

LOCALS

“Pilot”

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"Pilot"

ACT ONE

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

An aerial view of the Las Vegas strip we know and love. The "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign, Luxor, MGM, Paris, The Bellagio, etc. A fantasy for those who want to sin and be absolved of it when they leave the city limits.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - BELLAGIO FOUNTAIN - NIGHT

We SWEEP THROUGH THE CROWDED STREETS and find a SEXY WOMAN as she struts by the Bellagio fountain in high-heels and a tight dress. By the looks of it, she's going somewhere important. But before she gets there, a WASTED MAN blows chunks at the Woman's feet.

SEXY WOMAN

My Louboutins!! You asshole.

WASTED MAN

Oh god... I'm sorry.

Disgusted, the Woman rushes away and passes by CASSIE MONTEZ (mid 20s), hard-headed and determined. We follow Cassie as she weaves her way through a stream of drunken tourists. Everyone is dressed in their summer clothes, but Cassie is wearing a fur coat and sunglasses.

Cassie passes by the Wasted Man. He spits, fighting his gag reflex. It's gross --

WASTED MAN (CONT'D)

Ughhh. I wanna go home.

CASSIE

We all do, buddy. Suck it up.

WASTED MAN

(seeing Cassie)

Wanna go back to my room with me?
I'll pay.

CASSIE

You can't afford me.

Ahead of Cassie, a MAN and a WOMAN pose in front of the Bellagio Fountain. The Man stops Cassie --

MAN

Excuse me. Can you take our photo?
With the fountain in the
background?

Cassie takes his phone and snaps a SELFIE with her in it. She hands the phone back to him, leaving the Man perplexed.

CASSIE

You're welcome.

A blackjack dealer, ETHAN (late 20s), dodges people, trying to catch up to Cassie.

ETHAN

Cassie. Wait up. Can we talk?

CASSIE

Stop following me.

ETHAN

Stop ignoring what we have.

CASSIE

Do you want me to yell rape in
front of all these strangers?

ETHAN

What?! Rape? No.

Ethan bumps into a TOURIST and her beer spills down Ethan's uniform vest.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Seriously? Watch where you're
going.

He's annoyed, but he keeps moving.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Please. Cassie. Hear me out. Give
me a chance.

(beat)

I love you.

Cassie stops and faces Ethan.

CASSIE

What did you just say?

ETHAN

I said I love you. Do you love me,
too?

A crowd of people look on. Some are taking photos as they watch the scene unfold. *Is it a proposal?*

ETHAN (CONT'D)

When I'm with you, I feel invincible. Like, I'm a new person. I'm crazy about you. And you can't tell me you don't feel it, too.

If Cassie is flattered, she's really good at hiding it.

CASSIE

Look, Ethan. This is really bad timing. I got into B.U. and I'm leaving Vegas for good.

(beat)

I'm a big fish in a small pond and it's time for me to take a swim in the ocean. And I don't plan on coming back. So... we can't do this. I'm sorry.

Cassie stalks away... but Ethan follows.

ETHAN

Vegas isn't a small pond. Are you making things up so we don't have to talk about this?

CASSIE

Talk about what?

ETHAN

Us.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

...Ethan follows Cassie as she bypasses a giant line of scantily-clad CLUBGOERS. She approaches the bouncer, MICHAEL (30s), in front of the club and kisses him on the cheek.

CASSIE

Hey you.

MICHAEL

What up, Cass?

CASSIE

(re: Ethan)

Make sure he doesn't make it inside.

MICHAEL
You got it, kid.

Michael lifts up the velvet rope and Cassie slips into the club. Michael puts himself between the door and Ethan who gets the hint and sulks away... CUT TO:

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Cassie dances on the dance floor. Sweaty and carefree. A WOMAN way out of Cassie's league dances with her. Their dancing quickly turns to making out... CUT TO:

INT. DONUT SHOP - NIGHT

Cassie eats donuts to sober up while she reads an old newspaper. She laughs at a CATHY COMIC.

CASSIE
Cathy, you're killing me.

Cassie takes a big bite of her donut... CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

DING DING DING. Quarters drop out of a SLOT MACHINE. REVEAL Cassie sitting at a row of five slot machines in a dumpy gas station convenience store. She collects her money.

CASSIE
Better luck next time, robot.

She exits...

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

...Outside. Cassie pulls the gas pump out of her old Ford Tacoma and takes off into the desert... CUT TO:

INT. WILDFIRE BAR - NIGHT

A local 24-hour cowboy bar way off the strip. It's full of old bikers and cocktail waitresses after a long night of work. The Las Vegas for locals.

ANGLE ON: Cassie at the bar with her friend NICHOLAS BARNES (mid 20s), buttoned up, attentive, and thoughtful.

NICHOLAS

He confessed his love for you in a crowd of people and you shut him down? I can't even get a guy to go on a second date with me.

CASSIE

We only went on a few dates.

NICHOLAS

You've been together for six months.

CASSIE

Has it been that long?

AGNES WEN (mid 20s), reserved and serious, shows up frazzled. She carries around her camera bag pretty much everywhere.

AGNES

What'd I miss?

CASSIE

I applied for an apartment in Boston.

AGNES

Sight unseen?

CASSIE

Is that bad?

AGNES

What if it's infested with cockroaches?

CASSIE

As long as it's not a Vegas cockroach, I'm good.

(beat)

But I still need three thousand bucks for the security deposit and the rest of my tuition before the end of the week.

Nicholas and Agnes share a look.

AGNES

(faux-sympathy)

Oh no. How will you ever get the money? Looks like you'll have to stay here in Vegas forever.

NICHOLAS

Yep. You're staying. Let's celebrate. Adam!

Nicholas waves down the bartender ADAM (50s), big and burly with a heart of gold.

CASSIE

Relax. I've got this week's paycheck coming in. I can make up the rest of it elsewhere.

(beat)

Like in high school when we ran that bake sale for veterans.

AGNES

We kept the money for cigarettes.

CASSIE

Exactly.

Adam approaches. He knows these kids like family.

ADAM

Another round?

NICHOLAS

Cassie needs a drink that will make her fall in love with Vegas again. A Corpse Reviver with a side of roofie, maybe?

ADAM

She doesn't need a drink for that. She'll be back. Everyone comes back.

(to Cassie)

You're on the clock, Cass. Go clear some tables. And get Brenda her white zin.

CASSIE

White zin. Copy that.

But before Cassie gets back to work, a DRUNK TOURIST in an "**I <3 NEVADA**" shirt walks in. The crowd stiffens up at the alien presence.

DRUNK TOURIST

What the hell is this honky tonk shit? Where are the strippers?

AGNES

Poor guy wandered off the strip...

NICHOLAS
Can we help you?

The Drunk Tourist gets in Nicholas' personal space.

DRUNK TOURIST
You look like the kinda boy who'd
give me a blowjob out back.
(beat)
I wouldn't say no if you wanted
it...

CASSIE
Fuck off.

DRUNK TOURIST
Wow. She's got a mouth on her.

NICHOLAS
Hey, let's all calm down.

DRUNK TOURIST
I'm calm. Faggot.

Cassie gets up from the bar, ready for a fight, but Nicholas and Agnes stop her.

AGNES
I think it's time for you to leave.

NICHOLAS
And for the record, I would never
go anywhere near your nasty,
shriveled up dick.

