

SPACED

"Pilot"

by

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"PILOT"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY (D-1) 1

BEN LITTON, 30, stands looking UP at camera. He's got an overstuffed backpack on and is holding a duffle.

BEN

But why? I don't understand! Is it something I did?

INTERCUT WITH:

2 EXT. DIFFERENT APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY (D-1) 2

Looking UP at APRIL RUSH, 30, in her apartment window, talking to someone below.

APRIL

It's just not going to work out.

INTERCUT:

2A BEN 2A

But we were together four years. We had fun. We had great times.

INTERCUT:

2B APRIL 2B

To be honest, I don't remember much of it.

INTERCUT:

2C BEN 2C

Just give me a reason. Is it because I'm not emotional? Is that it? Because I cried at the end of "Lord of the Rings," remember? At Minas Tirith, when Aragorn walks up to Frodo and they bow and he says, "My friends, you bow to no one." I cried for weeks!

*
*
*

INTERCUT:

2D APRIL 2D

It's not that. This was just a fling. Besides, I have a boyfriend.

*

REVEAL April is talking to a GUY on the walkway below.

GUY

You what?!

APRIL

Well, not a boyfriend-boyfriend.
We've only been going out a month.
Mark, I think his name is. Something
with a 'kkh'.

*

2E REVEAL Ben is talking to YUMI WAGASHI. Japanese. Hot. 2E

BEN

I just... I don't get it, Yumi.

YUMI

It doesn't matter anymore, Ben. I'm
going out with Luke now.

BEN

Luke. The fact he even has that
name. The violation. Not just to
me, to the whole Alliance.

*

*

LUKE MEPS, 30, joins Yumi in the window. He's naked, and
eating pistachio nuts.

YUMI

You can leave your stuff here until
you find a new place. Good bye, Ben.

LUKE

Hey, hope it's cool. I'm going to
finish your pomegranate juice.

*

*

Yumi and Luke exit into the apartment.

BEN

Drink up, my friend. Life is a river
of pomegranates!
(to himself, cocky)
Yeah. I feel good about that.

*

*

*

*

Ben grabs his duffel and walks off, head held high.

*

3 EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - VARIOUS SHOTS - ESTABLISHING (D-2) 3

4 INSERT: C.U. COMICS PANEL (D-X) 4

An icy hot Yumi has a helpless Ben in her grips. In a BLINK,
the animation COMES ALIVE and Yumi crushes his throat. REVEAL
we're --

5

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY (D-2)

5

Ben sits in a booth, drawing, his laptop open. April ENTERS with a small bag and sits at a nearby table. After a beat:

APRIL

Searching for porn?

BEN

What?

APRIL

You just seem very focused.

BEN

I'm looking for an apartment.

APRIL

Oh, yeah? Me, too. Although, I'm using a slightly different strategy. It's less about actually going out into the world and actively looking, and more about waiting for something to magically appear before me. It's like The Secret.

BEN

Well, good luck with that.

Smiles. April takes a creme puff out of the bag and eats. Ben senses an opening, and jumps in.

BEN (CONT'D)

Actually, I broke up with my girlfriend. Yeah. Well, not 'broke up with' so much as 'got dumped by.' Some might say 'was cheated on by' while others may opt for 'got my heart liquified by.' I personally like 'discovered a Borg infestation of and therefore ran from'.

APRIL

I vote for that one as well.

BEN

I thank you for your support.

(laughs a bit, then)

So why're you looking? And I love those, by the way. You're creme puff. I'm totally addicted.

APRIL
No, I'm addicted. And I'm not just
casually throwing that word around.
I really mean it. Addicted.

BEN
I have gone to my mother's house,
removed her kidney while she was
awake, and sold it for creme puffs.

APRIL
I have purchased that kidney, cut it
with a lesser quality kidney, and
sold both to buy creme puffs.

BEN
I've had four today.

APRIL
("defeated")
Arg! Curses!

BEN
So, the apartment...?

APRIL
Yeah, I've been in this situation
for, like, three years with these
four friends. Well, "friends." Two
are friends, the other two are
friends of friends. Although would I
call Mitchy a friend? He's more of a
friend than Evan... None of them are
friends friends. I haven't seen the
tall guy since the fire. Well, not
like "Fire! Get the cat!" More like--

BEN
Skip to the end.

APRIL
I just need to get my life going.

BEN
Yeah, I kind of need to do that, too.

MUSIC UP: "BEST FRIEND" by The English Beat.

FOR THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE CAMERA IS LOCKED OFF.

6 INT. COFFEE SHOP - ANOTHER DAY (D-3)

6

April is at a booth at her computer. Ben ENTERS, gestures:
Can I join you? She invites him, they sit, start talking.

7 INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER (D-3) 7
 They're playing table hockey. She scores! They immediately begin a thumb war.

