

1

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

1

JAMIE, late 30's, stands nervously on the front porch.

No answer.

Knock knock knock. Still no answer.

JAMIE

Hello?

Still no response.

Jamie peers over a hedge and notices a CAR parked in the driveway.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

John? Are you home?

She digs in her purse for a set of keys and opens the door.

2

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

2

JAMIE

(calling out)

John? Hello?

Jamie enters a small, dirty, musty house. She surveys the kitchen and the living room. It looks like a college dorm in here. The entire 2nd season of the Sopranos (overdue from the library), multiple half done crossword puzzles, a Deepak Chopra audio book, and some empty pizza boxes.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Smells like something died in here...

Then, Jamie notices A PILE OF UNOPENED MAIL through the mail slot. Jamie turns to the kitchen. Old mac and cheese on the stove, and the milk is curdled.

Jamie looks down a dark hallway. The doors are closed, and everything is eerily silent.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

(concerned)

John?

She opens a hallway door, an EMPTY OFFICE. She closes the door and reaches for another on the opposite side of the hall. The BATHROOM... dirty, disgusting, EMPTY.

(CONTINUED)

Jamie walks down the hall toward the THIRD DOOR. She puts her hand on the doorknob. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

Jamie opens the door and there is JOHN, early 40's, lying in the bed. But, he's not dead. He's very much alive. And, he's wearing a very special outfit... I-POD Headphones, a travel neck pillow, a battered 1980's USC sweatshirt, and no pants. As if being busted bottomless weren't enough, John also seems to be masturbating.

Johns sees her and she sees him.

JOHN

Whoa! Whoa!

John rolls off the bed and hits the floor, taking the covers with him. Jamie slams the bedroom door and scampers toward the front door.

JAMIE

Sorry!

JOHN (O.S.)

Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait up! Wait, wait, wait!

John bursts into the hallway, bed sheet wrapped around his waist, I-POD headphones dangling onto his shoulders. He just catches Jamie.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(playing it off)

Hey, what are you doing here?

JAMIE

John, I'm so sorry.

JOHN

It's okay. I was just... you know...

(no excuses coming)

Shit, man. This is embarrassing.

JAMIE

I didn't see anything.

JOHN

You gotta call before you come over like this, okay? I wasn't really expecting anyone.

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE

I did call. Three times. You haven't called back in a week. I was worried about you.

JOHN

What are you worried about? Look, I'm fine. Do you see anything wrong with me?

John looks around the trashed kitchen and living room.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Okay, so you know, I'm not, like, the cleanest person lately but...

Jamie stares down at her shoes, fidgeting, but not moving.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What?

JAMIE

I have something important to tell you.

JOHN

Oh, no.

JAMIE

Tim asked me to marry him.

John's jaw drops.

JOHN

Fuck, I knew it...

John puts his arms over his head. This one hits him hard.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I knew it. I could hear it in your voice when you left those messages. I knew this was coming.

He takes a deep breath.

JOHN (CONT'D)

God damn.

JAMIE

It's been 7 years since our divorce, John.

JOHN

Well it still stings. You know?

(CONTINUED)

John walks around, shaking it off.

JOHN (CONT'D)

When?

JAMIE

Next month.

John blows out a blast of air as if someone just punched him.
Jamie is patient with him.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry if this hurts.

JOHN

Don't be sorry. You moved on. You found
someone you love. And, Tim's a good
guy. I'm happy for you. It's what you
should be doing.

JAMIE

And it's what you should be doing, too.

JOHN

I am. I'm trying. I'm on Match.com.
I'm... goin' on dates and stuff.

JAMIE

Are you, really? When's the last time
you went on a date?

JOHN

(sheepish)

Just, like... last week.

They look at each other. They both know he's lying. John
drops his head.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Alright, it's been a long time. But, I
just feel like all the really good
people are taken, you know? There's no
one left. It feels pointless. It sucks.

John slumps down in a chair and Jamie puts her hand on his
shoulder. These guys are good friends.

JAMIE

I just think you need to put yourself
out there. Look, Tim and I are going to
this really cool party tomorrow night.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

JAMIE (CONT'D)

A lot of artist types, probably some single people. Why don't you come with us?

JOHN

I can't.

JAMIE

Why not?

JOHN

Do you realize how incredibly lame it is to go to a party with your exwife and her new fiancée?

Jamie stares at John and he stares back at her.

3

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

3

It's a pretty big party. Rows of parked cars outside.

4

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

4

Cool mid-30's people engage in intelligent, lively conversation.

Jamie and her fiancée TIM, 40's, enter the party and shake hands with some of the guests. John follows not too far behind. He's showered and shaved and dressed up, but he's not necessarily Bachelor #1. He shakes hands, but he's a bit awkward.

CUT TO:

A4

INT. PARTY HOUSE - COFFEE TABLE - NIGHT

A4

John sits on a coffee table staring directly at the fireplace. He peels the label from a Bud Light bottle and throws it into the fire, watching it burn. Then he throws in his napkin. He looks around for something else to burn as Jamie and Tim walk up to him

JAMIE

Having fun?

JOHN

Nope. I think I'm gonna go home.

JAMIE

We just got here.

JOHN

I wanna go watch the Tour De France.

(CONTINUED)

Jamie stares at John in disbelief. Tim is deeply confused by John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What?

Tim hands a BIG RED PLASTIC CUP to John.

TIM

Listen, John, you're just gonna need to get drunk. I'm talking shit-faced hammered.

JOHN

I have a drink.

TIM

No, this is a real drink.

JOHN

What is it?

TIM

Vodka red bull. It works, trust me.

John smells the drink and sets it on the coffee table. Jamie puts her arm around John.

JAMIE

There are single women here, John. And, you are a commodity.

JOHN

Yeah, right.

JAMIE

You're successful... you're the best freelance video editor I've got.

JOHN

Yeah, balls-sexy I am.

JAMIE

Come on. You're a... a good looking man. You're smart and funny.

John looks around the party. There are quite a few SINGLE WOMEN here. It almost seems doable. John considers his situation for a moment, and we see a sparkle in his eye we haven't yet seen.

(CONTINUED)

A4

CONTINUED:

A4

JOHN

You know what? You guys are right. You moved on, right? I'm... I'm moving on. It's time. Movin' on. That's right. Fuck it! Let's do this.

John picks up the big red plastic cup. He chugs the whole thing in one sip, hands the empty to Jamie, and grabs Tim's red cup. He drinks that as well as he makes a beeline for a PETITE ASIAN GIRL talking to some friends.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hi.

ASIAN GIRL

Hi.

John looks around and smiles.

JOHN

Hey, I'm still here.

ASIAN GIRL

I'm sorry?

JOHN

It's just... usually when I try to talk to girls, after the first five seconds they find a subtle way to get rid of me. But, I'm still here!

John smiles, and she does not return the smile.

ASIAN GIRL

I'm sorry. We're having kind of a... personal conversation here, so...

JOHN

Oh. Sure. Sorry about that.

John backs away.

JUMP CUT TO:

B4

INT. PARTY HOUSE - BAR - NIGHT

B4

At the bar, John picks up another RED CUP and chugs it, and a PRETTY GIRL steps up to also get a drink.

JOHN

Hey!

(CONTINUED)

B4

CONTINUED:

B4

PRETTY GIRL

Do I know you?

JOHN

No. But, you seemed nice so I just thought I'd just say "hi."

The Pretty Girl shakes her head and takes an awkward sip of her drink.

PRETTY GIRL

Right on.

JOHN

Right on.

They stand around awkwardly, each sipping from a drink.

PRETTY GIRL

I'm gonna go-

JOHN

Yeah, that's fine.

John doesn't even give her a chance to fully reject him. He bolts out of there, quickly.

CUT TO:

C4

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

C4

It's much later, and John, now fairly glassy-eyed and slumped on the sofa, listens to Jamie.

JAMIE

You're not really putting yourself out there. You are a sweet, sensitive, special man. That's who I fell in love with. Not somebody who was trying to be all witty and charming. You need to just go up to a girl... a nice, NORMAL girl... and open yourself up. Be you, and say what you mean.

John takes a deep breath, and nods his head in agreement.

JOHN

Okay.

John looks around and finds a particularly HOMELY GIRL sitting by herself on the couch, staring into the fireplace, just like he was doing earlier.

(CONTINUED)

C4

CONTINUED:

C4

JOHN (CONT'D)

Okay.

John hands his drink to Jamie and walks up to her.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you mind if I sit down?

ASHLEY

No. Go ahead.

JOHN

I'm John.

ASHLEY

Ashley.

They shake hands.

JOHN

Are you having a good time?

ASHLEY

Not really.

JOHN

Me neither.

They smile. A breath of fresh air.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Can I just... level with you?

ASHLEY

Sure.

JOHN

I've been divorced for 7 years. I'm trying to find somebody to love and somebody to love me, but it's not working at all. I'm lonely. I'm kinda desperate. But, I know I can be fun and happy if I find the right person, you know? I really believe that.

Ashley stares at John. She is blown away by his speech. But, maybe not in a good way.

ASHLEY

I gotta go... make a phone call. Sorry.

She gets up, creeped out by John.

(CONTINUED)

C4

CONTINUED:

C4

John hangs his head in defeat. He is a completely crushed individual. He seems to be frozen solid.

But he is not totally alone. Another WOMAN looks on from a corner in the room. A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. She may have overheard John, and she is watching him now.

5

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

5

John is now visibly drunk. Five empty red cups are stacked in hand as he pulls on another red bull vodka.

JOHN

Fuck it.

John looks for a discrete spot in the backyard and finds one near a large rhododendron bush. He puts down his drink, unzips his pants, and pees on the bushes.

VOICE (O.S.)

Nice penis.

The sound of John's healthy stream stops. He leans around the bushes and discovers that his discrete urination spot is not as discrete as he thought. It's a free standing bush with a patio just beyond it. Anyone on the patio has a full view of John and his unmentionables.

JOHN

Hello?

MAGGIE, late 30's, steps into view. It's the beautiful woman from a moment ago. And, she is truly winning. Her eyes are cracking a bit, but they are bright and sexy. She wears no make-up, wild hair. She's fun-loving and a little goofy.

MAGGIE

Go ahead, finish up.

John smiles, embarrassed, as he zips back up.

JOHN

You know, you're the second woman this week to see my, uh...

MAGGIE

Really.

JOHN

Yep. You and my wife... my ex-wife. She's getting remarried. I'm cool with it, though.

(CONTINUED)

They stand there awkwardly for a moment.

MAGGIE

So, I couldn't help but overhear your
little speech back there on the couch.

JOHN

Oh. God. Sorry about that.

Maggie puts a hand on his shoulder, touchy-feely and
genuinely sweet.

MAGGIE

No. I thought it was one of the
sweetest, most honest, and... cute
things I've heard in a long, long time.

JOHN

Really?

MAGGIE

Really.

JOHN

Don't mess with me, 'cos I'm, like,
really vulnerable and I might start
crying if you mean that.

MAGGIE

I do. I really mean it. It... kinda
moved me.

There is a moment of silence where we wonder if John is going
to cry or not. Or maybe puke. But instead he smiles. Maggie
smiles back. John shakes his head.

JOHN

You know what? I can't even talk to
you.

MAGGIE

Why not?

JOHN

'Cos you're, like, a really hot girl.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

JOHN

It's true. It's not even a compliment.
It's a fact. You're hot and I just...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

JOHN (CONT'D)

I mean, look at me. I'm the sweet teddy bear guy...

MAGGIE

I didn't say that.

JOHN

Oh, come on. Please. When do guys like me ever get girls who look like you?

MAGGIE

I happen to like guys-

JOHN

(interrupting)

Wait... do you hear that?

Johns ears perk up.

MAGGIE

What?

JOHN

That song, from inside. That song that is the greatest song of all time. I'm sorry, will you excuse me for a moment?

John all but sprints inside the house.

6

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

6 *

A wobbly but determined John storms into the living room toward the stereo. He parts the crowd and pumps up the volume. "Don't You Want Me" by Human League.

JOHN

Dance party!

John rushes to the center of the living room, moves the coffee table by himself, and spreads out the couches to create a dance floor.

The conversation dies down as the party-goers notice John breaking out his best running man, partying down on the dance floor by himself. No one is joining in.

Jamie and Tim look on as John begins singing now. It's really awkward. Tim cringes at John's particularly poor vocal stylings.

Then, Maggie approaches from the backyard. She stares at John, watching him go all out, singing the male part.

(CONTINUED)

He looks like an idiot, but the heart of this move is somehow undeniable. Maggie surveys the rest of the room. The way the people are staring at him. There's something inspiring about this.

As the male part ends, John looks up and notices the crowd ogling him. He begins to get self-conscious.

And Maggie jumps onto the dance floor with John. She grabs the empty beer bottle that John was using as his fake microphone and sings the girl part.

Jamie watches John and Maggie with a surprised look as Tim pulls her onto the dance floor to join them.

As the crowd dribbles onto the floor, it's clear that this party's finally getting started. John and Maggie are in the middle of it all, boogying down. John couldn't be more proud of himself.

7 EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 7

John's little car is parked out front, as well as a GREEN HONDA ACCORD. Somebody else is here.

8 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 8

John lays out on his back in the middle of the bed. Maggie sits upright, straddling him.

JOHN
Wow! Whoa!

John is smiling like a little kid at the circus as Maggie rocks his world.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Oh my god, oh my god. Oh my god!

John is loving it and Maggie loves how much John is loving it even more. John can't contain his enthusiasm.

JOHN (CONT'D)
This is awesome!

Maggie gets serious for a moment.

MAGGIE
You ready?

JOHN
No, no. I don't want it to end.

(CONTINUED)

Maggie nods her head knowingly.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Oh god. Oh my god. Oh my GOD. Whoa,
whoa, whoa! Amazing! Wow!

