

TipSY

Written by

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OVER BLACK

We hear several voices, echo like.

UNKNOWN MAN #1 (V.O.)
I think I'm in love with you.

INT. MYSTERIOUS WINE CELLAR - NIGHT

One by one, ceiling lights power on, flickering, illuminating a single hallway inside an underground, rustic, almost abandoned looking WINE CELLAR.

UNKNOWN WOMAN #1 (V.O.)
I can't take this anymore!

UNKNOWN WOMAN #2 (V.O.) UNKNOWN MAN #2 (V.O.)
I'm 1000% in. Let's do this. How could you do that to me?

A pair of uniformed hands in BURGUNDY LEATHER GLOVES open up wine barrels letting the liquid pour into bottles below.

UNKNOWN WOMAN #3 (V.O.) UNKNOWN MAN #3 (V.O.)
I don't think we can just No one's ever done something move past this. like that for me before.

We see orange, blue, even green liquids splashing into bizarre shaped bottles.

UNKNOWN WOMAN #4 (V.O.)
We can do this. I don't want to give up on us. Not yet.

A medium sized wooden **WINE BOX** is placed on a table. The box has carvings all over it. The GLOVED HANDS carefully add the freshly corked bottles to the box. Closing it, and adding a ribbon on top of this eerie gift.

A playful logo ties the whole box together. It reads: **TIPSY!**

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A little after lunch. We are in Highland Park.

The camera weaves through an **OPEN GATE**, into a front yard.

A cute small home in disrepair. Not quite the kind of house you brag about, but nothing to be ashamed of either.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

MARA [29, driven, dry wit, destined for greatness, if she could get out of her own way] stands, well-worn apron on.

She's in headphones, humming as she works. Organized, professional, in her zone.

Mara whisks together a golden looking cookie dough, she adds cornflakes, pretzels, toffee, marshmallows. Tastes it.

Her eyes light up: *Ooo something good is happening here-*

Mara scoops the dough into little balls onto a tray and gently puts them in the oven, goes to work on something else:

Boiling water. A perfectly formed ravioli slides in.

Mara carefully bats it around, keeping an eye on the clock.

JASON [30, overly content yet still charming man-child] comes downstairs, tie-ing a goofy tie. He says something-

Mara notices him trying to talk, *stops looking at the clock.*

MARA
(removes earbuds)
What?

JASON
(louder)
The cookies smell good! Are those the-

MARA
Kit and Caboodles.

JASON
Kit and Caboodles! Will you save me one?

MARA
Yeah, maybe. If you behave.

Jason laughs, pouring himself some coffee, sees the stove.

JASON
You got something going on here too?

Mara returns to the stove.

MARA
Shit!

Mara dumps the water (and the ruined ravioli) into the sink.

MARA (CONT'D)
That was nothing, just trying
something.

JASON
(shrugs)
Alright. I'll be back in a few
hours.

MARA
(checks time)
Oh, I'll probably be over there
already-

JASON
-I'll just meet you there. 8:30
right?

MARA
7:30.

JASON
Right!

Mara waves goodbye to Jason, headphones back on, back to-

Boiling water. Mara rolls out a thin sheet of pasta, puts an egg yolk in the center and closes it up.

A perfectly formed ravioli slides into the water. (again).

Mara finishes her ravioli in brown butter and sage, plates it and digs in.

MARA
Hm.

Not bad. Could be better. Mara sits back, finishes her pasta.

KITCHEN - LATER

The kitchen is all clean, Mara walks by dressed for a party.

Picking up a plate of her excellent looking cookies on the way out.

I/E. MARA'S CAR - EARLY EVENING

The sun is now setting.

A parked car in the Hills. Mara's cookies in the backseat.

Mara sits watching the sunset.

She's crying, small gentle sobs.

She attempts to simultaneously put on mascara, which keeps running thanks to the tears.

The more she reapplies, the more tears come, *raccoon energy*.

MARA

Come on. Get it together.

Mara finally pulls herself together and starts cleaning herself off. She breathes a little easier.

Mara gets out of the car, lights up a joint, takes a deep drag. She's dressed up but looks like the last place she wants to be is here.

Taking one more hit, she grabs her plate of cookies and walks towards a nice looking house.

INT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A VERY nice house in the Silver Lake hills. An engagement party inside.

Mara enters the foyer, holding her cookies. She looks up.

MARA

You gotta be fucking kidding me.

On the wall in front of her. One giant painting. On one side, a jaguar, profile, roaring at the other side, a profile of:

ASHBY ST. CLAIRE [early 30's, a sophisticated *asshole* whose charisma and success lets him get away with anything, this is his house]

His side of the painting is roaring right back at the jaguar.

Mara stares at the painting. In the background, she sees **Ashby**, entertaining A GROUP OF GUESTS, blowing their minds with some amazing, extravagant story.

ASHBY

You know what I mean? You gotta roar back.

(beat)

You. Gotta. Roar. Back.

Ashby slowly makes eye contact with Mara, almost *knowing* she was looking at him. He nods a "Hey" (*it might as well be in slow-motion*). Mara musters a small but uncomfortable smile.

KAITLYN
Pork chop! You came!

KAITLYN [28, Mara's college roommate, still figuring "who she is", but doing it with a 110% energy] and **ANTONIO** [31, big heart, bigger smile, her groom to be] run up and hug her.

MARA
Hi!! I totally didn't realize you were doing this at Ashby's!

KAITLYN
Oh yeah! I legit CAN'T believe he let us host here.

Antonio notices Mara still eying the painting.

ANTONIO
Apparently that really happened, like he brought in a jaguar to pose and everything.

KAITLYN
Where's Jason?

MARA
Should be here any second actually.

Mara takes her phone out, texts *Jason*: **Are you close?**

PRELAP: a bop of a song, something like *Chains of Love* by **Erasure** playing at full volume as we:

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Find a dancing JASON, grooving to the song, joint in hand.

He plops himself down at a red keyboard, and slowly starts to play along with the track. He pauses the music.

And then proceeds to play the piano part on his own, messing up here and there, correcting himself, until he's got it.

JASON
Aahh, almost!

Clicks play on the song, plays along, singing over the piano-

JASON (CONT'D)
Do you remember, there was a time-

He takes a hit of the joint, puts it in the ashtray, his phone vibrates from a text - MARA: **Are you close?**

Jason doesn't notice it and continues to jam out.

INT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back at the engagement party, Kaitlyn links arms with Mara walking through the elaborate house.

KAITYLN
...Can you imagine the logistics of bringing a jaguar in here? The handling fees alone-

Kaitlyn notices Mara still holding the cookie plate.

KAITYLN (CONT'D)
Wait- Those kinda look like that place we used to go in college-

Mara smiles.

KAITYLN (CONT'D)
Oh my god! Mara! You didn't-

MARA
But I did. It's identical, I finally figured out how they were doing it.

Kaitlyn is all smiles.

KAITYLN
Those fuckin cookies were the perfect hangover cure AND somehow made me change my world view on abstinence... like instantly? CAN I HAVE ONE??

MARA
Of course!

Kaitlyn takes one out and bites it, euphoric.

KAITYLN
Fuck.

MARA
Good?

KAITYLN
(another bite)
FUCK Mara!

Mara beams, but looks around at how loud that was.

KAITYLN (CONT'D)
(third bite, louder)
MARA? FUCK!

MARA KAITYLN (CONT'D)
Ok. (chewing) You did not have to do any of
this-

MARA (CONT'D)
I wanted to! I figured you guys
would have like *actual* catering-
But I wanted to make something
special for you-

KAITYLN
(finishing her cookie)
You more than did.

Someone calls for Kaitlyn, she waves.

KAITYLN (CONT'D)
Please put those out with the rest
of the food- I'll be right back!

Mara turns to find a massive table full of tapas, aperitifs, and appetizers expertly arranged and styled.

She comes over to the table, places her cookies on it.

They stand out, not in a cute way. Rustic and homemade compared to the steel and professionalism of the rest.

Mara tries to make them blend with little success.

LINDSAY
Mara?

Mara looks up to see **LINDSAY** [28, *has to let you know how great she's doing*]. She comes over for an awkward hug.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
I thought that was you! How are you
doing?

MARA
I'm yeah. I'm alright. How
are you?

LINDSAY

I'm great! Finally got an offer
after the shit show that was the
last three months-

MARA

Right. Right, cause you work in-

LINDSAY

(not listening)

-It's busy but so rewarding. You
know?

MARA

Of course. Sorry I-

LINDSAY

(still not listening)

-But that's why I got the bonus. I
shouldn't even say how much-

*(whispers, covering the
side of her mouth)*

Sixty thousand dollars.

MARA

Oh my god. What do you do?

LINDSAY

Mmmmm. I ask myself that every
single day. What have you been up
to?

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. EMPTY RESTAURANT VENUE - DAY

Mara stands in front of a vacant space, big windows, a large sign states: **RESTAURANT SPACE FOR LEASE**.

Mara longingly looks inside. There's a construction worker finishing up a coat of paint. He notices her staring.

Caught, Mara gives a little wave, which makes the painter MORE confused. Mara quickly puts her hand down realizing how awkward that was.

INT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back to Lindsay. Mara still staring at her.

LINDSAY

Mara?

MARA

Sorry! Umm yeah things are
happening- just like... a lot of
birds not enough wind ya know?

LINDSAY

What?

MARA

What?

(beat)

I made these- you want one?

LINDSAY

Oh my god! So cute! I'm ok, though.

Off Mara's look-

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jason puts on a jacket, check his phone, as he walks out.

JASON

Oh shit!

JUST OUTSIDE THEIR HOUSE

Jason opens the **UBER** app.

JASON (CONT'D)

TWENTY MINUTES?? That can't be
right.

Jason sees a couple **BIRD SCOOTERS** on the corner.

INT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mara finds Kaitlyn in the crowd. Kaitlyn hugs her again.

KAITLYN

Hiii! You're incredible! I love
that dress by the way! You look
hot.

MARA

Stop! I feel... bloated, actually.

Kaitlyn rubs her back lovingly. Mara looks over to discover Ashby looking at her again.

Kaitlyn clocks this.

KAITYLN

Stoop. It didn't happen for a reason. It just means there's something better coming.

MARA

(sighs)

Yeah, but looking for a new investor, a new space, starting this process all over again is just-

KAITYLN

I know, I know.

Mara looks to her, on the verge of saying something.

CLINK, CLINK, CLINK. Antonio stands in the center of the room, he reaches out for Kaitlyn. Kaitlyn looks to Mara.

MARA

I'm good, go go!

Kaitlyn joins Antonio to applause.

ANTONIO

Hi everybody! Thank you all so much for coming. Let's give a big hand for our amazing host, one of our dearest friends and always the craziest guy in the room, Ashby! You're too good to us!

