An Oakland Holiday

Written by

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EXT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - DAY

START ON: A lush Southeast Asian JUNGLE bursting with verdant foliage. As we PAN ACROSS it seems to go on, on, and on --

Until we settle on a grand, NEOCLASSICAL PALACE perched amongst the forest beside a glistening lake, shining majestically in the morning light. Welcome to PUTRIJAYA, a Southeast Asian island-nation south of Borneo.

We MOVE CLOSER to see that the palace is a hive of activity. Uniformed footmen haul vivacious tropical flower centerpieces towards grand double doors that open into --

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

The palace's ostentatious ballroom, which is similarly abustle with more footmen setting up tables and chairs.

Maids atop towering ladders dust sparkling chandeliers while others wax the pietra firma diamond encrusted floors.

We pass a string quartet practicing an ELEGANT SONATA, then pivot towards another set of doors that open out onto --

EXT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

A courtyard with an exquisite fountain at its center. We travel past sprawling rhododendron lowii, gorgeous fanning licuala palms, mint monsteras galore, continuing on --

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Into a beautifully garnished hallway that leads to a closed door, through which MUFFLED AMERICAN POP MUSIC can be heard.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - ANDINI'S ROOM - DAY

Spirited PRINCESS ANDINI (17) in a tiara & emerald sequined dress rocks out alongside her loyal handmaiden YATI (21) to ’80s Asian-American glam-pop icon FANNY DE LA CHICA’s hit song “GIMME C**K”... which is a *true* banger.

Andini has a custom, canopied bed, but that's where the normal princess-style furnishings end. The walls are *plastered* with POSTERS of Andini and Yati's icon Fanny, who gives off a Rina Sawayama-meets-Lizzo-meets-David Bowie vibe.

The girls also project the song's MUSIC VIDEO onto the only free wall-space.

In it, BIG-HAIRED FANNY (wearing an identical emerald sequined gown) power-stomps down an American high school hallway towards a ridiculously hot man.

In time with Fanny, Andini and Yati euphorically face off and sissy that walk from either side of the bedroom and sing --

ANDINI & YATI
Because the only thing I need, is that you gimme, gimme gimme gimme cock, gimme, gimme, gimme gimme gimme co--

Loud, aggressive KNOCKS suddenly sound on the door.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Right at the chorus? Seriously?

MAHARANI (O.S.)
OPEN UP! I can hear that filthy song all the way from the courtyard!

YATI
(quietly, to Andini)
And I can feel your sister's wack-ass vibes all the way through the door.

Andini SIGHS and pauses the song as Yati crosses to open the door, curtsying for Andini's radiant big sister and queen-to-be MAHARANI III (22) and her press secretary WINSTON (30).

MAHARANI
(to Andini)
How many times have I told you to keep your explicit sex anthems to a dull roar? You're supposed to be working on your speech!

ANDINI
Fanny de la Chica is an icon, and "Gimme Cock" is an empowering liberation anthem. Plus I *have* been rehearsing. My speech's poppin'!

MAHARANI
You know very well that I do not want my engagement ball to be "popping", I want it to be the picture of--

MAHARANI (CONT'D)
Elegance and tradition.

ANDINI
Elegance and tradition.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
It might not be as good as your speech that saved our coral reef and made that U.N. guy cry, but I think you're still gonna dig it.

Maharani is unconvinced. Yati steps in.

YATI
She's been doing so well with all our run-throughs--

WINSTON
(sharp)
Yati. Remember your place.

Yati puts on a demure expression, but makes a "barf" face at Andini when Winston and Maharani aren't looking.

MAHARANI
Well, I trust there will be no surprises. This is your last chance to prove yourself before assuming the ambassadorship, after all.

ANDINI
(under her breath)
There's literally a law saying I *have* to be one.

Ignoring her, Maharani SNAPS her fingers. Winston hurries out of the room, then reenters carrying a SIMPLE BLACK DRESS.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
For the ball? But--

MAHARANI
(re: Andini's sequins)
What were you going to wear? *That?* It's already taken years off my corneal health.

Andini sinks as she continues to stare at the boring number.

ANDINI
But... it's just not... me.

MAHARANI
You can remove yourself from the equation. Express yourself in here. Represent our people out there.

Despondent, Andini watches her older sister glide out, followed by Winston. Yati slings an arm around her friend.

YATI
Should we put a dead roach in her Jimmy Choos again?
(Andini shrugs)
Imma do it anyway.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - ANDINI'S ROOM - NEXT DAY

The last of golden hour filters through the windows. Andini now wears the ill-fitting black Miu Miu dress that features a *deeply* unflattering, huge-ass bow right across her chest.

ANDINI
I look like a fat little boy.
(gesturing to hair)
And... *this!* The flat iron sucked my hair's soul like a dementor.

A sly smile grows on Yati's face as she sidles up to Andini.

YATI
(southern accent)
I think you look quite dashin'.

Andini tries not to smile... but fails.

ANDINI
(40s male detective voice)
Oh JoEllen. You're just sayin' that.

YATI
You know us Calhouns cannot tell a lie, Mr. Milton!

ANDINI
For the last time, doll: call me Lonnie.

The young women break into GIGGLES at their alter-egos.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I wish you could come tonight. The other young royals and diplomats' kids don't get me. Like, at all.

YATI
Even if they're the worst, they might give you a great new story. Remember that English duchess who thought she could handle Southeast Asian spicy because she'd finally "discovered Sriracha"?

Andini CHUCKLES at the memory.

ANDINI
What are *you* gonna do on your night off? And please don't say "read."

YATI
No...
(re: Andini's side-eye)
I'll probably also do some writing.

ANDINI
Oh wait, that reminds me.

Andini bounds over to her desk, grabs an envelope, and hands it over. Yati looks at her questioningly.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
A letter of rec I wrote. Surprise!

YATI
Andini... you shouldn't have. Like, seriously. You heard Winston. Applying to Putrijaya University's Education B.A. isn't exactly "remembering my place."

ANDINI
So you wanna be a servant forever?

YATI
No. I wanna help teach the next generation of little girls so they have more options.

ANDINI
Then be an example for them!

Andini gestures to a poster of Fanny.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Fanny would screw Winston Bitchton -- *not* like that -- and get her application done! You're an amazing teacher. Better than all my tutors combined. I mean, you whipped my crappy speech into shape.

YATI
(grinning)
That's true. It was pretty bad.

ANDINI
Okay, only *I* can say that.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - BALLROOM - NIGHT

The ball. Everything is loud and overwhelming as Andini walks through the grand ballroom. Nearby, Maharani graciously greets guests beside her sexy fiancé PRINCE OMAR (22).

Andini joins her parents QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (60s) and KING KARL SETIAWAN (50s), who look out at the event approvingly with fancy cocktails in hand.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Oh Andini, you look wonderful. Black is definitely your color!

ANDINI
Black is everyone's color. I look like I'm at a funeral.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Might as well be with that attitude -- go mingle with our fab guests!

ANDINI
Not sure I wanna hear the American dude explain his Tesla's crappy autopilot for the millionth time.

ANGLE ON A MIDDLE AGED DUDE who mimes having his hands off the steering wheel.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Semi-retired boomers are the worst.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
But what about those cool zoomers?

He points to some teens having fun. Andini looks hesitant.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Honey, are you worried about your speech?

ANDINI
Maharani is. But I got it. I think.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Of course you do, kiddo. I delivered many rousing monologues as an actor. It's in your blood!

ANDINI
You literally played a motion capture crocodile having an existential crisis.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
And won a Piala Citra! Andy Serkis himself called to congratulate him!

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Oh, she knows. And I seem to remember that "Crocodile Tears" is her favorite film of all time.

Andini can't help but smile. The Queen and King both CHUCKLE and down the rest of their drinks.

ANDINI
Ugh, if you guys are getting tipsy, I'm definitely out. Love you.

Andini heads off as her parents wave and call after her --

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Go for the guy giving Timothée Chalamet twink energy, but with better hair!

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
But don't let him tell you he doesn't need to use a condom if you're on the pill!

KING KARL SETIAWAN
And the library is off limits. At least until you know what you're doing!

Andini looks mortified, but indeed sets her sights on a CUTE JOGJAKARTAN PRINCE who's grouped off with the teens.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - BALLROOM - FOOD TABLES - CONT.

Andini joins them by the hors d'oeuvres table, doing her best to not let her nerves show. The other teenagers stop chatting and turn to her as a group, adding to the social pressure. Andini takes in a DEEP BREATH.

ANDINI
Hey guys... what is, um, uuuuup?

INDIAN TEEN DUDE
Vaṇakkam, Princess Andini.

DUTCH PRINCESS
I adore your dress. Lovely bow.

ANDINI
(re: Dutch Princess's hair bow)
Awww, right back atcha!

Andini briefly meets the Jogjakartan Prince's eyes, blushes, and turns her attention back to the Dutch Princess.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
The Netherlands... *Goedenavond! Iemand heeft mijn gestolen...* something-*goed...*

The other teenagers just stare at her... which, unfortunately, leads Andini to keep talking.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Big fan, except for the colonization. But Putrijaya mostly avoided it anyway! The seduction of King William? Queen Maharani I, guilty as charged!

The Dutch Princess looks uncomfortable. Andini's heart skips a beat when the cute Jogjakartan Prince comes to her rescue.

JOGJAKARTAN PRINCE
Your matrilineal pedigree is legendary, and I'm honored to be here celebrating it.

ANDINI
(enraptured)
Literally thank you.

Andini notices the other teens drifting away, and is happy to realize the Jogjakartan Prince is staying by her side.

JOGJAKARTAN PRINCE
I understand you're to serve as your sister's ambassador.

ANDINI
What gave it away, my impending sense of doom or nervous use of facts from my history briefings?

JOGJAKARTAN PRINCE
(chuckles)
Both. Don't worry, it's not so bad. I'm being shipped off soon to train for my diplomatic duties. I'll be in the Sultan of Brunei's tutelage.

ANDINI
I wouldn't be mad to see you at the next Paris Agreement meeting.

JOGJAKARTAN PRINCE
Looking forward to it, Your Highness.

With that, he flashes her a smile and also disappears into the crowd -- leaving Andini buzzing with happy excitement.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - HALLWAY - LATER

Andini paces a corridor, mumbling over her speech to herself for practice.

ANDINI
Rub elbows with important dignitaries, push for accords that will hopefully last centuries...

She trails off as familiar voices approach --

INDIAN TEEN DUDE (O.S.)
Princess Andini, more like Princess *Bland*-dini. I came to sneak palm wine, not hear all about Putrijaya's days of yore.

Andini quickly hides behind a CURTAIN so she won't be seen as the group walks past, still talking.

DUTCH PRINCESS
That boring dress makes her look like a fat little boy. Also, we probably never *wanted* to colonize an island in the middle of nowhere.

Andini's jaw drops.

JOGJAKARTAN PRINCE
Guys, don't be so hard on her.
(then)
She clearly hasn't had to socialize with anyone not working for her.

Andini looks completely devastated. But as they continue down the hall, a look of determination takes over.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - BALLROOM - STAGE - LATER

Winston stands at a podium set up before the crowd. Maharani and Prince Omar sit in gilded chairs off to the side.

WINSTON
Princess Andini will now deliver some remarks in celebration of her elder sister.

Polite APPLAUSE as a spotlight illuminates the velvet curtain behind the podium, which parts to reveal...

Andini, now dressed in the *emerald sequin dress,* hair teased to the heavens to look more like Fanny de la Chica's. Andini's make-up is EUPHORIA meets the '80s (read: insane).

Maharani covers her mouth to hide her horror and rage while white-knuckling the arm of her chair with her other hand.

ANDINI
(sarcastic)
I know, I'm soooo deeply sorry for everyone's corneal health. But someone mentioned they hated the dress I had on, and honestly? Same.

ANGLE ON the Dutch Princess in the crowd, who looks worried.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Plus, I decided I felt the same way about the snore of a speech I've rehearsed to death.

ANGLE ON the Queen and King, who look stormy.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Please talk me down from calling security on our own daughter.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Don't look at me, I'm ready to sick the fashion police on her.

ANDINI
I have the rest of my life to be Bland-dini, so I'll keep it real and get down with the people.

ANGLE ON the Jogjakartan Prince, who stares at his feet.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
(re: Maharani)
You guys are *super* lucky she was born first. Toootal William to my chaotic Prince Harry energy. Like, I would fully prefer to go elope with a K-Drama star.

GASPS from the audience as Maharani rushes on-stage.

MAHARANI
I think that's quite enough--

ANDINI
Yup, I think so too. Sorry I can't be who you want me to be, everybody!

Andini salutes and exits through the curtains again. Maharani forces a smile at the podium, maintaining her composure.

MAHARANI
So lovely to have such a strong... *bluntly honest* sisterhood.
(relieved laughter)
Next, Princess Beatrice will say some words about her elder brother.

Applause as PRINCESS BEATRICE (literally 8) takes the podium with the poise of a young Amanda Gorman.

PRINCESS BEATRICE
I fell. When I was younger than a child. My brother's arms caught me. Omar means "life long-lived." One... he will generously share.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Proud and relieved, Andini walks with an air of confidence to the end of the garnished hallway populated with servants, giving them a smile as they bow. She pivots around the corner and wrenches open a door --

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Which she SLAMS behind her. She's now surrounded by FRAMED PICTURES: the Queen sits regally on her throne, Maharani visits a refugee camp, makes her speech at the UN, and graces the covers of magazines.

There's even a "Crocodile Tears", poster featuring a CGI-crocodile version of the King beside a trophy case housing his Piala Citras (basically an Oscar, and he has two!).

Andini catches sight of herself in a mirror... unsure of the young woman looking back and how she'll ever fit into her royal family or any of its illustrious history.

Her face slowly begins to crumple, and she soon lets herself fully BREAK DOWN.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - YATI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Yati's room is the size of one of Andini's closets, but she's made it cozy with her own posters of Fanny.

Yati is logged onto the Putrijaya University portal, working away on her application... when her phone VIBRATES with a FaceTime from Andini. She hurriedly picks up to see that Andini's face is mascara-streaked from tears.

YATI
Oh my God, are you okay?!

ANDINI (FROM SCREEN)
I wilded out. Then locked myself in the drawing room.

YATI
I'll be right there.

Yati closes her laptop without a second thought.

EXT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - DRAWING ROOM - LATER

POV SHOT: The Queen, King, and Maharani glare intimidatingly at camera, with other past members of the royal family also staring out from behind them in their PHOTOS and PAINTINGS.

REVERSE TO REVEAL: Andini sits on a chaise, on the receiving end of this collective look. Yati squeezes her hand for support.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
That... was a *disaster.*

ANDINI
I'm sorry. I mingled like you said, but then that Dutch Princess insulted my dress and our country and then the Jogjakartan Prince--

MAHARANI
Do you hear yourself? You are acting like a *selfish child.*

ANDINI
But I--

MAHARANI
If lawful tradition didn't dictate you had to be my ambassador, I'd look somewhere, *anywhere* else.

ANDINI
Then let's just screw tradition!

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Andini.

The Queen's voice is sharp and commanding beyond belief as she gestures around the room.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (CONT'D)
Just like your family and ancestors who surround you, you have a responsibility to serve your nation. You know your father and I are retiring soon.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Your mother is *extremely* excited to go ice climbing.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
That is a *fact!*
(takes a calming breath)
Your sister has stepped up. I suggest you figure out a way to do the same. *Immediately.*

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - ANDINI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andini lies facedown on her canopy bed and SCREAMS into a pillow.

ANDINI
I don't want to take on -- a bunch of responsibilities -- in a place -- where I can't be myself -- for a family -- that doesn't believe in me -- *and* expects the world of me!

YATI
You know I love you but I am super not down for 2007 Britney, even if she *was* set up to fail.

Yati uses a remote to turn the "Gimme C**k" music video projection back on. She disappears into the closet...

Then skids out across the floor in socks à la RISKY BUSINESS, lip syncing to the SONG. Andini stifles a laugh but isn't ready to join... until Yati jumps onto the bed and *fully* gyrates in front of her.

