

CLUELESS

by

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"to be a human being means the possession of a feeling of inferiority."

Alfred Adler

"it ain't necessarily so"

Ira Gershwin

CLUELESS

(SD/Aug '94) Heckerling

Over an upbeat song we see our heroine CHER and her friend, DIONNE, a stunning, African American girl in a montage of teenage activities. Cher is beautiful, rich and damn happy.

Cher, Dionne and other cute kids cavort in a new jeep.

Cher and her pals strut down the hallways in school.

Some wacky boys toss Cher into a fountain at the park.

All seen through long lenses, hand held, smoke, dutch angles, etc.

CHER V.O.

Help! I'm trapped in a Noxema commercial.

CUT TO:

INT. CHER'S ROOM - MORNING

Cher is in a T-shirt and boy's boxers. She yanks squiggly rods out of her hair.

CHER V.O.

Just kidding. But I'll admit it, my life is quite full.....

Cher exits.

CUT TO:

INT. CHER'S UPSTAIRS HALLWAY TO ENTRANCEWAY - DAY

Cher comes downstairs. The house is luxurious.

CHER V.O.

I live in Beverly Hills with my father, who's a totally prominent attorney.....

She goes outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Cher is joking with the Gardener as she picks some oranges.

CHER V.O.

.....and I'm fully responsible for running the homestead. Fortunately, school doesn't take up too much mental exertion.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Cher is dressed for school in a kilt, over-the-knee socks and backpack - all silver. She makes orange juice as LUCY, the housekeeper, enters. Lucy is sporting last year's short bell bottoms and crochet vest. (obviously Cher's hand-me-downs).

CHER

Ooh look, it fits perfect!

She examines and adjusts Lucy's clothes.

CHER

Classic! Lucy, make sure daddy drinks this. And tell him I've got a nurse coming to his office to give him his flu shot, so he better not sneak out.

LUCY

O.K.

CHER

I'm Audi.

She leaves.

CUT TO:

C.U. - A PAINTING OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN CLASSIC DISCO ATTIRE.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cher stops at the painting.

CHER V.O.

Wasn't my mom a Betty? She died when I was just a baby. A fluke accident during a routine liposuction. Sometimes I try to remember her, but my brain won't go back that far.

Cher goes to a framed picture of herself as a child with a pre-teen boy, her father and a woman.

CHER V.O.

I've had to take care of Daddy all this time.

Except when he was briefly married to the evil slut.

We focus on the two kids.

CHER V.O.

There's Josh, my obnoxious, tree hugging ex-step brother. Even though he's had many dads since then, he still acts like my father is also his father. Always yapping on the phone, visiting during holidays....

Cher puts the picture down.

CHER V.O.

... And now he's coming to town to go to U.C.L.A..
What a bonus for me.

She leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

DRIVING ROCK SONG plays in Cher's new jeep.

CHER V.O.

Did I show you the loqued out jeep daddy
bought me?

The Camera moves around the vehicle as in a car commercial.

CHER V.O.

It's got four wheel drive, monster sound system,
and dual side air bags! I don't have a license
yet but I needed something to learn on.

She stops in front of a large Tudor home and HONKS her horn.

CHER V.O.

Here's where my friend Dionne lives. De
and I have alot in common. We both have a
rampant interest in fashion and we're both
named after great singers of the past....

Dionne, dressed in pants, skirt, and many shirts (the layered look) gets in the jeep.

DIONNE

Dude!

CHER

Girlfriend!

They start to do a high five, deliberately miss each others hands and make a limp wrist movement. (Beverly Hills High five). Cher drives off.

CHER

De, its only September. You've got a whole year to show off your wardrobe, you don't have to wear it all in one day.

DIONNE

What a bash on. I'm totally crushed. (re: Cher's silver clothes) By the way, have you been shopping with Martians again?

CHER

Everyone knows Silver is the black of the nineties.

DIONNE

That should make funerals more fun....
(spots Police Car)
Careful Cher...Oinkers.

CHER

Take the pill, I am sq within the speed limit.

She glides by a "STOP" sign.

DIONNE

Hello, that was a "STOP" sign.

CHER

And I paused, did I not?

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

MURRAY, in do-rag and plaid shirt, works out the rhymes for a rap song about career choices, investments, foreign car maintenance and other problems he is facing.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Murray gets out of his car, a B.M.W. and BEEPS the alarm on. He walks to school as he dials his cellular phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. QUAD - DAY

Kids walk, talk, hang out. The girls walk through.... A BOY approaches.

BOY

Cher, we're going to party at Summer's house later.

CHER

I'll have to check my schedule.

BOY

Just come and wear that pink bikini again.

CHER

Tschal Dream on.

A BEEPER goes off.

DIONNE

God, it's not even eight thirty and Murray's beeping me.

CHER

He's so possessive.

DIONNE

It's like, he called last night, and he's all, "Where were you today?" And I'm all "What do you think? At my grandmothers" and he's all....

Dionne's voice drones on in the B.G....Cher rolls her eyes.

CHER V.O.

Dionne is in this dramatic relationship with her boyfriend, Murray. I think they were overly influenced by the Ike and Tina Turner movie.

CHER OUT LOUD

De, why do you put up with it? You can do so much better.

DIONNE

Oh no, here he comes.

Murray, wearing pants slung far below his butt, approaches.

MURRAY

Woman, why didn't you answer my page?

Some teenagers gather around them to hear a fight.

DIONNE

Lhate when yu call me woman.

MURRAY

Where you been all weekend? You down with O.P.P.?

MURRAY

(digs through her bag)

O.P.P.? You want to talk about O.P.P.?

(pulls out a braid)

Then maybe you can explain how this cheap, K-Mart, hair extension got into your back seat?

The kids around them make comments.

MURRAY

I don't know nothing about that. That must of come offa you.

DIONNE

Tscha! I do not wear shiney, polyester hair, unlike some people, like, say ...Shawana.

MURRAY

Shawana?? Man, you should get a job at the Fox Network. You have a real talent for fabrication.....Shawna!

DIONNE

Thats right, Shawana. And any time you decide you'd rather be with that anorexic bimbeta, instead of woman who's t.b., true blue, just pull up your saggy ass pants and go.

They continue fighting . Cher backs away.

CHER

Dionne, I'm Audi, see you later.

In the middle of an emotional harangue Dionne waves "goodbye" casually to Cher.

CHER V.O.

At least once a day Dionne and Murray entertain the students with a dramatic improv. It's made them immensely popular. Everyone knows De and Murray, people take sides, discussion groups form during lunch.

Cher walks through the Quad. We see some goofy looking couples and boys on skateboards.

CHER V.O.

Personally, I can't imagine going out with a high school boy, they're so high maintenance, like, dogs, you have to walk them, feed them, give them fleabaths, just so you can have some nervous creature jump and slobber all over you. No thank you. I have more important things to think about.

CUT TO:

INT. DEBATE CLASS - DAY

MR. HALL

Should all Haitians be allowed refuge in America?

Cher and AMBER are in front of the class with Mr. Hall, a tolerant but overworked teacher.

MR. HALL

Amber will take the "con" position and Cher will be "pro". Cher--

Cher does her oration while moving her hand in a circular motion (as if to clarify).

CHER

So, O.K. , Like the Haitians need to come to America but some people are all, "What about the sprain on our resources?" And its like, when I had this garden party for my father's birthday and its all catered, you know, I said "R.S.V.P." because it's a sit down dinner, O.K.? People come that like, didn't R.S.V.P.! And I'm buggin'. I have to haul ass to the kitchen, re-distribute the food and like squish in extra place-settings and people are on mismatched chairs and all. But by the end of the day it was like "the more, the merrier." And so if the government could just get to the kitchen and re-arrange some things we could certainly party with the Haitians. And in conclusion, may I remind you that it doesn't say "R.S.V.P." on the Statue of Liberty.

Enthusiastic applause and whooping.

MR. HALL

Amber, reply.

AMBER

(upset)

Mr. Hall, how can I answer that. The topic is Haiti and she's talking about some little party.

CHER

It was his fiftieth birthday! There were like two hundred people.

AMBER

What-ever. If she doesn't do the assignment, I can't do mine.

CHER

Oh, take a midol, Amber.

MR. HALL

Ladies, cool it.

Amber gives the class a sarcastic look behind Mr. Hall's back ("cool it?!").

MR. HALL

Any thoughts on Cher's oration?

ELTON, a clean cut young man, is organizing his C.D.'s. He raises his hand.

MR. HALL

Elton...comments.

ELTON

(concerned)

Mr. Hall, I can't find my "Cranberries". Can I go to the Quad and look before someone snags it?

Mr. Hall nods and he leaves.

MR. HALL

Any further insights?

TRAVIS, a spacey, long haired guy, raises his hand. Mr. Hall looks amazed.

TRAVIS

Mr. Hall, I had an insight.

MR. HALL

I'm all ears.

TRAVIS

Like, the way I feel about the Rolling Stones is like the way my kids will feel about Nine Inch Nails, so I shouldn't give my mother any more shit about them.

MR. HALL

(confused)

Yes...well it's a little off the subject of Haiti, but

(MORE)

MR. HALL (CONT)

tolerance is always a good lesson, even when it comes out of nowhere.

Travis looks proud.

MR. HALL

With that in mind, I'll distribute your report cards.

The class seems to sink a few inches as he distributes cards. Numerous conversations break out.

MR. HALL

Quiet please. Is there a Christian Stovitz enrolled in this class? Has anyone ever seen him?

CHER

Mr. Hall, Christian's parents have joint custody.

Some Idiots in the back laugh at the word "joint".

CHER

He spends a month in Chicago and a month here. Personally, I think it's a travesty on the part of the legal profession.

MR. HALL

Thank you for that perspective, Cher.

Some Persian kids have loud conversations in Farsi.

MR. HALL

Can all conversatons come to a halt including Farsi, English, Japanese, Spanish...

He hands a report card to TRAVIS, who takes a glance at this grades, walks to the window and starts to climb out. Mr. Hall pulls him back.

MR. HALL

And can suicide attempts wait till next period.

He gives Cher her report card as the bell RINGS.

MR. HALL

May I remind you these must be signed by tomorrow.

The kids burst out of the classroom.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Cher walks down the hallway and calls Dionne on her cellular phone.

DIONNE O.S.

Zup?

CHER

You get your report card?

DIONNE O.S.

Yeah, I'm toast, you'll never see me out of the house again. How'd you do?

CHER

God, I totally choked. My father's going to go ballistic on me.

DIONNE O.S.

Tell me about it. Mr Hall was way harsh. I got a C minus in debate.

As Cher listens, she bumps into Dionne coming down the hall in the opposite direction. They get off their phones and continue their conversation without missing a beat.

CHER

He gave me a C which drags down my whole average.

They get to Dionne's class and she goes in.

DIONNE

See ya.

CHER

I'll call you.

She starts to dial...

CUT TO:

EXT. CHER'S HOUSE - DUSK

Cher's jeep drives up.

CHER V.O

(proudly)

Isn't my house the bomb? Daddy bought it in '78 for only eight hundred thousand and

(MORE)

CHER V.O. (CONT)

now it's worth at least two mill. But of course
he's bummed because it isn't worth as much
as it was in eighty-seven. Isn't he a pisser?

She goes into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Cher enters and hears MUSIC she doesn't approve of.

CHER

AAHI

(shuts off the song)

The whimsical strains of Lisa Loeb....

She sees a bag of dirty clothes.

CHER

...the noisome stench of teenage laundry...
only one possible conclusion.....

JOSH, a cute college guy in a P.C. T-shirt appears from behind the refrigerator door.

CHER

...Invasion of the fraternity weasel.

He tries to tickle her.

JOSH

Hey Cher.

CHER

(hitting him)

Stop....

JOSH

(re: weight)

You're filling out there.

CHER

Yeah? You're face is starting to catch up
with your nose.

JOSH

I went by Dad's office.

CHER

He's not your dad. Why don't you torture
one of your other families?

She heads out, he follows.

CHER

And you're not thinking of staying here I hope.

JOSH

I got a place in Westwood near school.

INT. DEN - DAY

They sit on the couch.

CHER

Shouldn't you go to college on the East Coast?
I hear girls at N.Y.U. aren't at all particular.

She puts on the T.V. and watches Beavis and Butthead.
Josh tries to watch, then switches to C.N.N.

CHER

You just got here and already you're playing
Couch Commando?

She switches back.

JOSH

You know in some parts of the universe, maybe
not in Contempo Casuals, but in some parts, it's
considered cool to know what's going on in the world.

CHER

Oh thank you Josh, I so need lessons from you
on how to be cool. Tell me the part about Kenny
G. again.

Cher's father MEL, calls them from O.S..

MEL O.S.

Hey you two Chuckleheads, get in here, dinner's
ready.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

At the table is Cher's father, MEL, a middle-aged angry guy.

CHER V.O.

My father is a litigator. That's the scariest kind of lawyer there is. They're the one's who do all the fighting. And my dad is so good that he gets five hundred dollars an hour....but he fights with me for free cause I'm his daughter!

CHER

Daddy, it's been a few months now, maybe we should go out to Malibu this weekend.

MEL

Don't tell me those brain-dead, low-lifes have been calling.

CHER

Well, they are your parents. I told them we'd visit on Saturday. Also you haven't seen your friends Stuart and Ann so I made you a dinner res at Patina.

MEL

For what, overpriced food sculptures?

CHER

Yeah, you'll have fun.

MEL

How's your mother Josh?

JOSH

Putting on weight.

Mel brightens.

MEL

Yeah? Very nice. Glad to hear it. Have you been thinking about our little discussion on family law?

JOSH

Yeah, but I'd really love to be a public defender.

MEL

What for? You want to have a frustrating miserable life?

CHER

Josh will have that no matter what he does.

JOSH

(ignoring her)

Also, I was wondering about criminal law.

MEL

No, no, no, that's sleaz. It's not like on T.V....
You want to be doing something decent,
something lucrative.....

CHER

Daddy, he's not even in law school yet.

MEL

At least Josh knows what he wants to do
and he's in a good college. I'd like to see
you have a little direction.

CHER

I have direction.

JOSH

Yeah, towards the mall.

Cher gives him the evil eye.

MEL

That reminds me, where's your report card?

CHER

It's not ready yet.

MEL

What do you mean?

