

# **John Tucker Must Die**

by

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INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

The gym is filled to the rafters with screaming students cheering on their basketball team. One particularly good looking player, who we'll learn later is JOHN TUCKER, fakes one way, spins in the other direction and dunks. The gym goes nuts. We push in on a girl, KATE (17), sitting in the stands. She's high up and she's there alone - she has a book in her hand which she reads during time outs. She's pretty, but not made up too much, and she's dressed comfortably, so as not to draw too much attention to herself.

KATE (V.O.)

I was in seventh grade when I realized I was invisible.

INT. GRADE SCHOOL

A teacher arranges a group of seventh grade girls in line by height. Kate is towards the middle.

KATE (V.O.)

Not really invisible - although, how awesome would that have been? No, it's just that I didn't make an impression of any kind. If I disappeared, it wouldn't even cause a ripple.

A teacher shifts a young Kate one space over, now exactly the middle.

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

I wasn't the tallest or the shortest, I wasn't the smartest or the dumbest, I wasn't the richest or the poorest... I was just what's-her-name, you know, the brunette? Kate, I think?

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

A spelling bee is in progress, as a young Kate takes her turn at the podium. She's one of seven people left.

YOUNG KATE

A-N-O-N-I-M-O-U-S. Anonymous.

MODERATOR (O.S.)

I'm sorry, that's wrong.

Kate walks away.

KATE (V.O.)

It's not that I didn't try - I was a pretty good speller, and a pretty good singer, and a pretty good runner-

EXT. TRACK - DAY

A group of girls run past the finish line.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
And in fourth place, just out of the medals, Kate Spencer.

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The auditorium is decorated for a dance and is filled with freshman boys and girls. Freshman Kate sits against the wall, trying to look like a great person to dance with.

KATE (V.O.)  
Even in love... well, I usually ended up out of medal contention there, too.

A good looking boy walks over and takes in Kate and the other wallflowers. He looks to Kate's left - at a rather unfortunate looking girl. He shudders, looks at Kate. Not bad. He smiles, starts over, when a hot girl to Kate's right suddenly pops into view - she'd been picking a button off the floor.

HOT GIRL  
Found it!

She and the boy lock eyes - the boy veers off from Kate and holds out his hand to the hot girl. They twirl off like Fred and Ginger.

INT. GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Kate stands at a locker by herself, getting dressed, as other groups of girls around her talk.

KATE (V.O.)  
It didn't help that my mom and I were always moving. You can put up with just about anything when you've got a bunch of great friends to help you through, but, well, let's just say "openness to outsiders" isn't really what teens are famous for.

One of the girls near Kate turns to her friends.

GIRL IN LOCKER ROOM  
I don't have anything for my hair. Do you have a barrette or something?

Kate surreptitiously pulls the elastic band out of her hair, turns to the girl.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE  
Hey, I've got one.

GIRL IN LOCKER ROOM  
Do I know you?

KATE  
Not really...

GIRL IN LOCKER ROOM  
Pass.

The girls head out. The locker room is empty now; Kate's alone. She sighs, puts her hair back together.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

We're in the living room of a house on moving day - boxes and furniture scattered everywhere. A sweaty Kate staggers through with a box.

KATE (V.O.)  
There was one last thing working against me.

There's a knock at the door. She turns and drops the box when she sees who it is - it's an older boy, a knockout. He holds out a plate wrapped with aluminum foil.

JUSTIN  
(too cool)  
Hey. I'm Justin, I live next door, and my mom sent me over with these brownies or something...

Kate takes the plate while she tries to push her hair into some arrangement that's not too disgusting.

KATE  
(flustered)  
Hi. I'm Kate. I just moved in. Duh.

JUSTIN  
So, Kate, you-

Something catches Justin's eye.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Holy...

Kate turns to see what he's looking at - a gorgeous woman in her early thirties just walked into the room. She's been working, too, but instead of sweating, she's glistening like a Sports Illustrated swimsuit model on a beach in Fiji.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She's dressed in shorts and a t-shirt that may have fit her in grade school.

KATE (V.O.)  
That other thing working against me?

KATE (CONT'D)  
This is my Mom.

LORI  
Lori. Hi.

Justin takes the plate out of Kate's hand and holds it out to Lori.

JUSTIN  
I made these for you.  
(then)  
I can pick up heavy things.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kate sits at her desk, taking notes as she reads a textbook.

KATE (V.O.)  
It's not like she can help it. She's just incredibly beautiful and skimpily dressed. Okay, maybe she can help that part.

Kate looks up from her book.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Did you get this on page fifty-one? Andy?

We see that Kate is studying with a boy, but he's looking out the window. Down by the pool, Kate's mother is tanning face down, with her top on the pool deck beside her.

ANDY  
Turn over turn over turn over turn over  
turn over turn over...

KATE (V.O.)  
It's not like being beautiful has made her life any easier. I mean, she's never had trouble landing great looking men, she's just had trouble keeping them. In the last seventeen years, she's been through four marriages and I don't know how many boyfriends. That's why we're always moving.

MONTAGE:

A quick series of shots of different great looking men staring into the camera.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hi                   MAN #1  
 Kate                 MAN #2  
 I'm                 MAN #3  
 going               MAN #4  
 to                   MAN #5  
 be                   MAN #6  
 your                 MAN #7  
 new                  MAN #8

                      MAN #9  
 dad. Your mom and I are going to, uh, talk  
 in the bedroom, so you be a good girl and  
 watch TV. Actually, here's twenty bucks.  
 You mind running down to the store and  
 getting me some smokes?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

We're back at the game we started at, with Kate in the  
 stands.

                      KATE (V.O.)  
 But enough about me. The real story here  
 is John Tucker.

ON COURT

John, our star basketball player, has the ball again. He  
 passes it - no, he's kept in the palm of his hand, he drives  
 and dumps off to a teammate who's free under the basket for a  
 lay up. More cheers, high fives all around. John's a stud:  
 tall, buff, best head of hair on campus.

                      KATE (CONT'D)  
 That's John Tucker. Captain of the  
 basketball team, family's loaded, always  
 voted most likely to everything, lost his  
 virginity at 14. To the french teacher.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IN THE CROWD

A pretty woman in her twenties, wearing a French flag sweatshirt and waving a team flag, cheers John on.

ON COURT

John hassles the passer, then jogs backwards on defense.

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

He's the guy this school revolves around. At least, he used to be until... You know what? I'm getting ahead of myself. It all started when my mom got divorced again, and we moved to this town to "start over." I got a job as a waitress at what turned out to be John's favorite restaurant. I wasn't the best waitress ever, but I wasn't the worst...

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kate comes out of the kitchen and crosses over to find John Tucker (in suit and tie) sitting at a table with CARRIE, editor of the school paper. Carrie's a super-smart overachiever with roughly a thousand commitments taking up her time. She's also (like everyone with John) very pretty.

KATE

Are you ready...?

JOHN

(to Carrie)

I'm not sure... Are you ready?

CARRIE

Do you recommend anything?

JOHN

Me? What do you recommend? You're the one who speaks Italian.

CARRIE

I don't speak it, I know a little...

JOHN

That you picked up travelling around Europe. You're so lucky. I can only imagine walking around the same streets where all those artists and poets walked, looking at the same sights Shakespeare looked at when he wrote

(gazing into Carrie's eyes)

"Her beauty makes this vault a feasting presence full of light..."

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN (CONT'D)

(then)  
Maybe I don't need to go to Europe after  
all.

Carrie blushes, gives a flustered laugh. John turns to Kate.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I guess we need a minute. Thanks.

Kate walks off - it's clear she's more than a little  
impressed by John's display.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's a different night at Kate's restaurant. Kate comes out  
of the kitchen loaded down with plates. She hears a  
snapping, glances towards the source, then does a double  
take. John Tucker (in a letterman's jacket) is there with a  
different girl, HEATHER, who couldn't look more like a  
cheerleader because she is a cheerleader. She's been popular  
and beautiful for so long that she's grown to believe that  
her superiority is the natural order of things. John keeps  
snapping at Kate without looking, finally Kate gets the  
plates down and heads over to John's table.

KATE

Hi. Would you-

JOHN

We're ready to order.

KATE

Uh, okay.

(to Heather)

What would you like?

JOHN

I'll order for her.

Heather puts down her menu, gets a huge smile on her face.

HEATHER

I love that.

JOHN

(all charm)

I love taking care of you.

(to Kate, all business)

Two spinach salads, chicken piccata for  
her, filet for me, medium. And don't rush  
us between courses. Got it?

KATE

Uh, yeah. Can I-

But John's done with her, and has turned back to Heather.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JOHN

That sweater is so hot on you. I bet it's even hotter off you.

Heather laughs; Kate walks away shaking her head - what happened to the John that was here the other night?

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Yet another night. John Tucker (in slacker-wear) sits at a table with BETH. She's a hippie throwback, a young Drew Barrymore type. She and John are looking at their menus.

JOHN

I've never been here, I hope they have good vegetarian...

(off the menu)

Oh my Goddess.

BETH

What?

JOHN

Veal. Let's go.

BETH

Don't worry, I'm sure I can find something.

ANGLE ON: Kate, standing over at a waitstation with another waitress. She's gestures at John.

KATE

What's the deal with-

WAITRESS

John Tucker. Total operator. Brings all his women here.

KATE

How does he get away with dating so many women?

WAITRESS

(bitter laugh)

He says his father doesn't want him dating during the basketball season so he "keeps his focus." Total lie. It's just another one of his scams so they have to keep the "relationship" secret.

KATE

Unbelievable. How'd you learn all this?

The waitress starts to cry and runs back into the kitchen.

INT. GYM - DAY

Kate is in gym class with the other girls, including John's three current girlfriends (Heather, Carrie and Beth). They're picking teams for volleyball - about half the girls are still waiting to be picked, including Kate. Heather (the cheerleader) is one of the girls picking. She points at Kate.

HEATHER  
Uh... I'll take her.

KATE  
(too eager)  
Kate. Hi. I didn't catch your name?

Heather looks at Kate like she's nuts.

HEATHER  
Okay, moving on.

INT. GYM - LATER

The game's in progress. A point is scored, and while a girl runs after the ball to retrieve it, Carrie (the editor) is gossiping with the girl standing next to her.

GIRL  
You weren't at the party. Where were you?

CARRIE  
I'm not suppose to say, but...  
(quietly)  
John Tucker.

Behind Carrie, Heather is getting ready to serve. She obviously heard this - her mouth drops wide open.

GIRL  
Get out!

COACH WILLIAMS, the gym teacher, blows her whistle.

COACH WILLIAMS  
Less talking, more playing. Serve it.

Heather tosses the ball in the air and serves it - right into the back of Carrie's head. Carrie is knocked on her face.

HEATHER  
Sorry. It slipped.

The girls around Carrie (including Kate) pick her up.

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CARRIE  
I'm okay, I'm okay. Let's just play.

Every gets back in position and Heather serves again - right into the back of Carrie's head, sending her down again. Carrie jumps up and runs over to Heather, as the other girls crowd around and the coach starts madly blowing her whistle.

CARRIE (CONT'D)  
That wasn't an accident!

Beth (the hippie) gets between Carrie and Heather, who ignore her as they keep arguing.

HEATHER  
You better stay away from him.

BETH  
Violence isn't going to solve anything.

CARRIE  
What's it to you?

BETH  
No man is worth us fighting over.

HEATHER  
Listen, I don't know what he told you, but John Tucker is dating me.

Now Beth's mouth drops - she turns and slugs Heather in the jaw, dropping her to the floor.

HEATHER (CONT'D)  
(from the floor)  
What the hell is your problem?

BETH  
I'm dating John Tucker.

Coach Williams has finally made it over.

COACH WILLIAMS  
Enough.

She grabs Carrie, who grabs the coach's clipboard and swings it at Beth. Beth moves, and Kate gets hit instead. It's an all out melee now, with Kate accidentally caught in the middle. People are falling, arms are swinging, and finally Kate snaps:

KATE  
Stop it! This guy is cheating on all of you and instead of being mad at him, you're beating the crap out of each other?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Silence as the girls look at each other, digesting the wisdom of what Kate said. Finally, Beth turns to Heather:

BETH  
Who's that?

HEATHER  
I don't know. Pam, maybe?

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - DAY

Kate is at the mirror, trying to cover up the bruise on her cheek from where she got hit. Carrie comes in.

CARRIE  
Hey.

KATE  
Hey.

CARRIE  
Sorry about your face. Kate, right?

KATE  
Yeah. It only hurts when I smile. Or talk. Or do this.

She makes a face in the mirror, winces. Carrie laughs.

CARRIE  
What you said out there-

KATE  
Sorry, someone just sat on me and-

CARRIE  
Yeah, that was me. But the thing is, you were right.

KATE  
I was?

CARRIE  
Look what he's doing to us girls. I don't even know you, and I hit you in the head with a clipboard.

KATE  
That was you too, huh? Anyway, I've seen a million John Tuckers, they all lie to get what they want, and the girls always put up with it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE  
You're totally right. I never understood it until now, but you're right.

KATE  
Well, it helps that those are the only guys my mom dates. Pretty soon, you figure out they're all the same.

CARRIE  
Come on. I've got some planning to do, and then we've got to talk to Beth and Heather.

KATE  
We? You want me to come?

CARRIE  
Sure, in case we start fighting again, I've got to have someone to hide behind.

KATE  
What the heck. I think my head can absorb three or four more good shots before I have brain damage.

Carrie heads out of the bathroom; Kate in tow.

INT. STARBUCKS - LATER

Kate, Carrie, Beth and Heather sit at a table. Beth and Heather don't look too happy to be there.

CARRIE  
Be honest. What are you going to do about John?

HEATHER  
I'm totally breaking up with him.

BETH  
No you're not.

HEATHER  
Like you are.

BETH  
It's up to him. If he dumps you two, I'll take him back.

CARRIE  
We're going to end up right back where we started. He'll get back together with all of us, lie about it until he decides he's done with us and then dump us for good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beth and Heather stare at Carrie, unconvinced. Kate clears her throat.

KATE

I bet I know what you're thinking. "I'm different. I'm the one he's going to stay with forever."

Beth and Heather look at each other, look down.

BETH

Maybe.

HEATHER

Why not? I am the head cheerleader.

BETH

You say that like it makes you some kind of god and we're all losers.

HEATHER

No. I mean, a little, but no. I don't think that.

CARRIE

Let's stay focused here. Everyone he's ever dated thinks they're different. It's what he does.

BETH

So what are we supposed to do?

CARRIE

Kate had an idea.

KATE

I was just saying it's always the women who end up getting hurt...

CARRIE

Exactly. Why is he getting off the hook? We could all date anyone, and for some reason we let him walk all over us.

HEATHER

It's because he's hot.

BETH

Hot? He's the most gorgeous man I've ever seen. He's like a Greek god, sent to earth to remind us mortals what beauty is.

Beth notices everyone staring at her. She snaps out of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BETH (CONT'D)  
But you're right. That's not enough.

KATE  
So why not teach him a lesson?

