

**THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT**

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**FADE UP ON:**

1

1

The humming stillness of an American suburb on a summer's day: nannies push strollers, joggers jog, mailmen deliver, dogs are walked, kids shoot hoop in wide open driveways.

On a quiet, tree-lined street we pick up two young athletic-looking boys riding bikes. LASER ALLGOOD (15) and his friend, CLAY (15).

Like bats out of hell they pass block after block of charming, evenly spaced houses until they round a corner and drop their bikes in front of a large ranch house.

**INT. CLAY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER**

2

2

They walk inside. We HEAR a baseball game on TV in another room.

**INT. CLAY'S, BATHROOM - LATER**

3

3

Clay pounds on blue pills with a hammer, reducing them to powder. Laser watches.

**LASER**

I don't know, dude.

Clay cuts the powder into lines with a school ID card.

**CLAY**

B minus in geometry, yo! This  
shits the bomb!

Clay rolls up a dollar bill and takes a snort. Then hands the rolled up bill to Laser.

**CLAY (CONT'D)**

Add it up, son.  
Laser takes the bill, bends over and snorts a line.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - GIRL'S BEDROOM - DAY**

4

4

Part Oxford reading room, part teenage girl's lair. Leaning against the bed we see JONI ALLGOOD (18). It's her room. She pours over a game of Scrabble.

Sitting next to Joni is her best girl friend, SASHA, (18). Sasha's checking out Joni's FACEBOOK PAGE.

2.

Joni's best guy friend, JAI (18) sits across from her, calculating his next Scrabble move.

**SASHA**

Oh my God, Joni, there are so many hotties in your class. You are so gonna hook up the first week.

**JAI**

Just cause you're a 24 hour drive-thru doesn't mean everyone else has to be...

**SASHA**

Hey, she worked her ass off! She deserves some hot jock sausage!  
Jai looks repulsed, and hurt.

**SASHA (CONT'D)**

(flip)  
Whatever. Why don't you guys just do it and get it over with?

Joni and Jai blush. They're both too scared to admit their crush on each other.

**SASHA (CONT'D)**

What? I'm just asking.

**JAI**

Uh, maybe because we're friends...

**SASHA**

Oh, really...?  
Sasha turns to Joni like an agent provocateur.

**INT. CLAY'S HOUSE - TV ROOM - LATER**

5

5

Laser and Clay wrestle on the floor while Clay's DAD watches a baseball game on TV. They bump into the couch. Clay's dad looks back, menacing.

**CLAY'S FATHER**

Hey, ladies! Take it down a notch.

The boys keep wrestling, wired from the pills. Again, they knock into the couch. Clay's dad spins around, pissed.

**CLAY'S FATHER (CONT'D)**

What did I just say?!

3.

The Dad grabs Clay, pulls him off of Laser and over the couch. He gets his son in a headlock, forcing the boy's face into his big fat sweaty armpit. Both Dad and Clay enjoy the brutal play. Clay laughs manically.

**CLAY**

Let me go!

**CLAY'S FATHER**

Don't do the crime if you can't do the time.

**CLAY**

Dad, your pits smell like burnt ass! Get off me!

As Laser observes this male-bonding between father and son, we note a trace of longing on his face.

**OMITTED.**

6

6

**OMITTED.**

7

7

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - DINING ROOM**

8

8

Joni, Laser and JULES ALLGOOD (40's) fair-skinned, attractive, sit before well prepared dinner. Still buzzing, Laser taps his fingers incessantly on the table.

**JONI**

Laser! Knock it off!

**LASER**

What?! I'm not doing anything.

**EXT. HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - MAGIC HOUR**

9

9

NIC ALLGOOD (late 40's) pulls up into the driveway beside a beat up white TRUCK covered in AA slogan bumper stickers.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING**

10

10

Nic enters. Drops her bag and heads for the table.

**NIC**

Hi guys. Sorry I'm late.

4.

**JULES**

Don't worry. We just started.

**NIC**

27 fibroids. All in the lining.

She kisses Jules.

**JULES**

Honey, that's disgusting. We're eating.

**JONI**

Did you do that laparoscopically?

**NIC**

That's right, Smart Girl. And we got `em all.

As Nic settles in...

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Hey, whose truck is that?

**JULES**

Mine.

**NIC**

Yours?

**JULES**

For the business.

**NIC**

What business?..  
(getting edgy)  
The gardening?

**JONI**

(protective)  
Isn't it landscaping.

**JULES**

Yes, thank you very much.

**NIC**

(strained)

Okay...

(then)

Do we have any Cabernet left?

**JULES**

I didn't look, honey.

5.

Nic gets up and goes to the kitchen for wine. Laser's cell phone RINGS. He answers it.

**LASER**

Hey, what's up?

Jules puts her hand on Laser's arm.

**JULES**

Laser, no phone calls at the table.

**LASER**

(into phone)

Lemme hit you back.

Laser hangs up. Nic re-enters with a large glass of red.

**NIC**

(sitting down)

Who was that?

**LASER**

Nobody. Clay.

Jules and Nic share a look. Jules starts making maternal windshield wiper strokes with her thumb on Laser's arm.

**JULES**

Can I ask you something?

What do you get from your relationship with Clay?

**LASER**

What do you mean, "get"?

Laser looks down at Jules' thumb on his arm.

**JULES**

Do you feel like he's the kind of person who will help you grow?

**LASER**

Mom, you're windshield wiping me.

**NIC**

Hey, did you start on those thank-you notes for your birthday gifts?

**JONI**

Not yet. But I will...

6.

**NIC**

I just think it's easier to knock them out when it's fresh.

**JONI**

Yeah, I know, I'll do them tonight.

**NIC**

Great...I mean, you don't want to have to start with an apology. You know? Then it's embarrassing.

**JULES**

Okay, honey. She got it. Let it go.

**NIC**

Okay, I'll let it go...

(then)

I mean, if it was up to you, our kids wouldn't even write thank-you notes, they'd just send out good vibes.

Nic takes another swig of vino and smiles at Joni through increasingly plum-stained teeth.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

I can't believe my baby's 18.

**JULES**

I know...

**NIC**

(devolving into baby talk)

Big girl. You're a big girl...

**JONI**

Mom...

Joni mimes wiping her teeth. Embarrassed, Nic starts licking at her stained teeth.

**INT. JONI'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT**

11

11

As Joni cranks out thank-you notes, Laser enters.

**JONI**

What?

Laser looks nervous.

7.

**LASER**

Have you thought any more about,  
you know, making that call...?

**JONI**

Yeah. I don't want to.

**LASER**

Okay...I was just wondering if you  
changed your mind.

**JONI**

I haven't.

He starts to leave, but her answer bugs him. He turns back.

**LASER**

How can you not even be curious?

**JONI**

Sorry, Laser. I just don't want  
to, okay? I'm leaving soon and I  
don't want to deal with that right  
now.

(co-dependent leak)

And also, that could really hurt  
moms' feelings...

**LASER**

God, why do you worry about them so  
much? They don't even have to know  
about it!

**JONI**

Look, you can do it when you turn  
18, okay?

**LASER**

I never ask you for anything.

Laser walks out of the room. Joni feels horrible.

**INT. NIC AND JULES BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT**

12

12

Nic and Jules lay in bed watching TV, unwinding from the day.

**NIC**

I just don't understand why you  
bought the truck now.

8.

**JULES**

Because if I'm starting this  
business I need something to haul  
my equipment in.

**NIC**

Okay. It just seems a little  
cart before the horse.

**JULES**

What does that mean?

**NIC**

Sweetie, you don't even have any  
clients yet.

**JULES**

Well you're the one who's always  
telling me to "act as if!"

**NIC**

(back peddling)

That's true. I do. You're right.

The women settle back. Nic sees Jules feels bad.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Look, I'm sorry. It's good you  
bought the truck. Its proactive.

Nic caresses Jules' arm, wanting to make it better.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Hey...

Jules doesn't look at Nic. She keeps her eyes on the T.V.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Wanna watch a movie?

Jules perks up. Nic immediately regrets her suggestion.

**JULES**

A movie-movie?

**NIC**

Yeah. We haven't done that in a  
while.

**MINUTES LATER -- NIC AND JULES**

are cozied up side-by-side facing the TV.

9.

**ANGLE ON - THE TV**

The volume is turned low on TWO NAKED MEN lying on a chaise  
longue. One guy fellating the other.

**INT. STAIRCASE - SAME**

13

13

Joni tiptoes up a dark staircase and enters an office off the  
mom's bedroom. She heads for the desk and stealthy opens a

drawer. She rummages though with clear intention. She pulls out a FOLDER and studies the cover. We see the words: "Pacific Cryo Clinic: Bringing your dreams to life."

**14** **INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

**14**

**ANGLE ON - THE BED**

We now only see Nic. Jules has slipped under the blanket, and is now between Nic's legs. We see Nic trying to get into it, but having a hard time.

**NIC**

I don't like the guys in this one.  
They're too shaved.

**JULES**

Don't focus on it.

**NIC**

How about the one with the biker  
gang?

**JULES**

We left it in Hawaii.

Jules wrestles with the blankets. Wants them out of her way.

**NIC**

(pulling them back up)  
I'm cold, honey.

**JULES**

Sorry. I couldn't breathe.  
Jules wrangles the blankets, trying to cover her partner. The transition is awkward and Jules gets caught in the top sheet. As Nic repositions herself, she leans on the VOLUME CONTROL BUTTON and suddenly the porn is blasting at full volume.

**10.**

**MAN IN MOVIE**

Suck that fat cock mother-fucker...

**NIC**

Shit!! Where's the remote?!

**MAN IN MOVIE**

I'm gonna fuck that tight ass!...  
Jules and Nic both dive for the remote. It's lost under the mass of bedding. They struggle to find it as the grunting and 70's disco music blares.



**TANYA**

Mm, flapjack, you're smelling ripe.

**PAUL**

Oh, sorry...

**TANYA**

No, I like it. It's earthy.

**PAUL**

What can I say. I've just been out there, you know...hoe-ing.

(looking at the seating chart)

How's it looking tonight?

They stand close to each other, peering at the chart.

**TANYA**

Gonna be tight.

**PAUL**

Really...

Paul's cell rings. He gives Tanya a hand squeeze and heads for the kitchen, answering.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Hello.

**WOMAN'S VOICE**

Hi, is this Paul Hatfield?

**PAUL**

It is. Who's this?

12.

**WOMAN'S VOICE**

My name is Wendy Minter. I'm calling from The Pacific Cryobank.

**PAUL**

Okay. What can I do for you?

**WENDY**

I just need to confirm that you donated sperm with us between 1991 and 1993.

At the mention of the word sperm, Paul goes pale.

**PAUL**

Yeah...I did a little bit of that back then...

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Paul enters. The kitchen is humming with COOKS prepping for the dinner rush. He looks around for a quiet spot.

**WENDY**

As you know the Cryobank has a confidentiality policy which prohibits us from releasing your identity without your consent.

A cook, MARGO, approaches Paul to speak with him. Paul nods: "Can't talk." Hands her the box of tomatoes.

**PAUL**

Uh-huh.

Paul heads to the back of the kitchen, searching for privacy.

**INT. PANTRY - SAME**

21

21

Paul moves into the pantry, finds the farthest corner.

**WENDY (O.S.)**

Well we've been contacted by a young woman conceived using your semen, and she's asked if you'd be open to having contact with her.

Paul's speechless.

**OMITTED**

19

19  
13.

**INT. TANYA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

22

22

Paul and Tanya enjoy a hot, sweaty fuck.

**LATER THAT NIGHT**

23

23

Paul gets dressed while Tanya lays on her messy bed.

**TANYA**

You must of figured you'd get a call at some point.

**PAUL**

Not really. I mean I was 19 when I did it. It was so long ago...I just figured no one actually used my stuff.

Tanya moves closer to him, flirty.

**TANYA**

Why? I'd use it.

