

EXT. HOUSTON ST. - MORNING

JASON, 28, charming and handsome in jeans and a solid color vintage t-shirt, rides in the back of a taxi. His face is reflected in the window as it pulls to the curb. Outside, a sharply dressed Woman embraces a Man.

JASON (V.O.)
Everyone wants a love story.
Everyone.

He gets out, shuts the door.

JASON (CONT'D)
That implausible story that makes
old people cry and mothers clap.

INT. HOUSE

An OLDER WOMAN stares at us.

WOMAN
How did you two meet?

ANGLE ON: A young couple. They smile at each other.

YOUNG GIRL
Well, it was pouring rain in the
city and we jumped into both sides
of the same cab. At the same time.

Older Woman wipes tears as a Mother furiously claps.

EXT. JASON'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Jason walks up to a typical Lower East Side building.

JASON (V.O.)
Everyone wants someone to hang out
with on a Sunday night - even when
no one else will.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM

Jason walks in and chucks his jacket on his bed - a mattress
that SITS ON THE FLOOR.

JASON (V.O.)

Everyone wants someone to make plans with, to hop online with and look at exotic places - for exotic vacations that have no chance of happening.

He hits his computer, the EXOTIC BEACH screensaver disappears.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Everyone wants someone to help them stick to their diet.

ANGLE ON a makeshift BAR set up on his bedside table.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Someone who knows everything about them. And still loves them.

Jason makes a drink next to a digital clock that reads, 9AM.

INT. JASON'S LIVING ROOM

Jason pins the corner of his unframed 80's CAROL ALT poster - then sits on the couch. He grabs his Xbox controller.

JASON (V.O.)

Someone to go to museums with. To cook dinners with. To watch movies with. In bed.

He takes a sip.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Everyone wants to get to know a whole new group of friends they'd never, ever, choose to be friends with on their own.

Another sip.

JASON (CONT'D)

Everyone wants joint bank accounts, collections of Bed, Bath and Beyond coupons, and expensive weddings where they can't even talk to their friends. Intimacy, co-dependence, minivans, suburbs, and-

Jason's PHONE RINGS. He looks at it, realizes-

JASON (CONT'D)
Oh fuck me.

He jumps up, opens the window. Traffic sounds come pouring in.

JASON (CONT'D)
Hey! No, I didn't forget. I'm on the way.

He holds the phone out the window, then back to his face.

JASON (CONT'D)
Are you kidding? I left like fifteen minutes ago. Be there soon.

He hangs up, sits back on the couch, continues playing his video game.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Like I said, everyone wants a love story.

He takes a long pull off his drink. Ice clinks against glass.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Everyone except me.

INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Close on A GIRL'S MOUTH. It begins moving as we pull back to reveal CHRISTY, 24, sitting on the bed across from Jason.

CHRISTY
You're selfish. You're arrogant. You're distant and emotionally retarded. You make jokes to avoid any serious issues and here's the thing, I think I love you.

JASON
Your capacity to love is spectacular. That's what I love about you-

CHRISTY
So...where is this going, then?

Jason looks her dead in the eyes.

JASON

You know I'm not really ready to jump into something serious right now-

CHRISTY

-I'm breaking up with you. I have to.

JASON

Breaking up?

Jason seems caught off guard. And then something we don't expect begins to happen. Jason begins to cry.

CHRISTY

I'm so sorry. It's just, I need a guy who's ready. Someone ambitious, serious. Someone with...a bed frame.

Jason gets up off and walks to the door.

JASON

I want you to know that I care about you. I think you're an amazing, talented, and beautiful person. And you will find someone that will make you unbelievably happy. But it's not our time.

Christy starts crying hard, genuinely moved. Jason slips out.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Jason bursts out the door. His friend MIKEY, 28, good looking and a little uptight, is leaning against the wall smoking a cigarette. He's wearing scrubs.

JASON

Mikey! Sorry I'm late.

They start walking down the street.

MIKEY

Always. I'm always waiting for you. And the thing is Jason, I'm way busier than you. Have you been crying?

JASON

Frankly, Mikey, I just got dumped.

MIKEY

Dumped? I didn't even know you two
were officially dating.

Jason stops and looks at Mikey, perhaps recalling the times
he and Christy shared together. Then he smiles.

JASON

Neither did I.

Mikey shakes his head.

MIKEY

She give you the "so?"

JASON

I got the "so."

BLACK.

TITLES: OVER VARIOUS SHOTS OF NYC

EXT. CAFE GITANE - MORNING

Mikey and Jason grab a coffee outside the cafe on Mott St. A
beautiful corner in an even more beautiful city.

MIKEY

Why'd she think you were dating?

JASON

No idea. I mean, we had sex twice a
week for two months.

MIKEY

That could have been it.

JASON

That's not dating. That's a hook
up, approaching the seeing stage.
Two more weeks and it could have
been dating, but I never let it get
there with the overly emotional
set.

MIKEY

So what's with the waterworks?

JASON

It made her feel like she had a
genuine experience. That's
important to girls. It helps them
get over you faster.

Mikey shakes his head.

MIKEY

It's been what, five years since Jenny? When's this gonna end?

JASON

End? I'm not at a place in my life to have a serious relationship.

MIKEY

Place in your life? That's what you say when you don't want a puppy.

JASON

The key for me right now is to stay in that ambiguous spot between the initial hook up, and when you start officially dating. That's my area.

He pauses.

JASON (CONT'D)

I am a human grey area.

INT. MEDIAWORKS - DAY

Jason is sitting at a computer in a room full of computer screens at a graphic design house.

DANIEL (O.S.)

You read this article in New York Magazine?

DANIEL, 28, taller and slim, with slight scruff, chucks him a magazine.

JASON (V.O.)

Daniel has been my friend since day one, college. He's easily excited.

DANIEL

Apparently, most of the bars on the east side are filled with hookers.

JASON

The thing I admire about you is you believe everything you read. It's like you're a nine year old.

DANIEL

No, like young, cool hookers. They look just like hipsters and shit.

Jason open up the magazine. Quotes...

JASON

She dresses like any other pretty young thing, knee high boots strewn about the floor, a college psychology textbook perched on the bedside table. And just below, a drawer filled to the hilt with condoms seems the only indication of her sideline occupation. That's awesome.

Their boss, FRED, 40, a guy that wears suspenders just because, interrupts.

FRED

Hey guys...it's Fred.

JASON

Hey Fred. You know it's not a phone right? You're actually here.

DANIEL

We can see you.

FRED

Right. Well, we got a work order on the new Amanda Silverman book, The Husband Shopper. We're in there on Tuesday. You guys ready?

Daniel stands and grabs his coffee.

INT. MEDIAWORKS - CONFERENCE ROOM

A medium size conference table in a glass inclosed room. A couple of poster sized mock ups sit on easels. Jason and Fred watch as Daniel pitches his book cover designs.

DANIEL

And that's why we thought something bright, clean...pink...would work.

Daniel turns over his last mock up. Professional, but pretty standard, summer novel cover. The Accidental Princess. The looks on the faces around the room say it all - not impressed.

Jason gets up. Grabs a black sharpie.

JASON

And if you look at these, you'll see exactly what you'd get everywhere else. Daniel and I know that - we've discussed it at length.

Daniel clearly has no idea what Jason is talking about, but he goes with it.

DANIEL

And if that's what you want, we can deliver. But when your book drowns in a sea of boring pastel....

He grabs one of the mock ups. Flips it over to the blank, white side.

JASON

Here's what you want. Black and white. Cool. Spare. Should look like art you'd actually hang - at least in your bathroom.

Smiles all around as Jason writes The Accidental Princess in bold, embellished cursive at the top.

JASON (CONT'D)

A book's cover should hint at the story, but not give too much away. This is a story about wish fulfillment.

He draws a antique perfume bottle.

JASON (CONT'D)

A recent study using MRIs showed that women's brains looked like fireworks when you showed them pictures of...

He queries the meeting with a glance.

GUY IN A SUIT

Brad Pitt?

JASON

Close. Shoes.

Laughter. And he draws a pair of heels materializing out of the smoke of the bottle.

JASON (CONT'D)

So nothing says wish fulfillment
like Christian Louboutin. Ask any
girl in this room.

Jason caps his sharpie, punctuating his point. A SHARPLY
DRESSED WOMAN stands.

SHARPLY DRESSED WOMAN

I love it. You've clearly taken the
time to read the book. And your
theatrics are much appreciated.

Jason nods. Fred smiles. Daniel looks relieved.

SHARPLY DRESSED WOMAN (CONT'D)

If people judge this book by it's
cover, we might just have a
bestseller.

She breaks into a satisfied grin.

JASON

If this book wasn't one of the
world's most unimaginative, vapid
pieces of culturally destructive
bullshit, you might just have a
classic.

The Woman is stunned.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

Daniel and Jason are out of work, walking to the subway.

DANIEL

You just sabotaged your promotion.

JASON

The further you get along in life,
the more people expect from you.
You get promoted, people think you
need a relationship. You get a
relationship, you need to get
married. Get married, and you
suddenly need a kid. I don't even
know what I want to do with my
life. But I know it isn't this.

DANIEL

Well, thanks again for saving my
ass.

JASON

It's not the time to be looking for another job, and you know this stuff's easy for me.

DANIEL

At least let me buy you a drink.

JASON

Forget the drink, just give me a handjob right now and we're good. Dead serious. Right now.

Daniel smiles. These guys are really close. Not close enough for a handjob, but still.

DANIEL

We're going out tonight. Pregame, your apartment.

INT. JASON'S LIVINGROOM - LATER

Jason is watching Dr. Phil on TV. Drink in hand.

DR. PHIL

The success of any relationship is the function by which it meets the needs of both people.

JASON

Hey, are you taking a shit in there?

DANIEL (O.S.)

Absolutely not.

IN THE BATHROOM Daniel is putting lotion on his face. Intercut.

JASON

I swear every time you come over to my apartment you take a shit.

DANIEL

I'm not taking a shit. Jesus. I'm putting on self tanner.

Daniel is actually on the toilet.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And taking a shit.

JASON

Why are you putting tanner on?

DANIEL

I told that assistant from Vogue I couldn't hang out because I was in St. Barth's. I'm trying to phase her out of my roster.

Daniel stands up and puts the tanning lotion in Jason's bathroom cabinet as Mikey comes home, excited.

MIKEY

I'm ready to get back in the game!

INT. MIKEY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Mikey is sitting on his couch in his scrubs across from VERA his put together wife, and a QUIET MAN.

JASON (V.O.)

Mikey had recently received some news that could be construed as unfavorable.

VERA

I've been having intense sex with Harold for two months.

JASON

Sex?!

VERA

Intense sex. With Harold. Not that it's any of your business.

JASON

You're my wife. So it kind of is.

VERA

Mikey, I'd like a divorce.

JASON

Who the hell is Harold?

VERA

My lawyer here will make sure this all goes smoothly.

Vera puts her hand on The Quiet Man's shoulder. He half smiles. Mikey is almost choking.

MIKEY

G-g-goes smoothly? This is your lawyer?

VERA

Yes.

(beat)

He's also Harold.

HAROLD

Hey...you have cool shoes.

VERA

He's actually a very good lawyer.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Mikey and Jason, and Daniel are playing Modern Warfare 2. Yelling. Beers are around.

JASON (V.O.)

That was two months ago. Mikey and I have been living together ever since.

The guys react to a video game killing. Mikey's got a huge grin on his face as he jumps up.

MIKEY

You know what? I don't care if I died. I love this. I miss this. I've been out of the game so long, I didn't realize how much I miss hanging out with you guys.

DANIEL

You were never in the game. You were a married doctor. The only place that's sexy is on tv.

JASON

But it's good to have you back.

MIKEY

I didn't think I'd get to feel this pre-going out thing again. The excitement. The energy. This is what you miss in relationships.

EXT. JASON'S APARTMENT

The guys spill out of the front door.

DANIEL

And as a little motivator. Open up.
Don't ask questions.

He pops a pill into each of their mouths.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Viagra. You now have four hours to
drink like a homeless dude and
still get hard.

MIKEY

How do you know I don't have a
heart condition?

DANIEL

Because I've known you my whole
life. And I don't care.

INT. BAR - NIGHT - LATER

*Daniel and a Hot Girl talk. Jason walks up.

JASON

He's terrible in the sack.
Absolutely god awful.

Daniel and Jason share a glance. The guys have clearly done
this before.

JASON (CONT'D)

But he's widely recognized as one
of the best kissers in the world.

*Mikey sits alone at the bar, drinking. Jason comes over.

JASON (CONT'D)

You're doing great.

MIKEY

I'm drinking alone in a bar full of
assholes. And the worst part is,
the girls seem to like the assholes
more.

JASON

Try not to look nervous.

MIKEY

This is the way I've looked for my
entire life. And that girl's
looking at you.

JASON
I doubt it. She's beautiful.

MIKEY
Why would a girl like that be into
you? She's way too hot.

We see ELLIE. Dark Hair. Light eyes. Fair skin. She's at the
other end of the bar. Mikey casually fixes his hair.