8 INT. COFFEE SHOP - ANOTHER DAY (D-4) 8
 Ben is preparing to pop in April's dislocated shoulder. She's nervous. One, two, three! He pushes her shoulder hard against the booth. She moves it around. Much better! *

9 INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER (D-4) 9 *
 April's circling ads. Ben's sitting, bored, eating a creme puff, wearing a ridiculous creature costume (holding the head). *

10 INT. COFFEE SHOP - ANOTHER DAY (D-5) 10
 Ben's showing April his ray gun. She accidentally fires. A RAY BLASTS OUT. Ben disappears. April fumbles with it. *
 Another BLAST. Ben reappears. Angry, he takes it from her. *

11 INT. COFFEE SHOP - ANOTHER DAY (D-6) 11
 Ben's alone, drawing. April ENTERS.

APRIL

Hey!

Ben looks up. So does the CREATURE he's drawing. April sits. *

APRIL (CONT'D)

I just found the most amazing place. *
 Look. *

She puts a classified page in front of him. *

BEN

(reading)

"Do you have unwanted hair in *
 difficult places?" *

APRIL

Below that. *

BEN

"Two bedroom, one bath in grand *
 Victorian. Great views, lots of *
 light..." And cheap. *

APRIL

Super cheap. *

BEN
Wait. It says "Married couples only.
No singles."

APRIL
So what? I'll just tell them I am
married.

BEN
To who? Who're you going to find to
be your husband? In the next day?
And who needs a place to live? And
is flat broke?

Duh. Ben lights up at the thought.

BEN (CONT'D)
I'm in!

APRIL
Yes!

BEN
It's just pretend, though, right?

APRIL
Duh.

BEN
I'm in!

12	OMITTED	12	*
13	C.U. SEARS PORTRAIT OF APRIL & FAMILY (D-FB)	13	*

ZOOM in on each member:

BEN (V.O.)
April June Rush. Born March 12, 1977
Madison, Wisconsin. Mother Lydia,
father Declan, one older sister, one
younger sister, one brother, one dog.

APRIL (V.O.)
Wait. Can I change that?

BEN (V.O.)
We're pretending. You can do
anything you want.

APRIL (V.O.)
Good. Then let's swap the younger
sister for an adopted Korean boy.

The younger sister is replaced with a Korean boy.

APRIL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And my Dad was kind of a drag. Let's
make him cool. Let's make him Lil'
Jon.

*
*
*
*

Boring DAD is replaced by Lil' Jon. Loveless MOM is thrilled!

*

BEN (V.O.)
Adopted Korean. Lil' Jon. Got it.

*
*

13A C.U. A BOOKSTORE DISPLAY (D-X) 13A

CLOSE ON a book "I AM YOU" by April Rush. PAN to the portrait
of a proud April. Flashbulbs POP.

BEN (V.O.)
Your dream is to one day write a
novel that gives voice to a
generation, but in the meantime, you
write short pieces of investigative
journalism for various magazines.

PULL BACK off the same photo to REVEAL it is in an article in
a magazine: "Hot Spring Accessories by April Rush." Pictures
of chihuahuas with rhinestone collars. WIDEN as someone
closes the magazine: "TINY DOG WEEKLY". We are --

14 INT. BOUTIQUE CLOTHING SHOP (D-7) 14

as VIVienne DE LA PEÑA, 28, looks at dresses. She's dressed
sexy and expensively, carrying an upscale bag.

*

BEN (V.O.)
Your best friend is Vivienne De La
Peña, who, in spite of achieving so
much at such a young age, remains
incredibly grounded and comfortable
with her success.

*

Vivienne looks around, then quickly stuffs a scarf into her
bag. The thrill, for her, is just like sex.

*

15 EXT. STREET - BEN & APRIL ON STREET (D-7) 15

BEN
You sort of play the flute, you can
hold your breath for a minute, and
once when you were in L.A., you got
rear-ended by Corbin Bernsen.

*
*

APRIL
No one knows who that is. Let's say
it was Harrison Ford.

BEN
And he sent you flowers.

APRIL
And then called, like, every day for
a week.

BEN
Until I had to teach him a lesson.

APRIL
About irregular Spanish verbs.

BEN
Si. But you handled it all with your
usual grace and charm.

APRIL
Aw, thanks.

BEN
I wouldn't say it if I didn't have to
make it up. Okay. Now do me.

16 CLOSE ON A TINY TOY FIGURINE OF A CHILD (D-FB2)

16

APRIL (V.O.)
Benjamin Clay Litton. Born October
18, 1977 Pikesville, Maryland. An
only child.

A child's hand ENTERS FRAME and moves the child over to a toy
figure of a man and a woman.

APRIL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Father William, mother Renata,
divorced when you were six...