The Drunk Tourist swings at Nicholas and misses.

CASSIE
Not today, tourist spawn.

Cassie KICKS the Man in the balls and he doubles over. But he bounces back faster than expected and lands a *CRACKING PUNCH* on Nicholas' face.

NICHOLAS
Fuck. My face.

Both Cassie and Agnes pounce on the Drunk Man, tackling him to the ground... SMASH CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Cassie, Nicholas, and Agnes are in a holding cell together looking worse for wear. The guard, HELEN, approaches, serious. They're in deep shit.... or are they?

HELEN
Y'all are idiots.

NICHOLAS
He started it.

Helen opens up the cell...

HELEN
Get out of here.
(to Cassie)
Tell your mom I say hi.

CASSIE
Will do, babe.

AGNES
Happy Monday, Helen.

HELEN
Happy Monday.

As our three heroes walk out of the cell... SMASH TO:

LOCALS

INT. PUNK HOUSE - DAY

Cassie forces the sticky front door open and enters an old house. The floor is covered in trash and beer cans.

CASSIE
Hello?

PUNK KIDS and BURNOUTS are lounging around on mismatched couches in various states of being high, but Cassie walks through it like she owns the place.

Cassie looks around, searching for someone. A RANDOM PUNK, clearly strung out, notices Cassie.

RANDOM PUNK
Can we help you?

CASSIE
Yeah. I'm looking for Mouse.

RANDOM PUNK
Who's asking?

WANDA (O.S.)
It's Cassie Montez, queen of the
deadbeats.

REVEAL WANDA (30s), the den mother. They're old friends.
Cassie hugs her.

CASSIE
Wanda...
(beat)
Who are all these kids? Where are
Aaron and Joey?

WANDA
People come and go. You know how it
is. It's been a while since we've
seen you.

CASSIE
I've been on the up and up. I work
the late shift at Wildfire. But,
I'm moving to Boston soon. For
school.

WANDA
Well, damn.
(sincere)
I'm proud of you.

CASSIE
Proud? Wow, I'm blushing.

They both smile, but Wanda is skeptical.

WANDA
What brings you back to Mavrick
Street?

CASSIE
Mouse isn't answering his phone. I
need a little help if you know what
I mean.

WANDA
He hasn't been around for a few
days. Heard he got into some
trouble in Henderson.

CASSIE
Shit. Really?

WANDA

An old warrant. Or so he says. You lookin' to buy?

CASSIE

Sell.

(beat)

Can you tell him I'm looking for him?

WANDA

He doesn't answer my calls anymore. If you see him, tell him he owes me child support.

CASSIE

Right.

(beat)

Well, congrats on the kid.

INT. RIO HOTEL - HALLWAY - DAY

Nicholas looks in a compact mirror, covering the bruise on his cheek with concealer. He's wearing a fireman uniform complete with a helmet. *Is he putting on makeup to fight a fire?*

NICHOLAS

Perfect.

Nicholas slings an AXE over his shoulder and bursts into --

INT. RIO HOTEL - HOTEL ROOM - DAY

...a dingy hotel room. He surveys the room.

NICHOLAS

Is it hot in here? Because I think there's a fire...

(dramatic pause)

...in my pants.

REVEAL the room is filled with YOUNG WOMEN in cheesy matching t-shirts. And one wasted MOM. It's a Bachelorette party complete with penis-themed decor!

Nicholas hits play on his phone. PULSING MUSIC plays and he RIPS OFF HIS SHIRT. The BRIDE looks horrified.

BRIDE

Mom! I said no strippers!

MOM

This one is for me.

Nicholas takes the Bride by the hand and makes her sit in a chair. Then, he grinds on her as he removes his clothes piece by piece. We get a fuuuulllllll striptease from Nicholas. He's amazing.

The other girls are SCREAMING with delight. Especially the Mom. As Nicholas strips down to his underwear --

INT. RIO HOTEL - HOTEL ROOM - TIME CUT

Nicholas sorts and stacks his sweaty and wrinkly dollar bills. The Mom writes him a check.

MOM

My daughter will remember this for the rest of her life.

NICHOLAS

Good. I'm glad.

The Mom drunkenly puts her arm around him. Nicholas is uncomfortable.

MOM

You seem like a bright boy. Is this something you do on the side? Are you working your way through college?

NICHOLAS

Nope. This is my full-time job. It's actually my dream to be in Thunder From Down Under someday.
(nervous Aussie accent)
G'day mate.

MOM

You know. You're really handsome. If I were twenty years younger...

NICHOLAS

...And a man?

The mom pulls away. She hands him the check.

MOM

I see...
(beat)
Well, you can go now.

INT. WILDFIRE BAR - NIGHT

Cassie enters Wildfire and approaches Adam at the bar.

CASSIE
I'd like one paycheck, please.

ADAM
You're not gonna be happy about it.

CASSIE
Why?

ADAM
You got into a bar fight while on
the clock.

CASSIE
The dude started it.

ADAM
I know. But you didn't finish your
shift. Because you were in jail.

Adam hands her the check. \$358. She's disappointed.

CASSIE
Adam...

ADAM
I told you.

But Cassie has to make the most of it.

CASSIE
At least it's something...

INT. WEN FAMILY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A traditional Chinese restaurant packed with mostly Chinese patrons. Agnes is behind the hostess stand stacking menus. Behind her are three proudly framed awards: **Las Vegas Sun Best Chinese Restaurant 2016, 2017, 2018.**

A young Chinese man, CHARLES HUANG (20s), entitled and dressed in designer clothes, approaches Agnes.

CHARLES
(in Mandarin)
Where is your restroom?

Agnes answers in English.

AGNES

It's down the hall to the left. The code is 4437.

CHARLES

Are you too good to speak Mandarin?

AGNES

No.

CHARLES

Then why don't you speak it?

AGNES

...I don't feel like it.

He smiles, liking how direct she is.

CHARLES

Fair enough.

(calculated beat)

I hope this doesn't sound inappropriate, but you're really beautiful.

(beat)

Would you like to go out sometime?

Agnes' father, JIN WEN (50s), drops a stack of menus on the hostess stand. Having overheard everything --

JIN

(in Mandarin)

My daughter is married to her studies. She's not interested.

CHARLES

You're a student?

AGNES

(without missing a beat)

Pre-med, U.N.L.V.

JIN

(in Mandarin)

He is right about speaking Mandarin. You don't have to use English here.

AGNES

I know.

CHARLES

Well, if you ever need a break from your studies, I'm around.

Charles crosses toward the bathroom. Jin whispers to Agnes--

JIN
That's Charles Huang. Of the Vegas
Huangs.

AGNES
So, he's loaded?

JIN
They're VIP customers. He's not a
bad choice. Once you're done with
school.

AGNES
(eye roll)
Noted.

INT. WILDFIRE BAR - NIGHT

Nicholas sits at the bar, sipping a beer and swiping on
TINDER. Cassie pours drinks for some REGULARS.

CASSIE
...And here's your Bud Light.
Enjoy, Frank.

Agnes enters, exhausted.

AGNES
Hey. I need a shot. Stat.

Cassie pours her a shot of whiskey.

CASSIE
Everything okay?

AGNES
(taking the shot)
Now it is.

NICHOLAS
Whiskey does have magical powers.

AGNES
(to Cassie)
Did you find Mouse?