THE GUESTS CHEER WILDLY. Mara stares at Ashby who stands, basking at the adoration, charmingly asking everyone to stop.

Kaitlyn steps forward.

KAITLYN

Ok now. Let me just... Blagh, I don't want to sound all corny but I have SO MUCH to tell you about this sexy man right here.

Antonio kisses her as Everyone WOOS.

KAITLYN (CONT'D)

Ok, ok, I'll make this fast!

Kaitlyn clicks a remote, a small screen begins a powerpoint presentation. A photo of Phoenix, Arizona.

KAITYLN
December 14th 1990, a small Mexican
baby was born in a hospital in
Phoenix. Little did I know that
this... was going to be my husband.

Everyone AWW's and claps.

EXT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - TERRACE - NIGHT

Mara barrels out of the house, we hear applause behind her.

Outside, more GUESTS scattered around, smoking. Mara stands in the backyard, taking in the night air.

ASHBY (O.S.)
You ran off.

Ashby seems to appear out of nowhere. Mara seems more timid.

MARA
Just needed some air.

ASHBY
Where's Jason?

MARA
Should be here literally any
second.

EXT. LA STREETS - EARLY EVENING

Jason rides his bird scooter up a very steep hill, he's drenched in sweat. It looks intense to say the least.

JASON
Fuck my life, fuck my life, fuck my life.

EXT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - TERRACE - NIGHT

ASHBY
Did you try the food?

MARA
(laughs)
Did you seriously just ask me that?

ASHBY
I'm just saying, these guys
should've called this other chef I
know.

MARA
The nerve.

ASHBY
You haven't been answering my
texts.

MARA
I've been busy. Got a lot of- irons
in the fire.

ASHBY
Oh, I bet.
(beat)
You know the saying, people can
change. They just have to want it.

JASON
Mara?

Mara turns to see Jason, covered in sweat, breathing heavily
standing in the backyard.

MARA
Jas- what-

JASON
(hugs her) (quietly) MARA (CONT'D)
Oh thank god, no more hills. You're... late.
Flat land.

Jason turns to Ashby.

JASON (CONT'D)
Happy engagement party! Thanks for
hosting I guess?

ASHBY
Thanks bud. How you doing?

JASON
I'm yeah. I'm good.

ASHBY
How's everything in the "music
life"?

Ashby uses air quotes around "music life". Jason looks up.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC MANIA - PRACTICE ROOM - DAY

A small shop in a strip mall. A sign reading **MUSIC MANIA: Instruments and Lessons.**

Inside a practice room that looks more like a closet, Jason stands opposite **OLLY** [15, lanky, not quite out of his shell].

Dueling keyboards going, the two play a song, Olly tries his best to match Jason, he's messing up.

JASON
Up! No! No! Higher-
(stops playing)
Damn it Oliver.

OLLY
I know, I know, Jay-

JASON
Do you know? Cause you're going-
(plays a note)
When it should-
(different note)

OLLY
I'm just nervous.

JASON
Brother you should be. This is
Gemma Maria Jose Delgado we are
talking about here!

OLLY
I know!!

JASON
She's a senior, dude. There's no
way she's gonna go to prom with you
unless you kill this.

OLLY
Jason... would you come with me
maybe?... and play the piano part
while I sing?

JASON
Oh Olly...
(beat)
OF COURSE!

They high five and on that high five we are back to:

EXT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - TERRACE - NIGHT

Ashby nodding at Jason's story.

ASHBY
So you're gonna go to the high school with this child and sing to this girl?

JASON
Umm no. Olly is gonna sing. I'm just playing keys.

ASHBY
Cool.

PARTY GUEST (O.S.)
Ashby! Come tell them about Morocco!

ASHBY
(ignores)
You should swing the restaurant sometime.

MARA
It all worked out with Miles then?

ASHBY
I mean... he's the real deal.
I'm still waiting for him to fuck up but despite his best efforts...

This kills Mara.

PARTY GUEST (O.S.)
AshbYYY! Morocccoo!

ASHBY
Coming!
(to Jason)
You should try the food, pretty excellent.

As he walks away.

ASHBY (CONT'D)
 (without looking)
 Great seeing you, Mara.

Jason rolls his eyes. Mara turns, and they walk away.

EXT. ASHBY'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

Jason follows a quickly walking Mara.

JASON
 Mara, slow down, what-

She stops, whipping back.

MARA
 Why were you so late?

JASON
 What? I was barely-

MARA
 I asked you to be here on time. I
 told you I don't like being around
 these people on my own-

KAITYLN
 Hiii!

Jason and Mara turn to see Kaitlyn standing in front of them.
Awkward, Mara and Jason recover, putting on smiles.

KAITYLN (CONT'D)
 Everything ok? Hi, Jason!

MARA	JASON
So good! We just have to	Oh ya! Hi Kaitlyn.
getting going, but it was	
such a fun party-	

Antonio walks over not wanting to be away from Kaitlyn.

ANTONIO
 Oh! Are we all telling secrets? I
 have one, I LOVE this woman.

He kisses Kaitlyn passionately.

MARA
 As do... we. But we gotta get going-
 early morning and all that.

There's an awkward beat where Kaitlyn stares at them both.

KAITLYN
Are you two actually ok?

There's something more serious in Kaitlyn's voice. A concern.

JASON We are doing great, thanks for asking.	MARA We are fine! You're too nice!
--	---------------------------------------

Kaitlyn and Antonio share a look, they nod to each other.

ANTONIO
Well, you guys can't leave without
a goodie bag!

Antonio presents a large gift bag to Jason and Mara.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)
Some items to remember our
beautiful night. A few poems,
candles, our favorite local bread.

ANTONIO (CONT'D) And a romantic game you'll absolutely love.	KAITLYN And a romantic game you'll absolutely love.
--	---

Jason looks at Mara: *the fuck?*

KAITLYN (CONT'D)
Baby, that was so cute.

As Kaitlyn hugs Mara goodbye, she almost whispers:

KAITLYN
You'll absolutely love it.

Weirded out, Mara breaks away from the hug. They say their goodbyes and leave the party.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Mara and Jason walk in, having undone their outfits a bit, showcasing their real selves.

JASON
-you didn't close the gate again!
(sighs)
That house was *too* much. You ever
feel like people's houses are like
too designed?

MARA

That's what happens when you make
real money. You outgrow shitty IKEA
furniture.

JASON

Hey... I love our Flurgenberket.

Mara plops down on the couch, putting the goodie bag on the coffee table with a THUD.

Jason, goes into the kitchen for two beers while Mara sinks deeper into the couch.

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

So fuckin weird being at Ashby's
house. What a dick head.

Jason comes back, hands her a beer and sits on the couch.
Mara stays quiet then-

JASON (CONT'D)

You ok?

MARA

(quiet)

Nothing's going anywhere.

JASON

Oh my goood babe. Stop. You know
that's not true. We talked about
this, this isn't you restarting
your dream, this is just a
different path. Right?

MARA

(still in thought)

It's not just that- Nothing's on
track. Nothing's happening. People
are accomplishing things. Buying
houses, working their dream jobs-

JASON

-Getting engaged?

Mara looks at him, almost disappointed.

MARA

Sure... I just-

(beat)

(MORE)

MARA (CONT'D)

When I was in college, I thought
for sure by the time I was thirty,
everything would be more figured
out? Aren't you even a little
concerned... about any of it?

JASON

Kinda.

Jason turns on the tv, scrolls.

MARA

Kinda?

JASON

Can we just do this whole "doubting
our futures" thing another night?

MARA

(hating it)

I guess.

JASON

That didn't sound super convincing-

MARA

We always do this. We never like
really strategize or plan anything.

Jason starts to play something on the tv.

JASON

Oh my god, we totally do! You're
just freaking out. Everything's
going to be fine. I promise.

Mara pauses the show.

JASON (CONT'D)

Ok?

MARA

We need to talk.

JASON

(sighs)

Please- not about Casey's- I can't-

MARA

No. It's not about Casey's.

(beat)

(MORE)

MARA (CONT'D)

Look, your whole "everything's gonna be ok" thing isn't working for me, and with everything going on I-

JASON

-Ok! Ok! I get it.

Jason sits down on the coffee table. It CREAKS. Mara clocks this, a bit peeved.

JASON (CONT'D)

I interrupted you, again. Sorry.

MARA

I get that I'm in a "transition period" but I need to know that the next couple years are actually heading somewhere.

Jason nods, a bit worried.

MARA (CONT'D)

(softens)

We can take the edge off and make it fun but like *conversation* tonight-

(gestures)

Jay can you not sit on the table-

CRACK! One of the legs of Flurgenberket coffee table breaks! Jason stands up quick, but it's too late.

SLAM! The goodie bag tips over it's contents spilling out onto the coffee table:

A medium sized wooden wine box slides out. Lots of engravings on the sides: hearts, couples kissing, very cartoon lovey-dovey fun. On the front of it reads:

TIPSY! *The drinking game to test your relationship, commitment and more. Strictly 21+ Wine Included!*

Jason pivots.

JASON

Ok. That was on me, but. What about playing a romantic game "we'll absolutely love."

MARA

...ok, sure, great and then we talk, right? We make a plan.

JASON

Great. Yeah. I love planning.

Jason and Mara turn their attention to the wine box in front of them. Mara runs her fingers on the side over the cartoon lovey-dovey carvings. *Huh weird.*

Jason opens it up. Inside are seven different wine bottles of varying shapes and sizes, and a small handwritten note stating:

For you and your life long partner.

They look at each other. **POP!** Jason opens the first bottle.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Mara and Jason stand by their kitchen counter, the wine/game box is on the table. They both have a glass of the first bottle, taking small sips.

JASON

The wine's surprisingly good.

Another sip of wine each.

MARA

Yup.

Slightly uncomfortable, Jason looks at the bottle on the table. It is a thin, long bottle, on it a kitschy looking

title: A Lover's Kiss.

JASON

(reading back)

*This pinot noir will surely serve
as an aphrodisiac your lover
deserves. Ha. Cute.*

Another sip of wine. Jason eyes Mara. She bites her lip as she thinks.

MARA

Jesus, with that kind of branding
they're lucky their wine is good.
Anyway I wanted to figure out-

Noticing Jason staring-

MARA (CONT'D)

What?

JASON

Nothing, nothing, I just- you look great.

MARA

Ha! I haven't showered since morning, I think great is a pretty big exaggeration.

But Jason studies Mara. Pensive.

JASON

(earnest)

Mara, you are beautiful.

Mara smiles, caught off guard. But appreciative.

MARA

Thank you.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

Do you remember when-

JASON

This kind of reminds me of-

They both laugh.

JASON (CONT'D)

Sorry, I just... I don't know why this reminded me of-

MARA

-Big Bear?

JASON

(a bit surprised)

Yeah, exactly. Remember the cabin?

MARA

Remember the hot tub?

