

SPIN THE BOTTLE

By Jeff Feuerstein

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: 24 DURLAND ROAD, MAY 20, 2000 AND SOMETHING

A VERY PG-13 PARTY is in FULL SWING. And ALL THE 7th GRADERS are there. All the cool ones at least.

- Some play MARIO KART 64, huddled around a TV.
- LIVESTRONG-TYPE BRACELETS and Puka Shell necklaces.
- One KID WHEELS THROUGH THE HOUSE on WHEELIES - those annoying SNEAKERS that TURN INTO SKATES as he ROLLS PAST...

HALLIE WALKER, 13, cute but definitely not the knock out of the class - stands awkwardly in front of a TABLE OF SNACKS, eating a POLLY-O STRING CHEESE.

A SMALLISH KID SUCKS DOWN one of those FLAVOR ICES. It's GREEN, leaving his entire TONGUE AND MOUTH GREEN. He reaches for another. Hallie LOOKS AWAY, a little embarrassed.

Her TWO FRIENDS, LACEY and MEGAN come over, out of breath.

LACEY

Oh my God, Hallie, you will not believe what we just did.

MEGAN

You weren't even there for the beginning Lacey!

LACEY

Yes I was, Megan! I was the one who said it was just M-A-T-T-R-E-S. You leave off the last S for savings.

MEGAN

It doesn't matter! It stops dialing after seven numbers!

HALLIE

You prank called 1-800-Mattress.

MEGAN

Yea. It was hilarious. We ordered, like, a million mattresses.

Megan reaches for a POLLY-O STRING CHEESE of her own. She takes a BITE OF THE CHEESE WITHOUT STRINGING IT!

MEGAN (CONT'D)

And then we hung up.

HALLIE

What are you doing?

MEGAN

What?

HALLIE

You can't eat string cheese like that.

MEGAN

Why not?

HALLIE

Because it's what sociopaths do.

LACEY

It is pretty weird, Megan.

HALLIE

Next thing you know there's a rumor going around that you don't use the tiny straw to drink from a juice box and instead just tear it open with your teeth like an animal.

MEGAN

Like a sociopath.

LACEY

When did we start using that word?

MEGAN

Shut up! Zach Lennon is dancing.

This gets Hallie's attention. And all three girls see...

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

ZACH LENNON, easily the "HUNK" of the school.

From HALLIE'S POV it's like SLOW MOTION as he STARTS TO DANCE, not well mind you, to an iPod plugged into a boom box.

HALLIE

We need a better view.

EXT. BACKYARD - TRAMPOLINE - LATER

Further away in the yard Hallie, Megan and Lacey are BOUNCING but really just to get a GOOD LOOK at ZACH DANCING.

LACEY

He could be an Abercrombie model.

MEGAN
Abercrombie and Fitch.

LACEY
The Fitch is implied. I heard he
did 8 pull-ups in gym.

MEGAN
I heard it was 10. What's he
dancing to?

LACEY
Probably a mix. Like the one he
made for Sarah Campbell.

HALLIE
(wistfully)
No. It's Nickelback.

All THREE GIRLS SIGH. As they look on Hallie starts to DAY
DREAM about what might be one day. We SEE IT PLAYING OUT.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
If he were my boyfriend he'd make a
mix for me.
(beat)
And everyone would see us walk the
track together when they time us
for the mile. But he wouldn't care
that he could've done it faster.
(beat)
And he'd give me one of his
Abercrombie shirts to sleep in.
(beat)
Abercrombie and Fitch.

She's lost in thought when...

BAM! One of her FRIEND'S KNEES SLAMS INTO HER FACE!

HALLIE (CONT'D)
Fuck!

MEGAN
I'm sorry! It was as an accident!

Hallie LOOKS UP, BLEEDING FROM THE NOSE and SEES THAT THE
WHOLE PARTY HAS STOPPED TO LOOK AT HER.

Including ZACH! This is SO EMBARRASSING.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Hallie looks in the mirror, TOILET PAPER STUFFED IN HER NOSE, BLOOD ON HER SHIRT. Lacey and Megan stand nearby.

MEGAN

It's so not a big deal, Hallie.

HALLIE

Yea right, like everyone's not talking about what just happened.

LACEY

Not the ones who didn't see because they were playing Mario Kart.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - SAME TIME

KID WITH TWIZZLERS tells the story to the MARIO KART KIDS.

KID WITH TWIZZLERS

Jumping, jumping, then, Bam! Blood started gushing everywhere!

He USES TWIZZLERS UP HIS NOSE TO MIMIC THE BLOOD.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

HALLIE

Seriously, let's just go.
(off their look)
What?

LACEY

Kyle just chugged a Peach Snapple.

HALLIE

So?

LACEY

So...Rule #5?
(as if obvious)
Someone must drink the bottle fully before it's spun? Hence we're going to play Spin the Bottle.

HALLIE

Well I want to play too obviously!

MEGAN

Do you really think you should 1st base with blood? Because of AIDS?

HALLIE

If I don't play then on Monday
people will just see me as the girl
who split her face open on the
trampoline. But if I play Spin the
Bottle and kiss Zach? No one will
even remember the other part.

Hallie FRANTICALLY LOOKS THROUGH THE BATHROOM.

MEGAN

What are you doing?

HALLIE

I have to replace the toilet paper,
obviously. It's like, rude not to.

LACEY

That's true. Only sociopaths don't
replenish toilet paper.

MEGAN

Seriously, was this like a vocab
word in your 5th period English?

INT. BASEMENT - LATER

Lights are DIM. Everyone sits in a circle. The TENSION IS
THICK. All of a sudden from over Hallie's shoulder...

ZACH

Hey, are you ok?

HALLIE

Yea totally. You must be thinking
about someone else's bloody nose.

No one mentioned bloody nose but...

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Thanks for asking.

Zach seems like he wants to sit next to her but someone else
TAKES THE SPOT before he can settle in. He gives a little
smile and then finds a place in another part of the circle.

The SNAPPLE BOTTLE is PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CIRCLE.
There's a long, long pause. No one is rushing to SPIN first.

That's when KELLY HAYES, confident as hell because she has
the body of someone...older...takes the bottle.

KELLY
I'll go first.

Hallie looks on jealously, compares with her eyes: makeup, jewelry, boobs, tight fitting clothes. Kelly has it all...

HALLIE
(through clenched teeth)
Kelly fucking Hayes.

KELLY
What was that?

HALLIE
What? Nothing. I just said "don't hurt your wrist."

KELLY
Everyone knows the rules right?

EVERYONE
(groaning)
Yes!

KELLY
The first rule of Spin The Bottle-

FAT BOY
Is you don't talk about Spin the Bottle!

KELLY
Well, no. You totally talk about it. That's half the fun. Ok we all know Rule #1-

EVERYONE
The Super Serious Rule.

KELLY
Rule #2. The game isn't over until everyone gets a turn.

OVER EXCITED BOY
Spin the fucking bottle already before we all die of blue balls!

And Kelly goes. The BOTTLE SPINS and SPINS and lands on...

ZACH!

KIDS IN CIRCLE
Oooooooooohhhhhh!

Hallie can't believe it. Her heart practically breaks as Kelly and Zach crawl to each other and meet mid-circle.

They kiss. For what, to Hallie, seems like an eternity.

She doesn't even notice when the next few KIDS TAKE THEIR TURNS to SPIN AND KISS. She's stuck on replay. Until...

MOM'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hey!

THE KIDS LOOK TO WHERE THE VOICE OF AUTHORITY HAS COME FROM.

Uh oh. Are they caught? Are they in trouble?

MOM'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Last call on the Costco chicken
potstickers!

CHRISSY

No one is hungry, Mom!

MOM'S VOICE (O.S.)

You know there are starving kids in
Africa who've never even heard of
Costco?

CHRISSY

Yes, obviously!

The BASEMENT DOOR IS CLOSED AGAIN.

LACEY

Hallie. It's your turn.

Hallie approaches the bottle like some priceless artifact.
She LOOKS UP AT ZACH just for a moment.

They make EYE CONTACT and she LOOKS AWAY AGAIN.

And SPINS...

She holds her breath as the bottle SPINS and STOPS on...

The SMALL FLAVOR ICES KID. His mouth is GREEN AND GROSS.

Hallie is frozen. NO. FUCKING. WAY.

Flavor Ice Kid CRAWLS TOWARDS HER. Closer. The GREEN Lips.
Green stained shirt. Green TEETH. They're about to meet...

HALLIE

I can't.

KELLY
You have to.

HALLIE
I'm...allergic to green Flavor Ice.

KELLY
That's fucking bullshit. You're
just allergic to kissing.

ANOTHER KID
Or allergic to kissing him!

Everyone starts LAUGHING. And LAUGHING. And LAUGHING. GREEN
MOUTH KID RUNS UPSTAIRS, HIDING TEARS.

KELLY
I can't believe you just broke Rule
#1. The Super Serious Rule.

Everyone GASPS.

HALLIE
The Super Serious Rule: You must
kiss whoever the bottle lands on...

Hallie can't even finish the sentence.

KELLY
Or your love life is cursed.
Forever.

This REVERBERATES. Hallie's face is FROZEN WITH FEAR...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. IKEA OFFICES - PRESENT DAY

HALLIE, now 15-20 years older, has the SAME FACE OF FEAR as
she STARES at her computer.

HALLIE
I just don't fucking understand.

That's when her ASSISTANT, EVAN, comes through the door.

EVAN
Is it the updated spread sheet?

On her SCREEN: INSTAGRAM ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS. A couple is
posing in an underground BOMB BUNKER popular with "PREPPERS."

HALLIE

This girl I knew from Pilates had adult braces. Not Invisalign. Straight up metal braces at age 27. Now look at her.

EVAN

Her teeth look nice.

HALLIE

(reading the post)

"Can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you and just you." In a bomb shelter?

(another photo)

#WokeUpLikeThis. What does that even mean? Woke up in an underground bunker? Bitch run!

EVAN

They're posing with canned vegetables.

Another photo of them posing with GAS MASKS ON.

HALLIE

And they got written up in the Times? I hate her.

EVAN

Because you want your engagement photos to be in a bomb shelter?

HALLIE

Because people are going to think they look adorable.

Hallie gives a big SIGH and BEGRUDGINGLY LIKES THE PHOTO.

EVAN

You did the right thing.

HALLIE

I can't see myself getting any more work done today. Let's get a jump start on the long weekend.

EVAN

I need you to make a call for the last slide of the Powerpoint.

Evan presents 3 LINEN NAPKINS ON THE DESK. They look relatively the same: White with Blue Stripe, Off White With Blue Stripes, Off White with 2 Blue Stripes.

She studies them and then dismissively...

HALLIE

This one.

She puts her OUT OF OFFICE EMAIL ON:
Hallie Walker, VP, TABLE LINENS, IKEA.

Hallie CLOSES OUT the WINDOWS on her COMPUTER revealing her
BACKGROUND: Her posing with a GUY...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - VESTIBULE WITH MAILBOXES - LATER

Hallie enters her Apartment Building. A WOMAN, 40s, and her
SON, 8, are at the MAILBOXES.

HALLIE

Hey, Stella.

STELLA

(under her breath)
The mouth on you.

HALLIE

I'm sorry?

STELLA

I said, "The mouth on you."

HALLIE

I just said "Hey Stella."

STELLA

Do you know how thin the walls are
in your apartment?

HALLIE

Look if you'd ever like us to turn
the music down-

STELLA

We. Hear. Everything. How is
Matthew supposed to practice the
clarinet with "Bobby eat my ass!"

This is all being said in the presence of the kid...

HALLIE

I'm not really comfortable-

STELLA

"Just a little bit of
choking...just a little bit..."

HALLIE
That sounds violent-

STELLA
"Somebody had asparagus today!"

HALLIE
Stella I assure you I never said
any of those things.

STELLA
You literally said all of those
things 10 minutes ago!

HALLIE
I literally just got home...

It dawns on Hallie. She MOVES PAST STELLA.

STELLA
Ohhhhh. Drama.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Hallie comes into the apartment, PISSED, SLAMS THE DOOR.

HALLIE
Bobby?

The TV is on. It's a SHARK TANK RE-RUN. An UNFAMILIAR SHARK
IS TALKING ON SCREEN. (NOTE: EASTER EGG HERE...)

BOBBY, 30s good looking, is sitting on the couch next to
ANOTHER WOMAN, 20s. They're both FULLY DRESSED.

BOBBY
Babe! You're home early.

HALLIE
What's going on here?

BOBBY
It's not what it looks like.

HALLIE
It looks like you're watching Shark
Tank reruns with a strange woman.

BOBBY
Oh then it's exactly what it looks
like.

HALLIE

But it *feels* like you just finished having sex with this woman.

BOBBY

What? That's...I don't want to deny you your feelings because that's not healthy for our relationship but...you're jumping to conclusions. This is Pia. She was going door to door, collecting signatures, and I offered her a glass of water.

HALLIE

Where are the glasses?

BOBBY

In the dish washer. Because you hate when I leave them in the sink.

HALLIE

Then what is she still doing here?

BOBBY

She happens to suffer from plantar fasciitis and needed to sit down for a minute.

HALLIE

Oh cut the shit Bobby!

(LOUDER)

Stella! Knock twice if you just heard them fucking in here!

KNOCK-KNOCK.

BOBBY

Ok, ok listen. It's true. But this is a good thing. Now we're forced to talk about it. And honestly, I haven't been happy for a while.

PIA

It's true. He hasn't.

HALLIE

Everyone thinks we're perfect together!

BOBBY

I don't care what everyone thinks! You do!

HALLIE

You're a politician! It's your job to care what everyone thinks! How do you think an affair going to poll on the campaign trail?

BOBBY

I mean, I'm a City Councilman. I don't think anyone really cares.

Hallie is pissed. She's holding it all in but...

HALLIE

You know what Bobby...

Hallie PAUSES FOR EFFECT. Bobby and Pia just stare at her as she waits. And waits. And waits. The TV finally says...

MARK CUBAN

(on TV)

For that reason...I'm out.

HALLIE

What he said! Fuck you!

STELLA

(through the wall)

He lost my vote, honey!

BOBBY

Oh yea? Well your kid sucks at clarinet!

INT. UBER - LATER

Hallie is in the backseat, CRYING HER EYES OUT.

HALLIE

I'm sorry. I got a little snot on your seat belt.

(beat)

Please still give me 5 stars.

EXT./INT SUBURBAN HOUSE - LATER

Hallie gets out in front of a QUIET HOUSE in the SUBURBS. She's surprised to see a GROUP OF ADULTS, 50s/60s/70s, GATHERED IN THE LIVING ROOM engaged in a BOOK CLUB.