JASON
Look at me for a sec. Does it look
like I play guitar?

MIKEY
Not really, no.

JASON
Good. It'll surprise her when I
pretend I do.

*Jason casually sidles up to the bar, next to Ellie.

JASON (CONT'D)
I'm pretty tired, so if you just
want to get outta here I'd be down.

ELLIE
Tell me that works.

JASON
Not once.

*Mikey is still getting drunk, alone at the bar. A put
together young woman with Glasses, sits down next to Mikey.
Mikey looks at his wedding ring. So does she.

GLASSES
A night away from the old lady?

MIKEY
Yeah. We, uh, separated. She was
fucking Harold.

*Daniel is telling the girl a story.

DANIEL
Well, when I was a kid, I used to
open all the windows in my bedroom
when it was freezing, and then lay
on top of the covers.

HOT GIRL
Why?

DANIEL

Just so I would understand what it felt like to be homeless. I needed to understand. Do you understand that feeling? Just needing to know?

HOT GIRL

You're like the most compassionate guy in New York.

She hugs him. Daniel just shakes his head. Too easy.

*Jason is talking to Ellie. He puts his blackberry on the bar. She glares at it.

JASON

Oh don't tell me you're a blackberry etiquette person.

ELLIE

It's a little rude.

JASON

I have a disorder of some sort. If that little red light goes off, I'll think about it and think about it and drive myself crazy until I can check it.

ELLIE

I have that same thing!

She takes her phone out.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I'm just always scared people think it's rude. Apparently you don't have that problem.

JASON

Nope. I lay all my bad qualities on the table, first date. Avoids complications later.

ELLIE

This what you'd call a date?

JASON

No. I'd call this my longest relationship. We should probably have sex so we can start hating each other.

Ellie laughs. Then gets funny/serious.

ELLIE

I haven't been known to have sex on the first date, Jason.

JASON

I haven't been known to have sex well on the first date. Or most dates thereafter. In fact, for a mediocre sexual experience, I'm your guy.

She laughs.

*Daniel is making out with the Hot Girl.

*Mikey is still sitting with Glasses Girl.

GLASSES

There's always a Harold.

MIKEY

Apparently he's a very good lawyer.

Glasses hands him his phone.

GLASSES

I put my number in your phone. Use it when you're ready. Also, you're sitting on my coat.

Mikey gets up. And hands her the coat.

EXT. BAR

Mikey and Jason talk outside the bar. Ellie waits in a cab. Daniel comes over.

JASON

I'm out. How'd we do?

DANIEL

I Bravehearted. Hook, line and sinker.

Mikey is kind of drunk.

MIKEY

What's a Braveheart?

DANIEL

It's when I tell a story to sound like a good person. It's too advanced for you.

MIKEY

Yeah, well...I got a phone number.

JASON

See? Mikey's making progress...

DANIEL

Progress? When's the last time you had sex with a phone number?

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

Mikey is furiously masturbating to the phone number.

MIKEY

Yeah, I am sitting on your coat.
How do you like that??

INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

Ellie walks Jason into Ellie's apartment. They're clearly a little drunk. Jason opens a door to the bathroom, which is in the kitchen.

JASON

Your bathroom's in the kitchen.

ELLIE

I know. It's very confusing for the bathroom.

JASON

Someone, at some point, decided this was the best possible location.

ELLIE

It's certainly efficient.

JASON

Hey, Jim, yeah. It's Frankie. Let's move forward with the bathroom right where people cook. Just in case they need to take a shit and bake a cake at the same time.

INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

Jason and Ellie are at each other in the aggressive way that first hookups tend to be. It's a mixture of excitement, discovery, and fun.

They slowly slip into a rhythm, and before long, we see crumpled, hastily removed clothes hit the floor.

LATER

Jason has just finished having sex with Ellie. She snuggles up next to him.

JASON
Most fun you can have for free.

ELLIE
Nothing's free, Jason. Isn't that what they say?

JASON
Well then enjoy that STD I just gave you. You have no idea what I went through to get it.

She hits him, playfully. Laughing.

JASON (CONT'D)
I have to use your bathroom kitchen.

As Jason walks out he sees a drawer FULL of condoms next to the bed. Then he sees her KNEE HIGH BOOTS on the floor.

ELLIE (V.O.)
Nothing's free Jason.

Then he sees the New York Magazine with the East Village hookers article. He dials on his phone.

INT. DANIEL'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

Daniel is naked, in his bathroom, talking to Jason. They WHISPER YELL at each other.

JASON
Dude! I've got a problem.

DANIEL
You have a problem? I have to take a leak, and my boner looks like the thing on the Price is Right.

Beat.

JASON
Bob Barker?

DANIEL

No! Asshole. The thing that stops the wheel. I think I took too much of that stuff and I really gotta go.

JASON

You're gonna have to get horizontal.

DANIEL

What?

He cradles the phone with his neck, and puts his arms on the back of the toilet. He swings his legs, one by one, onto the sink, so he's now horizontal - looming over the toilet like a gymnast. He starts to take a leak.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It's working! It's working. We've achieved urination. How do you think of this stuff?

JASON

Just a hunch.

We PULL back on Jason and he's in the EXACT SAME POSITION.

JASON (CONT'D)

But dude, I think the girl I just had sex with is a hooker.

DANIEL

What? That's awesome!

JASON

Not awesome. What if I have to pay her? I don't have hooker money.

Jason begins to panic.

DANIEL

Who has hooker money?

JASON

Not me. You gotta help me, man. What do I do?

DANIEL

I don't know. If she asks for cash, you could pretend you're a hooker too. Hope the rates equal out.

JASON
That's not helping, dude.

Daniel is now shaking, laughing.

DANIEL
Though you're not exactly in great
shape, so I suspect she'd command a
higher price.

JASON
You're totally fucking useless, you
know that?

Daniel is still holding himself horizontal and still taking a
leak as he drops his phone in the toilet. The call ends.

He turns and sees the Hot Girl from the bar staring at him. A
LONG BEAT passes.

DANIEL
Whatever you think is happening
right now, is actually happening.

INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

Jason sees Ellie is napping. He gets on his hands and knees,
and starts crawling towards his clothes. He grabs his pants,
shoes. She MOVES.

And she doesn't wake up. Jason backs out of the room, silent.

MIKEY (V.O.)
Who uses self tanner?!

EXT. JASON'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Mikey stands there holding the tanner as Daniel and Jason are
drinking coffee.

DANIEL
Me. Why?

MIKEY
Because I beat off with it last
night.

Daniel and Jason spit out their coffee and start laughing.

DANIEL
Why didn't you read the bottle?

MIKEY

The heat of the moment! Look at this.

He opens his towel so the guys can see. They ad-lib Ohh/C'mon, etc...

Beat.

JASON

Your dick looks like a yam.

DANIEL

Your dick looks like a candy corn.

MIKEY

Stop.

JASON

If your dick was wearing a tuxedo, it would look exactly like George Hamilton.

INSERT: just what you thought you'd never see, an orange COCK.

JASON (CONT'D)

Your dick looks like a Baltimore Oriole.

MIKEY

What happened to you two idiots last night?

EXT. EXTRA VIRGIN - WEST VILLAGE

Jason, Daniel and Mikey are having brunch.

MIKEY

That's her livelihood. You basically robbed this poor hooker.

JASON

I didn't rob her.

DANIEL

You robbed a hooker. You should notify your parents of this accomplishment in case they need to brag to their friends.

JASON

The thing is, everything else was great. She was smart, funny.

DANIEL

She's a professional, dude. She's trained in the art of making you like her. With her vagina.

MIKEY

Jesus.

JASON

That's the kind of girl I would date if I was ready to get serious. And if she happened to not, you know, fuck other people for money.

DANIEL

If you dated her, I wonder if you could get a monthly membership or something. Like a gym.

MIKEY

Maybe your insurance would cover it.

JASON

I'm 28 dude. You think I have insurance?

INT. BLACK AND WHITE BAR - 10TH ST

Daniel is at the bar drinking as CHELSEA WALL, a cute brunette dressed upmarket down, comes flying in.

CHELSEA

Sorry, sorry, sorry. The auction went late. Gin please. Tonic.

DANIEL

Well, Sotheby's can buy my drinks for keeping you.

CHELSEA

And my father was there. He kept buying things. It was so embarrassing.

DANIEL

More embarrassing than being poor?

CHELSEA

Shut the fuck up. How was your date?

DANIEL

She was very sweet, well read, and gave me perhaps the best blowjob in recorded history.

CHELSEA

Ugh. Every blowjob you get is the best in recorded history.

DANIEL

Well, if you look for the only common variable across all encounters, you'll find it's me. So maybe I'm the best in recorded history at receiving blowjobs.

They're both grinning. At their comfort level, it's obvious they've been best friends for years.

CHELSEA

You're my best friend, but you might be the worst person in the entire world.

An ATTRACTIVE BLONDE girl is walking by. Chelsea clocks her.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Oh my god. I love your boots! I've been looking for those.

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE

Oh thank you!

CHELSEA

This is my friend Daniel - recently voted the best person in the entire world.

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE

Is that right?

CHELSEA

But he's a virgin.

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE

There's always a catch.

Daniel gives Chelsea a knowing look. They've done this many times. Daniel sighs.

DANIEL
I'm just trying to get laid before
I graduate high school.

Attractive Blonde laughs. Got her.

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
I'm Sophie.

DANIEL
Bartender! Tequila. (to Sophie)
Just promise to go easy on me. I'm
sensitive.

Attractive Blonde drops her bag next to their perch at the
bar.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
(mouthing to Chelsea) Thank you.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - MORNING

The sun comes up. Beautiful NYC day. Crisp. Clear. Amazing.

EXT. CEDAR SINAI - MORNING

Mikey, in his scrubs, grabs a coffee from a cart outside. As
he turns to walk in, he bumps into Vera, his ex wife.

Mikey goes into doctor/ex-husband mode.

MIKEY
What's wrong. Everything okay?

VERA
I was just having some pain...
Everything's fine. It's probably
just a UTI.

Something shifts in Mikey.

MIKEY
Have you been eating lots of carbs,
or any other activity that may have
caused irritation? Like, for
example, aggressive sex -

VERA
Mikey...

She looks at him. She's coming from the hospital. Nervous.

MIKEY

Sorry. That's not...what I meant.
I'll take a look at your results.
You'll be okay Ver...I'm sure it's
nothing.

VERA

Can you drop by our...my place. I
just have a box of stuff I think
you'll want.

Mikey just stares.

INSERT SIGN : SIMON AND SIMON PUBLISHING

The sign hangs in the lobby of a neatly appointed, large
office.

INT. SIMON & SIMON - CONFERENCE ROOM

We're on AMANDA SILVERMAN, author. An Upper East Side woman
with an Upper East Side facelift, who's Upper East Side
bitter at her Upper East side divorce.

GIRL'S VOICE

I just don't see why this all has
to be so cynical. What happened to
the effusive and beautiful love
story?

AMANDA

From where in the Mid-West did this
one wash up?

BOSS

Take it easy Amanda. She's fresh
off her masters from Chicago.

AMANDA

In sentimentality?

We reverse on the girl, it's Ellie, looking quite put
together.

ELLIE

Shouldn't we leave people with some
hope? It's so bleak.

AMANDA

Oh please, welcome to New York.
You're young and pretty and the
world is yours, but you're nobody's
first wife yet.

ELLIE

Okay. Then how about this: She
shows up at the Guggenheim wearing
this season's Chanel and murders
her ex husband?

Amanda smiles.

AMANDA

Now you're thinking like a New
Yorker.

Ellie is still fuming as someone walks into the boardroom
carrying a large poster sized MOCK UP.

CLOSE ON: THE BERGDORF'S HUSBAND SHOPPER

A picture of a suit-clad, good looking guy peeking his head
out of a Bergdorf's bag. Cursive writing. Pink background.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Now that is absolutely gorgeous.

The poster is lowered and JASON IS STANDING THERE.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

And so is that.

Ellie's eyes narrow.

INT. OFFICE - ADJACENT

Drab. Stacks of manuscripts. Jason follows Ellie in, and she
turns to meet him.

JASON

I'm not defending my position. It's
just...all the signs were there.

ELLIE

Signs?!

JASON

There were signs. Hooker signs.

ELLIE

Hooker signs? Enlighten me.

JASON
Hooker boots.

ELLIE
They're in style.

JASON
Tons of condoms.

ELLIE
You ever think they might be there
because I'm NOT using them?

She picks up the phone on the desk.

JASON
Sex was amazing.

ELLIE
That's not a hooker sign!

Into the phone...

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Security? Yes, fifth floor.

Covers the phone as Jason continues...

JASON
And you were willing to hop into
bed with me at the drop of a hat.
Nobody has sex with anybody that
easily. Especially me. Look at me.

...not breaking. Ellie moves to the door.

ELLIE
I know you're fantastic at leaving.

She shows him the door, slams it behind him, and just like
that...

INT. MEDIAWORKS

Jason sits down next to Daniel, excited.

