MATTY

Dude, does that mean you're going to be a 40 year old grandpa?

JACK

38, and you cut that grandpa shit out right now.

EMMA

Where is she now?

JACK

On my fucking couch.

EMMA

You just left her there?

JACK

*She's seventeen, not six* -- I told her I had a meeting and that I'd be back in an hour.

EMMA

Good start, Jack.

Matty stops and thinks about something.

MATTY

How did she even find you?

JACK

The fucking internet. Apparently all my information is just out there for anyone to track me down.

MATTY

Right.

EMMA

Digital age. I guess it wouldn't be that hard.

JACK

I know right? It's fucking crazy.

EMMA

So she wants to stay with you until she has the baby and then what?

JACK

Give it up for adoption. She wants to stay with me so no one will know.

EMMA

That's understandable I guess. I mean, back in the fifties girls would go stay with relatives when they "got in trouble". Same kind of thing.

JACK

Except I'm not a great aunt or second cousin twice removed. I don't know this girl and I'm not exactly equipped to take care of a pregnant teenager.

Emma goes on like she's not hearing him.

EMMA

And really, the fact that you were adopted too makes this even crazier. This really raises all kinds of questions on the whole nature versus nurture debate.

JACK

Can we not turn this into a sociology lesson? What the fuck am I going to do?

RICARDO (O.S.)

May I make a suggestion?

Jack spins on his heels to reveal Ricardo walking in from the backyard, wearing a very small speedo.

JACK

Shit, sorry. I'm really sorry about yesterday, I was out of line and,  
(Notices the Speedo)  
Wow, okay. That's a lot of crotch.

Ricardo waves it away and he strolls into the room nonchalantly, making no attempt to cover himself.

RICARDO

We are both passionate men. It happens. I haven't been in a fight in years. It was invigorating.  
(offers his hand)  
Peace?

JACK

Man, can we do this when you're wearing pants?

RICARDO

The human form is nothing to be afraid of. It's only a penis.

JACK

If I shake your hand can we stop talking about your junk?

Ricardo offers his hand again and Jack gives it a quick shake. Satisfied, Ricardo smiles and takes a step back.

RICARDO

I believe you're looking at this the wrong way. From what I overheard it seems she is badly in need of help and for some reason has sought you out. You should not look at this as negative. Try to think of it as a chance to know your daughter, your blood. This is an opportunity that most people that give up a child would never get. You should embrace it.

Jack thinks for a minute, at a loss for words.

EMMA

I think he's got a point.

JACK

I just... I don't know what I'm supposed to do with her.

EMMA

Just hang out with her. Be her shoulder to cry on if that's what she needs. Take to doctor's appointments, lamaze classes, that kind of thing. Is her doctor in the city?

JACK

I don't know.

EMMA

Okay, well how far along is she? When is she due?

JACK

I have no idea. Three month? Or eight?

EMMA

You need to go home and talk to her about this stuff.

Jack nods, thinks about it, looks up at Emma.

JACK

You're right. You're totally right.  
(then)  
Will you do it?

EMMA

What do you mean will I do it?

JACK

I'm never going to remember all of this stuff. If you come with me you can ask all the right questions and help me figure out what to do.

MATTY

I don't know dude.

JACK

Please, I need you.

They exchange a look.

EMMA

Just give us a minute to get dressed and then we can go.

Emma walks towards the bedroom, Matty, still shocked, follows. Jack and Ricardo exchange awkward glances as we -

FADE TO

57 EXT. TORONTO, AERIAL - MORNING

57

We fly over the city from the suburbs into downtown.

FADE TO:

58 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- MORNING

58

Emma and Lily are seated on the couch mid conversation. Jack and Matty stand back giving them space from the kitchen, watching as the women continue to talk.

Emma hesitates, choosing her words carefully.

EMMA

Does the father know?

LILY

Hank? No, he has no idea.

EMMA

Hank's your boyfriend?

LILY

No, he's just this boy from back home. I was visiting for Christmas. He's always had a thing for me, ever since we were kids. I just got bored enough to let him do something about it. It was just the one time.

(starts crying)

I'm sorry, I-. Fucking hormones.

EMMA

No, don't be sorry. Believe me I get it. I thought morning sickness was bad, but the second trimester has been kicking my ass too. When are you due?

Lily nervously scratches at her thumbnail.

LILY

I don't know exactly. I've been sort of counting since Christmas, so I think around the middle of August. Give or take a week or two.

EMMA

What do you mean you've just been counting since Christmas? Have you not been to the doctor.

LILY

No, not yet.

EMMA

Oh, Honey. Have you been taking prenatal vitamins or anything?

A long pause. Lily's head hangs, tears dropping onto her hands. She looks up at Emma.

LILY

Is that horrible? Do you think I'm hurting the baby?

EMMA

Come here.

(they hug)

People got along for years with out prenatal vitamins. Do you think the vikings were taking them?

LILY

I'm sure the vikings at least went to a doctor.

EMMA

It's going to be fine. I'll call my OBGYN and get you an appointment.

Lily almost jumps across the couch to hug Emma again.

LILY

Thank you, I know this is weird but I can't stop hugging you. I've felt so alone for the past few months and it's good to... to  
(trying not to sob)

EMMA

You're not alone anymore. I've got your back.

Without letting go, Emma looks back at Matty and Jack.

EMMA (CONT'D)

We all do.

FADE TO:

59 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - EVENING

59

Matty and Emma stand **by the door**, clearly ready to go.

JACK

Sure you guys don't want to hang out? We could watch a movie or play a game or something.

MATTY

It's getting late dude.

Emma leans in to Jack and lowers her voice.

EMMA

(hushed)

You're gonna be fine. Relax.

(to Lily)

It was good meeting you.

LILY

It was nice meeting you both and thank you again.

JACK

You're sure you don't wanna--

**Matty and Emma walk out.**

EMMA

Goodbye Jack.

**Emma closes the door behind them** Jack and Lily exchange nervous glances, the awkward silence.

JACK

Okay, so...

LILY

So.

JACK

Do you want to watch a movie or something.

LILY

I'm actually kind of tired. I might just get to bed if that's okay?

(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)

Do you have extra sheets or whatever so I can make up the couch?

JACK

Extra bedding is in the closet over here.

(moves to closet, grabs sheets)

But you take my room. I'll just switch sheets and straighten up.

(steps into the bedroom)

I'll sleep on the couch. I do most of the time anyway.

Lily watches Jack through the half closed bedroom door and he rushes around straightening up.

LILY

You sleep on your couch?

INT. JACK'S PLACE, BEDROOM -- SAME TIME

Jack frantically looks around making sure there's no trace of the night before.

JACK

I always pass out watching TV.

LILY

Are you sure?

Jack spots a vial of coke and grabs it, shoving it into his pocket.

JACK

Positive.

He quickly strips the sheets and makes the bed.

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- CONTINUOUS

She hesitates for another moment as she watches Jack through the door as he finishes making the bed.

LILY

Okay...

Jack walks out of the bedroom, snatching up his sleeping pills from the night stand as he does.

JACK  
There. All set.

He holds the door open for Lily.

LILY  
Thanks.

She steps in, about to close the door.

LILY (CONT'D)  
Goodnight.

JACK  
Night.

Lily shuts the bedroom door.

Jack exhales, flops onto the couch, and notices his hands trembling. He gives his hands a shake and moves his fingers trying to get control. When he places his hands in his lap, he feels the vial. He reaches in and pulls it out, staring at it for a second. His eyes dart to the closed bedroom door. He makes a decision and shakes his head. He slips the coke back into his pocket.

Still tempted, Jack leans back, drumming his fingers and fidgeting. His eyes dart around before snapping toward the kitchen. A bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label sits on the counter. Jack pours three fingers into a glass and knocks it back.

FADE TO:

60 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, FRONT YARD - EVENING 60

A toilet flushes.

61 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BEDROOM - EVENING 61

Matty walks out of the bathroom and finds Emma already asleep in bed. He walks around to his side, sits on the edge of the bed. He is about to plug his phone in when he receives a text message from Thain.

**TEXT MESSAGE: Hey Buddy, how you been?**

Matty smiles, opens it and begins to type, but before he can finish the phone starts ringing in his hand. Matty quickly mutes it, jumps up, and hurries out of the room to answer.

62

INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- EVENING

62

Matty comes down the stairs into the living area.

MATTY

(voice lowered)

Hey Dude, how are you?

THAIN (V.O.)

(over phone)

Oh shit, did I wake you up? Sorry man I saw you typing back and thought it'd be easier to call and ask instead of explain everything over text.

MATTY

All good dude, I wasn't actually sleeping. What do you mean 'ask me'? Ask me what?

THAIN (V.O.)

I've got this gig tomorrow morning. One of the guys just dropped out. We have an open seven minutes.

MATTY

Tomorrow morning? Who goes to see comedy in the morning.

THAIN (V.O.)

Early afternoon really. It's a pizza lunch thing at a winery. That's what made me think of you. I know how much you love pizza. It's two fifty for five minutes of work.

Matty thinks, shakes his head.

MATTY

I don't know man, I haven't really, you know.

THAIN (V.O.)

Hey, look, no pressure. I can always do two sets, but just think about it and call me in the morning.

Matty hangs up and looks at his phone for a second.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

Jack snores, his phone buzzes deep in the couch cushions.

FADE IN:

63 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- MORNING 63

Jack is passed out, face down on the couch. Lily is in the kitchen making breakfast. Jack's phone vibrates repeatedly in the couch, unheard by either Jack or Lily.

JACK (V.O.)

Hey, why are you calling? You can leave a message but I won't call you back. Text me. BEEEEP!

EMMA (V.O.)

Hey, I called Dr. Powell and she said she could fit Lily in at 11:00AM today! So call me back right away.

64 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - MORNING 64

Matty is sitting at the island in the kitchen eating cereal as Emma paces in front of him. She hangs up the phone.

EMMA

He's not answering. I should just take her. Do you think I should take her?

MATTY

It's not really for you to do.

EMMA

You're right. You're totally right.

CUT TO:

EMMA'S FIST KNOCKING ON JACK'S DOOR.

67 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- MORNING 67

Emma pushes Jack's door open and steps in.

EMMA

Hello, it's me.

She heads up the stairs. Lily appears at the top of the stairs and smiles down at her.

LILY

Oh, hey.

EMMA

Hey, sorry. Is your... Um, is Jack here? He's not answering his phone.

Emma stops, seeing Jack passed out with a bottle of scotch.

LILY

He's still sleeping. I made him breakfast but I couldn't wake him up. Did you need him?

EMMA

No, actually I need you. The I was telling you about, Dr Powell, she has an opening this morning, but it's her only one for weeks. How fast can you get ready?

LILY

I mean, I guess I'm ready now. Should we try to wake him up and tell him?

EMMA

I'll text him when we get there.

LILY

Okay, let me just grab my purse.

Lily runs into the bedroom. Emma glances at her watch.

FADE TO:

65

INT. MATTY'S CAR -- MORNING

65

Matty drives his car Niagara bound on the QEW.

THAIN (V.O.)

(on phone)

Hey Matty!

MATTY (V.O.)

Am I too late?

THAIN (V.O.)

No man, not at all. If you leave now you can make it.

MATTY (V.O.)

Where's the gig?

THAIN (V.O.)

Pillitterri Estates, it's in Niagara  
on the lake. Take the QEW, get off  
at Glendale...

-- Aerial shot of Matty crossing the skyway bridge in  
Hamilton.

69 INT. PILLITTERRI ESTATES WINERY, MATTY'S CAR - DAY 69

Matty parks, cuts the engine, and takes a moment to breathe.  
He looks at himself in the mirror, panics, then stops himself  
from restarting the car. He climbs out and walks over.

70 INT. PILLITTERRI ESTATES WINERY, RESTAURANT - DAY 70

Matty enters and approaches the host JEFF at the desk.

MATTY

Hi, um, I'm here for the show? I'm  
one of the comics.

JEFF

Are you Matty?

MATTY

Yeah.

JEFF

Okay, follow me.

Jeff leads Matty into the restaurant.

71 INT. PILLITTERRI ESTATES WINERY, OUTDOOR SEATING - DAY 71

Jeff shows him to the bar and motions for him to sit.

JEFF

Have a seat. As soon as he comes  
off stage, you go up.

MATTY

Okay, cool. Could I maybe get a  
water?

JEFF

(to the bartender)  
Connor, water.

Matty turns to watch Thain onstage.

THAIN  
(insert Thain's set)

LATER --

Thain is wrapping up his set when he notices Matty.

THAIN (CONT'D)  
Holy shit are you guys in for a  
treat. My boy Matty has come out of  
early retirement just to entertain  
you. Everyone give it up for the  
man, the legend, my friend, Matty  
Castello!

