

FRANCES HA

Written by

Noah Baumbach & Greta Gerwig

OVERTURE:

1 IMAGES of Tompkins Square Park. Over the tableaux we HEAR two women talking and laughing. 1

2 EXT. PARK. MORNING 2

We find Frances and Sophie, both 27, setting up a little performance space in front of a statue.

FRANCES
Okay, ready?

SOPHIE
Yep.

Sophie sings and plays a shitty guitar badly. Frances dances.

When people walk by, they both stop and yell:

FRANCES AND SOPHIE
Give us your MONEY!!!

They laugh. Sometimes someone will give them change. Usually a creepy guy.

FRANCES
(alone now)
Give us--
(laughs)
Come on!

FRANCES AND SOPHIE
Give us your money!!!

CUT TO: Music swells.

MONTAGE

3 Frances and Sophie run through the park together. They dump what little money they earned into another musician's guitar case. Frances makes sure to keep a dollar bill. 3

4 They run into the subway. 4

5 Subway. Sophie sits. Frances stands above her. She leans down to say something. 5

6 Frances cooks. Scrambled eggs and stir fry. Sophie enters frame and gets plates out of the cupboard. 6

FRANCES

I tried a frittata but it's more of
a scramble.

7 Frances is reading and Sophie is knitting. 7

FRANCES

Oh, this is interesting.

She reads a sentence out loud from "Sincerity and
Authenticity" by Lionel Trilling. Sophie nods.

8 Sophie works out to a video in the tiny living room. 8
Frances half watches.

9 Frances and Sophie smoke in two separate adjacent 9
windows. They both lean outside.

We see them talking outside the windows.

10 They sit across from each other in their living room. 10

FRANCES (V.O.)

(doing a Jamaican accent)

Okay, my father is from Jamaica,
mon, and--

(doing an Irish accent)

--my mother is from Ireland.

(trying to combine the accents)

So I talk like this...

They both crack up.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

(doing a Russian accent)

My mother is from Russia and--

(doing a Southern accent)

--and my father is from Alabama.

(trying to combine)

So I talk like this.

10A They play a game together. 10A

11 They do their laundry at the laundromat across the 11
street.

12 They both lie in bed and watch The Day After Tomorrow on 12
the computer. Sophie falls asleep first and Frances
quietly puts the computer away.

Frances makes a move out of the bed.

SOPHIE
(eyes closed)
Don't be stupid.

FRANCES
I should sleep in my own bed.

SOPHIE
Why?

FRANCES
Because I bought it.

SOPHIE
Stay. But take off your socks.

FRANCES
Okay...Thank you.

SOPHIE
Shut up.

FADE OUT

PART ONE:

13 CLOSE on a photo of a bony, bug-eyed cat that resembles an alien. 13

FRANCES (O.S.)
It's hairless?

DAN (O.S.)
No, it has fine curly hair.

CLOSE on Frances looking down. She looks up briefly, attempts a smile and looks back down.

CLOSE on her hand touching the back of her neck.

She stares at a photograph in her lap.

She is wearing dance clothes underneath a knit dress, and her hair is pulled back. A bulky canvas backpack sits beside her. She'll have it the whole film.

CLOSE on her fingers smoothing the skin on her arm.

DAN
(excited)
There's this house in Westchester,
the basement is all Cornish Rexes,
it smells awful, the top floor is
Siamese cats.

She nods and hands Dan, early 30's, back the photo. He sits opposite her on a thrift-store couch, a manilla envelope in his lap.

FRANCES
I'm allergic to cats.

DAN
They're hypo-allergenic.
(quick smile)
This is a special Frances kitty.

FRANCES
Oh...who knew?

He passes her back a photo.

DAN
This one is the runt. Which is
cheaper but I think is the best one
anyway. I figured one runt and one
regular?

Frances hesitates.

DAN

I put a hundred dollar down payment
on each cat...or eighty for the
runt and a hundred for the other
one.

Pause.

FRANCES

Why not get one cat?

DAN

A cat needs a buddy. If you get
one cat you need to get two cats.

FRANCES

I'll give you two hundred dollars
to get no cats.

He nods, somewhat hurt and annoyed, glances back at the photo of the runt, starts stacking the photos and tucking them back into the envelope. Frances comes over and sits next to him, puts her hand on his back.

FRANCES

So, who will take care of them if
you go away?

DAN

I thought...we'd get them together.

FRANCES

And move them back and forth
between our apartments?

DAN

No...I thought maybe you could move
in with me...

Frances hesitates.

FRANCES

(strangely)
Oh, wow...

DAN

Do you want to move in with me?

FRANCES
Yeah.

DAN
Yeah?

FRANCES
Yes.
(pause)
I mean, I do have this other thing.

DAN
What "other thing?"

FRANCES
Well...I don't know. I promised
Sophie I'd stay through the lease.

He sighs deeply.

FRANCES
Is that bad? I'm sorry. I feel
bad.

DAN
Can't she find someone else?

FRANCES
Yeah. But, it's my friend...

DAN
Uh huh.

FRANCES
I want to move in with you.

DAN
Okay.

FRANCES
I feel bad.

DAN
Don't feel bad. Forget it.

FRANCES

No...

(off his expression)

What?

DAN

Nothing.

FRANCES

You're mad.

DAN

I'm not mad. I'm disappointed.

FRANCES

I feel bad.

DAN

Stop feeling bad, Frances! I asked you to move in, you said, No.

Her phone rings.

FRANCES

But I can't.

DAN

You can, you don't want to.

She looks at her phone.

DAN

Who is it?

FRANCES

It's okay, I don't need to get it.

DAN

Who is it?

FRANCES

It's Sophie. I'll call her back.

DAN

Just pick up the phone.

FRANCES

Do you mind?

DAN

(frustrated)

Answer it.

She does.

FRANCES

(into phone, a voice)

Hey girl...waz up wid you? Where you at?...I can't come now...

(laugh)

Are you drunk?...I can't...I love you...

Dan watches her without expression. He gets up and gets a beer from the fridge.

FRANCES

(laughs)

Dumpling house!...I love you...I can't really talk now...I love you...Okay!...I love you.

She hangs up and looks at him somewhat sheepishly.

FRANCES

She's with Benji and Lev at this party in Chinatown.

(pause)

They're drunk.

He drinks his beer.

DAN

I don't know...maybe this isn't working.

FRANCES

I'm sorry.

DAN

Me too.

FRANCES

(a new idea)

Maybe...

(pause)

Forget it.

DAN

What?

FRANCES

I do want to pay you for the cats.

DAN

I'm not going to take money from you. But I'm going to get the cats anyway.

FRANCES

But then you're going to be a single guy with two cats.

DAN

Why...why am I going to be single?

FRANCES

With two cats.

DAN

No, I know. I mean why would I be single?

FRANCES

I don't know... I thought you said this wasn't working. I mean, if we don't move in together. If we can't move in together.

DAN

We can move in together.

FRANCES

I don't know...I don't know if I believe anything I'm saying.

DAN

Uh huh.

(pause)

This hasn't been great for a while.

FRANCES

(nods)

This hasn't been great for a while. This has not...

She looks at him sadly. Frances puts on a too-big bomber jacket, not really cool, just something a friend gave her once.

DAN

Where are you going?

FRANCES

I guess home. I'm really tired. I'm always so tired.

She puts on her backpack.

DAN

(sadly)

Let's move in together.

14 INT. APARTMENT PARTY. NIGHT 14

CLOSE on Frances (wearing the same clothes). She walks through a crowd and leans in to Sophie. Sophie is talking to Benji and Lev.

WIDER: They drink, dance in a silly way, laugh.

Lev plays a record. He tries very hard to flirt with Frances.

FRANCES

I can't get interested in art or books or movies about animals. Animals in conversation. The animals have to talk or be at war for me to be interested.

15 INT. SUBWAY STATION. NIGHT 15

No one is on the platform. Frances pulls down her pants and pees into the tracks, holding onto the pillar to suspend her bare bottom out over the track.

Sophie looks for a train. She turns to see--

SOPHIE

(laughing)

Don't hit the third rail!

Sophie's attention goes to an MTA flyer posted.

SOPHIE

Shit! The three's not running!

16 INT. CAB. NIGHT 16

Frances lying in Sophie's lap.

17 INT. SOPHIE/FRANCES APARTMENT. WINDOW SILL. NIGHT 17

Frances, in her same clothes, smokes a cigarette by the open window. Sophie, sleep-wear on, sits next to her with her legs propped up on the sill.

Sophie extends her hand for the cigarette.

SOPHIE

I want a sip.

FRANCES

Do you want your own?

SOPHIE

I want a sip.

Frances reluctantly hands it over.

FRANCES

The coffee people are right. We are like a lesbian couple that doesn't have sex anymore.

Sophie hands it back and exits frame.

FRANCES

Wait! Come back!

SOPHIE (O.S.)

Don't pick at your face.

FRANCES

(kind of to herself,
touching a pimple)

I don't like smoking alone.

She puts out her own cigarette and follows Sophie to the bedroom. Sophie is writing an email on her phone.

FRANCES

Me and Dan don't have sex anymore...didn't have sex anymore.

SOPHIE

Yeah, that's why you broke up.

FRANCES

Or if it happened then he would just - he only had one way that he could finish.

SOPHIE

I hate that.

18 Sophie enters the bathroom. Washes her face.

18

FRANCES

It was always with me facing flat on the bed from behind. Which just...everything that matters was covered up.

SOPHIE

It's like with me and Patch -

FRANCES
 (making fun)
 Yo Patchy!

SOPHIE
 (also making fun)
 'Sup bra?
 (continue, matter of fact)
 The way he always likes to come in
 my face.

FRANCES
 Yeah, CLASSY. Patch is the kind of
 dude who says "I gotta take a
 leak."

SOPHIE
 (cringing)
 And wears pre-distressed baseball
 hats. But...he's a nice guy...for
 today.

Frances joins Sophie in the bathroom.

FRANCES
 I should feel bad that I went to
 the party.

SOPHIE
 You deserved it. You just got out
 of relationship jail.

FRANCES
 I think Dan was an alcoholic.

SOPHIE
 He was.

Sophie leaves frame.

FRANCES
 He wasn't a real alcoholic.

Frances leaves frame.

FRANCES
 But sometimes he would have twelve
 beers.

19 Sophie lies in bed. She's still typing on her phone.

19

FRANCES
 Stop playing on your phone.

Frances flops down into bed next to her.

SOPHIE

It's the only thing with interweb
in this house. I have to answer
work emails.

FRANCES

(to herself)
The neighbors changed their code.

SOPHIE

(re: her phone)
Hey!

FRANCES

What?

SOPHIE

Lev is asking for your number.

FRANCES

Give it to him!

SOPHIE

(not judgemental)
You did just break up with Dan
today.

FRANCES

Just do it.

She types in the number. Frances gets her phone from a bag and stares at it. Waiting. Sophie goes back to typing on her phone.

Frances' phone chirps. Reads out loud.

FRANCES

"Ahoy sexy. Are you around this
week?" Ahoy sexy?

SOPHIE

That is actually very gay.

FRANCES

Am I nautically sensual?

SOPHIE

You're funny.

FRANCES

Lev didn't laugh at any of my jokes
tonight.

SOPHIE
You are SO funny.

FRANCES
Should I text back "Starboard anal sex?"

Sophie laughs. Puts her phone down. Snuggles down in bed.

SOPHIE
(settling)
No.

FRANCES
Tell me the story of us...

SOPHIE
Again? Well, Frances, we are going to take over the world...

FRANCES
...You'll be this awesomely bitchy publishing mogul...

SOPHIE
...And you'll be a famous modern dancer and I'll publish a really expensive book about you...

FRANCES
...That d-bags we make fun of buy to put on their coffee tables...

SOPHIE
...and we co-own a vacation apartment in Paris...

FRANCES
...and we will have lovers...

SOPHIE
...and no children...