As they jump in circles on the bed and the floor, Andini is facing the projected music video when Fanny drops it like it's hot at a JANKY DINER. The next time Andini faces the screen, Fanny stomps around an URBAN, "EDGY" CONCRETE CITY.

And the next, Fanny reigns over a John Hughes-ian '80s AMERICAN PROM, wearing a sequined emerald gown identical to the one that Andini wanted to wear at last night's ball.

Andini stops bouncing to watch as Fanny is crowned prom queen beside her dude. A group of cool-looking friends immediately surround her, who all seem to love her... for *her.*

Fanny looks at camera seductively and knowingly tips her prom tiara, inviting the audience to partake in her baddie energy. Yati notices how rapt Andini looks.

ANDINI
Everyone sees Fanny for exactly who she is. Everywhere she goes.
(thinking)
Where is this high school?

Yati crosses to Andini's laptop, opens it, and Googles.

YATI
Some city called... Oakland. On the coast of California... USA.

Andini crosses to look over Yati's shoulder. ON SCREEN: Yati clicks through photos of OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL with its stone exterior and California poppies sprouting up across its lawn.

ANDINI
My ambassadorial responsibilities are *coming for me* here, but *there*--
(rewinds music video)
That could be me. *I* could be *me.*
With a hot dude who won't judge me.
Friends like you, who actually get me. Freedom... *Fanny-Freedom!*

Andini zeroes in on Fanny wearing her prom tiara, beaming and surrounded by people who celebrate her.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Imagine being royal but with no stupid speech, no dress-code, no diplomat wannabe en route to Brunei... which like, come on dude, human rights violations much?

YATI
You can go to college next Fall like the rest of your family. Prom's like, every weekend there. With an open bar!

ANDINI
But by then I'll also have diplomatic conferences every weekend. We've got a narrow window here for an amazing adventure!

YATI
There's no "we" in "dumbass plan that's gonna get us both in trou"--

EXT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - COURTYARD - NEXT DAY

Yati hits "space" on Andini's laptop and a PHOTO of them Photoshopped on the GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE spirals into view.

ANDINI
(bullshitting)
...Yati and I will then enroll in the competitive Lick-Wilmerding Academy in San Francisco.

REVEAL: The Queen, King, and Maharani watch the presentation, surrounded by lush foliage. The King looks alarmed.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
The Thai co-princes went there.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Ohhh, Lick-*wilmer*ding. My mind went to that place in Amsterdam.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Ahh yes, I can see how it would. Such a sensual experience...

ANDINI
Ew. Slide!

Yati touches the space bar and the same PHOTO of Andini and Yati Photoshopped into private school uniforms appears.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Their spring semester exchange program, which specializes in international relations, will undoubtedly help prepare me for my ambassadorship.

MAHARANI
You barely pay attention to your private tutors here. We all know Yati does half of your homework.

ANDINI
What?! That's only... half true.

MAHARANI
Give it up. A prestigious academy, even an American one, would require an extensive application -- which we all know you wouldn't take the initiative to put together.

ANDINI
That's where you're wrong.

Andini pulls copies of a (Photoshopped) LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE from a folder and hands them out. Maharani frowns at the words while the Queen and King can't help but look impressed.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I completed it several months ago. I realize the timing isn't great coming off my disastrous speech. Or... maybe it's perfect.
(laying it on thick)
The ball was a huge wake-up call. And Mom, you did say to find a way to step up immediately...

The Queen and King share a glance.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
SLIDE!

The PHOTO changes to one of Andini appearing to choose between a bunch of college hats, athlete-style.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
I am pleasantly surprised, but surely you'd prefer Singapore to America. Or at least the UK, where you could stay with dear Charles.

MAHARANI
Or she could stay here and attend Putrijaya University in the Fall.

Refusing to let Maharani torpedo her plan, Andini pulls out the big guns: a wide-eyed, puppy-dog gaze at her parents.

ANDINI
Please. I know this will help me come back ready to be a responsible ambassador. I promise.

Maharani sees her parents being drawn in by Andini's look.

MAHARANI
Mother, Father, do not let her pull you in. The last time she gave you that look, she dognapped the Iranian attaché's pug and almost started another crisis in the Middle East.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
(hypnotized)
In her defense... that fur-baby was adorable.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
(to Andini)
If you were to go halfway across the world, you'd definitely have to take Olga.

PAN TO REVEAL OLGA (40s), a sturdy Putrijayan bodyguard.

ANDINI
I'm sure Yati can handle it!

Everyone turns to Yati. Andini grabs her hand and stares at her pleadingly. Finally --

YATI
Yes... Yes, I'm sure I can, too.

The Queen is deep in thought.

MAHARANI
You cannot seriously be considering this. After all the trouble she's already caused?!

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
I assure you, I am not taking the thought of letting my baby girl go to a third world country lightly.

The Queen levels her gaze on Andini.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (CONT'D)
If we allow this, you must *promise* to come back ready and willing to step up to your responsibilities.

ANDINI
I do. I promise. I swear!

A loud SNIFF sounds. REVEAL: King Karl is tearing up.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Oh, I'm going to miss her so much.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Karl -- if you cry, it's going to make *me* cry.

They both begin to OPENLY WEEP. Maharani rolls her eyes and throws up her hands as Andini runs to hug their parents.

MAHARANI
You know what? It'll be nice to be able to plan a wedding and a coronation in peace. Can't wait to see how this turns out for you.

EXT. THE SKY - DAY

PUTRIJAYA'S 787 ROYAL JET flies through cotton candy clouds.

INT. ROYAL JET - CONTINUOUS (INTERCUT)

Andini SQUEALS with excitement as she points out the real-life GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE crossing the SAN FRANCISCO BAY below.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SFO) - DAY

The arrivals curb. Both Andini and Yati frown at their phones beside their pile of Louis Vuitton luggage. Andini keeps pressing a big digital button that reads "LIMO".

ANDINI
Why isn't it working?

YATI
We are *way* outside the radius of the Putrijaya royal limousine hotline!
(re: her own phone)
America has so many hypocritical rules... it's too steep of a learning curve!

Yati bites her nails, fully spiraling.

YATI (CONT'D)
Look, I thought maybe I could do this -- but I can't. Your safety's *totally* on me! I'm telling them you changed your mind and we're flying right back home.

Andini tries to grab Yati's phone as she dials.

ANDINI
Don't! Please! We'll keep our identities totally secret! Not like we're gonna get found out anyway... Americans are notoriously horrible at geography and history. I mean, they barely even know their *own!*

To demonstrate, Andini hollers at a random stranger --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Excuse me, sir! Do you know who I am and where Putrijaya is?

RANDOM STRANGER
Fuck off!

ANDINI
(to Yati)
See? And if we ever get close to being found out, we'll bail!

No dice. Andini realizes she has to bring out the big guns.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I *know* I'm not the only one who wants to channel Fanny. *You* introduced me to her music!

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (FROM PHONE)
(groggy)
Hello?

Yati stares at Andini, who lowers her voice.

ANDINI
When else will we have freedom like this? You can get into Putrijaya U's undergrad education program without Winston breathing down your neck. Inspire those little girls! We can be who we actually wanna be. Fanny-style, and *together.*

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (FROM PHONE)
Yati? Are you there?

Yati hesitates -- then makes a decision.

YATI
Apologies for calling so late, Your Highness. We've landed safely.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (FROM PHONE)
Wonderful! Text when you get to the dormitories. And send pictures!

The Queen hangs up with a YAWN.

ANDINI
You did it!

Yati stands there for a moment, taking it in.

YATI
Holy crap... I *did* do it!

Andini pulls Yati into a massive hug.

ANDINI
Yes yes yes yes yes yes YES!

INT. BART TRAIN CAR - DAY

Andini stares at the plastic-coated, stained seats of BART.

ANDINI
No no no no no. This is *not* how I get herpes.

But the doors close before Andini can walk back out. Yati shrugs easily, takes a seat, and opens a copy of "America for Dummies". Meanwhile, Andini takes out Aesop hand-sani and SPRITZES everything in sight.

YATI
(frowning, re: the book)
You can't be a sole renter under 18... but you *can* buy a gun? This country is wild as hell.

ANDINI
So... I'd need a co-signer?

A smile takes over Andini's face as dread takes over Yati's.

EXT. OAKLAND - TEMESCAL NEIGHBORHOOD - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A BRIGHTLY-PAINTED TWO-STORY BUNGALOW with a flowering plum.

INT. BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Yati steps out into a cute living room looking like a rich housewife in designer-wear, a shawl, and sunglasses, joining Andini and a LANDLADY as they admire the natural light.

ANDINI
We'll take it! Right, Mother?

YATI
(French accent)
Yes, darling! Absolutely *j'adore!*

Andini raises her eyebrows and STIFLES LAUGHTER.

LANDLADY
You can fill out an application h--

But Andini holds up STACKS of hundreds.

ANDINI
I don't think an application will be necessary... do you?

INT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - MOMENTS LATER

Andini waves as the Landlady walks through the front door.

LANDLADY
Where did you two say you were from again?

ANDINI
San Francisco.

YATI
Paris.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Paris.

YATI (CONT'D)
San Francisco.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
San Francisco by way of Paris.

The Landlady looks them up and down.

LANDLADY
But where are you *from* from?

Andini and Yati share a look; shit. The Landlady squints.

LANDLADY (CONT'D)
Chi... no, wait! *Jap*anese, am I right?

YATI
Yes, of course! Thanks for everything darling. *Au revoir!*

Yati shuts the door on her, heaves a SIGH of relief, and takes off the glasses. Andini bursts out LAUGHING.

ANDINI
Why don't *I* have an accent?!

YATI
You didn't grow up in Paris, *mon petit amour.* So... now what?

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - NEXT DAY

SLOW MOTION: *Huge*-haired Andini and Yati step off an AC Transit bus. They look badass and ridiculously confident.

REGULAR MOTION & REVERSE TO REVEAL: A very normal, rundown, American high school campus. Andini and Yati look batshit crazy compared to the toned-down Patagonias and VSCO tees.

Andini squints at the building. The bricks are much more weathered, and there are no more poppies, just weeds.

YATI
To be fair, I read American groundskeepers don't even get dental insurance.

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ADMIN OFFICE - DAY

Yati hands over enrollment forms and fake IDs to an ADMIN who wanted to retire 45 years go. The Admin scrutinizes their PHOTOS, which look like they're right out of Teen Vogue.

ADMIN
Andi Lee. Yvonne de la Guerra.

ANDINI
We're cousins!

ADMIN
And where are your parents?

ANDINI
Uhh... home... in Southeast Asia...

YATI
Very very... sick!
(tearing up)
That napalm you guys carelessly used in the 60s...

The Admin softens up and nods. She looks around before leaning across the desk conspiratorially.

ADMIN
It's okay. No need to be ashamed...

Andini and Yati look at each other, confused.

ADMIN (CONT'D)
You parachute kids are such international tragedies. What you poor babies must've been through... my heart aches.

She stands up and smushes them against her ample bosom.

ADMIN (CONT'D)
Please. Call me Deborah.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD - DAY

Yati leads the way towards a bank of METAL LOCKERS. Andini stares at the attached combination locks, non-plussed.

ANDINI
What is this? Where's the touchpad?

While Yati starts to Google yet again, Andini lets her eyes wander... and they soon land on: PHOENIX BARRON-KLINE (17; *even hotter* than Southeast Asian Spicy), leaned against the trunk of a majestic California oak tree.

Phoenix wears an all black ensemble with Ray-Bans and strums a banjo, accompanied by his TWO BANDMATES who play washboard and accordion. Meet "THE GENTRIFIERS" band, whose "branding" is printed on their instruments and T-shirts.

Andini's mouth falls wide open as she recognizes the familiar tune of "Gimme C**k", but very Mumford & Sons-y.

PHOENIX
Gimme gimme gimme love, gimme,
gimme, gimme gimme gimme love...

Yati looks up too, as Phoenix transitions to spoken word.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Gimme love. Now, or later. Who will we be together. Don't be my heart's traitor... make a crater... in it. Gimme love.

Phoenix and his bandmates execute the INSTRUMENTAL OUTRO flawlessly, to ENRAPTURED CHEERS. Yati glances at Andini, who has still not been able to regain control of her jaw.

YATI
Yo, boy crazy -- you good?

Andini forces herself to break her trance, a smile growing.

ANDINI
Oh yeah. Absolutely. Because I'm gonna become Oakland High School prom royalty right beside...

FEMALE & MALE VOICES (O.S.)
WE LOVE YOU, PHOENIX BARRON-KLINE!

ANDINI
Phoenix Barron-Kline.

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Andini and Yati enter to find the classroom already filling up -- yet Andini miraculously spots an open seat beside Phoenix. Yati gives Andini a smirk while heading to the back of the classroom. Andini lingers, working up her courage...

Then hustles towards the empty seat, but is tragically cut off by ZOLA REESE (18, electrifying, wears an Oakland High Lacrosse sweatshirt). Zola slings her arm around Phoenix and pulls out bell hooks' "The Will to Change".

A bummed-out Andini heads to the back to sit beside Yati.

ANDINI
What a mean... human. She totally cut me off!

Yati glances at Zola -- and sees something she likes.

YATI
Mmmm, I def don't hate it...

Before Andini can reply, MS. ALPERSTEIN (40s) stands up at her desk, which is adorned with Tibetan prayer flags.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Good morrow, young minds! We have two new students today! Care to rise and introduce yourselves?

Andini and Yati both stand up. Andini swallows at the sight of Phoenix's expectant face, but dives in.

ANDINI
Hey. I'm Andi Lee; that's Yvonne. We're cousins and... uh, parachute kids from Putrijaya.

An extremely DUMB JOCK looks confused.

DUMB JOCK
Is that near Vegas?

YATI
No, south of Borneo.

DUMB JOCK
And you guys are pro parachuters?

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Oh, Josh. I love your whimsy. No no, a parachute kid is -- well, I'll let the experts explain!

Andini and Yati glance at each other, unsure themselves.

ANDINI
That's cool, you can go ahead.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Imagine someone -- specifically, a child! -- dropping from a plane to access a better education while their parents stay in their home country to work!

Andini doubtfully eyes the dilapidated Chromebook cart in the corner and a FEMALE STONER who's openly rolling a J nearby.

FEMALE STONER
You guys ever been attacked by a Komodo dragon?

ANDINI
What? No, they're from, uh... Komodo Island.

The Female Stoner looks disappointed.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Welcome, Andi and Yvonne. You've joined us at an exciting time: we're discussing the 19th Century Women's Suffrage Movement!

YATI
Wait... women didn't get to vote here until the *19th Century?!*

But for Andini, sound FADES OUT and everything SLOWS DOWN as she sits and stares at the back of Phoenix's cute head.

Ms. Alperstein asks a question and Phoenix raises his hand gracefully. Ms. Alperstein then continues. Andini blinks and smiles at the adorable peach fuzz on Phoenix's ears...

MS. ALPERSTEIN (O.S.)
Andi? Andi Lee?

Yati elbows Andini. *Way* more time has passed than it seemed.

MS. ALPERSTEIN (CONT'D)
Which impactful work did Elizabeth Cady Stanton pen following the Seneca Falls Convention?

Andini opens her mouth, then closes it again. Phoenix raises his hand eagerly and Ms. Alperstein finally nods at him.

PHOENIX
The Declaration of Sentiments. But I'd argue that her support of the 13th Amendment was even *more* impactful as an early understanding of intersectionality.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Insightful as always. Welp, that's all we have time for! Remember to do the reading on Sojourner Truth. Questions, comments, feelings?

Andini raises her hand, still staring at her oblivious crush.

ANDINI
When is prom scheduled?

The class LAUGHS and Zola rolls her eyes. Andini's face reddens, but fortunately, Ms. Alperstein is eager to discuss.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
In a few months, Sunday before Memorial Day! But first comes 'Domecoming', chaperoned by yours truly!

YATI
'Domecoming'?

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Senior Yosemite trip. Where talent show legends are born and anyone who's *anyone* gets asked to prom right beneath Half Dome!
(then, catching herself)
Except for those who don't. Love will find you later in life. Yoko Ono's psychic told me that.

ANDINI
How do we get tickets?