John breaks out laughing in hysterics as they climax together and Maggie flops on top of him. John's happy face barely peaks through Maggie's mess of hair. His chin rests on her naked shoulder as she lays on top of him, quietly. John glows for a good ten seconds before he speaks.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You are... amazing.

John kisses her sweetly on the shoulder, and wraps his arms around her naked back. He's not letting go.

CUT TO:

A8 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A8

The clock reads 3:12 A.M.

John is passed out, his face smashed into the mattress. He reaches out and notices the empty space beside him. He sits up in bed and looks around. Maggie's nowhere.

John flips on the bedside lamp and sees a NOTE sticking out from underneath the pillow:

John, you are an awesome man. I had a great time. Sorry I had to run. Let's do this again. Call me: 323.555.0198.

*

John smiles.

9 EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - MORNING

9

John sits on his porch, drinking coffee, freshly showered. He stares at Maggie's NOTE, still happy. He dials her number.

MAGGIE (O.S.)
Hello?

JOHN
Hey, Maggie. It's John.

MAGGIE (O.S.)
Who?

JOHN
Uh, John... remember? You know, the
guy you, uh...

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE (O.S.)
Just kidding, John! Hi! Glad you
called.

JOHN
Really? Cool. Listen, I know it's last
minute, but do you wanna hang out
tonight?

Pause. John waits for it.

MAGGIE (O.S.)
Sure!

JOHN
Really?

MAGGIE (O.S.)
Yes. Look I gotta run, but I'll come
over after work, okay?

JOHN
(surprised)
Awesome! See you then!

John hangs up the phone. He stares at the note, then lifts it
to his nose and smells it. He closes his eyes and smiles.

Single note piano and classical guitar score begins. This is
happy music.

MONTAGE:

10 INT. WINE SHOPPE - DAY 10 *

At the wine shoppe, John holds a brown grocery bag with
flowers sticking out the top. He points to a couple of wine
bottles that he likes. *
*
*

11 INT. RITE-AID - DAY 11

At Rite Aid, John can't decide between a 12-pack and a 24-
pack of condoms.

12 INT. JOHN'S CAR - DAY 12

In his car, John drives along the east side of town on his
cell phone. He waits a few seconds before he speaks.

JOHN
Hey Maggie, it's John. Just calling to
see what time's good for you.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

 JOHN (CONT'D)
 Look forward to seeing you. Gimme a
 ring when you get a chance...

13 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 13 *

In the kitchen, John has three pots going on the stove and something in the oven. He licks his left finger, takes off the oven mitt, and pulls an enormous sinch-sack trash bag from beneath the sink. He tears through the living room and the kitchen, cleaning up the mess. He throws everything away.

14 INT./EXT. JOHN'S FRONT YARD - NIGHT 14

On the curb of John's house, six black trash bags are filled. John throws a seventh bag onto the pile and walks back into the house, which is now clean and tidy. John checks his watch.

15 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT 15

John brushes his teeth in front of the bathroom mirror. He looks at his belly in the mirror, which sags just over his boxer briefs.

A15 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - OFFICE - NIGHT A15 *

He drops to the floor and does a few crunches.

16 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 16 *

John is now dressed for the date and everything seems to be ready. He checks the clock on the wall, 8:32 pm. He picks up his phone and dials Maggie's number. The phone rings once... twice... three times... four times... *

 VOICE (O.S.)
 Hey, this is Maggie. Leave me a
 message.

John hangs up the phone. He sits down in the chair and eats a piece of sausage from his fantastic app spread.

The happy music comes to a close.

17 EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 17

It's getting late.

18 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM- NIGHT 18 *

The clock on the wall now reads 10:43 pm. The sausage has been wiped out. John is visibly upset.

(CONTINUED)

Knock, knock.

John looks at the door and takes a deep breath.

JOHN
Come in.

Maggie enters with a big smile on her face.

MAGGIE
Hey.

JOHN
Hi.

Maggie looks around.

MAGGIE
Wow. Place looks different.

Maggie notices the spread on the dinner table.

JOHN
I thought we had a date. I made dinner.

MAGGIE
This is all for me?

JOHN
Yes.

Maggie sits in John's lap and strokes his hair.

MAGGIE
God. I'm a bitch. I am so sorry.

JOHN
I called you like three times, where were you?

MAGGIE
I must have left my phone off.
(squirming a bit)
I've been working all day.

JOHN
You know, I don't even know what you do.

MAGGIE
Yes, you do. I told you.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
No, you didn't.

MAGGIE
Sure, I did.

Silence.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Massage therapy? I'm sure I told you.

Maggie tries a piece of half-eaten salmon steak.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
It's delicious.

JOHN
I know.

MAGGIE
Come on, don't be mad. I'm sorry.

JOHN
I'm not mad. I'm just... I know I'm not
supposed to say stuff like this so
early, but... I like you. And, I'd like
to date you and get to know you, and
who knows, you know?

Maggie can't help but smile.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Are you... interested in me that way?

Maggie is staring at John now. Almost stunned.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Hello?

MAGGIE
Uh, sorry. It's just... you remind me
so much of someone... it's crazy.

JOHN
You still haven't answered my
question... are you interested in me?

Maggie takes a deep breath. This is not comfortable territory
for her.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED:

18

MAGGIE

I... okay. My life is... kinda complicated. But, I'm definitely interested.

John reaches his hand behind her neck and kisses her, romantically. There is a nice little connection happening here. Maggie then wraps her arms around John playfully.

19

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

19

John and Maggie lay in John's bed. John looks up at the ceiling, wide awake. Maggie's eyes are closed. John leans over to Maggie. He whispers in Maggie's ear.

JOHN

You awake?

No response from Maggie. John gets out of bed and puts on some pajama bottoms. He tiptoes out the door so as not to wake her.

20

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

20

As he enjoys a late night pee, he sees Maggie scurry down the hall through the mirror, fully dressed.

21

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

21 *

Before she can reach the front door...

JOHN (O.S.)

Where ya' going?

Maggie stops in her tracks, and turns around to see John emerge from the bathroom. Maggie smiles and walks back to John. She kisses him on the lips and touches his face.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry, John, I've got to run. Call me tomorrow, okay?

Maggie turns to walk away.

JOHN

Wait, wait, wait. Hold on a second. Where do you have to go this late?

MAGGIE

I just... It's nothing. I just have to take care of some stuff.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
I feel like you're being secretive.

MAGGIE
I don't mean to be, I just... can you
just trust me?

JOHN
Maggie, are you married?

MAGGIE
What? No. Of course not!

JOHN
You're in a serious relationship?

MAGGIE
No. I'm not. I promise. Okay? I'll...
I'll call you tomorrow, okay?

JOHN
Can't you just stay?

John is so vulnerable and lonely, just standing there like a lump. There is something so great and pure about him.

Maggie melts and kisses John passionately on the lips. She is clearly torn, but she heads out the door and leaves John standing there, dumbfounded.

He lumbers toward the window and watches her car back out of the driveway.

A21 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT A21

He stares at the car as it drives down the street.

Then, John sees his own CAR KEYS.

22 EXT. ECHO PARK STREETS - NIGHT 22

Maggie's Green Accord pulls onto a side street.

Five seconds later, another CAR with no headlights makes the same turn. John's car.

23 INT. JOHN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 23

John, Diet Coke in hand, follows Maggie intently.

(CONTINUED)

23

CONTINUED:

23

He makes another turn onto LOMA VISTA PLACE and watches Maggie park her car in front of a small, somewhat dilapidated CRAFTSMAN HOUSE. John parks up the street and watches Maggie get out of the car, alone, and head into the house.

John reclines his seat, remaining out of view. He takes another sip of Diet Coke, staring intently at the house. No signs of life. The lights go dim.

24

EXT. ECHO PARK STREET - DAY

24 *

John's car is still parked. A tuft of fuzzy hair is barely visible through the windshield.

*

25

INT. JOHN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

25

John is sleeping open-mouthed in the front seat of the car. He adjusts his legs to get comfortable and knocks over the Diet Coke in his right hand, spilling it onto the left leg of his pants.

*

*

*

JOHN
(mumbling)
What?

John notices the stain.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Ah, shit.

Then he looks at his watch and notices the time. He looks at Maggie's house for signs of activity, but he can't see very clearly through any of the windows.

*

26

EXT. ECHO PARK STREET - CONTINUOUS

26 *

John gets out of his car and quietly closes the door behind him. He pulls up the collar on his jacket to partially obscure his face, and walks clandestinely across the street.

When he reaches the driveway of 2622, he ducks down behind Maggie's car.

*

John sneaks a little closer, edging his way to the side of the house, he tries to figure out how to get up the steep incline that separates Maggie's driveway from her front yard. As he does...

*

*

CYRUS (O.S.)
Hi.

John looks up to see CYRUS standing behind him, staring at him.

*

(CONTINUED)

He's 19 years-old, a bit chubby, and has deep, blue, kind eyes. His hair is short, his clothes nice and tidy, and he smiles for John.

This kid looks like a younger version of John.

JOHN

Hi.

CYRUS

Can I help you? John looks over his shoulder and looks back at Cyrus.

JOHN

Uh, yeah. Does, uh... does Maggie live here?

CYRUS

Yes, do you mind if I ask who's asking?

JOHN

Yeah, my name's John. I'm a friend of hers...

CYRUS

I'm Cyrus.

JOHN

Cyrus.

CYRUS

Cyrus.

Silence, confusion.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Her son.

JOHN

Her son.

CYRUS

Did you want to come in and wait? She just went for a jog and she should be back in a little bit.

JOHN

Um... you know, I don't want to impose.

CYRUS

Come on. Come on in. You're a friend of my mom's, you're a friend of mine.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Yeah... I don't know.

CYRUS
John, come on.

Cyrus opens the door, super friendly. This kid seems alright. *

27 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 27

The house is a small, modest two bedroom place that seems to be stuck in 1987. The only hint of the 21st century is a wall of HIGH TECH MUSICAL EQUIPMENT in the dining room. Rack units, synths, computer, the works.

Cyrus returns from the kitchen and hands John a glass of water. They take a seat on the couch.

JOHN
Thanks.

CYRUS
So, how long have you known my Mom?

JOHN
Honestly, uh, just a couple of days.

CYRUS
Uh huh. But you feel it already, don't you. Like... there may really be something here.

The question is a bit forward but there's something so sweet, loving and disarming about this kid. You can't help but open up to him.

JOHN
I do. I really do.

CYRUS
I can tell.

They smile at each other.

JOHN
(impressed)
Um... How old are you?

CYRUS
I'm almost twenty.

JOHN
You're really mature for your age. *

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

Well, my Mom and I are, like, best friends. She raised me by herself.

JOHN

Really?

CYRUS

Yeah, my Dad's not in the picture, so it was just the two of us. She actually home-schooled me.

JOHN

Wow. Are you in college now?

CYRUS

No. I got my GED when I was sixteen and started working on my music career.

JOHN

You're a musician?

CYRUS

Yeah. I'm composing like, healing music... but, for the masses. Not just the new age crowd, you know?

JOHN

Interesting. So, you write, like... songs?

CYRUS

Compositions... with more of a modern, electro/dance slant so it can be more accessible to everyone.

JOHN

Oh. Cool.

CYRUS

You wanna hear something?

JOHN

Sure.

Cyrus, excited to have someone to play with, runs over to the wall of musical glory. He fires up the computer, the synths, and the rack units within seconds. He puts on a pair of headphones like a seasoned pro (one hand to the ear).

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

I'm still working on this one. It's called, "The truth, the lie, and the man in the middle."

Cyrus puts one hand on the bass end of the keyboard. With that single note, an entire orchestra of sound fills the room. It's like being transported to the front row of a Yanni concert.

Deep melodramatic orchestral music overtakes Cyrus. It's incredibly cheesy, but he's good. He sways with the music. He occasionally looks at John with piercing eyes of intensity.

John isn't quite sure how to handle this. He squirms on the couch and gives Cyrus an awkward thumbs-up and a smile.

And then, the dance beat kicks in. Thumping base. Now it's like Yanni went to the LimeLight in 1989. Cyrus is jumping up and down, elated, filled with the music. It's incredibly loud in this little house.

Just then the front door swings open and Maggie walks in, sweating, in her jogging outfit. She notices Cyrus first and smiles. She starts dancing along with him, oblivious to John's presence.

She turns and catches John out of the corner of her eye.

MAGGIE

Aaah!

John stands up off the couch and knocks over his water. He tries to sop it up with a pillow as Cyrus stops the music.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Sorry, I didn't mean to scream-

JOHN

No, it's okay, I barged in-

MAGGIE

No, no-

JOHN

Sorry, I'm intruding-

MAGGIE

Seriously, no problem... It's fine.

Awkward silence. They all settle down and stare at each other for a moment. John smiles awkwardly and Maggie also laughs it off, but she is clearly uncomfortable now.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Hi.

They share a brief hug and Cyrus watches it happen.

CYRUS

So, John, you wanna stay for dinner?
John looks to Maggie for approval.

MAGGIE

Yeah. Dinner.

A27 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A27 *

All is quiet.

*

CUT TO:

28 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

28

Cyrus, John and Maggie sit around the dinner table eating
take-out Thai food. Plastic forks and plastic plates. John
pulls hard on a glass of red wine.

*

CYRUS

So, John, I really have to apologize to
you.

Maggie looks up, as does John.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

You came in and I sat you down and just
started blabbing all about my life and
my music and I didn't even stop to ask
about yours.

JOHN

Oh, whatever-

CYRUS

No, seriously, I get overly excited
sometimes. I apologize. But I'm
honestly curious. Tell me more about
yourself, John.

JOHN

Well, I'm a freelance editor. Been
doing that for quite a while now. I,
uh, like going to movies, and...

Cyrus is smiling at John.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (CONT'D)

What?

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

Come on, let's cut the small talk and
really get to know each other. Let's
not "talk"... let's *talk*.