Among the ADULTS are TERRI AND JOSEPH (her MOM AND DAD.)

OBNOXIOUS BOOK CLUB MEMBER

One of the quintessential devices
the author uses in his works is the
way he takes inconsequential
characters from the onset of the
story and brings them back at
pivotal scenes in Act Three-

TERRI

Hallie?
(to the book club)
Excuse us.

Joseph and Terri get up to talk to Hallie privately.

HALLIE

Who are these people?

JOSEPH

Our book club.

HALLIE

Since when are you in a book club?
Since when do you read books?

JOSEPH

Look who's talking. Didn't you get
like a 490 on your SAT verbal?

HALLIE

You're not supposed to make fun of
me! I just broke up with Bobby!

JOSEPH

Well I didn't know that and you
came at me first!

TERRI

Honey, what happened?

HALLIE

I left work early.

Hallie collapses into a HUG with her mom.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

I just didn't want to be alone.

JOSEPH

What about your friends? Call
what's her name who always makes us
donate so she can run the marathon.

HALLIE

I can't call my friends! If they knew I got cheated on they'd look at me like I'm fucking pathetic!

JOSEPH

You didn't mention that part before.

TERRI

We're here for you.

JOSEPH

We're here for you...in like, three hours.

TERRI

Right. Three-ish hours.

JOSEPH

Four hours tops.

HALLIE

Why?

JOSEPH

(as if it's obvious)
Ummm...book club?

TERRI

If it were any other week we wouldn't be hosting and you'd come home to an empty house anyway so it's practically the same thing.

HALLIE

Can I sit and listen?

TERRI

You haven't read the book.

HALLIE

How do you know?

JOSEPH

Because you haven't read many books.

HALLIE

I was obsessed with Shel Silverstein as a kid.

JOSEPH

This book is more advanced.

TERRI

Why don't you wait in your room?

HALLIE

I just said I didn't want to be alone! I'm vulnerable! And sad!

TERRI

And we're going to get you out of this funk. In three ish hours.

JOSEPH

Four or five, tops.

Hallie is speechless.

INT. LOCAL BAR - LATER

SAD, SMALL BAR. A few DEPRESSED-LOOKING LOCALS. Hallie finds an empty stool and the BARTENDER approaches.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

HALLIE

Yea, do you have a wine list?

BARTENDER

It's not exactly wine country. We have a red which is red in color. And we have a white. Which is more of a yellow color.

Hallie notices a GUY staring at her from the end of the bar. Her age, but looks OLDER, DISHEVELED, in BAD SHAPE.

HALLIE

I'll just have some really high proof gin on the rocks.

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR

Put that on my tab, Tommy.

HALLIE

No, thank you.

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR

C'mon no one likes to drink alone.

The GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR MOVES to THE SEAT NEXT TO HER.

HALLIE

I very much do.

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR
Think about all of the stimulating
conversations you miss out on. Like
Kathy over there, she once told me
she thought Easter bunnies were a
specific species. So.

(beat)
Anyway. You look really good.

HALLIE
Ok, dude, back the fuck up. I have
pepper spray.
(reaches into her purse)
I don't have pepper spray but I can
yell rape really loud.

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR
How did we jump to rape just now?

HALLIE
You can't just be a creepy stranger
and close in on a woman like that!

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR
Stranger? We know each other.
(beat)
Hallie Walker, right? Don't tell me
you don't recognize me.
(off her look)
Zach? Zach Lennon?

That's right. This was the GUY OF HER DREAMS from the OPENING
SCENE. He just...let himself go a little bit.

HALLIE
Zach Lennon? Holy shit. You
look...holy shit.

INT. LOCAL BAR - LATER

Hallie and Zach are a few drinks deep at this point.

ZACH
And remember the time Michael Hill
called in a fake bomb threat so he
didn't have to give his report on
Slaughterhouse Five and then tried
to convince Mrs. Chowske that the
bomb threat was the book report on
Slaughterhouse Five?

HALLIE
(straight faced)
No.

ZACH
Or how about the time Tess Dixon
shit her bikini at Mark Lopez's
pool party?

HALLIE
Again, no.

ZACH
Every time she pops into the store
and orders potato salad I ask, "Are
you sure all that mayo is going to
agree with you?" Kind of our
running joke.

HALLIE
You still work at the deli?

ZACH
No. I own it.

HALLIE
I thought your Dad-

ZACH
Died?

HALLIE
Oh. I'm sorry.

ZACH
Wasn't your fault. Unless,
wait...are you kidney cancer?

HALLIE
No.

ZACH
Then it wasn't your fault. But yea,
that was over 12 years ago? And I
inherited a lifetime of BLTs. So
you get what you get if you're not
David Arquette.

HALLIE
I'm sorry, what?

ZACH

It's an expression Pop used to say about being happy with what life gives you if you're not rich and famous and talented.

HALLIE

Is that how anyone describes David Arquette?

ZACH

Man, I've been going on like Matt Davis at the 2003 Model Congress Regionals. Tell me about you. What are you doing here? I assumed you moved to the city and became a big deal or something.

HALLIE

So...you've thought about me?

ZACH

Sure. But not in a creepy way. So keep your imaginary pepper spray in your purse. Well?

HALLIE

I'm a VP at Ikea.

ZACH

That's awesome! So like what do you do day to day?

HALLIE

I'm a VP.

ZACH

And you oversee meatballs or what?

Beat. Hallie doesn't really want to say but...

HALLIE

Table linens.

ZACH

Like napkins?

HALLIE

Also place mats and table cloths.

(beat)

But yes mostly napkins.

ZACH
I love napkins! I use them almost every day. Remember when you-

HALLIE
Don't.

ZACH
Don't what?

HALLIE
I just really don't want to remember anything right now.

ZACH
Why? What's going on?

HALLIE
Just another failed chapter in my Autobiography entitled "Hey Cupid, Stop Cumming On My Face."

ZACH
You wrote a book?

HALLIE
No. I didn't.

ZACH
So you had a bad break up. Been there.

HALLIE
I've never had a good break up. Just one bad one after another. Shit sandwich after shit sandwich with the occasional shit salad, because, carbs.

As Hallie explains the following scenarios we see them play out in QUICK SUCCESSION.

INT. LIMO - YEARS AGO

Hallie, 16, is fast asleep in a PROM DRESS. Also wearing a PROM KING CROWN.

Next to her is a guy with a TUXEDO JACKET ON HIS LAP.

HALLIE (V.O.)
Like how jealous everyone was when my boyfriend was crowned Junior Prom King.

(MORE)

HALLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
So jealous that Alicia Harper gave
him a handjob under his tuxedo
jacket on the limo ride home while
I was asleep.

Next to him a girl, ALICIA, is giving him a handjob.

EXT. COLLEGE DOCKS - DAY

Hallie's back is to camera as she talks to a MUSCULAR GUY in
all CREW GEAR, OAR, etc.

HALLIE
And in college, I was with the
captain of the Crew Team.

REVEAL: Hallie in an eye patch.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
But then he said he couldn't take
all the pirate jokes after I had to
wear an eye patch following a sex
injury when he pulled out-
(beat)
When he came into the condom.

INT. CITY BAR - NIGHT

Hallie sits alone at an empty table.

HALLIE (V.O.)
Or how I thought dating a Hollywood
actor would be so exciting until I
was ironically ghosted by Haley
Joel Osment after like six dates.

INT. LOCAL BAR - CONTINUOUS

ZACH
Why is that ironic?

HALLIE
Never mind.

ZACH
I mean it would be ironic if Bruce
Willis ghosted you. Because he was
dead the whole time. Wait have you
not seen the movie? Because that
was the big twist-

HALLIE
Everyone's seen the movie!

Beat.

ZACH
Remember when you said you didn't
want to remember anything?

HALLIE
Unfortunately. Seems the alcohol
isn't working.

ZACH
Ok, but remember that time at
Chrissy Cleary's house we played
Spin The Bottle? And you...
(whispers)
Broke the Super Serious Rule?

HALLIE
Kind of.

ZACH
I think that's why you're cursed.

HALLIE
I didn't say I was cursed.

ZACH
You said Cupid continuously
ejaculates on your face.

HALLIE
I highly doubt that a game I played
in 7th grade has anything to do
with my current love life.

ZACH
But you don't 100% doubt.

HALLIE
Ok so let's pretend you're right.
How would one lift said curse?

Zach has a HUGE SMILE ON HIS FACE.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - LATER

A PEBBLE GENTLY HITS A 2nd FLOOR WINDOW.

A VERY DRUNK Zach and Hallie BELOW TOSSING STONES.

ZACH

You're lucky he still lives here.

HALLIE

So if I kiss him years after the fact your Spin The Bottle Gods will be satisfied?

ZACH

That's my understanding.

HALLIE

I'm just drunk enough to be desperate enough to try something this illogical. We could just ring the doorbell.

ZACH

What are you kidding me? Craig will appreciate the whimsy.

HALLIE

Who's Craig?

ZACH

Craig Frazier?

HALLIE

I wasn't supposed to kiss Craig Frazier.

ZACH

Yes you were.

HALLIE

No it was Bill Dingman!

ZACH

I'm pretty sure it was Craig.

HALLIE

It was Bill. He ate green flavor ice all night and looked like he deep throated Kermit the Frog.

ZACH

Oh fuck I think you're right. His name was Building Man!

Zach KEEPS TOSSING STONES.

HALLIE

Then why are you still throwing rocks?

ZACH
I got caught up in the whimsy.

He throws ONE MORE and CRASH! GLASS SHATTERS!

ZACH (CONT'D)
Shit! Run!

Zach MAKES A RUN FOR IT.

HALLIE
Zach! Wait!

Hallie FOLLOWS. TWO DRUNK KIDS RUNNING THROUGH BACKYARDS.

ZACH
Through Steven Delvecchio's yard!

Zach HOPS A FENCE.

Hallie is OUT OF BREATH and that fence looks daunting.

She takes a RUNNING START and HOPS but the WHOLE FENCE COLLAPSES FORWARD. She's DOWN FOR THE COUNT.

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Hallie COMES TO. She is HUNGOVER and doesn't really remember where she is or how she got here in her childhood room...

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Hallie comes down the stairs and HEARS VOICES TALKING.

In the KITCHEN Hallie's PARENTS laughing with...

ZACH
Morning sleepyhead!

HALLIE
What's...going on here?

JOSEPH
Just having coffee with your friend, Zach.

ZACH
Joseph, you stop that. I'm your friend now, too.

HALLIE

But what is he doing having coffee
in our house?

JOSEPH

Our friend came by about an hour
ago and he started telling us about
your curse.

HALLIE

Dad, curses aren't real.

TERRI

Oh I don't know. You do have a
history.

Again we see these STORIES PLAY OUT as they explain them.

INT. HALLIE'S FRENCH CLASS - DAY

Hallie is SOBBING READING A LETTER.

TERRI (V.O.)

Remember your French Pen Pal who
faked his death after you professed
your ocean-spanning love for him?

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT/DAY

Hallie at a kitchen table with a DAD and DAUGHTER.

TERRI (V.O.)

Or the single dad? Todd, right? His
daughter systematically gaslit you.

Daughter looks stone faced into her Dad's eyes.

DAUGHTER

She gave me cigarettes.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

The scene we saw play out earlier.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

Or the Junior Prom limo?

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

HALLIE
I need coffee.

Hallie starts SCROLLING THROUGH INSTAGRAM ON HER PHONE.

JOSEPH
What do I say about phones at the
breakfast table?

HALLIE
C'mon Dad-

JOSEPH
I say, "No way Jose."

HALLIE
That's racist.

TERRI
Is that racist? Can we not say "No
way Jose" anymore? I'm going to ask
our Gardener.

HALLIE
Now *that* would be racist.

TERRI
Aha! Our Gardener is Greek
Orthodox! So you're the racist one!

ZACH
Culturally insensitive *and* cursed.
Rough combo.

Hallie GRABS ZACH'S HAND and PULLS HIM AWAY.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Hallie is escorting Zach towards the front door.

HALLIE
You have to leave.

ZACH
We will.

HALLIE
No. Not we. You. Go. Out.

ZACH
But you said it yourself last
night. You'd do anything to reverse
the curse.

HALLIE
I don't remember saying that.

ZACH
Yes your goal was to not remember.
Bravo. Still I promised to help.

HALLIE
I don't want your help.

ZACH
So you don't want me to helpfully
remind you that Bill Dingman moved
away after 7th grade.

HALLIE
No.

ZACH
Feels like useful information as
related to lifting the curse.

HALLIE
I. Don't. Believe. In. Curses!

She OPENS THE DOOR AND PRACTICALLY SHOVES HIM OUT.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
Now leave!

SLAM!

ZACH (O.S.)
(through the door)
I'll be at the deli when you change
your mind!

Hallie SIGHS.

HALLIE
Do you guys know where is my Middle
School Year Book is?

INT. BASEMENT - LATER

Hallie PULLS OUT A BOX LABELED "HALLIE'S STUFF."

It's filled with MEMENTOS: photos, stuffed animals, a collection of WORN OUT SHEL SILVERSTEIN BOOKS...

She FINDS THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK and FLIPS THROUGH THE PAGES. To HER FACE. To to ZACH'S...To BILL DINGMAN...

She picks up another memento: HER DIARY.

SHE READS and WE SEE A FLASHBACK PLAY OUT IN THE BASEMENT.

HALLIE
December 3, 2007...

A YOUNGER HALLIE and a YOUNG MAN NAKED ON THE COUCH. They CLEARLY JUST FINISHED HAVING SEX.

YOUNG MAN
Did you...you know?

HALLIE
Yea. Definitely. I think I definitely might have.

He GETS UP NAKED and HALLIE GETS A LOOK AT HIS EXPOSED ASS.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
How was I? I mean compared to the girls you go to college with...Oh, I didn't know you had a tattoo.

HALLIE IS SHOCKED WHEN SHE REALIZES: IT'S A SWASTIKA!

PRESENT DAY: Hallie is in utter horror.

Halie OPENS A LAPTOP. And STARTS SEARCHING SPIN THE BOTTLE CURSE. VARIOUS YOUTUBE VIDEOS:

13-YEAR OLD GIRL
(to camera)
Ok, so if you want to play Spin the Bottle you need a bottle and some friends. Or people. You don't have to be friends with them. And you have to drink the whole bottle before you spin it. That's a rule.

DUDE FROM BOSTON
(to camera)
Now that you crushed that Kombucha what you wanna do is spin this fucking thing so it goes all the way around at least once. You kiss the person the bottle lands on.