The hands make the man and woman "fight." REVEAL we're--

INT. LITTLE BEN'S ROOM

LITTLE BEN is playing in front of an elaborate city he has
constructed. Lego, blocks, shoeboxes, anything.

APRIL (V.O.)

...which sent you retreating into the safety of your own isolation, where your imagination took you to new, exciting worlds of fantasy and science fiction.

*
*

Little Ben puts the figures down and starts flapping his arms, "flying" over his city like a giant eagle. Weird kid.

BEN (V.O.)

I don't want them to think I'm weird. Can I at least have a friend? Or a pet?

*
*
*

APRIL (V.O.)

You can have both. Jojo. Half-friend, half-pet. And he loved you dearly.

A FREAKISH MAN with goat-like features joins Little Ben. The boy freaks. The friend/pet tries to eat his shirt.

16A INT. BILL'S BEDROOM (D-7)

16A

*

BILL KEMPERTON sits with his back to us, illuminated only by the glow of his computer screen, doing something secretive.

*
*

APRIL (V.O.)

Your best friend today, though, is Bill Kemperton, who you've known since you were 12. Bill's involved in various elite but secretive organizations, whose mission remains unknown but involves a lot of barbecue potato chips.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

REVEAL he's talking into a headset, playing a video game. A bowl of bbq chips nearby.

*
*

BILL

Roger that, Alpha Leader. Go, go. Fire. Fire. Fire!

*
*
*

17 EXT. STREET - DAY (D-8)

17

Ben is in the ridiculous creature costume, jumping around, spinning a giant sign: Tastybonz.com. He keeps dropping it.

*

APRIL (V.O.)

You work sort of full-time at an underground culture website called tastybonz with a 'z' dot com.

17A C.U. BEN'S COMICS (D-X) 17A

We FLIP through his B/W CARTOONS. Very cool.

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

But your real dream is to be a comic
book artist. This is your number one
passion, and what you feel everything
you've done in your life so far is
driving you towards.

*
*
*

ON BEN & APRIL

*

BEN

That's actually very true.

*
*

APRIL

I know.

(then, back on track)

What else...? Oh, yeah. You wear
toe socks to bed, you fart in the
tub...

*
*
*
*
*
*

18 OMITTED (D-7) 18

19 MOVED TO SCENE 16A 19 *

19A INT. BEN'S OLD APARTMENT BEDROOM (D-9) 19A *

Ben wears toe socks.

19B INT. BEN'S OLD APARTMENT BATHROOM (D-9) 19B

Ben farts in the tub.

19C-G OMITTED (D-10, D-11) 19C-G

20 EXT. STREET - ON BEN & APRIL (D-7) 20

Sitting in front of a vista of the Bahamas.

APRIL

...and once when you were making
chili, you scratched yourself with a
handful of cayenne and had to soak
your junk in chamomile tea for two
weeks.

BEN

And that's why you married me.

APRIL

And why I stopped drinking chamomile
tea. Smile!

*

April takes a picture. They EXIT, revealing they've been sitting in front of a tourist poster of the Bahamas.

21 EXT. 815 HANSO DRIVE - LATER THAT DAY (D-7) 21

They open the gate and walk up the path.

APRIL / BEN

...Two years, seven months, three weeks, eleven days. Two years, seven months, three weeks, eleven days.

22 EXT. 815 HANSO DRIVE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS (D-7) 22

They get to the front door and ring the bell. *

BEN *

Thanks again for doing this. I was positive I'd never find anyone cool to live with. *

APRIL *

Oh, hey. Me, too. Big time. *

BEN *

Shall we, Mrs. Litton? *

APRIL *

Ready when you are, Mr. Rush. *

BEN / APRIL *

We can talk about the names later. *

Ben rings the bell. They quickly throw arms around each other as the door opens. MARSHA MAINE, 52. Too many hard years. *

MARSHA

Hello. I'm Marsha. You must be Tim and Daisy.

BEN

No. Ben and April.

23 INT. BEN & APRIL'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER (D-7) 23

Marsha leads Ben & April through the small, empty apartment.

MARSHA

Yeah, I've had nothing but weirdos living under my roof for nine years. Tramps, whores, kitchen, perverts. Not that I'm judging. To each his own, I say. Master bedroom. But every one of them was single.

(MORE)

MARSHA (CONT'D)

And with me on my own, it doesn't
give my daughter a very sun-shiny
picture of married life. Guest
bedroom. That's why I want a married
couple. Show the girl what it could
be like.

APRIL

Ben farts in the tub.

MARSHA

What?

BEN

(covering)

Is there a washer-dryer hook-up?

MARSHA

No. Laundromat's down the street.

APRIL

What's in here?

April opens the closet doors.

BEN / APRIL

Auuugh!!

