

CHEAT DAY

Written by

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EXT. COACHELLA / INT. FERRIS WHEEL CAR - DAY

CHYRON: 2012

Midday sun beats down on TESS (19, old soul). She's struggling to find her happy place... which is definitely *not* up here, several stories off the ground.

Tess is flanked by her best friend ANGIE (19, rainbow spandex everything, queer icon) and their friend MAYA (19, first aid fanny pack and cowboy boots, mom of the group).

Tess clutches both their hands as they lurch upwards.

TESS

I'm gonna die and neither of you will inherit anything because you're gonna die too!

ANGIE

Sorry, "inherit"?

TESS

I made a will online. It's actually really user-friendly.

MAYA

And we're in it? Awww!

ANGIE

Maya. She's actively in debt.

TESS

Wait. Does that also transfer?

Angie shrugs.

MAYA

So... we might have to pay off all your loans, too?!

TESS

Oh my God, I'm so sorry!

ANGIE

The good news: we are in literally no danger.

They stop again and the car swings from the momentum. Tess shakes her head, refusing to believe Angie.

TESS

(thousand-yard stare)

I'm never going to hook up with
Sasha. Or get to ask what kind of
deodorant she uses. I remember from
camp that it was almost unscented,
but not quite.

ANGIE

Oh, you are hooking up with Sasha.
But not asking the second thing, do
not do that.

MAYA

I'm sure you could block out like a
half hour in the Target toiletries
aisle and figure it out.

Tess tightens her grip on their hands as they lurch up.

ANGIE

She's gonna be so impressed you
faced your fears, she'll invite you
to ravage her in the Sahara Tent.

TESS

But what if Sasha's not down to be
my first? She might not want a
virgin.

ANGIE

You're not a virgin.

Maya makes the "so-so" gesture.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

(reminding)

Brian Yoder's mom walked in on
them, then had to separate their
braces?

Maya bursts out LAUGHING.

MAYA

Oh right. Yeah, that's right.

TESS

But I'm a girl virgin. What would a
cool woman who's been out since
high school want with an awkward
lady-child who's finally figured
out she's bi?

ANGIE

Tess. You're here and you're queer.
That's all that matters.

MAYA

Wait, is that her?

As the car swings upwards again, Tess steels herself and peers down. Far below stands SASHA (19, charismatic from her shaved head to her tie-dye bell bottoms). Tess is smitten.

TESS

She came early. That's so sweet.

(then)

Okay. I officially have to survive.

The ferris wheel makes a GOD-AWFUL NOISE and grinds to a halt. Tess, Angie, and Maya's car is at the very top.

TESS (CONT'D)

Ohhhh my God, what happened?! What was that sound?! That sound was crazy!

ANGIE

Chill. More people are probably just getting on.

Tess does her best to steady her breathing...

INT. NEXT FERRIS WHEEL CAR OVER - CONTINUOUS

In the car below Tess's, NICK (19, blue collar, outgoing) sits with his cousin LEO (20, lovable asshole) and their buddy SEBASTIAN (18, space cadet).

NICK

That didn't sound good.

GUY (O.S.)

Yo!

The three friends peer down at the car below *them*. A GUY (shielding the fact that he's not wearing pants) is with his GIRLFRIEND (shielding the fact that she's not wearing a top).

GIRLFRIEND

The people below us said something's wrong and it'll be a bit!

SEBASTIAN

Did they say what?

The Guy shakes his head. He and his Girlfriend immediately go back to hooking up.

LEO
We are *not* missing Wiz Khalifa. Can you fix it, Nick?

NICK
I fix cars, not *ferris wheels*.

SEBASTIAN
We should pass along the message, yeah?

Nick follows Sebastian's gaze up to the car dangling at the tippy-top above them and spots...

INTERCUT WITH:

Tess, having a full-blown panic attack.

TESS
Why did I agree to ride this deathtrap while waiting for her?! Now I'll never find out if I really am a bottom! I took an online quiz, but that doesn't count!

ANGIE
I feel certain that quiz was accurate.

Tess's airway constricts and prevents her from responding.

NICK
(calling out)
Hey! It's gonna be fine!

Startled, Tess turns to look down at his car.

NICK (CONT'D)
Probably a small transmission issue. I'm a mechanical engineer.

SEBASTIAN
(quietly)
Uhh, you work at your dad's auto shop.

LEO
Where you "fix cars not ferris wheels."

NICK
 (hissing back)
 Cars are mechanical and I engineer
 them. She's *freaking out*.

Tess manages to find enough air to call back down.

TESS
 T-transmission? A-are you sure?

NICK
 Definitely. I'd put money on it
 being the crankshaft!

ANGIE
 The "crankshaft"?

TESS
 ("get with the program")
 It's a part of the transmission,
 Angie.

Angie raises her hands in surrender. Maya eyes the boys.

MAYA
 He likes you, Tess. And his
 friend's hot.
 (calling out to Leo)
 You guys seeing Wiz?

LEO
 (à la "Black and Yellow")
 Yeah, uh-huh, you know what it is!

Maya GIGGLES.

MAYA
 You're stupid.

NICK
 (to Tess)
 The crankshaft converts
 reciprocating motion into
 rotational. As soon as the piston's
 fixed, we'll be all good.
 (then)
 Are you feeling any better?

TESS
 A little bit. Thanks...

NICK
 Nick.

Angie calls out to Sebastian.

ANGIE
I'm a lesbian. But you seem nice!

SEBASTIAN
Sebastian. Like the crab!

EXT. COACHELLA - FAIRGROUNDS - LATER

The sun hangs lower in the sky as Tess, Angie, and Maya finally disembark. Tess frowns at her iPhone 4S.

TESS
Sasha says Wiz was amazing.

ANGIE
Can you still meet up with her?

Just as Tess sends off a text to ask, Nick, Leo, and Sebastian make it over to them.

NICK
That crankshaft did its worst, but we still made it out alive.

Tess nods. His smile is infectious... and distracting. Meanwhile, Leo has his eyes on Maya.

LEO
Y'all trying to see Swedish House Mafia?

MAYA
Hell ja!

LEO
You're stupid.

Maya grins back. Nick turns to Tess.

NICK
What about you...?

TESS
Tess.

NICK
Nick.

TESS
(smiling)
You said that.

Her phone CHIRPS and she glances down at it. iMessage from Sasha: "@ Mojave for SHM!"

TESS (CONT'D)
Let's make like Swedish fish and
stick together!

Nick LAUGHS, charmed by this girl.

EXT. COACHELLA - NEAR SAHARA TENT STAGE - LATER

An excited Tess makes it to the edge of the crowd with Nick, Angie, Maya, Leo, and Sebastian.

A LASER LIGHT SHOW is in full force on stage as Swedish House Mafia's "DON'T YOU WORRY CHILD" plays.

Sebastian pulls out a plastic baggie full of dark green leaves.

SEBASTIAN
Salvia, anyone?

MAYA
Yes *please*.

She digs her hand in. Leo and Angie follow suit. Nick glances at Tess.

NICK
It doesn't last long. But if you're not down, I won't either.

ANGIE
Chivalry *isn't* dead!

Tess cracks a smile... then bravely reaches into the baggie and shoves an entire handful into her mouth.

SEBASTIAN
Oh wow.

LEO
Dude, that was a lot.

Tess immediately looks nervous again.

ANGIE
It's fine. You'll be fine.
Probably.

Nick takes the same amount and puts it in his own mouth.

NICK
Solidarity.

Tess is touched.

The whole group turns its attention to the roiling mass of AUDIENCE MEMBERS, already looking trippy in neon, spandex...

And tie-dye. *Sasha's* nearby, dancing against ANOTHER WOMAN who's draped in a rainbow flag. They move as one to the BEAT, light strobing off their sweaty bodies.

Tess blinks: hurt, overwhelmed, and mad at herself for feeling all of it.

As the music CRESCENDOS, Sasha and the Other Woman abruptly stop dancing and turn to Tess.

SASHA
What are you looking at, Tess? Are you even actually queer?

Tess watches in horror as the RAINBOW FLAG becomes ANIMATED AND SENTIENT (with googly-eyes), rising off the Other Woman's otherwise naked body to trash-talk her in RUPAUL'S VOICE.

RAINBOW FLAG
You like men. If everyone assumes you're straight, you probably are. Girl, bye.

Tess blinks and the hallucination ENDS as quickly as it began. Sasha still hasn't noticed her and keeps dancing on the Other Woman.

NICK (O.S.)
Tess? Do you wanna dance?

Tess turns back to face Nick, who's unaware of Sasha and everything else Tess just experienced. She smiles at him.

TESS
I'd love to.

OVER TITLES:

EXT. COACHELLA / INT. FERRIS WHEEL CAR - DAY

Tess and Nick ride the ferris wheel for NINE LOOPS over NINE YEARS: going from dry humping as honeymoon phase-ers to kissing tastefully as a couple that's been together forever.

A couple times, Tess's eyes wander toward the ground to watch WOMEN passing by -- but they always quickly return to Nick's.

Their friends are peppered in during some years, with Leo and Maya as a couple, along with Angie and a woman we'll come to know as GABBY, who then disappears in later years.

Sebastian's also there off and on, smoking something or other with a DIFFERENT WOMAN every time.

The final go-around, Tess rests her head on Nick's shoulder, a comfortable smile on her face.

EXT. NEVADA WOODS - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

CHYRON: THE PRESENT

Spoons CLINK against glasses inside a big tent.

INT. WEDDING TENT - CONTINUOUS

Tess and Nick (now late 20s) sit alongside other WEDDING GUESTS. Bride Maya and groom Leo (also late 20s) kiss at their table.

Nick and Leo's GRANDMA BETTY (80s, spitfire) is so into clinking her spoon that she BREAKS her glass. A WAITER quickly replaces it.

As the clinking dies down, Nick grabs a mike and stands.

NICK

Leo. My favorite cousin. No offense, Marjorie.

MARJORIE (70s), seated beside Betty, gives him the finger. It's unclear whether she's joking.

NICK (CONT'D)

You were my boy. And now? You're my man.

Leo points back at him playfully.

LEO

Best man!

NICK

I could say so many things about you. But I figured I'd make a fool of myself and rap them instead.

Everyone CHEERS as a FEMALE DJ (early 30s, gorgeous and fully pulling off *Euphoria*-style eye make-up) drops a BEAT.

NICK (CONT'D)
*Wingman'ed you since middle school
messin' around, waiting for a girl
to bring you back to the ground,
Maya and Leo, so fresh as can be,
he's fully in love and you know so
is she!*

FEMALE DJ
*Maya and Leo, in love can't you
see, Maya and Leo, in love can't
you see...*

As Nick bobs to the chorus, he notices that Tess is staring at the Female DJ.

INT. DANCE FLOOR TENT - LATER

Tess and Nick stand off to one side. Maya and her DAD dance, Sebastian chats up some FEMALE GUESTS, while Leo two-steps with Grandma Betty.

NICK
You don't need to be jealous. Leo put us in touch, I thought it'd be cute. Plus I think she likes women.

TESS
It was cute. And I'm not jealous.

Nick can tell that she's holding something back.

NICK
Then what?

TESS
What do you mean what?

NICK
You know what I mean what. What's wrong? You're acting off.

TESS
I'm seriously fine.

Nick studies her, a little frustrated.

NICK
Alright. Do you wanna dance?

Tess shakes her head.

NICK (CONT'D)
Is it okay if *I* dance?

TESS
Go for it.

Tess watches as he heads into the crowd to join his cousin and grandma.

Tess's eyes then land on the DJ, who glances up at that moment and smiles at her.

Tess is brought back to Earth by Angie and two other BRIDESMAIDS in matching dresses. They're watching Nick groove with Grandma Betty amongst COUPLES out on the floor.

BRIDESMAID
(to Tess)
Girl, Nick has the cutest boy-butt in here. Do you think he's gonna propose soon? You've been together like what, ten years?

TESS
Yeah. I'm not really sure.

Tess finds herself locking eyes with the DJ again. The other women don't notice.

ANGIE
Set your sights elsewhere, Sonya.
That caterer's cute.

BRIDESMAID
We already hooked up last Fall at Ally's wedding.
(defensive)
He gave me extra tartare!

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Tess enters to find the DJ inspecting a pimple in the mirror. Embarrassed, the DJ quickly steps back.

DJ
Oh, hey.

TESS
Hey.
(re: pimple, blurting)
(MORE)

TESS (CONT'D)
I think I have one brewing, too.
Every month. I call them my PMSPs.

Tess is immediately embarrassed, but the DJ digs her awkward vibe and LAUGHS.

DJ
Exactly! We must already be synced up. What're you doing after this?

Tess blushes violently and freezes up.

TESS
Oh, no... I can't really...

The DJ nods her understanding, backing off.

DJ
My bad. I wasn't sure if you were straight or not.

Tess watches the DJ exit, then lets her face fall in the mirror.

EXT. NEVADA WOODS - PARKING LOT - LATER

Maya stands beside Leo and launches her bouquet at the hoard of WOMEN.

Tess stares up at it arcing through the air as everyone jostles around her...

THUD. She looks down in surprise to discover that it's fallen directly into her hands.

She lets the Bridesmaid from earlier snatch it for herself.

INT. TESS'S 2000 SUBARU OUTBACK / EXT. HIGHWAY - NEXT DAY

Tess drives her aging Subaru down a beige highway, mountains receding in the rearview. Nick rides shotgun.

NICK
You sure you don't want me to take a turn?

Tess lifts her coffee thermos with one hand.

TESS
I'm good.

Three cars in a row pass them.

ON SPEEDOMETER: Tess keeps it at exactly 55 MPH. She shakes her head after the cars disapprovingly.

THWAP! THU-THU-THU-THU. The unmistakable sound of a flat tire echoes through the car.

TESS (CONT'D)
Seriously?!

EXT. HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tess paces, fighting tears from residual wedding overwhelm. Nick looks up from patching the tire and notices.

NICK
Hey. Hey, what's wrong?

Nick pulls her into a hug and Tess closes her eyes.

- * The Rainbow Flag talks shit 10 years ago.
- * Tess turns away from Sasha to dance with Nick.
- * The DJ turns away from Tess.

BACK TO PRESENT: Tess opens her eyes, cheek to Nick's chest.

TESS
Sonya was being so pushy about
whether we're going to get engaged.
She's just a lot.

Nick nods his understanding, his own mind whirring.

TESS (CONT'D)
You know she'd already slept with
the caterer?

