

SHITTY FUCKING ADVICE

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INT. BAR - SILVER LAKE - NIGHT

HAILEE ZIMMERMAN (29) swallows first date jitters as she pretends to text. A hand on her waist leads to NIK (30's, overwhelming and pretentious).

NIK

Hailee! Wow, I'm surprised. You actually look like your pictures.

With a hand on the small of her back, he leads her to a table. Off her doubt-filled face we...

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - SOUTH FLORIDA - DAY

Palm trees line the highway. Identical minivans speed along.

HAILEE (V.O.)

My mom taught me everything I know.

INT. MINIVAN - SAME

Hailee's mom, BETH (late 30's) drives HAILEE (13) to school.

BETH

Honey, remember our talk yesterday?

Hailee groans.

HAILEE

Not again.

BETH

I changed my mind. I don't want you to confuse sex and love like I did. So, your first time should be with a stranger. That way you'll know the difference.

HAILEE

Mom!

BETH

A safe stranger, of course.

HAILEE (V.O.)

Unfortunately, I'm a good daughter.

INT. COLLEGE DORM - NIGHT

Hailee (20) is wrapped up in sheets with MATT (20, finance bro).

HAILEE (V.O.)
I listened.

HAILEE
This is, uh, my first time.

MATT
Oh.

HAILEE
I'm Hailee, by the way. Probably think of me as 'girl you borrow a pencil from in Stats'.

He draws a blank.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
Five times last week.

MATT
Huh. Matt.

HAILEE
You can keep the pencils.

He struggles under the covers. Hailee gasps. It's done.

MATT
I don't *like* you like you. Cool?

DING! Hailee glances at her phone. Text from Mom:
FINALLY!!!! I'm so proud of you!!!!

HAILEE
Mhmm.

END FLASHBACK.

BACK TO:

INT. BAR - SILVER LAKE - NIGHT

Hailee is midway through the date with Nik.

HAILEE (V.O.)
By now, her advice is ingrained.

BETH (V.O.)
If Goldie Hawn wouldn't sit like that,
you shouldn't sit like that.

Hailee smooshes her elbows together. Her cleavage pops.

NIK
I'm a professional gambler. When the mood
strikes, I bartend. Four nights a week
usually. Going down to three this year.

BETH (V.O.)
He wants to know your schedule.

HAILEE
I'm open and available.

NIK
Most people run away when they hear
"gambler" or "recovering porn-addict",
but not you. I know we just met, but... I
love you.

BETH (V.O.)
Quick, say it back before he changes his
mind!

HAILEE
I love you too!

He grabs her face and tongue kisses her. Hailee tries to
enjoy it.

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: SHITTY FUCKING ADVICE

CUT TO:

EXT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - SILVER LAKE - EARLY MORNING

An old building next to a middle school.

SUPER: Two Months Later

INT. HAILEE'S BEDROOM - SAME

It's a mess. Hailee and Nik are in bed. Nik is asleep.
Hailee stares at the ceiling.

A hand reaches out and grabs her boob. He's still asleep.

HAILEE (V.O.)

Mom says you can choose to be happy. A smile on the outside works its way in. Always. Her mother taught her that.

She forces a smile and tries to get up, but she's pinned.

HAILEE (V.O.)

I choose to be happy every day.

DING! A text. Hailee frees her arm and checks her phone.

Mom: Good morning! 30! Wow, I'm so proud of you!! Get ready for the best birthday ever! Xoxoxoxoxo

She texts back. Nik rolls over and re-smothers her.

HAILEE

I gotta get up. Nik...

She wriggles free. Gets up.

NIK

Babe-

HAILEE

Yeah?

NIK

Throw my clothes in the wash on your way out.

INT. HAILEE'S CAR - LATER

Hailee drives a shiny Prius filled with trash. Beth is on speakerphone.

HAILEE

He didn't even say "happy birthday".

BETH (O.C.)

I'm sure he has something very exciting planned.