FRENCH TEEN
(subtitled to camera)
The people at each end of the
bottle -- top and bottom -- kiss.
That's an alternate rule.

13-YEAR OLD GIRL
If you land on the same person
twice you have to French kiss.

FRENCH TEEN
(subtitled)
If your spin lands on the same
person twice you must give hickies.

DUDE FROM BOSTON
If your spin lands on someone of
the same gender and someone makes a
fucking homophobic comment you have
to punch that fucking clown in the
jaw because there's no room in this
world for intolerance. Ok Rule 6-

FRENCH TEEN
(subtitled)
Remove an item of clothing.

13-YEAR OLD GIRL
Touch boobs.

FRENCH TEEN
(subtitled)
Foot stuff.

DUDE FROM BOSTON
The game isn't over until everyone
gets a turn.

13-YEAR OLD GIRL
But the most important rule, The
Super Serious Rule, is you have to
kiss whoever the bottle lands on.

FRENCH TEEN
(subtitled)
Must, must, must obey the bottle.
And kiss whomever fate decides.

DUDE FROM BOSTON
Or your love life is cursed.
Forever, bro. Ok smash that
subscribe button, drop me a line in
my DMs, be mindful of my pronouns-

Hallie SLAMS HER LAPTOP SHUT. She thinks for a minute.

HALLIE
(shouting)
Can I borrow the car?

JOSEPH (O.S.)
No!

HALLIE
Why not?

TERRI (O.S.)
We have a paintball
tournament.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
We have to go to the police
station to identify a
suspect.

*

Her face says WTF?

HALLIE
Are you lying?

Long beat.

TERRI (O.S.)
We think you might still be
drunk.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
No.

HALLIE
How am I supposed to get anywhere?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Hallie RIDES HER OLD BIKE, the kind with the PEGS ON THE BACK
OF IT. It's a little embarrassing.

INT. LENNON'S DELI - MORNING

An OLD MAN stands at the COUNTER WAITING.

OLD MAN
Over 50,000 pounds a year. That's
how much bagel is wasted because
people order them scooped out.

Zach is behind the counter making a sandwich.

ZACH
Mr. Blumbaum there is no way that
number is accurate.

OLD MAN/MR. BLUMBAUM
Trust me. I read an email about it.

ZACH
That's an oddly specific email.

MR. BLUMBAUM
I have friends with a vested
interest in bread as it pertains to
feeding ducks at the pond.

Hallie walks into the DELI.

ZACH
And I've read it's bad for people
to feed those ducks.

MR. BLUMBAUM
Zach, the customer is always right.

ZACH
I'm afraid that doesn't always
apply.

MR. BLUMBAUM
Like when?

HALLIE
Like Jeffrey Epstein. He shopped.

A smile on Zach's face.

MR. BLUMBAUM
No cutters!

HALLIE
I'm not buying anything.

ZACH
Looks to me like you're buying into
the curse.

HALLIE
It's bad, Zach. Really bad. I...
(RE: Mr. Blumbaum)
Why don't you finish with your
customer.

ZACH
Ok, Mr. Blumbaum - Tuna salad on a
scooped out everything bagel. Total
is \$8.75.

MR. BLUMBAUM
Wait a minute! I want to grab a
Peach Snapple, too!

"PEACH SNAPPLE" rings a bell as Hallie and Zach SHARE A LOOK.

Zach and Hallie lean into each other.

HALLIE
(whispering)
I...when i was younger...

ZACH
(whispering back)
When you were younger you...

HALLIE
(whispering)
I lost my virginity to a Nazi.

REVEAL: Mr. Blumbaum standing there, with his SNAPPLE.

He can't believe it. He puts his money down and walks out
without taking his eyes off Hallie.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
It was an accident!

ZACH
People are going to hear about this
at the duck pond.

HALLIE
I Googled Bill Dingman. There are
thousands. None of them have mutual
Facebook friends with us.

ZACH
I could've told you that last
night. But you passed out.

HALLIE
I have no idea what to do next.

ZACH
To reverse the very real curse that
you now believe in you mean.

HALLIE
Yes.
(off his smug look)
You said you wanted to help.

ZACH

I do.

HALLIE

Ok. How?

ZACH

First thing we have to do is find out where Bill Dingman's family moved. I have an old friend who might be able to help.

HALLIE

Great. When can we talk to them?

ZACH

The Deli is closed! Everyone out!

No one else is there except them.

EXT. FRONT LAWN - LATER

A REAL ESTATE SIGN with a PHOTO and NAME: ALICIA HARPER.

Hallie STARES at the sign.

ZACH

You remember Alicia. From the limo.

INT. OPEN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zach and Hallie walk inside a semi-busy open house.

HALLIE

Listen, just don't leave me alone.
I don't want to have to have an
awkward conversation-

But Zach's already gone somehow. So Hallie has to start
LOOKING AROUND by herself. She pretends to be perusing.

INT. OPEN HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Hallie is with a HANDSOME GUY, HOLDING HANDS.

HALLIE

We are adulting so hard right now.

HANDSOME GUY

Are we?

HALLIE

Well yea. I've never moved in with
a someone before. Have you?

HANDSOME GUY

I...who are you moving in with?

HALLIE

Shut up.

HANDSOME GUY

Hallie...I'm sorry if you
misunderstood. I didn't mean we...

(beat)

I need you to co-sign. You know I
have crippling debt, right?

INT. OPEN HOUSE - PRESENT

Hallie SNAPS OUT OF IT. Another reminder of being cursed.

She STOPS at a PAINTING ON THE WALL:

It's an ORDINARY BOWL OF FRUIT. But upon closer inspection
there are TWO HORSES IN THE BACKGROUND FUCKING. One MOUNTED
on the OTHER, you can see the HORSE DICK. WTF?

VOICE (O.S.)

It's a still life.

Hallie turns to see: ALICIA HARPER, same age, put together in
REAL ESTATE ATTIRE, wearing HEAVY MAKEUP.

ALICIA HARPER

A still life is a type of painting
featuring inanimate objects.

HALLIE

I know. But this one's...unique.

ALICIA HARPER

Oh you must be a collector.

HALLIE

Not really-

ALICIA HARPER

This property has plenty of walls
to accommodate artwork. Have you
seen the foyer?

HALLIE

Yes. When I walked in.

ALICIA HARPER

Keen eye. That foyer represents the entryway to a school district in the top six percentile statewide. And a tight knit community with more of a small town vibe where everyone knows each other-

(to a COUPLE LEAVING
BEHIND HALLIE)

Bye Andrew! Stacy I'll text you that Beef Wellington recipe!

Hallie LOOKS BEHIND HER. There's no one there.

HALLIE

Right. So Alicia this is going to sound weird but-

ALICIA HARPER

You hear them too?

HALLIE

(weirded out)

Who?

ALICIA HARPER

(whispering)

The voices...haunting the two luxurious walk in closets in the primary bedroom. Enough space for ghosts and your wardrobe. That's my guarantee.

That's when Zach shows up...

ZACH

Oh. Good. You found each other.

ALICIA HARPER

Zach? You can't afford this house.

ZACH

Hallie and I actually came together.

(off her look)

Not as buyers. We need to talk to you about something.

ALICIA HARPER

(realizing)

Hallie? Hallie Walker? Oh my God! How are you? You. Look. Sooo. Good.

INT. OPEN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The three of them WALK THE HOUSE as they chat.

ZACH

It's a classic story. Boy Meets Girl. Girl spins a bottle. Boy has the remnants of green-flavored ices around his mouth. Girl humiliates Boy. Boy runs away crying. Girl gets cursed.

ALICIA HARPER

Real Estate Agent gets bored. And green is not a flavor. What's this have to do with me?

ZACH

Bill moved away that Summer and we were hoping you could help us find out where his family went.

ALICIA HARPER

As you can see I'm extremely busy-

HALLIE

Zach was hoping.

ALICIA HARPER

I'm sorry?

HALLIE

Zach said "we were hoping you could help." I want to clarify that I had zero hope here and all faith in you came from him. Not me.

Beat.

ALICIA HARPER

What's your deal?

HALLIE

No deal. Just been catching some unhelpful, bordering on offensive vibes. As a VP at the Ikea Home Furniture Company it's my job to put a great deal of stock in vibes.

ALICIA HARPER

So you've been judging the couches and tables in my open house.

ZACH
She's in charge of napkins!

Hallie shoots him a look. That just chopped her legs out.

ALICIA HARPER
This is about Junior Prom isn't it?

HALLIE
Of course not. I don't even
remember our Junior Prom.

ALICIA HARPER
Oh thank God. Because this
obviously means nothing to you now
but on the ride home I kissed-

HALLIE
You jerked off my boyfriend.

ALICIA HARPER
Ummm...I pretty clearly remember it
being much more innocent than-

HALLIE
You got cum on my corsage!

Everyone in the Open House is looking now.

ALICIA HARPER
Are you sure?

HALLIE
This is a waste of time.

ALICIA HARPER
Look, even if I wanted to help, do
you think my company just keeps
some kind of enormous data base of
where clients move in case we need
to contact them or provide a
forwarding address or follow up for
future business and referrals?

INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - LATER

Alicia is at her computer. Hallie and Zach behind her.

ALICIA HARPER

So this is our enormous data base
of where clients move in case we
need to contact them or provide a
forwarding address or follow up for
future business and referrals.

ZACH

Is Bill Dingman in there?

ALICIA HARPER

Might be. It was a long time ago.
It could take quite a while to dig-
(as she types)
Here he is.

Zach and Hallie TRY TO SEE THE SCREEN. Alicia TURNS IT AWAY.

ALICIA HARPER (CONT'D)

This is a clear violation of
Realtor-Realtee confidentiality.

HALLIE

That's not a thing.

ALICIA HARPER

Ask Paul Giamatti's stalker if it's
a thing. Oh speaking of stalkers I
had lunch with Kelly the other day.

HALLIE

Kelly Hayes?

ZACH

Unimportant. What's it going to
take for you to slip us that
address?

ALICIA HARPER

She has to accept my apology.

HALLIE

For what?

ALICIA HARPER

For the alleged handjob of 2000 and
something.

They wait. And wait. And wait.

ALICIA HARPER (CONT'D)

Well?

HALLIE

You have to apologize first.

ZACH

And calling the HJ alleged doesn't really help your case for sympathy.

ALICIA HARPER

If you're going to stand there and judge me for something I may or may not have done then I should just restart my computer.

ZACH

Will that delete Bill's info?

ALICIA HARPER

No.

(beat)

All you have to say is, "I forgive you Alicia Harper. No backsies."

Hallie takes a DEEP BREATH.

EXT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - LATER

Zach and Hallie walk out.

ZACH

That was big of you. No backsies? That means you can't take it back.

HALLIE

Yea well my fingers were crossed.

ZACH

Gangster.

(looking at his phone)

There's a Doctor William Dingman at 314 Comstock Street. Same town. That can't be a coincidence right?

Zach is already dialing...

ZACH (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Yes I'd like to speak to Dr. Dingman please?

HALLIE

Let me talk.

ZACH
 I'm very personable.
 (into phone)
 Ok then when is he free to talk?
 (beat)
 He has an opening today at 3?

HALLIE
 Ask her if he grew up here.

ZACH
 That's a weird question to ask
 someone at the front desk.
 (beat)
 Patient's name is Hallie Walker.
 We'll see you at 3.
 (beat)
 Oh no you have a blessed day.

He hangs up.

HALLIE
 This is crazy.

ZACH
 It's romantic.

HALLIE
 We don't even know if it's the
 right guy!

ZACH
 You gotta trust fate a little bit.

HALLIE
 It's three and a half hours away
 and I don't have a car!

ZACH
 I can drive us.

HALLIE
 You'd do that?

ZACH
 Of course.

She's touched.

EXT. DELI PARKING LOT - LATER

Zach UNLOCKS HIS CAR with a BEEP. It's old.

HALLIE
Is this your same car from-

ZACH
High school. Ally McWheels. My ride
or die.

HALLIE
Please don't say "Ride or Die"
again. Or Ally McWheels.

ZACH
A little weird to start calling
something by a completely different
name after so many years. But ok...

INT. CAR - LATER

And they're off.

ZACH
CDs are at your feet.

Hallie picks up the book of CDs. She opens it and sees the a
plethora of BURNED CDs with various MIX NAMES on it.

HALLIE
That's right. You used to make
mixes all the time.

ZACH
Used to?

HALLIE
You have a "First Date #5" mix.

ZACH
And?

HALLIE
It's confusing.

ZACH
So are first dates. Until they
aren't.

HALLIE
I hate first dates.

ZACH
That's a you problem.

HALLIE
I've done ok for myself.

ZACH
That's not what I'm saying. Tell me, this latest ex boyfriend - what did you do on your first date?

HALLIE
Why does that matter?

ZACH
Because your last first date is proof that magic exists. That's what Pop always said.

Beat.

HALLIE
He took me out for frozen yogurt.

ZACH
Frozen yogurt. The Toyota Corolla of desserts.

HALLIE
Yea well it got better from there.

ZACH
Until it didn't.

Beat.

HALLIE
So your Dad passed you down a lot of sayings.

ZACH
He passed down more than that. The deli. My hairline.

HALLIE
And you like running the Deli.

ZACH
You think there's something wrong with running a deli?

HALLIE
I didn't say that.

ZACH
Good. Because there isn't.

HALLIE

I just asked if you liked doing it.

ZACH

I mean I'm not sure most people
"like" their job.

(beat)

But it's a family business. My dad
always put so much emphasis on
that. *Family* business. And there
was no other family to do it.

HALLIE

Just because he left you the
business doesn't mean you have to
do it forever.

ZACH

If I let that store close my Dad
would literally reincarnate as a
Reuben - not the sandwich, just a
guy with the ironically on-the-nose
name Reuben - and slap the shit out
of me. So you get what you get if
you're not David Arquette.

HALLIE

That saying doesn't make sense. You
make it sound like only David
Arquette gets to make life choices.

ZACH

No. But a lot of other lucky
people's names don't rhyme.

Hallie comes across one that makes her stop.

"KELLY'S MIX #12."

HALLIE

Hey, what was all that about Kelly-

ZACH

I thought we were putting on music.

Zach POPS a CD in, clearly avoiding this subject.

"Hey Ma" by Cam'Ron kicks in.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Ah. Sing Along Mix #38.

(singing)

Hey *ma*.

(beat)

(MORE)

ZACH (CONT'D)
Let's slide.
 (beat)
All right.

Hallie's not singing. Zach PAUSES THE MUSIC.

ZACH (CONT'D)
 It's a sing along mix.

HALLIE
 I have a terrible voice.

ZACH
 You have one of the top two voices
 in this car. C'mon. It's a duet.