The crowd erupts in cheers and applause as Matty rises and  
heads towards the stage. Thain intercepts him, giving him a  
big hug as they pass.

THAIN (CONT'D)  
Knock 'em dead.

Matty climbs onto the stage. He grabs the mic, adjusts the  
stand to his height, and surveys the crowd. After a brief  
pause, he launches into his set.

MATTY  
(INSERT MATTY SET: He starts with  
his old material and nothing lands,  
He starts to riff about his family  
life and people love it. )

The crowd loves it. Thain films Matty's set with his phone.

FADE TO:

73

INT. PILLITERRI ESTATES WINERY, OUTDOOR SEATING - DAY

73

Matty and Thain catch up at the bar after the show. Thain  
sips a Caesar, Matty a club soda.

THAIN  
Man, you killed! Have you just been  
stock piling new material?

MATTY  
Not really. I just sort of think of  
things and some of them stick. I  
haven't written anything down or  
anything.

THAIN

Well man, you're back and better than ever.

MATTY

Dude, I'm not back. This was a one time thing, just for fun.

BLYTHE, a gorgeous, blonde woman in her early 30s, saunters over and pulls up a stool. She's wearing stylish ripped jeans and a blazer.

BLYTHE

Hey, you guys were funny.

MATTY

Thanks.

THAIN

Well hello, I'm Thain, and who might you be.

BLYTHE

I...

She pulls two business cards from her clutch and hands them over, before finishing her sentence.

BLYTHE (CONT'D)

...am Blythe Nelson.

THAIN

What? You're fucking with me right. Blythe's not a real name. That's the sound a cat make before it vomits. BLYTHE!

Matty elbows him. Blythe laughs it off.

MATTY

Dude, Blythe is a name. Like Blythe Danner.

THAIN

Who?

BLYTHE

Gwyneth Paltrow's mom. She's in Meet The Parents. And super hot... even now.

Matty looks at her card.

MATTY

You own The Front?

THAIN

The comedy club?

Thain's eyes get big and he looks down at the card.

BLYTHE

I do, and I'm actually looking for new acts.

THAIN

Shit, can we start over? Hi, I'm Thain and I think Blythe is a perfectly normal and lovely name.

She grins politely but then turns her focus back on Matty.

BLYTHE

I have slots open Tuesday to Thursday. My main guys get the weekend but if things go well...

THAIN

Count me in.

MATTY

Thank you, ummm, I mean this is awesome, but my wife is pregnant and I don't know about being out nights.

BLYTHE

Hey no sweat. Think about it. You've got my number.

She winks at him and returns to her table. Thain watches her leave, waiting for her to be out of ear shot.

THAIN

Holy shit man! You do one set and get offered a spot at The Front! What? Do you have horse shoes up your ass you lucky son of a bitch? Tell me you're not going to throw this away. This is huge.

(to the bartender)

Hey can you pour us a couple. Something red, no sparkling. We're celebrating.

Matty isn't listening he's just staring at the business card.

74

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- DAY

74

Jack slowly wakes up, clearly hungover. He looks around for his phone, eventually finding it deep in the couch. He reads Emma's message.

**TEXT MESSAGE: Took Lily to the doctor. I'll take her shopping afterwards which should give you time to clean yourself up.**

JACK

Shit

Jack pulls a vial of coke out of his pocket and does a few bumps off the back of his hand.

Just as it's hitting he hears the front door being opened. He quickly sniffs and hides the drugs. Lily and Emma enter just as Jack stands up straight trying to look casual and failing.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hey.

EMMA

(looks him over)

Hey.

LILY

We found this store that had these dresses with the coolest prints. They look vintage, but they're new not old and musty.

EMMA

Why don't you go try on the yellow one to show Jack.

LILY

Okay.

Lily smiles, taking her bags to the bathroom. Emma's smile vanishes as she turns to Jack, lowering her voice.

EMMA

Jesus Christ Jack. Is that coke?

Emma points at his mustache. He brushes it away.

JACK

No, of course not, It's Adderall.

EMMA

And that's better how?

JACK

It's prescription. I have A.D.D.

EMMA

Not to be snorting it Jack, What if she'd noticed that?

JACK

I-

She cuts him off calling out to Lily.

EMMA

Hey Hon, we'll be right back.

She grabs Jack by the arm and drags him *outside*.

75

EXT. JACK'S PLACE -- DAY

75

Emma pulls Jack by the arm out of the front door. She closes the door behind them so Lily can't hear them.

EMMA

How long have you been using again?

JACK

I'm not using. It's not like I'm doing coke again. I promise you it's not an issue. This isn't something I do all the time. I just woke up hungover and --

EMMA

I'm gonna stop you right there. We were there last time, remember, so we know the act. She needs your help. I couldn't get a hold of you this morning to take her to the doctor. If I hadn't driven over here and let myself in she would have missed it, and why? Because you stayed up all night drinking an entire bottle of scotch.

JACK

It was really only half.

EMMA

Smarten up. Whether you like it or not, yesterday you committed to being there for this girl. So you need to man the fuck up, and be there for her.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

No more drinking all night and definitely no more drugs, even prescription.

JACK

It was a one time thing. I swear.

EMMA

This isn't a game Jack. If you can't do this you need to say something now.

JACK

I'm good. I promise

EMMA

Okay good, because she has an ultrasound appointment tomorrow afternoon and you're taking her.

JACK

Wait, what? Can't you take her? You know about all this stuff. I have no idea what I'm doing.

EMMA

You don't need to know. All you need to know is that at 3 o'clock Lily has an appointment and you're going to be taking her. She showed up on your doorstep, not mine.

(softens)

She was looking for her dad. That's you. So start acting like it.

JACK

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to dump all this on you I just -

EMMA

Don't worry about it. Just, get your shit together.

Her eyes flick to where the coke had been in his mustache.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Come on. She's excited about her new outfits. Now get in there, smile, and tell her that she looks pretty.

Emma pulls the door open.

76

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - DAY

76

Jack enters the living room and stops, stunned to see a radiant Lily waiting in a yellow sundress.

LILY  
What do you think?

EMMA  
You look amazing.

LILY  
I don't look silly? I feel huge.

JACK  
No, you really look beautiful.

LILY  
Thanks.

Emma stands back, giving them a moment.

EMMA  
Good news sweetie, Jack is going to take you to the ultrasound place tomorrow.

LILY  
Oh, alright.

JACK  
What time is the appointment?

EMMA  
Three.

LILY  
Is that okay? If you have plans I can totally go by myself. It's no big deal.

JACK  
No, no plans. I'd like to go. Could be fun.

LILY  
Okay cool.

EMMA  
Alright, I'd better be going.  
(to Lily)  
I had fun today. We're going to have to go shopping again before the baby comes.

LILY

Yeah for sure. I had a blast.  
Thanks again for taking me and for  
buying me all this stuff. I feel  
sort of-

EMMA

It was my pleasure.

She gives Lily a hug then takes a step toward the stairs.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Alright, you guys have fun  
tomorrow. The place is in the north  
end and finding parking might be a  
bitch. Text me and let me know how  
it goes. I want to see the  
pictures.

LILY

I will for sure.

EMMA

Alright, see ya.

Jack and Lily listen as Emma leaves. They look at each other,  
not sure what to say.

FADE TO:

77 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

77

Emma snores softly. Matty stares at Blythe's card. He  
crumples it, reconsiders, then grabs his phone to text her.

**TEXT MESSAGE: Hey, Blythe. It's Matty from the comedy brunch.  
I was wondering when would be a good time to come by.**

He hits send. Before he can close the screen, she immediately  
starts typing back. Matty anxiously watches the "... " bubble.

His phone dings, and he quickly silences it, turning it away  
from Emma. He checks that she's still asleep, then reads it.

**TEXT MESSAGE: Hey Matty! How about tomorrow night? I have an  
open slot at 10:00PM**

Matty hesitates, glancing at Emma, then quickly types.

**TEXT MESSAGE: Sounds good. See you then**

He hits send and turns off his phone. Matty exhales, staring at the ceiling.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

78 INT. ULTRASOUND PLACE, WAITING ROOM -- DAY

78

Jack and Lily sit nervously in the waiting room, surrounded by other expecting couples. Jack leafs through a brochure detailing ultrasound package prices.

JACK

Look at this one. In the platinum package you get both a 2D and 3D look at the baby as well as two dozen pictures. Oh and check this out, they actually record the baby's heartbeat and put it into a stuffed bear... crazy.

Jack doesn't notice the sad, distant look on Lily's face.

JACK (CONT'D)

We should get you this package. That's kinda cool right? The heartbeat bear.

LILY

Yeah, okay cool.

JACK

What's wrong? You don't seem pumped about the heartbeat bear.

Before she can answer, a nurse calls Lily in.

ULTRASOUND TECH

Lily Pendleton?

JACK

That's us.

They both stand up.

79 INT. ULTRASOUND PLACE, EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

79

A large screen on the wall displays the ultrasound.

ULTRASOUND TECH (O.S.)  
See that flicker? That's your  
baby's heartbeat. If I flick this  
switch here you can hear it.

The baby's heartbeat fills the room, erasing Lily's worries.  
She instinctively takes Jack's hand as the ULTRASOUND TECH  
glides the wand over her belly.

JACK  
Can we see in 3D?

ULTRASOUND TECH  
You have to have a pretty good  
black and white image before you  
can get a 3D one. Something is  
blocking the baby's face but I'm  
going to see what I can do here.

Jack's attention drifts to the attractive technician.

ULTRASOUND TECH (CONT'D)  
Ah, it's the umbilical cord. I  
think baby is trying to hide on us.  
Let's see if I can get a better  
angle here. Wait a second. Oh,  
that's the bum. Do you want to know  
the sex?

LILY  
Oh, I don't know.

She looks to Jack for help.

JACK  
Why not?

She nods and looks back to the tech.

LILY  
I guess so, yeah.

ULTRASOUND TECH  
Well it looks like you guys are  
going to be having a girl.

JACK  
Oh, no. I'm not the father. I'm HER  
father, not THE father.

ULTRASOUND TECH  
I'm so sorry. I just assumed. You  
don't look old enough to have a  
teenaged daughter.

JACK  
I know, right?

A moment while Jack relishes in this compliment. Then:

JACK (CONT'D)  
Oh, um, teen pregnancy sort of runs  
in the family.

Lily shoots Jack a disapproving look.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Speaking of too young. You don't  
seem old enough to be a doctor.

The ultrasound tech smiles flirtatiously. Lily is trying to hold it together and failing. They don't notice.

ULTRASOUND TECH  
Well I'm not a doctor, I'm an  
ultrasound technician.

Lily sobs. Tears stream down her face.

JACK  
Shit, are you okay?

LILY  
(through sobs)  
I'm... I'm sorry.

The Ultrasound Tech excuses herself and steps out.

ULTRASOUND TECH  
I'll just give you guys a minute.

JACK  
I'm sorry, flirting is like my  
defense mechanism.

LILY  
It's not that.

JACK  
Well then, what's wrong?

LILY  
I don't know.

JACK  
Hey, it's okay. Can I give you a  
hug?

She nods, and Jack embraces her, rocking her gently. Her crying subsides. She sniffs, looking down at his shirt, now wet with ultrasound gel.

LILY

I got ultrasound goo all over your shirt.

Jack glances down and smiles.

JACK

So you did.

LILY

I'm sorry.

JACK

Don't be, it's fine. What's a little ultrasound goo between friends.

(she laughs)

Oh, we have a smile. Why don't I call her back in and we can finish up and the go get some cheesecake.

LILY

What? Why cheesecake?

JACK

I dunno. Why not cheesecake? Cheesecake makes everything better.

Lily laughs.

FADE TO:

80

EXT. FUTURE BISTRO -- DAY

80

The bustling bakery's patio is full. Jack and Lily, smiling and chatting, are served two giant slices of cheesecake.

JACK

Try that and tell me it's not the best cheesecake you've ever had.

Lily cuts the tip off her slice with a fork, popping it into her mouth. Her eyes roll up in mock ecstasy.

LILY

Mmmm.

JACK

See! So good right?

She finishes chewing, swallows, and gives him a fleeting smile. Her eyes quickly drop to her plate.

LILY

Can I ask you something sort of personal?

JACK

Of course. What's up?

LILY

Well, that thing you said about teen pregnancy running in the family?

JACK

I'm so sorry about that. Sometimes the stupidest shit just comes out of my mouth.

LILY

No, it's fine. I know you were just kidding. It's just... How much do you know about your birth mother?

JACK

Oh, um, not much actually. She was young when she had me. Around fifteen. She was from the city. Might still live here for all I know.

LILY

You don't ever wonder about her?

JACK

What good could possibly come of that.

(realizing)

No, I mean... this... this is great. I mean for me... at that time. To be honest, no, not really. I just figured she had her reasons. Plus after going through it myself I know it's not an easy decision.