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Oh, Domecoming is *very* exclusive!
(then, remembering)
In the most inclusive way possible. All athletes get to go. You should come try out for lacrosse tomorrow. I'm the coach! But a *fun* coach...

INT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - ANDINI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andini stands by her bed, which has a bunch of '80s-esque workout ensembles laid out for her perusal. Yati sits at Andini's desk doing the Sojourner Truth reading.

ANDINI
Productive first day. Now I just have to make the lacrosse team and get them to fall in love with me!
(flopping onto bed)
I can already see prom. Our dates, an *entire team* of friends...

YATI
Plus this Sojourner Truth stuff's pretty interesting.

ANDINI
(playful)
Oh okay Ms. Studiousness!

Just then, Andini's phone RINGS with Ludacris's verse from Fergie's "Glamorous". Yati picks up the FaceTime call as Andini scrambles to her desk. ON SCREEN: The King is *way* too close to the camera.

YATI
Hello, Your Majesty. Princess Andini is very busy studying.

KING KARL SETIAWAN (FROM SCREEN)
Our Andini, *actually studying?*

Set up at the desk, Andini nods at Yati, who dutifully flips the camera to reveal the princess waving casually.

KING KARL SETIAWAN (FROM SCREEN) (CONT'D)
Oh wow. She wasn't kidding.

The Queen joins her husband, even *closer* to the camera.

ANDINI
Hey Mom and Dad! School's very challenging, but great! I'm reading about...

YATI
(saving her ass)
Sojourner Truth.

ANDINI
And we're trying out for the lacrosse team to get invites to the premier social event of the year!

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (FROM SCREEN)
I thought Concussion-Ball was Americans' sport of choice.

ANDINI
They had too many brain injuries and it's a cesspool for toxic masculinity. So, it's cancelled.

KING KARL SETIAWAN (FROM SCREEN)
Didn't they also steal lacrosse from the Native Americans?

Just then, Maharani pokes her head into frame.

ANDINI
Oh. Hi, Maharani.

MAHARANI (FROM SCREEN)
Good God! What on Earth did you do to your hair?!

Andini grins, face framed by her voluminous curls that have been hair-sprayed and teased within an inch of their life.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM - NEXT DAY

Andini and Yati stand together, already dressed and averting their eyes while the other girls change into their athletic apparel. Zola grins at Yati, fully nude (tastefully shot).

ZOLA
What, girls don't get naked south of Borneo?

Yati blushes but grins back.

YATI
Oh no, we do.

Zola pulls a reversible practice jersey (with the school's turtle mascot) on and playfully tosses another to Yati.

ZOLA
Don't sweat too much. Might have to see me in the showers later.

Yati blushes again as Zola exits. Andini raises her eyebrows.

ANDINI
I'm like 8 percent sure she's into you.

YATI
Literally shut up.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - DAY

Ms. Alperstein blows her WHISTLE, beginning **TRYOUTS:**

* Andini and Yati, now carrying lacrosse sticks and wearing goggles and mouth-guards, run with the other players. Andini is winded while Yati doesn't seem to be having problems.

* Andini tries to throw the ball, but accidentally drops it.

* Yati catches a pass from Zola, who CHEERS.

* Andini stands like a deer in the headlights between Zola and the goalie. Zola easily makes it around her and scores.

* Yati flies past Andini on her way to the goal. She fakes high but shoots a bounce shot in!

END TRYOUT MONTAGE on Zola and a few other seniors gathering around Yati to click their sticks against hers.

Nearby, an exhausted Andini collapses onto the grass. She observes Yati, proud that her best friend did so well... but also feeling a pang of jealousy for the very first time.

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Andini and Yati hustle towards Ms. Alperstein's door, where a bunch of young women are gathered to inspect THE ROSTER.

ANDINI'S POV: She scans the list, past "TEAM CAPTAIN: ZOLA REESE", then "YVONNE DE LA GUERRA", and all the way down to the words "WATER GIRL" followed by "ANDI LEE".

ANDINI
What even *is* a "water girl"? Like, I'm flattered, but I didn't try out for swimming.

TALL LACROSSE PLAYER
You give us water during timeouts.

Yati senses a meltdown and pulls Andini off to the side.

YATI
Hey, it's chill.
(as JoEllen)
You're goin' to Domecoming, stud.

ANDINI
But how am I gonna legit make friends while *serving* them?!

Yati looks pointedly at Andini, who doesn't get it.

ZOLA (O.S.)
Yvonne! C'mere!

Andini and Yati both look over to where Zola is waving for Yati to join her and other members of the team. *Phoenix* arrives to stand beside Zola and puts his arms around her.

ANDINI
(sighs)
If they're already inviting you, get in with them... and then try to help me get popular too.

YATI
You *sure* sure?

ANDINI
(re: Zola & Phoenix)
Yeah. And figure out what's going on between *them.*
(re: Yati's reluctance)
Go! I'll be cool.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - ANOTHER DAY

Andini is SPLASHED with ice water as the entire team throws their water bottles back at her -- then gets blindsided by something that only registers as a FUZZY GREEN SHAPE!

ANDINI
SO NOT COOL!

Andini watches in disbelief as the man-sized TURTLE MASCOT joins the cheerleaders for halftime and dances awkwardly.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - NIGHT

High energy. Andini watches from the bench as Yati zig-zags through the opposing defense and nails a high shot past the goalie. Andini CHEERS! Zola CHEERS! Everyone CHEERS!

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - NIGHT

The game's over and the team's in jubilation as they head for the locker room. Andini tries to catch up to Yati, when --

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Andi Lee! Hang on a moment! As water girl, it's also your responsibility to clean up the field and bleachers post-game.
(then)
Our groundskeeper quit, something about leaving the country to actually be able to make rent...

Andini sinks with disappointment.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - LATER

Yati finds Andini cringing as she picks up a candy wrapper.

ANDINI
Turns out I'm the trash girl, too.

YATI
Ugh. But we just both got invited to get something called a banana split with the team.

ANDINI
Is that like molly?! I wanna try!

YATI
No idea but hopefully not, since you on molly's my nightmare.

Yati sees how unhappy Andini looks as she strains to reach --

ANDINI
Ew-ew-EW, I think it's a condom!

Yati nonchalantly grabs it and puts it in the trash bag.

YATI
Water balloon, lame. You should go ahead with the them, I'll finish.

Andini looks tempted, but suddenly Alperstein's behind them.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Do I detect a pawning off of duties? Plenty of students would be thrilled to be water girl.

ANDINI
Seriously?

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Okay, just Chloe Petersen. But her parents email so much it feels like there are more of her!

Andini SIGHS in surrender. She can't give up Domecoming.

MS. ALPERSTEIN (CONT'D)
Good choice. Better to score a high-profile promposal than to find yourself driving a 2003 Ford Fiesta back from Michigan State through a hailstorm on your 20th birthday... wondering where it all went wrong.

Haunted, she walks off. Andini turns back to Yati.

ANDINI
Go ahead. Get the tea on Zola.

YATI
You promise you'll be okay?

ANDINI
What's the worst that can happen at an American high school?

Yati raises her eyebrows and Andini grimaces. Yeah. Yikes.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - LATER

Andini GROANS as she lugs a heavy trash bag across the field. She finally tosses it in a bin and turns -- only to almost run into the turtle mascot again.

ANDINI
*E*xcuse you *again*, stalker!

The mascot awkwardly yanks off its head... to reveal cutie JASON UT (17).

JASON
Crap, sorry. The cheer squad is intense about their music cues.

Andini looks at Jason. Jason looks at Andini. It's tense.

ANDINI
Well, I'd appreciate it if you could like, stay out of my way. You're interrupting my workflow.

JASON
Right. I actually came over to see if I could help out with, um, your workflow. You kinda look like you've been struggling.

Andini eyes him, suspicious.

ANDINI
You know what? That'd be awesome, thanks. There're more trash bags by the bleachers.

Jason glances from Andini to several huge, piled bags.

JASON
I offered to help, not do it all?

But Andini's already hustling towards the stadium's exit.

INT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - NIGHT

START ON: Andini's phone, which shows a still-unread text to Yati: *"WHERE ARE YOU? [SALSA DANCER EMOJI]"*. It's after 11PM.

WIDEN: Andini sits at the kitchen table. She forces herself to focus on her Sojourner Truth reading and gets lost in one of the paragraphs... until she hears a CAR PULL UP outside.

THROUGH THE WINDOW: Yati exits a Jeep and Zola pulls away with a wave. Yati pauses for a moment, looking lovestruck.

Andini buries her nose deeper in her book as Yati enters the house, then sheepishly joins her in the kitchen and hands over a to-go container.

YATI
I got you a banana split... but it melted like, a *long*-ass time ago. And my phone died. Buuut, I talked you up, and then Zola invited me to come watch a Gentrifiers rehearsal.

ANDINI
You got to watch them *rehearse?!*

YATI
I was gonna get Phoenix hyped about you after, but he has a crazy strict curfew. You... *mad* mad at me?

Andini looks from her friend's flushed face to the banana split. Yati did try.

ANDINI
We should both enjoy our Fanny-Freedom. And I know for you, that means not always having to worry about me.

Yati doesn't look convinced.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
(as Lonnie)
Did I stutter, JoEllen?! We're here for the both of us!
(as herself)
I'm serious. Do *you*.

YATI
(smiles)
Thanks, Andini.

ANDINI
Now... what happened with *Zola?*

Yati immediately turns bright red.

YATI
What?! Nothing. Nadaaa.

Andini blinks at her and Yati relents.

YATI (CONT'D)
She's the baddest ever! She wants to be a public defender, actually knows geography and American history, plus she's on track to give this fancy valedictorian speech at graduation. *And* Stanford-bound. AKA: Out of my league.

ANDINI
Uh, you *are* the league! *You're* the baddest ever too. You're going to Putrijaya U, the Harvard of the Eastern Hemisphere!

Yati glances down.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Wait. You *did* submit your app, didn't you?

YATI
(sighs, vulnerable)
I don't have a secondary school education. I soaked up as much as I could from your tutors, but... what if I'm just... not good enough?

Andini grabs Yati's hand, relating to her best friend *hard.*

ANDINI
Yati. Everyone here is obsessed with you. You're acing our classes like you belong here, because you totally do. You're no imposter. You are the real freaking deal.

Yati melts, grateful.

YATI
I'll look into applying for Spring.

ANDINI
You better.
(then, reflecting)
You know, your intel also means Phoenix and Zola aren't a thing. Unless...

YATI
Oh no, she plays for the other team and is like, taking them to the Olympics. Her sexual awakening was Margaret Cho.

ANDINI
Sooo... we can double date to prom... and maybe even lose our v-cards at exactly the same time!

YATI
I feel like that would require a level of organization I'm not down for.

Andini crosses to the fridge for a *huge* tub of ice cream.

ANDINI
Ready for round two?

Yati grins. Andini puts the tub on the table and hands Yati a spoon. They dig in while settling in to do their homework.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD - DAY

Andini and Yati sit at a picnic table. Andini picks at cafeteria mush.

ANDINI
White people really stole everyone's spices just to have their food taste like nothing.

Yati nods absentmindedly, nose in a book with many more stacked beside her.

YATI
The school library's dope. 20 books at once -- that's so many!

ANDINI
The palace one's unlimited, why didn't you ever go in there?

YATI
Dude, I wasn't allowed. And even if I was... we both know your parents do *not* use it for reading.

Andini nods, grossed out, then turns to stare at Phoenix and The Gentrifiers JAMMING OUT beneath the oak tree. She SIGHS.

ANDINI
Domecoming's in three weeks and I can't get him to notice me.

Andini takes a big, bummed-out bite of the cafeteria mush... just as Phoenix looks over at her -- and crosses to them.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
(mouth full)
Oh God. He noticed me. Never mind, never mind, I'm not ready!

Andini freaks out so hard she CHOKES. Desperate, she CHUGS water to try to clear her pipes as Phoenix makes it over.

PHOENIX
'Sup.
(to Andini, re: Yati)
You got a dope cousin here. Totally helped me prep for my geo quiz.
(MORE)

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
I still can't believe America stopped the Philippines from becoming a sovereign nation after the Spanish-American War!

Andini SWALLOWS, COUGHS, and sounds very hoarse --

ANDINI
Hell yeah! Instead they basically colonized it themselves for 48 years, pillaging resources and...
(realizing she's nerding out)
Torturing suspected guerrillas.

Phoenix just smiles, genuinely impressed.

PHOENIX
Guess brains and beauty run in the family.

He winks, giving Andini butterflies. The school bell RINGS and Phoenix holds up a notebook.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Speaking of. Peace, ladies.

Phoenix walks away. Andini SIGHS longingly.

YATI
Don't worry. I've been thinking... and I got a plan you'll love.

ANDINI
Locking us in the darkroom?!

YATI
Close.

Andini breaks into COUGHS again and Yati slaps her back.

INT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A *popping* house party! Bros do beer bongs while lacrosse ladies rule the dance floor. We find a velvet pantsuit (with shoulder pads)-clad Andini doing the Cat Daddy beside Yati!

ANDINI
(singing along)
Man I go to work, true winner, jeans skinny, like Squidward, Lookin' for your girl, just missed her, did my cat daddy and I took her down, TIMBER!

SHORT LACROSSE PLAYER
Damn, who knew Andi Lee had moves?!

Andini beams, thrilled to be getting noticed. But just then, Zola makes her way through the crowd towards Andini and Yati. Andini notices Yati stiffen nervously. Andini whispers --

ANDINI
You *are* the league!

YATI
Still not sure what that means, but thanks bae.

Andini smiles and heads to the edge of the dance floor to observe. Zola taps Yati on the shoulder. They converse intimately, leaning closer... until... *they kiss.*

Everyone around them CHEERS! Andini claps, genuinely happy -- then looks a little awkward as the kiss goes on. And *on.* Andini tries to rejoin the lacrosse girls dancing around them, but they're so oblivious they keep boxing her out.

EXT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Andini walks out for some air... and is delighted to spot Phoenix in a lawn chair alone, tuning his banjo and wearing a T-shirt where the "G" of "Gentrifiers" is the FEMALE SYMBOL. Andini takes a BREATH and approaches. Phoenix glances up.

PHOENIX
Yo, Yvonne's cousin from history!

ANDINI
W-well, technically from the present... but yeah, yuppers, that's-a-me. Andi, uh... Lee.

Phoenix LAUGHS good-naturedly.

PHOENIX
Love it! Phoenix Barron-Kline. Feel free to hang. I got overwhelmed, too.

ANDINI
But... you have so many friends.

Andini looks embarrassed, but his smile puts her at ease.

PHOENIX
Gotta be able to hear myself think before a set.

ANDINI
Are you gonna try and go pro?

PHOENIX
Eh, I dunno what I wanna do. My whole fam's in academia. Older bro got his PhD at 21.

ANDINI
I have a perfect older sister. She's awesome at... our family business, too. But me, no matter how hard I try -- I always just... fall short. I guess my heart's not in it. Especially when I feel like I'm never gonna be who they want.

PHOENIX
You're better than whoever they think they want, Andi Lee. Trust.

Andini blushes hard as Phoenix looks at her intensely.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
I sold my moms on The Gentrifiers for my college apps. They're pissed I still play even though Columbia already accepted me.

ANDINI
Then they're missing out. You're like, the total package. I'm sure you've had tons of girlfriends...

Andini blushes even *more*, but Phoenix just LAUGHS.

PHOENIX
Really, I just want someone I can talk to. Out here waiting for my Gloria Steinem. You get it.

He smiles at Andini, who can barely breathe. Phoenix is about to say something -- but before he can, another bandmate appears and gestures for him to come inside.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Great talking to you, Andi Lee.

Disappointed, Andini forces a smile as he walks away.

INT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andini winds up at the back of the crowd as The Gentrifiers play. All the girls fawn over Phoenix on stage. Andini spots Yati and Zola swaying together. Everyone is paired or grouped-off... except for our princess.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - DAY

Post-game. Still alone, Andini struggles to lug a huge trash bag across the large field.