The song STARTS AGAIN. He's PLEADING WITH HIS EYES...

ZACH (CONT'D)
Hey ma.

HALLIE
What's up?

ZACH
Let's slide.

HALLIE
All right.

ZACH
All right.

ZACH (CONT'D)
*And we gon' get it on
 tonight.*

HALLIE
*And we gon' get it on
 tonight.*

LATER: Now it's "Work It" by Missy Elliott.

ZACH AND HALLIE
*If you got a big (ELEPHANT SOUND)
 let me search it/And find out how
 hard I gotta work ya.*
 (neither singing correct)
*Ti esrever dna ti pilf nwod gniht
 ym tup I/Ti esrever dna ti pilf
 nwod gniht ym tup I.*

LATER: Now it's Macy Gray's "I Try."

ZACH AND HALLIE (CONT'D)
 (Macy Gray impressions)
*Try to walk away and I stumble/
 Though I try to hide it, it's
 clear/My world crumbles when you
 are not near...*

LATER: It's "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" By Michael Jackson.

HALLIE
 We can't sing Michael Jackson
 anymore.

ZACH
 I put him on the mix before the
 allegations came to light.

Hallie tries to SKIP THE SONG.

ZACH (CONT'D)
 The skip button doesn't work.

HALLIE
 Then change the CD.

ZACH
 There are like 5 more good songs
 after this one though!

They SIT IN THE SONG. NOT SINGING.

ZACH (CONT'D)
 (reading a ROAD SIGN)
 What the fuck is a Cracker Barrel?

HALLIE
 It's a dumb, Southern country
 themed kitschy chain with fucking
 gross unhealthy shit like biscuits
 n' gravy and chicken fried steak-

EXT. CRACKER BARREL - INTERCUT

Zach is in awe, inspecting the ROCKING CHAIRS on the porch.

ZACH
 These are all for sale? They have
 far too large of a rocking chair
 inventory. How high is the demand
 of people buying rocking chairs?

Zach SITS AND ROCKS.

ZACH (CONT'D)
 I mean I get it.
 (closing his eyes)
 The joy is in the simplicity.

HALLIE
 Simplicity of slowly dying?

Hallie SIGHS and sits in a chair. She begins to ROCK and slowly GIVES IN TOO.

INT. CRACKER BARREL - GIFT SHOP - LATER

Zach is still in awe of all the tchotchkes.

ZACH
 So this is a restaurant and a gift shop for hoarders! Amazing.

Hallie is caught up in a VINTAGE DOLL HOUSE.

She picks up an out of place VINTAGE WRESTLER and stares at it. Zach, holding a WOMAN DOLL, moves it into the doll house.

ZACH (CONT'D)
 (as doll)
 Honey, you're home! Did you win your match?

Hallie pauses, then reluctantly decides to play along.

HALLIE
 (sullen, as Wrestler)
 Yes. I killed the man, actually.
 The way the light went out of his eyes... will haunt my memories.

ZACH
 (cheery)
 Wonderful, dear! Dinner's ready and the girls need help with their homework!

INT. CRACKER BARREL - LATER

Zach and Hallie EAT while PLAYING THE PEG GAME ON THE TABLE. The goal is to JUMP each peg and only have one remaining.

ZACH
 Can I ask you something?

Zach reaches for a PAPER NAPKIN.

ZACH (CONT'D)

What is your professional opinion
of these?

HALLIE

Fuck you. And fuck this chicken
fried steak for being delicious.

ZACH

How is there not one of these in
every town in America?

INT. CAR - LATER

There are TWO ROCKING CHAIRS STUFFED in the BACK SEAT.
Clearly they each purchased one. HUGE SMILES.

And they've both given into singing the Michael Jackson song.

ZACH AND HALLIE

(singing)

*Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa
Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa
Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa
Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa*

ZACH

(still singing in tune)

*And this is our exit coming up/Exit
49 is coming up/Speed limit
declines we're turning off...*

EXT. LAKE TOWN - LATER

Establishing shots show a QUAIN T LOOKING BEACH TOWN.
Somewhere on a lake or river. Not the bustling city where
Hallie lives, nor the suburbs where she grew up.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

There's a PICTURE OF DR. BILL DINGMAN on the wall.

HALLIE

Is that him?

ZACH

It looks like him.

HALLIE

You're basing that on memories
decimated by alcohol use.

ZACH
It has to be him. Local boy makes
good, goes to med school and opens
practice in home town. We're lucky
we got you an appointment. He's
Benicio Del Toro's Proctologist.

A PICTURE ON THE WALL of DR. DINGMAN with BENICIO DEL TORO.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Hallie Walker, 3 PM.

The RECEPTIONIST hands them a CLIPBOARD WITH PAPERS.

HALLIE
I didn't know he was a
Proctologist.

ZACH
What difference does it make.

HALLIE
I don't want to see a proctologist!
I don't have a reason to see a
proctologist!

ZACH
You're reason is you have to kiss
him. So just give him a smooch
before he can get anywhere near
your...hole.

HALLIE
I have to fill out a real reason
for visit. I can't say "to smooch."

ZACH
You can say...

Zach starts GIGGLING. He can't get the words out.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Say it smells.
(stifling)
Say your butt smells.

Hallie just STARES AT HIM.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Hallie, alone in a gown, looks at the "BUTT STUFF" around the
room. POSTERS, DIAGRAMS, WET WIPES, ETC...

A FEMALE DOCTOR walks in. Clearly not Dr. Dingman.

FEMALE DOCTOR
Hello, Hallie. I'm Dr. Gibbs.

HALLIE
I'm sorry, I was supposed to have
an appointment with Dr. Dingman.

DR. GIBBS
Dr. Dingman is out of the office
for the next two weeks. But I
assure you I am just as qualified
as he is. Do you know where I went
to Medical School?

HALLIE
It's not about that-

DR. GIBBS
Saint John.
(beat)
The Caribbean one.

HALLIE
I'm sure that's impressive.

DR. GIBBS
And I'm sure you don't want to sass
a woman who is about to explore and
poke your orifice with metal tools.

HALLIE
Is there any way I can get in touch
with Dr. Dingman?

DR. GIBBS
Is this because I said The
Caribbean? I always think I should
stop after I say Saint John.

HALLIE
I do the same thing with my job.
But this has nothing to do with
your top notch education.

DR. GIBBS
Then the answer is still no. Dr.
Dingman is getting married today.

HALLIE
Today? Do you know where?

DR. GIBBS

That information is usually typed
out on an invitation. Which I
didn't receive.

HALLIE

Maybe one of your co-workers knows.

DR. GIBBS

You're free to ask Reception when
we're done here.

HALLIE

I actually don't really need-

DR. GIBBS

Don't be put off by my bedside
manner.

HALLIE

Honestly, I'm ok-

DR. GIBBS

Believe me, there's nothing ok
about...

(checking chart)

...anal fissures. Now turn around
and open the back of your gown
wide, please.

Hallie knows there's no way of getting out of this.

Dr. Gibbs is getting closer...

HALLIE

Wait! I lied.

She stops.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

I don't actually have fissures.
It's just my...boyfriend is out in
the waiting room. And he doesn't
know why I'm really in here but...I
need...you...to...

(stalling)

...write me a note that says I'm
medically...unfit...to...have...sex
...in the...ass.

Off her look...

INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATER

Hallie is ZIPPING UP the back of a dress and adjusting it in the mirror. It's a fancy looking get up.

TERRI (O.S.)
That's incredibly unethical.

She's on the phone.

HALLIE
She was doing me a favor.

TERRI (O.S.)
By lying to your boyfriend and denying you both pleasure?

HALLIE
Zach's not my boyfriend.

TERRI (O.S.)
But he's your wedding date! Love is in the air! And your father and I definitely approve!

HALLIE
I feel like a terrible person.

TERRI (O.S.)
We both support you no matter how terrible a person you are but what are you referring to?

HALLIE
Ambushing Bill?

TERRI (O.S.)
What's terrible about kissing a man on the day he's getting married to someone else?

HALLIE
All of what you just said.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
You're giving them a story they'll tell for the rest of their lives.

HALLIE
Dad, how long have you been on the phone with us?

JOSEPH (O.S.)
 Since before it was revealed that I
 sometimes butt fuck your mother.

HALLIE
 Gross. Gross, gross, gross.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
 And one day you'll teach your own
 children it's a form of safe sex.

INT. BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

Hallie is CUDDLED UP with a MAN. They watch TV in bed.

HALLIE
 How cute would our kids be?

WELL DRESSED MAN
 I had a vasectomy two years ago.

HALLIE
 Wait, what?!

INT. DRESSING ROOM- PRESENT

Hallie snaps back to reality.

HALLIE
 I've got to go.

TERRI(O.S.)
 Call us after!

JOSEPH (O.S.)
 And Hallie tell Zach that if he
 gets the chance to sit it out or
 dance...
 (breaks into song)
I hope he dance-

She HANGS UP ON HIM MID SONG.

EXT. DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hallie steps out of the room to see Zach in a sharp looking
 suit. It's the first time she's seen him put together.

And he looks good.

ZACH

What?

HALLIE

You look really nice.

ZACH

No. I look maybe like a quarter good as you do in that dress.

HALLIE

I'm embarrassed to say I really needed to hear something like that.

ZACH

It's the truth. Now let's go crash a wedding.

EXT. RIVERBOAT CASINO - LATER

Hallie and Zach stand before an OLD TIMEY RIVER BOAT.

The sounds of OLD TIMEY VIOLIN WEDDING PROCESSIONAL music plays as GUESTS in SOUTHERN GARB walk onto the boat.

ZACH

I'm getting some crazy Mark Twain vibes right now.

HALLIE

Or the vibe that someone is going to get shot over a poker game.

INT. RIVERBOAT CASINO - CONTINUOUS

Hallie and Zach enter and look around. It's just as old timey as outside, yet opulent. Hallie is lost in the ceremony. She wants all this for herself.

A STRING QUARTET KICK IN. They PUSH THEIR WAY to seats. As...

BILL DINGMAN being ESCORTED DOWN THE AISLE.

ZACH

When are you gonna make your move?

HALLIE

I was thinking after the ceremony.

ZACH

Oh you can't do that.

HALLIE
What? Why not?

The Groomsmen and Bridesmaids are all walking down the aisle.

ZACH
You have to kiss him before he gets married.

HALLIE
Since when is that a rule?

ZACH
You want this blessed union to be fraught with infidelity as soon as it begins?

HALLIE
That doesn't mean it's a rule.

MORE PEOPLE going down the aisle...

ZACH
Fine. *Amendment #1* Never disrespect someone's vows!

HALLIE
Amendment #2, you don't get to make up amendments!

ZACH
That's what amendments are!

That's when the MUSIC SHIFTS INTO "HERE COMES THE BRIDE."

HALLIE
Shit. When am I supposed to do it?

Everyone STANDS. The BRIDE is about to walk down the aisle.

ZACH
As soon as fucking possible.

Hallie EXITS INTO THE AISLE IN FRONT OF THE BRIDE and SPRINTS TOWARDS BILL DING! Everyone is GASPING and WHISPERING!

Hallie GRABS WILLIAM'S FACE AND PLANTS ONE ON HIM!

This causes even more of an UPROAR.

HALLIE
Wait a minute! I can explain!
Everyone I can explain! I'm Hallie Walker!

(MORE)

HALLIE (CONT'D)

(off William's confusion)

Westmont Middle School? We were supposed to kiss during Spin the Bottle in 7th grade but I broke the Super Serious rule so I had to kiss you before your vows because I didn't want to ruin your marriage.

(beat)

Just your wedding, I guess.

(beat)

But now you have a story to tell right? Aside from just saying "Yup, that's the day we got married."

WILLIAM DING

I didn't go to Westmont Middle School.

HALLIE

You didn't graduate from there, no. But before you moved away.

WILLIAM DING

My family never moved. I lived in North Carolina until I was 26. Then I got a job here.

Hallie looks around. She finds Zach in the crowd. Uh oh.

INT./EXT RIVERBOAT CASINO - LATER

The PARTY is in full swing. Dancing, eating, etc.

Hallie is DRINKING, looking over the side of the boat.

Zach is in a more jovial mood than her, dancing on the deck.

ZACH

Hey Hallie. Hallie. Hey Hallie.

(she's ignoring him)

Am I twerking? Is this twerking?

HALLIE

No.

ZACH

I think things are glass half full!

Hallie DRINKS HER DRINK FASTER.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Despite the speed in which you're draining the fullness of your glass. We got invited to stay and party at a wedding! One-nothing us!

HALLIE

Because we're on a moving boat.

Indeed they are in the middle of a river.

ZACH

We crossed one Bill Dingman off our list! Two-nothing us!

(beat)

Hey...let's go dance.

(off her look)

C'mon. For the endorphins.

He puts out his hand and leads her back inside to the floor.

It CHANGES to a slow song. Awkward, they get in position.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Three-nothing us.

Beat. Zach glances at the bride and groom.

ZACH (CONT'D)

You think they'll make it?

HALLIE

Sure. He's a doctor. She's giving future Soccer Mom. They look good on paper.

ZACH

Is it possible that you put too much stock in this "looks good on paper" thing.

HALLIE

It's possible.

ZACH

When did that start?

HALLIE

Dating apps? Before that social media in general? Before that tabloid magazines? Before that kids passing notes in school? Before that two cavewomen gossiping?

ZACH

And yet the world is going paperless. As someone who specializes in *linens* you should appreciate that.

HALLIE

I don't.

ZACH

Is that why you're less detailed about your official title?

HALLIE

Everyone knows Ikea. Everyone respects a VP. Two plus two equals impressive.

ZACH

You really think it's just your job title that makes you impressive?

HALLIE

Right. Because napkins are the Toyota Corolla of Ikea products.

ZACH

Don't sell yourself short. You also do place mats and table cloths.

HALLIE

Everyone is staring.

ZACH

Because I'm a notoriously amazing dancer. Remember at that party-
(beat)
Sorry. I know you hate that.

HALLIE

No. Go ahead.

ZACH

Chrissy Cleary's party. I'm just having these flashbacks of dancing in the backyard to Nelly Furtado and trying to get you to notice me. But you were on the trampoline.

Hallie is struck by this. She stares at him.

HALLIE

It was Nickelback.

ZACH
Really? I remember it differently.

HALLIE
You kissed Kelly Hayes that night.

ZACH
Our first. It's not who I wanted to
kiss, though.

A million thoughts are racing through Hallie's brain...

ZACH (CONT'D)
Did you know Kelly broke up with me
when my Dad died?

(beat)
Not right away. She waited the
appropriate amount of time for your
boyfriend to mourn before she told
me that she would never marry a
deli owner.