CHER

Well, some teachers were trying to lowball me,
daddy, and you always say, "Never accept a
first offer"...I figure these grades are just a jumping
off point to start negotiations. I'll have something
for you to see by the end of the week.

The phone RINGS, three of them check their phones. It's for Mel. He goes over some
contracts as Josh and Cher fight.

CHER

You are such a brown noser.

JOSH

And you're a superficial, space cadet.
What makes you think you can get teachers
to change your grades?

CHER

Only the fact that I've done it every other
semester. You'll see.

CUT TO:

CHANGING GRADES MONTAGE**"LITTLE MISS CAN'T BE WRONG" by the SPIN DOCTORS we see.....****INT. P.E. CLASS - DAY**

Cher is telling a tearful story to MS. STOEGER, her P.E. teacher, who listens and comforts her.

CHER V.O.

I told my P.E. teacher an undeserving male had broken my heart. She raised my C to a B after we agreed all men were pigs.

CUT TO:

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

MISS GEIST, the history teacher, rants about something. Cher nods emphatically.

CHER V.O.

I promised Miss Geist I'd start a letter writing campaign to my Congressman about violations of the Clean Air Act.

MR. HALL'S CLASS - DAY

MR. HALL looks unimpressed as Cher presents homework, reports and other evidence of her efforts.

CHER V.O.

But Mr. Hall was totally rigid. He said my debates were unresearched, unstructured and unconvincing. As if!

She tries cleaning the blackboard, begging and arguing as Mr. Hall moves her towards the door.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Cher is worried. She doesn't know what to do.

CHER V.O.

I felt impotent and out of control...which I totally hate. I needed to find sanctuary in a place where I could gather my thoughts and regain my strength.

The theme of "GONE WITH THE WIND" comes up over.....

EXT. THE BEVERLY CENTER - SUNSET

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - DAY

The girls walk with lots of packages. Cher looks very depressed.

DIONNE

Wassup Cher? Are you suffering from buyers remorse?

CHER

God no...nothing like that. But we've been shopping all day and I still don't know what to do about Mr. Hall...What would make him more accepting of my scholastic efforts.

DIONNE

How about X-tasy?

CHER

Yeah, right....
(she gets inspired)
Wait a minute, ecstasy!

DIONNE

Cher!

CHER

Not the drug. The feeling.

DIONNE

You're trippin.

CHER

No really. If there was a way to get Mr. Hall totally blissed. Like, if he was in love or something.

DIONNE

I'm so sure.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING - DAY

Loaded down with books, Mr. Hall schleps through crowds of rowdy students.

CHER V.O.

Here's the stats on Mr. Hall. He's single, he's forty-two, he earns minor ducats at a thankless job.....

Mr. Hall gets to his beat-up Toyota and struggles with the door.

CHER V.O.

.....and he drives an old bucket.

Cher observes him as he drives off.

CHER V.O.

A good, healthy boinkfest would be so beneficial.

CUT TO:

INT. TEACHER'S CAFETERIA - DAY

We see an assortment of unattractive women.....

CHER V.O.

Unfortunately there was a serious babe dought amongst the teachers....

Two Elderly Women pick at their sandwiches.

CHER V.O.

Miss Wimmer and Miss Taylor were hardly age appropriate.....

Two Hideous Women eat and talk.

CHER V.O.

The evil trolls from the math department were actually married.

One of the teachers takes out a candy bar and Cher's V.O. gets sidetracked.

CHER V.O.

Oooh, Snickers.....

Ms. Stoeger sits alone with her yogurt.

CHER V.O.

In the grand tradition of P.E. teachers, Ms. Stoeger seemed to be same sex oriented.

Miss Geist drinks some coffee and spills some on her blouse.

CHER V.O.

Of course there was always Miss Geist.....
something told me not to discount her.

CUT TO:

INT. MISS GEIST'S CLASS - DAY

Miss Geist raves about an environmental problem. Cher takes notes as Elton gives her a neckrub.

CHER V.O.

Sure, she has lipstick on her teeth, her stockings
are usually runned and she's been having bad
hair days since September.

CHER V.O.

But Mr. Hall might respond. It would be uphill,
but it was doable.

CUT TO:

INT. TEACHER'S MAILBOXES IN ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - DAY

Cher has a rosebud. She writes out a card as De reads it over her shoulder.

DIONNE

"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease has all too short a date,
But thy eternal summer shall not fade...."
Phat Cher! Did you write that?

CHER

Duh! It's like a famous quote.

DIONNE

From where?

CHER

Cliff's notes.

Cher finishes the card and puts it and the rose in Miss Geist's box.

DIONNE

"Secret Admirer?" Why didn't you sign Mr. Hall's
name?

CHER

Geist needs a little warming up. Let her get used
to the idea of being liked. Get her hormones going.

Dionne nods at this wisdom. Her phone RINGS.

DIONNE

Zup? ...My father says he'll stop hanging up on you when you start speaking English.... you tell him....

The girls duck behind the corner. Miss Geist clunks over, sees the flower and reads the card. A smile plays across her face. Cher and Dionne watch with warmth.

DIONNE

Cher, she actually looked happy!

CHER

What a Kodak moment!

CUT TO:

INT. DEBATE CLASS - DAY

Cher is busy styling Amber's hair. Travis puts stickers on his skateboard. Elton talks on his cellular phone.

MR. HALL

Paroudasm Banafshein?

PAROVDASM

Here.

MR. HALL

Sixteen tardies to work off.

The student insults Mr. Hall in Farsi and his friend laughs.

MR. HALL

Janet Hong, no tardies. Travis Birkenstock, Congratulations, by far most tardies in the class, thirty-eight in all. A near perfect record.

The class APPLAUDS, WHOOPS, and does Arsenio movements. Travis stops horsing around with his friend and stands up to take bows.

TRAVIS

Thank you, thank-you. This is so unexpected, I didn't even have a speech prepared...But I would like to say this....tardiness is not something you can do all on your own. Many, many people had
(MORE)

TRAVIS (CON'T)

to contribute. I'd like to thank my parents for never driving me to school and the L.A. bus drivers for taking a chance on an unknown kid and last, but not least, the wonderful crew McDonald's for the long hours they spend making Egg McMuffins, without which I might never be tardy. Thank you.

The class APPLAUDS.

MR. HALL

Well, if Mr. Birkenstock has no political messages to include in his speech, I'll go on. Cher Hamilton, two tardies.

Cher stops hairdressing.

CHER

Wait a minute. I object. I have never been tardy.

MR. HALL

Cher, does everything have to be a negotiation with you?

CHER

Do you recall the dates of the alleged tardies?

MR. HALL

One was last Monday.

CHER

Mr. Hall, I was surfing the crimson wave so I had to haul ass to the ladies. I took the pass.

MR. HALL

I take it you're referring to women's troubles so I'll let one of them slide.

CHER

Thanks Mr. Hall, Miss Geist was right about you.

MR. HALL

What do you mean?

CHER

Miss Geist said you were the only one in this school with any compassion and intelligence.

Mr. Hall looks intrigued.

CUT TO:

INT. ELTON'S BEDROOM - DAY

From his bed Elton has easy access to his expensive audio equipment.

CHER V.O.

So you know that guy Elton in my class?
Him, Murray and a bunch of other gangsta wannabes have a clique they call "The Crew". I decided to recruit them to help me drop hints between Geist and Hall.

Elton lies in bed talking to Cher on the phone.

CHER (V.O. on the phone)

You've got to work with me on this.

ELTON

Hold on, this music's too in your face, let's go with something more mellow.....

He looks through his C.D.'s.

CUT TO:

INT. CHER'S KITCHEN - DAY

As Cher talks on the phone she prepares a snack. Nonfat soda, nonfat ice cream and a sprinkle of "Sweet and Low".

CHER

You know how open-minded people are when they're in love.

ELTON V.O.

Mmmm....I think some "Coolio" would be good.....

CHER

Elton, I appreciate the value of a good background soundtrack as much as anyone but would you listen to me for a minute.

The MUSIC CHANGES.

ELTON V.O.

There we go. Now, you were saying?

CHER

God! Are you smoked out or what? Listen, I'll give you things for people to say, you see that they say 'em. Then it's Aceville for all of us.

ELTON V.O.
Achievable.

CHER
Great. Peace.

They hang up.

MEL
C H E R I Get in here!

CHER
Uh oh.

She leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Mel is furious.

CHER
(perky)
Hi Daddy!

MEL
Do you know what the hell this is about?

He shows her a letter.

CHER
A second notice for three outstanding tickets.
Gee, I don't remember a first notice.

MEL
The ticket is the first notice. I didn't know you
could even get tickets before you have a license.

CHER
(helpfully)
Oh sure, you can get tickets anytime.

MEL
Well, you can't get any more tickets or the jeep goes
back. No more joyrides with your friends. From now
on only supervised lessons till you pass the test.

CHER

Great idea. In fact, I'm going to do some practicing right now.....

She leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEXT DOOR BACKYARD - DAY

Josh is lying on outdoor furniture reading Nietzsche...and stroking his chin. Cher sits near him.

CHER

Hey Granola breath, You got some pubic hair on your chin.

JOSH

I'm growing a goatee.

CHER

Is that in lieu of I.D. at your favorite coffee house?

JOSH

To what do I owe this semi-friendly behavior on your part? Perhaps something you want.

CHER

Well , Actually, I take the drivers test in forty eight days. I know how to drive and all but Daddy said I can only take the jeep out with a licensed driver. Besides, don't you want to take a break from your
(mispronounce)
Nietzsche?

JOSH

(corrects her)

Nietzsche.

She looks at his book.

CHER

What's it about?

JOSH

Everything.

CHER

Boy college is vague. You're taking a course in "everything"?

JOSH

It's not for a course.

CHER

As if! You're reading a book that's not even required? Proper!

Josh gets up reluctantly.

JOSH

Is there any possibility of you shutting up until you get your way?

CHER

(thinking)

Slim to none.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS STREET - DAY

The Jeep cruises down the block.

JOSH

Stay in your lane.

CHER

Ooh, do you like the color of that house?

As she speaks the car veers towards the house.

JOSH

Look out!

INSIDE THE CAR....

Josh leans over her, grabs the wheel and puts his foot on the brake. He loses it.

JOSH

Cher, keep your eyes on the road, not the houses, not the billboards, not the store windows, just the road!

She feels guilty so she takes the offense.

CHER

You don't have to jump on top of me, you perv!

He moves back into his seat.

JOSH

Pull up to that Beemer and lets park.

She drives up and attempts parking but bangs into the car behind her.

JOSH

Cher, parallel parking is one of those times you go below the speed limit.

CHER

I'm tapping the accelerator as light as I can. You try driving in platforms.

She drives forward.

JOSH

Slow! Slow!

CHER

O.K.

She hits the car in front of her and the ALARM goes off. Cher is frustrated.

CHER.

Why do we have to parallel park anyway? Everywhere you go has valet parking. Think of all the people you'd put out of work.

JOSH

Sometimes your concern for others overwhelms me.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUNCH COURT - DAY

Kids at the tables and on food lines. Cher sits with Dionne, who is having a sneezing fit.

CHER V.O.

Josh was bitterly misinformed. I am furiously concerned with the welfare of others.

Dionne blows her nose.

DIONNE

Ow, ow, ow.

CHER

De, when your allergies act up take out your nose ring.

They see Mr. Hall.

DIONNE

There he is.

They go over. Cher has a thermos.

CHER

Mr. Hall, do you drink coffee?

MR. HALL

Not from this cafeteria, but yes, under normal circumstances.

CHER

Well, I'm such a retard, when I packed Daddy's lunch this morning I gave him my lemon "Snapple" and took his sucky Italian Roast.

She opens it under his nose.

CHER

Would you like it?

It smells great.

MR. HALL

Mm. Sure you don't want it?

CHER

Duh! It might stunt my growth and I want to be 5' 10" like Cindy Crawford. I figured either you or Miss Geist would enjoy it.

(super casual)

Maybe you guys could share it.

They leave and scout the Quad for Miss Geist .

CHER

I got a feeling we'll achieve contact today.

They scurry over to Miss Geist and walk with her.

CHER

Hi Miss Geist.

MISS GEIST

Hi Girls. Did you sign up for the environmental fair yet?

CHER

That's a real pretty dress.

MISS GEIST
(insecure)

Is it O.K.?

DIONNE

It's funky.

CHER

But you gotta fix the hair, these clips
are so eighties.

She takes them out and fluffs out Miss Geists hair. Miss Geist resists.

MISS GEIST

Cher....please.

CHER

Wait wait, just let me make tendrils....

Cher finishes up.

MISS GEIST

Remember to sign up for the fair.

She heads off.

DIONNE

Not a total Betty, but a vast improvement.

CHER

I did what I could. We better book if we're
gonna go to P.E.

DIONNE

I feel like bailin.

They start to head across the Quad.

CHER

I know what you mean, but at least it's exercise,
I feel like such a heifer, I had two bowls of
"Special K" this morning.

DIONNE

Cher look!

Their P.O.V. - MISS GEIST AND MR. HALL are talking and leaning on a table.
The Girls look delighted.

DIONNE

Now we're talking photo-op.

Mr. Hall gives Miss Geist a cup of the coffee and he drinks out of the thermos.

CHER

Lookit the body language, legs crossed towards each other, an unequivocal sex invite.

Their P.O.V. - Mr. Hall takes out a pen and writes something.

DIONNE

Look, he's writing something, he's probably getting her digits!

The girls are relishing the moment.

CHER

Aw, lookit Geist, she's so cute! God, old people can be so sweet.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. HALL'S CLASS - DAY

Mr. Hall, looking combed and pressed, hands back reports. They see their grades and are all pleasantly surprised.

CHER V.O.

The next week or so I was totally golden.

A joyous ROCK SONG plays over the following....

Elton gets his report, marked "B+", he grabs Cher and kisses her.

CUT TO:

EXT. TEACHER'S PARKING LOT - DAY

Mr. Hall walks Miss Geist to her car, Dionne and Cher sneakily following. The teachers get to the car and chat. The girls silently urge Mr. Hall to make a move. As Geist opens her car door Hall awkwardly gives her a peck "goodbye". The girls high five.