INT. TESS & NICK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nick thrusts on top of Tess.

NICK
(southern twang)
The name's Tripp McCoy, wanted for
tax evasion, embezzlement, and
being too sexy for my own go(od)--

TESS
You don't have to be Tripp tonight.

Nick looks a little disappointed, but keeps thrusting.

NICK

Oh, okay. I just thought you liked him.

TESS

I do, sometimes...

Tess closes her eyes so that Nick can no longer look into them.

TESS'S POV: *The Female DJ* is on top of her.

DJ

Knew it.

Tess's eyes fly open as she starts to come.

INT. TESS & NICK'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATER

Tess sits on the closed toilet seat, scrolling through Instagram.

In a recent post, DWAYNE "THE ROCK" JOHNSON grins behind a tower of pancakes. The caption reads: "CHEAT DAY!"

Tess smiles, zooms in on that strong, *strong* jawline.

The next post that comes up is of SASHA, grinning beside a lake carved into red canyons.

Tess zooms in on the curve of Sasha's smooth, *smooth* shoulder.

She likes both.

Tess scrolls back and forth between The Rock and her old crush.

Back and forth.

Baaaaack and forth...

KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK.

NICK

Tess? Are you pooping?

TESS

Yeah, thanks!

She quickly closes out of Instagram and FLUSHES.

INT. TESS & NICK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tess and Nick sit in bed. Nick looks proud.

NICK

You haven't come like that in a
while.

TESS

Really? I feel like I have.

Embarrassed, she reaches over to turn out the light.

NICK

Wait. What's your dream proposal?

Surprised by the question, Tess turns to him.

TESS

What's your dream proposal?

NICK

Jurassic Park. The dinos are out.
In the end we're both devoured by
an Allosaurus, but we die happy.

Tess LAUGHS, then forces herself to think.

TESS

I think mine happens on a boat.

NICK

A boat.

TESS

I'm focused on rowing. But you get
my attention and I see you're
holding a ring.

NICK

How am I kneeling in the boat?

TESS

I don't know. If you keep your
center of gravity low it's not
gonna capsize.

NICK

I guess I'm not worried about the
kneel itself... I'm worried about
getting in and out of it.

TESS

Here, look.

Tess pulls up Taylor Swift's "MINE" music video on her phone. ON SCREEN, TOBY HEMINGWAY points and TAYLOR SWIFT glances over her shoulder. When she turns back, he's holding a ring.

NICK

Okay, but he didn't kneel.

TESS

Well that was Taylor or her director or whoever's dream proposal, not mine!

NICK

(laughing)

You really got your dream proposal from Taylor Swift.

TESS

No, I thought of it first and then she copied me. It was a zeitgeist thing.

NICK

Mm-hmmm.

Tess sees how not seriously Nick's taking the whole thing and swipes out of the video with a SIGH.

TESS

Alright. I know. It's dumb.

NICK

No, it's good to know that's what you're into.

TESS

We don't have to think about any of that yet. Really.

Nick reaches to put his arm around her, but she ducks away.

TESS (CONT'D)

I'm pretty tired.

NICK

Tess...

TESS

Sleep well, okay?

Tess turns out the light, ending the conversation.

NICK (OVER BLACK)

Good night.

EXT. AUTO SHOP LOT / INT. CAR - NEXT DAY

JONES & SON AUTO sits on a street amongst other local Carson City businesses.

Nick, dressed in mechanic's coveralls, turns an old Toyota's ignition, listening closely to how the ENGINE CATCHES.

INT. AUTO SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Nick talks with a younger MECHANIC.

NICK
Should just be the starter motor.
Check the solenoid.

The Mechanic goes to look while Nick smiles at the CUSTOMER.

NICK (CONT'D)
He's gonna take care of you.

INT. AUTO SHOP - OFFICE - LATER

Nick stares in disbelief at his dad WALT (50s, still wears filthy coveralls even though he owns the place).

NICK
I diagnose faster than anybody.

WALT
But you don't fix faster than anybody.

NICK
I've been managing the guys!

WALT
Did I ask you to manage them?

Nick BLOWS OUT hot air, frustrated.

NICK
Dad, I've been working here legally
since I was sixteen, illegally long
before that. When are you gonna
start acting -- and *paying* -- like
I'm taking over someday?

Walt SIGHS, frustrated too.

WALT

I'm not worried about your soft skills. I'm worried about you being the best at the actual job.

Silence. That hurt.

NICK

Well if you don't think I'm good enough, maybe it's time for me to switch garages.

Walt studies him.

WALT

If that's what you're taking from this conversation... maybe so.

INT. TESS & NICK'S APARTMENT - TESS'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Tess sits in a desk chair, on a VIDEO CALL with her EDITOR (30s, female, NYC skyline out her window).

Tess has covers of her two previous books blown-up and framed behind her: colorful women's lit, think Emily Henry's novels.

EDITOR (FROM SCREEN)

You addressed everything in the pages. We're looking to print very, very soon.

Tess sits back in her seat. She wasn't expecting this. At least not yet.

EDITOR (FROM SCREEN) (CONT'D)

Tess. You look more upset than the writer I just had to explain the butterfly effect to. What's wrong? This is good news!

TESS

No, I know. To be honest, I just haven't... told many people what the book's about yet.

EDITOR (FROM SCREEN)

Well, it's going to resonate with so many queer readers. And you'll get to meet them all on a full *West Coast tour*. We're talking San Francisco and LA Pride!

Tess's face pales even more. TRACK IN as her anxiety spirals:

TESS

I guess it's just that I've... only been with men. The *same* man for the past ten years. I've thought about kissing and sleeping with women, but never actually done it...

The Editor BURSTS OUT LAUGHING.

EDITOR

Okay, well, definitely don't say any of *that* on the tour! Keep your sexual history vague. Ambiguous. Say "partner" a lot. We don't want you to seem like a LGBTQI-mposter!

Tess looks ill. Oblivious to the fact that she's just given voice to Tess's worst nightmare, the Editor softens.

EDITOR (FROM SCREEN) (CONT'D)

If your parents were here, I bet they would be *massively* proud.

(then)

Of the projected sales. Not the queerness, no idea how they'd feel about that.

Tess forces down a swallow.

INT. TESS & NICK'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tess and Nick chop vegetables side by side.

TESS

How was your day?

NICK

Fine. You?

TESS

Also fine.

EXT. LAKE TAHOE - EAST SHORE - DAY

Tess and Nick stand by a boathouse amidst joggers and stroller pushers. Tess eyes a PADDLE BOAT manned by a bickering ELDERLY COUPLE.

TESS

Doesn't look very sea-worthy.

The Old Lady shoves the Old Man.

NICK

I think that's mostly on them.

TESS

Nick... you're not proposing, are you?

Nick smiles and gestures at an empty boat.

NICK

I was just inspired by you and Taylor Swift.

He walks toward it, leaving a nervous Tess to follow him.

EXT. LAKE TAHOE - EAST SHORE - ON THE WATER - LATER

Nick actually pedals while Tess just stares down at her feet, causing them to veer left.

TESS

There's water at the bottom. Could be a leak?

NICK

It splashed in.

TESS

Are you sure?

NICK

Hundred percent. Hey, look.

Tess glances in the direction he's pointing. The Elderly Couple are now making out. Passionately.

TESS

Oh no. I think I just saw a denture.

NICK (O.S.)

Tess.

Tess turns back to Nick, who's holding out a RING.

NICK (CONT'D)

It'll be ten years since we met next weekend. I was gonna wait to do it at Coachella... but there's not really any water there.

(smiles, then)

You're my best friend and I love you. Will you marry me?

Tess can't get any words out.

And not in a good way.

TESS
I... I don't...

She looks around, searching for some kind of help, support, or escape.

Instead, she sees Leo, Maya, Angie, Walt, NICK'S MOM, and Grandma Betty waiting on the shore. All here to celebrate.

Nick stares at Tess, his heart sinking with every extra moment that passes.

TESS (CONT'D)
I-- I didn't know this was going to be a proposal.

NICK
That's kind of how proposals are supposed to work.

More silence. Nick can't help but get frustrated.

NICK (CONT'D)
I thought this is what you wanted!

TESS
That night, I was just trying to explain why I was overwhelmed after the wedding...

NICK
And the thought of marrying me overwhelms you? In a *bad* way?

Tess doesn't say anything.

NICK (CONT'D)
Tess. Please don't close off. You have to tell me... *why*?

Staring back into his eyes, her 10+ year secret spills out.

TESS
My new book. It's a queer romance. I think I'm bi. I could just never... find the right time to tell you.

Nick pauses for a painfully uncomfortable moment, still holding the ring.

NICK

So... you've been cheating on me?

TESS

No! No, of course not!

NICK

Then... you were with women before
me?

TESS

No. I wasn't.

Lost and irritated, Nick finally SNAPS the case shut.

NICK

Then how do you know?

The words Tess has asked herself for so many years -- the same ones she's been afraid of anyone repeating back -- hit her like a ton of bricks.

TESS

I guess... maybe... it's something
I need to explore.

Her expression hardens as all of her defenses go back up.

TESS (CONT'D)

Before deciding to marry you.

Nick stares at her, looking betrayed. The Elderly Couple paddles past.

OLD MAN

Better luck next time, my man.

Nick stews... then starts to pedal toward shore so violently that Tess loses her balance.

TESS

WHOA!

SPLASH! Tess thrashes like she's drowning, before realizing she can stand up. As soon as Nick also realizes this, he starts paddling for shore.

TESS (CONT'D)

You're going to make me walk back?

Nick just keeps paddling, leaving Tess to wade for shore.

TESS (CONT'D)

Really?!

EXT. LAKE TAHOE - EAST SHORE - LATER

Nick sits with his head in his hands on a bench beside Grandma Betty. His Parents, Leo, and Maya walk off together, all shooting him looks of sympathy that make him feel worse.

Angie leads Tess, who looks like a swamp monster, away in the other direction.

Grandma Betty pats Nick's back with a manicured hand.

GRANDMA BETTY

Bi, gay, or straight. I personally never thought she was the one.

Nick peers through his fingers at her.

NICK

What?

GRANDMA BETTY

Rachel. Now that was a good match. She could actually keep up with you!

Nick shakes his head in disbelief.

NICK

That was high school, Grandma.

GRANDMA BETTY

I found her online.

NICK

When?

GRANDMA BETTY

Around the time Tess went full Creature from the Black Lagoon. I know how to Google, I'm not dead yet.

Nick is speechless.

GRANDMA BETTY (CONT'D)

She gives helicopter tours in Vegas. I bet she'd love to see you.

Nick stares back out at the lake, lost and overwhelmed.

Grandma Betty pulls out a FLASK and offers it to him.

INT. TESS & NICK'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tess sits in bed alone, scrolling through her Instagram Discover feed.

It features a different "CHEAT DAY" photo from The Rock: he cocks an eyebrow above enough sushi to feed a small country.

Tess's eyes widen with an idea...

CREEEAK. The door opens to reveal a slightly-unsteady Nick.

NICK
Oh. You're here.

TESS
And you're drunk.

NICK
You should see Grandma Betty.

For a moment, it looks like Nick's about the puke. Tess quickly hands him a trash can from her side of the bed.

False alarm. Nick sinks down onto his side, back to Tess.

TESS
Are you familiar with the concept
of a "Cheat Day"?

Nick doesn't say anything.

TESS (CONT'D)
The Rock does it every week. He'll consume like, fifteen-thousand calories. Usually in sushi. I just hope someone's keeping an eye on the Mercury content. But he has people for that, right?

She forces herself to refocus.

TESS (CONT'D)
Anyway. Coachella's in two days. We already have our tickets.

Nick looks over his shoulder at her in disbelief.

NICK
You just turned me down in front of my entire family and now you're talking about going to Coachella together?

TESS

Nick, I'm sorry. I really do love you. But what you said to me, about being sure... that's something I don't think I can spend my whole life wondering.

Nick stares back at her.

TESS (CONT'D)

And you shouldn't have to, either. Don't you have any "what-ifs"?

She holds up the photo of The Rock.

TESS (CONT'D)

That's where Cheat Day comes in. We both use the twenty-four hours before our noon ferris wheel meet-aversary to do whatever... whomever... we want.

NICK

Whoever.

TESS

What?

NICK

It's whoever.

TESS

No, in this case it's whomever. Because I would "do him". With the "m" at the end of "him".

Nick white-knuckles the wastebasket. Tess continues.

TESS (CONT'D)

Sorry, that's just the trick I use. So back to Cheat Day... afterwards, at Coachella, I'll have an answer for you. Yes or no. About the engagement.

Silence.

NICK

You want to cheat on me.

TESS

Just for a day!

Nick PUKES into the trash can. It's ugly. And loud. Tess almost reaches out to touch his back, but stops herself.

TESS (CONT'D)
(quietly)
You'll get to cheat on me, too.

POV TRASH CAN: For a moment, all of Nick's emotions are laid bare on his face. He looks insecure. Scared. *Crushed*.

But as quickly as they appeared, he buries them back down and straightens up.

NICK
Great.

Tess frowns, hurt by the simplicity of this response.

TESS
Cool.

She makes the mistake of glancing down at the trash can... and PUKES into it herself.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NEXT DAY

An extremely hungover Nick nurses a ginger ale beside Leo and Sebastian, who both sip bloody marys.

SEBASTIAN
This could quite possibly be the best day of your entire adult life. Maybe child life too.

LEO
Tess'll come around.

NICK
But if she really is bi... I'll never be everything she wants.

Alone with his two closest friends, Nick's vulnerability is back. Leo and Sebastian shoot each other a worried look.

SEBASTIAN
No one's ever *everything* someone wants.

NICK
Inspiring.

Sebastian holds up his phone, which is open to a DATING APP. A WOMAN wears a University of Nevada, Las Vegas hoodie.

SEBASTIAN
Case in point: this girl's hot, but
she roots for UNLV.

Sebastian swipes her away.

LEO

Seb's actually right. Remember how bummed Maya's parents were that I wasn't a nice Jewish boy? I almost lit their house on fire trying to make a fucking chocolate babka, but I saved it *and* the house. They were so impressed, they gave their blessing anyway.

NICK

Are you comparing Tess's sexuality to Judaism, or our relationship to a chocolate babka?

SEBASTIAN

LEO

Both.

You're overthinking it.

Sebastian claps Nick on the back.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Snap. Out. Of it. Twenty-four hours. To do whatever and whoever.

NICK

(quietly)

Whomever.