(beat)
I mean if my life, if who I am
isn't good enough for someone? Why
should I change for someone like
that. Why should we have to change
for anyone? And if people out there
in the world put me in a little box
because I lived up to my
responsibilities? So be it.

(beat)
Thus: you get what you get if
you're not David Arquette.

Beat.

HALLIE
You know your Dad would want you to
be happy, right?

ZACH
Maybe.

HALLIE
Hey Zach, Truth or Dare?

ZACH
Really?

HALLIE
Truth or Dare?

ZACH
Truth.

HALLIE

Pussy.

ZACH

You always start with truth.

HALLIE

Ok. Tell me, if you could be so lucky as Mr. Arquette, what would make you happy?

ZACH

I...don't know. No one ever asked before.

They dance a little closer.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Truth or Dare?

HALLIE

Dare.

ZACH

I dare you to have a great time at this wedding with me.

Hallie pauses. She steps away from Zach and approaches the BAND. She says something that we can't hear.

She clearly REQUESTED A SONG as the band kicks into...

NICKELBACK'S "THIS IS HOW YOU REMIND ME."

SMASH CUT TO:

HALLIE AND ZACH GETTING INTO THE FUCKING WEDDING!

INSERT: INSTAGRAM STORY OF...

- They do SHOTS and DANCE with GUESTS.
- They POSE IN A PHOTO BOOTH TOGETHER.
- They watch the TOASTS.

FATHER OF THE BRIDE

It's every mother's dream that their daughter marry a doctor. And every father's nightmare that that doctor would specialize in rectums.

- They STAND ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE DANCE FLOOR, REFUSING TO DANCE TO AN R. KELLY SONG.

HALLIE AND ZACH
(on Video to camera)
We don't dance to him either! Suck
a bag of dicks, R. Kelly!

- They GAMBLE AT A ROULETTE TABLE WITH GUESTS.
- They EAT WEDDING CAKE with the BRIDE AND GROOM.
- Zach DANCES SOLO TO BAHAMAS MEN'S "WHO LET THE DOGS OUT"

ZACH
I requested this song! This was me!
I let them all out!

He's REALLY IN IT WITH EVERYONE ON THE DANCE FLOOR. Hallie
can't help but smile as she SITS ON THE SIDE.

A 12 YEAR OLD GIRL SITS NEXT TO HER.

12 YEAR OLD GIRL
Is he your boyfriend?

HALLIE
No. Why?

12 YEAR OLD GIRL
Because he's totally cute.

HALLIE
Yea. He's ok.

INT./EXT. HOTEL - LATER

WEDDING GUESTS are POURING OFF A BUS INTO A HOTEL.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR - LATER

Guests EXIT and Hallie and Zach are the last ones on.

HALLIE
I'm on 25.

ZACH
I know. I booked you the rooms
because I'm too drunk to drive.

HALLIE
I could've driven.

ZACH
Stand on one leg. And say the
alphabet backwards.

HALLIE
(on one leg)
Z...I couldn't do the alphabet
backwards anyway.

ZACH
Admittedly a flawed police tactic.

Hallie FALLS OFF BALANCE.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Yea definitely good to drive. Oh.

Zach SLINGS HIS BACKPACK OFF HIS BACK AND REACHES INSIDE.

HE PULLS OUT A T-SHIRT.

ZACH (CONT'D)
I know we weren't planning to spend
the night so in case you don't want
to sleep in your dress...here.

She TAKES THE SHIRT AND LOOKS AT IT.

HALLIE
(touched)
Abercrombie.

ZACH
And Fitch.

HALLIE
The Fitch is implied.

There's a palpable chemistry now.

ZACH
You know this was a pretty good
first date.

HALLIE
This wasn't a date.

ZACH
Kind of felt like a date.

This is when they're supposed to kiss. They lean closer...

THEN THE ELEVATOR STOPS SUDDENLY. They PUT THEIR BACKS TO THE
WALL, SCARED!

HALLIE
Oh shit!

ZACH
It's the curse!

HALLIE
We're sorry Spin the Bottle Gods!

ZACH
So so so sorry!

HALLIE
We will never kiss anyone ever
again!

ZACH
Well she won't! I have options!

Then the ELEVATOR STARTS UP AGAIN. They RELAX A BIT.

EXT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Zach and Hallie silently exit the elevator. They retreat to their rooms in opposite directions.

HALLIE
(freaked out)
Goodnight.

ZACH
(awkward)
See ya later, Gladiator.

INT. HALLIE'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

HALLIE TAKES A DEEP BREATH. What the fuck was that?

Hallie COLLAPSES on the bed. That's when the HOTEL LANDLINE PHONE RINGS.

HALLIE
Hello?

ZACH (O.S.)
Don't you miss landlines?

She can't hold back a huge smile.

HALLIE
Hold on. Did you say "See ya later,
Gladiator?"

ZACH (O.S.)
It was a thing with my, Dad.
Anyway, landlines?

HALLIE
Go on.

ZACH (O.S.)
You'd do stupidly cute shit like
call your crush just to watch
Dawson's Creek together.

HALLIE
Ugh. I hated that show.

ZACH (O.S.)
You're dead inside.

HALLIE
I just remember the landline
represented a never ending power
grab to sign on to AOL.

Their conversation continues...

INT. ZACH'S CAR - NEXT MORNING

We still hear their convo from the night before.

ZACH (V.O.)
I remember your screen name.

HALLIE (V.O.)
No you don't.

ZACH (V.O.)
HallieFornia314.

HALLIE (V.O.)
I'm shocked and impressed and also
think you're a little bit lame. I
don't remember yours.

ZACH (V.O.)
It was Blink182.

HALLIE (V.O.)
No it wasn't.

ZACH (V.O.)
It was. Only because Matchbox20 and
Sum41 were taken.

EXT. HALLIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Zach PULLS UP TO HALLIE'S HOUSE.

HALLIE

So.

ZACH

So. Could've been worse.

HALLIE

Sure, we could've died in an elevator.

(beat)

What do we do now?

ZACH

Cold call every Bill Dingman we can find until we turn your luck around?

HALLIE

I meant like right now. Do you want to come in?

ZACH

You're not sick of me yet?

HALLIE

It's for my parents, really.

ZACH

Right. For them.

INT. HALLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Hallie and Zach are all smiles but her Parents are frantic.

TERRI

You weren't answering your phone!

HALLIE

My phone died.

JOSEPH

You have to watch Bill Maher!

HALLIE

Do we though?

JOSEPH

Yes! Right now!

TERRI
We DVR'd it.

HALLIE
You DVR'd Bill Maher?

TERRI
We tape it every Friday night when
we play in the illegal poker game
in the basement of the UPS Store.

Beat.

HALLIE
I have so many questions about that
sentence.

JOSEPH
Just watch!

INT. BILL MAHER STUDIO - INTERCUT

Bill Maher is doing his 1-on-1 INTERVIEW with a really good
looking man, roughly the age of Hallie and Zach.

A KEEN OBSERVER will recognize him from the SHARK TANK
EPISODE EARLIER IN THE SCRIPT...

BILL MAHER
You made your money in video games.
So how do we go from that to
maritime conservation?

GOOD LOOKING MAN
Well, this is going to come as a
shock to you, Bill, but our oceans
are in trouble. And when I was a
kid I was obsessed with those
Flavor Ices? The plastic tubes you
put in the freezer? And when I
calculated my carbon footprint I
realized I was personally
responsible for pounds and pounds
of non biodegradable waste wreaking
havoc on the ecosystem.

BILL MAHER
And this benefit concert you're
throwing, Sea Something Change
Something, is set to raise...

GOOD LOOKING MAN
60 million dollars.

Applause.

BILL MAHER

Wow. And you're matching that.
That's an expensive concert ticket.

GOOD LOOKING MAN

I literally work 7 days a week so
if I have to spend this much money
to go see live music for a night,
I'm happy to do it.

BILL MAHER

In your book you talk a lot about
your work ethic. How that didn't
come naturally. And how you kind of
adopted the persona of a workaholic
when you changed your name.

GOOD LOOKING MAN

I was bullied as a kid. Whether
that was because of my name or in
spite of it, I wanted to reinvent
myself. And while Bill Dingman
might have been weak or lazy, Will
Healy is the exact opposite.

BILL MAHER

The name of the book is...

Bill holds up the book for the camera.

BILL MAHER (CONT'D)

The Death of Building Man: Becoming
My Own Favorite Super Hero by Will
Healy. Will thanks for coming out.

Zach and Hallie stare in shock.

JOSEPH

Ok. Now rewind to the part where he
calls Ron DeSantis a douche nozzle!

EXT. DOWNTOWN AREA - DAY

Hallie and Zach sit on a bench with a clear view of the front
door of a SKYSCRAPER. Zach is reading Bill Dingman's book.

ZACH

(reading)

So while Mario and his Go Kart changed my life, I believe that all plumbers can inspire any of us to chase our dreams.

(beat)

This is bad writing.

HALLIE

How do we even know he's going to be here today?

ZACH

He said he works 7 days a week.

HALLIE

What's wild is I live half a mile from here. I work a half a mile in the other direction. And he's been here the whole time.

ZACH

"It's a small world after all." Pop used to say that.

HALLIE

You mean Walt Disney said that.

ZACH

I think my Dad said it first.

HALLIE

I can promise you he didn't.

Out of nowhere a MAN with a BABY BJORN approaches...

BABY BJORN MAN

Shut the front door is that Hallie Walker and Zach Lennon?

They look up...

HALLIE

Holy shit. Graham Kolek?

BABY BJORN MAN/GRAHAM

(covering babie's ears)

Holy Ship I think you mean. Which would drown in the water. What are the odds, huh? Say hi to Daddy's old friends, Graham Jr.

ZACH
He's very cute.

GRAHAM
She.
(beat)
What are you guys up to? Just
sitting on benches these days?

HALLIE
Not everyday, no.

ZACH
Benches count as research for
Hallie. She's a VP at Ikea.

Hallie waits for Zach to continue but he doesn't...

GRAHAM
Very cool.

HALLIE
What about you?

GRAHAM
No, I don't work at Ikea.
(off their look)
Oh what do I do? Technically
nothing. I'm still living off that
settlement money from Nickelodeon.

HALLIE
Oh my God. I had no idea.

GRAHAM
Oh not the molest-y stuff. From
when I was on Legends of the Hidden
Temple. Remember? I was headed for
the Shrine of the Silver Monkey...

At that moment Hallie spots Will LEAVING THE BUILDING.

She gets up.

HALLIE
I'm sorry, Graham. I Have to...

She walks off. Zach gets up to follow but...

GRAHAM
Lovely seeing you, Hallie! So I'm
heading for the Shrine when WHAM!

He GRABS ZACH as he's telling the story.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

A Temple Guard popped out of the ball pit and grabbed me! Since then I've never been able to comfortably enter a Temple again without freaking out. Or a ball pit. Or any room in any other indoor structure.

Zach's stuck. But Hallie is tailing Will. She keeps a safe distance. He has AIRPODS IN ANYWAY.

Until he finally turns into a TATTOO PARLOR. Hallie follows.

INT. TATTOO PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

She watches as he moves to a TATTOO TABLE in the back.

FRONT DESK WORKER

Looking to get some ink today?

Hallie realizes that a TATTED UP WORKER is talking to her.

HALLIE

Yes. Obviously, yes. Wanna get tatted up. I'm not settled on the design yet though.

FRONT DESK WORKER

Well let's go on back and have you consult with one of our artists.

Hallie is led to the back and sat down on at a TABLE right next to WILL. She's left with a BOOK to FLIP THROUGH.

She STEALS GLANCES at WILL as she looks.

HALLIE

Plenty of fish in the sea.

Will REMOVES HIS HEADPHONES.

WILL HEALY

I'm sorry?

Hallie SHOWS HIM THE PAGE OF FISH TATTOO OPTIONS.

HALLIE

It's like a sushi menu in here.

WILL HEALY

You eat a lot of Mermen raw?

Hallie looks at the page. Mermaids and Mermen.

HALLIE

Don't be gross.

(before he can say sorry)

Everyone knows you have to cook
Mermen to an internal temperature
of 145 degrees to avoid food born
illness.

He smiles, relieved she knows he was joking.

WILL HEALY

That phrase is inaccurate, by the
way. Plenty of fish in the sea.

HALLIE

Oh I'm aware. The ocean might be
empty by 2048. If you're into
things like scientific facts.

WILL HEALY

Ugh. Hate facts.

(beat)

First tattoo?

HALLIE

Me? No. Definitely not. I've got
them...

(RE: awkward flirty)

...in places. You?

At this Will TAKES OFF HIS SHIRT. He's Ripped. And has plenty
of tattoos all around. She is visibly impressed.

WILL HEALY

No.

Hallie sees a Shel Silverstein Sketch on his upper back.

HALLIE

I love Shel Silverstein.

WILL HEALY

Who?

He SMILES that charming, "I'm kidding" smile.

HALLIE

What are you getting today?

He shows off a PARTIALLY FINISHED CATERPILLAR ON HIS CHEST.

WILL HEALY

I'm finishing up this caterpillar.

HALLIE
As in it's metamorphosizing?

WILL HEALY
No. Butterflies are boring.

HALLIE
Are they though?

WILL HEALY
They're so final. But caterpillars?
They can change into something
else. They're *going* to change into
something else.

HALLIE
And people don't catch them in
nets.

WILL HEALY
No. They're just free to crawl away
very, very slowly.

HALLIE
Wingless, though.

WILL HEALY
So am I.

The TATTOO ARTIST COMES BACK.

TATTOO ARTIST
(to Hallie)
Have you made a decision?

HALLIE
Ummm, yea. I'd love...
(pointing to the book)
...this one.

Will CRANES HIS NECK to see she picked: TOAD FROM MARIO KART.

WILL HEALY
Very cool.

HALLIE
I like shrooms.

TATTOO ARTIST
(to Will)
Will, Lily's just running a few
behind.

WILL HEALY
No worries.

The TATTOO ARTIST STARTS PUTTING A STENCIL ON HALLIE'S ARM.

HALLIE
Will? Will Healy?

WILL HEALY
You know me?

HALLIE
Kind of. I *knew* you. Back in Middle School? I'm Hallie Walker.

He STARES AT HER.

WILL HEALY
I'm sorry. I don't remember you.

HALLIE
Ouch.

WILL HEALY
No no, it's not you. You're probably awesome. I mean you are. You also were probably awesome then. I just...I have a terrible memory.

HALLIE
Totally.

WILL HEALY
Seriously. I may or may not have all of my internet passwords tattooed on my thigh.

HALLIE
Samesies.