Hailee parks outside GLENDALE FAMILY DENTAL GROUP.

HAILEE

I gotta go. I'm here. I'll call you on my break.

BETH (O.C.)

Okay, I miss you. I am so proud of you. Going out in the world, a fiancé and-

HAILEE
Fiancé?

BETH (O.C.)
Slip of the tongue. One day. A mother can
dream. Such an exciting life!

CUT TO:

INT. EXAM ROOM - DENTAL OFFICE - LATER

Hailee watches the clock as DR. LIM (60's, male) examines
a patient.

DR. LIM
More suction.

Hailee shifts the suction. The patient grumbles
uncomfortably.

LATER

Hailee watches the clock as DR. CERRITA (40's, female)
examines a patient.

DR. CERRITA
More suction.

Hailee shifts the suction. The patient grumbles
uncomfortably.

LATER

Hailee's eyes are closed as Dr. Lim examines a patient.

DR. LIM
More suction.
(Beat)
More suction.
(Beat)
Hailee!

Hailee jolts.

HAILEE
Sorry.

DR. LIM
More suction.

She shifts the suction. The patient grumbles uncomfortably.
Hailee stifles a yawn.

INT. STAFF BREAK ROOM - DENTAL OFFICE - LATER

Hailee eats birthday cake with RABIA (32, Type-A) and DARNELL (21, DJs queer warehouse parties).

A card by the cake reads: Happy Birthday Hailee! -Dr. Lim & Dr. Cerrita (This is sugar-free but remember to brush after! Plaque builds up)

Text from Mom: **You can't join a gym. You'd sweat in public!**

Hailee, slightly annoyed, types back.

RABIA
Hailee. Hailee!

HAILEE
Sorry.

RABIA
Are you gonna apply?

HAILEE
For...

RABIA
Reach & Recall. Samara's job.

DARNELL
Girl partied too hard last night. I saw you earlier with that suction.

RABIA
(judgmental)
Sleeping standing up?

HAILEE
It's a skill. Did Dr. Lim notice?

DARNELL
No, he was too focused on the teeth.

HAILEE
Good.

DING! Another text from Mom. Hailee looks.

RABIA
So, you'll apply.

BETH (V.O.)
If they want you, they'll ask.

Hailee shrugs and texts. Rabia gives her a death stare.

RABIA

It's postcards, birthday calls, the occasional job fair, career day... It'd be good for you.

DING! DING! Rabia grabs Hailee's phone and silences it.

RABIA (CONT'D)

It'd force you to be awake.

HAILEE

Can I have my phone?

RABIA

The doctors love you.

HAILEE

No, they don't.

RABIA & DARNELL

They do.

DARNELL

Patients request you by name. I deserve a raise for dealing with the scheduling nightmare you've created. The doctors love it.

HAILEE

Patients just like me because I try not to get the light right in their eyes.

DARNELL

Take the compliment.

RABIA

Take the job.

HAILEE

If they want me, they'll ask.

RABIA

Hailee, do you wanna be pushing crowns your entire life?

HAILEE

No.

DARNELL

Ugh. That would be my literal nightmare.

RABIA
Talk to Dr. Lim. Make a move.

DING! DING! DING!

RABIA (CONT'D)
I silenced that.

HAILEE
She has her ways.

Hailee grabs her phone.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DENTAL OFFICE - LATER

Hailee cleans up. Dr. Lim enters.

DR. LIM
Have you seen my-

Hailee points at glasses on the tray.

HAILEE
I didn't sterilize them.

DR. LIM
Thank you. That would've been my fifth pair. And fifth autoclave.

(Beat)
Hailee, I was expecting you to ask about Reach & Recall.

HAILEE
Oh, I-

DR. LIM
I know this isn't your dream job. You came here for stability-

HAILEE
No, I-

DR. LIM
-but you're wonderful at it. The patients love you. You've got great attention to detail. Even when you fall asleep, you've got a steady hand.