SEBASTIAN

The most amazing boys' weekend ever before Leo leaves for his honeymoon and you decide whether to lock in.

NICK

I already decided to lock it in.

LEO

Nick. C'mon. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

SEBASTIAN

Have sex with it!

Nick thinks for a moment.

NICK

You know who never would've pulled something like this? Rachel. She was all the way in. Always.

LEO

Then go see her, dude! This is the greatest gift a man has ever been presented with!

Off Nick considering...

EXT. BRUNCH PATIO - DAY

Maya CHOKES on a sip of mimosa.

MAYA

Twenty-four hours? To do whatever and whomever? That is the *dumbest offer* a woman has ever made!

TESS

I want a chance to explore.

Angie frowns.

ANGIE

So instead of having an open discussion about that, you went straight to suggesting a twenty-four hour cheating purge, after which you'll supposedly have the confidence to either end or escalate your relationship?

Beat.

TESS

Yes.

Angie massages her temples.

ANGIE

That is some very heteronormative problem solving. You do know you don't have to *prove* your queerness to anyone. Right?

Tess keeps her eyes on her mimosa. As she BLINKS: Nick is suddenly seated right across from her, repeating his words from the park.

NICK

Then... how do you know?

Tess BLINKS, and Angie's back at the table.

TESS

You just called me heteronormative.

ANGIE

I said you used heteronormative problem solving. Even Janelle Monáe could do that. Theoretically.

TESS

What about my book? How can I expect anyone to take it -- or me -- seriously if I've never actually experienced what I wrote about?

ANGIE

Not to get all Gay Yoda on you, but your sexuality is an identity, not an action.

Tess takes another big sip, overwhelmed.

TESS

I just... I don't know. This is something I have to do. I want to hook up with Sasha. To know for one hundred percent sure.

A moment as Angie looks at Tess, and Tess looks back at her.

ANGIE

Okay. But I'm coming. To make one hundred percent sure you don't get pregnant.

Tess breaks into a relieved smile.

MAYA

God, I wish I didn't have the overnight shift. I'll be changing bedpans while you two ho it up.

(reflecting)

This is *historic*. The last pre-Nick sexual adventure led straight into Brian Yodel's braces.

TESS

Why do you *always* have to bring that up?

ANGIE

Because it was your "127 Hours".

TESS

(ignoring this)

Oh! Do you wanna invite Gabby?

ANGIE

Nah, let's fly solo.

Tess nods okay, brimming with excitement.

EXT. TESS & NICK'S APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

Tess and Nick stand with their Cheat Day bags packed. The full weight of what they're about to do is hitting both of them. Angie waits by Tess's Subaru as Nick's Lyft pulls up.

TESS

See you at the ferris wheel.

As Nick shoulders his backpack, he spots a BRIGHT RED THONG through an opening in Tess's duffle.

NICK

Um. Your bag's unzipped.

Tess sees what he sees and turns as red as the thong. She quickly zips the bag closed as she LAUGHS UNCOMFORTABLY.

TESS

Whoopsies. My whale tail. Which would be quite eye-catching in the wild. Bad for camouflage...

Tess forces herself to trail off. They stare at each other for another awkward moment.

TESS (CONT'D)

I love...

She trails off again. The words are out of habit.

NICK

Yeah.

He heads for his Lyft.

INT. THE BOILING CRAB - LATER

Tess sits across from Angie and Maya, who's dressed in her scrubs to leave straight for work. Tess wears a huge plastic bib and tears into crab legs.

MAYA

It's like you're participating in a state fair competition. And winning.

TESS

Nick's allergic to shellfish. I'm making up for lost time.

ANGIE

Speaking of, it's been ten years since you talked to Sasha. What's the plan here?

Tess looks nervous as she swallows.

TESS

Based on some light but consistent Instagram stalking, I don't think she's dating anyone. She was back in 2019, but they didn't seem right for each other. Sasha needs someone more outdoorsy.

Angie and Maya blink back at Tess.

MAYA

You asked me to forge a doctor's note to get you out of Zion.

ANGIE

(laughing)

Is that a HIPAA violation?

MAYA

She authorized it, so I think it's a violation of everything *but* HIPAA.

ANGIE

(to Tess)

You also put on bug spray before going to the grocery store.

TESS

I can't control how delicious my blood is, but I can protect myself.

(MORE)

TESS (CONT'D)
Getting back to the matter at hand:
Sasha is single.

She shows them her phone, open to GORGEOUS PHOTOS of Sasha by Southwest lakes and trails.

ANGIE
Very nice. Now slide into her DMs.

MAYA
But don't mention the air mattress you brought to backyard camping.

TESS
(sarcastic)
Ha-ha-ha.

Distracted by her friends, Tess doesn't realize she's hit Instagram's VIDEO CALL FEATURE.

ANGIE
Maybe Sasha would be down for Tess to bring an air mattress. So they could DO IT!

SASHA (O.S.)
Tess?

Horrified, Tess turns back to her phone to see that *Sasha has picked up*. She's holding back a smile.

TESS
Sasha! Hi! Oh my God, how the heck are you?

Tess scrambles to recover, shoving Angie, Maya, and crab carnage out of frame. Unfortunately, she forgets her bib.

SASHA (FROM SCREEN)
Does that say... "Feeling Crabby"?

Tess tears it off.

TESS
No. Yes. Believe it or not, I didn't mean to video call you!

Was that disappointment that just flashed across Sasha's face?

TESS (CONT'D)
But -- I'm glad I did. I'm really sorry we lost touch. After I ghosted you.

Sasha nods.

SASHA (FROM SCREEN)
I was sorry about that, too.

TESS
I meant to DM you that I'd love to
see you. Soon. Maybe even today?

Tess holds her breath. In terrible timing, the connection hiccups. But finally, Sasha's pixels come back together.

SASHA (FROM SCREEN)
I'm having a little party out here
in Page tonight. You should come.

Sasha spins around, showing Tess the red rocks and glittering Lake Powell in the distance behind her. Tess is overjoyed.

TESS
I am *so* there.

SASHA
Cool, I'll message you the details.

TESS
Thanks. Can't wait!

Tess taps a button the screen, then turns to Angie and Maya.

TESS (CONT'D)
Oh my God. *Oh. My God.* I get to try
to hook up with my decade-long
crush at a party attended by people
who genuinely enjoy being outdoors!

Someone CLEARS THEIR THROAT. Devastatingly, it's coming from Tess's phone. With dread in her heart, Tess forces herself to look at the screen. Yup. Sasha is still very much there.

SASHA (FROM SCREEN)
You didn't hang up.

Tess's face burns.

TESS
Neither did you.

SASHA (FROM SCREEN)
Wasn't ready just yet.
(then)
Your friends can come too.

Tess beams.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - THAT MOMENT

Nick's Lyft reverses out of the dirt parking lot, leaving Nick clutching his backpack in a cloud of dust.

INT. TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Grandma Betty throws open her trailer door for Nick to enter, then putters back to her minuscule counter.

GRANDMA BETTY
I'm making a salad!

Nick eyes the ingredients: 7UP cans, a pack of instant lime Jello, cream cheese, canned pineapple, and Dream Whip.

GRANDMA BETTY (CONT'D)
Lime Jello salad, for the potluck.
At my age, you get to stop giving a
shit about vegetables.

CUT TO:

Nick carefully loads Dream Whip on top of the bright green "salad" (pudding).

GRANDMA BETTY (CONT'D)
Leo told me about Cheat Day. The
clock is ticking! Why are you
visiting your grandmother?!

NICK
I wanted your advice.

GRANDMA BETTY
Don't be so timid with the Dream
Whip, it can take your worst.

Nick keeps spooning.

NICK
Grandma... do you dislike Tess more
now that she's gay?

Betty gets impatient and takes over the Dream Whip, sliding a can of maraschino cherries Nick's way to start decorating.

GRANDMA BETTY
She's bi, not gay. And no, that
doesn't factor into my opinion that
you two aren't a good fit.

Betty uses her spatula to gesture at a table filled with FAMILY PHOTOS. Front and center is her WEDDING PICTURE with Nick's GRANDFATHER, who's dressed in an army uniform.

GRANDMA BETTY (CONT'D)
Your grandfather and I went on
adventures together. All over the
world.

ANOTHER PHOTO features the two of them making out amidst a snowy, penguin-filled landscape that must be Antarctica.

GRANDMA BETTY (CONT'D)
We were both fearless. And brought
out the best in each other. *That's*
what you deserve. Someone like he
was to me.

NICK
Yeah. Like Rachel.

Right as Nick says it, he's surprised to spot his own PROM PICTURE amongst the other photos: TEENAGE NICK grins, his girlfriend RACHEL goofily riding piggy-back.

NICK (CONT'D)
Wait a sec(ond)-- you kept this?
And put it up in place of Tess and
I? Immediately?

Betty doesn't respond... because she's placing a call. After a beat, she holds her phone out to Nick.

Confused and clutching a cherry stem, Nick slowly accepts it.

NICK (CONT'D)
Hello?

RACHEL (FROM PHONE)
Nick!

INT. HELICOPTER - THAT MOMENT (INTERCUT)

RACHEL (late 20s, badass in a leather jacket, hasn't worn a dress since prom) flies a fucking helicopter.

RACHEL
You finally had the balls to call
me.

Nick's eyes flash to Betty as she takes over cherry duty.

NICK

Actually, my grandma did.

RACHEL

I heard about Cheat Day.

Betty pops a cherry in her mouth to hide her smile.

NICK

That tracks.

RACHEL

(flirty)

Come to Vegas! We can totally get you laid.

REVEAL a MIDDLE AGED COUPLE in the back of the helicopter.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

Um, excuse me, we're paying for a tour right now.

RACHEL

Yeah yeah, the Hoover Dam isn't going anywhere. We hope!

(into phone)

So what do you say? Wanna roll the dice? Finish what we started our last night together?

Nick considers... and can't deny he's interested. And after all, what does he really have to lose?

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Answer fast; I think this call is interfering with my instruments!

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

Are you serious?!

Rachel covers the phone and shakes her head reassuringly.

NICK

I'll head your way. Bye, Rachel.

END INTERCUT on Nick hanging up.

GRANDMA BETTY

"Finish what you started." Does she mean anal?

NICK

Grandma!

GRANDMA BETTY

What?

NICK

No, she did not mean anal.

GRANDMA BETTY

Well. Your loss.

She offers him a spoonful of the finished salad.

NICK

No thank you.

Betty nods as she eats it herself.

GRANDMA BETTY

Good call. This stuff'll kill you.

INT. TESS'S SUBARU / EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Tess's speedometer reads 55 MPH. Her hands are at ten and two, eyes constantly scanning the desert highway. Angie rides shotgun, feet on the dash.

ANGIE

I think that cow might be about to pass us.

TESS

Nothing good happens at or over sixty miles per hour. Just ask my parents. Oh wait, we can't.

Yikes. Angie knows she's stepped in it.

Tess finally nudges her, letting her off the hook.

TESS (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm slow. And that they died in a plane crash so I won't fly either.

ANGIE

I'm sorry. I would never ask you to travel by murderbird.

TESS

The good news is, when we do finally make it, the Sube's gonna fit in great.

She pats the dash like a proud parent.

TESS (CONT'D)
Did you know that Subaru
specifically marketed to lesbians
in the nineties?

ANGIE
Ah-ha, so *capitalism* started the
stereotype! I should have known.

Angie nudges Tess back.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
See? You know more about the
community than I do.

TESS
Car trivia doesn't count.

ANGIE
Being queer does.

TESS
(beat, then)
I've been thinking... and I don't
want to go into meeting Sasha a
total girl-virgin. A girl-gin?

Angie stifles a LAUGH.

ANGIE
Jesus, so we have to find *another*
girl for you to have sex with
first?

TESS
No, not full on S-E-X.

Angie glances at the backseat.

ANGIE
Is there a small child in here that
I'm not aware of?

Tess shoots her a dirty look.

TESS
Just flirting and make-out
practice. I haven't been single for
a decade. Maybe things have
changed.

ANGIE
Changed... how?

TESS

I don't know. Different behavioral patterns.

Tess does a poor attempt at the TikTok "chopping dance".

ANGIE

Are you trying to do a TikTok dance? Do you think people do TikTok dances at each other now?

TESS

I just said I don't know!

ANGIE

Like a mating dance? Like... birds?

TESS

This is bi-erasure.

ANGIE

Me making fun of you is not bi-erasure.

TESS

Is too.

Both of them are CRACKING UP. Angie checks her phone.

ANGIE

I think there are some gay bars in Flagstaff.

TESS

Now you're being an ally!

Angie rolls her eyes. ON SPEEDOMETER: It ticks up to 56 MPH.

EXT. HARRY REID INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A Southwest plane lands on the Vegas airport runway.

EXT. HARRY REID INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - ARRIVALS - LATER

Leo and Sebastian CHEER as Nick steps out of the sliding doors after them. Sebastian takes a hit of his vape pen and passes it to Leo.

LEO

(blowing out smoke)

The boys are back in Vegas, baby!

Leo passes the vape to Nick, who takes a very long hit.

An ATTRACTIVE WOMAN (30s, looks like she also has a great personality) walks past.

SEBASTIAN

(to Leo)

Look at our Nicky-Poo. A free man.
He could just go for her. Right
here, right now.

The Attractive Woman is joined by her equally attractive, YOUNGER HUSBAND.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Oh.

Close behind the Attractive Husband are their THREE ATTRACTIVE KIDS.

NICK

Wow.

An ADORABLE PUPPY with a bow around its neck joins them.

LEO

Christ, we get it.

SEBASTIAN

So where're we hitting up first?

Nick glances at Leo.

NICK

Circus Circus.

SEBASTIAN

As in... the casino for children?

NICK

Grandma Betty gave us a voucher.

LEO

It'll just be our base camp. We'll
grab drinks, then hit the strip.

Sebastian shrugs and takes another drag.

SEBASTIAN

How'd she get the voucher anyway?

EMPLOYEE (V.O., PRE-LAP)

Your grandmother is *Betty Jones*?!

INT. CIRCUS CIRCUS - FRONT DESK - LATER

Nick, Leo, and Sebastian stand across from an awed EMPLOYEE, who calls a bunch of OTHER WORKERS over to meet them.

EMPLOYEE

Hannah, Elias, get over here! This is Betty Jones's grandson, great nephew, and...

SEBASTIAN

Occasional weed dealer.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

Not to be unprofessional, but she's a *fucking legend*. Total high-roller!

