

IN TENTS

Written by
Mandy Fabian

The Gersh Agency
Greg Pedicin, Katy McCaffrey
310-274-6611

INT. JESS'S KITCHEN - DAY

Dirty dishes clutter the sink. A small table covered in mail, a laptop, a tablet, a half-eaten sandwich and cups of coffee.

******VISUAL NOTE: Along the cupboards, floating in the air, hanging on the walls are words and pictures that resemble "feeds" and "posts", new layers of conversation and information being presented in any given moment. As the below scripted ones appear, they are prominent, then fade away.***

SEXY MUSIC PLAYS, under which you can hear a woman MOANING.

INT. JESS'S BEDROOM - DAY

A large mass WRITHING under the covers of a bed. CLOSE ON the ecstatic face of JESSICA WRIGHT, mid-30s, eyes shut tight, flushed with pleasure.

JESSICA
(whispering)
Oh my God, Sam. That feels so
fucking good.

She takes a sharp breath in, reaches for her nightstand to stabilize herself.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Oh Sam. I love you. Just a little
higher. Yeah. Little higher. Oh God
yes, get in there, right there--

She squints her eyes open, peeks under the covers, then reaches over to pick up her phone for just a second to see if she has any messages. Puts it back down.

VFX: A CNN feed and images from a wedding website appears on the wall, then fades, along with TEXT "You have no new messages."

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Oh yes. Right there. Oh my God your
mouth. Your mouth is so hot and wet
on my--oh God, yes Sam! Yes! That's
amazing...I'm gonna---Oh. Oh Sam!
Oh, God I love you!

Jess orgasms, loudly. Catching her breath, she sits up, pulls a pillow from between her legs, and we see she has been dirty talking to NO ONE...she is very much alone. She puts her vibrator back under her second pillow, and bursts into tears.

The wall is cleared for a moment. Just then, her phone BUZZES and a TEXT from "Peter" floats on the wall above her head.

VFX TEXT: You coming today?

Jess types, irritated.

VFX TEXT: Of course I'm coming.

She tosses her phone on the bed, sighs. Then grabs it back to check her email. RACK FOCUS to a camping-themed WEDDING INVITATION that reads: "We're getting married!"

INT. JESS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jess is packing, trying for a "not trying too hard" outdoorsy look. Cut-off shorts, tank top. A flannel shirt (belt or no belt?) She packs a sundress, a dress for the wedding. Picks up a UCLA T-shirt, worn out, looks at it lovingly, sadly, smells it. Packs it.

She grabs her vibrator, packs it. Unpacks it. Packs it again. Goes to the bathroom, comes back with a toiletries bag. And a condom. Changes her mind, takes the condom back into the bathroom. Brings the condom back, packs it in a zippered side pocket. Where she finds another condom, previously packed.

While she's doing this, text floats overhead:

VFX EMAIL from Jess: Hey Sam, it's me! Just wondering if you were talking to me yet, or if you were too busy fucking other people... (then this gets deleted) What's up? Long time no see. You going to this wedding thing? (this also gets deleted) Hey Sam, it'll be great to see you, I've really missed our talks... (also deleted)

VFX TEXT from "Cliff": Hey you. Let me know if I'm taking you to Melanie's wedding this weekend! My gas tank is loaded up!

Jess gets her phone, reads Cliff's text, looks guilty. She stares, trying to think of what to say.

INT. PETER AND VINCE'S BEDROOM - DAY

A clean masculine bedroom with modern design aesthetic. On the bed, two small duffles. VINCE, mid-50s, in terrific shape, is packing light, durable camping clothes, matching flannel pajamas, flashlights, a ham radio, rain gear. PETER, 30s, handsome, lounges in the doorway, sips a cup of coffee and watches him admiringly.

INT. WENDY AND NATE'S BEDROOM - DAY

WENDY, late 30s, soccer mom, and NATE, 30s, her gentle teddy bear of a husband, are packing two large suitcases, in their Ethan Allen style bedroom. Wendy packs 3 books and her Kindle for their 2 day getaway. Nate is shoving his suit into a suitcase.

WENDY

Nate, your suit's gonna get all wrinkled--

NATE

Well, I didn't want to hang it in the car, y'know...blind spots-

EVAN, four, adorable, runs in, carrying a stuffed horse.

EVAN

Mom, do you want to take Cloppy with you?

WENDY

Uh, you read my mind. Thank you.

He puts it on Wendy's suitcase, runs out.

NATE

Wow. That's a big move.

WENDY

Two days without Cloppy? Kid's gonna need a Xanax.

NATE

(genuinely concerned)
Do you think?

WENDY

Wh--he'll be fine, Nate. He's got Maxine. And so much television--

NATE

That's...I think we should set some guidelines for appropriate screen time before--

Wendy's look shuts this line of thinking down.

NATE (CONT'D)

You're right. It's fine.

(beat; sotto)

Hey...should I bring some baby wipes?

(MORE)

NATE (CONT'D)
 (off Wendy's confused
 look)

In case we wanna get some tent
 business going? And need to...clean
 up?

Wendy is grossed out. That's just so unsexy.

INT. JESS'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jess sits at her kitchen table, scrolling through Melanie and Greg's Wedding Website.

INSERT LAPTOP SCREEN: *Beautiful pictures of Mel and Greg in the woods, posing on a gorgeously lit rock, splashing each other with stream water, forehead to forehead, holding a flower between them. OUR STORY, THE PROPOSAL, then THE WEDDING PARTY, pictures of her and Melanie, a picture from a college a cappella concert (Jess, Mel, Peter, Wendy, Hugh.) Pictures of Greg and his FRAT BROTHERS, Greg at a football game, his arms around a guy and a glowing girl, Samantha.*

Jess looks at the picture, bites her lip, closes the site, goes back to work.

INSERT LAPTOP SCREEN: *"Are You Too Sexy? -- Surprising Tips on Getting the Right Attention!"*

This is Jess's job, blogging for a TEEN POP CULTURE SITE, POP N' GO. She types.

VFX TYPING TEXT: *"I really liked her," says Jeremy, "but her thigh-high boots were intimidating." We think we know what boys want. But dressing to impress could send your dream guy running in the wrong direction. "I worried I wouldn't live up to her standards," continued Jeremy."*

VFX: *Peter's picture pops up*

She gets a CALL from Peter, answers it.

INTERCUT - INT. PETER'S APARTMENT/JESS'S APARTMENT - DAY

Peter is dressed in brand new trendy camping clothes and packing a cooler with stuff to make specialty cocktails.

PETER
 Are you on your way?

JESS

Uhhhh, yes? Almost. God, they gave me this big assignment, due today of all days--

PETER

But you're coming.

JESS

Of course I'm--Peter, I'm the maid of honor, I'm not skipping Melanie's wedding--

PETER

I know!

JESS (CONT'D)

I'm just having a hard time getting out the door.

PETER

I just wanted to make sure you're okay. You don't have to be nervous or anything--

JESS

I'm totally nervous.

PETER

Don't be. That's why I was calling! What happened between you and Sam is your business and what everyone thinks about it doesn't matter. Just be yourself.

JESS

(panicking)

Wait, what are--are people saying something? Is Sam saying something?

PETER

Who, Sam?

JESS

No, Lady Gaga. Yes, Sam!

PETER

I don't...I mean, I saw her at the Engagement Party but we didn't get to--oh shit, I spilled the Curacao.

JESS

The what?

PETER

Well, we're serving Blue Lagoons!
You have to have curacao, otherwise
they're just...lagoons.

JESS

There was an engagement party?

PETER

Uh...no, I mean, it was--some of us
had drinks, like twelve of us, it
was totally spontaneous actually--

JESS

Why wasn't I invited--?

PETER

I thought you were! Maybe you were
out of town? With Cliff?

JESS

Cliff and I don't vacation
together!

VINCE (O.S.)

Let's go, lover! I want to beat
traffic!

PETER

Okay, I gotta go.

JESS

(panicked)

Wait, Peter--!

PETER

You are a treasure and we all love
you. You're gonna be great.

He hangs up. Jess sighs, closes her eyes. Then pulls up Sam's
Instagram feed.

*VFX INSTAGRAM SAMMYJTOP: Pictures of food, nightclubs,
beautiful landscapes in Thailand.*

Jess reacts. She'd like to go to fucking Thailand.

VFX VOICEMAIL ALERT: Voicemail from Cliff

Jess sighs, then listens to Cliff's voicemail, eating corn
chips, still looking at Instagram.

*VFX: A picture of Cliff, a plain looking guy in a button down
shirt, toasting with a glass of Chardonnay.*

CLIFF (V.O.)
(trying too hard)
Hey Jessica, it's Clifford. I,
uh...I think your friend Melanie's
wedding is this weekend and I know
you've been super busy, but...

INT. JESS'S BATHROOM - DAY

Jessica sitting on her toilet typing on her phone.

VFX INSTAGRAM GENTLECJESS: Picture of a baby goat in a sweater. Caption: "Life is full of fun surprises. #exotic #travel #blessed"

CLIFF (V.O.)
I'd still love to take you. If
you're going. Would be fun to meet
everyone and of course, you know I
always love spending time with you.
Happy to sleep with you on the
ground. Or anywhere. Just let me
know, I haven't made other plans
and I won't, but let me know. Okay.
Bye.

EXT. WENDY AND NATE'S FRONT PORCH - DAY

MAXINE, 20s, their wide-eyed, sweet babysitter, holds hands
with Evan who's jumping up and down excitedly.

WENDY
(on the sidewalk)
Let's go Nate! Bye guys!

NATE
Okay! Maxine, you know where the
fire extinguisher is, first aid
kit, the neighbors know we're out
of town, but if you want to check
in, we'll have our phones--

WENDY
Nate!

NATE
Okay. C'mere, big man.

Nate gives Evan a hug and a kiss. He's getting emotional.

NATE (CONT'D)
 You be a good boy, okay? Say bye to Mommy--

WENDY
 (waving as she's walking)
 Bye kiddo, love ya!

NATE
 Okay. Okay. Bye.

INT. JESS'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Jess is driving, listening to "Who Knew" by Pink.

VFX: The song and album art float in Jess's car

JESS
 (singing)
 That last kiss...I'll cherish...til
 we meet again. But time makes...it
 harder...I wish I could remember--

She gets choked up, weeping and driving. She tries to pull herself together, grabs her phone again, makes a call.

VFX: Jess's sister Karen profile pic, smiling with her two kids, comes up.

JESS (CONT'D)
 (word vomit)
 Hey Karen, it's your sister. What
 is up m'lady? Hey, I'm just driving
 to...Melanie's wedding, and...I...
 y'know of course it's a little
 weird for me, cuz Samantha's gonna
 be there, but I'm really happy for
 Mel--fuck.

She got cut off. Pushes a button to re-record.

INT. PETER & VINCE'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Peter and Vince, who's driving, are singing COUNTRY MUSIC at the top of their lungs, in perfect harmony. Peter takes a few selfies of him and Vince, posts it, still singing.

VFX SUCKAPETER: Picture of Peter and Vince driving. Caption: This cowboy's taking me away! #wedding #MelGreg #truelove

INT. JESS'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Jessica listens, waiting patiently for the BEEP, then:

JESS

Hi Karen, it's Jessica. I'm just driving to Mel's wedding. I still kind of can't believe she and Greg are getting married, it's kind of surreal, but y'know, I have to support--

VOICEMAIL AUTOMATION (V.O.)

Are you still there?

JESS

What the FUCK?

Jess listens to the menus, presses a button to re-record.

INT. WENDY AND NATE'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Wendy pulls a cigarette out of her purse, lights it.

NATE

What are you doing?

WENDY

Nate, please.

NATE

You don't smoke.

WENDY

Honey I just want to have fun this weekend, okay? Just...try to relax and not make me and my friends tense.

NATE

I never make your friends tense.

WENDY

Just...please, Nate. Just for one weekend, I want to feel like my old self again.

Beat. She smokes, loving it. Nate stares at the stranger sitting next to him.

INT. JESS'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

JESS
(barely able to hide how
annoyed she is)
Hey Karen, it's me, just going to
Mel's wedding. Probably walking
into a real shitshow since I'm the
one who got Samantha fired and
fucked her over, y'know, but if she
ever would've called me back, maybe
I could've--anyway. I'll post
pictures, even though no one will
like them, because Melanie
certainly hasn't liked a single
post or picture of mine in like
three months, but y'know, I'm
totally down to celebrate her
happiness--

PHONE (V.O.)
Goodbye.

JESS
Auuuugh!

Jess throws her phone on the floor, then realizes that was
stupid, and digs for her phone on the floor, while driving.

INT. PETER & VINCE'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Peter and Vince listen to a true crime podcast. They both
GASP in horror at the same spot. Peter snaps a QUICK PICTURE
of Vince.

INT. JESS'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Jess holds down her home button, talks into her phone.

JESS
Text Peter.

SIRI VOICE
(from her phone)
Here are Derek Jeter's career stats
in the MLB.

JESS
Goddamnit.

While driving, she looks up Peter's contact, tries to record
a voice text:

JESS (CONT'D)
 (monotone, to Siri)
 Hey you there yet question mark I
 wanted to see if we could grab a
 drink before we go up period call
 me exclamation point.

She looks and sees her recording has been interrupted by a
 TEXT from Cliff: "Hey you! Get my VM?"

A car HONKS at her for drifting into its lane.

JESS (CONT'D)
 (to driver)
 What? I wasn't--!

Jess pulls off the freeway on the next exit.

INT. PETER & VINCE'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Peter WIPES AWAY Jess's text, in the middle of DOODLING on a
 picture.

VINCE
 (still listening)
 He's guilty.

PETER
 Oh yeah, guilty as sin.