FRANCES
...and we will speak at college graduations...

SOPHIE
...and honorary degrees!

FRANCES
...so many honorary degrees.

20 INT. BEDROOM. LATER. 20

Sophie and Frances are asleep in the same bed.

21 INT. DANCE STUDIO. DAY. 21

Frances warms up alone in an empty studio. While holding a position, Frances notices a woman pass by the open doorway.

22 INT. DANCE OFFICE. MOMENTS LATER. 22

Frances pops her head into the outer office.

FRANCES

Hey!

Colleen, 40's, beautiful, retired dancer - drops everything she's holding.

COLLEEN

Jesus!

FRANCES

Sorry. I'm here.

COLLEEN

I don't really have time to talk, I'm doing the job of three people here, but I can see you after rehearsal.

FRANCES

I read that article in the Times -- you must be so happy!

COLLEEN

Oh yeah, thanks, I forget I make my own work sometimes, but thanks.

FRANCES

I usually hate that woman's writing.

COLLEEN

Right. Well, thank you Frances.

FRANCES

I actually, I had a couple of questions. I'm trying to be proactive about my life.

COLLEEN
 (getting it)
 I'll see if I have some studio
 openings for choreography time --

FRANCES
 -- Uh, no. I wanted to know if
 there were any more classes at the
 school that I could teach...I'm a
 little, I'm kind of broke.

COLLEEN
 I'll check, but I'm all full I
 think --

FRANCES
 -- I thought so, I'm just proud of
 myself for asking.

COLLEEN
 Well, we'll probably use you and
 some other apprentices for the
 Christmas show, so, that's
 something.

FRANCES
 That's GREAT.

Frances just stands there.

FRANCES
 I just wanted to say I really look
 up to you, and I just, I think
 you're great.

COLLEEN
 Ha! A beat-up old dancer doing
 paperwork?

Frances still stands there a little goofily. Colleen
 decides to wrap it up:

COLLEEN
 I really need to do all that
 paperwork now - I'm running
 rehearsal today so I'll see you in
 there.

FRANCES
 Bye.

Frances disappears.

23 INT. DANCE STUDIO. LATER 23

About twenty two dancers are rehearsing. Colleen runs the rehearsal.

Frances is paired with Rachel, 25, about her height and build. They laugh and talk in between working.

RACHEL
Do you have more gum?

FRANCES
What? No.
(taking the gum out of her
mouth)
I don't even know where this gum
came from.

Frances dances behind her, mirroring her movements. Other pairs of dancers do the same.

Colleen claps her hands:

COLLEEN
Understudies, out!

Frances and a few others go to the side and watch the primary company dance.

24 INT. SMALL DANCE STUDIO. LATER. 24

Frances teaches ballet to a group of young girls.

25 INT. SUPERMARKET - LATE DAY 25

Frances shops.

26 INT. SUBWAY CAR - LATE DAY 26

Frances goes uptown. Clutching two huge grocery bags.

27 EXT. MIDTOWN CORPORATE BUILDING - EARLY EVENING 27

Frances waits outside a building, watching people exit. She sees Sophie.

FRANCES
AHOY SEXY! AHOY!

SOPHIE
(laughing)
AHOY SEXY!

28 EXT. BRYANT PARK - EVENING 28

Sophie and Frances eat. The park is almost deserted. It's twilight and too cold for a picnic.

They have pushed several tables together and made a banquet table and spread everything out. They toast two Pellegrino bottles.

29 INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT 29

On the subway. Sophie keeps checking her phone.

FRANCES

No service.

SOPHIE

Sometimes there is, for a second...

FRANCES

What is going on with that phone, lady?

SOPHIE

I didn't want to do it without knowing it was okay with you first.

FRANCES

Do what?

SOPHIE

(putting her phone away)
I want to move into this apartment with Phoebe. It's this great apartment in the West Village which is what I've always wanted and you know that but I don't want to do it if you're not okay with it --

FRANCES

Oh --

SOPHIE

But they need to know by tomorrow. So I kind of need to tell them something today...

FRANCES

Who have you been emailing?

*

SOPHIE

My parents, for help with the broker's fee and stuff.

FRANCES

You have to pay OUR rent.

SOPHIE

I know and I'll pay until the end of the lease but it's only for another two months anyway. Are you okay with it? I really don't want to do it if you're not okay with it.

FRANCES

I sort of thought we were going to renew the lease.

*

SOPHIE

Yeah, but we never talked about it.

*

*

FRANCES

I could have moved in with Dan.

SOPHIE

Not if you broke up.

FRANCES

That's why we broke up.

SOPHIE

Really?

FRANCES

No.

SOPHIE

It's LITERALLY on my favorite street. Phoebe said it was too good to pass up.

FRANCES

You hate Phoebe.

SOPHIE

She's okay.

FRANCES

We make fun of her.

SOPHIE

She said I'd always regret it if I don't just go for it.

FRANCES

Then go for it.

SOPHIE
We're both really clean.

FRANCES
I said go for it.

SOPHIE
I wish it was going to be with you.

FRANCES
Yeah.

SOPHIE
But Phoebe found the place.

FRANCES
Right.

SOPHIE
Is this train skipping DeKalb?

She gets up to look at the subway map.

SOPHIE
We could look for another place together, if you want, but it's really hard to find stuff in the West Village.

FRANCES
I can't afford the West Village.

SOPHIE
I know it's so expensive. My raise just barely covers the rent.

FRANCES
You should take the place.

SOPHIE
I'm not leaving you - I'm just moving neighborhoods.

Frances's eyes well up.

SOPHIE
Are you okay?

FRANCES
Yeah. Totally.

Frances is messing with her hand.

SOPHIE
What are you doing?

FRANCES
I just put my ring on my thumb and
I'm having trouble getting it off.

SOPHIE
Hold your hand over your head.
It'll drain the blood out.

Frances does.

FRANCES
I look like I'm asking a question.

SOPHIE
I'm not doing anything wrong. Our
lease was going to be up in two
months anyway.

They ride in silence, Frances' hand over her head.

30 INT. FRANCES AND SOPHIE'S APARTMENT. DAYS LATER. MORNING 30

Frances gets a tea bag out and puts it in a mug. She rattles around the cabinets looking for a kettle.

Not finding a kettle, she boils water in a saucepan.

While she's waiting for the water to boil, she lights a cigarette.

The apartment is nearly empty. It turns out Sophie had most of the furniture and Frances had most of the books. It looks like the crack den of a pretty well educated junkie.

The water boils. Frances tries to pour it into the mug, but scalds herself. She kicks the kitchen cabinet.

Frances is on the phone. She moves.

FRANCES
(on the phone)
We bought the kettle TOGETHER!
REMEMBER? At the Mexican
superstore? Jesus! BRING IT BACK.
OR BUY ME ANOTHER KETTLE.

31 INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY. DAY 31

Mailbox. Frances is checking the mail. Sees something she likes. Tax rebate! Whoops and runs out onto the street.

32 EXT. BANK. DAY. MOMENTS LATER 32

Frances leaves the bank. Is still elated. Looks around, unsure what to do next. Her elation leaves her slightly. She pulls out her phone and scrolls. Half shrugs, calls someone.

FRANCES

Hey I just got a tax rebate, want to go out to dinner?!

33 INT. RESTAURANT. NIGHT 33

Lev (from the party) is scrolling through his phone. He finds the photo he was looking for and hands the phone to Frances across the table.

LEV

This is me in the locker room of the Knicks.

FRANCES

Wow!

LEV

Sophie said you liked basketball.

FRANCES

That was just one time.

Frances changes the picture.

FRANCES

Wow! Crazy!

LEV

(looking at the picture)
Oh, yeah, I was goofing around on this Vintage Triumph I think I'm going to buy.

FRANCES

Motorcycles are so loud.

LEV

What?

FRANCES

I mean, you can't listen to music
while you're on a motorcycle.

LEV

But you're on a motorcycle.

Lev takes back his phone, finds a new picture.

LEV

Check it. This is me with Jay Leno.

FRANCES

He's such a dick.

LEV

I know, but don't you just love
him?

The waitress comes up to give them the check. Frances
grabs it and puts her credit card in.

LEV

No!

FRANCES

Yes!

LEV

NO!

FRANCES

No...I mean, YES! I'm the one with
the tax rebate!

WAITRESS

Can I take this?

FRANCES

Yes!

LEV

Oh...fine.

The waitress leaves.

LEV

Just because you bought dinner
doesn't mean I'm going to sleep
with you.

FRANCES

(not getting it)
I'm not trying to sleep with you...

LEV

No, I'm pretending to be a
liberated woman.

FRANCES

Oh, got it.

LEV

Thanks for paying. That was very
sweet. You're a lady.

He takes her hand. She lets him. The waitress comes back.
Frances immediately withdraws her hand.

WAITRESS

I'm sorry, but the card didn't go
through, do you have another card
you want to try?

FRANCES

Oh, shit! Sorry, yes, um, this is a
debit card?

WAITRESS

Only credit cards or cash.

FRANCES

Okay.

(to Lev)

I'm so embarrassed, I'm not a real
person yet.

LEV

I got it.

FRANCES

(getting up from the table)

No, no, no, I'm just going to go
run and get some cash.

34 EXT. STREETS AROUND THE RESTAURANT. NIGHT 34

Frances hustles down the street, looking for an ATM.

35 INT. DELI. NIGHT 35

Frances runs in.

FRANCES

Where is your ATM?

DELI GUY

Not working. No ATM.

36 EXT. STREETS AROUND THE RESTAURANT. NIGHT 36

She looks for a bank or something. She stops a woman.

FRANCES

Do you know where a bank is?

WOMAN

Um, there's a Bank of America about five blocks up.

37 EXT. BANK. NIGHT 37

Frances punches in her pin in the ATM area of a closed B of A while a homeless man looks on.

"Do you accept the \$3.00 service charge?" She sighs, her finger hovering over the button, accepts.

As she passes the homeless guy:

FRANCES

Sorry, sorry...

38 EXT. STREETS AROUND THE RESTAURANT. NIGHT 38

Frances runs back to the restaurant. Falls. Hard. Gets up and keeps running.

39 INT. RESTAURANT. NIGHT 39

The restaurant is considerably more cleared out. Frances has been gone a long time.

She sits down plunks the money down, happy. Lev is on the phone.

LEV

I'll ask her and let you know...okay, man, see you.

He hangs up.

LEV

Sorry, that was Benji. You know, my Sophie.

Frances is flushed and out of breath.

LEV

You go to Switzerland?

FRANCES
 (breathing heavy)
 Have I been to Switzerland? No.

LEV
 No, did you go to -- I mean, where
 were you?

FRANCES
 I'm sorry, I had so much trouble
 finding --

She casually picks up the last bit of her wine and downs it. She puts her glass down, and wipes at her face with the napkin. She looks at the napkin, it has streaks of red.

LEV
 What the fuck?

She tries to trace the blood up her arm to its source.

LEV
 You're bleeding.

FRANCES
 I can't find it.

LEV
 Somewhere on your arm...

She feels her arm, trying to figure it out. Her elbow.

FRANCES
 Shit. Sorry.

LEV
 Don't apologize to me.

FRANCES
 Oh, damn it. Oh, let me, I'm going
 to go to the bathroom, just one
 second.

40 INT. LEV AND BENJI'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

40

Frances stands in their apartment. Totally enamored with it.

FRANCES
 This place is pretty awesome.

Lev enters with a First Aid Kit.

LEV
I'm a First Responder.

FRANCES
You didn't have to do that.

LEV
(opening the Bandaid)
You're injured.

FRANCES
I know, but I'm fine.

He places the bandage on her arm.

LEV
There.

FRANCES
Like a boy scout... Sophie makes fun of me because I can't account for my bruises. We're not living together anymore.

LEV
Really?

FRANCES
Yeah, I'm going to have to find a place to live. I can't afford to stay there alone. I was kind of thinking Washington Heights...?