LILY

You don't want to know about her? Like, you're not curious at all?

JACK

No, but I'm like that. I'm sort of an out of sight out of mind kinda guy. Were you curious about me?

LILY

Well, yeah, but I've always been able to find some things about you online. So I've always kind of known what you were up to. All I know about my mother is her name. I don't think she's on social media, or she has crazy privacy setting or something.

JACK

Ahh, you want to know about Noelle.

LILY

Well yeah, kinda.

JACK

Alright. What would you like to know?

LILY

I don't know. What was she like?

JACK

Where to start. Well, she's funny. Sort of a goofball actually. She's beautiful, like drop dead model gorgeous. Tall, like 5'10. Her eyes, she has amazing blue eyes that kind of change in different lighting. Actually, you want to know what she looks like? Look in the mirror. You're her spitting image.

LILY

Really?

JACK

Oh yeah, it's actually the first thing I noticed about you. You got my skin tone, everything else is all her.

(Lily starts crying)

Shit I'm sorry. I didn't mean to upset you again.

LILY

No, it's not your fault. I'm actually really happy. It's stupid. I've just wondered for so long, and to hear you... Ugh! These fucking hormones!

JACK  
So, what about you? Tell me about yourself.

LILY  
I love painting. I love all art really, but for me it's painting.

JACK  
Painting? What, like portraits? Still life? Abstract?

LILY  
Actually I've been really into street art lately.

JACK  
Like Banksy?

LILY  
I mean he's cool but I'm talking like more old school traditional stuff. Graffiti.

JACK  
(smirks)  
Like tagging? You go out tagging?

LILY  
Not recently, obviously.

JACK  
No shit? Where's your stuff?

LILY  
Finish your cheesecake and I'll show you.

Jack laughs.

FADE TO:

81 EXT. TORONTO, VARIOUS, (MONTAGE) -- DAY

81

-- Lily and Jack walking down different streets looking at street art.

-- They explore Kensington market. Lily points out some art on a stop sign.

-- They explore graffiti covered allies.

(MONTAGE ENDS)

FADE TO:

82

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- EVENING

82

Jack is in the kitchen making popcorn. Lily sits on the ground in front of Jack's DVD collection.

LILY

These are all dusty. When's the last time you watched one?

JACK

Oh god, probably like a year, maybe more. I tend to stream movies, and I have almost as many that I've bought digitally.

Jack comes over with a bowl of popcorn and sits on the couch.

LILY

Why even keep these then?

JACK

I guess I'm kind of a hoarder, but only for DVD's. There's a few there that you can't get digitally. Kids, The Night Flyer, that's a great King adaptation. His short stories make the best movies.

LILY

Let's watch it. I love scary movies.

(she looks under his TV)

Do you even have a DVD player?

JACK

No, actually.

They laugh as she joins him on the couch, glancing at the framed Hemingway posters.

LILY

You know, for a movie guy, it's sort of weird that you only have posters for books.

JACK

I love Hemingway and it's so on the nose when cinephiles have Citizen Kane and Sunset Boulevard posters on display.

LILY

Because turn of the 19th century authors are so much less pretentious.

JACK

(chuckles)

Hey, watch it. Have you even read any Hemingway? Do they even teach that to you Gen-Zers these days or is it all Twilight and Hunger Games?

LILY

I actually have, smarty pants, I had to read A Farewell to Arms in ninth grade.

JACK

And?

LILY

And what?

JACK

And what did you think?

LILY

Honestly... I hated it.

JACK

WHAT?!

LILY

I hated the ending. We go through this whole story just to have the girl and the baby die in the end. That's depressing.

JACK

That's life. That's what makes that novel so brave.

LILY

Brave?

JACK

Yes, brave. It's real. When Henry falls in love with Katherine, it comes out of nowhere. That's how life works. The things that really change you always come out of left field. Happy endings are cheap. You follow any love story long enough and it'll end in tragedy. Hemingway was brave enough to show that. It's all about deciding where you stop telling the story. What you omit.

Lily listens intently, tears welling in her eyes. Jack, engrossed in his words, doesn't notice their effect on her.

JACK (CONT'D)

He could have ended it when they were happy and skiing in Switzerland, or he could have written an epilogue where we find out that Henry went home to America, remarried, had a family and lived "happily ever after", but he didn't. The baby is stillborn, Katherine bleeds out, and Henry is left walking back to his hotel, alone in the rain. Honestly, I think ultimately that's how all of our stories end. Walking alone into the darkness.

(realizes she's crying)

Shit, I'm sorry.

LILY

No, don't be. You're right.

JACK

No I'm being a cynical asshole. Come here.

(hugs her)

Why don't we watch a comedy or something light?

LILY

Okay.

JACK

Do you want to try something new, or a classic maybe.

LILY

Dealer's choice.

JACK

Okay, I've got an idea. Are you one of those over sensitive and politically correct kind of Gen-Z kids or...

LILY

(laughs)  
Me? Fuck no.

JACK

Well goddamn. You really are my kid aren't you.

Jack grabs the remote and starts clicking. The sound of their conversation fades away as we transition.

LATER --

The movie ends, credits roll. Lily heads off to bed.

LILY

Thank you. Today was fun. Most fun I've had in a while actually.

JACK

Me too. You don't have to thank me. It was my pleasure.

She shuts the bedroom door behind her. Jack flops back onto the couch, drained. His hands slide into his pockets, then freeze. He pulls out the vial of coke, staring at it for a beat. With sudden resolve, he sits up, ready to dump it out, but his reflection in the dark TV stops him short.

JACK (CONT'D)

You piece of shit.

His eyes flick to the bedroom door, then down to the ultrasound bag lying between the chair and end table. The heartbeat bear peeks out at him. As if in a trance, he reaches out and picks it up.

Jack sits on the couch, the bear in one hand, the vial of coke in the other. He squeezes the bear, and the sound of a baby's heartbeat fills the silent room. A smile spreads across his face, then falters as he notices the vial in his other hand. His eyes well with tears. Abruptly, Jack jumps up, marches to the kitchen sink, and dumps the coke down the drain.

FADE TO:

83 EXT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, FRONT YARD - EVENING 83

84 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - EVENING 84

Emma, tired and uncomfortable, yawns and stretches while working on her laptop at the kitchen table. Matty listens to headphones in an armchair.

EMMA

I think I'm gonna call it a night.

(no response)

Babe?

Still nothing. She gets up, walks behind him, and pecks him on the cheek, startling him.

MATTY

Oh, hey, what's up.

EMMA

I said I'm going to bed. Are you coming?

MATTY

Uh, you go ahead.

EMMA

Really?

MATTY

Yeah, I've been having a hard time falling asleep. I think I'm going to stay up for a bit and listen to my book. Maybe go for a walk to get out some of that restless energy.

EMMA

Is everything okay?

MATTY

Yeah, of course. I think I just have a lot on my mind with Jack and the baby coming. You know.

EMMA

Okay, I love you. Goodnight.

MATTY

Love you too.

Emma exits to the bedroom. Matty waits until the door shuts, then glances back, checking his phone: 8:45.

LATER --

The clock on the microwave reads 9:15. Matty gets up and quietly creeps upstairs. We hear the front door open and pan around just in time to see it closing again. We hear Matty's car start and back out of the driveway.

85 EXT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, PARKING LOT - NIGHT 85

Matty pulls the car into the parking lot and finds a spot.

86 INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT 86

The packed club buzzes with a rowdy audience. Matty enters, looking around with a mixture of shock, nervousness, and excitement. On stage a comic is mid set and killing it.

BLYTHE (O.S.)

Matty!

Matty turns to find Blythe working the door. He gives her a confused look. She hugs him. Surprised, Matty returns a half-hearted hug.

MATTY

You work the door at your own club?

BLYTHE

I like to greet people. Come on,  
I'll introduce you to the guys.

She motions for Matty to follow her and leads him back stage.

87 INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 87

Thain and several other comics sit around in the green room chatting and sipping drinks. Thain sees Matty and jumps up.

THAIN

Matty! Guys this is my buddy I was  
telling you about.

BLYTHE

Well, that saves me the  
introduction.

(to Matty)

How are you feeling? Are you ready  
to go or do you need some time to-

MATTY

No, I'm good. Sooner the better actually.

BLYTHE

Okay, you're up next.

CUT TO:

88 INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT 88

The comic wraps up their set. The audience applauds and the host takes the stage.

THE HOST

Alright everybody, we have some fresh meat for you. Introducing for the first time here at The Front, Mr. Matty Castello!

Matty takes the stage and starts his set. We stay with him as he kills with the first couple jokes, then transition into a montage. (MONTAGE BEGINS)

FADE TO:

89 INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 89

Matty celebrates with the other comics. They chat casually and joke with each other. (FRENCH SCENE, ALLOW THE COMICS TO IMPROV) Matty is in his element, he has everyone laughing.

FADE TO:

90 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 90

Matty creeps in, easing onto the bed beside Emma. The bedside clock shows that it's 1:45 AM.

(NOTE: We will see three weeks pass in this montage. I'll list several events per each location that we will find the right order in the edit. All of this will be intercut with Matty and other comics doing stand up over several nights.)

91 INT. JACK'S PLACE, VARIOUS -- DAY 91

-- Lily cooks several different meals. She sets different gourmet looking plates side by side on the breakfast bar.

-- Jack and Lily eat together, chatting, bonding.

-- Jack sets up an easel and workspace for Lily under the window, facing the street.

-- Lily painting a few different canvas, using mixed media, blending oil and spray paints. (Wearing a breathing mask)

-- Her work space fills up with paintings.

-- Lily phone rings, it's her mom, she ignores the call.

-- Jack looks at all her art looking both proud and amazed.

-- Jack scrolls Kori's instagram, liking all of her pictures. He comments fire emojis on one of her in a bikini.

-- Jack sits on the couch grinning as he messages Kori, while Lily paints in the background.

INT. KORI'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- DAY

-- Kori sits on her couch texting with Jack as he daughter plays with blocks on the carpet.

INT. KORI'S PLACE, BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Kori lies in bed talking to Jack on FaceTime. (We can't hear what they're saying but it's clearly flirty)

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- NIGHT

Jack is lying on the couch, FaceTiming with Kori.

92

INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, VARIOUS - DAY

92

-- Emma & Matty look through furniture catalogues together.

-- Matty has dinner with Emma's family, never getting a word in.

-- Matty gives Emma a foot rub while she reads pages of her book to him.

-- Matty gets a text, it's from Blythe.

**TEXT MESSAGE: Hey, I had some thoughts on your set. Let's discuss tonight.**

He makes sure Emma isn't paying attention then quickly responds.

-- Matty sneaks out of the house several times.

-- Matty gets a text from Blythe, turns his phone from Emma and she notices. She looks concerned but shakes it off.

-- Matty sneaks back in several times. The last time, Emma notices. She doesn't confront him, only goes back to sleep.

INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, OFFICE - DAY

-- Blythe sits in her office, feet up on the desk, texting with Matty. (Several different days/outfits)

INT. DRAMA ROOM - DAY

-- Matty workshops scenes with the kids.

-- Evan and Ani practice a scene from Romeo and Juliet.

-- Tivon, Sarah, and Jay are doing an improv activity. Matty's watching but gets a text from Blythe and steps away to respond.

93

INT. BEGINNINGS FAMILY SERVICES, OFFICE - DAY

93

Jack & Lily sit across a desk from a SOCIAL WORKER.

SOCIAL WORKER

Here, why don't you take these home.

She slides a stack of binders across the desk.

LILY

What are they?

SOCIAL WORKER

They're binders that we have couples put together to tell you a little about who they are and help you make a decision about who you want raising your baby.

INT. LAMAZE CLASS - DAY

-- Jack, Lily, Emma, & Matty all attend a lamaze class together.

94 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- DAY 94

-- Jack and Lily going through binders, tossing some and putting others in a maybe pile.

-- Images from some of the binders, different families' pitches to young mothers to give them their babies.

-- Jack passes her the binders and she gets to work reading them. Lily becomes overwhelmed by the task at hand.

95 INT. YOGA STUDIO -- DAY 95

-- Emma & Lily do prenatal yoga together.

96 EXT. YOGA STUDIO, STREET - DAY 96

-- Emma & Lily walk down the street holding their mats, sipping water, and chatting.

EXT. BITTER N' TWISTED PIZZA, ESTABLISHING SHOT -- EVENING

INT. BITTER N' TWISTED PIZZA -- EVENING

-- Jack, Lily, Emma, and Matty as well as a group of other guests are taking a pizza making class with the head chef.

-- They all try tossing the dough and fail miserably. They joke laugh, and have a good time

LATER --

The foursome sit around the table eating their pizza creations. Emma and Lily are mid conversation.