**PAUL**

(ignoring the innuendo)  
This is so weird. I mean, a part  
of me's really curious...

**TANYA**

So what are you gonna do?

**PAUL**

I don't know.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - DINING ROOM**

24

24

Joni and Jules play scrabble at the table. Joni's cell  
rings. She grabs it off the counter and answers.

**JONI**

Hello?

**EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY**

25

25

Paul anxiously paces his overgrown back-yard on his cell  
phone. He picks weeds as he talks. Conversation intercut.

14.

**PAUL**

Hi, I'm looking for Joni Allgood.

**JONI**

This is she...

**PAUL**

Hi. This is Paul...  
(clearing his throat)  
Uh, your donor...?

**JONI**

Oh! Hi...

Joni shoots up out of her chair and starts leaving the room  
to get some privacy away from her mom.

**PAUL**

Is this a good time to talk?

**JONI**

(flustered)  
Yeah...

**JULES**

Where are you going?      It's your  
turn.

Joni doesn't answer.      She just walks out to her backyard.

**PAUL**

So...  
(doesn't know what to say)  
How are you?

**JONI**

I'm good.      How are you?

**PAUL**

I'm well, thanks.  
Banal, awkward pause.      Paul jumps in to fill the void.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

So, Wendy at the Cryobank said you  
call--  
Joni cuts in, nervous and businesslike.

15.

**JONI**

Actually, my brother      asked if I'd  
call you because I'm      18 and he's  
only 15 which is too      young to call--  
anyway, he'd like to      meet you...if  
you want to...

**PAUL**

(thrown)  
Your brother?

**JONI**

Yeah. Well, technically my half-  
brother. Each of my moms had a  
kid, you know, with your sperm...

**PAUL**

No.      I didn't know.

**JONI**

Oh.

**PAUL**

Both of them?

**JONI**

Yeah.

**PAUL**

Like in two?

**JONI**

Uh huh. Like in gay.

**PAUL**

Good deal. I love lesbians.  
Paul cringes at his lameness. Joni doesn't know what to say.

**OMITTED.**

26

26

**EXT. "WYSIWYG", PARKING LOT - NEXT DAY**

27

27

Joni and Laser get out of the car and head to the restaurant to meet Paul. They're both clearly nervous.

**JONI**

I just don't want you to have big expectations.

16.

**LASER**

Will you quit saying that? I don't have any expectations.

**JONI**

Okay. I'm just saying he might be weird. I mean, he donated sperm...

**LASER**

Well if he hadn't done it, you wouldn't be here. So respect, yo!

**INT. "WYSIWYG" - DAY**

28

28

Paul sits alone at a table facing the entrance. He nervously checks the door as customers enter.

**MINUTES LATER-**

Joni and Laser enter the restaurant. They look nervous too.

**ANGLE ON PAUL**

He studies them for a beat, sees them looking around. Figures they must be "his kids." They look in his direction, spot him. He raises his hand, stands. They walk over.

The moment is rife. Paul holds out his hand to Joni.

**PAUL**

Joni. Hey. Nice to meet you.

**JONI**

Nice to meet you too.  
Paul holds out a hand to Laser.

**PAUL**

And Laser, right?

**LASER**

Right.

**PAUL**

Very cool name.

**LASER**

Thanks.

17.

**PAUL**

Thanks for making the trek all the way over here.

No one knows what comes next.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Cool, I got a table set up for us out here...

Paul turns and leads them out to the outdoor dining area.

**EXT. OUTDOOR DINING AREA - MINUTES LATER**

29

29

They all sit eating. Paul can't help but study their faces.

**PAUL**

Listen, feel free and ask me anything you want, okay?

(off their stares)

Or we can just hang out. That's fine too. Whatever you guys want.

**LASER/JONI**

Okay.

Paul presses on, trying to break the ice.

**PAUL**

Anything you want to ask me, Laser?

**LASER**

I...uh...I didn't really have any specific questions...

**PAUL**

(helping him out)

That's fine. I'd love to know about you guys. What about you, Joni? What are you up to?

**JONI**

Uh, well, I just graduated high school. I'm starting college in the fall.

**PAUL**

Oh yeah? Congratulations.

18.

**LASER**

Joni's the brains in the family. She won a National Merit Scholarship.

**PAUL**

Shut the front door!

**LASER**

Yeah. And she got like an 800 on her Verbal SAT.

**JONI**

Okay, Laser...

**LASER**

What? I'm just saying you're really smart.

**JONI**

No, I just work harder than you.

**PAUL**

Don't stress it, Laze. School wasn't my thing either and I turned out okay.

**LASER**

(re: his name)

Laser.

**PAUL**

I'm sorry. Laser.

(beat)

So tell me about you, Laser. What are you into?

Laser freezes. So his sister jumps in.

**JONI**

Laser's an amazing athlete.

**PAUL**

Oh yeah?

**LASER**

Did you play any sports in school?

**PAUL**

I played a little basketball in junior high.

**LASER**

That's it?

**PAUL**

Pretty much. The whole "team" thing got on my nerves, you know like, "Hey, let's go kick some ass, man!" What about you?

**LASER**

I play some Soccer. Basketball. Baseball. You know, team sports.

Paul realizes he's put his foot in his mouth.

**PAUL**

Hey, I wasn't bagging teams in general. Teams are great. I'm just weird like that.

**LASER**

Yeah, I like teams.

We can tell Laser is growing frustrated at his inability to connect with Paul. Joni jumps in.

**JONI**

So this is your place?

**PAUL**

Yeah, I've been working on it for a while. I also have this organic co-op farm down the road. We use a lot of the stuff we grow there for the restaurant.

**JONI**

(excited)

That's so cool. I'm totally into local.

**LASER**

(busting her)

You are?

**JONI**

Uh, yeah Laser! I've been like trying to get moms to buy local for forever.

Laser tries again to reconnect.

**LASER**

So, like, do you raise pigs and stuff?

**PAUL**

No. No pigs...

(beat)

But it's a great spot. You guys should come check it out sometime.

**JONI**

Yeah...Definitely...

Excited, Joni turns to Laser. He seems uninterested.

**EXT. WYSIWYG, PARKING LOT - DAY**

30

30

The kids and Paul exit the restaurant. Paul walks to a classic BMW motorcycle. Lasers tries to hide his awe.

**LASER**

Is that yours?

**PAUL**

Yeah. You like motorcycles?

**LASER**

Yeah, but...our moms are kind of anti-motorcycle.

**JONI**

And by "kind of" he means they'd kill us if we ever rode one.

**PAUL**

That's too bad. They're fun.

Time to say goodbye. Again, no one knows the protocol here. After an awkward beat, Paul holds out his arms for hugs.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Well it was great to meet you guys.

He and Joni hug.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

I hope this was okay.

**JONI**

Yeah...totally...thank you.

Now Paul and Laser share a somewhat awkward man-hug.

21.

**PAUL**

Really nice to meet you, Laser.

**LASER**

Yeah.

Joni gives a quick wave to Paul. She turns to go and Laser follows. Paul watches them walk away. He looks stirred up by the meeting.

**INT. JONI'S CAR - DAY**

31

31

Joni and Laser head back home.

**JONI**

I just never pictured him that way.  
I just...I don't know...He was so cool and interesting. I can't believe that was him...He was so nice, you know?...

**LASER**

I guess...

**JONI**

You guess?

**LASER**

Yeah...

**JONI**

God, Laser! You're the one that wanted to meet him so bad!

**LASER**

I know.

**JONI**

Well what did you think of him?

**LASER**

I don't know. He seemed kind of into himself.

**OMITTED**

30

30

22.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - TV ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT**

33

33

Nic and Jules are cuddled up affectionately on the couch watching cable. They see Laser on his way out of the house.

**JULES**

Hey bug, come here. We're watching "Locked Up Abroad: Uganda."

**LASER**

I saw it. It was gnarly.

**NIC**

Where are you going?

**LASER**

Clay's.

Jules and Nic shoot each other a concerned look.

**NIC**

Don't be back late, okay?

**LASER**

I know.

**JULES**

Can I have a hug before you go?

**LASER**

Mom...

**JULES**

Just a quick one. Please!

**LASER**

Hug her. That's what she's there for.

Laser leaves. Nic hits mute on the TV, looks at Jules.

**NIC**

Ugh. Maybe we should just sit him down and ask him already.

**JULES**

What? "Are you and Clay fucking?"

**NIC**

"Exploring" is the word I'd use...

**23.**

**JULES**

And what if he is "exploring?"  
This is the age for that. Why  
should we care?

**NIC**

We shouldn't...  
(then)

I just don't understand why he's  
exploring with that loser.

**JULES**

Look, we don't even know what the  
deal is. We're jumping to

conclusions.

**NIC**

I feel like he has so much potential and he's just wasting it.

Nic's comment hits a nerve in Jules.

**JULES**

What are you trying to say?

**NIC**

What do you mean, what am I trying to say?

**JULES**

It feels like there's some subtext here.

**NIC**

What are you talking about?

**JULES**

I don't know: Like mother like son? Is that it? Both of us aimless, wandering in the darkness, "wasting our potential?"

Nic won't go there.

**NIC**

Okay, honey, you're on a whole other tangent and I have no idea what you're talking about.

**JULES**

Well, maybe it hasn't risen to the plane of consciousness for you yet.

24.

**NIC**

Yeah. Maybe not.

Nic clicks the volume back on, freezing Jules out.

**INT. PAUL'S RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON**

34

34

Paul and Tanya sit at the bar, eating family-meal.

**TANYA**

So what were they like?

**PAUL**

Sweet. They were really good kids. The boy's kind of a sensitive jock

and the girl's kind of innocent but whip-smart and super cute.

**TANYA**

Sounds like you connected.

**PAUL**

Yeah, we kinda did.

**TANYA**

Where'd you leave it?

**PAUL**

We didn't really leave it anywhere. Brooke, the sexy Wiccan volunteer, comes up to Paul bearing a basket of freshly-picked fruits.

**BROOKE**

Hey Paul.  
Paul leans over the basket.

**PAUL**

Whatcha got? Oh cool. First strawberries of the season.

**BROOKE**

Don't they look awesome? I thought you should have the first taste. And with that, she smiles, hands him the basket and leaves.

25.

**TANYA**

(mimicking Brooke)  
"I thought you should have the first taste...of my pussy."

Paul can't help smiling at the nasty talk.

**PAUL**

Whoa...

**INT. NIC AND JULES BEDROOM - AFTERNOON**

35

35

Clay rummages through the top drawer of Jules' dresser. Laser stands behind him, uncomfortable.

**LASER**

Dude, I don't think they smoke pot.

**CLAY**

Hold up.  
Clay freezes. CLOSE ON a row of sex toys including a fancy

pink, Japanese "all-in-one" dildo and a few DVD's.

**CLAY (CONT'D)**

Whoa!

Clay turns on the dildo. It starts to gyrate.

**CLAY (CONT'D)**

Yo, it's alive!

**LASER**

Dude, put it back!!

Laughing, Clay throws the dildo back in the drawer. Then he grabs one of the DVDs and spins back around.

**CLAY**

Dude, we're watching this.

**INT. LASER'S ROOM - DAY**

36

36

Laser and Clay sit on the bed. They look at each other. Then Laser hits play.

**ON SCREEN**

We see a COP giving a young MAN a BLOW-JOB. Laser and Clay sit motionless, shocked, disgusted, riveted.

26.

**CLAY**

Think the whole thing's like this?

**LASER**

Want me to fast-forward?

Clay doesn't answer. They just keep watching.

**OMITTED**

37

37

**OMITTED**

38

38

**EXT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY**

39

39

Jules pulls her truck into the driveway, almost running over Laser's bike.

**INT. LASER'S ROOM - DAY**

40

40

Laser and Clay are still watching the porn...as Jules walks in the room.

**JULES**

Laser, you left your bike out...