HAILEE
I don't... sorry.

DR. LIM
Think about it. Imagine the mouths we
could touch.

Hailee nods and holds back a grin. Dr. Lim exits as
Hailee speed dials 'Mom'.

CUT TO:

INT. HAILEE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Hailee is still on the phone with Mom. Hailee takes off
her work pants, unhooks her bra, grabs a container of
quinoa, and collapses on the couch.

HAILEE
-I know, I'm not saying... I know it's
more work but... yeah. I think it's a
good idea... Yeah. Yeah. Uh. Fine, I'll,
I'll think about it. *Fine*. I gotta go.
Yes, of course I love you. Bye.

She hangs up and shovels a handful of quinoa into her
mouth.

NIK (O.S.)
Babe? You home?

HAILEE
No.

DING! Mom: **It doesn't matter anyway. I hope tonight is
the best night of your life!! You deserve it!! Remember
to smile :)**

Nik, full tux, walks in and kneels before her. He reads
off his phone.

NIK
Light of my life, love of my love, heart
of my hearts: I am the sun. You are the
moon. I am ready to total eclipse you.

HAILEE
Are you okay? You don't sound-

He shushes her.

NIK
This question will be the most... Hold
on, let me just, refresh... Connection in
here is spotty. Did you call Time Warner?
Oh, okay, I got it.
(MORE)

NIK (CONT'D)

The most important question I'll ever ask. On your thirtieth birthday, will you, Hailee Jane Zimmerman-

HAILEE

Not my middle name.

NIK

We have so much to learn about each other. Will you marry me?

Hailee guffaws. Awkward silence.

HAILEE

We've only been dating two months.

NIK

We live together.

HAILEE

We- *What?*

NIK

Will you marry me?

BETH (V.O.)

Relationships are work. Tiresome, miserable, never-ending work.

HAILEE

Uh...

BETH (V.O.)

You're strong enough to do all the work.

NIK

I think you're supposed to say something.

He types, refreshes, and reads.

BETH (V.O.)

All the work.

NIK

Yeah, it's your line.

HAILEE

Did you just... are you texting right now?

DING! Mom: **How's it going??? Did you say yes yet??!**

HAILEE (CONT'D)

Sorry, my mom. She... Are you...

DING! Mom: **How was the speech??!!! Sweet, right??**

HAILEE (CONT'D)
...Are you texting with her?

BETH (V.O.)
Say yes.

NIK
She has good advice.

HAILEE
She wrote your proposal.

BETH (V.O.)
Yes.

NIK
She knows you the best.

HAILEE
Right.

NIK
I had a Lakers game.

HAILEE
I know. I...

BETH (V.O.)
Say yes.

Hailee clears her throat.

HAILEE	BETH (V.O.)
Mouths real dry.	Yes, yes, yes, yes.

DING! Mom: **What's happening!!!!??**

HAILEE (CONT'D)
Hah. She's... I, I think I
need...dizzy...

POP! Nik opens the champagne. Hailee grabs the bottle and
downs it.

NIK
Your mom said this might be a shock, but
you'd say "yes". So...

HAILEE
This is happening. This real.

He reaches to put the ring on her finger.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

DON'T TOUCH ME!

(Beat)

Sorry. I'm like seeing your face on a baby and like, I, I.. You have a HUGE head. A baby can't support that weight. How can you bring something into the world with that condition?

NIK

Let me get your mom-

She SMACKS the phone out of his hand.

HAILEE

No! That's, that's, she's gonna tell me to breathe and smile.

NIK

That's good advice. Why don't we-

He takes a deep breath through a big smile.

HAILEE

I'm not breathing or smiling ever again. Cuz when I do she tells me to fix things that aren't fixable. Like you! You're human NyQuill. She told me to close my eyes when we kiss and imagine getting struck by lightening to like, Pavlov dog myself. That can't work! And you're a gambler.

NIK

Professional gambler.