CUT TO:

INT. GEIST'S CLASS - DAY

One side of the blackboard Miss Geist has reserved for "Homework". She erases a lengthy assignment and writes "Have a great weekend". The kids look at each other with astonishment.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUNCH COURT - DAY

Cher enters the area and is met with a round of APPLAUSE from appreciative students. She modestly acknowledges them.

CUT TO:

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - DAY

As Mel works he discovers Cher's report card amongst his paperwork. Cher enters with tea and cookies for him.

MEL
What's this all about?

CHER
My report card.

MEL
Still the same semester?

CHER
(pouring him tea)
Uh huh.

MEL
So what was the chain of events here?
You handed in some extra credit reports?

She reaches out the window and gets a lemon.

CHER
No.

MEL
They let you take the mid-terms over?

CHER
Uh-uh.

MEL
You saying you argued your way up from
a "C+" to an "A-?"

CHER
Totally based on my powers of persuasion.

MEL
(hugs her)
That's my girl.

CHER
You proud?

MEL
I couldn't be happier than if it was based on
real grades.
(indicates card)
Now, this is the kind of accomplishment that
tells me I won't have to worry about my little girl.

CHER
You won't daddy.

He gets back to work.

CHER
Can I go to De's?

MEL
Go, have fun.

She bounds out of the room.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Josh is pulling out in his Toyota. Cher runs over.

CHER
(frantic)
JOSHI WAIT!

She gets in his car.

CHER
Drop me at Dee's.

JOSH
Just like that, "drop me at Dees." No "please,"
"thank you, "Would you be so kind as to...".

CHER
God, it's like, right on your way. No need to
wig on me.

He drives off.

JOSH

You always assume people will do whatever you want and you don't have to do a thing.

"EVERYBODY HURTS" by R.E.M. plays on the radio.

CHER

(changing the station)

WaaWaaWaa.

JOSH

Leave that.

They both keep pressing the buttons stubbornly.

CHER

So like, when you go to college are the black clothes and crybaby music included in the tuition?

JOSH

It's not crybaby, it's "Alternative".

CHER

Yeah, Alternative to good...I'll bet you don't even know what R.E.M. stands for.

JOSH

I do too.

(thinks awhile)

"Rather Ernest Moaners"

CHER

(laughs)

How about "Really Egregiously Maudlin?"

He looks at her, a little surprised.

JOSH

Is it possible that you actually have half a brain under all that hair mousse?

CHER

(outraged)

Right, as if I used mousse instead of volumizer.

He shakes his head with resignation. Cher is oblivious.

CHER

What class are you going to?

JOSH

Actually I'm going to a Tree People meeting. I'm chairing the publicity committee. We might get Marky Mark to do a celebrity planting.

CHER

(sarcastic)

That is SQ dope, getting Marky Mark to take time from his busy pants-dropping schedule to plant trees. I mean, why don't you just hire gardeners who know what they're doing?

JOSH

Maybe Marky Mark wants to use his popularity for a good cause. Maybe he wants to make a contribution. An odd concept, perhaps you've heard of it?

CHER

Duh, have you seen all the clothes I contributed to Lucy?

JOSH

Oh, forgive me. You're just the Mother Teresa of Rodeo Drive.

CHER

And I've spent many hours helping two lonely teachers find romance.

JOSH

Which I'll bet serves Cher's interests more than theirs. If I ever saw you do something that wasn't ninety percent selfish I'd die of shock.

CHER

That'd be reason enough for me.... Stop here.

She gets out.

CUT TO:

EXT. DIONNE'S HOME - NIGHT

Josh greets Dionne and Murray, then drives off.

DIONNE

Josh is single, isn't he?

CHER

I guess.....

DIONNE

Maybe we should fix him up with someone.

CHER

NO WAY!

DIONNE

Why not? He's cute.

CHER

(no)

I beg to differ.

DIONNE

I think he's a Baldwin!

CHER

Hey, would you call me selfish?

DIONNE

NO!....not to your face.

CHER

Ha ha. ...

DIONNE

Psych.

CHER

No, really.

DIONNE

Is Josh giving you shit because he's going through his post-adolescent idealistic phase?

CHER

What-ever.

(changing the subject)

Where we going?

They go to Murray's car.

MURRAY

Humphrey Yogurt.

DIONNE

Penguins.

MURRAY

I said Humphrey Yogurt.

As they get in the car, Cher shakes her head.

DIONNE

I don't care what you said. You say all you want, we're still going to Penguins. What do you say Cher?

CHER

Penguins.

DIONNE

Two against three, Penguins.

She starts singing the Queen Latifa song "U-N-I-T-Y".

DIONNE

U-N-I-T-Y... You gotta let them know.

Cher joins in and they dance around.

CHER AND DIONNE

U-N-I-T-Y...where to get the yogurt.

MURRAY

Shit, they don't mix no fruit there.

DIONNE

They've got toppings.

MURRAY

Suckass toppings. Toppings are whack.

They continue as they drive off.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - DAY

Dionne, Cher, and classmates wait on line for turns at hitting tennis balls from an automated machine. Ms. Stoeger demonstrates the stroke.

MS. STOEGER

(swinging)

....And follow through, always follow through.

Cher looks aggitated.

CHER V.O.

I pride myself on not dwelling on negativity, but even a whole day later I was bummed about being called selfish.

Meanwhile, the line has moved forward and it is Cher's turn to hit the ball. Of course, she has no idea.

MS. STOEGER

Earth to Cher! Come in Cher.

Cher gets the tennis racquet.

CHER

I just want to say that physical education in this school is a disgrace. Standing on line for forty minutes is hardly aerobically effective. I doubt I've worked off the calories in a stick of "Carefree" gum.

Other girls whoop or applaud.

MS. STOEGER

But you've certainly exercised your mouth, Cher. Now hit the ball.

The ball flies out of the machine. Cher swings and misses.

MS. STOEGER

What have I been saying all day?

CHER

You've been saying "next...next...."

MRS. STOEGER

I've been saying, "FOLLOW THROUGH!"
(demonstrates)

Follow through!

CHER

But I missed the ball already. Why should I continue something that didn't even occur?

Another ball whizzes by, dangerously close to Cher's head.

CHER

And Ms. Stoeger, that machine is just a lawsuit waiting to happen.

MS. STOEGER

Thanks for the legal advice. Dionne, you're up.

DIONNE

Ms. Stoeger, I have a note from my tennis instructor, he'd prefer if I didn't expose myself to any training that might derail his teachings.

MS. STOEGER
(disgusted)

Fine. Amber, your turn.

AMBER

Ms. Stoeger, my plastic surgeon doesn't want me doing any activity where balls fly at my nose.

DIONNE

Well, there goes your social life.

GIRLS

Psyche!

MS. STOEGER

Alright! Enough!

The Principal, enters with TAI, a sixteen year old schlub.

PRINCIPLE

Ladies, we have a new student with us.
This is Tai Frazer.

The class responds in unison, as if at an AA meeting.

CLASS

Hi Tai.

Tai is dressed in long, baggy jeans and a shapeless flannel shirt. She responds shyly in an unintelligible thick New York accent.

TAI

Ay, owsit goin?

Cher and Dionne look at each other.

CHER and DIONNE

What?

MS. STOEGER

Tai, you won't have time to change, but you can hit a few balls in those clothes.

DIONNE

She could work on an oil rig in those clothes.

CHER

De, my mission is clear. Look at that girl....

Tai looks lost, she doesn't know if she's supposed to hit the ball or wait on line.

CHER

She's so adorably clueless...
(she waves Tai over)
We've got to adopt her.

DIONNE

Cher, she's tow-up. Our stock would plummet.
And we've worked so hard to attain our status.

CHER

But we should use our popularity for a good cause.

DIONNE

You mean "lost cause".

CHER

De, don't you want to contribute?

Dionne gives in. Tai comes over.

TAI

Ay.

CHER

Hang with us.

TAI

Thanks.

CHER

You're from New York?

TAI

(amazed)

How'd ya know?

CHER

How do you like California.

TAI

I'm freakin' man. I can use some herbal
refreshment.

DIONNE

We do lunch in ten minutes. There's no tea
but there's other stuff. Coke and all...

TAI

No shit! You guys have coke?

CHER
Well, this is America.

Cher takes out her phone.

CHER
I better see about a table.
(into phone)
Hi Brent, ...yeah...is our regular table available.....
great....well, there'll be a extra joining us.....
K. Peace.

She hangs up.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUNCH COURT - DAY

The girls walk to the food area.

CHER
Don't you love these crispy autumn days?

A giant palm tree leaf falls with a THUD. The girls SCREAM.

TAI
What's that?

CHER
Just a leaf dropping off a tree.

TAI
(frightened)
Shit, do all the leaves come off in the fall?

Dionne gives Cher a meaningful look. Cher shows Tai around.

CHER
That's Alana's group over there. They all do the T.V.
station and they think that's the most important thing
on earth....our school has its own channel throughout
Beverly Hills.....You like working on T.V. stations?

TAI
Not really.

CHER
Then forget them, they just hang by themselves...

She points out another group.

CHER

There's the "Persian Mafia," you can't hang
with them unless you own a B.M.W....

TAI

Yeah, right.....

Cher points out a group of "CUTE" guys, including Murray and Elton.

CHER

And there's the "Crew". The choicest malest
at our school.

DIONNE

Including my boyfriend.
(blows him a kiss)
Ain't he cute?

CHER

If you make the decision to date a high school
boy, those are the only acceptable ones.

TAI

(to Cher)

Where's your boyfriend?

CHER

As if

DIONNE

Cher's got attitude about high school boys.

CHER

It's a personal choice every woman has to
make for herself.

Murray joins them.

MURRAY

Woman, lend me five dollars.

DIONNE

I have asked you repeatedly not to call me
"Woman".

MURRAY

Bitch, what's your problem? I don't see no
lovesteak squeezed into your 501's so I can't
call you "Man".

DIONNE

Oh, but a mere reference to my sex is enough of an identity.

MURRAY

Excuse me "Ms. De-ionne" but street slang is an an increasingly valid form of expression. Most feminine pronouns have mocking, but not necessarily misogynist, undertones.

Murray leaves. Tai is dumbfounded.

TAI

Wow. You guys talk like grown-ups.

DIONNE

Well, this is a really good school.

TAI

I'm getting a soda, you guys want?

They negotiate Tai getting sodas and Dionne getting food on separate food lines.

DIONNE

She's nice.

CHER

God, theres so much to be done with her, the hair is whack, and can someone PLEASE return the voice to Jackie Mason. But there is definite hottie potential. I'm feeling way inspired.

DIONNE

You go girl.

CUT TO:

OTHER FOOD LINE

Travis is behind Tai. He notices the surrealistic cartoon she has drawn on her notebook. Tai senses him looking at her.

TRAVIS

Nice representation.

TAI

Thanks.

(indicating skateboard)

Nice stickers.

TRAVIS

(suddenly a decorator)

Really? You like the stickers? Because I was thinking it was getting too cluttered. I want to clear this entire area out and concentrate on one decorative statement...perhaps "Marvin the Martian..."

TAI

(thrilled)

Get out of town! I can do "Marvin the Martian!"

(turning modest)

I mean, there's not much to him....but look.

She goes through her notebook and together they admire "Marvin" cartoons.

CUT TO:

DIONNE AND CHER'S TABLE

The girls put out food as Tai returns.

TAI

I met a really cool guy.

CHER

Describe.

TAI

Long hair, funny...

The girls nod with approval.

TAI

We were talkin and all and he said he could easily get the chronic, maybe even some citrus.

(she sees Travis)

There he is.

She waves at him. He starts to wave, realizes he's carrying a tray and struggles to get it balanced. Cher and Dionne exchange looks.

CHER

Are you talking about drugs?

Tai thinks a minute, realizes they haven't understood each other at all.

TAI

Yeah...

CHER

Tai, how old are you?

TAJ

I'll be sixteen in May.

CHER

My birthday's in April. As someone who's older can I give you some advice? I mean, I don't want to sound all judgmental and all, but it's one thing to spark up a doobie and get laced at parties, it's quite another to be fried at school all day.

DIONNE

You see the distinction?

TAJ

Yeah...

CHER

The loadies generally hang in the stairwell over there.

She indicates an area peopled with Baked Students.

CHER

Sometimes they get to class and say bonehead things and we all laugh of course. But no respectable girl actually dates them. I don't mean to be harsh, but you don't want to start off on the wrong foot, do you?

DIONNE

Do you have a dependency problem? Cause they have groups here.

TAJ

I don't think so.

CHER

Hey, I got a great idea! Let's do a makeover.

TAJ

What dya mean?

CHER

Do your make-up, figure your colors, re plan your wardrobe....

TAJ

Noo....

DIONNE

Ah, let her. Cher's main thrill in life is makeover's. It gives her a sense of control in a world of choas.

CHER

Please.

TAI

Well yeah...sure.

(emotionally)

Shit, you guys! I've never had straight friends before.

CUT TO:

INT. CHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Cher, Dionne and Tai enter.

TAI

HOLY SHIT!

Tai walks through, looking up.

TAI

Lookit that chandelier!

She walks into a table. Dionne rolls her eyes.

TAI

You guys must be rich!

She examines the unusual window "treatments".

TAI

Wow! Who'd a thought of making curtains like that?

CHER

Come on Tai, we've got alot of work to do.

She drags her along.

DIONNE

Really, really, alot.

INT. CHER'S DRIVE THROUGH CLOSET - DAY

Cher could stock a department store. Tai stands between mirrors as Cher scrutinizes her.

TAI

Sometimes I wear my....

CHER

(cutting her off)

Shhh.

Finally, Cher is ready. She speaks with utmost authority.

CHER

O.K. As I see it, we've got too many incongruous looks fighting for limited body space....

She circles Tai.

CHER

The metal boots say "neo punk," the jewelry says, "Hip-hop," and the dust mop jeans go beyond "grunge," into the realm of unkempt. You've got warm colors battling it out with cold colors which, by the way, you should never wear. You're definately an Autumn.

TAI

Actually, I'm a Taurus.

CHER

I mean autumn colors.

(adjusting Tai's clothes)

The baggy look is not for petite women....

TAI

But I hate my hips.

CHER

Then we accentuate the waist.

(lifting Tai's blouse)

For your body type bare midriff is a godsend.

Cher snaps her fingers and points to a chair. Tai sits. Over a song like "TO BE REAL" we see.....