Laser reflexively grabs for the remote. As he fumbles for it, Jules sees what they're watching. She looks mortified.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT EVENING**

41

41

We enter a family conference already in progress. Nic and Jules act calm but are inwardly mortified that their 15-year-old son found their porn.

**NIC**

Laser, your mom and I accept you and love you unconditionally? You know that, right?

**LASER**

Yeah.

**NIC**

And you know you can be open with us about anything.

27.

**LASER**

Yeah, I know.

Jules steels herself for a frank discussion.

**JULES**

Laser, is there anything you want to talk about?

**LASER**

Like what?

**NIC**

Anything. Anything on your mind.

Laser cracks his knuckles.

**LASER**

Well there is something.

Nic and Jules share a look. "Here we go."

**LASER (CONT'D)**

It's more of a question, really.

**NIC**

That's okay.

**JULES**

We won't judge you.

Laser looks at his moms. Nic and Jules brace themselves.

**LASER**

Why do you guys watch gay man-porn?

Nic and Jules look at each other, thrown.

**NIC**

Well, first I have to say we rarely  
watch that movie--

Jules touches Nic's arm.

**JULES**

Honey...

**NIC**

And secondly, I really don't  
appreciate you snooping around our  
room. Was that Clay's idea? I  
have to say again, I don't like  
him. He seems untended...!

28.

**JULES**

Honey, that's not what he asked--

**NIC**

(snapping)

Fine. Do you want to answer his  
question?!

**JULES**

Well, sweetie, human sexuality is  
complicated. And sometimes,  
people's desires can be...counter-  
intuitive...

(soldiering on)

For instance, since women's sexual  
responsiveness is mostly internal,  
sometimes it's exciting for us to  
see sexual responsiveness more, you  
know...

(beat)

...externalized.

Laser looks at them, still baffled.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

Like with a penis.

**LASER**

But like, wouldn't you rather watch two women doing it?

**JULES**

You would think that. But in most of those movies, they've hired two straight women to pretend and the inauthenticity is just unbeara--

**NIC**

Okay, that's enough! Laser, your mom and I have a sense there's some other stuff going on in your life and we just want to be let in.

**LASER**

What do you mean?

**JULES**

Are you having a relationship with someone?

**NIC**

You could tell us, honey. We'd understand and support you.

29.

Laser looks confused. How did they find out about Paul?

**LASER**

I just met him once.

Nic and Jules share a worried look.

**NIC**

What do you mean once?

**JULES**

Did he find you on-line?!

**LASER**

What?!

**NIC**

Who did you meet once?

**LASER**

Paul! I met him with Joni.

**NIC**

Who's Paul?!

**JULES**

Why was Joni there?!

**LASER**

She set it up.

**NIC**

Forget the set-up! Who is Paul?!!

**LASER**

Our sperm donor.  
Jules and Nic go white.

**LASER (CONT'D)**

Wait, did you guys think I was  
gay?!

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER**

42

42

Joni has been pulled into the family conference. Nic and Jules are trying to remain as calm as possible. Nic slugs a gulp of wine.

30.

**JULES**

Look, guys, we understand why you'd  
be curious about your biological  
father. That's totally natural.

**NIC**

But why didn't you tell us?

**JONI**

Because we knew you'd be upset.

**NIC**

**WE'RE NOT UPSET!!**

Jules calms her riled-up partner.

**JULES**

Honey...

(to Joni; expressing her  
upset more calmly)

We just wish you'd have included us  
in your thinking. But what's done  
is done. You met him, and now you  
guys can move on--

**JONI**

(sheepish)

Actually...

(beat)

I want to see him again.

**JULES**

You do?!

**LASER**

You do?!

**JONI (CONT'D)**

(to Laser)  
Yeah. I was gonna tell you.

**NIC**

Whoa! Whoa! No. No way.  
(regaining dominance)  
Nobody is seeing anyone until we  
meet him!

Joni looks at Laser. They knew this would happen.

**INT. NIC AND JULES' BATHROOM - NIGHT**

43

43

Nic and Jules do a post-mortem as they floss.

31.

**NIC**

Yeah, I get it. He's their  
biological father and all that crap  
but it still feels really shitty.  
Like we're not enough or something,  
you know?

**JULES**

Of course I know. I don't want to  
time-share our kids with someone.  
Especially when it's Joni's last  
summer home. No way.

When Jules leaves the room Nic pulls a clump of long, wet red  
hair out of the sink.

**NIC**

Jesus, Jules! The plumber was just  
here!

Nic throws the clump of hair in the trash.

**INT. NIC AND JULES BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

44

44

**NIC**

(getting tactical)  
Look, we need to be smart about  
this. If we act like grubby  
bitches, we're just gonna make it  
worse.

**JULES**

I know...

**NIC**

Let's just kill him with kindness

and put it to bed.

**JULES**

I'm with you, honey.

(then)

We're gonna get through this, okay?

Nic smiles. She loves when Jules shows confidence.

**NIC**

I love you, chicken.

The women bump fists. They have a plan.

**JULES**

I love you too, pony.

32.

**EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON**

45

45

Paul rides slowly down the street, checking addresses. He pulls over and cuts his engine in front of the Allgood house.

**OMITTED**

46

46

**INT/EXT. ALLGOOD FRONT DOOR - AFTERNOON**

47

47

Paul rings the bell. Waits. The door opens and Nic and Jules are there smiling with "kill him with kindness" faces.

**NIC**

Paul! It is so great to meet you.

I'm Nic. This is Jules.

Paul shakes their hands.

**PAUL**

Hi, great to meet you two.

**JULES**

I hope the traffic wasn't too bad.

**PAUL**

No, I've got my bike so...I just sort of weave through.

Nic clocks the motorcycle, stifles the impulse to judge.

**NIC**

Great. Well, come on in.

As they enter, Paul holds out a bottle of wine.

**PAUL**

This is for you. I don't know if  
you guys like wine...  
Nic takes it.

**NIC**

Are you kidding? We love it.  
(checking the label)  
And a Petit Syrah. What a treat!  
Let me get some glasses.

Nic leaves Paul by the stairs with Jules. Little silence.  
Jules steals a look at him, unable to contain her curiosity.

**33.**

**PAUL**

Beautiful house. How long you guys  
lived here?

**JULES**

Almost ten years. Wait, has it  
been that long?  
(rambling nervously)  
We moved right after Laser broke  
his leg, I remember that because we  
had a ramp for a while, so that  
would have been...ten, no, nine?  
No, ten years this fall.

Paul nods, smiling at her nervousness.

**PAUL**

Okay.

Laser and Joni enter. Joni lights up when she sees Paul.  
Jules watches Paul hug her. Uncomfortable, she heads for  
**THE KITCHEN --**

Jules finds Nic's pouring herself a sizable glass of wine.

**JULES**

You okay?

**NIC**

(not okay)  
Yeah. Fine.

Jules feels her inner co-dependent swelling in her chest.

**JULES**

Go easy on the wine, hon. It's day  
time.

**NIC**

Okay. And same goes for the micro-  
managing...

**EXT. ALLGOOD PORCH - AFTERNOON**

48

48

Everyone sits at the picnic table.

**JULES**

I hope the food's okay. Joni told us you own a restaurant.

34.

**PAUL**

The food's great. Can't go wrong with salmon and corn.

Nic finishes a glass of wine as Jules takes note.

**NIC**

So Paul, did you always know you wanted to be in food-services industry?

Paul smiles at Nic, trying to disarm her.

**PAUL**

Well, I always liked food.

**NIC**

No, I was asking because I remember reading in your file, back when we were looking for, you know, sperm, anyway, you said you were studying international relations.

**PAUL**

Oh yeah. Wow, that was a long time ago. Yeah, I was considering it, but then I dropped out of school.

**JONI**

You dropped out of college?

**PAUL**

Yeah, it wasn't my thing.

**NIC**

(squinching)

No? Why's that?

**PAUL**

It just seemed like a massive waste of money after a while. I mean, I wasn't "doing" anything. I was just sitting on my ass listening to people spout off ideas I could've

just as easily learned reading a  
book.

Paul sees that his little rant may be alienating the moms.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

I'm not saying higher learning  
uniformly sucks. I mean, college  
is great for some people.

**(MORE)**

35.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Joni, I'm sure you're gonna love  
it. That's just me. I'm just  
weird that way.

(beat)

Which is probably why I ended up in  
the food-services industry.

**LASER**

See what he did there, mom? You  
said "food-services industry," then  
he said "food-services industry..."

**NIC**

Yeah, I got it, Laser. Thanks.

(apropos of nothing)

So, Paul, what about your social  
life?

**PAUL**

My social life?

**NIC**

You know, are you married,  
divorced, seeing anyone?

**JONI**

Mom!

**NIC**

What? We're getting to know Paul.

**PAUL**

No, never been married or divorced.  
I date a little, but I'm just kind  
of focused on my work right now.

**NIC**

Oh.

Paul wants a break from the heat.

**PAUL**

So, how'd you guys meet?

Jules smiles, embarrassed. Nic jumps in.

**NIC**

We met at UCLA. I was a resident  
in the ER and Jules had an  
emergency.

**JULES**

My tongue went numb.

36.

**PAUL**

Really?

THUD! We turn to see Laser, pounding his head on the table.

**JULES**

Laser, that's not nice.

**LASER**

What's not nice is subjecting your  
kids to the same story 1000 times!

**PAUL**

(ignoring Laser)

What happened to your tongue?

**JULES**

I don't know. I just lost all the  
feeling in my face and tongue and I  
thought I might gag and then, you  
know...

**PAUL**

Choke? Die?...

**JULES**

Yeah...exactly...

**NIC**

Well it was pretty clear to me she  
was just having an anxiety attack  
and she'd be fine.

**PAUL**

So what'd you do for her?

**NIC**

Gave her a Vallium. Tried to get  
her to relax, talk, move her tongue  
around.

**LASER**

Mom, that's gross!

**JULES**

(ignoring Laser, to Nic)

Actually, she started teasing me  
and that really helped.

**NIC**

I was trying to distract you.

37.

**JULES**

I know. And it worked. You were really funny.

**NIC**

You were really pretty.

Nic reaches over and caresses Jules' hand. Joni rolls her eyes, embarrassed.

**JULES**

So that's it. My tongue started working again.

**NIC**

And we've been glued at the hip ever since.

**PAUL**

That's a great story.

**JULES**

(beaming)

We like it.

Laser and Joni share a look.

**PAUL**

So Nic, I know you're a doctor. How `bout you, Jules? What do you do?

Jules never likes this question.

**JULES**

Well, I, you know, I studied architecture in college...

**PAUL**

Right...

**JULES**

But I'm not an architect. I mean I was on my way to becoming one. But I quit before the kids were born.

**PAUL**

Well, that happens...

**JULES**

When they got a little older, I started a Balinese furniture import business...

38.

**PAUL**

Right on.

**JULES**

Yeah. But that didn't work out.

**PAUL**

Well, business aren't easy--

**JULES**

Actually, I'm in the process of starting a new business.

**PAUL**

Good for you. What kind?

**JULES**

Landscape design...

(before he can respond)

But not like a gardener! I mean, yes, there's a gardening component to it, but the real work is to create unique, eco-friendly outdoor spaces that harmonize with the surrounding environment. Do you know what I mean?

**PAUL**

Absolutely.

In Nic's mind, Jules is drowning in verbiage. So she jumps in to save her.

**NIC**

Hey Paul, did Joni tell you about her graduation speech?

**PAUL**

No, she didn't.

**NIC**

It was incredible. So full of wisdom and hope...

(turning to her Joni)

Hon, go get it. I'm sure he'd love to hear it...

**JONI**

(blushing)

No, mom, I'm sure he wouldn't...

39.

**NIC**

Sure he would. Come on. Go get it...

**JONI**

(getting upset)

No, it's okay...

**NIC**

Sweetie, don't be embarrassed.

**JONI**

I'm not embarrassed! Jesus! Give  
it a rest already!