LEV
(lighting a cigarette)
The chick crashing in the little room might be moving to Portland next month.

FRANCES
Oh, that's good to know.
(then)
You smoke inside?

LEV
Yeah, don't you?

FRANCES
No.

LEV
Want to?

He offers her a cigarette. Lights it for her with a special lighter.

FRANCES

This makes me feel like a bad mother in 1987.

LEV

Wanna see my room?

41 INT. LEV'S ROOM. MOMENTS LATER.

41

Frances is looking at the framed pictures on the wall. They are old and yellowed.

FRANCES

Is this your family?

LEV

Nope.

They are quiet a little too long. Lev moves towards her and puts his hand on her shoulder. Frances glances at the hand, and instantly makes a face and a strange noise that is definitely negative.

It's something that if she had thought about for one second more that she wouldn't have done.

Lev moves away.

They hear Benji come through the door. He has two girls with him. They make a lot of noise.

RANDOM GIRL #1 (O.S.)

Oh my GOD! This place is AMAZING!

LEV

Benji's home.

42 INT. LEV AND BENJI'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. A LITTLE LATER.

42

One girl dances to music. Lev plays cribbage with another girl. Flirting heavily with her - looking at her cards, teasing her.

Benji and Frances are talking. Frances drinks a scotch out of a proper scotch glass.

BENJI

I love dance. I dated a dancer in high school and her teacher said I could have really had a future in it.

LEV

(joking but serious)
You liar. He's a liar.

BENJI

No I'm not! Ask anyone from school!
(to Frances)
I really to love dance.

FRANCES

It's pretty great...I mean it's a hard world, but -

LEV

Do us a dance!

FRANCES

I feel weird...

BENJI

Just one move.

Frances gets up does something quickly and sits back down.

BENJI

That was GREAT!

LEV

You should be in this music video my friend is working on. I'll hook you guys up.

FRANCES

(to herself)
You guys are...like magic.

BENJI

Is Noodle Champion still open? I'm starving.

LEV

I don't think so...

BENJI

All we have is...we have eggs. I want something PREPARED. And BROUGHT to me.

FRANCES

Wait!

43 INT. LEV AND BENJI'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN. LATER 43

Frances has the stove going with a couple of items.

44 INT. LEV AND BENJI'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. LATER 44

Frances serves everyone omelettes prettily. People compliment her and the food.

FRANCES

It's Sophie's recipe, but...

She does a little twirl of happiness.

45 INT. LEV AND BENJI'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. LATER. 45

The other two girls leave. Kiss everyone on the cheek.

LEV

(to his girl)

I'll call you. We'll shoot some pigeons.

FRANCES

And I'll let you know about my show.

RANDOM GIRL #2

Yes! Please! I love your hair.

FRANCES

Thanks.

46 Everyone's gone, Frances moves to the couch between Lev and Benji. 46

FRANCES

This is the best night I've had since Sophie dumped me.

She basks in it.

FRANCES

(nods, half-hearted)

I should probably go, too.

LEV

Make a left and a left out of the building and the F is on the other side of the bridge on East Broadway.

BENJI

You'll see a 99 Cent Store --

FRANCES

Okay, yeah. I should go.

(beat, indicating the extra
room)

Is that chick really moving to
Portland?

BENJI

Yeah.

LEV

Before you go, do another dance.

FRANCES

(this time eager)

Ok!

She gets up and starts to dance. The boys love it.

PART TWO

47 EXT. CHINATOWN. DUSK. 47

Music swells. Frances runs through the streets of Chinatown, bomber jacket and backpack on. She's running, almost dancing through the streets. She bursts into the apartment.

48 INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT. 48

Frances is asleep. She hears people having sex. She opens her eyes, stirs. Closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

49 The two boys, Benji and Lev, run into the bedroom and jump on top of her bed, play-tickling her and body slamming her. 49

It's morning.

50 INT. KITCHEN TABLE. LATER 50

Benji on his computer, smoking a cigarette. Still in a T-shirt and pajama bottoms. Frances on her computer, backpack on, ready to leave. Both drinking Folgers instant coffee.

BENJI

What time did you get in last night?

FRANCES

Um, late. Like 1:00.

BENJI

Why didn't you come in and say hi?

FRANCES

I'm sorry -- I thought you were asleep.

BENJI

I wasn't asleep. I heard you come in.

FRANCES

Then you knew what time I got in?

BENJI

(ignoring her question)
I'm working on some sample skits for Saturday Night Live.

(MORE)

BENJI (CONT'D)

I know a producer there who said I could probably get a job writing for them.

FRANCES

Cool.

LEV

That's such a lie.

Lev has come out of his room. Fully dressed, bare feet. A girl, Nessa, trails after him. She's about twenty. Very thin. Not wearing pants, just underwear and a big t-shirt.

LEV

Guys. This is Nessa.

BENJI

Hey.

FRANCES

(putting out her hand to shake)
Hello. I'm Frances.

NESSA

Lev and I were going to make bacon egg bagels. You want some?

FRANCES

Oh, no. Thanks though. I wanted to go to the Met and drop this laundry off and I need to deposit a check, a whole...Sunday planned.

51 INT. LIVING ROOM. LATER

51

Frances eats a very large egg bagel very quickly. So quickly that she nearly chokes. Her backpack is now off. She notices how much faster she's eating than everyone else. Slows down. Or tries to.

NESSA

Why do you all live together?

FRANCES

Well, I knew Benji through Sophie and -

BENJI

Where is Sophie these days?

FRANCES

Busy with work.

NESSA
Which Sophie?

FRANCES
Sophie Kozak?

NESSA
Get out! I fucked her little
brother!

FRANCES
Oh, yeah, you fucked Thomas?

LEV
You fucked who?

NESSA
(to Frances)
How do you know her?

FRANCES
We went to college together and
we're...we were born together.

NESSA
Oh you're that Frances.

LEV
Who is Thomas?

FRANCES
Not really but that's what we say.
(beat)
Yeah, I'm that Frances.

NESSA
You should know she speaks so
highly of you.

FRANCES
Right. I mean, we're best friends.
She's been to my house for
Christmas three times.

BENJI
Why doesn't she go to her house?

FRANCES
(annoyed)
She's Jewish.

NESSA
She was saying last week how much
she loves you.

FRANCES
You saw her last week?

LEV
When did you fuck her brother?

FRANCES
Where were you guys?

NESSA
(to Lev)
I met you last night.
(then to Frances)
We were at that restaurant Po.

BENJI
Who were you fucking last week,
Lev?

FRANCES
What...is that a good restaurant?
Was she with...who was she with?

NESSA
Me and Thomas and that guy she
dates, Patch?

FRANCES
Double date.

NESSA
And some girl. Esme.

FRANCES
Phoebe. Cunt.

BENJI
Who were you fucking last week
Frances?

FRANCES
(joking)
I make love.

BENJI
Frances: UNDATEABLE!

Nessa is thinking about something. Puzzled.

NESSA
Yeah. Aren't you a lot older than
Sophie?

FRANCES
No. We went to college together.

NESSA
You seem older.

FRANCES
I'm a couple months older.

NESSA
You seem a LOT older. But less,
like, grown up. It's weird. You
have an older face...

BENJI
...but like you don't have your
shit together.

52 INT. LIVING ROOM. LATER.

52

Frances lays on the couch, shoes off. Benji still on the
computer. Lev is standing by the door, holding a
motorcycle helmet.

LEV
(a little sadly)
Nessa can't come from sex. Only
sixty-nine.

FRANCES
That's a crazy helmet.

LEV
Got to. Motorcycle law. Oh, can you
leave that rent check for me?

FRANCES
Yeah, yeah, sorry. I'll put it on
your desk. It's for...\$950?

LEV
Nope. \$1200.

FRANCES
I...I don't, I thought we said \$950
when I moved in.

LEV
Nope. The whole space is \$4000 but
the little room is only \$1200

FRANCES
But, I --

BENJI

No, she's right. We said she could pay that much until she got more cash together.

FRANCES

Remember because when I do the Christmas show I'll make more because I'll be doing like ten shows a week...

LEV

Oh right right.

FRANCES

So we're good with \$950? That's okay? I'm really sorry...

He puts down his motorcycle visor.

LEV

No prob. Catch you on the flipside!

Lev leaves.

FRANCES

He leaves so easily...

BENJI

Transportation is his thing. Bike, skateboard. He has a car, too.

FRANCES

I can't even get out of the house on my feet!

She is quietly dejected.

FRANCES

You know what Virginia Woolf book this reminds me of?

BENJI

Frances: UNDATEABLE.

Frances laughs.

BENJI

Wanna watch a movie?

FRANCES

Now?

BENJI

Yeah, let's do a movie afternoon.

FRANCES

I already wasted the whole day - I already feel bad about the day.

BENJI

I think it's a great day. I ate an egg bagel that Lev's slut made me. I internet acquired three pairs of very rare Ray Bans. I'm doing awesome.

FRANCES

I thought we were both broke!

BENJI

I caved and finally took a loan from my step dad. Bastard. I need a fucking job, though.

FRANCES

What about SNL?

BENJI

Yeah, maybe. It's gone so downhill.

Goes to the bar. Looks at his watch. Pours himself a scotch.

BENJI

Until then, it's after three. I can drink. Let's do something fun. We could go to a movie.

FRANCES

Movies are so expensive now...I should be saving so I can pay full rent.

BENJI

I'm not going to force you.

FRANCES

(getting up, ready)

I have to work out, at least. I cannot get fat.

Frances puts on shoes, etc. Benji drinks his scotch and starts going through his records to pick one.

FRANCES

Do I look old to you?

BENJI

No. Yes. How old?

FRANCES

Older than I am? Older than twenty-seven?

BENJI

No. Twenty-seven is old, though.

53 CUT TO: It's dark out. Benji and Frances watch a movie. 53
Benji smokes and eats an egg roll. Frances wolfs down a
box of General Tso's Chicken. She realizes she's eating
too fast - tries to slow down.

54 INT. BOY'S APARTMENT. NEW DAY 54
Sophie looks at the stuff. Frances bobs next to her.

FRANCES

Isn't this place AMAZING?

SOPHIE

Is that an Eames chair?

FRANCES

Yeah, isn't this GREAT?!

SOPHIE

Total rich-kid apartment.

FRANCES

The boys just have good eyes. They
find stuff all the time.

SOPHIE

Do you know who Lev Shapiro's dad
is?

FRANCES

He doesn't get along with his
dad...Lev and Benji are artists.

SOPHIE

Exactly -- the only people who can
afford to be artists in New York
are rich.

FRANCES

I'm an artist. I'm not rich.

SOPHIE

You are rare.

(beat)

It's just this apartment is very...aware of itself.

FRANCES

(defensively)

Everyone who comes here loves it. I love it. The three of us are hilarious together. We're like a sitcom. My Two Husbands.

SOPHIE

(softening)

No, that sounds great. I'm really happy for you, Frances.

FRANCES

(a tad bitchy)

Thank you, Sophie.

Sophie sits beside her on the couch. Puts her head on Frances's shoulder.

Lev comes through the door.

LEV

Ladies!

FRANCES

Lev Shapiro! You know Sophie.

LEV

Of course. Still beautiful.

Kisses her hand. Sophie giggles. Frances looks thrilled.

LEV

How is the publishing business?

SOPHIE

You know. Not good. How's sculpture?

LEV

Amazing.

SOPHIE

Oh my boyfriend likes that artist you work for...

LEV

Tell your boyfriend he can always
talk to me if he wants to buy
something.

SOPHIE

I will.

FRANCES

(to herself)

Are we buying art now? Is that the
point we're at?

LEV

I need to clean up. Ladies.

SOPHIE

Bye!

Lev retreats into his bedroom.

FRANCES

Lev would totally date you.

SOPHIE

I have a boyfriend.