Cher expertly apply's make up to Tai. As Tai models a little blouse, Cher takes a pair of shears and cuts off the bottom. Tai yanks it down trying to hide her stomach. Cher pulls it back up and smacks away Tai's hands. On her computer Cher programs in Tai's outfit and tries various shoes and hair ornaments on the generated picture to pick them more rapidly.

Finally, a completely transformed Tai admires herself in the mirror. She is amazed and delighted. Cher is proud of her accomplishment. Tai hugs her.

INT. CHER'S DEN - DAY

"BUNS OF STEEL" is on the T.V. as Cher and Tai, in stylish workout clothes, follow along clumsily.

CHER V.O.

You know that famous expression, "Teacher, heal thyself?" Well, it's true. As I got into molding Tai, I found myself on quite a self improvement kick.

CUT TO:

Unbeknownst to the girls, Josh enters and watches them. Tai collapses.

TAI

I can't do another lift.

(feels her behind)

And my buns don't feel nothing like steel.

CHER

O.K. It'll get easier, as long as we do it every day, not just sporadically.

TAI

How do you know if you're doing it sporadically?

Josh looks bewildered. What is Cher up to?

CHER

(patiently)

That's another thing Tai. We've got to work on your accent and vocabulary. Like "sporadic" means once in a while. Try to use it in a sentence today, and find some other adjectives besides the "F" word.

Tai nods earnestly.

JOSH

If you're here who's watching Neiman's?

CHER

Ugh, the dreaded ex-stepbrother. Tai this is Josh, Josh, Tai.

TAI

Ay.

JOSH

Nice to meet you.

He heads to.....

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Cher follows him in, waiting for a compliment.

JOSH

I don't believe it....

CHER

That I'm devoting myself so generously
to someone else?

JOSH

No, that you found someone even more
clueless than yourself to worship you.

CHER

God! What is it with you. I rescue someone
from dateless, lonely teenage hell and
you're still bagging me?

JOSH

You're just getting a buzz from the ego boost.

CHER

(wounded)

As if!

JOSH

And as soon as you get bored you'll forget
about her like your pet lizard you forgot to feed.

CHER

That is so untrue. First of all that lizard ate
LIVE flies and I couldn't deal. Second of all,
I am totally committed to Tai.

JOSH

You couldn't commit to a removable tattoo.

CHER

You'll see. I am going to take that lost soul in
there and make her well dressed and popular.
Her life will be better because of me. That's
something no female can say about you.

She leaves the room. Josh follows.

INT. DEN - DAY

Tai is watching T.V. and mindlessly singing along with a commercial. Josh waves
at her.

TAI

Bye.

JOSH

Be seeing you.

TAI

I hope not sporadically.

She looks at Cher proudly.

EXT. MELROSE - NIGHT

Dionne, Cher, and Tai parade down the street. Some boys smile at Tai.

CHER

(to Dionne)

Do you see how boys are responding? My heart is totally bursting.

DIONNE

(just as happy)

I know. I'm kvelling.

They spot Travis sitting in front of an ice cream store.

TAI

(thrilled)

Hey, there's Travis, from school.

CHER

What's he doing? Panhandling?

TAI

Nooo.....

They get to him.

TRAVIS

Hey guys! You got a dollar?

CHER

See.

Tai digs one out.

TRAVIS

Cool.

(points to her)

You....

It seems a compliment would be forthcoming, but that would be too hard. The girls move her away from him.

DIONNE

Tai, you're getting that goofy look.

CHER

Don't sell yourself short now, you've got something going for you that no one else at Beverly has.

TAJ

(apologetically)

Oh, guys, I'm not a virgin.

CHER

I mean "mystery". As far as everyone's concerned you were the most popular girl in your school. Everyone's curious, and the fact that you hang with De and me....

DIONNE

...Speaks very highly of you.

CHER

You have to take advantage of this window of opportunity.

DIONNE

That's right. If you strike while the iron is hot, you could have any guy you want.

TAJ

Like who?

CHER

Let's see...who's available? Brandon, Bronson.... Oh! I got it! Elton's single now. He just broke up with Valette.

TAJ

Who's Elton?

CHER

He was in debate with us. He did the in favor of animal testing speech.

TAJ

(not interested)

Oh...

CHER

In fact, I noticed him scoping you out.

TAI

(slightly interested)

He was looking at me?

CHER

Tscha! In fact, he said you gave him a toothache.

TAI

How'd I do that?

CHER

It's an expression. It means he thinks you're sweet.

TAI

(interested)

Yeah? Wow!

Behind Tai's back Dionne silently mouths the words, "Is that true?" Cher rolls her eyes as if to say, "Of course not".

CUT TO:

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS STREET - DAY

CHER V.O.

Training Tai proved to be a greater challenge than I expected. For instance, when it came to interfacing with guys, she always bricked her shot.

Elton, Amber, Tai, Cher and Brandon pile into Elton's car. Elton goes to the Drivers seat, Cher goes to the back of shot gun, hoping Tai will sit next to Elton. Tai doesn't feel it's her place.

TAI

You want to sit up front?

Cher mouths "YOU!!" Meanwhile Amber senses the seat is free so she comes over. Tai wanders to the other side and bumps into Amber. Cher rushes to the seat and gets it before Amber. Meanwhile Brandon thinks Tai wants his seat so he goes to Cher's old one. Elton is fully perplexed until they are all settled. He is happy that Cher is next to him.

ELTON

What do you say guys? How 'bout some Morrissy?

He drives off.

ELTON

(singing)

"The more you ignore me the closer I get..."

CUT TO:

EXT. QUAD - ANOTHER DAY

Cher is posing her friends and taking pictures.

CHER

Come on you guys, closer....Elton, put your arm around Tai.

He does. Tai is beaming. Cher gets the picture.

CHER

Great...oooh Tai, come over here.

She moves Tai around so that her hair is backlit and framed with glowing leaves.

ELTON

Cool picture.

CHER

(snapping off various sizes)

Doesn't she look classic?

She moves Tai's face slightly.

ELTON

(to Tai)

This is beautiful, you're going to love this.

Tai smiles.

CHER

(encouraging him)

Doesn't she look like one of those Botticelli chicks?

ELTON

Would you make an extra print for me?

CHER

Sure.

She exchanges a victorious look with Tai.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Cher and Tai carry in food and sit.

TAI

Did you see the flyer for that Valley party?

CHER

Ugh, those are so generic. They get busted up in less than an hour and it takes that long to get there.

TAI

(wants to party)

Yeah, it sounds lame.

Mel enters.

CHER

Hi daddy! This is my new friend Tai

MEL

(to Tai)

Get out of my chair.

Tai moves and Mel sits. Lucy brings out another dish.

CHER

Thanks Luce, it looks great.

MEL

What is this crap?

CHER

Daddy, it's from the "Cut Your Cholesterol" cookbook. Dr. Lovitt says you've got to get down to two hundred.

Her BEEPER goes off.

CHER

Uh oh, it's Dionne. It might be important.

MEL

No calls at the table. We're going to have a nice family dinner.

They're all quiet, wondering what a "nice family" talks about.

MEL

What did you do in school today?

Cher looks thoughtful.

CHER

Well...I broke in my purple clogs.

Mel's phone RINGS. He starts going through depositions over the phone. Cher sneakily dials Dionne.

CHER

What up?

DIONNE

O.K. So Murray's geometry class is right by Elton's locker, and Elton was getting his books, and taped up inside was that picture you took of Tai.

CHER

NO!

DIONNE O.S.

T.B..

CHER

Oh my God!

DIONNE O.S.

Is that the bomb or what?

CHER

(to Tai)

Elton's got your picture hanging in his locker

TAI

No shit!

DIONNE O.S.

Anyway, most of the crew will be appearing at this Val party. You going?

CHER

Ordinarily I would never...but as a friend to Tai, it's my duty to go.

(to Tai)

Looks like we'll have to do a cameo at this party.

CUT TO:

INT. MURRAY'S CAR - NIGHT

Murray and Dionne are in the front seat, driving and kissing. Cher gives Tai advice.

CHER

When we get there scope him out but don't let him know you see him. Talk to someone in his eye line, preferably a guy. When you do make contact, have him come up to you, and find an excuse to leave while he's still into the conversation. The key thing is always have him wanting more. You got it.

Dionne shakes her head with pity.

DIONNE

I'm so glad I don't have to play those games anymore.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA IN SUN VALLEY - NIGHT

De, Murray, Cher and Tai enter the party house. The local guests primarily wear hugely baggy pants and shirts but Cher has opted for the Chanel retro punk look.

Travis whizzes by on his skateboard and gooses Tai and Cher.

CHER

(angry)

Hey!

(regaining)

God, skateboards, that is SQ three years ago.
What a tard.

DIONNE

If Travis even aspired to being a tard he'd have to cram all night.

CHER

With a tutor.

Travis does an impressive flip off a bannister.

TAI

Wow...djew see that?

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionne and Murray are barely through the door before they are dancing.

TAI

Ragin.

CHER

(analytically)

Lets do a lap before we commit to a location.

Travis slides by, obviously wasted, holding a beer.

Someone jostles him and beer spills on Cher's shoes.

CHER

Great! Ruin my suede shoes, why don't ya.

She meticulously blots her shoes. Tai smiles at Travis. Cher spots Elton.

TRAVIS

(takes out a joint)

Hey you guys interested in some chronic shit?

Tai is but she looks to Cher. Cher acts reluctant.

CHER

Well, I guess it's the least you can do.

TAI

Let's spark it.

Cher whispers to Tai.

CHER

Elton's over there, act like Travis is saying something funny.

Travis offers her the joint and she laughs as though he told a joke. Travis is grateful to have gotten a laugh, but he can't remember how, nevertheless he joins in, laughing at nothing.

TRAVIS

(whispers to Tai)

What's so funny?

TAI

Nothing.

Now he's really confused. Elton approaches and helps himself to the joint.

TRAVIS

Have you guys been thinking about the future?

ELTON

You mean, like college?

TRAVIS

No, I mean what we'll call it. You know, like eighties, nineties.....what will we call the zeros?

TAI

Wow..I never thought of that.

ELTON

What's to think about? We'll call it, the "O's".

TRAVIS

Yeah but listen, "The Sixties," "The Nineties,"
"The Oh's"...It doesn't sound right.

TAI

How about Ozies?

CHER

What'd they call it last time? In the nineteen
hundreds? Didn't they say "Ought?" Like the
"class of 'ought' seven?"

TRAVIS

We'll probably do all our major life damage
in the zero's. Career's, marriage, kids. We
should know what to call it.

TAI

I like "Ozies".

ELTON

Sounds like a breakfast cereal.

Tai looks insulted. Cher nudges her and she realizes she should laugh.

TRAVIS

Who decides what things get called? Like
yuppie, hippie, X-generation.....

TAI

Hey, if like there's the "X generation" and like
"the O's" it's kindof like God's playing "Tic Tac Toe".

TRAVIS

Whoa.

Travis and Tai laugh. Elton gives Cher a "Can you believe them?" look.

Summer comes over with a credit card.

SUMMER

Let's play "suck and blow".

Everyone sits close together. A person sucks in the credit card and passes it to the
next person by blowing while the other sucks (If it falls you wind up kissing).

When Elton has to pass it to Cher it drops and their lips touch.

CHER

God Elton, you stopped sucking too soon.

People laugh so she has to shove Elton.

ELTON

Try again.

He sucks the card.

CHER

No, go that way.
(toward Tai)

A song Elton dislikes comes on.

ELTON

(disgusted)

E.M.F.? What is it, nineteen ninety two or something? I've got to change this...

Cher whispers to Tai and moves her towards Elton.

CHER

Go help him.

TAI

I can't.

CHER

Yes you can.

TAI

What'll I do.

CHER

Just tell him what great taste he has.

Suddenly, they hear Dionne SCREAMING from upstairs. They rush up to.....

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dionne is in a state of extreme duress as some partygoers silently look on.

DIONNE

(crying out)

Oh my god! What have they done to you?
What have they done?

CHER

De! De! What is it!

She holds the sobbing Dionne.

DIONNE

Why did he do it? Why?

MURRAY O.S.

Shit woman. You buckin' for "Best Performance
by a bitch on the Rag at a Valley Party?"

His FRIENDS laugh. We see what is upsetting Dionne. Murray has allowed his friends to shave his head.

FRIEND #1

You look good man.

FRIEND #2

It's the shits. And now you'll swim faster.

MURRAY

See, they like it. Nuthin wrong with this haircut.

DIONNE

Don't you have a mind of your own? Don't
you ever think before you do moronic things?

(to Cher)

And right before the yearbook pictures. When
they ask, "Who was your boyfriend?" What will
I say? What will I tell my Grandchildren?

She starts crying again. goes into the bathroom, and SLAMS the door. Murray
knocks on it.

MURRAY

Dionne, De, come on out of there.

DIONNE

NO!

They continue arguing through the door. Cher turns to Tai.

CHER

Same thing happened at the Junior Prom.
She spent the entire "after" party in the
bathroom. This is going to be awhile.

They head downstairs.

TAI

She's really gone mental.

CHER

Maybe. But the opportunity to try material on a fresh audience is the main appeal.

They wobbily descend the stairs.

TAI

That almost destroyed my buzz.

CHER

I'm still baked.

From the bannister they see alot more people are now dancing.

CHER

Well, let's go bump into people.

TAI

I'm cool with that.

They proceed to. . . .

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tai and Cher join the dancing mob.

TAI

Where's Elton?

Cher looks around and spots Amber, (the girl we don't like) wearing the EXACT outfit that Cher had on yesterday.

TAI

Hey, ain't that the same dress as yours?

CHER

What a clone! I hate that.

She gets closer to Amber.

CHER

Say Ambular, was that you, going through my laundry?

AMBER

As if. Like I would wear something from "Judy's".

CHER

I'd call you a fashion victim but I understand
you people prefer ensembly challenged."

Travis jumps down from the second floor landing as if he were at a concert.
Various DANCERS get knocked over and pissed off.

DANCERS

Ay. Watch it! Cut it out!

Tai helps him up.

TAI

Are you O.K.?

He limps.

TRAVIS

Ow. I fucked my ankle.

(to the Dancer's)

Boy, where's your sense of "Pit" hospitality?