Cassie pulls out a napkin and does some math.

CASSIE

Not yet. Assuming I don't eat this week and I convince Adam to give me an advance on next week's paycheck. And, worst case scenario, I never actually find Mouse and have to stay legit...

(finishing the math)

I still need at least two thousand.

AGNES

Can you dip into your savings?

CASSIE

What savings? That's my tuition money.

AGNES

Can you do Postmates? Uber?

CASSIE

Hell no.

NICHOLAS

Would you sell your body for like a week?

CASSIE

(thinks about it)

Eh. No.

AGNES

Stay in Vegas a little longer. Save up and move next month.

CASSIE

I've been in Vegas my entire life. I still live with my parents. I know everyone there is to know. I've been to every bar, every club, every possible hang out. There's nothing else here for me.

NICHOLAS

Rude.

CASSIE

You know what I mean.

(beat)

I'm sick of the damn heat.

Cassie's wheels turn. She has an idea. She pours herself a shot of whiskey and takes it. She hops up on the bar.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 (to the crowd)
 Hi, everyone. I'm in a bit of a...
 situation and need a little help.

The crowd turns their attention to Cassie. Not sure what to expect.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 I'm gonna sing a song and I'll
 gladly accept any and all tips you
 might be willing to provide.
 (to Adam)
 Adam. Eric Church, por favor.

Adam clicks his phone and "DRINK IN MY HAND" by Eric Church comes on over the speakers. A good 'ol country song about alcohol. Cassie sings along as she line dances on the bar.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
*Early Monday morning, til Friday at
 five/ Man I work, work, work but I
 don't climb, climb, climb/Boss man
 can shove that overtime up his can/
 All I want to do is put a drink in
 my hand.*

She's truly awful.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 (talking to the crowd)
 I didn't say it was gonna be good,
 y'all. That's how you know I'm
 desperate.

But it doesn't matter. The people in this bar love her. She grabs a cowboy hat off someone's head and passes it around. People throw money in the hat.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
*To fill it up, or throw it down/I
 got a forty hour week worth of
 trouble to drown/No need to
 complicate it, I'm a simple man/All
 you got to do is put a drink in my
 hand.*

Nicholas holds up a lighter and waves it to the beat of the music. Agnes snaps photos with her professional camera. Cassie's phone lights up on the bar. The caller ID reads: MOM. Nicholas notices it.

NICHOLAS
 Cass. It's your mom.

Nicholas answers the phone.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Hey Darcy. Cassie is singing on the
bar again. Just one sec...

Cassie's fun is over, but she goes out on a high note.

CASSIE
Haaaaouuhhhhh Yeah!!!

And the crowd erupts in applause. Cassie hops off the bar and takes the phone from Nicholas.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Mom, I'm at work. What's up?

INT. MONTEZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DARCY MONTEZ (late 40s), borderline agoraphobic doormat,
paces. Anxious.

DARCY
Can you go get your father? He's at
the Golden Nugget.

CASSIE
What'd he do?

DARCY
(full of dread)
There was an incident.

CASSIE
What kind of incident?

DARCY
(panicked)
I don't know, but I can't leave the
house. It feels like something bad
is gonna happen if I go out there.

CASSIE
Hey. Breathe. In and out. In and
out.

Darcy breathes. Or at least tries to.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
I'll go grab him.

Cassie hangs up.

NICHOLAS
Need me to help?

CASSIE
I've got Jeremiah. Can you go to
the house and make sure my mom is
okay?

EXT. THE GOLDEN NUGGET - NIGHT

Downtown Las Vegas. Off the strip and away from the glamour. JEREMIAH MONTEZ (late 40s), a gambling addict with good intentions, paces outside the Golden Nugget. He's drunk and bleeding from a cut on his forehead. Passersby stare at him, concerned.

JEREMIAH
Fuck you, assholes! FUCK. YOU.

Jeremiah rushes towards the casino entrance and a SECURITY GUARD holds him back. Cassie's truck screeches to a halt in a red zone and she gets out --

CASSIE
Dad. What the hell are you doing?

JEREMIAH
(ignoring Cassie)
I see how it is. I guess loyalty
means nothing to you. NOTHING.

Jeremiah acknowledges Cassie.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
I was so close. I almost won. I
should've won...

Jeremiah picks up an empty beer can from the ground and throws it at the Security Guard.

CASSIE
Hey. Cut it out. I'm taking you
home.
(to the Security Guard)
Sorry, Greg.

Cassie slings Jeremiah's arm over her shoulder and she helps him toward the car. This isn't the first time this has happened and it won't be the last. Off this father/daughter tableau...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT./EXT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Cassie drives Jeremiah out towards the sleepy suburbs and away from the strip. Cassie hands him a bottle of water.

CASSIE
Drink this.

Jeremiah chugs half the bottle.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Are you hurt?

Jeremiah wipes the blood on his forehead.

JEREMIAH
It's not as deep as it looks.
(deflecting)
I ever tell you about the time I
did contracting work on Celine
Dion's house?

CASSIE
What? No!

JEREMIAH
I guess it was more of a mansion
than a house. She was in the
kitchen cooking while I redid some
plaster in her dining room. She
offered me some eggs, but I
declined.

CASSIE
How could you turn down eggs from
Celine?

JEREMIAH
I don't really like eggs. So, I
kept working while she ate right in
front of me like it was normal.

CASSIE
How does she have them? Over-easy?
Soft boiled?

Jeremiah pauses for dramatic effect.

JEREMIAH
Scrambled.

CASSIE
That's so basic.

JEREMIAH
I was surprised, too.

Cassie and Jeremiah laugh. They're good at talking about the superficial things, but not much else. Cassie shifts gears.

CASSIE
Are you gonna tell me what happened back there?

JEREMIAH
Don't worry. Everything always --

Cassie finishes his sentence...

CASSIE
Everything always finds a way to shake itself out. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I know.
(beat)
But is this gonna shake itself out?

JEREMIAH
(definitively)
Yep. I've got a plan. Just you wait.

INT. MONTEZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Darcy watches TV in the living room. The recliner she sits in is well-worn. Nicholas brings her tea from the kitchen.

NICHOLAS
Do you want sugar? Honey?

DARCY
I like my tea like I like my men. Bitter and tasteless.

They both laugh.

DARCY (CONT'D)
You're sweet for coming all the way over here.

NICHOLAS
Anything for you.

DARCY
How's your new place?

NICHOLAS

It's great. A little bigger than my old place, but still small enough that cleaning doesn't take forever.

(beat)

Feel free to come over and cook your incredible casserole anytime you want.

DARCY

Stop your flattery.

NICHOLAS

It's true. I miss family dinners.

DARCY

Well, you're always welcome.

Darcy takes his hand. She's the mother Nicholas never had.

NICHOLAS

Are you feeling better?

DARCY

Much.

EXT. LAS VEGAS SUBURBS - DAY

The sun rises over a cul-de-sac near the desert mountains. The street is lined with nearly identical Spanish-style homes, many with American flags on display.

INT. MONTEZ HOUSE - CASSIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cassie shifts uncomfortably as she wakes up in her twin-sized bed. Band posters and photo collages hang on the wall -- if we look closely, Agnes and Nicholas are in all of them.

Cassie finds a pile of dollar bills from last night underneath her. She quickly counts it. It's not much.

CASSIE

Shit.