Jason nods. For a moment, they just stare at each other, no need for words. Mara laughs... making Jason laugh.

JASON

That was the- I don't even know if you remember but that was probably the first time I said I love you.

MARA

Oh, I remember. You were *nervous*. I loved that trip.

A powerful melody in the vein of "POWA by Tune-Yards" slowly takes over the room, as if being played on a speaker.

JASON
Did you put this on?

MARA
 Nope. But this song is.. excellent.

Mara feels it. And I mean, she really feels it.

They look at each other, cracking up. Before Jason can say another word, Mara comes over to him and kisses him.

Without thinking about it for a second JASON PASSIONATELY GRABS MARA, formidably making out.

Jason picks Mara up, who out of reflex grabs the **bottle of wine** off the counter.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Jason carries Mara inside, the same song guides us through the room.

JASON
Should we?
MARA
YES.

Mara and Jason take off each other's clothes, vividly but not in a rush. Out of nowhere the lights weirdly **DIM DOWN**.

MARA (CONT'D)
(between kisses)
That's new.

Mara takes a sip of wine, Jason follows and immediately puts the bottle on the nightstand.

The VOLUME of the melody ACTUALLY increases the more Mara and Jason get into their foreplay, but they couldn't care less.

Mara takes Jason's shirt off. He kisses her neck.

Jason holds Mara's body as close as he can.

She grabs his back, not planning to let go anytime soon.

In a matter of seconds, they are both naked and under the sheets, leading us to a **MONTAGE**:

- Jason goes down on Mara. SHE LOVES IT.

- Jason and Mara lie on the bed, Mara is making Jason laugh his ass off. They both take a sip of wine.

- Mara and Jason dance in their underwear. Mara takes a sip of the bottle.
- Jason grabs Mara from behind. Pulling her to him.
- Mara rides on top of Jason. He holds her, almost hugging her, JASON CLIMAXES.
- Jason and Mara sit by their window watching the night outside their house. Jason takes a sip of the bottle.
- Mara on the dresser having sex with Jason. MARA CLIMAXES.
- Jason and Mara fall both into their backs, panting. EACH MORE THAN SATISFIED.

END OF THE MONTAGE.

Jason and Mara both reach for the bottle at the same time.

MARA (CONT'D)
There's a tiny bit left.

JASON
All yours.

Mara is about to take the LAST sip, but before she can-

MARA
I missed this.

JASON
(laughs)
What? We do this all the time.
(off her silence)
Don't we?

MARA
We do *it*... We don't do *that*.

JASON
Speaking of which-

MARA
Wait, really? Already?

JASON
I'm not gonna question it.

Mara takes the LAST SIP OF THE BOTTLE and immediately gets on top of Jason. We follow her hand as she puts the bottle down.

We see the empty bottle on the nightstand.

Mara and Jason kiss, expectant, until they both slowly STOP.

MARA

Hey, um.

JASON

Yeah?

MARA

Do you feel...

JASON

Different? Yeah. Like, I was ready to just-

MARA

-Demolish me right?

JASON

Demolish?

MARA

In like a loving way. But same, I was more than ready for round four?

JASON

But, now, I just feel kinda-

MARA

Done.

JASON (CONT'D)

Done.

Mara's attention shifts to RE-DISCOVERING THE WINE BOTTLE on the night stand.

JASON (CONT'D)

Definitely-

Jason takes his time but his gaze also ends up on the empty wine bottle.

AT THAT EXACT MOMENT THE MUSIC STOPS, THE LIGHTS GO BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN.

JASON (CONT'D)

-different.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The two rush into the kitchen, Jason goes straight for the wine/game box while Mara just stares at the bottle like a real-life Gremlin.

Jason rediscovers the box, feeling the intricate design carved into the wood, realizing for the first time how freaking bizarre the box is. He looks at the clock.

JASON

We were only up there for fifteen minutes?! There's no way that was just fifteen minutes!

WE GET A CLOSER LOOK: It's a large wooden wine box, with its own unique design, a bit wacky. We see the tops of six other bottles inside.

There's still that seemingly handwritten note, waiting for them on top: **For you and your life long partner.**

MARA

Were we- Are you- What just happened?

Jason picks up the note.

MARA (CONT'D)

I want to say that was hard stuff, but... like I felt so- in it? Like I wasn't drunk- I just-
(beat)
Nothing, forget it.

JASON

You know how much I hate when you do that.

MARA

Ok. That. What just happened... was *different*.

JASON

How?

MARA

It was... exciting and like kinda magical? And-

JASON

Magical, huh?

MARA

Yeah?

JASON

... And you came... lots.

MARA

Sure, but-

JASON

-Look, I'm sorry. Sometimes my body just can't keep going. I always do my best to hold it, but-

MARA

I don't mean it like that at all. It just- it reminded me of when we like first started hooking up. We couldn't get enough of each other. I was like *fully* with you.

JASON

And it's not like that, now?

Mara looks down.

MARA

Sometimes? But then like we don't have sex for weeks and I don't fully understand why?

Jason looks taken back.

JASON

Woah. Ok. Um sorry- weeks? It hasn't actually been weeks, right?

Mara stays quiet.

JASON (CONT'D)

You know I *love* having sex with you. I- didn't realize it had been that long?

MARA

I just always end up thinking that it's me.

JASON

What? No! Babe. I love you, just- I don't know! Things come up? Life, or work, and sometimes I'm tired or you're tired. Sometimes we're both tired? Right?

MARA

Yeah. Sometimes I'm not in the mood. But you really didn't notice?

JASON

Hang on- you have nothing to be
insecure about. Ok? I do notice.
And maybe I *can* be more vocal. But
just tell me these things. I don't
want you to feel like this.

MARA

(nodding)

Yeah. I will. You're right.

JASON

I'm definitely right. I'm setting a
calendar reminder right now. How's
your Monday?

MARA

(I'm serious)

Jason.

JASON

I'm kidding. I hear you. Really.

The two look at each other, slightly awkward, maybe even a
little proud that they are on the same page.

JASON (CONT'D)

Are we ok?

Mara nods again, feeling lighter.

JASON (CONT'D)

Good. Cause that was pretty fun and
you were very sexy.

(beat)

Still a super weird bottle of wine.

MARA

Yeah, it was.

They take in the wine box again. Jason now takes out of the
box what looks like a TWISTER-styled spinner with seven
slots, noticing one of the slots is different.

JASON

Huh. The one we just drank is like
blacked out or something... they
all have kinda weird names.

Mara takes the note off the top, opens it up and reads:

MARA

*"Find in this gift, a one night and
one night only opportunity to
deepen and expand the understanding
of your relationship. Effects
incurred from the bottles go away
upon completion of said bottle?"*

Jason picks up another bottle from the pack.

JASON

"YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE"?

(putting it down)

Thanks, but no thanks.

MARA

(still reading)

*Two ways to play. Play safe or play
to grow. The second one is how you
win.*

Mara and Jason let a burst of innocent laughter slip away.

MARA (CONT'D)

Ok, game.

Mara's eye catches a particular bottle:

It has a WAVY SHAPE and the wine has an ORANGE-ISH COLOR. It looks like the sexier, more confident version of a Rosé.

MARA (CONT'D)

(reading the label)

"THE FLOOR IS LAVA."

JASON

WHAT? I love that game!

MARA

Seriously?

JASON

Are you kidding? I played it all
the time when I was--

Seven?

(You have to be kidding)

What?

JASON (CONT'D)

In college?

(what's wrong with that)

What?

JASON (CONT'D)

Look! It has its own set of
instructions and everything-
(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)
 (reading the back)
*Teamwork and skills shall help you
 survive, finish the bottle to
 remain alive. THIS IS SO COOL!*

Beat. Mara examines the spinner- and then absentmindedly spins it, it lands on: **THE FLOOR IS LAVA.**

JASON (CONT'D)
*Wow, would you look at that? Fate
 wants us to play my childish and
 very fun game.*

Jason is already getting a wine opener.

JASON (CONT'D)
*Come on, let's just taste it, if
 it's crappy we'll open something
 else.*

Mara shrugs and Jason opens the bottle with a small **POP.**

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THE FLOOR IS FREAKING LAVA, YO.

In a matter of seconds, the living room has been FLOODED by a devastating wave of, yes, you guessed it, lava.

Lamps, shoes, mats, everything that was once on the floor has been COMPLETELY BURNED TO NOTHINGNESS. The rest of the furniture slowly drowns into this sea of heat.

Jason and Mara stand on melting chairs, wincing at the eruption of lava barreling through their home.

JASON
 MARA!

The lava ERUPTS destroying a nightstand with a goofy lamp made to look like a pile of spaghetti.

MARA
 My lamp! DAMN IT! Jason, what the hell is happening?!?

Jason looks around wildly, the whole mood has changed. Now intense, adrenaline filled.

JASON
MARA!

MARA
What?!

JASON
You're seeing this too? Did that
wine have like hallucinogens or
something??

The broken flurgenberket coffee tables EXPLODES next to Mara.

MARA
THIS FEELS SUPER REAL TO ME!

Mara jumps to avoid it and lands onto a nearby stool,
unbalanced but ok. Closer to Jason now.

JASON
MARA!

MARA
Stop yelling my name unless you
have an idea!

JASON
How are we getting out of this??

MARA
Um! Yeah, ok. Lemme think!

Jason's chair starts to sink.

JASON
Ok! Umm, just hurry?

MARA
Ok, ok, ok. The other bottle had
like a- point to it right?

JASON
Yes! And?

MARA
The last one said something about-

JASON
-having sex more frequently?

MARA
No! What if each bottle- has like
its own lesson, and, and this one
said we had to use-

JASON
TEAMWORK!

MARA (CONT'D)
TEAMWORK! JUMP!

Jason jumps to Mara's coffee table barely avoiding his chair disappearing into the lava.

JASON (CONT'D)
Hi.

MARA
Hi.

JASON
Very smart.

MARA
Thank you.

JASON
You remember the rest?

Mara thinks. Jason smiles.

JASON (CONT'D)
"Effects from the bottle go away
upon completion from said bottle."

MARA
You paid attention.

JASON
Damn right, I did. So, we get the
bottle-

MARA
And CHUG.

They high five.

MARA (CONT'D)
Where's-

As soon as she finishes her sentence, Mara spots it.

Laying on top of the fridge, all the way in the kitchen, **The Floor is Lava** bottle rolls to the edge, about to fall.

Mara turns to Jason.

MARA (CONT'D)
Ok, teamwork it up, get to the
kitchen, drink fast.
(MORE)

MARA (CONT'D)
Get all this shit out of here
before it gets upstairs and eats my
new driver's license. I am not
going to the DMV again.

Jason registers something, a panicked look on his face.

JASON
Oh, man, I need to get to the
bedroom too. I have- something
there- not lava-proof.

Mara looks at him for a second.