LILY  
No, you're kidding.

EMMA  
I'm not kidding.

LILY  
Ricardo Ávila, THE Ricardo Ávila,  
is your step-father!

Jack can't help but roll his eyes.

EMMA  
The one and only.

97 INT. EMMA & MATTY'S HOUSE -- DAY 97

-- Emma, Matty, Jack, and Lily are shown around Emma and Matty's home by the Contractor. It's coming together but is still far from done.

-- He shows them the nursery, it's nearly finished and Emma and Lily get excited as they look around looks around.

-- Jack watches Lily with a look of concern.

98 INT. DINER -- DAY 98

Jack & Matty are in their booth, mid meal and conversation.

MATTY

You seem good, dude.

JACK

I am. I'm feeling great.

MATTY

You're staying clean?

JACK

You don't need to worry. I'm done with that.

MATTY

You working the steps or whatever?

JACK

No, don't even have to. It's like something clicked. I don't even want it anymore.

LATER --

JACK (CONT'D)

You should see her paintings man. They're fucking amazing. I know all parents probably think their kid is a prodigy but seriously. They're good.

LATER --

JACK (CONT'D)

It's crazy that we're both going through the same thing at the same time.

MATTY

Well, I mean it's not exactly the same thing dude. I'm a guy about to have a baby with his wife. You're a 38 year old grandpa helping his pregnant teenaged daughter find a home for her unborn baby.

JACK

I told you, watch it with the grandpa shit.

LATER --

JACK (CONT'D)

I've actually been talking to Kori a lot lately.

MATTY

Really, I thought the single mom thing was a deal breaker?

JACK

I don't know. I mean, I'm not saying it isn't but, hanging with Lily's made me realize it could be cool.

Matty sits back and gives him a look.

JACK (CONT'D)

What?

MATTY

I'm really proud of you dude.

JACK

Ahh, don't.

MATTY

No, for real. I am.

LATER --

Matty's phone buzzes on the table. It's a text from Blythe. He scoops it up quickly but Jack saw.

JACK

Who's Blythe?

Matty hesitates.

MATTY

My boss, sort of.

JACK

What like the principal?

MATTY

No, she own The Front Comedy club.  
I've been doing stand-up again.

JACK

Man! That's fucking awesome! When  
are you doing it next? We should  
all go and see you.

MATTY

Emma doesn't know about it so we  
can't-

JACK

What do you mean Emma doesn't know?

MATTY

I go out after she falls asleep.

JACK

What the fuck? Why?

MATTY

I just... I don't know. I don't  
want to stress her out.

JACK

Why would this stress her out?

MATTY

Look, can we drop it? Just don't  
say anything, alright. I don't want  
her to know.

JACK

Fine. It's stupid but fine. Secret  
is safe with me.

99

INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB -- NIGHT

99

Matty finishes a set and the crowd erupts in applause. He  
takes a bow and walks off stage. Blythe stands in the back,  
clapping, looking at Matty with pride. (MONTAGE ENDS)

FADE TO:

100 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - MORNING

100

Lily sits on the couch flipping through movies on the Apple TV looking sad. In the kitchen Jack is working on making mugs of hot chocolate.

JACK

You want marshmallows?

Lily's phone rings, it's her mother, her thumb hovers over the button to send it to voicemail.

JACK (CONT'D)

Lil?

Lily, looks up at Jack.

LILY

Sorry I have to take this.

She hurries into the bedroom and closes the door behind her.

Jack stares at the door, considering, then takes a few quiet steps closer to eavesdrop on Lily through the door.

LILY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I really wish I could but I already have plans with the girls. Tomorrow I'm busy too. I know. I know, and I'm sorry mom. Okay, I promise I'll call you. Okay. I love you. Thanks.

Jack hurries away from the door just in time. Lily steps out of the bedroom with tears in her eyes and sits on the couch.

JACK

What's up?  
(sits beside her)  
Are you okay?

LILY

It's nothing.

JACK

Well, it's clearly not nothing.

LILY

Ughhh, it's stupid. I don't know why I'm crying.

JACK

Come on, what's up?

LILY  
It's my birthday.

JACK  
Oh shit. I'm so sorry. Fuck, I'm  
such an asshole.

LILY  
I'm not upset you didn't know.

JACK  
I should have remembered. I mean  
shit, I was there.

LILY  
That was eighteen years ago. I'm  
really not upset about that. It's  
just, that was my mom. She wanted  
to come to the city and take me out  
for dinner. I've never spent a  
birthday without my parents. I  
mean, don't get me wrong or  
whatever, I love being here and  
hanging out with you. But I miss  
them. I haven't seen them in  
months. I could tell my mom was so  
disappointed. It killed me. Cause I  
really want to see her too.

JACK  
Come here.

Jack opens his arms and wraps her in a big hug. Jack holds a  
little longer, then tries to lighten the mood.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Now we're not going to spend your  
eighteenth birthday sitting around  
crying are we? We need to do  
something!

LILY  
I don't feel like going anywhere.

JACK  
That's fine, we can stay in, hang  
out. Why don't we invite Matty and  
Emma over?

LILY  
(brightens)  
Okay, I can make dinner.

JACK

I was going to suggest take out.

LILY

I know exactly what I'll make. Emma should bring Ricardo.

JACK

Let's not go too far now. Not sure I want that guy in my place. Last time I saw him he was walking around with his junk hanging out.

Lily gives Jack an exaggerated puppy dog look.

LILY

Please, I really want to meet him. He's kind of a big deal in the art world.

JACK

So I'm told.

LILY

Come on, it's my birthday.

JACK

(smiles playfully)  
Fine.

LILY

Yay! I'll text Emma.

Lily jumps up, grabs her phone and texts Emma.

JACK

I'm just going to run out for a bit. I need to pick you up a birthday present.

LILY

You don't have to get me something.

JACK

Don't be ridiculous. I'll be right back.

Jack grabs his keys and heads for the door.

CUT TO:

101 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- MORNING 101

Matty and Emma are eating breakfast. Emma's just reading Lily's text when her phone starts to ring. It's Jack.

EMMA  
Jack's calling me.

Matty raises an eyebrow. Emma answers and puts it on speaker.

EMMA (CONT'D) MATTY  
Hey Jack, what's going on? Hey Dude.

JACK (V.O.)  
It's Lily's birthday.

EMMA  
Yeah, she was just texting about coming over. We'll be there. My mom can't make it but Ricardo said he'd love--

JACK (V.O.)  
Ya ya, that's great, awesome --

102 INT. CADILLAC -- MORNING 102

Jack drives while talking via hands free.

JACK  
What do I buy her? I have no idea what to get an 18 year old girl. Like jewelry or an iPad?

EMMA (V.O.)  
You don't need to spend a ton of money, just take a minute and think about it. You have a few hours. Don't just buy her expensive crap. Get her something from the heart.

JACK  
Hmmm, I actually have an idea.  
(checks watch)  
If I go now I should beat traffic.

103 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - MORNING 103

Emma and Matty exchange a look.

MATTY

What do you mean beat the traffic?  
Where are you going?

JACK (V.O.)

Getting on the highway. I'll see  
you guys tonight.

The call ends and they exchange another look.

104 EXT. HIGHWAY, AERIALS, VARIOUS - MORNING 104

-- The Cadillac merges onto the highway, Niagara bound.  
-- The Cadillac passes the city limits.  
-- Close on Jack's phone as GPS, tells him where to go.  
-- The Cadillac crosses the Hamilton Skyway bridge.  
-- The Cadillac passing the Welcome to Grimsby sign.  
-- Jack pulls the Cadillac off the highway and onto Main St.  
-- Jack looks at the shops and houses as he drives by.

106 EXT. JACK'S CHILDHOOD HOME, CADILLAC - MORNING 106

He looks at the empty driveway and makes a decision. He hops  
out of the Cadillac, fumbling through his keys to find an  
old, tarnished one. He hurries up the driveway, throws a  
quick look over his shoulder, unlocks the door and steps  
inside.

\*  
\*

107 INT. JACK'S CHILDHOOD HOME, FRONT HALLWAY - MORNING 107

As Jack closes the door behind him he spins around to find  
his elderly father, (JERRY) looking surprised and dressed in  
pink Bermuda shorts and an open blue Hawaiian shirt, peeking  
out from the kitchen.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

JERRY

Jack?

\*  
\*

JACK

Hey Dad.

\*  
\*

JERRY

What are you doing here? Come on  
in! I was just juicing.

\*  
\*  
\*

JACK

What?

JERRY

Come on, you gotta try this, orange  
ginger and mint. It's my best yet.

Jerry turns and walks back toward the kitchen, Jack hesitates then steps inside, taking in the familiar surroundings. He slips off his shoes and follows his dad into the kitchen.

JACK

Where's your car? I wasn't sure if-

He's cut off by the sound of the juicer.

108

INT. JACK'S CHILDHOOD HOME, KITCHEN - MORNING

108

Jack turns into the kitchen and sees Jerry at the counter working the juicer.

JERRY

What was that?

JACK

Where's your car dad?

JERRY

Oh, it's in the garage. I've been  
trying to walk more lately.  
(nods to the juicer)  
Living clean. Doctor's idea.

Jack stands awkwardly in the doorway. Jerry gestures toward the kitchen table.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Go on sit.

Jack sits.

Jerry pours two large glasses of the juice.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Well this is a surprise. How long  
has it been? At least a year.

He brings juice over and joins Jack, placing a glass in front of him and sipping his own.

JACK

Yeah, it's been a while.

JACK (CONT'D)

So, how have you been? What have you been up to? \*

JERRY

I've been good, what about you? Do you have a lady in your life?

JACK

Still a bachelor.

JERRY

What about that girl? You know the one. Laura I think her name was. With all the tattoos.

JACK

Laura's was just a friend.

JERRY

Just a friend? You seemed awfully close at Katie's wedding.

JACK

A friend with benefits.

JERRY

Ugh, you're getting too old to have girls who are just friends. You're no George Clooney you know.

JACK

George Clooney got married.

JERRY

There you go. Even Clooney has settled down. You think you're better than George Clooney?

JACK

No, I don't think I'm better than George Clooney. Dad-

JERRY

Your mother, she wanted nothing more than to be a grandmother.

Jack looks down, unable to meet his dad's eyes.

JACK

She kind of was.

JERRY

That's different and you know it. I mean a real grandmother. One that spoils the kids and gives them candies and toys behind your back. The kind that always shows up with a big present even when there's no occasion.

(stops, thinks)

More than anything she wanted you to have a family and be happy.

JACK

Never thought I'd be much of a father, to be honest.

JERRY

Oh son, are you kidding? You would have been an amazing father. Whether you choose to see it or not, you're a good person. A great person.

JACK

You think?

JERRY

I don't think, I know. That's why I nag, I don't like to see you alone like this. Your mother, she's looking down on you and I know she still wants to see you happy and with a beautiful young wife.

Both sit in silence for a moment. Jack finally sips his juice and grimaces slightly. \*

JERRY (CONT'D)

Why don't we go grab a bite. Chinese maybe?

JACK

Dad, I can't. I'm just stopping by. I actually-

JERRY

Oh, okay, sure.

JACK

I actually have to get something out of my room.

JERRY

Of course. I should have guessed you needed something.

JACK

Come on dad, it's not like that.

JERRY

It's fine. Wouldn't expect you to drive out here just to visit your dad. Anything that's yours is in the closet in the spare room. Go ahead and get what you came for.

Jerry gets up and walks into the living room.

Jack hears him sit down and turn on the TV, Jack waits a beat then gets up, goes *over to the sink* and *dumps* his juice. \*

109 INT. JACK'S CHILDHOOD HOME, BEDROOM - MORNING 109

Jack enters his old bedroom, a smile tugging at his lips as he shakes his head. It's a time capsule of his teenage years.

He opens the closet, revealing three labeled boxes in the back corner. He crouches, extracting the bottom box.

He carries the box to the bed. Sifting through the contents, he smiles as he finds what he's looking for. He pulls out a worn, nondescript book, its contents a mystery for now.

110 EXT. GRIMSBY, CADILLAC -- DAY 110

-- Jack drives away from his dad's place.

-- He signals to get onto the Toronto bound QEW but then at the last minute changes his mind and swerves back into traffic and drives across the overpass to the other side of the highway.

111 EXT. KORI'S PLACE, CADILLAC -- DAY 111

Jack pulls the Cadillac to the curb across from Kori's house. He sees her through her kitchen window and slumps in his seat. He watches Kori bake and sing in the kitchen. She sways, her lips moving to a silent melody.

Kori looks in his direction, and Jack ducks down. Peeking over the dashboard, he sees that she is looking at him.

JACK

Fuck.

He fumbles, starts the car, slams the gas, and peels away. Glancing back, he sees Kori watching him from her porch.