*VFX SUCKAPETER: Picture of Vince LOOKING HORRIFIED. Caption:
 True crime? Or is he checking out my package? #truecrime
 #truelove #itsprettybigthough #wedding #MelGreg*

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Parked in a secluded spot, Jess stares at Cliff's text like a
 trapped animal. Toggles to Peter's text, waiting for the
 magic bouncing dots of response. Back to Cliff's. Then she
 kicks her seat back, takes 3 deep breaths, puts her phone on
 her chest, her other hand down her pants.

JESS
 (eyes closed tight)
 Stop it. We have to get to the
 wedding.
 (beat)
 Sam, they're all waiting...oh...oh
 Jesus yes. Yes...God, yes, whatever
 you want.
 (kissing her phone)
 (MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

Oh God, yeah, that's so hot. Oh...I love you Sam. I never should have--

Her PHONE RINGS, and Cliff's *PICTURE POPS UP*, snapping her from her reverie. Shit. She's gotta face this.

JESS (CONT'D)

Hello?

CLIFF (V.O.)

H--oh hey! There you are! How--
how's it going?

JESS

Hi, it's good. I'm good. You?

CLIFF

I'm good, you know me, I'm--hey, I was wondering if, are you going to Melanie's wedding this weekend? I just hadn't heard, but...it's this weekend, right?

JESS

Oh, God, is...are you sure?

CLIFF

I'm pretty sure, I had it in the calendar--

JESS

They might have moved it though--

CLIFF

I don't--I actually saw Peter's post and I think they're headed there now--

Jess is busted, totally incapable of getting out of this gracefully.

JESS

Oh yes! Yes, of course. It is this weekend, I just wasn't--I'm not sure if I'm...gonna go.

CLIFF

Oh. Really?

JESS

Yeah.

CLIFF

I thought you were the maid of honor--

JESS

Yes. No I am, I just...I mean, I'll probably go, of course, but like not for that long--

CLIFF

Oh.

JESS

Like I'm headed there now, but I'm only gonna stay for a bit, probably be in and out, I have a lot of work to catch up on, so I don't think it would be much fun for you.

CLIFF

Oh. Okay. Yeah.

JESS

Yeah.

CLIFF

That's too bad--

JESS

No, please don't feel bad, I'm gonna, like...be in and out and probably helping Melanie the whole time but then, maybe Sunday night we can hang? Do John Oliver or something?

CLIFF

Yeah, okay. You sure? I don't mind going up for the day...

Beat.

JESS

Oh shoot. Cliff?

CLIFF

Jess?

JESS

Shoot, Cliff, are you talking? Oh fuck, I can't hear--

CLIFF

I can hear you, can you hear me?
Hello? Jess?

JESS

I'll talk to you Sunday night,
okay? Don't feel bad, you're not
missing anything.

JESS (CONT'D)

Okay, sorry, I can't hear
you, bye.

CLIFF

Okay. Sunday, then. What
time do you think you'll be--

She hangs up. Pulls her seat up. Puts her head on the
steering wheel, deep sigh. Fuck. She's a monster.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Jess is full on checking Instagram while driving on a winding
mountain road. She passes a sign "CAMP IDYLLWILD - 20 mi." A
BUNNY sits by the sign, blissfully chewing on grass.

EXT. CAMP ENTRANCE - DAY

Jess pulls onto the road to CAMP IDYLLWILD. Soaring pine
trees, large rocks, clear blue skies, dappled shade
throughout the campground.

EXT. CAMPGROUND ROAD - DAY

Jess's GPS is starting to act up. Her arrow is pointing one
way, then the next.

JESS

Well, shit.

A HANDMADE SIGN READS "Landon-Maxwell" wedding with an ARROW
POINTING ONE WAY, covering an actual carved wood sign that
says "Nichols Lodge 1.5 miles" with an arrow pointing the
other direction.

Jess has her face in her phone, frustrated. Then looks up at
the sign, wondering if she can trust this totally archaic way
of getting directions. Slowly, unsure, she turns onto the
road that leads to the wedding.

EXT. CAMPGROUND PARKING - DAY

Jess parks, checks her phone. No service. Huh. She looks
around.

A few spots down, Wendy and Nate pull things out of their trunk. Wendy and Jess make eye contact, and Wendy waves at Jess.

NATE
Is that Jessica?

WENDY
Yes. Poor thing.

Nate looks confused.

WENDY (CONT'D)
(whispering)
The last single girl of the group
and she used to date the best man?
It's literally every woman's
nightmare.

NATE
Who's the best man?

WENDY
Sam.
(off his blank look)
Honey, you know who she is, she was
at the engagement party--

NATE
Wait. Sam's a girl?

WENDY
Oh my God, see, when you blurt
things out like that you sound so--

JESS (O.S.)
Hey Wendy.

Wendy whips around, surprised.

WENDY
(hugging her)
Hey Jess! How are you? What's up?

JESS
Hi! Not much, just...y'know--

WENDY
You look great! How's work? I
mean...
(realizing she may be
stepping in it)
the...I saw in the alumni
newsletter, your teen blog thing--?

JESS

It's going great, thanks. I'm actually talking with Tinder, they might want to do like a Tinder Teen thing next summer, which would be incredible. I think they should call it "Teen-der" but we'll see.

Wendy tries not to seem horrified by this.

WENDY

Oh, I never...I didn't think of Tinder for teens--

JESS

Just like for some future brand building for them. They'll be dating online someday, right? And how's...how's your little guy?

WENDY

Evan! He's great. He's four now.

JESS

Yeah, I saw the, you posted like a rodeo picture? He's so big!

WENDY

Halloween, yes! Yeah, they grow up so fast. But...I mean, you feel every second of it, it's not like you--anyway.

(changing the subject)

You have a boyfriend, right? Cliff?

JESS

(awkward laugh)

Oh, no, he's not--no, I've been dating a guy named Cliff, but--

WENDY

Is he coming?

JESS

No, he had to work. How do you--did you meet Cliff?

WENDY

No, but I've been helping Mel a bunch with the wedding plans. Made your gift bag and stuff.

JESS

Cooooool, okay. I was like "ah, I don't post pictures of me and Cliff!"

Wendy reacts. That's weird.

JESS (CONT'D)

Whelp, I'm gonna settle in. Oh! Did you get my email about the--

WENDY

Oh yeah! The video!

JESS

Yeah, can you guys--?

WENDY

We will. This weekend, I promise. I've just been so busy helping Mel. I think--your tent is over there--

JESS

Okay, thanks. Yeah, okay...great to catch up.

WENDY

Yeah!

Jess walks off. Wendy shoots Nate a knowing look like "See?" Nate, now holding an armful of stuff, looks after Jess, trying to understand what his wife is talking about.

NATE

She has a boyfriend?

WENDY

(deep sigh)
Catch up, Nate.

EXT. JESS'S TENT - DAY

Jess struggles with her suitcase, checking her phone, frustrated that it's not working. She passes several glamping teepees and yurts before arriving at a small tent with a handmade sign on it, welcoming "Jessica and Cliff." Oh man.

MELANIE (O.S.)

There she is!

Melanie runs up to Jess. They squeal and hug.

JESS

Hi! I'm sorry I'm late, I was just swamped with work stuff--

MELANIE

(grabbing her bag)
No, it's okay. Let me help--

JESS

Oh gosh, you don't have to do that. I should be helping you, it's your big day! Weekend, I mean!

Mel drags Jess's suitcase inside her tent. Jess follows.

JESS (CONT'D)

Look at this place! It's--wow!

INT. JESS'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

They get inside. There's two twin blow up mattresses and a goodie bag waiting.

MELANIE

I know, I'm so excited. It took me forever to find a place that's truly off the grid! And I just wanted all of us to--
(deep breath)
Unplug, y'know?

JESS

(dawning on her)
Oh, so like, the...there's no--
(re: her phone)
--on purpose.

MELANIE

(giddy, knowing)
Not for three days.
(re: her face)
Welcome to the real Face-Time, baby!

JESS

(fake happiness)
That is so insane!
(trying not to panic)
I love it. And this...
(re: goodie bag)
...and just all of it. So sweet.

Jess looks at the goodie bag. A homemade candle, a laminated itinerary, "His" and "Hers" soaps, a water bottle that says, "Love Quenches All! Greg & Melanie, 10-12-19"

MELANIE

I'm sorry, I would've gotten you one of the nice yurts or a teepee, but they all got snatched up so quick!

JESS

No, I'm sorry, I should have made my reservation earlier--

MELANIE

I hope it's okay, I want you and Cliff to be comfortable.

(realizing)

Where's Cliff?

JESS

Uch...he couldn't come.

MELANIE

Oh no! Is everything okay?

JESS

Yeah!

Mel looks at Jessica, knowing when her friend is lying.

JESS (CONT'D)

I like Cliff, I'm just...I don't know if I feel that way about him--

MELANIE

Are you still sleeping with him?

Jess just looks at Mel like "duh." Of course, she's sleeping with him.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

(almost parental)

Jessica.

JESS

No, I...he's great, I just...maybe I didn't want us to have a bunch of photos together. At your wedding.

Melanie nods. Then:

MELANIE

Well, you deserve someone special.
(fishing)
It's not like, because of Sam...?

JESS

What? Oh my God, no--!

MELANIE

Because I just, I think it's better
if you let that go--

JESS

Well, yeah. I know it is.

Beat. Will they discuss the elephant in the room?

MELANIE

(hugging her)
I'm so happy you're here. Have you
said hi to Greg yet?

Nope. No elephant here.

JESS

(cheerful)
No! Is he around?
(awkward, laughing)
I mean, duh, of course he is--

MELANIE

He's so nervous, it's adorable--

JESS

Oh, that's...I'm so happy for you
Mel. Put me to work, just tell me
whatever you want me to do!

MELANIE

I just want us to relax and have a
good time. I've missed you, y'know?

JESS

Me too! When I got the invite, I
was like, "Yay, it's still
happening!"

Weird moment. Mel smiles, and leaves. Jessica flops down onto
the mattress, on hard ground. Ouch.

EXT. PARKING AREA - DAY

A few GUESTS HONKING, waving as they arrive.

EXT. TENT AREA - DAY

One COUPLE marvels at the s'more kit that was hand-delivered to their yurt.

EXT. PARKING AREA - DAY

GREG MAXWELL, the groom, an affable, life of the party guy, is greeting the guests as they arrive. There are head noogies, fake gut-punches. Melanie comes up, he squeezes her, picks her up, introduces her to his friends.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - DAY

Jess watches this. She pours herself a copious glass of wine from the wine-tasting table. Looks around at who's here. Few couples she doesn't know. Peter comes up from behind her and hugs her.

PETER

Hiiiiiii.

JESS

Hiiiiiii. Oh my gosh, hiiiiiii.
(grabbing his arm;
quietly)
There's no cell phone service.

PETER

(quietly)
I know, it's like Guantanamo Bay.

JESS

No, at least they got to post pictures.

They look at each other like "shame on you."

PETER

You're horrible.

JESS (CONT'D)

You're worse.

PETER

Meanwhile, your mountain hair is fierce.
(motioning to her whole being)
If this wasn't surrounding a vagina, I would get in there.

JESS
(re: her vagina)
Blech. For being so little and
friendly, she ruins everything.

He kisses her hand and rejoins Vince. Jess clings to her
wine, waves awkwardly at Vince, drinking and walking around.

INT. WENDY AND NATE'S TEEPEE - DAY

WENDY
She's just...so awkward.

NATE
Well, if she just went through a
breakup--

WENDY
We were so close in college. Then
we were supposed to start an
acapella group after graduation.
And nothing. She just flaked, like
she flakes on everything. I
just...I feel for her, but she
really only thinks about herself.

Wendy goes back to reading her Kindle while Nate blows up the
air mattress.

EXT. BATHROOM - DAY

Peter stands frozen, staring at the compostable toilet shed
that purports to be the only restroom available. He doesn't
know whether to throw up, or throw a punch. A WEDDING GUEST
breezes past and goes right in.

INT. PETER AND VINCE'S TEEPEE - DAY

Vince is prepping a double layer queen-size air mattress, a
small wooden nightstand, with an alarm clock and a silver bud
vase and some wildflowers neatly arranged. Peter walks in, a
little shell-shocked.

PETER
Have you seen the bathroom? It's
literally a shithole.

Vince reaches onto the bottom shelf of the nightstand.

VINCE

Just think of the quad workout
you'll get.

(showing a small basket)
Antibacterial spray, wet wipes,
nose plug.

Peter looks at Vince's offering, shakes his head and walks
out. Nope. He'll just skip it, thank you.

VINCE (CONT'D)

You're not gonna poop for three
days?

PETER

(over his shoulder,
leaving)

I may never poop again, thanks.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - DAY

Jess is watching Greg pouring wine for his guests, gathering
courage to go over there. She swallows the rest of her glass,
and heads over. When she reaches him, another FRIEND is
presenting him a really nice bottle of wine.

GREG

Dude. You did not. Fucking Chateau
Lafite?

FRIEND

Yeah, man. Only the best for your
first wedding!

GREG

(laughing)
Ha haaaaa, you're an asshole--

Jess awkwardly waves at Greg to say hello.

JESS

Hi Greg.

GREG

Jessica! What's up?
(he pulls back for a fist
bump, she misses it, he
shrugs, goes back to his
friend)
What year is this? Is this that
shit from the basement? The stuff
that tasted so good with the
sausage?

FRIEND

Dude. This stuff would taste good paired with a dog turd.

GREG

It would taste good if you drank it from a glass of garbage.

FRIEND

It would taste good if you drank it, threw it up and drank it again.

JESS

(trying to play along)
It would taste good with truffle fries.

They stop, look at her. She didn't get the joke.

JESS (CONT'D)

(saving it)
Bleh, truffles. Am I right?