Cyrus pours more wine for John and John takes a swig. He
stares at Maggie, who smiles back, just a bit uncomfortable.
She shrugs her shoulders.

JOHN

Well. Okay. I have been highly
depressed and anti-social for
almost.... two years now? And, as I was
inadvertently telling your mother the
other night, I am a lonely and
desperate individual...

As John is talking he can't help noticing that Maggie has
leaned over Cyrus' plate and is CUTTING up a few large pieces
of CHICKEN into smaller chunks. Cyrus instinctively reaches
down and picks up one of the chunks and eats it. They both
seem to be on auto-pilot as they perform this strange ritual.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Basically, I'm terrified of dying alone
and have had no luck with women...
ever. Until a few days ago.

John turns to Maggie and smiles.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Now I just have to convince this
beautiful woman that an old shlub like
me is worth hanging out with.

Cyrus stares at John, who has just dropped his soul into the
kitchen table.

Then, Cyrus cracks a big smile. He pours himself some wine
and refills John and Maggie's glasses as well.

CYRUS

I like your style, John.

He raises a toast.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

To John. Our new friend.

It's a sweet, pure, and awfully strange moment.

The three drink.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS (CONT'D)
So, are you sleeping over tonight?

John chokes on his wine, and it goes up into his nose. John coughs a little... trying to play it cool. Maggie can't help but laugh, as does Cyrus.

MAGGIE
Cyrus!

CYRUS
What? We're all adults here.
(to John)
I'm just messing around, John.
Seriously. Relax.

John nervously joins in on the laughter.

29 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER 29

John takes off his pants and folds them neatly on a chair. He stands around awkwardly in his boxers and a T-shirt.

The sound of a SHOWER can be heard from down the hall.

The sounds of WORLD MUSIC blaring can be heard from Cyrus' room.

John looks on Maggie's desk and picks up a PICTURE of a young Maggie holding a baby Cyrus. It's one of those photo album picture frames. John sifts through twenty or so pictures, all of Maggie and Cyrus at different stages of their relationship.

There is one shot of Maggie BREAST-FEEDING a post-infant Cyrus. He's at least 3 years old.

John sets down the album and looks around the room. He walks toward a book shelf along the wall...

JOHN
Ow!

... but stubs his foot along the way. He looks down to see a TONKA TRUCK peeking out from underneath the bed. He stoops down and lifts up the bed skirt. Underneath the bed is a sea of old toys.

CYRUS (O.S.)
Whatcha looking for?

John pops his head up from the side of the bed.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Just, one of my socks...

CYRUS
Hey, do you ever read poetry?

JOHN
A little. Not much.

CYRUS
I was just thinking of this poem that
kinda reminded me of you. It's always
moved me through every stage of my
life. The verses are all strong and
confident, but at the end he just
breaks and it all gets soft and
vulnerable. He says...

(singing)
"I'm digging in the dirt, stay with me
I need support. I'm digging in the
dirt, to find the places I've been
hurt. To open up, the places I got
hurt."

John is not sure how to respond. It's a little intense and
kinda corny.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
It just reminded me of you. How you
opened up to us tonight. That's a big
thing you did. You realize that, right?

JOHN
Yeah, I guess so.

CYRUS
It was. Definitely.

Cyrus gives John a quick hug.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
I'm glad to have you as my new father-
figure.

John is really taken aback now.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Just another joke.

JOHN
Right.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

You're gonna have to get used to my
bizarre sense of humor. Sleep well,
John.

JOHN

Right. You, too. Good night.

Cyrus turns around and heads across the hall. He opens the
door directly across from Maggie's bedroom and as he does,
the sound of the shower gets louder.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Whoops. Uh, Maggie's in there-

But before he can finish, Cyrus is in the bathroom and the
door is closed behind him. John listens for a potential
outburst from Maggie. Nothing.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Okay.

The sound of the shower stops. The sound of the shower door
opening. No one says anything. John peers at the bathroom
door suspiciously. The sound of the sink running. Still
Maggie and Cyrus haven't said a word.

Then, the door opens and Maggie emerges wearing a skimpy
towel which barely covers her nude body. Cyrus can be seen at
the sink with his shirt off, washing his face.

Maggie walks into the bedroom and doesn't bother closing the
door behind her. John is quickly distracted by her beauty.

But, Maggie is not so "outgoing" tonight as she has been the
past couple of nights. She edges into a corner of the room
and begins changing into a pair of homely PAJAMAS, still
keeping the towel on.

*
*
*
*

JOHN (CONT'D)

A little shy tonight?

MAGGIE

Okay. I can explain.

JOHN

What?

MAGGIE

About Cyrus.

JOHN

What about him?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Well, I kept him secret from you and that's not really fair. You opened up to me and I feel bad about it.

John steps off the bed and puts his arms on Maggie's shoulders.

JOHN

Hey. I get it. We just met. You weren't sure about me, maybe? Look, I can see you guys must have a special connection. I don't want to threaten that in any way. I just wanna hang out with you.

Maggie smiles. John said just the right thing. He sets her perfectly at ease.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And, you know, what? He's a great kid. And I think he really likes me.

MAGGIE

He is a great kid. He's very intelligent and grown up, but he's also very young for his age in a lot of ways. I'm just worried that this could be confusing for him. I've never actually... brought anyone home before.

JOHN

Well, you didn't bring me home. I stalked you.

They both laugh this off.

JOHN (CONT'D)

See? So, none of us are perfect.

MAGGIE

You're something else, John. You always know what to say to me. It's really kind of incredible. You and Cyrus are the only people I've ever met who can set me at ease like that.

He now strokes Maggie's hair, inching closer.

JOHN

Was it Cyrus who I reminded you of last night?

(CONTINUED)

Maggie smiles, shy and embarrassed.

MAGGIE
Yes. Is that weird?

JOHN
Kinda. But I can get into the kinky
shit.

John kisses Maggie again lovingly, and pushes the door
closed... but Maggie freezes up.

JOHN (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

MAGGIE
We usually sleep with the doors open.

JOHN
Really? Hm. Why?

MAGGIE
I don't know, we just do.

John is at a loss.

JOHN
Well... can we make an exception
tonight?

MAGGIE
It's just a little weird...

John goes in for the kiss one more time.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
John. Seriously, not tonight, okay?

Maggie opens the door and walks around to the other side of
the bed, far away from John, and gets into bed.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I meant what I said. You're the first
guy that's ever slept over here.

JOHN
Honestly?

MAGGIE
Honestly.

John considers this for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
I guess that's a good sign for me.

Silence.

Maggie pats the empty space in the bed next to her. John jumps in and doesn't get too close.

30 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - MORNING 30

John's car is still parked out front.

31 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING 31

Maggie and Cyrus are packing up a backpack and a picnic basket as John walks into the room, groggy.

JOHN
You guys are early risers, huh?

CYRUS
Yep.

Maggie and Cyrus remain focused on their packing, basically ignoring John.

JOHN
What are you guys up to?

CYRUS
We go to Elysian Park for a few hours every morning and take pictures, have a little breakfast.

MAGGIE
Cyrus likes to compose his music to images...

CYRUS
Nature inspires me.

JOHN
Cool.

Again, they turn to their task. John stands around awkwardly.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I'm probably just gonna head into work. Though, it's kind of a light day and I could probably knock it all out tomorrow in one long day if I wanted...

Nothing from the two packers. No invite coming.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (CONT'D)

Okay.

John takes the hint and begins looking around for something.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Anybody seen my shoes?

MAGGIE

Uh, Nope.

(to Cyrus)

You?

CYRUS

No.

JOHN

Hm. That's funny. I thought I left them right by the door.

MAGGIE

You want me to help you look?

JOHN

No, that's okay.

John disappears down the hall for a moment. The sounds of doors opening and some banging around. It's not a big house.

John comes back and peeks into the dining room and kitchen. Nothing.

JOHN (CONT'D)

That's really weird.

(smiling)

Okay, who ate my shoes?

Maggie and Cyrus look up at John and half smile at his joke.

John looks around a bit more. No shoes.

He is perplexed.

32 INT. BURBANK OFFICE - DAY

32

John sits in the client chair, editing, while Jamie sits behind him with a notebook.

JAMIE

Okay, good. Let's just size to fit the Disney clips and call it.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
You got it, boss man.

John finishes a few edits.

JAMIE
So, what's the latest on the hot lady
from the party?

JOHN
I think... I think it's kind of
incredible.

JAMIE
(surprised)
Really?

JOHN
Yeah. I find myself saying things to
them that I NEVER say. It's strange,
but I feel like I've known them
forever. It's only been a few days,
but, like... I could see this going
somewhere.

JAMIE
Quick question. Who's "them?"

JOHN
Oh, she's got a teenage son... but he's
really advanced. Grown up. Very
interesting kid.

JAMIE
That's good. So you like him...

JOHN
I do. I really do.

JAMIE
Alright. Good. Just, take a nice pace,
don't go crazy.

JOHN
Oh, I'm not. I mean, I'm not gonna just
barge in and scare them off.

Silence. John turns around and continues editing.

JAMIE
Alright. Wanna do the TMC spot next or-
John stops typing and turns around.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

There is one weird little thing.
Probably nothing, but...

JAMIE

John. Don't do it.

JOHN

What?

JAMIE

Don't over-think this one.

JOHN

I'm not. It's just...

Jamie rolls her eyes.

JOHN (CONT'D)

My shoes were missing this morning.

JAMIE

Your shoes?

JOHN

Yeah. I left them by the front door
last night. I know I did. And when I
got up, they were gone.

Jamie considers this for a second.

JAMIE

So...

JOHN

So, I don't know. It's a little weird,
though, right?

JAMIE

You think maybe they just got
misplaced?

JOHN

I don't think so.

JAMIE

Isn't it possible, though?

JOHN

Yeah. I guess. I mean, I'm sure I put
them by the door, but... you know what,
who cares. Whatever.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 32

John turns around and continues editing, but he's distracted.

33 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 33

John sits on the couch. He seems shifty, distracted. *

Then he picks up the phone. *

34 INT. JAMIE AND TIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 34

A phone RINGS in the dark. Jamie turns on the light and accidentally wakes up Tim in the process.

JAMIE

Hello?

JOHN (O.S.)

I definitely left them by the door. I think it's weird.

TIM

Who is it?

JAMIE

(cupping the phone)

It's John. He thinks his girlfriend and her son stole his shoes. Tim stares at Jamie for a blank second, then puts the pillow over his head and goes back to bed.

35 INT. JOHN'S HOUSE/JAMIE AND TIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 35

JAMIE

We're not having this conversation at...

(seeing the clock)

1:30 in the morning.

JOHN

I'm starting to remember other things that seem kinda weird to me now. He was almost... too friendly, you know what I mean?

JAMIE

Good night, John...

JOHN

Wait, wait wait! I need a favor. You're probably right, I'm probably just being weird and paranoid, but I gotta know. Would you help me?

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE
What do you want?

JOHN
Would you... meet them? Maybe, give me
an objective opinion?

JAMIE
(impatient)
Sure. Fine.

JOHN
Awesome! Would you guys come over for
dinner tomorrow night?

JAMIE
Okay. Fine. Goodnight-

JOHN
No, wait. That's too obvious. They're
gonna know I'm scoping them out. It
needs to feel... casual. Almost
accidental.

JAMIE
John, I'm going to sleep.

JOHN
Wait! I got it. It's perfect. What are
you doing tomorrow morning before work?

JAMIE
Sleeping.

JOHN
Come on. You got running shoes?

36 EXT. ELYSIAN PARK - MORNING

36

Maggie and Cyrus both take pictures of a little STREAM that
is half in the light and half in the shadows. They show each
other what they're getting, and Maggie changes a setting on
her camera.

JOHN (O.S.)
Maggie?

Maggie and Cyrus turn to see John and Jamie, in running gear,
jogging pathetically towards them. John is all smiles.

MAGGIE
John?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Wow! So weird. I was just thinking about you guys and wondering if you'd be out today. Jamie and I run a lot out here... and, sure enough, there you are!

Jamie introduces herself and they all shake hands, which leads to that awkward pause...

JOHN (CONT'D)

Well, we don't want to interrupt-

SNAP!

Cyrus snags a quick still of John.

CYRUS

Your hair looks kind of amazing in this light. It's like... a crippled tree reaching out for heaven or something. Really cool.

JOHN

Oh, thanks.

They share a laugh as Jamie looks on, examining every move that's made here.

CYRUS

Would you guys mind sticking around for a second so I can snap a few pics of John?

JOHN

Sure.

JAMIE

Yeah, sure.

*

The happy music score plays as John and Cyrus have fun shooting pics. John hams it up as the model, as does Cyrus in the photographer role.

Jamie and Maggie look on, laughing, and everyone has a good time.

SMASH CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

We cut in on a conversation lull as the group shares a small picnic.

CYRUS
(to Jamie)
So what's it like being married to this guy?

Jamie is taken aback and Maggie punches Cyrus in the arm, playfully.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Hey! Watch it, lady.

Cyrus pushes her back and she falls over, loving it. Then she gets up and TACKLES Cyrus onto the grass, and they begin wrestling.

John looks at Jamie and raises his eyebrows as if to say "is this weird?"

Cyrus pins his Mom and tickles her.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Say 'Mercy!'

MAGGIE
Mercy!

CYRUS
Say 'Cyrus is my favorite person in the whole world!'

MAGGIE
CYRUS IS MY FAVORITE PERSON!!

Cyrus lets her up and Maggie dusts herself, coming back to reality.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(to Jamie)
You'll have to excuse my son's rude questions, he hasn't quite learned his social graces yet.

JAMIE
It's fine.

CYRUS
Oh, whatever, Mom. Come on. Let's be honest here.
(to John and Jamie)
You guys knew we were here, and...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

CYRUS (CONT'D)

(to John)

You brought Jamie here to check us out,
right?