HEATHER  
How? Break up with him? He'll have  
someone else in a second.

CARRIE  
No, bigger. We're going to make him  
undateable, make it so no one wants to go  
out with him anymore.

Carrie pulls out a huge sheath of color-coded papers and  
folders, hands a thick stack to each girl.

CARRIE (CONT'D)  
I had some time to go over some possible  
approaches. I'll bottom line it: he  
doesn't know we're on to him. We can use  
the fact that we're his "girlfriends" to  
set him up, humiliate him, and make him  
look like a fool in front of the whole  
school.

HEATHER  
(smiles, imagining it)  
That wouldn't suck.

CARRIE  
And we won't just be taking care of him.  
We'll be sending a message to all the John  
Tuckers that we're not going to put up with  
it anymore. They're going to have to treat  
us with respect.

BETH  
They're going to have to stop lying to us.

HEATHER  
And cheating on us.

CARRIE  
Exactly! I've got a whole section on that  
starting on page three.

BETH  
(paging through thick folder)  
When do you sleep?

CARRIE  
I take ten minute naps five times a day.  
I'm like Thomas Edison.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HEATHER  
(whispers to Beth)  
Who?

BETH  
(whispers back)  
He was a President.

CARRIE  
Come on, what do you say?

A beat, then:

BETH  
Let's get him.

HEATHER  
I'm in. But if I find out this is some  
kind of trick, I'm back with him so fast...

Carrie pulls out a small leather notebook, writes in it.  
Yes, this has some significance later.

KATE  
Wow, this is great. He doesn't stand a  
chance against you guys.

BETH  
You're not going to help us?

KATE  
Me? Why me?

BETH  
It was your idea.

KATE  
No, I just pointed out that you all should  
do something. He didn't do anything to me.

CARRIE  
Didn't he? He got all of us mad enough to  
beat the crap out of you in gym.

BETH  
Besides, can you honestly say that you  
haven't been screwed over by a John Tucker  
somehow, somewhere?

HEATHER  
Come on, it'll be fun. What else are you  
doing?

Heather has a good point. Kate shrugs.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (4)

KATE  
Let's get him.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Different groups are using the track: the female track team (including Kate) is running sprints, and the cheerleaders, led by Heather, are just finishing up practice as random people jog by on the track. One of them is John Tucker, who stops and waits for Heather to wander over and join him. He glances around to make sure no one is within earshot.

JOHN  
Heard there was a thing in gym yesterday.

HEATHER  
Some loser was saying she went out with you.

JOHN  
You're kidding. That's such a lie.

HEATHER  
Oh, I totally know. Don't worry. I mean, you can't date-

JOHN  
(sadly)  
The basketball.

HEATHER  
But if you could, I know who it'd be.

JOHN  
You know it, babe.

John looks around to makes sure no one's watching, slaps Heather on the ass.

ACROSS THE FIELD: Kate is standing at a drinking fountain, watching.

KATE  
Euch.

There's a guy standing behind her at the fountain, SCOTT.

SCOTT  
Is that for her or him?

KATE  
Him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT  
That's not usually the noise girls make  
when they look at him. Usually it's more  
of a "ohhhh..."

KATE  
(laughs)  
Jerk isn't really my type.

SCOTT  
I guess he is kind of a jerk, isn't he?

KATE  
I'm surprised to hear a guy say that. I  
thought he was your god.

SCOTT  
Close. Older brother.

KATE  
Oh no. Seriously?

Scott holds out his hand.

SCOTT  
Scott Tucker.

KATE  
Kate. I'm so embarrassed-

SCOTT  
Don't be. If anything, I'm embarrassed  
about being his brother. I think my mom  
was experimenting with drugs or living on a  
toxic waste dump when she had him.

Kate laughs. They're interrupted by a bell.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Damn, I've got to run. Don't worry, your  
secret's safe with me, Kate.

Scott winks and heads off.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Heather and Carrie are sitting in Kate's living room as Kate  
opens the door and lets Beth in. Carrie has a new Apple  
Powerbook plugged into Kate's television - on the screen is a  
Keynote presentation, complete with an unflattering picture  
of John and a list of bullet points next to him. Very slick.

CARRIE  
Did you talk to him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH

Yeah, he just stopped by my house. He said I'm the only one for him, you guys are liars, meat is murder...

CARRIE

Yeah, we all got the same story.

KATE

Your house? Did you hook up?

BETH

No.

HEATHER

Oh my god. You did.

BETH

No. A little.

(then)

We can't let him get suspicious! I always fool around with him! It wasn't for me, it was for us! I mean, I enjoyed it, but... It wasn't for me!

Heather and Carrie exchange a look.

HEATHER

Told you she couldn't keep it together.

BETH

Figures you two would gang up on me. Little Miss Popular and Little Miss Perfect.

CARRIE

Hey, don't lump me with her.

HEATHER

What's that supposed to mean?

CARRIE

Just that we're very different.

HEATHER

Meaning you're better than me.

Kate laughs. Everyone looks at her.

KATE

Don't you see? This is exactly how he gets away with it. He knows you wouldn't be caught dead talking to each other, and that's why he's so safe cheating.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CARRIE

Kate's right. I'm sorry. We've got to stick together, all right?

The girls nod.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Okay, he's back with all of us, he doesn't know anything's up, let's keep it that way until we get him.

HEATHER

Speaking of which, does anyone have any idea how we're going to do this?

There's a pause. Heather holds up one of Carrie's folders.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

I mean, I read Carrie's term paper-

CARRIE

No you didn't.

HEATHER

Okay, but come on, it's like the phone book. I flipped through, and didn't see anything, um...

BETH

Concrete. Yeah. You've got some great ideas, but what do we do?

KATE

Well, I mean, I don't know him like you all do, but I noticed something. He makes every woman he's with feel special, he tells them exactly what they want to hear... what if we showed people that it's just an act? Really show who he is, so no one ever trusts him again? I mean, when I saw him, I thought he was cute, but after I saw how he was with all of you...

The girls take this in, nodding.

CARRIE

Excellent. Good. Throw those away.

Carrie grabs all the folders.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Let's get to work.

(re: computer)

Beth, you mind starting the presentation?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Beth goes to the computer, reaches for a key.

CARRIE (CONT'D)  
 Not that. Just press the- no, not that.  
 Move the cursor to- You know what? I'll  
 work the computer.

Carrie pushes Beth out of the way, cradles her computer.

BETH  
 I'm glad we're getting to know each other.  
 I'd always heard you were kind of a control  
 freak.

CARRIE  
 Kate, you get sodas.

CARRIE/BETH/HEATHER  
 Diet.

CARRIE  
 And Heather, you...

HEATHER  
 Sit here and look good until you need me?

CARRIE  
 Are we a well oiled team or what?

Kate goes into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kate enters just as her mother comes in from outside,  
 carrying a bag of groceries. Lori's dressed in her usual  
 young, hip, sexy way, looking more like a teen than a mom.

LORI  
 Hey, what's up?

KATE  
 Oh, nothing, just-

Laughter from the next room.

LORI  
 You have friends over?

KATE  
 Yeah, a few girls stopped by.

Lori hugs Kate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LORI  
I knew you'd like it here. This is great.  
I can't wait to meet them.

Lori heads out of the kitchen.

KATE  
Actually, we're-

Too late. Lori's gone. Kate grabs sodas and follows.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate enters the room right behind Lori.

KATE  
Beth, Carrie, Heather, this is my mom.

LORI  
Lori.

The girls all exchange looks - Lori doesn't look like a mom.

LORI (CONT'D)  
So what are you all up to?

BETH  
Destroying a man.

LORI  
Who do I make my check out to?

The girls laugh. Lori crosses over and sits on the floor with the girls.

LORI (CONT'D)  
So, who is he and what did he do?

Beth presses a key on her computer; John zooms back onto the screen, along with ominous sound effect music and boeing.

BETH  
This is John Tucker.

LORI  
Cute. Let me guess, heartbreaker?

HEATHER  
Big time.

LORI  
You're lucky I got here. I've got some  
experience in this field.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kate can't take any more. She pastes on a smile, trying very hard not to let her true feelings out.

KATE

Mom, I really don't know if we should be taking advice about men from you.

LORI

Why not? I've dated a hundred of them. I know all their tricks.

KATE

And yet, you still keep going falling for them.

CARRIE

What's the matter? She's an expert.

KATE

Okay, then.

Kate shrugs, hands out the sodas, takes a seat. She's not a happy camper. Carrie takes her place at her computer - her talk is illustrated by an impressive presentation, complete with video, graphics, music, etc...

CARRIE

All right, Kate's right. We need to show people the real John Tucker. And to do that, we need a public platform - something where the whole school is there. That much I've already got figured out. Ladies and... ladies, I give you: the school election.

HEATHER

(unimpressed)

The election?

BETH

He's not even running.

CARRIE

Yes, the election, and he will run. Beth, you're going to convince him.

BETH

How do I do that?

CARRIE

How do girls get boys to do anything?

INT. HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

The hall is empty. Suddenly, the door to the boys bathroom crashes open, and Beth and John stumble into the hallway, in an embrace. They break; Beth tucks in her shirt, John wipes the lipstick off his face. Beth pauses under a political poster - a slick one with a photo of a smiling guy running for school president.

BETH

You know, I'm surprised you never ran for any kind of office.

JOHN

It's just something you do to get into college, and I've got the basketball.

BETH

Yeah, I guess you're right. Still, it's a big popularity contest, and there's no way he's more popular than you.

Beth heads back towards her class, leaving John looking up at the poster. He doesn't look happy.

INT. SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY

Carrie sits at a computer in the middle of a chaotic pile of photos, old issues, submissions... There's one other student working there - he looks up as John enters. Unseen to Carrie, John points at the door, and the student takes off.

JOHN

Hey, Carrie. What do you think about me running for school president?

CARRIE

I didn't think you got into that.

JOHN

I never did, and all of a sudden I realized I'm missing part of the high school experience.

CARRIE

It's a little late to be getting involved-

JOHN

I've got to win. You'll help me. You're the smartest girl I know, you run the newspaper-

CARRIE

(pretending to soften)  
You want my help? Well...

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JOHN  
I knew you'd do it. I love you.

CARRIE  
What?

John acts surprised, like he didn't mean to let that slip out. He clearly did.

JOHN  
I mean, I love you for helping. I can't believe I said that.

CARRIE  
No, it's okay...

He holds her hand, gazes into her eyes, then:

JOHN  
So, you'll do it?

INT. DIVE RESTAURANT - DAY

The four girls are sitting together at a table. Heather takes a bite of her burger, grimaces.

HEATHER  
Since when do we eat here?

CARRIE  
Since we can't be seen together. If he hears we're friends, he'll know something's up. Come on, it's not that bad.

Carrie samples her food, shudders, gingerly returns the bite to her napkin.

CARRIE (CONT'D)  
Anyone have a napkin they're not using so I can blot the grease off my tongue?

Kate hands over a napkin. Carrie licks it. Beth begins doing surgery on her sandwich - the other girls' watch as she removes the meat patty from her burger, removes the cheese, replaces the tomato and lettuce, and squirts about a quart of ketchup and mustard onto it. She takes a bite, notices that she's being watched.

BETH  
Being a vegetarian sucks. I want a personal thank you note from every stupid cow and chicken I haven't eaten.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE

Okay, here's where we are. I've already convinced John that we should show a video for his campaign speech.

HEATHER

A video that, let me guess, you'll be editing?

BETH

Isn't he going to want to see it before you show it?

CARRIE

I'm going to make two. I make a real one to show him, where he talks about all the things that make him a good candidate - loyalty, honesty...

KATE

And we make another one where we cut in a bunch of stuff about what a sleazebag he really is.

HEATHER

Gee, I hope there's not some mix-up, and we end up showing the wrong video to the whole school. It would ruin him.

They laugh.

KATE

To get the footage we need, we're going to need a lot of equipment - microphones, hidden cameras...

HEATHER

Beth, that's you.

BETH

I don't know anything about electronics.

HEATHER

Yeah, but you're rich.

BETH

Hey, I don't like labels. My parents may buy into the whole bourgeois lifestyle, but that doesn't mean I have to. It's their money, not mine.

CARRIE

If we agree that you're a poor repressed member of the underclass, can we use one of your fifty credit cards?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BETH

Sure.

Beth digs through her purse, pulls out credit cards, hands one to each girl.

BETH (CONT'D)

AmEx Blue, Visa Platinum...

(sentimental)

Oh, my first Master Card. We've had some fun, haven't we?

She reluctantly hands it over.

BETH (CONT'D)

Be careful with him. His little magnetic strip's almost worn off.

INT. HEATHER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Heather's bedroom is covered with bags from electronics stores and spy stores. Beth and Carrie are playing with monitors, binoculars, etc. Heather's in just a bra, as Kate tries to attach a camera with fumbling hands.

KATE

All right, almost there. Sorry, I've never done this.

HEATHER

Put a camera on someone, or groped a girl?

KATE

Well, neither.

Kate gets the camera on.

KATE (CONT'D)

There, how does that feel?

HEATHER

Well, the camera kind of pinches, but you've got soft hands.

Beth turns on a monitor - we see a huge distorted close up of Kate's face as shot through the camera.

BETH

Whoa.

KATE

How do I look?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH

Tres bad angle - straight up your nose.  
Take two steps back from Heather's breasts.

Kate does.

BETH (CONT'D)

Much better. The lighting still isn't  
great. Try turning to the left.

CARRIE

Oh, we're not doing this to get glamor  
shots of Kate. Kate, speak into the  
cleavage.

Carrie puts on a pair of headphones as Kate steps back up to  
Heather.

KATE

Um, testing. One two. Testing.

CARRIE

Okay, it's good. There's kind of an echo,  
but it's good.

HEATHER

What do I want him to say?

CARRIE

Well, we want him to act like a sleazy  
horndog, so...

HEATHER

Just let him be himself?

BETH

That'll work.

Carrie pulls out her notebook, starts writing.

KATE

Sorry, do you mind if I ask... what are you  
always writing in there?

CARRIE

Just my lists. You know, normal stuff,  
same as everyone.

(off their blank looks)

I've got my "to do" list, which is  
subdivided into my "to do today," "to do  
one time," "to do weekly," you know.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Then there's my "goals" list, again, "high school," "college," and "life;" my "contingency" lists in case one of my goals or to do items doesn't work out the way I expected, my "observations," my "notions," which yes, are very different, and of course a few ideas for the screenplay I plan to write during my summer in Belize. Or Toronto, depending on the political climate. Don't you all do this?

KATE

No. No one does that. Martha Stewart would meet you and go "you know, she's a little anal for my taste."

CARRIE

Well, it works for me.

BETH

What happens if you lose the book?

CARRIE

You're not going to freak me out that easily. I have a duplicate at home, and I copy the changes in every night.

BETH

Yeah, but what about all the "contingencies" and "notions" you come up with during the day? They'd just be... gone forever?

Carrie processes this. Her eyebrow twitches. The girls go in for the kill.