JASON
She's not a hooker.

People look over.

DANIEL
What?

JASON

That girl, Ellie. She's an editor.
At Simon and Simon.

DANIEL

That can't have gone well...

JASON

It went terribly. She hates me. But
I'll bring her around.

DANIEL

Wow. Change of plans. You're gonna
try to date this girl?

JASON

No. Course not. I just want to get
her on the roster.

Daniel nods.

DANIEL

Although I liked her better as a
hooker, I appreciate the challenge
ahead of you.

INT. VERA'S APARTMENT

Vera stands in her doorway. We reverse on Mikey. Nervous.

VERA

Thanks for coming by.

Mikey walks into the apartment, looks around. He takes in the
changes. A box of things - picture frames, a medical diploma,
etc, sits on the couch. The TV plays on mute.

VERA (CONT'D)

I put the rest of your stuff in
that box.

MIKEY

You moved the coat rack over. And
that painting. You finally hung it
up.

VERA

I did.

MIKEY

Harold do it for you?

VERA
Mikey...

MIKEY
Sorry. That was my attempt to
lighten the mood by using humor.

She smiles.

VERA
You were never very funny.

MIKEY
Doctors don't have to be funny.
Patch Adams can suck my dick.
That's not what treating people is
about.

VERA
Of course, I found your unfunny-
ness...charming.

Mikey picks up a picture from the box. The two of them.
Wedding day. Throws it back in.

MIKEY
I should go.

VERA
You hungry?

LATER

Mikey and Vera are eating Chinese on the floor, watching
Overboard - the Kurt Russell, Goldie Hawn movie that's always
on TV.

MIKEY
No way would she ever believe him.
Amnesia doesn't work that way.
There would be environmental cues
that she would pick up on.

VERA
You know it's not real, right? It's
not a documentary, Mikey. That's
Kurt Russell.

Mikey laughs. He looks at Vera, perhaps for the first time
since they split.

INT. JASON/MIKEY'S APARTMENT

Mikey gets home and sets down his box of things. The light from outside slakes in through the blinds as he grabs a beer from the refrigerator, sits up on the counter.

Jason, looking sleepy, comes out of his room in his boxers. He sees the box, grabs a beer, and sits up on the counter opposite Mikey.

JASON

You want to know how I know you're not okay?

MIKEY

How?

JASON

You're Mikey. You've never been okay. Ever.

MIKEY

Yo know what? Fuck Harold. Tonight reminded me of everything good about my marriage before Harold dipped his filthy penis, esquire, into my wife.

Jason goes to speak, then stops.

JASON

Wait, did you just say, filthy penis, esquire?

MIKEY

Yeah. Because he's a lawyer.

JASON

No I get it. That wasn't my issue.

MIKEY

In the ER, there's no middle ground. We can either resuscitate or...but with her...

Jason sees his friend is hurting.

JASON

Well Mikey, when you find the person you're supposed to be with, the one who steals all your thoughts, the one you fall in love with...even if you're you - and you're not a fighter - isn't that worth fighting for?

MIKEY

Help me do this right, Jason. This is what you do.

Jason thinks...decides...

JASON

She can't think it's an invite to a date. You have to be careful here, but I'll help you get her back.

INT. SIMON AND SIMON BATHROOM

Ellie is washing her hands next to her boss.

BOSS

I'm moving you off the Silverman book.

ELLIE

That's a little unfair.

BOSS

I'm moving you to the Matterhorn team. Jack's got a novel coming out-

ELLIE

I'd prefer to stay on the Silverman book.

BOSS

This isn't a choice you get to make. Jack's editor is practically a relic, and he needs someone like you to help him focus.

The Boss finishes washing her hands.

INT. ELLIE'S OFFICE - LATER

An intern hands her an envelope. Ellie takes it without looking up. She opens it and a drawing on a single sheet of paper slides out.

INSERT: A drawing of Ellie, as a superhero of some sort.
There is an "I" on her chest.

QUICK CUTS:

Of Ellie opening identical envelope after identical envelope.
And getting variation after variation of the pictures.

INT ELLIE'S OFFICE - MORNING

She's lined up all the drawings. She thinks for a second,
then rearranges them.

They letters on the superhero's chest spell, "I'M SORRY."

INT. ELLIE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

She's working when her office phone rings. She grabs it.
Intercut as necessary.

JASON

It's Jason. Don't hang up.

She lets it hang there.

JASON (CONT'D)

At least let me apologize...

ELLIE

Okay.

JASON

...for the sex the other night. Not
for the hooker business. For the
sex.

She smiles, despite obviously not wanting to.

JASON (CONT'D)

Did you like my drawings?

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Jason comes over with two coffees and sits down with Ellie.
They stare at each other.

ELLIE

It's actually kind of funny.

Jason exhales, relieved.

JASON
Oh thank god. Simple
misunderstanding.

ELLIE
What kind of girl would I be if I
didn't eventually find it funny?

JASON
You'd be every other girl in the
world.

EXT. CAFE

We see them get into a little rhythm.

BACK INSIDE

JASON
It's one of those jobs you get as a
stepping stone, and you never
leave.

ELLIE
But at least you're using your
talent. Creating a book's cover-

JASON
I literally ask people to do the
one thing your parents taught you
not to.

ELLIE
To judge a book by it's cover...

JASON
That and fuck a much older dude in
a windowless van. But yeah.

ELLIE
Oh no! Were we not supposed to do
that?

Jason grins. She's right with him, every step...

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Although I'd take the windowless
van guy over most guys these days.
Least that pervert knows what he
wants.

JASON
Wow. Who was he?

ELLIE

Who?

JASON

The guy that destroyed you?

She smiles. Busted, perhaps.

INT. 10TH ST. RUSSIAN BATHS - SAME

We're in the classic NYC baths. Tiled, hot, with a big oven and a dunking pool. It's not nice in here, it's functional. A Russian Guy violently pounds Eucalyptus leaves against another Russian guy's back.

Daniel sits in the corner across from Chelsea. She's in towel up to her chest. He's in swim trunks. They're sweating.

DANIEL

I told her I wasn't looking for anything super serious.

CHELSEA

Anything super serious...after you had sex, of course.

DANIEL

It seemed like the appropriate time.

CHELSEA

You wouldn't want her to get the wrong idea. Want to date you.

He touches her arm, sarcastically.

DANIEL

You understand me.

CHELSEA

I hope I never have a daughter because of you. How does that make you feel? You killed my daughter from the future.

An Fat Russian guy wedges in next to Daniel. There's an entire bath full of open seats.

DANIEL

Awesome. Hi. That's the seat huh?

Fat Russian doesn't answer. Probably doesn't speak English. Chelsea giggles. Daniel gets up and moves to the other side of Chelsea.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
And the sex was incredible.

CHELSEA
Ugh, don't tell me. I haven't had sex in five months.

DANIEL
Five months? I can't believe that. You're beautiful, smart, you've got

Chelsea lowers her towel, revealing...

DANIEL (CONT'D)
...amazing tits! Jesus Christ, Chels. When did those show up to the party?

CHELSEA
I went on the pill when I was with Matt. They just...grew.

DANIEL
I feel like you've been keeping an huge secret from me. Like now I wouldn't be surprised at all if you told me you had a dick.

Another Fat Russian comes in and sits next to Daniel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Really?

Chelsea laughs. Daniel just looks at her, mock upset.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I'm finding you a guy. Let's go.

EXT. GRAMERCY PARK - SAME

Jason walks with Ellie through the beautiful south side of Gramercy park on their date. They see one of the few remaining mansions that are FOR SALE.

ELLIE
That's kind of my dream. To live here and have a key to Gramercy Park. I know I'm romanticizing the idea, but...

JASON

New York's charm is you're surrounded by things you can't have.

ELLIE

New York's charm is that it makes you think you can have them.

Ellie looks directly at Jason as she says this.

JASON

You want to get a drink?

INT. TORTILLA FLATS

An overdecorated, kitschy tequila bar on the west side appropriate for celebrations and getting hammered.

Two giant shots line up. Down they go. They each make faces.

JASON

Oh god. That was an awful face.

ELLIE

So was yours. You looked like the landlord on Three's Company.

JASON

I can't remember if your orgasm face looks like that, but if it does, I understand why you're not in a relationship.

ELLIE

Butthead. You never saw my orgasm face.

JASON

Butthead?! Bartender! No more tequila for this one. She's drunk, mean, and thinks it's 1993.

Ellie laughs and hits him in the arm. He pulls he close. They linger for a moment. Then KISS.

JASON (CONT'D)

Should we go back to mine? It's around the corner.

ELLIE

I've gotta get home.

JASON

Yours it is then. You're one hell of a negotiator. You're like Denzel Washington in every movie he's ever been in.

ELLIE

This type of stuff just flows off your tongue, mister.

JASON

I'm just trying to make you laugh.

ELLIE

Well I don't like how well it's working.

She kisses him on the cheek, and gets up.

JASON (V.O.)

I never press too hard for a girl to come home with me.

Jason gets up, buttons his jacket, and starts walking out of the bar. He takes out his phone.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I think that's one of the reasons most of them eventually do. I celebrated a successful date in my usual fashion.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

Jason opens his door and sees ALANA, cute, bohemian-sexy, pixie of a girl. Crooked smile...

JASON (V.O.)

By having sex with someone else.

She breezes past him, effortless and cool.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Alana is a young, wannabe Broadway actress I met one night in the West Village.

ALANA

You smell like liquor. You've been drinking when you should be drawing.

JASON
I don't drink any more.

ALANA
Or any less. I'll have a vodka.

JASON
Yes you will.

He goes to make her drink.

ALANA
Biggest audition of my life
tomorrow. I need your help.

JASON
What play?

ALANA
The Seagull.

JASON
Chekov.

ALANA
Last I checked.

JASON
Off or on?

ALANA
Broadway? Better. The park.

JASON
It's Shakespeare in the Park.

ALANA
They're letting anyone in these
days. Even the Russians.

JASON
Speaking of.

Jason hold out her vodka, smiling wide at their exchange.
Just as her crooked smirk turns smile, we SLAM CUT TO:

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM

Jason and Alana are having sex. He's behind her. They're
getting into it when...

ALANA
So...what're we doing, Jason?

Jason's face registers the "so." With a look that just says FUCK, he stops.

JASON

I think you're an amazing girl. And if I were in a different place... But you know I'm not looking for anything serious right now -

ALANA

...and the minute this stops being fun for one of us. Yeah, yeah. I know.

She slides off him, goes over the edge of the bed into her handbag, and hits him in the chest with a copy of THE SEAGULL. He laughs.

INT. WEST VILLAGE DIVE

A shitty bar. Daniel and Chelsea are having a beer. A piano sits in the corner for patrons to play. A well dressed, ATTRACTIVE GUY is playing the blues.

DANIEL

The blues? I mean, what the fuck does Captain Attractive have to be sad about?

CHELSEA

He's brooding. Dark. Mysterious.

DANIEL

You can't be that good looking and have a skill. That's bullshit.

CHELSEA

I'm gonna play.

DANIEL

Ooh, he's going down.

Daniel finishes his beer.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Cheer up asshole, you're our guy.

As ATTRACTIVE GUY finishes his song, people drunkenly clap. He walks past, and Daniel grabs him.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Fantastic job. Let me buy you a drink.

ATTRACTIVE GUY

Oh thank you. But no thanks.

DANIEL

At least meet my beautiful friend
Chelsea. She'll outplay you any day
of the week.

ATTRACTIVE GUY

I'd let her. I'm Diego.

Chelsea takes Attractive Guys's hand.

DANIEL

Hitting the bathroom. Be careful
Diego, she can be very, very
aggressive - but can often be
tamed with tequila and compliments.

And Daniel's gone.

MINUTES LATER

As Daniel comes back from the bathroom, Chelsea's playing
SOMETHING by the Beatles, singing. It's mesmerizing.

CHELSEA

Something in the way she moves.

Chelsea, pauses, takes a tequila shot. People laugh.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Moves you like...no other lover.

And Daniel is transfixed.

INT. MEDIAWORKS

Jason is drawing on his tablet at his computer. Daniel rushes
over. He pulls up a seat, out of breath.

DANIEL

I fucked her. I fucked Chelsea.

JASON

No! How was it?

Long, contemplative beat.

DANIEL

It was kinda like fucking one of
you guys. Except cleaner and better
looking.

JASON
I've seen this coming for years-
Fred, their boss, walks up.

FRED
Hey guys. It's Fred.

JASON
Hey Daniel. Is Fred here?

DANIEL
Tough to say. There's some guy
standing here.

JASON
Maybe if he told us he was here.

FRED
Funny. You guys are very funny. And
talented, apparently. Simon and
Simon was ecstatic about your work
on the Husband Shopper and they
want options for the new Matterhorn
novel.

JASON
Wow. That's huge. Jack Matterhorn.
He hands them a picture of Jack Matterhorn. He's got the
intense look of a successful dude. A man of the world.

DANIEL
What's this?

FRED
Matterhorn likes his picture to be
on the cover. That's the only
stipulation.