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Andini scans the empty locker room. She takes her phone out and sends a text to Yati: "*WHERE U @??*"

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - WAY LATER

Andini waits and checks her phone, no response yet. As she gets more restless, she catches sight of something.

IN THE BOYS' LOCKER ROOM, Jason sits alone in full mascot garb. After a final glance at her phone, Andini walks over.

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - BOYS' LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jason (in the turtle head) looks up, surprised to see Andini.

ANDINI
Uh, are you... meditating?

JASON
Don't laugh.
(then)
I'm stuck.

Jason gestures at his mascot head. Andini squints.

JASON (CONT'D)
Could you... I mean, after that bamboozlement the other night...

ANDINI
Bamboozlement? Drama queen.

JASON
I'm not the expert bamboozler, you bamboozler, you.

Jason does finger guns. Andini rolls her eyes.

JASON (CONT'D)
I cleaned the *entire* field!

NT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - BOYS' LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Andini braces herself against a locker, STRAINING as she tugs on the head of Jason's ridiculous costume. Finally -- POP! The head flies off, revealing Jason's flushed, sweaty face.

JASON
Hey.

ANDINI
Hi.

They take each other in for an awkward moment.

JASON
Did your friends ditch you? It's pretty late.

ANDINI
They didn't *ditch* me.

Just then Andini's phone BUZZES. ON SCREEN TEXT FROM YATI: *"SOOO SORRY, @ PEET'S W ZOLA 2 STUDY 4 TOMORROW'S TEST, BE HOME BY 9! [NERD EMOJI]".*

ANDINI (CONT'D)
They're just... busy.

JASON
I was about to grab a bite. You wanna come?

ANDINI
If you're asking me on a date, I'm going to prom with Phoenix.

JASON
Oh, I know.

ANDINI
How? Did he say something to you?!

JASON
Uh, Phoenix Barron-Kline does not talk to me. My locker's near yours? You're always plotting with Yvonne?

ANDINI
Cool, so you're the worst.

Jason does finger guns again.

JASON
I know a place with a bamboozler special.

ANDINI (V.O., PRE-LAP)
Oh my God! Oh my *God!*

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - MAMA SIU'S DINER - NIGHT

Andini looks *beyond* excited as Jason leads her past the lively storefronts of OAKLAND'S CHINATOWN towards the most colorful restaurant of all, emblazoned with "MAMA SIU'S" --

ANDINI
The diner from the "Gimme C**k" *music video!*

Jason smiles as he pushes the door open for Andini.

JASON
I didn't know you were a Fanny de la Chica fan.

Andini's turquoise faux fur coat brushes past him.

JASON (CONT'D)
But I guess it tracks.

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - NIGHT

Andini and Jason sit across from each other in a red booth. Andini points to the counter complete with chrome trim.

ANDINI
That's where Fanny drops it like it's hot!

POSTERS of 70s & 80s DRAG QUEENS and other MARGINALIZED ARTISTS catch her eye... surrounding the biggest of all, which is of Fanny in her famed emerald prom gown -- and SIGNED. Andini can't believe her eyes.

MR. AHN (O.S.)
One of a kind.

REVEAL the elderly yet incredibly sassy MR. AHN (80s).

MR. AHN (CONT'D)
Fanny was a friend.

A group of DINER REGULARS (50s) call out from their booth --

BALD DINER REGULAR
Never paid me back for those chocolate 'shrooms!

Mr. Ahn waves them off good-naturedly.

ANDINI
Does she still come here?!

JASON
There are rumors... but I wouldn't hold your breath. She's basically just an urban legend at this point.

Andini looks disappointed.

MR. AHN
What can I get you kids on your little... date? Nice to see Jason bringing a girl for once!

LANKY DINER REGULAR
Amen!

JASON
Definitely not like that.

ANDINI
OMG, I would *never.*

They realize they've both been insulted by the other --

JASON (CONT'D)
You should be so lucky!

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I bet you wish it was!

Mr. Ahn looks between them, amused.

MR. AHN
Just "friendly" rivals, copy that.

ANDINI
I'll get the corned beef hash with kimchi fried rice, please.

MR. AHN
(raises brows, to Jason)
A friendly rival who knows your mother's order?

Jason shakes his head; he didn't share. Andini looks awkward.

ANDINI
It just... sounded good.

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - LATER

Andini savors a bite. Mr. Ahn passes by, impressed.

MR. AHN
The girl can eat!

REVEAL: Andini has finished hers and is mooching off Jason's.

ANDINI
(swallows)
So delicious.

MR. AHN
Mama Siu would be happy to hear it.

ANDINI
There was a real Mama Siu?

Mr. Ahn gestures at a portrait of WIDE-SET DRAG QUEEN with an even wider smile.

MR. AHN
My Chester by day, Mama Siu by night. Best voice in the East Bay.

BALD DINER REGULAR
Or at least the loudest!

HEAVYSET DINER REGULAR
Eh, I bet Jason would've given her a run for her money!

ANDINI
Wait... you sing?

JASON
No, no. Absolutely not. At all.

LANKY DINER REGULAR
He's being modest! Spends all weekend in here writing tunes.

Mr. Ahn sees how much Andini has lit up and walks away.

MR. AHN
(singsong)
You two have fu-un.

ANDINI
When do I get to hear them?! Oh my Goddd. You're turning so red!

JASON
It's not like that. They're works in progress, will be forever. Just something I've done to feel closer to my mom since she passed.

The mood dies a painful death. Andini looks sympathetic.

ANDINI
I'm sorry. I don't know what that's like... but I'm sure it's lonely.

JASON
Yeah. But you just... deal with it. What about you? Your parents just shipped you here to study? Do you miss them?

ANDINI
Uhh... I mean, they've always worked long hours. I'm used to it.

JASON
They must pick up a lot of hours if they sent you here *and* pay 5,000 for your rent every month.

ANDINI
How do you know--

JASON
Only people with certain means can afford this area now.

ANDINI
Well, um... technically *Yvonne's* parents are the ones paying for everything! They're kinda like, uh, our sugar daddies?

Jason looks at her funny. Andini smiles, hoping Jason will believe her.

JASON
Nice. My dad's an Uber driver now. How do you feel about your cousin always hanging out with the populars? That must be lonely, too.

Andini bristles at this.

ANDINI
She only hangs out with them to be a wingwoman for me.

JASON
Right. Phoenix. Domecoming.

ANDINI
You get to go too, right? You think you might *serenade* someone there?

Jason flashes a grin and flicks his paper straw in her face.

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - NIGHT

Mr. Ahn holds the door for Andini and Jason on their way out.

ANDINI
Thanks again, Mr. Ahn. I'll be back for more fried rice!

MR. AHN
Make sure it's soon. After 48 years... Mama Siu's is officially closing its doors next month.

ANDINI
Wait, *what?*

Andini looks at Jason, who nods.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
But you can't shut down! This's a historic landmark because of Fanny's music video alone!

MR. AHN
The newcomers don't agree. Rent's been skyrocketing for years. Unless we miraculously get out of debt and *stay* out of it... it's over.

JASON
Like I said. Only people with certain means.

Andini is so upset that all she can do is shake her head.

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - NIGHT

Colorful neon signs flicker, diffused by the night fog.

Andini walks beside Jason down Webster and towards 9th Street, passing the famous Fortune Cookie Factory and lots of mom and pop restaurants. Some, like "GUM KUO", have whole roasted ducks and chicken displayed in the windows.

JASON
Oldest Chinatown in America, founded by the first Chinese immigrants who settled in the late 1800s -- but all kinds of Asian Americans are here now. Like yours truly. Second gen Cambodian American and hella proud of it!
(re: Andini's laugh)
What's funny?

ANDINI
You, kinda.

JASON
I just want to be able to be myself and give... "less of an eff", you know? Another work in progress.

ANDINI
I mean, same.

Jason waves at a few locals they pass and they smile back.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Do you like, know *everyone* here?

JASON
Not everyone.

Andini comes to a stop in front of SHAN DONG. The door is open and an AUNTIE makes handcraft noodles at the counter.

AUNTIE
Jason! Come in, come in!

Jason beckons for Andini to follow him.

JASON
But mostly everyone.

INT. SHAN DONG RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The Auntie kneads, then separates the dough into strands to form noodles. Andini is entranced. The Auntie gets a glint in her eye that Jason gets out ahead of this time --

JASON
Just friends, Auntie.

She looks at him, suuure. A bag of FORTUNE COOKIES on display catches Andini's eye.

ANDINI
What are those?

AUNTIE
You've never had a fortune cookie?!

She disappears into the back for a few moments, then returns with a bag plus a loose one for Andini to try.

ANDINI
(chewing)
Thanks... whoa! These are amazing!

Jason and the Auntie LAUGH as Andini makes a face, realizing there's paper in her mouth. She pulls it out and reads --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
"You are in good hands tonight."

The Auntie smiles innocently, but when Andini looks down to take another cookie, the Auntie shoots a conspiratorial look at Jason. He smiles back in embarrassment -- always meddling!

EXT. LINCOLN SQUARE PARK - NIGHT

Andini and Jason sit on a JUNK BOAT-SHAPED PLAY STRUCTURE, chowing down on egg tarts from a bag that reads "RUBY KING BAKERY" and sipping boba with "MEETFRESH" on the cups.

ANDINI
The dessert here is *insane.*

JASON
My parents used to own a donut shop
right over there.

Jason points at a HUGE LUXURY APARTMENT COMPLEX being built on the corner of 11th and Harrison.

JASON (CONT'D)
At first I was excited to get a fancy new park, fancy new stores, fancy new cafés. But then I realized that even though I was born down the block... none of it was for me. The gentrifiers get the good stuff... not the people who built this place. Dad and I lost the shop and moved to El Cerrito.

ANDINI
That's awful.

Jason nods and they sit there in silence, until --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
You have to do something about Mama Siu's.

JASON
I don't think there's anything *to* do.

ANDINI
Take it from an expert bamboozler: there's always a way.

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The yellow bus travels through epic sequoias and redwoods.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

Peaceful. Towards the back, Yati rests her head on Zola's shoulder -- they're both knocked out. At the front, most of the other lacrosse players are also asleep.

Ms. Alperstein meditates beside Jason, who plays Pokémon on a "retro" Game Boy Advance and occasionally glances up at the back of Andini's head in the first row beside Phoenix.

PHOENIX
(looking over shoulder)
So Yola's really a thing now, huh?
(re: Andini's confusion)
You know, Yvonne and Zola.

ANDINI
Whoa... combined couple names are *actually* still a thing here?!

Phoenix LAUGHS and faces forward again. Andini shakes her head at herself. Then, having over-prepared for this bus ride, she turns back to him a little too enthusiastically --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Talking about Gloria Steinem at my party reminded me of Putrijaya's 18th century royals: Queen Maharani I and her sister Princess Gita!
(Phoenix raises eyebrows)
They watched their neighbors get colonized and avoided it themselves by pushing for reforms to unify the whole country, then sent their kids to school in England and France and became friends with those monarchs.

Phoenix smiles, impressed. Andini's heart flutters.

PHOENIX
That's awesome. Keep your friends close and your colonizers closer?

ANDINI
I'd like to keep... *you* close.

Phoenix LAUGHS genuinely. Andini LAUGHS awkwardly, hardly believing she just said that. Silence falls...

Until Andini's phone blares LUDACRIS. Everyone wakes up to the loud sound, groggy -- Yati bolts especially upright.

Andini declines the call... but it RINGS again right away. Andini tries to turn it off, but keeps fumbling it as she gets more and more nervous with everyone staring --

An anxious Andini finally picks up, framing her face tightly. In the back, Yati quiets everyone.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Hey, Mom and Dad.

ON SCREEN: The Queen and King are way too *far away* this time.

KING KARL SETIAWAN (FROM SCREEN)
(too loudly)
How's it hangin'?!

ANDINI
Good, just busy. We're headed to a, um, Model UN Conference.

Andini mutes herself for a second and moves to an empty row for privacy, explaining to everyone --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Asian parents.

Phoenix nods and other kids quietly "OOOH" in understanding.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (FROM SCREEN)
I hope you conquer the world, or save it, or whatever's best!

ANDINI
Thanks, we were actually in the middle of prepping, so I might--

Someone in the very back who hasn't gotten the memo starts blasting LIL NAS X. Yati dives to turn it down.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
(laughs nervously)
Just getting in the zone!

KING KARL SETIAWAN (FROM SCREEN)
Didn't the Americans cancel Little Nas?

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (FROM SCREEN)
It's Little Nas *X*, dear. Don't want to confuse him with plain old Nas.
(back to Andini)
When in doubt, align yourself with Switzerland--

ANDINI
Okay thanks guys bye!

She hangs up quickly, lets out a SIGH of relief, and turns to mouth "THANK YOU" at Yati before heading back to sit next to Phoenix. Yati plops down into her own seat.

JASON
Um... your parents know Lil Nas X?

ANDINI
(laughs awkwardly)
Stop eavesdropping, Jason.

PHOENIX
I have "tiger parents" too. The struggle is real.

Andini nods. Silence. She's worried the mood died, until --

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Wanna come to Mirror Lake tonight? Few of us are gonna go swimming.

It takes everything in Andini not to cheer... so instead she just bites her lip and nods again, thrilled to be invited!

EXT. YOSEMITE - MIRROR LAKE - LATER

Everyone SPLASHES around. Phoenix and The Gentrifiers record a TikTok, lip-syncing to BTS's "BOY WITH LUV".

Andini shivers happily in the water beside Yati, Zola, and some other lacrosse girls as Yati holds court.

YATI
People stole DVDs from our family's video stall all the time. Started chasing them down when I was 7.

Wanting to be included, Andini interjects --

ANDINI
Sometimes I'd help her box them in!

But everyone remains more captivated by Yati.

TALL LACROSSE PLAYER
(to Yati)
Did anyone ever try to fight you?!

YATI
Yeah, for THE GOONIES. Guy thought he was hot stuff, then got his ass beat by a tween girl. Bitch please.

SHORT LACROSSE PLAYER
So freaking badass!

Everyone LAUGHS and MURMURS in agreement. Andini tries to include herself again --

ANDINI
I'm freaking badass too! When I was 9, I dognapped a pug for a day and named him Michael Puglé!

Andini LAUGHS at the memory, but everyone else just looks taken aback. Yati nudges Zola, urging her to talk to Andini.

ZOLA
You're high-key weird, Andi Lee, but I can dig it. Thanks for dragging my girl into the lake.

Andini smiles and nods.

SHORT LACROSSE PLAYER
You're also dope at water girling.
My bottle's like, always full.

ANDINI
(blushing)
Aw. I try.

TALL LACROSSE PLAYER
(to Yati and Zola)
So, which one of you is gonna
prompose at the talent show
tomorrow night?

YATI
We're not making it a whole thing.

Yati smiles at Zola, grateful that she gets her. From across the lake, Phoenix hollers from beside The Gentrifiers --

PHOENIX
Andi Lee, when you're done
gossiping, get over here!

Andini looks excited as another Gentrifier turns up 50 Cent's "CANDY SHOP".

ZOLA
Ah hellll no, this isn't 2005.
C'mon Yvonne, race you to the dock.

Zola takes off towards the dock in the opposite direction.

YATI
(to Andini)
Ooo, you bouta get even wetter!

Yati winks and swims after Zola. Andini grins and eagerly shuffles through the water towards Phoenix and co. The two other Gentrifiers swim towards Andini, phones in hand, still blasting Fiddy's PHALLIC SONG.

ACCORDION PLAYER
(chanting)
Andi Lee! Andi Lee!

They throw their arms around her roughly while SINGING to the lyrics. Startled, Andini tries to pull away.

WASHBOARD PLAYER
C'mon, don't be Andi *Lame!*

Andini looks even less happy, but suddenly, Phoenix is there.

PHOENIX
(to Gentrifiers)
Yo, there's no need to do all that.

The Gentrifiers shrug and head for shore.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Sorry about them. They can be a lot.

Andini smiles her gratitude and dares to hope for more one-on-one time...

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Feel free to chill with everyone if you feel up to it!

With that, he heads for shore, where a bevy of the hawtest lacrosse girls descend upon him.

HAWT GIRL
Let's try this new new Tik Tok dance in the water!