24 THEIR POV - INSIDE THE CLOSET (D-7) 24

A MAN, 50's, is crouched in the corner, wearing boxers and a
sleeveless tee. A crusty hot pot, hash marks on the wall.

MAN

Gilbert?

MARSHA

He's gone. He moved out last week.

The man jumps up and RACES OUT. Slam!

MARSHA (CONT'D)

Like I say: nothing but weirdos.

25 OMITTED (D-7) 25

26 OMITTED (D-8) 26

27 OMITTED (D-8) 27

27A INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE (D-7) 27A

Ben and April sit opposite Marsha.

MARSHA

So, how long have you been married?

BEN / APRIL

Two years, seven months, three weeks,
eleven days.

MARSHA

Work?

BEN / APRIL

Graphic novelist. / Journalist.

MARSHA

No wedding rings?

BEN

Wedding rings!

APRIL

Oh my gosh! Totally forgot!

*

They pull rings from their pockets. She puts one on his
finger. He tries to put one on her's, but it won't fit.

*

*

BEN

Her finger's a little... Honey, have
you been at that salt lick again?

*

*

He looks to April: What do we do?

*

APRIL

Just do it.

*

*

April takes a breath -- then Ben puts her finger in his mouth
to wet it down. The ring slides on easily. They're grossed
out, but continue to smile. Marsha sizes them up. Finally:

*

*

*

MARSHA

You can move in whenever you like.

APRIL

You don't want to see our honeymoon
photo? We went to the Bahamas.

*

*

*

She starts to show the Polaroid, but Ben takes it from her,
pulling her into a silencing/affection embrace.

MARSHA

I hope you'll be very happy here.

BEN / APRIL

Yes! / Alright!

They go to hi-five, then for Marsha, try a kiss. Awkward.

28 EXT. BEN'S OLD APARTMENT - NEXT DAY (D-12) 28

Ben carries a box to Bill, at the back of his shitty van. *

BEN *

(re: box)

Here's the last one. And be careful
with that, okay? My model of the
Nebuchadnezzar's in there. *

BILL

Is the EMP fully charged?

BEN

Yeah, that's why I said "Be careful."

(then) *

I'm just going to say goodbye to
Yumi, then we're good to go. *

Ben turns to walk off -- when a skateboard ROLLS up to his
feet. Yumi ENTERS. *

BEN (CONT'D) *

Yumi. *

YUMI *

So send me your address when you find
a place. I'll forward your mail. *

BEN *

I got a place. We're moving in now. *

YUMI *

Who's 'we'? You and Bill? *

BILL *

Hi. I'm right here. *

BEN *

Me and April. This girl I met. *

YUMI *

We just broke up and you're moving in
with some girl? *

BEN *

(recognizing the power shift)
Yes, Yumi. Correct. And you have no
right to be upset. I'm moving my
life forward. I'm living for me now.
And if you can't handle that, well,
toooo bad. *

YUMI
Do you love her?

BEN
Do I--?

YUMI
Do you love her?

BEN
(crumbling)
No. Of course not. I'm in love with
you. Until the day I die, you'll
always be the only woman for me.

Smugly satisfied, Yumi smiles and EXITS.

BILL
I think you handled that fine.

Ben crosses off. Bill places the box in the van, then SLAMS
the door hard. There's a FLASH of BLUE SPINDLY ELECTRICITY
inside. The van's engine dies.

29 INT. APRIL'S OLD APARTMENT (D-12) 29

April's holding an over-stuffed duffel and an alarm clock.

APRIL
Well, guess this is it. I hope you
guys know how much your friendship
has meant to me.

SHOTS of her FLAT MATES, sprawled out everywhere, baked.

APRIL (CONT'D)
You taught me to fly. But now, it's
time for this bird to soar. Be well.

She exits, quietly grabbing the 27-inch tv off the stand.

30 OMITTED 30 *

MUSIC UP: "WELCOME TO JAMROCK" by Damian Marley.

31 INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY (D-12) 31

CAMERA LOCK-OFF from up high. April and Ben in time lapse set
up their new pad. April sets a chia dude figurine in the
FOREGROUND. During the sequence, its hair grows out: a wild
fro, a bushy crotch, pit hair. Bill POPS IN to help move
furniture. Finally, it's finished. MUSIC OUT.

INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS (D-12)

Ben says goodbye to Bill at the door.

BILL
Alright, then, my friend. You have
the com. And I have an appointment.

BEN
With your gynocologist?