EXT. PARKING AREA - DAY

Melanie's brother, BRIAN, handsy, not the brightest bulb, the guy most likely to black out, drives up in an electric blue 2010 Dodge Viper, blasting "Pour Some Sugar on Me" by Def Leppard.

He gets out, sees Jess hanging out by the picnic tables, gives her a little wave. Jess waves back unenthusiastically. Melanie walks up to give Brian a hug.

MELANIE

Hey Bri!
(beat)
No, Bri, don't do that. Stop it. Stop!

BRIAN

Whazzzzzaaaa sis?
(picking her up,
bouncing her)
Huhhhh, uhhh, uhhhh, uhhhh,
uhhh...grrrrrrr....

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Blech, marriage is already making you old and no fun.
(re: his phone)
Hey how the fuck's anybody supposed to find this place? Why don't you just get married underwater or in the Grand Canyon? That's still a thing, right?

Melanie looks at her idiot brother, squeezes his shoulder, walks off.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Shut up.

(calling after her)

Hey, I better get a tent with a door. I'm not not hooking up at your wedding.

EXT. WINE TASTING CHEESE MAKING TABLE - DAY

Peter is practically dry-humping a goat gouda. Jess is quietly cutting cheese and putting it out, trying to be helpful. But to Nate and Greg's chagrin, she's licking her fingers after slicing each piece.

PETER

Oh my God. It's...

VINCE

Yes. So chew that, slowly, and then sip the Sancerre--

He does.

PETER

Shut your face.

MELANIE

And it's all organic, and humanely farmed.

PETER

I don't care if they butt-fuck the goats to get it, it's delicious.

Unable to stand it any longer, Nate leans in to cut his own piece of cheese.

NATE

(to Jess)

You want me to--? There you go.

VINCE

Is that where the flavor comes from? The buttfucking?

PETER

(shrugging)

You know what they say, happy goat, happy cheese.

(switching gears)

Why's organic such a big deal, anyway?

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)
My mother used to let me walk
around barefoot at the Winn-Dixie,
I turned out.

WENDY
(about to light another
cigarette)
Didn't she also try to leave you at
a Fire Station?

PETER
Oh, hold on guys, Betty Draper
wants to say something! When did
you become a smoker?

WENDY
I've always smoked, Peter.

NATE
I...do not recall that--

PETER
You know that that one cigarette
has like 7000 chemicals in it.

WENDY
(shrugging)
Okay--

Brian walks up, vaping. Of course. Vince looks at him with
obvious disdain.

NATE
(worried; to Peter)
Really? 7000? That's a lot.

Nate takes out his phone, to Google it. Peter follows suit.

PETER
I'll show you! My aunt was a
smoker, and I used to send her
scary emails about how fast it'll
kill you.

Greg, Vince, Brian, and Jess all take out their phones.

PETER (CONT'D)
(pushing buttons, trying
to tell "Siri")
Siri, search...Myrna...

SIRI VOICE
(from Peter's phone)
Siri not available. You are not
connected to the internet.

Peter shoots a look to Jess. She takes another gulp of wine.

GREG
(looking at his phone)
It turns your lungs black, right?

VINCE
(emphatically, looking at
his phone)
It's the cilia. It paralyzes the
cilia in your lungs and trachea.

GREG
(to Vince)
You have service?

VINCE
(putting his phone away)
No. I just know that.

WENDY
Well, thanks everyone. Thank you.

She puffs her cigarette, blows it out defiantly. Peter smiles. Greg checks his phone. Others put their phones away. They fidget. Greg checks his, every minute or so.

GREG
Y'know, you can still smoke in
restaurants in Tokyo.

VINCE
Oh, yeah! How was your trip?

GREG
We found the sickest apartment.

WENDY
It's amazing! I saw the pictures.

Jess starts to get uneasy. What apartment? She looks at Mel, who avoids her gaze.

GREG
So many of the places are small,
but this is like, a two-story
penthouse--

PETER
(sarcastic)
However will you afford it?

GREG
--with like a roofdeck. And we get
our own driver, cuz it's impossible
to drive there.

BRIAN
(in awe)
Shut up.

PETER
Does it smell like money? I bet it
smells like money.

WENDY
It's the most beautiful place I've
ever seen.

JESS
(caught off-guard)
Are you...moving to Tokyo?

Everyone freezes, trying to hide their discomfort. She didn't
know? Mel catches Jess's gaze, guilty. Only Brian and Greg
don't get the awkwardness of this moment.

BRIAN
Greg's finally gonna be crowned
King of the Douchebags. He's been
talking about Tokyo for a year--

GREG
Almost as long as you've been
talking about getting a boat.

MELANIE
(to Jess)
For his work. We just found out--

GREG
Well, we've known for a little bit--

MELANIE
No, but it wasn't definite
until...I mean we just signed the
lease last week. Anyway, he's going
first and I'll join him. I mean,
probably not til after the
honeymoon, but--

JESS
How long will you be there?

MELANIE
Not really sure--

GREG
(laughing)
Long as it takes.

Mel looks at Jess, apologetic.

NATE
Amazing. I love Tokyo.

WENDY
When did you go to Tokyo?

NATE
(softly)
I didn't.

GREG
(suddenly shouting)
Hugh!! What is up, dickhead??

HUGH, 30s, TV-Star handsome, and RITA, his model-gorgeous girlfriend, approach the camp, grinning.

PETER/MEL/JESS
(calling out)
Hi handsome!/Hugh!/Omigosh, Hugh!

HUGH
Jesus! How'd you guys find this place?

The men notice Rita. Hell, the picnic table would notice Rita. Upon seeing Hugh, Wendy puts out her cigarette, flustered. Melanie looks apologetically to Jess, then follows Greg to hug Hugh and Rita.

GREG
C'mere, you French son of a bitch.
Who's this? Is this Rita?

HUGH
Not French, Greg. One hundred percent American, just live in Canada.

GREG
But you speak French. Ritaaaa!

MELANIE

(shaking Rita's hand)
Really nice to meet you. I've heard
a lot about you.

RITA

Likewise. Hugh never stops talking
about his One Note Stand friends.

GREG

Ha! One Note Stand. Such a great
name.

(to Melanie)

Babe! You were such a dork.

Greg gives Melanie a noogie, while Rita and Hugh join the
group saying hellos, and Wendy feels fatter every second she
looks at Rita. Nate holds an ample plate of cheese in one
hand, sticks his other hand out.

NATE

(shaking Hugh's hand)
Hey, I'm Nate. Wendy's husband.

HUGH

Hey man. Wendy! Oh my God.

He goes and hugs her. Then the hug turns into more of a hold.

NATE

(trying to get their
attention)
Yeah, we uh...it's great to meet
you.

HUGH

You look the same. You look exactly
the same.

WENDY

(re: her breath)
Sorry. I was smoking. Nasty habit.

Nate clocks this. Now she's apologizing? Brian takes a hit
off his vape pipe, saunters closer to Jess.

BRIAN

Pretty psyched about the Tokyo
thing. I love sushi. Y'know.

Jess looks at him. Is he...flirting with her? Jess walks off,
leaving a befuddled Brian. Peter sees Jess go, follows her.

HUGH
(still gazing at Wendy)
It's been so long. Are you still singing?

WENDY
Yeah. Every so often, just for fun.
And I...I have a shop on Etsy.
Organic facial products.

Nate stands awkwardly next to Wendy and Hugh, trying to act like he's part of the conversation. He offers his cheese plate.

NATE
Guys want some Moose Cheese?

She looks at him like "Moose don't make cheese." He looks back like "That's what it said on the sign!" At the picnic table, Rita takes a scoop of Moose Cheese with two fingers, and sucks the cheese off them. Greg watches, in awe.

GREG
That stuff's expensive as shit.

EXT. CAMPGROUND ROAD - DAY

Jess walks determinedly toward the fork in the road. Peter catches up with her.

PETER
Why are already mad at Rita? Is it because she's so beautiful it hurts your eyeballs?

JESS
Fucking Tokyo? I'm her best friend, how do I not know about this? What is happening?

PETER
Jess, I'm sorry, but cut her some slack, she's getting married--

JESS
I know! And I'm happy for her! I just wish somebody would think about--did you and Vince do that video by the way? I have to start editing--

PETER

Is it a "have fun in Tokyo" message
or a wedding message?

JESS

It's for the fucking wedding! I
didn't know she was moving to the
other side of the world, so...just
please record yourself saying
something dopey and "wedding-y" and
something nice to remember us by,
okay? I'll be back.

PETER

Jess.

(she stops)

I'm sure she was going to tell you.

Jess looks at Peter, nods weakly, heads off.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Jess is holding up her phone, looking for service, wandering.
Suddenly, she gets a WIFI network on her phone, but can't
access it. She follows the signal, looks up to see...

EXT. LODGE - DAY

...a lodge just up the way. Civilization! Jess runs up to the
lodge, tries to open the door. It is locked.

A FADED SIGN states the hours: Weekdays, 2pm-4pm. Weekends,
12pm-2pm. And a sign below, "Free Wifi Spot." She CHECKS HER
PHONE, it is just before 4pm.

She knocks. Nothing.

JESS

Hello?

She looks inside the window and can just see a shadow of a
person moving around inside. They're in hearing distance, but
she can't make out a face.

JESS (CONT'D)

Hi, excuse me! I need you to
restart the router? I have some
business I need to attend to right
away and there's no cellphone
service. Hello? Excuse me!

She knocks again, harder. WTF?

JESS (CONT'D)

Hello?

EXT. CAMPGROUND ROAD - DAY

Jess marches back, pissed.

INT. JESS'S TENT - DAY

Jess comes in and finds Brian lying on her sleeping bag in a "come hither" pose.

JESS

Oh! Oh my God, Brian you scared the
shit outta me--

BRIAN

(seductively)
Jessica. What is up.

JESS

(flatly)
No.

BRIAN

(disappointed)
What?

JESS

Just no.

BRIAN

(frustrated)
Hey, you don't have to--I'm just
saying hi, y'know, checkin' on you.
Since Samantha is coming...

JESS

(confused)
Yes. So--?

BRIAN

Everyone thinks she's so great. I
think what she did to you is
terrible.

(Jessica softens)

And I checked out some videos on
LubeTube and the three of us can
have some good times together--

JESS
(unreal)
Oh my God.

BRIAN
Only if you wanted! Like a revenge
thing!

She puts her face in her hands. He stands awkwardly, then sensing an opportunity, he approaches, to rub her shoulders.

BRIAN (CONT'D) JESS
If there's anything I can do-- No.

*

Damn. He collects himself, exits the tent.

EXT. JESS'S TENT - DAY

Brian looks back at Jess's tent, shrugs it off. She'll come around. BACK AT THE PICNIC TABLES, Melanie sees her brother come out of Jessica's tent. What is he up to?

EXT. MEN'S CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Hugh, Vince, Peter, Greg, Brian, and a couple other male guests are gathered around the campfire. Greg is wearing a little miniature bridal veil with mini-dicks hanging on it. Cuz he's hilarious like that.

GREG
I'm not saying the FBI isn't good,
I'm just saying they would've been
better if they'd let me in.

PETER
(flabbergasted)
To do what?

GREG
C'mon. They always need guys like
me.

HUGH
Y'know Rita was almost in the CIA.

BRIAN
Really?

HUGH
She got right down to the wire, but
for some reason, they didn't take
her. And she can do everything.
(MORE)

HUGH (CONT'D)
Scale buildings, hack a phone,
paralyze a man in 1.8 seconds. It's
amazing.

They turn to look at her, intimidated and turned on at the
same time.

EXT. LADIES CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

MELANIE
They were the perfect couple,
except that they were always dating
other people.

WENDY
We didn't know!

MELANIE
No, he knew. You didn't know, but
Nate definitely knew.

WENDY
No--

MELANIE
He came to our a cappella concerts.
Who would do that--?

JESS
Oh my God, how could you miss it?

WENDY
God, I was terrified. The night we
hooked up.

JESS
It was my birthday party.

WENDY
(fondly)
Yep.

JESS
Melanie was freaking out, she was
like, Wendy and Nate are hooking
up! And I was like, I only rented
this place for three hours!

Wendy reacts. Was that really what she was thinking?

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

GREG

I'd pretty much nailed the five by five, but then I tried it with a draw instead of being low ready--

PETER

(sotto, to Vince)
Is he still talking about golf?

VINCE

(sotto, to Peter)
Guns.

GREG

(hearing this)
What? Peter, have you never gone to a firing range?

PETER

Go figure.

GREG

You and Vince should go to my place, my guy'll take good care of you.

VINCE

I'm not really a fan of guns.

GREG

Well, yeah, in theory I get that, but in practice they're really great.

VINCE

Have you ever killed a man?

GREG

(laughing)
Of course not.

VINCE

I have.

Everyone waits to see if he's going to say "just kidding". He doesn't. Peter clearly did not know this.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Marine corps, seven years, 3rd reconnaissance battalion. But that's not to say you shouldn't have fun at gun practice.

Holy shit. Vince is a real grown up man.

BRIAN

So Peter...you're gay now?

PETER

No, Brian, we're just holding hands like straight men.

EXT. LADIES CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Melanie, Wendy and Jess are deep into singing "Because of You" A Cappella, in perfect 3 part harmony. Jess sings lead and is feeling it. Melanie and Wendy both listen appreciatively. She may be a trainwreck, but boy, can she sing. Rita watches them, smiles and smokes.

EXT. MEN'S CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

BRIAN

(still confused)

But you had a girlfriend in college.

PETER

I was engaged, yeah.

BRIAN

So...is this weird for you? Being at a wedding?

PETER

Having sex with women was weird for me, Brian. Not the getting married part.

BRIAN

But now you're gay.

PETER

Yes. Now I'm gay. And I still do not want to get married.

Vince reacts. He did not know this.

