

SPIN THE BOTTLE

By Jeff Feuerstein

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

LACEY

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

MEGAN

You weren't even there for the beginning Lacey!

LACEY

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

MEGAN

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

HALLIE

You prank called 1-800-Mattress.

MEGAN

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

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

MEGAN (CONT'D)

And then we hung up.

HALLIE

What are you doing?

MEGAN

What?

HALLIE

You can't eat string cheese like that.

MEGAN

Why not?

HALLIE

Because it's what sociopaths do.

LACEY

It is pretty weird, Megan.

HALLIE

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

MEGAN

Like a sociopath.

LACEY

When did we start using that word?

MEGAN

Shut up! Zach Lennon is dancing.

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

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

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

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

HALLIE

We need a better view.

EXT. BACKYARD - TRAMPOLINE - LATER

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

LACEY

He could be an Abercrombie model.

MEGAN  
Abercrombie and Fitch.

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

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

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

HALLIE  
(wistfully)  
No. It's Nickelback.

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

HALLIE (CONT'D)  
If he were my boyfriend he'd make a  
mix for me.

(beat)  
And everyone would see us walk the  
track together when they time us  
for the mile. But he wouldn't care  
that he could've done it faster.

(beat)  
And he'd give me one of his  
Abercrombie shirts to sleep in.

(beat)  
Abercrombie and Fitch.

She's lost in thought when...

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

HALLIE (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

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

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

Including ZACH! This is SO EMBARRASSING.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

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

MEGAN

It's so not a big deal, Hallie.

HALLIE

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

LACEY

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

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - SAME TIME

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

KID WITH TWIZZLERS

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

He USES TWIZZLERS UP HIS NOSE TO MIMIC THE BLOOD.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

HALLIE

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

What?

LACEY

Kyle just chugged a Peach Snapple.

HALLIE

So?

LACEY

So...Rule #5?

(as if obvious)

Someone must drink the bottle fully before it's spun? Hence we're going to play Spin the Bottle.

HALLIE

Well I want to play too obviously!

MEGAN

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

HALLIE

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

Hallie FRANTICALLY LOOKS THROUGH THE BATHROOM.

MEGAN

What are you doing?

HALLIE

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

LACEY

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

MEGAN

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

INT. BASEMENT - LATER

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

ZACH

Hey, are you ok?

HALLIE

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

No one mentioned bloody nose but...

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Thanks for asking.

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

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

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

KELLY  
I'll go first.

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

HALLIE  
(through clenched teeth)  
Kelly fucking Hayes.

KELLY  
What was that?

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

KELLY  
Everyone knows the rules right?

EVERYONE  
(groaning)  
Yes!

KELLY  
The first rule of Spin The Bottle-

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

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

EVERYONE  
The Super Serious Rule.

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

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

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

ZACH!

KIDS IN CIRCLE  
Oooooooooohhhhhh!

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

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

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

MOM'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hey!

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

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

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

Last call on the Costco chicken potstickers!

CHRISSY

No one is hungry, Mom!

MOM'S VOICE (O.S.)

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

CHRISSY

Yes, obviously!

The BASEMENT DOOR IS CLOSED AGAIN.

LACEY

Hallie. It's your turn.

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

They make EYE CONTACT and she LOOKS AWAY AGAIN.

And SPINS...

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

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

Hallie is frozen. NO. FUCKING. WAY.

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

HALLIE

I can't.

KELLY

You have to.

HALLIE

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

KELLY

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

ANOTHER KID

Or allergic to kissing him!

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

KELLY

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

Everyone GASPS.

HALLIE

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

Hallie can't even finish the sentence.

KELLY

Or your love life is cursed. Forever.

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

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. IKEA OFFICES - PRESENT DAY

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

HALLIE

I just don't fucking understand.

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

EVAN

Is it the updated spread sheet?

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

HALLIE

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

EVAN

Her teeth look nice.

HALLIE

(reading the post)

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

(another photo)

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

EVAN

They're posing with canned  
vegetables.

Another photo of them posing with GAS MASKS ON.

HALLIE

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

EVAN

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

HALLIE

Because people are going to think  
they look adorable.

Hallie gives a big SIGH and BEGRUDGINGLY LIKES THE PHOTO.

EVAN

You did the right thing.

HALLIE

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

EVAN

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

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

She studies them and then dismissively...

HALLIE  
This one.

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

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

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - VESTIBULE WITH MAILBOXES - LATER  
Hallie enters her Apartment Building. A WOMAN, 40s, and her SON, 8, are at the MAILBOXES.

HALLIE  
Hey, Stella.

STELLA  
(under her breath)  
The mouth on you.

HALLIE  
I'm sorry?

STELLA  
I said, "The mouth on you."

HALLIE  
I just said "Hey Stella."

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

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

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

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

HALLIE  
I'm not really comfortable-

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

HALLIE

That sounds violent-

STELLA

"Somebody had asparagus today!"

HALLIE

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

STELLA

You literally said all of those things 10 minutes ago!

HALLIE

I literally just got home...

It dawns on Hallie. She MOVES PAST STELLA.

STELLA

Ohhhhh. Drama.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

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

HALLIE

Bobby?

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

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

BOBBY

Babe! You're home early.

HALLIE

What's going on here?

BOBBY

It's not what it looks like.

HALLIE

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

BOBBY

Oh then it's exactly what it looks like.

HALLIE

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

BOBBY

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

HALLIE

Where are the glasses?

BOBBY

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

HALLIE

Then what is she still doing here?

BOBBY

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

HALLIE

Oh cut the shit Bobby!

(LOUDER)

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

KNOCK-KNOCK.

BOBBY

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

PIA

It's true. He hasn't.

HALLIE

Everyone thinks we're perfect together!

BOBBY

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

HALLIE

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

BOBBY

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

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

HALLIE

You know what Bobby...

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

MARK CUBAN

(on TV)

For that reason...I'm out.

HALLIE

What he said! Fuck you!

STELLA

(through the wall)

He lost my vote, honey!

BOBBY

Oh yea? Well your kid sucks at  
clarinet!

INT. UBER - LATER

Hallie is in the backseat, CRYING HER EYES OUT.

HALLIE

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

(beat)

Please still give me 5 stars.

EXT./INT SUBURBAN HOUSE - LATER

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

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

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

TERRI

Hallie?  
(to the book club)  
Excuse us.

Joseph and Terri get up to talk to Hallie privately.

HALLIE

Who are these people?

JOSEPH

Our book club.

HALLIE

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

JOSEPH

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

HALLIE

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

JOSEPH

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

TERRI

Honey, what happened?

HALLIE

I left work early.

Hallie collapses into a HUG with her mom.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

I just didn't want to be alone.

JOSEPH

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

HALLIE

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

JOSEPH

You didn't mention that part before.

TERRI

We're here for you.

JOSEPH

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

TERRI

Right. Three-ish hours.

JOSEPH

Four hours tops.

HALLIE

Why?

JOSEPH

(as if it's obvious)

Ummmm...book club?

TERRI

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

HALLIE

Can I sit and listen?

TERRI

You haven't read the book.

HALLIE

How do you know?