HAILEE

You never win.

NIK

I'm the underdog. Your Mom gets it.

HAILEE

No, she's just desperate for me to be with someone. Anyone!

NIK

Aren't you?

HAILEE

No! I... I, I can't.

BETH (V.O.)
You're too picky. I hope one day, you
have a daughter half as difficult as you.

NIK
You can't marry me?

Hailee shakes her head. Nik walks out the front door and immediately starts wailing.

BETH (V.O.)
Who am I kidding? You won't have any kids
at this rate. You'll never be happy. What
a waste.

HAILEE
Shit.

She runs to the door and THROWS it open. Hailee's Mom,
BETH (50's/60's), holds a sobbing Nik.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
Mom?

CUT TO:

INT. HAILEE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hailee, in PJs, KNOCKS on the bathroom door.

HAILEE
I just want to wash my face.

She KNOCKS again. And again. And again. Finally, Beth
exits. She gets into Hailee's bed.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
Thank you.
(Beat)
What?

Beth pulls the covers over her face.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
Real mature.

Beth turns to the wall.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
*I'm mad at you. You don't have any reason
to be mad at me.*

BETH
I'm mad at you because you're mad at me.

HAILEE
You're a child.

RING! RING! It's Nik. Hailee declines the call. Beth glares.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
Stop telling me what to do!

BETH
I'm not telling you what to do. I'm telling you how I feel. I feel you should give him another chance.

DING! A text. Hailee ignores it. Heads into...

INT. HAILEE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hailee brushes her teeth.

BETH (O.S.)
You didn't try hard enough.

HAILEE
I did.

Beth joins her in the bathroom. It's crowded.

BETH
You didn't.

HAILEE
I went to bed every night for the last two months fantasizing about how I could murder him.

BETH
I used to do that *all* the time with your father. I still do. No ones dead yet.

Hailee spits out toothpaste.

HAILEE
You want me to be with someone I want to murder.

BETH
That's a part of life.

Hailee slathers on moisturizer.

HAILEE

He's a bartender who wants to be a gambler.

BETH

He has drive.

HAILEE

He's a recovering porn-addict.

BETH

He knows how to *take care* of himself. You could learn a thing or two.

HAILEE

Gross.

Beth takes Hailee's moisturizer and applies it in the same manner Hailee did.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

He doesn't "believe" in voting. Thinks it should be a lottery ticket system. When your number is called, you're president.

BETH

Well.

HAILEE

Like the Hunger Games.

BETH

No one is perfect. Lower your standards. You have a job and a home and a fiancé. And you're not happy. Have you ever thought-

HAILEE

-If you're about to say something that's going to upset me, don't say it.

Hailee walks out of the bathroom. Beth follows.

INT. HAILEE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hailee gets into bed, Beth does too.

BETH

Everything I say upsets you.

BETH (CONT'D)

HAILEE

I-

Don't.

Beth sighs LOUDLY.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

Fine.

(Beat)

What?

BETH

Hailee, you're the problem. Your father is not an easy man, but I'm happy. I'm happy I stayed. No one is easy. No one. You're not easy.

HAILEE

I know, but-

BETH

You are strong. You're stronger than I was. But your priorities are all wrong. Give yourself time to focus on Nik. Give yourself the space to live the life we've always envisioned for you. You'll learn to love it.

Hailee lies back. She stares at the ceiling.

BETH (CONT'D)

He's never hurt you.

(Beat)

I just want you to be happy.

Silence.

BETH (CONT'D)

We can't go to sleep fighting. It was one of my mother's cardinal rules.

HAILEE

I'm not fighting.

BETH

Good. I'm not fighting.

They stare at the ceiling.

Beth reaches out to hold Hailee's hand.

After a beat, Hailee takes it. They stare at the ceiling some more.

INT. DR. LIM'S OFFICE - DENTAL OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Hailee sits across from Dr. Lim and Dr. Cerrita.