INT. MONTEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Darcy stacks ham and cheese on white bread. She walks the sandwich over to Cassie, dressed and ready for the day, sitting at the dining table.

DARCY
You'll never believe who called me.

CASSIE
Hmmm. Kenny Chesney?

DARCY
Your brother.

CASSIE
What'd he have to say?

DARCY
He needed money. California is expensive.

CASSIE
California is the worst.

DARCY
I sent him a few bucks. Hopefully that'll be enough to persuade him to come home for Christmas this year.

CASSIE
You shouldn't have to bribe your son to come to Christmas.

DARCY
That's just the kind of guy he is.

CASSIE
Okay. Morning check in: do you have plans to leave the house today?

Darcy hates these check-ins.

DARCY
I'll see what I can do.

CASSIE
Push yourself. Try to get a little sunshine.

Cassie looks at the empty seat at the table.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Where's dad?

DARCY
He left before the sun came up. Job down on the strip.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

A half-built casino looms over Jeremiah. He wears a hard hat and safety vest as he works a concrete mixer. Hungover. He wipes sweat and dirt from his brow. It's fucking hot.

INT. CONSTRUCTION TRAILER - DAY

Jeremiah enters a modest construction trailer with a desk and a water cooler. But he's startled when he notices --

WILLIE (50s), a card-carrying member of the Hell's Angels, sitting with his feet up on the desk, eating a bag of chips.

JEREMIAH

Jesus Christ. You scared me. What are you doing here?

WILLIE

Isn't it funny that you're helping build the place that'll eventually take all your money?

Jeremiah fills a cup of water at the water cooler.

JEREMIAH

I don't gamble in places that are less than two years old. It's part of my strategy.

WILLIE

How's that strategy working out for you? You have the money you owe me?

JEREMIAH

You said by the end of the month.

WILLIE

Look. I've been pretty lenient. Because my daughter is friends with your son. But I'm a business man and I need the cash flow.

Willie moves towards Jeremiah. Threatening.

JEREMIAH

I don't know what to tell you. I don't have it.

WILLIE

But you will have it before the end of the week, right?

Willie puts a hand on Jeremiah's shoulder, not really giving him an option.

JEREMIAH

Willie. I can't make that promise --

In one quick motion, Willie SHOVES Jeremiah into the door. Jeremiah collects himself, holding back his impulse to fight back.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

Come on, man. Don't make me kick your ass while I'm on the clock.

WILLIE

You'll have the money by the end of the week. With interest. Or I'll throw you through the wall next time.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A stark, rundown office with thin grey carpet. Nicholas sits across from PAULA (mid 30s), his boss. A huge logo that reads "STARS ALIGNED PRIVATE DANCER SERVICE" is on the wall behind her. Nicholas fidgets, nervous.

NICHOLAS

I've been working for you for almost six months. Six months and four days to be exact. I guess I haven't really heard any feedback from you and I have no idea if I'm doing a good job.

PAULA

Are you getting good tips, Nick?

NICHOLAS

I prefer Nicholas, actually. And I think so.

PAULA

If you're getting good tips, you're doing a good job.

NICHOLAS

But what about upward mobility?

PAULA

Upward mobility? I don't follow.

NICHOLAS

I'm still doing daytime work. I think I've improved enough to be doing bigger and better events. At night.

Paula sits back and takes a moment.

PAULA

You want feedback?

NICHOLAS

Please...

Nicholas nods, hungry for compliments.

PAULA

You're too clinical. You have to be personable.

NICHOLAS

Did the mother-of-the bride at the Rio tell you that? She was so judge-y.

PAULA

See? You can't have that attitude. What you do is fun. Make it fun for your clients. Before the strip and after the strip.

(beat)

And if you wanna move up, get out there and build relationships. Relationships turn into client lists. Which turns into stability.

(beat)

Also, your physique could be better.

NICHOLAS

(devastated)

Okay... Thanks...

Paula feels like she just kicked a puppy.

PAULA

I'll tell you what. Sergio got the flu and can't make it to a gig tonight. I'm a little desperate. Why don't you take it?

Nicholas lights up --

PAULA (CONT'D)
Prove yourself tonight and we'll
talk again. Okay?

NICHOLAS
I won't let you down.

INT. WEDDING CHAPEL - ELVIS ROOM - DAY

A cheesy wedding venue decorated in 1950s nostalgia. A
COUPLE, dressed in haphazard wedding attire, poses with an
Elvis impersonator, TIMOTHY (mid 40s). Agnes snaps photos.

AGNES
(to the couple)
These are great. Congratulations.

The couple exits. Agnes reviews the photos on her camera.
Timothy immediately pulls off his Elvis wig and sunglasses.

TIMOTHY
They'll be divorced in two years.
Tops.
(beat)
Can you work a last minute ceremony
in the Victorian chapel tonight?

AGNES
I don't work nights.

TIMOTHY
How are you gonna get ahead if you
don't commit to your job?

Agnes takes a beat. She'd work anywhere else if she could.

AGNES
You're right. I should move to New
York right now and work for Vogue.
I'm sure that's super easy to do.

TIMOTHY
Whoa, whoa. Don't get ahead of
yourself. You're the best I've got.

AGNES
I'm the only one you've got. And
don't worry. I'm not going
anywhere.

INT. 24 HOUR FITNESS - DAY

Nicholas lifts weights with Paula's critique in mind. He adds another ten pounds to his dumbbell. But as he lifts... it's too much. His arms shake. He tosses the dumbbell onto the ground and he backs up into... JACK (20s).

NICHOLAS
(out of breath)
Sorry.

Jack takes off his headphones. Nicholas smiles.

JACK
What?

NICHOLAS
I said I'm sorry.

JACK
No worries.

Nicholas really looks at Jack. He's cute.

NICHOLAS
I'm a little distracted. Work stuff. I'm sure you know how it is.

JACK
Work stuff. That's no fun.

They smile at each other, sweat dripping down both their faces. The attraction is undeniable... CUT TO:

INT. GYM SHOWERS - DAY

Jack and Nicholas make out in the gym shower. Trying to keep things quiet. Nicholas, always looking for a connection--

NICHOLAS
Are you from around here?

JACK
I'm from Madison, Wisconsin.

Between kisses...

NICHOLAS
I heard Madison is the Austin of the Midwest.

JACK
Shhhh.

As Jack goes down on Nicholas, he braces himself on the wall--

NICHOLAS

Oh yeah.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

As day turns to night, early PARTIERS fill the streets. Cassie carries a box of tchotchkes, old CDs, and other junk. She finds Michael (bouncer from the teaser) outside the club.

MICHAEL

(re: the box)
What's all this?

CASSIE

Selling a bunch of crap down at the pawn shop.

Cassie pulls a meatball sub from the box and hands it to him.

MICHAEL

Hell yes. You're the best.

CASSIE

Can you track down Mouse for me? I need a little cash flow if you catch my drift.

MICHAEL

I'll see what I can do. You want a security desk job? I can pull some strings.

CASSIE

I appreciate that, but I need something a little more... instantaneous.

MICHAEL

I feel you. I'll be in touch.

INT. FLAMINGO HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Nicholas, dressed as a sexy cop, does push-ups in the Flamingo hotel hallway. He stops and flexes his biceps.

NICHOLAS

(to himself, practicing)
Hey, ladies. You're looking gorgeous tonight. Ladies! You're stunning. Ladieeeeeeees! Hey! Hey!