JOSEPH

Because you haven't read many books.

HALLIE

I was obsessed with Shel Silverstein as a kid.

JOSEPH

This book is more advanced.

TERRI

Why don't you wait in your room?

HALLIE

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

TERRI

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

JOSEPH

Four or five, tops.

Hallie is speechless.

INT. LOCAL BAR - LATER

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

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

HALLIE

Yea, do you have a wine list?

BARTENDER

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

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

HALLIE

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

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR

Put that on my tab, Tommy.

HALLIE

No, thank you.

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR

C'mon no one likes to drink alone.

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

HALLIE

I very much do.

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

(beat)

Anyway. You look really good.

HALLIE

Ok, dude, back the fuck up. I have  
pepper spray.

(reaches into her purse)

I don't have pepper spray but I can  
yell rape really loud.

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

HALLIE

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

GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR  
Stranger? We know each other.

(beat)

Hallie Walker, right? Don't tell me  
you don't recognize me.

(off her look)

Zach? Zach Lennon?

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

HALLIE

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

INT. LOCAL BAR - LATER

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE  
(straight faced)  
No.

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

HALLIE  
Again, no.

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

HALLIE  
You still work at the deli?

ZACH  
No. I own it.

HALLIE  
I thought your Dad-

ZACH  
Died?

HALLIE  
Oh. I'm sorry.

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

HALLIE  
No.

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

HALLIE  
I'm sorry, what?

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Is that how anyone describes David Arquette?

ZACH

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

HALLIE

So...you've thought about me?

ZACH

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

HALLIE

I'm a VP at Ikea.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

I'm a VP.

ZACH

And you oversee meatballs or what?

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

HALLIE

Table linens.

ZACH

Like napkins?

HALLIE

Also place mats and table cloths.

(beat)

But yes mostly napkins.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Don't.

ZACH

Don't what?

HALLIE

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

ZACH

Why? What's going on?

HALLIE

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

ZACH

You wrote a book?

HALLIE

No. I didn't.

ZACH

So you had a bad break up. Been  
there.

HALLIE

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

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

INT. LIMO - YEARS AGO

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

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

HALLIE (V.O.)

Like how jealous everyone was when  
my boyfriend was crowned Junior  
Prom King.

(MORE)

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

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

EXT. COLLEGE DOCKS - DAY

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

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

REVEAL: Hallie in an eye patch.

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

INT. CITY BAR - NIGHT

Hallie sits alone at an empty table.

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

INT. LOCAL BAR - CONTINUOUS

ZACH  
Why is that ironic?

HALLIE  
Never mind.

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

HALLIE  
Everyone's seen the movie!

Beat.

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

HALLIE  
Unfortunately. Seems the alcohol isn't working.

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

HALLIE  
Kind of.

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

HALLIE  
I didn't say I was cursed.

ZACH  
You said Cupid continuously ejaculates on your face.

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

ZACH  
But you don't 100% doubt.

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

Zach has a HUGE SMILE ON HIS FACE.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - LATER

A PEBBLE GENTLY HITS A 2nd FLOOR WINDOW.

A VERY DRUNK Zach and Hallie BELOW TOSSING STONES.

ZACH

You're lucky he still lives here.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

That's my understanding.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Who's Craig?

ZACH

Craig Frazier?

HALLIE

I wasn't supposed to kiss Craig  
Frazier.

ZACH

Yes you were.

HALLIE

No it was Bill Dingman!

ZACH

I'm pretty sure it was Craig.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

Zach KEEPS TOSSING STONES.

HALLIE

Then why are you still throwing  
rocks?

ZACH

I got caught up in the whimsy.

He throws ONE MORE and CRASH! GLASS SHATTERS!

ZACH (CONT'D)

Shit! Run!

Zach MAKES A RUN FOR IT.

HALLIE

Zach! Wait!

Hallie FOLLOWS. TWO DRUNK KIDS RUNNING THROUGH BACKYARDS.

ZACH

Through Steven Delvecchio's yard!

Zach HOPS A FENCE.

Hallie is OUT OF BREATH and that fence looks daunting.

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

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

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

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Hallie comes down the stairs and HEARS VOICES TALKING.

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

ZACH

Morning sleepyhead!

HALLIE

What's...going on here?

JOSEPH

Just having coffee with your friend, Zach.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

But what is he doing having coffee  
in our house?

JOSEPH

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

HALLIE

Dad, curses aren't real.

TERRI

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

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

INT. HALLIE'S FRENCH CLASS - DAY

Hallie is SOBBING READING A LETTER.

TERRI (V.O.)

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

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT/DAY

Hallie at a kitchen table with a DAD and DAUGHTER.

TERRI (V.O.)

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

Daughter looks stone faced into her Dad's eyes.

DAUGHTER

She gave me cigarettes.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

The scene we saw play out earlier.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

Or the Junior Prom limo?

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

HALLIE  
I need coffee.

Hallie starts SCROLLING THROUGH INSTAGRAM ON HER PHONE.

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

HALLIE  
C'mon Dad-

JOSEPH  
I say, "No way Jose."

HALLIE  
That's racist.

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

HALLIE  
Now *that* would be racist.

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

ZACH  
Culturally insensitive and cursed.  
Rough combo.

Hallie GRABS ZACH'S HAND and PULLS HIM AWAY.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Hallie is escorting Zach towards the front door.

HALLIE  
You have to leave.

ZACH  
We will.

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

I don't remember saying that.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

I don't want your help.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

No.

ZACH

Feels like useful information as related to lifting the curse.

HALLIE

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

She OPENS THE DOOR AND PRACTICALLY SHOVES HIM OUT.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Now leave!

SLAM!

ZACH (O.S.)

(through the door)

I'll be at the deli when you change your mind!

Hallie SIGHS.

HALLIE

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

INT. BASEMENT - LATER

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

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

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

She picks up another memento: HER DIARY.

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

HALLIE  
December 3, 2007...

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

YOUNG MAN  
Did you...you know?

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

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

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

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

PRESENT DAY: Hallie is in utter horror.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRENCH TEEN  
(subtitled)  
Remove an item of clothing.

13-YEAR OLD GIRL  
Touch boobs.

FRENCH TEEN  
(subtitled)  
Foot stuff.

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

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

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

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

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

HALLIE  
(shouting)  
Can I borrow the car?

JOSEPH (O.S.)  
No!

HALLIE  
Why not?

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

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

\*

Her face says WTF?

HALLIE  
Are you lying?

Long beat.

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

JOSEPH (O.S.)  
No.

HALLIE  
How am I supposed to get anywhere?

EXT. STREET - DAY

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

INT. LENNON'S DELI - MORNING

An OLD MAN stands at the COUNTER WAITING.

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

Zach is behind the counter making a sandwich.

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

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

ZACH  
That's an oddly specific email.

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

Hallie walks into the DELI.

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

MR. BLUMBAUM  
Zach, the customer is always right.

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

MR. BLUMBAUM  
Like when?

HALLIE  
Like Jeffrey Epstein. He shopped.

A smile on Zach's face.

MR. BLUMBAUM  
No cutters!

HALLIE  
I'm not buying anything.