A challenge. In faux slo-mo, Bill pulls a "gun" and fires.
Ben evades the oncoming "bullet", Matrix-style. They abruptly
stop, almost embarrassed, the second April ENTERS. *

APRIL
Man, I hate moving. And I'm going on
the record with that. *

She flops onto the couch. Bill's at a total loss. *

BILL
So, I'll see you around. *

BEN
Right. *

Bill EXITS. *

INT. BEN & APRYL'S APARTMENT - LATER *

On the couch, having beers. He's showing her his art work. *

BEN
That's Jeseeph there. He's the main
guy. The whole story's really about
him. Dr. Mythe stole him from his
parents when he was a baby so he
could conduct these experiments on
him. *

APRIL
That's why he's got a giant head. *

BEN
It's not just a giant head. His
DNA's been completely altered. See,
Mythe injected a secret formula of
dehexa-5-drychromilatam into him over
the years. But it remained dormant
until Jeseeph turned 10, then, when he
realized he had these incredible
powers, he escaped from Mythe to find
his real parents. *

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Now Mythe is on a never-ending quest
to track Jeseeph down because he needs
the dehexas-5-drychomilatum and only
Jeseeph contains the pure serum.

APRIL

Why doesn't the doctor just make
more?

BEN

What?

APRIL

Yeah. Whip up another batch of the
hydrox-5 hope-a dope-a.

And suddenly all of Ben's work is rendered meaningless.

BEN

He can't just... It's not... You
know what? I don't think you're
getting it.

APRIL

No, I get it. I just think you need
to make it a little clearer. It's
confusing. I do know a little
something about writing.

BEN

Yeah, a little something about little
dogs.

APRIL

At least they have the right size
head.

Ouch. Camera pulls back. A chilly wind blows.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

33 INT. BEN & APRIL'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER (D-12) 33

April is in the kitchen making a list. Ben ENTERS with a bag of trash. He sees her and stops. They look at each other. *

BEN
(defensive)
I'm taking out the trash.

APRIL
(equally defensive)
I'm making a list.

He EXITS.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Okay. Things To Do. Number one,
find a roommate. Check. Number two.

She thinks. She has no number two. She rips it off and puts it on the refrigerator door. She is surprised to SEE --

ANGLE ON BEN'S TO DO LIST

Also on the fridge door. He's written and crossed off a dozen items. Only one is NOT crossed off: "Find new roommate."

Bummer. She HEARS a shriek from Ben's room.

34 INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (D-12) 34

April ENTERS and finds the source: Ben's laptop screen saver.

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)
The time is two o'clock. Ahhh!

She pokes through Ben's stuff. Fun toys and collectibles.
She finds a plain gold ring and picks it up.

VOICE (V.O.)
[Menacing whispers in Elvish]

She grows woozy from its dark power, and puts it down.

ANGLE ON BEN'S ART WORK

Freaky renderings of Ben with Yumi, who is in various stages of death and dismemberment. Cartoony graphic.

April is freaked out. She turns, KNOCKING OVER a shoebox. The contents SPILL OUT: PHOTOS of Ben & Yumi. And a police baton.

PUSH IN ON APRIL...

35 INT. LIMBO (N-13) 35

Ben is swinging the baton at an unseen body below like Anthony Hopkins in SILENCE. His shirt has splatters of blood. He's exhilarated!

36 INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - BACK TO SCENE (D-12) 36

Now April is really freaked out. She backs away -- into an outstretched creepy hand. It GRABS her! They go DOWN.

37 INT. BASEMENT (D-12) 37

Ben comes down the stairs carrying a trash bag, whistling. He dumps the bag in the trash can, then turns to go. A guy in shorts and a ratty bathrobe is standing there, covered in streaks of BLOOD. This is CRISTIAN. *

BEN

Ahh!

38 INT. BEN'S BEDROOM (D-12) 38

April and The Creature do battle on the floor.

APRIL

Is this all you've got, beast?
C'mon! Show me the meaning of evil!

A hand comes into frame and grabs her. She turns. It's Ben.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Ahh!

He pulls the thing off of her.

BEN

What are you doing?

APRIL

Nothing. I was... There was this bird, flew right in. Huge. *

Cristian APPEARS behind Ben. *

APRIL (CONT'D)

Ahh!

BEN
This is Cristian, honey. He lives
downstairs.

CRISTIAN
Hello.

APRIL
Cristian! Hi. Nice to meet you.
(noticing)
Are you bleeding?

CRISTIAN
A bit, yes.

Everything's weird. What do you say except:

BEN / APRIL
Drinks?

39 INT. BEN & APRIL'S APARTMENT - QUICK SHOTS (D-12) 39
Beers being grabbed, opened, swigged.

40 INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM - A MOMENT LATER (D-12) 40
They're sitting. April and Ben are clearly uncomfortable.

APRIL
So, Cristian. What do you do out in
the big, wide world of sports?

CRISTIAN
Artist.

APRIL
Oh, yeah? Ben is, too. My husband.
What kind of things do you paint?

CRISTIAN
The usual. Anger.

41 INT. CRISTIAN'S APARTMENT - FLASH POPS (D-12) 41
As he stands half-naked at the canvas, embodying each issue.

CRISTIAN (V.O.)
Pain. Fear. Aggression.