HEATHER

Yeah, maybe you should carry a third book-

KATE

Stored in a separate location from the main book, of course-

BETH

Right, and then you should immediately copy everything that happens into both of those books.

Carrie starts hyperventilating. The other girls laugh.

KATE

Come on, we're just messing with you.

HEATHER

Yeah, I think you'll be okay with two books.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CARRIE  
 (laughs)  
 Sure, you're right. Good one.

Everyone returns to their food. As soon as they're not looking at Carrie, concern crosses her face and she clutches her book tightly - she's been thrown.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

John and Heather are sitting on a picnic table.

HEATHER  
 You sure it's safe out here?

JOHN  
 The only thing I'm afraid of is you breaking my heart.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Kate, Beth and Carrie are parked in a car with the lights out; Kate's in the back and the other two are up front. Carrie holds a camera to the window, recording John and Heather, as she listens to them through the headphones.

CARRIE  
 He's good.

KATE  
 You know, I was actually wondering about that. Is he good? You know. In bed.

CARRIE  
 Don't ask me.

They look at Beth.

BETH  
 I've never...  
 (what the hell)  
 Yeah, he's great. He's really great.  
 (then)  
 Not that I have anything to compare him to.  
 I mean, he's my only, of course.  
 (off their looks)  
 Well, one of a few. Let's just say I can count them on my fingers. And the toes of one foot. Hey, could we talk about one of you now?

KATE  
 (to Carrie)  
 So you never-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE  
Nope, never.

BETH  
Of course she hasn't. If she can't put it  
on a college application, why bother?

Carrie laughs, pushes Beth.

KATE  
(to Carrie)  
Wait, so you haven't with anyone?

BETH  
(to Kate)  
Have you?

KATE  
(lying)  
Me? Of course.

CARRIE  
Well, I haven't.

KATE  
Can I change my answer?

BETH  
I thought everyone was sleeping with him.  
I'm such a slut.

She hits the steering wheel in frustration- the horn beeps.  
The girls all dive down in their seats, out of sight.

BETH (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I'm such a dumb slut.

The girls laugh, shush each other, laugh some more.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Our four are gathered, going over one of Carrie's large  
checklists.

CARRIE  
This is going better than I thought. We're  
having no trouble getting video of him  
lying.

HEATHER  
Yeah, I'll say. The tough thing would be  
getting him to tell the truth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

Wait a second, that's not a bad idea. We should get some tape of him with his friends, being himself. You know, for contrast.

HEATHER

Maybe this is crazy, but what if one of us snuck in the locker room? I mean, it's the one place that they know girls aren't around.

CARRIE

(immediately)

I'll do it!

The other girls laugh at Carrie's eagerness. She blushes.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

I'm just saying, I think I'd do a good job. I am the journalist here, I've done undercover stuff before-

HEATHER

-I can't wait to see a room full of wet naked man flesh.

They laugh at Carrie again.

CARRIE

I do want to go, and not why you think. I mean, this is an amazing opportunity to see what guys really want. What they really think. Come on, throughout history, no one's understood them - I'm about to get a glimpse into the heart of the male psyche.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The basketball team, including John, are gathered in front of the lockers. They're in a circle, and watching one player as he makes a huge farting noise by using his hand in his armpit. Everyone bursts out laughing.

JOCK #1

Dude, that was hilarious! Check this out.

He makes his own arm fart. Everyone laughs again. This is high humor.

INT. LOCKER - CONTINUOUS

Carrie's in a locker with a camera, recording all of this. She rolls her eyes.



INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

More arm farts, more laughter. It's like the Algonquin Round Table. One of the guys rattles a locker door.

JOCK #2  
Stupid locker's stuck again.

JOCK #1  
Just use Greg's - he's out today.

He gestures at the locker directly behind him.

INT. LOCKER - CONTINUOUS

Carrie's eyes go wide - this is Greg's locker. She looks around, but really, where are you going to hide in a locker?

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jock #2 gets to the locker and is just about to open it when:

JOCK #1  
Look ma, no hands!

He makes the biggest farting noise of all - and has both his hands straight up in the air. He laughs - all the other guys make disgusted noises and move away, including the jock who was just about to reveal Carrie.

INT. LOCKER - CONTINUOUS

Carrie's eyes are watering. She doesn't look too happy, considering she was just "saved."

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Beth and John are in his backyard, making out on a lounge chair next to the pool. He stands up, picking Beth up in his arms. She laughs and screams, not protesting too much, as he carries her over to the pool. He tosses her in - a second later she starts screaming in earnest, clutching her chest.

BETH  
Ow! What the!?! Jesus!

She hops out of the pool and rips off her shirt, throwing the camera hidden there onto the ground.

HIDDEN CAMERA POV:

John looks straight into the camera.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN  
What the...

BETH (O.S.)  
Beeper! It's my beeper!

JOHN  
You keep your beeper in your bra? And when  
did you start wearing a bra, anyway?

PULL BACK to reveal we're in:

INT. SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY

Our four girls are watching the video on the computer  
monitor. Beth doesn't look happy, the other three are trying  
to contain their laughter.

BETH  
That's not even the worst part. I don't  
know if you've ever been shocked, but it  
makes you really-

A huge THUMP comes from the monitor. The girls wince.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Dizzy.

KATE  
Do you think he bought the beeper story?

BETH  
I have no idea. When I came to, he'd left  
me on my front porch. I think he thought  
he'd killed me.

CARRIE  
Always a gentleman.

HEATHER  
Do we have enough stuff on tape?

BETH  
I'm not putting that back on.

KATE  
The bra or the camera?

BETH  
Either.

CARRIE  
I think we're good.

INT. LAB - DAY

Students are just getting to work. Kate is at her station, starting to measure chemicals, when Scott walks up to her.

SCOTT

Kate, hey, you don't have a lab partner, do you?

KATE

Well, you know, I came into the class late, and everyone was already paired up, so-

SCOTT

I'm not making fun of you, I'm asking if you need a partner. Mine got burned pretty bad in the last experiment, and he won't be back for awhile.

KATE

Before I say "yes," how exactly did he get burned?

SCOTT

Well, that's open to interpretation. He says it was my fault, but I clearly said "Dear God! Run for your life!"

KATE

Sounds like his fault.

SCOTT

Thank you. So what are we doing?

KATE

Let's stay away from fire, what do you say?  
(hands him a vial)  
Why don't you measure five milliliters into that beaker.

Scott does it, sloppily and quickly. Kate looks, frowns.

KATE (CONT'D)

You're not even close.

SCOTT

I'm not?

KATE

You've got to get down at eye level, and wait until the bottom of the meniscus is at the line.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

Check you out. "Meniscus." If I would have known how smart you were, I would have set my last partner on fire weeks ago.

KATE

Did I say "meniscus?" I meant wait until the curvy part is at the doodad.

Scott laughs.

SCOTT

Much better. Okay, I'll try.

Scott pours again, but carelessly splashes some on his pants. He starts to freak, urgently whispering to Kate:

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I spilled it! What do I do? What is it? What is it?

KATE

It's a sodium chloride suspension!

Scott starts struggling with his belt, in a panic.

SCOTT

Sodium chloride? It's starting to burn!

KATE

Yeah, you know, saltwater!

Scott keeps struggling, then realizes.

SCOTT

Saltwater.

KATE

You really need to crack a book.

Scott buckles his belt, pushes Kate, who laughs. He laughs back. While they have been talking, an eager freshman girl has been working the class, handing out something to all the students. She gets to Scott and Kate.

FRESHMAN GIRL #1

John Tucker for president!

She moves off. Scott and Kate look down to find they're both holding campaign buttons. Scott puts his on. Kate gives him a quizzical look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SCOTT  
It's ironic. And inevitable.  
(in a trance)  
Resistance is futile. Wear your button.

KATE  
I don't know. He just might lose.

SCOTT  
There's a first time for everything. Just  
not that.

Kate shrugs - we'll see.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

A plain looking guy (NORMAN) stands at the podium, finishing up his speech. Above him is a large screen - like a rock concert, a camera projects him on the screen so that everyone gets a good view.

NORMAN  
...so I would "treasure" the opportunity to  
be your "Treasurer." Thank you.

Norman walks offstage to a smattering of applause as a teacher walks up to the podium.

TEACHER  
All right, that was Norman Trent, running  
unopposed for Treasurer. Now we'll hear  
from John Tucker for President.

The crowd goes nuts as John Tucker walks up to the podium. He smiles his winning smile and waves, finally motioning for everyone to quiet down.

JOHN  
I'm a man of action, not words. Who wants  
to listen to a long boring speech, anyway?  
(calls offstage)  
Seriously, Norman, it's the same one every  
year.  
(back to crowd)  
Anyway, I put together a little video to  
show you why I should be your President.  
Roll it.

The auditorium lights go down, and the video starts playing on the large screen above John's head.

MONTAGE: JOHN'S ELECTION VIDEO

BASKETBALL COURT

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

John stands in uniform, holding a ball and looking sincerely into the camera.

JOHN

I'm John Tucker. Some of you know me as Tucker, or Tuck, or T-man or T-dog. I thought you'd like to know a little more about the man who's going to be your next president. What qualities make a good president? Besides great hair, of course.

Even on video, John knows his audience: he pauses for the laugh. Once it dies down:

JOHN (CONT'D)

Well, first, I'd have to say, loyalty.

JOHN WITH BETH

Shot surveillance camera style from a distance, so we can see who he's talking to.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You know you're the only one for me, babe.

JOHN WITH CARRIE

Same style shot, different location.

JOHN (CONT'D)

The only one for me.

JOHN WITH HEATHER

JOHN (CONT'D)

You're the only one for me.

JOHN WITH GUYS

John stands around with his friends in the locker room, obviously unaware that they're being recorded.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I ought to make them wear nametags, so I can keep them straight.

The guys laugh.

JOCK #1

Dude, you are funny. Not as funny as-

He gives another arm fart. The guys laugh again.

BACK TO AUDITORIUM:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

John looks up at the video, obviously confused. He looks over to the control panel where the video is being run from, runs his finger across his neck, signalling to cut.

Over at the control panel, we see the A/V guy running it reach for the stop button. A hand grabs his; it's Carrie.

CARRIE

Push that button and you're going to eat that tape deck.

BACK TO VIDEO:

BASKETBALL COURT

John continues his speech.

JOHN

After loyalty, I'd have to say honesty. If you can't trust politicians, who can you trust?

BETH'S POV

Shot from Beth's bra-cam. In all theses POV shots, John's in different outfits, so we know he's talking to different women.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Friday? Yeah, I'm cool Friday night. How about I pick you up at eleven.

CARRIE'S POV

JOHN (CONT'D)

Friday? Ooh, Friday's not good. I'm... doing some volunteer work at the animal shelter. Poor little kitties.

CARRIE (O.S.)

We can do it late. Like eleven?

JOHN

Yeah, see, that's when I'm going. They've got plenty of people during the day, but they need someone at night, just to snuggle those little devils, and, you know, give them some milk from eyedroppers.

He wipes away a fake tear.

HEATHER'S POV

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN (CONT'D)

Friday. Huh. Yeah, the thing is, I have a game Saturday, so I promised myself I'd do a thousand push-ups at home Friday night, and then go to bed early. You wouldn't want me to...

His gaze wanders down into her cleavage, right into the camera. He stares appreciatively.

HEATHER (O.S.)

I wouldn't want you to what?

JOHN

Oh, the hell with it. Friday's cool. I've got to make a call.

BASKETBALL COURT

John wraps up the speech.

JOHN (CONT'D)

So, loyalty, honesty, and great hair.

He runs his hand through his hair.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Check, check and check. I hope you've learned a little about the real John Tucker. Vote for me - it's a slam dunk.

John runs and jumps, but blows the slam, falling on his ass.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Damn it! All right, don't use that one. I'll go again.

END MONTAGE

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The video ends, and the lights come back up. The crowd, and John, are stunned.

GIRL IN AUDIENCE

Bastard!

People boo and catcall. Our four girls, spread out around the auditorium, catch each other's eyes and nod to each other. Mission accomplished.

GIRLS IN AUDIENCE

Jerk!/Get off the stage!/What a loser!

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JOHN'S POV

John looks into the audience, sees angry faces, sees people laughing at him... his worst nightmare. Then he sees the three girls who betrayed him, all beaming.

BACK TO SCENE

John swallows, his eyes darting wildly, looking like he actually might crack... then he takes a deep breath and steps up to the mic. Showtime.

JOHN

Could we get the camera on?

John appears on the large screen above his head.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'd like to talk to the girls in the audience.

(to camera operator)

Closer on my face, if you wouldn't mind.

The camera zooms in. John gives that disarming smile that no mortal can resist.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Ladies. I have a problem, and I guess you all know about it now. I love too deeply. When I'm with a girl, when I look into her eyes, see who she really is... I fall in love. I can't help it. I guess I'm a romantic.

Our girls look around - the other girls in the audience are hypnotized by John's big eyes staring into theirs.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I know I look like a player, but the truth is, I meant every word I said to every one of those girls. The sad thing is, no matter how much I want it, I haven't had that great love returned yet. I haven't found that one girl who is the only girl for me. I haven't found that one person who I can give myself completely to, who I can tell my secrets, who I can cry with, share my pain, hold, hug...

Back in the audience, two female teachers are standing next to each other. They're as smitten as anyone. One leans over and whispers to the other:

FEMALE TEACHER

Is he eighteen yet?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

So, as you can see, I keep looking. And I promise you, I will find her. Maybe it's you. I don't know. But if it is, I'm going to find you, and I'm going to give you my heart to do with as you will.

Girls are now crying. Everyone in the entire place - except our girls - is convinced that they're the one. Heather leans over to Beth.

HEATHER

He just seduced the entire school.

BETH

He just seduced half the school. And Bill.

Angle on a boy who looks just as smitten as the girls.

HEATHER

Yeah, I guess you're right. That speech isn't exactly going to work on the rest of the guys.

On stage, John motions for the cameraman to pull back. Once he does.

JOHN

And guys, I have one question for you. Who made the winning basket that gave us the state championship?!

The boys all erupt.

BOYS IN HALL

You did! John Tucker!

The girls join in, cheering.

ALL

John Tucker for president! John Tucker for God!

John catches Carrie's eye, looks straight at her.

JOHN

(mouths to Carrie)

Thank you.

Carrie screams in frustration, pulls out her notebook, and scribbles madly.

INT. LORI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lori is working out. Kate comes in and collapses on the bed as her mom finishes up.

LORI  
So, how's the big day go? Did you rid the world of John Tucker once and for all?

KATE  
Not even close. He's stronger than ever.

LORI  
How'd that happen?

KATE  
I don't know. He's John Tucker. It doesn't matter what he does, it's how he looks doing it. I'm so depressed. Change the subject to something good, will you?

LORI  
I met someone.

KATE  
(groans)  
I said something good.

LORI  
Well, this might be good. He's... well, he's a little different from most of the guys I've met.

KATE  
Different how?

LORI  
Don't be scared. He's a lawyer, and he's running for Mayor. I'm volunteering on his campaign.