This outburst stuns Nic into silence. Her daughter has never spoken to her like this. Laser stands up.

**LASER**

I'll get the ice-cream.

**JONI**

(standing up)

I'll help you.

Joni and Laser leave the room. Nic pours herself the last of Paul's Petit Syrah. Jules smiles, covering her anxiety.

**JULES**

(softly)

Honey, that's your forth glass.

**NIC**

Actually, it's my third. But  
thanks for counting.

Paul turns to Jules, trying to revive the mood.

**PAUL**

Hey, I was just thinking. You  
know, I bought this place last year  
and the backyard's a wreck. Would  
you be interested in working on it?

**JULES**

(insecure)

Oh, that's okay.

**PAUL**

No, seriously. I don't have time  
to work on it myself.

40.

**JULES**

Thank you. That's really sweet.  
Why don't you think about it.

**PAUL**

Why? I just did.

(then)

I mean, if you're not up for it  
that's okay--

**JULES**

(jumping on it)

No! I am!

(getting excited)

I'm up for it!...

Jules smiles at Nic: "Isn't this great? My first client."  
Nic looks less than pleased.

**OMITTED.**

49

49

**INT. HARDWARE STORE - DAY**

50

50

Nic pushes a cart piled high with gardening supplies. Jules  
grabs a couple BAGS of fertilizer, throws them on top.

**NIC**

...I'm just saying, the plan was to  
limit his involvement--

**JULES**

You're unbelievable. You're all  
over me about getting clients, I  
finally get one and you're--

**NIC**

He's not just a client, Jules.

He's our sperm donor! Have you  
ever heard the phrase "Don't Shit  
Where You Eat?"

**JULES**

Yes, and I think it's disgusting.  
The two separate, go down separate isles. When they rejoin,  
Nic is contrite.

**NIC**

I'm sorry. He just seemed sort  
of...self-satisfied to me.

41.

Jules grabs the olive branch.

**JULES**

Yeah, he was working the whole  
"alternative" thing pretty hard.

**NIC**

(mimicking)

"I just need to get outside and

`do' things, not sit on my ass and learn. But that's just me. I'm weird that way."

They both laugh. Nic's funny sometimes.

**EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - ECHO PARK - DAY**

51

51

Jules drives slowly up the hill looking for Paul's address. She sees the house and pulls in the driveway next to an old truck and a motorcycle.

**EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY**

52

52

Jules and Paul walk through Paul's backyard, evaluating.

**JULES**

...We could do a kind of a Secret Garden thing with trellises and topiary...

(clocking his face)

...or something more Asian, minimal, with a rock garden feel. It's up to you...

**PAUL**

What do you think?

**JULES**

Personally, I'm tired of minimal. I'm into more is more. Let's not try to tame the space. I think it would look great all lush and overgrown and fecund...

**PAUL**

Fecund?

**JULES**

I'm sorry, you know, fertile...

42.

**PAUL**

No, I love that word. You just don't hear it that often.

(thinking)

More is more. Yeah. Let's do that.

Jules is staring at Paul.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

What?

**JULES**

Sorry, I just keep seeing my kids  
in your expressions...

Jules looks more intensely at Paul's face.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

You and Laser have the same mouth.

**PAUL**

You think so?

**JULES**

Yeah.

The observation strikes Paul. Suddenly, he's feeling a kind  
of fast-tracked intimacy with Jules he hadn't expected.

**EXT. BACKYARD - ALLGOOD HOUSE - EVENING**

53

53

Jules and Laser play Ping-Pong as Nic gets home with Chinese  
take-out for the family dinner.

**NIC**

What's the score?

**JULES**

Pretty close.

Laser cranks a forehand that whizzes past Jules.

**LASER**

20-3...match point.

**NIC**

So how'd it go today?

**JULES**

Great. We settled on a concept.

43.

**NIC**

What is it?

**JULES**

It's hard to explain. You have to  
kind of see the space to get it.

**NIC**

(to Laser)

Laser, did you write Pup-pup a Get  
Well card?

(off his silence)

Laser! What do I have to do?! I  
bought you a card. I left it on

your desk. All you had to do was--

**LASER**

Mom, settle! I will...

**NIC**

Don't tell me to settle, mister.  
And if it's not in the mail by  
tomorrow morning, we're not going  
to the Dodger game Saturday.

**LASER**

Whatever, I have other plans  
anyway.

**NIC**

What other plans?  
(off his silence)  
I'm asking you a quest--

**LASER**

I said I'd do something with Paul!  
Laser serves a rocket, whizzing past a flailing Jules. He  
tosses the racquet on the table and leaves. Nic yells:

**NIC**

You used to be so cute!

**EXT. ALLEY - DAY**

54

We cut onto Paul and Laser, looking out at something. Laser  
is holding a DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA.

54

**PAUL**

This may not be a good idea.

44.

**CLAY (O.S.)**

Are you filming?!

We cut to Clay on a skateboard on the ledge of a brick wall.  
He's preparing to ride the ledge, jump a dumpster and land  
his board on the ground.

**PAUL**

(to Laser)  
He's not gonna make it.  
(calling to Clay)  
Clay, you're not gonna make it!

**LASER**

I think he may be right, dude.

Maybe this isn't such a good idea.

**CLAY**

Will you quit being a man-gina and  
run the camera! I'm only doing  
this once so keep my shit in frame!

Laser sighs, then holds up the camera. Paul looks at Laser,  
wondering why he puts up with this guy.

VIDEO CAMERA'S POV: We watch as Clay psychs himself up with  
an assortment of deep breaths and head-slaps. Finally, he  
starts down the ledge. He starts his jump, catches air and  
hits the edge of the dumpster and falls. We see him go into  
the dumpster and land with a nauseating THUD. Paul and Laser  
rush up and look over the edge.

**PAUL/LASER**

**ARE YOU OKAY?!**

There's Clay, his arm bent at a disturbing angle, in agony.

**CLAY**

Did you get that?!

**LASER**

Seriously, dude, are you okay?

**CLAY**

I'm fucking fine! Fuck! Did you  
fucking get it?!

**EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CLAY'S HOUSE - LATER**

55

55

Paul and Laser walk over to Paul's truck.

45.

**PAUL**

Maybe next time we can hang out  
just you and me.

**LASER**

Clay's cool. He's just gets a  
little amped sometimes.

**PAUL**

That's not amped. That's being a  
dick.

**LASER**

He's not a dick, that's just his  
way.

**PAUL**

Okay...I just didn't like the way  
he was talking to you.

**LASER**

(defensive)  
Well, you don't know him.

**PAUL**  
(back-peddling)  
You're right...I don't...

**LASER**  
Hey, can I ask you a question?

**PAUL**  
Sure.

**LASER**  
Why'd you donate sperm?

**PAUL**  
Well, it's a lot more fun than donating blood.  
Laser doesn't laugh. Paul realizes he's gonna have to give a "non-joke" answer.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**  
I don't know, I guess I thought, you know, if I can help somebody in need, somebody who wants a baby...

Laser's not really buying that.

**LASER**  
So you did it to help people?

46.

**PAUL**  
It was a long time ago...

**LASER**  
How much did you get paid?

**PAUL**  
Why do you want to know?

**LASER**  
I'm just curious.

**PAUL**  
I don't know, like 60 bucks a pop.

**LASER**  
That's it?

**PAUL**  
It was worth more back then. You know. With inflation...  
(off Laser's look)  
Hey, I'm glad I did it...

Laser doesn't quite buy Paul's altruism. He looks over at him, then away.

**INT. JONI'S ROOM - DAY**

56

56

Jai and Joni and Sasha play Scrabble. Sasha checks out the photos of Paul on Joni's phone.

**SASHA**

Hello? Donor Dad? Stone cold fox.

**JAI**

Must you take everything beautiful and make it dirty?

**SASHA**

I'm just saying. Spermster's a hottie. Is he single?

**JONI**

Okay, first of all, ewww. Second, he's a really good person and I'd prefer it if you didn't taint him with your whore juice.

Sasha hops up, energized by the banter.

47.

**SASHA**

Fair enough, hairy muff. I'm outta here. You love birds can split my letters...

Sasha splits and suddenly the room is thick with nervous tension.

**JONI**

You want to keep playing?

**JAI**

Sure.

As Jai incorporates Sasha's tiles into his own, we see Joni gathering her nerve to make a move. Jai probably feels it but in his nervousness he can't look at Joni.

**JAI (CONT'D)**

Sometimes I feel sorry for Sasha, you know...

**JONI**

Yeah...

Joni starts to move in, her face draws closer to Jai's, inch by inch.

Somehow, deep down, Jai can sense her moving towards him which exhilarates and freaks the shit out of him at the same time. To the point where he lets slip...

**JAI**

It's like she has to sexualize every experience, you know? It's just sad...

That stops Joni in her tracks.

**JONI**

Yeah, it is. It's really sad. Jai's sabotaged the mood and they both know it.

**INT. NIC AND JULES' BATHROOM - NIGHT**

57

57

Jules walks in to find Nic in sexy satin man-PJ's, sitting at the rim of a RUNNING BATH. There are candles burning.

**JULES**

Wow. What's this?

48.

**NIC**

Come here. Sit down.

Jules takes a seat beside her. Nic holds her hand.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

I'm sorry I've been such a bitch lately. I know I'm not being my highest self.

**JULES**

Yeah, well...

**NIC**

You've been really patient with me. I just want you to know that hasn't gone unrecognized.

Nic gives her a long, sweet kiss. Jules is warming up.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Get in.

**CUT TO - JULES**

In the tub, revelling in the warm bubbly water. Nic is

sitting on the ledge, massaging her feet.

**JULES**

Oh god, chicken, that's the spot.

**NIC**

How's the water?

**JULES**

Perfect. You wanna come in?

**NIC**

In a bit. You enjoy it first.

Nic goes deeper with the massage. Jules' eyes roll back.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Oh, I forgot the lavender salts.

Nic starts to get up. Jules grabs her hand.

**JULES**

No, don't stop...

**NIC**

No, I meant to put `em in....

49.

Nic gets up and sashays to the door.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Don't move...

Nic exits. Jules sinks back, wishing Nic had stayed.

**CUT TO JULES - MINUTES LATER**

58

58

Still waiting. Getting impatient and upset.

**JULES**

Nic?!!

No response.

**CUT TO THE KITCHEN --**

54

54

Nic is on her cell with a patient, a glass of wine in her hand. Jules walks in wearing a bathrobe. Nic turns. Raises a finger and mouths: "Sorry..."

**NIC**

No, we're planning on being here through mid-August so...

(beat)

No, I promise, I'm not going anywhere.

Jules' face drops; she turns and leaves.

**OMITTED.**

59

59

**INT./EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY**

60

60

Paul watches Jules work in his backyard. Luis hauls shrubs.

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER**

61

61

Paul and Jules stand at the kitchen table, looking over her sketch for the yard.

**JULES**

Look, I'm gonna go to the nursery  
in the morning so we should  
probably make sure you're signed  
off on the Bougainvillea...

Jules looks over at a pan on the kitchen counter.

50.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

What's that?

**PAUL**

Strawberry rhubarb pie. Fresh from  
my garden.

Paul hands her a fork and she takes a big bite. Her eyes  
roll back in her head.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Good, huh?

**JULES**

Oh my god. That is criminal.

**PAUL**

Have more.

**JULES**

No, please, just take it away...

**PAUL**

You had one bite.

**JULES**

I have another you may as well just  
tape it to my ass cause that's  
where it'll end up.

**PAUL**

Hey now, don't go negative on your  
ass.

Jules blushes at all this talk of her ass.

**JULES**

So...you're good with the plants?  
(off his silence)  
Look, we don't have to do that. We  
could do go in a totally different  
direction if you--

**PAUL**

No, I'm just thinking. Hang on.  
(covers his eyes)  
Yeah, I'm good with the plants.

**JULES**

Sorry. Sometimes I mistake silence  
for criticism.