Oops.

JOHN

No, not at all-

CYRUS

It's okay. I would have done the same
thing if I were you. That's what this
is, right?

John looks to Jamie, they are so obviously busted.

JOHN

Was it that obvious?

MAGGIE

Yes. But, it was still kinda cute.

Maggie throws some grass on John and the mood lightens.

CYRUS

(to Jamie)

So. Marriage to John. Lay it on us.

Jamie looks to John to see if it's okay.

JOHN

(to Jamie)

Go ahead. Destroy me.

JAMIE

Well, there are the basics. Snoring.
Burping. Occasional farting-

JOHN

Hey!

CUT TO:

37

EXT. ELYSIAN PARK - PARKING LOT - MORNING

37

John walks Jamie back to his car.

JOHN

So, what do you think?

JAMIE

Well. I think.... I think they're kind
of amazing. A little different.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

37

JAMIE (CONT'D)

But, they are genuinely sweet, loving people. And, I really liked how they called out your little plot, but I could tell it didn't really bother them.

JOHN

So, I was just over-thinking it?

JAMIE

Yeah, I think so.

JOHN

Even that wrestling? A little weird?

JAMIE

I mean... they're close. You're gonna have to deal with the fact that it may take a while for you to really... get in there.

JOHN

I know, I know. But, you think it's worth it?

JAMIE

Well, that's your call. But, I don't think they stole your shoes, if that helps.

John hugs Jamie and Jamie gets in the car and drives away from a very, very happy John.

38

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

38

Maggie and Cyrus sift through photos on his laptop and make photo sequences to Cyrus' strange world music beats.

The phone RINGS and Maggie answers.

MAGGIE

(into phone)

Hello?

Maggie smiles and turns away from Cyrus a bit. Cyrus takes notice of her behavior. He doesn't miss a thing.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Just hanging out. What are you doing?

(pause, whispering now)

Oh, you are? Well, then...

(CONTINUED)

Cyrus is not liking this too much.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Come on over. Of course. It's fine.

Maggie hangs up and rejoins Cyrus.

CYRUS
Who was that?

MAGGIE
John. He was in the neighborhood and is
gonna stop by.

CYRUS
Ah. Quick bootie call?

MAGGIE
Cyrus.

Maggie jabs him, smiling, but a little thrown off.

CYRUS
What? Can't I make jokes?

Maggie studies Cyrus, she knows her baby boy well.

MAGGIE
Are you okay with all of this? I mean,
we're in new waters here... having a
man around and all.

CYRUS
Mom. Please, I'm not 12. You don't have
to give me the "new boyfriend" speech.
It belittles us both, honestly.

MAGGIE
Okay, okay. Just checking in. If you
want to talk, I'm here.

KNOCK KNOCK.

Maggie jumps up, opens the door, and John immediately picks
her up and kisses her.

Cyrus shuts his computer and YAWNS big.

CYRUS
I'm pooped, I'm gonna head off to
sleep. G'night, guys.

(CONTINUED)

Cyrus goes down the hall, quickly.

JOHN
Oh. Okay. Goodnight, kiddo.

Maggie is a little concerned, but is happy to see John.

CUT TO:

39 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 39

John and Maggie undress for bed and John, again, goes for intimacy. He kisses her neck, very sweetly.

JOHN
Is this okay?

Maggie considers this. She looks at the OPEN DOOR to her bedroom, then back at John.

She heads for the door and CLOSES it. *

CUT TO: *

Maggie kisses John back, now in private.

As they lay down on the bed, there is something decidedly different about this interaction. Much more tender and loving, and a lot less animal lust. They really seem to be connecting-

CYRUS (O.S.)
Nooooooooooo!!!!

John jumps up in terror.

JOHN
Cyrus?!

Maggie is out of bed and out of the bedroom door in a second, all business.

JOHN (CONT'D)
What's going on?

MAGGIE
Stay here.

JOHN
What happened? *

40 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

40

Maggie heads into Cyrus' room, and turns back to John who is following her.

MAGGIE

(sternly)

I said stay here. It's fine.

Maggie runs into Cyrus' room and slams the door behind her in John's face. John stands in the hallway, confused. After a few seconds, he quietly opens Cyrus' door and peeks inside. Maggie is sitting upright on Cyrus' bed with Cyrus cradled in her arms. His hair is wet. His face is sweaty and he is crying quietly. Maggie rocks him back and forth.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Shhh... It's okay. It's okay.

Maggie stares at John through the slit in the door. She looks hard and mean. John closes the door and walks back into Maggie's bedroom.

A40 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A40 *

All is quiet. The light in Cyrus' room is on.

*

41 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

41

He sits on the bed and looks at the clock. 11:17 pm. John lays down on the bed and closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

The clocks reads 2:42 am. John is asleep in bed, alone. He rolls over and opens his eyes. Still no Maggie. John licks his parched lips and gets out of bed.

42 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY/KITCHEN - NIGHT

42

John approaches and presses his ear against Cyrus' bedroom door. He waits for a few seconds, listening for any telling sound.

CYRUS (O.S.)

Hello, John.

John jumps and turns to see Cyrus standing in the kitchen, sleep shirt and nothing on the bottom but a tight pair of pristine tightie-whities. He yields a BUTCHER KNIFE, making himself a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on white bread.

(CONTINUED)

John walks back towards Maggie's bedroom, trying to think of something to say. Cyrus stares at him long and cold.

JOHN

I had to pee.

(CONTINUED)

Cyrus doesn't grant him a response just yet. John is a little embarrassed and lingers uncomfortably before Maggie's bedroom door.

CYRUS
You hungry?

JOHN
No, I'm good.

Cyrus licks the butcher knife and tosses it in the sink recklessly. He takes a seat with his sandwich, motioning for John to sit down. John complies but keeps his distance.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Is everything okay?

CYRUS
Night terrors. I used to have them a lot when I was little. I started getting them again recently.

JOHN
Mmm... sorry to hear that.

CYRUS
I'll get through it.

Cyrus breaks his sandwich in half, puts one half on the plate, and slides it toward John. John takes the sandwich and has a bite.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
I'm glad you're up. I've been wanting to talk to you. Man to man.

JOHN
Okay.

CYRUS
It seems like you and my Mom are getting pretty close pretty fast, right?

John is careful.

JOHN
Yes.

CYRUS
So, maybe it's time we called out the elephant in the room...

(CONTINUED)

Silence. Awkwardness.

JOHN
The elephant?

Cyrus eyes John, challenging him.

CYRUS
Come on, John. We're closer than that.
No need to play dumb.

It seems Cyrus is gonna make John say it.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
You know what I mean.

JOHN
You mean... about... how close you guys
are?

CYRUS
Thank you. Exactly. I could see how a
man might find it hard to... find his
place with us.

John takes a deep breath. Very very careful here (let's not
forget what Cyrus is wearing here, by the way).

JOHN
Look. I want you to know that I am in
this for the long haul. Sincerely. And,
I respect what you and your Mom have
built, and I have no intentions of
changing any of that. I just want to be
a part-

CYRUS
John, I know that. I really like you.
What I'm trying to say is, I'm not
threatened at all by you. In fact, I
think you're good for my Mom and I want
to help you find your way in to our
little circle.

John is, literally, blown away. He reaches across and gives
an awkward little hug to Cyrus.

JOHN
You are... an amazing, amazing person
Cyrus.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

Oh, please. Stop it. I'm only telling you this because I like you, and I want you to know the truth.

JOHN

The truth?

CYRUS

Yes.

Cyrus looks down the hall and sees that the coast is clear. Then, he leans closer to John and whispers.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I didn't wanna say this, 'cos she asked me not to. But, I think you may be coming on just a tad too strong right now.

JOHN

She said that?

CYRUS

Not in those exact words. But, she did mention some things that alluded to the fact that... maybe you guys are moving a little fast and she's starting to freak out a little bit. Just a little bit.

JOHN

Really?

CYRUS

Yes.

JOHN

Wow. I'm not getting those signals at all.

CYRUS

Well. She does like you. I just think... if you pull back about 10-20%, emotionally speaking, you'd do a lot better for yourself. Maybe not scare her with all of the aggression. It's sweet, but she may not be ready for it all so fast.

John thinks this over.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
Okay. I'll definitely think it over.

CYRUS
You really should. And, remember, let's
just try to be as honest and
communicative with each other as we can
be.

JOHN
I agree.

The two boys stare at each for a moment, and it is only now,
in this silence, that we see MAGGIE has opened the door down
the hall and has been watching them. For how long, we're not
quite sure.

Cyrus pats John on the back and gets up as Maggie quickly
recedes back into Cyrus' room..

CYRUS (O.S.)
Good. G'night John.

John sits there, with information overload, as Cyrus heads
down the hall. He's not quite sure what to do with himself.

John heads down the hall and peeks into Maggie's bedroom.

Empty.

He looks at Cyrus' bedroom door.

Closed.

He thinks for a moment, and stops to scribble a NOTE.

*

CUT TO:

43 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

43

John's car is gone.

44 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

44

Cyrus is up early, working on music.

A groggy Maggie comes down the hall in her pajamas, hair
messy.

MAGGIE
Wow. I totally zonked last night.
 (looking around)
Where's John?

(CONTINUED)

Cyrus points to the table and Maggie sees the NOTE. Cyrus watches her read it:

"Thought you guys could use some alone time. See you soon?"

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Hm... that's not really like him. You think maybe I offended him or something?

Cyrus takes off his headphones and focuses on Maggie now.

CYRUS
Take a seat, Mom.

MAGGIE
What?

They sit on the couch and Cyrus puts on a serious face.

CYRUS
Look. You didn't do anything wrong. I had a talk with John last night.

MAGGIE
You did?

CYRUS
Yeah. He came to see me in the kitchen and really wanted to talk. And...

Cyrus pauses dramatically.

MAGGIE
What?

CYRUS
He... basically said that, he was worried that things were moving so fast... and...

Maggie is concerned now.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
...And that he didn't want to lead you on 'cos he wasn't totally sure if this is the right thing for him.

MAGGIE
What? He said that?

Maggie is skeptical, and Cyrus backs up an inch or two.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

He was very genuine and sweet, and he said that he does like you and me, but that it was just getting intense and that he thought he maybe should slow down a bit so you don't get the wrong idea about his... intentions.

Cyrus finishes his Academy Award winning performance and watches Maggie.

And, Maggie watches him. She is very skeptical.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I mean, read the note, Mom.

Maggie takes a deep breath.

MAGGIE

Wow. I have to say I'm shocked, 'cos every signal he's given me so far... I mean, if this is true-

CYRUS

Wait, wait, wait. What do you mean "if it's true?"

A moment of silence. Maggie, still in a state of confusion, says nothing. Cyrus is visibly crushed now.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Are you... are you saying that I'm making this up?

MAGGIE

No. I'm just confused is all.

Cyrus gets up off the couch as if Maggie just admitted she was the Green River Killer.

CYRUS

Mom... are you calling me a liar?

MAGGIE

Cyrus, no. Not at all.

CYRUS

You're gonna believe him over me! Mom! You've only known him for a fucking week!

Cyrus is quickly melting down, and Maggie tries to contain him.

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED:

44

MAGGIE

Cyrus! Do not talk to me like that!

CYRUS

Me?! You're the one who's siding with
your little fuck buddy instead of your
own son!

Maggie SLAPS him.

And Cyrus loses it.

He pushes Maggie out of the way and heads out the front door,
running.

Maggie is left behind, a bit shocked. It all happened so
incredibly fast.

45

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

45 *

John microwaves a BURRITO, drinking a beer. His cell phone
rings. He jumps to answer it but sees RUSTY pop up on the
display. Upset, he ignores it. His burrito is ready, and John
grabs it. Taking a very hot bite, burning the roof of his
mouth. He goes back over to his cell phone, picks it up, and
chooses MAGGIE in his address book. He wants to dial. But, he
frowns and doesn't. The phone rings again. He assumes that it
is Rusty calling again. To his surprise the display reads
"MAGGIE CALLING". He does a "this is awesome" dance, but
pauses.

JOHN

No. "Slow." Be "Cool."

John takes another bite of his burrito answers his phone.
John clenches his fist, pumped.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(into phone)

I am so glad you called!

John listens to the phone, his face becomes a bit more
serious.

CUT TO:

A45

EXT. JOHN'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

A45 *

John's car PEELS OUT of the driveway.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

46

John knocks on the door. Maggie answers and immediately hugs him, distraught. He comforts her.

CUT TO:

47 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

47

Maggie is wrapped up in John's arms on the couch. They watch mindless TV.

Maggie checks her watch.

MAGGIE

I should have seen this coming. He was acting weird.

JOHN

This is not your fault.

MAGGIE

I'm his Mom. You're the first guy I've ever really dated. He... he wasn't ready.

(sitting up)

Maybe we should go look for him again.

JOHN

Maggie, he is fine. I'm telling you. We've called the police and the hospitals and we've looked for him. He will come back once he lets off some steam, okay? I don't want you to worry.

MAGGIE

He's been gone a long time.

JOHN

He'll be back soon.

Silence for a moment as Maggie looks up at John insecurely.

MAGGIE

You know, you don't have to stay here if you don't want to. John, in turn, is now insecure.

JOHN

Well... I don't mind, really. Unless you want me to go?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

I just don't want you to feel obligated
or anything.

JOHN

I don't feel obligated, but-

Just then, the DOOR OPENS and Cyrus walks in. He is cool,
calm, collected.

Maggie races for the door and hugs him close. He is a bit
cold, and does not readily return the embrace.

Cyrus looks at John. He is dark now.

MAGGIE

Thank God you're okay. Don't ever do
that to me again.

CYRUS

Mom, let's sit, okay?

Cyrus breaks from the embrace and leads his mom to the couch.
John gets up and gives them their space.

JOHN

Would you guys like to be alone?