DANCERS

Aw shut up, fuck you, etc.

Travis gives Tai a look as if to say, "What do you expect in the Valley".

TRAVIS

Sun Valley....

TAI

That was so cool. I wish I could do that.

TRAVIS

No, don't!

TAI

Why not?

TRAVIS

If girls did it, what could guys do to impress them?

TAI

I dunno...stuff....

They are sort of flirting. Cher hurries to break them up.

CHER

Tai, I need you.

She leads Tai away.

CHER

Elton's right over there. Pull out some of your New York "Street" moves.

Tai tries to look impressive. Meanwhile, an equally devoted dancer does an energetic kick. One of her clogs goes flying off and knocks Tai on the head.

Tai passes out. Cher screams.

CHER

Tail Tail Elton help me.

They lift Tai and carry her into....

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cher puts ice in a towel, gives it to Elton and he holds it on Tai's head. Travis comes in holding dripping ice cubes for Tai. Cher gently moves him out.

CHER

Its O.K...thanks.
(to Elton)

If its a concussion you have to make sure she stays conscious. Ask her questions.

ELTON

Tail Tail Can you hear me! What's seven times seven?

CHER

No, stuff she knows.

TAI

Owww....

ELTON

That's some bump you got there.

She sits up.

ELTON

You O.K.?

She nods.

ELTON

Think you can go back out there?

TAI

I'm alright.

ELTON

Let's see, can you do this...
(to the music)
Hip hop hurray - Ho Hay - Ho.....

He swings his arms in the air, (like they do in the video). She laughs.

ELTON

You try.

They do it together and laugh. Cher hangs back but looks very proud.

ELTON

Come on.

He takes Tai by the hand and they go back to dance. Cher slips out to.....

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Lots of making out around and in the pool. Cher sits with her feet in the water.

CHER V.O.

Love was everywhere. And even though
I was alone, I was so happy for Tai. It's like
that long book they made us read that said,
"Tis a far, far better thing," like when you do
stuff for other people.

Her reverie is interrupted when a BOY rushes over to puke in the pool. Swimmers
SCREAM and jump out. Cher's BEEPER goes off. She calls home on her phone.

MEL O.S.

Do you know what time it is?

CHER

A watch doesn't really go with this outfit.

MEL O.S.

Where are you?

CHER

Just having a snack with my girlfriends.

A HELICOPTER starts to fly over the house.

MEL O.S.

Where? In Rwanda?

CHER

Is that in the Valley?

MEL O.S.

I expect you to walk through the door in twenty minutes.

CHER

Eew...It might take a little more than twenty minutes.

MEL O.S.

Everywhere in L.A. takes twenty minutes.

He hangs up. Cher thinks.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cher makes her way through the dancers to Elton and Tai.

CHER

My father's cowed out. I'm going to try to get
De out of the bathroom and go.

(to Elton)

Maybe you could take Tai home?

ELTON

Actually, I'm ready to take off. I'll give you guys a ride.

CHER

Really, you guys stay.

ELTON

Nah, I'm toast. C'mon.

He leads them both out to....

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Tai, Elton and Cher walk to his car .

CHER

(aside to Tai)

Did you give him your digits?

TAI

No.

CHER

Why not?

TAI

He didn't ask.

Their friend Summer comes over.

CHER

Hey Summer.

Summer catches up to them.

SUMMER

Pretty random fiesta.

CHER

Big time.

SUMMER

You need a ride?

CHER

That'd be great!

ELTON

I'll take you.

SUMMER

I'm right below Wilshire on Lindon.

TAI

Hey, that's near me.

Cher gives Tai a look trying to get her to go with Elton.

TAI

(not getting it)

I'm right above Olympic.

ELTON

Then you go with Summer and I'll take Cher back.

(to Cher)

You're off Benedict, right?

CHER

Actually, you could take Wilshire to Canon
and that turns into Benedict.

ELTON

Then she'd have to go back South and I'm
already going North anyway.

CHER

But you could take Tai and drop her off on your
way up to Sunset.

Elton maneuvers Cher into his car.

ELTON

That doesn't make any sense. Then I'll have to get off the freeway. Tai will go with Summer and I'll take you.

CHER

But. . . .

He gets her in the car and they all say goodbye.

INT. CAR - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Elton searches for appropriate music. Cher is disappointed that she couldn't get Elton and Tai alone. She does the next best thing. . . .

CHER

Didn't Tai look cute tonight?

ELTON

(singing along)

...And if I ever fall in love again, I will make sure that the lady is a friend....

CHER

(ignoring the song)

I love how she looks with her hair up, you know, like with curly tendrils hanging, but it's also so pretty when it's all wild, like in that picture I took.....

ELTON

You're an awesome photographer.

This isn't going the way she'd like.

CHER

Well, when your subject is so attractive.....

ELTON

It's like you're using sunshine to paint a picture. Usually girls that are beautiful and popular don't bother developing any talents...

CHER

I think, actually, I like Tai's hair down....

ELTON

You know, I consider you one of my best friends, and I don't have friends that are girls.

CHER

I'm really glad, because you're happiness means alot to me.

ELTON

It does?

CHER

Sure. I mean, I saw how hard your breakup with Valette was and I think you're a special guy. I'd like to see you settled already.

He pulls up into an empty store's parking lot.

CHER

Hey, where we going?

Elton stops the car and pounces on her and smothers her with kisses.

ELTON

I knew it, I knew it.

CHER

(pushing him away)

You knew what?

ELTON

That you were totally sprung on me.

He kisses her hand, she snatches it away.

CHER

Hello, don't you mean Tai?

ELTON

(shocked)

Tai?

CHER

Weren't you just dancing with her?

ELTON

I knew you wanted me too. I did you a props.

CHER

You have her picture in your locker...

ELTON

I have the picture you took in my locker.

Cher starts to get that sinking feeling.

CHER

I'm having a Twin Peaks experience.

Elton starts kissing her again and she moves away.

ELTON

I felt it when you kissed me tonight

CHER

"Suck and Blow" is a GAME.

He keeps trying.

CHER

STOP!

ELTON

What's the deal, you've been flirting with me all year.

CHER

As if I've been trying to help you and Tai get together.

ELTON

What a burn. Why would I go with Tai?

CHER

Why not?

ELTON

Why not? Why not?!! Do you even know who my father is?

CHER

(disgusted)

You are a snob and a half.

ELTON

C'mon Cher. Me and Tai makes no sense.
You and me. . . .

Trying to get on top of her.

ELTON

. . . That makes sense.

CHER

Cut it out!

ELTON

C'mon Cher.

CHER

Stop it!

He gets more persistent and she gets out of the car and slams the door.

ELTON

Cher!

CHER

Fuck you.

ELTON

Cher, get back in the car.

CHER

Leave me alone.

He starts the car and screeches away. Cher is surprised he actually left.

CHER

Hey! Where you going!

She realizes he's left her there. She is stunned.

CHER

Shit!

She walks around in a daze, then decides to look for street signs as she dials her phone.

CHER

...Yeah, can I have the number of a cab company....
I don't know which one...What do you have out here?

VOICE

Hand it over.

A gun is pointed at Cher. She SCREAMS. We see a TEENAGE BOY with a gun.

BOY

Give me the phone.

She does. She is paralyzed with fear.

BOY

And the bag.

She hands it over.

BOY

Now get down on the ground, face down.

CHER
(crying)
But this is a Karl Lagerfeld.

BOY
(yelling)
GET DOWN!

She drops to the floor and he runs away. Cher picks herself up and wipes off her dress.

CHER V.O.
The evening had turned into a royal mess.
Attacked, robbed and lost.....

She schlepps over to a phone booth. She dials a number.

CHER V.O.
I didn't know the number of the party house so
I couldn't reach my friends....Daddy would kill
me if he knew where I was...no money for a cab.
There was only one person left to call...and I really,
really didn't want to ask him for help.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

The decor consists of political posters, and tons of books. "LOOSER" by Beck is playing as Josh and a coed, HEATHER, are making out.

JOSH
Hello.

We cut back and forth between Josh's room and the phone booth.

CHER
Josh? You busy?

JOSH
Where are you?

CHER
God you sound just like daddy.

JOSH
Don't tell me you're calling to say "hi".

HEATHER
Who is it?

JOSH
(to her)

It's Mel's daughter.

She lies back, annoyed.

CHER
(very fast)

O.K. so I was at this party and my designated driver tried to attack me so I got out so he'd stop but he drove off and deserted me and a guy with a gun held me up and got my money and my phone and yelled at me, and forced me to ruin my dress.....

JOSH
(cutting her off)

O.K. O.K. Where are you?

CHER
At a phone booth.

JOSH
That's helpful. You should be easy to find.

CHER
Oh! I'm on Troost and Saticoy.

JOSH
Where the hell is that?

CHER
(super casual)
Sun Valley.

JOSH
Great. Man, you owe me.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S CAR - NIGHT

Josh and Heather sit in front discussing a course while Cher sulks in the back.

JOSH
I suppose there's some merit in learning form straight off.

HEATHER
But he's taking our minds at their most fecund point and restraining them before they've wandered through the garden of ideas.

Cher looks nauseous.

HEATHER

Its like Hamlet says, "To thine own self be true..."

CHER

Hamlet didn't say that, Polonious did.

HEATHER

I think I remember Hamlet accurately.

CHER

Well, I remember Mel Gibson accurately,
and he didn't say that.

Josh smiles to himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. DORMS - NIGHT

Josh's car drives up.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSH

(to Cher)

I'm walking Heather to her door. Try to stay
out of trouble.

Cher watches them walk away. Josh kisses Heather goodnight. Cher strains to see. He returns and gets back in the car.

JOSH

Thanks alot Cher.

(driving off)

That was a real fun night.

CHER

(upset)

I can't believe after all I've been through you
insist on tormenting me. I mean, hello, I had
a gun pointed at my head. So you yell at me
and Elton abandons me and I now as soon as
I get through the door Daddy'll start screaming.
Nobody cares about me.

JOSH

O.K. O.K., I'm sorry, calm down. You want to sit up front?

She climbs up to the seat next to him.

JOSH

What happened with this Elton guy?

CHER

He tried to sexually harass me.

JOSH

And you did nothing to lead him on?

CHER

As if! I was only being semi-nice to get him together with Tai.

JOSH

Oh great, now you're picking her boyfriends.

CHER

I just want to help. She thinks Stoners are cute. I'm trying to lead her down a better path.

JOSH

What do you know, you've never even had a relationship.

CHER

I know that Heather girl is all wrong for you.

JOSH

Based on a half hour acquaintance?

CHER

She's a downer and you're a downer. Two wrongs don't make a right.

He wants to argue with her but he also wants to hear what she's going to say.

JOSH

Oh. Really.

CHER

You need an upper to balance you, you plod, you need someone who skips. You're earthbound, you need someone to twinkle around you.

He laughs and looks at her like she's crazy.

JOSH

You need to sober up before your father sees you.

INT. CHER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cher is getting a massage.

CHER V.O.

God, what was I going to say to Tai? The more I thought about it, the more I started to doubt myself.... which I really hate. Even Leslie, my masseuse, said I was holding alot of tension.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHER'S HOUSE - BROWN DAY

CHER V.O.

Lucky for me there was some sort of pressure inversion, causing the smog to build up so much that school was closed for two days.

CUT TO:

INT. BOY OH BOY - IT'S THE GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Girl's are changing out of their gym clothes. De and Cher are with Tai.

CHER V. O.

So I had time to psych myself up for the unpleasant task.

Tai bursts into tears.

TAI

It's my hips, isn't it?

De and Cher protest loudly.

DIONNE and CHER

No, of course not, don't be stupid.

CHER

You could do so much better.

DIONNE

He's an asshole.

CHER

He thinks he's God's gift.

DIONNE

You're too good for him.

TAI

If I'm too good for him, how come I'm not with him?

She starts a new round of sobs.

CHER

I got an idea. Let's blow off seventh and eighth and go to the Mall. We can walk around, see the new Christian Slater and have a caloriefest at C.P.K..

Tai gets even more emotional.

TAI

You guys....

She hugs them.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

De, Cher and Tai confer as they order from a muscular WAITER.

CHER

How bout Angel hair?

DIONNE

With sauce on the side?

CHER

Yeah.

(to Waiter)

We want Angel hair pasta, no oil, no butter, no cheese, with sauce on the side and a green salad, no dressing with balsamic vinegar on the side and diet Coke with lime but no ice.

The Waiter nods and leaves.

DIONNE

(about the Waiter)

Survey says?

TAI

Doable.

CHER

Eew, who let him out of "Gold's".

TAI

Who was your first guy?

DIONNE

She's saving herself for Luke Perry.

TAI

You mean you're a virgin.

CHER

God, you say it like it's a bad thing.

DIONNE

Besides, the P.C. term is hymanally challenged.

Cher tries to explain herself.

CHER

I'm just not interested in doing it till I find the perfect person. I mean, you see how picky I am about shoes....and they only go on your feet.

She throws some bread at Dionne.

CHER

You're a fine one to talk, De.

TAI

(flabbergasted)

Wait a minute, I thought you and Murray....

DIONNE

(cuting her off)

Hey, my man is satisfied, if you know what I mean. He's got no cause for complaints....
...but "technically" I'm a virgin, you know what I'm saying?

TAI

(no)

Yeah....

"HIP HOP HURRAY" comes on. Tai is suddenly autistic.

CHER

Tai, what's wrong?

TAI

They're playing our song. The one we danced to.
(emotionally)

Hip hop-hurray-ho Hay-ho. . . .

She's too choked up to go on and bursts into tears. Cher looks concerned.

CHER V.O.

I could tell that Tai's grieving period would be considerable. . . unless I quickly found someone to take Elton's place. So, back to the saltmines. . . .

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Over Mott the Hoople's "ALL THE YOUNG DUDES" we see a MONTAGE of High School Boys. They all wear big, fat sneakers, baggy pants, baggy shirts and backwards caps.

CHER V.O.

I don't mean to sound like a raging feminist but when I think of all the time we girls spend on exercising, doing our hair, shopping and makeup, whereas guys fall out of bed, put on a backwards cap and expect us to swoon!

Some roughhousing boys bump into her and try to cop a feel. She hits them with her large make-up case.