51.

**PAUL**

I wasn't criticizing you.

**JULES**

No, I know...I just...  
(beat)  
Sometimes Nic can be a little  
critical, you know. She's a  
perfectionist.

**PAUL**

That doesn't mean you have to be  
negative.

Jules looks away. We HEAR a knock from the back.

**LUIS (O.S.)**

Excuse me, Senora? Hello?

Jules turns, sees Luis standing at the glass door.

**JULES**

What's up?

**LUIS**

5 o'clock.

**JULES**

Yeah. Okay.

Jules wants Luis to leave her alone. But he's not going.

**LUIS**

Same time tomorrow?

**JULES**

Yes! Same time!

Luis leaves. Jules turns back to Paul, laughs nervously.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

Okay. I'm gonna take off too...

**PAUL**

(in Luis's accent)

Same time tomorrow?

Jules pushes Paul, laughing.

**JULES**

That's mean.

Paul hands her a Tupperware with some of the pie in it.

52.

**PAUL**

Here, take this...

**JULES**

No!

**PAUL**

Just give it to the kids.

**JULES**

Okay! God, you're such a pusher!

Jules grabs the pie and gives him a kiss on the mouth, almost as a mistake. Before they know it, they're making out.

Jules snaps back, freaked.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

Whoa. I'm sorry. That was...I don't know where that came from...

**PAUL**

(freaked himself)

It's okay...

**JULES**

Okay. I'm gonna go now...

Jules starts backing away, acting as if nothing happened.

**PAUL**

Jules...?

**JULES**

(overcompensating)

...but I shall return!  
Jules bolts for the door, clutching her pie. Paul watches her go, stunned by what just happened.

**INT. NIC AND JULES BEDROOM - NIGHT**

62

62

Nic's in bed reading a magazine. Jules gets in bed, paranoid. Nic puts her magazine down.

**NIC**

So how'd it go with Paul?

**JULES**

(jumpy)  
What do you mean?

53.

**NIC**

I don't know. Did you break ground? Did you dig in? I don't know the terms.

**JULES**

No, we just talked...conceptually.

**NIC**

Oh, so it was less of a "doing" day, huh? Was he okay with that?

**JULES**

You know, maybe we should lay off the Paul digs a little.

**NIC**

Okay. You're right.

Chastened, Nic looks back at her magazine. Jules rolls over.

**JULES**

And I also think we should start composting.

**OMITTED**

63

63

**EXT. URBAN FARM - ECHO PARK - DAY - MOS**

64

64

Sweating and dirty, Joni and Paul pull radishes from the ground. They're in a zone together. Paul takes off his sun-hat and put it on Joni's head.

**PAUL**

You got your mom's fair skin. You didn't get my Mediterranean

genes...

**JONI**

Thanks...

Joni's cell rings. She looks. Rolls her eyes.

**JONI (CONT'D)**

Ugh. Ignore.

Joni hits the ignore button, puts her cell away.

**PAUL**

Who's that?

54.

**JONI**

My mom, Nic. She's making me insane.

**PAUL**

Why? What's she doing?

**JONI**

She's treating me like I'm 12.  
It's like she doesn't want to admit  
I'm an adult.

**PAUL**

She's your mom. That's her job.

**JONI**

What? To smother me to death?  
That's not her job.

**PAUL**

Well, if you want things to be  
different, you've got to make that  
happen. That's your job.

**EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - MAGIC HOUR**

65

65

Laser walks with Clay. Clay sports a homemade arm-cast for the skateboard mishap we witnessed earlier.

**CLAY**

That jump was cake, dude! I so  
could've made it.

**LASER**

You were like 20 feet short, dude!  
There was no way.

**CLAY**

Yeah, well if Paul wasn't there I could have landed it. That guy creeps me out.

**LASER**

Whatever.

**CLAY**

He's kind of a fag, dude. Tryin' to act all like your dad and shit.

Laser doesn't know how to respond so he ignores the comment. A stray DOG comes up to them. Laser stops to pet it.

55.

**LASER**

Hey buddy. Good boy.

Laser sees the dog has no tags. He looks around for an owner. The dog nuzzles Laser for affection.

**LASER (CONT'D)**

I've seen this dog around. I wonder if he's lost.

**CLAY**

Let's pee on his head.

**LASER**

What?

Clay unzips his fly. It's difficult with the plaster cast.

**LASER (CONT'D)**

Dude, don't do that.

**CLAY**

Come on. Hold him...

Clay yanks the dog by his scruff.

**LASER**

Dude, Quit it!

**CLAY**

(mocking)

Duuude, quit it!

Suddenly, Laser gets it. His friend is the tool. He grabs the dog and smacks him to get him to run away.

**LASER**

Go! Run! Get out of here!

The dog TAKES OFF. Clay shoves Laser.

**CLAY**

Why are you such a fag?!

Laser shoves Clay back hard.

**LASER**

Why are you such a dick?!

Clay HITS Laser in the mouth. Laser touches his lip. Sees blood, and walks away. Friendship over.

56.

**EXT. URBAN FARM PARKING LOT - ECHO PARK - MAGIC HOUR**

66

66

Paul and Joni walk to his motorcycle parked in the dirt lot behind them. Paul grabs his helmet off the bike, hands it to Joni.

**PAUL**

Here, put this on.

Joni takes the helmet and puts it on. Paul fastens the buckle for her. They get on the bike and take off down the hill.

**EXT. ECHO PARK TO THE WEST SIDE - MAGIC HOUR**

67

67

Paul takes Joni home on his motorcycle via Sunset Boulevard. She holds Paul tightly.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING**

68

68

The ladies sit in the living room watching TV.

**JULES**

Relax. She'll get home when she gets home.

**NIC**

Quit telling me to relax!

They go back to watching TV. After a beat, we HEAR a motorcycle pull up.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

What the fuck...!

**EXT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

69

69

Paul and Joni climb off the bike. Nic storms out of the house to intercept them by the sidewalk.

**NIC**

Funny how someone conveniently forgot to tell me they were driving home on a motorcycle!

**JONI**

Mom...

57.

**NIC**

You know how many people I've seen come into the hospital paralyzed from motorcycle accidents?!

**PAUL**

I'm a very safe rider...

**NIC**

That is so not the point I'm making! Joni knows this is something I'd never allow.

**JONI**

Mom, I'm 18 years old! I won't even be living here in like next month!

**NIC**

Yeah, well, you're living here now!

**JONI**

Yeah, well why don't you get a jump on it and pretend like I'm not!

Joni storms off. Nic glowers at Paul.

**NIC**

She's never talked to me like that.

**PAUL**

(trying to soften it)

You know, Nic. If you eased up on the restrictions, maybe there'd be less tension...

**NIC**

(marinated in sarcasm)

Really? You think so, Paul? Is that how it works?

Jules walks up to intervene.

**JULES**

What's going on?

**NIC**

Oh, nothing. Paul's just giving me

child-rearing lessons.

**PAUL**

I was just saying--

58.

**NIC**

Listen, when you've been a parent for 18 years, come talk to me!

**PAUL**

I was just making an observation.

**NIC**

Yeah, and I need your observations like I need a dick in my ass!

Nic storms off. Jules follows. Paul watches, shell shocked.

**OMITTED**

70

70

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - JONI'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT**

71

71

Nic knocks on the door. Get's no response.

**NIC**

Joni?

(silence)

I was just upset. You know how I feel about motorcycles.

Joni opens the door.

**JONI**

(patronizing)

I know how you feel about them. But I'm an adult now and you have to respect that. Goodnight.

Joni closes the door on her.

**OMITTED**

72

72

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY**

73

73

From his house, Paul watches Jules working on her knees in the garden.

CLOSE ON Jules' thong peaking out of her jeans. Luis walks across Paul's field of vision, interrupting his reverie.

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LATER**

74

74

Jules steps tentatively into Paul's house.

59.

**JULES**

Paul?

Jules walks further into the house. She looks anxious.  
Paul opens his office door and sees Jules in the hall.

Paul

**PAUL**

Hey. What's up?

**JULES**

Look, I'm sorry about last night.  
I'm really embarrassed.

**PAUL**

Don't be. She's the one who wiggled  
out.

**JULES**

I know, she's just going through a  
lot of stuff right now...

**PAUL**

Jules, it's okay. You don't have  
to defend her.

They stare at each other, unsure how to act.

**JULES**

And look, I just want you to know,  
about the other day, the kiss,  
that's not something I...do.

**PAUL**

Yeah, I sensed that.

She takes a step toward him, feverish.

**JULES**

I just wanted to clear the air.

They stare at each other. It's like watching two magnets.

**PAUL**

The air is clear.

Jules grabs Paul and starts smothering him with kisses.  
It takes a second for Paul to get his bearings, but when he  
does, he starts kissing her back with equal fervor, pushing  
her up against the wall, wedging his hand between her legs.

**JULES**

Paul, I can't!

60.

**PAUL**

You don't want to?!

**JULES**

No, I do! It's just...  
(urgent whisper)  
I have a guy outside!

Overcome with lust, Jules wraps her legs around his waist and Paul walks her into...

**HIS BEDROOM**

75

75

Quick cuts of their awkward ravenous gropings. Somewhere between slapstick and animal. He pulls her hair back hard. She loves it. She pulls his hair back harder. He yelps. She pulls down his underwear. Her eyes widen. It's been decades since she's seen a hard cock in the flesh.

**JULES**

Oh. Well. Hel-lo!

Cut to them fucking. It's gawky and passionate. Somewhere in the middle of it, Jules starts laughing.

**PAUL**

What?

**JULES**

Nothing.

Paul flips her on her hands and knees and they go at it some more.

She keeps laughing. Paul goes harder to make her stop. The paces grows quicker. They're getting closer. And then...

**LUIS (O.S.)**

Hello? Excuse me, Senora Allgood?!  
They stop mid-thrust.

**JULES**

You gotta be fucking kidding me!  
She dislodges from Paul and starts dressing furiously.

**INT./EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY**

76

76

Jules runs out to meet Luis, waiting patiently at the door.

61.

**JULES**

What's up?

**LUIS**

Where do you want the stones?

**JULES**

(catching her breath)

The stones? Over by the fence.

Luis stares at his employer. She looks totally disheveled.  
Jules starts feeling her hair, smoothing it into shape.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

(defensive)

What? I was using the bathroom.

(then)

Do you need to use the bathroom?

Luis stares at her feet. She looks down. She's barefoot.

**EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY**

77

77

Paul and Laser shoot hoop. There's a tense-ness to their patter. Laser takes the ball and steps to the top of the key and shoots. Drains it.

**LASER**

That's H.

**PAUL**

I know.

Laser steps up to left side of the basket, calls his shot.

**LASER**

Lay-up.

**PAUL**

Hey, don't take it easy on me cause you're winning--

Laser does a trick behind the back lay-up. Nails it.  
Then  
tosses the ball to Paul.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Nobody likes a show-off.

**LASER**

Hey, can I ask you a question?

62.

**PAUL**

Oh god. Okay. Hit me.

**LASER**

When you die do you want to be buried or cremated?

**PAUL**

That's your question?

**LASER**

I want to be cremated.

**PAUL**

I think I'd rather be buried.

**LASER**

Why? That's just taking up more space in the earth.

**PAUL**

I don't know, something about the idea of being burned into this chalky powder and sprinkled--

**LASER**

What do you care? You won't even be conscious.

**PAUL**

That's true. I guess I just want to be in a place where people can visit me.

**LASER**

(growing animated)

But why?! You'll be dead! You won't even know they're there!

**INT. WYSIWYG - RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

78

78

Joni and Sasha are at a table eating dinner. Tanya has temporarily joined them. Sasha checks out Tanya's oversized African bead necklace. Joni watches Paul charm customers.

**SASHA**

God, I love your necklace! Where'd you get it?

**TANYA**

I don't know, some flea market--

63.

**SASHA**

In Africa?