ZOLA
(yelling from dock)
Check that dance credit though!

Andini looks at Phoenix, barely visible amongst all the girls, then back at the DOCK... where Yati is intimately talking to Zola, who's moisturizing her own hair with leave-in conditioner, backlit by the romantic sunset.

Feeling like she doesn't quite fit anywhere, *again,* Andini SIGHS, walks out of the water, quickly gets dresses, and takes out her phone to shoot Yati a text: *"HAVE FUN ;) SEE U AT THE CABIN [NATIONAL PARK EMOJI]"*.

EXT. YOSEMITE - WILDFLOWER FIELD - NIGHT

Andini is hiking back to the main campsite when she catches sight of a LONE FIGURE lying in a FIELD of MOONLIT WILDFLOWERS. She moves closer... to discover that it's Jason. He glances over as Andini approaches.

ANDINI
You would be stargazing. Geek.

JASON
Who's the stalker now?

They both LAUGH as Andini settles down beside him.

ANDINI
I haven't seen the stars this clearly since being home. They look really different here.

A quiet moment.

JASON
Can I ask you... what it's like? Being from somewhere where everyone looks like you?

ANDINI
I guess it honestly just feels... normal to me. You don't feel at home here? At all?

JASON
I mean, I'm American. But never *enough.* Always in between and nowhere at all.
(re: Andini's nod)
My parents were refugees. No English, no formal education... not because they weren't smart or anything, but because --

ANDINI
The Khmer Rouge would've executed them during the Cambodian Genocide.
(re: Jason's raised brows)
Expert bamboozler, remember? Full of surprises.

Another silence. Jason lets out a DEEP SIGH.

JASON
My parents were just... so happy I was born here. They made all these sacrifices, and... I guess, I just can’t help but feel ungrateful when I feel out of place.
(remembering)
Just last year, I went to my buddy Nick's Friendsgiving and someone asked if it was my first Thanksgiving. Seems innocent enough, but when you're constantly reminded that you don't belong, it... chips away at you.

ANDINI
And Thanksgiving is...

JASON
Basically a dumb holiday to commemorate a different Genocide.

Andini makes a "yikes" face.

ANDINI
I mean, even back home, it's not like I feel like I belong. All this... stuff, it comes naturally to my family. They can't understand why it might... just feel like a trap. To someone related to them.
(admitting)
I guess it's kinda different.

JASON
(jokingly)
Just a *tiny* bit different...
(laughs, then)
Pretty sure that if I ever go to Cambodia, they'll pick me out as an American right away.

ANDINI
You've never been?

JASON
I asked my mom for stories all the time, but she'd tell me fairytales instead. Like how we'd all go back to Cambodia together, live this perfect life in the house she grew up in. And every day we'd swim in this crystal-clear, emerald lake since the weather's so hot and sticky. At night, we'd eat juicy jackfruits, listen to cicadas, stare at the stars...
(then)
I always hoped she and I would go back there together.

ANDINI
You should go. For both of you.

JASON
Maybe I'll stop by Putrijaya, too. So we can be out of place together.

Andini smiles back, but realizes that she needs to steer the conversation away from home to stay undercover.

ANDINI
I try not to think about having to go back empty-handed. I came here to escape all the... pressure. Live my Fanny-Freedom fantasy. But honestly, people don't really get me here either.

JASON
So *make* them get you. You dress like Fanny, but you don't act like her. Would she have left the lake?
(Andini shrugs)
You should channel her -- and *yourself* -- for real at the talent show tomorrow.

ANDINI
You want me to sing in front of everyone. When they barely seem to put up with me *talking*.

JASON
You won't know until you try. I can't have my fairytale... so let's make yours happen.

Andini stares up at the stars, considering.

INT. YOSEMITE - BUNKHOUSE - NEXT DAY

Andini and Jason sit on bunks facing each other. Andini looks questioningly at the electric guitar in Jason's lap.

JASON
Chloe Petersen's. She practically gifted it to me when I told her Yvonne wanted to play.

ANDINI
But... Chloe's not on the team?

JASON
Alperstein let her come after her parents bought everyone new cleats. Talk about privilege.

ANDINI
(checking phone)
Well, I guess we can start while we wait for Yvonne.

As Jason TUNES the guitar, he catches Andini staring at his defined forearms.

JASON
Are you checking me out, Andi Lee?

ANDINI
What? No. I just didn't know you played guitar.

JASON
More bamboozlement. Shame on you.
(then)
My mom was a musician.

ANDINI
This seems like a good time for you to share one of your famous *tunes*.

JASON
Maybe. *If* you kill it tonight.

A charged silence as Jason continues to TUNE... until Yati bursts in, sweaty and glowing.

YATI
Just got your texts, sorry! I went on a night hike with Zola and didn't have service.

Yati sits down on the bunk beside Andini, who looks irked, but does her best to hide it. Jason passes Yati the guitar.

ANDINI
Let's just get started.

YATI
Whose idea was this?

Jason points to Andini; Andini points to Jason. Yati grins.

YATI (CONT'D)
Got it.

INT. YOSEMITE - ASSEMBLY HALL - NIGHT

Andini looks *far* from confident as she sits between Yati and Jason amongst the rest of her peers. ON STAGE, the Gentrifiers have DUCT TAPE over their mouths that reads "BELIEVE WOMEN". Phoenix finally RIPS his away --

PHOENIX
T-t-tasty tasty -- Fergalicious definition make them girls go crazy...

The crowd CHEERS wildly as Phoenix passionately belts out...

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
My body staying vicious, I be up in the gym just working on my fitness!

GENTRIFIERS BANDMATES
(ripping off tape too)
She's our witness! Wooo weee!

Guys, girls, and even Ms. Alperstein SCREAM Phoenix's name.

ANDINI
Yeah no, I can't do this.

JASON
No *yeah,* you can.

YATI
What he said.

Andini finds herself sandwiched between Jason and Yati's encouraging looks.

INT. YOSEMITE - ASSEMBLY HALL - BACKSTAGE - LATER

Andini paces backstage, still with Jason and Yati (who holds Chloe Petersen's guitar). O.S., Zola finishes up a badass ELECTRIC VIOLIN SOLO to CRAZED APPLAUSE.

JASON
I'll run lights. You guys got this.

He sticks a flashlight in his mouth and starts up a ladder that leads into the rafters.

ONSTAGE: Ms. Alperstein takes the microphone as Zola sits down beside Phoenix and the Gentrifiers.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Let's give another round for our soon-to-be valedictorian and lacrosse captain, Zola Reese!
(holds for applause)
Last but not least, we have our new MVP Yvonne de la Guerra and her hydration expert cousin Andi Lee.

BACKSTAGE: Andini grabs Yati's hand.

YATI
(as JoEllen)
You ready, charmer?

ANDINI
(as Lonnie)
Ready as I'll ever be, Miss Calhoun.

INT. YOSEMITE - ASSEMBLY HALL - STAGE - CONTINUOUS

A SINGLE LIGHT flicks on above, revealing Andini and Yati on stage. Andini is in front of a mic as Yati strums the opening chords. Yati nods at Andini, who takes a DEEP BREATH --

ANDINI
Follow me don't ask yourself, if it's right or wrong, everything is about time, time, time...

Andini has a *really* good voice. The audience leans in. Phoenix grins, genuinely impressed.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
And it always should be fine, if you aren't blind... I only want escape and change my life, come with me, come with me... I don't wanna live alone I'm awake, come with me, come with me...

Yati smiles and Andini smiles back, gaining momentum.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Because the only thing I need, is that you gimme, gimme, gimme gimme gimme cock, gimme, gimme, gimme gimme love, gimme, gimme, gimme gimme gimme cock, gimme, gimme, sex life love...

As Yati picks out the instrumental break like a pro, REVEAL Jason beaming as he holds the "spotlight" (flashlight) above.

IN THE AUDIENCE: Phoenix stands up and starts to CLAP along, energizing Andini even more. Everyone joins in and Zola makes a heart shape with her hands for Yati.

ON STAGE: Andini is fully in the zone.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Don't be scared to try to achieve what you have in mind, everything is about time, time, time, and it always should be fine, to get more high... I know if I fall I will start again come with me, come with me, I don't wanna live alone I'm awake come with me, come with me... Because the only thing I need...

She holds the microphone out to the audience, who join in, led by Phoenix --

ANDINI & AUDIENCE (CONT'D)
Is that you gimme, gimme, gimme gimme gimme cock, gimme, gimme, gimme gimme love, gimme, gimme, gimme gimme gimme cock, gimme, gimme, sex life love...

Phones are now out, including Ms. Alperstein's, who muscles to the front. Jason smiles from the rafters. Phoenix looks fully smitten and gives Andini a nod. Andini's heart races.

Yati totally jams out, and for the last chorus the audience members drop out to let Andini bring it home --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Gimme, gimme, gimme gimme gimme cock, gimme, gimme, gimme gimme love, gimme, gimme, gimme gimme gimme cock, gimme, gimme, sex! Life! Love!

Everyone bursts into louder APPLAUSE than The Gentrifiers and Zola got! Andini beams, her focus now solely on Phoenix... he grins back at her... she can't let this moment go --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Phoenix Barron-Kline, will you go to prom with me?!

Everyone falls silent for a split second -- then bursts into "OOOOOOOOOH"s! Ms. Alperstein flips to selfie-mode.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
I. EFFING. *CALLED* IT!

Phoenix jumps onto the stage. Andini holds her breath as he leans in towards the mic.

PHOENIX
(quietly)
Hell yeah I will.

The assembly hall GOES BATSHIT CRAZY as Phoenix kisses Andini on the cheek. Yati CHEERS the loudest and even Zola WHOOPS.

ABOVE: Jason CLAPS too, although he doesn't look as excited.

ON STAGE: Andini can't stop smiling. For the first time, she feels accepted, loved, and cheered on for channeling the kind of person she wants to be.

EXT. YOSEMITE - SCHOOL BUS - NEXT DAY

Andini watches Jason load everyone's luggage, even as they ignore him. She approaches and starts to help. Jason smiles.

JASON
I didn't get to tell you how awesome you were last night. I mean... I tried, but you were being swarmed by more aggressive fans.

ANDINI
I've seen you jockey for egg tarts.
(then, gets real)
Thanks for pushing me to perform.

JASON
I was thinking about what you said the other day -- what if you and Yvonne did another performance to help raise money for Mama Siu's?

ANDINI
People would *pay* to see us?

JASON
Swarming fans? Chloe Petersen crying she was so moved? Yeah. I think so.

ANDINI
If you really think it'll help...

JASON
Definitely! We should talk about your set list, and--

PHOENIX
Andi Lee! You coming?

He, Yati, and Zola stand by the bus doors, waiting for her.

ANDINI
(to Jason)
Sorry, maybe we can start planning once we're back home?

Jason nods his understanding and steps out of her way.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD - DAY

A confident Yati sits beneath the oak tree helping Zola and the rest of the populars with their geography assignment.

YATI
Indonesia's an archipelago. And if you wanna remember that the Dutch colonized them, just think of a bunch of really nice human beings getting *Dutch oven-ed* by some imperialist-ass caucasians!

Zola is smitten with Yati's nerdy enthusiasm. Meanwhile, Andini sprawls on the grass with Phoenix.

PHOENIX
Permission to run my fingers through your hair?

She stares into his eyes and nods -- then shivers happily as his fingers glide through her hair. It's intense.

ANDINI
What are you thinking about?

PHOENIX
Just like... digging and vibing with your energy.

ANDINI
And what's my energy like, exactly?

PHOENIX
(deep AF)
24 karat magic.

Phoenix pulls her in for their *very first kiss.* It's tender and slow and honestly everything Andini imagined it would be.

YATI
More tongue!
(they keep going)
Okay, less tongue.

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - DAY

Yati slowly lowers a bag of fortune cookies in shock and awe. REVEAL: She stands beside Andini in front of the diner. Andini glances from Yati and back to the diner: *RIGHT?!*

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - DAY

Andini and Yati sit together at a booth across from Jason. Yati stares at the *huge* signed Fanny poster.

YATI
There've been *sightings?!* What if Fanny comes to the benefit?!

The girls SHRIEK at the thought, but Jason shakes his head.

JASON
It's just a rumor, guys. I've been here most of my life and that poster's the closest I've gotten.

Mr. Ahn sets down corn beef hash and kimchi fried rice.

MR. AHN
Thank you for what you're doing. Mama Siu's hasn't had a show in decades! If only Chester could see.
(smiles with nostalgia)
If you're covering Fanny, make sure to include "Taste the Pomegranate"! Just maybe not the third verse. There might be children present.

Andini, Yati, and Jason nod as Mr. Ahn putters off.

JASON
So what others do you want to play?

YATI
Definitely "M.O.I.S.T."... and "Top Off, Bottom On"?

They turn to Andini next... but realize she's texting.

ANDINI
Oh. Sorry! Phoenix just sent me a pic of the new hot tub at his parents' vacay house.

She flashes her phone to them. ON SCREEN: A HOT TUB sits on a fancy wooden deck, surrounded by trees.

JASON
Cool... well, I was thinking for ticket prices we'd do a pre-sale for 10 bucks, then 15 at the door.

ANDINI
What?! You can ask for way more! I mean, I've gotten as popular as Yvonne since Domecoming and --

Andini's phone VIBRATES. She ignores it and refocuses -- but it VIBRATES again... and again... and *again.*

YATI
Maybe we could turn our phones off?

Andini takes one last look at Phoenix's latest message, then forces herself to change her settings.

JASON
Thanks. How's next Saturday at noon? It'll be a nice pre-prom-Memorial-weekend event.

Andini and Yati nod in agreement.

EXT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - LATER

Andini and Jason wait on the street as Yati talks to Mr. Ahn inside. Andini's back on her phone. Jason opens his backpack.

Andini glances up as he hands her a WORN COMPOSITION BOOK. From the look on Jason's face, this is a big deal for him.

JASON
My... infamous tunes.

ANDINI
Oh my God, YES! Finally!

JASON
Maybe you can pick whichever one you like best to play. But, you know. Don't judge too harshly.

ANDINI
Me?! You should sing it yourself!

JASON
(laughs nervously)
I can talk to people one on one, but public stuff is... yeah.
(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)
There's a reason I'm the mascot. I can't sing in front of everyone.

ANDINI
I seem to remember telling you the exact same thing.
(then)
What if I perform it with you?

Jason smiles at Andini, moved.

INT. OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY - NIGHT

Blue carpet. Worn-out wooden shelves. Straight out of the '80s. Andini, slinging a guitar, walks through the stacks and sees Yati sitting alone, typing furiously on her laptop.

ANDINI
Dude, I went all the way to Fenton's for Zola to tell me you bailed on them to do homework... in this... dingy common area?

YATI
Sorry, lost track of time. Alperstein's submitting my Sojourner Truth essay to some competition and I have to do edits.

Andini closes Yati's laptop for her.

ANDINI
You look like you need a break.
(re: electric guitar)
Check it out, I got us our own guitar so we can rehearse.

Yati just nods, still a bit distracted as she packs up.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Aren't you excited to *fully* learn what Fanny's lyrics are all about on prom night?

Yati doesn't answer at first, but Andini keeps staring at her intently. Finally --

YATI
I mean, we kinda... already have.

ANDINI
I'm sorry, *WHAT?!*

YATI
It started in Yosemite. On the "night hike".

ANDINI
Ew, you guys did it on a *hike?*

YATI
There was no hike.

ANDINI
Oh. So, you just... didn't want to tell me.

YATI
I *did* wanna tell you. But you were still winning Phoenix over, and I know you can feel a little... left out at times.

ANDINI
Well, now that Phoenix and I are a thing, I doubt we'll make it to prom either.

Yati senses the insecurity Andini is overcompensating for.

YATI
That's cool. And it's also cool to wait. "Virginity"'s such an old-ass sexist concept anyway. You're not a different person once you have sex. Everyone goes at their own pace.

Unfortunately, this only makes Andini want to catch up even more. A determined look settles on her face.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - NEXT DAY

Andini walks behind Yati and Zola as they flirt and mess with each other. Girls from the lacrosse team are gathered around Yati and Andini's lockers and light up when they see the couple. Andini watches them jealously.