112 INT. CADILLAC -- DAY

112

The Cadillac speeds back toward the highway.

JACK

Shit! Idiot.

His phone buzzes in the cup holder, startling him. It's Kori, sending message after message. He sends the call to voicemail then merges onto the highway towards Toronto.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

Knock knock knock.

113 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - EVENING

113

Lily throws open the door to reveal Matty, Emma and Ricardo. Lily has a huge smile on her face.

LILY

Hey! Come in!

MATTY

Happy birthday!

Emma gives Lily a big hug.

EMMA

Yeah happy birthday! Look at you. You look amazing.

LILY

Thanks.

EMMA

Lily, this is Ricardo. Ricardo, Lily.

Lily eagerly offers her hand.

RICARDO

Pleasure to meet you.

LILY

The pleasure is all mine.  
(gestures with her head)  
Come in.

They all start to climb the stairs.

LILY (CONT'D)

I'm such a huge fan of your work.  
That exhibit you did on touch and  
reaction was amazing. Changed my  
life.

RICARDO

Ah, you are already wise times ten  
compared to your father. You are  
too kind. Emma tells me that you're  
an artist as well.

They reach the top of the stairs.

LILY

I paint a little. I'm going to OCAD  
in the fall.

Jack stands at the breakfast bar waiting to greet them.

JACK

She's fantastic.

RICARDO

Never cut yourself short my dear.  
If you're an artist, say it, and  
say it with pride.

LILY

(smiles, nods)  
Okay, I'm an artist.

RICARDO

Now that's better. How about after  
dinner you show me some of your  
work.

LILY

Oh my god, really? That would be  
amazing.

JACK

I hope you're hungry. Lil has  
prepared one hell of a feast.

LATER --

-- Everyone is seated around the table talking, eating, laughing. (short time-passing montage)

Ricardo says something we don't hear as the montage ends, Jack sits back shaking his head in disagreement.

EMMA

(to Lily)

That was delicious. Thank you for making dinner.

LILY

It was nothing. I like to cook, it was my pleasure.

Emma pulls a gift out from under the table.

EMMA

Guess what! It's present time!

LILY

You guys didn't have to get me anything.

EMMA

Nonsense, go ahead and open it.

Lily tries to contain her excitement as she tears away the colorful wrapping. Her face lights up, it's Ricardo's book.

LILY

Oh my god! It's your new book.

RICARDO

It is, when Emma told me you like my work I had the publisher send me an advanced copy.

LILY

This is so awesome. Thank you so much. I've been looking forward to reading this ever since I heard you were working on it. I can't wait!  
(turns the book to Jack)  
Look, it's signed.

JACK

Would you look at that. Awesome.

EMMA

Why don't you open Jack's gift now?

Jack shifts in his seat.

JACK

Nah, I was going to give it to you later.

EMMA

That's no fun, we all want to see what you got her. Go get it.

JACK

Alright, alright, one second.

Jack pushes his chair back as he gets up and walks over to the closet. With a paper bag in hand he awkwardly makes his way back to the table with the package.

MATTY

Well at least you know he wrapped it himself.

He sits the package in front of Lily.

LILY

What is it?

JACK

Telling you would defeat the purpose of my lazy wrapping job.

Lily opens the paper bag and pulls out a scrapbook. A look of confusion crosses her face, then her eyes well with tears.

Matty and Emma exchange a glance, and Emma looks to Jack for an explanation. He offers only a nervous smile.

EMMA

What is it Hon?

LILY

It's a scrapbook.

She turns it for everyone to see. On the cover was a picture of a very young looking Jack and Noelle holding Lily.

JACK

We didn't have a lot of pictures from the pregnancy, but what we did have, Noelle put together in that book. It's probably the closest thing you could have to a baby book. I just-

(stops, starts again)

I know I never had anything like that from my birth parents and I thought you'd like to have it.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I know it's not like a real present. We can go to the mall tomorrow and I'll buy you something cool. An iPad maybe. Do you have an iPad?

Lily reaches across the table and places her hand over his.

LILY

I love it. Thank you.

JACK

Really?

LILY

It's perfect.

Lily leaps up, embracing Jack in a fierce hug. He's unsure how to react, but then his arms slowly encircle her, returning the embrace.

Matty leans back in his chair, studying Jack. He looks over at Emma who smiles back at him.

EMMA

Lily, why don't you show Ricardo some of your work while we clear the table?

Lily shakes her head in protest.

LILY

No I can help clean up.

EMMA

Not a chance. You already cooked, the three of us can handle it. Go show Ricardo your work. I know he's curious.

(to Ricardo)

Have Lily show you her stuff.

Ricardo gestures to Lily's work station.

RICARDO

Shall we?

The two walk over and take a look at her paintings. Jack watches them go and then cocks an eyebrow at Emma.

JACK

I call drying.

-- They clear the table and start the dishes.

-- Emma washes, while Jack dries and Matty puts away. Emma's talking to Jack but he's not really paying attention, he's watching Lily with pride as she shows Ricardo her work.

Emma stops talking and just looks at Jack with a smirk on her face. Jack finally notices, and does a double take.

JACK (CONT'D)

What?

He realizes Matty is looking at him funny too.

JACK (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you looking at?

MATTY

You're different. You're somehow...

EMMA

More adult.

JACK

What the fuck is that supposed to mean?

MATTY

(laughs)

Dude, don't be a dick. It's not a bad thing.

EMMA

I'm just saying that this is a side of you I've never seen before and I'm liking it.

Matty's phone buzzes, and he steps away to check it. Emma glances at him with concern, then turns back to Jack.

JACK

I don't know about more adult, but

Lily runs over, excited.

LILY

Oh-my-god-guess-what! Ricardo said I can work at his gallery on the weekends in September.

JACK

Oh, wow.

RICARDO

She's a raw talent. I think in time she could really go somewhere...

Matty rejoins the group, a hint of guilt on his face. Emma's eyes flick to Matty for a second then back to Lily.

FADE TO:

114 INT. MATTY'S CAR -- NIGHT 114

Matty drives, Ricardo rides shotgun, and Emma sits in the back. They all drive in silence. Emma stares at Matty in the rearview mirror with a troubled expression.

FADE TO:

115 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - NIGHT 115

Jack and Lily sit on the couch watching a movie, but Lily is distracted. She sits with the scrapbook on her lap, absently flipping back and forth through the pages.

LILY

Do you-

(stops, thinks)

Do you know anything about Noelle?

Like what she does? Is she married?

Does she have kids?

Jack thinks, is about to answer, but not fast enough.

LILY (CONT'D)

I think she's married because when I searched her on Facebook I couldn't find her. And at first I was like, how does someone not have Facebook. Then I realized she's probably married and her last name isn't the same anymore.

(swallows)

Do you think she thinks about me?

JACK

I guarantee she does. Do you want me to see if I can find her on Facebook?

LILY

Really?

JACK

Yeah, I mean, I can't guarantee anything, but it's worth a shot right?

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

We probably have at least a few friends in common, should make it easier to track her down?

Jack grabs his laptop, opens it, and after a few searches finds her profile.

JACK (CONT'D)

Her profile pics aren't private.

Jack hands his laptop to Lily, then heads for the fridge.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'm going to grab a drink. Do you want a soda or juice or something?

LILY

Water please.

Jack grabs a bottle of scotch and pours a glass.

LILY (CONT'D)

Ummmm, someone named Kori is FaceTiming you.

Lily tries to scroll but accidentally clicks accept.

LILY (CONT'D)

Shit I-

Jack's head snaps toward Lily.

KORI

(on FaceTime)

Oh, I think I must have the wrong-

LILY

No, you have the right number. Jack's my birth father.

On the screen Kori's eyes grow large as she realizes who she's talking to.

KORI

Oh wow. Hi. I'm Kori.

Jack runs into the living area, jumps over the couch, and snatches the MacBook away from Lily.

JACK

Kori, hey. Ugh, this is Lily. My daughter.

Lily offers a little wave.

LILY

Hi, I'll give you guys a minute.

Lily hops up and heads to the kitchen. Jack's eyes follow her then flash back to Kori on FaceTime.

JACK

Hey.

KORI

(hushed)

I thought you guys put her up for adoption?

JACK

We did, she's just staying with me for the summer. We're getting to know each other. It's complicated.

KORI

That's actually really nice.

They both smile awkwardly at each other for a moment.

KORI (CONT'D)

So...

JACK

So?

KORI

Are we going to talk about you stalking me this afternoon or...

JACK

Yeah, fuck. I'm sorry about that.

KORI

What were you doing?

JACK

I don't know exactly. I was in town picking something up for Lily's birthday and I just found myself driving to your place. I parked out front, and I wanted to surprise you. Say hello. Then I saw you in your kitchen, baking, and dancing.

KORI

Well, isn't that creepy.

In the kitchen area Lily listens in with a smile on her face.

JACK

Pretty sure you were singing too...

KORI

(clearly liking it)

Oh my God, you are such a creep.

How long were you watching me?

Lily watches from the kitchen, pretending not to eavesdrop.

JACK

Like three minutes, max. I swear.

They laugh.

KORI

Why didn't you just text me and tell me you were in town? I would have loved to see you.

JACK

I don't know. I guess I'm an idiot.

KORI

I guess you are.

There's an awkward pause. Lily breaks the silence.

LILY

Hey, Kori, what are you up to tomorrow. I was just thinking it might be cool if you come to the city and hang out. Jack and I could make you dinner.

KORI

I have my daughter until 7:00 pm, so coming out to the city won't work, but you guys could come here.

LILY

Okay, yeah.

JACK

Sure, okay. Why not.

KORI

Awesome. I'm excited. Be here at 7:30.

JACK

Me too. We'll be there.

Jack smiles, but he looks nervous.

FADE TO:

116 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 116

Matty is fast asleep. Emma lies awake. Matty's phone buzzes, but he doesn't stir. The glowing screen beckons. Hesitantly, Emma tiptoes over to it. A message from Blythe.

**TEXT MESSAGE: "Tomorrow night, 11 pm."**

Emma stares until the screen fades. Matty shifts and she scrambles back to bed, confused and unsure.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

The sounds of the highway.

CUT TO:

117 INT. CADILLAC -- DAY 117

Jack speeds the Cadillac Niagara bound on the QEW. Lily looks him over, she can see how nervous he is.

LILY

So, Kori.

Jack does a double take.

JACK

What?

LILY

You're really freaking out.

JACK

I'm not freaking out.

LILY

Oh, you're freaking the fuck out.  
What is it about this girl?

Jack opens his mouth to lie and then changes his mind.

JACK

Honestly, I'm not exactly sure.  
She's just different.

LILY  
Different how?

JACK  
When I first met her, it was like  
an "at first sight" thing. Like I  
could actually hear the pieces of  
our lives clicking together. I  
looked at her and just thought that  
she was,  
(thinks about it)  
For me. She was just meant for me.  
You know?

LILY  
Awwwww. So what, you guys like  
dated back in the day?

JACK  
No, we never dated. I never even  
asked her out.

LILY  
Why not?

JACK  
Well, first of all I was dating  
your mother when I met her.

LILY  
Really?

JACK  
I actually broke up with Noelle  
like the day after I met Kori  
because I was so into her.

LILY  
Ouch, Mom. What happened?

JACK  
I chickened out and never told her  
how I felt. Got back together with  
Noelle.

LILY  
I can't imagine you being nervous  
to ask a girl out.

JACK  
Well, it's a good thing I didn't or  
you might not exist.

Lily makes a face, considering what he's said.

118 EXT. KORI'S PLACE, DRIVEWAY - DAY 118

Jack pulls the Cadillac into Kori's driveway and cuts the engine. He hesitates for a moment, but Lily is already out of the car, heading towards the house. She rings the door bell.

Jack hurries after her, and reaches the steps just as Kori pulls the door open.

KORI  
Hey guys.

Kori Notices Lily's belly and quickly looks away.

KORI (CONT'D)  
Come in.

Lily and Jack follow Kori into the house.

119 INT. KORI'S PLACE, VARIOUS - DAY 119

(MONTAGE)

-- Kori gives Jack and Lily a tour. Every once in a while she glances at Lily's pregnant belly, clearly **surprised**.

-- Kori and Jack joke and laugh.

-- Kori walks out of the kitchen and sets plates of **fancy looking pasta** in front of Lily and Jack.

-- They all talk, eat, and enjoying themselves

(MONTAGE ENDS)

120 INT. KORI'S PLACE, DINING ROOM - EVENING 120

Kori sets a beautiful cake down in the center of the table.

KORI  
It's a S'mores cake.

Jack's eyes light up.

JACK  
Are you serious?

KORI  
It's your favorite right?

JACK  
How do you even know that?

KORI

I don't know. You said it once, I remembered.

JACK

You're amazing.