FRANCES

But isn't he charming? And so
handsome? You could be over here
all the time, it would be GREAT.
You wouldn't have to spend all that
time with Phoebe.

SOPHIE

(laughs)

Right, I could fuck him just to not
hang out with Phoebe!

Lev walks across the living room in just a towel.

LEV

Don't mind me. I'm just trying to
get your attention.

Lev goes into the bathroom. The shower turns on.

FRANCES

How could you not want to date him?
He's kind of magic.

SOPHIE

Because I'm with Patch.

FRANCES

Patch is the kind of guy who buys a black leather couch and is like "I love it."

Sophie doesn't react. Frances gets up. Starts trying to do a headstand.

FRANCES

What are we doing with our day?

SOPHIE

I have to get going around five, so I guess I should leave at --

FRANCES

I thought we were hanging out.

SOPHIE

We are.

FRANCES

All day.

SOPHIE

I have plans with Patch tonight. I told you.

FRANCES

I don't remember that.

SOPHIE

I texted that to you.

FRANCES

No you didn't.

SOPHIE

Yes I did. Here --

Sophie gets out her phone, starts scrolling.

FRANCES

We're not doing that. That's shitty. It's not court.

SOPHIE

I did text you, though.

FRANCES

I believe you.

SOPHIE
 You don't have to believe me, I did
 text you.

She holds out her phone.

FRANCES
 Do you want to see my room?

55 INT. FRANCES'S ROOM

55

Sophie and Frances in her room. They flop down on the bed.

FRANCES
 I kind of have a crush on this boy,
 but his name is Georgie so I don't
 know how far it's going to go.

SOPHIE
 Can't fuck a Georgie.

FRANCES
 "I want you inside me Georgie."

SOPHIE
 Have you been dating anyone?

FRANCES
 Nope.

SOPHIE
 Oh, Frances.

FRANCES
 It's fine.

SOPHIE
 What about Benji?

FRANCES
 Benji thinks I'm undateable. It's
 really funny when he does it.
 (indicating her and Sophie)
 You and I are both undateable. Guys
 can't handle us. We are going to be
 spinsters.

SOPHIE
 Better break that to Patch.

FRANCES

Boys are easier. Girls are passive aggressive, boys are just like "clean up your shit."

SOPHIE

(looking around)
You're still messy...

FRANCES

I've been busy.

SOPHIE

No, it wasn't a criticism, I meant it in a nice way. You will always be messy and you will always look at yourself too much in the mirror.

FRANCES

When do I look at myself in the mirror?

SOPHIE

Always -- you just were doing it.

FRANCES

There are so many mirrors in this apartment!

SOPHIE

I don't want you to change. I like your clothes everywhere and your mirror thing -- it's sweet.

FRANCES

You have stuff, too.

SOPHIE

What?

FRANCES

You judge people who aren't as moderate as you are.

SOPHIE

I do not.

FRANCES

Yes you do. And you don't read.

Just then, Benji comes running into the room and leaps into bed with them.

BENJI
Hey bitches!

FRANCES
Oh my God, Benji! You're crazy!

56 CUT TO: It's night. Benji and Frances watch a movie. 56

FRANCES
(suddenly)
I wish we had cookies.
(pause)
I wish we had Chessmen.

The front door opens. Lev and a dark haired, long legged girl enter. Different girl than Nessa.

LEV
Hey guys.
(to girl)
Wanna see my room?

They walk in front of the TV and into his room.

57 INT. THEATRE. NIGHT. 57

Frances performs in a piece with a troupe. She's in the back, but she's in it. She is really, really dancing her heart out. Very happy.

58 INT. DRESSING ROOM. NIGHT. 58

Frances is one of the last ones to get her stuff out. Colleen comes in.

FRANCES
Sorry! I'm so slow! I have trouble leaving places!

COLLEEN
You looked great tonight.

FRANCES
Thanks!

COLLEEN
Frances, I wanted to tell you so you had some days to process it - we won't be able to use you in the Christmas show. I'm really sorry.

FRANCES
What?

COLLEEN

I'm really sorry -- you know what bad shape the company is in.

FRANCES

(tearing up)

I know.

COLLEEN

(gently)

We can talk about next steps when we're back in February.

FRANCES

Am I fired?

COLLEEN

No! I just, I like you and I want to talk to you about the future and make sure it's what you want.

FRANCES

I want to be in the company.

COLLEEN

I know.

Frances is crushed.

COLLEEN

Take your time.

FRANCES

Yeah. I will. I can't help it.

59 INT. THEATRE. NIGHT.

59

Frances walks across the deserted stage. Takes a self-consciously sad moment.

60 INT. THEATRE LOBBY. NIGHT. MOMENTS LATER.

60

Most people are gone. A few stragglers remain.

Frances sees Sophie. Runs to her, hugs her.

FRANCES

(thrilled)

Oh, my love, I'm so glad you're here!

SOPHIE

You were great, really great.

FRANCES
 Could you see me?

SOPHIE
 Yeah, we were on the risers, so we
 could see to the back.

FRANCES
 Who?

Patch walks up.

PATCH
 Sorry, I had to take a leak.
 Congratulations!

Frances face hardens.

FRANCES
 Thank you.

Patch doesn't pick up on anything.

PATCH
 Should we all go out for a quick
 drink?

FRANCES
 A "quick" drink?

SOPHIE
 We have to get up early tomorrow.

FRANCES
 Tomorrow is Saturday.

PATCH
 We have to catch a flight in the
 morning -- we're meeting my parents
 in the Galapagos.

SOPHIE
 (trying to connect to Frances)
 I haven't packed. You know me.

PATCH
 Last Minute Mabel.

SOPHIE
 Ronald Rule Follower.

They are doing a routine. He does this weird kind of
 strangle motion and she acts like she's getting
 strangled. Frances just stares at them.

61 INT. BAR. NIGHT.

61

Frances, Patch and Sophie sit in a corner. It's kind of a douche-y club/bar.

The waitress comes up.

SOPHIE

I'll have a glass of --

FRANCES

-- We'll get a bottle of your most expensive vodka for the table. And then all the stuff that comes with it.

WAITRESS

Very good.

She leaves. Patch laughs and rubs his hands together uncomfortably.

62 INT. BAR. NIGHT. LATER.

62

Frances is doing shots. Patch and Sophie sip on their drinks.

FRANCES

(very drunk)

I want us to be a family, you know? I can be part of your family, don't you think? Patch I love you. I want to love you. But I need you to get drunk.

The waitress comes back.

WAITRESS

How are we doing over here.

FRANCES

We're good. Bring the check, we'll finish the bottle. Sophie?

SOPHIE

Yes.

FRANCES

Sophie come with me.

SOPHIE

Where?

FRANCES

Bathroom.

SOPHIE

Really? Are we still doing this?

Frances is pulling Sophie away.

FRANCES

Patch, you got this?

PATCH

Um, yep.

63

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT.

63

Frances and Sophie inside a stall together. Frances sits on the toilet.

FRANCES

I was lying. I don't love Patch.

SOPHIE

I do love him.

FRANCES

Since when? When did this happen?

SOPHIE

It's been happening.

FRANCES

That's fucking BULLSHIT. SOPHIE.
COME ON.

SOPHIE

No, you're bullshit. And you're making me feel really bad right now.

FRANCES

I want to love him if you love him but you don't love him.

SOPHIE

I DO.

FRANCES

(tearing up)

SOPHIE. I fucking held your head when you cried I bought special milk for you I know where you hide your pills do not treat me like a three hour brunch friend.

SOPHIE
I'm not talking to you while you're
like this.

Frances hits the wall close to Sophie's head. It's
violent and kind of scary.

64 INT. BAR. NIGHT. MOMENTS LATER.

64

Sophie two steps ahead of Frances, rushing back to the
table. She starts gathering her things. So does Frances.

SOPHIE
(to Patch)
We have to go.

FRANCES
I'm going.

PATCH
(to Sophie)
We can stay if you want.

FRANCES
I'M GOING.

SOPHIE
(to Patch)
C'mon, get your stuff.

Frances gets angry.

FRANCES
NO I'M GOING. YOU FUCKING SIT DOWN.

They sit.

FRANCES
(putting on a act)
Enjoy the Galapagos. I am also
going on a vacation. A long one.
I'll set up my email so it sends
out a vacation email. And my
voicemail will also say I'm on
vacation. So if you get that,
Sophie, don't worry, I'm on a
vacation. I'll try to give you a
call when I get back, okay? Thanks,
guys. This was great.

Frances shoves the bottle of vodka into her purse and
takes off.

65

INT. FRANCES ROOM. NIGHT.

65

The bottle of vodka that Frances took is sitting on her dresser. All the lights are on. Frances is visibly upset. She is putting away all the clothes in her room, trying to straighten up, make a neatness.

She looks at herself in the mirror for one second, catches herself doing it, and looks away.

Benji appears in the door watching her.

BENJI
You're cleaning!

FRANCES
(defensively)
I'm not messy, I'm busy!

Benji is inside the room. He sits on the bed. Frances looks at it, discouraged.

FRANCES
I don't make my bed. Sophie always made the bed.

She keeps cleaning.

FRANCES
I'm glad you're home. I had a shitty night.

BENJI
Sorry kid. I had a great night. I cracked the second act of my script. I'm on page 68.

FRANCES
That's exciting. Is that for SNL?

BENJI
No, this is s sample script I'm writing for the fourth Beverly Hills Cop.
(smiles)
Boy trouble tonight?

FRANCES
Sophie trouble...

BENJI
Undateable.

FRANCES

And I kind of, I don't know, I got temporarily fired.

BENJI

I've been fired like a million times! It makes you cool!

FRANCES

(dejected)

Yeah. But without the Christmas show, I can't pay...

(then)

Do you have any good tunes?

BENJI

(clearly pleased)

Wait right there!

He gets his iPod and big headphones. He puts them on her.

BENJI

It's a jammer.

FRANCES

(too loudly)

It's great.

BENJI

I know.

He does that thing where he looks at her too intensely while she's listening, trying to figure out what part of the song she's on. She takes them off.

FRANCES

I love it. Put it on my mix.

He puts the headphones back on, wanting her to listen to the song.

BENJI

Aren't these headphones tits? I just got them. They're super-duper noise cancelling. So I don't have to hear Lev fuck.

She takes them off again--

FRANCES

Ha.

--he tries to push them back on, she shoves them back to him and goes back to cleaning.

BENJI

Lev and I were talking about getting a maid to come in once a week.

FRANCES

A maid?

BENJI

Yeah, it's not that expensive, like \$400 bucks a month?

Frances cleans drunkenly, thoughtfully.

FRANCES

Do you know that I'm actually poor?

BENJI

You aren't poor. There are poor people. You aren't one of them.

FRANCES

Yes, but it's, I mean, you'd feel poor if you had as little money as I do.

BENJI

But you're not poor. That's offensive to actual poor people.

FRANCES

Yeah, I guess that's true.

Frances keeps cleaning. Benji considers something.

BENJI

You want -- you want to hear something hilarious?

FRANCES

Yes.

BENJI

Lev thinks we're going to end up married.

FRANCES

I'm too tall to marry.

BENJI

Ha! You are.

FRANCES

That's so funny. Why would he think that?

BENJI

I did want to sleep with you when I first met you.

(quickly)

But now - totally undateable!

FRANCES

I guess we are like a married couple in a way. We talk. We don't have sex.

BENJI

Yeah. We get along super well.

FRANCES

Sophie and I used to be like that, too.

BENJI

But Sophie was a girl. And you were both straight. So it had less, like, real world probability.

Frances yawns.

FRANCES

Right. Of course. Well. I'm done. I hope I don't have the spins when I lay down.

BENJI

Just lay on your back by the edge of the bed and put one foot on the floor. It helps.

Frances nods. Benji reluctantly gets off the bed.

BENJI

Goodnight, then.

FRANCES

Night. Good luck with Beverly Hills Cop.

BENJI

Four.