DR. CERRITA

We think you'd be excellent with Reach & Recall. Patients love you.

DR. LIM

So, what do you say?

Hailee takes out her phone. And reads.

HAILEE

Dr. Cerrita, Dr. Lim: Thank you for hiring me. You've welcomed me into your family and nothing could be sweeter. Not even the real sugar I've given up while working here.

No laughter.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

(to self)

Yeah, she said to cut that.

(to the doctors)

Unfortunately, the time has come for us to go our separate ways. I will always look back on you fondly. But now, I need to focus on my top priority: and that is my family.

Hailee gets teary-eyed.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

I've loved working here. You saved me from gum recession and I'm so thankful. But I'm giving my two weeks notice.

She bursts into tears.

Dr. Cerrita scans Hailee.

DR. CERITA

Are you on drugs?

(to Dr. Lim)

I told you we need to keep a close eye on the laughing gas. It's a gateway drug.

(to Hailee)

Is it meth?

HAILEE

No. I'm sober.

DR. CERITA

You have a crazy look in your eye.

HAILEE
I've been crying. A lot.

DR. CERRITA
Why are you quitting?

HAILEE
I need to focus on my family.

DR. CERRITA
You're pregnant.

DR. LIM HAILEE
Congratulations. Gross! No!

DR. CERRITA
You're sick?

HAILEE
No. Um, it's like, a personal matter
but... I have to quit.

Dr. Lim and Dr. Cerrita look at Hailee, confused.

DR. LIM
Of course. Our thoughts are with you
during this trying time.

DR. CERRITA
Would you tell Katrina to come in? And no
need for the two weeks notice. You have a
personal matter to attend to.

HAILEE
Oh. Great. Thank you.

Hailee heads to the door.

DR. CERRITA
Our prayers are with you.
(whisper to Dr. Lim)
Keep your eye on the laughing gas.

INT. STAFF BREAK ROOM - DENTAL OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Hailee gathers her belongings. Rabia and Darnell watch.

HAILEE
I don't love him because I'm too
independent. I need to *need* him.

DARNELL
How many cows were you sold for?

HAILEE
Maybe she's right.

RABIA
Who?

HAILEE
...No one.

RABIA
Hailee, we talked about this. You're not listening to-

HAILEE
-I'm not!

RABIA
Yes, you are!

DARNELL
What are you talking about?

RABIA	HAILEE
Hailee, still listens to her-	Don't say it. Do not say it.

RABIA (CONT'D)
Mother.

DARNELL
You are so sad.

RABIA
You need to stop listening to other people.

HAILEE
Great. I'll stop listening to you.

DARNELL
Key word "other".

RABIA
Listen to yourself.

HAILEE
Myself says I should listen to my mother.

RABIA
Hailee, your mom doesn't get it.

HAILEE
No, you don't get it. She knows me. She's seen everything.
(MORE)

HAILEE (CONT'D)

You have no idea the shit she's, we've been through, and she's right. She has to be right!

KATRINA (O.S.)

Oh my god, yes! I accept! Thank you!
Thank you!

Hailee stops packing.

Beat.

Hailee starts packing again. *Angry packing.*

HAILEE

(covering)

This is good. Really! I would've gotten stressed with Reach & Recall. Now, I'll have time to do what I want to do: hang out with-

She gags a little.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

I'm marrying Nik and I'm focusing on him until I love him. Okay?

RABIA

You don't sound okay.

DARNELL

You sound like a restraining order.

RABIA

Why don't we slow down and-

HAILEE

I don't have time for that, I'm single. My rent is way more than a third of my salary, I take twelve hair vitamins a day which are quite costly, no one helps me with taxes even though they're super confusing, and I can't even get a ride after a minor surgery.

RABIA

You had surgery?

HAILEE

Minor. And while I'm figuring out how to lose the nurse so I can grab a Lyft, everyone around me is getting married or having kids or rich enough to Benjamin Button themselves and I'm just here.