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

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

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

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

"PEACH SNAPPLE" rings a bell as Hallie and Zach SHARE A LOOK.  
Zach and Hallie lean into each other.

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

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

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

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

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

HALLIE (CONT'D)  
It was an accident!

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

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

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

HALLIE  
I have no idea what to do next.

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

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

ZACH

I do.

HALLIE

Ok. How?

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Great. When can we talk to them?

ZACH

The Deli is closed! Everyone out!

No one else is there except them.

EXT. FRONT LAWN - LATER

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

Hallie STARES at the sign.

ZACH

You remember Alicia. From the limo.

INT. OPEN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

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

HALLIE

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

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

INT. OPEN HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Hallie is with a HANDSOME GUY, HOLDING HANDS.

HALLIE

We are adulting so hard right now.

HANDSOME GUY

Are we?

HALLIE

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

HANDSOME GUY

I...who are you moving in with?

HALLIE

Shut up.

HANDSOME GUY

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

(beat)

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

INT. OPEN HOUSE - PRESENT

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

She STOPS at a PAINTING ON THE WALL:

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

VOICE (O.S.)

It's a still life.

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

ALICIA HARPER

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

HALLIE

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

ALICIA HARPER

Oh you must be a collector.

HALLIE

Not really-

ALICIA HARPER

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

HALLIE

Yes. When I walked in.

ALICIA HARPER

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

(to a COUPLE LEAVING  
BEHIND HALLIE)

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

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

HALLIE

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

ALICIA HARPER

You hear them too?

HALLIE

(weirded out)

Who?

ALICIA HARPER

(whispering)

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

That's when Zach shows up...

ZACH

Oh. Good. You found each other.

ALICIA HARPER

Zach? You can't afford this house.

ZACH

Hallie and I actually came together.

(off her look)

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

ALICIA HARPER

(realizing)

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

INT. OPEN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The three of them WALK THE HOUSE as they chat.

ZACH

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

ALICIA HARPER

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

ZACH

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

ALICIA HARPER

As you can see I'm extremely busy-

HALLIE

Zach was hoping.

ALICIA HARPER

I'm sorry?

HALLIE

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

Beat.

ALICIA HARPER

What's your deal?

HALLIE

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

ALICIA HARPER

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

ZACH  
She's in charge of napkins!

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

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

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

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

HALLIE  
You jerked off my boyfriend.

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

HALLIE  
You got cum on my corsage!

Everyone in the Open House is looking now.

ALICIA HARPER  
Are you sure?

HALLIE  
This is a waste of time.

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

INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - LATER

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

ALICIA HARPER

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

ZACH

Is Bill Dingman in there?

ALICIA HARPER

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

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

ALICIA HARPER (CONT'D)

This is a clear violation of  
Realtor-Realtee confidentiality.

HALLIE

That's not a thing.

ALICIA HARPER

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

HALLIE

Kelly Hayes?

ZACH

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

ALICIA HARPER

She has to accept my apology.

HALLIE

For what?

ALICIA HARPER

For the alleged handjob of 2000 and  
something.

They wait. And wait. And wait.

ALICIA HARPER (CONT'D)

Well?

HALLIE  
You have to apologize first.

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

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

ZACH  
Will that delete Bill's info?

ALICIA HARPER  
No.  
(beat)  
All you have to say is, "I forgive  
you Alicia Harper. No backsies."

Hallie takes a DEEP BREATH.

EXT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - LATER

Zach and Hallie walk out.

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

HALLIE  
Yea well my fingers were crossed.

ZACH  
Gangster.  
(looking at his phone)  
There's a Doctor William Dingman at  
314 Comstock Street. Same town.  
That can't be a coincidence right?

Zach is already dialing...

ZACH (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Yes I'd like to speak to Dr.  
Dingman please?

HALLIE  
Let me talk.

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

HALLIE  
Ask her if he grew up here.

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

He hangs up.

HALLIE  
This is crazy.

ZACH  
It's romantic.

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

ZACH  
You gotta trust fate a little bit.

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

ZACH  
I can drive us.

HALLIE  
You'd do that?

ZACH  
Of course.

She's touched.

EXT. DELI PARKING LOT - LATER

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

HALLIE  
Is this your same car from-

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

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

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

INT. CAR - LATER

And they're off.

ZACH  
CDs are at your feet.

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

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

ZACH  
Used to?

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

ZACH  
And?

HALLIE  
It's confusing.

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

HALLIE  
I hate first dates.

ZACH  
That's a you problem.

HALLIE  
I've done ok for myself.

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

HALLIE  
Why does that matter?

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

Beat.

HALLIE  
He took me out for frozen yogurt.

ZACH  
Frozen yogurt. The Toyota Corolla of desserts.

HALLIE  
Yea well it got better from there.

ZACH  
Until it didn't.

Beat.

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

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

HALLIE  
And you like running the Deli.

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

HALLIE  
I didn't say that.

ZACH  
Good. Because there isn't.

HALLIE

I just asked if you liked doing it.

ZACH

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

(beat)

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

Hallie comes across one that makes her stop.

**"KELLY'S MIX #12."**

HALLIE

Hey, what was all that about Kelly-

ZACH

I thought we were putting on music.

Zach POPS a CD in, clearly avoiding this subject.

"Hey Ma" by Cam'Ron kicks in.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Ah. Sing Along Mix #38.

(singing)

*Hey ma.*

(beat)

(MORE)

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

Hallie's not singing. Zach PAUSES THE MUSIC.

ZACH (CONT'D)

HALLIE

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

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

ZACH (CONT'D)

HALLIE  
*What's up?*

ZACH  
*Let's slide.*

HALLIE

ZACH  
*All right.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

HALLIE  
 We can't sing Michael Jackson  
 anymore.

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

Hallie tries to SKIP THE SONG.

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

HALLIE  
 Then change the CD.

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

They SIT IN THE SONG. NOT SINGING.

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

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

EXT. CRACKER BARREL - INTERCUT

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

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

Zach SITS AND ROCKS.

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

HALLIE  
Simplicity of slowly dying?

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

INT. CRACKER BARREL - GIFT SHOP - LATER

Zach is still in awe of all the tchotchkies.

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

Hallie is caught up in a VINTAGE DOLL HOUSE.

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

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

Hallie pauses, then reluctantly decides to play along.

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

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

INT. CRACKER BARREL - LATER

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

ZACH  
Can I ask you something?

Zach reaches for a PAPER NAPKIN.

ZACH (CONT'D)  
 What is your professional opinion  
 of these?

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

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

INT. CAR - LATER

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

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

ZACH AND HALLIE  
 (singing)  
*Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa  
 Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa  
 Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa  
 Ma ma se, ma ma sa, ma ma coo sa*

ZACH  
 (still singing in tune)  
*And this is our exit coming up/Exit  
 49 is coming up/Speed limit  
 declines we're turning off...*

EXT. LAKE TOWN - LATER

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

INT. WAITING ROOM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

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

HALLIE  
 Is that him?

ZACH  
 It looks like him.

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

ZACH

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

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

ZACH (CONT'D)

Hallie Walker, 3 PM.

The RECEPTIONIST hands them a CLIPBOARD WITH PAPERS.