A ROOM SERVICE GUY pushes a cart by Nicholas. Staring...

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 (playing it cool)
 How are ya?

One last deep breath and he's ready --

INT. FLAMINGO HOTEL - HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

...Nicholas enters the hotel room. He puts on his music, about to dance.

NICHOLAS
 Hey, ladies. You're looking
 gorgeous tonight --

But he stops when he notices the bride, BIANCA BARNES (early 20s), sweet and homely, in the center of the room. Nicholas' face falls, every insecurity he's ever had floods back into his body...

BIANCA
 Nicky?

NICHOLAS
 Bianca?

Bianca puts her face in her hands and looks to her M.O.H.

BIANCA
 Oh my god. You hired my brother to
 strip for me...

NICHOLAS
 You're getting married?

As Nicholas screws up the gig and faces his estranged sister all in one emotionally complicated moment...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. FLAMINGO HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Nicholas and Bianca sit side by side in the hallway. They're both embarrassed and uncomfortable.

NICHOLAS

This wasn't how you were supposed to find out what I do for a living.

(beat)

I guess you were never really supposed to find out. Ever.

BIANCA

So you do this because you like it? Not because you're in some kind of sex slavery thing?

NICHOLAS

No. It's not sex slavery. It's a dream job.

(realizing)

Hold on. Is your fiance from Henderson? How did you trick him into marrying you?

Bianca shoves him.

BIANCA

Hey. I'm not the annoying kid you used to know. I'm actually pretty cool.

NICHOLAS

I guess it's been a while, huh?

A beat as they both realize just how long it's been.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Are dad and my mom still...?

BIANCA

Angry homophobes? Yeah. But the younger kids and I don't care about that stuff as much. I don't even know if I want to be Fundamentalist like dad and our moms.

NICHOLAS

So you're just a super liberal non-polygamist Mormon now?

BIANCA
Don't judge.

NICHOLAS
Look who's talking.

BIANCA
Whatever.

The two siblings share a smile, warming up to each other.

NICHOLAS
I know this is weird, but could you tell my boss I did a good job tonight? Tell her I was personable and fun?

BIANCA
Well, so far you're the best stripper I've ever had.

INT. MONTEZ HOUSE - CASSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Feeling desperate, Cassie types up an ad on Craigslist. **KEYBOARD FOR SALE**. She looks to her dusty Casio Keyboard in the corner of her room and types: **LIKE NEW**.

Cassie's phone rings. A Boston number. WTF?

CASSIE
Hello?
(lighting up)
I got the apartment? Are you shitting me? Excuse my language. Oh my god. Yes. I'll take it.

Cassie does a little dance as the person on the other end keeps talking.

INT. MONTEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN/DINING AREA - NIGHT

Cassie, unusually happy, joins Darcy and Jeremiah at the dinner table. Darcy's famous casserole is being served. Jeremiah's energy is much more subdued when he's sober.

CASSIE
Did you leave the house today, mom?

DARCY
(ignoring her)
Mother used to make this casserole for dad and all his friends...

CASSIE

Mom.

DARCY

I tried to go to Starbucks for a coffee. But I couldn't do it.

CASSIE

You have to try harder.

Jeremiah jumps in, defending Darcy.

JEREMIAH

How would you like it if you grew up hearing over and over that mobsters are on every corner with a gun? Your grandmother was paranoid.

DARCY

And she had every reason to be. My dad was in the mob.

CASSIE

The mob doesn't exist anymore. If it did, you'd still own half the real estate in Vegas.

JEREMIAH

It's not her fault. It's a condition.

CASSIE

Well, someone has to push her a little harder because I won't be here to do it anymore.

(off their looks)

I'm officially moving to Boston.

DARCY

You got an apartment?

CASSIE

Yep. There's no turning back.

Jeremiah and Darcy share a look.

DARCY

Why do you have to go all the way across the country?

CASSIE

I'll visit more than Andrew does.

JEREMIAH
 (playful)
 You won't go through with it.

CASSIE
 I am going through with it.

Jeremiah laughs it off.

JEREMIAH
 You'll be in that bedroom upstairs
 until you get married. With those
 cute posters on your wall.

CASSIE
 (getting heated)
 It's a big deal that I even got
 into B.U. as a transfer student. I
 know you think I'm a screw up, but
 I busted my ass for three years to
 save up 20k for tuition.

Jeremiah is intrigued and impressed, but hides it.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 I'm leaving Vegas.

Cassie gets a text from Michael: **I found Mouse for you. Call me.** Cassie takes a bite of her food --

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 I gotta go.

INT. AGNES' HOUSE - AGNES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Agnes edits photos from the ELVIS WEDDING on her desktop computer. The photos are good, but they're just wedding photos.

Agnes opens up another file folder. It's full of portraits of her friends and family: including Cassie singing at the bar. They're amazing. She should be working for Vogue.

The bedroom door swings open -- her two younger siblings, MARK (6) and EDWARD (9), burst into the room, rough-housing.

AGNES
 Mark. Edward. Get out.

EDWARD
 Mommy needs you.

MARK

Edward. I was gonna tell her.

EDWARD

Shut up.

MARK

YOU SHUT UP.

Edward tackles Mark to the ground. They accidentally unplug Agnes' computer -- it goes dark. Fuck.

AGNES

UGHHHH. I just lost hours worth of work. GET OUT.

As Mark and Edward scramble away...

INT. AGNES' HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

LI WEN (40s), pukes her guts out in the toilet. Agnes rushes into the bathroom. She rubs Li's back, comforting her.

AGNES

Let it out. You're okay. You're okay.

When Li lifts her head from the toilet, it's clear her hair is falling out from chemo. She's pale and sickly looking. But she puts on a brave face and a smile.

LI

Tell me about your day. I want to know every detail.

AGNES

Well, I went to class.
(a rehearsed lie)
Microbiology and chemistry. My chem lab partner is such an idiot. He mixed up barium chloride with barium sulfate and ruined our experiment. Micro might be the thing that kills me, but I'm gonna study really hard.

LI

I'm so proud of you.

This makes Agnes smile in a way we haven't seen until now. But the moment is interrupted when Li pukes into the toilet --

AGNES

I'll get you some water.

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Flashing neon lights. STRIPPERS on stage commit to their routines despite the tiny audience. Cassie moves through the club and towards...

INT. STRIP CLUB - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...Cassie enters a private room. A WEALTHY MAN gets a lap dance from a stripper, GEMINI. *Is this guy Mouse?*

GEMINI

(noticing Cassie)

Hey girl!

CASSIE

You dyed your hair. It looks amazing. How are ya?

Gemini keeps dancing. The Wealthy Man is annoyed by their conversation.

GEMINI

Burning up. The A/C is on the fritz.

MOUSE (40s), tattooed and skinny, but powerful enters from the back carrying a tool bag. He's a little dirty and out of place in this backroom because he's there fixing the A/C. He's surprised to see Cassie.

MOUSE

Cassie. I heard you were looking for me.

(beat)

Don't ask me what happened in Henderson. You don't wanna know.

Cassie pulls Mouse aside. Out of earshot from Gemini and the Wealthy Man.

CASSIE

I need some cash. Fast.

MOUSE

It's good to see you, too.

CASSIE

I mean. How are you? Congrats on the baby.