(MORE)

HAILEE (CONT'D)

I'm just waiting for a ride that's never going to come because I told the nurse I called someone to pick me up, but I didn't. Because I don't have anyone. Not really.

DARNELL

Ouch.

HAILEE

I'm tired of all the everyday things that I have to do by myself every day. Other people have help with laundry. I'm tired of both of you looking at me like I should know better. I don't know better. Okay?

She breaks down.

RABIA

...Are you...

HAILEE

(raw, emotional)

I'm tired of not being held. Of not being seen by anyone. Of, of hope. I'm tired. I'm so, so tired.

(through an ugly cry)

I have to make an appointment with my gynecologist. I keep forgetting.

Darnell grabs a handful of Hailee's hair.

DARNELL

It does feel thinner.

EXT. MASON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Hailee rings the doorbell.

BETH (V.O.)

You should've brought food. Way to a man's heart is through food and sex.

Nik opens the door. Behind him, MASON (30's) smokes weed and messes around with a 3D printer.

NIK

What.

Hailee leans on the door, sexily.

HAILEE
(sultry whisper)
Can I come in?

NIK
You're talking weird.

She coughs.

HAILEE
(normal voice)
Something in my, ahem. I, uh, I miss you.

NIK
I know. I'm awesome.

HAILEE
You look good. It's funny, when I broke
up with you I like totally forgot what
your face looks like.

NIK
We broke up yesterday.

HAILEE
I- Right. I know. I don't, I mean, I know
your face. Got a good face. Good-sized.
It's symmetrical.

NIK
Hailee, why are you here?

BETH (V.O.)
I am finally ready for our souls to join.

HAILEE
I want to work this out. I think.

NIK
You want to marry me?

BETH (V.O.)
With all my heart. Eclipse me.

HAILEE
...uh. Yeah?

NIK
Babe!

He fumbles in his pocket, finds a receipt, rolls it up,
takes Hailee's hand, and unsuccessfully ties it around
her ring finger.

NIK (CONT'D)

I'll get the ring back when the Rams win.

He hugs her tight, breathes in her hair.

NIK (CONT'D)

Literally everything you say and do is perfect. I missed you.

He pulls out his phone.

NIK (CONT'D)

Your mom wrote me a-

HAILEE

Can you not?

NIK

Yeah! I'll speak from the heart.

(baby voice)

I wove you.

He smothers her in a hug.

NIK (CONT'D)

(still in baby voice)

Let's go, home. Hai-wee, you dwive.

He smiles at her. Hailee PUKES.

HAILEE

I'm so sorry, I, I can't. I want to but, no, that's a lie. I don't want to.

Hailee takes off the crumpled receipt ring and offers it to Nik. He doesn't take it. He bursts into tears. Mason doesn't look up from his 3D printer.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Do you want me to clean? You got it. I'm gonna-

Hailee throws the receipt ring to the ground and runs.

CUT TO:

INT. HAILEE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Hailee ugly cries in Beth's lap. Beth holds her. It's an intimate moment.

HAILEE

I'm gonna die alone. And no one will know. And cats will eat me.

BETH

No, they won't.

HAILEE

(sobbing)

You don't know that. You don't know the cats.

BETH

Hailee, breathe and smile. I'm going to buy you a one way ticket to Qatar. It has the lowest female to male ratio and the highest per capita income in the world. And an even playing field: bikinis aren't allowed.

Beth wipes Hailee's face.

BETH (CONT'D)

It's time to be honest with yourself. Nik rejected you-

HAILEE

-No, I rejected him.

BETH

What?

BETH (CONT'D)

HAILEE

Hailee!

He was horrible.

BETH (CONT'D)

That's not a reason to reject a marriage proposal!

HAILEE

What?

BETH

He's never hurt you. He passes the soup. My mother always told me "marry a man who passes the soup."

HAILEE

Nik doesn't pass the soup.

BETH

I saw on FaceTime. He passed you soup.