**TANYA**

No, more like Pasadena.

**SASHA**

Well, it's really awesome.

Paul saunters up to the table and stands behind Sasha. He mindlessly places his hand on Sasha's shoulder.

**PAUL**

Sorry guys, I need to steal Tanya back now.

Sasha clocks Paul's hand. She carefully and without looking back places her hand on top of his.

**SASHA**

That's okay, Paul.

**TANYA**

(getting up)

Well ladies, it was fun talking with you.

**SASHA/JONI**

You too.

Paul pulls his hand away from Sasha's and walks off with Tanya. Sasha turns to Joni.

**SASHA**

Okay, I'm sorry but your donor daddy is giving me the sex vibe.

**JONI**

No he's not. He wouldn't do that.

**SASHA**

Why not? He's not my dad.

**JONI**

God Sasha, that's totally gross! Not everybody wants to have sex with you, okay? Especially when you act like a slut.

**SASHA**

Fuck you.

64.

**JONI**

Well it makes you seem insecure and desperate.

**SASHA**

I'm not insecure and desperate!  
I'm just a normal sexual person!  
And maybe you'd get that if you  
weren't so uptight!

**JONI**

Fuck you. I'm not uptight!

**INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

79

79

Nic and Jules dine with their friends, JOEL and STELLA.  
Nic's drinking like a fish.

**STELLA**

Oh my god, these heirloom tomatoes  
are insane.

**JULES**

Joni brought some home from Paul's  
garden the other day. They were  
huge!

Nic tightens at the mention of Paul.

**JOEL**

So, the kids have been spending  
time with him?

**NIC**

Oh, yeah, they're spending all  
kinds of quality time together.

**STELLA**

(senses the sarcasm)

Well, it's great they like him so  
much. You know, you hear these  
stories about kids meeting their  
donors and the guys end up being  
nothing like they were on paper.

**NIC**

No, everyone's getting along  
famously. Apparently Paul can do  
no wrong...

Nic grabs a passing waiter by the arm.

65.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Can we get another bottle of the  
Seavey Cabernet?

Jules gives Nic a look. Joel and Stella feel the tension  
between them.

**STELLA**

Hey, have you guys tried those Açaí fruit packs?

**JULES**

No, but they're pushing them like crack at Whole Foods.

**STELLA**

I know. Joel's addicted.

**JOEL**

What I do is I throw one in the blender with some bananas, frozen strawberries and hemp milk and I'll tell you, it's sensational.

Nic slaps her forehead.

**NIC**

Oh, just fucking kill me...

Everyone stiffens. Jules is embarrassed.

**JULES**

Honey...

**NIC**

I'm sorry guys, but I just can't, with the fucking hemp milk and the organic farming and heirloom tomatoes.

(mocking-voice)

"Oh no, don't throw that in the trash, no man, you gotta throw that into the composting bin so the fucking worms can shit all over it and turn it into glorious mulch and we can all feel better about ourselves." God! What a bunch of bullshit!

Nic takes a big swallow from her glass. Jules windshield wipes Nic's forearm.

66.

**JULES**

(sotto)

How about some green tea, honey...

Nic slams her glass on the table. Explodes.

**NIC**

You know what, Jules?! I like my

wine! Okay? So fucking sue me!  
And fyi, red wine has a chemical  
called Resveratrol in it, which has  
been proven to significantly extend  
human lifespan!

**JULES**

Yeah, if you drink a thousand  
bottles a day!

**NIC**

Fuck you.  
Nic storms off. Jules turns to Joel and Stella, ashen.

**JULES**

I'm sorry.

**INT. RESTAURANT BAR - MINUTES LATER**

80

80

Jules walks over to the bar. Nic is sitting in the corner.

**JULES**

What the hell is going on with you?

**NIC**

This whole Paul thing is driving me  
crazy! I feel like he's taking  
over my family.

Jules tries to bring it down. She yells in hushed tones.

**JULES**

No. He's not!

**NIC**

(nerves fraying)  
Okay! Okay. I'm sorry. I'm just  
exhausted...

**JULES**

Maybe you need to take some time  
off and recharge.

67.

**NIC**

(self-pitying)  
Sure, and who's gonna pay for that?  
Jules looks pissed off, and hurt.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Look, I'm sorry, I just feel like  
I'm carrying the whole load here.

**JULES**

Because that's the way you like it!  
That's the way you keep control!

This is Jules' break-point.

**NIC**

What are you talking about?

**JULES**

Oh come on! You hated it when I  
worked! You wanted me at home,  
taking care of the kids. You  
wanted a wife!

**NIC**

That is just not true!

**JULES**

You didn't trust any of those  
nannies! And you sure as hell  
didn't back my career!

**NIC**

What are you talking about? I just  
helped you start another business!

**JULES**

Yeah, so you can feel better about  
yourself!

**NIC**

No, so you can feel better about  
yourself!

**JULES**

Are you even attracted to me  
anymore?

The BARTENDER holds out the bottle of Cabernet.

**BARTENDER**

Do you still want this?

68.

**NIC**

No. Just the check please.

**JULES AND PAUL**

81

81

Fucking again in his bedroom. Jules writhes beneath him, her  
eyes closed. Paul seems to be in some kind of zone. He  
stares at her, enthralled.

**CUT TO:**

Jules and Paul lie naked in the bed. Jules slithers around the covers, stoned on post-coital endorphins.

**JULES**

God, I feel so drugular right now.  
(sitting up quickly)  
I really want a cigarette! Do you  
have any? I haven't had a  
cigarette since Laser was born. Do  
you smoke?

**PAUL**

Sometimes. But I don't have any  
here. Want me to run to the store?

**JULES**

(bouncing off the walls)  
Yeah. Wait, no. Don't. Sorry.

Jules pops up on her knees, getting in his face.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

Do you think I'm just like some sad-  
sack middle-aged lesbian?

**PAUL**

God, that's it. I was trying to  
figure out how to describe you to  
my friends. Thank you.

Jules punches his arm, mock hurt. They start rough-housing.  
Then kissing. Then the phone rings.

**JULES**

You want to get that?

**PAUL**

No. I want to get this...

69.

Paul grabs a handful of Jules' ass. Jules throws her leg  
over Paul and climbs up for another round. Suddenly, Joni's  
voice echoes through the machine.

**JONI (ON MACHINE)**

Hi Paul. It's Joni. I just wanted  
to apologize for my friend, Sasha.  
I was really embarrassed when she  
put her hand on your--

Paul grabs the receiver.

**PAUL**

Hey, Joni. I'm here...

Jules visibly recoils.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Listen, don't worry about your friend.

Jules pales. She mouths: "What are you doing?!" Paul gesticulates: "I'm sorry!"

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

No. Honestly. I didn't even notice...

Jules throws on her clothes and starts to leave.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Hey, Joni? Can you hold on a second?

Paul grabs Jules' wrist and mouths "wait!" Jules rips her arm free and walks out.

**MOMENTS LATER - JULES**

83

83

walks outside and is stunned to find Luis already back from Home Depot, sneezing and wiping his nose.

**JULES**

Did you go to Home Depot?

**LUIS**

Yeah. I just got back.

**JULES**

That was fast!

70.

**LUIS**

Yeah, no lines.

His look of confusion trips off her paranoia. She's convinced he knows everything.

**JULES**

What's that look?

**LUIS**

What look?

**JULES**

The look you're giving me right now!

**LUIS**

That's no look. That just my face.

**JULES**

Look, I'm not gonna play this game with you! You need to keep your judgements to yourself!

**LUIS**

Senora, I didn't give no looks!

**JULES**

I don't ask you why you keep blowing your nose constantly! I mean, if you have a drug problem that's your business...

**LUIS**

I don't have no drug problem! I have the allergies!

**JULES**

Then why are you a gardener?!

Luis stares at Jules, innocent.

**LUIS**

Cause I love the flowers.

**JULES**

Look, this isn't gonna work. I'll pay you through the end of the day and then we're done.

Jules walks past a totally confused Luis.

71.

**INT. NIC AND JULES BEDROOM - NIGHT**

84

84

Jules lies on her side. Nic shuffles to get to close to her. Jules moves away, still pissed at her. Nic realizes she needs to make amends.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING**

85

85

The family sits in silence, having breakfast. Nic looks around the table, feeling like a pariah.

**NIC**

Look, I know you've all been enjoying your time with Paul. And I know I haven't been as open to him as everyone else and this has caused some...friction...between

us. But I'd like to try and change that...  
Everyone keeps eating, uncommitted. "And...?"

**NIC (CONT'D)**

So I was thinking. Maybe it would be nice if we all had dinner at his house sometime. That way, I could get to know him a little better, and I could see all the good work mom's been doing with his backyard.  
Nic looks at Jules and smiles. Everyone nods. They recognize this is a big step for Nic.

**OMITTED**

86  
86

**EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY**

88  
88

Paul walks out to check on Jules. She's sweating her ass off, shlepping stacks of heavy mulch across the yard.

**PAUL**

How's it going?

**JULES**

Okay...

72.

**PAUL**

Here, let me help.

Paul takes some of her load and together they transport the sod to the other side of the yard. Neither know what to say.

Paul stares at her, waiting for her lead.

**JULES**

We can't be doing this...

**PAUL**

I know...

**JULES**

I'm married...

**PAUL**

...and the kids...

**JULES**

Yeah, and I love Nic.

**PAUL**

I know...

They stare at each other and we cut to...

**INT. PAUL'S BEDROOM - LATER**

89

89

Paul and Jules lie in bed. Jules looks nauseated. Paul offers her a pack of smokes.

**PAUL**

I got you some cigarettes.

**JULES**

(ignoring him)

Jesus, what's wrong with me? I shouldn't have fired Luis like that. That was totally wrong...

**PAUL**

Come on. Don't be so hard on yourself. Things get messy sometimes...

**JULES**

That wasn't messy. That was fucked up. I'm totally fucked up...

73.

**PAUL**

I think I'm really falling for you.

**JULES**

Paul, don't...

**INT. PAUL'S BATHROOM - LATER**

90

90

Jules takes a shower, washing off the evidence. She looks nauseated by her lack of willpower.

**INT. WYSIWYG - LATER**

87

87

Tanya walks over to Paul who's on his computer. She flops on the couch next to him. He doesn't look up.

**TANYA**

Pretty good night. That table had like 5 bottles of wine.

**PAUL**

Wow. Yeah. Good night.

**TANYA**

Joni's pretty. She's got some of your genes.

**PAUL**

I think she looks more like her mom actually. But thank you.

**TANYA**

It's cute seeing you in dad mode.

**PAUL**

Yeah?

**TANYA**

Yeah.

(lowering voice)

It makes me want to fuck you.

**PAUL**

(uncomfortable)

Oh yeah?...

**TANYA**

Yeah...

Tanya moves imperceptibly closer.

74.

**TANYA (CONT'D)**

I've been missing our sleep-overs.

Paul finally stops what he's doing.

**PAUL**

Yeah, it's been a while.

**TANYA**

You want to meet up later?

Paul hesitates. He doesn't know how to say no.

**PAUL**

Tanya, you're so sexy and beautiful, but I don't think we should do that anymore.

Tanya's face drops.

**TANYA**

What happened?

**PAUL**

You know, our thing is really fun and easy, but...I don't want to be 50 and still "hanging out." You know? If I really want a family then I have to stop getting in these situations that don't go anywhere.

Paul just looks at her. Tanya gets it.

**TANYA**

(welling up)

Oh.

Paul knows enough to say nothing. Tanya gets up and walks off.

**TANYA (CONT'D)**

Fuck you.

Paul sits there, feeling like an asshole.

**EXT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - MAGIC HOUR**

91  
91

The family packs into the Volvo to head to Paul's.

75.

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MAGIC HOUR**

92

92

Paul gets dinner ready with Joni and Laser as his sous-chefs. Both kids seem really jazzed to be cooking with him.