Benji walks towards the door.

BENJI

Open? Shut?

FRANCES

Um, shut. I think. I don't know.
Does it matter?

BENJI

I'll leave it open so if you need
to throw up or cry or something you
can call me.

FRANCES

Thanks. Yeah. Open.

He's gone. Frances sits down on the bed.

She looks towards the mirror and self-indulgently stares
at herself.

PART THREE:

66 INT. STORAGE FACILITY. DAY. 66

The office is vaguely Christmas-y, maybe a wreath somewhere.

Frances walks down the hallway, a creepy long hallway with a lot of people's stuff behind metal.

She is carrying a chair.

67 EXT. STREET. DAY. 67

Frances stands on the corner with the chair. It's cold out. A student-looking person walks by. Frances approaches her with the chair.

The student rejects the chair.

68 EXT. STREET. DAY. LATER 68

Frances sits on the chair and writes something on a piece of card board. Gets up and puts the cardboard paper on it. It reads:

Free Chair. Totally normal, really.
Didn't fit in storage space. Needs
a home.

SACRAMENTO:

The following moments occur as silent scenes of a Sacramento Christmas. The audio playing over all the shots in this sequence is a conversation that Frances is having with her mother while driving in a car around Sacramento. (Found audio).

69 INT. SACRAMENTO INT'L AIRPORT. DAY. 69

Frances comes down an escalator, sees her parents waiting for her, holding a dog.

70 EXT. SACRAMENTO HOUSE. NIGHT. 70

Frances' modest childhood home, decorated with lights for Christmas. A tree in the window. Also all lit up.

71 INT. SACRAMENTO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY. DAY. 71

Frances and her parents attend a Sunday service at the Unitarian Universalist Society. The UU Society is really more like a multi-purpose cafeteria type of room with fold out chairs and hippie-ish banners.

Frances going around with her parents and shaking the hands of older people she used to know.

72 EXT. SACRAMENTO. DAY. 72

Frances rides her bike through the streets of Sacramento.

73 INT. SACRAMENTO HOUSE. BATHROOM. DAY. 73

Frances lies in the tub, not moving, eyes closed. The bathroom is decorated and kind of falling apart. The paint is peeling around the sink, but all the towels match. Christmas towels.

74 EXT. SACRAMENTO STREETS. NIGHT. 74

Frances and her parents walk along a special street in Sacramento that has TONS of Christmas lights and decorations.

75 INT. SACRAMENTO HOUSE. DAY. 75

Christmas "dinner" - really late lunch: About twenty people crammed around a table. The table doesn't quite fit everyone so there is a card table set up as an extension. Frances' dad is carving and serving. Frances gets happy drunk. There are so many people and so much happiness that the windows fog up.

76 EXT. SACRAMENTO RIVER. DAY. 76

Frances' and her Dad walk the dog on the levee along the river.

77 EXT. SACRAMENTO HOUSE. DAY. 77

Frances' Dad takes down the Christmas lights.

78 INT. SACRAMENTO HOUSE. DAY. 78

Frances' helps her Mom pack away ornaments.

79 INT. CAR. DAY. 79

Frances sits in the back of the car with her Mom and Dad in the front, the dog in her lap.

80 INT. SACRAMENTO INT'L AIRPORT. DAY. 80

Frances checks in, hugs her parents. As she rides up the escalator away from them, she starts to cry. She cries all the way through security and onto the plane.

END SACRAMENTO MONTAGE.

81 EXT. TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK. DAY

81

Frances is carrying a sleeping bag and a rolling suitcase and her backpack.

RACHEL
Stop thanking me.

FRANCES
It just means a lot, letting me stay with you-- I want you to know. You will definitely be getting a thank-you note. Remind me to get your address in my e-mail.

RACHEL
Don't worry.

FRANCES
It's the only thing that's forever. E-mail.

They walk along in silence.

FRANCES
Hey! Have you ever done--where you sing and--the other... It's easier to just do it, okay? You sing, make up some songs about whatever, and I'll dance...

RACHEL
Why?

FRANCES
Oh for money, kind of, so if you see someone then just shout "GIVE ME YOUR MONEY!"

RACHEL
I don't want to.

FRANCES
I'll sing and you dance, if you want.

RACHEL
We don't need money like that.

FRANCES
It's not for money. I think it's good to feel stupid sometimes. Did you see that movie, Once?

RACHEL
I've worked in homeless shelters
and it's not funny to make fun of
people who have to beg and
panhandle.

FRANCES
Panhandle sounds old fashioned.

Rachel looks annoyed.

FRANCES
I'm not making fun. Just watch me
do it for a second.

Frances launches into singing and dancing while Rachel just
stands there. Someone walks by and Frances screams:

FRANCES
GIVE US YOUR MONEY.

RACHEL
(staring)
This is making me very
uncomfortable.

FRANCES
(suddenly stops)
It's stupid. Sorry.

They walk along again in silence.

FRANCES
Do you want to put on really fancy
clothes and then go steal stuff
from Sephora?

Rachel says nothing.

FRANCES
Sorry about that. Thank you.

RACHEL
You're welcome.

NADIA (V.O.)
Oh my God, she's like the most
beautiful creature!

CLOSE on a picture of a baby on an iPhone.

Nadia passes the iPhone to Spencer.

SPENCER

Wow. That's a healthy little girl.

It's a six person dinner party. Spencer and Nadia, 30's, Janelle, and Andy, 40's, Rachel and Frances.

Frances is under-dressed, wearing her jacket, backpack. She awkwardly sits at the head of the table.

JANELLE

She's in the 90 percentile for height and 95 for weight.

ANDY

But it evens out later. When they walk. It doesn't mean she'll be fat.

Spencer hands it to Frances. She fiddles around on the phone.

FRANCES

Oh, I think you're getting a call.

She hands the phone to Andy who checks it and puts it in his pocket.

FRANCES

It's so funny when people have kids and they're all "I used to be so focussed on 'me' and now I'm totally not" - it's like, NO! It's still you. It's a mini you! It's a half you! I mean, you made it!
(eating too fast)
I forgot to eat today.

Pockets of conversation:

RACHEL

The only time you ever hear the phrase "I'm not here to make friends" is on reality television.

Andy starts to pour Frances wine. She puts her hand over the glass, some splashing on her fingers.

ANDY

Oh...sorry.

FRANCES

I'm trying not to drink right now.

ANDY

Oh, I'm sorry.

FRANCES

Don't be sorry. You're not the one who's bat-shit crazy after four vodkas.

ANDY

Yeah...Nadia had a hard time giving it up while she was pregnant.

FRANCES

What do you do?

ANDY

What?

FRANCES

"What do you do?" It's such a stupid question I thought I'd ask it.

ANDY

Oh, I'm a lawyer. What do you do?

FRANCES

What a stupid question! Just kidding...it's, it's hard to explain.

ANDY

Because what you do is complicated?

FRANCES

No...because I don't really do it?

Suddenly all conversation has stopped and everyone has turned to Frances.

FRANCES

Well, I'm a dancer, I guess.

RACHEL

Frances and I are in the same company.

FRANCES

But Rachel's in the main company. I'm an apprentice. Hopefully the touring company soon.

(to Rachel)

I have a meeting with Colleen on Monday morning.

*
*

RACHEL

Cool.

FRANCES

(to the table, rambling)

But I'm doing really good. Rachel and I have a really cool place. Or Rachel does and I'm staying there for six-ish weeks.

RACHEL

Five.

FRANCES

Right. Five. I've been running a lot. I think I might be training for the marathon.

RACHEL

Really?

People react positively: Oh! Cool!

FRANCES

But, yeah, everything is up in the air. I like being alone. I just got back from Sacramento.

RACHEL

Andy and Janelle just got back from Paris.

JANELLE

Six and half hours on a plane with a baby. Won't be doing that again soon! But it was heaven.

ANDY

(to Frances)

Do you ever get to Paris?

FRANCES

Not really. No. Kind of once. Actually, no. What's that museum with the escalators in tubes?

ANDY

The Pompidou.

FRANCES

Yeah!

(beat)

Um, do you get there?

*
*
*
*

RACHEL

They have a great place in the 6th.

ANDY

It's a little pied a terre.

FRANCES

Literally!

ANDY

--but it's a really special place.

JANELLE

It's just been so hard to spend any time there since I got the job at the Journal.

(beat)

And the baby.

FRANCES

I'd love to go to Paris. I'll bet it's magic. One of my friends from college, Abby, who moved there because her boyfriend works for a bank. In school, she was on of the top five friends, but then Zoe became closer to our friend group and Abby kind of moved to the outer ring.

Everyone at the table listens politely. Rachel could give two shits.

FRANCES

Sophie and Abby never totally got along. She started dating Luke who I always thought would have dated any of us, but he ended up with Abby.

Silence.

ANDY

Well, let me know if you're ever there, we like for it to be used.

FRANCES

Oh okay...I don't see myself probably getting there super soon, but...thanks, thanks.

SPENCER

Frances, I think you know one of my
colleagues at Goldman, Reade
"Patch" Krause.

*

FRANCES

Oh, yeah, I know Patch! 'Sup bra?

SPENCER

Mm. Yes, Patch knows more about
South American currency stability
than almost anyone else I know.

*

*

*

FRANCES

His girlfriend Sophie and I are the
same person with different hair.
Not really. We went to college
together and took the train into
the city on weekends and made bad
decisions.

*

*

RACHEL

You got pregnant?

FRANCES

No. What? No!

NADIA

She's a great lady. I really like
her. So smart.

FRANCES

Yeah. I mean, yeah. I mean, we're
all smart.

NADIA

But she's like book-smart, smart.

FRANCES

She's actually not. She doesn't
really read. I mean except for
work which is the funny thing.

NADIA

She seems like she reads a lot to
me.

FRANCES

I read way more.

NADIA

Uh huh.

Frances hesitates, hating herself in this conversation.

FRANCES

I don't know why I'm shit-talking
Sophie. She's basically the best
person I know.

SPENCER

Crazy, though, right?

FRANCES

Yeah. Which thing?

SPENCER

Japan.

FRANCES

Japan?

SPENCER

They're moving to Japan in a couple
of weeks.

*

*

FRANCES

What?

SPENCER

Patch got transferred. It's a
really cool position. TK.

*

FRANCES

For how long?

SPENCER

Indefinite.

FRANCES

But Sophie has a job at Random
House.

NADIA

She quit.

CLOSE on Frances' face as it changes, pained and sad and
everything bad all at once. Conversation turns to other
things, travel plans, airlines, food.

Frances reaches for the wine and pours herself a steep glass.

CUT TO:

83

People have moved from the table and are now on the
terrace. Frances smokes. She's drunk. She talks to
Nadia.

83

FRANCES

Nadia, I want this one moment...it's what I want in a relationship, which might explain why I'm single now ha ha. It's hard to...it's like that thing where you are with someone and you love them and they know it, and they love you and you know it but it's a party and you're both talking to other people and laughing and shining and you look across the room and catch each other's eye not because you are possessive or that it's precisely sexual but because that is your person in this life. And it's funny and sad, but only because this life will end, and it's a secret world that no one else knows about that exists right there in public unnoticed - sort of like how they say other dimensions exist all around us but we don't have the ability to perceive them. That's...that's what I want out of a relationship. Or just life, I guess. Love. Blah, I sound stoned. I'm not stoned.

(suddenly)

Thanks for dinner. Bye!

NADIA

Oh...bye.

Frances grabs her backpack. Rachel catches her.

*

RACHEL

Where the fuck are you going?

FRANCES

Oh, I'm kind of wasted. I was going to go home. Is that okay?

RACHEL

I don't care, I was just kidding.

FRANCES

(pause, to the group)
Thanks for inviting me tonight.

*

*

JANELLE

Nice to have met you.

*

SPENCER
Lovely.

*
*

FRANCES
(suddenly)
Hey, Andy, actually, I think I
might be going to Paris this
weekend.