The guys are all surprised by the enthusiasm of this welcome.

LEO

We honestly had no idea.

NICK

I mean, she lives in a trailer park.

The first Employee shakes his head ruefully.

EMPLOYEE

Betty never knows when to walk away.

LEO

Guess the house does always win.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

But please know that for friends of Betty, everything's comp'ed.

The three friends glance at each other again. Holy shit. They're the kings of Circus Circus.

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS - POOL - LATER

Nick, Leo, and Sebastian are poolside, sipping ridiculously supersized, multi-colored drinks.

LEO

She wrote back!

Nick and Sebastian lean in. Leo's texting with Grandma Betty. He sent a SELFIE of them, to which she's replied: "WHAT'S UP WITH THE BITCH DRINKS?"

SEBASTIAN

Damn. That's actively un-feminist.

NICK

Hey, can you guys confirm or deny whether that woman's looking at me?

Leo and Sebastian look across the pool, where a WOMAN (early 30s) lounges in a cover-up. She's peering over bug-eye sunglasses at Nick's back.

SEBASTIAN

Hell yeah she is.

LEO

She seems pretty into your back.

NICK

That's what has me confused. You know better than anyone how much I neglect my lats.

SEBASTIAN

Maybe she's not a lat lady.

NICK

Do you think she could be a-- you know, a sex worker?

LEO

A sex worker. At Circus Circus.

SEBASTIAN

There's probably not a lot of competition. That's just supply and demand.

NICK

Strategic of her...

LEO

Nick, you're a disaster. A beautiful women is staring at you. It's Cheat Day. Go talk to her.

SEBASTIAN

If you don't, I will.

Nick forces himself to stand and cross to the Woman... but loses his nerve right as he's about to make it over. Luckily, the Woman speaks first.

WOMAN
Hey. I'm Kayla.

NICK
Nick...

She holds out her hand, palm down. Nick panics and kisses it. Oh God. Did he actually just do that?

NICK (CONT'D)
Sorry. Um. Nick. I said that already.
(then)
Is it cool if I sit down?

Kayla nods. Nick sits on a lounge chair facing her.

KAYLA
You're Betty Jones's grandson, aren't you?

NICK
I am. We didn't know she was Circus Circus royalty.

KAYLA
She's shown us so many pictures.

NICK
Oh, God.

KAYLA
You work for your dad, right? This might sound weird, but you look really cute in your little... prison jumpsuit.

NICK
(laughing)
Prison jumpsuit?

KAYLA
With the zip up the front?

NICK
My coveralls?

KAYLA
That's it!

Kayla LAUGHS along, shaking her head.

KAYLA (CONT'D)
Rachel always gets the good ones.
(then)
And here she is!

Nick turns to see none other than Rachel approaching, still in her leather flight jacket from her latest helicopter tour.

The LITTLE BOY (4) walking beside her sprints over to Kayla, who pulls him into a big hug.

KAYLA (CONT'D)
Hey baby! Did you have a good time flying with Auntie Rachel?

The Little Boy nods. Nick looks totally lost as he stares at Rachel.

NICK
H-hi. I... I thought your sister was still on that Eat Pray Love thing.

Rachel pulls Nick into a tight hug.

RACHEL
She is. And it remains problematic.

She pulls away and grins at Kayla.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
This is my best friend, heiress to the Circus Circus fortune.

NICK
(to Kayla)
Oh. Wow. So then, you're... *actual* Circus Circus royalty.

KAYLA
Good thing you kissed my hand!

Rachel raises her eyebrows.

RACHEL
Be honest. Did she flirt with you?

Nick glances from Kayla to Rachel. Overwhelmed, he opts for full honesty.

NICK

Sorry-- I've been in a relationship for the past ten years, I have no idea how to navigate things with my high school girlfriend and a real-life heiress.

KAYLA

(laughing)

I was just trying to warm you up for her. You can't dive into Lake Rachel in the middle of the desert with no floaties. Plus, sometimes it's nice to know you still got it.

Nick has to nod. It definitely is.

RACHEL

(to Nick)

So. It's been twelve years. Can I kiss you?

Nick looks from her to Leo and Sebastian -- slurping their huge drinks like they're eating popcorn -- then back to her.

As soon as he nods, Rachel leans in and their lips lock. Nick closes his eyes... and gets lost in his first non-Tess kiss in a decade.

When his eyes open, he sees Kayla's Son staring up at him.

LITTLE BOY

Are you my new uncle?

EXT. FLAGSTAFF, AZ - CIVANO - ESTABLISHING - LATER

Tess and Angie stand before Flagstaff's gay coffee house and nightclub... which would look like any other beige storefront if it weren't for its rainbow flags.

Tess is on the verge of an anxiety-puke.

TESS

I think I'm having a panic attack.

ANGIE

Well, the one you had ten years ago did a good job of attracting someone.

TESS

I don't know if I can do this. I have no idea how to act!

ANGIE

There's no acting involved.

TESS

There's gonna need to be a little,
or everyone's gonna find out!

ANGIE

Find *what* out?

TESS

That I'm a fake gay! A gay fake? A
Fay? A Gake!

ANGIE

Tess. I guarantee everyone in there
also somehow feels like a fake gay.
Just be yourself and flirt like you
would with a guy.

TESS

I haven't done *that* in ten years
either!

ANGIE

You haven't *flirted*?

TESS

That's basically cheating.

ANGIE

It is absolutely not.

TESS

Well... one time I was at a bar and
I ordered a ginger ale and the
bartender gave it to me for free.

Beat.

ANGIE

That's it? That's the whole story?

TESS

Yeah!

Angie BLOWS OUT AIR. This might be harder than she thought.

ANGIE

Follow my lead.

INT. CIVANO - BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Angie leads Tess up to the bar, where a cute bartender named YVIE (late 20s, loves astrology but in an ironic way) mixes drinks for the afternoon crowd.

YVIE
What can I get y'all?

ANGIE
Pilsner for me, Sex on the Beach
for her.

YVIE
Love it.

Yvie pours for Angie, then breaks out the vodka and peach schnapps.

ANGIE
My friend's cute, right?

Yvie glances up from pouring juices.

YVIE
Yeah, it's a hot librarian vibe.

Angie looks a little concerned, but Tess is flattered. She accepts the orange and red cocktail and takes a long sip.

TESS
That's the nicest thing anyone has
ever said to me.

YVIE
I'm... sorry?

CUT TO:

Two empty glasses sit before Tess as she slurps from a third. She is definitely tipsy.

TESS
Yvie, if I were to order a ginger ale right now, would you charge me?

YVIE
Uh, probably not? You've already bought like, four drinks.

Tess whirls on Angie.

TESS
SEE?!

ANGIE

Right. The ultimate move. I stand corrected.

TESS

(to Yvie)

Would you touch my boob?

Yvie and Angie both stare at her.

TESS (CONT'D)

Just a light graze.

Yvie glances at Angie, who shrugs. *Up to you.*

TESS (CONT'D)

Please?

After looking around at the other patrons and confirming that none of them are paying attention, Yvie reaches out and very lightly grazes Tess's right breast. Tess lights up.

TESS (CONT'D)

Thank you so much.

(to Angie)

It's very similar.

ANGIE

I know.

TESS

Can I have another drink?

Angie shakes her head out of Tess's eye-line. *Hell no.*

YVIE

Sure.

Yvie fills a glass with ginger ale, then adds cranberry juice. Tess doesn't even notice as she sips, distracted by:

Two DRAG QUEENS walking onto a small stage: HEIFER TITTY (big girl with a chest plate and cow print mixed into her otherwise Egyptian costuming)...

And MRS. CUMMINGS (painted for the back row and to look much older, wears huge hip pads).

HEIFER TITTY

Okay you messy bitches know what time it is, and don't pretend like you DON'T.

MRS. CUMMINGS
 Squeeze those cheeks into seats and
 lets see how many bing-hos we got.

HEIFER TITTY
 Good prizes tonight. Including a
 waxing kit. You sir, make room for
 someone who actually needs it.

A BALD GUY LAUGHS and takes his seat.

ANGIE
 (to Tess)
 Wanna play? Seems like an easy way
 to meet more people.

TESS
 Okay!

Tess salutes Yvie before heading off.

TESS (CONT'D)
 Thank you for your service.

YVIE
 Good luck.

Angie flashes Yvie another smile and then follows Tess, who's making a beeline for a table occupied by some other WOMEN, including SELMA (30s, either emo or goth, possibly both).

Mrs. Cummings continues to address the crowd.

MRS. CUMMINGS
 Sure, take your sweet time. Not
 like mine's running out.

She snags a single bill a nearby WOMAN holds out.

MRS. CUMMINGS (CONT'D)
 Thank you dear, Social Security is
 not what it used to be.

Meanwhile, Tess and Angie make it to Selma's table.

TESS
 Is anyone sitting here?

SELMA
 No, go for it. I'm Selma.

Tess grins and sits down. Selma smiles back.

TESS

Tess! That's Angie.

HEIFER TITTY

Okay, I think we're gettin' there.

BRING FORTH OUR BALLS!

A MAN IN A SPEEDO walks on stage carrying a bingo cage filled with the labeled balls.

CUT TO:

Heifer Titty and Mrs. Cummings sit on stage beside the bingo cage. Heifer Titty turns the tumbler to mix up the balls.

The table beside them is loaded up with prizes, ranging from a salad spinner bedazzled with the words "TOSS MY SALAD", to POPPERS, to a big printed waxing gift certificate.

Tess turns to Selma.

TESS

Have you played here before?

SELMA

Yup. It's easy, just blot out whatever they call. Plus your free space!

HEIFER TITTY

(to Tess and Selma)

HEY! We haven't even started and you're already cheating!

Tess GIGGLES as Heifer Titty makes the "I'm watching you" gesture and holds up a WOODEN PADDLE shaped like an Egyptian crook, painted with blue and gold stripes.

Tess looks back down at her bingo sheet and reaches over to take a swig of Angie's beer, hot pink dauber at the ready...

MATCH TO:

Tess uses her dauber to mark "59D". Her eyes widen as she realizes she has five across.

TESS

Oh my God. I think I have bingo.

ANGIE

Wow, already?

SELMA

Go get your prize!

Sobriety and self-consciousness long gone, Tess stands up unsteadily.

TESS
BINGO!

MRS. CUMMINGS
Oh shit! We got a live one!

HEIFER TITTY
Get the fuck up here.

Tess obeys and keeps her eyes on her feet as she carefully makes her way to the front, past EVERY SINGLE OTHER PLAYER. It's suddenly very nerve-wracking to have all eyes on her.

On stage, Mrs. Cummings peers over her bifocals at Tess dramatically while Heifer snatches Tess's sheet and cross references it with the balls that have been called.

MRS. CUMMINGS
You better pray to whatever lord
and savior you answer (to)--

HEIFER TITTY
AH-HA! There's always one! And I'm
not just referring to my STIs!

Heifer Titty brandishes the sheet. Mrs. Cummings shakes her head at Tess in sympathy.

MRS. CUMMINGS
Ooooh, girl.

Tess's face falls in confusion.

TESS
Wh-what?

Heifer Titty grabs Mrs. Cummings's bifocals straight off her face and pretends to peer through them studiously.

HEIFER TITTY
You put down B-fifteen, but do you
see a B-fifteen here?

OOOOOOOOOHs echo from the crowd as they realize Tess is in trouble.

Tess looks out at everyone. Her nightmare of fucking up in this community is coming true, and it is horrifying.

She desperately meets eyes with Angie, who offers her a reassuring look, then whispers to Selma --

ANGIE

How bad is it, usually?

SELMA

It's not not bad...

TWACK! Heifer Titty SPANKS Tess with the Egyptian crook paddle!

TESS

OW!!!

Tess's eyes fill with tears from the pain, shame, and mortification...

Until she realizes that the ENTIRE CROWD has erupted into CHEERS.

SELMA

You took it like a champ, Tess!

OTHER PLAYERS

That was me last week! / Don't let her see you cry! / Heifer Titty you raggedy bitch!

Heifer Titty brandishes the paddle at them.

HEIFER TITY

Oh. So y'all want next.

Tess lets it all wash over her in surprise. She did fuck up -- but she's being celebrated for it.

MRS. CUMMING

Since you were our guinea pig, our cautionary tale, our bitch who cried bingo, take some poppers on back for you and the gals.

Mrs. Cummings holds out the container of colorful poppers (nitrite drugs you sniff to loosen up various body parts).

MRS. CUMMING (CONT'D)

Sniff responsibly.

Tess looks confused, but sees that Angie and Selma are waving at her.

SELMA

Maybe don't sniff them right now.

ANGIE

Tess, hurry back.

Still sore from the paddle, Tess stumbles back to them.

INT. CIVANO - DANCE FLOOR - LATER

Drag Bingo is over and the bar has shifted its attention to karaoke. Currently up: Robyn's "CALL YOUR GIRLFRIEND", as performed by a FEMALE COUPLE drunkenly harmonizing.

FEMALE COUPLE
*CALL YOUR GIRLFRIEND, IT'S TIME YOU
 HAD THE TALK, GIVE YOUR REASONS,
 SAY IT'S NOT HER FAULT, BUT YOU
 JUST MET SOMEBODY NEW...*

Angie is talking with Yvie at the bar, clearly hitting it off, while Tess and Selma are out on the dance floor. *Selma* won Drag Bingo, and the huge prize bag hangs around her neck.

Tess is completely in her element, dancing and soaking up the feeling of belonging somewhere she's always wanted to.

FEMALE COUPLE (CONT'D)
*DON'T YOU TELL HER HOW I GIVE YOU
 SOMETHING, THAT YOU NEVER EVEN KNEW
 YOU MISSED, DON'T YOU EVEN TRY AND
 EXPLAIN, HOW IT'S SO DIFFERENT WHEN
 WE KISS...*

Tess takes a step closer to Selma, who closes the rest of the distance and places her forehead against Tess's. Tess whisper-shouts over the SYNTH BEAT.

TESS
 Just so you know, I'm only passing
 through town.

SELMA
 I know an LA girl when I see one.

TESS
 (flattered)
 I'm from Carson City.

SELMA
 You told me. And that you wished
 you were from LA.

Tess looks moved.

SELMA (CONT'D)
 I'd still like to kiss you, if
 that's cool.

Tess sucks in a BREATH, then nods eagerly. Selma leans in and as their lips lock...

FIREWORKS FOR TESS.

Selma pulls away for a second to see Tess grinning back at her like a big dumb idiot.