FRED (CONT'D)
Work together. And Jason, don't
screw this up. One more stunt and
you're gone.

Jason nods, turns to Daniel.

JASON
I guess that is Fred.

CLOSE ON: FACEBOOK. ELLIE PITTMAN HAS **ACCEPTED** YOUR FRIEND
REQUEST

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

Jason is on his laptop. Mikey is reading on the couch.

JASON

Ahh. Facebook acceptance. Is there any other kind?

Mikey jumps up and looks at Jason's laptop.

MIKEY

I really need to get on that.

JASON

I can't believe you're not on Facebook. It's the easiest way to know whether you want to continue seeing someone. Cuts out all the bullshit and gets right to the vital statistics. She's from Chicago, she works at Simon and Simon as an editor, she's got a masters degree in English.

MIKEY

You could date this girl like that.

JASON

One could date a girl like that. If one was looking for a relationship.

MIKEY

You're gonna end up old and alone doing coke on a bear skin rug.

JASON

Now, why would you say that to a friend?

Mikey shakes his head.

MIKEY

So, what're you going to do?

JASON

If I want to get her on the roster, I've gotta impress her. Go big.

EXT. GRAMERCY PARK - EVENING

The mansion that's for sale, beautifully illuminated as the late summer sun sets...

INT. GRAMERCY PARK MANSION - FOYER

A stuffy old realtor, Ms. Rose, guides them around. Ellie is decked out in a beautiful dress and fur jacket. She looks hot. Jason's looking especially handsome in his well cut black jacket, nice shirt and tie.

MS. ROSE

You've chosen to look at a wonderful property Mr. Von...

JASON

(affected accent)
Ferrington. Von Ferrington.

MS. ROSE

It's one of the finest properties in the city.

INT. GRAMERCY PARK MANSION - HALLWAY

Ms. Rose reaches into an antique drawer and pulls out A KEY.

MS. ROSE

Unfettered access to the private park is, of course, one of the finest things about living on Gramercy.

They walk into the MASTER BEDROOM

Ellie takes Jason's hand. They shut the door to the bedroom. Ellie locks it. They jump on the gargantuan bed and sit with their legs hanging off the side. She takes his hand.

JASON

Give me unfettered access to your private park.

She almost starts laughing. Pushes him onto the bed.

ELLIE

Oh god! Just like that!

MS. ROSE

I hate to interrupt, but the two of you must come out now.

ELLIE

Would you like to watch Ms. Rose?

Ms. Rose gasps.

LATER

Ellie and Jason are making the LOUDEST SEX NOISES they can. Suddenly, there is a louder knock at the door.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Whooooo isssss it?

MAN
This is the police. Now open the door immediately. You're trespassing on private property.

EXT. ROOFTOP

They go to the front of the building and immediately see a police cruiser with another Cop standing by it. He sees them and talks into his shoulder walkie.

ELLIE
He looked at me! Run!

They take off.

JASON
Why do old people always call the police?

They take off across the roof. They're jumping from roof to roof, laughing. They make their way down a fire escape to the bottom, and drop down, right next to a bum.

BUM
Y'all crazy.

They start walking, out of breath, smiling.

JASON
Walk normally.

ELLIE
This is how I walk.

JASON
You're walking like a criminal.

She grabs his arm as they walk down the street.

ELLIE
I'm not a criminal.

JASON
I am.

And he holds up the KEY TO GRAMERCY PARK - which he stole.

EXT. GRAMERCY PARK GATE - LATER

They look around, and open it up. The park is theirs. They walk in and sit on one of the benches. She puts her head on his shoulder.

ELLIE

When I was a kid, I used to love going to the park. My grandfather would take me on Sundays. My ex-boyfriend hated parks. He thought they were too public.

JASON

Sounds like a real dick.

ELLIE

My ex?

JASON

No, your grandfather.

She smiles. Shakes her head.

JASON (CONT'D)

What happened with the two of you?

ELLIE

I graduated from school and wanted to move to New York. He took a job in Chicago. You know, focus on your work life first. That's how things work these days.

JASON

They call us the selfish generation.

ELLIE

What about you? Who's the one that got you?

Jason doesn't want to let her in, so he jokes...

JASON

How dare you assume that I have any emotional capacity whatsoever? Get out of my park.

He lifts her head off his shoulder. Jason takes one of her necklaces, and places the Gramercy Park Key on it.

ELLIE (V.O.)
Damn it!

INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Jason and Ellie are lying post coital, wrapped in sheets.

ELLIE
I was so not gonna do that. I was
gonna hold out. Make you wait like
forty days or something.

JASON
I was gonna make you wait too, but
then I realized I'm a dude.

She laughs, and hits him with a pillow.

EXT. WEST SIDE HIGHWAY - PARK

Sun rising. Smell of the river. People ride bicycles,
exercising, as joggers dodge in and out. Fleece tops and
shorts signal the end of summer.

INT. HOSPITAL BATHROOM

Mikey is taking a leak. Another doctor walks in and pulls up
to the adjacent urinal.

MIKEY
How you holding up?

The Other Doctor casually looks over.

OTHER DOCTOR
Well...Holy shit!

MIKEY
What?

OTHER DOCTOR
Your dick is...I mean, I wasn't
looking for it...

MIKEY
Yeah, I accidentally beat off with
some tanning cream.

Other Doctor just stares straight at Mikey. Not laughing,
professional. Another doctor.

OTHER DOCTOR
Your dick looks like fall in New
England.

Long beat. Then the other doctor exits. Mikey takes a long
look at himself in the mirror.

MIKEY
You can do this...

He takes out his cell phone, and DIALS.

INT. JASON/MIKEY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jason and Daniel are playing videogames on the couch. Mikey
comes in wearing his scrubs.

MIKEY
I did it! I got a date with my
wife.

Mikey is proud of himself.

DANIEL
You're gonna date your wife? Jesus,
you really are bad at this.

JASON
How'd you make it happen?

MIKEY
I told her I needed to speak with
her. That it was urgent.

JASON
She get right back to you?

MIKEY
Instantly, which I think is a good
sign.

JASON
That is a good sign. Where you
meeting her?

MIKEY
The hospital.

Daniel bursts out laughing.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
What? I have to work late.

JASON

She have any problems. Any tests done recently?

Mikey's face registers shock. Yes she did. The guys notice.

DANIEL

She's coming to see you because she thinks she's dying.

MIKEY

No. That, uh, that's not true.

DANIEL

You my friend, are a manipulative genius. I've never respected you more than I do right now.

MIKEY

She agreed to come because she felt the same spark I did the other night. There was a spark.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Vera RUSHES in.

VERA

My grandmother had ovarian cancer. Be honest with me.

She's starting to tear up. Mikey freezes. Whoops.

MIKEY

No! God no.

Mikey hugs her. She doesn't resist. Mikey is struggling for the words.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

It's not that at all. You're fine. The tests they ran indicated nothing out of the ordinary.

VERA

You scared the living shit out of me.

She looks up into his face. Close.

MIKEY

I'm sorry. I just...wanted to see you.

There goes his game. She starts laughing. At first in fits. Then full on laughter.

VERA

You are such an idiot sometimes.

Mikey fidgets, gives up his game even further...

MIKEY

What happened Vera? What happened to us?

VERA

What happened? What happened was jobs and life and predictability. We got married at 25. I don't think at that point you're ready for a life without excitement, or... spontaneity.

MIKEY

Spontaneity? I'm spontaneous!

VERA

We didn't have sex for almost six months.

MIKEY

You want spontaneous? I'll show you the definition of spontaneous. Adjective. Performed without premeditation...

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY ROOM

Mikey and Vera finish having sex on a hospital bed.

VERA

Satisfied. Adjective. What you just made me.

MIKEY

I could get fired. I could get fired! That would be so...badass.

We pan over, and an old guy, MR. GOLDBLUM is recovering from surgery on a nearby bed.

VERA

I think he just moved. Please tell me he didn't just wake up.

MIKEY

Take it easy. Mr. Goldblum will be
asleep for another twenty minutes.

Vera is out of bed, smoothing her skirt. Mikey jumps out too.
He's naked.

VERA

Whoa!

MIKEY

What's wrong?

VERA

Your dick looks like a cartoon
goldfish.

MIKEY

It's a long story-

VERA

We can't do this.

MIKEY

What? The color isn't dangerous.
It'll fade-

VERA

No. I mean you and me. The sex.

MIKEY

The spontaneity. The adjectives.

VERA

I...got caught up in the moment. I
don't know Mikey. I thought I was
dying for Christ sake. I'm with
Harold now. You know that. (beat)
I'm sorry.

INT. DELI - NIGHT

Jason buys a six pack at the Korean deli. As he's walking
out, he sees a poster for a show at the PUBLIC THEATER.

It's Alana, the young actress from the beginning. He smiles.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

Jason comes home to find Mikey and Daniel sitting on the
couch. Daniel checks his watch.

JASON

Everything...okay?

DANIEL

It's Friday night. We expect you to be here, helping prolong our adolescence by drinking heavily, playing video games, and preparing to chase women.

MIKEY

It's important for the continuation of humanity. We must spread our seed.

He sits down and starts playing. The guys, back together. The BUZZER sounds.

DANIEL

Who's that?

JASON

Ellie. I invited her over.

Daniel and Mikey stare at Jason.

DANIEL

You what?! This is a den of testosterone.

MIKEY

This is a pre-game.

JASON

This is my apartment.

MIKEY

He's got a point there.

DANIEL

Shut up Mikey. This is a pre mating dance that to the outside world, will make us look like fucking idiots. Which we're not.

He slugs his beer as Jason gets up. Buzzes her in.

JASON

Don't worry about her. She's cool.

DANIEL

She's probably gonna want to talk about shit that doesn't involve Xbox or makes me feel bad about my drinking problem.

Ellie pushes open the door.

ELLIE

Hey. Hope I'm not interrupting.

JASON

This is Mikey and Daniel. We went to college together. Daniel is a manipulative idiot and Mikey has an orange dick.

DANIEL

It's not that big.

MIKEY

Fuck off, man. It's the fact I never use it that counts.

ELLIE

Oh my god. I have this recurring dream where I'm being grossly manipulated by a large orange penis.

JASON

You've come to the right place. Sadly.

ELLIE

I didn't know what you guys drink. And frankly I don't care, so I brought scotch.

MIKEY

I love scotch.

DANIEL

I love Ellie.

JASON

Crazy she managed to carry this all the way up to my apartment... Daniel.

DANIEL

My constitution is fragile.

MIKEY

And cheap, apparently.

Ellie spies the video game on TV.

ELLIE

Oh wow. I've been playing that game at a friend's place and I'll tell you right now, I'm incredible.

Ellie tries to sit on the couch between the two guys. Ellie kills someone. Not bad. The guys all smile.

LATER

They're all more drunk. Ellie shifts her bag and a manuscript falls out.

MIKEY

The new Matterhorn manuscript?

ELLIE

I've been brought on to edit it.

JASON

That guy is so prolific, and you know what really kills me -

DANIEL

The fact that he's so good.

ELLIE

You know, one of the other authors I work with slept with him. Said his dick was like a Pringle can.

ALL THE GUYS

No!/Ugggghhh/Really??

MIKEY

You know, his medical thrillers are actually plausible.

JASON

Unlike his dick.

ELLIE

He's actually doctor. Started writing his books in Med School.

JASON

How does someone find the time to be all those things? If I had that kind of time, I'd probably be a Buddhist.

Mikey is lost in thought.

MIKEY

I'd probably just end up masturbating more. And then I'd get depressed about that, and have to masturbate through it.

DANIEL

Sorry to interrupt Mikey, you human funeral, but we need to find the time to get to the bar.

Ellie checks her phone.

ELLIE

Ahhh. Late. Gotta get west side. You guys have fun.

She kisses Jason on the cheek, and opens the door.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, and Mikey, I gotta a feeling tonight's your night.

She skirts out.

MIKEY

I love her. Like love, love.

Off Jason's smile we CUT TO:

A SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS APPEAR ON FACEBOOK.

*Jason and Ellie at Bowlmore Lanes disco bowling. But they're actually having fun.

*Jason and Ellie in the MOMA.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

They finish watching SHAVING RYAN'S PRIVATES. The porn version of the movie.

ELLIE

This type of porn is so ludicrous. It's asexual.

JASON

Why do they always fuck in high tops and tube socks?

ELLIE

I know. It doesn't even look like sex. It looks like the guy is working out on a tanned nautilus machine.

JASON

This could be detrimental to a young kid looking for some guidance.

ELLIE

Maybe there's a whole generation of internet raised kids fucking in Gold's Gym attire.

*MORE FACEBOOK PHOTOS APPEAR

*Jason and Ellie at THE 92ND ST Y for a lecture.

*On top of a building in the east village, the BROOKLYN BRIDGE in the background.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM

Ellie and Jason have sex. We float down to see he's wearing athletic socks and some basketball sneakers.

ELLIE

Wait wait. I can't. I can't look at you.

JASON

(genuinely excited)
The stability is tremendous.