CYRUS

No. This concerns you. You should stay.

John remains standing and Cyrus turns back to Maggie.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I don't want this to be emotional. I've
decided to move out.

MAGGIE

What?

CYRUS

Mom. Please don't interrupt me so I can
get through this. I don't want to
fight, I don't want to argue. I've made
up my mind and I just need to say it.

John is studying Cyrus here. There is something strange. Not
fully sincere about what he's doing.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I'm almost 20 years old and I think
it's time for us to move on.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I need to be with people my own age so
I can develop like I'm supposed to. So,
that's what I'm doing.

Maggie is very confused and overwhelmed.

MAGGIE

Well, let's just take it one step at a
time-

CYRUS

I rented a room.

MAGGIE

What?

CYRUS

I found a group of musicians, like me,
on Craigslist and I'm renting a room in
their house. It'll be good for both of
us. Okay?

Cyrus leans back and looks at John.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Besides, you've got John now. And you
guys need space to let your
relationship flourish.

Cyrus gets up.

Maggie is practically in shock.

MAGGIE

I don't know what to say... this is all
so sudden. Are you sure you're not just
angry? Shouldn't we wait a minute
before we make such a big decision?

CYRUS

I'm not angry. I've thought about it
all day. This will be best for all of
us. You'll see.

John can't help but chime in.

JOHN

Guys, I feel... I feel terrible. I feel
like I'm causing all of this-

CYRUS

John, please. It's okay.

(CONTINUED)

Cyrus looks around and smiles a bit.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
You guys are so serious. This is no big deal. A natural evolution of things. It's all gonna be fine.

Cyrus heads for the front door.

MAGGIE
Where are you going?

CYRUS
I'm painting my room tonight. I'm coming over with a truck tomorrow morning to get the rest of my things. Can you pack them up for me?

Maggie stands there, still in shock.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Please? It'll be easier that way.

MAGGIE
Um. Okay?

Cyrus reaches the door and Maggie runs over and gives him another hug. She won't let go. It gets quite emotional for a second for the two of them, but Cyrus breaks it off and regains his game face.

CYRUS
Tell you what, let's take a little time off to let the dust settle, but maybe we can all have dinner in a couple of weeks, okay?

Cyrus kisses his Mom's forehead and heads out the door. She just stands there and watches the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

It's completely dark.

Only the sounds of sniffing can be heard.

CLICK. The light comes on and John is laying on his side, a crying Maggie faced away from him.

JOHN
Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

No. I'm not.

JOHN

Come here.

John tries to comfort her, but she is resistant.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It's gonna be okay. Maybe this is all
for the best.

MAGGIE

You don't understand, okay? You
really... you just don't get it.

JOHN

Okay, okay. Sorry.

The grumpiness is settling in now.

MAGGIE

I can't live alone in this house. I
can't. Everywhere I look, I just see
Cyrus. Crawling on the living room
carpet. Learning to read on my lap in
this bed. I... I can't be here by
myself.

John doesn't know what to say.

JOHN

It will be okay.

MAGGIE

Please stop saying that.

JOHN

Okay.

MAGGIE

Let's just try to go back to sleep.

JOHN

Okay.

John clicks off the light again.

MAGGIE

Can I ask you a favor?

JOHN

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

48

CONTINUED:

48

MAGGIE

I don't think I can watch him move out.
Could you help pack up his stuff for
me? I have work anyway.

JOHN

Sure. Okay. No problem.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

It's quiet for a bit.

Then, more sniffing.

49

EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

49

John's car is out front, but Maggie's is gone.

50

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CYRUS' ROOM - MORNING

50

John has most of Cyrus' room all packed up into BROWN BOXES.
He's just digging through the last of the items tucked away
in the closet.

He reaches up high, but can't quite get there. He turns over
a trash can and stands on it, seeing something that piques
his interest.

John steps down with a pair of MEN'S DRESS SHOES. He stares
at them in wonder.

JOHN

What the fuck...

John quickly grabs a grocery bag and stuffs the shoes in
there.

CUT TO:

51

EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LATER

51

John waits on the front porch as Cyrus drives up in a U-Haul
truck. John waves to him and Cyrus waves back, all smiles.

CUT TO:

52

INT/EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LATER

52

Cyrus and John carry a heavy box into the truck. It's already
mostly packed up.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
You got it?

CYRUS
Yep. Okay, now lift up... now.

They toss it into the truck and take a quick breather. The silence is thick and awkward.

JOHN
So, you think maybe you were a little hard on your mom last night?

CYRUS
No. I honestly don't. It wasn't an emotional thing.

JOHN
Yeah, but... wasn't there a small part of you that wanted her to feel guilty?

CYRUS
John, I'm not like that. I wouldn't do that.

JOHN
Okay. Fair enough.

They tie down the last box with bungee cords.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Well. That's the last of it.

CYRUS
Yep.

JOHN
Not too late to change your mind, you know?

Cyrus makes his way around to the driver's seat of the truck and hops in.

John leans in the window.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You should call your mom back. She's left you quite a few messages. She really misses you.

CYRUS
I will. Eventually.

(CONTINUED)

Cyrus starts up the car and puts it in gear, but right before he pulls off...

JOHN

Oh, I forgot to tell you. I ended up finding my missing shoes the other day.

Cyrus shoots John a quick, blank stare.

John studies Cyrus.

Cyrus studies John.

It's like a gunslinger showdown.

CYRUS

Oh yeah? Where were they?

JOHN

Oh, you know... just hanging around.

More staring.

CYRUS

Cool.

JOHN

Yeah. Cool. Things always turn up.

CYRUS

Right.

The staring is intense. Something has shifted between these two.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Well, see you around.

JOHN

Okay. See you.

John watches Cyrus drive a long way down the street.

Jamie works with a different EDITOR and John bursts through the door.

JAMIE

Well, five hours late... not bad. You know, just 'cos we were married doesn't mean I can't fire you.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
He did it. He stole the shoes.

JAMIE
What?

JOHN
It's getting really weird, Jamie. I think this little fucker might be crazy. Like, really crazy. We gotta talk.

JAMIE
John, I have a deadline and then I have to meet Tim to pick out the reception flowers in ten minutes.

JOHN
I'm sorry. I know. But, it's an emergency!

Jamie considers this.

54 INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

54

Jamie and Tim browse the aisles of this serene, peaceful flower shop. John tags along, stressed, completely ruining the vibe.

Tim is visibly annoyed.

JOHN
The worst part is, he's creating this masterminded guilt trip on Maggie that's eventually going to destroy me.

TIM
Fascinating.

JOHN
Don't you guys, see? By saying he's leaving because of me, it makes ME the bad guy and will ultimately make Maggie have to weigh her relationship with me verses her relationship with Cyrus. And, she'll pick him. He's her son. And he knows it, and that's why he's playing it this way. It's fucking brilliant.

Tim looks at Jamie, waiting for her to say something.

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE

(to Tim)

Why you don't go look at the Hydrangeas
and I'll be right there, Sweetheart.

TIM

(sarcastic)

Sure thing. Not like the wedding's in
less than three weeks and we need to
get this done or anything.

Tim leaves, a little miffed.

JAMIE

Okay. John. I know I always say this,
so don't get mad-

JOHN

I'm not over-thinking this one!!

The flower shop patrons stare at John's outburst.

JAMIE

Alright, alright, calm down.

JOHN

He's an evil little genius. This WHOLE
time he was bringing me in, being nice
to me, trying to get me to trust him,
so he could turn around and fuck me...

John thinks about this. He's getting really worked up now.
Jamie is not so patient with this side of John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna need to take some proactive
steps here or else I'm history.
Maggie's already miserable since he
left. She's getting grumpy with me. I'm
not gonna last long.

John thinks hard as Jamie rolls her eyes.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It's crazy. I feel like I'm in a Bond
movie. I was literally about to say, in
all seriousness...

(villain voice)

"If I'm gonna beat him, I've gotta
start thinking like him."

John looks up at Jamie, laughing.

(CONTINUED)

Then, he stops laughing.

A light bulb may have just gone off for John.

JAMIE
What?

JOHN
I got something. I got something good.
Is that tech guy Rusty still looking
for a place?

JAMIE
Dare I ask why?

John smiles.

JOHN
Daddy's got an idea.

55 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 55

Maggie walks up to the front door and, just before she can
put her key in the door, it OPENS.

John peers at her with a deadpan face from behind the door.

JOHN
Are you here for the 8pm screening?

Maggie knows he's up to something.

MAGGIE
Um... sure.

JOHN
Wonderful. Tonight's film comes from a
sexy, cutting edge, hot-ass filmmaker
named John. It's entitled... "The life
and times of Maggie, John, and Cyrus."
Please, come in.

56 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 56

John, dressed in a SUIT, lets her in. The place is
romantically lit with candles, and there is a large HD
MONITOR where her old, crappy TV used to be.

John sits her on the couch, which has been rearranged for
optimal viewing.

He hands her a box of POPCORN, some JUNIOR MINTS, and a SODA.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
(still deadpan)
Your date will be right with you.

John heads down the hall with a stiff butler's walk and immediately comes back with Jacket and tie off, shirt unbuttoned, and hair tussled up.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Hey, babe.

MAGGIE
What is this?

JOHN
Patience, patience.

He plops on the couch next to her and presses PLAY on the remote. He DIMS the LIGHTS as well.

TV (O.S.)
In a land of eternal beauty...

Maggie laughs as she recognizes JOHN'S VOICE, mimicking the overly serious movie voice-over guy.

TV (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*One man had the courage... to hit on
the hot girl who was way out of his
league. Her name... was Maggie.*

The MUSIC kicks in and we get to see the TV screen now:

A POORLY ANIMATED FILM, with voice over and titles, illustrating the history of Maggie and John's relationship. It starts at the party where they met and then leads to the bedroom as we see a hilarious, lo-fi rendition of their first lovemaking session.

Maggie cracks up, loving it. John is proud of himself.

MAGGIE
This is awesome!

Suddenly, the music turns OMINOUS.

TV (O.S.)
*All was going well. But, something went
wrong. When Cyrus left, things got hard
for Maggie - which is totally
understandable and natural by the way.
Luckily, John is brilliant and he came
up with a plan.*

(CONTINUED)

Maggie looks to John now, curious.

JOHN
Just keep watching.

On the TV:

TV
Maggie didn't want to be alone. John wanted to be with Maggie. So, what if he rented out his apartment to Rusty the editor and moved in with her? He presented the full idea to Maggie in a brilliant, winning, film.

The TV shows an animated scene of John and Maggie watching a TV, exactly what they are doing in real life now.

TV (CONT'D)
Maggie agreed, and didn't at all think it forward that John was basically asking to move in with her, 'cos she realized he would have asked her to move into his place except it's too small. She was also smart enough to see how they could use all the money they were saving on rent to travel, and do all kinds of fun, new things together as a couple. And, how they needed to take the next step in their relationship.

Back in real life, John watches Maggie watch the screen. He tries to gauge her reaction.

TV (CONT'D)
And When Cyrus heard about the idea, he fully supported it because deep down he wants to see his mother flourish. And, in a few weeks, everything was back to normal. And, they all... lived... happily ever after.

Big applause can be heard from the TV as the music and images all climax together for the finale.

John, nervous, but still proud, turns off the TV and turns to Maggie.

She looks at John, sincerely.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

I can't believe you made a movie for me.

Maggie's eyes well up with tears. John feels his success.

JOHN

Well, what do you think of my idea? I'm serious. It's fun, it's practical, it solves a lot of our issues right now.

Maggie's crying becomes more intense.

MAGGIE

I miss him so much. He won't return my calls. I don't know what to do.

Maggie melts into John's arms, a bit hopeless.

JOHN

This is gonna be fine. You're having empty nest feelings. All mothers have them when their kids leave home, okay? It's perfectly natural. Just know that this change is healthy for everyone.

MAGGIE

He's just a little boy, though.

John sees his moment and he takes it, grabbing Maggie by the shoulders.

JOHN

Listen to me. I really think we met at the perfect time. Don't you think it's crazy that we met right when Cyrus was ready to assert his independence? I mean, come on... it's like fate. I believe in us. I want to be with you. I want to... grow our relationship. Together. Okay?

MAGGIE

I'm so shocked you even still want to be with me. I've been so grumpy lately.

JOHN

No. Not at all. I thought maybe you were getting sick of me.

MAGGIE

No, no, no. I love having you here. It's so nice having you.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

So, what do you say? Wanna... join
forces here? Take the next step?

Maggie thinks about this.

MAGGIE

If do this, you're gonna have to make a
big effort with Cyrus, okay?

JOHN

What do you mean?

Maggie looks at John knowingly.

MAGGIE

I'm not stupid. I can see there's a
little... well, I don't want to say
competition, but...

Maggie checks in on John. John doesn't admit it, he just
listens.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

You're gonna have to make a big effort
to make it work, 'cos he's gonna feel
threatened.

JOHN

Absolutely. I will do whatever it
takes.

Maggie takes a deep breath.

MAGGIE

Okay.

JOHN

Okay... as in....

MAGGIE

Let's do it.

JOHN

Really?

MAGGIE

Yes. Let's do this. Let's take the next
step.

John smiles big and genuine for her. She kisses him,
passionately. They are connected now.

(CONTINUED)

56

CONTINUED:

56

JOHN

This is gonna be awesome.

MONTAGE:

The happy music plays.

57

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY

57

John signs some PAPERS and hands the keys to his house to RUSTY.

58

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

58 *

Maggie cleans up her house. She empties a few dresser drawers to make room for John's clothes.

*
*

59

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CYRUS' ROOM - DAY

59 *

John and Maggie move some of his office equipment into Cyrus' room.

A59

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DUSK

A59

John and Maggie share a nice, comfortable stroll on their way to dinner. The sun sets behind the palm trees and the LA skyline as they hold hands. A nice, quiet, pretty moment.