INT. MR. HALL'S CLASS - DAY

Mr. Hall and Miss Geist talk before class starts. They kiss goodbye. Cher snips off "split end's".

CHER V.O.

I guess I'm a trader to my generation, but the way guys look now does nothing for me.

Someone KNOCKS. Cher turns and sees a GUY standing in the doorway. Her jaw drops. He's totally gorgeous and definitely from another decade. If James Dean was in "Oceans Eleven"....

CHER V.O.

Damn!

MR. HALL

This must be the elusive Christian.

CHRISTIAN

Where should I park?

MR. HALL

There's one, third back.

Christian sits next to Cher.

CHER V.O.

Now I realize I'm supposed to be finding a
a guy for Tai, but. . . .

She knocks her pencil off the desk. He reaches down to get it, his face right next to her legs.

CHRISTIAN

Nice stems.

CHER

Thanks.

He gives her a Rhett Butler look. She is mesmerized.

MR. HALL

Cher.....

CHER
(absently)

Present.

MR. HALL

Yes, we established that during attendance. It's
time for your oral?

CHER

Excuse me?

MR. HALL

Your "original oral". The topic is "Violence in
the Media".

Cher goes to the head of the class.

CHER

So O.K., the Attorney General says there's too
much violence on T.V. and that should stop. The
reason she says is because people that weren't
particularly violent will see violence on T.V. and
decide they want to try it. But even if you took off
all the violent shows they could still see violence
on the news and get just as many bad ideas as they
could from watching sitcoms. So until mankind is
peaceful enough to not have violence on the news
there's no point taking it out of shows that need it for
entertainment value. Thank you.

Some students WHOOP and make Arsenio movements.

MR. HALL

Any comments?

ELTON

Mr. Hall, my foot hurts, can I go to the nurse?

He nods. The Student leaves.

MR. HALL

Christian, any thoughts?

CHRISTIAN

Solid angle on the topic, strictly locked up legit.

Mr. Hall looks confused.

MR. HALL

Travis?

TRAVIS

Two very enthusiastic thumbs up. Find holiday fun.

AMBER

Hello, was I the only one listening? I mean, I thought it reeked.

The BELL rings. Everyone races out. Christian pats Cher as he leaves.

CHRISTIAN

I dug it.

CUT TO:

INT. LADIES ROOM - DAY

Much maneuvering for mirror space. Cher and Dionne do touch up's.

CHER

Do you remember Christian Stovitz?

DIONNE

No. Describe.

CHER

Major Studmuffin, I mean, if I were the type who who likes high school guys. . .

Amber enters so the girls stop their conversation.

AMBER

Cher, can I borrow your mascara?

Cher loans her some.

AMBER

By the way Amber, thanks for trashing my report.

AMBER

I'm sorry, I'm very honest. I have to say what I think.

DIONNE

(thinks awhile)

....Why?

Amber is busy fluffing out her hair. Dionne and Cher leave.

CHER

I missed this month's "Sassy". Is Big Hair back?

CUT TO:

C.U. A ROSE ON CHER'S DESK IN

INT. MR. HALL'S CLASS - DAY

CHER V.O.

Over the next few days I did what any normal girl would do.....

Cher enters, sees the flower and reads a note, making sure Christian notices.

CHER V.O.

I sent myself flowers, candy and love notes so Christian would see how desired I was, in case he didn't know.

CUT TO:

ANOTHER DAY

Cher enters to find candy, which she shares with her neighbors.

CHER V.O.

Also, sometimes you have to expose a little skin. This reminds guys of being naked and then they think of sex.

Cher slinks out of her jacket revealing a strappy backless dress. Christian pretends to fall off his seat. She laughs.

CHER V.O.

And if they make any attempts of humor you have to pretend they're hysterical.

Cher listens to Mr. Hall lecture. She unconsciously (on purpose) tongues her pen.

CHER V.O.

The other thing that reminds them of sex is mouths.
Anything you can do to draw attention to your
mouth is good....except playing with your braces.

CHRISTIAN

Hey Duchess.

CHER

Yeah?

He offers her some gum.

CHER

Thanks.

CHRISTIAN

So, are you rationed this weekend?

CHER

Huh?

CHRISTIAN

Like Saturday. I'm new but maybe you've got
an in.with the heavy clambakes.

CHER

Well, my ex-stepbrother's frat is having a party.
The Breeders are playing.

CHRISTIAN

Solid.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mel. Josh and young lawyers pour through stacks of paperwork.

CHER V.O.

Suddenly Daddy had a case that had to be
solved right away so some clerks and Josh came
to help him go through a gazillion depositions.

The doorbell RINGS. They all ignore it. It RINGS again.

CHER

(yelling)

Daddy! I can't just open it. I have to make
him wait awhile.

MEL
(yelling)

Then he can wait outside.

CHER O.S.
(yelling)

Luuucy....

LUCY O.S.
(yelling)

What!

CHER O.S.
(yelling)

Please get the door!

LUCY
(walking by the door)

I'm trying to clean up and get out of here.

CHER
(yelling)

JOSHI PLEEEEEEASE!

Josh reluctantly answers the door. Christian enters cockily. Josh instantly hates him.

CHRISTIAN

Hey Man. Nice pile of bricks ya got here.

Josh takes Christian's hat off.

JOSH
(dully)

She's not ready.

He gives Christian his hat and walks away. Christian goes to Mel and extends his hand.

CHRISTIAN
(hello)

What do you hear?

Mel ignores the potential handshake.

MEL

You drink?

CHRISTIAN

No thanks, I'm cool.

MEL

I'm not offering, asshole! I'm asking if you drink. What do you think, I give alcohol to teenage drivers taking my daughter out?

CHRISTIAN

I dig you.

MEL

What's your story kid? You think the death of Sammy Davis left an opening in the "Rat Pack"?

Cher makes her entrance, looking stunning in a "slip dress". She kisses him "hello". He seems to admire her dress.

JOSH

(to Mel)

You're not letting her go like that, are you?

MEL

Cher, get in here.

CHER

Zup daddy?

MEL

What the hell is that?

CHER

A dress.

MEL

Says who?

CHER

Calvin Klein.

MEL

It looks like underwear. Go put something over it.

CHER

Duh, I was just going to.

She goes off. Mel turns to Christian.

MEL

Remember, no drinking and driving. If anything happens to Cher I got a forty-five and a shovel. I doubt anyone would miss you.

Cher returns, having put on a sheer wrap. She leads Christian out.

CHER

Bye Daddy.

EXT. CHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They go to the car.

CHRISTIAN

Man, your father's scary.

CHER
(proudly)

Isn't he?

They get in and he starts the car.

CHRISTIAN

You like Billie Holliday?

CHER

I love him.

He puts on a tape and they drive off.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mel and Josh are preoccupied.

JOSH

I didn't like him.

MEL

You didn't huh?

JOSH

He seemed like a phony.

MEL

I know what you mean.

JOSH

It's weird to see Cher go out. It seems like just yesterday she was playing Barbie....and now these guys must think of her as a grown woman.

MEL
(angry)

What!

JOSH
Like...in that dress.

MEL
So what's the deal. These schmucks trying
to have sex?

JOSH
I...I don't know.....she doesn't tell me about it.

MEL
You know where this party is?

JOSH
It's at our frat house.

MEL
Get your ass over there. Keep an eye on
Frank Sinatra Jr. . Don't let him out of your sight.

CUT TO:

EXT. POOL AREA BEHIND FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

Everyone is drinking beer. No one is dancing. For a more effective entrance
Christian has donned his sunglasses.

CHRISTIAN
Come on, let's dance.

CHER
But no one else is.

CHRISTIAN
So we'll be the first.

CHER
I got to find Tai . She won't know anyone.

Tai comes outside but her shoulderbag strap gets caught in a doorknob and she
falls backwards. Cher turns.

CHER
There she is.

Tai scrambles up and comes over.

TAI
Shit, how embarrassing.

CHER
No one saw.

TAI
Now all night I'll be known as "that girl who fell
on her butt".

CHER
Tai, no one noticed.

Elton enters, accompanied by Amber. Tai and Cher are stunned.

TAI
I don't believe it. He's going with Amber.

CHER
Oh, he probably just gave her a ride.

Amber and Elton are Publicly Displaying Affection.

CHER
Well, it just proves what I've always said, "The
easier you fall in and out of love, the more
shallow a person you are."

TAI
Do you think she's pretty?

CHER
(dismissively)
Tschal! She's a full on Monet.

TAI
What's that?

CHER
Like the paintings. O.K. from far away, but
up close just a big mess.

Christian comes over.

CHER
Here, lets ask a guy. What do you think of Amber?

CHRISTIAN
(apraisingly)

.....Hagsville.

Cher gives Tai a "see" look.

CHRISTIAN
Dig this, they're charging for brews. Can you
mash me a fin. I'll pay you back.

Cher gives him money and he goes to buy beer.

TAI
Christian is so cute.

They watch him. The Girl selling beer tries to flirt but he doesn't encourage her.

CHER
He's really falling in love with me. I mean,
look how he ignores every other girl.

TAI
(indicates her plaid shirt)
Hey, should I wear this over my T-shirt?

CHER
No, tie it around your waist.

Christian pulls Cher out to the floor. People turn and watch him dance.

CHER V.O.
Usually white guys are terrible dancers,
but Christian is killer.

Josh stands with the non-dancing group, talking to an Older Man.

CHER V.O.
I didn't even notice Josh arrive but he was
there and managed to find the only grown-up
in the house to talk to. Like he's deliberately
trying to not have fun.

Josh spots Cher and they wave to each other. Tai is the only girl on the outskirts of
the floor. A few guys look her over but decide against dancing with her.

CHER V.O.
The band was kicking. Christian was the
hottest guy there and I knew my outfit was drop
dead cool. But my enjoyment was put on pause
because I could see that Tai was miserable.

With each passing guy Tai looks more defeated. She tries her shirt over her shoulder, tied around her waist and tucked in like a bustle, but nothing works, then Josh takes her to the dance floor. His dancing is beyond awful, it's painful.

CHER

Look at Josh. He never dances.

CHRISTIAN

I can see why.

CHER

No, he's doing a props so Tai wouldn't be left out. He's totally gallant.

CHRISTIAN

Oh...I dig.

When the song is over Cher and Christian make their way over to Tai and Josh.

JOSH

(to Cher)

Hey, "The Gatekeeper" of the Galleria.

She elbows him.

CHRISTIAN

You chicks have fake I.D. right?

CHER

Uh....

JOSH

Why?

CHRISTIAN

This guy at the bar told me about an after hours place, Foreplay. Let's hit Jones for drinks then go there. We've done this joint.

TAI

(cluelessly)

What time is "after hours"?

CHRISTIAN

(worldly)

In this town, two.

TAI

(worried)

I've got to be home by twelve.

CHER

(lying cause she has a curvew)
Actually, my trainer's coming real early tomorrow.

CHRISTIAN

Can't you make some calls and re-schedule?

JOSH

I'll give the girls a ride back. . .

CHER

Yeah, why don't you go ahead.

CHRISTIAN

Sure you won't mind?

CHER

No really, go ahead.

CHRISTIAN

You're a real down girl. I'll ring you tomorrow.

He kisses her cheek and heads off with the guy. Josh tries to read her reaction.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S CAR - NIGHT

CHER

It was decent of you to dance with Tai.

JOSH

My pleasure.

CHER

Have you seen any positive changes in her?

JOSH

Oh certainly. Under your tutelage she's exploring the challenging world of bare midriffs.

Cher looks through his tapes with disapproval.

JOSH

So you didn't want to make a night of it with the Ring a Ding kid?

CHER

Yeah, right. And come sliding into the house at four in the morning? Daddy wouldn't go too ballistic. And it's not like he's going to sleep or anything.

JOSH

Not if they're going to finish those depos.

CHER

(she gets an idea)

You know what would be sooo dope? If we got them some really delicious takeout. I'll bet they haven't eaten.

JOSH

Noble idea. Let's do it.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

They enter with bags of food. The legal types dive in with gusto.

CHER V.O.

The midnight snack totally revived the lawyers, and daddy was way grateful.

Mel unwraps a hamburger but Cher takes it away and gives him a salad.

CHER V.O.

I know it sounds mental, but sometimes I have more fun at home veging out than when I go partying....maybe cause my party clothes are so binding.

Cher, in bagy sweats, and Josh are on the couch watching Saturday Night Live.

CHER

They say in the olden days this used to be really funny. Like when they had Chevy Chase.

JOSH

(incredulous)

That made it better?

He tries to get some of her snack food and they wind up fighting over it.

C.U. - CHER'S BLACK PORTABLE PHONE, looking like the black slab that made apes get smart in 2001.

CHER V.O.

Christian said he'd call Sunday...which in "boy time" meant around Thursday.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Cher is laying out outfits for her father on the bed.

CHER V.O.

So you can imagine my astonishment to hear from him the next day.

The phone RINGS.

CHER

Hello?

CHRISTIAN V.O.

What's the plan Stan?

CHER

Well, Daddy's got to go away for a few days so I'm getting him packed up.

CHRISTIAN V.O.

Coolsville, let's throw a bender.

CHER

Not even. I stand to inherit this house, and I have many decorating ideas, but they don't include teenage destruction.

CHRISTIAN V.O.

How bout I come by with some videos?

CHER

K.

They say goodbye and hang up.

CHER V.O.

Omigod. A date alone with Christian and Daddy will be gone! I sent for reinforcements.

Cher quickly calls Dionne. We hear "WHAT A MAN" by Salt and Pepa.

CUT TO:

INT. DEN - DAY

Dionne and Cher are moving lamps around and flicking them on and off.

CHER V.O.
We had to do a light check...

CUT TO:

INT. CHER'S ROOM - DAY

The room is littered with clothes. Cher tries a new outfit and Dionne takes front and side view polaroids.

CHER V.O.
Costume decisions....

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Cher throws a glob of cookie dough into the oven.

CHER V.O.
Also there should always be the smell of something baking. It reminds their subconsciousnesses how much they need females.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Dionne does Cher's make up.

CHER
I'm still all red.

DIONNE
I'm trying to make you as white as I can.

She dabs on more foundation.

DIONNE
You're all flushed girlfriend, calm down.

Cher fans herself.

CHER
You know, I'm so glad I never got loaded and did it with someone I only had luke warm feelings for. I did the right thing by waiting. I mean, Christian is brutally hot and I'll remember tonight forever.