MOUSE

I don't owe the baby anything. I don't care what Wanda says.

CASSIE

(yikes)
Okay?

Mouse rifles through his tool bag and hands her a stack of promotional fliers.

MOUSE

If you can get rid of that stack before the end of the night, I'll give you a hundred bucks.

CASSIE

A hundred? Come on. I give the best verbal testimonies. People will actually look at the fliers.

MOUSE

One-fifty. And no tossing 'em.

CASSIE

Done.
(beat)
Fliers are great and all... but if you have anything higher grade to sell, I'm good with that, too.

MOUSE

I thought you wanted out. To follow your dreams or whatever.

CASSIE

I did. I do. But I'm desperate. And I thought I could go to you for help.

MOUSE

You know Angelo doesn't like to outsource.

CASSIE

Come on. It's me. Queen of the deadbeats.

Mouse softens.

MOUSE

Only because it's you.

EXT. MGM GRAND - NIGHT

Cassie hands out fliers in front of the MGM with expert fake enthusiasm.

CASSIE

Check out this DJ set. It'll blow your mind. It's one of the best on the strip. You can't miss it!

A few people take the fliers.

A SHADY TOURIST approaches Cassie. She studies him... he looks like the kind of guy who'd want some coke.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

Need something to get your night going?

Cassie discreetly flashes two eight-balls of coke in her hand. The Shady Tourist nods. Cassie slinks off to --

EXT. VEGAS STRIP - ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

An alley, not far from the street. The Shady Tourist follows her.

SHADY TOURIST

How much?

CASSIE

(upselling)

Six-fifty for both.

SHADY TOURIST

Come on. Does it cure cancer? I'll pay three hundred for both.

CASSIE

This is pure, high-grade Vegas shit. Not small town North Dakota garbage or wherever the hell you're from.

SHADY TOURIST

Okay, fine --

Suddenly, the Shady Tourist rips the coke from Cassie's hands and takes off --

CASSIE
Hey! Asshole!

Cassie quickly pulls off her high-heels and chases after him. This isn't her first race through the streets of Vegas --

EXT. VEGAS STRIP - CONTINUOUS

They weave their way through the crowd. It starts to thin as they move farther away from the strip. Cassie is fucking fast and closes in on him... so close... she almost reaches him--

But she steps on a BROKEN BEER BOTTLE. Cassie stops dead in her tracks.

CASSIE
Ow. Ow. God. Damn. It.

As the Shady Tourist keeps running, Cassie makes one last ditch effort --

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Hey! Someone stop him! He stole my purse.

But no one can think fast enough to catch him. The Guy disappears into another alley. He's gone.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Shit.

Off Cassie, on the ground bleeding and in pain...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. GAS STATION CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Cassie and Agnes sit at the gas station slot machines as Nicholas grabs bandaids and disinfectant off the shelf. He sits down next to Cassie.

CASSIE

I'm seriously fine. I just stepped on some glass.

NICHOLAS

Give me your foot.

Cassie puts her foot in Nicholas' lap. He cleans and bandages the wound as they talk.

CASSIE

So, what happened?

NICHOLAS

I'm pumping myself up in the hallway because Paula needs me to perform. I walk into this dingy hotel room and my sister is the bride-to-be...

Cassie and Agnes are shocked.

AGNES

That's so awkward.

CASSIE

Was it Scarlett? She's such a bitch. Or Vera? Total nutcase.

NICHOLAS

It was Bianca. My sweet baby sister. Her mom is my dad's second wife.

AGNES

And your mom is his first wife, but you all live in the same house? That's not confusing at all.

NICHOLAS

I didn't choose the polygamist lifestyle. It chose me.

(beat)

I'm honestly a little shook.

(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I was sixteen when I moved out.
Which means Bianca was thirteen the
last time I saw her. And now she's
getting married.

(beat)

I missed so much of her life.

Agnes puts her arms around Nicholas.

CASSIE

Be careful. If you invite one
Barnes family member back into your
life, the others will follow.
Eventually.

NICHOLAS

I don't know. It was actually
really nice to see her.

AGNES

I think that's a good thing.

Cassie puts some money into the slot machine.

AGNES (CONT'D)

What are you doing? Aren't you
trying to make money?

CASSIE

I have a system. Risk versus
reward.

(beat)

Plus, I just lost six hundred bucks
worth of coke and I'm kinda fucked.

NICHOLAS

What??!

AGNES

Why would you do that?

CASSIE

I didn't mean to get mugged and
split my foot open.

Cassie's slot machine BEEPS and LIGHTS UP.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

See! That's what I'm talkin' about.
Now I'm twenty bucks closer.

NICHOLAS

Twenty bucks won't satisfy Mouse.

CASSIE

I'm focusing on Boston. I'll sort it out with Mouse later.

(to Agnes)

I got ordained online last year. Would Timothy let me officiate a wedding?

AGNES

Probably not. He likes the attention.

(realizing)

Wait. We lost a dishwasher tonight. Wanna sub in?

CASSIE

I could do that.

AGNES

Cool. Let's go. Dad thinks I'm out getting more mints for the hostess stand.

NICHOLAS

I'm heading out, too. For a night cap...

CASSIE

With who?

NICHOLAS

He's from Madison.

AGNES

You gotta stop falling for tourists.

INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

COOKS run the kitchen, speaking Mandarin, while Cassie washes the dishes. A COOK plops a fresh pile of dirty dishes into the water, splashing Cassie in the face.

CASSIE

(gross)

Awesome...

INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Agnes pours wrapped red and white mints into the empty bowl on the hostess stand. Charles enters and approaches Agnes.

CHARLES

You like fresh breath? Looks like
we have that in common.

Agnes ignores his attempt at flirting and grabs a menu.

AGNES

Table for one?

CHARLES

I'm here to see you.

AGNES

I told you I'm too busy to date.

CHARLES

All I'm asking for is one drink.

AGNES

No, I'm good.

CHARLES

Come on. What do you have to lose?

AGNES

(yelling)

What is wrong with you? I already
said no. Get a clue and leave me
alone.

Agnes doesn't realize she's raising her voice until other patrons look their way. Charles turns red, not used to being told no.

ANGLE ON: Cassie peeks her head out from the kitchen, making sure Agnes is okay. She watches as they talk --

CHARLES

You're right. I'm sorry.

(beat)

Where'd you say you went to school
again?

AGNES

U.N.L.V.

CHARLES

(shaking his head)

I don't think so.

AGNES

What do you mean you don't think
so?

Charles lowers his voice. He's actually charming despite what he's saying.

CHARLES

I know the Dean. Barbara. She said there's no record of you studying there.

AGNES

Are you stalking me?

CHARLES

Do your parents know?

A beat as his threat hangs in the air.

AGNES

What do you want?

CHARLES

Have dinner with me. Two hours of your life and that's it. I promise it'll be painless. You might even enjoy it.

Agnes seethes, but she has no choice.

AGNES

One dinner. But you have to keep this to yourself.

INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Agnes enters the kitchen.

AGNES

Where's the egg drop soup for table four?

Cooks get to work on the soup. Cassie pulls Agnes aside.

CASSIE

What was that all about? With that guy? Do you need me to fuck him up?

AGNES

Might not be that easy. His family has a lot of money. Power. Influence.

CASSIE

Sounds like an ad for cologne.