*

RACHEL
Really?

ANDY
Oh...
(pause)
Do you want to stay in our
apartment?

FRANCES
Yes.

ANDY
Okay. Wonderful. I'll get you the
information.

FRANCES
Wonderful.

Rachel is staring at her oddly.

84

EXT. NEW YORK STREET. NIGHT.

84

Frances walks. It's cold. Suddenly:

VOICE (O.S.)
Frances?!

Frances turns around. It's Benji. With a girl.

FRANCES
BENJI!

BENJI
I knew it was you! Your weird man
walk.

FRANCES
(to the girl)
Hello.

BENJI
This is Caroline.

CAROLINE
I'm Caroline.

BENJI
How are the dances, Frances?

Frances laughs.

BENJI
(to Caroline)
Frances and I used to be married.

*
*
*

CAROLINE
Cool.

*
*

FRANCES
What are you guys doing? Want to
get a drink?

CAROLINE
We're going to my friend's party -
it's a house party. I mean, that's
the theme.

FRANCES
How is that a theme?

BENJI
Amazing, right?

CAROLINE
And it's in an apartment.
(beat)
You can come with us. If you want.

Frances considers for a moment.

FRANCES
No...I really. I shouldn't. I'm
going to Paris this weekend.

BENJI
Good for you, kid.
(probably lying)
I lived there for like a year.

CAROLINE
You never told me that.

BENJI
Yep. I was there when Serge
Gainsbourg died. It was a crazy
time?

*
*
*

CAROLINE
In 1991? When you were eight?

*
*

BENJI
Yeah, it was the end of Euro-disco.

*
*

FRANCES
I have so much to do. I think I'll
read Proust because sometimes you
should do what you're supposed to
do when you're supposed to do it.

CAROLINE
Proust is pretty heavy.

FRANCES
Yeah, but it's worth it, I hear.

CAROLINE
No, I mean the book. Carrying it
on the plane.

FRANCES
I should probably learn French
first and read it in French.
(beat)
Undateable!

CAROLINE
Mm.

Benji smiles warmly.

BENJI
Well, kid. We've got to run.

CAROLINE
Nice meeting you.

FRANCES
You, too. You're very pretty.

CAROLINE
Thank you?

BENJI
See you around, weirdo.

He ruffles her hair. He and Caroline take each other's hands
and walk off. Frances feels odd - not jealous, exactly, but
confused.

85 INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT. NIGHT

85

Frances is sitting in the dark, on Rachel's computer, concentrating. Key in the door, light on, Rachel walks in.

RACHEL

Is that my computer?

FRANCES

I'm sorry. Mine's so old it doesn't have the wireless thing and Sophie always had one that worked and -

RACHEL

- Yes, you can use it.

FRANCES

There are some good fares.

RACHEL

I thought you couldn't pay me rent.

FRANCES

I can't. I have no cash. I'm putting in on this credit card I got in the mail.

RACHEL

That's not smart. That's what they want. They want to keep you in debt.

*

FRANCES

I know that. I see documentaries. Hey! Do you want to come?

*

RACHEL

I travel with the company, it's enough for me.

FRANCES

So today is, what? Wednesday...I can go for a week! Oh no, shit. I have that meeting with Colleen on Monday.

RACHEL

Well...it's not worth it.

FRANCES

Andy's already emailed me the information. And I took the virtual tour of the apartment.

FRANCES
 (re: computer)
 HEY LOOK! It's perfect! The
 cheapest one and I get back in time
 for my meeting.

RACHEL
 It's still not worth it.

FRANCES
 It's meant to be!

RACHEL
 What's that about anyway?

FRANCES
 I don't know, but she's never asked
 me to have a meeting before...

Silence.

FRANCES
 You never know what could happen.

86 EXT. ST. MARKS BOOKS. DAY 86

Frances exits having bought a book. Proust!

87 INT. BUS TO THE PLANE. MORNING 87

Frances looks out the window at Queens.

88 INT. AIRPORT 88

Frances waits to board.

INT. AIRPLANE. NIGHT

89A Frances tries to find the right jack in the seat for her 89A
 headphones.

89B Frances tries to sleep. 89B

89C Frances reads Proust while everyone else sleeps. 89C

90 INT. CAB FROM AIRPORT. EVE 90

Frances rides in the back. She looks exhausted. She leaves
 a message:

FRANCES
 Hi, Abby, it's Frances. I just got
 in. I'm going to this free
 apartment this dude owns now.
 (MORE)

FRANCES (CONT'D)

I'm here all of tomorrow. Call
me...I'd love to see you and Paul.

91 EXT. PARIS APARTMENT. NIGHT 91

Frances searches around a flower pot. She lifts up a couple of small rocks. Under a bigger rock: the key!

Frances opens the door.

92 INT. APARTMENT. NIGHT 92

Frances enters. It's small, but very nice. She smiles.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT

93A The clock reads 11:40. Frances lies in bed. 93A

93B Frances shifts around in the bed. She can't sleep. 93B

93C Frances reads Proust. 93C

93D The clock reads 3:56. Frances moves around more in bed, 93D
trying to get comfortable.

93E 5:04. She turns on a light. She enters the bathroom, 93E
goes through her bag and gets a pill. Takes it.

93F Light streams through the curtains. Frances sleeps like 93F
a rock.

93G The clock reads: 4:32. Frances opens her eyes. She 93G
looks at the clock. It's the afternoon.

FRANCES

Shit.

94 INT. SHOWER 94

Frances tries to figure out the weird shower. She gets a small trickle.

95 INT. BATHROOM 95

Frances tries to brush her hair quickly and then gets hung up on a zit on her face.

96 EXT. PARIS STREET. EARLY EVE 96

Frances wanders, hair still wet. It's already getting dark.

She stops at a cute boutique. Is about to go in but the woman shakes her head. They're closing.

She leaves another message:

FRANCES

Do you guys want to meet for
dinner? I can meet you anywhere.
I'll be the girl with the acne
holding more acne.

97

INT. CHAIN RESTAURANT

97

Frances eats something lame and disgusting. Her phone rings.
It's a Blocked number. Frances practically lunges for it.

FRANCES

(breathless)
Hello?

SOPHIE

Frances?

FRANCES

(thrilled)
Sophie?! Oh my god, hi!

SOPHIE

(flat)
Hi.

FRANCES

(anticipatory)
Hi!

SOPHIE

I called you because I wanted to
tell you...that I'm moving to Japan
with Patch.

FRANCES

Oh... Is that good? Are you
excited?

SOPHIE

I know things are weird between us,
but we're having a kind of going
away party tonight and I wanted to
say you're invited.

FRANCES

Oh, yeah, I'm...I'm...I can't.

SOPHIE

You don't have to lie.

FRANCES

(genuine)

No, I'm not lying. I'm not. That's really awesome about Japan.

SOPHIE

(softening)

It's CRAZY. Last week, Patch's boss just called Patch into his office and was like: Japan bitch!

FRANCES

I wish I could come tonight.

SOPHIE

(all the way back)

Me too.

FRANCES

We could get dinner next week?

SOPHIE

Ahhh! Why now! No, I want to but Patch's grandfather is real sick and we're all going to Chicago for these special treatments. Their whole family goes. Being sick when you're rich is totally awesome. They replace all his cells or something. That can't be right, but that's what it is in my mind.

*

FRANCES

Where are you so I can picture it?

SOPHIE

I'm in Patch's study.

98

We CUT TO Sophie sitting in a leather chair at a desk.

98

FRANCES

I've never seen it. My picture's wrong.

SOPHIE

We'll be coming back to New York a lot, we'll just be based in Tokyo.

FRANCES

You'll learn Japanese.

SOPHIE

We can video chat. 21st century, what up.

FRANCES

My computer doesn't have that.

SOPHIE

New places are good for you, I think.

FRANCES

(observing the chain
restaurant around her)

Yeah.

SOPHIE

You should travel, Fran.

FRANCES

I am.

(lies for some reason)

I'm going to.

(nearly crying, genuine)

I'm happy for you, I just...no, you know what? I'm just happy for you.

SOPHIE

We're going to have a blog.

FRANCES

Together?

SOPHIE

Yeah, BARF. We'll upload pictures and stories and stuff.

FRANCES

Homeless and vacation have some similarities.

SOPHIE

I'm so sorry I missed your Christmas show...I guess I was mad.

FRANCES

-- it's okay. I didn't...it wasn't so good anyway.

SOPHIE

How's all that going?

FRANCES

Um, pretty good. Great. I have a meeting on Monday with Colleen to talk about stuff.

*

SOPHIE
You'll finally be in the company?
For real?

FRANCES
Yeah, I'll probably be touring,
though.

SOPHIE
That's so great Fran.

FRANCES
(letting her assume)
Yeah, it is.

SOPHIE
Where are you living? I heard
you're not with the boys anymore.
Hey, you wanna live in our
apartment while we're in Japan?

FRANCES
No. I. No.
(pause, deciding)
I'm going to have my own place real
soon.

SOPHIE
Maybe one day I'll stay with you!

FRANCES
Maybe. Um, I should go.
(beat)
Thanks for calling, Sophie.
I'm...I'm sorry too.

SOPHIE
Apology accepted.

FRANCES
(bristling)
Well, don't be a dick about it!

SOPHIE
I wasn't!

FRANCES
I mean this phone call is costing
me a fortune!

SOPHIE
Why?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

FRANCES

(lying)

Just kidding. It isn't. Hey, is Abby in Paris now, do you know?

SOPHIE

I think so.

FRANCES

Okay.

SOPHIE

You sound really good Frances.

FRANCES

I am. I am really good. Thanks for calling. I'm going to say something but I'm going to hang up right after because I don't want you to feel obligated to say something back. I love you Sophie bye.

She hangs up hastily.

99 EXT. MOVIE THEATER 99

Frances looks at the times for whatever lame American movies are playing.

FRANCES

When did X-Men start?

100 EXT. PARIS STREET 100

She walks more. Looks at her phone. Nothing.

101 EXT. PARIS APARTMENT 101

She puts her key in the lock...

102 INT. APARTMENT. EARLY MORNING 102

Her phone alarm goes off. Frances startles.

103 INT. AIRPLANE. NEXT DAY 103

Frances reads a fashion magazine.

104 INT. CAB FROM JFK. LATE DAY 104

Frances sits in the back. She looks exhausted. Her phone suddenly lights up with a message. She listens.

ABBY'S MESSAGE

Frances, honey, we just got your messages, I don't know why they didn't come through before. We're here! We'd love to see you. This is total kismet: You remember Gerard, Nicholas's brother? The one who looks like Jean Pierre Leaud? Well, he's divorced now and staying with us. I think you'd really like him. Come to dinner tonight, he'll be there, as well as a philosopher and painter couple who are really great... Oh, what great timing.

Frances hangs up her phone.

105 INT. DANCE STUDIO. DAY. 105

Frances sits in a waiting area. She's dressed in dance clothes. Colleen pokes her head out of the office.

COLLEEN

Hey, you, come on in!

106 INT. COLLEEN'S OFFICE 106

Colleen moves behind her desk. Frances sits.

COLLEEN

Rachel said you were in Paris.

FRANCES

I was.

COLLEEN

You're back so soon.

FRANCES

Well, we had our meeting.

COLLEEN

We could have moved it. I almost cancelled it myself this morning-- I woke up with a tickle in my throat.

Frances nods. Silence.

COLLEEN

Do you want to take over Nancy's position?

FRANCES

What?

COLLEEN

Nancy's pregnant.

FRANCES

Oh, no. I don't. Who told you that?

COLLEEN

No, I'm asking you. I mean, I assumed you're not keeping on with the company.

Frances hesitates. It's so hard to hear that.

COLLEEN

(sympathetic)

I know it's hard, but it's probably best.

FRANCES

(not sure why she's agreeing)

Yeah.

COLLEEN

You don't want to be an apprentice for the rest of your life.