MARA JASON (CONT'D)
Your signed Billy Joel vinyl? My signed Billy Joel vinyl.

Is Mara surprised? No, not really.

Mara jumps, landing on a table, it starts to tip forward.
Jason jumps on the other side, they balance each other.

MARA (CONT'D)
It's a seesaw. We can do a seesaw!
We can get ourselves to the fridge!

JASON
Let's do this people!

Mara always goes first, leading the way for them. Jason, on
the other hand, is taking his time to follow her. Together
they are almost a competent person.

MARA
Now step on the other end of the
table. There you go!

Jason is half in awe half terrified of the whole situation.

Mara, on the other hand, is looking for ways to speed up,
calculating her possibilities at every turn.

MARA (CONT'D)
Are you following me?

Jason just stares at the lava. The burning, hot, scary lava.

MARA (CONT'D)
BABE?

JASON
Yes. Yes! I'm coming!

Mara hops onto a coffee table, while Jason contemplates the path ahead of him.

MARA

Look at me, come on. Just jump.
We're not gonna make it at this
rate. We gotta go.

JASON

No, I know what I'm supposed to do,
I wanna make sure I time this
right.

MARA

We're gonna be late.

A BIG GUSH OF MAGMA ERUPTS between Mara and Jason. Mara gets more anxious every second that passes.

We see the bottle getting closer to the edge.

Jason still tries to figure out how he will make this jump.

Mara looks at the fridge: it's now or never. She *makes a decision*.

Jason jumps onto the back of Mara's coffee table, right as she JUMPS onto the couch, instead of waiting for Jason to be right behind her.

Making Jason lose all of his balance.

JASON

WOA-

A massive LAVA WAVE SWALLOWS JASON, THROWING HIM TO THE GROUND.

JASON (CONT'D)

-MAAAAARAAA!

And just like that...

MARA

(shocked)

Wait.

... Jason is gone.

MARA (CONT'D)

Jason?! JASON!! Shit! Fuck!

Mara can't believe what's happening. She looks around, the lava is surrounding the couch, the waves getting higher.

She takes a deep breath, *get your shit together.*

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mara jumps around *quickly* trying to avoid all of the lava. She looks up, she is about to get to the fridge.

Mara jumps... AND BARELY GETS TO THE FRIDGE. She latches on to it with a bear hug.

MARA
Come on, you can do this! Come on!

Mara climbs the fridge, but just before she grabs the bottle, it slips out of her fingers and falls...

...ALMOST IN SLOW MOTION, MARA GOES THE EXTRA MILE AND CATCHES IT BEFORE IT HITS THE LAVA.

Not thinking twice, MARA FINISHES THE BOTTLE IN ONE SIP.

MARA (CONT'D)
I did it? I did it. I DID!--

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mara hops off the counter, now holding the empty bottle.

Everything seems back to normal, we notice the couch has a small burnt spot but everything else looks okay.

Mara looks a bit sweaty, as if she just took a big bite of something really **SPICY**. Mara sniffles, sinuses open.

Mara comes over to a quietly crying Jason on the floor. She taps his shoulder.

MARA
Hey. It's okay, I think it's over?
Fuck my mouth is on fire.

Still shell-shocked, Jason slowly stands up. Also looking sweaty, spiced up.

*Until noted, Jason and Mara are now dealing with the **SPICE**. Sweating, sniffling, eyes watering, you've watched HOT ONES.*

Mara hugs him.

MARA (CONT'D)
 We did it! Did you see me? That was
 wild-

But Jason doesn't hug back, both feeling the heat.

MARA (CONT'D)
 What's wrong?

JASON	MARA (CONT'D)
You straight up let me fall.	No, I didn't!
(beat)	(beat)
Why is <u>my</u> mouth on fire?	Mine too!

Mara checks the back of the bottle.

MARA (CONT'D)
 (reading)
*Side effects may include fiery
 feelings?!*

Jason checks himself again, *the heat keeps building.*

JASON
 Ok, ok, ok, I need like-

SMASH CUT TO:

Jason and Mara stand by their fridge shoveling vanilla ice cream into their mouths, straight out of the carton.

MARA
 And this is supposed to help?

Jason nods mouth full. Swallows.

JASON
 Babe, you jumped ship.

MARA
 (mouth full)
 We were both moving!

JASON
 We had a system and then you just-
 You didn't wait for me!

MARA
 The bottle was about to fall!
 Another minute and we would've been
 late... again.

Jason stares at her for a second. Mara looks down, taking another scoop of vanilla.

JASON

Oh my god, is this about the party?

BEAT.

MARA

Ok fine, yes! It is! I needed you to show up on-

JASON

-Oh, I was there! You just dropped me into burning lava!

MARA

But you were late. You're always late!

JASON

You just let me die!

MARA

Jason. Tell me if I'm wrong but I feel like most times if I ask to be somewhere, you show up... late. You don't take it seriously. Which sucks.

(beat)

Obviously I didn't mean to fucking drop you into molten lava. I just-wanted you to be there at 7:30.

JASON

Mara. Floor is Lava is all about Teamwork ok? And when you leave behind your-

Jason's eyes go wide. Then he starts to laugh.

JASON (CONT'D)

Ooooooh shiiit.

MARA

(mouth full)

What?

JASON

This is part of it! The Game! This is all part of it! Holy shit! The challenge? The making us talk? Teaching us a lesson?

MARA

Are you serious?

JASON

Think about it. Look at how much it's giving us for what *should've* been a *very* simple game of floor is lava.

Mara stares at him, processing. Jason stares back, taking another bite of vanilla.

JASON (CONT'D)

What?

INT. ANTONIO AND KAITLYN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Soft music plays, Antonio reads a book, in bed. Kaitlyn dries her hair, just out of the shower. They are not conversing, but, clearly, they are at peace.

Just a mellow, happy couple enjoying a night in. The music STOPS as Kaitlyn's cellphone RINGS.

KAITLYN

(mellow, so mellow)

Heloooo?

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. JASON AND MARA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

MARA AND JASON ARE INTENSELY CLOSE TO THE PHONE, PISSED.

The spice factor has fully disappeared, back to normal. Jason still eats ice cream out of the carton.

Intercut as necessary.

MARA

KAITLYN, WHAT THE UTTER FUCK IS GOING ON?!

KAITLYN

Oh, hi girl!

JASON

DON'T "HI, GIRL" US, KAITLYN! Is there ayahuasca in here?

KAITLYN

Someone's in a crappy mood.

JASON
Yeah, you're right. Sorry.
That was rude, hi, sorry for
our- we're a bit-

MARA
-WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR SATANIC
GIFT??

KAITLYN
Oh, yeah! Isn't it fun?

MARA
FUN?

JASON
The sex one was pretty
amazing.

MARA (CONT'D)
Dude.
(beat)
Why are you still eating that?

Kaitlyn laughs, she reaches for Antonio's hand.

KAITLYN
We loved that game... It gave us so
much perspective.

Antonio blows Kaitlyn a kiss, mouths: *I love you.*

MARA
UHMM. I don't think- Kat we had
lava come out from our floor, and
then it like vanished, like was
that real or- What exactly is
happening?

KAITLYN
That one was sooo crazy, I was
literally jumping from couch to
couch. Toni was so close to
falling! Wasn't it crazy, baby?

Antonio tries to hold back tears.

KAITLYN
Baby?

ANTONIO
It was equally one of the most
thrilling and terrifying
experiences of my life. For a
second I thought I might lose you.

KAITLYN
Baby! Never!

Kaitlyn kisses him. Beat.

MARA

SO... you also had lava come out of your floor?

KAITLYN

(giggling)

Of course! The trick of the game is to commit, right?

Mara and Jason share a confused look.

MARA

We don't know?! Commit!?! We're asking you!

KAITLYN

Look, as a humble ex-player, the point of the game is to play with all of your heart-

ANTONIO

-And all the love you have for each other.

KAITLYN

Right, great point, baby! And all the love you have for each other. Not just half-ass it.

MARA

Ok, you're clearly not understanding what we're asking. We don't know if this is some sort of magical board game situation, or if we are literally going insane, but I'm telling you, this game is weird, and kind of creepy, and we want to know... if it's safe? Like, where did you even get this?

Beat. A long one at that.

KAITLYN

(super serious)

Mara?

MARA

What?!

KAITLYN

...Play to grow.

Mara and Jason share a frightened look.

KAITLYN (CONT'D)
Just play to grow, ok?

MARA
What does *that* mean?-

KAITLYN
-OK! Have fun you guys, we won't
interrupt anymore!

And with that Kaitlyn hangs up. ON Mara and Jason... WTF.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mara and Jason stand right in front of the wine/game box.
They look at each other and then back at the box.

JASON
Ok, stop. This thing- can't be
smarter than us.

MARA
I don't think anybody was saying
that. It's just a game.

JASON
Exactly, and we've been winning so
far. Two for two baby!

MARA
Did Katy and Toni seem off to you?
And nobody fell in their version?

JASON
For the record, Kaitlyn and Antonio
always seem a little off to me. You
gotta admit though. It's a little
cool.

MARA
Is it?

JASON
Yeah! Aren't you having fun? The
sex was amazing, and the lava was
cool, and... you're right I need to
work on my lateness.

Mara clocks this but-

MARA
But the game isn't responsible for
that, *we are*.

JASON

Yeah no, of course!... wanna maybe
do one more?

MARA

(laidback attempt)

Wanna maybe... do the "strategy
session"?

JASON

It's still early. Let's just do one
more!

(running out)

I'm just gonna pee super quick!

Mara stays in the room, frustrated. Staring at the box.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jason rushes in, he kneels down. Under his side of the bed,
is an old shoebox.

He opens it up, a kitchen towel gives way to a vinyl of **BILLY JOEL: THE STRANGER** signed by none other than Billy Joel.

*"Still rock and roll to me, keep playing, keep rocking" -
Billy Joel.*

Jason's happy it's okay... But he moves it aside.

And then we see what he was really worried about.

Inside is a small ring box. Jason checks over his shoulder
and then opens it, revealing an **ENGAGEMENT RING** inside.

He smiles, nodding to himself, glad it's ok. Jason hides it
again under the vinyl.

MARA (O.S.)

Jason?

JASON

Yeah?

MARA (O.S.)

I'm in the bathroom! And you're
not?

JASON

Be there in a second.

Jason hides the shoe box and runs out.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jason joins Mara who stands in front of the mirror.

JASON

Woah, did you spin already? Ms. "I don't wanna play anymore"?

Mara holds up another bottle. On the bottle: **Mirror.Mirror.**

The bottle is smaller than the other two, a light blue color with a reflective surface to it.

Mara divides the tiny amount of liquid between two tiny cups.

MARA

(reading the back)

Mirror Mirror on the wall, How do you like me most of all? Am I more pretty in blonde or brown? Does thinking about the perfect me make you go "Wow".