Kori smiles as she cuts a slice of cake. Lily sits back and watches Kori and Jack smiling at each other as she dishes up the cake. A mischievous grin crosses her face.

LILY

So, did you know my dad dumped my mom for you back in the day.

Jack and Kori both snap their heads to Lily, shocked and embarrassed.

KORI

What? Really? When?

JACK

Like the day after we met.

KORI

Seriously? You broke up with Noelle for me?

JACK

I did.

KORI

I had no idea you liked me back then.

JACK

What? I was so into you.

Lily sits back admiring her handy work.

KORI

Why didn't you do something then?

JACK

(shrugs)  
Fear of rejection.

Kori shoots him a skeptical look.

Lily's phone starts to ring, halting the conversation. Her face drops when she sees it's her mom calling.

LILY

Sorry. I'll be right back.

Lily's already up and headed for the door.

KORI  
Oh, okay.

LILY  
BRB.

The door opens and shuts and Lily's gone. Kori turns back to Jack, still smiling but with concern in her eyes.

KORI  
Jack, what's going on?

JACK  
What do you mean?

KORI  
She's pregnant.

JACK  
Yeah...

KORI  
Jack, you brought your pregnant teenaged daughter that (as far as I understood) you gave up for adoption, over to my place for dinner. Where are her parents? What's going on?

JACK  
She showed up at my door a few weeks ago asking for my help.

KORI  
Why aren't her parents helping her?

JACK  
They don't know.

KORI  
How could they possibly not know? They're her parents they should know what's going on.

JACK  
I'm her parent too. She came to me because she wanted help with the whole adoption thing.

Kori reaches across the table and places her hand over his.

KORI

Jack, I know you're her birth father and I can see how much you care, but you weren't there waking up with her through the night. You didn't check under her bed for monsters. You didn't rock her to sleep or rub her back when she was sick. She needs her parents. I can understand why she's scared, but--

The door handle turns. They both sit up quickly when they hear the front door open. Lily comes in with the dog.

LILY

You better not have eaten my cake.

KORI

Everything okay?

LILY

Oh yeah, it was nothing.

The sound fades as Lily joins them at the table. Jack tries to get back into it but it's clear the wind has been knocked out of his sails.

FADE TO:

121 INT. CADILLAC -- NIGHT

121

Jack cruises home deep in thought. Lily also stares out the window lost in thought. Lily looks over at Jack.

LILY

So when are you going to see her again?

Jack looks at her, slightly confused.

JACK

What?

LILY

Are you guys like a thing now?

JACK

We literally just left, I haven't had a whole lot of time to think about it.

LILY

What's to think about?

JACK

I-

LILY

You guys are like, meant to be.  
It's stupid that you've even waited  
as long as you have.

JACK

What's with you and pushing Kori  
and I together?

LILY

(shrugs)  
I don't know.

JACK

I sort of feel like you do.

Lily considers, then seems to come to a decision.

LILY

Okay, so, this is kinda dumb, but  
before I showed up on your door  
step, I sort of had this vision of  
me coming into your life and like  
helping you track down Noelle, then  
you guys rekindling your love and  
living happily ever after. I  
imagined that you'd help me and I'd  
help you that way. I saw it like a  
story, like a messed up version of  
The Parent Trap. Have you seen that  
movie?

JACK

The original and the remake. I even  
saw the rip off version with the  
Olsen twins.

LILY

I know it's sort of silly but  
sometimes I like to think of life  
as a story.

JACK

It's not silly at all. I've always  
done that too. It's crazy how much  
we have in common.

LILY

It is and it isn't.

JACK

Guess it's that nature, nurture thing. How much of me you inherited without being raised by me.

Lily thinks for a second. Something clearly on her mind.

LILY

What was it like? Giving me up?

JACK

Awful. Lily, I... I'm a seriously broken man. Or was anyway... I'm not going to sugar coat it because you're going to find out for yourself very soon, kid. Giving you up broke me.

LILY

Do you regret it?

JACK

No, not at all. I see you now and I know I made the right decision.

LILY

I'm scared.

JACK

I know, but everything is going to be okay.

Lily takes it in.

LILY

Knock on wood, right.

JACK

You don't see a lot of wood in cars these days.

LILY

Guess you don't.

They drive in silence for a moment. The clock on the dash board reads 10:13 PM.

FADE TO:

122 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 122

Emma lies facing away from Matty, eyes closed. Matty slips out of bed, tiptoes out the door. Emma's eyes shoot open. She listens as Matty goes out the front door.

She jumps out of bed and quickly gets dressed then opens her phone to the "Find My" app. Making a decision she walks out of the room.

123 INT. EMMA'S PARENT'S PLACE, FRONT DOOR - NIGHT 123

Emma steps out of their room, heading for the door, but stops when Ricardo calls to her from the top of the stairs.

RICARDO

Emma? Where are you going?

EMMA

I'm not sure.

He walks down the stairs, and she turns to him, eyes welling with tears.

RICARDO

What's wrong?

EMMA

Matty. He's been going out at night. Sneaking out I guess.

RICARDO

You're sure?

EMMA

I looked at his phone last night. He's meeting a women named Blythe. I just... I need to know what's going on.

RICARDO

I'll drive.

CUT TO:

124 EXT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, RICARDO'S CAR - NIGHT 124

-- Emma looks at her phone acting as the navigator. Ricardo drives, throwing concerned glances at Emma.

-- Ricardo's sports car navigates the city streets.

125 EXT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, PARKING LOT - NIGHT 125

-- They pull up to The Front Comedy Club.

Emma looks out the window more confused than ever.

EMMA  
What is this?

RICARDO  
Are you sure this is the right  
address?

EMMA  
(checks phone)  
It says he's here.

Ricardo parks the car and they both climb out.

126 EXT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, PARKING LOT - NIGHT 126

Emma scans the parking lot and spots Matty's car.

EMMA  
There's his car. Come on.

Emma heads towards the club like a woman on a mission.  
Ricardo hurries behind her.

127 INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB -- NIGHT 127

Emma opens the door to applause as a comic finishes his set.  
Blythe stands at the hostess podium.

BLYTHE  
Hey, I'm Blythe. Welcome to The  
Front. Cover is \$20.

EMMA  
You're Blythe?

BLYTHE  
I am, do I know you?

EMMA  
No, but I believe you know my  
Husband. Matty.

BLYTHE  
Oh my god! You must be Emma! You're  
just in time. He's about to go on.  
Come on.

(MORE)

BLYTHE (CONT'D)

Don't worry about the cover. I have a booth free in the back. Follow me.

She leads Emma and Ricardo to a back corner booth. Emma follows, confused. They sit as the host takes the stage.

THE HOST

Alright guys, next up we have a crowd favorite, please welcome to the stage, the very tall and kind of funny, Matty Castello!

Everyone claps. Emma, startled, looks around then claps politely as Matty takes the stage.

MATTY

Hey, I'm Matty Castello.

He launches into his set without noticing Emma in the crowd.

A short montage of highlights of his act and the reaction of the crowd - Emma and Ricardo included.

LATER --

Matty wraps up his set.

MATTY (CONT'D)

Thanks, you guys have been great.

The crowd erupts in a standing ovation. As Matty bows, he spots Emma and Ricardo. Ricardo claps, but Emma stares with hurt. She sits back in the booth, clearly trying not to cry. She gets up and makes her way toward the door.

Matty rushes off stage.

128

INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB, BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

128

Thain slaps him on the back as he steps off stage.

THAIN

Man, amazing!

Matty just pushes past him.

THAIN (CONT'D)

You okay man?!

Matty continues walking. He passes through the green room, pushes the door open, and rushes out

129 INT. THE FRONT COMEDY CLUB -- NIGHT

129

Matty. Spots Emma almost at the door and hurries over catching her before she can leave.

MATTY

Emma.

She spins around.

EMMA

(hissed)

Don't...

Matty takes a small step back, shocked by her anger.

EMMA (CONT'D)

What is this? How long have you been--

MATTY

Just a few weeks.

EMMA

Why?

On the stage in the background we hear the host introducing Thain and him going into his set. Matty and Emma keep their voices lowered.

MATTY

It's just, with the baby coming and everything I just felt like I had to get it out of my system.

EMMA

Out of your system? What are you talking about? Why would you hide it from me? We're supposed to be partners. Why would you exclude me from this part of your life?

MATTY

I thought you wanted me stop doing stand up?

EMMA

Why would you think that?

MATTY

When we first started dating you said you liked it when I was home in the evenings.

EMMA

What? I didn't mean quit, I just meant I liked having you around. I didn't even know you were that serious about it. I thought it was a hobby. You barely talked about it, and you never invited me to come see you.

MATTY

Because it's stupid!

EMMA

Why is it stupid?

MATTY

Look at you. You're a celebrated author. You're amazing.

Ricardo approaches.

RICARDO

Is everything okay?

MATTY

Look at this whole family. Everyone is so talented. Look at me. I tell jokes. I've never felt good enough. I didn't think-

Emma embraces him fiercely.

EMMA

Of course you're good enough you big idiot. You were amazing in there. You're the best thing in my life. I didn't know you felt like that. You gotta know I would support you in anything you did.

RICARDO

I was very impressed by your jokes.

MATTY

Really? I appreciate that.

EMMA

Matty, when you're this good at something you don't stop doing it. Do you really want to look back one day and tell your children that this is something you used to do? I'm so fucking proud of you. You be proud of you too.

MATTY

I love you so much.

They kiss.

MATTY (CONT'D)

Hey, do you want watch the show.

Matty leads Emma and Ricardo back to the booth. Half way there Emma stops, holds her stomach, grimaces.

Matty notices notices and turns around.

MATTY (CONT'D)

Are you Okay.

She grimaces again as she's hit with a contraction. She groans and It catches Thain's attention on stage.

THAIN

Oh shit, is she okay?

Matty glances up at Thain as he rushes to Emma, realizing what's going on.

MATTY

Are you okay? Are you having contractions?

EMMA

I don't know I- Ahhhhhhhhh!

MATTY

Should we go to the hospital?

THAIN

Holy shit, Matty's having a baby!

The entire club erupts in cheers and applause. Matty puts his arm around Emma and leads her out of the club with Ricardo following close behind.

The clapping and cheering continue until Matty and Emma exit.

Thain watches the door swing shut, the crowd all turns back to him on stage. He shake his head.

THAIN (CONT'D)

Shit...How the fuck am I supposed to follow that?

(drops the mic)

The crowd erupts in laughter and cheers even louder he walks of stage.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

Bzzz Bzzz... Bzzz Bzzz...

FADE IN:

133 INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA -- MORNING

133

Jack's phone buzzes on the coffee table. Jack, asleep on the couch, opens his eyes and reaches for it. He rolls onto his back to check the phone. The text is from Kori.

**TEXT MESSAGE: I really had a great time last night. I woke up thinking about you.**

Jack smiles and begins to type a response, but his phone starts to ring. It's Matty calling on FaceTime.

JACK  
Good morning--

MATTY  
She's here!

JACK  
Who?

MATTY  
The baby! Emma went into labour last night.

JACK  
Holy shit. Congratulations brother!

MATTY  
Can you guys come down?

JACK  
We're on our way!

Jack jumps up.

CUT TO:

134 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, HALLWAY - DAY

134

Jack and Lily rush into the maternity ward and over to the reception area. A nurse is just hanging up the phone.

JACK  
Hi, were looking for Matthew and Emma Castello, do you know what room they're in?

MATTY (O.S.)  
Guys.

They look and see Matty coming down the hall toward them. Jack rushes over and hugs Matty.

JACK  
Come here.

MATTY  
Hey, dude.

LILY  
Congratulations.

MATTY  
Come on, she's just down here.

CUT TO:

135 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, EMMA'S ROOM - DAY

135

Matty pushes the door open and peeks in.

MATTY  
Guess who's here.

Emma is propped up in bed, cradling her baby in her arms. She looks over and smiles.

EMMA  
Hey guys.

Lily pushes past the guys into the room.

LILY  
Ohhh my god, she beautiful.

Jack and Matty stand back, giving the girls some space.

JACK  
(to Matty)  
How you feeling?

MATTY  
Scared shitless.

JACK  
You got this.

Lily crouches beside Emma to get a better look.

EMMA  
Do you want to hold her?

LILY  
Can I?

EMMA  
Here.

Emma holds out the baby. Lily gently takes her, turning to show Jack, who smiles, leaning in the doorway beside Matty. As Lily turns back to Emma, Jack's eyes travel down, noticing something that makes him frown.

A few drops of blood stain the floor between Lily's feet.

JACK  
Lily, are you bleeding?

LILY  
Huh?

Jack takes a step forward, his eyes fixed on Lily's feet.

Several drops of blood splatter onto the floor. Lily looks down, followed by Matty and Emma. Blood trickles down her legs. Lily hands the baby back to Emma.