42 INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE (D-12) 42

APRIL
Watercolours, or...?

CRISTIAN

It's a bit more complex than that.
The art world... It's a cesspool of
money and bad perfume. They want
art, but they want it bright, and
happy. What is happy? What does it
look like?

APRIL

Maybe a unicorn? On a sailboat?

BEN

She has a lot of opinions.

April glares at him. Cristian's suspicious.

CRISTIAN

How long have you two been married?

BEN / APRIL

Two years, seven months, three weeks,
eleven days.

Ben caresses April's head. She pulls away, annoyed with him.
Cristian notices. Then -- the SOUNDS of yelling upstairs.

BEN

What's that?

CRISTIAN

Marsha. And Kat.

The yelling intensifies. They sit, listening, reacting. We
HEAR the door fly open, the girl race down the stairs, and
out. *Slam!* A beat, then heavy footsteps coming their way.

Finally, a KNOCK. April goes to answer. Cristian stops her.

CRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Don't. It will not be good.

April doesn't know what to do. She looks to Ben. He doesn't
know, either. Marsha KNOCKS again.

MARSHA (O.S.)

Hello? Anyone home? Cristian?
You're not hiding from me, are you?

Cristian gestures: don't answer. It's very still, very weird.
Finally, we HEAR Marsha head back up the stairs.

BEN

Are you and Marsha...?

CRISTIAN
I can't talk about it.

*

He makes a quick, agitated EXIT.

APRIL
That was slightly strange.

Ben grabs his keys and wallet.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

*

BEN
Out. I've got other things in my
life I need to do, okay?

PUSH IN ON APRIL...

43 INT. LIMBO (N-13) 43

Ben is swinging the baton at an unseen body below like Anthony Hopkins in SILENCE. His shirt has splatters of blood. He's exhilarated!

43A INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE (D-12) 43A

BEN
So I'll see you later.

APRIL
Yeah. Have fun.

*

44 INT. BEN & APRIL'S APARTMENT - QUICK C.U. SHOTS (D-12) 44

Hands grab cells, text, dial.

45 INT. BILL'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME (D-12) 45

Bill's playing video games. The text comes in. He moves from controller to cell phone to texting then back to controller.

46 INT. BOUTIQUE CLOTHING SHOP - SAME TIME (D-12) 46

Vivienne's eyeing the open bag of the WOMAN next to her, waiting for the right moment to reach in, when her cell rings:

VIVIENNE
This is Vivienne.

47 INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM (D-12) 47

April's on her cell.

APRIL

Viv. Thank God. I really need to talk. Can you come over?

47A

VIVIENNE

I'm kind of in the middle of something. What's happening?

47A

APRIL

I just really need to talk. Please.

VIVIENNE

Okay, baby. Be there in twenty.

Vivienne aborts her shoplift, unhappily, and EXITS.

48

INT. BILL'S VAN - THAT NIGHT (N-12)

48

Ben SHUTS the door and tells Bill:

BEN

I jumped into this thing way too fast.

INTERCUT WITH:

49

INT. BEN & APRIL'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (N-12)

49

April tells Vivienne:

APRIL

I picked the wrong guy to live with.

BEN

It seemed okay at first.

APRIL

But what do I really know about him?

BEN

She's a complete stranger. Either way--

IN SPLIT SCREEN:

APRIL / BEN

It was a huge mistake.

50

INT. BILL'S VAN (N-12)

50

BEN

I don't know what happened. It was great at first.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Then the second we move in, she starts trashing my work, she's going through my stuff, she's drinking my pomegranate juice. The fun just dried up.

BILL

She had a good point about your comics though, right? I mean, I always thought the doctor could just make more of that stuff, too.

BEN

No! That's... No. You don't get it.

BILL

Listen to me. I get it, okay? I get it. And what you need -- is a fresh, delicious creme puff.

*
*

BEN

You're right. You do get it.

*

Bill pulls away -- then SLAMS ON THE BRAKES.

THEIR POV - THROUGH THE FRONT WINDSHIELD

Cristian is in the road.

*

BEN / BILL

Auuuugh!

CRISTIAN

Boys. Beautiful night for a drive.

*

51 INT. BILL'S VAN - QUICK SHOTS (N-12)

51

The door shuts, seat belts buckle, the van peels away.

52 INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - BACK TO APRIL & VIVIENNE (N-12)

52

APRIL

And I know I'm not imagining it. He could kill her. He hates her. I could kill, if I had the right motive. You could kill. I could kill you. I mean, I won't. Not unless you do something that pisses me off. Like when you call me husky.
(intense)
I hate that, Viv. I really hate it.

53 INT. LIMBO (N-13) 53

April is swinging the baton at an unseen body below like Hopkins in SILENCE. Her shirt has splatters of blood. She's exhilarated!