CUT TO:

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cher and Christian are lying on top of the bed watching T.V.....

CHER V.O.

Christian had a thing for Tony Curtis so we saw "Sparticus", and "Some Like It Hot". I guess he was too engrossed to make a move, but then he put on a "Pet Shop Boys" concert.

PET SHOP BOYS singing "ASK YOURSELF (CAN YOU FORGIVE HER)".

INTERCUT with the PET SHOP BOYS on T.V. we see CHER and CHRISTIAN in the bed.

He sits up, forward. She leans towards him. She crosses her legs towards him. He moves his legs away. Her arm rests by her side, her fingers close to his. He crosses his arms over his chest.

CHRISTIAN

They're so musical. It's like a pop version of Debussy.

CHER

I don't remember that group.

She gets an idea.

CHER

Do you want some wine?

CHRISTIAN

Nah...You ever notice how alcohol makes people think they want sex when they don't really?

CHER

(no)

Yeah....

He gets up.

CHRISTIAN

I'm getting tired.

She follows him out to....

INT. ENTRANCEWAY - NIGHT

CHR

I could make some coffee if you like.

CHRISTIAN

Nah...I had too many espressos today.
Hey, pick your chin up Duchess.

She looks at him, confused.

CHRISTIAN

Are we friends?

CHER

Yeah...

CHRISTIAN

Knock me a kiss.

She lifts her face to him. He kisses her forehead and leaves.

CHER V.O.

I don't get it...What did I do wrong?

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Murray is giving Dionne a driving lesson as Cher babbles in the back seat.

DIONNE

Maybe he really was tired.

CHER

Maybe my hair got really flat during the course
of the evening.

DIONNE

Maybe he wants to get to know you better.

CHER

I never should have made that comment about
Tony Curtis' Bronx accent in Spartacus.

MURRAY

You checking your mirror?

DIONNE

Yeah, yeah.

MURRAY

Keep checking your mirror.

CHER

I suppose it wasn't meant to be. I mean, he dresses and dances and shops better than I do. What would I bring to the relationship?

MURRAY

Look down the road. Take in the whole picture.

CHER

I guess it's all for the best.

DIONNE

Boy, that was a fast depression.

MURRAY

Get into the left lane.

Dionne swerves toward the next lane barely escaping a collision.

MURRAY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

DIONNE

You said get into the lane.

MURRAY

That means you follow the procedure for changing lanes. Do you remember the procedure?

DIONNE

Yes, I remember the procedure.

MURRAY

Then switch back to the right lane...What's the first thing you do?

DIONNE

(impatient)

I put on the signal....

She puts on the wipers. Murray rolls his eyes. She looks for the signal and the car weaves.

MURRAY

WATCH THE ROAD!

She does and he finds the signal.

DIONNE

I look in the mirror.....

(she does)

And then I glance at the "blind spot".

As she turns her head she turns the car.

MURRAY

You glance with your head not the whole car.
Woman, you can't drive for shit.

DIONNE

I'm not trying to hear that.

MURRAY

You better be trying.

CHER

Actually, going all the way is a big decision.
I can't believe I was so capricious about it.
I almost had sex with him.

Murray turns to her.

MURRAY
(protective)

With who?

CHER

Christian.

MURRAY

What are you talking about? You don't have
the natural resources to do Christian.

CHER

Huh?

MURRAY

Are you bitches blind? Your boy is a tail runner.

CHER AND DIONNE

What?

MURRAY

A butt pirate, friend of Dorothy, mud shark, flaming,
dart firing, cakeboy. Know what I'm saying?

CHER

Not even!

DIONNE

And the winner of the Andrew Dice Clay
homophobic award goes to.....

CHER

How do you know?

MURRAY

He's porking dark meat. Everyone knows.

DIONNE

It would explain alot.

CHER

I'm buggin.....I feel like such a bonehead.

Murray notices they are heading for the freeway.

MURRAY

YOU'RE GETTING ON THE FREEWAY!
QUICK! GET OUT OF THIS LANE!

Dionne starts looking for the turn signal.

MURRAY

NOW! NOW! NOW! Forget the pocedure!

DIONNE

(trying to glance, turn and signal)
I can't, it's too fast.

Cher sits up and puts on her seatbelt.

DIONNE

(freaked)

OH MY GOD, THE FREEWAY!

They enter the freeway and SCREAM.

MURRAY

When I tell you -- go to the right.

Dionne is crying and screaming.

MURRAY

(to Cher)

Get your head down.

(she ducks)

O.K....Now. go.

Dionne jerks into the other lane.

MURRAY

Good girl, it's O.K. We'll be off soon.

They see the exit.

MURRAY

Here we go. That's it.

They drive off the freeway and stop. Dionne and Murray hug and kiss desperately.

Cher watches them forelornly.

CHER V.O.

The freeway brush with death brought Dionne and Murray even closer. After that her virginity went from "Technical" to nonexistent.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUNCH AREA - DAY

Cher listens to Tai and Dionne exchange intimate details.

DIONNE

...after Letterman was two, then in the morning and again when we got back from I.H.O.P..

TAI

God! You guys.

DIONNE

I mean, its almost weird how well you can know someone.

TAI

What's cool is, like, when you're playing the field, how easy it is to make them happy.

DIONNE

You ever do it in water?

As they continue Cher looks miserable.

CHER V.O.

I couldn't believe it! Suddenly I was out of the loop.

They see Travis approaching.

TAI

Oh Swoon, here's your boyfriend.

TRAVIS

Hey Tai, you like seafood?

TAI

Yes.....

TRAVIS

O.K. "see" food.

He opens his mouth to reveal partially eaten food.

TAI

(disgusted)

Ugh!

TRAVIS

(to one of the kids)

Could you shove down?

TAI

Hello, don't the Slackers prefer the stairwell?

Cher is surprised to hear herself coming out of Tai. Travis shuffles away glumly.

CHER

Guys, should we see the new Ethan Hawke Angstfest?

DIONNE

I have to meet Murray later, you know, alone.

CHER
I'm getting drinks. Anyone thirsty?

TAI
...Ish.

They give her money as she goes to the food lines.

CHER V.O.
Maybe I didn't improve Tai. Maybe I did
her a major disservice.

She sees Travis sitting on the stairs, drinking from a paper bag.

CHER V.O.
I certainly hadn't enriched Travis' life.

CUT TO:

INT. CHER'S CLOSET - DAY

The clothes are in total disarray.

CHER V.O.
...But I had to stop thinking of the problems of
others for awhile. It was time to take the driving
test and I had to put together my most "responsible"
looking ensemble.

Cher is frustrated she can't find something.

CHER
(screaming)
LUCY! LUUUUCY!

She leaves and walks through....

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Josh and the other law clerks are working on depositions as Cher passes....

CHER
Lucy! Where's my white collarless shirt from
Fred Segal!!

He watches her.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Lucy is cleaning as Cher enters.

LUCY

It's probably at the cleaners.

CHER

Why wasn't it picked up? I told you I might need it.

LUCY

Your father has seven lawyers here for me to shop, feed and clean up after. I didn't have time to go to the cleaners.

CHER

But today's the driving test and it's my most capable looking but not ostentatious, shirt. Couldn't you have them deliver it.

Lucy slams the dishwasher closed.

LUCY

O.K. I'll call them.

CHER

It's too late now. And we got another notice from the fire department about clearing out the bush....

Josh comes in to get a snack.

CHER

(continuing)

You were going to tell Jose to do it.

LUCY

He's your Gardener, why don't you tell him?

CHER

Yeah, right. You know I don't speak Mexican.

Lucy throws down her dishtowel.

LUCY

I am not Mexican.

She leaves.

CHER

Oh great. Now can you tell me what that was about?

JOSH
Lucy is from El Salvador.

CHER
So?

JOSH
It's an entirely different country.

CHER
What does that matter?

JOSH
You get upset if someone thinks you live below
Sunset. I think you should apologize to her.

CHER
Yeah yeah, I'm always wrong. Everything's my fault.

She storms out.

CUT TO:

INT. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES - DAY

Cher stands on line with her written test and various forms.

CHER V.O.
An overwhelming sense of ickiness followed me
that day. I knew I was sorry about upsetting Lucy.
But there was something else bothering me.

CUT TO:

EXT. CULVER CITY - DAY

Cher and the TESTER creep down the street in her JEEP.

CHER V.O.
Like Josh thinking I was mean or something,
was making me postal, which didn't improve
my driving skills.

TESTER
Move into the right lane.

She turns the wheel without looking.

CHER V.O.
And god, I mean, why should I care what he
thinks. Why was I letting it wig me out?

TESTER
WATCH OUT FOR THE BIKE RIDER!

Cher swerves back into her lane to avoid killing a person on a bicycle.

CHER
Whoops, my bad.

TESTER
Pull over up here.

CHER
O.K. Cool, start over, take two.

She pulls over to the curb.

TESTER
Put it in "Park" and let's switch seats.

Cher does what she's told and sits in the passenger seat. The Tester drives.

CHER
Are we going somewhere to do the "parallel parking?"

TESTER
No.

CHER
Are we going to make left turns?

TESTER
We're going back to the D.M.V.

CHER
It's over?

TESTER
I don't think you're quite ready to take the test.

CHER
You mean....I failed?

TESTER
Get in some practicing and try again later.

Cher's eyes fill with tears.

CHER
Can't we just start over. I had my mind somewhere else. I'll concentrate, I drive really good usually. . . .

TESTER

(cutting her off)

Just calm down, you can come back and take
the test another day.

CHER

Is there anyone else I can talk to? If I could just....

TESTER

My word is final.

Cher looks devastated.

CHER V.O.

I can't believe it. I failed. I failed something that I
couldn't talk my way out of. I was just hating life.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Cher comes out and sees Josh and Tai playing hackey sacks. They are laughing
and bumping into each other..

CHER

Hi.

TAI

Ay...you're home.

JOSH

How does it feel to have a license?

CHER

I wouldn't know. I failed the test.

TAI

Bummer.

CHER

(to Josh)

And spare me your lectures on what a big
responsibility driving is and you can't B.S.
your way through it.

JOSH

I didn't say anything.

CHER

I can tell what you're thinking.

They say goodbye to Josh and leave. Tai takes a box with her.

CUT TO:

INT. DEN - DAY

Tai goes to the fireplace and sits down with her box. On top "Elton" is written in a heart.

TAI

I'm glad you're here. There's something I want to do and I'd like it if you were with me.

CHER

What's all this?

TAI

This is stupid junk that ...

(opens box)

reminded me of Elton that I thought I'd save forever. But now I want to burn it cause I am so over him.

CHER

What stuff?

TAI

O.K., remember when we were at the Val party and the clog knocked me out and he got a towel of ice to cure me?

CHER

Yeah?

TAI

(removing towel)

Well, I didn't tell you but I took the towel for a souvenir.

CHER

You're kidding.

TAI

No.

Tai tosses the rag into the fire.

TAI

Then once my pen ran out and I borrowed one from him.

She tosses the pen in the flames. And takes out a cassette.

TAI

And remember the song playing when we danced?

CHER

Uh...

TAI

"Hip Hop Hurray". I got the tape and listened to it every night.

She's about to throw it in the fire.

CHER

Wait!

(she takes the tape)...

I'll take that.

TAI

Okay.

She gives Cher the tape.

CHER

I'm really happy for you Tai, but what brought on this surge of empowerment?

TAI

Its like, once you know someone who is so much better than someone you think you liked then that someone starts to seem like nuthin compared to the other one, ya know?

CHER

I guess.....

Tai paces around the room excitedly, then plops down next to Cher.

TAI

Look, you've got to help me get Josh.

CHER

Get Josh what?

TAI

You know what I mean...I tried to fight it but I just can't. He's the only guy I ever really cared about. I know it's impossible, but you keep saying "Carpe Diem" and you're so smart at this stuff.

(MORE)

TAI (CON'T)

Anyway, I lost five pounds, I passed the driver's test, I've been totally straight, I feel good about myself and like I deserve a guy I love. It's all because of you. You've been such a good friend.

She hugs Cher, who is getting noticeably paler.

CHER

(super calm)

Have you gotten any clues about whether he likes you?

TAI

Yeah...subtle, but yeah.

CHER

Like what?

TAI

Little things, ya know? Like how he looks straight into my eyes, and he's always so friendly...especially that night at his frat, he noticed how depressed I was when Elton snubbed me so he asked me to dance and was real flirty and all.

Cher has an approving smile frozen on her face.

TAI

Are you O.K.?

CHER

Yeah, ...well, actually, I was really bad today and had one of those burritos at school. I feel like ralphing.

TAI

Can I get you something?

CHER

No thanks....

CHER V.O.

I know this sounds vicious, but suddenly I totally wished I never met her.

TAI

(babbling)

College guys like less make up and he told me to read "Beyond Good and Evil" but it's too confusing so I'll get the Cliff's notes.

CHER

But Tai, you don't really think you'd be happy with Josh. I mean he's doing his P.C. thing now but underneath it all he's just like, this school nerd.

TAI

And what? I'm some sort of a mentally challenged airhead.

CHER

Not even! I didn't say that.

TAI

When it comes to guys you think I'm interested in recycling your left overs but I'm not good enough for Josh?

CHER

I just don't think you....mesh well.

TAI

YOU don't think we mesh well? I mean, it's like, why am I even listening to you? You're a virgin who can't drive.

CHER

That was way harsh Tai!

TAI

O.K., O.K. I'm sorry. We'll talk when we've mellowed. I'm audi.

(a dig)

Can I drop you somewhere?

CHER

No thanks.

Tai leaves. Cher marches restlessly around her room.

CHER

What did I do? I created a monster. I could feel the chunks rise to my throat. I had to get out.

CHER'S EPIPHANY MONTAGE - Over a "Figuring It Out" type song.

("AMAZING" or "I SAW THE SUN") we see.

EXT. WILSHIRE BLVD.

Cher walks by the hotels.

CHER V.O.

My life was turning into a bigger disaster area than Northridge. Everything I did was wrong. I failed the driver's test, I made Tai sad about Elton, I thought I could get. Josh hated me. Lucy hated me. It all boiled down to one inevitable conclusion.....I was totally clueless.....Was this that "teen angst" I've heard so much about?