FRANCES

Nope.

COLLEEN

You know, you should think about putting your own stuff together.

FRANCES

Like how?

COLLEEN

Like your own work.

FRANCES

Eh, I don't know, I kind of stopped doing it after college. And that was basically, like, cheerleaders doing my choreography.

COLLEEN

I always liked the stuff you did, even for the kids.

FRANCES

Yeah?

COLLEEN

Listen, you should think about taking Nancy's position. It's not a lot of money, but it's enough to keep you going...

FRANCES

Why would I do that?

COLLEEN

Just a good day job while you figure out if you want to choreograph or what.

FRANCES

You're saying it like it's easy.

COLLEEN

No, it's not easy. But if you worked here you could use the studio space -

FRANCES

- I'll get something else.
(lying)
I'm really close to getting something.

COLLEEN

A job?

FRANCES

Yeah. Dancing. I'm still going to be a dancer, just not here.

COLLEEN

Oh. Good for you. That's great.

FRANCES

I know.

COLLEEN

Well, good luck Frances.

FRANCES

Yeah. Good luck to you, too.

PART FOUR:

107

EXT. MOUNTAINS. DAY.

107

Frances hikes. Alone. Breathing and walking. Lots of trees.
She gets to the top of something. Gets out her phone. Calls:

FRANCES

Hi Mom.

MOM

HI HONEY.

FRANCES

Hi Mom.

MOM

PAUL PICK UP THE OTHER PHONE. How
is it up there?

FRANCES

Good, good. I'm dancing - kind of -
...and I'm living in a dorm I never
got to live in before, which is
fun. All the RA's live in dorms.

MOM

NOT THE ONE IN THE LIVING ROOM THE
BATTERY IS DEAD. Is it strange to
be back?

FRANCES

No - it's kind of nice. It's so
empty in the summer. It's weird -
it's like I went back to college
but everyone was a dancer and not a
semiotics major.

*
*
*

MOM

That must be fun for you, though.

FRANCES

--and now I'm one of the adults...I
keep thinking I'm going to run into
Sophie.

DAD

(getting on the phone)
Hi honey!

MOM

Sophie e-mailed me a picture of her and Patch in the largest dog park in the world - I think I'd really like that about Japan.

FRANCES

I got a picture of them at a porn mall.

MOM

Do you have enough money?

FRANCES

Yeah, I mean, I'm still in debt from Paris. That was just stupid.

*

MOM

I'm sorry we can't help out.

FRANCES

You help out so much. I'll be okay. They pay me extra to work the events.

*

MOM

You aren't a good waitress.

FRANCES

It's not waitressing, it's, like, pouring. For donors.

DAD

Are you choreographing?

MOM

Paul, we went over this!

FRANCES

At least you can't spend money in nature.

MOM

Where are you right now?

FRANCES

Nature.

108

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS. REGISTRATION. MORNING.

108

Frances is in a T-Shirt that says "ASK ME!" Another girl has on the same T-Shirt.

FRANCES

We don't have to, like, guide them, personally, do we?

GIRL

I think we just have to make sure that they don't fuck or die.

FRANCES

Ah. Good. Because I'm having a Walden's Pond moment.

GIRL

You have a pond?

FRANCES

You know I found something out about Walden's Pond - it was five minutes from his mom's house. He would go over there and get supplies.

GIRL

So where are you?

FRANCES

(confused)
Here?

GIRL

No, where do you go to college?

FRANCES

Oh, I'm not, I don't go. I'm done with college. But I went here...
(does a flourish)
--when I was younger.

GIRL

Weird! For some reason I thought you HAD to be in college to do this.

FRANCES

Nope...I just wanted to get out of the city and I know the director of the summer program, so she hooked it up...and it had room and board...and I'm working the events to make more money.

GIRL

Wow, you're super responsible.

FRANCES

No. I'm not.

(pause)

It wasn't that long ago that I went here. I'm only twenty-seven.

The girl doesn't care. Two young-ish looking dancers walk up looking confused and carrying lots of luggage.

GIRL

Fuck. I don't know any answers.

Don't ask me!

109

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS. DANCE STUDIO. AFTERNOON.

109

Frances walks in to the back of a class. It's mostly college-aged students.

A Dance Teacher approaches Frances.

DANCE TEACHER

Are you with the program?

FRANCES

Yeah, I'm assisting.

DANCE TEACHER

Oh great, you're one of the teachers?

FRANCES

Um, no, not, I'm RAing and just - but I'm a dancer -

DANCE TEACHER

- Oh, I'm so sorry.

FRANCES

What?

DANCE TEACHER

We can't let Resident Assistants take class.

FRANCES

But I'm not just an RA.

DANCE TEACHER

I'm so sorry, I don't make the rules.

FRANCES

I'm a dancer. And I went here.

DANCE TEACHER

I'm so sorry, I have to start
class...

110 INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS. DANCE STUDIO. A LITTLE LATER. 110

Frances is watches the students taking the class that she was not allowed to take. They're really good. It's simultaneously inspiring and depressing.

111 INT. FANCY PARTY. NIGHT. 111

Frances caters, serving tiny food on big plates; pours wine into empty glasses.

112 INT. FANCY PARTY. KITCHEN. NIGHT. 112

Frances is back in to get more food. A chef looks at her suggestively:

CHEF

You're a really good waitress.

FRANCES

I'm not a waitress. I just pour.

113 INT. LOCAL BAR. NIGHT. 113

Frances drinks with the catering people. It's a college bar. They are all wearing white shirts and black pants. They are all younger than her.

MALE CATERER

Okay, I have one: Who do you have to apologize to?

Everyone thinks.

MALE CATERER

I'll go: Everyone I've talked shit about over the past year.

People laugh.

FRANCES

I owe a bed and breakfast money...

FEMALE CATERER

No, that's not the same.

114 INT. DORM. NIGHT.

114

Frances walks into a dark dorm building. Stumbles towards her room. A very annoyed looking girl is waiting for her there:

ANNOYED GIRL

(loud whisper)

You were supposed to be on duty ten minutes ago!

FRANCES

(normal voice)

Sorry, I was -

ANNOYED GIRL

SHHHHHHHH!

Frances tiptoes around the other girl and into her room.

115 INT. DORM. FRANCES' ROOM. NIGHT.

115

Frances flops down on her single bed. The room is totally undecorated, a college dorm room in the summer. The weird blonde wooden furniture.

116 INT. DORM. NIGHT. LATER.

116

Frances' wakes up in the dark. She gets out of bed and walks down the hallway. Goes to the bathroom. On the walk back to her room, she sees a Younger Girl crying.

FRANCES

Are you okay?

YOUNGER GIRL

Yeah.

Frances hesitates. Then decides the girl needs someone:

FRANCES

(sitting down next to her)

I'm just going to sit here, okay?

YOUNGER GIRL

You don't have to do that.

FRANCES

I'm just going to, though.

Frances sits and the Younger Girl cries.

117 INT. COLLEGE STUDENT CENTER. COMPUTER BANK. DAY. 117

Frances stands at one of three computers, the other two are taken. She checks her e-mail and looks at the joint Japan blog that Sophie and Patch have.

A student looks on:

STUDENT

Are you going to study abroad there?

FRANCES

Oh I'm not a student. There's no more abroad. *

STUDENT

I'm half Japanese.

FRANCES

My best friend kind of lives there now. *

She drifts off. The student looks slightly annoyed.

STUDENT

(re: computer)
Are you done?

118 EXT. WOODS. DAY. 118

Frances smokes a cigarette. A campus security guard comes out of the woods.

SECURITY GUARD

You can't smoke here!

FRANCES

(dropping her cigarette)
Oh sorry --

SECURITY GUARD

-- No, don't put it out! God damn it!

They scuffle for the butt.

119 INT. COLLEGE RECEPTION ROOM. EVENING 119

The co-ordinator of the catering company is giving assignments. He's standing with Frances and pointing to the back of a woman's head at the party.

FRANCES

Famous how?

CATERING BOSS

She's a senator or a congresswoman
or something. She's important.

FRANCES

I should read the news more.

CATERING BOSS

Your job tonight is to follow her.
Just make sure she's taken care of.
She just gave the school a TON of
money. You don't leave until she
leaves - got it?

120

INT. COLLEGE RECEPTION ROOM. EVENING

120

Frances, in her catering uniform, stands behind the
Congresswoman during the reception after the auction.

Frances gets the Congresswoman different drinks and foods,
always with her. The Congresswoman flirts with a Young Man.
Frances tries to not pay attention.

CONGRESSWOMAN

(sexily)

Well when I went here it was all
girls. To meet a boy you had to
take the "Fuck Truck" to Hoboken.

*
*
*

FRANCES

(interrupting)

You went here? Excuse me. You went
to here?

CONGRESSWOMAN

Yes.

FRANCES

Oh my god, that makes so much
sense! I knew you looked familiar.
You were on the freakin' brochures!
I'm Frances, I went here.

CONGRESSWOMAN

Nice to meet you, Frances.

FRANCES

You too! Sorry, sorry. I'm not
really supposed to talk to
you...I'm pouring.

*

CONGRESSWOMAN

Ah, yes.

FRANCES

(confidentially)

You're very inspiring.

121 INT. COLLEGE RECEPTION ROOM. EVENING. LATER. 121

Frances stands behind the Congresswoman and the Very Young Man. Holds a wine bottle.

Frances hears a girl crying and a man saying:

MAN VOICE (O.S.)

Don't cry, baby, don't cry, baby.

WOMAN VOICE (O.S.)

You don't care!

MAN VOICE (O.S.)

I care.

WOMAN VOICE (O.S.)

You bought the CHEAPEST auction thing. THE CHEAPEST.

MAN VOICE (O.S.)

I didn't even go here!

Frances drifts in the direction of the fight. She turns a corner:

It's Sophie who's crying. Patch consoling her. Frances can't believe it. Stares. Then retreats.

122 INT. COLLEGE RECEPTION ROOM. EVENING 122

Frances is trying to avoid being seen by Sophie and Patch. Sophie walks straight up to the Congresswoman. Frances hides behind her:

SOPHIE

(drunkenly)

You gave a GREAT speech, but I seriously can't believe you're an independent, because that's bullshit.

PATCH

(embarrassed)

Sorry. Sophie, let's go.

*

SOPHIE

I went here. I thought you were great. I made him give money.

CONGRESSWOMAN

Well, good. Nice to meet you.

SOPHIE

We live in Japan. So it's like crazy we're here.

CONGRESSWOMAN

That's wonderful that you came all the way back for the auction.

SOPHIE

I WISH. No, we're in New York for a funeral. His grandpa. I wanted to come here. He drove. But it was MY idea.

CONGRESSWOMAN

Oh...I'm sorry for your loss.

SOPHIE

It's okay. His grandpa had a second family in Germany.

PATCH

(stern)

Sophie, let's go.

SOPHIE

(to the Congresswoman)

I loved meeting you. A real honor.

(indicating Patch)

This douche is my affianced.

CONGRESSWOMAN

Ah.

PATCH

We're engaged.

FRANCES

(from across the room)

YOU'RE ENGAGED?!

All eyes go to Frances.

Sophie and Frances talk. Frances keeps pouring wine for the Congresswoman. Sophie is messy drunk.

SOPHIE
It's not engaged engaged.

FRANCES
Right. What?

SOPHIE
We're back for going to a funeral.
I would have called - but you're
touring with the company.

FRANCES
(lying)
Yeah, I was, but you know, I needed
a break and I thought it would be
so funny to come back to the
college for the summer.

SOPHIE
It is funny! In a great way.

FRANCES
Yeah. And just making extra money
with this kind of gig.

SOPHIE
Yeah.

The Congresswoman continues to flirt with the Young Man.

SOPHIE
(a little too loudly)
What a slut.

FRANCES
Are you okay? Do you need some
food?

SOPHIE
(grabs a mini quiche)
I'll just eat this.