HALLIE

I didn't know he was a Proctologist.

ZACH

What difference does it make.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

You can say...

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

ZACH (CONT'D)

Say it smells.  
(stifling)  
Say your butt smells.

Hallie just STARES AT HIM.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

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

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

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

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

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

HALLIE  
It's not about that-

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

HALLIE  
I'm sure that's impressive.

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

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

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

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

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

HALLIE  
Today? Do you know where?

DR. GIBBS

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

HALLIE

Maybe one of your co-workers knows.

DR. GIBBS

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

HALLIE

I actually don't really need-

DR. GIBBS

Don't be put off by my bedside manner.

HALLIE

Honestly, I'm ok-

DR. GIBBS

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

(checking chart)

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

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

Dr. Gibbs is getting closer...

HALLIE

Wait! I lied.

She stops.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

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

(stalling)

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

Off her look...

INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATER

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

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

She's on the phone.

HALLIE  
She was doing me a favor.

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

HALLIE  
Zach's not my boyfriend.

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

HALLIE  
I feel like a terrible person.

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

HALLIE  
Ambushing Bill?

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

HALLIE  
All of what you just said.

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

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

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

HALLIE  
Gross. Gross, gross, gross.

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

INT. BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

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

HALLIE  
How cute would our kids be?

WELL DRESSED MAN  
I had a vasectomy two years ago.

HALLIE  
Wait, what?!

INT. DRESSING ROOM- PRESENT

Hallie snaps back to reality.

HALLIE  
I've got to go.

TERRI(O.S.)  
Call us after!

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

She HANGS UP ON HIM MID SONG.

EXT. DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

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

And he looks good.

ZACH

What?

HALLIE

You look really nice.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

EXT. RIVERBOAT CASINO - LATER

Hallie and Zach stand before an OLD TIMEY RIVER BOAT.

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

INT. RIVERBOAT CASINO - CONTINUOUS

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

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

BILL DINGMAN being ESCORTED DOWN THE AISLE.

ZACH

When are you gonna make your move?

HALLIE

I was thinking after the ceremony.

ZACH

Oh you can't do that.

HALLIE  
What? Why not?

The Groomsmen and Bridesmaids are all walking down the aisle.

ZACH  
You have to kiss him before he gets married.

HALLIE  
Since when is that a rule?

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

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

MORE PEOPLE going down the aisle...

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

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

ZACH  
That's what amendments are!

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

HALLIE  
Shit. When am I supposed to do it?

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

ZACH  
As soon as fucking possible.

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

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

This causes even more of an UPROAR.

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

HALLIE (CONT'D)

(off William's confusion)

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

(beat)

Just your wedding, I guess.

(beat)

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

WILLIAM DING

I didn't go to Westmont Middle School.

HALLIE

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

WILLIAM DING

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

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

INT./EXT RIVERBOAT CASINO - LATER

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

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

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

ZACH

Hey Hallie. Hallie. Hey Hallie.

(she's ignoring him)

Am I twerking? Is this twerking?

HALLIE

No.

ZACH

I think things are glass half full!

Hallie DRINKS HER DRINK FASTER.

ZACH (CONT'D)

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

HALLIE

Because we're on a moving boat.

Indeed they are in the middle of a river.

ZACH

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

(beat)

Hey...let's go dance.

(off her look)

C'mon. For the endorphins.

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

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

ZACH (CONT'D)

Three-nothing us.

Beat. Zach glances at the bride and groom.

ZACH (CONT'D)

You think they'll make it?

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

It's possible.

ZACH

When did that start?

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

I don't.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Everyone is staring.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

No. Go ahead.

ZACH

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

Hallie is struck by this. She stares at him.

HALLIE

It was Nickelback.

ZACH

Really? I remember it differently.

HALLIE

You kissed Kelly Hayes that night.

ZACH

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

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

ZACH (CONT'D)

Did you know Kelly broke up with me when my Dad died?

(beat)

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

(beat)

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

(beat)

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

Beat.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

Maybe.

HALLIE

Hey Zach, Truth or Dare?

ZACH

Really?

HALLIE

Truth or Dare?

ZACH

Truth.

HALLIE  
Pussy.

ZACH  
You always start with truth.

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

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

They dance a little closer.

ZACH (CONT'D)  
Truth or Dare?

HALLIE  
Dare.

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

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

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

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

SMASH CUT TO:

HALLIE AND ZACH GETTING INTO THE FUCKING WEDDING!

**INSERT: INSTAGRAM STORY OF...**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A 12 YEAR OLD GIRL SITS NEXT TO HER.

12 YEAR OLD GIRL  
Is he your boyfriend?

HALLIE  
No. Why?

12 YEAR OLD GIRL  
Because he's totally cute.

HALLIE  
Yea. He's ok.

INT./EXT. HOTEL - LATER

WEDDING GUESTS are POURING OFF A BUS INTO A HOTEL.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR - LATER

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

HALLIE  
I'm on 25.

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

HALLIE  
I could've driven.

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

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

ZACH  
Admittedly a flawed police tactic.

Hallie FALLS OFF BALANCE.

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

Zach SLINGS HIS BACKPACK OFF HIS BACK AND REACHES INSIDE.

HE PULLS OUT A T-SHIRT.

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

She TAKES THE SHIRT AND LOOKS AT IT.

HALLIE  
(touched)  
Abercrombie.

ZACH  
And Fitch.

HALLIE  
The Fitch is implied.

There's a palpable chemistry now.

ZACH  
You know this was a pretty good  
first date.

HALLIE  
This wasn't a date.

ZACH  
Kind of felt like a date.

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

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

HALLIE  
Oh shit!

ZACH  
It's the curse!

HALLIE  
We're sorry Spin the Bottle Gods!

ZACH  
So so so sorry!

HALLIE  
We will never kiss anyone ever  
again!

ZACH  
Well she won't! I have options!

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

EXT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

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

HALLIE  
(freaked out)  
Goodnight.

ZACH  
(awkward)  
See ya later, Gladiator.

INT. HALLIE'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

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

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

HALLIE  
Hello?

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

She can't hold back a huge smile.

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

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

HALLIE  
Go on.

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

HALLIE  
Ugh. I hated that show.

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

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

Their conversation continues...

INT. ZACH'S CAR - NEXT MORNING

We still hear their convo from the night before.

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

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

ZACH (V.O.)  
HallieFornia314.

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

ZACH (V.O.)  
It was Blink182.

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

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

EXT. HALLIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Zach PULLS UP TO HALLIE'S HOUSE.

HALLIE

So.

ZACH

So. Could've been worse.

HALLIE

Sure, we could've died in an elevator.

(beat)

What do we do now?

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

You're not sick of me yet?

HALLIE

It's for my parents, really.

ZACH

Right. For them.

INT. HALLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

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

TERRI

You weren't answering your phone!

HALLIE

My phone died.

JOSEPH

You have to watch Bill Maher!

HALLIE

Do we though?

JOSEPH

Yes! Right now!

TERRI  
We DVR'd it.

HALLIE  
You DVR'd Bill Maher?

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

Beat.