TESS
I was right.
(then, even happier)
I was right!

Before Selma can ask what Tess means, Tess kisses her again.

At the bar, Yvie raises her eyebrows at Tess going for it while Angie nods her approval.

ANGIE
That's my girl.

YVIE
What are you doing later?

ANGIE
We're going on to Page. Then back to Nevada.

YVIE
That's cool. I've actually been thinking about visiting Tahoe.

ANGIE
Oh, nice.

YVIE
Can I give you my number?

Angie looks torn for a second, but then hands over her phone.

Yvie types, then passes it back, open to the entry "YVIE (CUTE BARTENDER)".

Meanwhile, Tess & Selma are still going *at it*, with Selma now attached to Tess's neck like some kind of sexy queer vampire.

ANGIE (O.S.)
Tess.

Tess reluctantly opens her eyes and turns to her friend.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
We should head out or we'll be late.

TESS

Already?

Angie nods, and Tess flashes Selma an apologetic look.

TESS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

SELMA

No worries. It was great meeting
you.

Selma pulls a couple more popper containers from her basket.

SELMA (CONT'D)

For the road. Just in case.

Tess nods, grateful.

INT. TESS'S 2000 SUBARU OUTBACK / EXT. ARIZONA HWY - LATER

Angie drives since she's the sober one. Tess sits shotgun, hands gripping her door and the center console.

TESS

Don't push the old girl too hard,
okay?

ANGIE

You got it. Relaaaax. You kissed a
girl.

TESS

And I liked it.

(then, realizing)

SHIT!

ANGIE

Jesus, what?!

TESS

I didn't get her number!

ANGIE

Luckily she left you with a little
something else to remember her by.

Angie gestures at Tess's neck. Tess reaches up to pull the shade down and snaps open the mirror.

A *HUGE HICKEY* stares back.

TESS

Oh. My. God. It's a black hole big enough to destroy the universe, or at least my chances with Sasha!

ANGIE

We'll get you some concealer and it'll be good as new.

TESS

Yes. Okay. Good plan. God, I feel like a horny teenager.

ANGIE

You are a horny teenager.

TESS

What about you? Did you get Yvie's number?

ANGIE

No, I didn't.

TESS

Oh. That's too bad.

Angie shrugs it off. Tess's eyes flash between the road and her hickey as they continue on. Her smile creeps back.

TESS (CONT'D)

Not one person accused me of being a fake gay.

ANGIE

Hey, me neither!

Tess leans her head back.

TESS

I don't know if I can give this up after just one day, Angie.

Angie glances over at her, concern in her eyes.

ANGIE

Maybe you don't have to.

TESS

Yeah. Maybe.

EXT. LAS VEGAS ROOFTOP - DAY

The sun hangs lower above a gorgeous rooftop view of the strip. TRACK IN on a parked helicopter...

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Nick watches Rachel, who sits at the controls.

NICK

You always wanted to be able to fly. And now you can.

Rachel smiles and elbows him.

RACHEL

And you? Still gonna take over your dad's shop like you always wanted?

NICK

I honestly don't really know anymore. He called me out the other day. Which made me start thinking maybe I'm not cut out for it.

RACHEL

Nick. You've been repairing cars since before you could read a manual. You're built for it. If anything, maybe it's not built for you.

Nick considers.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

What'd Tess say?
(then)
It's cool, you can tell me.

NICK

No, I just... I didn't tell her.

Rachel blinks. Oh.

NICK (CONT'D)

How about we not talk about Tess.

RACHEL

Fine by me.

Nick moves in -- and kisses her again.

It starts out sweet and tentative as they test the waters, getting to know each other again after so many years apart...

But once that's over with, things heat up *quick*. Rachel straddles Nick in the passenger's seat. Their mouths and hands are all over each other, clothes are torn off, until suddenly--

RACHEL BECOMES TESS, who pulls away, concerned.

TESS
You're doing this in a *helicopter*?

She glances around, freaked out.

TESS (CONT'D)
What does that control do? And that one? What if someone sees?!

Just as quickly, RACHEL REPLACES TESS.

RACHEL
What's wrong?

NICK
Nothing, just... are you sure this is a good idea? Doing this? Here?

RACHEL
Oh yeah, it's totally fine.

She starts to pull down her underwear and motions for Nick to do the same.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
No one ever wants a late afternoon tour. They're too busy sleeping off day-drinking before going out again.

Nick reaches into his wallet and pulls out a "FOR HER PLEASURE" condom.

NICK
I didn't know which kind to get, so...

RACHEL
Great guess!

EXT. LAS VEGAS ROOFTOP - THAT MOMENT

A MOM, DAD, and their TWO SONS make it to the top of the roof. The Sons are thrilled by the three parked helicopters.

MOM

They said the one on the far left?

DAD

(squinting)

I think I see someone inside. Go on ahead and scope it out, boys!

The Sons SHRIEK in delight and run toward the...

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Nick is definitely inside Rachel right now.

They've found their rhythm, and Nick is trying hard to stay in the moment and avoid any more Tess interruptions. But while he's preoccupied with that, something else slips out --

NICK

Tell me I'm enough.

Rachel stops moving against him.

RACHEL

What?

OLDER SON (O.S.)

Daddy! There's a lady sitting on top of a man!

Nick and Rachel spot the two Sons with their faces pressed against the glass.

RACHEL

OHMYGOD!

EXT. LAS VEGAS ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS (INTERCUT)

The Sons' confused Parents hurry closer as Rachel and Nick scramble for their clothes inside the helicopter.

YOUNGER SON

They were doing the spider, like on the swings! Now the lady's putting on her bathing suit.

He means bra and panties. The Parents break into a run.

Rachel finishes pulling on her shirt and throws open the helicopter door.

RACHEL
Welcome to Vegas Strip Tours!

She and Nick wince. The Parents have their eyes narrowed.

DAD
Were you... *checking the oil* in
there?

RACHEL
Yes. I was literally checking the
oil.

MOM
You know what he *means*.

She covers the ears of her Older Son and whispers.

MOM (CONT'D)
Making the bald man cry.

YOUNGER SON
Grandpa?!

DAD
Grandpa's fine.
(to Rachel and Nick)
I'd like to talk to your
supervisor.

Rachel deflates.

RACHEL
Yeah. That's fair.

But before the conversation can continue, she yanks Nick back into the fuselage and fires up the chopper. Its WHIRRING BLADES kick up WIND that forces the Family to back away.

NICK
What are you doing?!

RACHEL
Taking you for a joyride before I
lose my job!

Completely freaked out, Nick realizes his fly is still down as the chopper lifts off the ground.

EXT. COTTONWOOD, AZ - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A main street lined with colorful shops. The sun hangs low over pink desert hills.

INT. GENERAL STORE - CONTINUOUS

A SHOPKEEPER looks from Tess's hickey to the concealer she's buying.

SHOPKEEPER

Good call.

EXT. OLD WEST PHOTOS - LATER

As Tess and Angie head back to the Subaru, they spot a storefront with OLD WEST PORTRAIT PHOTO SAMPLES in the window.

TESS

Ahh! Can we take one? Please please
please please--

EXT. NEARBY PARK - LATER

START ON STILL: Tess poses in a velvet corset-skirt plus a feathered hat, while Angie's opted for a vested cowboy look complete with two fake pistols.

WIDEN: Tess and Angie grin down at the photos.

TESS

You're a true friend. Not to be
petty, but I think we might look
even better than you and Gabby did.

Tess takes out her phone and navigates to Angie's Instagram, then frowns when she can't find the picture.

TESS (CONT'D)

It was last Halloween. Didn't she
tag you?

Angie really doesn't want to have this conversation.

ANGIE

She deleted them.

Tess looks back up at Angie, confused.

TESS

I thought you stayed friends.

ANGIE

We did for a while. That's what I told her. "We're better as friends."

Angie navigates to her phone's photo library.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

But really, I gave up the chance to stay in her life when I broke up with her. I get that.

Angie shows Tess the PHOTO she was looking for.

A smiling Angie grins beside GABBY (20s, recognizable from the opening credits at Coachella). They're also dressed in Old West apparel. Tess and Nick stand beside them: Nick a race car driver, Tess a big orange traffic cone.

TESS

You really miss her.

Angie swipes the photo away.

TESS (CONT'D)

Why didn't you tell me? Oh God, I even tried to invite her to come with us today...

ANGIE

To be honest, sometimes it's easier to just talk about whatever's going on with you.

Tess considers. They are currently 650 miles from home for her Cheat Day.

TESS

I'm sorry, Ang.

ANGIE

It's cool. Just -- remember that you can lose people. If you let them go.

Tess pulls her friend into a hug as she processes this.

INT. HELICOPTER / EXT. SKIES OVER LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

The sun has set. Rachel flies the chopper... while also leaning over to kiss Nick's neck.

NICK

Hey, you sure this is safe? I wouldn't ask, except that it just seems very, uh, not.

RACHEL

You know how we *could* multitask.

It takes Nick a moment to realize what she's suggesting.

NICK

You want me to go down on you while you're flying a helicopter?

RACHEL

Don't you want to join the mile high club?

(then)

C'mon. I know you're enough, Nick.

Nick sets his jaw.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Yeah?

Nick nods.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

YEAH!

Rachel SHRIEKS with excitement as they reposition themselves. It's awkward, but Nick lowers his head --

Just as the helicopter *drops dramatically* in the sky.

NICK

(popping head back up)

What's happening?!

Rachel frowns at ALARMS and FLASHING LIGHTS.

RACHEL

There's a problem with the drive shaft.

NICK

Now?!

RACHEL
Sure seems like it!

The helicopter plummets again. Rachel's practiced eyes scan the controls.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
We're losing altitude fast. I need to do an autorotation. The hardest part will be finding a clear area...

The strip jolts even closer. As Nick listens to the aircraft's GRINDING and WHIRRING --

WALT (V.O.)
You don't fix faster than anybody.

His dad's accusation of his inadequacy ECHOES as the WHIRRING reaches a fever pitch. Rachel is completely absorbed with finding a place to land.

NICK
Ease off the throttle.

RACHEL
Nick, you fix cars--

NICK
Drive shaft means transmission failure which means engine failure.

Rachel realizes he's right.

RACHEL
We'll need it to land. Closing throttle.

She does and the WHIRRING calms -- but they PLUMMET FASTER. As Rachel navigates for an empty lot and Nick clutches his seat, **FLASHBACK POPS** surface:

- * Nick spots Tess for the first time all those years ago in the midst of her ferris wheel panic attack.
- * Tess smiles at Nick as they sit side by side on the ferris wheel during an early year of their relationship.
- * Tess accidentally serves Nick seafood and he starts to go into anaphylactic shock.
- * Nick and Tess have sex while Nick's wearing his race car driver jacket and playing Tripp McCoy.

- * Nick spends forever deciding between two identical rings.
- * Tess is silent after Nick's boat proposal.
- * Nick watches Tess zip her bag over her red thong, then leave for Cheat Day.

BACK TO PRESENT: They're only a couple dozen feet over the empty lot, headed for impact.

At the final second, Rachel throttles forward and they PULL UP -- then TOUCH DOWN with the very last of the engine power.

Rachel and Nick BREATHE HARD as the blades stop spinning.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
We wouldn't have made it if the
engine had unloaded on the tail
rotor.

NICK
Or if you hadn't nailed that
autorotation.

Beat.

RACHEL
I need to talk to Greg.

NICK
Who?

RACHEL
My boyfriend.

Off Nick's shock --

EXT. LAKE POWELL - BEACH - NIGHT

The moon reflects off orange canyons and topaz water. A BURNING MAN-STYLE PARTY is underway beside a roaring bonfire. Bright prints, feathers, and metal costumes abound.

Tess looks down at her sweater as she approaches with Angie.

ANGIE
You look great. Very nineties
romcom. Let's find your girl.

As they approach the bonfire, Sasha is hard to miss in a black bodysuit paired with an oversized, multi-colored robe.

Tess's heart is in her throat as she stares at what could have been 10 years ago...

Until Sasha looks up, breaking Tess from her trance. Sasha hurries over to pull Tess into a hug.

SASHA
I'm so glad you could come!

Tess closes her eyes and smiles, getting lost in the embrace... then finally remembers to pull away. Angie holds her hand out to Sasha.

ANGIE
Angie, co-star of the awkward crab boil video call.

Sasha LAUGHS and shakes it.

SASHA
You both need to meet Ivy!

Sasha flags down IVY (late 20s, quietly confident). Ivy wears combat boots and a PAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT t-shirt.

SASHA (CONT'D)
Tess, Angie, this is Ivy -- my girlfriend.

Everything ramps down to SLO-MO and sound CUTS OUT as Ivy kisses Sasha... then extends her hand to Tess, who looks just as shocked as Nick did after Rachel's reveal.

Ivy says something. As the silence continues, reflecting Tess's stunned and dismayed state, Ivy looks increasingly confused.

Angie squeezes Tess's hand, and Tess forces herself to get her shit together. Her world ramps back to REGULAR MOTION and sound RETURNS.

TESS
Sorry?

IVY
Sasha loves your books.

TESS
Oh. Thank you.
(to Sasha)
I didn't know you'd read them.

SASHA
Of course I did!

IVY

I wish I could write. I'm a firefighter. It's come in handy more than once.

Tess and Angie notice that people are scribbling things down on small SLIPS OF PAPER, then tossing them into the bonfire.

SASHA

It's a little tradition. Write down something you're trying to let go of, then... let it go.

Angie surprises both herself and Tess by speaking up.

ANGIE

Can I try?

As Sasha leads them toward bonfire, Tess is a million miles away, mourning Ivy's cool and friendly existence.

Angie grabs a piece of paper and pencil. She scrawls "GABBY", then surrenders the paper to the flames. Its edges curl. In another blink, it's gone.

Tess stares out at the water, confused and lost. A few kayaks have been dragged up the shore.

TESS

Can I use one of those?

Sasha looks surprised.

SASHA

I... guess so?

ANGIE

Tess, it's *nighttime*.

TESS

The moon's out. I'm okay.

Tess reaches down to squeeze her friend's hand.

TESS (CONT'D)

Just need to clear my head.

The three women watch with varying degrees of concern as Tess heads for the kayak.

INT. LAS VEGAS - THEATER - NIGHT

Nick has reunited with Leo and Sebastian. The three of them sit facing forward, eyes wide amidst CHEERS and THUDDING MUSIC...

This is a THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER SHOW.