Fortunately, Phoenix arrives to pull her out of her head.

PHOENIX
Need me to get your locker babe?

ANDINI
Yes please.

PHOENIX
18-21-3, right?

ANDINI
What?

With Andini nonplussed, Phoenix gives it a try and it pops open. Andini wraps her arms around his waist.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
When are you gonna go back to your moms' vacation house?

Phoenix slings an arm around her but remains oblivious.

PHOENIX
Dunno, prolly in a few weeks.

ANDINI
The hot tub looked so nice.

PHOENIX
Fasho.

ANDINI
I was jealous I couldn't... heat it up with you.

Phoenix finally gets it. He smiles.

PHOENIX
Oh. No need to be jealous. Come see it for yourself on Friday.

ANDINI
(sly smile)
Your parents won't be there?

PHOENIX
Nah, they're at a symposium in Oslo 'til Sunday morning.

Andini grins in victory and brings Phoenix in for a kiss.

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - LATER

Andini consults a checklist on her phone while Yati and Jason hang a homemade banner that reads "SAVE MAMA SIU'S!".

ANDINI
So we'll get that hung, check the amps, then we should be set!

YATI
We should probably also do a run-through, don't you think?

Andini looks conflicted as she checks the time on her phone.

ANDINI
Yeah, I guess we can. Quickly.

JASON
And... did you decide which song of mine you might like to include?

Andini looks even *more* conflicted. She completely forgot.

ANDINI
They're all so good... it was impossible to choose.

Jason looks down, trying to hide his disappointment.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I'll let the artist himself pick!

JASON
That's okay. We can just skip it.

ANDINI
I mean... wait. Are you sure? We can totally pick *your* favorite.

Jason gives her a reluctant nod -- but then Andini's phone BUZZES, stealing back her attention.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Yvonne, I think we're honestly good to go with the decorations.

Yati finishes with the banner and turns to her, suspicious.

YATI
What's your deal today? Less than 24 hours 'til showtime.

ANDINI
Sorry, I just got invited to Phoenix's Marin house at the last minute and we gotta head out there!

JASON
Marin? When are you coming back?

ANDINI
...Tomorrow morning.

YATI
You're *staying over?* But we all committed to noon tomorrow!

ANDINI
He'll drive me back by then, promise! Actually probably much earlier. He wakes up at 4AM to do breath work.

Yati glances at Jason, who looks disappointed.

YATI
This is importa--

JASON
It's fine.

The girls both turn to Jason in surprise.

JASON (CONT'D)
See you tomorrow.

He turns away to continue preparations by himself. Yati glares at Andini, who shrugs: *What am I supposed to do?*

INT. PHOENIX'S BIODIESEL MERCEDES / EXT. REDWOODS - DAY

Golden hour. Andini rides shotgun as Phoenix wends his sleek black ride through dark redwoods. A LAKE HOUSE comes into view, complete with wraparound decks and expansive windows.

The HOT TUB stands out on the top story. Andini sucks in an EXCITED BREATH.

EXT. BARRON-KLINE VACATION HOUSE - DECK - NIGHT

The sun has set. The moon and stars shine down on... Andini *totally making out* with Phoenix in the hot tub, lips locked in passionate fervor! It's hot (literally steaming) & heavy.

Before long swim trunks and bikini bottoms are tossed aside. Andini relishes the moment, *finally* having the guy of her dreams with her, wanting her.

Phoenix's hand fumbles for a condom. Andini waits for him awkwardly... and after a few tries, Phoenix nods as he finally manages to put it on.

PHOENIX
You down to make love?

Andini straddles Phoenix, breathless --

ANDINI
Absolutely.

Andini's eyes widen as it... *goes in.* She's nervous at first -- waiting for it to feel instinctual. It doesn't help that their splashing sends chlorinated water into her eyes.

Finally, Andini manages to find a better position... but unfortunately, Phoenix is already GRUNTING. He finally lets out a LONG SIGH and moves a confused Andini off of him.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
That was... it?

PHOENIX
That was... awesome.

An awkward silence falls that Phoenix doesn't even notice as he pops open an IPA. Finally, he notices Andini staring.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Please, feel free to finish.

ANDINI
You mean... alone?

PHOENIX
The female orgasm is complex and yours to best harness.

ANDINI
Is that something you... read?

PHOENIX
(as he nods and sips)
Chapter 2 of "She Comes First". You should check it out. It'll help.

ANDINI
Thanks...
(then, trying to salvage)
You know, I knew we were made for each other that first time I saw you covering Fanny de la Chica.

PHOENIX
Who?

ANDINI
Fanny de la Chica. "Gimme C**k"? I played it at Domecoming?

PHOENIX
Oh, right. I first heard it on Tumblr.
(MORE)

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Gross, but I thought the melody was worth elevating. And you made it bearable with your hella tight stage vibe.

ANDINI
Gross? It's not gross at all. It's about knowing what you want and asking for it. It's about... realizing something has to change. And *making* it change yourself.

PHOENIX
I just don't see how a woman talking about wanting the D is particularly empowering.

Pushed too far, Andini stands up across from him.

ANDINI
I don't see how it matters what *you* think would be empowering to *me.*

PHOENIX
Okay, damn. Chillax.

Andini climbs out of the hot tub... and as she walks away, we see that she's trying very hard not to cry.

INT. BARRON-KLINE VACATION HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Andini wakes up alone on a couch to Phoenix's ALARM going off in his nearby bedroom (Mumford & Sons' "WOMAN", ew). Disoriented, she reaches for her own phone... to find that it's dead. Concerned, she stands up and heads for --

INT. BARRON-KLINE VACATION HOUSE - PHOENIX'S ROOM - CONT.

Where she crosses to the nightstand and picks up Phoenix's phone. ON SCREEN: The time reads 12:00PM.

ANDINI
WHAT?!

PHOENIX
(bolting up in bed)
What?!

ANDINI
It's *noon?* Who sets their alarm for NOON?!

PHOENIX
I do!

ANDINI
I thought you have 4AM breath work!

PHOENIX
4PM...

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - KITCHEN - THAT MOMENT

Yati and Jason wait "backstage" at the concert, AKA in the kitchen, Yati with a guitar. Yati frowns at her phone.

YATI
She's not answering.

JASON
I've literally had nightmares like this. As in, *actually* literally. Except I'm usually in the mascot costume so at least I'm shielded!

Yati peeks out the door. A small, expectant crowd has gathered, including Zola and other kids from school.

YATI
You're gonna have to fill in.

JASON
No. No way. I've never consciously performed in front of anyone!

YATI
Unfortunately my dude, looks like today's the day.

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - DAY

Yati and Jason stand on the small stage before the audience, who all look excited and are already filming on their phones.

Yati strums the OPENING CHORDS of "Gimme C**k" and tries to shoot Jason an encouraging look... but he's bright red and too stressed to notice.

As Jason opens his mouth to sing, he goes from red straight to *green...* and FULLY *THROWS UP!* Zola and everyone else SHRIEKS in horror! Mr. Ahn and the Diner Regulars wince.

Mortified, Yati starts towards Jason, but --

JASON
I-It's o-okay, just k-keep going...

Frozen and unsure what else to do, Yati attempts and barely pulls off a SICKENING RIFF... before Jason stumbles towards *her* and PUKES again! Yati has to leap back out of the way!

By this time, all of the audience members but Zola are sprinting away (although many are still filming). Zola approaches Jason, but he PUKES yet again...

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - LATER

Mr. Ahn is in the midst of taking down the "SAVE MAMA SIU'S" banner when Phoenix's black Mercedes pulls up to the curb outside and Andini bursts into the restaurant.

She takes in the empty space, populated only by Mr. Ahn.

MR. AHN
Everyone left about an hour ago.

ANDINI
Even Jason?

MR. AHN
Especially Jason.

ANDINI
It was that bad?

Mr. Ahn simply nods and sinks into a booth seat.

MR. AHN
To be honest... I can't believe this chapter is really ending.

Immensely guilty, Andini sits down across from Mr. Ahn.

MR. AHN (CONT'D)
This was a Chinese restaurant. Chester's family bought it in 1906 after their fishing village in Monterey was burned down by... intolerant people. When it became Chester's, we made it a safe space for people like us -- outsiders, weirdos, perpetual foreigners. You have no idea how many times we were raided by the cops in the early days. But we survived. Guess I thought maybe we could forever.
(then)
(MORE)

MR. AHN (CONT'D)
This was his place, 'til the end.
He was gone just two weeks after
his last performance.
(re: Mama Siu picture)
She kept him alive for longer than
anyone expected.

Andini stares down at her hands that shake in her lap.

ANDINI
I'm really sorry, Mr. Ahn.

He's too caught up in his memories to hear her.

EXT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - DAY

It's overcast, with Bay Area fog adding to clouds that look like they might burst open. Andini hustles up the front walk, pulling her '80s windbreaker tighter around her.

INT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Andini enters to find Yati curled up with Zola on the couch, watching "The Scent of Green Papaya". For the first time, Yati looks at Andini with pure disappointment in her eyes.

ANDINI
What happened?

ZOLA
I almost got chunked, that's what
friggin' happened.

Zola holds up her phone. ON SCREEN is boomerang'ed footage of Jason puking. Andini cringes.

ANDINI
(to Yati)
Could... I talk to you? Privately?

Yati hesitates, then stands up from the couch.

EXT. ANDINI & YATI'S BUNGALOW - BACKYARD - DAY

It's starting to rain, so Andini and Yati huddle together under the awning of the back porch.

ANDINI
I'm sorry. I stayed the night at Phoenix's after he had a couple beers, my phone died so my alarm didn't go off, and Phoenix had his set for *noon,* can you believe--

YATI
Andini.

Andini looks taken aback by how sharply Yati interrupted her.

YATI (CONT'D)
You've made a lot of excuses over the years. Hell, I've *helped* you make them. But today... you committed to something that really mattered, then let a lot of people down. This community was counting on you. Jason was counting on you.

ANDINI
But you know how important going to prom with the guy of my dreams is to me -- and I'm making it happen! Last night I *lost my v-card!*

When Yati doesn't react, Andini gets more frustrated.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
It's not like you can't relate to losing track of your responsibilities. Look how much time you spend with Zola or studying more than necessary when you're technically here to help me!

Yati's expression gets almost as stormy as the sky.

YATI
You said we were here for *both of us* to get to be ourselves. Fanny-Freedom, remember? What, you're just gonna change your mind 'cause you're on the defensive?

Andini opens her mouth, but Yati's on a roll.

YATI (CONT'D)
And for the record, I've helped you this entire time *anyway.* Guess that was the right call, since clearly you've only seen me as a handmaiden, not a real friend.

ANDINI
That's not true, I--

YATI
And as your handmaiden -- it's time to go home!

ANDINI
What are you *talking* about?!

Yati shakes her head and lets out a disappointed SIGH.

YATI
I wanted to believe this trip might actually help you. You agreeing to do the benefit? Growth! But... you bailed. I'm in puking videos, and our Domecoming performance's up now too for a "How it Started, How it's Going". We've gotta get out ahead of it or I *will* be fired.

ANDINI
No. We're not giving up now. Prom's *tomorrow,* they won't see the posts before then! I'll report them. Don't you want to go with Zola?!

YATI
I literally can't afford to think with my heart right now! I might actually have a shot at the future I want, even if I have to finish school online--

ANDINI
Oh my God, school and the little girls can wait! Can you just do this one last little thing for me?!

Hearing her very personal goal spit back out at her like it's nothing, Yati recoils like she's been slapped -- then shakes her head in disbelief.

YATI
"Just this one last little thing."

ANDINI
I-I *order you* not to tell my parents! Or... or *I'll* fire you before they get the chance!

If Yati looked betrayed before, now she looks *ashen*. After everything she's done for Andini as a friend, this is where they've ended up.

YATI
Your privilege is showing.

Yati turns to go back inside. Guilt washes over Andini.

ANDINI
But you don't actually even need to worry! There's absolutely no way my parents are going to find the videos all the way in--

EXT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - ESTABLISHING - THAT MOMENT

Maharani's SCREAM echoes through the palace and its gardens.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - MAHARANI'S STUDY - CONTINUOUS

The Queen and King hustle in to find their older daughter at her standing desk in the immaculately organized office.

ON HER COMPUTER MONITOR: The hashtag #IsThatPrincessAndini is trending on Putrijayan Instagram and TikTok...

...And is attached to *ALL THE INCRIMINATING VIDEOS* Yati was worried about: Andini beside half-naked boys singing "Candy Shop" at Yosemite, Andini kissing Phoenix on campus, and then Jason puking followed by Yati's sickening riff.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
What in the crocodile hell am I looking at here?!

MAHARANI
Your daughter, trending in photos posted by students of "Oakland High School", an--

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
No--

MAHARANI
American public school.

The Queen can't help but let out a prolonged SCREAM OF HORROR. The King rubs her back helplessly, devastated too.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - ASTROTURF FIELD - NIGHT

The HORN blows for halftime and the Oakland High lacrosse team jogs to the sideline. When Andini hands Yati her water bottle, Yati won't even look at her.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOMS - LATER

The game has ended. Andini spots Jason folding towels in the locker room and slowly approaches.

ANDINI
Hey... need any help?

Jason simply nods and exits the locker room, leaving all the towels behind for her. Andini sinks.

EXT. PHOENIX'S PIEDMONT HOUSE - ROSE GARDEN - NEXT DAY

Andini and Phoenix pose in front of rose bushes while Phoenix's moms MOLLI and FLEUR (50s) take photos on a vintage SLR. Andini wears her green sequined dress with big hair.

MOLLI
Candid! Go candid!

ANDINI
(quietly, to Phoenix)
Is it candid if they're telling us to be candid?

But Phoenix just dutifully looks off-camera.

FLEUR
Phoenix, you look like you smell something ungodly.

MOLLI
It's because his nostrils are naturally tensed.

FLEUR
Not good enough, Phoenix! UN-TENSE!

Andini and Phoenix force smiles beside each other.

MOLLI
Now Andi, come in and we'll tame that hair for some tasteful ones.

Andini opens, then closes her mouth in disbelief.

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Andini, her hair now styled devastatingly straight, enters beside Phoenix to find that the gym has been decorated to look like it's underwater, with the prom's theme "FANTA-SEA" spelled out in bubble letters on a banner above the STAGE.

PHOENIX
You look amazing, babe. Good call on the hair.

ANDINI
Thanks.

Phoenix smiles obliviously as they take in the MAJESTICAL PROJECTED WAVES and BUBBLE MACHINES. Andini spots Jason in an ill-fitting suit posting MARINE ANIMAL FACT SHEETS.

PHOENIX
Dang, if Loggerhead Sea Turtles aren't saved by the end of the school year, that's on them.
(to Andini)
So? Everything you dreamed of and more?

Andini stares across the gym at Yati, who's dancing with Zola. The lacrosse team gets down with them, too -- they chose Yvonne in the friend break-up.

Andini is all alone except for Phoenix... the dude who didn't make her cum.

ANDINI
Yeah. Totally. Let's dance.

Andini pulls Phoenix out onto the dance floor -- to discover that his entire repertoire is made up of E-boy moves and lip-biting. Cringe.

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - LATER

Students eagerly shuffle towards the stage to gather for the evening's coronation. Ms. Alperstein (who else) takes the papier-mâché seaweed-strewn stage holding a microphone.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Shalom, young minds! Tonight is the night I -- and of course, although perhaps to a lesser extent, you -- have been looking forward to all year. It's coronation time!

Andini clutches Phoenix's hand in anticipation. Ms. Alperstein moves an index card to the front of her stack theatrically.

MS. ALPERSTEIN (CONT'D)
I don't think this comes as a surprise... *Yvonne de la Guerra!*

The crowd bursts into appreciative APPLAUSE as Yati blushes and mounts the stairs, then crosses to Ms. Alperstein. Andini CLAPS as a tiara is placed on her handmaiden's head, but is also crushed that her name wasn't called.

MS. ALPERSTEIN (CONT'D)
This is an especially historic prom for our humble academy... as we're actually crowning a *second* queen!