AGNES

Yeah, except he smells like
entitled douchebag.

(beat)

He wants to take me out on a date.

CASSIE

Do you want to go out with him?

AGNES

It's one date to get him off my
back. I don't want to bring any
negative attention to the
restaurant.

CASSIE

What do you mean? Did he threaten
you?

Agnes mulls it over. Decides to let Cassie in.

AGNES

He found out I don't actually go to
U.N.L.V. He's gonna tell my parents
if I don't have dinner with him.

CASSIE

Hell no.

On a dime, Cassie moves towards the kitchen door ready for a
fight, but Agnes stops her.

AGNES

I'm handling it.
(off Cassie's look)
Okay? It's nothing.

CASSIE

Okay. But I'm here if you need
help.

INT. NICHOLAS' STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

Nicholas is in bed watching as Jack gets dressed.

NICHOLAS

You don't want to grab breakfast
before you head back to Madison?

JACK

I have to get going. Sadly. I wish
I could stay.

NICHOLAS

It's okay. You're not the first boy
from the Midwest to leave me.

It's a joke, but the emotion is real.

JACK

Maybe we can be pen pals.

Jack kisses Nicholas. But Nicholas is aching for more.

NICHOLAS

(disappointed)
Yeah. That'd be great.

INT. WILDFIRE BAR - NIGHT

Cassie counts all of her cash in a pile at a table. Agnes and
Nicholas wait, anxious.

CASSIE

After an advance on my paycheck,
hustling some teenagers at pool,
and selling a pint of blood...

NICHOLAS

Oh my god. Gross.

Cassie finishes counting.

CASSIE

(disappointed)
I'm still two hundred short.

Nicholas looks to Agnes. She pulls cash from her bag.

AGNES

We pulled together a fund.

CASSIE

Absolutely not.

NICHOLAS

Consider it a going away present.

AGNES

We're not happy you're leaving.

NICHOLAS

But we won't sit back and let your
dreams die.

Cassie takes that in. Touched.

CASSIE
You didn't have to do this.

NICHOLAS
Just admit that you need us and
we'll call it a day.

CASSIE
Whatever, bitches. I'm over you.
I'm taking your money and running.

She smiles, hugging Nicholas and Agnes. She really couldn't have done it without them.

INT. BANK - DAY

Excited, Cassie slaps down a pile of crumpled up cash and a couple checks on the bank counter. A TELLER takes the money to her side of the glass and counts it.

TELLER
Let's see. You're depositing three
thousand dollars into your checking
account. Is that correct?

CASSIE
Yes ma'am. Could you tell me my
balance? I just like hearing it out
loud.

TELLER
You'll have three hundred dollars
available to you until everything
clears tomorrow.

CASSIE
(surprised)
What do you mean three hundred? I
should have way more than that.

The Teller lowers her voice.

TELLER
Your accounts were overdrawn prior
to today's deposit. Significantly.

CASSIE
My checking?

TELLER
...And your savings.

Cassie is shocked.

CASSIE
How is that possible?

TELLER
Well... looks like nine thousand
was taken out yesterday. And
another nine thousand was taken out
this morning.

CASSIE
I -- I didn't take any money out.
There must be a mistake.

Cassie tries to catch her breath. Everything she's worked
towards flashes before her eyes --

CASSIE (CONT'D)
How...?

TELLER
Does anyone else have access to
your accounts?

CASSIE
What? I mean... no --

But she has a moment of clarity in her panic...

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Mother fucker...

INT. MONTEZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Enraged, Cassie bursts into the living room to find Jeremiah
and Darcy watching TV. When Jeremiah sees her rage...

JEREMIAH
Cassie. I can explain.

CASSIE
Can you?? Where's my money?

JEREMIAH
I'll pay you back.

CASSIE
What did you do with my money?

DARCY
...Cassie. Calm down.

A beat between Cassie and Jeremiah.

CASSIE

Dad.

JEREMIAH

I have... debts. I didn't have
anywhere else to turn.

CASSIE

Why am I paying for your mistakes?

DARCY

It's for the whole family.

CASSIE

I'm part of this family. And
this... fucks me over.

(spiraling)

I can't believe this is happening
right now. That's all my money for
school. And the apartment.
Everything I worked for over these
last three years.

(matter of fact)

Fuck you. You ruined my life.

JEREMIAH

I was planning to pay you back
before you even noticed the money
was gone...

(beat)

But that didn't quite work out.

CASSIE

You think??

Jeremiah moves towards Cassie in an attempt to comfort her.
Cassie steps back.

JEREMIAH

(sincere)

We're gonna win big money and I'll
pay you back with interest. We'll
be swimming in it. Just wait. We'll
buy two houses and new cars.

CASSIE

How did you even get access to my
accounts?

Guilt-ridden, Darcy keeps her mouth shut.

JEREMIAH

It's a joint account with your mom.
We opened it when you were
seventeen, remember?

CASSIE

(to Darcy)

You left the house to fuck me over?

Darcy, not great with conflict, puts her hand on Cassie's
shoulder.

DARCY

Look on the bright side. You get to
stay here with us...

Cassie brushes her off and wriggles away...

CASSIE

I need to go.

JEREMIAH

You'll see, Cass. We'll be rich
soon...

Devastated, Cassie picks up a VASE OF FLOWERS and SMASHES it
as she rushes out of the only home she's ever known...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. NICHOLAS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

The WHIRRR of an air pump. Nicholas blows up an air mattress while Cassie watches, still stunned. Nicholas finishes pumping and pats the filled up mattress.

NICHOLAS

And presto. All done.

(beat)

You okay?

CASSIE

Yeah. I'm good. It was time for me to get out of that house anyway.

Cassie doesn't crack, but she's hurting and Nicholas knows it. He wraps Cassie in his arms and they stand there a beat without saying a word.

INT./EXT. JEREMIAH'S CAR - DAY

Jeremiah and Darcy drive through the suburbs. Darcy is visibly anxious behind the wheel.

DARCY

I just can't stand the idea of Cassie being angry with us. You have to fix this.

JEREMIAH

She'll come around.

They pull into the Dollar Tree parking lot...

EXT. DOLLAR TREE PARKING LOT - DAY

Jeremiah pulls up next to Willie and his massive Harley. Jeremiah gets out of the car.

WILLIE

I thought we were squared away.

JEREMIAH

I need another 10k. To pay back my daughter.

WILLIE

Are you yanking my chain?

JEREMIAH

(sincere)

She was kind enough to lend me the money. But it was her whole life-savings. And I need to make things right with her.

(laying it on thick)

For the sake of my family. Please.

Jeremiah looks to a distraught Darcy in the car, milking the situation. And it's working...

WILLIE

Is your daughter okay?

JEREMIAH

No. But she will be when I pay her back.

Willie thinks it over, still unsure.

WILLIE

I can't. I don't trust you anymore.

JEREMIAH

I'll give you our house. As collateral. Will you take it?

INT. NICHOLAS' APARTMENT - DAY

The sun streams in from the window and onto Cassie laying on her air mattress. The velvet texture outlining her hair. Nicholas is gone. A rare moment of quiet. She looks up at the ceiling. She's devastated. But before she can sit with that devastation --

There's a KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK at the door. *Is it Jeremiah?*

Cassie opens it. It's Mouse. Fuck.

MOUSE

You're not the only one who can track people down.