Close On: FACEBOOK

*Lots of pictures now appear. One after the other.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM

He looks at the facebook IN A RELATIONSHIP status button. Perhaps for the first time he realizes it exists.

He signs off.

INT. WEST VILLAGE DIVE

The same shitty bar. Daniel and Chelsea are having a beer. The piano sits in the corner. Bartender sets down some drinks.

Chelsea goes to pay...

DANIEL

No, uh...I got it.

CHELSEA

Aww. Thanks.

A HANDSOME MAN parks next to Chelsea.

HANDSOME MAN

Ahh, I was just about to get you a drink. But it looks like you're covered.

Daniel smiles. Idiot.

DANIEL

Hey, I'm entirely too cheap to buy you something. But I'm handsome. Fantastic game, sir.

Chelsea laughs.

HANDSOME MAN

Just saying hello.

Daniel and Chelsea just look at each other. Unsure what's happening here. What to do. Handsome man feels awkward, and leaves.

HANDSOME MAN (CONT'D)

And now I'll say good bye.

Daniel takes a long sip, his eyes never leaving Chelsea.

INT. MEDIAWORKS

Jason and Daniel are looking at six mock-ups of the Matterhorn book.

JASON

I don't know. They're not working.

DANIEL

We need something classic. There's a lot of pressure here.

Jason puts down his pen.

JASON

Speaking of. How's Chelsea?

DANIEL

I don't know. I feel like every move I make. She knows. It's like doing standup comedy for someone who's seen your show.

JASON

You guys still hang out all the time?

DANIEL

Now that we've had sex the whole dynamic changes. Every hangout-

JASON

-Becomes a date.

DANIEL

Exactly. Too many of those and...

JASON

And you'll get the "so."

DANIEL

When it comes to girls, nothing good ever follows the word "so." So what're we doing? So where's this going?

They just nod at each other as we CUT TO:

EXT. TIMES SQUARE

Daniel and Chelsea are riding the double decker tour bus through Times Square. The tourguide is a real New York character, with a Bronx accent.

CHELSEA

You ever taken a tour before?

DANIEL

No. It's not something you do when you're pretending you're from here.

TOURGUIDE

In the nineteen twenties this area was called the tenderloin. Because it was considered the most desirable area in the city.

DANIEL

There's so much shit you don't know.

TOURGUIDE

Then in the nineteen thirties - during the great depression - the area became wrought with gambling and prostitution.

(MORE)

TOURGUIDE (CONT'D)

So I guess you could still call it
the tender...loin.

Laughs from all around.

DANIEL

This guy is really unfunny. We
should kill him.

CHELSEA

What? I love this guy. I want to do
his job.

DANIEL

Really? Why? You want to talk to
tourists all day? Tell the same
stupid jokes. Stick to Sotheby's.

CHELSEA

You're not open to things Daniel.
You've always been this way.

DANIEL

Just because I don't want to be a
tourguide? Jesus. I thought you had
higher hopes for me.

CHELSEA

Maybe I do.

INT. HOSPITAL

Mikey clicks on his new Facebook page. He has zero friends.
He types in his wife's name. VERA PASSMAN. He "Friend
Requests" her. Satisfied, he shuts down the computer, and
grabs his bag - leaving for the night.

INT. ELLIE'S BATHROOM

Jason walks into the bathroom.

JASON

I'm just gonna brush my teeth.

ELLIE (O.S.)

Okay, then we gotta go.

Sitting there on the bathroom sink is a new toothbrush. Jason
unwraps it, brushes.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Mikey, with renewed vigor, breathing heavily as he contemplates pressing "call."

MIKEY

I'm gonna call her and ask her. I'm gonna stick to the plan. And I'm not taking no for an answer.

He holds his breath, goes to press SEND on the phone, then lets his breath out.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

I am a huge pussy. C'mon Mikey. You can do this.

He takes a deep breath, holds it, and DIALS. She answers.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

You want spontaneous, Vera? Well I'm coming over right now, we're making love on the living room floor, then we're going to that little wine bar downstairs, the one you love, and drinking dry reds until four in the morning. I don't give a shit about my hangover. I'll get an IV in the morning. I'm a fucking doctor. I can do that. And I'm not taking no for an answer.

A long beat. Mikey winces.

VERA

Harold's here, Mikey. You can't come over.

Mikey is deflated. His moment is gone.

MIKEY

Oh. Yeah. Okay...

VERA

Can you do Thursday?

MIKEY

What? Yeah.

VERA

And can you behave exactly the way you just did?

INT. DANIEL'S BEDROOM

Daniel and Chelsea are having sex. Daniel is on top of her.

CHELSEA
What's wrong?

DANIEL
I'm just looking at this teddy bear.

CHELSEA
Mr. Wiggles?

DANIEL
Yeah. I just know that your ex gave it to you. And I told you he was a pussy. And you broke up with him. And then I was thinking about you, with him. And then my boner started to wilt like warm lettuce.

They've stopped having sex. He rolls off her.

CHELSEA
I'll get rid of the teddybear.

DANIEL
Thank you.

Daniel hesitates for one second.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Chels, I just want you to know, so we're clear, that I'm...

CHELSEA
...not looking for anything super serious right now.

DANIEL
...not looking for anything super serious right now.

Chelsea is upset, but tries to hide it.

CHELSEA
I know. Just because I'm a girl, Daniel, doesn't mean I am.

DANIEL
I just wanted to make sure we were on the same page.

Daniel gets out of the bed.

CHELSEA
You staying over?

Daniel goes out into her living room. We stay with her.

DANIEL (O.S.)
Yeah. I'll just make up the couch.

CHELSEA
You can sleep in my bed.

DANIEL (O.S.)
I always sleep on your couch. I've
slept there for years.

CHELSEA
That's true, but...

Daniel comes back in and hands her a glass of water.

DANIEL
And I don't want to crowd you.

The ambiguity...

EXT. EAST VILLAGE - DUSK

A tremendous amount of activity, energy. People walk every
which way. A dude sells his mixtape. Another sells books.
Music pours from the bars. A weekend in NYC.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jason comes home to find Daniel and Mikey sitting on the
couch. There are a bunch of beers on the table.

DANIEL
Ohhh. There he is. How's your
girlfriend?

JASON
She's...I don't have a girlfriend.

DANIEL
Bullshit. Well we have a few
questions that will determine if
what you say is true.

Mikey grabs a magazine off the table and pretends to go down
his checklist. Jason takes a beer, sits.

JASON
Go for it.

MIKEY

Do you say good night to her...every night?

DANIEL

Even if you're not with her?

JASON

Yes. BBM.

DANIEL

BBM is a sacred tool for procuring pussy, Jason. You don't use it to say goodnight. You're not her mom.

MIKEY

Are there implied weekend plans?

JASON

Not necessarily.

DANIEL

Given how much we've seen you lately, we'll mark that a yes.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Are there any other girls on your roster?

JASON

Not sleeping with anybody else. But it could just be a dry spell.

MIKEY

We'll just mark it a no.

DANIEL

If Michelle Pfeiffer from Scarface wanted to fuck you and was lying next to your girlfriend with her legs open...

MIKEY

And she said, you can only have sex with one of us, but the other one will disappear forever. What would you do?

JASON

One would disappear? Then I wouldn't fuck either of them.

DANIEL

Shocking. On a yes or no question you managed to answer, I'm gay.

MIKEY

Has the thought of a picnic ever crossed your mind? Do you have a drawer for your shit or a toothbrush at her house?

Jason has a BIG REALIZATION.

DANIEL

You do! If you don't dial this back notch, you're gonna get the "so."

INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jason and Ellie are lying on the couch together, post sex.

JASON

I think I won that one.

ELLIE

No way you won that one. If there was a winner, it was definitely me.

JASON

Fine. But you had sex with me. Most people wouldn't consider that winning.

ELLIE

Oh did you say winning? I thought you said settling.

He laughs, covers her face with a pillow. She takes it off.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Hey. I just want to be sure...and don't take this personally. But since we don't wear them...I want to make sure you're wearing condoms with other people.

Jason stares at her.

JASON (V.O.)

And there it was. Classic offensive female move designed to draw you into the relationship conversation. It was also my opportunity to dial it back.

Jason is struggling with his decision, and finally...

JASON (CONT'D)
Of course I am.

Long beat. She's nodding.

A SERIES OF SCENES

*Jason, in bed, gets a BBM from Ellie. GOODNIGHT. He writes GOODNIGHT back, but doesn't send it. He chucks the bb back on the table.

*Mikey shows up to Vera's door. She checks the hallway, then ushers him in. CUT TO him leaving moments later. Hair ruffled.

*Daniel sits at the Russian baths alone. Next to the fat Russian dude.

*Mikey shows up and leaves. Again.

*Jason puts the toothbrush from Ellie's apartment in his pocket. Steals it.

*Mikey opens the closet in Vera's apartment. Empty. A reminder of his old life.

*Daniel is at the movies by himself.

*Mikey gets out of bed. He peeks in at Vera in the shower. He goes out and opens the closet door. It is now filled with HAROLD'S CLOTHES. Mikey gets a helpless, saddened look.

*Jason responds to Ellie's BBM. CANT TONIGHT. LET'S HANG SUNDAY.

JASON
Sunday is not the real weekend.
Never has been.

END MONTAGE

EXT. GRAMERCY PARK - LATER

Ellie fidgets with the key around her neck. They sit on a bench and talk.

ELLIE
Could you grow old in New York?

JASON

I'm not gonna grow old. Being old looks so tiring.

ELLIE

I know. You just wake up and try to figure out what to do between meals.

JASON

I'll tell you what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna get an old Jaguar XKE. Totally restored. And I'm going to put on all my finest clothes. Sports jacket, tie.

ELLIE

Go cravat. I feel like it fits where this story is headed.

JASON

Done. Right, then I'm going to eat a ton of acid. Like enough acid that if you went to see Cirque de Soleil you'd think you were in Connecticut.

Jason sits up.

JASON (CONT'D)

And I'll speed up the West Side Highway, fast as the car can go, crash straight through the divider and careen off into the Hudson.

ELLIE

In slow motion, of course.

JASON

Of course. And that'll be it. My death, premeditated.

Ellie sits up, gets excited.

ELLIE

Okay. Here's what'll actually happen. You'll be seventy years old, so you think you'll be going 150 , but you'll actually be doing 25 at best, 15 at worst. You can't see, so the acid you think you're eating will actually be an errant lipitor.

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

And you'll probably forget what you were doing in the car in the first place, bump into the divider, wet yourself, ruin your car, lose your license and your dignity in one fell swoop, then promptly get put in a rest home where you have to wake up and figure out what to do between meals.

A beat.

JASON

You don't have to be right all the time. It's unpretty.

ELLIE

That's not a word.

JASON

It's the word I have for what you are when you're right all the time.

They're having a really nice moment. No games, no bullshit, just a genuine moment.

ELLIE

So...Jason.

JASON (V.O.)

And once again, right on cue. The "so."

ELLIE

I really like you Jason. You're fun and you say all the right things.

Jason nods.

JASON (V.O.)

She wants to know where we are. I get it. And for the first time, I'm not totally uncomfortable with that.

ELLIE

I can't do this anymore.

LONG BEAT.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

You're not a serious guy, Jason. And that's okay. Someday you're gonna make some girl very happy.
(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

But you don't want a relationship
right now...and I do.

Then he just smiles like an asshole, unsure how to handle
this.

JASON

Thank you.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Jason sits with Daniel on the couch. Daniel pauses the video
game. Mikey walks out of his room.

DANIEL

You said thank you?!

Daniel hands Jason a beer.

JASON

I don't know. It's like the only
thing running through my mind was
manners.

MIKEY

Your mother would be proud.

DANIEL

Thank you! Ha. I gotta use that
one.

Jason just gets up, and walks into his room. The door slams.

MIKEY

You gotta be more sensitive to
these things. He liked her.

DANIEL

Mikey, you don't know shit about
women. You were married.

INT. MEDIAWORKS - FRED'S OFFICE

Jason, looking underslept and generally miserable, sits with
Daniel. Fred walks in, not happy.

FRED

Hey guys, it's-

JASON

Yeah. Got it. Hi Fred.

FRED

Simon and Simon sent back our initial designs, and they'd like a face to face on the creative.

DANIEL

They didn't like them?

FRED

Well, they didn't get a good feeling. Book's printing was delayed two months. Coming out at the holidays.

JASON

They don't know what they want.

FRED

That may be the case, but I don't feel like you guys are giving it your best. Have you read the book?

JASON

Read the book? I have a pretty good sense of what's inside.

FRED

Read the book and give me a couple good options by Friday.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

Jason sits on the couch playing videogames. Miserable.

DANIEL

Okay, give it to me. When's the last time you talked.

JASON

Couple weeks. Sent her a bbm. She hung my fucking R.

DANIEL

No.

JASON

Yes. She read the message, and didn't reply. And the little "R" is sitting there, mocking me.

DANIEL

She didn't reply? Well, fuck her man.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

We're not in that place in our lives to be getting serious...isn't that the point? Great girls, wrong time.