EXT. RODEO DRIVE

Cher walks by the expensive stores.

CHER V.O.

This Tai and Josh concept was wiggling me more than anything...What was my problem? Tai is like, my pal. I certainly don't begrudge her a boyfriend.

She gets sidetracked by a dress in a window.

CHER V.O.

Oooh.....I wonder if they have that in my size?

CUT TO:

EXT. WITCH'S HOUSE - DAY

Cher walks by carrying a package from the dress store.

CHER V.O.

What did she want with Josh anyway. He dresses funny, he listens to complaint-rock, he's not even cute...in the conventional way.....

CUT TO:

EXT. SANTA MONICA BLVD. - DAY

Cher walks by cactus gardens.

CHER V.O.

Imagine Tai and Josh, it was inconceivable....Josh holding Tai's hand, Tai making little jokes about him..... I mean, I like Tai, but she wouldn't make him happy. He needs someone to poke him in the side and make him laugh. Someone to lighten the dark corners of his head.....

CUT TO:

EXT. FOUNTAIN ON WILSHIRE AND SANTA MONICA - NIGHT

Cher trudges past the fountain (like what's his name in "GIGI") then unexpectedly springs to life.

CHER V.O.

Then suddenly everything was clear.....

The colored lights of the fountain come on, the music gets schmaltzy.

CHER V.O.

Oh, My, God. I love JOSHI

She paces back and forth, in a frenzy.

CHER V.O.

I am majorly, totally, fully, furiously, drop-dead, big time, absolutely, completely butt crazy in love with Josh and I would die, I would absolutely fucking DIE if he was with anyone else.

CUT TO:

INT. DEN - DAY

Josh and Cher sit on the couch watching T.V. She is particularly stiff.

CHER V.O.

But now I don't know how to act around him.

JOSH

Hey what's with you?

CHER

What do you mean?

JOSH

You're so quiet, you haven't made me watch "The Real World"....

CHER

I care about the news.

JOSH

Since when?

CHER

Since now.

(she looks interested)

Which is the good Korea?

JOSH

They don't cover this on "The Week in Rock?"

Cher looks distressed. She tries to defend herself.

CHER

Well, Korea was before I was born.

He gives her a bemused look.

JOSH

O.K....

He realizes she feels bad and tries to cheer her up.

JOSH

You know I was wrong about your friend Tai.
You guys were good for each other. She's more
confident and happy...its even made her prettier.....

Everything he says goes through her like a dagger.

JOSH

...And she's got a good soul. I could see why
you like her so much.

Cher wants to die. She gets up.

CHER

(spacey)

Can I get you anything?

JOSH

No thanks.

She hurries out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Cher wanders around.

CHER V.O.

What a revolting development! Could this be?
I loved somebody and they loved someone else??
Could the world really be that hideous?

She goes by a mirror and looks at herself.

CHER V.O.

And what about all the effort I put into becoming a babe, when the man of my dreams likes someone for her "good soul?" It hurt! It just hurt....and I HATE pain.

CUT TO:

INT. OTHER ROOMS - NIGHT

CHER V.O.

What do people do with pain? How do they make it stop?

She roams past her father's office. Mel is working inside. She takes a step inside but quickly comes back out.

CHER V.O.

I couldn't bother daddy. He has so much work to do.

She drifts past, then heads in.....

CHER V.O.

But where else could I turn?

...and ducks out.

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

MEL

Cher, get in here.

CHER

(entering)

What's up daddy?

MEL

Why the hell are you dancing outside my office?

CHER

I wasn't dancing. I just wanted to see if you wanted anything?

MEL

Come here.

He looks at her closely.

MEL

What's wrong. You look sick.

CHER

I'm O.K..

MEL

No you're not, what's going on?

CHER

Daddy, did you ever have a problem you couldn't argue your way out of?

MEL

What kind of problem?

CHER

I like this boy...

MEL

Well, don't let him know. Play hard to get.

CHER

It doesn't matter what I play. He likes someone else.

MEL

How could that be?

CHER

I don't know, but I feel wretched.

MEL

Honey, if this boy doesn't like you he's insane. You're the most beautiful girl in all of Beverly Hills.

CHER

Yeah, but he likes this other girl because she has a soul.

MEL

So do you! And I'll bet yours is bigger and better.

She hugs him.

CHER

Oh daddy, if souls were for sale I know you would have gotten me the most expensive one they had.

MEL

Better yet, you inherited your mother's, and that was top of the line.

(he kisses her head)

Now get out of here and let me work.

CHER

Night Daddy.

She bounces out.

CUT TO:

RED CROSS VIDEO

In order to raise volunteers for the "Blood Drive" a video is shown of suffering people and tireless Red Cross workers.

CUT TO:

INT. MISS GEISTS CLASS - DAY

CHER V.O.

I knew Daddy was prejudiced but I wanted to live up to his expectations and I knew if I ever hoped to be with Josh my soul would need a complete makeover.

Cher watches the video with new found sympathy.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Revamped for Blood Drive. Cher is sitting at one of the set up's.

CHER V.O.

The more I thought about this concept of being a better person the more I realized all my friends are totally great in different ways.

The Nurse sticks Cher and gets the blood going. Cher zones out.

INT. L.A. COUNTY MUSEUM - DAY

Christian gestures wildly as he discusses the paintings with Cher.

CHER V.O.

For example, Christian, in a hideously styleless world, wants to make things to be interesting and visual.

CUT TO:

EXT. QUAD - DAY

Dionne and Murray, sharing their lunch.

CHER V.O.
or Murray and Dionne, always considering
 the needs of the other.

CUT TO:

INT. MISS GEIST'S CLASS - DAY

Miss Geist zealously lecturing to an inattentive class.

CHER V.O.
 And poor Miss Geist, desperately trying to get
 us involved no matter how much we resist.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Cher is still having her blood removed.

CHER V.O.
 I guess there's something noble in almost
 everyone.....

TRAVIS

Ay!

He comes over and by way of a greeting shoves her, moving the needle and hurting her arm.

CHER

OW!

CHER V.O.
Almost everyone.

TRAVIS

Whoa, I'm sorry.

CHER

Its O.K.

TRAVIS

I gotta tell you something.

CHER

Travis, you don't have to apologize to me,
these things are nothing.

TRAVIS

Yeah, I figured I'd start off easy.

Cher tries to get up and starts to pass out. Travis holds her up till she gets her bearings.

TRAVIS

So, are we cool?

CHER

Sure.

He gets a flyer out of his backpack.

TRAVIS

Oh here.....

CHER

(reading)

A.S.L.? Which group is that?

TRAVIS

Amateur Skateboarding League. Next Saturday.
Oh, and would you ask Tai?

CHER

Alright.

TRAVIS

Thanks.

CHER

Hey Travis.

TRAVIS

What?

CHER

You like Tai, don't you?

TRAVIS

(thinks awhile then figures it out)

Yeah.

CHER

Maybe I should apologize to you.

TRAVIS

That's not how it works.

CHER

I meant, I may have been uncomplimentary to you in front of her. That's why I'm sorry.

TRAVIS

Cool. Apology accepted. (aside) Isn't this fun?

He goes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKATEPARK - DAY

CHER V.O.

I guess there was even something to be learned from Travis.

A park full of ramps and slides is set up for a contest. Cher and Tai are in the bleachers. An energetic rock song plays as skaters do amazing flips and tricks.

CHER

Thanks for coming with me Tai. I'm sorry if I was insupportive of your feelings for Josh.

TAI

Forget it. You're entitled to your opinion. I was a tard for going off like that. I'm just glad we made up. I felt so shitty without you.

CHER

Me too. Lets never fight again.

TAI

Totally.

They hug. Travis' name is announced.

CHER

There he is! Number fourteen.

Travis waves to them.

CHER

He waved to you!

Travis does some very intricate moves on a ramp where he's practically horizontal and he flips his board in the air. Cher and Tai go beserk cheering. He does the full repertoire of skateboard stunts and they see a different side of him. He's completely serious and intently concentrated.

CHER

I had no idea he was so motivated.

TAI

Oh, I did.

The judges give Travis high scores and he has the glow of victory. Tai looks proud.

CUT TO:

Later, after the event the crowd mills around.

CHER

Let's find him.

TAI

He did pretty good, I mean coming in sixth when all the other guys are much older.

CHER

Yeah, those guys should be pro's already.

Travis calls them over and they see him with a twelve year old boy. Travis hugs Tai.

TRAVIS

Ay! I'm glad you guys came, want to go eat something?

TAI

Sure.

TRAVIS

Let me just finish here. This is Max, he's doing an article for his school paper.

CHER

We'll hang.

MAX

What was it like doing your first contest?

Max records Travis' answer and listens attentively.

TRAVIS

Its kind of tough going along with rules, you know. Like when you're in the moment and you feel a heelflip or a 180 its like, "Why do I have to follow a program."

As he continues Tai turns to Cher.

TAI
You know what, Cher?

CHER
What?

TAI
You'll think I'm a royal airhead but...I kindof like Travis.

CHER
(looks very happy)
Yeah...I can see why.

Tai has that goofy in love look again. Cher smiles at her.

INT. CHER'S ENTRANCEWAY - DAY

Cher comes in with a gift basket of goodies.

CHER
Lucy, I'm home!

She goes into....

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lucy is dusting. Cher sits next to her on the floor.

CHER
Lucy, don't be mad at me. I'm a stooge. But
I scheduled the operation.

LUCY
What operation?

CHER
To remove my head from up my ass.

Lucy laughs. Cher helps dust.

CHER
The driving test made me mental.

LUCY
What's this?

CHER
I don't know. What do you make of it?

LUCY

Some form of plant life perhaps.

CHER

We better investigate.

LUCY

Ooh! Chocolate Strawberries!

They try the various goodies. Josh enters with a stack of depros. He realizes Cher is trying to make amends.

JOSH

What's this?

He looks through with them.

CHER

Hey that's for Lucy.

LUCY

I don't like apricots.

CHER

Well I do.

Cher and Josh fight over them. She gets them away but he gets her in a headlock.

JOSH

Come on, I'll give you a driving lesson.

CHER

O.K.

She gives him some apricots and they take off.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Cher drives extremely cautiously.

JOSH

Cher, you have to speed up a little...just ease off the brake a bit.

Cher changes the radio from a U-2 song to Snoop Doggie Dog.

JOSH
Keep your hands on the wheel.

CHER
(whining)
Pleeease don't make me listen to U-2.

JOSH
You're driving, not dancing. What does
it matter?.....

They continue switching back and forth till a song they both like comes on.

CHER and JOSH
OOh leave that!

They look at each other, surprised they agree. Josh sees a place to park.

JOSH
There's a space, up there....Let's try parking.

Cher pulls up alongside the car.

JOSH
O.K....straight, straight...When you get to the
back window cut the wheel...Actually, this space
is too small, just pull out, we'll find another...

CHER
No, I can do it.

JOSH
You'll never make it.

CHER
Yes I can.

JOSH
Bet you can't.

CHER
Bet your goatee I can.

JOSH
Sure, go ahead.

Using all her concentration Cher manuevers the jeep into the space with less than an inch to spare. She squeals with joy.

CHER
Ooh! don't you just love getting into really tight spaces?

Josh gives her a look.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Josh sits on the tub with foam on his chin. Cher stands over him shaving.

CHER

Hold still.

JOSH

Just be careful, go with the grain, not against it.

CHER

Josh, I know what I'm doing.

She straddles him so she can work on the other side of his face. He is getting turned on.

JOSH

Where you going?

CHER

I have to get over here.

She finishes.

CHER

All done.

She gets off him.

CHER

Go see.

They both look in the mirror.

JOSH

I feel naked....my whole face is sticking out.

Cher squeezes his face and talks as if to a baby.

CHER

Lookit the sweet, little baby face.

He does the same to her.

JOSH

Lookit this cute, little punim.

She smacks him away.

CHER

Get out of here.

She turns around to get the razor and towel. While she is bending Josh squirts some shaving cream in her shorts.

CHER

AAHH!

She tries to get away from him but he keeps squirting her. She manages to get the moveable shower massager on and hoses him down.

Ultimately they are a laughing, wet mess. He has to overpower her to get the nozzle out of her hand. Once he has her pinned against the wall, they stop fighting and look at each other. That moment of "what do we do now?" goes on forever, until they start to move towards each other and fall into a great, big, movie kiss. They pull back to check the other's reaction. Their expressions tell them its O.K. to continue so they hug and kiss and grope passionately.

CHER V.O.

Well, you can guess what happened next.

CUT TO:

A BRIDE seen from behind. Dionne and Summer fuss with her gown.

CHER V.O.

As if I mean I'm only sixteen and this is California not Kentucky.

They are in. . . .

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION HALL - DAY

Miss Geist turns around in her wedding dress. Cher, dressed as a bridesmaid, brings her bouquet. Miss Geist hugs the girls. De and Summer go sit with the other guests. The rest of the wedding party gets ready. The MUSIC plays and Cher starts down the aisle, sneaking waves to her friends.

Tai and Travis sit together, dressed up and obviously happily paired off. They wave to Cher.

Miss Geist comes down the aisle and a Priest says the usual crap.

Dionne is crying, Murray looks annoyed.

Cher is getting misty herself.

She looks around, spots Josh and blows him a kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. DINNER AREA - DAY

At the "student" table the kids are eating and goofing around.

AMBER

I am so glad I wasn't asked to be a bridesmaid.
My skin cannot take synthetics.

CHER

Amber, your daddy's rich, why doesn't he
buy you a clue.

AMBER

God, I'm just saying what I think.

MURRAY

Then don't think so much.

MS. STOEGER comes over.

MS. STOEGER

Girls, she's going to throw the bouquet.

The girl's all pop up to go. Josh takes Cher's arm to tell her something.

JOSH

We got a pool to see who's girl gets the
bouquet. It's up to two hundred dollars.

CHER

It's in the bag.

Miss Geist tosses out the flowers and all the girls run, jump, shove and push to get it. They land in a heap on the ground. When they start to separate and get up 2 Cher emerges, torn and disheveled, with the bouquet. She holds it up victoriously and Josh comes over to hug her.

CHER V.O.

It's weird how happy humans can get....
Especially once you fall in love. I mean,
I can see why everyone does it.

They continue hugging and kissing.

the end