KATE  
(sincerely impressed)  
Wow.

LORI  
I know - he's not a drummer, and as far as I can tell, he's not in rehab.

KATE  
I love this guy!

Lori smiles, keeps working out.

INT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Heather arrives in her car, climbs out, notices that Carrie also just arrived. They lock eyes for a moment, but don't talk. They turn and head for school when Kate runs up.

KATE

Hey, there you guys are. I tried to call everyone, but I guess I missed you. How you doing?

CARRIE

How do you think? We blew it. We had one shot at him, and we blew it.

HEATHER

He's more popular than ever, and now none of us get him.

KATE

So now what?

CARRIE

It's over. We stop hanging out together, we go back to our own little groups and watch John date his way through the rest of the cheerleaders.

HEATHER

Hey.

CARRIE

It was a compliment.

HEATHER

It didn't sound like one.

BETH (O.S.)

Heather! Carrie! Kate!

Beth is running across the parking lot.

BETH (CONT'D)

Good. We're all here. I figured it out.

CARRIE

What, that video thing doesn't look like it's going to work out after all?

BETH

No, that we've been going about it wrong. I was home last night, crying and stuffing my face-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HEATHER

Tell me about it. I can't eat again until June.

BETH

And I thought, "I can't believe it. I let this guy break my heart twice." And that's when it hit me. We've been trying to humiliate him, and maybe that'll never work. But we never did the most obvious thing. We have to do to him what he does to girls. We have to break his heart.

CARRIE

That's great in theory, but how?

HEATHER

I don't think he has a heart to break.

BETH

Come on, we know everything about him. We know his strengths and his weaknesses, we know how he operates, we know what he thinks... What if we used all of that to make him fall in love, really fall in love, and then break him? Maybe we can't make it so that other women won't want to date him, but we can make it so that he won't want to date anyone else.

The girls are taken in by her passion, but...

CARRIE

How? He knows we all went after him with the video. He'll never trust us again - he hates all of us.

BETH

Not all of us.

Beth turns to Kate. Heather and Carrie also turn to Kate.

KATE

You want me to... No. No way.

CARRIE

This is really smart.

BETH

Thank you.

HEATHER

She's a blank slate - we can make her into anything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE  
Guys, hold on. It's a great idea, but I'm not the person to do it.

BETH  
Why not?

KATE  
I don't like him. I don't like anyone like him. He's a shallow, manipulative jerk.. Let me ask you - would any of you want to date him now, knowing everything you know?

The girls think it over.

HEATHER  
Well...

CARRIE  
Probably not...

BETH  
Do you really think he'd go out with me?  
(off their looks)  
Definitely not.

KATE  
So why should I?

BETH  
Look, you won't really be dating him. You'll be pretending.

KATE  
I'm not that good an actress. Sorry.

The girls' passion fades.

HEATHER  
Yeah, you're right. It probably wouldn't work.

CARRIE  
(to Beth)  
It was a good idea.

BETH  
Whatever. All right.

The girls all turn and walk away.

KATE  
Hey, Carrie, could I catch a ride after school?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CARRIE  
(without looking back)  
I've got some errands to run.

KATE  
Beth?

Beth doesn't even bother answering. Kate stands very, very alone, watching the three girls walk away. She sighs.

KATE (CONT'D)  
I'll do it.

The girls stop, look back.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Just tell me what to do.

The girls excitedly regather.

HEATHER  
Well, if there's one thing John can't resist, it's-

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. GYM - DAY

Heather stands in a cheerleader outfit, awkwardly holding her pompoms.

KATE (V.O.)  
A cheerleader. I always thought it was pretty lame, but I've got to admit... I look hot.

Kate is standing in front of all the other cheerleaders, Heather by her side.

HEATHER  
This is Kate. She'll be taking Nancy's spot.

A girl sitting in the stands with her leg in a cast looks up, shocked.

NANCY  
What?

HEATHER  
You've got that bum leg... Sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NANCY  
It's just a sprain... The doctor said I'll  
be better in a week.

HEATHER  
Maybe next year. Okay, pyramid.

Nancy sits back down. All the girls start to form a pyramid with well-rehearsed precision. Kate watches, impressed, as Heather motions to Kate.

HEATHER (CONT'D)  
All right, Kate, you're on top.

KATE  
I'll pass. I get dizzy in high heels.

HEATHER  
Trust me, this is an honor. Molly's been  
waiting for three years to get up there.

Heather points to Molly, on the bottom, straining under the weight over her, a hand in her face.

MOLLY  
(forced smile)  
Someday.

Heather boost Kate up.

KATE  
What if I pass out and fall?

HEATHER  
That's what the mats are for. Come on,  
you're almost there...

Kate climbs up, looking a little unsteady, but finally gets to the top. She smiles - this is pretty cool.

HEATHER (CONT'D)  
See, you're fine.

KATE  
Yeah, I guess I am. Go gladiators!

Kate's beaming, on top of the world. She throws her arms up in the air, and immediately falls off the top of the pyramid. Luckily, her landing is cushioned - by Molly's head. Molly collapses.

KATE (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry, Molly! Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

MOLLY

Yeah, I'm-

With Molly getting knocked down, the pyramid is unstable. Molly looks up just in time to see all the girls above her come crashing down on top of her. She's buried.

From the audience, the girl with her leg in a cast, Nancy, speaks up.

NANCY

I think I'll be better before Molly is.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Kate's at her locker, still in her cheerleader outfit. Boys pass, looking at her appreciatively; girls pass, looking at her jealously. Heather nudges her, points down the hall: John is approaching with a couple of other guys. Heather walks up to meet him.

JOHN

Heather. Hot as always. What do you say we forget about the whole "I tried to destroy you and failed thing" and give it another go?

HEATHER

Let me get back to you on that.

JOHN

Come on. I may have strayed, but you know you're the most beautiful girl I've ever-

John's radar goes off as sees Kate over Heather's shoulder.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Who's the new cheerleader?

HEATHER

Kate.

John looks her up and down with his expert eye.

JOHN

Cute.

HEATHER

We made her a cheerleader, didn't we? But I wouldn't bother. I hear she's still dating someone from back home, some star football player or something.

JOHN

You don't say. All right, see ya.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

John gives Kate one more look, then heads off. Kate joins Heather.

KATE  
That's it?

HEATHER  
Just planting the seed.

KATE  
Did he say anything about me?

HEATHER  
"Cute."

KATE  
Really? He said that? Did he say anything else? Should I go talk to him?  
(off Heather's look)  
What?

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - DAY

The four girls are gathered.

HEATHER  
Emergency meeting. I think we're sending Kate in before she's ready.

KATE  
I'm totally ready.

HEATHER  
You're not exactly playing hard to get.

KATE  
Oh, come on. I don't want anything to do with him. I'm not hard to get, I'm impossible to get.

HEATHER  
Really. Tell them what John said about you.

KATE  
What, about me being cute? Oh, come on. It was just a comment. I totally don't care. If anything, it's an insult. I know he's just getting ready to use me.

The other girls look at each other - they're not so sure.

CARRIE  
Kate, you know the John Tuckers of the world pretty well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

I've been watching them operate at a million schools, and my mom's dated a million and one of them.

CARRIE

Now, don't take this the wrong way, but has one of them ever hit on you?

KATE

Not really, no. Wait - one of my mom's boyfriends made a pass at me, but it never worked out, with him going to jail and all.

BETH

John's an artist. He's the best at what he does. You just saw him seduce an auditorium full of girls - how do you think it's going to be when he focuses all of that charm on you?

This hits home. Kate's eyes go wide - she starts to realize she might not be as ready as she thought she was.

CARRIE

You can do this, but you have to be careful. Kate, John's an athlete. He likes competition. He wants to win, not just have his victory handed to him. If you blush and pass out when he winks at you, he's going to lose interest.

HEATHER

Exactly. So you've got to make him chase you. If it's too easy, he'll move on. Do you understand?

KATE

Absolutely. I really do. I've got it under control.

BETH

He really called you cute?

KATE

Yeah, that's what Heather-  
(catching herself)  
Damn it.

The girls laugh.

CARRIE

Look, it's not that hard. Just don't be eager. When he says something, count to three in your head before you answer.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Don't show any interest in him. Don't even look at him too much. Don't touch him, not even his hand. Got it?

Kate doesn't answer.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

I said, do you have it?

KATE

I was counting to three.

HEATHER

Not that slowly. We don't want him to think you're deaf.

KATE

All right, he's noticed me, now how do we know he'll take the bait?

HEATHER

He will. I know John, I know cheerleaders, I know John and cheerleaders.

Kate shrugs - they'll see. Everyone heads out.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

We're outside a classroom. The bell rings and the door opens; Heather and Kate come out to find John standing right there, waiting.

JOHN

We just keep bumping into each other. I think it's fate.

Heather winks at Kate, walks off. Kate counts to three, then:

KATE

What's up?

JOHN

As the president of the school Welcome Wagon, it's my official responsibility to invite you to dinner Friday night.

KATE

That's mighty welcoming, but I'm going to have to take a pass.

John looks stunned. This doesn't happen.

JOHN

You busy, or...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

Sure, I'm busy. Nice meeting you, John.

Kate walks off. Once John can't see her, she breaks out into a smile, obviously pleased with herself. A passing Beth whacks her with a book and glares at her - Kate curses herself silently and stops smiling.

INT. LAB - LATER

Scott's working at his station - flames suddenly shoot three feet out of his Bunsen burner. He grabs at the gas, turns it off. Kate enters the room in her cheer uniform and crosses to join him. He looks up, surprised.

SCOTT

Huh.

KATE

What?

SCOTT

Nothing, it's just, you're on the track team... I thought you were an athlete, not a cheerleader.

KATE

What, you don't think cheering is athletic? I had to kick my leg in the air four times today.

She does half a kick to illustrate. Scott laughs.

SCOTT

Nice, but I don't think it really qualifies as a sport. If I can do it-

He kicks his leg in the air, promptly knocking over a row of beakers, smashing them.

KATE

(laughing)

Impressive. We're looking for a male cheerleader, if you're interested.

As Scott cleans up:

SCOTT

You know, I never see you out.

KATE

Out where?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

At parties, around... I know you're new. If you're interested, I could let you know when something's going on.

KATE

That'd be great.

SCOTT

Actually, there's a party this weekend. I could tell you where it is.

KATE

I'd love that.

SCOTT

Or I could, you know, pick you up.

KATE

Wait, are you asking me out?

SCOTT

No, I'm just not good at directions. Giving them or following them. So I just thought it would be easier to pick you up.

There's a commotion at the door - Kate looks to see a boy enter the room, carrying flowers. He goes up to the teacher.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I mean, if you want me to ask you out, I suppose it could be that, too. I don't want to compromise our great working relationship as lab partners, but-

Kate didn't hear, distracted by the scene at the door.

KATE

I'm sorry, what?

SCOTT

Oh, I was just saying-

The teacher points at the door.

TEACHER

No, you can't interrupt my class. Where are you supposed to be?

FRESHMAN BOY #1

I've just got to drop these off.

The freshman walks over to Kate, hands her the flowers, heads out. Everyone is staring at Kate, who's blushing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TEACHER  
Okay, if we could get back to...

The door opens, another boy enters, with more flowers. He crosses to Kate, hands them over.

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
What's your name? You can't just come in here.

FRESHMAN BOY #2  
Sorry.

He runs out. The door opens a second later, another boy, more flowers. He crosses to Kate and drops them off. We follow this boy out into:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

At least a dozen boys are lined up in the hall, all holding bouquets. At the end of the line is a kid in a gorilla suit, also holding flowers.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Kate is in the bathroom with her three friends. Despite herself, Kate's a little excited.

KATE  
Did you see all the flowers?

HEATHER  
Classic Tucker.

KATE  
And the singing telegram? Not that I care, but no one's ever done anything like that for me.

CARRIE  
Wait until the picnic on his family's boat.

KATE  
Which I totally won't be impressed by.  
(then)  
How big is it?

HEATHER  
You could land a helicopter on it.

BETH  
Yeah, it's almost as big as his...  
(the other girls looks at her)  
Vacation house. What? I think about things other than sex.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH (CONT'D)

(chuckling to herself)

Although we did have some awesome sex in that vacation house. And the greenhouse. And the-

KATE

Well, no matter how big anything of John's is, I promise not to be impressed.

CARRIE

That'll throw him. He won't know what to do.

HEATHER

This is actually working. We're playing his game, and we're going to win.

(to Kate)

You're going to be the girl who makes John Tucker fall in love. You're going to be a legend.

Kate looks at her friends, all looking to her with respect. It's the first time something like this has ever happened to her, and she likes it.

EXT. OUTSIDE SCHOOL - LATER

Students are heading out of the building at the end of the day. Scott, John and some of his jock friends are hanging out by the door. John turns to Scott.

JOHN

You know that new girl, Kate?

SCOTT

She's not your type.

JOHN

Girl is my type. Well, except for the uggos.

SCOTT

Well, then, you're definitely not hers. She listens to Elvis Costello, she reads Salinger for fun, not for class... she'd see through you in a second.

JOHN

You're selling me short. I can pretend to be deep when I need to.

Scott just shakes his head as Heather, Kate and a couple of other cheerleaders exit the school. John raises his shades and nods to Kate.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hey, Kate, you get the flowers?

KATE

(without stopping)

I didn't know what to do with them, so I sent them over to the nursing home. My grandma and her friends flipped, thanks.

Kate smiles and disappears towards the parking lot. John scowls - why isn't this working?

SCOTT

Maybe if we headed down to the nursing home, you'd have a chance with her grandma.

John chuckles, which the other guys take as their cue that it's okay to laugh along.

JOHN

I'm glad she's playing hard to get. The local girls have been so easy for so long, I'd almost forgotten how to do this.

ANGLE ON: Two geeky freshman girls, taking in the scene. Then they turn and watch Kate as she walks away.

FRESHMAN GIRL #1

(awed)

I can't believe her. If John Tucker gave me flowers, I'd go out with him in a second.

FRESHMAN GIRL #2

If John Tucker gave me gum, I'd have his baby.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

Another basketball game -- we pan slowly across the crowd, seeing all the same kids we saw in the opening scene. Everyone yells and applauds, and off screen, we hear the cheerleaders.

CHEERLEADERS (O.S.)

Gla! Di! A! Tors! Gla! Di!

ANGLE ON: Kate, in her cheer outfit.

KATE

A-tors!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Widen to reveal all the cheerleaders, clapping and kicking. The referee blows the whistle and both teams head from the sidelines back onto the floor. Kate edges over to Heather so they can speak privately. Kate's back is to the game.

KATE (CONT'D)

I don't think our plan is working.

HEATHER

Relax.

KATE

I screwed it up. He hasn't looked at me since I turned him down the other day.

HEATHER

Kate, I promise this will work.

KATE

How do you know?

Heather points over Kate's shoulder. Kate turns to find John standing next to her, dribbling the ball.

JOHN

Kate Spencer. How ya doin'?