*
*

60

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

60

Maggie and John have a nice dinner, amidst a crowd of similar happy couples. They laugh and have a good time.

End Montage.

A60

EXT. CYRUS PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

A60 *

All is not quiet. It is loud. There is a party going on there.

*
*

61

INT. CYRUS PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

61 *

A party is underway.

A group of hipsters, all in their late teens/early twenties, flood this rundown rental home. The COLD WAR KIDS play, loudly, on the radio.

One kid has shaved the perfect male pattern baldness into his head.

Another girl wears a thrift store ROTC uniform and a faux hawk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They both eat fun dip.

Everyone here is very, very ironic and cool.

(CONTINUED)

61

CONTINUED:

61

And then, there's CYRUS. He wears a plain golf shirt and some basic Levi's jeans.

He cruises the party with a beer in his hand. A full beer. He couldn't stick out more.

He looks around for a connection, but finds none. Eventually, he makes his way to the end of the room.

Not sure what to do, he turns around, and comes right back to the other side of the room.

He doesn't talk to anyone.

CUT TO:

62

INT. CYRUS PARTY HOUSE - CYRUS' ROOM - NIGHT

62 *

Cyrus sits alone in his new room. His bed is set up and there is a pile of boxes. All that is set up is his music gear.

He noodles on his keyboard, beer still full, as the party rages in the other room.

DUDE (O.S.)

Sorry, dude.

Cyrus turns to see a thin DUDE standing in the doorway, really drunk, with his shirt off.

DUDE (CONT'D)

Can I borrow your room for a little bit?

CYRUS

Um... I'm kind of busy.

Just then, a DRUNK GIRL walks into the doorway, also not wearing a shirt. She puts her arm around the dude.

DUDE

Please?

CUT TO:

63

INT. CYRUS PARTY HOUSE - LATER

63 *

Cyrus cruises the party again, looking for a connection. He accidentally bumps into a group of people.

CYRUS

Sorry, guys.

(CONTINUED)

One STONER takes a look at Cyrus and then smiles.

 STONER
Love the jeans. It's like, Target 2004.
The whole outfit is fucking perfect.
You nailed it.

Cyrus is not sure how to take this.

 CYRUS
Thanks.

The STONER offers Cyrus the joint.

 CYRUS (CONT'D)
Nah, I'm good.

The Stoner immediately distrusts Cyrus and turns cold. Cyrus, sensing he's losing a chance, changes his mind.

 CYRUS (CONT'D)
Just kidding. Hook me up.

Cyrus takes a long drag of the doober and, surprisingly, doesn't cough.

He gives them a smile, walks off, and COUGHS his brains out.

The stoners laugh at him and Cyrus hears it.

CUT TO:

64 EXT. CYRUS PARTY HOUSE - BACKYARD - LATER

64 *

Cyrus now cruises the backyard. He is wobbly, vision a bit blurred.

The music is LOUD.

Then, he sees a GIRL. A cute girl. A girl who looks quite a bit like someone we know. She is cool, confident, and in the midst of flirting with a few hot, cool guys. Totally out of Cyrus' league.

Cyrus marches right up to her.

 CYRUS
Hi. I'm Cyrus.

She looks at him, taking him in.

 GIRL
Hello, Cyrus.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

You like a lot like my Mom. That's a
good thing.

The girl smiles, seemingly charmed.

GIRL

Right on.

The guys around her eye down Cyrus, not friendly. But, Cyrus
is encouraged and keeps going.

CYRUS

Would you like to hang out with me?
Tonight?

GIRL

I don't know. What are we gonna do?

Cyrus is beginning to get nervous now. Her friends are
laughing at him, and he's not sure what's happening.

CYRUS

I don't know. Just, like... hang out.

GIRL

(teasing him)
And, do what, Cyrus?

A bead of sweat drips from Cyrus' temple.

Suddenly, the sound of the music begins to distort.

As does Cyrus' view of the Girl.

The sound of Cyrus' heart begins to POUND. Louder, and
faster, eventually taking over the sound of the distorted
music.

We get a good look at Cyrus' face now. He looks sweaty and
terrified.

Then, Cyrus begins to hyperventilate.

CYRUS

I can't... breathe. I can't... I think
I'm... dying.

Cyrus reaches out for the girl, in a panic.

GIRL

Get off of me, freak!

(CONTINUED)

The guys immediately step in and push Cyrus away.

The heart beats louder. Faster.

Cyrus sweats.

CYRUS
Help me. Somebody help me!

Cyrus is making a scene now.

He drops to his knees and VOMITS.

One of the Stoner guys cheers for him, but a few others see he is in real trouble and come to his side.

CUT TO:

A64 EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A64

A wide shot of the hospital's Emergency Medical Center.

65 INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

65

Cyrus, pale and exhausted, sits with his shirt off on an examination table in this brightly lit neon hospital room.

An older MALE DOCTOR scribbles on his pad.

DOCTOR
You had a panic attack. I assume you haven't had one before?

CYRUS
No.

DOCTOR
Well. They're not that uncommon. Particularly for young people like yourself moving away from home, going to college, that kind of thing.

He tears the paper from the pad and hands it to Cyrus.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Here's a prescription for Xanax. Take one of these if you start feeling any symptoms...

The doctor trails off as he notices Cyrus CRYING, face in his hands.

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
You're gonna be okay. Maybe you could
talk to someone?

CYRUS
I stole those quarters. I never told
her.

DOCTOR
I'm sorry?

Cyrus looks, up, and we see him truly vulnerable for the
first time.

CYRUS
She asked me if I took them, and I
lied. I said... something, like, I
hadn't seen them. But, I had. I stole
them. I was old enough to know it was
wrong. I never told her that... I lied
to her...

Cyrus breaks at the thought of it.

The Doctor stands there, awkwardly. He clearly didn't mean
Cyrus could talk to him.

DOCTOR
Well, if you have any other issues just
call the office-

CYRUS
I miss her. I miss her so much. I... I
pushed her. I tried to manipulate
her... and him. I thought for sure
she'd just get rid of him. But, maybe
she really likes him. I think I've been
really... really... terrible.

Cyrus breaks again. He is such a miserable little lump, he
actually inspires sympathy from the rather apathetic doctor.

DOCTOR
Who?

CYRUS
My Mom.

DOCTOR
Do you want to see her?

Cyrus looks up.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS
Yes. But, I can't.

DOCTOR
Why not?

CYRUS
I'm ashamed of myself and the things I
did.

DOCTOR
She's your Mother. She'll understand.
Just apologize.

CYRUS
Really?

DOCTOR
Yes. Of course. Cyrus considers this.

A65 INT. BUS - NIGHT A65 *

Cyrus rides the empty bus, pensive. (Shoot Cyrus rehearsing *
the letter here as well). *

66 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 66

It's late, and Cyrus walks up the street to his old home. He *
holds a LETTER carefully in his hands. *

CYRUS *
"... I was testing you, and it was *
immature, and I was being *
manipulative, and I'm sorry." *

He notices that Maggie's car is outside, and John's is not. *

Cyrus folds up the letter, puts in his pocket, takes a deep *
breath, and KNOCKS on the door. *

He waits patiently. There is no answer.

He knocks again.

No answer.

67 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 67

Cyrus enters the dark house.

CYRUS
Hello?

(CONTINUED)

67

CONTINUED:

67

No answer.

Cyrus flips on a lamp and sees that no one is home.

He walks down the hallway and opens the door to his room.

68

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CYRUS' ROOM - NIGHT

68 *

Cyrus sees that his room has turned into John's little sanctuary. An EDITING station, some USC PENNANTS, and a bad, bad RECLINER.

And, everything on Cyrus' face changes. The vulnerability goes away and turns to a twisted form of rage.

Cyrus takes his own LETTER from his pocket and stares at it for a second.

Then, he tears it up.

CUT TO:

69

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

69 *

The door opens into the dark house and a noticeably DRUNK Maggie and John come stumbling through the door.

They make out. Sloppy and fun.

Maggie takes a break and takes off her jacket, giving John the bedroom eyes.

JOHN

What?

MAGGIE

Come here, stud.

Maggie reaches for John's pants and begins to unbuckle them.

JOHN

Right here?

MAGGIE

Why not? We're all alone now.

(screaming)

I wanna get fucked!

John's eyes pop out of his head. But, he loves it.

JOHN

Maggie... you slut!

(CONTINUED)

Maggie giggles, a little embarrassed at her outburst. But, she seems to be enjoying the freedom.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Well, that's one benefit to Cyrus being gone. You see? It's not all bad-

CYRUS (O.S.)
Hi, guys.

Cyrus flicks on the LAMP.

JOHN AND MAGGIE
Ahhhhh!

John flips around and grabs a FLOOR LAMP as a weapon, but trips in the process and hits the ground, SMASHING the lamp shade.

MAGGIE
Cyrus!

John is speechless.

CYRUS
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

Cyrus stares at John with a calm, collected look on his face.

John gathers himself, and hides his pantless legs with the lamp.

JOHN
You really scared me, bud. What are you doing here?

John is furious, and so is Cyrus.

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CYRUS' ROOM - NIGHT

Maggie closes the door behind her into Cyrus' empty room. Cyrus looks at her with that same calm, almost scary look on his face.

MAGGIE
Cyrus. I am... I am so sorry you had to see that. I've had a lot to drink and...

CYRUS
Mom...

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

That was not something you should have
seen or heard, and it was just really
bad timing...

CYRUS

Mom...

MAGGIE

I'm just really sorry...

Cyrus comes over to his Mom and gives her a big hug.

CYRUS

It's okay. I'm not mad.

MAGGIE

You're not?

CYRUS

No. I understand how this stuff works.

MAGGIE

You're not just saying that and trying
to be all grown up, are you?

CYRUS

No. I'm just really glad to see you.
Something really hard happened to me
tonight.

MAGGIE

What happened, sweetie?

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

John eavesdrops best he can on their conversation, but can
only hear inaudible mumbling.

He leans in closer to the door, but hears FOOTSTEPS.

He sprints gingerly down the hall and dives on the couch,
sitting upright, unfolding a MAGAZINE in his lap as if he has
been reading the entire time.

Maggie comes down the hall, emotional and tired.

MAGGIE

He wants to come home.

Ouch. But, John holds his game face.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Okay.

MAGGIE

He's been having panic attacks.

JOHN

Oh, no.

MAGGIE

Yeah. I feel awful.

Maggie sits next to John.

JOHN

It's not your fault.

MAGGIE

He... he's not ready for the real world yet. I knew it. I knew it in my gut. I shouldn't have let him go.

JOHN

Well... he is nineteen years old.

Maggie shoots John a disapproving look. He's on dangerous ground here.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Would it be okay if I talked to him for a bit?

MAGGIE

I'm not sure that's a good idea... after what he just saw.

JOHN

I just want to apologize and get us back on stable ground. Okay?

Maggie shrugs her shoulders and takes a sip of water, relaxing her shoulders.

72 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CYRUS' ROOM - NIGHT

72

Cyrus snoops around John's computer. He opens a folder just as the door creaks open. Cyrus immediately jumps onto the loveseat and puts on his sad, puppy dog face.

*
*

When he sees it's John, his face turns cold again.

JOHN

You can relax, it's just me.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS
How do you mean?

John walks straight to the closet, turns over the trash can, stands on it, and grabs the TRASH BAG. He removes his SHOES and throws them in Cyrus' lap.

Cyrus looks at the shoes, then at John.

JOHN
We should talk.

Cyrus calmly puts the shoes aside and stares at John with acid eyes. He stands up and walks calmly towards John, within inches of his nose. *

*

CYRUS
What the fuck are you doing with all your shit in my room? You are so in over your head. You have no idea what I'm capable of doing to you.

JOHN
Oh really? This is good. Now you're gonna be honest. I like this.

CYRUS
I was gonna come here and apologize to both of you... and actually be nice to you and try to work it out. 'Cos, admittedly, I was a little cruel to you. But now... after this shit you pulled. You just fucked yourself, John.

John laughs at this.

JOHN
Is that so? What are you gonna do, huh? Take my belt next? TP my house? Light a bag of shit on fire on my doorstep?

CYRUS
I'm not kidding you, John. I won't lose my mother. I will do what it takes.

JOHN
Do you realize what she'd say if she heard you right now?

CYRUS
And who's gonna tell her. You? Who do you think she's gonna believe, John?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Her son, who needs her more than ever
after his bout with anxiety and panic,
or the new guy who clearly wants her
kid out of the way.

John considers this for a moment.

JOHN

Now you listen to me, you little shit.
I've had enough of this. I'm here to
stay, and you better get used to the
idea.

CYRUS

You're entitled to your opinion, but I
can assure you that you're mistaken.

JOHN

We'll see. But, let me warn you, if you
get rough with me, I will... get rough
back.

CYRUS

I expect nothing less.

Just then, the door opens and Maggie comes in.

Both boys now jump onto the loveseat, jammed in together.
Cyrus pouts and John leans on his elbow, a look of paternal
concern on his face.

*
*
*

MAGGIE

Everything okay?

CYRUS

Yep. I'm feeling a little panicky, but
I was just telling John how glad I am
to have you guys around me right now.

Maggie looks to John, utterly guilt-ridden.

JOHN

(to Cyrus)

Well, these anxious feelings are just
temporary. I'm sure they'll pass soon
enough and you'll be back on your feet
in no time at all.

Maggie looks at Cyrus, who nails her back with a helpless
puppy dog face. Then, Cyrus looks up at John.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

It's so weird. Every time I think of going back to that house it makes me all fluttery and nauseous.

MAGGIE

You don't have to go back there if you don't want to, Sweetie.

John's face instantaneously ages ten years. He knows what's coming. He swallows his heart back down. He hatches a quick plan.

JOHN

You know. I never told anyone this, but... I used to get panic attacks when I was your age.

MAGGIE

You did?