PETER (CONT'D)

But enough about me. How's your love life, Brian? Held down anyone special lately?

GREG
(guffawing)
Solid burn, Pete.

Brian "laughs" along with the guys, then pouts. Looks to Jessica, hoping she'll look back.

EXT. LADIES CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Melanie sees Brian eyeballing Jess. It's so weird. The girls are getting drunker and have moved into the "let's solve the problems of the world" portion of the evening.

WENDY
So it's like...an app for people
who do good deeds?

JESS
(laughing)
Oh my God, this is not that
complicated, Wend!

MELANIE
Yes! I'm gonna call it "Give Just
One", and everyone reports one nice
thing they've done for someone
else...and we share it. Just so we
can all hear the good deeds people
have done, and get inspired to do
our own.

RITA
(annoyed by laziness)
Just one? You only have to do one?

WENDY
It's sweet! But what's it for, I
mean...how does it make money?

MELANIE
Well, I don't...I mean I haven't
thought that part out.

JESS
(sarcastic)
She doesn't need money, Wendy. Her
husband's about to be a
gazillionaire.

MELANIE
Well, no, of course the business
would have to...I mean, I'd want to
make some money.

JESS

It's a lot harder than you think. I mean it takes a lot of time.

MELANIE

Well...maybe you could help me.

JESS

Yeah, I'd love to. But you're moving to Tokyo.

MELANIE

So?

JESS

So you're gonna be busy. Doing wife stuff, you're gonna have to learn Japanese--

MELANIE

Never mind. Forget it.

JESS

(snippy)

I'm not saying forget it, I'm just saying maybe now's not the best time to start a business. Your life's pretty chaotic.

MELANIE

(changing the subject)

How's your blog going, Wendy?

WENDY

My parenting thing? Jesus, I did like two entries and stopped. Who wants to hear from a prisoner?

Rita reacts, confused. She's met real prisoners, and this does not compute.

EXT. MEN'S CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

HUGH

How'd you guys meet?

NATE

High school. I was best friends with her brother, and uh...those were some tough sleepovers.

(chuckling at his own joke)

(MORE)

NATE (CONT'D)

No, but she finally, uh--it took about ten years, but I finally got lucky.

(awkward)

I mean, literally, not sexually... but y'know, obviously that too--

BRIAN

(freaked)

Dude. That's a long time.

NATE

Yeah.

(to Hugh)

We've met before, actually. I came to a couple of your One Note Stand shows--

HUGH

(no recollection)

Oh! Really?

GREG

Hugh, didn't you go out with Wendy? In college?

HUGH

Me? No. No, I had a pretty debilitating crush on her, but no, I...was not her type.

GREG

(floored)

What was her type?

HUGH

Anyone but me.

(realizing that could be insulting)

No, I mean, Nate, obviously, he's her husband--

NATE

Ha ha, no, yeah--

HUGH

I was an ugly duckling in college. I had no girlfriends, ever, much less a Wendy.

GREG

(to Hugh)

Yeah, but you're a rockstar now.

HUGH
I...do okay.

NATE
Oh. What do you--?

GREG
Hugh's got three albums in the top ten.

HUGH
(being modest)
I got lucky.

NATE
(intimidated)
Wow, that's...wow.

EXT. LADIES CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Wendy bums a cigarette off of Rita, studying her. She's so mysterious and beautiful. They're all successfully drunk.

MELANIE
Can we just go back to singing--

JESS
I can't believe you!

MELANIE
We didn't go to see him, Jess, he was a surprise guest. I mean, the audience was laughing!

JESS
Yeah, the argument isn't whether he was funny, Mel. He's a sexual predator.

Wendy nods, that's accurate.

MELANIE
Predator? That...you of all people shouldn't--

JESS
What?

MELANIE
I just mean you're pretty adventurous--

JESS

Are you seriously comparing me to
Louis C.K. right now?

WENDY

That's not good.

JESS

Because I may get turned on by
weird stuff--

MELANIE

You get turned on by all the stuff!

RITA

(penetrating stare)

Like what.

JESS

I'm adventurous, but I've never
accosted someone in a public place
and masturbated on them.

(off Mel's knowing look)

Uninvited! You--look, you have to
draw a line with this--

MELANIE

Jess, we were at a Comedy Club--

JESS

No, it's--the line is all we have,
though. Before any of these mother
fuckers had consequences, we all
just shrugged and said, "Oh yeah,
it happened to you too? Sucks
right?" I mean, it happened all the
time and nobody cared.

WENDY

Well, that is true.

JESS

I mean, you have to do something or
you're just saying, "hey, known
sexual predator, here are the keys
to the kingdom"--

MELANIE

And what are you doing to change
the world, Jessica? I mean, "Teen-
der"? You really think that's a
good idea?

JESS

Wh--?

(to Wendy, pissed)

I told you that in confidence--

MELANIE

I'm sorry, but it's not like you haven't left some damage in your wake. I just think you're just the last person who should be talking about appropriate sexual behavior.

Beat. No one knows what to say. Then Wendy, trying to save the moment:

WENDY

You guys did the Women's March, right?

Jess zips up her jacket and walks off. Melanie sits for a moment while the other ladies softly chat, then gets up and follows Jess.

EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

Jess storms off. Melanie comes up behind her.

MELANIE

Jess. Jessica.

JESS

It's cool, Mel, just go enjoy your party.

MELANIE

Hey!

Jess stops, turns around.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing? I mean do we have to talk about sexual assault at my--

JESS

It came up! Just having normal conversation. Why are you attacking me?

MELANIE

Me? What's that shit about Tokyo, and my "chaotic" life?

JESS

You didn't even tell me you were moving! I'm not supposed to take that personally? Christ, Mel--

Melanie looks down.

JESS (CONT'D)

What did she say to you? Because, I can't get her on the phone so I'd really like to know--

MELANIE

Jess, she's going through a rough time--

JESS

I'm going through a rough time! And you have been avoiding me like the plague--

MELANIE

I'm not avoiding--I'm getting married here! It's kind of a big deal and I'm actually very hurt that you haven't taken a more proactive role.

JESS

Wh--like what?

MELANIE

Like, I don't know, how about a fun...naughty...bachelorette party? Even Greg got a bridal veil of dicks to wear tonight, how do you think that makes me feel?

JESS

(after a beat)
It can't be good.

MELANIE

Jessica!

JESS

Melanie...you're asleep by 9:30 as a rule...as far as I know, you've slept with five people in your lifetime--

MELANIE

Six!

JESS

Whoa, slow down there, Cardi B! I mean, what kind of bachelorette party did you want? A stripper?

MELANIE

(grossed out)

No--

JESS

You wanna do some mollie?

MELANIE

No.

JESS

Name another bachelorette party function. Hot yoga and a sweat lodge? Maybe we all do wheatgrass shots and talk about what we're releasing for the New Moon?

MELANIE

Oh my God, I'm sorry I asked.

JESS

Clearly I have been failing you as a friend--

MELANIE

You are a terrible friend!

Jess stares at Melanie, stunned and speechless.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

You have made fun of this wedding every step of the way, you have made it painfully clear that you don't like Greg, don't want to hang out with us--

JESS

They were jokes! I wasn't--

JESS (CONT'D)

What? I never said--

MELANIE

When I...when I had my little breakdown, you said--

JESS

I never said I didn't like Greg! Never.

Beat.

JESS (CONT'D)
I didn't think you really loved him-

MELANIE
Oh my God--

JESS (CONT'D)
And I didn't want you to settle!

MELANIE
Didn't love him?

JESS
You had doubts--

MELANIE
Normal people have doubts!!

JESS
I just--I didn't get that you would die if you lost Greg, or that you guys share one mind and heart but maybe you do, and I'm missing it because we haven't spent any time together--

MELANIE
I've been planning a fucking--oh my God--

Mel starts to walk away again. Then turns back.

MELANIE (CONT'D)
We've been friends for twenty years, Jess. It's my wedding. Just...get on board.
(turning to leave, then)
And if you fuck my brother, I will never forgive you.

JESS
(calling after her)
I'm not gonna fuck Brian! Nobody fucks Brian, and you know it!

Jess stands there, in shock. After a beat, Brian emerges from the bushes behind her. They share a look. First, Jess is surprised. Then annoyed. Then...she seems curious. He tentatively starts to move towards her, as if approaching a baby deer. He gets close, really close--then Jess snaps back to her senses, turns, and marches back to the campground.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - EARLY MORNING

Peter, Wendy and Nate are gathered around staring at a coffee percolator on a camping stove.

PETER

Oh my God.

WENDY

Is it done?

NATE

Not until it percolates.

PETER

This is why murders happen in the woods. They're waiting for coffee.

Vince comes out, bushy-tailed, happy. He gives Peter a smile and a kiss and hugs everyone.

VINCE

Good morning. How'd you sleep?

NATE

Not great.

NATE (CONT'D)

I think I like the idea of camping, but the reality of--

PETER

(sotto)
I don't think he was really asking--

WENDY

I slept great. Took half an Ambien and went right to night-nights.

VINCE

(re: coffee)

This is just about there...

PETER

Was there a Starbucks in town? Should we drive there? And then stay there?

VINCE

If you need a Starbucks, I can get you one. But it's at least an hour drive.

NATE

(sotto; to Wendy)

Since when do you take sleeping pills?

WENDY

(sotto; to Nate)

Oh Nate, relax--

NATE
(sotto; to Wendy)
I didn't even know you had a
prescription.

WENDY
(little snark)
How do you think I fall asleep
after sex?

NATE
(snark back)
Oh, so you take it once every six
months?

VINCE
Bingo! Percolation.

PETER
(waving)
Hey Hugh!

Hugh and Rita come back from a run, glistening and gorgeous.
It's like looking at the sun. Rita's actually wearing a
backpack and carrying numbchucks.

WENDY
Holy shit.

PETER
(appreciating the view)
Morning.

HUGH
Save us some coffee, 'kay? We've
gotta shower off.

PETER
(checking Hugh out)
Let us know if you need any help.

VINCE
(glaring at Peter)
I'm right here.

Jess stumbles over.

JESS
'Morning guys. Bleh. My tongue
feels like a squirrel got trapped
in there. Where do we brush our
teeth?

Looking at the food on the table, Jess's eyes widen.

JESS (CONT'D)
Were we supposed to bring food?

GREG (O.S.)
Sam!

Everyone looks over. Jess nearly has a heart attack. This is the moment she's been dreading and waiting for. SAMANTHA, jovial, beautiful, pulls up in a sexy rental Jeep. Jess is like a trapped animal, experiencing total fight or flight. Wendy busies herself cleaning the table, watching Jess like a car accident. Peter inches closer to Jess, squeezes her hand.

EXT. PARKING AREA - DAY

Greg hightails it over to greet Sam while she's getting out of her car. Sam gives Greg a big hug, punches his arm.

SAM
Sorry I had to come late.

GREG
That's okay. We cancelled everything.

SAM
Oh good. You're making a huge mistake.

GREG
I know.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAY

Jess watches Sam, and then sees Wendy watching her watch Sam and starts to arrange things on the table. Then grabs a coffee cup.

JESS
Uh, is it okay if I have some coff--
ow! Shit, that's hot!

She drops the coffee pot on the ground, spilling its contents. Everyone audibly REACTS, stares at the liquid gold soaking into the earth.

JESS (CONT'D)
Ow, fuck. My hand.

She puts her hand into a cooler.

PETER
 (panicked)
 Oh my God. That was our day one
 coffee.

WENDY
 (also panicked)
 What?

PETER
 Well, you don't bring coffee for a
 week when you're staying two days,
 I mean, not when you're also
 carrying your bed, your food, and
 all your clothes, GOD camping is
 fun--

JESS
 I'm really sorry.

PETER
 You should be! I'm about to kill
 all these nice people!

SAM
 Hey guys!

EVERYONE
 Hey!/What's up Sam?/Good to see
 you.

GREG
 Who's got coffee?

Jess looks like she wants to crawl into the earth. Sam gives
 Peter a big hug, hugs Vince. Hugs Nate, Wendy. Jess watches
 Sam hugging people, and wants to die. Peter squeezes her good
 hand, sorry he snapped.

SAM
 Nate, how are you?

NATE
 Good! Really good. The
 medical supply business is
 really happening right now,
 we've got a lot of new...

PETER
 (sotto, to Nate)
 You've gotta--it was
 rhetorical.

Jess keeps her head low, trying to remain invisible.

SAM
 (casually)
 Hey Jess.

JESS
(acting surprised,
speaking a little too
loudly)
Oh, hi Sam. Yeah, what--good to see
you.

Everyone is awkward. Peter pretends to pour coffee in a cup.
Nate's got a smile plastered on his face. Wendy is picking
grapes out of a fruit salad, and shoving them in her mouth.

GREG
Seriously, where's the coffee?

VINCE
(to Peter, as he takes off
for the tent)
I'll get our day two coffee.

WENDY
We have coffee.

PETER
That hazelnut shit? No thank you,
it tastes like toenails.

WENDY
Fine, don't have coffee then.

PETER
Fine.

JESS
(quietly, awkwardly)
Y'know what? I'm--I better...

She takes her hand out of the cooler and heads to her tent.
Wendy watches this, feeling a little bad for Jess, in spite
of herself. Nate starts fixing another pot of coffee,
chuckling to himself.

NATE
(as if someone asked)
No, it's just...Evan calls our
coffee our "goose juice"--

WENDY
(touching his arm)
Not now.

INT. JESS'S TENT - DAY

Jess is hyperventilating, checks her phone. Of course, no service. She looks back outside at the gang. She puts her head between her knees, trying not to panic. Then she crawls into her sleeping bag, settles down, and slides her slightly burned hand inside the bag.

JESS
(whispering)
Ow, shit. Ow.