JASON

It's just...I thought we were...heading in a different direction. And it's her birthday tomorrow.

Daniel SLAPS Jason.

JASON (CONT'D)

Oww. What the fuck man?

Daniel stands up.

DANIEL

You want a relationship? All our friends in relationships are fucking miserable. You think we'd be able to sit here and get shitfaced if we were in relationships? No, we'd have to be watching Top Chef and planning a trip to a bed and fucking breakfast. That's what old people do. That's what people in relationships do.

JASON

I know but-

DANIEL

-But nothing, motherfucker. That's what the rules are for. To keep you out of a relationship. And guess what? They worked this time.

Daniel throws him another beer.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I can barely look at you right now because all I'm seeing is a vagina with two legs, arms and a head. And that's a really, really strange thing to see.

Jason breaks. A little. Enough.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

We're going out. And we're getting you a girl.

EXT. JASON'S APARTMENT

The guys burst out the door, drinking and having fun in a scene reminiscent of the beginning.

DANIEL

It's good to have you back, buddy.
Thought we lost you for a second.

JASON

No. I'm back. I don't know what I
was thinking.

INT. EAST VILLAGE BAR

Jason and Daniel are slamming a tequila shot. They're close to shitfaced.

DANIEL

This could be the night where I
finally shit myself.

Two GIRLS sidle up next to the guys at the bar.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

This is not the end of the world my
friend. I know. You like Ellie. But
you've maintained your freedom.

JASON

You're so right. (starting to slur)
I'm finally thinking clearly about
this.

DANIEL

This is what freedom looks like.

They look over at the girls. One of them is HOT. The other is
FAT.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Sometimes freedom is a beautiful
thing, and sometimes, it's just
...fat.

QUICK SHOTS

*The guys taking shot after shot with the girls.

*Jason talks to Hot, Daniel talks to Fat.

*The Fat Girl gets up wanders over to Jason. She's drunk.

FAT

I heard you keep the windows open
in your house just so you know what
it feels like to be homeless. To
understand.

Jason looks at Daniel, who mouths...

DANIEL

Braveheart.

JASON

(mouths back) Ass-hole.

Fat hugs Jason just as Ellie, who is out with her girlfriend
ANDREA, comes over. Jason sees her just as they walk up to
order.

JASON (CONT'D)

Heeeeeeeeyyyy you.

ELLIE

Hey Jason. This is Andrea.

ANDREA

You're the sailboat guy? Heard a
lot about you.

Jason is shitfaced, trying to hold it together.

JASON

Sailboat what? You heard about me?
Cool, this is, ummm, somebody who
was at the bar.

Daniel swoops in and grabs Fat's hand, pulling her away.

DANIEL

Time for another tequila
sweetheart.

ANDREA

You coming to Ellie's tomorrow?

JASON

Huh?

ELLIE

Oh, I'm having a birthday party
tomorrow at my place. You should
come. Gotta dress up, though.

We can see it on Jason's face. He wishes he was invited...

EXT. VON BAR

Jason grabs Daniel and pulls him aside.

JASON
Dude, you need to jump on the
grenade for me.

DANIEL
Grenade?

JASON
Just do her friend. It's your duty
as wingman.

The look over at Fat, who is laughing.

DANIEL
I don't see a grenade. That
enormous wookie must have eaten it.

FAT
I peed a little when I laughed.
Hee. (burp)

JASON
I think my erection just pulled a
Kaiser Sozay.

DANIEL
Sorry buddy, that's not a grenade.
That there is like ramming a
nuclear bomb straight up your ass.

Daniel taps him on the shoulder, and walks off.

INT. HOT GIRL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jason is sitting on the couch. At this point, he's completely
shitfaced.

HOT (O.S.)
Beer's okay?

JASON
Cool.

He looks over and notices that there is a stripper pole.

JASON (CONT'D)
Cool.

And Hot walks out from her kitchen COMPLETELY NAKED, holding two beers.

JASON (CONT'D)

Cool.

HOT

Want to see something incredible?
Get ready for it.

JASON

Cool.

She puts down her beer, and LEAPS onto the pole upside down, with her legs spread facing away from Jason. She's trying to make sexy eye contact with him.

JASON (CONT'D)

Cool.

She begins lowering herself down the pole. Skin CREAKS against the bare metal. Inch by painful, unsexy inch she slides downward. Jason just calmly drinks his beer and stares.

JASON (CONT'D)

Cool.

She lets go and hits the ground with a thump. Her legs flop over her head and she PASSES OUT, ass in the air.

JASON (CONT'D)

Cool.

Drunk as shit, Jason just stares at this heap of flesh as a bedroom door opens and another heap of flesh, Fat Girl, is standing there in a t-shirt and underwear.

JASON (CONT'D)

Cool.

INT. FAT'S BEDROOM

A Black and White photo of New York gets more and more crooked as we hear the sounds of hard sex and a bed creaking.

We float down to find a large set of legs up in the air while Jason has aggressive sex with Fat Girl as Biggie plays in the BG.

BIGGIE

It was all a dream, we used read
Word Up Magazine...

Jason looks terrified as he pumps harder. He could easily be working out. CUT TO:

INT. HOT'S APARTMENT - **REALITY**

Jason chokes back some creeping vomit. He rubs his eyes, then gets up and staggers out.

EXT. CHELSEA'S APARTMENT

Daniel eats a slice of pizza and looks up at the window. He's calling her phone.

Chelsea comes to the window.

INT. CHELSEA'S APARTMENT

Daniel flops on the couch, shitfaced.

CHELSEA
You're booty calling me now?

He's taking off his pants, which get stuck at his ankles.

DANIEL
Fuck. Let's do it. Right now.

CHELSEA
Oh my god yes! Nothing says sexy
like a man trying not to throw up.

Daniel grins.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)
I'm gonna get you some water. And
make the couch.

EXT. CAFE HABANA - MORNING

Crowded and busy little Cuban breakfast joint on Elizabeth Street. The people and food are both good looking. Jason comes in and sits down with Mikey and Daniel at the counter.

JASON
Seeing Ellie fucked me up. She
inadvertently invited me to a party
at her house.

DANIEL
You got the inadvertent invite?

JASON
Yeah. Her friend let it slip.

MIKEY
Ouch.

JASON
I need to reverse this. I was
thinking of running...A Jagger.

DANIEL
Now? Forget it. Run a Curtain Call,
replenish the roster, move on.
C'mon, we had fun last night.

MIKEY
A Jagger? A Curtain Call? What are
you guys talking about?

DANIEL
A Jagger, Mikey. As in Mick.
Classic move. You constantly make a
girl associate you with sex. Mick
Jagger brushes his teeth - all
girls think about is fucking. Takes
out the garbage, fucking. Makes a
phone call - fucking.

MIKEY
So you rekindle the sexual part of
the relationship.

JASON
And the emotional part follows
suit. A Jagger it is.

EXT. PLEASURE CHEST SEX SHOP

Admidst the Sixth Avenue trash and riff raff, sidewalk book
sellers and omnipotent smell of Grey's Papaya and urine,
Jason looks up at the sign.

INT. SEX SHOP

Jason is looking at some really big strap on dildos. An
Israeli guy comes over.

JASON
How much are these?

ISRAELI GUY
For you? Seventy five.

JASON
Oh, for me? Because we're good
friends?

Jason's phone rings.

JASON (CONT'D)
Hello. Speaking.

MAN'S VOICE
This is Jack Matterhorn.

ISRAELI GUY
Seventy dollars.

JASON
That's too much. (to Jack) What can
I do for you Jack?

MATTERHORN
I'll get right to brass tacks. I'd
like you to kill my wife.

JASON
What?

MATTERHORN
Nah, I'm just jackassin ya. I'm not
married. But I have come across
some of your work-

JASON
-About the book cover. I'll get it
done.

ISRAELI GUY
Sixty five dollars.

Jason glares at the sex shop guy.

MATTERHORN
I'm sure you will. But more
importantly, I'm thinking about
starting on a graphic novel. And
I'd like to talk to you about the
illustration.

Jason stammers. Floored.

JASON
I- I. Wow. Yes.

MATTERHORN

Let's meet next week to discuss. My assistant will be in touch.

ISRAELI GUY

And I'll throw in a bottle of lube.

Jason hangs up quickly. Speechless, shocked. He looks at the Israeli guy.

JASON

I don't need lube, man. It's for a costume.

Long beat.

ISRAELI GUY

Sure it is.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

Mikey hugs Jason.

MIKEY

Holy shit! Matterhorn?? Good for you man.

JASON

Yeah, he just called while I was buying this giant dildo-

Mikey abruptly stops hugging Jason just as Vera walks out of Mikey's room.

JASON (CONT'D)

And- Whoa. Vera.

VERA

Hello Jason. I was just leaving.

Jason just nods. As Vera exits Mikey kisses her. He turns around and looks at Jason.

JASON

Dude, you have to be careful here. She's burned you twice. Thinks she's holding all the chips.

MIKEY

I know, but right now...she is.

JASON

You want her back? Take the power away.

MIKEY

I don't need these stupid games. A Jagger, or any of that stuff.

A long beat.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

But, out of sheer curiosity, how would you handle this?

JASON

It's called the Hot Cold. Pull away. Abruptly and aggressively. Just when she thinks she has you.

MIKEY

And that will help me get her back?

JASON

It will even the playing field. And yes, you'll get her back.

JASON (CONT'D)

Thanksgiving is the perfect time.

Mikey thinks about this. Nods.

MIKEY

Hey, gotta be honest, I'm still feeling weird about hugging you while you were holding a dildo in a plastic bag.

INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

Jason pushes her cracked open apartment door. He walks into the living room and we see his eighties rocker outfit, complete with the cut off sleeves, bandana on the head, and tight jeans. On his shirt it says ROCK OUT. From his pants protrudes an enormous STRAP ON DILDO.

His costume, of course, is ROCK OUT with your COCK OUT. He's holding a birthday gift in a bag and a six pack of Tecate. He sings...

JASON

Happy birthday to you- holy shit.

We reverse and see everyone else is elegantly "dressed up." A couple people start laughing.

ELLIE

Jason. Wow.

JASON

Yeah. So...Happy Birthday.

ELLIE

What're you wearing?

JASON

Dress up party. Right.

A bunch of people laugh. A MIDDLE AGED COUPLE are sitting on the couch, wide eyed.

ELLIE

Jason, these are my parents. Bill and Jodi.

JASON

Oh. No. It's my pleasure to meet you. Well, not pleasure in the way you might assume by looking at me. But, I'm embarrassed. And I'm just going to pretend this isn't happening.

Jason reaches over Ellie's mom to shake hands with her dad, the HUGE appendage plops in her mother's cocktail glass.

ELLIE'S MOM

Oh dear!

Jason stands up, drying off the dildo with his shirt. He looks at her mother.

JASON

Now that's a cocktail.

Ellie's mom just starts laughing. So does Ellie's Dad, and everyone else at the party feels comfortable enough to join in.

LATER

Everyone crowded into the small apartment, dancing. Jason is the center of attention. He's getting a girl to limbo under his fake appendage. Ellie laughs.

Jason excuses himself and talks to Ellie's parents.

JASON (CONT'D)

I hope you know, I usually don't dress like this.

Ellie's Dad hands him a drink, as Ellie comes over. He hugs his daughter.

ELLIE'S DAD

And we don't usually drink like this. But we love seeing Ellie.

ELLIE'S MOM

I'm impressed the way you've hung in there. Most kids would have run out immediately.

JASON

I'm a sucker for abuse. You know what the hardest part of this costume is. Seeing this thing next to your real hardware.

Ellie's Dad laughs. Her parents seem to love Jason.

ELLIE'S MOM

What're you laughing at Bill?

JASON

It's like, you look in the mirror and don't know whether to laugh or just kill yourself.

Jason is drinking heavily.

JASON (CONT'D)

Did Ellie tell you about the time we met? In a bout of sheer stupidity, I mistook her for a hooker.

This gets Ellie's attention, but Jason is in the zone - being funny, charming, and pushing right through his limits.

ELLIE

It was nothing. I was just wearing my high boots.

JASON

We had gone home together and, if you look at me, you gotta think she wanted to get paid...

He just told them he slept with their daughter on the first night. Ellie's parents are now uncomfortable.

INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Ellie and Jason argue.

ELLIE
What were you thinking?

JASON
I wasn't. I was just going with it,
trying a little too hard. No pun-

ELLIE
Those are my parents Jason.

JASON
I know. You think I put this on and
thought, man, her mom's gonna dig
this 12 inch cock? I'm a really
good person.

ELLIE
Clearly.

JASON
I'm sorry. I hope I didn't screw up
your whole night.

She shakes her head no.

JASON (CONT'D)
Why don't you come over later.
We'll have a drink, I'll give you a
birthday present you'll wish you
could forget immediately. (beat)
Sex. (beat) With me.

ELLIE
Jason, I'm seeing someone.

That hangs in the air.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
And I'm going to give it a shot
with him. A real shot.

Jason hands her the present he got for her.