FRANCES
I really didn't expect to see you.

SOPHIE
Ditto.

FRANCES
It's almost hard to be happy about
it because I didn't have any time
to anticipate it.

SOPHIE
(like in a bar trying to
pick up a girl)
Let's get out of here.

FRANCES
I can't. I have to shadow this
woman -- she's my...ward.

The Congresswoman is full on making out with the Young Man.

124

EXT. COLLEGE RECEPTION ROOM. EVENING

124

The Congresswoman gets into her car with the Young Man.
Frances waits for the car door to close. She breaths a sigh
of relief.

Sophie and Patch are fighting as they get into their car.

SOPHIE
I'm not going back to New York. I
don't want to go to the funeral
tomorrow.

PATCH
You have to go.

SOPHIE
I'm hanging out with Frances. We're
going to the mall.

Frances climbs into the back seat.

125

INT. PATCH'S CAR. NIGHT.

125

Frances sits in the backseat. Patch drives and Sophie is in
the front seat. Sophie is still wasted:

SOPHIE
I'm bringing Frances to the
funeral.

FRANCES
(to Sophie)
I don't want to go to the funeral.

SOPHIE
You didn't even know your grandpa.
You didn't hang out.

PATCH
It's a funeral. It doesn't matter.

*

SOPHIE

If you're so broken up about it why did we go to the auction tonight?

PATCH

BECAUSE YOU MADE ME GO.

SOPHIE

I DON'T EVEN WANT YOU HERE!

PATCH

You were wasted, I wasn't going to let you drive.

SOPHIE

(turning around)

Frances, what do you think?

FRANCES

About what?

PATCH

(to Frances)

You don't need to answer.

SOPHIE

How sad were you really when your Grandpa died?

FRANCES

Pretty sad. Yeah.

SOPHIE

(pause)

Well, I wasn't.

(to Patch)

And I don't see why you should be.

FRANCES

Oh, this is me, right up here. My dorm.

Patch pulls up, Frances gets out. Patch and Sophie are still fighting.

SOPHIE

(taking in her environment)

"Chuggins." We never lived in this dorm.

*

FRANCES

I know. It's like the life I never had! Anyway. Congratulations?

(MORE)

FRANCES (CONT'D)
 On the engagement?
 (pause)
 And sorry for your loss.

SOPHIE
 (to Patch)
 You are so fucking selfish.

PATCH
 Goodnight, Frances.

SOPHIE
 Don't talk to her, don't look at
 her. She's my friend. She doesn't
 even like you.

FRANCES
 I like you...

PATCH
 (to Frances)
 I like you too, Frances.

Patch pulls away. Frances' face "what the fuck just
 happened?"

126 INT. DORM ROOM. NIGHT.

126

Frances is asleep. She is woken up by an insistent knocking
 at her door.

It's Sophie. She's crying.

FRANCES
 Hey, hey, come in.

SOPHIE
 Can I stay?

FRANCES
 Of course. Come. Stay.

127 INT. DORM ROOM. NIGHT. LATER.

127

Sophie is sitting on the bed, alone. There is a tapping on
 the door. She opens it. Frances is carrying two cups of tea.

FRANCES
 It's made in the microwave, but
 it's good.

SOPHIE
 Thank you...I hope it's okay I
 borrowed lounge wear.

FRANCES
No, of course.

Sophie takes her tea and they both sit cross-legged on the bed.

SOPHIE
(takes a sip of the tea,
looks green)
I think...

FRANCES
Oh, shit, here -

Frances puts a trashcan in front of her, Sophie throws up.

128 INT. DORM ROOM. NIGHT. LATER.

128

They lay side by side in a single bed. The bedside light is on.

SOPHIE
I'm sorry I was so drunk I threw
up.

FRANCES
I'm sorry I live in a dorm with a
single bed.

Sophie laughs.

FRANCES
Here, lay on the outside.

SOPHIE
Okay.

They switch places.

FRANCES
Put one foot on the floor. It helps
you if you have the spins.

SOPHIE
I used to throw up all the time
when I was pregnant.

FRANCES
You were pregnant?

SOPHIE
In Japan. For a few weeks. Then I
miscarried which was cool.

FRANCES

Wow.

SOPHIE

I mean, that sounds crass -
miscarriage is not cool.

FRANCES

Would you have had it?

SOPHIE

No.

FRANCES

Are you going to marry Patch?

SOPHIE

No.

FRANCES

I can't believe that pregnant is no
longer crazy.

SOPHIE

I don't want to stay in Tokyo. I
hate it there.

FRANCES

Really?

SOPHIE

Yeah. And then when I got pregnant
I was just like "get me the fuck
out."

FRANCES

But your blog looks so happy.

SOPHIE

I don't think my mom would read it
if it were about depression.

FRANCES

My mom would.

They laugh.

FRANCES

I was telling the truth. I like
Patch. I don't hate him.

SOPHIE

I know.

*
*
*
*
*

FRANCES

I'm sorry about...It's just if something funny happens on the way to the deli, you'll only tell one person and that will be Patch. And I'll never hear about it.

*
*
*
*
*
*

SOPHIE

(sort of taking it in,
sort of not, after a
beat)

Fuck I'm tired.

*
*
*

Frances turns off the light.

FRANCES

It's bedtime for all good children.

SOPHIE

I want to leave Patch and leave Tokyo and come back to New York.

FRANCES

You should!

SOPHIE

I'm going to.

FRANCES

I could...I don't know. I could help you. I was going to say "you could live with me," but I don't have a home. Ha.

SOPHIE

I am going to do it.

FRANCES

Fuck yeah, girl.

SOPHIE

I miss my job. And I miss old skyscrapers.

FRANCES

Maybe we'll both move back to New York at the same time. We'll be like women who re-discover themselves after a divorce.

SOPHIE

That's what my mom did.

FRANCES
Oh, yeah, sorry.

SOPHIE
I think it will be great.

FRANCES
We should get apartments close to
each other - in Brooklyn.

SOPHIE
Yeah. That's what we'll do.
(pause)
I've always felt so competitive
with you.

FRANCES
(surprised)
Really? I don't think I realized
we were competitive.

They are quiet for a minute.

SOPHIE
Fran?

FRANCES
Yes?

SOPHIE
Can you...I know it's not my bed,
but...

FRANCES
What?

SOPHIE
Can you take off your socks?

FRANCES
Oh, yeah, sure.

SOPHIE
It's just - socks in bed.

FRANCES
Right. Gross.

Frances takes off her socks and lies down again. Quiet.

SOPHIE
I love you Frances. Goodnight.

FRANCES
I love you Sophie. Goodnight.

129 INT. DORM ROOM. MORNING.

129

Sophie is moving around the room quietly. Frances is still sleeping.

After she finishes getting dressed, she writes a note.

CLOSE on the note as Sophie leaves.

Frances wakes up a second later. She looks around confused. Sees the note. Reads it.

SOPHIE (V.O.)
I'm sorry I was so drunk last night, but thank you for being nice to me which I know you were even though I don't remember it. All I know is you don't have a trash can this morning so it must have been bad! Ha ha. I love you. I've got to get back to this funeral in New York. Call me when you're awake! My phone works in the states and there aren't any charges or anything.
xoxo Sophie

130 Without putting on shoes or a robe, Frances runs
downstairs and out to the parking lot in bare feet just to
see Patch's car turning out of the lot and onto the main
road.

130

Frances runs after the car onto the road.

FRANCES
(calling)
Sophie! Sophie!

But Sophie doesn't see or hear her. She's gone. Frances looks down at her bare feet and looks back up to the road.

BLACK.

CODA

131 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET. DAY. 131

Frances walking with her backpack and bomber jacket early in the morning. She's carrying a coffee mug, like she made it at home. Or at least thought ahead enough to bring it with her and get it filled.

Gets out of the subway by City Hall. Walks through a hallway of dancers we've seen her in before - maybe she's dancing? But nope. She's - *

132 INT. DANCE OFFICE. DAY. 132

Frances busily working at a development office. With Colleen - she took the job she had rejected before. Making phone calls, doing things on spreadsheets, etc. *

133 EXT. PARK. DAY. 133 *

Frances choreographs something in the park during lunch. She's enjoying herself. *

Dances. Takes a bite of a sandwich that she produced from a paper bag. She's brought a bagged lunch. A female co-worker: *

CO-WORKER

We're back in five, Frances. *

FRANCES

Thanks!

134 INT. DANCE OFFICE. DAY. 134

Frances is finishing up the day. People are leaving. She looks at the clock. Makes a phone call:

FRANCES

Yes, hi, this is Frances...yes, "Frances for tonight"...ha thanks!...I just wanted to double check that we're still on for me bringing my guys in a little early...okay! Great! See you in thirty! *

135 EXT. SMALL THEATRE. EARLY EVENING 135

An older woman lets Frances into the space.

OLDER WOMAN

I think the other two groups will be here by six forty five.

FRANCES

We'll be done by then, thanks!

Frances puts her stuff down and physically explores the place.

136 INT. SMALL THEATRE. EARLY EVENING. 136

A lot of young dancers come in, all female, around twenty of them. They all hug Frances, warm up, and run through a couple of sequences.

Frances checks the lights and sound boards.

137 INT. SMALL THEATRE. EVENING. 137

One company finishes up. Come out and bow. Lights go down.

Frances is up in the sound/light booth. Trades places with the person who was there before her.

She breathes hard, in and out, and turns the lights on and the sound up.

Frances continues to run boards while her dancers perform. There is a small audience. Frances is beaming.

138 INT. SMALL THEATRE. LOBBY. EVENING 138

People are milling around, talking with their families and friends. It's kind of a reception. It's one of those things where there was hardly anyone there who doesn't know someone who was performing.

Colleen is there, Rachel is there, Frances' ex-boyfriend, Dan is there, Lev and a different hot girl.

Benji approaches Frances.

BENJI

Hey, that was great.

FRANCES

Aw, thanks Ben. I like a lot of ladies dancing.

BENJI

Yeah, at times it reminded me of...Antonioni's Zabriskie Point...

(beat)

Undateable.

FRANCES

Me?

BENJI

No, I meant me that time.

FRANCES

Oh, yeah, Zabriskie Point.

BENJI

But also true. Meaning I'm not dating anyone. Undateable. Same difference.

FRANCES

Ah.

BENJI

Are you really, still, are you - undateable?

FRANCES

You mean am I, oh, yes. Yes I am. Very undateable.

Benji and Frances have a half-moment.

Frances greets more people, takes pictures, laughs. Colleen is there, congratulates her. This is the high point of Frances' twenty-seven years.

Then, across the room, Frances sees Sophie. At first Sophie doesn't see her. Patch enters frame and puts his arm around her. She holds up her hand to someone. She has a ring.

RACHEL

You guys got married!

Frances looks away, surveys the crowd of people who came to see her show. She smiles. She looks back. Sophie is watching her.

They catch each other's eye and kind of smile.

It's the moment that Frances has always wanted. They are sharing a life-long inside joke.

COLLEEN (O.S.)

Who are you making eyes at?

FRANCES

That's Sophie. She's my best friend.

They keep looking at each other, kind of laughing, kind of emotional. No one breaks.

CLOSE on Sophie looking at Frances.

CLOSE on Frances looking on Sophie.

139 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING. BROOKLYN. MORNING 139

Nothing special.

140 INT. BRAND NEW APARTMENT. MORNING 140

CLOSE on Frances' hand writing something. It's her name.

Frances cuts out the name from the sheet of paper. She's sitting at the kitchen table of a small just-moved-into pretty empty apartment.

141 She walks out and trots down a flight of stairs to a bank 141
of mailboxes. She finds 2B and opens it.

CLOSE on Frances sliding the piece of paper into the mail slot. It doesn't quite fit. She has to fold it to get it into the space. Once it is in, it just reads:

FRANCES HA

We hold on the title.

Roll CREDITS over the image.