She takes three deep breaths, and starts masturbating. But she can't seem to get traction being so quiet. So...

JESS (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Sam...don't. I haven't even brushed
my teeth yet--oh...

She found a good spot, closes her eyes tight.

JESS (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Oh my God, what are they gonna say
if they find us in here...oh
Samantha...

Oops. That was a little too loud. She dials it back.

JESS (CONT'D)
Everyone thinks we've broken up, we
should be careful...oh Sam--

EXT. JESS'S TENT - DAY

Samantha is walking back to her car to get her things. Did she just hear her name?

INT. JESS'S TENT - DAY

Jess is lost in her reverie, her back arched.

JESS
Oh my God, yes, come on, Sam. Do
it. Oh God, yes. Oh Sa--

Sam pops her head in.

SAM
Hello? Oh.

Awkward. So so awkward. Jess freezes, pretending she's not mid-orgasm.

JESS
Hey, I was just--

SAM
I'm sorry, I thought I heard my
name but I--

JESS
No, don't think so. Hmm mm.
(re: her phone)
But I mean...I had music playing.
Is that, did you hear that?

There is a long moment. There's no music coming from Jess's phone. Sam knows what she's doing. Finally--

SAM
Well, I'll let you--
(beat)
Good to see you, Jess.

She leaves. Jess, still sweaty, tries to download what just happened. She said it was good to see her. Not a marriage proposal, but still.

EXT. BRIAN'S TENT - DAY

Brian pops open a Red Bull, sees Sam come out of Jess's tent. No way. Is he getting edged out?

INT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Melanie sits, legs crossed, meditating. Jess comes in, out of breath.

JESS
Hey Mel. Hey.
(waits for response)
I know you're--sorry. Hey. Hey Mel.
Are you meditating? Mel? I was just
wondering if--Mel?

MELANIE
Oh my God.

JESS
There you are, hi.

MELANIE

Jessica, I'm really trying to meditate every day--

JESS

I'm sorry, let me just...

(taking a deep breath)

I'm truly sorry if I made you feel like I didn't want to be part of this, okay? I do. I like Greg. He's smart, and funny and you guys are great together. I mean, I wasn't expecting him to whisk you away to Tokyo, but...

Melanie looks skeptical.

JESS (CONT'D)

Please Mel. I can be the best kickass maid of honor you've ever had, if you'll let me. After I brush my teeth.

MELANIE

(hugs her, bursting with relief)

I'm sorry. I've just been so stressed--

JESS

Of course! Me too!

MELANIE

But I shouldn't have said those things to you. You're not a terrible friend, and I know you're not gonna fuck Brian--

JESS

Nobody fucks Brian...

MELANIE

I know! And you're not wrong, Greg and I did go through a rough patch, but we're good now, and I've wanted to share that with you, but I felt so weird--

JESS

No! Please share it with me! I want to hear it!

(beat)

You guys had the best website.

MELANIE

You went? You never left a comment!

JESS

Of course I went! I'm the maid of honor! I had to hate every photo you chose of me!

They smile, feeling like their old selves for a minute.

JESS (CONT'D)

Sam's here.

(beat)

She said it was good to see me. So--

Beat. Jess is dying to talk about Sam. Melanie won't.

JESS (CONT'D)

(changing her tune)

Anyway, put me to work! How can I help?

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAY

Jessica is sweating, struggling to set up a volleyball net. Rita and Nate offer to help her. She's relieved.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - DAY

Greg, Sam, Hugh, and a couple of Greg's other friends break into the good scotch. Greg is being loud, egging the guys on, takes a sip, ohhhh that's good. Melanie passes by carrying a box of stringy lights.

MELANIE

Wow, Scotch before noon? Bold choice, Gregory.

GREG

Oh honey, I'm glad you're here. I forgot to tell you...

(re: his scotch)

I'm in love with a 20 year old.

MELANIE

Just don't drink too much, mister. You've got a wedding tomorrow.

GREG

Get outta here, woman! Y'old ball and chain!

He playfully swats her on the tush. Melanie is loving every minute of this. Sam laughs, offers to help Mel with the lights. Jessica watches this, uncomfortable. She looks to see if anyone's watching her, sneaks off into the woods.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - DAY

Peter is busy at work making "Blue Lagoons" when Vince comes up, in hiking gear.

VINCE
You ready to go?

PETER
Y'know what? I think I'm just gonna
chill out here, if that's okay.

Vince looks at Peter's eyes.

VINCE
Are you stoned?

PETER
Are you a Ninja? What the fuck,
Vince, how can you--

VINCE
You don't get high.

Peter shrugs. He's pretty high.

VINCE (CONT'D)
You said you wanted to walk around--

PETER
I do, but...my friends are here,
can't we do it tomorrow?

VINCE
The wedding is tomorrow.

PETER
Well, can't we do it later?
Like, Thursday?

Vince stalks off. Peter rolls his eyes. He feels kind of bad.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Jessica hikes again through the woods, looking for the Lodge.

EXT. LODGE - DAY

Jessica walks up to the door, checking her almost dead phone. It's 12:00 on the dot. She knocks. Nothing. WTF? She POUNDS on the door. POUNDS again. It opens. There stands RANGER DAN, tall, fit, ruggedly handsome but scruffy. Dan's alone a lot and has the social skills to prove it.

RANGER

Excuse me, this door is state property and older than you by about 200 years. Can I help you?

JESS

Hi, sorry, I...I was here yesterday and no one answered so--

RANGER

So you thought you would ignore that completely and pound on the door again.

JESS

(pointing to the sign)
The sign says twelve to two.

He sees the sign. Looks around. Didn't realize it was there. Glares at her, crossing his arms. Jess won't be turned away, so she awkwardly squeezes by him, phone in hand.

JESS (CONT'D)

(sotto; small)
Sooo...I'll just...you probably shouldn't be a ranger if you, like, don't like rules and all.

INT. LODGE - DAY

A sparsely furnished shed with rustic, hand-made furniture, most of which has two uses, i.e. a sofa bed, a kitchen table that folds out, wall racks for pots/pans. Ranger Dan wanders into the "kitchen", continuing his task of taking dried herbs from various jars, mixing them into pots, and ignoring Jess completely.

JESS

(plugging in her phone)
Thanks for this. I've got no power and I've still got to record my message for my best friend's wedding. That's why we're all up here. But I'm sure they told you why we were coming.

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

(Beat.)

Pretty great to get the whole place to ourselves, huh? I've been kind of dreading it. Y'know. Personal reasons.

(as if he asked)

My ex is here. We had a pretty awful breakup, and...well.

Still nothing. She checks her Wifi networks.

JESS (CONT'D)

(frustrated)

Can you please restart your router? I can't find your WIFI signal, you probably need to re-boot.

RANGER

WIFI?

JESS

Yeah, you had one yesterday--

RANGER

I'm not sure how. Only internet we've got is there.

He points to an ancient desk with a 1996 Mac Classic II on it, connected to the wall via a telephone line.

JESS

Oh. That's unfortunate. Well, as long as you have a phone line--

RANGER

Doesn't work.

JESS

So how do you get internet?

RANGER

(shrugging)

I don't.

Jess scoffs. He glances at her, amused.

JESS

So there's no WiFi. Or ethernet connection. Even though it very clearly states on the website that free WiFi is available on the campground.

RANGER

I don't know. Haven't checked the website.

(motioning to the computer)

Don't have internet.

(off Jess's look)

I'm off the grid up here. Have been for about three years.

JESS

So, you don't...have any way to communicate? How do you talk to people?

RANGER

I'm talking to you.

JESS

No, but if there's an emergency. You can't text, or email anything--

She checks her phone. Something's wrong.

JESS (CONT'D)

(checking the outlet)

There's no--what the fuck? Sorry, it's not charging. Is the outlet working?

RANGER

No electricity.

JESS

What? What the fuck, how do you-- Jesus, dude, this is a weird life you've chosen. You just sit here in the dark and wait for people to show up? Don't you ever get lonely?

RANGER

(amused)

Don't you?

Off Jess's face...

EXT. PATH TO CAMPSITE - DAY

Jess marches back to the campsite, mumbling to herself. Peter comes to find her, out of breath.

PETER

Will you please stop running off?
I'm not good with hills.

JESS

I was at the Ranger station--
although I have to tell you, he's
less a ranger, and more like a
freakish hermit, but I guess that's
what happens when they cut all the
funding for national parks.

PETER

There's a Ranger? Is he cute?

JESS

Yeah, but I just told you he's
creepy, like Quiet Place creepy.

PETER

I'm having weirdness with Vince.

JESS

What kind?

PETER

He's just...so on it, helping them
build the wedding arch, keeping
everyone hydrated, chatting about
how we should all come back and
camp again in the Fall...God, I
can't breathe!

JESS

Did you tell him you need him to
take it down a notch?

PETER

Should I have to?

JESS

Well, he's older than you. He's
probably trying to impress your
friends, y'know, show you he can
keep up.

Peter stops. No she didn't.

PETER

Did you just call my boyfriend old?

JESS

He's not?

PETER
What the fuck, Jessica? Yes,
he's...older than me, but
Jesus you don't have to say
it like that--

JESS (CONT'D)
No no no, I wasn't...I mean,
you're the one who--

JESS (CONT'D)
You're the one who's so self-
conscious about looks and age and
stuff--

PETER
Oh my God. Stop.

Peter huffs away. She follows him.

JESS
No, it's not--you said the "gay
community" is super-harsh about
that stuff, I don't care about it,
it's you!

PETER
Fine, I did say that, but you are a
shit for bringing it up.

JESS
I think he's amazing! If he had any
desire to date women, I'd go out
with him!

PETER
(yelling back at her)
You'd go out with a vegetable if he
could blink "You look pretty."

Jess can't catch up with Peter, stops walking, sees the whole
gang back at the campsite, laughing and having a great time.
Hugh walks by her.

HUGH
Hey Jess! You okay?

JESS
(blurting)
I've never been more relaxed and
easygoing.

Hugh joins the gang. Jess sets her jaw. Okay, time to win
back some friends.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAY

Wendy is putting sunscreen on her face, relaxed and happy.
Nate checks his phone, worried.

NATE

We need to check in with the sitter-

WENDY

So check in--

NATE

Well, don't you want to come?

WENDY

Honey--volleyball.

She goes. He follows, worried.

EXT. HORSESHOE PIT - DAY

Greg, Mel, a couple of his buddies and Sam are drinking
beers, throwing horse shoes. Jess awkwardly saunters up.

GREG

I literally talked the guy off a
ledge. Straight outta the movies.

GUEST

So freaky. When was this?

GREG

Couple months ago. Good lookin'
guy, too, fit. You wouldn't think
he'd be a jumper.

GUEST #2

That's terrifying.

SAM

So awful.

GREG

Yeah. But he's okay now.

JESS

That's amazing, Greg.

GREG

Yeah.

JESS

So you kept in touch with him?

GREG

No.

JESS

Oh. W--how do you know he didn't
just find another ledge?

Greg looks at her weirdly. Then:

JESS (CONT'D)

No I just mean...you said he was
"okay" so I thought--

VINCE (O.S.)

Sam!

Vince WAVES SAM OVER to the volleyball court. She smiles,
blushes.

SAM

Excuse me. I told Vince I'd do a
bump and set clinic before we
started.

GREG

Fucking show-off.

SAM

(jogs off; referring to
herself)
Don't hate the All-State, baby.

Jess watches her go. Then:

JESS

(to Greg's friends)
How do you guys know Greg?

GUEST

Work.

Jess nods, takes another drink.

GREG

Jess is Melanie's best friend from
high school.

MELANIE

And college, and after college--

JESS

Melanie is the pretty one, I'm the
funny one.

MELANIE
 (enjoying it)
 You have to stop saying that--

JESS
 She's funny, too. I just mean she's
 pretty and her parents had money so
 she didn't have to be.

The guests look at her awkwardly.

EXT. VOLLEYBALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

Wendy stands with Peter on the courts, their Blue Lagoons
 full and sunglasses on. Sam has Vince and Rita bumping a
 ball. Nate is studying Hugh, very intimidated.

NATE
 (to Hugh)
 So what kind of music do you do?
 I'd love to hear your stuff.

HUGH
 You probably have.

NATE	HUGH (CONT'D)
Oh? I don't know what--	How old's your son?

NATE
 Four.

HUGH
 You know Freckles and Friends?

WENDY
 Shut up! You're in Freckles and
 Friends?

RITA
 He is Freckles and Friends. He
 writes all the songs.

Hugh makes a gesture like, guilty as charged. Nate seems
 relieved. So he's not an actual rockstar.

WENDY
 Oh my GOD! Evan loves Freckles. So
 do I!

HUGH
 Thanks, yeah, I try to--I try to
 write for adults too, y'know.
 (MORE)

HUGH (CONT'D)

I mean, just because you have kids,
you shouldn't have to suffer.
I mean, the most successful ones
are just love songs anyway--

WENDY

Really? Sing one.

HUGH

Oh, God no--

RITA

Yes, Hugh! Do that new one, the one
you wrote last weekend.

Hugh looks at Wendy, uncomfortable. He cannot sing the new
one, it clearly has something to do with her.

HUGH

Naw--

NATE

I'd love to hear it. I've never
known a songwriter!

Hugh gathers himself, clears his throat.

HUGH

Ha. Alright, yeah, sure. Here goes
nothing.

(singing)

I love the freckles on your
cheek...the way your head tilts
when you speak. You are so
wonderfully unique, just being you.
I love your windblown messy hair
and how you wish the world was
fair. And though you're gonna make
mistakes, you've got nothing to
prove...

Wendy recognizes herself in this song. Her cheeks flush, her
eyes moisten. Nate is seriously wishing he hadn't asked Hugh
to sing.