Six painfully hot MALE DANCERS command the stage Magic Mike-style, tearing away their shiny turquoise pants in unison to reveal shiny turquoise briefs.

The crowd *LOSES ITS MIND* as the Dancers turn around to show off that these briefs are (surprise) -- completely ass-less.

Rachel WHOOPS to Nick's right.

RACHEL
YES GREG YESSSSSS!

GREG (early 30s) identifies himself by winking at her. Even amongst a bunch of tall, hunky, handsome men, he is by far the tallest, hunkiest, and handsomest.

As the song THUDS even louder, he and the other Dancers invade the audience.

Greg makes a beeline for Rachel. He grinds on her, and then Rachel turns him around to make out. A Woman who just got a lap dance from another Dancer BOOS.

WOMAN
What the hell, I didn't get a kiss!

Nick stays seated, looking incredibly awkward and uncomfortable beside the passionate couple.

INT. THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER SHOW - BACKSTAGE - LATER

Nick looks just as awkward and uncomfortable amidst cans of body spray and hanging jockstraps.

Nearby, Leo and Sebastian inspect some dildos, which appear to make up the bulk of this production's prop budget.

Across from Nick, Rachel cuddles Greg the Adonis.

RACHEL
(to Greg, re: Nick)
Babe, this is my ex I was telling
you about. We hooked up earlier
today--

NICK
I had no idea you were together.

Nick looks like he wants to disappear into a forest of jockstraps to avoid getting his ass kicked by Greg.

But to his surprise, Greg just smiles -- and speaks in a ridiculously sexy Australian accent.

GREG
No worries mate, we have an open relationship.

Nick is shocked all over again.

RACHEL
If it weren't for Nick, I'd be buried in a chopper crash.
(then)
Although, if it weren't for him we also wouldn't have taken off to have helicopter-sex in the first place...

Nick looks deeply uneasy.

GREG
Thanks for taking care of her.

NICK
Oh, sure. My pleasure.
(panicking)
Except not, no pleasure.

LEO
(saving his ass)
An open relationship. How did that come about?

RACHEL
I felt so insecure when he took this job. I pictured him dancing with a ton of women every night and just couldn't handle it. So I asked for one to even the playing field.

GREG
I was sorry she felt that way, but of course I agreed so I could still be with her. Although I've chosen not to sleep with anyone else.

Nick watches as Greg and Rachel smile at each other, in their own, happy world. Finally, Nick can't stop himself from asking --

NICK
Are either of you... ever worried
the other might not come back?

RACHEL
Well, that's always a worry no
matter what, right?

GREG
I just have to be confident that
she will.
(voila)
And she did.

Nick nods, his throat dry.

NICK
Before Cheat Day, my girlfriend
told me she's bisexual.

GREG
Oh nice. I'm bi too.

NICK
Wait... really?

GREG
I bet if more people stopped long
enough to actually think about it,
they'd realize they are too.

Sebastian pipes up by the dildos.

SEBASTIAN
I'd be down.

He catches Leo staring at him.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)
What? You're seriously gonna tell
me you don't find this guy hot?

Leo looks back at Greg and finds that he can't, in fact, truthfully say that. Greg LAUGHS.

GREG
Not to say it wasn't tough to
figure out and accept. For men
especially, you say you like guys
and suddenly, that's all you like.
(MORE)

GREG (CONT'D)
(nudging Rachel)
But she was great about it.

RACHEL
Well, you said something that made
a lot of sense to me. "Who you're
into isn't a choice..."

GREG
But who you choose to spend your
life with is."

Nick sits there for a moment, letting this sink in. Finally:

NICK
I need to talk to Tess.

He pulls out his phone...

EXT. LAKE POWELL - THAT MOMENT

START ON: TESS'S PHONE playing Taylor Swift's downloaded song "LAST KISS" below the words "NO SERVICE".

Tess is throwing herself a pity party as she paddles across the dark water. When she glances over her shoulder, the bonfire is still visible in the distance.

She faces forward and turns her attention to the hulking canyons and bright stars. Feeling dwarfed both physically and emotionally, tears well up in Tess's eyes.

The next time she looks back, she can't see the bonfire.

TESS
Shit.

She tries to turn around, but the current is against her. Her BREATHING speeds up. Is she stranded? Lost to the night?!

SASHA (O.S.)
Tess?

Sasha approaches in her own kayak.

SASHA (CONT'D)
Thought I'd join you.

Tess's face fills with relief. She pauses the Taylor ballad.

TESS
Could we talk?

EXT. CANYON CLIFF - LATER

Tess sits atop the sheer cliff beside Sasha.

TESS

I met Nick the same day I was supposed to meet up with you. I've thought about that a lot. I've thought about you a lot.

(sigh)

I really wish I could've been like you. Open about who I was from the very start.

SASHA

What do you mean?

TESS

You were already out and proud when we were fifteen-year-olds at camp.

SASHA

Maybe I was out, but I was only pretending to be proud. Growing up, everyone just assumed. It's like I had to... catch up.

TESS

I didn't know that.

Sasha nods.

SASHA

I've thought about you too. And I really have read all your books.

Tess blushes and waves this off.

TESS

They're super hetero.

SASHA

They're about relationships. Was the Leah character based on you?

Tess has never been asked this question. She thinks it over.

TESS

Maybe who I wish I was. She always says exactly what she wants. It gets her into some messes, but...

SASHA

She always gets out of them okay.

TESS

In her fictional world. If she were a real-life Uber driver dating her passengers, she'd definitely be found murdered in a ditch.

SASHA

Do you want to kiss me, Tess?

Tess looks taken aback.

TESS

You're with Ivy.

SASHA

We're up for a third tonight. She thinks you're cute, too.

Tess's eyes are as wide as they'll go.

SASHA (CONT'D)

So?

Forcing herself not to think, just *do*, Tess leans in and *kisses Sasha*.

It's intense, urgent. Hands tangled in hair tangled in shirts tangled hand in hand, until finally--

SASHA (CONT'D)

(quietly)

We should get back.

Tess nods and moves to climb down to their kayaks on shore, but Sasha takes her hand.

SASHA (CONT'D)

Wanna jump?

Tess stares down at the dark water below.

Emboldened by the kiss, she nods... and leaps out into thin air beside Sasha.

INT. HELICOPTER / EXT. SKY - LATER

Rachel has made off with a *different* helicopter her tour company owns, identifiable from the logo on the side.

Greg rides beside her, while Nick is squeezed in the back with Sebastian and Leo.

NICK
(yelling into headset)
Aren't you going to get in even
more trouble for this?

RACHEL
Hell yes I am. But if I'm already
getting canned -- worth it!

Nick looks concerned.

GREG
Don't worry, there's still one
company she hasn't been fired from.

RACHEL
You said the geotag's Lake Powell?

NICK
Yeah, I think Angie's the only one
with service.

Nick looks down at his screenshot of ANGIE'S INSTAGRAM STORY: Tess and Sasha run from their kayaks to shore, soaked from their earlier cliff jump. Even with the motion blur, it's obvious Tess is infatuated.

SEBASTIAN
What're you gonna say to her, man?

NICK
Something like... "I'm sorry I
can't sometimes have a vagina, but
I love you."

Complete silence.

LEO
Let's go ahead and do some
workshopping on that.

GREG
I liked the last part!

INT. SASHA & IVY'S VAN - LATER

Tess makes out with Sasha while Ivy kisses Tess's neck from behind. Sasha and Ivy are booty-ass naked, while Tess remains in her bra and the bright red thong.

TESS

So, do we do check-ins? Just to make sure everyone's feeling good, taken care of? I guess we could also do a hand-raise system. And do you like poppers? I randomly have a lot of them--

SASHA

Tess? Tess, deep breath.

Tess complies shakily.

IVY

Whatever you're comfortable with, that's what we'll do.

Tess thinks for a moment.

TESS

I'm not sure I want to do the poppers.

SASHA

Fine with me.

TESS

I bet I don't know what I'm missing. But still.

IVY

We really do not have to do the poppers.

EXT. LAKE POWELL - CONTINUOUS

Angie sits by the bonfire with the other PARTY GUESTS.

ANGIE

One time I thought I did shrooms, then woke up and realized I just took an edible and ate five servings of truffle fries. I did throw up. So, similar experience--

She's cut off by the sight and accompanying sounds of an APPROACHING HELICOPTER.

Wind whips around and sand blows *everywhere* as Rachel's company chopper touches down at the edge of the parking lot.

FEMALE PARTY GUEST

Is it the feds?!

MALE PARTY GUEST
 Yo, I'm WAY too paranoid for this
 shit right now!

Angie squints at the chopper as figures emerge from it.

ANGIE
 What. The. Fuuuuuuuuuuuck...

INT. SASHA & IVY'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Tess is now naked too, going down on Sasha.

EXT. LAKE POWELL - CONTINUOUS

Angie shoots a worried glance at Sasha and Ivy's van as she hurries over to the helicopter to meet Nick, Rachel, Leo, Sebastian, and Greg.

ANGIE
 Um, what are you *doing* here?

LEO
 We heard there was a party.

SEBASTIAN
 Just kidding. Nick wants to confess his undying love to Tess. We could've continued our own party by the Circus Circus pee pool.

Nick shoots him a look.

ANGIE
Circus Circus?

NICK
 Where is Tess?

Angie chooses to ignore this very direct question.

ANGIE
 There's still ten hours of Cheat Day left. There's nothing-- no one else you wanna do?

RACHEL
 We already slept together! Rachel, his ex-girlfriend. Great to meet you.

Angie shakes Rachel's hand.

ANGIE

Great to meet you too...

NICK

I'll explain it all to Tess, if you'll just tell me where she is. She never said we couldn't see each other today.

ANGIE

But wasn't it kind of implied?

Nick stares at Angie, who stares back at him... then can't help but glance over at the VW van.

NICK

She's in the van?

ANGIE

No.

NICK

Yes, she is.

He strides toward it with Angie desperately trailing.

ANGIE

No! That's just the, um, the drug stash!

SEBASTIAN

Sweet.

He hurries out ahead of them.

INT. SASHA & IVY'S VAN - MOMENTS LATER

Tess, Sasha, and Ivy are now *fully* having sex. Tess has her eyes closed, giving herself fully over to the moment, and out of habit --

TESS

Nick.

Sasha hesitates, confused.

NICK (O.S.)

Tess!

Tess's eyes fly open. Did she just say-- and did he just--

NICK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

TESS, it's me! Open up!

EXT. SASHA & IVY'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Nick BANGS on the back of the van desperately. Guests from the bonfire have made their way over to see what's going on.

Angie looks very concerned, especially when the (extremely high) Guy she was talking to about mushrooms proudly holds up a key fob.

SHROOMS GUY
I got their extra key!

BEEP-BEEP! Before Angie can stop him, Nick throws open the door...

To reveal Tess, Sasha, and Ivy. Naked and afraid.

NICK
H-hi.

Rachel tries to shoo the crowd away.

RACHEL
Show's over.

SHROOMS GUY
Looks like it's just beginning!

GREG
Go back to your fire, go on.

The Guests take Greg's nature documentary voice more seriously and disperse. Tess, Sasha, and Ivy scramble for their clothes. Tess is *absolutely mortified*.

TESS
What the hell are you doing here,
Nick?

Nick is still in complete shock. Rachel finally nudges him to say *something*.

NICK
Is this...

TESS
Sasha and Ivy.

SASHA
And this is your...

TESS
Nick.

Angie notices Sebastian is staring at the three partially-nude women.

ANGIE
Sebastian, please avert your male gaze.

Embarrassed, Sebastian complies.

Meanwhile, Tess's eyes land on Rachel.

TESS
Wait. That's...

Rachel remembers herself, again, and extends her hand.

RACHEL
Sorry, so rude of me, yeah! I'm Rachel, Nick's ex!

Tess does not shake Rachel's hand.

TESS
I know who you are, I've seen pictures. Did you...?

Nick swallows.

NICK
Yes.

RACHEL
Really only one time. And a half.

Silence. Tess is devastated.

TESS
Thanks for that... specificity.

LEO
(whispering, to Rachel)
I know you're trying to help here, but maybe don't say any other words. At all.

GREG
(to Tess)
As Rachel's current boyfriend, I can attest that Nick is a big fan of yours.

Tess just stares at Nick in disgust.

NICK

Can we end Cheat Day, Tess?

TESS

Why? Because you got off first?
That's not how this works.

NICK

We didn't really *talk* about how
this works!

TESS

We said we'd meet at Coachella!
Wasn't *not* barging in on each other
before that kind of *implied*?!

ANGIE

(quietly)

That's what I said.

NICK

Just like your bisexuality was
"kind of implied"? Is that why you
didn't tell me? The person you've
spent the past *ten years* with? Was
I supposed to just figure it out
for myself?!

TESS

I didn't tell you because look how
you responded!

NICK

You dropped it on me in the middle
of my *proposal*! What was I supposed
to say?

TESS

You should have validated it! Not
asked me if I was sure!

Nick gestures at Sasha and Ivy --

NICK

Well you seem pretty damn sure now!

TESS

Yeah! I am! And for all your
reluctance, it seems like you knew
exactly who you wanted to run back
to! The only other woman you've
been with? Seriously?!

Rachel shifts from foot to foot awkwardly.

NICK

She was my what-if! Sorry it was a little more specific than two random women at a party!

TESS

These aren't random women! I've thought about Sasha for the past ten years!

Nick takes a step back like he's been slapped.

As the silence between them continues, their anger seeps away... and gets replaced with sadness and disappointment.

TESS (CONT'D)

Just go, Nick.

As Tess grabs the van door's handle, there are tears in her eyes as well as Nick's.

NICK

Fine.

Tess SLAMS the door on him.

INT. SASHA & IVY'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Tess sits with her back against the van wall that serves as a headboard for Sasha and Ivy's bed.

Sasha and Ivy sit across the bed from Tess, unsure what to do. Finally, there's a LIGHT KNOCK and Angie enters through the passenger's side door.

At the sight of her best friend coming over to comfort her, Tess BURSTS INTO TEARS.

EXT. LAKE POWELL - CONTINUOUS

Nick trudges toward the helicopter alongside Rachel, Leo, Sebastian, and Greg. The SHROOMS GUY calls out from where he's peeing on a nearby bush --

SHROOMS GUY

You two get back together?!

Nick shakes his head and sinks to the ground by the bonfire.

NICK

It's over.

RACHEL

Nick.

Nick glances up at her.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I was really your what-if?