53A INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - BACK TO SCENE (N-12) 53A

VIVIENNE

Sweetie? Where'd you go? Look at me. You know I love you, but you do this all the time. You get an idea in your head and twist it around and make everyone crazy. So I need to ask you, do you really think he's going to kill this girl?

APRIL

I don't know. Probably not. But there's something weird going on. I don't know who I'm living with. And I really need a creme puff.

*
*
*

VIVIENNE

C'mon. I'll buy.

They head out. On her way, unseen by April, Viv drags her car key along the wall, gouging a long line. *The thrill!*

53B OMITTED 53B

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

54 OMITTED 54

55 INT. PUFF'TER - A BIT LATER (NIGHT 12) 55

Bill, Ben, & Cristian are ordering with the PUFF'TER GIRL. *

BILL

Let's see.... I shall have two
vanilla. Three chocolate.

Ben and Bill confer, turn back to the Puff'ter girl.

BEN

How's the coffee today?

BILL

Is Takeshi making the mix? Because
sometimes he makes the creme too wet
and the puff doesn't hold its shape.

PUFF'TER GIRL

I could give a flying crap.

BEN

BILL

Excellent, thanks for the tip. No coffee, then. Good choice.

56 EXT. STREET - SAME TIME (N-12) 56

April & Vivienne walk toward Puff'ter's. *

VIVIENNE

I really don't see what the problem
is. I mean, if in a couple days you
don't want to live with this creep,
you leave. It's not like you're
locked into anything. *

APRIL

We signed the lease together.

VIVIENNE

That doesn't mean anything. Just rip
it up. I do it all the time.
(then, noticing)
Oh no. Someone dropped their wallet.
(then, sotto)
Take it. Go on, pick it up. Now.
Go. Take it. Just do it. Now!

57 INT. PUFF'TER - BACK TO BEN & BILL (N-12) 57

BILL

This is good. A little creme-filled
fun, some quality time with the boys...

He looks over to Cristian, who is weirded out by the store. *

BILL (CONT'D)

...then back to my place for some
good old-fashioned American video
carnage. How's that sound?

BEN

I'm just not really good company
right now. Sorry.

BILL

I've got Gears of War. Locked and
loaded.

Bill starts to do gaming SFX to cheer his buddy up, soft at
first, then more intense. Ben softens, joins in with his SFX.
Cristian looks around, confused. They end abruptly with: *

BEN

Maybe a few hours.

BILL

There's my huckleberry.

They hug. Ben SEES Yumi & Luke, in line. They see him. *

BEN

Omigod.

58 EXT. PUFF'TER'S - SAME TIME (N-12) 58

Vivienne and April arrive and SEE Ben & Yumi in the store. *

APRIL

Omigod. *

QUICK POPS (FLASHBACKS): The picture of Ben & Yumi. Ben
swinging the baton. Lil' Jon with her Mom. *

But then -- Ben, pained at seeing his ex, BOLTS out the back. *

April sees now. Ben is suffering. Her fear turns to empathy. *

VIVIENNE

Poor bastard. *

59 INT. PUFF'TER - BACK IN THE STORE (N-12) 59 *

BILL
Poor bastard.

CRISTIAN
I have no idea what is going on. *

59A OMITTED 59A *

60 EXT. BACK ALLEY - SAME TIME (N-12) 60

The door FLIES OPEN and Ben emerges. He shakes it off.

YUMI (O.S.)
Ben?

Yumi and Luke have followed him out.

BEN
Yumi.

YUMI
Why didn't you say hi? You're not
seriously mad at me, are you?

BEN
Mad? No! *

LUKE
He's mad.

BEN
I just don't get why you'd choose him
over me. Him. This bloated,
arrogant, hair-gelling tool. *

LUKE
I'm a tool? Me?

BEN
Yeah. You. Tool.

April steps out into the alley to see. *

YUMI
At least he's doing something with
his life, not sitting home all day
playing video games. That's just
pathetic.

BEN

Is it pathetic that those same skills
are used by our country's top Air
Force pilots and nuclear scientists?

YUMI

No.

BEN

No. That's right. They are not
pathetic.

YUMI

I'm not doing this again, Ben.

LUKE

You know what makes me different than
you, Litton?

BEN

One less chromosome?

Luke's cell phone rings.

LUKE

I can give her what she needs, and
you can't. See, I'm a man. A strong
man. I drive a BMW. 3 series.
You're a child. You can only dream
about the kind of career you really
want, whereas I --

(into cell)

What? No, I can't. I'm gutting some
dweeb my girlfriend just dumped.
Yeah, the Asian. Right. Okay.

(hangs up, then)

What was I saying?

BEN

You were telling us how tiny your
genitals are.