Andini immediately perks up.

PHOENIX
Crap. My parents are gonna be so disappointed.

Andini squeezes Phoenix's shoulder in sympathy, but looks hopeful at the thought of being another queen beside Yati.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Just as my bracket predicted...

Phoenix pulls out of Andini's grip as she squeezes too hard.

MS. ALPERSTEIN (CONT'D)
Zola Reese!

All the air goes out of Andini, but she forces herself to CLAP as the show-stopping Zola takes the stage to be crowned beside her girlfriend. The gymnasium is going SO CRAZY for the queer power couple that Andini barely hears --

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY (O.S.)
YATI?!

Andini slowly turns around in pure disbelief... to see the Putrijayan Queen, King, and Queen-to-be standing at the opposite end of the gym. Andini freezes, a deer in the headlights. Her dad spots her first.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
ANDINI!

A hush falls over the gymnasium as more people realize that a group of extremely well-dressed adults have invaded prom. Maharani swats bubbles away as the family crosses to Andini.

MAHARANI
What in the world is going on? Why is Yati on stage in a *tiara?!*

Andini's classmates jump in before she can even begin to fathom how to explain herself --

FEMALE STONER
'Cause she won Prom Queen! Jealous much?!

DUMB JOCK
And her name's Yvonne!

Maharani looks absolutely horrified at this disrespect.

MAHARANI
I assure you, she is no queen.

Everyone stares from Maharani to Andini to Yati in disbelief, assuming this must be some kind of prank... until an even more horrified Yati quickly takes off the tiara and curtsies.

YATI
I'm so sorry. This isn't...

Zola looks the most confused out of everyone as Yati comes down from the stage and reticently approaches the royal family. Still trying to piece together how the hell they wound up here, Andini whispers to Yati --

ANDINI
Did you tell them?!

Yati shakes her head, rueful that Andini even has to ask.

YATI
Again, I don't have the privilege of jeopardizing my job for revenge.

Behind Yati, Zola grabs Ms. Alperstein's mic.

ZOLA
Uh, I'm sorry, *what* the hell is happening?

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Everyone can go back to the... ball-on-a-budget, or whatever this is. We're just here to collect a rogue princess!

This causes everyone to start to MURMUR amongst themselves excitedly -- a *what?!*

MAHARANI
(hissing)
Father, *why* did you tell everyone she's a princess?

KING KARL SETIAWAN
I thought they already knew!

ZOLA
(still into mic)
Yeah, no, we definitely didn't.

Phoenix stares at Andini in newfound awe.

PHOENIX
You're.... a *princess?*

Andini nods.

ZOLA
So... what does that make Yvonne?

MAHARANI
Her handmaiden.

FEMALE STONER
You live in a dystopian future?! Blink twice if you need help!

MAHARANI
No not like the *show,* she's just a servant! She has a pension! And dental!

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Damn, y'all hiring?! Just kidding. But really.

Meanwhile, the Queen has spotted Jason staring open-mouthed at their family (especially King Karl).

JASON
Y-you're Karl Setiawan. Andy Serkis...

KING KARL SETIAWAN
...Called to congratulate me on my second Piala Citra win! Aw, always nice to meet a fan!

The King takes out a pen, evidently for an autograph, but stops when the Queen shoots him a look. Phoenix uses the opportunity to take a big step forward.

PHOENIX
And I'm Andini's boyfriend.

Andini can't help but smile for a split second since this is the first time he's ever called himself that -- but then realizes he's only doing it because of her royal status.

DUMB JOCK
No, I'm her boyfriend! Or.... I could be! I wanna be royal!

FEMALE STONER
Same, bro!

SHORT LACROSSE PLAYER
Why didn't you tell us, *Princess* Andi Lee? I mean, Andini?!

ZOLA
Yvonne, we need to TALK!

Before Andini and her family knows it, the crowd is pressing in on them from all sides. Ms. Alperstein sees what's happening and hops off the stage.

MS. ALPERSTEIN
Alright Putrijayan royals, follow me -- this is a Code Malia-Obama-Arrives-At-Her-Harvard-8AM-Biochem-Class!

The royals plus Yati gladly follow the path Ms. Alperstein clears to the exit by waving a lacrosse stick around. Phoenix tries to stick with Andini, but they're separated.

The last thing Andini sees before Ms. Alperstein closes the doors on them is Jason's disappointed, heartbroken face.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH - BEHIND GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

Andini stands across from her family, all nerves. Maharani glares at her -- but the Queen and King are focused on Yati.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Yati, we're very thankful for your service all these years, but... we're letting you go.

All of the color leaves Yati's face... and Andini's.

ANDINI
Mom, NO! It's not her fault!

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Your flight home leaves tonight. Winston will talk to you about your severance package.

ANDINI
Mom, Dad, you can't just--

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Andini. Her *one* job is to keep you safe.
(gestures at gym)
And *this...* is *not* safe.

ANDINI
But it was all me! I was the one who lied!

Just then, a black SUV pulls into the parking lot. Its driver climbs out to open the back door. Yati hesitates... then walks towards it, head hung low. Andini starts to cry.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Please! You HAVE to believe me! You can't fire my best friend!!!

Andini runs after Yati as the driver closes the door. Through the tinted glass, Andini sees tears running down Yati's cheeks... but she still won't look at Andini.

Andini feels gentle hands on her shoulders as the SUV pulls away.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
We'll make sure she's okay. Now come on. Time to go home.

Andini looks at her dad. His disappointment breaks her heart.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
To think... I was so excited to finally see *you* excited about the life I gave up my career for.

Andini glances back at the gym -- a fantasy turned nightmare -- before letting her family lead her away as she SOBS.

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - NEXT DAY

It's a very foggy day. Andini walks down the street with Olga the bodyguard trailing. As Andini continues through the vibrant neighborhood, she looks less upset and more at ease. She spots the Auntie sweeping outside of Shan Dong's.

ANDINI
Good morning, Auntie Chen.

The Auntie looks up and smiles.

AUNTIE
Jason's not-girlfriend! More fortune cookies already? You almost cleaned me out last time!

ANDINI
Whatever you can spare. I leave for Putrijaya this afternoon.

The Auntie nods and bustles inside.

INT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - DAY

Andini sits at the counter. Mr. Ahn places corn beef hash and kimchi fried rice in front of her.

MR. AHN
The King and Queen really let you out on your own?

WIDEN to include Olga, who awkwardly sits with her own plate.

ANDINI
Kinda. And even that took a lot of begging. Jason told you, huh.

MR. AHN
You just missed him.
(then)
And, well, what can I say -- this place has always attracted royalty! I'm glad you made it out for our last day in business.

ANDINI
I'm so sorry. For everything.

MR. AHN
It's in the past. Looks like it's time for all of us to figure out our next chapter.

Andini nods as he walks back into the kitchen. She takes her first bite and closes her eyes, savoring the flavor --

Somehow, tasting the memory of being here with Jason causes tears to spring to her eyes once again.

She quickly dabs at them with her napkin -- but an OLDER WOMAN (60s) sitting nearby has already noticed.

OLDER WOMAN
Are you alright?

ANDINI
Oh, yeah, I'm good. Sorry.

OLDER WOMAN
Food can bring back strong memories, huh?
(Andini nods)
I'm sad they're closing, too.

ANDINI
Do you come here a lot?

OLDER WOMAN
Sometimes. Less than I should. You?

ANDINI
I only learned about it a few months ago, when I realized it was featured in Fanny de la Chica's music video.
(re: Older Woman's nod)
I came here to channel her. Win prom queen, get the guy, make lots of cool friends... but... wound up doing the exact opposite. I ruined my oldest friendship. And an important new one.

OLDER WOMAN
Ah, well. As you know, Fanny made her share of messes and missteps.

Andini looks confused.

ANDINI
Like what?

OLDER WOMAN
The M.O.I.S.T. video was so controversial that it got pulled from the air. Label dropped her.

ANDINI
What?! That's B.S.! I'm sure the video was awesome.

OLDER WOMAN
Maybe. But she quit. And I bet she wonders if she wasted her opportunity. She set out to represent her community, but in the end, she let a lot of people down.

Andini frowns.

ANDINI
I don't believe that. At all. She did represent her community... and much more. Seeing someone who looks like me being unapologetically herself meant so much.

The Older Woman breaks into a charismatic smile -- then winks and tips her hat in gratitude. She throws down some cash.

OLDER WOMAN
On me.
(then)
You know, taking responsibility can be empowering. 'Cause if it's messed up? Means you can fix it.

The Older Woman stands and heads for the door.

ANDINI
Oh... um, thank you?

Taken aback, Andini reflects. She looks back at the signed poster... and suddenly, *it hits her.*

Andini leaps up from the counter and sprints for the door!

EXT. MAMA SIU'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

Still foggy. Andini sprints out after *FANNY DE LA CHICA herself...* But there's no one outside.

Andini hesitates for a moment. But soon, a newfound determination burns in her eyes.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO FAIRMONT HOTEL - DAY

Andini faces off with her parents and sister in the marbled, gilded lobby of the Fairmont. Multiple bellhops (plus Winston) wait expectantly beside overflowing luggage carts.

ANDINI
Mom, Dad, Maharani... I have unfinished business here and I need to stay.

The King and Queen bursts out LAUGHING.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Honey, we had to witness an oceanic prom without a Swarovski sea glass earring in *sight.*

ANDINI
The theme was Fanta-Sea, and it might have raised enough money to save a coral reef of its own.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
We can handle the reefs -- perhaps they should funnel some of those profits to that helpful teacher. Did you know educators here get paid less than our servants?!

ANDINI
That's literally insane, but please, focus. I'm not actually asking for permission to stay.

The Queen, King, and Maharani all raise their eyebrows.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I still have a month left before Maharani is crowned queen and my ambassadorship begins.

Andini keeps going before the Queen can jump in --

ANDINI (CONT'D)
It's true. I lied about this trip. It was just an escape at first. But now... it's my responsibility to turn it into something more.
(then)
I have a plan to help the community here that'll be great training for my work back in Putrijaya. And I can't leave until I see it through.

Her whole family is silent for a moment as they struggle to process all of this.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
(quietly, to Queen)
She looks even more serious than she did when she was pretending to be serious before.

ANDINI
I can hear you. And I truly am serious this time.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
We'll miss you too much. The answer is no, Andini.

MAHARANI
I think she should stay.

Andini, the Queen, and the King all turn to her, surprised. Maharani takes a DEEP BREATH.

MAHARANI (CONT'D)
I've never heard her speak with so much conviction and confidence. And although that's a relatively low bar... being able to clean up after yourself is a valuable skill.
(then)
Plus, I'm not sure I'm ready to give up the peace and quiet just yet.

There's a pause. Andini, still shocked, smiles wide at her sister, which Maharani reciprocates with a restrained nod.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Well -- she is your ambassador.
(to Andini)
You're lucky I have a date with the South Pole, because this would never fly with me -- much like Antarctica's penguins.

ANDINI
Thanks. But again, I wasn't asking for permission.

MAHARANI
Okay, don't push it. Olga will stay with you to keep you out of trouble.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
No more massive bank withdrawals, hmm?

Andini nods in agreement.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
We'll see you in four weeks for the wedding. And while we're proud you've come into your own...

KING KARL SETIAWAN
I mean, that Yosemite performance was something *else!* Way to bring down the house, girl!

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Karl! We agreed that *I* would get a turn at good cop after she convinced you to let her go to Chinatown this morning!

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Right, right, I'm sorry. We remain *very* disappointed in your lack of honesty...

Maharani SIGHS as she realizes her dad is not going to be able to get through this.

MAHARANI
And selfishness. You put yourself before your family and country, which is completely unacceptable.

ANDINI
I know.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Whatever you have planned, we hope you do it with honesty and integrity.

ANDINI
I intend to.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
And when you get home, you will be...

He glances at the Queen -- *Do we have to?* She nods.

KING KARL SETIAWAN (CONT'D)
G...Grounded.

ANDINI
Yeah, that seems fair.

Andini's entire family glances at one another. Who is this young woman and what has she done with Andini?

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - NEXT DAY

With the help of instructions pulled up on her phone, Andini gets her own locker open for the very first time.

Andini grabs her books and closes the locker door... to find a small crowd of people gathered: Phoenix, the two other Gentrifiers, and lacrosse girls. Everyone but Zola looks excited to be in Andini's royal presence.

ANDINI
Oh... uh, hi.

PHOENIX
Babe, I've been texting! Where were you yesterday?

ANDINI
I took the day off while my family was in town.

TALL LACROSSE PLAYER
We are *so* glad you decided to stay.

SHORT LACROSSE PLAYER
Why didn't you tell us you were literally a *princess?!*

FEMALE STONER
Because she's probably in the princess protection program, dummy.

Everyone looks lost.

ANDINI
My family didn't know what I was doing. As was probably clear at prom.

ZOLA
Uh-huh. And thanks for ruining my valedictorian speech. I started writing it when I was 5. Literally my "Boyhood", but feminist. Bitch.

Zola holds up a "peace" sign and walks off. Andini looks pained at the memory of Yati. She looks at Phoenix, confused.

PHOENIX
Alperstein told Zola this morning that you'd be making the grad speech instead of her.

ANDINI
Oh, no, no she can't do that--

PHOENIX
I got a 5 in AP Lit, I'll help you write it! C'mon in here for a selfie, my princess!

He pulls out his phone, but Andini gets a bad feeling and ducks away.

ANDINI
I actually think we need to talk.

Everyone else makes "oooooh" faces and dips. Andini and Phoenix walk towards the live oak tree.

PHOENIX
'Sup?

He reaches out to brush hair away from her face.

ANDINI
Look -- this... *you*, being so into me? It's all I wanted when I got here. But now... I don't really think things are gonna work out.

PHOENIX
What?! We got something great! I even wrote a song about you--
(playing banjo, spoken word)
Princess Andini you let me just *be... me...*

ANDINI
Yeah, I'm sorry, I can't do this.

She starts to walk away.

PHOENIX
Why?! You think I only like you because you're a princess?! You know I fell for you at Yosemite!

Andini pauses and turns around to face him again.

ANDINI
That's part of the reason... but we also have nothing in common. I'm not interested in replicating a music video anymore. I'm finally gonna do me -- act like myself.

PHOENIX
What are you even talking about?

ANDINI
Maybe you should try it too. You're better than whoever your parents think they want, Phoenix.

Andini leaves him standing there.

EXT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - OUTSIDE BOYS' LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Andini trails Jason, who's in his mascot costume.

ANDINI
I just need a second, I promise!

JASON
(muffled while head is on)
You're not allowed in the boys' locker room, Princess Andini.

ANDINI
What if I'm here to fold towels?!

INT. OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL - BOYS' LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jason tries to look serious and disapproving as Andini follows him into the locker room, but lands on ridiculous with his hands on his hips in the big mascot costume. Andini hands him back his WORN COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK.

ANDINI
"Fairytales" is obvi the favorite, but *"Sea Turtle"* is a close second.
(then)
I'm really sorry. I was so busy trying to get the wrong person to say yes to me... that I ignored the right one who already had.

Jason turns around and starts to walk away.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Wait! I have an idea I really want to share with you.

JASON
I don't want to talk.

ANDINI
Sorry, I can't hear you.

Andini watches as an exasperated Jason tries to tug the mascot head off... but realizes it's stuck as per usual.

JASON
This cannot be happening.

ANDINI
I'll help you get it off if you hear me out.

Left with no other options, Jason SIGHS.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Oakland Chinatown's Lincoln Summer Nights are super popular. So I started thinking... what if we did something similar, specifically targeted at helping local businesses? Even *more* specifically: saving Mama Siu's?

JASON
Mama Siu's closed yesterday.

Andini pulls a BINDER she's put together herself from her backpack.

ANDINI
But we still have a small window to make next month's rent!
(paging through binder)
These are all local businesses I've contacted who are willing to set up vendor stalls for the event -- which I envision as another concert, but a *successful* one that I *fully commit to.*

Jason hesitates for a moment.

JASON
Can you please just help me get this thing off.

Andini looks disappointed that he doesn't seem to be hearing her out, but SIGHS and goes over to help tug it off. The final heave sends her stumbling back with it and reveals Jason's sweaty, conflicted face.