Mouse pushes his way inside...

CASSIE

I can explain --

MOUSE

Where's my coke?

CASSIE
A guy took it.

MOUSE
Took it? What do you mean took it?

CASSIE
He ran off with it.

MOUSE
Let me rephrase: where's my money?

Cassie searches her pockets and pulls out a wad of cash.

CASSIE
Take it. I'll get you the rest as soon as I get paid.

MOUSE
(counting the money)
Seriously, Cass?

CASSIE
It's all I can afford right now.
Take it or leave it.

Mouse is pissed. He's not letting her off the hook that easy.

MOUSE
If you don't have it soon, you're gonna be working for Angelo again.
(beat)
You got it?

For the first time, we see Cassie a little shaken.

CASSIE
Yeah... I got it.

INT. AGNES' HOUSE - LI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Agnes checks in on Li who is sound asleep. Agnes puts a glass of water on her nightstand and a bucket on the floor near her bed. Just in case.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Agnes enters a nice restaurant. She looks and feels out of place. Charles waits for her at a table. She takes a beat before approaching. She wants to back out... but she can't.

CHARLES
You look amazing.

Agnes sits down.

AGNES
I'm here. But I'm not gonna pretend
like this is normal.

CHARLES
You need to loosen up. Have some
fun. Ever heard of it?
(off her look)
I'll order us some wine. You'll
love it.

Agnes is trapped in an awful situation...

INT. THE COSMOPOLITAN - CASINO FLOOR - NIGHT

The high-pitched DINGING of slot machines. Spinning roulette wheels. Gamblers celebrating. It's our first time inside a casino. We feel the glamour and the facade in stark contrast to the rest of our world.

Ethan (the blackjack dealer from the teaser) moves through the Blackjack pit and lands at a table packed with GAMBLERS. He hangs his tip container on the table and shuffles a deck of cards.

ETHAN
Alright. How are we doing tonight?

When he looks up, he realizes Cassie is sitting at the table.

CASSIE
Hi.

ETHAN
I don't want to talk to you.

CASSIE
You can't go anywhere.

ETHAN
Yeah, I know. So I'm asking you to
leave.

A GAMBLER at the table isn't pleased they're having a conversation.

GAMBLER
Come on. Hurry it up.

CASSIE
 You don't have to say anything.
 Just listen.

Pissed, Ethan deals out the cards and goes through the motions of a blackjack game while Cassie talks.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 I thought I was leaving Vegas forever so I didn't want to get too attached. I'm not saying we should be together, but I don't hate you so... that's something.

ETHAN
 Thanks...? Why are you here?

CASSIE
 I'm trying to apologize, dick.

The other gamblers look at her.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 Sorry...
 (beat)
 Maybe we can hang out later tonight? Watch a movie?

As Ethan thinks it over --

GAMBLER
 Come on, man. Give her another chance.

INT. NICHOLAS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nicholas watches an old bootleg copy of the Thunder From Down Under show. He mimics their moves as he watches. Hitting every beat with a seductive pelvic thrust.

Nicholas' phone rings. It's a 702 number.

NICHOLAS
 Hello?

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BIANCA
 Hi. It's me.
 (beat)
 Bianca.

NICHOLAS
Hey. What's up?

BIANCA
I know this is kind of informal,
but I wanted to invite you to our
wedding.

NICHOLAS
(touched)
Bianca. I don't know what to say.
(beat)
Wait. Are you sure? I wouldn't want
to upstage you.

They both laugh, liking this new relationship they're forming.

BIANCA
Is that a yes?

NICHOLAS
Yes. I'd love to.

BIANCA
Amazing. I'll send you the official
invite. Look out for it.

Bianca hangs up, a big smile on her face. We stay with her.

BIANCA (CONT'D)
He's gonna come.

She turns to her fiancé: it's JACK.

JACK
That's great. Can't wait to meet
him.

Bianca is marrying the guy Nicholas just slept with...

INT. THE COSMOPOLITAN - CASINO ENTRANCE/FLOOR - NIGHT

Cassie, momentarily satisfied, makes her way toward the exit when a fight breaks out on the casino floor. WTF?

Cassie investigates along with a crowd of other people. She finds Jeremiah getting the shit kicked out of him by other GAMBLERS. A SECURITY GUARD breaks up the fight --

JEREMIAH
(re: another gambler)
He's the cheater. Not me.
(MORE)

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
They're sending signals to each other. Can't you see that?

Jeremiah sees Cassie as the Security Guard keeps the other gamblers away from him. Exhausted and not wanting to deal with it, Cassie turns toward the exit --

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
Cassie. Tell them I'm not a cheater.

Cassie stops... she should walk away. She needs to walk away. A beat. But he's drunk. And helpless. She rushes over to him.

CASSIE
What happened?

JEREMIAH
I'm winning your money back. Just like I promised.

CASSIE
This isn't winning.

JEREMIAH
I have a system.

CASSIE
You have a problem.

Jeremiah doesn't have a response.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
I'm getting you a cab.

And just like before, Cassie slings Jeremiah's arm over her shoulder.

EXT. THE COSMOPOLITAN - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Cassie pushes her dad into a cab.

CASSIE
(to the cab driver)
Take him to 1710 Sunrise Bay Ave.
Near the Home Depot.

JEREMIAH
I was one hand away from the jackpot.

Cassie slams the door in this face --

CASSIE
Go home, dad. And stay there.

As the cab takes off, Cassie realizes this is never going to end. She walks away from the Cosmopolitan. Tears fill her eyes. She wipes them away and puts her sunglasses on when --

A group of WELL-DRESSED YOUNG PEOPLE climbs out of a limo. One of them sprays an expensive bottle of champagne on the others. Carefree, laughing. Not a worry in the world. Cassie watches them, transfixed.

Cassie is broken out of her reverie by a HOMELESS GUY.

HOMELESS GUY
Rich people are the fucking worst.

CASSIE
Yeah...
(wheels turning)
They are...

INT. WILDFIRE BAR - NIGHT

Cassie works behind the bar. Nicholas sips a drink. Agnes, distraught from her date, takes a seat.

NICHOLAS
Well?

AGNES
He took me to Joel Robuchon.

NICHOLAS
Fancy. As expected.

CASSIE
Did you tell him to go fuck himself?

AGNES
I had to dodge a first kiss... and then I agreed to a second date.

CASSIE
Good.

AGNES
What?

NICHOLAS
Yeah. What?

Cassie lowers her voice.

CASSIE
How much money does he have? A
hundred million?

AGNES
More than that, probably. But it's
his family. Not him.

CASSIE
That's even better.
(beat)
We're gonna scam him for a couple
millions dollars. And teach him a
lesson about consent.

Cassie pours herself a drink.

AGNES
Cassie. How would we even -- ?

CASSIE
Between the three of us, we know
every single concierge, pit boss,
restauranteur, stripper, and dealer
-- both drug and card -- in this
town. They're our allies.
(beat)
And I've got a plan. Are you in?

Cassie raises her glass... Agnes thinks it over. Unsure.

AGNES
He probably wouldn't miss the
money. And I could pay for my mom's
medical bills.

NICHOLAS
That beats me needing some cuter
work outfits.

Agnes raises her glass. So does Nicholas.

CASSIE
To stealing from the rich and...
eventually getting the hell out of
here...

As all three of them clink their glasses --

END OF PILOT