Mara looks at it, shrugs and then they both down the shots.

A beat, they check their surroundings... nothing's changed.

JASON

Are you sure we did it right?

MARA

How many ways are there to -HOLY SHIT.

Mara looks at herself in the mirror... She is now wearing a TIGHT BLUE SUN DRESS.

JASON

(happy)

WOAH you look great.

(off her reaction, acting angry)

I mean, woah, what is happening right now?

Jason is about to grab the bottle but Mara grabs it first.

MARA

"the perfect me"?

JASON

Let's not read into it-

MARA

No. No. I get it. This is what you wished I dressed like? Like a slutty kindergarten teacher?

JASON

This isn't slutty, this is you.

MARA

Shut up. I've never worn something like this.

JASON

Yeah, no, you totally did! I think Fourth of July? You, me, Brian, Drea, remember?

MARA

Ohh, yeah. That dress was red though.

OUT OF NOWHERE, Mara's outfit TURNS RED. She rediscovers the outfit, taking it in.

MARA (CONT'D)

God, I loved these pockets.

Jason smiles. She looks great, carefree.

JASON

Wow.

Mara looks to Jason. In a second, Jason now has shorter hair, and it's all in a gel haircut. More tamed, more elegant.

Jason tries to touch his majestic long hair, but when he can't, he just looks at himself in the mirror.

MARA

What?

JASON

I changed your outfit not something that defines you-

MARA

Babe-

JASON

You said you loved my long hair.

MARA

I do...

JASON

I would never change a cell of your body.

MARA (O.S.)

You want to say that again?

Jason turns around... the other version of Mara stares back at him, raising her eyebrows, now with notably BLONDER HAIR, it looks less adult, but somehow more confident and stylish.

MARA (CONT'D)

Real original, dude. I haven't had

my hair like that since-

(observes her hair)

-Probably whenever I was wearing this.

She gestures to the sundress.

MARA (CONT'D)

This is what you want? Spring break Mara?

JASON

Spring break- No. I just- I remember you being so-

MARA

Immature.

JASON

...joyful.

MARA

Joyful?

(figuring it out)

Ok, so, umm "*Mirror Mirror on the wall how do you like me most of all...* It seems like you liked me most of all two years ago. Awesome. Very cool.

They both laugh to dull the awkwardness, it doesn't work.

JASON

You know that's not what I was saying-

MARA

I- yeah, no, I was kidding. I can obviously wear a sundress occasionally if that's what it takes.

JASON
 Things were just sorta... easier?
 Like so much was happening, ya
 know?

Mara turns, listening. Jason notices something else.

MARA No, I do and-	JASON (CONT'D) Mara. (beat) Did you make my penis bigger?
-----------------------	--

MARA (CONT'D) What? No? I-	
-------------------------------	--

JASON (feeling himself) Yeah no, it's definitely a little bigger. Do I... Do I not satisfy you?	
---	--

MARA Woah. That's an intense question. I love your dick, I've never like- like one wonders, you know? What if it was like- a little bigger. Like not a lot! I just thought about for two seconds!	
---	--

JASON (faking a smile) Yeah, no, I get it.	
--	--

Mara looks to the mirror. Cocky, confident Mirror Jason
 flashes a smile and some finger guns.

MARA Ok, definitely don't that. But- look at yourself, the hair, the wardrobe, just some minor... changes and you could be like a... better version- Dick size or not.	
---	--

Jason looks at his reflection, observing the new him, and
 then looks back to Mara.

MARA (CONT'D) What?	
------------------------	--

JASON It's just- That guy- (gestures to the mirror) -That's never been me.	
---	--

MARA
But it could be.

Jason doesn't know how to take this, he doesn't say anything. He walks out.

MARA (CONT'D)
Jay, come on! I was just-

Mara sees her reflection one more time. Sundress Mara is *really beaming*. Mara looks at her closer:

When was the last time I was that happy?

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mara walks in holding the nearly empty bottle. She comes over to Jason who stands by the sink.

MARA
Jason? I was just playing.

JASON
Yeah, I get it. I get the lesson or whatever. I might just crash though. My head kinda hurts anyway.

Mara hides her disappointment.

MARA
What about getting into a better headspace... to talk? Everything we said?

JASON
Oh! Yeah. Just like- in the morning?

Mara looks away. Pissed.

JASON (CONT'D)
Is that ok?
(beat)
Oh! Gimme that.

Jason grabs the bottle and POURS the remainders out of **Mirror**. **Mirror** in the sink.

JASON (CONT'D)
Yaaay. We finished the bottle, so much fun. So many lessons. Thanks game! I'm going to bed.

MARA

Jason?

Jason turns around. They don't notice it yet but we can see the Game Spinner start to gently move ON ITS OWN.

MARA (CONT'D)

Seriously?

JASON

What? We said we'd take the edge off first, not make each other feel like shit.

MARA

How did I make you feel like shit?

The Spinner starts to move slightly faster, round and round.

JASON

Why do we have to talk tonight?
What's up? Do you have something you need to say to me?

Mara doesn't say anything.

JASON (CONT'D)

(gestures back)

What was that? Your perfect version of me is one that just like doesn't exist?? Is the whole point of tonight to just *keep* making me feel bad about myself?

MARA

(under her breath)

Your perfect version of me is from two years ago.

The spinner is really moving now. The lights flicker, ever so slightly. Jason and Mara still don't notice.

JASON

Oh! Sorry for thinking of a time in our lives when things were great!
At least my version of you existed.

Mara finally notices the lights, creped out.

MARA

Jason-

JASON

I'm not doing this tonight.

Jason steps out, leaving Mara alone.

The lights FLICKER AGAIN. **Harder this time.**

Out of nowhere: Jason seemingly reappears in the kitchen again, right behind Mara.

Mara turns around, confused. Jason looks around: *What just happened?*

MARA

I thought you were going to bed.

JASON

I... was? I opened the door- I was in our bedroom.

Jason walks out of the room again. We stay on Mara-

-Like magic, within a second of leaving Jason reappears in the kitchen, directly behind Mara. They look at each other.

JASON (CONT'D)

THE FUCK IS HAPPENING-

Mara runs out, determined. But, within a second of leaving, she simply teleports back to the kitchen.

MARA

What is this?!!

The Spinner is going batshit crazy.

Mara charges the doorway, repeating this leaving and reappearing in a loop 3, 4, 5 times in a row. *Freaky.*

JASON

This has to be part of it.

Jason grabs the wine/game box. **The Spinner finally slows.**

JASON (CONT'D)

Oh fuck you!

A note, previously blank, BEGINS WRITING A NEW MESSAGE BY ITSELF. Like something out of Harry Potter, truly.

Mara picks up the note.

MARA

(reading)

Please don't curse. Cursing won't help you, Jason.

Mara stares at the note, at the very bottom, NEW TEXT APPEARS:

Don't leave for tomorrow what you can do today.

Chills. Jason and Mara look at each other.

SMASH TO BLACK.

Total Darkness.

Suddenly a massive spotlight illuminates Jason and Mara.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jason and Mara are now standing in their dark living room.

MARA
What's happening?

POP! Another spotlight turns on. Illuminating Jason's bright red keyboard, on which rests a new fresh bottle. **POP!** The cork flies off it.

The Spinner, also now resting on the keyboard, settles on a brightly colored section: **Karaoke Night.**

*Note: Before we go too far, there will be an original song written for the film but for now, we'll use a couple cues to give a sense of tone and style. As well as some lyrics we deemed **IMPORTANT**.*

All singing is in italics.

POP! A third spotlight turns on. Three people all dressed the same appear on the stairs. A beat kicks in, catchy.

The three people, we'll call: **GREEK CHORUS** for now, but you can also think of them as Crystal, Ronnette, and Chiffon from *Little Shop of Horrors*. They sing all their dialogue.

GREEK CHORUS
La La La La. La. La La La.

A bass and kick drum come in. The Greek Chorus begin to sway side to side, surprisingly super in time.

GC #1
Love is patient! Love is kind!

GREEK CHORUS
A commitment!

GC #2

*When a cheater enters the game. It
is a warning!*

GREEK CHORUS

Mmmhmm.

GC #3

*A warning to the other players
their commitment isn't valued.*

GC #2

Can you believe that?

GC #1

Can you believe that?

The three of them face each other. And then in perfect
harmony and unison, sing:

GREEK CHORUS

*Moving forward, commitment won't be
a choice, it's a privilege!*

Mara and Jason exchange looks. They look down, they are now
holding full wine glasses. The glasses are being pulled
together against Jason and Mara's will.

JASON

Babe?

CLINK! The glasses touch. **BLOOP.** Mara and Jason teleport.

Jason now sits behind his bright red keyboard. Mara stands in
front of it. Their glasses have less wine in them.

The two look absolutely baffled, and somewhat terrified.

MARA

(singing)

The game thinks you cheated.

(realization)

Wait. Why am I singing?

GREEK CHORUS

Not in control anymore!

JASON

(singing)

I only poured the bottle out!

(realization)

*I'm singing! You're singing! Why
can't we stop singing?!*

GREEK CHORUS

Not in control anymore!

MARA
The hell is this bottle? Are we stuck in this game? Jason, please answer!

JASON
I'm experiencing this at the same time as you.

GREEK CHORUS
ALLOW US TO EXPLAIN!!

Mara and Jason look up to the Greek Chorus.

GC #2
 Jesus. Is this their first time doing this?

GREEK CHORUS
One night only have no fear, a spontaneous musical you will hear. As you and your lover are swept away, sing every word of the song your soul yearns to hear.

MARA
 Fuck. It's a musical.

GREEK CHORUS
Describe the little things! The things you love, the things you don't. All of which will show you, just how perfect your partner is... or maybe it won't.

Almost instantly things feel lighter. Like taking a drag of a joint, having that second glass of wine, or waking up with that first sip of coffee, the mood shifts drastically.

Jason and Mara find themselves grooving along to the beat with the Greek Chorus, whether they want to or not.

Jason, still at his keyboard, finds his hands playing something in time with the Greek Chorus' song.

GREEK CHORUS (CONT'D)
The little things!

Jason's piano playing has improved significantly since we've seen him last, supernaturally so. He seems to be creating an original catchy melody, layering on top of:

GREEK CHORUS (CONT'D)
The things you love, the things you don't.

Jason looks up at Mara who looks just as surprised.

GREEK CHORUS (CONT'D)

The little thiiiiings! The things
you love, the things you don't. All
of which will show you, just how
perfect your partner is!

GC #2

...or maybe it won't.

GC #1

Jenny. Stop.

POOF! With an explosion of confetti **the GREEK CHORUS disappears!** But Jason doesn't stop playing.

Instead doubling down, adding to the melody, upbeat and jazzy. His hands effortlessly moving down the piano.