EMMA  
Oh Jesus! Matty go get a doctor.  
Lily, you need to sit down.

Matty runs into the hall. Jack is frozen.

MATTY (O.S.)  
Hey! Hey, we need a doctor!

LILY  
What?

EMMA  
Jack, move that stuff off the chair.

Jack snaps out of his trance, rushing to Lily's side. He clears a nearby wheelchair and helps her into it.

JACK

It's going to be okay.

Matty and two nurses rush into the room. The nurses immediately attend to Emma.

NURSE HEATHER

What's wrong? Is the baby okay?

EMMA

No, it's not me. It's my friend.

Shocked by the sight of Lily and the blood, they spring into action, pushing Jack back as the world fades around him.

NURSE JENN

Hey Sweetie, what's your name?

LILY

Lily.

NURSE HEATHER

I think room six is open.

NURSE JENN

Alright, Lily, you're going to be okay. We're going to take you down the hall to your own room...

The world falls silent. Jack stares in shock as the nurses wheel Lily out of the room. He follows them, his footsteps echoing in the sudden silence.

136 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, HALLWAY - DAY 136

Jack follows them down the hall, his movements slow and dazed. They turn into a hospital room.

137 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, LILY'S ROOM - DAY 137

Jack bursts into the hospital room. The nurses are already busy getting Lily settled into the bed.

DOCTOR JAMES, with an air of urgency, pushes past Jack and heads straight to Lily's side.

Nurse Heather turns, her eyes landing on Jack. She quickly moves towards him, gently guiding him out of the room.

138

INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, HALLWAY - DAY

138

Nurse Heather steps back into the room, closing the door.

Jack stands frozen, his eyes wide with shock. Matty rushes to his side. Jack turns, his gaze fixed on the small window in the door - Through the window, Doctor James is performing a pelvic exam on Lily.

Jack stumbles backward, his back hitting the wall with a thud. He slides down, collapsing into a seated position.

Matty hurries over, joining him on the floor.

LATER --

The door to Lily's room opens, and the Nurses and Doctor James emerge. He approaches Jack and Matty, who quickly rise to their feet.

DOCTOR JAMES

Are you the father?

JACK

Not the father, but her father,  
yeah.

DOCTOR JAMES

Okay, well we need to get her into  
surgery right away. I'm about to-

JACK

Surgery?

DOCTOR JAMES

The baby's in distress. The cord is  
around its neck, and we need to get  
it out as soon as possible. I'm  
heading to the OR now, and a porter  
will be up shortly to take Lily.  
Will you be joining us in the  
operating room?

JACK

Can I?

DOCTOR JAMES

Yes of course. I'll have them bring  
you a gown, but I have to get  
going. It's going to be alright.

JACK

Okay, thank you.

Doctor James nods and walks off.

MATTY

Do you want me to come in?

JACK

No, it's fine. Emma is probably freaking out. Just keep your phone handy, I'll keep you posted. Go be with your baby and wife.

MATTY

Okay, we're right down the hall if you need us dude.

JACK

Thanks man.

Matty turns and heads back towards Emma's room.

Jack enters Lily's room.

139

INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, LILY'S ROOM - DAY

139

Jack walks in hesitantly.

JACK

Hey kid, how you doing?

LILY

I'm terrified. I don't want to have surgery, I've never even broken my arm, now their talking about basically cutting me in half.

JACK

It's gonna be okay.

LILY

I'm not ready. I haven't picked a family. We haven't even gone through half the binders.

Jack sits in the chair next to Lily's bed.

JACK

Lil, it's going to be okay. Do you remember when I said ... Real life happens out of nowhere? Here we are. I'll go home and get the binders later. We will find the right family. There's no rush.

LILY

Well, there's a little rush.

JACK

Okay, yes, there's a little rush,  
but we've got this.

Lily thinks, then nods. She smiles at Jack, but her expression falters as the PORTER and NURSE JENN enter the room.

NURSE JENN

Hey Lily, this is Ryan, he's going  
to bring you down to the OR.

PORTER

I'm just going to take you for a  
little ride.

The Porter unlocks the wheels of Lily's bed and begins to push. Lily's head whips back towards Jack, eyes wide.

LILY

Wait, aren't you coming?

NURSE JENN

Don't worry. He's right behind you  
after he changes.

She hands Jack a set of scrubs, a gown, booties, and a cap.

The porter wheels Lily out of the room. Lily glances back at Jack, her eyes filled with fear and desperation.

JACK

I'll be right there.

NURSE

Bathroom's right there if you want  
to get changed quickly and then  
I'll bring you right down.

Jack nods and hurries into the bathroom.

140

INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, LILY'S ROOM, BATHROOM - DAY

Jack frantically struggles to get dressed in the small space. He manages to put on the scrubs, gown, booties, and cap. As he turns, his reflection catches his eye in the mirror. His face is pale and full of fear.

He pauses, closing his eyes. Taking a few deep breaths, he focuses on regaining his composure. His features gradually relax, and a determined look replaces the panic.

JACK  
Okay... okay. Go.

He turns and rushes out -

141

INT. HOSPITAL, OPERATING THEATRE - DAY

141

Lily lies on the operating table, her face pale and anxious. A large blue curtain obscures her view of the surgical team.

Jack is led into the room by Nurse Jenn. He approaches Lily, whose eyes widen with fear as she sees him. He leans down, gently brushing a strand of hair from her forehead.

JACK  
Hey.

LILY  
Please hold my hand. I'm so scared.

JACK  
I'm right here.

Doctor James steps around the curtain to make eye contact.

DOCTOR JAMES  
Okay, Lily, we're going to get started. You should feel a little pressure but nothing sharp.

LILY  
Okay.

Doctor James disappears behind the curtain again.

LILY (CONT'D)  
Oh god, I'm so scared.

JACK  
Hey, breathe, I got you.

LILY  
I can't.

Jack leans in until his forehead almost touches Lily's.

JACK

Lil' just look at me. Focus on me.  
Look at my eyes. It's just us,  
okay.

LILY

(crying)  
Okay.

JACK

You're okay. Breathe. Just breathe.  
Slow breaths. Just like this.

Jack closes his eyes and takes several slow, deep breaths.  
Lily, watching him intently, attempts to mimic his breathing.

After a few moments, her breathing begins to steady. Tears  
still stream down her face, but the panic in her eyes  
subsides, replaced by a calmer focus.

JACK (CONT'D)

That's it.

The sounds of the operating room, the beeping monitors, the  
clanging instruments, the hushed voices of the surgical team,  
gradually fade away.

All that remains is the rhythmic sound of Jack and Lily's  
breathing, synchronized in a shared moment of calm.

JACK (CONT'D)

It's going to be okay. I'm right  
here. I got you. Just breathe.

Lily takes a sudden deep breath. As she exhales, her eyelids  
flutter and gently close.

JACK (CONT'D)

Lil'? Lily?

Suddenly, a series of piercing alarms. The sounds of the  
operating room, the frantic beeping, the urgent voices, the  
clattering of equipment rush back in, louder than before.

The medical staff springs into action, their movements quick  
and efficient as they respond to the crisis.

JACK (CONT'D)

Lily open your eyes. Open your  
eyes! Lily!

DOCTOR JAMES (O.S.)

Sir, you need to go, right now.

JACK

Lily!

Nurse Jenn hurries around the curtain and pulls Jack back.

NURSE JENN

Sir, come on.

JACK

Wait, what's going on? Lily, come on, wake up!

NURSE JENN

We're doing everything we can, but we need the room. Come on.

She leads him out.

142

INT. HOSPITAL, OPERATING THEATRE, HALLWAY - DAY

142

The nurse guides Jack out of the operating room and into the hallway. She then abruptly turns and rushes back inside, the door swinging shut with a final click.

Jack stands alone, his eyes vacant and unfocused. The shock has left him stunned and motionless.

LATER --

Jack sits slumped against the wall outside the operating room door, his surgical cap and mask discarded beside him.

The door opens, and Doctor James emerges, scanning the hallway for Jack.

Seeing Doctor James, Jack scrambles to his feet, a mixture of hope and fear on his face.

JACK

What's going on? Someone has to talk to me. I've been sitting here for god know how long and...

Jack takes in the DOCTOR JAMES's face.

JACK (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

DOCTOR JAMES

I'm sorry. We lost the baby. We just, we didn't get there fast enough and-

JACK

What about Lily? Is she okay?

DOCTOR JAMES

She's okay for now. We were able to stabilize her but she's lost a lot of blood and she's still unconscious. We've moved her back to the ward for observation. We want to keep a close eye on her.

FADE TO:

143 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, HALLWAY - DAY 143

Jack hurries down the hallway toward Lily's room.

JACK (O.S.)

Wait, so she hasn't woken up at all.

DOCTOR JAMES (O.S.)

No, not yet.

JACK (O.S.)

So she doesn't know about the baby?

DOCTOR JAMES (O.S.)

No...

144 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, LILY'S ROOM - DAY 144

Jack pushes open the door and stops dead.

Lily lies in bed looking very small and fragile. Tubes and wires running from seemingly everywhere. Her hair is slicked back with sweat and she's almost grey from blood loss.

Jack walks slowly to her bedside, pulling up the chair and taking her hand. Jack tries to hold it together but is struggling. He gently strokes her hand and begins to cry.

JACK

Hey Lil'. God, you're so cold. I'm sorry. I-

There's a light knock on the door. Jack turns to see Matty standing there.

MATTY

Hey, what's going on? We can't get an answer from-

Matty sees that Jack is crying.

JACK  
Baby didn't make it...

MATTY  
Oh no. Oh my god, Jack. Oh I'm so  
sorry man. How's Lily holding up.

JACK  
She's not. She doesn't know. She  
hasn't woken up.

Jack sniffs then laughs without humor.

JACK (CONT'D)  
How's this for an ending? Baby's  
dead, daughter dying. I just have  
the touch, I guess.

MATTY  
Dude, don't say that. She's not  
dying.

JACK  
But what if she does?

MATTY  
People don't die after C-sections  
anymore.

JACK  
But she could. They said she's lost  
a lot of blood.

MATTY  
She won't.

JACK  
But what if she does?

MATTY  
She can't.

JACK  
Believe me, she can. The baby died.

MATTY  
That's different. She won't die.

JACK  
Yeah, but what if she does?

MATTY  
She just can't.

JACK  
She could though.

MATTY  
She won't.

JACK  
But what if she does?

MATTY  
Jack, She's not going to die.

JACK  
But what if she dies and I'm the  
only person here?

MATTY  
We're not going to leave you here  
alone.

JACK  
That's not what I mean. What if she  
wakes up before she dies and it's  
just me. I can't do this. I'm not  
her real dad. I've had a lot of fun  
playing house and pretending to be  
this "better person" but that's not  
me. What if she dies right now,  
next to me - basically a stranger  
that she doesn't really know at  
all. She needs her mom, and she  
needs her real dad. I just, I can't  
do this anymore.

Matty stands there, not sure what to say. Jack looks down and  
sees Lily's purse. He reaches in and pulls out her iPhone.

MATTY  
Are you sure you want-

JACK  
Just, go be with your family.

Matty nods then steps out of the room.

145 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, HALLWAY - DAY

145

Matty watches as the door swings shut. He steps forward,  
peeking through the window. He can see Jack open her phone  
and make a call.

LILY'S MOM (V.O.)  
(over phone)  
Lily, I was just-

JACK  
No, this isn't Lily. I, my name is  
Jack, Jack Morgan. I'm not sure if  
you know-

LILY'S MOM (V.O.)  
I know who you are. Why do you have  
her phone.

JACK  
Oh okay, yeah. So look, this is  
going to be a lot...

Matty turns and walks back to Emma's room --

146

INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, EMMA'S ROOM - DAY

146

Matty enters the room and pauses, taking in the sight of Emma  
sleeping peacefully, the baby beside her in a clear crib.

He tiptoes closer, leaning down to gently kiss Emma on the  
forehead. Then, he turns and kneels beside the crib, his gaze  
fixed on his daughter's tiny features.

After a few moments of quiet contemplation, Matty straightens  
up and places a delicate kiss on the baby's head. He sits  
down in a nearby chair, his eyes still glued to his daughter.

A wave of gratitude washes over him.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, HALLWAY - EVENING

Jack paces in front of Lily's room, clearly freaking out. He  
looks through the window at her, he considers something then  
starts to walk away fast. He's a few steps away and stops.

JACK  
(to himself)  
Shit.

He looks back, considers then walks back to her room. He  
hesitates again at the door then makes a decision and walks  
in.

147 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD, LILY'S ROOM - EVENING 147

Jack walks over and sits down in the chair by Lily's bedside. He takes her hand, trying to think of something to say, but coming up short.