John's near mid-court -- under the basket, the game is still going on. All four of his teammates are shouting for the ball, and the defenders are looking on, confused. Every other eye in the gym is on Kate.

KATE

Fine. How about you?

JOHN

Not so good. I like this girl, but I don't think she knows I exist.

The gym is going nuts. The shot clock is winding down. 10... 9... 8...; John's teammates are panicking, clapping their hands to get his attention; and his coach is turning red, he's so furious.

COACH

SHOOT THE BALL!

JOHN

Excuse me.

John turns, shoots from thirty five feet away, swishes it. He turns back to Kate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN (CONT'D)

So, what do you say? There's a party over at Dan's house, and I was thinking-

KATE

Uh, John?

The other team inbounds the ball and starts sprinting up the court. John sticks out his arm and clotheslines the player with the ball -- he hits the ground hard. The ref blows the whistle for a foul. The coach runs over to John, yelling the whole way.

COACH

What are you doing?! Why'd you foul him?

JOHN

To ask Kate out.

The coach takes a deep breath, tries to keep from strangling John. He glares at Kate.

COACH

Well?

The entire gym is hanging on her answer.

KATE

(casual, to coach)

If it'll make him play, fine.

Everyone erupts in applause.

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate's sitting in a chair wearing a robe, as the other three girls all hover around her. Heather's putting her hair in curlers, Beth is painting her toenails, and Carrie's reading from the school paper.

CARRIE

What K.S. is taking the school by storm, capturing the attention of the school's biggest prize, J.T.?

KATE

I don't know.

(then)

Wait, that was me? I'm the K.S. taking the school by storm?

CARRIE

I couldn't write it if it weren't true.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HEATHER

So, do you think you're ready for John?

KATE

(totally confident)

Sure thing. Play hard to get, count to three, got it.

BETH

Um, that's when you were playing hard to get. He's got you. You're going out.

KATE

So I... count to... four? Oh my god! I have no idea! I'm panicking! I'm going out tonight and I have no idea what to do!

HEATHER

Should I slap her?

BETH

You're with three girls who know how he operates. You're going to be fine. The trick is to just keep him off balance.

CARRIE

Yes, exactly. Once he figures you out, you're toast. So keep him guessing.

HEATHER

Lie, evade, ignore.

CARRIE

Or... just be mysterious.

BETH

You got it?

KATE

(nods, then)

No.

CARRIE

Let's try this. I'm John, you be Kate.

HEATHER

Hey, I want to be John.

CARRIE

Look, it was my idea.

BETH

So now we're fighting about which one of us is John? This is stupid. I'll be John.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The other two open their mouths to object; Beth just plunges ahead.

BETH (CONT'D)  
 (as John)  
 Hey, baby, how you doin'?

HEATHER  
 (mutters)  
 Doesn't sound anything like him.

BETH  
 Shh.  
 (as John)  
 I said, how you doin'?

KATE  
 Oh, I don't know.

CARRIE  
 Good.

KATE  
 How are you?

HEATHER  
 No!

KATE  
 No?

HEATHER  
 Don't be interested in him. Who cares about him? It's all about you.

BETH  
 (as John)  
 Wanna catch a movie?

KATE  
 I could.

HEATHER  
 Nah. Still too interested.

KATE  
 (sarcastic)  
 Maybe I should just grunt.

BETH  
 Not bad. Try it.

Kate makes a noncommittal noise. The girls nod.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CARRIE

Nice.

BETH

(as John)

What do you want to see?

KATE

I don't know, you want to catch the new  
Brad Pitt movie?

The girls shake their head.

CARRIE

He's not in control. You're in control.

HEATHER

But don't let him know what you really  
want.

BETH

But it was good that you mentioned someone  
better looking at him.

CARRIE

Right. So better, but still lousy. Okay,  
try again.

BETH

(as John)

So, what do you want to see?

Kate thinks, trying to come up with the perfect answer.  
Finally, in a small voice:

KATE

What do you think I want to see? And don't  
be wrong.

The girls clap. Not bad. Kate collapses back on the bed,  
relieved.

INT. BMW - NIGHT

John is driving Kate in his car.

JOHN

So tell me about you.

KATE

What do you want to know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Everything. Who do you listen to, what's your favorite TV show, what's your favorite color... Who are you? What do you like?

KATE

You think I'm just going to spit it all out like that? You're going to have to work to get to know me.

JOHN

(laughs)

You are impressive.

KATE

(too eager)

Really?

(catches herself, deadpan)

Really.

John reaches across Kate, opens his glove box, flips through a stack of CDs. He takes his time choosing, finally finding the perfect one. He slips it in - it's Elvis Costello's "Uncomplicated." Not a hit that everyone would know, but not so obscure that a fan wouldn't love it. He starts singing along. Surprisingly, he's a great singer, and he's obviously been practicing this song.

Kate is surprised, after a few lines, she interrupts him.

KATE (CONT'D)

You like Elvis Costello?

JOHN

If you tell me you don't, I'm kicking you out of the car right now.

KATE

No, I love him. I mean, he's all right. I guess.

(then)

You know, you're actually a really good singer.

JOHN

I'm all right.

KATE

I'm serious, you've got a great voice. Have you ever thought about going out for a musical or something?

John laughs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE (CONT'D)  
What's so funny?

JOHN  
"Oklahoma - starring John Tucker!"

Kate laughs.

KATE  
Okay, so maybe the school's not ready for that.

Kate shakes her head and looks out the window so John can't see her smile. He may be an asshole, but he's a charming asshole.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Kids are streaming in and out of a house mid-party - music is blasting, every light is on, beer bottles are littering the yard. John's BMW pulls up, drives right onto the lawn.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Kate walks into the party on John's arm. They move through the crowd, everyone smiling and greeting Kate by name.

PARTY GOERS  
Hey, Kate./Kate, how ya doing?/Looking good, Kate./Great dress, Kate./Kate, hi, it's Becky. From trig?

JOHN  
(to Kate)  
Looks like I'm dating the most popular girl in school.

KATE  
Lucky you.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Kate stands next to another girl, waiting to go into the bathroom. Carrie walks up, gets in line.

The bathroom empties; the girl in front of Kate goes in, leaving Kate and Carrie alone. They immediately talk in conspiratorial whispers without looking at each other, in case anyone is watching.

CARRIE  
You've totally got him. He can't keep his eyes off you, he gets paranoid any time another guy even gets near you...

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

KATE

I think you're exaggerating a little.

They stop talking as the two freshman girls walk up to Kate. They giggle and push each other. Finally one of them talks.

FRESHMAN GIRL #1

I heard you got busted smoking pot with Christina Aguilera, and that's why you had to leave California.

KATE

Wow.

FRESHMAN GIRL #2

Are you really a Kennedy?

KATE

(laughs)

No, sorry.

The bathroom empties, Kate goes in. Carrie whispers to the freshmen.

CARRIE

Totally a Kennedy. Changed her name so she could try to live in peace.

The girls gasp.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Kate finishes the drink in her hand, looks around for somewhere to set it down. From behind her:

SCOTT (O.S.)

Freshen that drink up for you, ma'am?

KATE

Oh, could you, it's-

She turns and sees it's Scott.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hey, lab partner!

SCOTT

Just when I say I never see you, here you are. I thought you didn't get out.

KATE

I always got out, I guess I just wasn't getting out to the places that you were, so now we're both out... here...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE (CONT'D)  
(realizing this makes no sense)  
Maybe I shouldn't have another drink.

SCOTT  
What are you drinking?

KATE  
Diet Coke.

He laughs.

SCOTT  
Who are you here with?

KATE  
You don't know?

SCOTT  
Should I? Is it someone famous?

KATE  
No, of course not. That was stupid. It's  
just, uh-

John walks up, puts his arm around Kate. Scott raises an eyebrow at Kate. This is a surprise.

JOHN  
Hey, baby brother. Dad told me to make  
sure you got home by midnight.

SCOTT  
Hey, big brother. Dad told me you're  
adopted.

John laughs and walks away with Kate, who looks over her shoulder and smiles at Scott. Once she's gone, Scott shakes his head in disbelief.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The party's breaking up - the music's off, everyone is heading out. John and one of his buddies are heading for the door, carrying another guy, who's either drunk or dead. John calls out to Kate, who's sitting with Heather.

JOHN  
Let me just dump Howie in the bushes, and  
we'll go.

KATE  
Okay.

Kate and Heather watch them lug their friend out, banging him into every piece of furniture along the way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE (CONT'D)

Time for the ride home. I guess this is where he makes his move, huh?

HEATHER

Oh no. He'll be a total gentleman on the first date.

KATE

Good, that makes it easier.

HEATHER

It's all part of his plan.

(imitating John)

"I'm totally attracted to you, but I don't want to screw up what we have by..."

(light bulb)

I've got it.

KATE

What?

HEATHER

Oh, this'll work. Are you a good kisser?

KATE

I don't know. How does anyone know?

HEATHER

Do guys tell you you're a good kisser?

KATE

(thinks, then)

Oh my god, I'm a bad kisser!

HEATHER

Look, this isn't hard. I'm going to teach you everything you need to know about kissing.

KATE

Right now?

HEATHER

We don't have a lot of time. Pay attention.

Heather and Kate notice that a young freshman boy is standing there, listening to them. He's in a trance.

FRESHMAN AT PARTY

Go ahead. Kiss her. Don't let me get in your way. Kiss her right here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Heather rolls her eyes, puts her hand on his face, and pushes him backwards. He crashes to the floor.

INT. BMW - LATER

John pulls up in front of Kate's house. He turns off the car, turns to her.

JOHN

This is going to sound like such a line, but I've got to say it. You were the most beautiful girl at that party tonight.

KATE

You're sweet.

JOHN

Normally I'd be all over you. But I'm not going to do that, because I don't want to risk what we have by moving too fast.

John takes her hand tenderly, kisses her on the cheek.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Let me walk you to the door.

When John turns to open his door, Kate grabs his shirt and pulls him back, goes in to kiss him hard. She misjudges, ends up banging into him.

KATE

(rubbing her head)

Ow!

JOHN

You okay?

KATE

Yeah, I'm fine. My vision's a little blurry, but I'm fine. Okay, don't move.

She goes in, slower this time, and kisses him. He's caught off guard, lets her kiss him. She runs her hands through his hair, really messing it up.

John relaxes, starts getting into it, runs his hands up and down her back. Finally he starts to creep his hand around to the front - two inches before he gets us an R rating, she pulls back, offended.

KATE (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN  
(flustered)  
Sorry, it's just, you-

KATE  
Don't worry about it. I had a great night.

She kisses him one more time, then opens her door and gets out. He watches her go, his hair standing straight up from Kate messing it up. He's in a daze - what the hell just happened?

Kate walks up to the house as John watches from the car. She doesn't look back as she enters her house.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate comes in the front door, closes it, smiles a satisfied smile. Her mom comes into the room.

LORI  
Here she is, back from her big date. How'd it go?

KATE  
It's not really a date, mom. I don't like him.

LORI  
Right.

Lori has something to say, but isn't sure she should. She starts, stops, starts again.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Listen, honey, I'm not sure this is a good idea.

KATE  
Excuse me?

LORI  
Pretending you like a guy... I don't want to see you get hurt.

KATE  
I'm not going to get hurt. He is.  
(then)  
Look, I'm doing this for my friends. I'm popular, I'm having fun, they're being great to me... This is important to them, so it's important to me. Okay?

LORI  
Well, look, my advice is to not do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE  
(carefully)  
Mom, I don't really need your advice.

LORI  
That's what moms do.

KATE  
No, moms give advice about things that they know about.

Lori's hurt. Kate sees she's gone too far.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Mom, what I meant to say was I love you, and there are a ton of things I'd come to you for advice about, just not this. You have to admit that you've had your share of troubles with guys like John Tucker, so you might not be too objective, all right?

LORI  
Fair enough. Okay.

Lori hugs Kate. She pastes a smile on her face, but it's clear she's still wounded.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The bell rings; classes empty into the hall. Kate walks out of a room as John walks up, puts his arm around Kate.

JOHN  
So, I'm thinking that I'll swing by your house around eight.

KATE  
Ooh, I'd love to go out, but I have plans.

JOHN  
What's going on?

KATE  
Just stuff.

John's a little put-off - has he lost it?

JOHN  
Well, if you finish your stuff, give me a call.

KATE  
I'll put you on my list.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kate kisses John on the cheek, and walks over to her locker. John watches her go, then laughs confidently, just in case anyone's watching. Beth is standing at a locker near Kate's - once John walks out of earshot, they talk.

BETH

You are getting so good at this. I'm going to do this to the next guy I date.

KATE

No you're not, you big slut.

BETH

(laughs)

You're right.

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

All the lights are out in Kate's room - the only illumination comes from a pair of flashlights that Kate and Carrie are holding. The girls are on Kate's bed, playing Monopoly.

KATE

I never realized being popular could be so boring.

CARRIE

It could be worse, you could be driving around the block all night staring at a dark window.

She looks at her watch.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Time!

Kate and Carrie turn off their flashlights and crawl over to the window. The shade is down; they pull it up a few inches and peek out.

Down on the street, John's car slowly drives by. John's face is visible in the window, staring up at Kate's house.

The girls back away from the window. Carrie pulls out her notebook, turns on her flashlight and starts writing.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Like clockwork.

Carrie looks at her watch again.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Let me comb my hair and brush my teeth, and we'll get some sleep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

Please tell me that's not on your schedule.

Carrie looks embarrassed, closes her notebook. It clearly is on her schedule.

CARRIE

Of course not. I'm not crazy.

Carrie tucks the notebook safely under a pillow, starts out of the room, comes back, takes the notebook with her and leaves. Kate laughs.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Kate and Carrie are asleep and the lights are out. There's a beeping - Carrie sits upright, presses a button on her watch, turning off the alarm. She reaches over and turns on the light, lies back down.

KATE

You think he's still watching?

The phone rings. Kate reaches for it, Carrie catches her.

CARRIE

Remember, four rings.

Kate nods, counts, picks up the phone.

KATE

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JOHN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

John's in his car, talking on a cell phone.

JOHN

Oh, hey, Kate?

KATE

Who's this?

JOHN

It's me.

(then)

John.

KATE

Oh, hey. I just got in. What's up?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JOHN

I was just about to leave this party, and I thought "You know what? I haven't seen Kate all night. I wonder how she's doing."

KATE

I'm doing fine. How about you? You have a good night?

JOHN

Sure, did you?

KATE

Busy, but good.

John waits, but there's no more information forthcoming.

JOHN

Well, as long as I have you, did you figure out if you're doing anything Saturday?

KATE

Ooh... I think I'm booked.

JOHN

That's cool.

KATE

Listen, it's not a date, if you're worried-

Now that he knows it's not a date, John relaxes greatly.

JOHN

Hey, until I put a ring on your finger, I can't tell you what to do.

KATE

You think once a man gets married, he can tell his wife what to do?

JOHN

No, I was just saying, uh... So, what are you doing?

KATE

I'm actually going to be helping my mom out on that campaign I was telling you about. You can stop by, if you want.