WILL HEALY
Did you say samesies?

Hallie does like a magical wave of her hand...

HALLIE
You have a terrible memory and you will forget that immediately.

That's when the TATTOO ARTIST starts the machine and PUTS THE NEEDLE TO HALLIE'S SKIN...

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Fuck!

Hallie INSTINCTIVELY PULLS BACK AND THE NEEDLE HAS DRAGGED ACROSS HER ARM LEAVING A SOLID WAVY LINE.

INT. TATTOO PARLOR - WAITING AREA - LATER

Zach watches as Hallie RUSHES OUT PAST HIM, HOLDING HER ARM.

EXT. TATTOO PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Zach follows her out...

ZACH

What happened? Did you do it?

HALLIE

I did something.

ZACH

That's vague!

HALLIE

I made a fucking ass of myself!

ZACH

Still vague!

Will is now behind them. Running to catch up.

WILL HEALY

Hey! Hallie!

HALLIE

Keep walking.

ZACH

I thought we wanted to interact with him.

HALLIE

We did.

Will finally catches up.

WILL HEALY

Are you ok? You really booked it.

HALLIE

I changed my mind.

WILL HEALY
I mean that one squiggly line on
your arm looks badass.

ZACH
Hey, Will.

WILL HEALY
Hi...?

ZACH
Zach Lennon. We had 7th Grade
Social Studies together.

HALLIE	WILL HEALY
He apparently has a terrible memory.	Apologies I have a terrible memory.

ZACH
That's ok. I still can't remember
what year World War II ended.

WILL HEALY
Ok.

ZACH
That's relevant from 7th grade
social studies.

WILL HEALY
Sorry, I didn't know you were with
someone.

HALLIE
(too quickly)
I'm not!

WILL HEALY
Oh. Good. I mean not good, but..I
don't normally do this...look am I
crazy or did we kind of have a
connection back there before you
freaked out and ran away from the
needle during your very obvious
first tattoo.

Hallie is smiling. Zach's not sure he likes this guy's game.

HALLIE
I wouldn't say I freaked out.

WILL HEALY

Oh me neither. In fact I told the guys back there that you didn't freak out when they said it.

ZACH

Best to not fuel fire to a rumor by repeating it then.

WILL HEALY

So I don't know if this is weird but there's this concert tomorrow night. Would you want to go?

Hallie speechless for a second.

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

You can bring Zach too if this is too weird or too forward-

HALLIE

He doesn't have to come.

ZACH

I'd love to come!

INT. CITY METRO - LATER

Zach and Hallie RIDE THE TRAIN in silence.

It's awkward.

ZACH

Why didn't you just kiss him?

HALLIE

That's assault.

ZACH

It's not assault if there's an explanation.

HALLIE

That's solid lawyer-ing.

ZACH

Seriously. This whole thing could've been over.

HALLIE

I didn't want to scare him away.

ZACH

Ohhhhh...At the concert do you want me to like find out if he likes you without letting him know you asked me to find out if he likes you?

HALLIE

Shut up.

She's smirking.

ZACH

Wait. Do you actually like him?

HALLIE

(defensive)

No! I don't even know him.

(beat)

Why do you *not* like him?

ZACH

Well he didn't even remember me!

HALLIE

So we'll all get to know each other. Again.

Her thoughts are elsewhere. Zach knows he's losing her.

They SHARE THE SILENCE...

EXT./INT. CONCERT ARENA - NIGHT

Hallie and Zach WADE THROUGH THE CROWD OF EXCITEMENT.

They SHOW AN USHER THE TICKETS WHO LEADS THEM TO AN ELEVATOR.

INT. ELEVATOR - LATER

Zach and Hallie are tense.

ZACH

Couldn't even spring for front row seats. Puts us in the fucking nose bleeds. Like second hand citizens.

HALLIE

Class.

ZACH

He clearly has none.

HALLIE
No. It's second *class* citizens.

DING! THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN and they're led through a very opulent hallway...

INT. ARENA - POSH SUITE - LATER

And shown into a PRIVATE SUITE. There's catering and alcohol and TONS OF CELEBRITIES.

Zach and Hallie are IN SHOCK.

They're approached by someone like...

PAUL MCCARTNEY
Do you two want some cocaine?

ZACH
Sure?

PATRON
Great! Do you know a guy?

They're soon interrupted by...

WILL HEALY
You made it! Hallie this is my friend, Paul.

HALLIE
I know.

WILL HEALY
And this is her friend...I'm sorry...I can't remember...

ZACH
(still starstruck)
Paul McCartney.

Paul just WALKS AWAY.

WILL HEALY
Let's get a drink.

Will LEADS HALLIE AWAY but ZACH FOLLOWS them to the BAR.

HALLIE
This is incredibly impressive.

WILL HEALY
It's just a drink.

HALLIE

The fact that you put this whole thing together.

WILL HEALY

I just asked a bunch of good people if they wanted to do something good for the planet.

ZACH

Feels like you're using a lot of electricity though.

Will just IGNORES HIM as he POURS DRINKS.

WILL HEALY

I'm gonna need a few of these if I plan to sing along every lyric to every fucking song tonight.

HALLIE

I like that plan.

ZACH

Because Hallie has an awful voice.

She shoots him a look.

ZACH (CONT'D)

What? It's fine! So does Hillary Clinton probably.

INT. POSH SUITE - LATER

Will and Hallie are at the FOOD BUFFET. Someone is SHUCKING FRESH OYSTERS.

WILL HEALY

Plant based oysters.
(off her impressed look)
Can I show you something crazy?

HALLIE

Crazier than oysters made out of non oyster things?

Will SNEAKILY TAKES OUT SOME POP ROCKS FROM HIS POCKET.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Pop rocks?

WILL HEALY

Please trust me.

He PUTS SOME ON TWO OYSTERS. And they TRY THEM.

Her face says it all. Delicious.

HALLIE
It's like I'm having an orgy with
The Little Mermaid and...

HALLIE (CONT'D) WILL HEALY
Willy Wonka! Willy Wonka! Right?

ZACH
If you like mouth orgies, you
should try chicken fried steak.

Beat.

WILL HEALY
I'm a vegetarian.

ZACH
It's not actually two animals if
that makes it any better.

WILL HEALY
It doesn't.

INT. POSH SUITE - LATER

Will STANDS AROUND HOLDING COURT with CELEBRITIES.

Hallie STANDS NEXT TO HIM. She's fully charmed.

Zach is TRYING TO GET INTO THE CIRCLE.

WILL HEALY
...and I'm standing there, all 140
pounds of me, my friends clear out
but I'm just hypnotized, as Fat Joe
decides for the first time in his
life to take a stage dive. I look
up and I try to be like Swayze in
Dirty Dancing, right? Snap! Snap!
Two broken arms. On my back in a
puddle of beer and blunts. Fat Joe
sweat all up in my mouth.
(beat)
Best concert I've ever been to.
(to Hallie)
What about you?

HALLIE
Best concert? Erykah Badu.

The Circle all NOD IN APPROVAL.

WILL HEALY
Ok..worst concert?

INT. CONCERT - FLASHBACK

Hallie is in the crowd looking at the stage having an amazing time. The CROWD IS LOUD.

She TURNS TO A MAN HOPPING AROUND/DANCING NEXT TO HER.

HALLIE
I'm dating the drummer!

The MAN NEXT TO HER STOPS BOUNCING.

MAN NEXT TO HER
(straight faced)
He's my husband.

Hallie is in shock.

INT. POSH SUITE - PRESENT

HALLIE
I like to keep things positive.

Zach tries to INTERJECT HIMSELF HERE...

ZACH
I remember mine! It was Bon Jovi.
Every song was made for people who
like to get drunk at indoor water
parks. Right?

REVEAL: Bon Jovi is there, staring daggers. Everyone is awkward but...

That's when the LIGHTS GO DOWN. The SHOW IS ABOUT TO START...

Will LEADS HALLIE to 2 EMPTY SEATS at the front of the suite.

No room for Zach. He finds ANOTHER SEAT NEXT TO...

DAVE GROHL
Hey, man. I'm Dave.

Zach is starstruck all over again. He PUTS OUT HIS HAND.

ZACH
(in awe)
Paul McCartney.

The MUSIC STARTS...

Everyone is having an amazing time.

Except Zach. Who is watching Hallie like a hawk.

They're DANCING A LITTLE BIT CLOSER.

He's WHISPERING IN HER EAR. They're SINGING ALONG.

Someone with a HEADSET WHISPERS SOMETHING IN WILL'S EAR.

WILL HEALY
(to Hallie)
They need me backstage.

HALLIE
Oh. Ok.

WILL HEALY
Do you want to come?

HALLIE
Do I want to come backstage?

WILL HEALY
Yea, why not?

Zach watches as Hallie and Will LEAVE THE SUITE.

INT. ARENA HALLWAY - LATER

Hallie and Will walk together.

Looks like they're about to touch hands.

But it never happens.

HALLIE
Can I ask you something?

WILL HEALY
Yea.

HALLIE
Why Healy?

WILL HEALY
What?

HALLIE

You changed your first name from Bill to Will. But you changed your last name from Dingman to Healy. Was it your mother's maiden name?

WILL HEALY

No.

HALLIE

Then why?

WILL HEALY

You're going to laugh.

Hallie flashes back at all the kids laughing at Will during that fateful game of Spin the Bottle.

HALLIE

I promise. I won't.

He's hesitant.

WILL HEALY

You remember those sneakers that had a roller skate on the bottom? They were called Healys.
(off her look)
I told you it was stupid!

HALLIE

No you told me I was going to laugh. Which I'm not.
(beat)
Will Healy sounds a lot less stupid than Will Last Name: Those-Dorky-Shoes-That-Kids-Got-Suspended-For-Wearing-In-The-Hallways.

He smiles at this...

INT. ARENA SUITE - SAME TIME

Zach is talking to DAVE GROHL and other CELEBS now.

ZACH

Let me ask you something. Going backstage isn't as cool as it sounds right?

Dave just STARES AT HIM.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Like it wouldn't make for such a magical first date, right?

DAVE GROHL

Dude. Rock stars get more ass backstage than Benicio Del Toro's proctologist!

Zach looks at him: Again with Benicio Del Toro.

INT. BACKSTAGE - LATER

Hallie and Will, now side stage. They HAVE A PERFECT VIEW.

The LEAD SINGER NOTICES WILL, GIVES HIM A NOD.

HALLIE

It's my turn to tell you something stupid.

WILL HEALY

What?

HALLIE

You're going to laugh.

WILL HEALY

I promise that I might.

HALLIE

I think I'm cursed.

(off his look)

Because of a game of Spin the Bottle we played years ago. We were supposed to kiss. And we didn't.

WILL HEALY

That's your line?

HALLIE

My what?

WILL HEALY

Your line. Your move. To get me to kiss you.

HALLIE

It wasn't a line.

Hallie is too distracted to notice what's happening ON STAGE.

LEAD SINGER

I want to give a special thanks to
someone for bringing us all
together tonight.

WILL HEALY

I think you should kiss me.

HALLIE

What?

LEAD SINGER

He's being humble. Can we get a
shot of him right over there.

Will STARTS TO LEAN IN.

WILL HEALY

You still feel cursed?

HALLIE

Not right now.

Hallie CLOSES HER EYES.

This is it. This is the moment her life changes.

THE JUMBOTRON SHOWS WILL AND HALLIE SIDE STAGE.

Zach watches it all go down.

Hallie moves in closer and closer and closer.

There's a loud GASP FROM THE CROWD.

Hallie OPENS HER EYES.

And SEES THAT WILL HAS PULLED AWAY FROM THE KISS.

The whole thing was SEEN ON THE JUMBOTRON. HALLIE WAS
REJECTED. MURMURS FROM THE CROWD.

FOR A QUICK MOMENT WE SEE A WICKED SMIRK ON WILL'S FACE?

The BAND STARTS UP AGAIN TO BREAK THE AWKWARDNESS.

Hallie is CONFUSED. MORTIFIED.

WILL HEALY

This honestly went better than I
ever expected it would. The fact
that you told me you're cursed?
Incredible.

(MORE)

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

(beat)

Of course I remember you.

Holy shit. He planed this whole thing.

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

I knew who you were the second you opened your mouth in that tattoo parlor. You're the bitch that made them all laugh at me. They're not laughing now, though. Not laughing at me, at least.

She TRIES TO RUN OFF STAGE BUT HE GRABS HER ARM.

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

I'm so happy you think you're cursed. And now you always will be.

Will SIGNALS FOR SECURITY who GRAB HALLIE AND DRAG HER AWAY

Zach, PUSHES THROUGH EVERYONE IN THE SUITE...

Hallie is in tears as she's being dragged through the arena and through the exit...

Zach is running through the halls to get outside...

EXT. ARENA - LATER

Hallie is SITTING ON THE GROUND, crying.

Zach BURSTS OUTSIDE, out of breath, to find her.

He SLOWLY APPROACHES.

ZACH

Hallie?

HALLIE

What?

ZACH

Are you ok?

HALLIE

No. I'm the fucking opposite of ok.

ZACH

What happened?

HALLIE

You saw what happened! Everyone saw what happened!

ZACH

We'll figure something out-

HALLIE

No. We won't.

(beat)

I'll never end up with a guy like him now.

ZACH

Why would you want to end up with a guy like him?

(beat)

Hallie?

HALLIE

Who wouldn't want that?

ZACH

He's a fucking asshole! You shouldn't settle for a guy like that when...you should be with a man like...like me.

Hallie kind of SNORTS, kind of laughs.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Why is that funny?

HALLIE

Zach, you're not a man.

ZACH

What's that supposed to mean?

HALLIE

You live in the same town working the same job driving the same car wishing you were at the same party you went to when you peaked in middle school.

ZACH

You too, huh?

HALLIE

Me too what?

ZACH

You're the same as Kelly. As everyone. You can't accept me for who I am.

HALLIE

You don't even know who you are! You want to be accepted as what? The guy who just gave up? The guy who just accepts the shitty hand he was dealt in life? You're a child.

ZACH

Well I'd rather be a child than whatever you're pretending to be.

HALLIE

What am I pretending to be?

ZACH

Presentable. Sure you're got a fancy sounding job. And you live in a cool neighborhood. And you spend hours finding the perfect filter for your Instagram photos. But then when you get up close you see you're just a shallow, selfish napkin...lady. You should end up with an asshole like him because you are an asshole like him.

Zach WALKS OFF. Hallie continues to sob.

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS' CAR - LATER

Hallie crying in the backseat, just like that Uber ride.

TERRI

Honey, are you blowing your nose on the seatbelt?

HALLIE

A little.