HALLIE  
I have so many questions about that  
sentence.

JOSEPH  
Just watch!

INT. BILL MAHER STUDIO - INTERCUT

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

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

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

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

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

GOOD LOOKING MAN  
60 million dollars.

Applause.

BILL MAHER

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

GOOD LOOKING MAN

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

BILL MAHER

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

GOOD LOOKING MAN

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

BILL MAHER

The name of the book is...

Bill holds up the book for the camera.

BILL MAHER (CONT'D)

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

Zach and Hallie stare in shock.

JOSEPH

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

EXT. DOWNTOWN AREA - DAY

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

ZACH

(reading)

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

(beat)

This is bad writing.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

He said he works 7 days a week.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

You mean Walt Disney said that.

ZACH

I think my Dad said it first.

HALLIE

I can promise you he didn't.

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

BABY BJORN MAN

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

They look up...

HALLIE

Holy shit. Graham Kolek?

BABY BJORN MAN/GRAHAM

(covering babie's ears)

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

ZACH  
He's very cute.

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

HALLIE  
Not everyday, no.

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

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

GRAHAM  
Very cool.

HALLIE  
What about you?

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

HALLIE  
Oh my God. I had no idea.

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

At that moment Hallie spots Will LEAVING THE BUILDING.

She gets up.

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

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

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

He GRABS ZACH as he's telling the story.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

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

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

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

INT. TATTOO PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

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

FRONT DESK WORKER

Looking to get some ink today?

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

HALLIE

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

FRONT DESK WORKER

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

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

She STEALS GLANCES at WILL as she looks.

HALLIE

Plenty of fish in the sea.

Will REMOVES HIS HEADPHONES.

WILL HEALY

I'm sorry?

Hallie SHOWS HIM THE PAGE OF FISH TATTOO OPTIONS.

HALLIE

It's like a sushi menu in here.

WILL HEALY

You eat a lot of Mermen raw?

Hallie looks at the page. Mermaids and Mermen.

HALLIE

Don't be gross.

(before he can say sorry)

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

He smiles, relieved she knows he was joking.

WILL HEALY

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

HALLIE

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

WILL HEALY

Ugh. Hate facts.

(beat)

First tattoo?

HALLIE

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

(RE: awkward flirty)  
...in places. You?

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

WILL HEALY

No.

Hallie sees a Shel Silverstein Sketch on his upper back.

HALLIE

I love Shel Silverstein.

WILL HEALY

Who?

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

HALLIE

What are you getting today?

He shows off a PARTIALLY FINISHED CATERPILLAR ON HIS CHEST.

WILL HEALY

I'm finishing up this caterpillar.

HALLIE  
As in it's metamorphosizing?

WILL HEALY  
No. Butterflies are boring.

HALLIE  
Are they though?

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

HALLIE  
And people don't catch them in  
nets.

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

HALLIE  
Wingless, though.

WILL HEALY  
So am I.

The TATTOO ARTIST COMES BACK.

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

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

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

WILL HEALY  
Very cool.

HALLIE  
I like shrooms.

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

WILL HEALY  
No worries.

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

HALLIE  
Will? Will Healy?

WILL HEALY  
You know me?

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

He STARES AT HER.

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

HALLIE  
Ouch.

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

HALLIE  
Totally.

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

HALLIE  
Samesies.

WILL HEALY  
Did you say samesies?

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

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

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

HALLIE (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

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

INT. TATTOO PARLOR - WAITING AREA - LATER

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

EXT. TATTOO PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Zach follows her out...

ZACH  
What happened? Did you do it?

HALLIE  
I did something.

ZACH  
That's vague!

HALLIE  
I made a fucking ass of myself!

ZACH  
Still vague!

Will is now behind them. Running to catch up.

WILL HEALY  
Hey! Hallie!

HALLIE  
Keep walking.

ZACH  
I thought we wanted to interact with him.

HALLIE  
We did.

Will finally catches up.

WILL HEALY  
Are you ok? You really booked it.

HALLIE  
I changed my mind.

WILL HEALY

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

ZACH

Hey, Will.

WILL HEALY

Hi...?

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

WILL HEALY

Ok.

ZACH

That's relevant from 7th grade  
social studies.

WILL HEALY

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

HALLIE

(too quickly)

I'm not!

WILL HEALY

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

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

HALLIE

I wouldn't say I freaked out.

WILL HEALY

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

ZACH

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

WILL HEALY

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

Hallie speechless for a second.

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

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

HALLIE

He doesn't have to come.

ZACH

I'd love to come!

INT. CITY METRO - LATER

Zach and Hallie RIDE THE TRAIN in silence.

It's awkward.

ZACH

Why didn't you just kiss him?

HALLIE

That's assault.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

That's solid lawyer-ing.

ZACH

Seriously. This whole thing could've been over.

HALLIE

I didn't want to scare him away.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Shut up.

She's smirking.

ZACH

Wait. Do you actually like him?

HALLIE

(defensive)

No! I don't even know him.

(beat)

Why do you *not* like him?

ZACH

Well he didn't even remember me!

HALLIE

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

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

They SHARE THE SILENCE...

EXT./INT. CONCERT ARENA - NIGHT

Hallie and Zach WADE THROUGH THE CROWD OF EXCITEMENT.

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

INT. ELEVATOR - LATER

Zach and Hallie are tense.

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Class.

ZACH

He clearly has none.

HALLIE  
No. It's second class citizens.

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

INT. ARENA - POSH SUITE - LATER

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

Zach and Hallie are IN SHOCK.

They're approached by someone like...

PAUL McCARTNEY  
Do you two want some cocaine?

ZACH  
Sure?

PATRON  
Great! Do you know a guy?

They're soon interrupted by...

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

HALLIE  
I know.

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

ZACH  
(still starstruck)  
Paul McCartney.

Paul just WALKS AWAY.

WILL HEALY  
Let's get a drink.

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

HALLIE  
This is incredibly impressive.

WILL HEALY  
It's just a drink.

HALLIE

The fact that you put this whole thing together.

WILL HEALY

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

ZACH

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

Will just IGNORES HIM as he POURS DRINKS.

WILL HEALY

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

HALLIE

I like that plan.

ZACH

Because Hallie has an awful voice.

She shoots him a look.

ZACH (CONT'D)

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

INT. POSH SUITE - LATER

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

WILL HEALY

Plant based oysters.

(off her impressed look)

Can I show you something crazy?

HALLIE

Crazier than oysters made out of non oyster things?

Will SNEAKILY TAKES OUT SOME POP ROCKS FROM HIS POCKET.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Pop rocks?

WILL HEALY

Please trust me.

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

Her face says it all. Delicious.

HALLIE

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

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Willy Wonka!

WILL HEALY

Willy Wonka! Right?

ZACH

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

Beat.

WILL HEALY

I'm a vegetarian.

ZACH

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

WILL HEALY

It doesn't.

INT. POSH SUITE - LATER

Will STANDS AROUND HOLDING COURT with CELEBRITIES.

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

Zach is TRYING TO GET INTO THE CIRCLE.

WILL HEALY

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

(beat)

Best concert I've ever been to.

(to Hallie)

What about you?