JACK

Lil' I... Ugh. I'm sorry I just...  
I don't know if you can hear me,  
but... I called your parents. I  
know you didn't want them to know,  
and I'm sorry, but this has gone  
too far.

(lets out a breath)

Lily stirs slightly, but Jack doesn't notice.

JACK (CONT'D)

Look kid, I --

Lily's eyes slowly flutter open. She looks around taking everything in. Then her eyes seem to find him.

LILY

Daddy?

Jack's eyes grow wide. Then he notices she's looking past him. He snaps his head around and sees an **older couple** standing in the doorway.

Jack jumps up, almost knocking the chair over.

JACK

I... I'm sorry.

Jack rushes to the door. Lily's mom tries to stop him.

LILY'S MOM

You don't have to go.

Jack runs out of the room, pushing past Lily's Parents.

148 INT. HOSPITAL, MATERNITY WARD - EVENING 148

Jack stumbles out of the room and sprints down the hallway towards the elevators. Lily's voice calls out after him, but he doesn't break his stride or even glance back.

LILY (O.S.)

Jack! Jack, wait!

149 INT. HOSPITAL, PARKING STRUCTURE - EVENING 149

Ding! The elevator slides open onto the parking structure and Jack runs out. He looks around to get his bearings then runs over to the Cadillac.

150 INT. PARKING GARAGE, CADILLAC - EVENING 150

Jack throws the car door open and jumps in. Every muscle in his body tenses as he looks around the car, trying to maintain composure. Suddenly, he explodes, punching the steering wheel repeatedly.

JACK

FUCK! Fuck, fuck, fuck!

Jack frantically tears his car apart, searching for something. He rips open the glove compartment, pulls out his vial of cocaine, and does a few bumps off his hand.

He throws his head back and growls, then punches the steering wheel again. Catching his reflection in the rearview mirror, Jack looks at himself, disgusted. He rolls down the window and tosses the vial out. He punches the dash a couple more times not noticing Ricardo and Tina crossing the parking lot with bags of take out and balloons.

Jack punches the dash one more time then leans his head against the wheel, trying to keep it together.

They notice Jack in distress and exchange a few words before Ricardo hands the balloons to Tina and sends her to the elevator. He walks over to the Cadillac and **climbs into the passenger side. Jack jumps, surprised by his sudden presence.**

RICARDO

**Are you okay?**

JACK

Lily lost the baby.

RICARDO

**I heard, I'm so sorry. She's not alone is she?**

JACK

No, she's with her parent's, her real parents, I called them. I wasn't sure what else to do.

Ricardo just nods, listening.

JACK (CONT'D)

You know when I gave her up, I told myself it was so I would have a better life. Look at me. I'm nothing. I have nothing.

RICARDO

Jack, you don't have nothing. You have great friends and Lily. She's not going to just disappear from your life.

JACK

I don't know. It's not going to be the same. Matty and Emma have the baby now. And I'm... alone.

RICARDO

Come on. I don't believe that. Good looking guy like you, you must have a woman in your life.

Jack raises his eyebrow, almost says something but stops.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Ah see, there is a woman. A girlfriend?

JACK

I don't know what we are. We talk all the time, but I guess we're friends.

RICARDO

You care for her though.

JACK

Yeah, a lot.

RICARDO

Does she know?

JACK

Maybe, maybe not I don't know. I've never really...

RICARDO

Ahhhhh, You know Federico García Lorca once said "To burn with desire and keep quiet about it is the greatest punishment we can bring on ourselves." If you love her, you should tell her.

Jack starts nodding. He makes a decision.

JACK  
You're right.

RICARDO  
I usually am.

JACK  
I have to go.

Ricardo gives him a confused look.

RICARDO  
Where?

JACK  
To tell her.  
(starts car)  
Look, this has been nice or  
whatever, but if you don't want to  
go to Grimsby it's time to get the  
hell out of my car.

Ricardo smiles and climbs out. The second he's out Jack slams the car into reverse and hits the gas, peeling out of the spot. Jack calls back from the open window as he drives away.

JACK (CONT'D)  
THANK YOU!

A slight grin touches Ricardo's lips as he watches him go.

151 INT. CADILLAC -- EVENING 151

-- Jack speeds down the highway in the rain, weaving between cars. He sniffs, trying to clear the coke out of his sinus.

-- He weaves around cars as he talks to himself. Jack pushes the Cadillac as hard as it can be pushed.

-- He pushes the pedal down even harder. The Cadillac flies over the skyway bridge headed Niagara bound.

152 EXT. KORI'S PLACE, DRIVEWAY - EVENING 152

Jack pulls the Cadillac to the curb in front of Kori's place. He jumps out and runs up to her door. He presses the doorbell and we hear it ring inside. She doesn't answer immediately so he knocks a few times.

Kori opens the door and her face cycles from surprised, to shocked, to confused, to concerned all within a matter of seconds. She looks him over.

Jack is jittery. One nostril is caked with blood and cocaine residue and he still has a dusting of coke on his shirt.

KORI

Jack?

Jack looks around, clearly not sure where to start. Finally he blurts out.

JACK

The baby died.

KORI

Oh my god, are you okay?

Kori hugs him and Jack hugs her back.

JACK

Yeah.

(shakes his head)

No, I mean I'm not, but I'm going to be. Everything is going to be okay... because I love you.

Kori's eyes get large and she lets go of him.

KORI

What?

She takes a step away.

JACK

I love you, Kori. I love you and I want to be with you.

KORI

Jack, you don't love me.

JACK

I do.

KORI

You don't.

JACK

I do love you. I've always loved you - since the first time I laid eyes on you. I've been too afraid to admit it to myself, but I'm ready now. I'm ready to love you.

Kori snaps.

KORI

Jack you don't love me!

Jack shuts up, silenced by her sudden anger.

KORI (CONT'D)

(lowers her voice)

Jack, you barely even know me.  
You've never even met my daughter  
and you've made it pretty clear  
you're not interested.

Jack slowly shakes his head back and forth unable to understand the new direction of the conversation.

KORI (CONT'D)

Do you even realize that I'm  
technically still married? No.  
Because you never asked. When we  
talk, we talk about you. You tell  
me all the great, big, exciting  
things you're doing with your life,  
but you never ask me about mine.

JACK

(shakes head)

But that's just it. That's all  
bullshit. My life is garbage. I  
hate myself. I hate my life. I'm  
fucking miserable. I'm nothing. But  
when I'm with you I feel like  
things could be alright. Life could  
be good, ya know? Better than good.  
We could be happy together.

(pauses, swallows)

I love you.

Kori just stares at Jack for a second. Her eyes look wet and a single tear rolls down her cheek. She slowly shakes her head and takes another step away, backing toward the door.

KORI

I can't save you, Jack.

She steps into the house, closing the door behind her.

Jack stands there for a moment, not sure what to do. After a while he turns and walks back to his car.

JACK (O.S.)  
After a while, I turned from her  
house, and walked back to the car  
in the rain.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

There's a few beats of silence, as if the movie's over, then -

MATTY (O.S.)  
Dude, I'm sorry.

JACK (O.S.)  
No man, she was right. I was being  
stupid and impulsive.

MATTY (O.S.)  
You were grieving.

FADE IN:

153 INT. DINER -- DAY

153

Matty and Jack are in their booth, mirroring the opening.

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

JACK  
Yeah, but that's no excuse. I was  
fucked up, I had been for a long  
time. You know.  
(switches gears)  
What about you? Hows Emma? Hows the  
baby?

MATTY  
They're great.

JACK  
So dad life is good? You love'n it?

MATTY  
Oh dude, so much. I love it. She's  
gotten so big dude. It's crazy.  
You'll see at the party.

INT/EXT. MATTY & EMMA'S PLACE, VARIOUS - DAY/NIGHT

(NOTE: All of the following cut away scenes will be inserted into the dinner conversation and matched to what's being said in the edit.)

-- Matty and Emma in the new house playing with the baby

-- Matty bottle feeding the baby.

-- Matty and Emma walking with the baby in the back yard.

INT. DINER -- DAY

Jack smiles, but he looks tense.

MATTY

No pressure though, if you're not up to coming, I totally understand.

JACK

I'm not missing her first birthday.

MATTY

Emma wanted me to ask if you were okay with us inviting Lily?

JACK

Yeah, of course.

MATTY

I just wasn't sure if you guys were talking or not. I didn't want to pry or whatever.

JACK

Yeah, no, I mean, it took a while, but we got there. I wanted to reach out earlier but I thought she probably needed some space, you know.

(beat)

After a few weeks I called her and apologized for running out like I did. She forgave me, well, she claims to have never been upset but I don't know. I guess she understood. We talk pretty regularly now. She's doing well at school. She's gotten into sculpting.

EXT. LILY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

-- Lily's dad pulls up and parks. Lily's in the back seat, head against the window. When the car stops, she looks at the house with tears. Her mom gets out, opens Lily's door, and helps her out. Lily holds her mom's arm and walks to the front door.

INT. LILY'S PARENT'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY

-- Lily lays in bed sobbing. Time passes, she continues to cry in different positions. Eventually, she stops and stares at the ceiling. Her phone rings on her night stand, It's Jack. She looks at it for a second, smiles, then answers.

INT. LILY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

-- Lily types on her laptop. A friend knocks on her door and she shuts her computer and heads out.

-- Lily draws in her sketch book.

-- Shot of a few of her sculptures on a shelf

INT. DINER -- DAY

MATTY

That's awesome. I'm glad you guys are good, but how are you doing, man? I feel like you've been avoiding us.

JACK

I was. I got really fucked up for a while. I fell off the wagon pretty hard for a few months and I didn't want you guys to see me like that.

MATTY

We could have helped.

JACK

No man, you had the baby and house. Last thing you needed was all that.

MATTY

You're good now though?

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - NIGHT

Jack's apartment is a disaster. There's empty whisky bottles and coke baggies everywhere. Jack is lying passed out on the floor. A random woman searches the coffee table finds a baggy of drugs and then steps over Jack on her way out the door.

INT. JACK'S PLACE, LIVING AREA - MORNING

-- Jack wakes up on the floor. He sits up and looks around, disgusted by his life.

-- Jack grabs a garbage bag and walks around the house throwing out all his bottles and drug paraphernalia.

-- Jack sits down at the typewriter, rolls in a fresh sheet, and gets to work

-- Jack types furiously.

-- Page after page stack up beside the typewriter.

INT. DINER -- DAY

JACK

I am, really good actually. I've been writing.

MATTY

That's awesome. New movie? What's it about?

JACK

Everything that happened last summer with Lily.

MATTY

Really?

JACK

Yeah it was actually Kori's idea. She thought it would be therapeutic for me to write about it. You know, just get it out.

MATTY

I thought that was over.

JACK

When I got my shit together, I reached out. We started talking again.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I've actually been spending a lot of time in Grimsby. I've met her daughter. She's actually pretty cool for a three year old. She's funny, you'd like her.

INT. KORI'S PLACE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

-- Kori sits on her couch curled up with a blanket, texting with Jack.

INT/EXT. CADILLAC, STREETS, GRIMSBY - DAY

-- Jack gets off the QEW  
-- Jack cruises through Grimsby  
-- Jack pulls onto Kori's street.

EXT. KORI'S PLACE, DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jack pulls into the driveway and climbs out. Before he can reach the door, Kori's daughter Anna runs out to greet him.

Jack scoops her up and then carries her into the house where Kori is waiting.

INT. DINER -- DAY

MATTY

That's great man, but like, are you guys together?

JACK

We're taking things slow, and for now, we're just friends. We're friends that sometimes hold hands...

FADE TO:

154

INT. KORI'S PLACE, KITCHEN - DAY

154

Jack, Kori and Anna are busy baking cookies, flour dusting their aprons and smiles on their faces. Kori takes a tray of freshly formed cookies and slides it into the oven. *The slower acoustic version of Hanson's "Mmmmbop" from their String Theory album plays from an Alexa speaker. (That's right, I wrote it into the script so know we have to use it.)*

As she turns, Jack playfully sneaks up behind her, his arms encircling her waist. He spins her around, their laughter filling the air, and plants a sweet kiss on her lips.

Taking her hand, he pulls her close, their bodies swaying in rhythm with the music playing softly in the background.

JACK (V.O.)

Friends that sometimes kiss.  
Friends that sometimes even hook  
up. But best of all, sometimes, we  
dance while she bakes.

We pull away and out of the house through the picture window as we watch them dance as Anna licks batter from the beaters.

**The End**

(CREDIT SCENE)

INT. MATTY & EMMA'S PLACE, VARIOUS -- DAY

-- THROUGH PHOTOS AND CELL PHONE FOOTAGE WE SEE SNIPPETS FROM THE BABY'S FIRST BIRTHDAY. EVERYONE TOGETHER, LAUGHING AND HAVING FUN.