JOHN

Yeah. I did.

CYRUS

Did you have a good family to help you through it?

JOHN

You know, I didn't.

CYRUS

Wow. I don't know how you could do that alone.

JOHN

Well, the thing is.... I almost quit college. But I stayed in there, and I toughed it out, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. That alone time really made me who I am today.

John looks to Maggie to check his boundaries.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And, I just think, this could be that time in your life where you turn from a boy into a man. Where you face your problems, head on, and don't hide away from them.

Cyrus considers this, then looks up at John with amazing vulnerability. This kid is good.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

Do you guys not want me to come back home? If so, just say it and I'll totally find another place. Or, something. I'll figure it out.

MAGGIE

He's not saying that, Cyrus.

JOHN

No, not at all. I just think you should think it over before you make a decision you might regret.

CYRUS

I... I really want to come back home. Are you okay with that, John?

John considers this for a long while and then forces a painful, painful smile for Cyrus.

Cyrus leans over and hugs John.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Thank you, John. You're an amazingly selfless guy.

John gives the little monster some patting on the back. He knows he has lost.

73 INT. JAMIES HOUSE - DAY

73

Jamie makes out the Wedding Table NAME CARDS in perfect calligraphy as John lays on the floor like a slab of meat.

JOHN

I'm so fucked.

JAMIE

Do you think maybe it's time you just had a conversation with these people? Out in the open, fully honest, all three of you. Just air things out?

JOHN

I can't do that. If I do that, the whole shithouse is gonna come crashing down. Trust me.

JAMIE

Well, maybe that's what needs to happen, then. If the truth is that damaging, maybe it should come out.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

No. I disagree. Maggie and I have a good thing. We can make this work.

JAMIE

I don't get it. One part of you is telling me you love this woman, and the other part is telling me you have to play all these games just to keep the relationship afloat.

JOHN

It's just Cyrus. That's our only issue. She's just SO sensitive whenever we talk about him. It's the one place we can't really communicate. It sucks!

JAMIE

I still think you need to tell her what's going on and how you feel. It's the only way.

John stares at the ceiling for a moment.

JOHN

If I tell you something, will you promise not to make fun of me?

JAMIE

No.

JOHN

Come on. I'm being serious.

Jamie waits for him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

This is really hard, but... there's a part of me that really just doesn't want to mess anything up with Maggie before your wedding this weekend.

JAMIE

Why?

JOHN

Well. You're just so... well adjusted, and happy, and you're always counseling me and shit. All of our friends just think I'm this lump who can't do anything right.

John sits up.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (CONT'D)

And, I really want to show up at your wedding with a beautiful date, all shaven and dressed up, and show them I'm not... that lumpy, you know?

Jamie is touched by this.

JAMIE

John, come here.

She gives him a motherly hug.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

You're not that lumpy.

John is about to cry, but he breaks off and gathers himself.

JOHN

And, who knows, you know? Weddings are so romantic and magical, maybe it'll get Maggie all lovey dovey with me again. And, I don't know, maybe Cyrus is just extra mad right now and he'll calm down soon. He said he was gonna try to make it work with me before he found out I stole his room. I really believed him, too.

John gives her a hopeful puppy dog face.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It could work out, right?

Jamie shrugs her shoulders.

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The sound of Cyrus' WORLD MUSIC can be heard from down the hall.

John and Maggie get ready for bed. All of John's possessions have been put to the side of his bed. The door is OPEN again, and the mood has no sex, no fun, and no spark.

Cyrus pops in the door frame.

CYRUS

G'night, guys.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
Goodnight. Feeling better?

CYRUS
Yeah.

Cyrus leaves the doorframe, but quickly pops back in.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Oh, John. I forgot to ask you. You
don't by any chance have an extra tie I
could borrow, do you?

John looks up, genuinely confused.

JOHN
What?

CYRUS
A tie? I'd like to look nice... for the
wedding tomorrow.

John's eyes pop out of his head, and he quickly looks at
Maggie.

JOHN
Um...

CYRUS
No big deal. Just, if you have one.
'Night guys.

And Cyrus leaves a very stunned John.

JOHN
So, I didn't know Cyrus was... planning
on coming tomorrow.

MAGGIE
Well, I think he's still feeling a
little strange and... he likes being
around people right now, so...

Maggie sees John's stricken face.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Why? Is that a problem?

JOHN
No. Not a problem. I just... thought it
would be nice to go as just the two of
us. That's all.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Well, he needs me right now, so I'm going to be there for him. Okay?

JOHN

I see what you mean. Definitely. I just...

John is getting dangerously close to spilling the beans here.

MAGGIE

Just... what?

Just then Cyrus comes back out into the hall and looks at John. Maggie has her back to the hall and cannot see him. John can see him out of the corner of his eye.

Cyrus smiles big and puts up his fists. He throws a mock jab at John.

JOHN

How do I say this... is there any part of you that thinks it's maybe possible that Cyrus is... not... one hundred percent... genuine?

Maggie is immediately taken aback.

MAGGIE

(defensive)

How do you mean?

JOHN

Well. I'm sure he's having a hard time and all right now, but...

John stops, not only choosing his words carefully, but also distracted by the image of Cyrus performing a mock SUPLEX with John's imaginary head in a headlock.

MAGGIE

But what?

John quickly grabs Maggie's shoulders to turn her around, but Cyrus DIVES out of the way into his room just in time to avoid her glance.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

JOHN

There was a... horsefly or something by your neck.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

You're being really weird right now.
What's going on?

JOHN

Sorry. All I'm saying is... Does it not
seem a little... over the top? The way
he's been acting since he got home?

MAGGIE

Acting?

JOHN

Behaving, I mean...

Maggie takes a breath and squints at John.

MAGGIE

John, this is my son we're talking
about. Let's be very careful and very
clear here. What are you trying to say?

John as well takes a breath.

He notices CYRUS' ARM reaching out the room, FLICKING OFF
John.

JOHN

Hang on a second.

John digs through one of his boxes of belongings and
retrieves the SHOES.

He places them in Maggie's lap.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I finally found them. In the top of
Cyrus' closet. Hidden.

(pause)

Intentionally.

Maggie looks at John's shoes and looks at John.

MAGGIE

So, you think Cyrus took your shoes?

JOHN

I know he took my shoes.

Maggie thinks about for a bit.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

And, let's say he did. What exactly would that mean?

JOHN

I think that Cyrus may feel threatened by me-

MAGGIE

Well, I'm sure he does, a little bit. That's only natural.

JOHN

I agree, that is natural. But, I think he may be... acting out a bit... with this... behavior.

MAGGIE

So, you think he's faking? The panic attacks? All of that?

JOHN

I'm not saying that exactly. I'm just saying, Cyrus' desire to come to this wedding tomorrow might be in line with his desire to... disturb the natural course of our relationship.

Maggie stares at the shoes, then back at John.

MAGGIE

Wow. How long have you felt this way?

JOHN

I don't know. It's been... building a bit. The shoes really took it up a notch.

Maggie shakes her head, taking it all in.

MAGGIE

Let me ask you this. Do you think there's a chance that you're building a lot of this up in your head because you don't want Cyrus around as much as he is?

John is silent.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I don't know what you thought was going to happen when you moved in here, but you're going to have to realize that Cyrus is my son. He's not going to disappear, okay?

JOHN

No, it's not like that at all. I just wanted to... bring up some thoughts I had, just in case.

MAGGIE

Well, maybe we should all talk about it then. Do you want me to bring Cyrus out here?

JOHN

No, no, no. Let's not stress him out anymore. I'm sorry. It's me. I'm just being selfish and closed-minded. It's all gonna be fine.

MAGGIE

You're sure? This is very important, John.

JOHN

I'm sure. I'm sorry. You're right. Let's just... go the wedding and have a good time.

(pause)

Seriously.

(pause)

Honestly.

John reaches out for her hand and she gives it to him, but she is not happy with him.

All is quiet.

Maggie is asleep.

John is not. He is stressed and wide awake.

He gets up and carefully tiptoes out of bed so as not to wake her.

He heads out the door...

77 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 77

... Down the hall...

78 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CYRUS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS 78

... And opens the door into Cyrus' room.

Cyrus is sound asleep in his sleeping bag on the floor.

John tiptoes across the room and sits right next to Cyrus. He watches him sleep for a bit.

Then, John leans in to within an inch of Cyrus' face and simply stares at him.

Cyrus is unaware... until he is aware.

CYRUS

Ahhh!

Cyrus' yell scares John, who quickly puts his hand over Cyrus' mouth. This scares Cyrus even more. Which in turns scares John again.

JOHN

Shhhh...

(whispering)

Quiet!

CYRUS

What the fuck are you doing? You trying to strangle me?

JOHN

Shut up and listen, you little turd. I know what you're thinking. I know why you're coming to this wedding.

CYRUS

Of course you do. You're not that dumb.

JOHN

Uh huh. So, let me be honest with you. This wedding is very important to me. My ex-wife is important to me. And, looking good in front of my old friends is important to me. So, granted, tomorrow is a great opportunity for someone like you who is trying to destroy someone like me.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

I agree.

JOHN

That being said. If I see anything weird happening. If I even get a hunch that you're starting to *think* of pulling something... make no mistake about it. You will be unconscious before you finish that thought. Do I make myself clear?

CYRUS

Crystal, sir.

JOHN

Good. Then, I look forward to having a wonderful day with you tomorrow.

CYRUS

Likewise.

John stands up and backs away from Cyrus as he heads for the door, and he and Cyrus stare each other down the whole way... a pause at the last second. Then John shuts the door firmly.

79 EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - DAY

79

It's a beautiful and bright sunny day.

John is nervously fixing his hair inside of his tiny car as Maggie and Cyrus walk out of the house and get into the car. Everyone is dressed to the nines, but no one's talking.

80 INT. JOHN'S CAR - DAY

80

John drives, Maggie in the passenger seat, Cyrus in the back. EARLY 90's PEABO BRYSON emanates from the radio.

They maintain "pleasant" smiles on their faces, but still no talking.

Things are a little tense.

81 EXT. CHURCH - DAY

81

The threesome get out of the car near the Church. A guy nearby (ROGER, John's age) is unloading a large box of wedding rice bags, and calls out to John...

ROGER

Hey John, can you give me a hand with this?

(CONTINUED)

John checks in with Maggie.

JOHN
I'll be right back, okay?

MAGGIE
Of course.

John joins Roger and helps him unload the box towards the front of the church.

JOHN
Hey, Roger. How're you doing?

ROGER
I'm good. I'm good. You look... great.

JOHN
Thanks.

ROGER
So... Jamie said you've been dating someone? Kinda serious?

John looks over to his car and motions toward Maggie, who is conversing casually with Cyrus.

Roger is clearly impressed.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Nice work, John.

Back on Maggie and Cyrus, as Maggie helps clean Cyrus up a bit.

MAGGIE
So, you're feeling up for this?

CYRUS
Sure. Why do you ask?

MAGGIE
Weddings can be stressful... a lot of socializing and all. And, I'm sure you know this is a big day for John, right?

CYRUS
(suspicious)
I know that.

MAGGIE
Okay. Just checking in.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (O.S.)
Hey guys, come meet my friend Roger.

CUT TO:

82 INT. CHURCH - DAY

82

John, Maggie, and Cyrus sit together in a pew, watching the ceremony take place. Maggie sits between the two boys.

Tim and Jamie stand before each other at the altar and the pastor reads their vows.

There is something about the music, the church, the lighting. It is a very beautiful, very meditative, serene process.

Jamie and Tim repeat after the pastor.

From this day on, I choose you to be mine. To live with you and laugh with you; to stand by your side, and sleep in your arms...

John looks at Maggie and she looks forward, visibly touched.

To be joy to your heart, and food for your soul; to bring out the best in you always...

Cyrus leans forward and watches John and Maggie closely now. They both watch the ceremony.

I promise to laugh with you in good times, to struggle with you in bad; to mirror you with my soul; to share with you all my riches and honors...

Maggie is now teary-eyed, and John and Cyrus both look at her. John, as well, is clearly moved by the ceremony.

To play with you as much as I can until we grow old; and, still loving each other sweetly and gladly, our lives shall come to an end...

Jamie and Tim reach out for each other and hold hands. And, as they do, something momentous happens... MAGGIE reaches over and puts her hand inside of JOHN'S HAND.

And, Cyrus sees it happen.

It is a small gesture, but it couldn't be bigger.

Cyrus' face turns white as he sees his mother turn away from him and toward John in this pivotal emotional moment for her.

(CONTINUED)

82

CONTINUED:

82

John receives her with a warm smile and then the moment passes, just as quickly as it happened.

Cyrus swallows big and looks absolutely sick.

CUT TO:

83

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - LATER

83

All the guests are eating, drinking, and dancing.

John, Maggie, and Cyrus sit at a table and have some food.

MAGGIE

That was... such a gorgeous ceremony. I just can't get over it.

JOHN

I know. They're in love. It's beautiful.

MAGGIE

It really is.

Cyrus is buried in his food, emotionally shut down.

Then, the DJ kicks in a special song... DON'T YOU WANT ME. Maggie recognizes it immediately.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(to John)

Uh oh. It's our song.

John looks over at Jamie who winks at him and smiles. He smiles back.

Maggie stands up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Come on boys, give an old lady a dance will you?

John stands up, but Cyrus stays seated.

CYRUS

I'm not a big dancer.

MAGGIE

Oh, come on. It'll be fun.

CYRUS

No, you guys go ahead. I'm gonna finish eating.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
(a little disappointed)
Okay.

She and John head for the floor and immediately get into the mood. They mouth the lyrics like they did at the party where they met.

Cyrus watches them the whole time.

He pushes his food away and reaches over to a nearby table and grabs a TUMBLER. He smells it, reels back in disgust, and then CHUGS it.

It's a bit of a shock, but Cyrus immediately looks around for another.