**IN THE BACKYARD -EVENING**

Jules tours Nic around the backyard, looking a little freaked out as she shows her the work she's been doing.

**JULES**

I'm gonna do some planting over there so it won't look so bare...

**NIC**

It looks great, honey. Very indigenous. I'm so proud of you.

Nic kisses Jules spontaneously. Jules looks nauseous again. They head back up the stairs, toward Paul's house.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Hey, so how's that guy Luis working out?

**JULES**

Oh, I had to fire him.

**NIC**

(surprised)  
Really?!

**JULES**

Yeah, he had a drug problem.

**NIC**

Whoa. What kind of drugs?

**JULES**

Blow, I think...

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER**

93

93

Nic flips through Paul's album collection, including Joni Mitchell's Blue.

**INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

94

94

Everyone digs into the meal, enjoying themselves. Especially Nic, who's committed to redeeming herself.

76.

**PAUL**

Hey Nic, I think you're gonna love this '98 Screaming Eagle.

**NIC**

You know what, I think I'm gonna stick with water tonight. But thank you so much.

The Allgoods look at Nic: this is a first.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

God, Paul, this steak is delicious. What's the seasoning?

**PAUL**

I just mist it with a little truffle oil.

Nic looks at Jules and smiles in full overcompensation mode.

**NIC**

What a good idea. We should try that. Right, honey?

**JULES**

(taken aback by Nic's  
cheerfulness)  
Mmm-hmmm.

**NIC**

And it's done to perfection.

**PAUL**

So it's not too rare?

**NIC**

No, it's perfect. Juicy. Tender.  
Exactly what rare's supposed to be.

**PAUL**

Good. A lot of people in the  
restaurant order a steak rare and  
they freak out at the slightest  
sight of red.

**NIC**

Ugh, isn't that annoying? That  
happens to me all the time when I'm  
grilling.

77.

**PAUL**

Don't people know that rare means  
red?

**NIC**

Right?! It means bloody!

**PAUL**

Exactly! They should see what rare  
looks like in Argentina. The cow's  
practically still mooing.

Laser chuckles at Paul's joke, then reigns it in. Joni tries  
to insert herself in the conversation.

**JONI**

I really want to go to Argentina.  
Buenos Aires is supposed to be--

**NIC**

(interrupting)  
...So Paul, I was checking out your  
album collection over there. Quite  
the eclectic mix...

**PAUL**

Thanks...

**NIC**

You don't meet too many straight

guys who love Joni Mitchell.  
Joni glares at Nic: stop being such a Paul hog.

**PAUL**

Oh yeah, you a Joni Mitchell fan?

**NIC**

(smug)

Not really. We just named our  
daughter after her.

**PAUL**

Cool. Right on...

**NIC**

What's your favorite Joni album?

**PAUL**

I think I have to go with "Blue."  
Nic raises her hand in a testify.

78.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Yeah? You too?

They high-five across the table.

**NIC**

Oh God, I probably spent half of  
high school in my room crying to  
that album. That record kills me.

**PAUL**

I know, it never lets up, you got  
"River," "California..."

**NIC**

"A Case of You..."

**PAUL**

"All I Want..."

**NIC**

Mmm!!

Nic pulls her hands to her chest, shuts her eyes...and starts  
to sing.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

I am on a lonely road and I am  
traveling traveling, traveling,  
traveling/Looking for something,  
what can it be/Oh I hate you some,  
I hate you some/I love you some Oh  
I love you/when I forget about  
me...

Jules, Paul and the kids watch, open-mouthed as Nic soldiers on, skipping ahead to another verse.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

I want to talk to you/I want to  
shampoo you/I want to renew you  
again and again/Applause, applause/  
Life is our cause/When I think of  
your kisses/My mind see-saws...

Nic takes a breath. Just as Paul's about to say something,  
Nic resumes her unfortunate solo.

**NIC (CONT'D)**

Do you see/do you see/do you see  
how you hu-urt me baby/so I hurt  
you too/then we both get/soo-ooo-  
ooo blue...

79.

Nic stops, eyes still closed. She's connected to a part of  
herself she rarely lets herself visit. The moment is  
punctured by her smart-ass 15-year-old son.

**LASER**

Don't quit your day job, mom.

**PAUL**

Hey. It's hard enough to open your  
heart in this world. Don't make it  
harder.

**LASER**

You're right.  
(to Nic; contrite)  
I'm sorry, mom.

Nic looks at Paul. Stunned. Then looks at Jules and points  
to Paul.

**NIC**

I like this guy.

Paul looks at Joni.

**PAUL**

You didn't tell me you were named  
after Joni M.

**JONI**

It's just so dorky. I don't really  
like to bring it up.

**PAUL**

I think it's cool.

**NIC**

(getting up)

Hey Paul. Where's your bathroom?

**PAUL**

Just around there.

On her way to the loo, Nic turns back to Paul.

**NIC**

You know what? I think I will try  
some of that Screaming Eagle.

80.

**INT. PAUL'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS**

95

95

Nic washes her hands at the sink. Something catches her eye. She lifts Paul's hairbrush from the shelf in front of her and examines it. She reaches into the bristles and pulls out...

A few strands of long red hair.

Nic pales.

**CUT TO**

Nic on her knees in Paul's shower, pulling a clump of tell-tale red hair from the drain.

**CUT TO**

Nic skulks out of the bathroom. She looks out and b-ines for the bedroom.

**CUT TO**

Nic pulling pillows off Paul's bed. Her look tells us she's found hair here as well.

**THEN WE CUT TO**

Nic sitting back down at the table. She looks drained. Nobody notices. The sound drops out.

**NIC'S POV:**

Paul and Jules talking comfortably.

Joni and Laser chiming in, smiling, one big happy family.

**REVERSE ONTO NIC:**

Totally disconnected. Shell-shocked. She wants to scream but it feels like she's trapped in cement. Things slow way down...

OMITTED

96

96

INT. NIC AND JULES' BATHROOM - THAT NIGHT

97

97

Nic and Jules perform their nightly ablutions. Jules is sonic-caring her teeth.

81.

**JULES**

(through the sonic buzz)  
Well, you and Paul seemed to get on like gang-busters...

**NIC**

You're sleeping with him, aren't you.

**JULES**

(freaked)  
What?

Nic turns to her, eyes red with anger.

**NIC**

Just be honest with me. Don't make me feel crazier than I feel right now!

**JULES**

Where is this coming from?!

**NIC**

I found your hair in his drain!

**JULES**

(scrambling)  
What? I was working. I got dirty so I took a shower.

**NIC**

Oh yeah? You take a nap, too?

Jules pauses a second too long. The jig is up.

INT. NIC AND JULES' BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

98

98

The truth has come out. Nic is so angry she's calm.

**NIC**

Are you in love with him?!

**JULES**

No!

**NIC**

What, are you straight now?!

**JULES**

No. It has nothing to do with that!

**(MORE)**

82.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

(beat)

I've just felt so cut off from you lately...

**NIC**

Oh, right, so it's my fault!

**JULES**

No! Who said anything about fault? Just listen to me!

**NIC**

I'm listening! What?!

**JULES**

I just needed...

**NIC**

What? To be fucked?

**JULES**

No, appreciated!

**NIC**

It's always what I'm not doing for you, isn't it? Well here's what I don't do to you. I don't work out my issues by fucking other people!

Nic starts heading for the door. Jules follows.

**JULES**

He's not just "other people!"

**NIC**

No, you had to go fuck our sperm donor! You couldn't have picked a more painful way to hurt me...

**JULES**

Where are you going?!

**NIC**

I need water! My mouth is dry!

Nic opens the door. There's Joni and Laser, looking devastated. They've been listening to the whole thing.

99                   **INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAWN**                   99

Jules wakes up looking crusty from a rough night on the couch. She looks like she hasn't slept at all.

83.

100                   **INT. LASER'S ROOM - DAWN**                   100

Jules enters and walks over to her sleeping son. She gently nudges him awake.

**JULES**

Hey Laser.           Honey?

Laser turns over, semi-conscious.

**LASER**

What?

She sits down on his bed.

**JULES**

Listen, I know you and Joni heard what's going on. I just want you to know that what happened with Paul and me is over. There's nothing going on now.

**LASER**

Okay.

**JULES**

I know you might need some time to process your feelings around this, but I just want you to know that I'm here for you if you want to talk about anything.

(beat)

Is there anything you want to talk about?

**LASER**

(leave my room)

Not really.

**JULES**

(fighting the impulse to push it)

Okay then. Go back to sleep.

Jules pats her son and leaves.

**101** **INT. JONI'S BEDROOM - DAWN** **101**

Jules enters and touches Joni's shoulder.

**JULES**

Joni?

**84.**

**JONI**

I don't want to talk to you.

**JULES**

Can we just--

**JONI**

I said I don't want to talk to you!!

**JULES**

Okay. I'm sorry.

Jules slowly retreats to the door.

**102** **INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING** **102**

Jules drinks coffee at the table. Nic walks in, dressed for work. Jules looks at her, wanting to "process." But Nic isn't in the mood. She grabs a banana from a bowl and walks out. Jules feels like a leper.

**103** **OMITTED.** **103**

**104** **INT. SASHA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON** **104**

We can tell Joni's been crying and downloading the whole thing to Sasha.

**SASHA**

How's Nic doing?

**JONI**

She's a wreck. I've never seen her like this before.

Joni's cell rings. She gets off the bed, looks at the phone. It's a picture of Paul.

**SASHA**

Is it him...?

Joni nods gravely, answers.

**JONI**

(cold)

Hello.

85.

105

**EXT. PAUL'S FARM - AFTERNOON**

105

Paul's walking through rows of swiss chard, cell phone to his ear.

Conversation Intercut.

**PAUL**

Hey Joni, how you doing?

**JONI**

You're such a phony.

Beat.

**PAUL**

Excuse me?

**JONI**

You act like you're so groovy and together but you're not. You're a shitty person!

**PAUL**

What happened?

**JONI**

With my mom?!

**PAUL**

Listen, can I just come and talk with you--

**JONI**

What's wrong with you?!

**PAUL**

Joni...

**JONI**

Don't call me anymore.  
Joni hangs up and start crying.      Sasha hugs her.

**EXT. PAUL'S FARM - CONTINUOUS**

106

106

Sweaty, nauseous with remorse, Paul turns around to find fetching young Brooke, waiting for him with a wicker basket of huge cucumbers.

**BROOKE**

Hey Paul, look at these cukes...

86.

Paul holds up his hand at her. This girl symbolizes every bad choice he's ever made.

He gives her the universal, "Leave Me Alone" gesture. Brooke looks embarrassed.

**EXT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - BACKYARD - AFTERNOON**

107

107

Jules sits on a lawn chair smoking a cigarette. Her cell rings. She answers.

**EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON**

108

108

Paul walks down the street, wiggling out.

**PAUL**

Hey, it's me. I just talked to Joni.

Conversation intercut.

**JULES**

Oh my god, I'm so sorry. I should have called you.

Jules sucks a big, anxious drag off a cigarette.

**PAUL**

What happened?

**JULES**

Nic saw my hair in your bathroom.

**PAUL**

The other night.

**JULES**

Yeah.

**PAUL**

Fuck...

**JULES**

Yeah.

Beat.

**PAUL**

Listen, it's all out in the open now. Let's make this happen.

87.

**JULES**

Paul...

**PAUL**

No, I'm serious. Fuck it. Let's get the kids together and do this thing.

**JULES**

Paul, come on...

**PAUL**

No! I'm sick of this life. I want a family. I'm ready--

**JULES**

(eye rolling)  
Jesus, Paul! I'm gay!

Jules tosses the phone away from her.

**EXT. HOUSE PARTY - BACKYARD - NIGHT**

109

109

Joni and Sasha stand at the makeshift "bar". Joni's downs several Tequila shots quickly.

**SASHA**

Slow down, tiger.

Across the room, Joni spots Jai chatting with a WAIFY GIRL in a sundress.