HALLIE

Best concert? Erykah Badu.

The Circle all NOD IN APPROVAL.

WILL HEALY  
Ok..worst concert?

INT. CONCERT - FLASHBACK

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

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

HALLIE  
I'm dating the drummer!

The MAN NEXT TO HER STOPS BOUNCING.

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

Hallie is in shock.

INT. POSH SUITE - PRESENT

HALLIE  
I like to keep things positive.

Zach tries to INTERJECT HIMSELF HERE...

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

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

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

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

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

DAVE GROHL  
Hey, man. I'm Dave.

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

ZACH  
(in awe)  
Paul McCartney.

The MUSIC STARTS...

Everyone is having an amazing time.

Except Zach. Who is watching Hallie like a hawk.

They're DANCING A LITTLE BIT CLOSER.

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

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

WILL HEALY  
(to Hallie)  
They need me backstage.

HALLIE  
Oh. Ok.

WILL HEALY  
Do you want to come?

HALLIE  
Do I want to come backstage?

WILL HEALY  
Yea, why not?

Zach watches as Hallie and Will LEAVE THE SUITE.

INT. ARENA HALLWAY - LATER

Hallie and Will walk together.

Looks like they're about to touch hands.

But it never happens.

HALLIE  
Can I ask you something?

WILL HEALY  
Yea.

HALLIE  
Why Healy?

WILL HEALY  
What?

HALLIE

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

WILL HEALY

No.

HALLIE

Then why?

WILL HEALY

You're going to laugh.

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

HALLIE

I promise. I won't.

He's hesitant.

WILL HEALY

You remember those sneakers that had a roller skate on the bottom? They were called Healys.

(off her look)

I told you it was stupid!

HALLIE

No you told me I was going to laugh. Which I'm not.

(beat)

Will Healy sounds a lot less stupid than Will Last Name: Those-Dorky-Shoes-That-Kids-Got-Suspended-For-Wearing-In-The-Hallways.

He smiles at this...

INT. ARENA SUITE - SAME TIME

Zach is talking to DAVE GROHL and other CELEBS now.

ZACH

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

Dave just STARES AT HIM.

ZACH (CONT'D)  
Like it wouldn't make for such a  
magical first date, right?

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

Zach looks at him: Again with Benicio Del Toro.

INT. BACKSTAGE - LATER

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

The LEAD SINGER NOTICES WILL, GIVES HIM A NOD.

HALLIE  
It's my turn to tell you something  
stupid.

WILL HEALY  
What?

HALLIE  
You're going to laugh.

WILL HEALY  
I promise that I might.

HALLIE  
I think I'm cursed.  
(off his look)  
Because of a game of Spin the  
Bottle we played years ago. We were  
supposed to kiss. And we didn't.

WILL HEALY  
That's your line?

HALLIE  
My what?

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

HALLIE  
It wasn't a line.

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

LEAD SINGER

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

WILL HEALY

I think you should kiss me.

HALLIE

What?

LEAD SINGER

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

Will STARTS TO LEAN IN.

WILL HEALY

You still feel cursed?

HALLIE

Not right now.

Hallie CLOSES HER EYES.

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

THE JUMBOTRON SHOWS WILL AND HALLIE SIDE STAGE.

Zach watches it all go down.

Hallie moves in closer and closer and closer.

There's a loud GASP FROM THE CROWD.

Hallie OPENS HER EYES.

And SEES THAT WILL HAS PULLED AWAY FROM THE KISS.

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

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

The BAND STARTS UP AGAIN TO BREAK THE AWKWARDNESS.

Hallie is CONFUSED. MORTIFIED.

WILL HEALY

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

(MORE)

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

(beat)

Of course I remember you.

Holy shit. He planed this whole thing.

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

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

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

WILL HEALY (CONT'D)

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

Will SIGNALS FOR SECURITY who GRAB HALLIE AND DRAG HER AWAY

Zach, PUSHES THROUGH EVERYONE IN THE SUITE...

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

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

EXT. ARENA - LATER

Hallie is SITTING ON THE GROUND, crying.

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

He SLOWLY APPROACHES.

ZACH

Hallie?

HALLIE

What?

ZACH

Are you ok?

HALLIE

No. I'm the fucking opposite of ok.

ZACH

What happened?

HALLIE

You saw what happened! Everyone saw  
what happened!

ZACH

We'll figure something out-

HALLIE

No. We won't.

(beat)

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

ZACH

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

(beat)

Hallie?

HALLIE

Who wouldn't want that?

ZACH

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

Hallie kind of SNORTS, kind of laughs.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Why is that funny?

HALLIE

Zach, you're not a man.

ZACH

What's that supposed to mean?

HALLIE

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

ZACH

You too, huh?

HALLIE

Me too what?

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

What am I pretending to be?

ZACH

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

Zach WALKS OFF. Hallie continues to sob.

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS' CAR - LATER

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

TERRI

Honey, are you blowing your nose on the seatbelt?

HALLIE

A little.

TERRI

Ok.

INT. HALLIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LATER

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

WE SEE: She's watching The Sixth Sense.

HALLIE

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

INT. TATTOO PARLOR - LATER

Hallie, VISIBLY DRUNK, is in the TATTOO CHAIR.

A SKEPTICAL ARTIST is next to her.

SKEPTICAL ARTIST

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

HALLIE

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

SKEPTICAL ARTIST

You've been drinking.

HALLIE

You can't prove that.

She TAKES A SIP FROM A BOTTLE RIGHT THEN.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Snapple logo. Final answer.

Skeptical Artist SHRUGS and STARTS THE MACHINE.

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

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - LATER

Hallie now has 2 SQUIGGLY TATTOO LINES ON HER ARM.

She's going through strangers backyards, still drinking.

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

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

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

Hallie is on a TRAMPOLINE DRINKING FROM THE BOTTLE.

She's ANGRY JUMPING.

Suddenly the LIGHTS TURN ON.

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

Hallie STUMBLES OFF THE TRAMPOLINE AND RUNS AWAY.

EXT. FRONT LAWN - MORNING

Hallie, PASSED OUT UNDERNEATH AN ALICIA WALKER REALTOR SIGN.

She's clearly VANDALIZED THE PHOTO with a MUSTACHE, ETC.

SPRINKLERS WAKE HALLIE UP. Shit.

INT. LENNON'S DELI - MORNING

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

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

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

Mr. Blumbaum is thoroughly confused.

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

Zach pops back in.

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

Zach is USHERING MR. BLUMBAUM OUT WITH HIM.

INT. ZACH'S CAR - LATER

Zach's driving clearly with a destination in mind.

EXT. HOUSE - LATER

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

UNKNOWN WOMAN

Zach?

ZACH

Hi Kelly.

KELLY looks like her best years are probably behind her.

UNKNOWN WOMAN/KELLY

What are you doing here?

ZACH

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

KELLY

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

(beat)

Short for California Pizza Kitchen.

ZACH

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

KELLY

What?

ZACH

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

KELLY

That was a really long time ago.

ZACH

I had B.D.E. right?

(beat)

It stands for Big Dick Energy.

KELLY

I'm aware of B.D.E.