JASON
Happy Birthday.

EXT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

Jason walks sadly out the door. He tugs on the huge dildo and it pops off.

A homeless guy is begging on the corner, holding out his cup. Jason puts the dildo in the bucket.

JASON
Don't spend it all in one place.

BUM
Fuck you.

INT. JASON'S ROOM - LATER

Jason sits down in front of his computer and brings up Facebook.

BLACK.

CUE: The opening riff of Hendrix's Purple Haze.

We come up on Jason's room.

What was once neat and orderly has been transformed in to a complete disaster. Coffee cups piled into coffee cups, takeout food containers eating takeout containers.

He's on Facebook clicking methodically on picture after picture. This is when Facebook is bad.

JASON
Guy with the red hat. Who the fuck are you? Any more pictures of you?

He clicks again.

JASON (CONT'D)
Bingo. Get your hands off her you dirty creeper. Let's google you.

He opens up a new window on the computer.

JASON (CONT'D)
William Mathers. Restaurateur.
What a piece of shit this guy is.

Jason hits print William Mathers' picture starts feeding out of the printer.

INT. CEDAR SINAI

Mikey is walking into the lockers when he sees the Other Doctor.

OTHER DOCTOR

Hey Dr.

MIKEY

Hey man. You heading home for Thanksgiving?

OTHER DOCTOR

Nah. I'm on all week. You?

MIKEY

Staying around the city.

Mikey jumps onto a computer. Logs on to Facebook. He checks his posting on Vera's wall. There are numerous comments on the wedding photo he posted.

CU FACEBOOK COMMENTS: So cute/AWWW/You guys are awesome. Etc...

Mikey smiles, clicks on LIKE. Then logs off. This is when Facebook is good.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Daniel and Mikey are in the living room.

DANIEL

He's taken a week off of work.

MIKEY

And I know he was supposed to meet Jack Matterhorn today. That's a huge opportunity.

DANIEL

We need to get him out of there.

Daniel knocks on the door just as it flings open. Jason, in a bathrobe, unshaven, comes out of the door. He's like a zombie as the light hits him for the first time in a while.

JASON

I've narrowed it down to five guys that she could be dating.

DANIEL

When did Howard Hughes move in?

MIKEY

No, that's just the homeless dude who killed Jason last week.

Jason shrugs it off. Keeps going...

JASON

Two guys from her masters class at Chicago recently moved to the city. One is named George. I met him one time and he's a waspy bag of already sucked cocks. There's also this restaurateur who looks like a real piece of shit. William something. And one other guy who isn't even googleable, which at this day in age, should be a red fucking flag and I should probably go warn her.

DANIEL

Seriously man, you look like somebody Jamie Foxx would play in a movie.

JASON

I've started monitoring her twitter, facebook, and occasionally, her LinkedIn. I'm gonna follow her.

DANIEL

Dude! That's a total invasion of privacy.

JASON

It's public information.

DANIEL

You're like one step away from boiling her pets.

JASON

You're either with me on this one or you can get the fuck out of my apartment.

Jason scans the faces of his two best friends. He holding the pictures he printed from Facebook in his left, and his drink in his right. He looks fucking crazy.

EXT. CAFE MOGADOR

Jason, Daniel, and Mikey stand at a medium distance, on the other side of the street, behind a parked car, drinking coffee and watching.

MIKEY

This is insane. We should at least have disguises.

DANIEL

Just relax, Fletch.

JASON

There she is. That's the guy.

Across the way, we see Ellie come out of the restaurant. A guy in a baseball hat is with her. He pulls her INTO A KISS.

DANIEL

Damnit! I wish we were tough. We could go kick his ass or whatever.

MIKEY

You recognize the guy?

The guys turns towards us, in SLO MO.

JASON

Holy shit...

As we see the face we recognize...

JASON (CONT'D)

That's Jack Matterhorn.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

It's astounding. I love, absolutely love, your work.

INT. JACK MATTERHORN'S OFFICE

Jack Matterhorn sits behind a desk talking to Jason.

JACK MATTERHORN

It's just so fresh and new and has this energy to it.

ELLIE (V.O.)

You know, one of the other authors I work with slept with Jack. Said his dick was like a Pringle can.

Jason winces.

JASON

Thank you.

JACK MATTERHORN

I couldn't believe that someone like you has gone unnoticed. I tell ya, Ellie's got a great eye.

ELLIE (V.O.)

Like a Pringle can.

Jason looks distraught.

JASON

She certainly does.

JACK MATTERHORN

Look, I want you to be my illustrator because you're one of the most goddamned talented kids I've seen in a long time. And I mean that.

ELLIE (V.O.)

Pringle can.

Jason shifts in his chair.

JASON

Thank-

ELLIE (V.O.)

-Pringle can.

JASON

Thank you. That's really nice.

Jason is torn between wanting to kill him and accepting his offer, nicely. He shakes Matterhorn's hand.

JACK MATTERHORN

I'm gonna set up a meeting for you with my publisher - the head of Ellie's company. They'll run you through the details. And hey, sometimes you find the breaks, and sometimes the breaks find you.

Jack stands up, offers his hand.

ELLIE (V.O.)

Like a goddamned Pringle can,
Jason.

JACK MATTERHORN

In this case, I think I got a break
finding you.

Off Jason looking at Jack's hand we CUT TO:

INT. LITTLE BRANCH

A dark, subterranean speakeasy that serves couture cocktails.
Chelsea and Daniel are at the bar. Chelsea clearly wants to
talk about something, as she starts, the bartender arrives-

DANIEL

This drinks menu is so complicated.
What's a hot buttered rum?

BARTENDER

It's a velvety, smooth-

DANIEL

Nope. Lost you at velvety. I'm not
gonna drink something that has the
same qualities as astroglide. Can I
just have a vodka? Rocks.

CHELSEA

What're you planning for
Thanksgiving this year?

BARTENDER

We have a vodka mint gimlet with
blended egg.

DANIEL

I'm not drinking an omelette. Just
a vodka.

BARTENDER

Can't do that.

CHELSEA

My parents are having a big dinner
up at their place.

DANIEL

Why can't you make a vodka on the
rocks? You're a bartender.

BARTENDER
I'm a mixologist.

DANIEL
Then put a lime in it.

CHELSEA
Remember last year?

DANIEL
I do. And I'm still convinced your mom cheats at scrabble. There's no way a woman that drunk gets fucking quezal.

CHELSEA
It's a bird.

DANIEL
It's a lie, is what it is.

Chelsea is laughing. The bartender is back.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Fine, just something with vodka!
The last time it was this hard to drink, I was thirteen.

CHELSEA
So will you come?

Daniel is struggling with this answer. If he goes...then they're dating.

DANIEL
I'll be there.

He smiles.

CU: THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

The apartment is a mess. There are about 15 beers on the table. Jason's drinking a beer and drawing a large, mock up sized drawing. We can't see it.

His phone rings.

JASON
Yeah. Hi mom. Happy Thanksgiving to you too. Drunk, no? Just tired.

He puts down his drink.

JASON (CONT'D)

I've been working on the new
Matterhorn book jacket. Yeah...tell
everyone I say hello...wish I could
be there...

INT. VERA'S APARTMENT

A beautiful Thanksgiving table is set. Mikey grabs a bottle of wine from a table in the hallway. He holds it, stops for a moment.

MIKEY

The Hot Cold. Pull away just when
she thinks she has you.

INT. VERA'S APARTMENT

Mikey has cooked Thanksgiving Dinner for Vera. He's running to get the last of the meal from the kitchen, frantic - it's clear he wants everything to be perfect.

MIKEY

Okay. That's everything. Let's eat.

She looks up at him, completely sincere. Composes herself.

VERA

I want you to know I'm sorry. For
everything I put you through.
Sometimes I'm cold. I'm Hungarian.
That's what we do.

MIKEY

Vera-

VERA

But I can't think of any place I'd
rather be, or any person I'd rather
be with. I am so lucky to have you.

Mikey is uncomfortable. He seems to be gathering his resolve. He pushes his chair back from the table.

MIKEY

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

And he gets up, grabs his coat.

EXT. VERA'S APARTMENT

Mikey stands in the hallway, shuts his eyes tight, about to go back.

MIKEY

Just walk away. Just walk away.

And he walks away from the door.

INT. BOWERY HOTEL

Daniel sits at the bar next to a well heeled, yet drunk, gentleman. Some families, walk by, but for the most part, it's dead.

DANIEL

Happy Thanksgiving.

WEALTHY DRUNK

It certainly is. I see you escaped family, too.

DANIEL

Just barely.

The bartender comes by.

WEALTHY DRUNK

Two shots of Wild Turkey. It's Thanksgiving, after all.

Daniel gets a text.

INSERT: CHELSEA: ARE YOU COMING? I KEEP CALLING...

He puts his phone away. Takes his shot of Turkey, and clinks glasses with the lonely old Drunk.

INT. MCNALLY JACKSON BOOKSTORE

Jason is buying ALL of Jack Matterhorn's books. A CHECKOUT GIRL wearing cool glasses is there.

CHECKOUT GIRL

Wow. You're really into Matterhorn huh? His new book is supposed to be amazing.

She hands him a flyer for a talk at the 92nd St. YMCA.

CHECKOUT GIRL (CONT'D)
Everyone's talking about it. Saying
he's the next Ellroy.

JASON
I'd rather eat my own shit than
read these books.

CHECKOUT GIRL
That's not...healthy.

JASON
Know thy enemy.

He points at her as he takes his books.

JASON (CONT'D)
Know them to defeat them.

She walks away.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Jason walks in with his books. He slumps on the couch as
Mikey comes out of his room wheeling a suitcase.

MIKEY
She doesn't want to see me anymore.

JASON
What? Slow down. Start from the
beginning.

MIKEY
I followed your advice. I pulled
away. I made her feel stupid when I
did it, and I pushed her too far.

JASON
She's made you feel stupid twice
before! That's the risk you take
trying to get what you want.

MIKEY
Risk. That's the risk? Fuck you
Jason. You don't take any risks.
Every little thing you do is
designed to protect you. You don't
want a relationship. You don't want
to grow up. You're just afraid to
get hurt because Jenny dumped you
five fucking years ago.

Jason is fuming.

JASON

You wife goes and fucks some dude
because you can't handle your shit,
and now it's my fault for trying to
help you?

Jason has gone too far.

JASON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Mikey.

MIKEY

Don't.

Mikey goes to the door with his suitcase.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

You're sad Jason. Your life is sad.
And right now, you're exactly where
you're supposed to be. Alone.

Mikey shuts the door.

INT. JASON'S ROOM

Lying on the bed, drinking a cocktail from the bedside bar,
Jason looks over at his mock-up - we see Matterhorn's face
emblazoned on the side.

EXT. MADISON AVENUE SHOPS

Holiday decorations are starting to be hung. It's a busy,
festive time in the city. Electric with shoppers, holiday
parties, and goodwill - New York at it's finest.

INT. MEDIA WORKS

Jason and Daniel sit facing Fred's desk.

JASON

Hey look. It's Fred.

FRED

As both of you know we have
incredibly high standards at this
company. Our work generates more
work and so on. Our people
represent us - represent me. And
that's why this...

He turns around a mock up book cover. It's Matterhorn's The Trial Lawyer.

Matterhorn's face is clearly a GIANT DICK.

DANIEL
No you did not.

JASON
It still seems appropriate. Even right now.

FRED
I hate to do this during the holidays, but both of you are fired. Turning in work like this is unacceptable.

Daniel just glares at Jason.

EXT. MEDIAWORKS - STREET

Daniel stops Jason outside.

DANIEL
What are you doing man?

JASON
Job was bullshit anyway.

DANIEL
So you have to take me down too?

JASON
Without me here you'd be fired anyway.

DANIEL
You've completely lost it. All this over a girl?

JASON
Least I had a girl. Didn't have to fuck my best friend.

Daniel is taken aback.

DANIEL
Well, you just did.

And Daniel walks away. This hurts, but what's done is done.

CUE: MUSIC

*Jason cleans up the massive amount of shit that has amassed in his apartment.

*Mikey is sleeping on Daniel's couch.

*Jason fires up his computer.

*Jason moves the bar off his side table.

*He puts together an Ikea bed frame. It's a start.

*Jason frames his Carol Alt poster. Also a start.

*He stands, staring at Mikey's empty room.

EXT. VERA'S APARTMENT

Vera opens the door and sees Jason standing there.

JASON
I know we've never gotten along,
but there's something I need to
tell you.

INT. VERA'S APARTMENT

Jason and Vera have coffee.

JASON
I told him to do that. I told to
pull away because he's my best
friend, and you hurt him.

VERA
I was feeling vulnerable, and
Harold was just there.

JASON
You had sex with a guy named
Harold. I mean, what did you think
was gonna happen?

She laughs.

JASON (CONT'D)
I also selfishly liked having my
best friend back. And for that I'm
sorry.

VERA
What do you think I should do?

JASON

I'm gonna retire early from the advice business, but I'll say this - I've never seen him happier than when he's with you. He loves you, Vera. Very much.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

*Jason draws late into the night on the computer tablet.