TERRI

Ok.

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LATER

Hallie DRINKS FROM A BOTTLE, IN THE DARK WATCHING TV.

WE SEE: She's watching The Sixth Sense.

HALLIE
Don't help him, Bruce Willis! He
grows up to be a Fuck Boy!

INT. TATTOO PARLOR - LATER

Hallie, VISIBLY DRUNK, is in the TATTOO CHAIR.

A SKEPTICAL ARTIST is next to her.

SKEPTICAL ARTIST
You want me to change this squiggly
line into a Snapple logo.

HALLIE
I can't think of anything else you
could change it into.

SKEPTICAL ARTIST
You've been drinking.

HALLIE
You can't prove that.

She TAKES A SIP FROM A BOTTLE RIGHT THEN.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
Snapple logo. Final answer.

Skeptical Artist SHRUGS and STARTS THE MACHINE.

And again...Hallie WINCES AND PULLS HER ARM BACK.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - LATER

Hallie now has 2 SQUIGGLY TATTOO LINES ON HER ARM.

She's going through strangers backyards, still drinking.

She comes upon the FENCE SHE TRIED TO HOP IN THE BEGINNING.

She simply KICKS IT. It COLLAPSES. She WALKS OVER IT.

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

Hallie is on a TRAMPOLINE DRINKING FROM THE BOTTLE.

She's ANGRY JUMPING.

Suddenly the LIGHTS TURN ON.

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey! Get out of my yard!

Hallie STUMBLES OFF THE TRAMPOLINE AND RUNS AWAY.

EXT. FRONT LAWN - MORNING

Hallie, PASSED OUT UNDERNEATH AN ALICIA WALKER REALTOR SIGN.
She's clearly VANDALIZED THE PHOTO with a MUSTACHE, ETC.
SPRINKLERS WAKE HALLIE UP. Shit.

INT. LENNON'S DELI - MORNING

Zach is SCOOPING OUT A BAGEL for the SAME OLD MAN.

MR. BLUMBAUM
And another thing - I should pay
less for less bagel.

ZACH
Or maybe you should accept the
bagel for what it. Maybe the bagel
likes being full of carbs and
gluten. Maybe it doesn't want
someone to rip its insides out.
Maybe it knows it needs to go to
therapy to work on shit but doesn't
want to because it's a fucking
bagel!

Mr. Blumbaum is thoroughly confused.

Zach takes off his apron, drops it on the ground, and exits.

Zach pops back in.

ZACH (CONT'D)
I'm really sorry about that, Mr.
Blumbaum. That really had very
minimal to do with you.
(beat)
Not completely nothing to do with
you. But minimal. And the deli is
closed again. Your bagel's on the
house.

Zach is USHERING MR. BLUMBAUM OUT WITH HIM.

INT. ZACH'S CAR - LATER

Zach's driving clearly with a destination in mind.

EXT. HOUSE - LATER

Zach PARKS and RUNS TO THE FRONT DOOR and KNOCKS. We FULLY EXPECT HALLIE TO ANSWER BUT...

UNKNOWN WOMAN

Zach?

ZACH

Hi Kelly.

KELLY looks like her best years are probably behind her.

UNKNOWN WOMAN/KELLY

What are you doing here?

ZACH

I don't actually...know. Alicia told me you had lunch together.

KELLY

We did. We went to C.P.K.

(beat)

Short for California Pizza Kitchen.

ZACH

I'm aware of C.P.K. Hey, is there anything I could've done that would've made a difference before we broke up?

KELLY

What?

ZACH

Like could I have changed something that would've kept us together? Or was it just...me?

KELLY

That was a really long time ago.

ZACH

I had B.D.E. right?

(beat)

It stands for Big Dick Energy.

KELLY

I'm aware of B.D.E.

(beat)

There are probably 1000 things you could've done. And I don't know if any of them would've mattered. All I do know is that back then, you didn't and weren't going to.

ZACH

So you couldn't accept me for me.

KELLY

Zach, I was in college! I was figuring out who I was! I was changing and you...weren't. You kind of got stuck. And I totally understand why but...you still seem ...stuck.

ZACH

I'm not stuck!

KELLY

Ok. But you're not happy, either.

(beat)

Am I wrong?

ZACH

It's funny. Someone recently asked what would make me happy.

KELLY

And what did you say?

ZACH

I didn't have an answer.

(beat)

I'm sorry to have wasted your time.

Zach, HEADS BACK TO HIS CAR.

EXT. CEMETERY - LATER

Zach SITS IN FRONT OF HIS DAD'S GRAVE.

He's been there a while.

ZACH

See ya later, Gladiator.

Zach walks to his CAR which is parked nearby.

He TRIES THE IGNITION BUT IT WON'T START.

His CAR IS DEAD. He GETS OUT AND STARTS WALKING.

EXT. HALLIE'S PARENTS FRONT PATIO - DAY

Hallie is SITS IN HER ROCKING CHAIR, SUNGLASSES ON, HUNGOVER.

ACROSS THE STREET: A couple of 7th Grade GIRLS HAVE SET UP A CELL PHONE TO TAKE A DANCING VIDEO.

One of them, way too young, is TWERKING.

Hallie TAKES HER PHONE AND TAPES IT.

She then COMPOSES A TEXT MESSAGE TO ZACH: **THIS IS TWERKING.**

She's about to send when she DELETES IT.

Her PARENTS COME OUTSIDE.

TERRI

How you feeling, sweetie?

HALLIE

Top of the world, Ma.

JOSEPH

Oh, good. We thought you were very, very depressed.

HALLIE

He said I only looked good on paper

TERRI

Will?

HALLIE

Zach.

JOSEPH

What do you care what he thinks?
You're not interested in him
anyway, right?

HALLIE

I think I care what everyone
thinks.

Beat.

JOSEPH

Do you know how Mom and I met?

HALLIE

Yes. You were getting pedicures next to each other.

JOSEPH

That's just a story we tell. The truth is...I was raised in a very religious, I guess you'd call it a cult.

HALLIE

What?

TERRI

That's why you've never met your grandma and grandpa on his side.

HALLIE

I thought they were dead!

JOSEPH

More like I'm dead to them. So one day, I was in town selling the vegetables we grew on the commune when I saw the most beautiful girl I'd ever seen playing bocce ball.

Hallie looks MORTIFIED.

TERRI

You seem confused. Bocce ball is a game where you throw-

HALLIE

That's not what I'm reacting to right now!

TERRI

Oh, ok. Well he ran up to me and tried to sell me rutabaga.

JOSEPH

She said "Rutabaga ? Who eats rutabaga? What does rutabaga even taste like?"

TERRI

So he said "I guarantee you'll love it. If you don't, me and the woman that the Counsel of Elders has arranged for me to marry will take you out for dinner."

JOSEPH

And she said "Dinner sounds good.
But you gotta break things off with
your forced fiancé." So I did.

TERRI

And they excommunicated him from
the cult.

JOSEPH

Left with the tunic on my back.

TERRI

We got married later that month.

JOSEPH

And even though my family and
friends and everyone I'd ever known
thought I was crazy, I didn't care.

Hallie is dumbstruck.

HALLIE

That's...

TERRI

Unbelievable right?

HALLIE

Ummm...yea. Why are you just
telling me this now?

JOSEPH

Because we just made it up.

HALLIE

What!?!

TERRI

Your father and I are in Improv 101
at the community theater.

HALLIE

That's really fucked up!

JOSEPH

Yes *and* I think it's fun. And a
little scary.

HALLIE

Who are you people?

JOSEPH

I was trying to make a point.

HALLIE

Is it that you're too old to be taking Improv classes? And playing illegal poker? And starting book clubs! No, that one's ok.

JOSEPH

That's your opinion. But life is like a Snuggie. It doesn't matter what it looks to anyone on the outside. It's about how you feel on the inside.

TERRI

(touched)

A snuggie for two.

The Parents are proud of themselves. They HEAD INSIDE.

HALLIE

That's a really dumb metaphor!

TERRI

No it's not. It's a simile.

HALLIE

The figure of speech is not what's dumb. It's the message behind it!

JOSEPH

Is it though?

HALLIE

Yes! Come back here and apologize for being so fucking weird!

TERRI

Can't. Slowly walking away having imparted wisdom.

HALLIE

You've imparted nothing!

JOSEPH

Pack your shit and we'll drop you at the train station.

INT. HALLIE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Hallie is packing her bag.

She PAUSES as she HOLDS THE ABERCROMBIE SHIRT.

She debates what to do. AND PACKS IT IN HER BAG.

SHE ZIPS IT UP. She's going back to the city.

INT. HALLIE'S BASEMENT - LATER

Hallie puts a SHEL SILVERSTEIN BOOK in her bag and ZIPS UP.

She THINKS TWICE and GRABS HER DIARY AGAIN.

She FLIPS BACKWARDS AND WE SEE QUICK FLASHES OF MEMORIES:

- Losing her virginity to a Nazi...
- Junior Prom Limo...
- Crying in French Class...

HALLIE

May 20. 2000 something...

INT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S BASEMENT - FLASHBACK

Hallie REFUSES TO KISS BILL DINGMAN. He runs away CRYING.

Everyone LAUGHS. When...

MRS. CLEARY COMES DOWN THE STAIRS...

MRS. CLEARY

I know you kids said you didn't
want the potstickers but they're
just going to go to waste and...

She SEES THEM ALL PLAYING SPIN THE BOTTLE.

They're CAUGHT! HER FACE IS IRATE.

INT. HALLIE'S BASEMENT - PRESENT

HALLIE

Holy shit.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DAY

Zach's PHONE IS ON HIS DESK...IT RINGS.

FROM HALLIE. He doesn't see it because...

Zach STRUGGLES TO DO A PULL UP. REALLY, REALLY STRUGGLES.

ZACH

One.

Out of breath, he SITS IN HIS ROCKING CHAIR. Changing your life is harder than he thought.

His PHONE RINGS AGAIN. But he IGNORES IT.

He PLAYS THAT PEG GAME he was playing at Cracker Barrel.

AND WINS FINALLY! Then it HITS HIM. He has his AHA MOMENT!

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - MORNING

Zach looks in the mirror in his SUIT AND TIE.

He IGNORES A CALL FROM HALLIE.

EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - LATER

He gets into his CAR AND PULLS AWAY.

Timed perfectly he just misses HALLIE.

She PARKS HER BIKE ON HIS LAWN and RINGS THE BELL.

No answer.

EXT. LENNON'S DELI - DAY

Hallie PEEKS INSIDE. It's closed. But nothing.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Zach sits in a waiting room.

Again - he SEES HALLIE'S CALL. SILENCES IT.

His name is called and he APPROACHES A WELL DRESSED MAN AND SHAKES HIS HAND.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

We see a WOMAN, HALLIE'S AGE OPEN HER REFRIGERATOR. She TAKES OUT A STRING CHEESE, OPENS IT...AND BITES DIRECTLY INTO IT WITHOUT STRINGING.

Yes. This is MEGAN from the beginning of the movie.

HER CELL PHONE rings.

MEGAN
What's up bitch?

INT. HALLIE'S HOUSE - INTERCUT

HALLIE
Hey Megan! What are you up to?

Megan looks at her STRING CHEESE.

MEGAN
Pilates.
(beat)
You?

HALLIE
I've actually been back home for a few days.

MEGAN
Is everything ok? Does your Mom have Lyme disease?

HALLIE
What? Why would you ask that?

MEGAN
Because Terri hikes in shorts a lot.

HALLIE
No. She's fine. I'm not.

MEGAN
What's going on?

HALLIE
Do you have plans tonight? Also - do you remember land lines and specifically phone trees?

FROM THERE we see the SCREEN MULTIPLY as these GIRLS EACH CALL SOMEONE ELSE.

WHO CALLS SOMEONE ELSE. WHO CALLS SOMEONE ELSE. ETC

WE HEAR PIECES OF THE CONVERSATIONS FROM THE INSERT BOXES.

SKEPTICAL
Is this a prank call?

GROGGY
Hello? Dude, I live in Berlin now. It's 3 AM here.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

The number you are trying to reach
is not in service.

CHEERFUL

That. Sounds. Awesome.

ALICIA HARPER

Ugh. That's sounds so cringe-
y.

(beat)

But I love that for you.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

Please hang up and try again.

OPTIMISTIC

Are significant others
invited?

CREEPY

Are drugs frowned upon?

KELLY

How did you get this number? *

GRAHAM KOLEK

As you know, basements are
triggering for me.

*

EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

*

PEBBLES HIT AGAINST THE GLASS WINDOW.

Hallie STANDS BELOW, THROWING PEBBLES AGAINST THE WINDOW.

A LIGHT TURNS ON BEHIND A DIFFERENT WINDOW and ZACH OPENS IT.

HALLIE

Hi.

ZACH

You were throwing rocks at a
bathroom.

HALLIE

You haven't answered my calls.

ZACH

So you come over and try to break
my window?

HALLIE

I thought you'd appreciate the
whimsy.

ZACH

What do you want, Hallie?

HALLIE

Would you go somewhere with me?

ZACH

No.

HALLIE

Please? I promise I won't bother
you ever again.

ZACH

Hallie-

HALLIE

Don't make me Dare you.

Beat.

ZACH

I don't have a car.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Hallie, on her bike. Zach on the PEGS. She pedals towards...

EXT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: 24 DURLAND ROAD, PRESENT DAY

GATHERED ON THE SIDEWALK: Joseph, Terri, and the ENTIRE BOOK
CLUB from earlier and PEOPLE HALLIE AND ZACH'S AGE: including
all the old CLASSMATES we've met...

ZACH

Is that Megan Martinez?

MEGAN

It's Megan Brunson now.

ZACH

And that's Lacey Fox and Ian Mason-

ALICIA HARPER

Yes. I came, too.

ZACH

Ok.

OBNOXIOUS BOOK CLUB MEMBER

And the rest of us are seemingly
inconsequential-

HALLIE

Richard, shhhhh. For like a second!

OBNOXIOUS BOOK CLUB MEMBER/RICHARD

Sorry.

GRAHAM WITH BABY BJORN

I'm not inconsequential. Basically
Zach's best friend so...

HALLIE

You know where we are.

ZACH

Chrissy Cleary's house.

HALLIE

Where this all started.

ZACH

So what?

HALLIE

Do you remember who you kissed that
night?

ZACH

Why are you doing this?

HALLIE

Please. Humor me.

ZACH

You know I kissed Kelly.

HALLIE

And who else?

Beat.

ZACH

I don't remember.

HALLIE

Because you didn't kiss anyone
else. You never got a turn to spin
the bottle before Chrissy's Mom
caught us when she came down with
snacks.