For reference, something with the tone of: **THE FEELING** by *Sammy Rae & The Friends* or **THE HEADWINDS** by *The Family Crest* (both are rad).

With another explosion of confetti Jason now wears a RED blazer, and tie; he REALLY looks the part. He starts to sing. It's pretty damn good.

JASON

*You never close the gate, you're
never ever late, you're always
exactly who you're supposed to be.
And these are just some of the
little things I love about you.*

Jason suddenly kicks the chair behind him, standing up and playing more passionately. We hear a full brass section backing him up.

Out of nowhere, the lighting gets even more colorful, as if there's a concert style lighting grid in their ceiling.

POOF! Another explosion of confetti transforms Mara, now in a gorgeous BLUE dress.

Without really wanting to, **MARA BURSTS INTO SONG.** Harmonizing with Jason. Who looks up, impressed.

MARA

*You're always kinda late and a bit
of a goof but you're my kind of
goof. You're dorky, sweet, and kind
and your end of day massages are
the stuff of legend. And these are
just the little things I love about
you.*

The solo verses give way to a duet, with Jason and Mara countering each other's lyrics.

JASON
The little things.

MARA (CONT'D)
The little things.

Jason stands and walks away from the piano (**which keeps playing on its own**). The singing gives way to dancing:

Jason grabs Mara and leads them in a complicated and tightly choreographed routine. Which magically, they both know by heart, surprising themselves. They sing as they dance.

JASON (CONT'D)
I can honestly say that you stun me. Your hustle, your drive, your passion's contagious.

MARA
You're cozy and comfortable, lazy Saturdays are fun, and the way you calm me down, the surprise dark chocolates you always leave around.

JASON
The little things.

MARA (CONT'D)
The little things.

Jason doubles down. He dances towards her with a little flourish and spin-

He soft-shoe taps one pattern with his feet.

JASON (CONT'D)
And every time I think of you, I get a big old smile on my face. I know a love like ours will last forever. And it's all because the little things! There's nothing we can't do as long as we are together.

Mara seems fazed if only for a second. She shakes her finger and walks backwards, then soft-shoes out her own pattern-

MARA
The little things.

JASON (CONT'D)
The little things that show me... just how wonderful you are.

Every time Jason's lyrics mention how they are meant to be together and how perfect Mara is, Mara looks away from Jason, conflicted.

Almost unable to swallow something. Trying to snap out of it.

Jason, not noticing the look of doubt, tap dances away with a spin, focusing on the dance and song.

JASON (CONT'D)

The way you pick hotels, the insane levels of research behind your water bottle purchases. Your determination, your kindness, you never giving up.

MARA

The way you sneak Wetzel's pretzels into the movies... is greasy but delicious.

JASON

The ease in which you whip up macarons is downright suspicious.

We are not songwriters.

The dancing really takes the spotlight. Whether comparing them to John Travolta and Olivia Newton John or Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, it's just pure musical romantic magic.

If only for a moment, Mara gets caught up, enjoying herself.

MARA

And every time I think of you-

JASON

Every time.

MARA

Every time I think of you-

JASON

Every single time.

MARA

It's all about the little things!

-the brass behind them builds and builds us into a colorful climax. The dance growing more and more involved, as the music crescendos:

JASON

And every time I think of the little things.

MARA

Every time.

JASON

Every time I think of the little things.

MARA

Every single time.

JASON

It makes me more than sure, that you're the love of my life.

As they are both dancing and singing, we catch Mara staring at Jason. Her smile is fading, suddenly-

EVERYTHING PAUSES. Jason, the lights, the brass, **all frozen.**

A single spotlight hits Mara. She pauses, then lets it out.

MARA

I'm not really sure, and everyone we know says it gets much easier. The little things, lead to the bigger and bigger things. The kinds of the things where you can never be sure, if it's for worse or it's for better. Not really a laughin' matter. I feel insecure. I feel not so sure, I feel...

She trails off. We push in on Mara, through a single tear.

MARA (CONT'D)

Every time... I think of you, of the little things... What if... They aren't enough.

Mara walks over to a still frozen Jason, still singing.

MARA (CONT'D)

What if we aren't turning out good, aren't gonna be ok... even with... the little things.

Jason unfreezes, not hearing any of what Mara just sang.

Instead he is finishing the song. Dancing over to Mara, holding their glasses of wine.

JASON

Every time I think of the little things.

MARA

Every single time.

JASON
It just reminds me.

MARA
Reminds me...

JASON
That you are...

Jason leaves the final word for Mara. But she doesn't say it.

She just stares at him. Nostalgic, a bit sad even.

Jason looks at her, smiley, hopeful.

An awkward MUSIC-LESS beat (*that doesn't last more than a second*) fills the room.

But before things get too uncomfortable, Mara puts on a smile and points right back at Jason so he can have the big solo!

Jason smiles, not understanding what just happened.

JASON (CONT'D)
 the love of my life!

JASON (CONT'D)	MARA
And it's all because of the	And it's all because of the
LITTLE THINGS!!	LITTLE THINGS!!

CLINK!

The two clink their glasses in time to the music, and down the last of the wine.

PAAAAAM PUM! The music stops.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

BLOOP. Jason and Mara teleport back in their kitchen, dressed the way they were before.

The house feels small and normally lit again. They stare at each other, breathing heavily. They crack up at the insanity of what that was.

Mara looks down at the empty glass in her hands, quickly wiping the smallest of tears away from her eyes.

JASON
 Hey-hey, are you okay?

MARA

Oh, yeah!

JASON

Something happen?

MARA

No! No. I'm fine, I'm good, that was just... insane.

Jason looks at her.

JASON

No definitely, you just seem like... not ok?

MARA

(looking down)

I'm good, please stop asking me, every time you ask, I get less fine.

Jason looks away.

JASON

Ok! Ok. Sorry! I just-

POP! A massive explosion of a cork leaving its bottle.

Jason looks to the counter. Standing on top of the wooden wine/game box, a fresh bottle. Two glasses. Already poured. Waiting for them.

With a series of CLICKING sounds we see the spinner lands on a small brightly colored section: **FUTURE PLANNING**.

Jason turns, but Mara is gone.

JASON (CONT'D)

Mara? Mara!

Jason cautiously picks up the bottle. It's a light red wine.

The bottle has a pattern of checked out boxes around it, the words **FUTURE PLANNING** written in thick red font.

JASON (CONT'D)

Mara!

(reading)

Build a picture, glance ahead, to all the futures in your head. As you walk into a room, the future planned for you will bloom.

BOOM. The kitchen doorway lights up. Exuding a weird GLOW. As if a bright star was exploding just on the other side.

JASON (CONT'D)
Oh fantastic! More spooky shit.

Jason contemplates the door, calls out again.

JASON (CONT'D)
Mara!

He gently pushes it open. Immediately THE BRIGHTEST of lights covers his body. He takes a deep breath-

JASON (CONT'D)
Mara?

-and walks through it.

I/E. RATTY TOUR BUS - BATHROOM - NIGHT

WHAM! Jason slams his head into a tight wall of a bathroom.

JASON
What the fuck!

Jason feels around in the dark and finds a light switch, illuminating the area.

He's in a tiny bathroom on a tour bus, finding himself into the mirror.

After only a minute of not seeing him, Jason is older.

He looks different. Now 36, He has a full beard, and slightly shorter hair that's slicked back in a messy way.

Jason discovers himself. The "aged" him in the mirror.

JASON (CONT'D)
What the fu-

KNOCK KNOCK! Jason jumps, someone's trying to use the can.

I/E. RATTY TOUR BUS - NIGHT

Jason exits into a messy tour bus main cabin.

Luxurious is the farthest thing from it. Clothes, beer cans, equipment, and just a general disorder envelopes the bus.

Seemingly another band member rushes past him into the lavatory.

A different band member we'll call him **PERCY** [32, ponytail] sits on a FaceTime with his daughter, **LIV** [6, adorable].

PERCY
Gotta go in just a second Livy.
Have a good night ok? Brush your teeth!

Jason stares, processing. He looks outside. It's dark, they are in the middle of nowhere.

Percy says goodbye to Chloe, hanging up, wipes a quick tear. Jason smiles kindly at him.

JASON
Oof.

PERCY
Kids.
(beat)
Just six more weeks right?

Jason nods, still processing.

JASON
Right. Umm any idea how-

PERCY
-long till Albuquerque? At least a few hours.

Jason watches the dark road out the window, he plops down next to Percy, he notices a poster on the wall.

A poster for **The Fuzzy Bottoms**. Jason, Percy, and three other dudes pose on a beach, with the TOUR DATES at the bottom of the poster.

Jason is not thrilled by that image.

JASON
So.. this tour... six more weeks?

PERCY
Yeah brother. That's the gig.

Jason looks around the bus, beginning to sweat.

JASON
And if I wanted to... get off?

Percy looks up at him, breaks a smile.

PERCY
Dude you're fuckin hilarious. I'd
get some sleep.

Jason sits down on his creaky bottom bunk bed. *Wishing he was't here.*

He lays back, thinking. All of a sudden the SAME GLOW returns, enveloping the bunk bed and sucking Jason into it-

JASON
Woah! Woah! WOOOOAHH!

Over the glow we hear the simple sounds of the Spinner CLICK CLICK CLICKING us back to:

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

With a series of CLICKING sounds the spinner lands on a small brightly colored section: **FUTURE PLANNING.**

Mara comes over to the box and spinner. Jason is gone.

MARA
Jason?

Standing on top of the wooden wine/game box, a fresh bottle. Two glasses. Already poured. Waiting for them.

MARA (CONT'D)
Jason?! This better be part of it.

Mara sees a note attached to the bottle. It reads:

It totally is. Now you're getting the hang of this.

MARA (CONT'D)
Great.

Mara picks up the bottle, scans the back.

MARA (CONT'D)
(reading)
Planned for you?

BOOM. The kitchen door lights up. Exuding that same weird GLOW. As if a bright star was exploding on the other side.

Mara's turn now.

Mara approaches the door, tries to take a glimpse at what's happening on the other side, but it's useless. She gets away from the door, not interested in entering...

MARA (CONT'D)
Oh, fuck off-

...Only to immediately come back, reluctantly powering through.

INT. BUSY EASTSIDE RESTURANT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The sounds of a busy kitchen fade in as Mara emerges from a glowing doorway into a professional efficient kitchen.

Mara catches her reflection and GASPS. **SHE'S AGED.**

MARA
Holy...

Now 36, Mara's hair is slightly shorter, she wears a chef's jacket. It's not super noticeable but there is a bit more adult of a vibe.

MARA (CONT'D)
Jason?

LIV
Behind! Evening Chef!

MARA
Evening.

Mara takes it all in. The word *professional* doesn't do it justice. Everyone working in tandem, calm, collected, and the dishes going out couldn't look more incredible.