HAILEE

To heat up. Not to pass it to me first.

Beat.

BETH

Well. It's forgivable. He has long lashes.

HAILEE

What's wrong with me?

BETH

Nothing's wrong with you.

HAILEE

Then why are you pawning me off to, anyone?

BETH

I don't do that!

HAILEE

Yes, you do!

BETH

You can learn to be happy. Like I did.

HAILEE

But you didn't.

BETH

I'm very happy.

HAILEE

Really.

BETH

Yes.

HAILEE

You've asked me since I was ten if I thought you should divorce dad. The answer is always yes.

BETH

This is not about me.

HAILEE

It's always about you.

BETH

It's much easier now that you're not there. I love your father. He has long lashes. I have a chaise lounge!

HAILEE

Then buy me a chaise lounge.

BETH

Hailee, I want you to be happy.

HAILEE

You want me to make the same exact mistakes you did so you can feel like you did the right thing, like you didn't give up.

BETH

I didn't want to leave you with him.

HAILEE

But you did.

Beat.

BETH

I... I'm sorry. I'm a horrible mother.

HAILEE

Here comes the pity party! Yes, you are a horrible mother! Okay? But this is not about that. This is about me being stupid enough to take your shitty fucking advice.

Hailee runs to her room and SLAMS the door. She opens it.

And SLAMS it again.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Another beautiful day.

INT. HAILEE'S BATHROOM - SAME

Hailee stares at her swollen eyes in the mirror.

BETH (V.O.)

I choose to be happy-

HAILEE
No, you fucking don't.

Hailee leaves. Beth cracks an eye from her pretend slumber.

INT. HAILEE'S CAR - PARKING LOT OF DENTAL OFFICE - LATER

Hailee looks at her phone. No DING! No buzz. *No Mom.* It's silent.

INT. LOBBY - DENTAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Hailee storms reception. She's peeved. She's powerful.

DARNELL
Hailee?

TODDLER
Hai-wee!!!

TODDLER'S MOM
I thought Hailee wasn't in today. I don't want Katrina!

DARNELL
She's not, she-

Hailee stomps past.

DARNELL (CONT'D)
They're in Two!

INT. EXAM ROOM TWO - DENTAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Hailee bursts in. Dr. Cerrita glues braces on a teenager with Rabia's help. Dr. Lim blindly searches for his glasses.

DR. LIM
Hailee-

She opens a drawer, hands him his glasses.

HAILEE
I unquit.

DR. CERRITA
I'm in the middle of-

The teenager gurgles uncomfortably.

RABIA
I'm bad with suction.

Rabia hands Hailee the suction, gives her a '*you got this*' nod, and leaves.

HAILEE
I demand my job back.

DR. CERRITA
I'm with a patient.

HAILEE
Penny, is it cool if I continue?

Penny gives a thumbs up. And squints. Hailee adjusts the light.

DR. CERRITA
Fine. What?

HAILEE
Uh...

BETH (V.O.)
You're making a huge mistake.

ANOTHER BETH (V.O.)	ANOTHER 'NOTHER BETH (V.O.)
You're going to die alone.	Move back home with me.
<i>Give up.</i>	You're mine. <i>Mine.</i>

The voices rise to a deafening level.

HAILEE
SHUT UP!

Everyone stares at Hailee.

DR. CERRITA
(tense)
Take the laughing gas and go.

HAILEE
I'm not here for the gas. I'm here for the job. I listened to my mother. She told me to focus on Nik and I thought if I quit, that would help. I could trick myself into loving him.

DR. CERRITA	DR. LIM
Hailee-	Who's Nik?

HAILEE

She told me to like, push out the love.
Like how she taught me to really squeeze
to orgasm.

DR. CERRITA

DR. LIM

HAILEE!

Oh.

Hailee turns beet red.