ZACH

That was very sweet of her.

HALLIE

Yea but horned up teenagers don't
want to make out with dumpling
breath.

(MORE)

HALLIE (CONT'D)

The point is if you never got a chance then the game isn't truly finished. Because that's a rule: everyone gets a turn. Which is why we're here.

RICHARD

To the climactic spot-

HALLIE

Richard!

Richard shuts up.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

If you spin that bottle and it lands on me and we kiss, then you obeyed the Super Serious Rule. You can't be cursed. And by that transitive property if we're together I can't possibly be cursed because that would only curse you who is immune to the curse and henceforth would negate the immunity the kiss grants.

ZACH

That makes sense to you?

HALLIE

It 100% makes a little sense to me.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER MATH GUY

As a retired Math Teacher I can concur that the logic is sound.

ZACH

And what is a retired Math Teacher and...everyone else doing here?

HALLIE

I couldn't track down all the kids from the first time we played. So I needed alternates.

RICHARD

And thus bit players from the beginning of our tale come back to close the loop of the third act!

HALLIE

Richard I'm this close to throwing you out of Spin the Bottle Club!
(to Zach)

(MORE)

HALLIE (CONT'D)

One spin. One chance. To be like David Arquette.

ZACH

Yea...that's not me.

HALLIE

Sure you clearly didn't star in the Scream Franchise-

ZACH

I mean all of it. My life. My deli. All the little sayings in my head that I hear on repeat in someone else's voice. They're in *someone else's voice*.

(beat)

That life was good for my Dad. But not for me.

(beat)

I just didn't want to let him go. I didn't want to lose the last version of me he ever knew.

(beat)

You were right. I needed to grow up. Still do.

HALLIE

So now's the time. For both of us to get what we want.

ZACH

But you don't want me.

HALLIE

I'm sorry. I said some really shitty things. I could blame it on the curse. It would be easier to blame everything on the curse. But that was all me.

(beat)

Zach, I was always so obsessed with how my life was supposed to look. But the way that something looks? That's for everyone on the outside.

(beat)

I want to be in it. And I want to be in it with you.

(beat)

No matter what it looks like.

ZACH

That's kind of mean.

HALLIE

I meant like I don't care what people think of us being together.

ZACH

Yes. Still not flattering.

HALLIE

Even if you were in a cult-

ZACH

Why are you making this worse?

HALLIE

Ok. How about this. The past few ridiculous days with you have been the most fun I've had since...since...

ZACH

Since this middle school party.

HALLIE

No. I had a terrible time at that party! But I guess what the retired math teacher and I are trying to say is...the party's not over yet.

INT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S HOUSE - LATER

A COUPLE IN THEIR 60s/70s WATCH TV, and EAT JELL-O, OBLIVIOUS. This is MR. And MRS. CLEARY.

The DOORBELL RINGS. At this hour?

Mrs. Cleary goes to the DOOR and open it to see...

Hallie and Zach and the BOOK CLUB and FORMER CLASSMATES.

MRS. CLEARY

Can I help you?

HALLIE

Mrs. Cleary. It's Hallie Walker. Do you remember me? I was friends with your daughter.

MRS. CLEARY

You're the girl who got her period on our slip and slide.

HALLIE

I got a bloody nose on your trampoline.

MRS. CLEARY

I remember it differently.

HALLIE

Anyway. This might sound incredibly weird but can we use your basement?

MRS. CLEARY

Chrissy doesn't live here anymore.

HALLIE

I know that. We don't need her. Just your basement.

MRS. CLEARY

What for?

HALLIE

It's not important.

MRS. CLEARY

Yes it is. Even more so now.

ZACH

We just want to play a quick game of Spin the Bottle.

MRS. CLEARY

You're the young man who owns the swimming pool supply store.

ZACH

The deli. Owned. Past tense.

HALLIE

You sold Lennon's?

ZACH

Kind of. It's more complicated-

HALLIE

Why didn't you tell me?

ZACH

I wasn't talking to you, remember?

MRS. CLEARY

Can we close the loop on you wanting to use my basement?

HALLIE
Right sorry. So can we?

Beat.

MRS. CLEARY
No.

HALLIE
Please?

MR. CLEARY (O.S)
Alice, ask them for 50 bucks!

MRS. CLEARY
You can use the basement for \$100.

INT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S BASEMENT - LATER

Everyone sits in a circle in the dimly lit basement. It's weird that there are parents in on this.

The GROUP is about 60% FORMER CLASSMATES, 40% BOOK CLUB.

Hallie and Zach are on opposite sides.

Hallie REVEALS AN EMPTY SNAPPLE BOTTLE.

HALLIE
Does everyone know the rules?

	BOOK CLUB MEMBERS	FORMER CLASSMATES
No.		Yes.

HALLIE
Ok. The first rule of Spin the Bottle is-

BOOK CLUB MEMBER GEORGE
You don't talk about Spin the Bottle!

No one laughs.

ZACH
Every time. Someone thinks they're Brad Pitt every single time.

HALLIE

Look, we're all adults now. So all you need to know is the Super Serious Rule: When it's your turn you have to kiss whoever the bottle lands on. Otherwise your love life is cursed forever.

RICHARD

Yes, that does sound very adult and super serious.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA

What if you land on your Dad?

HALLIE

I...what?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA

In theory you and your Dad would have to kiss then.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER ARTHUR

On the lips?

MEGAN

What's wrong with that?

IAN

Ooooh! Megan still kisses her parents on the lips!

MEGAN

You'll understand when you have children.

IAN

So it's a new thing you started doing again since you had a kid?

Her look says it all.

ALICIA HARPER

Who's a better kisser, your Mom or your Dad?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN

What if someone lands on the baby?

HALLIE

We're getting off track.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN
I'm just trying to get the rules
straight.

GRAHAM
My baby is clearly not playing.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN
She's in the circle.

GRAHAM
She doesn't even have the motor
skills to pucker her lips yet.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER VIVIAN
Is that normal for her age?

GRAHAM
Yes! She's in the 98th percentile!

BOOK CLUB MEMBER VIVIAN
Of kissing?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER WINSTON
Can we play a practice round?

TERRI
I think we'd all benefit from a
practice round.

MRS. CLEARY (O.S.)
Everything ok down there?

HALLIE
Yes, Mrs. Cleary!

MRS. CLEARY (O.S.)
Do you guys want me to make some-

HALLIE
(like an annoyed teen)
I said we're fine, Mrs. Cleary!
(to everyone)
Look, there's no such thing as a
practice round, the baby's
obviously not playing and I won't
have to kiss my parents because I
already had my turn 20 years ago!

She PLACES THE BOTTLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CIRCLE.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
The game isn't over until everyone
gets a turn-

That's when BOOK CLUB MEMBER WINSTON SPINS THE BOTTLE.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER WINSTON
It's a practice round.

HALLIE
There's no such thing as a practice
round of Spin the Bottle!

And the bottle lands on...MEGAN.

Megan looks at her husband, TONY, before she reluctantly
heads towards the task at hand.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER WINSTON
Hi. I'm Winston.

MEGAN
I didn't need to know your name.

They're awkward. He's MUCH OLDER than her. They KISS.

JOSEPH
And...that's a boner.

REVEAL: WINSTON HAS A BONER.

TERRI
Good for you, Winston.

HALLIE
Ok, now-

ANOTHER PERSON HAS GRABBED THE BOTTLE AND SPINS.

IAN MASON and BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA meet in the middle.

IAN
I just want to take out my
Invisalign first.

He does.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA
Oh my God! Me too!

She does.

IAN
What are the odds?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA
Too funny.

Beat.

THEN THEY GO AT IT.

SPIN!

HALLIE
Wait!

Now Terri and Joseph CRAWL TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

TERRI
(role playing)
I don't think I've seen you around
here before.

JOSEPH
(role playing)
Because I go to a different school.

TERRI
Oh yea? Which one?

JOSEPH
It's...Jewish Orthodox High.

TERRI
I think Orthodoxs Jews are the
sexiest kind of Jews.

JOSEPH
I'm really repressed.

TERRI
Let me help un-repress you.

They go at it.

GRAHAM
(talking to the baby)
Daddy thinks this is very fucking
uncomfortable. Yes he does.

KELLY
Straight up relationship goals.

SPIN!

BOOK CLUB MEMBER VIVIAN whispers into a YOUNGER MAN'S EAR.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER VIVIAN
(whispering)
I want to be your dental floss.

Younger Man is WIDE EYED as she KISSES HIM.

SPIN!

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAND and BOOK CLUB MEMBER ARTHUR stand together in the middle of the circle.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN
It's 2024.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER ARTHUR
And the whole Super Serious Rule.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN
I'm good if you're good.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER ARTHUR
It's just...Stan you're my
Insurance Agent.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN
Oh I would never tell anyone at the
office about this. That would
violate insurer-insuree
confidentiality.

ZACH
Why does everyone think their job
has confidentiality?

Arthur and Stan FINALLY KISS. It's nice.

MEGAN REACHES FOR THE BOTTLE WHEN...

HALLIE
How about the guy I'm in love with
goes so we can move on with our
lives, ok?

This is a shocker.

ZACH
You...love me?

HALLIE
Only since I was twelve.

Zach Smiles. He grabs the bottle. He's about to SPIN.

He takes a deep breath.

ZACH
Just one spin.

HALLIE
Just one spin.

And he SPINS. FAST and HARD.

The BOTTLE IS GOING ROUND AND ROUND.

You can cut the tension with a knife.

Hallie and Zach look at each other. Then the bottle. Then back at each other.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
I'm freaking out!

ZACH
I didn't notice!
(beat)
I'm starting to get back in shape
by the way!

HALLIE
That's exciting but you don't have
to do that for me!

RICHARD JOINS THE SHOUTING.

RICHARD
I wish I understood more of your
back stories!

HALLIE
Fuck off, Richard!

ZACH
Fuck off, Richard!

The BOTTLE KEEPS SPINNING!

JOSEPH
This is the longest a bottle has
ever spun in history!

TERRI
What if it never stops?!

HALLIE
That doesn't make sense for the
narrative!
(beat)
Right, Richard?!

RICHARD
Oh now I can talk!?!

MRS. CLEARY (O.S.)
Everyone keep it down down there!

Finally the BOTTLE STARTS TO SLOW DOWN...

It's going to land on HALLIE!

But KEEPS GOING EVER SO SLIGHTLY AND LANDS ON A KELLY.

Everyone LET'S OUT A DISAPPOINTED SIGH.

Hallie is heartbroken.

Zach SLOWLY BEGINS TO CRAWL ACROSS THE CIRCLE.

But INSTEAD VEERS and GOES STRAIGHT TO HALLIE.

ZACH
Hey. If you're cursed I'm cursed.

And ZACH KISSES HER! HARD!

It's the moment we've been waiting for!

BEVERLY
This is the best fucking book club
meeting ever.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER GEORGE
We have to keep playing right?
Because of the rules and not
because I'm horny, right?

They BREAK THE KISS, in a DAZE.

ZACH
Oh. I made you something.

Zach takes out the MIX CD he made for Hallie.

HALLIE
(she's touched)
You made me a mix?

ZACH
Of course I did.

HALLIE
Mrs. Cleary!

MRS. CLEARY (O.S.)
Potstickers?

HALLIE
No. Do you have a CD Player?

MRS. CLEARY (O.S.)
No one has a CD player anymore!

HALLIE
What's the first song?

Zach smiles.

ZACH
Nickelback.
(beat)
And the first letter of each song
spells out "Cupid Stopped Cumming
On Your Face." It's 29 tracks.

HALLIE
We can listen to it later.

He goes in to KISS AGAIN.

HALLIE (CONT'D)
Wait. Tell me about the deli.

ZACH
Well, I thought about what would
make me happy. Plus Restaurateur
looks good on paper, right?

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

This is the SAME STREET LENNON'S DELI WAS ON.

But as we move down the FAMILIAR SETTING something's changed.

And then...

A MOTHER FUCKING CRACKER BARREL!

It STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.

Mr. Blumbaum - the old man from the deli - sits on one of the
MANY ROCKING CHAIRS. PATRONS walk up the steps.

MR. BLUMBAUM
(to them)
Don't worry. They scoop out bagels
upon request.

PATRON

We...weren't worried about that. No
one is worried about that.

We FOLLOW PATRONS inside...

INT. CRACKER BARREL - CONTINUOUS

The GIFT SHOP is BUSTLING.

There are CURATED MIX TAPES, SIGNED PICTURES OF BENICIO DEL
TORO, THE STILL LIFE PAINTING FROM THE OPEN HOUSE,
HONEYSUCKLE CANDLES AND SOAP, OTHER MEMENTOS FROM ZACH AND
HALLIE'S PAST, etc...

A SIGN SAYS: WE DO NOT SELL TABLE LINENS.

We move into the restaurant as PATRONS eat at the various
tables including...

Kelley Hayes and Alicia Harper.

ALICIA HARPER

We should've gone to CPK.

KELLY

I'm sick of CPK!

ALICIA HARPER

What the fuck is chicken fried
steak?

Graham Kolek comes over to take their order...

GRAHAM KOLEK

It's a little piece of greasy
heaven is what it is.

He JUMPS, STARTLED, LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER.

KELLY

You ok?

GRAHAM KOLEK

I could've sworn there was a guy in
a mask over my shoulder.

AT MEGAN IS WATCHING BREAKING NEWS ON THEIR PHONE a MUG SHOT
OF WILL HEALY:

ON PHONE

...the entrepreneur and philanthropist has been charged with money laundering, tax evasion and sending unsolicited lewd photos of what his Shark Tank costars call his "mis-shaped genitalia."

Joseph SNATCHES THE PHONE AWAY.

JOSEPH

Megan. No phones at the table.

TERRI

No way, Jose.

We continue to move through the restaurant and settle on...

Hallie and Zach admire their place. This is how they've settled into life together.

ZACH

I don't know about you...but I don't feel cursed.

HALLIE

No. I feel pretty fucking lucky.
(beat)
Hey Remember Amanda Telecky?

ZACH

Sure. She was the ginger who lied about being in person for Princess Diana's car accident.

HALLIE

Remember the time-

ZACH

That's my line.

HALLIE

Ok. Then I was just *thinking* about the time a bunch of us watched the VMAs at her house.

ZACH

Oh yea. Right before the first week of 8th grade.

HALLIE

Yea. I'm just really happy I decided not to play 7 Minutes in Heaven that night.

Hallie doesn't notice that...

Zach's EYES GO WIDE. OH FUCK. Something dawns on him...

HE CLEARLY PLAYED 7 MINUTES IN HEAVEN AND BROKE THE RULES.

*