LUKE

You know what? Maybe we've talked
enough. Maybe it's time for hurt.

Luke takes off his suit jacket, folds it carefully and hands
it to Yumi. It takes a while. He really likes his suit.

In the meantime, April rushes to Ben.

APRIL

You're not really going to fight this
guy, are you?

*

BEN

What are you doing here? This has nothing to do with you.

APRIL

You're my fake husband. It has everything to do with me.

BEN

Look, all that is just an apartment thing. That's it. Just go home, okay? I'd rather get creamed with as few on-lookers as possible.

*
*
*

Shut out, she starts off. Luke, done with his jacket, turns to Ben.

*

LUKE

Okay. You ready to bleed?

*

YUMI

End this quickly, baby. I want to eat.

And then -- Bill explodes through the back door, heroic. He is holding a box of creme puffs.

*

BILL

Hang on, buddy. I'm coming for ya!

He runs to Ben, but TRIPS and FALLS on his face. The box goes flying. In SLO-MO, a single creme puff tumbles out and rolls to a stop at April's feet.

*
*

This gives April an idea! She looks to Ben. He looks to her.

*

APRIL

(Dirty Harry)

Let's do some heavy creaming.

*

The following sequence plays in faux slo-motion.

She DIVES AND ROLLS for the fallen puff...

APRIL (CONT'D)

Beeeeennnnnn!

Ben SEES her running and clicks in. *My friend is back!*

*

BEN

Ohhhhh, sssnnnaaaap!

She tosses him the puff. Bill sees this and clicks in.

BILL
Take him dowwwwwn!

Ben catches it. Now he's armed. In his excitement, he
squeezes the puff. All the "ammo" squirts out. Shit. *

61-64 OMITTED (N-12) 61-64

65 INT. PUFF'TER - SAME TIME (N-12) 65

Vivienne is ordering. *

VIVIENNE
Give me one chocolate filled, please. *
(sotto, a bit ashamed) *
But really make it three, okay? And *
can you hurry? I kind of had a bad *
day and need to eat one really soon. *

The Puff'ter Girl hands her a bag. She dives in, trying to
hide her shame/pleasure. Ecstasy. She turns to see Cristian, *
who is watching her. He sheds a single tear. *

CRISTIAN
I love your pain. *

Chemistry...? *

66 EXT. BACK ALLEY - BACK TO THE SCENE (N-12) 66

Ben remains weapon-less. Luke rolls up his sleeves. It
doesn't look good for our hero. Then -- April gestures to
Bill: "Get another puff." Bill LUNGES AND ROLLS for the box. *

Yumi and Luke, in REAL TIME, stare in confusion. From down
the alley, a motherless baby carriage ROLLS toward them.

Ben SEES the carriage. Bill grabs two more puffs and tosses
them to April. She catches them. Ben gestures for Bill to
save the baby! Bill goes for the carriage...

April tosses one puff to Ben, then ROLLS into position with
the other... *

LUKE
(to Yumi) *
You slept with this guy? *

Bill stops the carriage in the nick of time...

Ben catches the puff. In REAL TIME, he hurls it at Luke, who
easily dodges it. He readies his fist, and steps for Ben. *

YUMI (O.S.)

Oh, no.

Luke turns to SEE that the puff splattered on his suit jacket.

LUKE

What the eff?!

YUMI

Don't yell at me.

Ben, April, and Bill exchange a look. *They have their target.*

APRIL

Let's make it rain, boys!

They open fire, chucking puff after puff at Luke's suit jacket and pants. Bill supplies Ben & April with "ammo" from the box. Luke reacts like Bonnie and Clyde taking gunfire. It's a massacre of fabric.

Finally, it's over. Luke, enraged, grabs his suit and stomps off down the alley. Yumi turns to Ben.

YUMI

(her only defense)

He's a really good driver.

She EXITS after her shit head boyfriend. Ben, April and Bill laugh. Victory! MUSIC UP.

67-68 OMITTED (N-12) 67-68

69 INT. BEN & APRIL'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT (N-12) 69

April's getting beers from the fridge. She SEES Ben's list. He's crossed off "Find new roommate." Happy at last, she takes her list and crumples it up. Ben steps up.

BEN

Here. I'll give you a hand.

APRIL

Thanks. The place is looking good, huh?

BEN

It's getting there. Tomorrow, I want to really dig in. Unpack some boxes, get some laundry done, hopefully do some drawing. What've you got planned?

APRIL

I was just going to hang out, maybe
rent a movie.

*

BEN

Oh, that's way better. Let's do
that.

*

They join Bill, Vivienne, and Cristian, kicking back in the
living room. They hand out the beers and the gang settles in,
recounting their night. Ben & April clink and drink, sharing
a knowing, comfortable smile. MUSIC CONTINUES.

*

*

*

*

FADE OUT.

*

THE END

*