HAILEE

Sorry! I mean, she taught me to fiddle
with things until you find the right
spot. You know, like-

She adjusts Penny's light, moving it back and forth
quickly. Penny gags.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

So I had to do a lot of fiddling-

DR. CERRITA

HAILEE!

HAILEE

And sometimes, you end up in the same
exact spot you started in.

Hailee moves the light back. Penny sighs in relief.

DR. CERRITA

We do not need to hear about your
sexually codependent relationship with
your mother.

HAILEE

Right, of course! I, it's not,
sexually... I was a late bloomer...
Sorry. I just... I guess I realized I
love it here. And yeah, it took a lot of
fiddling and, uh, *quitting*, but I, I want
that promotion. I can do it. I think.

Dr. Lim looks to Dr. Cerrita. She nods.

DR. CERRITA

You can have your job back.

HAILEE

Really?

DR. CERRITA

You've got gifted hands. But we already
gave the promotion to Katrina.

HAILEE
Of course. Of course.

DR. CERRITA
And, this behavior was completely inappropriate.

HAILEE
Yes. Absolutely. Never again. Never, never.

DR. LIM
Why don't you go home? Start fresh tomorrow.

HAILEE
Really? Thank you! I'll-

She starts to move but Penny grumbles.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
Only two more brackets. I might as well...

Dr. Cerrita works away. Hailee beams.

CUT TO:

EXT. FANCY VEGAN RESTAURANT - SILVER LAKE - NIGHT

It's a beautiful night.

INT. HOST STAND - FANCY VEGAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Hailee and Beth wait for the HOST. There's tension.

BETH
I'm surprised you invited me to dinner.

HAILEE
I don't want you finishing any more of my liquor.

HOST
Right this way.

EXT. PATIO - FANCY VEGAN RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Beth and Hailee look over the menu.

BETH

I'd ask you to share, but you don't want to share with the mother who ruined your life.

HAILEE

We can share.

BETH

I don't want to ruin your life *even more*.
I'll book a flight home tomorrow.

HAILEE

You can stay. I'd like you to stay.
(with weight)
But I want an onion. A raw onion.

BETH

You don't want bad breath!

HAILEE

Maybe I do. Maybe it's worth it.

BETH

It's not.

HAILEE

Well, I don't know that. I've never had an onion because you told me not to. But what if I like onions?

BETH

You won't.

HAILEE

I need to figure that out for myself. And you're welcome to stay longer if you let me.

Beat.

BETH

Okay.

Beth takes off her coat. They're wearing the same shirt.

BETH (CONT'D)

I knew we would make up.

Their pants are identical too.

HAILEE

Dammit. I should've checked.

BETH

I finally understand why Nik was bad for you. He was too short.

HAILEE

That's not exactly why he was horrible. But, sure. I forgive you.

BETH

Forgive me? For what?

HAILEE

For telling me to quit my job and marry a gambling sex-addict.

The SERVER approaches.

SERVER

So, your drinks are on the way. Have you had a chance to look over the menu?

HAILEE

We'll start with the Greek Salad. Extra onions.

BETH

She's joking. No onions. No feta. I'm allergic to the whole cow.

HAILEE

Feta is from goats.

BETH

It tastes like the farm.

HAILEE

I wouldn't know that.

Their bickering builds as the server and surrounding tables watch.

FADE OUT.

INT. HAILEE'S BATHROOM - LATER

Beth is on the phone, her voice a tense whisper.

BETH

I know David. I'm not... I am not talking about this anymore. *I told you I was leaving and I am.*

HAILEE (O.S.)
Ice cream is melting!!!

BETH
Be right there!
(back to a phone whisper)
No, your daughter doesn't know
anything... I'm not going to turn her
against you. She's already against you...
No, no. I'm going to stay here. I need
space. Okay? No, I, I am not talking to
you when you're yelling.

She hangs up and pastes on a huge, fake smile.

INT. HAILEE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Beth joins Hailee on the couch. Hailee rests her head on
Beth's shoulder.

BETH
Your father sends his love.

BLACK.