*Jason finishes a book. We see a scene from it. The main character is the superhero Ellie, from Jason's apology art.

EXT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

Snow is falling in the city. Jason waits for someone to come out, then he slips in. Leaves the book by Ellie's door.

MUSIC ENDS as

EXT. JASON'S BUILDING

Jason bursts out the front door. A man on a mission. It's snowing - Manhattan at it's most alluring. He starts RUNNING. He rounds a corner.

JASON (V.O.)

At that moment, I felt only the need to apologize Daniel and Mikey. To make things right.

Jason stops, out of breath.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But I was also really fucking out of shape.

He hails a cab and jumps in.

JASON (CONT'D)

I need to go to-

And the cab is BROADSIDED by another car sliding in the snow.

EXT. WEST VILLAGE STREET

Tight on Daniel. He's calling Chelsea, wind whipping through his hair.

DANIEL

Chels. Come outside. Please, just do this for me.

He hangs up.

EXT. CHELSEA'S APARTMENT BUILDING

She exits the front door. Her face lights up.

REVERSE ON: A DOUBLE DECKER TOURBUS

Daniel is manning the microphone.

DANIEL

Chelsea, please get on the bus.
Everyone, meet Chelsea.

The crowd of tourists don't know what else to do, so they all say...

TOURISTS

Hiiii, Chelsea.

DANIEL

She's the girl that I love and I, well, I really screwed it right in the proverbial crapper.

A woman covers her daughter's ears.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Over the years, you've heard it all, seen it all. Nobody knows me better than you. And that thought terrified me.

TOURIST GUY

Hey Buddy, what the fuck does this have to do with New York?

DANIEL

Everything. This is New York. This is people who see each other every day avoiding actually seeing each other. That's what this city is.

TOURIST GUY

I don't get it.

DANIEL

Then shut the fuck up for a second,
man, will you? How's that for New
York?

The guy stops.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I love you, Chels. Please give me
another shot.

CHELSEA

Did you actually get a job on this
bus?

DANIEL

Yes.

She runs up to him and hugs him. He drops the mic.

TOURIST GUY

Jesus Christ. What is this, Paris?

Daniel's phone beeps. A text.

DANIEL

Oh no.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY

The sun sets on the city.

EXT. CEDAR SINAI

It glows in the twilight.

INT. HOSPITAL

Jason wakes up in a hospital bed. A nurse is there.

NURSE

You feeling okay?

JASON

What happened?

NURSE

You got hit by a car. You were just
a little shaken up and you have a
bruise on your head. The doctor
will be in to see you in a moment.

She grabs some things and heads out. Mikey heads in.

MIKEY

Hey.

JASON

Shit, Mikey. I wanted to call you.
I'm sorry, man. I know I acted
crazy over the past couple of
months. I don't know what I was
thinking. I need to apologize.

Vera suddenly enters the frame.

MIKEY

It's okay. It's okay. I understand
you were trying to help.

Daniel walks in the room.

DANIEL

I got here as soon as I could.

JASON

Daniel, you cheap piece of shit.
You never bring beer.

DANIEL

Someone's feeling better then?

Chelsea comes in and stands next to Daniel. She locks his
arm. Jason notices.

CHELSEA

Daniel told me you inspired him to
apologize.

Jason looks at Daniel. Understands.

DANIEL

Didn't want to end up like you.

JASON

Don't blame you. How am I doing,
Doctor?

MIKEY

Minor concussion and a bruise on
the side of your head. What were
you doing?

JASON

I was actually coming to find you
guys. And I guess it worked.

JASON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I got so crazy over Ellie. I lost myself there for a minute. I'm happier in the grey area anyway.

The others all look at one another.

DANIEL

We had to physically drag you off facebook, you lost your job, became a stalker, and now you're just gonna give up? This is not about pride, Jason. This is about love.

MIKEY

Someone once told me...when you find the person you're supposed to be with...the one who steals all of your thoughts. The one you fall in love with...isn't that worth fighting for?

Vera squeezes Mikey's arm. Jason thinks this over.

JASON

You all think I should go after her, don't you?

Jason looks at his friends, standing there with their girlfriends. They all simultaneously say.

ALL

Yes.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Daniel and Mikey push Jason in his wheelchair to the hospital entrance.

JASON

What's the fastest way to get there?

DANIEL

Rush hour. A cab will take forever.

JASON

Subway.

MIKEY

To the west village? You'd have to take the local then change at Union Square to the E train, then walk a few blocks. Take forever right now.

The look over at an EMT wheeling in an old woman. Daniel nods at a Black EMT.

DANIEL

Good day sir.

CUT TO:

INT. AMBULANCE

The guys are speeding downtown with the sirens blaring.

DANIEL

Take 2nd down to Houston and-

EMT

I know where the fuck I'm going. I drive this thing for a living man.

DANIEL

Okay. Okay. Roger that.

JASON

She's on 12th and Bleeker.

EXT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

Jason jumps out and starts frantically ringing the bell.

And he rings as the music SWELLS.

And SHE'S NOT HOME.

Jason turns back to the others.

JASON

She's not home.

MIKEY

Jesus. We got the EMT and everything.

DANIEL

I mean, you didn't call her to make sure she was here?

JASON

No.

DANIEL

What the fuck were you thinking?

JASON

I don't know. I wasn't thinking.
Heat of the moment and shit.

The EMT pokes his head out the window.

EMT

She's not home? Motherfucker! You
didn't call?

Jason waves.

JASON

Sorry. Sorry. I'll, uh, I'll try
her now.

He looks at the others, phone to his ear.

JASON (CONT'D)

Not picking up. Damn it.

Everyone looks dejected. They walk down the steps, and come
face to face with a Matterhorn flyer in a shop window. His
book release/reading.

DANIEL

That tonight?

JASON

Yeah, looks like it. 92nd St. Y.

INT. AMBULANCE

The ambulance darts uptown.

MIKEY

You know what you're gonna say?

JASON

Of course I...have no idea.

EMT

Here I am drivin you around, and
mothafucka has no idea what he's
gonna say?

DANIEL

This is gonna be awesome.

EMT

Gonna be a fuckin failure is what it's gonna be.

DANIEL

Hey! You're being a really negative person right now.

JASON

I know. Criticism is good, but...

MIKEY

You gotta come up with some good shit here Jason. That's critical.

JASON

I know I know. I was just in a car accident, Jesus. You guys are really putting the heat on.

INT. 92ND ST YMCA - BOOK READING

Classic venue. People everywhere. Excitement.

Ellie's setting up the posters for Matterhorn's book. The new posters are, of course, not designed by Jason.

Jack is on the stage.

ELLIE

I'd like to introduce to you all, in short order, one of the best selling authors and foremost writers of our day. His books have been turned into four major motion pictures, he is a guest lecturer at Columbia University, and his new effort is called The Law Firm. Without further ado, Jack Matterhorn.

MATTERHORN

Thank you Ellie. This is a special day for me. I have all my family here in the city I adore. I had the pleasure of working with a new editor on this book, Simon and Simon's newest star Ellie Brown.

Clapping from the audience as Jason, Daniel and Mikey barge into the room.

MATTERHORN (CONT'D)

While she's not the first editor who has been ruthless with me, she's the first I found attractive enough to start dating.

AUDIENCE

Awwww.

JASON

Wait! I love you.

ELLIE

Jason? This really isn't the time.

JASON

I need to tell you that I realized all the things I do to keep me from being vulnerable, to keep me happy, are the exact things that are making me miserable.

MATTERHORN

Someone took a wrong turn on the way to therapy, here.

ELLIE

Can we talk about this later?

Jason looks out, there's a room PACKED FULL of people watching them.

JASON

I love all of the little things about you. I love the way we fit together perfectly when we're lying in bed. I love you the way you play with your necklace when you're nervous. I love the way you wear my clothes to bed, and get pissed off when people use emoticons. And I could go on an on, but the point is...The point is I love you.

Off to the side, Daniel talks to Mikey.

DANIEL

Oh shit. He went gay with it.

MIKEY

No. This is how it works. Trust me for once.

MATTERHORN

I would have gone with something a little bigger. Like, you make me feel like we're two halves, drawn together by forces beyond our control. A magnetism.

JASON

(genuine)

Oh that's good. Magnetism.

MATTERHORN

You like that? It's yours.

JASON

Awesome. Thanks.

A beat.

JASON (CONT'D)

You're rewriting me when I'm trying to steal your girlfriend? Jesus, you're so nice.

MATTERHORN

She's not my girlfriend Jason.

Ellie hold up her ENGAGEMENT RING.

ELLIE

Jack and I got engaged. Today.

She holds up her ring. Applause from the audience.

EXT. LOWER EAST SIDE

The boys are walking back home, together.

JASON

You ever get the feeling that maybe we aren't right?

DANIEL

I get the feeling you aren't right all the time.

JASON

That's not what I mean. That we go through middle school thinking we're right. Then in high school, we know we're right.

MIKEY

And we're validated by these prestigious institutions of higher learning accepting us.

JASON

Yes. The whole fucking thing exists to confirm that you're right. And you've got no choice but to believe them.

DANIEL

Because you want to believe them.

JASON

And then you get into the world and there's no playbook. There's no right. No wrong. Just decisions.

Jason has stopped. Daniel and Mikey follow suit.

JASON (CONT'D)

And it never dawned on us that maybe, just maybe, we don't have all the answers. Maybe we can fuck things up and change the course of our lives. Because maybe we don't understand relationships. Maybe we don't understand ourselves.

They all stand there, silent. Sizing each other up. It starts to snow.

INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

She looks at the book Jason left for her. On the cover is JASON AND ELLIE as SUPERHEROES. They're making out. And a note.

INSERT: I'm asking you to judge this book by it's cover.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - SAME

Jason opens his door. Alana, the young actress, is there. She's wrapped up in a scarf and carrying a large purse. She's appropriately disheveled, and now has short hair.

ALANA

It's been a long time. I thought you'd died.

JASON

You cut your hair.

ALANA

I got that part.

JASON

And how'd it go?

ALANA

We got extended at the Public. Now extend me an invitation inside.

Jason fully opens the door.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

Jason is sitting next to her, they each have a drink. She puts hers down, and starts unbuttoning her shirt.

ALANA

I figure you might just be my good luck charm.

JASON

It's good to see you.

She drops her shirt.

JASON (CONT'D)

It's better to see you.

Jason is looking at her. She's beautiful. She wiggles out of her pants, sits across from him. Her arms on his legs.

JASON (CONT'D)

I know this is strange, and I feel like, well, I feel like a woman turning down sex like this.

He hands her the pants she's hastily removed.

JASON (CONT'D)

But I'm not ready. I'm not over my ex.

ALANA

You make me come all the way over
here and then you decide you can't
do this?

She grabs her pants and then starts putting them on. As she
does, she gets more angry.

JASON

You might be my good luck charm,
but you're a selfish fucking prick.
I mean, what kind of-

CUT TO:

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - LIVINGROOM - LATER

Jason sits on the couch, looking at his drawings of superhero
Ellie. He sees Alana's purse, just as there's a LOUD KNOCK on
the door. He's startled.

JASON

Yeah, I know, I know!

He grabs the bag, opens the door, and holds it out.

JASON (CONT'D)

You left this-

It's Ellie.

ELLIE

I broke up with Jack. I don't care
what you say, I can't stop thinking
about you, and what you said
earlier.

She just kisses him, full on the mouth.

JASON

I-

ELLIE

Don't make a joke. Just let me say
the things I need to say...

Jason nods.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

All the things you set up in your
life to keep people like me away, I
can see through them.

JASON

I was falling in love with you and
it scared the shit out of me. I
want to date you properly, Ellie.

ELLIE

I want that too. Whatever that
means.

Jason considers this. They both start grinning. They know
what's coming.

JASON

It means I want to convince you to
have sex somewhere special, like an
ice rink or a sleigh ride.

ELLIE

I want to compare you favorably to
my ex lovers. But only to your
face.

JASON

I want to wake up next to you on
mornings I'm not still drunk.

ELLIE

I want to pretend I like your body.

JASON

I want to pretend I like my body-

ELLIE

-who's purse is that?

Jason realizes he's holding Alana's purse..

JASON

What? Oh. Hmmm. That's an
interesting story.

Alana comes around the corner.

ALANA

I left my purse. (to Ellie) Good
luck. This asshole (whiny) isn't
over his ex.

She snatches her purse.

ALANA (CONT'D)

Lose my number.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT

Jason and Ellie finish having sex. Jason reaches into the bedside table. He pulls out the Gramercy Park key.

JASON

I think you can have this back.

ELLIE

Aww. This is the nicest thing anybody's ever stolen for me.

JASON

I think that was the first time we've done it as...as a couple.

She nods at him, perhaps recalling the time they've spent getting to this moment.

ELLIE

A couple? Fuck that. You owe me a thousand dollars. Did I not tell you I was a hooker?

THE END

CREDITS OVER SCENES FROM JASON'S GRAPHIC NOVEL.