HUGH (CONT'D)

If only you could see what I see,
when I look at you. If only you
could know you like I do. If only I
could tell you just one thing, just
one thing...you are perfectly
imperfect, the way you are.

Wendy is now trying to discreetly wipe away tears. Hugh is embarrassed. Nate starts clapping.

NATE

Wow. That's a hit, my friend.

Rita accidentally hits Nate with the volleyball.

NATE (CONT'D)

Whoa! I did not mean that
literally...

SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - DAY

Everyone is trading stories, laughing, drinking beer. Jess downs her beer, tries to enjoy herself.

EXT. VOLLEYBALL COURT - DAY

-Greg is playing, teasing his friends. The star of the court, and irresistibly charming. Brian is being macho and trying to face off with Sam at the net. Jess watches from the side.

-Greg grabs Melanie, kissing her, then pretending to throw her in the bushes.

-Sam serves to Jess, who misses several easy shots.

-Greg helps Jess figure out how to hit the ball over the net. She gets a couple shots in. He high-fives her. She's pretty elated.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAY

-They do sack races, running with an egg in a spoon, dizzy bat...all the camp classics.

-Sam watches Jess make a joke with one of Greg's "frat-boy" friends. Jess seems relaxed and happy, and Sam smiles watching her, in spite of everything.

-Wendy watches Hugh try to walk after dizzy bat. Rita watches, amused.

-One of Greg's friends offers Peter the bat to join in. He looks at him like "you're joking, right?"

-Nate is wandering around the campground looking for cell service.

-Sam high-fives Jess, after she wins the three-legged race with Brian. Brian's stuck in the burlap sack, almost knocks Jess down. Melanie watches, happy her friends are getting along.

EXT. YOGA ARENA - DAY

Melanie leads the group in Yoga poses. Brian hits it like an athlete. Greg's a little drunk. Peter watches Vince from the side, sipping a cocktail with Wendy. Rita sits in silent meditation, doesn't move. Nate is in pigeon and gets unexpectedly teary. Jess watches Sam with longing.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - DAY

-Peter makes cheese and chip concoctions to feed Vince.

-Jess helps Wendy mix up a pitcher of margaritas, making her laugh with a recollection of one of their college concerts.

-Brian is working out nearby, tricep dips, squats, etc.

-Nate hangs out at the picnic tables with Vince and Peter, showing Peter pictures on his phone of Evan.

PETER

Oh my God, adorable! He's a perfect mix of you and Wendy.

NATE

Thanks.

PETER

I can't believe it's been so long. He was a baby when I last saw him!

NATE

We're having a birthday party for him next weekend! You should come!

Peter looks at Nate like he has three heads. Why would he want to come to that?

VINCE

That'd be awesome! We'd love to come!

NATE

Great! I'll put you on the Evite! Yeah, it's at this great trampoline gym, you're gonna love it.

Everything Nate is saying is like knives in Peter's skull.

VINCE

Great. Ooh! Let me get you another.

Vince grabs Peter's drink and hustles off. Beaming, Nate leans in to Peter.

NATE

(sotto)

Well, he's a catch. Well done.

INT. PETER AND VINCE'S TENT - DAY

Frowning, Vince busies himself, retying his hiking boots, stuffing a napsack with a map, compass, collapsable water bottle and flashlight.

PETER

Why would he even invite us? Would I also attend a funeral for someone I barely know?

VINCE

You said you wanted to see his kid.

PETER

No. I said I hadn't seen him.

VINCE

Y'know, honey, when we have kids, we're gonna have to go to these parties...

PETER

(fingers in his ears)

Blah blah blah, la la la--

VINCE

Peter! You're being very unattractive about this.

PETER

I'm unattractive?! You're like a giddy soccer mom, committing us to jumpy houses and shrieking toddlers on a Sunday morning!? Oh well, guess I'll just blow off reading the New York Times--

VINCE
 (flatly)
 You don't read the New York
 Times.

PETER (CONT'D)
 --and my morning Soul Cycle.
 I mean, what about what I
 want?

VINCE
 Oh my God!
 (insinuating Peter)
 Speaking of shrieking toddlers--

PETER
 No, I'm just not a hundred years
 old--

This stops Vince cold.

VINCE
 What did you say to me?

PETER
 (sobering)
 Sorry. Vince. I'm sorry, I--
 (beat)
 I love you, and it's fun, but...I'm
 not ready to act like an old
 married couple.

VINCE
 I'm a grownup, Peter. I won't
 apologize for that.

Peter looks down, quiet.

VINCE (CONT'D)
 I'm going for a hike, I'll be back
 in time for dinner.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - DUSK

The gang has strung up some nice lights, and someone has music playing via a system set up to a car battery. Melanie and Greg are a little dressed up, arm in arm, talking with more FRIENDS. Peter and Wendy do body shots off one another.

WENDY
 Don't you miss boobs?

PETER
 Who misses boobs? They're
 everywhere! Oh my God, I love this
 song.

They dance. Across the way, Jess comes up, freshly dressed herself, looking nervous. She sees Sam, summons her bravery and goes to stand next to her.

JESS

Hey.

SAM

Hey.

JESS

This is so beautiful, right?

SAM

Yeah.

Beat.

JESS

(light-hearted)

Did you ever think...I mean when we introduced them, did you ever think they'd be getting married?

SAM

(chuckling)

I did not see this happening. But, hey, they throw a great party.

JESS

(still lighthearted, but awkward)

Yeah. And this air--I can't believe I've never been camping.

SAM

I can.

Sam can't help it. She knows Jess better than Jess knows herself. They share a small smile. Jess is afraid to say something, but then:

JESS

Sam. Do you think we should--I mean...do we need to talk?

SAM

Oh. No, we're good, Jess. You don't have to--

JESS

No, but I just--

(gearing up her nerves)

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

--I just wanted you to know, I was not okay with them firing you--

SAM

Yeah, I don't--

JESS

I told the board we were in a fully consensual relationship, it wasn't...you didn't force me to--

SAM

Well, I'm not supposed to fuck my employees, so...

JESS

It wasn't like that! I tried to tell them--

SAM

Well, when you stopped coming to work, I guess they figured--you know what? It's over, okay Jess? I really, I don't want to rehash it--

JESS

I'm sorry. I know I was supposed to handle it, but I was heartbroken--

SAM

You? You were?

JESS

Sam...I loved you, none of this happened because I didn't love you.

SAM

I know.

JESS

But...I had never even been with a woman before, I didn't--I just wasn't ready for like, full-on, forever, y'know? I mean--

SAM

Please. Please don't justify your--

JESS

--I didn't want to get married, but I didn't want you to break up with me! I mean, Christ, Sam, you wouldn't even talk to me--

SAM

I didn't want to talk to you--

JESS

But you just shut me out. After everything we'd been through, it didn't make sense.

SAM

I was hurt, Jessica. I fucking...I destroyed everything, I left my girlfriend and risked my job to be with you and you flinched. And I told you that was going to happen! I knew you had no idea what was--

JESS

I didn't..I didn't flinch, I just didn't think you should make your decisions based on me--

SAM

Yes. That is another way of putting it.

Long beat.

JESS

Sam, I--I've never been happier than I was with you. You're just...the last person in the world I ever wanted to hurt, y'know?

Sam looks at her.

JESS (CONT'D)

I don't know if you can forgive me. But I'm sorry. If I could do it differently, I would. I really would.

After a moment, Sam softens, reaches over, squeezes Jess's hand. They stand there for a minute, relaxing into the familiarity of this.

Brian, who's the DJ, BLASTS "Tainted Love" by Soft Cell, glaring at Jess and Sam.

Greg WAVES Sam over. Sam squeezes Jess's hand, and goes. Melanie sees this interaction between Sam and Jess, worried. Jess ignores Mel's concerned stare, goes and joins some of Greg's friends for a tequila shot.

Nate interrupts Wendy and Peter, who are dancing and sweating.

NATE

Honey.

(no answer)

Honey.

NATE (CONT'D)

Hon--

WENDY

(exasperated)

Oh my God Nate--

NATE

Hey, I...I don't think we should go two nights without checking in.

WENDY

We'll be home tomorrow.

NATE

No I know, but...he's only four, y'know? He probably wonders where we are--

WENDY

(still dancing)

He wonders if Batman is real.

NATE

Wendy. It'll take 45 minutes. But we have to talk to our sitter.

WENDY

So go talk to her. I'll be here.

NATE

You know what? I've been very relaxed, I've made friends, I haven't said anything about the smoking, or the language...

WENDY

Oh fuck me--

NATE

But I don't like this behavior, Wendy. For the record, I'm not comfortable with this.

WENDY

Well I'm not comfortable putting my finger up your ass. But I do it.

Peter snorts, almost chokes on his drink, then dances away. Nate, embarrassed and pissed that his wife is acting like a bratty teenager, stalks off. Wendy watches him go.

Across the dance floor, Hugh stares at Wendy while Rita practices wrist holds on all the groom's friends.

EXT. BAR AREA - NIGHT

Greg is whipping up cocktails for about eight people. Jess comes over, feeling a thousand pounds lighter.

JESS

Hey! You need any help?

GREG

Nah, I'm good. You need a drink?

JESS

Sure! I'll have another beverage, why not? Throw caution to the wind, right?

He looks at her. She's so weird, but alright.

JESS (CONT'D)

Hey, Greg, I just...wanted to say I'm sorry. If I was ever...weird with you.

GREG

What? No you weren't.

JESS

Well...good.

Beat. Jess should drop it now. She won't.

JESS (CONT'D)

I was worried, y'know? When Melanie had her little breakdown, y'know, it wasn't like I didn't like you, I just had to take her side. But you guys got through it, and that's so inspiring. That's the kind of love I want, y'know? Someone who doesn't leave you the minute you go a little crazy.

Greg looks at her, no clue what she's talking about. But he has stopped mixing drinks.

JESS (CONT'D)

No...sorry. Heh. I...she didn't go crazy, she just...the thing with her boss, when they had that... y'know it was a confusing time. And you guys were just rock solid through the whole thing, that's what I mean.

Greg takes a drink, looking at Jess.

GREG

What thing with her boss?

Oh shit.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

Jess rushes over to a smiling Mel, grabs her hand and pulls her to a private spot. When Mel sees Jess's face:

MELANIE

What's going on? Are you okay?

JESS

I--yes? I'm fine. But I maybe, I think I made a mistake, okay? But please don't be mad at me.

MELANIE

What? What did you--

JESS

Just promise you're not going to be mad, I...we're just getting back to being--

MELANIE

Jessica, tell me what happened.

JESS

I'm sorry, I think I told Greg about the thing with you and your boss--

MELANIE

(her face falls)

What?

JESS

Unless you told him? Because I thought you did--

MELANIE

Why would you do that? Why were you even talking about that?

JESS

I explained that it was way before you got engaged, so it wasn't like you cheated--

MELANIE

Oh my God, shut up! Don't...don't say anything else.

JESS

I just assumed you guys had already worked all that out--

MELANIE

There's nothing to work out, Jessica, I ended it!

JESS

Well, yeah, but it went on for a while--

MELANIE

What is wrong with you?

JESS

I'm just saying you were into it, and if that door is open--

MELANIE

Don't! Don't say another word! You know nothing, and you do not have permission to discuss my life with anyone. I found someone! Someone to build a life with...

JESS

Mel, I said I was sorry--

MELANIE

You're always sorry!

Melanie turns to go, then:

MELANIE (CONT'D)

I think it's best for everyone if you just leave now. Tonight.

(shaking her head)

You drive everyone away. How could you--?

EXT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Around back of that cement box, Hugh has Wendy pressed up to the wall, rounding first base, and second and third are looking good.

EXT. PARKING AREA - NIGHT

Jess is crying, throwing clothes into her car, without a flashlight. She can't see a thing through her tears, and the darkness. Sam walks toward the bathroom, with a lantern, sees Jess packing. What's up?

SAM

Hey! Do you need a flashlight--?

Jessica turns, sees Sam and KISSES HER. Sam pulls away. WTF?

JESS

What? What's wrong?

SAM

(bewildered)

Don't do that.

JESS

(embarrassed)

Sorry. I just...you've been flirting with me--

SAM

Wh--I haven't been flirting--?

JESS

Oh really? The smiling and the drinks and "It's nice to see you"?

SAM

(bewildered)

--is how normal people behave, Jessica. I was...being nice.

Jess is devastated by this. And embarrassed. Peter runs up.

PETER

Sam, the first group is leaving.

Sam looks at Jess again, exasperated, walks off.

PETER (CONT'D)

(to Jess, worried)

Vince hasn't come back. The guys think we should go look for him.

Jess continues to throw shit into her car.

JESS

Well, I wouldn't worry, he's a Navy seal or something, right?

PETER

Are you leaving? You can't leave.

JESS

I have to leave, Peter.

PETER

Hey! Vince could be trapped, cutting off his own arm out there, I don't know. You've gotta stay.

JESS

Peter--

PETER

(desperate)

Jess! I never ask. For anything. Please.

(off her look)

I've never even had a boyfriend. You think you're afraid of dying alone? I don't even know if I can be with another person.

Jess looks apologetic, frozen. She can't make herself stay. Peter registers this, and walks off.

EXT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Wendy and Hugh hear the URGENT SHOUTS of people calling out for Vince, stop kissing.

WENDY

Wait...what's--

GROUP

Vince!/Where are you buddy?/Y'okay?

Wendy looks at Hugh, handsome, unmarried, ready to go, and realizes she's about to make a huge mistake.

WENDY

(disentangling herself)

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

HUGH

Yeah, no. Okay.

Hugh watches her go, a little heartbroken.

INT. JESS'S CAR - DRIVING - NIGHT

Jess wipes away tears, trying to see the dark road ahead of her. As she gets to the fork that heads to the main road, she looks for her phone, can't find it. Fuck.