Through the pass, Mara catches a glimpse of what looks like a TRENDY east side eatery. Customers laugh, eat, and enjoy.

MARA (CONT'D)
Oh wow-

Next to the sign several framed articles about Mara and the restaurant: "*a fresh new voice in the culinary game.*"

LIV [32, Sous Chef] interrupts her.

LIV
Chef, Taste this?

Liv shoves a spoon of something into Mara's mouth. Mara tastes it. **Damn.**

MARA
 That's bomb.
 (beat)
 Maybe more tarragon?

Liv's eyes light up, nods enthusiastically. Mara follows her back to the kitchen. Jumping in on the line, Mara leads her team with precision.

Cooking, tasting, expediting, cranking out dish after glorious dish. *She's finally at the place she wants to be.*

As they work through the next order. Mara turns to Liv.

MARA (CONT'D)
 Hey umm-

LIV
 Chef I promise you. It's amazing. I know we've been working and stressing, and workshopping. But the menu is beyond incredible. We are booked through the next three months. You are more than allowed to enjoy this.

MARA
 I can see why I hired you.

Mara smiles, then gets a weird look on her face.

LIV
 Shit. Again?

Mara makes a *huh?* face and then dry heaves. Liv has a bucket ready. Mara grabs it, walks away from her station and *VOMITS.*

INT. BUSY EASTSIDE RESTURANT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mara sits on the toilet. She holds **a positive pregnancy test.** Her hands are shaking.

MARA
 Fuck.

A knock at the door.

LIV
 Everything ok chef?

MARA
 Fine! Be out in a second!

Mara stands up and looks at herself in the mirror, then back the to **positive pregnancy test. Fuck.**

She goes to turn the door handle and as she opens it, Mara is instantly engrossed by the same GLOWING BRIGHT LIGHT.

MARA (CONT'D)
No! No wait!

She gets *almost* pulled into it, against her will. **Gone.**

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

Mara finds herself in a pitch dark room. A single lamp lights the unknown space. Suddenly another GLOW announces the arrival of Jason. Mara comes cautiously towards him.

As they step into the light, we get a better look at them.

MARA
Jason?

Jason now 41, turns to Mara now 40.

JASON
Mara?

The two embrace.

JASON (CONT'D)
Is it actually you?

Mara looks up at him.

MARA
Same old Mara.

Jason laughs. They step back, taking each other in.

Jason's tummy is a little bigger but nothing bad (yet). His hairline is surprisingly consistent. *Good for you Jason.*

Mara sports a shorter haircut. She still wears something stylish but it's definitely a mix of comfort and style.

She runs her hands through the slight patches of grey in Jason's beard. *Wow.* Jason notices the bags under Mara's eyes.

MARA (CONT'D)
I saw the restaurant.

JASON
Of course you did. Was it
incredible?

MARA
It was amazing. I just-

JASON
-Babe, that's all like a few years
away max. All your hard work.

MARA
How was your tour?

JASON
...Long.

MARA
What do you mean?

JASON
Just long- eight weeks away from
home. I don't know- I don't think I
want to do that. And I definitely
wouldn't want to be away from you
and-

MARA
-And who?

SAMMY
Mom?

Suddenly all lights in the room come up, *as if on cue*.

Mara and Jason's eyes adjust, squinting at their new
surroundings. Toys everywhere, the walls painted like a sky,
and a race car bed in the corner.

MARA
Whose room is this?

JASON
It's Sammy's room. SAMMY
It's my room.

Jason kneels down, right next to **SAM** [5, a very real small
kid with very real small clothes, *Mara and Jason's son*].

JASON (CONT'D)
That's right.

Jason looks at his son, emotional, *his dream*.

JASON (CONT'D)
Whatcha playing with buddy?

SAMMY
Hot wheels!

JASON
Can I play too?

SAMMY
Be the yellow car!

Sammy hands him a little toy car, Jason races his car with Sammy's, letting him win, making sounds with his mouth.

Sammy wins, then looks up at Mara, studying her.

Mara breathes in and out looking around the room, suddenly feeling claustrophobic.

SAMMY (CONT'D)
What's wrong, mommy?

MARA
I- huh? Is he? How? um-

JASON
-Hey, buddy why don't you do
another lap without me?

Sammy excitedly races his cars around the hot wheels track.

JASON (CONT'D)
You ok?

Mara still examines the room, her brain spiraling.

MARA
I- I need a second.

She looks to Sammy playing with his toys. She walks over to him. From behind her back she pulls out giant headphones.

JASON
Where did you-?

MARA
It's the future, I'm pretty sure
we'll own headphones.
(to Sammy)
Wanna... put these on... for mom?

Sammy nods absentmindedly, puts them on and keeps playing.

Mara takes Jason to the other side of the room, in a corner.

MARA (CONT'D)
(hushed)
I don't think this is a good idea.

JASON
What do you mean?

MARA
I- I don't know. This is a lot.
-all of it, just doesn't seem...
doable?

JASON
Ok that's... *your* version.

Jason looks to Sammy still playing with his cars.

JASON (CONT'D)
You do understand this wouldn't be
happening all in one night in real
life, right? This is down the road
when we are both... stable.

MARA
I just- I don't know- I don't know
if I could do all of this... *for
real*.

Jason paces, upset. Mara stares down.

JASON
You told me you *also* wanted kids.

MARA
I do! I did. I- I just don't really
love where my life is *right now*,
and to bring a kid into all of it
feels... wrong.

Jason stares in disbelief. Hurt. Mara holds back tears.

JASON
I don't really know what to say to
that.

MARA
You're just- designing this dream
life for us- for me, with this
perfect successful restaurant but
you didn't account for me actually
having to work in it?

(MORE)

MARA (CONT'D)

I'd be there at least 14 hours a day starting out- Have you thought about who's gonna actually be there for him?

JASON

But this isn't now. This is in the future.

MARA

Exactly! Who knows what the future is going to be like? Who knows where you and I will be? Who knows anything that's going to happen? The future's not- I'm not-

(beat, trying again)

I thought that by now I wouldn't be such a screw up, yet here we are.

Sammy runs and hugs Jason's leg. Jason just stares at him. Sammy hands them each a wine glass.

MARA (CONT'D)

(softly)

My parents thought they could do it. And I grew up barely seeing my mom, and letting her sleep in on weekends. I don't wanna do that to my kids.

JASON

-My parents never-

(heartbroken, looking at Sammy)

I'm just saying that I think we could figure things out.

BOOM. The GLOW returns with a vengeance, enveloping the room.

Mara holds up her glass of wine, toasts to Jason. She drinks her glass, and walks out through the GLOWING doorway.

Jason downs his wine, looks to Sammy one last time.

SAMMY

Dad?

JASON

I'll be right back bud.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

...And we're back to normal.

Jason, 30 again, steps through a glowing kitchen door, still holding his empty wine glass, processing those last years.

Mara, now 29 again, sits on the counter shaken up, feeling guilty and not knowing why.

They both look at each other but immediately look away the moment they make eye contact. Awkward, unresolved.

MARA
I need a minute.

We HEAR **CLICKING**, the SPINNER SLOWLY STARTING TO MOVE.

Jason says nothing, looking towards the door they came out of. He still holds a little YELLOW Hot-Wheels car.

Mara notices the **CLICKING** of the Spinner, louder, faster.

MARA (CONT'D)
I said I need a minute.

JASON
That's not me.

The spinner starts to move faster, the clicking of it getting **LOUDER**. Lights flickering, faster and faster. Both notice.

POP! They both look to the counter. Sure enough, a fresh tiny bottle, already poured into a single shot glass, awaits them.

Mara walks over to the counter.

JASON (CONT'D)
What did it land on?

Mara doesn't say anything. Hands the bottle to Jason.

The bottle reads: **YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE**. Jason regards the bottle with proper horror.

Mara holds the shot in her hands, then DOWNS it.

JASON (CONT'D)
What are you doing?! We don't even
know what this is yet.

MARA
As if that's been helpful so far.

DING DONG. *The doorbell rings.*

JASON
That can't be good.

Jason holds the bottle, letting a single goosebump travel around his body.

JASON (CONT'D)
(reading)
*"Whoever drinks will summon their
worst nightmare... Be ready..."*

DING DONG. Another ring. *Summoning them.*

JASON (CONT'D)
*Be honest, otherwise there's no
hope for you.*

DING DONG. *Seriously guys get the door.*

Mara finally goes to open the door.

MARA
FUCK.

We stay on Mara for a second, her absent stare abruptly melting into pure, unmistakable FEAR.

JASON (O.C.)
What is it? Mara, what is it?

Standing right in front of Mara, **ASHBY ST. CLAIRE** (*the cocky asshole we met at Kaitlyn and Antonio's engagement party*) flashes an equally cocky smile.

ASHBY
...Finally.

Jason comes to the door.

JASON
This is why you need to close the gate.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mara holds a bag of chips and looks around for a plate.

JASON
How can you not know?

MARA

I just don't. We don't even know if him being here is related to this piece-of-shit game.

JASON

Oh, we know. You drank a bottle called "your worst nightmare," and then this asshole appeared in our door! Are you seriously telling me you don't think this is related?

Ashby sits in the living room rather underwhelmed, cool as a motherfucking cucumber. Mara is too busy looking for a plate.

JASON (CONT'D)

What are you looking for?

MARA

Some freaking plates, so that douchebag doesn't dare to judge my snacking abilities!

Mara finds one and pulls it out but it slips out of her hands and SHATTERS on the ground.

MARA (CONT'D)

FUCK!

Jason approaches her, trying to be supportive. It's awkward.

JASON

Hey, uh, It's okay.

MARA

It really isn't.

JASON

I know. I know it isn't. But none of that has been real... right?

MARA

It all *feels* pretty real.

JASON

Well, it can't be.

Jason makes sure to catch Mara's overwhelmed eye-line.

JASON (CONT'D)

We can't let it be real.

Mara can't believe what she is hearing. She hugs Jason.

JASON (CONT'D)
That? Back there? That's not how
our story ends.
(beat)
But I can't play this game and also
be fighting with you.

Mara looks at him, he's really trying. She's moved.

MARA
You're right.

JASON
We will talk about anything and
everything you want- and I want...
as soon as we beat this thing.
(beat)
and then you're gonna have a long
conversation with Kaitlyn about
appropriate goodie bag gifts.

Mara laughs, tries to focus.

MARA
Super fair. I can- we can do this.

ASHBY (O.S.)
Do you have anything resembling a
snack back there, dear?

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mara and Jason sit across Ashby... The three of them holding
each other's stare. The silence is deafening.

ASHBY
O-KAY! If you guys are done with
the obligatory pleasantries, why
don't we begin?

Out of nowhere, Ashby puts a SUITCASE on the table.

JASON
Yeah, I'm pretty sure he's part of
it.