(beat)

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

ZACH

So you couldn't accept me for me.

KELLY

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

ZACH

I'm not stuck!

KELLY

Ok. But you're not happy, either.

(beat)

Am I wrong?

ZACH

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

KELLY

And what did you say?

ZACH

I didn't have an answer.

(beat)

I'm sorry to have wasted your time.

Zach, HEADS BACK TO HIS CAR.

EXT. CEMETERY - LATER

Zach SITS IN FRONT OF HIS DAD'S GRAVE.

He's been there a while.

ZACH

See ya later, Gladiator.

Zach walks to his CAR which is parked nearby.

He TRIES THE IGNITION BUT IT WON'T START.

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

EXT. HALLIE'S PARENTS FRONT PATIO - DAY

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

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

One of them, way too young, is TWERKING.

Hallie TAKES HER PHONE AND TAPES IT.

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

She's about to send when she DELETES IT.

Her PARENTS COME OUTSIDE.

TERRI

How you feeling, sweetie?

HALLIE

Top of the world, Ma.

JOSEPH

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

HALLIE

He said I only looked good on paper

TERRI

Will?

HALLIE

Zach.

JOSEPH

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

HALLIE

I think I care what everyone  
thinks.

Beat.

JOSEPH

Do you know how Mom and I met?

HALLIE

Yes. You were getting pedicures  
next to each other.

JOSEPH

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

HALLIE

What?

TERRI

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

HALLIE

I thought they were dead!

JOSEPH

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

Hallie looks MORTIFIED.

TERRI

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

HALLIE

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

TERRI

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

JOSEPH

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

TERRI

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

JOSEPH

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

TERRI

And they excommunicated him from  
the cult.

JOSEPH

Left with the tunic on my back.

TERRI

We got married later that month.

JOSEPH

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

Hallie is dumbstruck.

HALLIE

That's...

TERRI

Unbelievable right?

HALLIE

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

JOSEPH

Because we just made it up.

HALLIE

What!?!?

TERRI

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

HALLIE

That's really fucked up!

JOSEPH

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

HALLIE

Who are you people?

JOSEPH

I was trying to make a point.

HALLIE

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

JOSEPH

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

TERRI

(touched)

A snuggie for two.

The Parents are proud of themselves. They HEAD INSIDE.

HALLIE

That's a really dumb metaphor!

TERRI

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

HALLIE

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

JOSEPH

Is it though?

HALLIE

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

TERRI

Can't. Slowly walking away having imparted wisdom.

HALLIE

You've imparted nothing!

JOSEPH

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

INT. HALLIE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Hallie is packing her bag.

She PAUSES as she HOLDS THE ABERCROMBIE SHIRT.

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

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

INT. HALLIE'S BASEMENT - LATER

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

She THINKS TWICE and GRABS HER DIARY AGAIN.

She FLIPS BACKWARDS AND WE SEE QUICK FLASHES OF MEMORIES:

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

HALLIE  
May 20. 2000 something...

INT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S BASEMENT - FLASHBACK

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

Everyone LAUGHS. When...

MRS. CLEARY COMES DOWN THE STAIRS...

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

She SEES THEM ALL PLAYING SPIN THE BOTTLE.

They're CAUGHT! HER FACE IS IRATE.

INT. HALLIE'S BASEMENT - PRESENT

HALLIE  
Holy shit.

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - DAY

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

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

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

ZACH  
One.

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

His PHONE RINGS AGAIN. But he IGNORES IT.

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

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

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - MORNING

Zach looks in the mirror in his SUIT AND TIE.

He IGNORES A CALL FROM HALLIE.

EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - LATER

He gets into his CAR AND PULLS AWAY.

Timed perfectly he just misses HALLIE.

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

No answer.

EXT. LENNON'S DELI - DAY

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

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Zach sits in a waiting room.

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

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

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

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

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

HER CELL PHONE rings.

MEGAN  
What's up bitch?

INT. HALLIE'S HOUSE - INTERCUT

HALLIE  
Hey Megan! What are you up to?

Megan looks at her STRING CHEESE.

MEGAN  
Pilates.  
(beat)  
You?

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

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

HALLIE  
What? Why would you ask that?

MEGAN  
Because Terri hikes in shorts a lot.

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

MEGAN  
What's going on?

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

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

WHO CALLS SOMEONE ELSE. WHO CALLS SOMEONE ELSE. ETC

WE HEAR PIECES OF THE CONVERSATIONS FROM THE INSERT BOXES.

SKEPTICAL  
Is this a prank call?

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

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
The number you are trying to reach  
is not in service.

CHEERFUL  
That. Sounds. Awesome.

ALICIA HARPER  
Ugh. That's sounds so cringe-y.  
(beat)  
But I love that for you.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Please hang up and try again.

OPTIMISTIC CREEPY  
Are significant others invited? Are drugs frowned upon?

EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

PEBBLES HIT AGAINST THE GLASS WINDOW.

Hallie STANDS BELOW, THROWING PEBBLES AGAINST THE WINDOW.

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

HALLIE

ZACH  
You were throwing rocks at a  
bathroom.

HALLIE

ZACH  
So you come over and try to break  
my window?

HALLIE  
I thought you'd appreciate the whimsy.

ZACH  
What do you want, Hallie?

HALLIE

ZACH  
No.

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

ZACH  
Hallie-

HALLIE  
Don't make me Dare you.

Beat.

ZACH  
I don't have a car.

EXT. STREET - LATER

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

EXT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

**SUPER: 24 DURLAND ROAD, PRESENT DAY**

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

ZACH  
Is that Megan Martinez?

MEGAN  
It's Megan Brunson now.

ZACH  
And that's Lacey Fox and Ian Mason-

ALICIA HARPER  
Yes. I came, too.

ZACH  
Ok.

OBNOXIOUS BOOK CLUB MEMBER  
And the rest of us are seemingly  
inconsequential-

HALLIE  
Richard, shhhh. For like a second!

OBNOXIOUS BOOK CLUB MEMBER/RICHARD  
Sorry.

GRAHAM WITH BABY BJORN  
I'm not inconsequential. Basically  
Zach's best friend so...

HALLIE  
You know where we are.

ZACH  
Chrissy Cleary's house.

HALLIE  
Where this all started.

ZACH  
So what?

HALLIE  
Do you remember who you kissed that  
night?

ZACH  
Why are you doing this?

HALLIE  
Please. Humor me.

ZACH  
You know I kissed Kelly.

HALLIE  
And who else?

Beat.

ZACH  
I don't remember.

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

ZACH  
That was very sweet of her.

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

(MORE)

HALLIE (CONT'D)

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

RICHARD

To the climactic spot-

HALLIE

Richard!

Richard shuts up.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

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

ZACH

That makes sense to you?

HALLIE

It 100% makes a little sense to me.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER MATH GUY

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

RICHARD

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

HALLIE

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

(to Zach)

(MORE)

HALLIE (CONT'D)  
One spin. One chance. To be like  
David Arquette.

ZACH  
Yea...that's not me.

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

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

(beat)  
That life was good for my Dad. But  
not for me.

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

(beat)  
You were right. I needed to grow  
up. Still do.