JASON (CONT'D)
Why don't you just write a check for a million dollars or whatever you people usually do to solve problems?

ANDINI
First of all, my sister runs a *tight* checkbook. Royal funds are reserved for our nation. And anyway, that'd just be a band-aid. A blank check didn't build that place. *You guys* did.

Jason eyes her, curious.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I'm gonna need someone to play with me. And *not* The Gentrifiers, they're an opening act at best.
(then)
I really need your guitar skills.

Jason hesitates... then makes a decision.

JASON
Me agreeing to this doesn't change anything between us.

Andini nods her understanding. Jason avoids Andini's gaze as he reaches for the binder.

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - DAY

Oakland Chinatown is somehow even more colorful and *much* more bustling than we last saw it. Food stalls, local musicians, and dancers line 9th Street.

A large banner hung across the street promises a "SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY PRINCESS ANDINI OF PUTRIJAYA". Paparazzi and news cameras are fittingly at the ready.

We find Jason skillfully mingling, speaking to everyone with the same comfort and animation he used to have with Andini.

Finally, we swoop behind a large STAGE positioned close to the crowded Mama Siu's.

The Gentrifiers are in the midst of a hipster "LADY MARMALADE" cover while Andini (hair done big, obviously) stands backstage, giving Jason the spotlight.

Andini spots Mr. Ahn, who's busy filling orders. He gives her a warm smile and mouths "THANK YOU." Andini nods.

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - MAIN STAGE - DAY

ON STAGE: Phoenix sings the closing bars (in spoken word) --

PHOENIX
Hey sista... go sista... soul sista... flow sista.

The audience CHEERS, they definitely felt that. The Gentrifiers rip off their shirts to reveal "NORMALIZE FREE BLEEDING" (one word each) painted on their scrawny chests.

BACKSTAGE: It's still icy between Andini and Jason, who has his guitar slung across him. Andini sees how nervous Jason looks and can't help but speak up --

ANDINI
It's okay, you'll be behind the scenes. Thanks for always believing in me and agreeing to do this.

We see that Jason's guitar is plugged into an amp beside him: he's not going out on stage with Andini.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I just hope someday you realize being a work in progress is all any of us can hope for.

The Gentrifiers finally walk off the stage, and Andini turns to walk out... but at the last second, Jason grabs her arm.

JASON
Wait! What's our opener?!

ANDINI
My favorite.

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - MAIN STAGE - MOMENTS LATER

A SINGLE LIGHT like the one Jason shown down at Domecoming illuminates Andini alone on the stage. What feels like a thousand cameras flash to life amidst CHEERS and MURMURS at seeing the princess in the flesh.

No music accompanies her as she brings the mic to her lips. She closes her eyes, takes a DEEP BREATH.

ANDINI
Where am I from, where am I going,
I've spent my life, so far from
knowing...

BACKSTAGE: Jason's stunned. It's one of his songs!

ON STAGE: There's a long silence. Andini waits... anxiously. The crowd stares at her. Then --

JASON (O.S.)
(timid but beautiful)
Fairytales spun to start over
fresh...

Andini spins around to find Jason walking onto the stage.

JASON (CONT'D)
Don't know where you came from but
I dig that dress...

Andini playfully looks down at her bright, extra AF bedazzled number that hugs her curves just right.

ANDINI
This dress?

Jason can't stop himself from smiling.

JASON
...Yes.

The audience ROARS and LAUGHS, eating this shit up.

ANDINI & JASON (CONT'D)
(harmonizing)
Where does it go, I'm always
hoping, someday I'll show up and do
more than coping...

The crowd gets bigger as more people come to watch the princess and the local kill it on stage. Jason sweats (but in a cute way) as he plays the crap out of his guitar.

ANDINI & JASON (CONT'D)
(hitting chorus)
Step it up now, as high as you can,
we can do better if all goes to
plan!

Even Olga CLAPS and steps to the beat in the front row. Phoenix and the Gentrifiers smile. Mr. Ahn and the Diner Regulars dance and WHOOP, thrilled to see Jason let loose.

ANDINI & JASON (CONT'D)
Don't accept what, was given to you, make it your own not what they put you through!

As we PULL OUT from the event, anyone watching carefully enough might notice an Older Woman standing in the back, joyfully swaying along to the music.

EXT. OAKLAND CHINATOWN - BACKSTAGE - LATER

Andini and Jason pack up in silence, but there's palpable tension. Just as Andini finally opens her mouth to say something, Jason leaves to join his dad.

Andini hurries after him, but before she makes it, she's intercepted by none other than Phoenix.

PHOENIX
Your Highness.

ANDINI
Just Andini to you. Appreciate you and your band participating today... and congrats on graduating.

PHOENIX
Thanks! I was bummed you didn't walk with the rest of us plebs. You missed Zola's badass speech.

ANDINI
You know how it goes, don't want to distract anyone from the main event.

PHOENIX
Giving up space where space is due. Respect. My moms were so pissed I didn't get valedictorian. And... that I deferred Columbia to take a gap year and backpack around Arizona.

ANDINI
Wow... really?

PHOENIX
Tryna' figure stuff out, ya know? Luckily for me, someone hella smart recently told me to try and do me.

Andini grins at him.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Good luck, Andi Lee.

ANDINI
You too, Phoenix Barron-Kline.

Phoenix joins his bandmates, and Andini heads for Jason again... but he sees her and very purposefully turns away to talk intently with his dad.

Andini's shoulders fall. Resigned, she turns away -- accepting she's not going to get a good-bye.

"AVRIL 14TH" by Aphex Twin plays as we CUT TO --

EXT. I-580 E / INT. 2012 PRIUS V - SUNSET

Jason's dad drives them out of the concrete jungle that is Downtown Oakland, headed towards the greener Northeast Bay. Jason sits in the front seat, paging through the songs in his COMPOSITION BOOK... when an envelope falls out.

He picks it up. *"SORRY. - EXPERT BAMBOOZLER"* is written across it in Sharpie. Jason opens the envelope and smirks at its contents. He looks out the window --

MATCH TO:

EXT. PUTRIJAYA COUNTRYSIDE / INT. BMW - DAY

Verdant rice terraces and towering mountains that line their path to the city pass by. Andini wears a Putrijaya University sweatshirt, looking out of the window -- appreciating the true extent of her country's beauty for the very first time.

EXT. OUTDOOR "NIGHT" MARKET - DAY

Andini, in a discreet shawl and sunglasses, walks past children playing on the street towards a run-down yet vibrant outdoor market, accompanied by the ever-present Olga.

Andini consults her phone, then heads through a narrow walkway, passing stalls that are setting up to open at night.

EXT. OUTDOOR "NIGHT" MARKET - DVD STALL - DAY

Andini makes her way to a DVD stall, which features a section full of Fanny's past musical concerts. The TWEEN manning the stall looks Andini up and down.

TWEEN
The market isn't open yet, Miss.

Andini takes off her shawl and sunglasses... and the Tween immediately looks shocked. She starts to bow, but Andini gently takes her arm and brings her upright again.

ANDINI
Please, the pleasure's mine. Is Yati here?

Still speechless, Yati's excited younger sister hurries to the back area separated by a beaded curtain. Andini hears a HUGE SQUEAL of excitement.

Moments later, Yati herself comes out of the back -- looking *much* less thrilled to see Andini.

YATI
What do you want?

Andini takes a DEEP BREATH and pulls some papers from her purse, then reads from them.

ANDINI
For so long, I thought of everything except for you. But for the last month... you've been *all* I can think about.

Yati remains expressionless.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I could barely come up with a happy memory of my sister for that shit speech... but I have too many of you to count. And I didn't know what excited me about being a future ambassador, either... but now, I do.

Yati's expression softens but suddenly notices her sister peaking through the curtains.

YATI
Stop eavesdropping, you twerp. Go finish your homework!
(MORE)

YATI (CONT'D)
(to Andini)
Babysitting duty.

Andini smiles, understanding. She takes a deep breath.

ANDINI
Look. I never want to let anyone down like I let you down. Ever again. I started with actually saving Mama Siu's with a block party. A bigger version of what I agreed to do in the first place.

YATI
A *lot* bigger, from the looks of Insta.

ANDINI
(brightens)
You saw?

Yati leans against a shelf of DVDs for a beat, then --

YATI
Honestly, in the end, even with everything that went down... I'm glad we went. Wound up finishing school over Zoom and got accepted to Berkeley's Education B.A. for Spring semester.

ANDINI
WHAT?!

YATI
Pretty close to Stanford and Zola. I feel like we'll be able to get over the rivalry. I mean, their mascot's a dumb-ass tree.

ANDINI
Congrats, dude. You deserve it.

YATI
Yeah, I know.
(sly smile)
Plus, I had a pretty kick-ass letter of rec from a princess.

Andini smiles back.

ANDINI
Would you be down to be my royal adviser? After we graduate?

YATI
I'll think it over. Might have competing offers, you get it.

ANDINI
(laughing)
I've actually got another one for you right now. Will you be my date to Maharani's wedding?
(as Lonnie Milton)
It's gonna be a ball.

Yati tries to consider for a moment, but she can't help herself from lighting up -- and break into JoEllen.

YATI
I suppose I could pencil it in.

Another SQUEAL from the back. Yati rolls her eyes before Andini pulls her into a huge hug, then signals Olga, who gestures to another footman to bring up the HUGE, SIGNED FANNY POSTER. When the girls pull away, she hands it to Yati.

ANDINI
And look. A little something to remember Mr. Ahn by.

Yati stares at the poster in awe.

INT. BMW / EXT. PUTRIJAYA COUNTRY - DAY

As the BMW drives back through the country towards the palace, Andini spots a FOOD STALL on the side of the road.

ANDINI
Wait! Can we stop, please?

Olga silently pulls over. Andini exits the car and inaudibly talks to a PUTRIJAYAN AUNTIE making hand-pulled noodles.

The regulars eating in the stall scoot aside to make room for Andini at the counter. She starts to LAUGH with them -- finally comfortable mingling with her people.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

Maharani opens the drawing room door to find Andini with another serving of noodles from the food stall... as well as a *huge* bag of fortune cookies from Oakland.

ANDINI
I got these noodles from a food stall in the Asta District.

Maharani raises her eyebrows in surprise.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
I figured I should start getting to know my own community a lot better.

MAHARANI
Huh, whatever gave you that idea?

ANDINI
(winking)
My Oakland holiday.

Maharani finally accepts the food.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
Thanks for giving me a second... billionth chance.

MAHARANI
I knew you'd figure it out eventually. I've always known.

ANDINI
(wide-eyed)
Really?

Maharani nods, all knowingly.

ANDINI (CONT'D)
But ruling's not my true passion.

MAHARANI
It's not mine either.

Andini looks genuinely lost.

ANDINI
Then -- what *is?*

MAHARANI
Botany. I mean, who do you think tends to the monsteras in our courtyard? Certainly not Winston!

ANDINI
Wow. Then I guess... I'm looking forward to actually getting to know you.

The sisters share a LAUGH before Maharani turns serious.

MAHARANI
I could've waited a few more years to take the throne. But I can tell Mom and Dad want to move on to the next stage... and they've earned it. This may not be my true love -- but they've fulfilled their responsibilities, and now it's my turn.
(then)
And honestly? I'm glad you'll be here to go through it with me.

Andini smiles.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

The sisters sit in a set of theater chairs behind the Queen and King. Projected onto a MOVIE SCREEN before them is the one and only "CROCODILE TEARS" -- in which a CGI crocodile version of the King is currently swimming down a river.

The King is entranced by his own performance as the Queen pages through an outdoorsy catalogue, looking at -- you guessed it -- ice climbing gear.

Maharani digs into the bag of fortune cookies between her and Andini and pops one in her mouth... then SPITS OUT the paper fortune, just like Andini did.

MAHARANI
Ack, what...
(looking at her fortune)
Americans can be so... ingenious sometimes. These are amazing!

The King turns around to SHUSH them.

KING KARL SETIAWAN
The best part is coming!

ON SCREEN, Karl the CGI crocodile approaches a STUNNING FEMALE ACTRESS who sits on a dock, feet dangling into the water. Karl mouths along to his lines --

KING KARL SETIAWAN (ON SCREEN, AS CGI CROCODILE) (CONT'D)
A smart woman like you shouldn't tempt fate in a monster's lagoon.

STUNNING FEMALE ACTRESS (ON SCREEN)
You are no monster!

Andini and Maharani choke back LAUGHTER.

ANDINI
Wait, they don't...
(realizing, in horror)
We always fast forwarded through this scene!

KING KARL SETIAWAN
It's time you saw its full beauty.

MAHARANI
Mom, you're okay with this?!

The Queen turns a page.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
Your father's thinking of directing in retirement. Let him have this.

Andini and Maharani both avert their eyes.

ANDINI
(whispering, to Maharani)
It actually low-key reminds me of one night back in Oakland.

MAHARANI
Wait. You didn't...

ANDINI
But I did. In a hot tub. I probably could've gotten a parasite.

MAHARANI
Oh my God. I mean, Omar wasn't the best at the start, either.
(lowering voice even more)
He didn't even make it *in* the first time. But at least there wasn't any chlorine involved.

KING KARL SETIAWAN (ON SCREEN)
RAVISH ME!

MAHARANI
DAD!

ANDINI
I LITERALLY CANNOT!

KING KARL SETIAWAN
Two Piala Citras!

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Andini stands in front of esteemed guests in the epic throne room, commanding the stage. Maharani and Prince Omar are seated behind her wearing intricate wedding attire.

ANDINI
Some of you might remember me from the engagement ball a few months ago... and wish you could *forget.*
(appreciative laughter)
But I don't want you guys to worry, because I've realized something since then. It's not my job to guess who you want me to be. It's my job to be the kind of leader you *need* me to be. My sister helped me learn that.
(raises her glass)
I'm so excited for her to have such an amazing husband -- and for us to have a much stronger sisterhood.

Everyone bursts into APPLAUSE. Maharani nods to her younger sister in gratitude. Prince Omar's younger sister, Princess Beatrice, is moved to tears. Yati HOOTS.

The Queen and King beam and proudly CLAP.

QUEEN RAWITA KELLY
(to the King)
Maybe we judged American public school too harshly...

King Karl Setiawan considers. They both glance at each other -- then BURST OUT LAUGHING.

EXT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Maharani and Prince Omar descend the large staircase outside of the throne room, which leads to the main palace. Guests line the stairs, throwing rice and holding sparklers. Andini and Yati are side by side, CHEERING and HOLLERING.

EXT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - NIGHT

The grand, neoclassical palace sits perched beside a glistening lake, surrounded by verdant foliage -- lit up with technicolor lights and CONSTANT FIREWORKS for the wedding of the century!

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - BALLROOM - NIGHT

Diamonds glint above and below Andini as she glides through the ballroom with Yati on her arm. The women are now dressed to impress *and* express, rocking colorfully modern, fashion-forward fusion takes on their usual '80s faves.

YATI
Lonnie, it's even better than I imagined.

ANDINI
Oh, JoEllen. It wouldn't be a party without you.

They nod at the tipsy Queen and King on their way past the teens who insulted Andini -- and now all stare at her and her best friend in total envy.

INDIAN TEEN DUDE
More like *Damn*-dini.

INT. PUTRIJAYA ROYAL PALACE - BALLROOM - LATER

More APPLAUSE from Andini and Yati as Maharani and Prince Omar grace the dance floor. It's not long before the Queen and King get tired of standing around and join them.

Pretty soon, the entire party is BUMPIN' even harder than Andini and Yati's house party did. Andini watches the people she loves, thrilled to see them so happy --

Until her OWN REFLECTION catches her eye in a nearby mirror. And unlike last time... she now sees someone complicated and beautiful staring back at her.

Suddenly, *another* familiar reflection captures her attention. Andini turns around to see, almost like a vision --

JASON, in a fitted tux, looking slightly awkward but definitely dashing with his slicked-back hair as he descends the grand staircase.

Jason spots Andini staring at him. Their eyes lock with lingering intensity as Andini's smile slowly grows.

THE END <3