JOHN

No no, you do your thing. I don't want to crowd you. If you change your mind, give me a call. If not, I'll catch you Monday.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE  
Sure thing.  
(then)  
Oh, crap.

JOHN  
What's the matter?

KATE  
Oh, nothing. My mom's been saying there's  
some perv checking out our house all night,  
and I think I see him.

JOHN  
(trying to play it cool)  
Want me to cruise by and check it out?

Kate looks out her window.

KATE  
Nah, I'll just call the cops.

KATE'S POV

John's car speeds away.

INT. JOHN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

John takes a corner, phone clutched against his shoulder.

JOHN  
All right, then, I'll-

The phone flies away, crashes onto the floor. He reaches  
down to get it, the car swerving crazily. He hits a mailbox  
before he manages to get the phone and the car under control:

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Okay, talk to you later.

John hangs up, drives off, looking back nervously.

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate hangs up. She and Carrie burst out laughing.

INT. SCOTT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scott's asleep in his room. John throws the door open, turns  
on the light and stomps over to Scott's bed.

JOHN  
You up?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Scott doesn't move, so John shakes him. Scott blinks out of a dead sleep, very confused.

SCOTT  
What are you doing here?

JOHN  
Hey, can't a guy talk to his brother?

SCOTT  
Not if the guy's you, and not now.

John sits down, picks up a guitar, starts noodling on it as he and Scott talk.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Fine. How's life, John?

JOHN  
Great, as always. How about you?

SCOTT  
Trouble sleeping, aside from that, okay.

JOHN  
Cool. Hey, what are you doing tomorrow?

SCOTT  
Please tell me you don't want to go fishing and bond or something. Wait a second - do you have some incurable disease?

JOHN  
Dude, you're so suspicious.  
(then)  
Hey, if you're not doing anything tomorrow, you mind doing me a favor?

SCOTT  
I'll do it.

JOHN  
Don't you want to know what it is?

SCOTT  
No, I want you to go away.

JOHN  
I want you to help me with a girl.

SCOTT  
If I were going to help you with anything, it wouldn't be seducing some poor girl. Whoever she is, she's better off without you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN  
Whatever. I hope you never need a favor  
from me.

SCOTT  
I won't.

John puts down the guitar and starts to leave. Scott suddenly sits up.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Wait a second, Kate Spencer?

JOHN  
Yeah, why?

SCOTT  
What do you want me to do?

JOHN  
I want you to go to some political thing  
that she's supposed to be at, make sure  
she's there, keep an eye on her.

SCOTT  
Fine, I'll do it.

JOHN  
Okay... Why?

SCOTT  
What is this, twenty questions? Do you  
want my help or not?

JOHN  
Yeah, sure. I owe you one.

John leaves the room.

INT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The nerve center of the campaign is basically a sparsely furnished office space with "Valetta for Mayor" banners and posters with the candidate's grinning face. Volunteers work the phones and stuff envelopes. Kate is here - she's licking, folding and stamping with the best of them. Her mom comes up with the candidate himself.

LORI  
Kate, I'd like you to meet Sal Valetta.

KATE  
It's a pleasure to meet-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kate looks up, smiling, then blinks in disbelief.

KATE'S POV

Behind Sal's shoulder is one of his posters. Kate stares at it, then the real thing comes into focus - a perfect match, except that in real life his ears stick out so far, they look like they're coming after you. It's truly disturbing - Kate looks back and forth between the photo and the man.

BACK TO SCENE

Sal turns around, sees the photo and chuckles.

SAL  
I know. I still can't get used to having big Sals staring at me, either.

KATE  
(carefully choosing her words)  
It's a very good picture.

SAL  
Just between us? Good lighting and a lot of makeup.

Kate laughs politely. Someone taps Sal on the shoulder; he turns away from Kate to talk to them.

LORI  
So, what do you think?

KATE  
He seems great, mom, really...

LORI  
Handsome?

KATE  
No, not that.

Lori laughs.

KATE (CONT'D)  
But that's good. It's different.

LORI  
Very. Hey, that guy over there is waving at you.

Lori points - Kate turns and sees Scott.

KATE  
Scott?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LORI  
Who?

KATE  
It's John's brother. Scott!

Scott crosses over.

SCOTT  
Hey, Kate.

KATE  
What are you doing here?

SCOTT  
I'm here to volunteer.

Lori clears her throat.

KATE  
Sorry. Scott, this is my mom.

SCOTT  
Nice to meet you.

Scott politely shakes her hand, turns back to Kate.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
So where's the candidate?

Kate points - Scott sees Sal.

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Holy crap!  
(quickly recovering)  
I've never seen a real candidate before!

Kate grabs Scott's hand and pulls him away. They move as fast as they can, trying not to look at each other, because every time they do, they laugh. Finally, when they're a safe distance away:

KATE  
So, what are you doing here?

SCOTT  
What are you doing here? I'm always volunteering for political campaigns.  
(off her look)  
All right, John sent me. It's his way of keeping an eye on you without making it look like he's keeping an eye on you. I'm supposed to play it cool, make sure you're actually here, not give anything away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KATE  
You're like the worst spy in the world.

SCOTT  
Or am I the best spy in the world?

Kate shakes her head, pulls Scott through the crowd.

INT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - LATER

Kate and Scott sit across from each other at a table, licking envelopes. Scott nods at one of the posters.

SCOTT  
I hope this guy doesn't make any speeches outside. You know, a gust of wind comes up and suddenly...

Scott mimes Sal flying away as his ears catch the wind.

KATE  
I saw him trip once - it took three minutes to hit the ground.

Scott lowers his voice and points across the room.

SCOTT  
I'd be careful. He's only forty feet away - I'm sure he can hear you.

KATE  
Hear me? He can take my pulse.

Across the room, Sal sees Kate and Scott looking over, smiles and gives a big thumbs-up. They wave back.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Oh my god, I think you were right.

At least, Kate tries to say that, but all the glue from licking the envelopes messes up her speech, and what she really says is:

KATE (CONT'D)  
Oh my gob, I think you bere ribe.

SCOTT  
(laughing, teasing her)  
Excuse meeb?

KATE  
I thing my tonbue is tuck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT  
It's almost like your tongue is stuck.

KATE  
Stob it!

SCOTT  
Stob it ribe now?

Kate's laughing so hard she almost falls out of her chair.  
After she calms down a bit:

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
Listen, I've got to ask you something. Why  
are you going out with my brother?

Kate stops laughing completely, takes a sip of a soda to  
clean off her tongue.

KATE  
(trying to be casual)  
Why do you ask?

SCOTT  
The first time I saw you, you didn't seem  
too impressed by him.

KATE  
You know what they say about first  
impressions.

SCOTT  
That they're always right?

KATE  
Is that what they say? I've been using  
that saying wrong for a long time.

SCOTT  
You just seemed like the kind of girl who  
wouldn't go for him.  
(shrugs)  
I suppose I shouldn't be surprised.  
Everyone dates my brother.  
(quickly)  
But I'm sure you'll be the last. I'm sure  
you're the one. Hey, these envelopes  
aren't going to lick themselves.

Scott busies himself with an envelope. Kate joins him.



EXT. OUTSIDE EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

John's BMW pulls up in front of the restaurant. As John gets out of the car, a valet walks up to the passenger door, but John waves him off and opens the door himself, giving Kate his hand and helping her out of the car.

KATE (V.O.)

So, I finally let John take me to dinner.  
I've got to be honest - I know it's an act,  
but John Tucker makes you feel like the  
only woman in the world.

As John and Kate enter the restaurant, Kate discovers that...

INT. EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT - SUNSET

...They're the only people there. One table is set - it's in the window overlooking a lake. Every other table is covered with candles, which provide the only light in the place. It's breathtaking.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT - LATER

They're seated at their table, as four waiters come out from the kitchen - two pick up their salad plates, then the other two set down the next course, all perfectly synchronized.

KATE (V.O.)

He rented out the best restaurant in the  
city just for us. Complete with  
entertainment.

Three men come out, dressed up like a barbershop quartet, except, well, there are three of them. They begin singing.

BARBERSHOP TRIO

*Kate, Kate, Kate...*

John slides in front of them on his knees, providing the missing voice.

JOHN

*Kate.*

They sing as Kate laughs.

KATE (V.O.)

After that, we went for a little ride...

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Kate and John sit next to each other in a horse drawn carriage, blanket over them, sipping out of mugs.

KATE (V.O.)  
Taxis are so gauche, don't you think? I'm travelling everywhere in one of these from now on.

EXT. YACHT - NIGHT

John and Kate sit on the deck of John's family yacht. Kate looks over the rail as the ship cruises along, the stars lighting their way.

JOHN  
It's so great you run track. Did you know that women who compete in sports are seventy five percent less likely to be the victim of abuse?

Kate laughs.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
What?

KATE  
Do you ever turn it off?

JOHN  
(extra suave)  
Turn what off, my dear?

KATE  
Okay, I guess you don't.

JOHN  
No, seriously, what do you mean?

KATE  
Seriously, do you ever take a break and just be John Tucker?

JOHN  
This is John Tucker.

KATE  
No, that's John Tucker, trying to impress Kate Spencer by talking about how great women's track is. What do you want to talk about? What do you really care about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Well, I love basketball... Hey, speaking of that, there's an away game coming up. We'll be out of town, maybe we can spend a little time together...

KATE

Quit changing the subject. What do you care about, besides basketball?

JOHN

I don't know. No one's ever asked me that before.

John thinks, laughs.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I don't even know if I love basketball. My dad taught me how to play when I was like three, and I've just done it. Huh.

(then)

Would you still like me if I didn't play basketball?

KATE

(uncomfortable)

There's a lot more to you than basketball.

JOHN

Well, you'd say that, because you're different than most girls. Most girls want to be with me because of what I am, not who I am. Everyone thinks it's one sided - John Tucker only dates the hot chicks. But a lot of those girls only date the stud athlete, or the rich guy...

(then, light bulb)

You know, there is one thing I love besides basketball. It's kind of stupid and embarrassing.

KATE

No, go ahead.

JOHN

We actually talked about it before... I wish I were brave enough step up on a stage and perform. I don't think anything would make me happier than to look down, connect with my audience, and just...

He stares into Kate's eyes and begins singing:

JOHN (CONT'D)

*Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

John can't help it - he's back in seducer mode. Kate busts out laughing.

INT. GYM - NIGHT

The cheerleaders are standing on the sidelines of a different gym - they're the visiting team - as the game is going on. Up in the stands, Carrie and Beth sit together, taking it in. A boy sitting in the stands gets up to ask Kate a question, and Kate leans close so she can hear him. On court, John notices, can't look away, and trips and falls on his face.

BETH

God, was he ever that infatuated with any of us?

CARRIE

Of course not. He was always in charge. It was always us falling over our feet.

They take this in for a moment.

BETH

How far do you think we can push him?

CARRIE

I think it's time to find out.

Carrie pulls out her notebook, reviews the well-worn page with the plan on it.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Make Kate Date Bait." Done.

BETH

Do they have to rhyme?

CARRIE

No, it's just nice when they do.

(reading)

"Play hard to get..." "Make him chase..."  
"Don't follow Beth's lead and give it up on the first date..."

BETH

It does not say that.

CARRIE

Just seeing if you're listening. Okay, time to "see how far he's willing to go for love."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH  
You only make a fool of yourself if you're  
in love.

CARRIE  
So let's find out. And if it turns out  
he's ready, then we can go ahead and...

She holds out her notebook to Beth.

BETH  
(reading)  
"Make John's heart smart."  
(then)  
Not your best work.

CARRIE  
I was stretching.

Beth notices something.

BETH  
Hey, it does say that about me giving it  
up!

Carrie slams her book shut.

CARRIE  
Come on, focus.

Carrie stands and walks out, Beth following, looking peeved.

INT. KATE AND HEATHER'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Heather and Kate are in their hotel room; there's a quiet knock on the door. Heather goes over and opens it, lets Beth and Carrie in. They have shopping bags with them.

HEATHER  
Hey, guys. What do you think?

BETH  
We think he's ready.

Kate looks a little nervous.

KATE  
You really think I can pull this off?

CARRIE  
You don't have to. That's what we're for.

She shoves a bag at Kate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE (CONT'D)  
Put this on. We'll set up the camera.

Checks her watch.

CARRIE (CONT'D)  
Go go!

Kate takes the bag into the bathroom. Carrie pulls out her laptop as Beth and Heather drag a desk over to the bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KATE AND HEATHER'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Carrie knocks on the bathroom door.

CARRIE  
Come on, we're on a schedule. What's the hold up?

KATE (O.S.)  
I'm almost ready...

Carrie opens the door and peeks in.

CARRIE  
Wow.

Carrie holds open the door, and Kate comes out of the bathroom wearing a short, sexy robe.

KATE  
How do I look?

Kate opens up her robe, showing off her lingerie. It's black and sexy, and Kate's in great shape.

BETH  
I'm going on a diet.

HEATHER  
(checking Kate out)  
I think I might be gay.

CARRIE  
Well, there's your answer.

BETH  
You are really hot. I don't mean this as an insult, but why are do always dress like a schlub and hide yourself? You should take some lessons from your mom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

Yeah, I'll pass on that. I think the less I take after my mom, the happier I'll be.

HEATHER

Come on, if you'd work it a little more, you'd be beating guys off with a stick.

KATE

I wouldn't want the kind of guy who just wants me to look like this.

HEATHER

But that's all of them.

KATE

No. Is it?  
(thinks about it)  
Oh my god.

CARRIE

Okay, no time for epiphanies. Let's go.

Kate pulls her robe back on as Carrie leads Kate to the bed. The laptop has been set up on the desk facing Kate, and there's a webcam on top of the computer. Heather, Beth and Carrie take their positions across from Kate, behind the computer. Carrie reaches over and presses a button.

INT. JOHN'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

John is on a laptop, while the other player in the room watches TV. From John's computer we hear:

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE (V.O.)

(on a loop)

Better have you naked by the end of this song! Better have you naked by the end of this song! Better have you naked by the end of this song!

John chuckles.

TEAMMATE

God, how many times can you watch Janet Jackson's boob pop out of her dress?

There's a CHIME from John's computer: we see the screen, and on it a window has popped up: "KATE\_S HAS REQUESTED A VIDEO CHAT. DO YOU ACCEPT?"

John hits "OK" and a window pops up with Kate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN  
Hello there.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. KATE AND HEATHER'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate looks into the camera. Just on the other side, the other three girls are actively coaching her during the entire conversation - holding up notes, mouthing words, pantomiming.

KATE  
Whatcha doin'?

JOHN  
Homework, you know.

KATE  
Yeah, I bet. You alone?

John snaps his fingers at his teammate, points to the bathroom. The roommate glares, heads in, closes the door.

JOHN  
I am now. How about you?

KATE  
Uh, yeah.

JOHN  
Who'd they put you with?

Heather shakes her head violently.

KATE  
Not Heather.

The girls groan.

KATE (CONT'D)  
I mean, they wanted to put me with Heather, but she didn't want to be with me, because, you know, I'm dating you.