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

ZACH  
But you don't want me.

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

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

(beat)  
I want to be in it. And I want to  
be in it with you.

(beat)  
No matter what it looks like.

ZACH  
That's kind of mean.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

Yes. Still not flattering.

HALLIE

Even if you were in a cult-

ZACH

Why are you making this worse?

HALLIE

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

ZACH

Since this middle school party.

HALLIE

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

INT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S HOUSE - LATER

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

The DOORBELL RINGS. At this hour?

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

Hallie and Zach and the BOOK CLUB and FORMER CLASSMATES.

MRS. CLEARY

Can I help you?

HALLIE

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

MRS. CLEARY

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

HALLIE

I got a bloody nose on your  
trampoline.

MRS. CLEARY

I remember it differently.

HALLIE

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

MRS. CLEARY

Chrissy doesn't live here anymore.

HALLIE

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

MRS. CLEARY

What for?

HALLIE

It's not important.

MRS. CLEARY

Yes it is. Even more so now.

ZACH

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

MRS. CLEARY

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

ZACH

The deli. Owned. Past tense.

HALLIE

You sold Lennon's?

ZACH

Kind of. It's more complicated-

HALLIE

Why didn't you tell me?

ZACH

I wasn't talking to you, remember?

MRS. CLEARY

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

HALLIE  
Right sorry. So can we?

Beat.

MRS. CLEARY

HALLIE  
Please?

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

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

INT. CHRISSY CLEARY'S BASEMENT - LATER

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

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

Hallie and Zach are on opposite sides.

Hallie REVEALS AN EMPTY SNAPPLE BOTTLE.

HALLIE  
Does everyone know the rules?

**BOOK CLUB MEMBERS**      **FORMER CLASSMATES**

## HALLIE

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

No one laughs.

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

HALLIE

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

RICHARD

Yes, that does sound very adult and super serious.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA

What if you land on your Dad?

HALLIE

I...what?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA

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

BOOK CLUB MEMBER ARTHUR

On the lips?

MEGAN

What's wrong with that?

IAN

Ooooh! Megan still kisses her parents on the lips!

MEGAN

You'll understand when you have children.

IAN

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

Her look says it all.

ALICIA HARPER

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

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN

What if someone lands on the baby?

HALLIE

We're getting off track.

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

GRAHAM  
My baby is clearly not playing.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN  
She's in the circle.

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

BOOK CLUB MEMBER VIVIAN  
Is that normal for her age?

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

BOOK CLUB MEMBER VIVIAN  
Of kissing?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER WINSTON  
Can we play a practice round?

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

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

HALLIE  
Yes, Mrs. Cleary!

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

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

She PLACES THE BOTTLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CIRCLE.

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

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

HALLIE (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER WINSTON  
It's a practice round.

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

And the bottle lands on...MEGAN.

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

BOOK CLUB MEMBER WINSTON  
Hi. I'm Winston.

MEGAN  
I didn't need to know your name.

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

JOSEPH  
And...that's a boner.

REVEAL: WINSTON HAS A BONER.

TERRI  
Good for you, Winston.

HALLIE  
Ok, now-

ANOTHER PERSON HAS GRABBED THE BOTTLE AND SPINS.

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

IAN  
I just want to take out my  
Invisalign first.

He does.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA  
Oh my God! Me too!

She does.

IAN  
What are the odds?

BOOK CLUB MEMBER BRENDA  
Too funny.

Beat.

THEN THEY GO AT IT.

SPIN!

HALLIE  
Wait!

Now Terri and Joseph CRAWL TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

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

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

TERRI  
Oh yea? Which one?

JOSEPH  
It's...Jewish Orthodox High.

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

JOSEPH  
I'm really repressed.

TERRI  
Let me help un-repress you.

They go at it.

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

KELLY  
Straight up relationship goals.

SPIN!

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

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

Younger Man is WIDE EYED as she KISSES HIM.

SPIN!

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

BOOK CLUB MEMBER STAN  
It's 2024.

BOOK CLUB MEMBER ARTHUR  
And the whole Super Serious Rule.

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

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

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

ZACH  
Why does everyone think their job  
has confidentiality?

Arthur and Stan FINALLY KISS. It's nice.

MEGAN REACHES FOR THE BOTTLE WHEN...

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

This is a shocker.

ZACH  
You...love me?

HALLIE  
Only since I was twelve.

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

He takes a deep breath.

ZACH  
Just one spin.

HALLIE  
Just one spin.

And he SPINS. FAST and HARD.

The BOTTLE IS GOING ROUND AND ROUND.

You can cut the tension with a knife.

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

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

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

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

## RICHARD JOINS THE SHOUTING.

RICHARD  
I wish I understood more of your  
back stories!

HALLIE ZACH  
Fuck off, Richard! Fuck off, Richard!

The BOTTLE KEEPS SPINNING!

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

TERRI

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

RICHARD  
Oh now I can talk!?!?

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

Finally the BOTTLE STARTS TO SLOW DOWN...

It's going to land on HALLIE!

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

Everyone LET'S OUT A DISAPPOINTED SIGH.

Hallie is heartbroken.

Zach SLOWLY BEGINS TO CRAWL ACROSS THE CIRCLE.

But INSTEAD VEERS and GOES STRAIGHT TO HALLIE.

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

And ZACH KISSES HER! HARD!

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

BEVERLY  
This is the best fucking book club  
meeting ever.

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

They BREAK THE KISS, in a DAZE.

ZACH  
Oh. I made you something.

Zach takes out the MIX CD he made for Hallie.

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

ZACH  
Of course I did.

HALLIE  
Mrs. Cleary!

MRS. CLEARY (O.S.)  
Potstickers?

HALLIE

No. Do you have a CD Player?

MRS. CLEARY (O.S.)

No one has a CD player anymore!

HALLIE

What's the first song?

Zach smiles.

ZACH

Nickelback.

(beat)

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

HALLIE

We can listen to it later.

He goes in to KISS AGAIN.

HALLIE (CONT'D)

Wait. Tell me about the deli.

ZACH

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

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

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

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

And then...

A MOTHER FUCKING CRACKER BARREL!

It STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.

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

MR. BLUMBAUM

(to them)

Don't worry. They scoop out bagels  
upon request.

PATRON

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

We FOLLOW PATRONS inside...

INT. CRACKER BARREL - CONTINUOUS

The GIFT SHOP is BUSTLING.

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

A SIGN SAYS: WE DO NOT SELL TABLE LINENS.

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

Kelley Hayes and Alicia Harper.

ALICIA HARPER  
We should've gone to CPK.

KELLY  
I'm sick of CPK!

ALICIA HARPER  
What the fuck is chicken fried  
steak?

Graham Kolek comes over to take their order...

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

He JUMPS, STARTLED, LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER.

KELLY  
You ok?

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

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

ON PHONE

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

Joseph SNATCHES THE PHONE AWAY.

JOSEPH

Megan. No phones at the table.

TERRI

No way, Jose.

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

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

Remember the time-

ZACH

That's my line.

HALLIE

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

ZACH

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

HALLIE

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

Hallie doesn't notice that...

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

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

\*