EXT. BAR AREA - NIGHT

Like a well-oiled machine, Rita and Hugh have sobered up and are putting on headlamps, gathering rope.

Melanie, talks to friends, distracted. Shoots a worried look to Greg, who hasn't said anything yet. Brian runs up.

BRIAN

Hey Mel, I can't find Jess
anywhere.

MELANIE

Yeah, it's okay Brian.

BRIAN

No, but maybe I should look for
her? While everyone else is looking
for Peter's gay boyfriend?

MELANIE

His name is Vince. And no, you
should not go looking for her.

Brian pouts. Wendy rushes in to find Peter, being comforted by Nate.

WENDY

Hey.

Peter falls into her arms, starts to cry.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Hey, it's okay.
(to Nate; sotto)
Everything okay at home?

NATE

Yeah. He's good.

Wendy nods, strokes Peter's back.

WENDY
(mouthing to Nate)
What happened--?

Nate shrugs. He just got back, knows nothing.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

All is quiet on the campground. Melanie finds Greg sitting by the campfire, drinking from a flask.

MELANIE
This is crazy, huh?
(Greg nods)
Are you going to look for Vince--?
Or...

GREG
Rita and Hugh told me to stay. No
sense in all of us getting stuck.
Big day tomorrow.

Mel sits down, looking for Greg to say something. He offers her the flask, she declines.

GREG (CONT'D)
I wanted to get married in Hawaii,
remember?

She waits for him to say something more, then gets up and starts to leave. Then, she thinks better of it.

MELANIE
Greg...I kept a secret from you. I
did. At first because I was scared.
But then...I guess it was
because...we don't really...talk
about stuff. We don't talk about
whether we want kids, or how we'd
feel if somebody died. And nothing
happened with Mark, I want you to
know that, I didn't cheat on you. I
just...he confided in me. I
felt...needed.

(starts to cry)
You don't need me, Greg. So you
can't be mad at me for not telling
you, because you spend so much time
working, I don't know who you are.
And now I'm gonna be stuck on the
other side of the planet with no
one but you to talk to and...you
don't talk.

(MORE)

MELANIE (CONT'D)

(beat)

I hate Hawaii.

Unable to go on, Melanie heads to her tent. Greg sighs, stares into the fire.

INT. JESS'S CAR - NIGHT

Jess is pulled over, frantically searching for her phone, but she can't find it anywhere. Spent, she collapses in the front seat. She really needs to calm down. She takes 2 deep breaths, closes her eyes...oh, fuck it. She puts her hand down her pants, squeezing her eyes shut, and is starting to masturbate, to no avail, when--BANG BANG BANG!

Ranger Dan is banging on her window, wearing prayer beads, a bandana around his head, his shirt unbuttoned. She sits up.

RANGER DAN

Is one of your party missing from the campsite?

JESS

What?

He opens her door, startling her.

RANGER DAN

Are you missing someone?

JESS

Yeah, I think--yes.

RANGER DAN

Do you have a coat?

EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

Ranger Dan is leading Jess through a thick, wooded trail.

JESS

Hey, I don't...I'm not actually with the party, I was leaving--

RANGER DAN

I need you to I.D. the individual if we find him.

JESS

He's fine, I think he just fought with his boyfriend.

RANGER DAN

Really? They teach you that in
Ranger school?

Jess is shut down. Why's he being such a jerk?

JESS

Dude, seriously. You can't just
drag me into the woods, I'm little
to no help to you.

(waiting for a response)

How do I know you're not dangerous?
I think your alone time has made
you kind of a nutjob--

RANGER DAN

(pointedly)

Masturbating. In your car.

Jess is embarrassed into silence. They walk for a bit. Ranger
Dan looks back to make sure she's okay. Keeps walking. Then:

RANGER DAN (CONT'D)

I'm on a vision quest.

JESS

(rolling her eyes; to
herself)

Okay. But I'm the weirdo.

RANGER DAN

A vision quest is a sacred Native
American ritual, by which an
individual can interact with a
guardian spirit, usually in the
form of an animal, to obtain its
guidance or protection. While
you've been dry-humping your
Corolla, I've been immersing myself
in the requisite period of sensory
deprivation--i.e., no cell phones,
internet, human contact--because
that is how an individual is
finally capable of calling in said
spirit animal, so that it may help
the individual to realize his or
her direction in life, and return
her to the tribe infused with its
supernatural wisdom. It works. I've
done them before.

JESS

Okay. So you talk to animals.

RANGER DAN
I don't talk to animals. The
animals talk to me. I call them in.

JESS
Uh huh. And that's a thing. Okay.
(nodding, skeptical)
How long does it take?

RANGER DAN
I've been here three years.

Jess tries to hide her horror at this idea.

JESS
And...did you...have you gotten a
spirit...y'know, to--

Ranger Dan points just then to an owl, soaring above the
trees. The owl circles overhead, then lands on a branch not
too far ahead from them.

JESS (CONT'D)
(whispering, excited)
Fuck you! That's an owl.

RANGER DAN
Yeah.

They watch the owl for a moment.

INT. WENDY AND NATE'S TENT - NIGHT

Nate holds Wendy's hand. They both look miserable.

WENDY
This is crazy. Poor Peter.

Wendy, racked with guilt, gets up, pulls back the covers and
starts to give Nate a blow job.

NATE
(giddy)
Are you sure? It's pretty cold--

WENDY
Mm hmmm.

NATE
Honey. Oh my God, that feels so
good. Oh honey. Are you...that's--
hoo, the baby wipes honey, you
wanna...grab them? They're in the--

Wendy stops, sits back, looks at Nate and starts to cry.

NATE (CONT'D)

What the--

WENDY

Nate. You know I love you, right?

NATE

Wendy, you're scaring me, what--

WENDY

I...I...I made out with Hugh.

(reassuring)

Nothing serious. First base. Maybe third, what's third again?

Nate winces.

NATE

Ugh. Oh God.

WENDY

I'm sorry.

NATE

That was just...so stupid--

He gets up, starts to put on clothes over his pajamas.

WENDY

What are you doing?

NATE

I'm--I'm going to find a place to sleep, that's what I'm doing--

WENDY

Oh God, Nate. Please don't.

NATE

Well, too bad! How about please don't put your tongue down Hugh's throat! I'm assuming you did?

WENDY

I--we kissed, yes.

NATE

And did you touch his--

Wendy waits for him to finish the sentence.

NATE (CONT'D)
His...did you touch his...

WENDY
I mean I think I know what you're asking, but--

NATE
Dammit Wendy!

WENDY (CONT'D)
No! No, I got out of there.

Nate stands dressed, poised at the door of the tent.

WENDY (CONT'D)
It was stupid. This whole weekend I've been stupid, I just...ever since we had Evan we're not...it's not just the two of us, and we're not the same. I'm not the same. I'm cranky, I'm tired, my sex drive is totally gone, I feel like I'm screwing our kid up every second...I'm just...not the same person I used to be. And I miss her, Nate. I want her back.

NATE
Well, I don't.

WENDY
Of course you do.

NATE
(sternly)
Wendy, God, give me some credit-- I don't want the girl I chased in college, I want my wife. My beautiful, dumb asshole wife who just made out with her old college friend.

Wendy cries harder.

WENDY
Nate. Don't go.

He does.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

The stars are bright, the campground is quiet. Greg, good and drunk, puts out the campfire and heads back to his tent.

Melanie can't sleep.

Peter can't sleep.

Wendy can't sleep.

Brian sleeps like a baby. Nude, with an American bandana around his neck.

INT. JESS'S TENT - NIGHT

Nate, depleted, sad, comes in, settles onto Jess's bed, where she left in a hurry and thankfully forgot to pack her sleeping bag and pillow. He lies down, fluffs the pillow, and lays down his head. Wait? Why is the pillow vibrating?

EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

Jess walks behind Ranger Dan, talking, playing with a stick.

JESS

--and I always felt that, like a real affinity with cats, like I could talk to them, y'know? If my parents hadn't split, I definitely would have stayed with it, I just...I don't know, like I guess I found boyfriends, and...I guess I was more interested in what they were thinking...

(embarrassed by her babbling)

I just want to be clear, if we find him, you're on your own. I can't go back to the campsite.

RANGER DAN

Really.

JESS

Yeah, I'm--I'm pretty sure I have been uninvited. I am currently accused of "not being a good friend." Not being "supportive."

Walking. Jess scoffs.

JESS (CONT'D)

But what about her? I should've kept my mouth shut, okay, but I fuck up one time and she cuts the cord? How is that friendship? God.

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

She's so...hard to...I mean, I can think of so many times I've felt like she was mad at me. I've been jumping through hoops for her for years. Has she returned the favor? Ever? Like when do I get a break?

Just then, a rabbit bolts across Jess's path.

JESS (CONT'D)

Whoa, what--did you see that?

RANGER DAN

(smiling)

Rabbit medicine.

JESS

Was that a...y'know, a spirit animal?

RANGER DAN

Could be.

JESS

Oh my God! Really?

She looks for the rabbit, glowing with pride. Ranger Dan keeps moving ahead, she catches up with him. They continue to walk.

JESS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I just...I feel so lucky! That is...literally the nicest thing that has happened to me in months. Rabbits are so cute! And friendly. And smart.

RANGER DAN

Rabbit is a sign that personal transformation is needed at this time.

JESS

Well, yeah, everyone needs transformation.

RANGER DAN

While rabbits have survived for centuries, they're also the animal kingdom's biggest victims.

JESS

Huh. Okay, well...that doesn't sound right, I think maybe it means I'm lucky--

RANGER DAN

They're escape artists, they always have a back door, they run. Do you always feel that people are taking advantage of you?

JESS

Um--

RANGER DAN

Like you're constantly being backed into a corner--?

JESS

Y'know what, it's a fucking bunny, okay? It was a coincidence, and I don't accept it, so whatever you have to do to--

RANGER DAN

You need to stop being a victim. Own your life.

JESS

No, I reject your rabbit "wisdom" which is a paradox, by the way, the little fuckers run right into traffic. So thank you, no, I want a horse or a hawk--

RANGER DAN

The quest has chosen.

JESS

No, COME ON! NO! Fuck off, I'm not even a quest person, okay? Maybe you need to go see a fucking movie or watch a little TV and see how real people behave so you stop staring at trees and think they're talking to you, you weird peyote-smoking mother fucker.

Suddenly, Jess hears SHOUTING, far off in the distance. Sounds of people CHEERING. Ranger Dan smiles. Jess looks toward the noise, lights up.

JESS (CONT'D)
 (to herself)
 Oh thank God. Maybe they found him.
 Thank God.
 (to Ranger Dan)
 My friend Peter, he's like "in
 love" for the first time, and...
 (looking back to camp)
 I don't think I've been there for
 him.

She looks back toward Ranger Dan...and he's gone. Just like that. Jess looks around for him. WTF?

JESS (CONT'D)
 Hello?

Nothing.

JESS (CONT'D)
 Hello? Ranger? Hey!

Nothing.

JESS (CONT'D)
 (louder)
 Hey! I don't know the...dude?
 Hello??

She doesn't have any idea where she is. Shit.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAWN

Brian and Hugh carry Vince across the campground, slowly setting him down in a chair, while Peter holds his hand. Rita calmly rips her blouse to wrap his ankle, like a true badass. Hugh produces an ice pack, dragging a stump over to elevate the leg. Greg is whooping with delight, people come out of their tents to welcome Vince back.

BRIAN
 Oh fuck, my arms. Oh, I think my
 hand fell asleep.

PETER
 (to Hugh and Rita)
 Thank you. Thank you so much.

GREG
 (to Vince)
 Holy shit man, you scared the piss
 out of us!

HUGH
Okay 1...2...

Once Brian is out of the way, shaking his arms furiously and moaning, Hugh and Rita get Vince situated in a better position.

RITA
Brian, get him some more blankets.

Brian looks at her like, "I fucking carried him, isn't that enough?" then goes off to get blankets.

VINCE
(to Peter)
I'm sorry. I stayed out too long
and it got dark--

PETER
No, it's okay.

VINCE
(wincing, embarrassed)
No, this was stupid. I know better.

PETER
(scared, grabbing him)
No, I know better. Please don't
ever listen to me talk. Just
pretend you hear "blah blah blah."

VINCE
Pretend?

Peter kisses him. He's so fucking relieved. Mel goes back to her tent.

EXT. TRAIL - EARLY MORNING

Jessica is still walking, disheveled, exhausted, some grass in her hair where she clearly tried to lie down and get some sleep.

JESS
(to herself)
Just fuck you too. Y'know what?
Maybe if you hadn't stayed with Dad
for 18 years too long, you wouldn't
have made us all miserable! How was
I ever supposed to be happy? When
was I even given the fucking
chance?

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)
 Fucking grandma with her
 depression, fucking Aunt Chloe with
 her dickhead husbands, and yes, her
 fucking daughter drinks too much,
 I'll say it! I'm supposed to rise
 like a phoenix of happiness from
 the fucking swamp I was born into?

A rabbit BOLTS across, right by her feet.

JESS (CONT'D)
 Holy sh--!

She freezes, looks for it in the grass by the trail.

JESS (CONT'D)
 (shouting to the mystery
 spirit animal boss)
 Goddamnit no! NO! That better be a
 goddamn deer!

EXT. CEREMONY SITE - DAY

A beautiful small group of tree trunks for people to sit on,
 down the aisle stands a podium decorated with wildflowers,
 branches, and some twine. Mason jars hold candles. It's an
 idyllic countryside wedding in the woods.

More GUESTS arrive:

--Greg's PROUD PARENTS stand waiting to greet everyone

--Melanie's TERRIFIED PARENTS listen as Brian explains what
 happened the night before and how he's operating on no sleep

--Greg's BOSS and his TROPHY WIFE who's a little tipsy for a
 10am wedding linger to the side, she wants to save a seat, he
 wants to wait....