He finds a second TUMBLER, and chugs that as well.

CUT TO:

A83 INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - LATER

A83

Cyrus roams the reception, wobbly and drunk now. The place is full of happy couples having fun. He looks around, and John and Maggie are nowhere to be found.

CYRUS
(to a random stranger)
Have you seen Maggie and John?

STRANGER
Who?

Cyrus moves past him, stumbling into his shoulder a bit.

CYRUS
Mom?

He can't find her anywhere.

CUT TO:

B83 INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - LATER

B83

Cyrus searches a different area now.

CYRUS
Mom? Where are you?

He turns a corner and enters a room with FRENCH DOORS leading out onto a beautiful lawn. He looks out and sees John and Maggie, standing alone, talking and smiling.

(CONTINUED)

B83

CONTINUED:

B83

John takes her hand and fiddles with her fingers, gently. She loves it.

Cyrus watches them, heartbroken.

Then, John kisses her hand and leaves her for a moment, headed for a small OUTHOUSE nearby.

84

INT. OUTHOUSE - DAY

84

John comes into this tiny outhouse. It's basically a glorified port-a-potty. He checks himself in the mirror, proud and happy. Then, he unzips and starts to pee.

CLICK.

Cyrus opens the door, walks in and slams it behind him. John is not happy to see him.

JOHN

You wanna give me a second here, champ?

CYRUS

(slurring)

You're can't marry my Mom!

JOHN

What? Who said anything about marrying her. Come on, you're drunk. Get out of here.

CYRUS

I saw the way you were looking at her. This is not gonna happen, John. I'm telling you. You will never. Ever. Marry my mother.

Cyrus is starting to cry now. He is so vulnerable here.

JOHN

Cyrus. Do yourself a favor. Let me call you a cab. Go home, and sleep it off.

Then, Cyrus PUSHES John. Pretty hard.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Don't. Do that.

CYRUS

She's all I have! I'm not letting you take her away from me!

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Cyrus, you need to understand something-

CYRUS

No, you need to understand. No matter how hard you try with my Mother, no matter what you do, I will ALWAYS be here to stop you. Always!

John takes in this comment.

JOHN

I think you need to see a therapist, and work this out-

CYRUS

Just leave us alone! Please!

Cyrus pushes John again.

JOHN

I told you. Do not do that again. I'm trying to be nice and help you out here.

Cyrus pushes John a third time, really hard. John falls back and lands into the toilet, getting wet. Something clicks over in John.

A84

EXT. WEDDING RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

A84

Maggie talks with a wedding guest, but gets distracted by the sounds of GRUNTING.

She looks over toward the outhouse and it seems to be... moving back and forth?

MAGGIE

John? You okay in there?
(to wedding guest)
Excuse me a second.

Maggie takes a few steps toward the outhouse and then...

BAM!

The outhouse DOOR breaks off the hinges and Cyrus and John come tumbling out of the outhouse in a full-on BRAWL on the lawn.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

JOHN!

(CONTINUED)

A84 CONTINUED: A84

A84 She drops her drink and runs toward them. A84

Other guests are taking notice now, and it's creating quite a scene.

Maggie tries to break it up, but is quickly thrown off by their brute force.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Guys, Stop it! Stop it!

Cyrus kicks John in the gut and, instinctively, John rears back and CLOCKS Cyrus in the jaw, knocking him to the ground.

Maggie sees this and watches John stand up, ferocious, all of his pent up anger coming out now.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Stop it, John!

Before it can go any further, the SECURITY GUARDS separate the fight and drag off John and Cyrus, leaving Maggie alone.

She sits on the lawn, shocked and upset.

A more melancholy version of the score plays and transitions to...

85 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 85 *

Maggie sits on her bed for a long moment, thinking something over. Still a bit shocked.

She hears Cyrus walking down the hall.

MAGGIE
Cyrus, could you come in here, please?

Cyrus comes in, a little beaten up, and sits on the bed.

CYRUS
Yeah?

MAGGIE
How are you feeling?

CYRUS
I'm okay, considering. I'm glad he finally left.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Listen, Cyrus. Do you ever think... maybe... we're not... normal? Maybe the way I raised you wasn't right?

CYRUS

What? No, Mom. I'm proud of who we are.

MAGGIE

I know, but... You don't date. I don't date. We're not normal, well-adjusted people.

CYRUS

Did John put this stuff in your head? Clearly he's a maniac, so, don't worry about what he said.

MAGGIE

What John did today was inexcusable. But, I think he may be right about a few things.

CYRUS

(shocked)

What?

MAGGIE

I think he's a good man. Deep down. And I think... I want to try and make this work, but I'm gonna need you to try, too.

CYRUS

Mom, are you kidding? Did you see what he did to me today?

Maggie takes a deep breath.

MAGGIE

He said you stole his shoes. Is that true?

CYRUS

Mom. He's a liar, okay? Come on, I'm your son. Who are you gonna believe?

Maggie frowns, reaches under the bed, and pulls out JOHN'S SHOES.

Cyrus' face goes pale.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

I know you took them.

Cyrus laughs, a bit uncomfortable.

CYRUS

So what? It's a pair of shoes. Who cares?

MAGGIE

It means you lied to me. And now I know you've been lying, and manipulating me, and trying to get rid of John.

CYRUS

This is bullshit.

Cyrus gets up to run away, but Maggie grabs him.

MAGGIE

Look, I understand and I love you. It's okay. A lot of this is my fault...

But Cyrus has yanked free and is out the door.

A door SLAMS and LOCKS down the hall.

Maggie slumps and runs her hands through her hair. *

A85

EXT. WELL LIT STREET - NIGHT

A85 *

Maggie drives off to John's House. All is quiet. *

86

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

86

Maggie's HONDA pulls up in front of John's house. She stares at it for a moment.

87

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

87

John unfurls a SLEEPING BAG on the couch, as RUSTY hands him a pillow.

KNOCK KNOCK.

John peers out the window and sees MAGGIE standing there.

JOHN

(to Rusty)

It's... um... my friend Maggie.

RUSTY

Oh. Okay. I'll, uh, go in the bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Thanks, Rusty. Sorry. I appreciate you letting me crash until I figure this out.

RUSTY

No sweat, dude.

Rusty heads down the hall and John opens the door and lets her in.

MAGGIE

Hey.

JOHN

Hi.

Maggie comes in and wastes no time.

MAGGIE

Listen, uh... The way you acted was... I don't want to even think about it... but, I just want to say that you were right about a lot of things. I haven't been close to a man since Cyrus was born, and I don't think either of us knows how to deal with it.

JOHN

Thanks for saying that. I felt like I was crazy there for a while.

MAGGIE

I guess what I'm saying is... I think that we could all work on it together. And I feel like... we should.

John thinks long and hard about this. It's quiet for quite a while.

JOHN

Maggie, I want you to know that I think you're amazing. And I think we could have something really special together.

Maggie smiles.

JOHN (CONT'D)

But. I don't think it will... ever... work. Between me and Cyrus.

Maggie is hit hard by this.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (CONT'D)

And I don't want to get deeper and deeper involved with you and then discover it won't work 'cos that would really... destroy me.

Maggie is silent for a good bit.

MAGGIE

I think that's a chicken-shit answer. I just can't believe you would throw us away and not even give working it out a chance.

John grows really uncomfortable now. It's harder for him to get this next part out.

JOHN

Well, to tell you the truth. There's another reason. I think a part of me just got caught up in the competition... for you. And, if I'm being brutally honest, part of this whole thing was set off by Jamie getting remarried, and me feeling lonely and trying to find someone... anyone. You know what I mean?

This hurts. It even hurts John to say it.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And that's just not fair to you.

Maggie realizes now that it is probably over.

MAGGIE

And you really mean that?

JOHN

Yes. I'm sorry.

John reaches out for Maggie, but she quickly leaves and slams the door in his face.

John is left standing with a pillow in his hands. And, maybe, he starts to cry.

MONTAGE:

Again, the more somber score plays.

88 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY 88 *

John pulls up to an apartment complex. He shakes the hand of a REALTOR, who stands near a sign that reads FOR LEASE. *

A88 EXT. ELYSIAN PARK - DAY A88

Cyrus and Maggie are at the park again, taking pictures. But, Maggie is distracted and not into it.

B88 INT. BURBANK OFFICE - ANYTIME B88

John, at work in the edit bay, QUITs a project and pulls up another called "MAGGIE." He watches the little ANIMATED MOVIE he made for her.

C88 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT C88 *

Cyrus and Maggie patron the same restaurant in which she and John partied down. There is no party tonight. *

D88 INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM- DAY D88 *

Cyrus rocks out on his keyboard to a cheerful song. Maggie smiles for him, but not genuinely. *

E88 EXT. BUS STOP - DAY E88

Cyrus waits for the bus. He gets on.

End Montage.

89 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY 89

John's car is parked outside.

90 INT. APARTMENT 212 - DAY 90

John fixes a simple pasta-marinara meal for himself. The studio apartment is sparse, clean, and simple.

Knock, knock, knock.

He licks the wooden spoon, washes his hands and walks to the front door. He opens it and there is Cyrus.

JOHN

How'd you find me?

Cyrus shrugs as if it was an easy thing to do.

CYRUS

Mind if I come in?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Sure.

Cyrus takes a seat on a crummy love seat. John is surprised. Cyrus waits until John joins him.

CYRUS

I brought you something.

Cyrus takes a CD CASE out of his pocket and hands it to John. The cover says it all:

"CYRUS POLLARD: ISOTOPES, A STUDY OF TWO AND THREE"

The cover pictures Cyrus in the center, a female mannequin on the left, and the shadow of a man who looks vaguely like John on the right.

JOHN

You made a CD. Alright. Good job.

Cyrus takes a while before he speaks.

CYRUS

I want you to come back and live with us.

John is taken aback.

JOHN

What?

CYRUS

I'm serious.

JOHN

What are you going to do to me?

CYRUS

Come on, stop joking around. This is hard.

John sees that he really is serious.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

My Mom's really in bad shape. She misses you, John. She loves you.

JOHN

Look, Cyrus, I told your Mom-

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

I know what you told her, but I think you were just scared and putting up excuses so you wouldn't get hurt. I know there's a part of you that really loves her. You have to come back.

John considers this. He doesn't trust Cyrus.

JOHN

Come on, like you're not thrilled to have gotten rid of me.

CYRUS

I was. But everything's so messed up now. It just doesn't work the way it used to anymore.

John considers this and looks at Cyrus, hard.

JOHN

Let me ask you something. The panic attacks, were those real or were those fake?

CYRUS

I faked them when I got home, but they were real at first. Scariest thing that ever happened to me.

Something about the way he says it convinces John that he's telling the truth.

JOHN

Oh. And, how are you now?

CYRUS

Man, I don't know. They're on and off. It's a tough time. This panic and anxiety stuff is really hard to deal with. I feel kinda...

Cyrus can't help himself. He starts to cry.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

...I just want to be normal, you know?

John is shocked. This is real. And he knows exactly how Cyrus feels.

JOHN

I do.

(CONTINUED)

John sees that this crying is not going away, and he reaches out and puts a hand on Cyrus' shoulder. A momentous connection.

CYRUS

I'm thinking about going to see a therapist, maybe. I think I might be a really fucked up and dysfunctional person.

John is impressed with him.

JOHN

You're gonna be all right, Cyrus.

To John's surprise, Cyrus leans against John's shoulder. It even calms Cyrus down a bit.

CYRUS

(muffled)

You used to have panic attacks too, right?

JOHN

Actually, no, I was lying about that to try to get rid of you.

CYRUS

(laughing)

God damn, you're good.

JOHN

Not as good as you.

Cyrus pulls back and wipes his face. For the first time John really feels sorry for him.

CYRUS

Will you give me a ride home?

JOHN

Is your Mom home?

CYRUS

No.

JOHN

(skeptical)

Okay, but I'm not coming in.

CYRUS

Okay.

91

EXT. CITY STREETS/INT. JOHN'S CAR - DAY

91

John's car pulls onto a familiar street and stops a few houses down from Maggie's house.

JOHN

I'll let you out right here.

CYRUS

Hang on a second. I've got a box of your old stuff.

Cyrus jumps out of the car.

John has a mind to leave right there, but instead puts the car in park and waits.

Within seconds, Cyrus emerges with MAGGIE. She's dressed in a robe, no make-up. She looks vulnerable and a bit tired. Cyrus closes the door behind her and locks it. She sees John and her face lights up, totally surprised.

John sees her and hangs his head.

JOHN

(to himself)

Dammit, Cyrus.

John steps out of the car and waves to Maggie. She's bubbling so much inside she can barely contain herself. She walks towards him and stares up at him.

MAGGIE

It's really good to see you.

JOHN

You, too.

MAGGIE

You look great.

JOHN

So do you.

MAGGIE

(flattered)

Shut up, I look terrible. I wish I knew you were coming.

JOHN

Yeah, me too.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Oh.

Maggie looks over her shoulder and sees Cyrus spying through the front window.

John can't help but smile.

JOHN

It's funny.

MAGGIE

What?

JOHN

He used to lie to try and break us up...

Maggie and John both acknowledge Cyrus with a coy wave. They stand around awkwardly for a moment.

MAGGIE

So, you didn't really come here to see me.

John considers this, but before he can answer...

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

You know what? Don't answer that. I don't care.

They stare at each other, each unsure of the next move.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I really, really miss you.

John takes this in. Before he can answer, Maggie HUGS him. A big, loving hug. He doesn't know how to respond, arms at his side. He wants to raise them and hug her back. We can see it in his face. Maggie waits for it, too. The moment of decision seems to take forever.

Then, he hugs her back. His big arms fully take her in, and she cries on his shoulder. We can see for the first time how close they've become, how much they really care.

Cyrus watches them through the window, and smiles a very small and genuine smile.

We watch them for a while.

THE END