JOHN  
So you're there all by yourself?

KATE  
I know, isn't that sad? I'm so lovely.

She's looking at a sign that Carrie's holding up. Carrie glares, scribbles on it, holds it back up.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

KATE (CONT'D)  
Lonely. I'm so lonely.

JOHN  
 Well, maybe you need some company.

KATE  
 That's just what I was thinking. But there's a problem - I just tried to go out in the hall, and coach Williams is totally watching. No way you could get here.

JOHN  
 Damn it.

KATE  
 I mean, unless you went out on the ledge and came in through the window.

JOHN  
 (laughs)  
 Yeah, right.

KATE  
 Yeah, that's crazy. Too bad, I got all dressed up. Or down.

Kate lets her robe slip off one shoulder, showing off one bra strap.

JOHN  
 I could try the ledge.

KATE  
 Awesome. I'm five windows down. I already counted.

JOHN  
 I'm on my way.

The girls high five and pump their fists - it's working. Suddenly, Beth gets an idea - she holds up her hand, gesturing madly.

KATE  
 Hold on!

JOHN  
 What?

Beth pantomimes shaving her face.

KATE  
 Did you shave?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

Yeah, sure.

Beth gestures shaving her chest.

KATE

Your chest?

JOHN

What? Of course not.

Beth pantomimes swimming. Kate smiles, getting it.

KATE

This is kind of crazy, but I have a thing for swimmers.

JOHN

Swimmers?

Beth and Heather get it now, fight to not laugh out loud.

KATE

There's something so sexy about a smooth body. You know, like a swimmer.

JOHN

I don't know...

KATE

It's nuts, but when a guy isn't shaved, it's like wrestling a bear. I just don't like hair rubbing all over my bare skin.

Kate lets the robe fall off, so she's just wearing her bra.

JOHN

So, like, shave my chest?

KATE

Everything. Legs, armpits, everything. Totally smooth.

JOHN

Not my hair...

KATE

No, of course not.

Heather waves her arms.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hold on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Heather pantomimes cutting hair.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Um, yeah, your hair, too.

JOHN  
No way. My hair is one of the best three things about me. Eyes, hair, ass. There was a poll in the school paper.

Carrie scribbles on a piece of paper. Kate reads.

KATE  
If you love me, you'll do it.  
(then)  
I didn't want you to, but when you said you wouldn't... I know if I loved someone, there's nothing I wouldn't do for them.

John hesitates. This is a biggie.

Carrie yawns. Kate follows suit, gives a huge yawn for John's benefit, then pulls her robe back on.

KATE (CONT'D)  
You know what? Maybe you're right. I'll just see you tomorrow.

JOHN  
No! Wait! Give me five minutes.

KATE  
Be careful on the ledge. Oh, and I'm going to turn the lights out, okay? I'm a little shy. Just get comfortable and climb in.

Kate blows John a kiss. Carrie closes the computer. The girls burst out laughing.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

The room is completely dark - the only light comes from outside. And then through the window we see John inching along the ledge. He's in the shadows, but it's clear he's just wearing boxers, and nothing else. No hair on his head or his body. He pushes open the window and climbs in.

In the room, he spots the bed, sees the person sleeping in it. He climbs into bed. (Now that he's in the room, it's impossible to see anything but vague shapes.)

JOHN  
Oh, Kate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOMAN'S VOICE  
Oh, Darryl.

JOHN  
Darryl? Who's Darryl?

WOMAN'S VOICE  
Who's Kate?

JOHN  
You mean Coach?

The light beside the bed flips on. John's got a big surprise - he's in bed with Coach Williams, the girls' cheer coach. She lets out a high pitched scream, John lets out a higher pitched one.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

People are filing out of their rooms to see what all the commotion is about. Carrie and Beth aren't there, but Heather and Kate are part of the growing crowd.

Coach Williams comes out of her room, John in tow. He's still wearing his boxers, and Coach Williams is using them as a handle to pull him along. She's got them hiked so far up that there isn't much breathing space left inside them.

JOHN  
No... Dear god... Hurts so much...  
Please... Not that... They mean so much  
to me...

We get our first good look at John in the light: he is completely, utterly, blindingly hairless.

The crowd in the hall have their mouths hanging open: what the hell is going on? Finally, the people get over their shock enough to begin laughing. Heartily.

A FLASH - Heather's got a camera and just got a prime picture. John looks at the camera in a daze, then notices Kate. Kate looks sheepish.

KATE  
Sorry. I guess it was six windows.

Finally John's coach comes into the hall.

COACH  
What the hell is going on here?

COACH WILLIAMS  
Darryl, I think this Chihuahua belongs to you. I found it in my bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN  
Please make her let go.

Coach Williams lets go and pushes John towards his coach, who grabs his arm and leads him away in shame. People are falling over themselves laughing and pointing as he goes.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

John walks down the hall, shaved head on display. People point and whisper as he walks, a few girls giggle.

KATE (V.O.)  
John's aura was punctured. Don't get me wrong - he was still John Tucker, and he managed to put a good spin on it almost immediately.

John meets up with a bunch of other guys from his basketball team - they now all have shaved heads. They high five, admire each other.

EXT. TRACK - DAY

Late afternoon, Kate trains alone, sprinting around the track as fast as she can, really pushing.

KATE (V.O.)  
But he was in love, he was **getting** desperate, he was almost ready for the big fall. All I had to do was deliver. And nothing was going to get in my way.

\*

Kate stops in her tracks.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Scott!

Scott stands on the side of the track. He applauds.

SCOTT  
I think you won.

KATE  
I'm the only one running.

SCOTT  
I know, how smart are you?

Kate laughs. As she talks, she steps up and down in place, keeping her muscles warm. Scott notices, starts stepping along with her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

Okay, you can stop making fun of me any time. I've just got to keep moving so I don't cramp up.

SCOTT

(looks at his legs)

Wow, I didn't even notice I was doing it. It's like, when you talk to a guy with an accent and you start doing the accent?

(Indian accent)

I am having much fun dancing with you. Please try the papadums.

KATE

Okay, we're stopping.

Kate stops, Scott follows suit.

SCOTT

You sure you're not going to cramp up? I mean, you were jogging at a pretty torrid pace.

KATE

You want to race? Come on, I just did five miles, I'll still slaughter you.

SCOTT

No way. I'm just a big talker. Absolutely nothing to back it up.

Kate laughs, then grabs at one leg, staggers forward.

KATE

Ow, ow, ow...

She collapses into Scott's arms. Scott picks her up, carries her over to a bench and sets her down.

SCOTT

I guess you weren't kidding. I'm almost feeling guilty for making fun of you.

He kneels down in front of her, works on the cramping calf, massaging it.

KATE

"Almost?" What would it take to make you feel guilty?

SCOTT

Oh, something big. Like a leg falling off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

Nice.

Kate and Scott laugh. Scott looks up at Kate... Kate looks down at Scott... his hands are on her leg... and all of a sudden, things are weird. There's a definite vibe in the air. They both immediately get uncomfortable. Scott lets go of her leg and stands up.

SCOTT

Feeling better?

KATE

Yeah.

SCOTT

Good.

KATE

Thanks.

After a long pause:

KATE (CONT'D)

I should finish my workout before I-

SCOTT

Yeah, absolutely. Okay, good running into you.

Kate smiles, turns, sprints away. Scott watches her go.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - DAY

Our four girls are gathered in the bathroom.

HEATHER

It smells in here. I'm getting tired of meeting in bathrooms.

CARRIE

We're almost done, then we don't have to sneak around any more. I've figured it out - I've got the perfect place to finish him off.

KATE

Yeah, about that... maybe we've done enough.

BETH

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

I mean, we made the guy look like an idiot at the hotel...

HEATHER

That? He's bounced back from a lot worse than that.

CARRIE

Yeah, we haven't done nearly enough. *This is just part of the plan. We hook him, then we crush him. All we've done is hook him.*

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

KATE

I know how much you love plans, I'm just not sure how much more we need to do.

The girls stare at her. Not happily.

KATE (CONT'D)

*It's just feeling kind of, I don't know, weird.*

\*  
\*

Finally Carrie snaps.

CARRIE

What kind of crap is this?

HEATHER

Are you falling for John? Is that it? You want him for yourself?

KATE

Look at what this guy does! You're as obsessed with trying to destroy him as you were with dating him. You're still letting him control you.

Beth holds up her hand to calm the other two. She goes over to Kate, puts her arm around her, playing good cop.

BETH

Look, I know it's tough, but we're almost done. Let's just finish John off, then you're done. You never have to think about him again.

KATE

I don't know...

HEATHER

Jeez, Kate, I thought we were friends.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

We are. Aren't we?

HEATHER

I thought so. But friends look out for each other. Friends don't say they'll do something and then...

Heather searches for the right words. Carrie supplies them.

CARRIE

Completely screw everyone over!

BETH

Come on, Kate. If you're not going to do it for your friends, then what about doing it to send a message to the John Tuckers of the world? *If we don't teach him a lesson, he's just going to go start ruining other girls' lives. You know it.*

\*  
\*  
\*

KATE

All right, all right. Momentary lapse. I'm fine. What's your idea?

CARRIE

Get ready, because this is great.

(then)

You know how the elections are next week? Well, Kate is going to be the one to announce the winners, and she's going to break up with John right there in front of the whole school.

HEATHER

What the hell?!

CARRIE

It's perfect. Everyone's there, cameras are rolling, he's ready to be have the whole school choose him as their leader... and we destroy him.

HEATHER

No no no-

BETH

What's your problem? This is a great idea.

HEATHER

It's a horrible idea. Do you know who announces the election results?

CARRIE

A cheerleader, which is why-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HEATHER

The head cheerleader. She's the designated spirit representative for the entire school. Now, I know you think that's a big joke, but it's not to me.

BETH

So? We make Kate the head cheerleader.

CARRIE

Good, it'll make it even more painful when he's dumped by the head cheerleader.

Heather loses it, screams:

HEATHER

Hold on one freakin' second!

She finally has everyone's undivided attention.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

I'm head cheerleader. Not her.

CARRIE

Heather, come on-

HEATHER

No, no "Heather, come on." This is a popularity contest, and I'm the most popular girl in school. Well, I'm sorry, but it's true. The girls in my family have always been the head cheerleader since, I don't know, the pilgrims.

CARRIE

Look, we've got a plan, and we're going to follow it. We all have to make sacrifices.

HEATHER

Oh, really?

(re: Beth)

What did she sacrifice? Her parents' money?

BETH

Hey, don't attack me! It was Carrie's stupid idea!

CARRIE

You said it was great!

HEATHER

(to Carrie)

And you, what did you sacrifice? Why don't you make Kate the editor of the newspaper?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CARRIE

I would if I thought it would help.

HEATHER

No you wouldn't. If you gave up one of your precious activities, you'd never get into Hartford.

Silence. Then:

CARRIE

Do you mean "Harvard?"

Heather screams in frustration, starts for Carrie. The other girls grab her and hold her back. Heather takes a deep breath, relaxes; when the other girls let her go, she snatches Carrie's notebook and goes over to the sink.

HEATHER

You want to talk sacrifices? Fine.

Heather turns on the water and starts moving the notebook towards it.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

I hope you haven't had any good notions today.

Carrie wails.

CARRIE

Heather, stop! Everyone made sacrifices.

She turns to Beth for help.

BETH

(reaching)

Sure. Um... Carrie, didn't you say that you got a "B" on a trig test because you were putting so much work into this plan?

CARRIE

A minus.

Heather growls.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Wait wait wait. And Beth. She doesn't get to hook up with John anymore.

BETH

That was really great.

No sale. Heather pushes the notebook towards the water.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CARRIE

Kate, say something.

KATE

Uh... okay... Listen, Heather, no one's going to deny that you've made the biggest sacrifices. But come on, nothing could make me more popular than you. The only reason I'm popular at all is because you've taken me under your wing. Just hanging out with you makes everyone think I'm somebody.

CARRIE

Absolutely. You totally rule this school. Everyone knows it.

BETH

Carrie's right. As much as I say I reject the paternalistic power structure of high school, the truth is I'd give my right arm to be head cheerleader.

\*

HEATHER

(softening)

You wouldn't be much of a cheerleader with one arm.

CARRIE

The only reason I never tried out for cheer is that I was afraid I wouldn't make it.

HEATHER

It would help if you were a little taller. But you probably could have made it.

CARRIE

Are we okay?

HEATHER

We're okay.

They all hug. Carrie snatches her notebook from Heather, cradles it in her arms like a baby.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Kate's in the kitchen, on the phone.

KATE

No, sorry, she's still not here, but the second she gets home I'll-

(listens)

Hold on, maybe I hear her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lori walks in the room, sees Kate on the phone, starts shaking her head violently.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Oops, nope, not her, but I'll let her know.  
Good talking to you, Sal.

Kate hangs up.

KATE (CONT'D)  
He's called three times.

LORI  
Thanks.

KATE  
Why don't you want to talk to him?

LORI  
I will. Thanks.

But Kate's not letting Lori change the subject so easily.

KATE  
You're avoiding him?

LORI  
(sighs, then)  
Yeah, I don't think we're going to see each other anymore.

KATE  
Figures.

LORI  
Excuse me?

KATE  
I said, it figures. You finally date someone who seems decent, and you dump him as soon as you can.

LORI  
Kate, who I date is none of your business.

KATE  
Are you serious?

LORI  
Yeah, I am.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

Do you know how screwed up that is? You really think dating all those guys, moving to all those places didn't effect me?

LORI

I know it's been hard making friends, with the moving-

KATE

It's not just friends - can you imagine what it's like growing up with this? All I've done is watch you date jerks who ruin our lives. I've started to think all guys are like that. I mean, could my dating life be more screwed up? The first serious relationship I've ever had is with a guy I don't like who has no idea who I really am. Thanks. Thanks a lot. Good thing who you date is none of my business.

Kate storms out of the room.

INT. LAB - DAY

Kate and Scott are working next to each other.

KATE

Hey, did you see Cake has a new album out?

SCOTT

Cool, I'll have to check it out.

KATE

I just got it. Want me to burn you a copy?

SCOTT

No, I'll get it.

KATE

Everything okay?

SCOTT

Everything's great. Everything okay with you?

KATE

Yeah, sure. Things are just a little...

Kate makes a "mixed-up" motion with her hands.

SCOTT

Yeah, I've been getting a little of-  
(makes same gesture)  
That too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE  
I think it started when-

SCOTT  
Hold that thought. You've got a visitor.

Scott points to the door. John is there, waving. Perfect timing. Kate walks out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kate joins John.

JOHN  
Listen, I was wondering if you want to get together tonight - we haven't really seen each other since the trip.

KATE  
Yeah, tonight's not great. I'm just really busy these days - it's cheer season, and I've got to keep my focus.

JOHN  
But soon?

KATE  
Absolutely. I'll call you.

JOHN  
Hey, I hear everyone saying you're the new head cheerleader.

KATE  
Yeah, crazy, isn't it?

JOHN  
Not so crazy. You are dating John Tucker.