--Sam introduces her DATE, who's finally arrived.

--A couple YOGA FRIENDS from Melanie's yoga teacher training
 listen raptly to Hugh and Rita talk about their travels. Hugh
 glances nervously at Wendy.

--Nate tells a story about Evan to some HIPPIE COUPLE friends
 of Melanie's. Wendy watches him, wanting to join, not sure if
 she should.

--WORK ASSOCIATES of Greg's bring gifts to the gift table.
 trying to guess what's inside the boxes.

INT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Melanie looks out toward Jess's empty tent. She looks to Greg, who's chatting with her parents. She pulls back into the tent and looks at a little altar set up in front of her with a mirror. She looks gorgeous. And bursts into tears.

EXT. CEREMONY SITE - DAY

Peter gets Vince settled in with his leg hoisted on a pillow. Vince has managed to put on his suit and look pretty dapper.

PETER

You should really go to a hospital.

VINCE

No doctors. I'm fine.

PETER

(rolling his eyes)

God, you're so macho.

(walking off; to himself)

I love that.

EXT. CEREMONY SITE - DAY

Wendy watches Hugh tune up his guitar, getting ready for the ceremony, and is awash with guilt all over again.

Greg is slowly moseying his way up to the altar, where Sam already stands. A few guests are starting to take their seats.

INT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Peter, carrying a binder, comes in.

PETER

Hey I just want to go over a couple things with you, since Jessica isn't here, we might want to cut the song--

MELANIE

I can't do this.

Beat. Peter stares like a frightened animal.

PETER

Kay.

EXT. CEREMONY SITE - DAY

People are milling, drinking champagne, telling wedding stories. Hugh is playing guitar and singing. Sam is now talking to Greg, who's getting a very strange look on his face, looking toward Melanie's tent.

Greg nods and heads toward the tent. Peter, nervous, watches him go. Wendy comes up to Peter, stands beside him.

PETER

What do we do? Should we listen?

WENDY

No, we shouldn't.

She grabs Peter's elbow and guides him to Melanie's tent. Sam casually follows them. Wendy looks to Nate, who's watching her, concerned.

INT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Greg sits, flummoxed, in front of a sobbing Melanie.

GREG

Babe? Why're you cryin'?

MELANIE

I don't know if I--I'm not sure I can do this.

GREG

(unsure how to respond)
Okay...

MELANIE

I just--God I'm sorry. I think Jess is right. We don't have anything in common. I'm constantly soul searching, y'know, trying to work on myself but you, you're just-
(shrugs, mocking)
Fine. All good.

GREG

Okay. Wait, Jessica said that?

MELANIE

And I mean...last night I said something so...personal, something we need to discuss and you and you...you haven't said two words to me! Are you mad at me? Do you still want to do this?

GREG

(shrugging, smiling)
Yeah. Sure.

MELANIE

Oh God, Greg.
(sadly)
We don't share one heart and mind.

Greg watches, bewildered, as Melanie spirals into more tears.

EXT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Nate comes up to see what's going on, takes Wendy's hand.

NATE

(to Wendy)
Everything okay?

Wendy nods, surprised. He kisses her head, hugs her. Peter hears the last bit from Melanie's tent, winces and walks back to Wendy, Nate and Sam, shaking his head.

PETER

What should I do? Do I need to tell people we're running late, or--?

SAM

Just give 'em a minute.

JESS (O.S.)

Hey! Hey, wait!! Don't start without me!

Jess emerges from the woods, looking filthy, wild, and glowing, cuts through the wedding crowd, greeting people as she makes a beeline for Peter.

WENDY

(softly, horrified)
Oh no.

JESS

Ha haaaaaaa!! I made it! Oh my God,
you have no idea what I've been
through--!

PETER

Jess, you need to just--

JESS

(irrepressible)

No, Peter, I know she's mad, I know
everyone's mad, but I figured it
out!

(grabbing him)

The rabbit led me to the flipping
wedding! Okay? The goddamn bunny
figured it out, my spirit animal
KNEW something--

PETER

Jess--

Jess is taking in her surroundings, as if she's seeing them
for the first time, her eyes beaming, her voice too loud.

JESS

(gleeful, shouting)

I'm NOT a victim!

(back to Peter)

I'm a fuck-up, but I'm not a
victim. There's a difference!

She points at Sam.

JESS (CONT'D)

Sam, I'm not gonna masturbate to
you anymore! You're not available,
but even if you were, we broke up
for a reason, right? Because I
wasn't being honest with you! And
I'm so sorry, but that's not right,
why am I trying to make it right,
because the sex was amazing?

(to Wendy)

And it was, oh God, I may never
have sex that good again. But that
doesn't mean we're meant to be, not
everything is meant to be, and
actually most of it isn't!

(grabbing Wendy by the
shoulders, shaking her)

(MORE)

JESS (CONT'D)

And you Wendy, you know that,
because I've always been so annoyed
by how bossy you are, but fuck I'm
just so jealous of what you and
Nate have, it's fucking right! Like
the earth would implode before you
guys would ever break up--

WENDY

(trying to guide her away)
Jess, maybe we can talk over here--

JESS

It's not just you, I'm jealous of
everyone, I'm even jealous of
Mel...Mel!

PETER

(trying to stop her)
Jess, don't go in there--

INT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Jess jumps into Mel's tent, reaching out to hug, kiss and
squeeze Melanie and Greg.

JESS

(gleeful)
Oh Mel! And Greg! Oh my God I feel
like I've won the lottery. Greg,
I'm sorry I don't like you. I want
to, and I promise I'm going to do
better, but I'm just limited. And
that's okay! Because I don't have
to marry you! She does!

Greg is speechless. The nerve of this fucking girl.

JESS (CONT'D)

Mel, honey, I fucked up. So much.
But I'm your best friend, and I'm
not leaving you just because we had
a fight, or we like, couldn't get
on the same page for a minute. Why
is a fight bigger than me knowing
how you lost your virginity, or how
you stole from your bartending job,
or knowing you think your face
looks pretty when you cry? And it
does, you look so pretty when you
cry!!

MELANIE

Jess, please, can you just give us
a minute--

JESS

(wiping Mel's tears)
I've been so afraid of losing you,
and I've made terrible choices, but
I am the third harmony on the song
at your wedding today, and I love
you! I want you to be happy! Even
your republican husband, I want HIM
to be happy. And if I make
different choices, y'know, maybe
someday I can too--

GREG

(sternly)
Jessica. You need to leave. Now.

Melanie looks at Jess, pleading. Jess looks at Melanie, then
Greg, and slowly realizes she has misread the situation.
Slowly, bewildered, she gets up and leaves the tent.

EXT. MELANIE'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Wendy, Nate and Peter stand there, watching Jess like a car
accident. Jess tries to muster up her previous courage.

JESS

(quietly, to Peter)
I think Vince is great. I don't
know if I said that.

Peter nods, kisses her on her filthy cheek.

PETER

Are you gonna...stay, or--?
(off Jess shaking her
head)
Stay, Jess, I'm sure everything
will settle down--

JESS

It's okay, Peter. It is.
(welling up)
Take video for me, okay?

She hugs Peter, and walks away.

EXT. CAMP ROAD - DAY

Jess walks along the gravel road out of the campground. She isn't sure how far her car is. But she's enjoying the sun. A car of WEDDING LATECOMERS zooms by her. She watches them go. Then notices the SIGN with an arrow pointing to the wedding one way, the lodge the other way. She heads to the Lodge.

INT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Melanie hides her face in her hands, crying.

MELANIE

We don't have to make a big deal.
Let's just say goodbye, get it over
with.

Greg digs through her makeup, offers her a tissue.

GREG

Listen Mel...you're right.

(shrugging)

I don't work on myself. I don't
need to. Life seems pretty simple
to me, and I'm not soul searching
or whatever because I guess I think
I found it. I like kissing you, and
sleeping with you, and watching you
eat. I'll bring you coffee,
but...I'm never...ever going to
want to talk about my feelings, and
probably not yours. I can listen.
Or try to.

Greg gets frustrated. He's not good at this.

GREG (CONT'D)

I do work a lot. To make money,
and...I'm not going to apologize
for that. You can pray over your
crystals and candles all day, but
my magic makes money appear in our
bank accounts, by the truckload,
money that pays for this wedding,
pays for our families, so much
money that you never have to work a
day in your life again. So...no,
shit, Mel, if you want a guy who's
another version of you, that's not
me. But if you want a guy who's
here, who's gonna be here, and
who's happy to be here, I'm in. I
just want you to be happy with me.

(MORE)

GREG (CONT'D)
I don't give a shit about the other
stuff. And for the record, of
course I'd have a baby with you,
what are you, nuts?

Melanie looks at him confused. Then jumps him, like her flesh
is burning for him. Because it is.

EXT. MELANIE'S TENT - DAY

Eavesdropping, Wendy and Peter do silent slow-motion high-
fives and fist pumps. Brian comes over.

BRIAN
(full volume)
What's all the high-fives--?

WENDY
(shushing him)
Brian! God!

EXT. LODGE - DAY

Ranger Dan's truck is outside, parked askew. Jess marches up,
knocks on the door...

JESS
Hello? Ranger Dan?

No answer.

JESS (CONT'D)
I know you're in there, your
truck's outside--

RANGER #2 (O.S.)
Can I help you?

Jess turns around and sees a different RANGER, dressed in the
same outfit, driving the same truck, but not Ranger Dan.

RANGER #2 (CONT'D)
Lodge is closed.

JESS
Oh, I know. I was just...looking
for the...other ranger? He lives
here?

The ranger looks confused. Jess looks at what he's looking
at. Upon closer look at the lodge, it seems in disrepair.
Like no one's lived there for years.

RANGER #2

If you need shower tokens, there's
a vending machine out there.

JESS

Uhhhhh, no, thanks...I...

WTF just happened?

JESS (CONT'D)

I think I'm good.

Jess looks at the lodge and the stranger ranger looking at her cautiously, and starts to head down the road. Was it real? Does it matter? She starts walking back down the road. Smiles, in spite of herself.

EXT. WEDDING SITE - DAY

Melanie walks down the aisle to meet Greg, while Wendy, Hugh and Peter sing "I Belong With You" in 3 part harmony. Brian and Sam stand next to Greg. Brian is drumming his fingers on his pants to a totally different beat.

Melanie watches Peter, Wendy and Hugh sing, and feels a pang of sadness. Mel reaches the altar, looks around.

The guests smile, wipe tears. Melanie's mother is so relieved one of her children will marry. Greg's boss's trophy wife rolls her eyes a little at the dirty homespun-ness of it all.

PETER

Hello friends, and loved ones. I'm
pleased that we could all gather
here today, in this beautiful
sanctum in the woods, surrounded by
new friends and old...to join
Melanie and Gregory together, in
the bonds of matrimony.

He winks at Melanie. Melanie looks at Greg, glances back at her single bridesmaid, Wendy. Manages a smile at her. Wendy smiles back. Mel turns back, the wedding continues.

PETER (CONT'D)

Love is a temporary madness. It
erupts like volcanoes and then
subsides. And when it subsides, you
have to make a decision. You have
to work out whether your roots have
so entwined together that it is
inconceivable that you should ever
part--

MELANIE

Wait.

EXT. CAMPGROUND ROAD - DAY

Jess walks, freshly showered, in her dirty clothes but with clean hair, toward the campground entrance, flooded with a good feeling that she hasn't had in years.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Jess finds her car parked on the side of the road. Windows open, key inside. She gets in. Turns on the car. Just then she hears a RINGING...she digs around her car, looks in her trunk, finds her phone, answers it.

VFX: Cliff's picture hangs over Jess's head.

JESS

Hello?

CLIFF

Hey you!

JESS

Oh Cliff. Oh my God, I'm so glad you called.

CLIFF

Oh, hey, yeah, I'm here. Was it rough? Are you okay?

JESS

I am, Cliff. I really am. And I'm so sorry, but we can't see each other anymore.

CLIFF

Oh. What?

JESS

You're great. You deserve someone really special. And so do I. I actually think that.

CLIFF

Jess, don't do anything hasty. Maybe we can grab a coffee when you get back--

JESS
(sweetly)
No we can't. Bye Cliff.

She hangs up, leans back, closes her eyes and sighs deeply. Then she smiles. That felt great. After a moment, she hears a horn BEEPING. Brian pulls over behind her. Gets out, walks up to her window.

BRIAN
Jess! What're you--are you okay?

JESS
I'm great. What are you doing--?

BRIAN
Mel sent me to find you, she really wants you to come back. Will you come? She's so bummed you're gone.

JESS
(lighting up)
She is?

BRIAN
Yeah.
(sensing an opportunity,
rubbing her shoulder)
We all missed you--

JESS
No.

BRIAN
What? I was just--

JESS
Hard no, Bri.

BRIAN	JESS (CONT'D)
At least let me drive you back--	I'm good, thanks.

Frustrated, Brian accepts defeat, walks back to his car.

BRIAN
But you're coming right? Can I tell her you're coming--?

JESS
Bye Brian.

Brian does a seven point turn on the small country road, gunning his engine for every movement. Finally, he drives away. Jess gets a TEXT from CLIFF:

VFX: Please call me when you get home. I'm worried.

She takes her phone, gets out of her car, and throws it off the side of the mountain. Gets back in the car.

Then, with a childlike sense of discovery, she looks to see if her car...might still have a...CD Player? She hits a button, and yes! Music BLARES from the speaker. It is Guster's "All the Way Up to Heaven".

She listens to it for a minute, then decides it's time to drive. She does a 3 point turn, cranks her music, and heads back to the wedding.

As she pulls away, a hawk lands on the road behind her. In its talons is a squirming, kicking rabbit.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END