NICK

Well, yeah. If you hadn't gone to school for ROTC, we would've stayed together.

Rachel forces a smile and sits down beside him.

RACHEL

You know you broke my heart.

Nick looks confused.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

When I got accepted. It was never even a conversation about long distance, getting back together afterwards, anything. You just shut down and ended us.

NICK

You were going to college. With thousands of new, more interesting people.

RACHEL

But we never talked about it, Nick. It took me a long time to get over that. I felt like there must've been something wrong with me, like maybe if you'd loved me more, you would've tried.

NICK

I'm... I'm sorry, Rachel. That wasn't it at all.

RACHEL

Yeah. I understood. Eventually.

She smiles up at Greg.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I fell in love again, even more deeply. And finally stopped wishing for the conversation we never had.

She pulls on Greg's pant leg and he takes a knee beside her.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Greg... could we close our
relationship again?

Greg breaks into a huge smile.

GREG
It would be my honor.

Nick watches as they kiss.

Meanwhile, Leo and Sebastian finish conferring privately and sit down beside them.

LEO
We think you should still go to
Coachella.

SEBASTIAN
In case Tess decides to.

Nick stares at them in disbelief.

NICK
Are you two serious? You've been
totally pro-Cheat Day until now?

LEO
Sometimes you need a wake-up call,
man. No one outside the
relationship can give you that.
(then, reminiscing)
That chocolate babka was all me.
Taking matters into my own hands.

SEBASTIAN
Honestly, I wanted this day with
you guys so bad. Leo's married, you
were on the way. I miss doing drugs
on ferris wheels, just the three of
us.

(then)
And what he said. Sometimes you
need a little herpes scare to take
your love life more seriously.

LEO
Not exactly what I said.

Nick SIGHS.

NICK

Well, it doesn't matter, because
Tess doesn't want to be with me.

Rachel, Greg, Leo, and Sebastian all blink back at him.

NICK (CONT'D)

We just walked in on her fucking
two women! I am one man! How can I
compete with that? Not to mention
she's held a flame for one of them
the whole time we've been together!

RACHEL

Aren't you forgetting your what-if?

GREG

You find other women attractive,
right?

NICK

(lost)

Sure.

GREG

But Tess has been enough for you.
Same concept for her, and me. Just
with an extra gender.

LEO

You don't need to be anything
"more", Nick. You just... need to
fucking talk to each other.

Nick stares from friend to friend to ex-girlfriend to
gorgeous, wise, bisexual Australian man.

INT. SASHA & IVY'S VAN - LATER

Tess, now dressed again, hugs Sasha and Ivy good-bye.

TESS

Really sorry for the, you know.
Complete disaster.

Sasha LAUGHS.

SASHA

That's okay.

IVY

It was fun while it lasted.

Ivy covertly hands Tess's poppers back to Angie.

ANGIE
You ready to go, Tess?

EXT. LAKE POWELL - MOMENTS LATER

The sun is coming up as Tess and Angie pass the bonfire on their way to Tess's car. All the Partygoers have passed out. Nick, his friends, and the helicopter are nowhere in sight.

INT. TESS'S 2000 SUBARU OUTBACK - DAY

Tess keeps her eyes on the road, embarrassed and emotional.

TESS
I can't wait to get home.

Angie glances over at her, just as -- THWAP! THU-THU-THU-THU.

TESS (CONT'D)
SERIOUSLY?!

EXT. SIDE OF THE ARIZONA HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tess and Angie study the flat tire.

TESS
Literally *how*? Do you know how to change one?!

Angie shakes her head.

ANGIE
I feel like at this point you should?

TESS
Nick always did it for me.
(then, resolved)
But I don't need him anymore.

Tess pulls out her phone (which has service again) and Googles, then reads.

TESS (CONT'D)
There should be a spare and a tire jack in the back. But I need to check the manual to see which way to turn the bolts.

Tess opens the passenger side door.

INT. SUBARU - CONTINUOUS (INTERCUT)

Tess reaches into the glove compartment and spots the car manual. But as she grabs it, she notices something else beneath it...

A HANDMADE PAMPHLET with the sharpied title: "HOW TO CHANGE A TIRE IN THE EVENT THAT HELL FREEZES OVER AND NICK CAN'T DO IT FOR YOU".

Also sharpied on the front is a crude, stick figure ILLUSTRATION of a couple holding hands. For clarity, Nick has labeled both himself and Tess.

Beside them sits a terribly-drawn car with one wheel missing.

Tess's hand shakes slightly as she picks up the pamphlet.

ANGIE
What's that?

Tess shows her the cover, then starts to page through. There are handwritten instructions, plus more awful illustrations.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
This is the sweetest, most
artistically-challenged thing I've
ever seen.

TESS
He made this. But... still always
came to help.

Tess's tears start flowing all over again.

TESS (CONT'D)
I love him. But I also love how it
feels to get to be who I am.
(then)
Go ahead, tell me you told me so. I
know you thought Cheat Day was a
stupid idea from the beginning, and
you were right. It's ruined
everything.

But to her surprise, Angie shakes her head.

ANGIE
I don't want to tell you I told you
so.
(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

But I do want to ask why you can't
try to love Nick and your
queerness.

Tess wipes tears away.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Your sexuality's not black and
white. Why should your relationship
be? Look at Sasha and Ivy, inviting
a third. And Rachel brought her
boyfriend. They must be open.

(then)

I'm not saying Nick would agree to
it. All those options require a lot
of communication, which honestly,
you two have *not* been great with.
But you definitely won't know if
you never ask.

Tess stares down at Nick's illustration of both of them.

TESS

I'll never make it to Coachella in
time. Especially not with a flat.

Right then, the wind kicks up... amidst the unmistakable
sounds of an APPROACHING HELICOPTER.

A smile twitches in the corner of Angie's mouth.

ANGIE

I miiight have helped coordinate an
alternate method of transportation.

Tess whirls on Angie in disbelief.

TESS

You...

(re: tire)

But...

ANGIE

Hey, you asked me to do your
emotional labor. My methods are my
own. And I had no idea about the
pamphlet, good job Nick.

They're drowned out by Rachel LANDING THE HELICOPTER. Greg,
Sasha, and Ivy all wave from the fuselage.

RACHEL

Nick and his buddies are on a plane
to Ontario!

TESS

You... you want me to ride in a
murderbird?

ANGIE

Meeting at Coachella at noon is
literally the only thing you both
agreed on.

Off Tess gazing at the helicopter, sick to her stomach...

EXT. COACHELLA - FAIRGROUNDS - LATER

Green grass where there shouldn't be. Palm trees. The ferris wheel. Nick, Leo, and Sebastian have made it to Coachella.

Nick checks his phone: 11 A.M. Only one hour left.

NICK

I haven't heard anything from
Rachel, Angie, or Greg.

LEO

They could be in the air.

But even he and Sebastian don't look all that sure.

SEBASTIAN

Want some drugs?

He holds out a baggie of salvia. Bummed and hopeless, Nick nods and takes some.

NICK

I really wanted her to come.

LEO

We know, man.

INT. LAS VEGAS OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Rachel's friend Kayla sits with her Son across from Rachel's BOSS, identifiable by the same Vegas tours logo on the wall behind him.

KAYLA

I just saw Rachel a couple hours
ago. I really doubt she took the
chopper. That would be pretty
unhinged, wouldn't it?

Just then, the helicopter Rachel stole passes by their top-story window on its way to Coachella.

It's very clear that Rachel is at the controls and a bunch of other people are piled in with her.

The Boss raises his eyebrows in shock.

KAYLA (CONT'D)
I don't think that was her.

INT. HELICOPTER / EXT. SKIES OVER VEGAS - CONTINUOUS

Tess SCREAMS as she rides in the murderbird. Greg's up front with Rachel again, while Angie, Sasha, and Ivy flank Tess.

SASHA
It's okay. Look, Rachel's not worried.

Tess SCREAMS again. Rachel winces.

TESS
See?! She *is* worried!

ANGIE
Because you're *screaming* into her headset!

Rachel turns the helicopter ever so slightly to maintain course and Tess SCREAMS again.

IVY
(to Sasha and Angie)
I guess I assumed she would eventually lose her voice.

Tess keeps SCREAMING.

EXT. COACHELLA / INT. FERRIS WHEEL CAR - LATER

Nick, Sebastian, and Leo sit in a ferris wheel car. Nick rests his head back: sad, defeated, and super high.

Suddenly, something up in the sky catches his attention.

NICK
Is that... *Rachel's helicopter?*

Hope is written all over his face. But both Sebastian and Leo look where he's pointing and GIGGLE.

SEBASTIAN
I see a pterodactyl.

LEO
I see Grandma Betty in a jetpack!

Nick's shoulders fall as he realizes he's probably just hallucinating too.

INT. HELICOPTER / EXT. BESIDE SAHARA TENT - THAT MOMENT

Nick is not hallucinating. Rachel really is landing her helicopter in the middle of Coachella. Attendees stare and back away, shocked.

RACHEL
SORRY!

No one can hear her over the PROPELLERS.

Rachel finishes landing the helicopter and everyone disembarks -- only to be stopped by a SECURITY GUARD.

SECURITY GUARD
Lemme see your tickets. I don't care if you have a private helicopter, you don't get to see Missy Elliot for free!

Tess shows him her bracelet.

ANGIE
The rest of us promise to plug our ears. We're a support team.

The Security Guard shakes his head. Nope. Angie meets Tess's eyes, knowing her friend is going to have to go alone.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Have the conversation. Be honest about everything.

But Tess shakes her head, expression steely as she turns back to the Security Guard.

TESS
This isn't just any support team.
This is an undercover government sting.

Angie, Sasha, Ivy, Greg, and Rachel look surprised. Tess gestures back at the helicopter.

TESS (CONT'D)

Why else would we have landed via
chopper? We're trying to find *this*
outlaw.

Dead serious, she holds up her phone: open to a cropped photo
of Nick as a race car driver on Halloween.

TESS (CONT'D)

Tripp McCoy. Wanted for tax
evasion, embezzlement, and being
too sexy for his own good.

Everyone holds their breath as they wait for the Security
Guard to call bullshit. But to their surprise, he just looks
impressed and a little excited.

SECURITY GUARD

You're serious?
(peering closer)
That jacket looks real.

TESS

It is.

SECURITY GUARD

This is the most exciting thing to
happen all weekend. Except for that
one girl's puke coming up blue. I
hope you catch him.

TESS

Thank you!

She takes off running with all her friends before the
Security Guard can think too much more about it.

ANGIE

"*Tripp McCoy*"?

TESS

It's a role play thing.

RACHEL

Awww! He never did that with me!

EXT. COACHELLA - FAIRGROUNDS - LATER

Tess, Angie, Sasha, Ivy, Greg, and Rachel stand by the ferris
wheel, which is currently stopped. Nick is nowhere in sight.

RACHEL

Where is he?

TESS
I don't know.

Tess checks her phone: 11:40 A.M.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. FERRIS WHEEL CAR - CONTINUOUS

Nick sits with Sebastian and Leo in the car at the very top, demoralized and still high.

Suddenly, his phone LIGHTS UP with a call from Tess. He scrambles to pick it up.

NICK
Tess?!

Below, Tess keeps her head on a swivel.

TESS
I'm here, but I don't see you.

Nick sits up straight.

NICK
Oh my God. Is this real or another hallucination?

TESS
What? Why would it be...

NICK
I may or may not have accepted salvia from Sebastian again.
(then)
I did. I did accept it and then I took it.

Sebastian makes a "shaka" hand gesture.

TESS
Nick!

NICK
I'm sorry!

TESS
This is not a hallucination. Where are you?

NICK
At the top of the ferris wheel.

TESS
Is it stuck?

NICK
I don't know, but we've been up
here for a while.

Determined, Tess hustles to the front of the ferris wheel line with her squad in tow. Drunk, tired, sunburned COACHELLA-GOERS call her out as she passes them.

MALE COACHELLA GOER
Hey! There's a line!

Tess makes it to the ferris wheel OPERATOR.

TESS
Can you please bring the car at the
top down here?

The Coachella-Goers get even more pissed.

ANOTHER MALE COACHELLA GOER
No cut-sies!

FEMALE COACHELLA GOER
Is she wearing a *chunky sweater*
right now?

SASHA
Everybody just chill out, okay? My
friend is trying to talk things out
with the man she loves!

Tess puts Nick on speaker phone.

TESS
Say something, Nick.

NICK (FROM PHONE)
Um, hi. Please let me down so I can
talk to the woman I love. We met
here exactly ten years ago.

People in line relax.

MALE COACHELLA GOER
Alright. That's kinda cute.

ANOTHER MALE COACHELLA GOER
How did only one of you wind up on
the ferris wheel?

GREG
That's a pretty long story.

FEMALE COACHELLA GOER
Ohmygod, I love your accent.

RACHEL
We're together.

MALE COACHELLA GOER
You can go ahead of me.

TESS
Thanks!
(to Operator)
So?

The Operator sighs.

OPERATOR
There's a problem with the
hydraulics. Nothing serious, but
it's staying put until we take a
closer look.

TESS
Is it the crankshaft?

OPERATOR
...No?

Up above with Nick, he looks disappointed again.

NICK
This really is a perfect recreation
of ten years ago.

TESS (FROM PHONE)
Yeah. Sure is.

Down below, Tess shields her eyes against the sun to squint
up at Nick's car.

TESS (CONT'D)
Thanks for having Rachel stay
behind. In case.

NICK
Of course. It was beyond brave of
you to fly.

He looks down at the ground far below him, where one of the
ant-sized people must be Tess... and sets his jaw.

NICK (CONT'D)
 We need to talk, face to face. I'm
 coming down.

TESS (FROM PHONE)
 Huh?

Leo stares at Nick from across the ferris wheel car.

LEO
 Seconding the "huh".

SEBASTIAN
 Thirding.

Down below, Tess looks confused.

TESS
 It's okay, we can talk when they
 get it started again--

IVY
 (pointing up)
 Holy shit!

Holy shit indeed. Up above, Nick has opened the door to his car and is *climbing out*.

ANGIE
 That's not great.

TESS
 (into phone)
 No no no no no. Nick, stop!
 (to him above)
 NICK, STOP!

LEO / SEBASTIAN
 HOLY FUCKING CHRIST! / THAT'S
 BADASS BUT *DON'T*!

Nick doesn't listen and calls down to Tess.

NICK
 I LOVE YOU, TESS!

Everyone below GASPS as he swings his legs out and shifts himself sideways, clinging to the metal ring of the wheel.