Joni drops one more Tequila shot and walks up to Jai and Waify girl, interrupting them.

**JONI**

I like the scruff. It's sexy.

Waify girl juts out her hip territorially.

**WAIFY GIRL**

Uh, `scuuuse me...

**JONI**

You're excused.  
(then back to Jai)  
Hey, can I talk to you?

Joni leads Jai to a private corner.

88.

She leans in and kisses Jai. And Jai actually returns the kiss. And it's completely sweet and intimate.

But then the kiss starts to morph as Joni's energy turns manic, intense, less romantic than emotionally needy. We see Jai start to pull away. But Joni keeps holding him, wanting more. Finally, Jai breaks off the kiss.

**JAI**

Joni...Joni...

**JONI**

What?

Joni looks pained, embarrassed. Jai keeps holding her hands.

**JAI**

Are you okay?

**JONI**

Yeah, I'm fine...

Joni pulls free and escapes, leaving a confused Jai in her wake.

**INT. NIC AND JULES BEDROOM - NIGHT**

110

110

Jules walks in to find Nic, awake, in bed.

**JULES**

Just getting another pillow. The couch is kind of saggy.

**NIC**

Is your back okay?

Jules perks up: is this an invitation to share the bed again?

**JULES**

It's a little ache-y.

**NIC**

You should take some Advil.

Guess not.

Suddenly they hear bumping and loud footsteps downstairs.

89.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

111

111

Jules walks downstairs to find Joni stumbling toward her bedroom.

**JULES**

Hey. How was the party?

Joni tries to avert her mom's questioning gaze.

**JONI**

Fine.

**JULES**

How big was it?

**JONI**

I don't know. Medium...ish...

Jules takes in the glassy look in her daughter's eyes.

**JULES**

Are you drunk?

**JONI**

No.

Nic enters from the stairs, having caught the last piece.

**NIC**

I hope you had a designated driver.

**JONI**

Why? I'm not drunk.

**NIC**

Well, you seem drunk to me.

**JONI**

Yeah, well, you should know.

**NIC**

(furious; incredulous)  
What did you just say to me?!

**JONI**

I'm going to bed.

Joni starts to leave. Nic grabs her.

**NIC**

No, you're not! I'm not done  
talking to you!

90.

Laser opens his door and watches the scene progress.

**JONI**

What do you want from me?! I did

everything you wanted! I got all  
A's! I got in everywhere I applied!  
Now you can show everybody what a  
perfect family you have!

**JULES**

Don't talk to your mom like that!  
Joni spins to face Jules.

**JONI**

You're really gonna tell me how to  
act? Now?!

**JULES**

Hey, I'm still your mother.

**JONI**

Whatever...

Jules reaches out and Joni backs away, sickened.

**JONI (CONT'D)**

Don't touch me!

Joni heads for her room.

**JONI (CONT'D)**

I'm so sick of both of you!

**EXT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - DAWN - MOS**

112

112

The sun rises on this formerly happy home.

**INT. ALLGOOD LIVING ROOM - MORNING**

113

113

Jules wakes up on the couch. Sits up. Rubs her aching back.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - JONI'S BEDROOM - DAY**

114

114

Joni packs for college. The room is littered with half-  
filled packing boxes. She picks up a pile of clothes from  
the corner and sees the farmer's hat Paul gave her. She puts  
it aside, not sure what to do with it.

91.

**EXT. PAUL'S BACKYARD - DAY**

115

115

Paul looks around his newly landscaped yard. It looks more  
abandoned than revived.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - NIGHT**

116

116

The family has their last supper - before Joni leaves.

**NIC**

Did you pack that lamp I gave you?

**JONI**

Yeah.

**NIC**

Well, we can always get stuff up there, too, if you need it, I mean if the room's dark or you need extra bedding...

**JONI**

I'm not going to Siberia, mom.

Jules looks at the family unit, misty.

**JULES**

I can't believe this is our last dinner together.

**LASER**

Oh God, are you gonna cry?

Jules looks at her son, fed up.

**JULES**

I wish you were gay. You'd be so much more sensitive.

The doorbell rings.

**JONI**

It's probably Sasha. I'll get it.

Joni runs to the door. Opens it. It's not Sasha. It's Paul.

**JONI (CONT'D)**

(shocked)

What are you doing here?

92.

**PAUL**

I needed to talk to you before you left.

**JONI**

There's nothing to talk about.

**PAUL**

I just want to apologize again for what happened. I can't tell you how much I regret it.

**EXT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - SAME**

Joni walks out for privacy, closes the door behind her.

**JONI**

So like, everything that happened between us. What was that? Was that just bullshit?!

**PAUL**

No, it wasn't bullshit at all. I know I don't seem credible right now but I really care about you... Paul struggles to keep his emotions in check.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

...and I just hope someday we'll be able to see each other again. Do you think that could maybe happen?

**JONI**

I don't know...  
Joni looks down welling up.

**JONI (CONT'D)**

I just wish you could've been...

**PAUL**

What?

Joni chokes back tears.

**JONI**

Better...

Paul and Joni look up at each other when the door suddenly flings open. Nic is there, fuming.

93.

**NIC**

You've got some balls, mister!

**PAUL**

Nic, hold on...

Nic walks toward he and Joni. Joni ducks back inside.

**NIC**

No, you hold on! Let me tell you something, you really hurt my kids!

**PAUL**

Well, they're kinda my...

**NIC**

(cutting him off)

No! They're not. This is not your family. This is my family! You're just a fucking interloper...

Jules joins Nic, concerned things are getting out of hand.

**PAUL**

I didn't mean to hurt anyone...  
Paul and Jules share a look as Nic deals the coup de grace.

**NIC**

If you want a family so much, go  
out and make one of your own!  
Nic heads back inside and slams the door behind her.

Paul stand alone, spinning. After a moment he spontaneously  
looks back into the house. Laser is staring at him through  
the window. Their eyes lock and Paul give Laser a contrite  
smile. That's the final straw for Laser. He grabs his plate  
and walks out of view.

Reeling, Paul heads for his motorcycle. He gets on the bike,  
helmet in hand. Turns on the ignition. He picks up the  
helmet and pauses, shaking in the hell of his own making.  
Losing it, he hurls the helmet at the motorcycle.

**INT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - TV ROOM - THAT NIGHT**

118

118

Laser, Joni and Nic watch "Locked Up Abroad" Jules walks in  
front of them, picks up the remote and turns off the TV.

**JULES**

I need to say something.

94.

Everyone sits up. Jules acts stoic but she's wrecked.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

Look, it's no big secret your mom  
and are in hell right now. Bottom  
line...marriage is hard...really  
fucking hard. Just two people,  
slogging through the shit, year  
after year, getting older,  
changing. It's a fucking marathon,  
okay?!

Everyone is silenced by the outpouring. Jules soldiers on.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

So sometimes you're together so  
long, you just stop seeing the  
other person. You just see weird  
projections of your own junk. And  
instead of talking to each other,  
you go off the rails, and act  
grubby and make stupid choices.

Which is what I did. And I feel sick about it because I love you guys and I love your mom and that's the truth. Sometimes you hurt the ones you love the most. I don't know why. Maybe if I read more Russian novels I would...

Nic looks down, overwhelmed by it all.

**JULES (CONT'D)**

Anyway, I just wanted to say how sorry I am about what I did and that I hope you'll forgive me eventually.

(awkward)

Thank you.

And, without further ado, Jules hands the remote back to Laser and departs the field. Everyone's silenced by Jules' rambling apologia, especially Nic.

119	<b>OMITTED.</b>	119
120	<b>INT. JONI'S ROOM - MORNING</b>	120
	Joni wakes up. She looks around her room. There's nothing on the walls. The floor is covered with boxes taped and labeled. It's time to go.	95.
121	<b>EXT. ALLGOOD HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY</b>	121
	Nic and Jules stuff the last of Joni's things in the back of their station wagon. Laser and Joni bring the last of the boxes out of the house.	
122	<b>INT. VOLVO STATION WAGON - DAY</b>	122
	The Allgoods are on the road, heading to college.	
123	<b>OMITTED.</b>	123
124	<b>EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY - ESTABLISHING</b>	124

The station wagon passes through the campus.

**125 INT. STATION WAGON - DAY 125**  
As they drive past buildings and dorms, Joni sees STUDENTS swarming the campus. She takes it all in, nervous, excited. Nic and Jules steal looks back at Joni, feeling her nervousness, wishing they could take it away.

**126 EXT. STREET - DAY 126**  
The Allgoods pull up to the curb, get out. Laser piles Joni's boxes on his skateboard.

**127 EXT. FRONT OF DORM - DAY 127**  
Laser dollies Joni's boxes though the corridor and while Joni and the moms follow behind.

**INT. DORM ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**  
Nic and Jules follow Joni to the door. They all jam up at the threshold.

**JONI**  
Guys, it's okay. I got it.

Nic and Jules get the hint. They move back and Joni enters the room alone. Nic and Jules quietly turn and leave. **96.**

**128 INT. JONI'S DORM ROOM - BEDROOM - LATER 128**  
Joni stands among her bags and boxes looking around. She goes into her suitcase and pulls out her linens. She starts making her bed but suddenly stops mid way. She stares out toward the hallway.

Finally she moves to the doorway and looks out. She realizes her family isn't there.

**129 EXT. DORM BUILDING - DAY 129**  
Joni exits, looking around to find her family. The station wagon is gone. She looks panicked. Her pace quickens as she makes her way down a hill toward the road. Finally Joni sees the Volvo heading towards her.

The car pulls over to the curb and everyone gets out. Joni looks vulnerable. She tries to cover it.

**JONI**

Where'd you go?!

**NIC**

We had to move the car.

**JONI**

I thought you left.

**JULES**

We wouldn't leave without saying goodbye.

**NIC**

Give us some credit.

And suddenly, everyone realizes...this is it. It's time to say goodbye. First Laser comes up and hugs Joni.

**LASER**

It's gonna be weird not having you at home.

**JONI**

Sorry to leave you alone with them.

**LASER**

It's okay. I can handle it.

Laser backs up. Then the moms both come up and hug Joni, tears streaming down their faces.

97.

**JONI**

Guys, come on...

(beat)

Look, I'll talk to you soon.

Joni tries to detach from the hug. But her moms won't let go. They keep holding her and crying.

Slowly, their tears begin to break Joni down.

Trapped in their loving embrace, Joni's feelings rise up, unbidden, overpowering her. She starts crying.

The moms hold her tighter, which makes her cry even harder.

Soon she's sobbing in her mothers' arms, as all the pressure, resentment and anger she's felt starts seeping out of her.

Nic and Jules feel their daughter letting go. They hold her

tight to comfort her.  
They keep holding her until a calm sets in.

The hug breaks apart. Nic pushes the hair from Joni's face.  
Joni gives her moms one last smile.  
Laser, Jules and Nic get back in the car. Joni stands  
watching as they drive off and her new life begins.

**INT. STATION WAGON - DAY**

130

130

The family drives home. Jules is at the wheel. Nic's in the  
passenger seat, eyes red and puffy. Laser's in the back.

No one speaks, everyone's lost in their own worlds. Finally  
Laser breaks the spell.

**LASER**

I don't think you guys should break  
up.  
A long beat.

**NIC**

No? Why's that?

**LASER**

I think you're too old.

Both Nic and Jules crack smiles. Their son's rudeness is  
unsurpassed. But then his words have an unexpected gravity.

98.

**NIC**

Thanks, Laser.

Jules, disarmed and slightly smiling, reaches over and puts  
her hand on Nic's leg. She gives it a gentle squeeze and  
doesn't let go. Nic looks over to Jules, finally disarmed.

Nic reaches for Jules' hand and holds it tight. Nic and  
Jules look at each other, and then away.

Laser watches his moms holding hands from the back seat.  
Their small gesture is what he needed. He smiles to himself,  
grateful for a sign.

**FADE OUT**

**THE END**