He flashes his million dollar smile, but it's looking a little less convincing than usual.

KATE  
Yeah. Okay, see you.

Kate heads back into the class. John just stands, watching her go... He doesn't look good. He kind of looks like a desperate girl who's being ignored by the guy she loves.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Kate walks down the hall - it seems that everyone knows her, talks to her, congratulates her...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE (V.O.)

The week leading up to the election seemed to last about a minute, it was so packed. I sure wasn't invisible any more - I couldn't go anywhere without everyone knowing who I was.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kate is waiting on an elderly couple.

ELDERLY WOMAN

So, Kate, what's going on with you and John Tucker?

INT. KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate's asleep in bed; something wakes her.

KATE (V.O.)

John got more and more desperate every day. And night.

She looks out her window to find John standing down there, guitar in hand, warbling Dashboard Confessional's "Screaming Infidelities." His usually impressive voice is cracking, interrupted by the tears running down his face. Kate closes the curtains, lies back down, puts a pillow over her face.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Kate walks through the cafeteria with another cheerleader, talking.

KATE (V.O.)

We didn't want John to fall completely apart before we had a chance to destroy him publicly, so I did spend some time with him...

Kate and the cheerleader sit down at a table, and we see that John's behind them, struggling with their books and trays loaded down with food. He sets everything down for them; when he's done, Kate pats him on the arm to thank him, then turns back to her friend. John waves weakly and walks away from the table.

INT. KATE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kate is sitting across the table from her mother. They're both reading as they eat, not making eye contact, not acknowledging each other's presence.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

KATE (V.O.)

So the plan was rolling along. At home? Not so much. My mom and I hadn't talked since our fight. Well, that's not precisely true - I asked her to pass me the potatoes once, and she asked me if I'd picked up toilet paper at the store. So, you know, the lines of communication were open.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Kate sits with the other three girls.

KATE (V.O.)

And before I knew it, it was the day of the election. The buzz around school - started by Carrie - is that something was going to happen. It was the first time politics were ever popular. We got together that morning to work on my speech. It was tough, but we found five synonyms for the word "womanizer" and seventeen for "dump." At last, it was finally going to be over, we could get our lives back... I was thinking nothing could possibly go wrong now.

They finish; they all get up and head out of the cafe. Kate is the last to leave - she goes over to the trash to throw away her cup, and turns towards the door when she's surprised to find Scott standing there. Looking extremely confused.

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

It never pays to think like that.

KATE (CONT'D)

(busted)

Scott. Hey. Good to see you.

SCOTT

Since when are you friends with those three?

KATE

Well, Heather's a cheerleader with me, you know that. And... I just know the other two. From around.

SCOTT

And since when are they even friends? I didn't realize that little video they made about John had brought them so close together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

I didn't know they didn't get along...

SCOTT

No, they've always hated each other. And yet here they are, still together, with you. Pretty mindblowing. Pretty crazy coincidence that the three girls who tried to humiliate my brother are best friends with his girlfriend. What's going on?

Kate has no answer.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

God, I was so wrong about you. I thought you were different than everyone else, then you're hanging with them, you end up falling for my brother-

KATE

I didn't!

Scott waits for her to explain herself.

KATE (CONT'D)

Look, you said yourself that your brother was a jerk. I mean, you've watched him hurt all those girls, dating them, lying to them, dumping them... We just thought we'd give him a taste of his own medicine.

SCOTT

So, it was just some game the three of you cooked up, making him fall for you, and then what? You're going to dump him?

Kate nods.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

At the assembly. Of course.

(then)

You want to hear something ironic? Do you know why he fell for you? Because you were the first person who was honest with him. The first person who treated him like a human being.

This lands hard on Kate.

KATE

Are you going to tell him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SCOTT

No.

(then)

He probably does deserve it, in some way.

KATE

That's what I thought, that's why I agreed to go along with this-

SCOTT

In some way he does deserve it, but in another way... Look, do you really think it's all his fault? He is what he is. He doesn't really go out of his way to hide it. So who's to blame - him, or the girls who keep lining up to date him, even knowing everything they know about him?

(then)

And what's his big sin, really? Lying to women to get them to fall in love with him? God, that's horrible. I bet you can't imagine what kind of person would do that, can you, Kate?

Scott turns and exits, leaving a shattered Kate.

INT. LORI'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

Lori sits in a chair, reading, when Kate knocks softly on the door and sticks her head in.

LORI

Why aren't you in school? Everything okay?

KATE

I needed to talk to you.

Kate sits on the bed.

KATE (CONT'D)

I know I told you I don't need your advice about boys. Well, I need your advice about boys.

LORI

You know I'll always try. I can't promise I won't suck, but I'll try.

KATE

Okay. Do you think I'm doing the right thing, you know, dumping John tonight?

Tough question right off the bat. Lori searches for words.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE (CONT'D)

I know you didn't think this was a good idea from the beginning, but it's too late. I'm in, and I need to know what to do.

LORI

Okay. Well, John's a real bastard, right?

KATE

I don't know. Maybe there's more to him. Maybe there's an actual person there.

LORI

He did hurt all your friends.

KATE

Yeah, he did. And if I don't go through with it, they won't be my friends anymore.

LORI

You don't love him, do you?

KATE

No, I don't love him.

Kate shakes her head, trying to sort it out.

KATE (CONT'D)

So, I can ruin the life of a guy who's never done anything to me, and keep the best friends I've ever made in my whole life, or, I can not dump him and lose my friends.

LORI

Okay, just give me a second.

KATE

Tough one, huh?

LORI

And the thing that kills me is, it's all my fault.

KATE

Mom, it's not your fault-

LORI

What you said the other day? You were right. How were you supposed to know how to act if I didn't show you? How were you supposed to learn about men when I was always dating bums?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

Well, you told me not to do this.

LORI

Yeah, one good idea after seventeen years of screwing you up. Kate, you're beautiful, you're smart, you're fun - you deserve to be popular, you deserve to date whoever you want to. All you needed was a chance. I'm sorry for being selfish.

KATE

Thanks.

(then)

So what do I do?

LORI

(beat, then)

You want to know something sad? The first thing that popped into my head is "let's move to a new town and start over."

Kate laughs.

LORI (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm really trying, but I just don't know.

KATE

Don't worry. I'll figure it out. This helped.

LORI

Did it?

KATE

Not really, but I can tell you're hanging by a thread.

Lori laughs.

KATE (CONT'D)

You know, you don't always date bums.

LORI

I'm afraid I have.

KATE

What about Sal?

LORI

Well, he's no John Tucker, I'll grant you that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KATE

Maybe that's a good thing.

LORI

You've got to get to school. We don't have enough time to fix me.

They hug.

INT. GYM - DAY

The gym is draped with campaign paraphernalia, the stands are packed with students. It's go time. Around the audience, we see Beth, Heather and Carrie, none of them standing together, and John, standing at the front with the other candidates. One of them, Norman, turns to John.

NORMAN

Where's Kate? She wasn't in Biology.

JOHN

She'll be here.

NORMAN

I saw her this morning, and then she disappeared.

JOHN

You saw her this morning?  
 (starting to come unhinged)  
 How'd she look? Mad? Do you think she's coming? Have you heard anything? You don't think she just won't show, do you?

Finally, whispers run through the room and everyone turns and looks at the door, as Kate comes into the room. She nods and makes small talk with the people she passes as she moves into the gym.

The PRINCIPAL glances at his watch, steps to the microphone.

PRINCIPAL

Well, since our designated spirit representative has shown up, let's get this started.

He covers the mic, turns to a teacher standing next to him.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

(whispering)  
 Is she dumping him?

TEACHER

That's what I hear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kate gets to the stage. The principal hands her an envelope.

KATE

Hi, everyone. Thanks. Before I announce the winners, I'd like to say something about one of the people up on this stage. I know this is unusual, but bear with me. As some of you know, I'm not completely objective about this election; I've been dating John Tucker for awhile now. I've learned alot, and I think it's time I share it all with you.

A murmur from the crowd: here it comes.

KATE (CONT'D)

Sometimes you think you know a person. Especially popular people - you think that smiling, friendly face they put on is the real person. Sometimes they even start to believe it about themselves. If everyone loves them, they couldn't be so bad, could they? But I'm afraid that sometimes that person is rotten to the core, they're a liar and a cheat and they've gotten their popularity by using people and then casting them aside. They hurt people that they're supposed to care about, and that's just unforgivable. There are no excuses for that kind of behavior, and anyone who does that should be punished.

Heather, Carrie and Beth are practically gleeful: all their work is about to pay off. Carrie holds a camcorder up, to capture the moment.

KATE (CONT'D)

As you've probably guessed, the person I'm talking about is me.

Gasps and shock all around.

KATE (CONT'D)

I used John. I did everything I could to get him to fall in love with me, because I knew that if he did, I'd be popular. And it worked. Here I am. But to do it, I was lying to all of you about who I really was, and I had to hurt John, who'd never done anything to me. I'm sorry.

KATE (CONT'D)

I don't deserve to be standing up here, I don't deserve all the attention I've been getting...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE (CONT'D)

(to John)

And I don't deserve you. I think that buried deep deep deep inside of you, there's a really sensitive, wonderful guy that's going to come out for the right girl. I'm not her. I hope you find her.

(back to audience)

Thanks again for everything. I know I'm giving up a lot by doing this, including some really great friends, but I didn't really earn any of it. So, goodbye.

She starts to walk off, pauses, goes back to the mic.

KATE (CONT'D)

One more thing. Why do we all make fools of ourself chasing after the John Tuckers of the world, anyway? Why are we so busy defining ourselves by other people? I don't have an answer, I just thought it was a good question.

(then)

Oh, and also, since I probably won't ever have everyone's attention like this again... It wouldn't kill you all to come out to a girls' track meet once in awhile.

And with that, Kate walks off the stage, leaving behind a stunned crowd. John looks at the crowd, looks at Kate disappearing, and runs after her.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE GYM - CONTINUOUS

John catches up with Kate.

JOHN

Wait-

KATE

John, don't. I'm really not the right person for you.

JOHN

I kind of get that now.

KATE

Look, I'm sorry-

JOHN

Don't be sorry. Actually, I just wanted to thank you.

KATE

Thank me?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JOHN

Yeah. You could have destroyed me out there. All those things you were saying... they're true about me, too. We're alike in a lot of ways.

KATE

That was kind of the twist. Tricky, huh?

JOHN

I'm going to work on it.

KATE

Really?

JOHN

I'm still not sure how you did what you did to me, but it made me think about a lot of things. Who I am. Why I do what I do. Who I hurt. I guess I'm feeling...

KATE

...Compassion?

JOHN

I don't know, but I don't like it.

They laugh. John holds out his hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Good luck, Kate.

KATE

Good luck.

They shake hands; Kate goes in and kisses him on the cheek. She then turns and exits the building.

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

And then, as I was walking out of there, I realized that there was one person who noticed me before John did. One person who did seem to like me for who I was.

FLASHBACKS:

Scott coming up to Kate at the water fountain and talking and joking with her...

Scott asking Kate to be his lab partner...

Scott talking to Kate at the party...

Scott and Kate at the campaign, laughing with each other...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Scott helping her with the cramp in her leg...

KATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And one person who amazingly didn't forget  
I existed the second he met my mom.

Scott meeting Lori at campaign headquarters, shaking her hand, and immediately looking right back to Kate...

EXT. OUTSIDE GYM - CONTINUOUS

Kate exits the gym and walks out into the night.

KATE (V.O.)  
But I figured my chances with him were  
slightly damaged by the fact that he hated  
me.

SCOTT (O.S.)  
Kate!

KATE (V.O.)  
Luckily, I was wrong.

Kate turns to find Scott running to her. When he catches her:

SCOTT  
Does this mean you're not dating my brother  
anymore?

KATE  
I think so.

SCOTT  
Finally.

And he moves in to kiss her. It's going to be the most beautiful moment ever... and she stops him.

KATE  
What do you think you're doing?

SCOTT  
Kissing you? Romantically? Although every  
second we talk about it, it's becoming less  
romantic and more uncomfortable. You're  
just looking at me. Time is passing. It's  
getting really bad now.

KATE  
And just exactly long have you been  
attracted to me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

I think I suspected it when I first saw you, and I was sure when you glued your tongue to your mouth...

KATE

So why didn't you say anything? You know, this is all kind of your fault. You should have asked me out the second you met me, not taken "no" for an answer, and saved me from this whole mess.

SCOTT

I'm... sorry?

KATE

(smiles)  
So am I.

And he kisses her. She returns the kiss and they embrace, not letting go.

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

So what happened to everyone?

INT. GYM - NIGHT

We're in the middle of a game - John's standing on the sideline as his coach yells at him.

KATE (V.O.)

Even though it didn't happen quite how we hoped, we still ended up teaching John Tucker a lesson and changing him forever.

John finally snaps and yells back at his coach:

JOHN

What's the matter with me? What's the matter? I'll tell you! I don't want to play basketball! I hate basketball! I want to sing! I want to sing!

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

John stands front and center, belting out a song to a packed house.

JOHN

*Oklahoma! Where the wind comes sweeping down the plains!*

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

A high school couple walks hand in hand towards a car. They split up - the boy goes to the driver's side, the girl to the passenger side.

KATE (V.O.)  
 Amazingly, another John Tucker didn't spring up to take his place. From that time on, the guys at our school treated the women like princesses.

The girl makes no move to open her own door; glances over at her boyfriend. He runs around the car, opens her door for her, waits for her to get in, and closes the door.

KATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 After seeing what women could do to even the mighty John Tucker when we put our minds to it, they were scared to death of us.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Kate sits alone.

KATE (V.O.)  
 What about the other girls? Like I said, we were just together to take care of John Tucker, and once that was done, there was no reason to hang out.

The other three join Kate at the table, setting down drinks and muffins.

KATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 No reason except that we were all pretty amazing people who taught each other that men come and go, but friends are forever. We stayed close until the end of high school, and we still meet once a year to celebrate the day we saved the world from John Tucker.

The girls all clink their coffee cups together in a toast.

INT. KATE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lori walks to the front door.

KATE (V.O.)  
 Mom turned out to be more mature than she thought... with a little help from me, of course.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She opens the door to find Sal at the door, holding a huge bouquet of flowers. He's got a new hairstyle - it's long and comes down over the ears. Lori and Sal embrace; we now see that Kate is watching from the top of the stairs. Sal gives her a thumbs-up; Kate points to his hair and flashes him an okay sign.

KATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He's easily the ugliest new dad I ever had,  
but he's easily the best.  
(then)  
Who's left? Oh, right.

EXT. TRACK - NIGHT

Kate is running sprints while Scott times her. They're the only people at the track.

KATE (V.O.)  
Scott was the luckiest one of all - he got  
me. And what about me? How did I turn  
out?

Kate finishes running, catching her breath with her hands on her hips. She walks along, then looks straight up into camera.

KATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I'm the girl who made John Tucker fall in  
love. I'm a legend.

Kate smiles.

FADE OUT.

THE END