TESS
 THAT IS SO FUCKING DANGEROUS!

Meanwhile, the Operator speaks into his radio.

OPERATOR

We've got a Notebook-er. I repeat,
we have got a Notebook-er. Can we
get the engineer to the wheel ASAP?

NICK

IF IT'S A HYDRAULICS ISSUE, IS IT A
LEAKY CYLINDER?

GREG

NICK! ENGAGE YOUR CORE!

NICK

I AM BUT CAN YOU PLEASE CHECK THE
CYLINDER AS WELL?

Tess turns to the Operator and a MECHANIC who's made it over.

TESS

The cylinder, is it leaking?!

MECHANIC

First thing I'm going to check.

As the Mechanic gets to work on checking the drive systems,
everyone turns their attention back up to Nick.

He's made it to the car to the left of the one Leo and
Sebastian are still in. Nick nods sheepishly at the couple
inside.

NICK

Hi, sorry to intrude, gonna keep
going...

Tess looks from the Mechanic up to Nick down to her phone --
11:55 A.M.

TESS

Should I climb up?

LITERALLY EVERYONE

NO!!!

Nick continues on his way down.

MECHANIC

(re: cylinder)

Yep, that's it.

The Mechanic gets to work with his tools.

TESS

JUST HANG ON, I THINK HE'S GOT IT!

NICK
OH, THAT'S GREAT! I-- AHHHH!

One of Nick's hands has slipped and everyone else SCREAMS along with him. Luckily, he's able to hold on.

TESS
(to Mechanic)
Can you go faster?!

MECHANIC
You know how complicated hydraulics are?!

TESS
No!

The Mechanic grimaces as he keeps working on the cylinder.

Above, Nick tries to tighten his grasp.

NICK
WHY DO HANDS GET SWEATIER WHEN YOU NEED TO HANG ON TIGHTER? SHOULDN'T EVOLUTION HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THIS?!

MECHANIC
Got it!

Tess and everyone else can't help but look surprised.

SASHA
Wow. I guess I really *didn't* know how complicated it was.

The Operator crosses back to the control booth.

OPERATOR
(to Nick)
SIR, CAN YOU MAKE IT INTO THE NEXT CAR?

Nick looks down at the car several feet below doubtfully.

NICK
HONESTLY, I'M NOT SURE!

OPERATOR
I don't know whether to wait for some kind of crane, or...

ANGIE
Or what? What crane?! We're in the middle of the fucking desert!

OPERATOR
Good point. HANG ON TIGHT, BUDDY!

Nick clenches his body like a desperate koala.

The Operator hits a lever... and the ferris wheel starts to turn clockwise.

TESS
No no no! Go the other way! THE
OTHER WAY!

NICK OPERATOR
FUCK! SHIT!

Just as it looks like it's truly the end and Nick is about to be trying to hang on to the edge of a ferris wheel upside-down, the Operator manages to reverse direction.

Nick's knuckles are white as he approaches the ground. Tess rushes out to meet him...

Nick lets go and falls *directly on top of Tess with a huge THUD.*

TESS
(muffled)
Ow.

NICK
(pained)
Same.

Angie, Sebastian, Leo, Rachel, Greg, Sasha, and Ivy hurry over as Tess and Nick disentangle themselves.

RACHEL
It's noon exactly! You did it!

In a lot of pain, Tess smiles at the 12:00 P.M. on Rachel's phone screen... before collapsing onto the arm she tried to prop herself up with.

TESS
Ow ow ow ow ow ow...

Nick also winces as he moves into a sitting position.

NICK
Same.

Ivy frowns and bends over to inspect the arms.

IVY
Those both look broken.

Tess and Nick stare down at their right and left arms, respectively.

The arms look so bad and the situation is so ridiculous that they both BURST OUT LAUGHING.

NICK
What an insane end to an insane day.

IVY
We should definitely call a medic...

SASHA
Let them talk for a second first.

Tess and Nick take each other in, broken arms and all.

TESS
You seriously tried to climb down a ferris wheel while high.

NICK
It sobered me up almost immediately. You rode the chopper.

TESS
I screamed the whole time.

ANGIE / RACHEL / GREG / IVY / SASHA
Yes. / The whole time. / She did. /
True. / Like actually the whole time.

TESS
I had to get here. Rachel's honestly really cool.

Nick shoots Rachel a grateful look, then turns to Sasha and Ivy.

NICK
Your ladies seem great, too.

TESS
I didn't think about Sasha the whole ten years. I was trying to hurt you because I was hurt.

NICK

Rachel only really became my what-if after I thought I was losing you.

(then)

I'm sorry I asked if you were sure about your sexuality.

TESS

It was the exact question I asking myself, so I freaked out.

NICK

And -- how do you feel now?

TESS

I feel sure. But also... like I was already sure.

NICK

I want you to get to be who you are, Tess. Because who you are is... my favorite person.

TESS

(tearing up)

You're my favorite person too. I found the flat tire pamphlet.

Nick brightens.

NICK

So you know how to fix one now?

Tess shakes her head and LAUGHS.

TESS

Absolutely not. Those drawings are so bad.

Nick LAUGHS too.

NICK

I know we can't choose who we're into. But we can choose who we spend our life with.

Greg gives him a thumbs up.

NICK (CONT'D)

So... what are you thinking? Do... do you want to get married?

Tess shakes her head, deflating.

TESS

I'm not ready, Nick. And I think if you're being honest, after today -- neither are you.

Nick nods. It's exactly what he was afraid of. But that doesn't make it any less painful.

TESS (CONT'D)

We have a lot to figure out.

Nick looks back up at her, hope returning.

TESS (CONT'D)

I don't want to get married yet. But -- I would like to figure it out together.

Nick breaks into a smile as he sees that she really means it.

NICK

Okay.

(then)

I can't wait to talk about it.

He holds his arms open...

And Tess falls into them, tilting up her head for a kiss.

Angie, Leo, Sebastian, Rachel, Greg, Sasha, and Ivy CHEER for the two people who made their way back to each other--

Before being suddenly and unceremoniously interrupted by FOUR SECURITY GUARDS tackling them to the ground in pairs.

NICK (CONT'D)

AGH! We both have broken arms!

Rachel looks up in dismay as her Boss arrives on the scene with the first Security Guard who saw them land the helicopter. He points at Nick.

SECURITY GUARD

That's him! That's Tripp McCoy!

SECOND SECURITY GUARD

We're taking you all to the station for unlawful entry.

BOSS

(to Rachel)

And grand theft. No one has ever been more fired than you.

Rachel nods from her position beneath a third Security Guard's knee.

RACHEL
Yeah. That's definitely fair.

INT. INDO JAIL - DRUNK TANK - NIGHT

Tess, Nick, Angie, Sebastian, Leo, Rachel, Greg, Sasha, and Ivy sit packed in like sardines amongst a bunch of other arrested, extremely messy 'CHELLA-GOERS.

SEBASTIAN
(to Nick and Leo)
Is it weird I'm psyched our day
doesn't have to end yet?

NICK
A little bit. Since we're in jail.

LEO
Seb, we can get high on a ferris
wheel just the three of us anytime.
That's a very attainable activity.

NICK
Circus Circus has one. We should go
for your birthday.

Sebastian smiles.

SEBASTIAN
That's all I needed to hear from
you guys.

He pulls out another pack of Salvia.

LEO
How'd you get that in here?!

Meanwhile, Tess, Angie, Sasha, and Ivy watch as a couple PEOPLE upside-down twerk on a wall.

IVY
Why did they put us in here? We're
not even drunk.

TESS
I think that's part of the
punishment.

Just then, a GUARD approaches and slides back the bars.

GUARD
You made bail.

REVEAL: Grandma Betty and Maya are behind him. Maya rushes to Leo and pulls him into a hug.

MAYA
Thank God you're okay.

She immediately pulls away and smacks his arm.

MAYA (CONT'D)
In *prison*??!

SEBASTIAN
It was like, everyone else's fault
before his.

GREG
That's actually true.
(fondly, re: Rachel)
I'm dating the chopper-jacker.

Maya raises her eyebrows at how handsome Greg is and shakes his hand.

MAYA
I'm married to the convict. But
it's not that serious.

LEO
We haven't been convicted.
(then)
Hey. Stop looking at him like that.

MAYA
Don't tell me what to do. You got
to go to Coachella and I had to
change three adult diapers last
night. Then Grandma Betty's when
she got too drunk on the way here.

Nick approaches Grandma Betty.

NICK
Thanks for helping us out, Grandma.

He raises his arms to hug her--

NICK (CONT'D)
Ow! Ow ow ow...

Betty stares at Nick's broken arm in confusion.

GRANDMA BETTY

I don't think that's supposed to
bend that way.

TESS

Mine isn't either.

Maya frowns and goes to check them out.

MAYA

Twin radius breaks? What did you
do?

NICK

I fell off the ferris wheel.

TESS

And I caught him. Kind of. Cheat
Day honestly got pretty out of
control. Sorry to put him in harm's
way, Grandma Betty.

Betty remains stoic for a moment... then breaks into a smile.

GRANDMA BETTY

Honestly, kiddo? I didn't know you
had it in you.

(to Nick and Leo)

Reminds me of Amsterdam with your
grandfather. During the war.

LEO

(lost)

Which one?

Tess is surprised by the admiration in Betty's eyes, but goes with it. Especially when Betty pulls both her and Nick into a big hug.

TESS / NICK

OW! / The arms, Grandma...

Betty pulls away, gestures for them to follow her.

GRANDMA BETTY

C'mon, I got some salad waiting in
the car.

INT. SELMA'S APARTMENT - DAY

CHYRON: EXACTLY ONE YEAR LATER

Tess has sex with Selma from the Flagstaff bar. Selma moves to Tess's neck and sucks -- adding another hickey to the extensive collection she's already given her.

REVEAL: Nick raises his hand from where he sits nearby.

TESS

Yes, Nick! Get on in here!

Nick approaches and starts having sex with Tess. They stare deep into each other's eyes. Fully connected, fully in love.

TESS (CONT'D)

Nick?

NICK

Yeah?

TESS

Would you be up for closing the relationship? No thirds for a while?

Happiness fills Nick's face.

NICK

I'd love that.

Selma raises her hand.

SELMA

Can we still finish this one out?

NICK

Oh yeah, totally!

TESS

You're the best, Selma.

Nick goes down on Selma who goes down on Tess who goes down on Nick.

EXT. LAKE POWELL, AZ - TRAIL - DAY

Tess and Nick walk a trail side by side, holding hands. They both still have hickies *all over* their necks.

NICK

It really is beautiful here.

TESS

Seriously.

NICK

Don't get me wrong, it's no
Coachella.

TESS

But a pretty good replacement
considering we're banned for life.

As they round a bend, the lake comes into view. Nick takes a moment to breathe it all in...

Before noticing a KAYAK that's been dragged up onto shore.

TESS (CONT'D)

Wanna go for a paddle?

NICK

Are we allowed to?

TESS

We stole a helicopter last year.

Nick shrugs; fair enough.

EXT. KAYAK / LAKE POWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Nick takes in the sights from the front of the boat while Tess steers in the back.

NICK

No sudden turns, please. If this turns out to be retribution for the paddle boat I'm gonna be pissed.

TESS

Nick.

Nick turns around... to see that Tess is kneeling in the bottom of the kayak.

The velvet ring case in her hands is popped open to reveal a SIMPLE WEDDING BAND.

TESS (CONT'D)

This was my dad's.

Nick is speechless.

TESS (CONT'D)

Huh. It never seems weird when a man gives a woman his grandmother's ring. But somehow *this* feels like a daddy issues thing...

NICK

Tess.

TESS

Yeah?

NICK

I love it. Yes. Of course I want to
marry you.

Tess grins and reaches out to slide the ring onto his finger
to loud O.S. cheers --

EXT. SHORELINE - CONTINUOUS (INTERCUT)

Angie (with Yvie the Flagstaff bartender), Rachel, Sasha, Ivy, Sebastian, Leo, Maya, Nick's Mom and Dad, and Grandma Betty have popped out from hiding places in the foliage!

NICK

You invited all of them.

Tess is still trying to get the ring to fit on Nick's finger.

TESS

Sorry, I'm having a hard time...

But Nick can't help himself and goes to hug Tess... which, unfortunately, sets the entire kayak off-balance.

SLASH! Both Tess and Nick tip into the water.

Silence as everyone on shore stares out in concern...

Before Tess and Nick pop up beside each other, Tess clutching the ring case in one hand and the ring in the other.

TESS (CONT'D)

I got it! I've still got it!

Everyone bursts into EVEN MORE CHEERS as Tess and Nick kiss in the water.

OVER CREDITS:

A series of STILLS from the year we missed & beyond:

* Tess and Nick are outfitted in matching arm casts by a female ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICIAN.

* Tess and Nick have a three-way with the Orthopedic Technician, casts and all.

- * Nick is spanked by a Heifer Titty at drag bingo while Tess and Angie clap encouragingly for him.
- * Tess gets a lap dance from Greg at Thunder from Down Under. Nick applauds beside Rachel, who wears a vest with a different helicopter touring company's logo (apparently the very last one she hasn't been fired from).
- * Burning Man: Tess drags Angie toward Yvie the bartender.
- * Later at Burning Man: Angie kisses Yvie, Tess kisses Rachel, Nick kisses Sasha... and Grandma Betty kisses Greg!
- * Nick smiles in his mechanic's coveralls above the words "JONES & SON EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH".
- * An Instagram post by The Rock: Tess's new book "TWO GIRLS, ONE SAILBOAT" sits beside a huge tray of sushi. The caption: "Loved it [book emoji] [boat emoji] [sushi emoji]! #CheatDay"
- * Tess signs copies of her book for Sasha and Ivy during her West Coast tour.
- * Back at Circus Circus, Grandma Betty commands the black jack table while Leo and Maya look on.
- * Sebastian sits in a Circus Circus ferris wheel car with (surprise!) Angie's friend Kayla and her Son. And Sebastian doesn't even look that high.
- * The whole squad attends the Northern Nevada Pride Parade, with Tess proudly holding the bi flag atop Nick's shoulders. Angie's here with Yvie again, who must've gone through with her visit to Tahoe.
- * Tess throws her bouquet beside Nick and the Subaru, which is spray-painted with "JUST MARRIED!"
- * Angie catches the bouquet beside Yvie, delighted.
- * Grandma Betty decks Angie to grab the bouquet for herself.

THE END