Laughing, Ashby gets THREE SHOT GLASSES out of his briefcase,
SEVERAL PRINTED CUE CARDS like ones from a gameshow, and DICE
that have two initials across its 6 faces: **M or J**.

In the back of the cue cards it reads:

MARA
 Your Worst Nightmare
 gameshow?

ASHBY
 YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE
 GAMESHOW!

ASHBY (CONT'D)
 The game's quite easy, really. Have
 you two lovebirds ever played
 "Never Have I Ever"?

Mara and Jason nod silently.

ASHBY (CONT'D)
 Ah, shame then, because this is an
 entirely different game.

JASON
 Why would you bring it up then?
 Also, can you get your feet off the
 coffee table?

Ashby gently removes his feet from the coffee table.

ASHBY
 Here's how this one's going to play
 out. I'll ask a question and once
 you answer truthfully, you can
 drink.

MARA
 Drink?

Ashby takes out a new, BIGGER, FULLER BOTTLE OF **YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE**.

MARA (CONT'D)
 I already drank that!

ASHBY
 Oh, that was just the way to start
 the game, mamacita. Now the real
fun can begin! We'll tap into your
 wildest, most frightening, and
 heart-wrenching fears,
 humiliations, and traumas.

Jason sees Mara and calms himself, for her.

JASON
 How do we beat you?

ASHBY
 Beat me? Champ, we're all on the
 same team.

Ashby pours the bottle into the shot glasses without losing eye contact with Mara. She's petrified by his every move.

ASHBY (CONT'D)
Right, Mara?

Mara, avoids Ashby's gaze. Jason notices this.

Cavalier as always, Ashby winks and throws the DICE... It lands on a **J**.

JASON
"J" as in Jason, right? So it's my turn?

ASHBY
It's "J" as in "Jagoff," but yeah, we can just call it your turn.

Ashby smiles, takes a card, and reads eloquently:

ASHBY (CONT'D)
Jason, Jason, Jason, ready for your truth?
(beat)
What's the reason Mara got into cooking?

JASON
Oh! For real? MARA
Are you serious?

JASON (CONT'D)
I was expecting something hard.

ASHBY
Go on then.

JASON
Ok. Mara is a nurturing soul, she loves bringing smiles to people's faces through her food. It's like a piece of her. Great food, great conversation, great night, that sort of thing.

Jason reaches for the shot but Ashby moves it away from him.

ASHBY
Waa waaaaa.

JASON
What?

Jason looks at Mara.

ASHBY

Well, the real reason she got into cooking occurred on June 14th 1998. Mara was visiting family, her mother working that weekend, *as usual*. And her dear sweet grandfather Anatoly took her out of his little boat into Tomales Bay and showed her his friend's oyster farm. He leaned over the side of the boat, reached down until his head nearly disappeared underwater, and came up holding a single silt-encrusted oyster. He popped it open and handed it to her... Mara tilted the shell back into her mouth and with one bite and a slurp, wolfed it down. She called it an awakening. No more hiding, just exploration and pleasure in food.

Jason stares in shock at Ashby.

MARA

He, uh- yeah, that's right.

ASHBY

How could you not know that story, buddy?

JASON

I do know it! I think- Also like- it's not *one* memory that makes you love what you love? That was a trick!

ASHBY

No, no, but in this case, it is *one* highly specific memory. So are you saying, Mara never confided in you that particular story?

JASON

I mean- not with so much detail, I guess?

MARA

-I did. But it's ok.. We, uh. Let's just keep going. It's ok.

JASON

I'm sorry, I just didn't remember that being like the whole reason you-

MARA

Jay, it's fine. It was important to
me and you didn't remember-

JASON

-This is all part of it! He wants
us to fight! Also he is just a
bottle demon, how could he not know
that?

ASHBY

Actually I do know that, cowboy.
Like, the real me.

JASON

What?

MARA

We were going to open a restaurant
together... Ashby likes knowing
everything about his chefs.

ASHBY

Everything.

MARA

Lovin' Touchin' Squeezin' by
Journey, by the way.

ASHBY

Beg your pardon?

MARA

That's the song that made him
seriously consider music as a
career.

Jason sighs.

MARA (CONT'D)

You told me that after our second
date, that sunset in Barsndall.

JASON

I do remember your story! I just-
I'm trying to finish this fucking
game while also having to deal with
this imaginary prick, who for some
reason won't get his feet off our
fucking coffee table!

Ashby once again takes his feet off the coffee table.

ASHBY
Jesus...

Ashby plays with the dice.

ASHBY (CONT'D)
Ready for round two?

JASON
How many rounds are there?

ASHBY
As many as we need.

Ashby once again stares at Mara.

MARA
What?

ASHBY
Your turn.

MARA
How do you- What if the dice rolls
another J?

Ashby rolls the dice it lands on an "M."

MARA (CONT'D)
Damn it.

ASHBY
Mara: Truth or dare.

MARA
Oh, uhm dare?

ASHBY
Cute, but unfortunately this isn't
that *kind* of game.

MARA
You were the one who asked-

ASHBY
-Just to see your reaction! Curious
that in a game as dangerous as this
you would choose *dare* instead of
answering the simplest of
questions.

MARA
Oh, shut up.

JASON
That is kind of *weird*.

ASHBY

Mara... let's put our cards on the table. You're not happy.

DAMN.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

Again, not a question. Not even a deduction, really. Just a fact.

MARA

That's not true.

ASHBY

Oh my god! Is this the wrong house? Are you not Mara Domont? Have I been misreading your *body language*?

Mara shifts in her seat.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

I guess I have- So you do feel fulfilled, then? Happy?

MARA

That's your question? Am I fulfilled? Are we in therapy?

ASHBY

Not how therapy works. But no, my real question to you is: *Where do you think everything went wrong?*

Huh. Not what Mara was expecting. She tries to hide the growing anxiety, the fear.

JASON

Ok, take it down a notch, asshole.

ASHBY

I feel like you have something, some memory, coming to mind?

MARA

No- there's not like one-

ASHBY

Ok, well I can *obviously* see it. I'm part of the game.

Mara sighs, she rubs her eyes.

MARA

I... really wanted that job.

ASHBY

I bet.

MARA

I just- it felt like I had it. Like all the work was leading to something. And then I wasn't chosen- You didn't want me to lead your kitch-

ASHBY

-Hey hey hey. We are here to talk about why things went wrong.

JASON

Buddy, you were the problem.

Ashby silently shushes Jason, looks at Mara.

ASHBY

...Mara?

MARA

The party.

JASON

Oh, come on.

MARA

Casey's big bonanza birthday.

ASHBY

Insane name by the way.

(leans over to Jason)

Just cause he's my business partner doesn't mean he knows how to name events.

(back to Mara)

Could you do me a huge favor? Would you tell us what you remember happening that night?

MARA

Uh... it was the same week I had my final interview with the investors. My- Our restaurant was gonna be a real thing. And I came home and told Jason- cause I was really happy and Jason asked-

JASON

-a very reasonable question.

Mara sighs, *interrupted again.*

MARA

I mentioned that in my contract I
was giving away most of the
ownership of the concept-

JASON

-They were taking away your idea!

ASHBY

(to Jason)

Woah! Woah. Easy.

MARA

I shouldn't even said anything! It
was stupid. I just wanted to see my
restaurant... live. But I told
Jason and that weekend at Casey's
big bonanza birthday party-

Out of nowhere **CASEY** [32, Douchey finance bro] sits right
next to Ashby.

CASEY

Me?

ASHBY

Oh shiiit! Love this dude.

Ashby cups his hands and yells to Casey.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

Get better at naming things you
wanker!

Ashby slaps Jason's shoulder, points out Casey.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

One of our main financiers!
Terrible at poker.

JASON

I know. Well, not the second thing.

MARA

He knew who Casey was.

Casey, still on the couch, recognizes Jason.

CASEY

Oh shit! That's right! That's the
dude!

ASHBY

The dude? What happened?

MARA
Jason had a few drinks.

JASON
That's not fair. I hadn't eaten
that day.

MARA
Well, what you did was pretty
unfair to me.

Jason looks down.

MARA (CONT'D)
Jason... confronted Casey at the
bar. He brought up my contract-

ASHBY
Oooo. Didn't you sign an NDA?

MARA
-Said you guys were taking
advantage of me.

ASHBY
That's a pretty rude thing to yell
at someone's birthday.

JASON
They were being dicks to you!

CASEY
It was my big bonanza birthday
party-

Ashby claps his hands together and Casey VANISHES.

ASHBY
Ok. That's enough of that. Mara?
You were saying.

MARA
They chose another chef and my
proposal scrapped that Monday.

ASHBY
So... just so I'm clear. Because of
Jason? That's when everything went
wrong?

MARA
...Yeah.

Jason looks down. Ashby applauds.

ASHBY

Wow.

(beat)

Are you serious? For real? You think you that he's the reason you didn't get this job?

Mara looks up.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

Honey, you weren't ready. Anybody could've told you that. You're twenty nine, still learning. Yeah, you've worked good jobs, staged at great places but as badly as you wanted it, we had two other chefs way more qualified. Now, I love your ideas, but one great idea doesn't mean you are ready to run a kitchen.

Mara says nothing, devastated.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

But I have to hand it to you. You gave it your all. Even that night you showed up to my house.

JASON

What?

ASHBY

Trying to salvage what wasn't there in first place.

Mara takes the second shot.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

Mara.

Mara looks terrified. Ashby doesn't even take a card out.

ASHBY (CONT'D)

Why am I here?

MARA

I don't know. That's an honest answer. I don't know how the game works-

ASHBY

-The bottle says "Your Worst Nightmare." So, tell me. Why am I here?

MARA

Because I blew the one shot I had to become a relevant chef, and now you, the financier that was going to back me, serve as a reminder of everything I could've accomplished.

(beat)

Of what I could have been.

ASHBY

Unfortunately incorrect and I won't be able to leave until I hear the truth. So, Why. Am. I. Here?

We stay on Mara. She begins to cry. Jason puts a hand on her shoulder, he offers a naive, comforting smile.

MARA

(looks to Jason)

Ashby's here because... I cheated on you with him.

Jason takes his hand off her shoulder. Ashby takes the third shot.

ASHBY

Atta, girl.

Mara says nothing. Jason just stares at her. She picks up the last shot glass and drinks it.

JASON

...What?

Mara looks up and realizes, they both do... that Ashby and all of his antics are gone.

Jason stays frozen. Mara still can't look at him.

MARA

He kissed me.

Jason sits, a punch to the gut.

MARA (CONT'D)

He kissed me and then-

JASON

(to himself)

You had sex with him.

MARA

NO! I didn't! I left! I ran out the bedroom.

Jason's brow furrows.

JASON
His bedroom?

MARA
Yeah.
(beat)
Jason, I swear nothing happened. I
left!
(beat)
What?!

Jason suddenly stands up and storms into their bedroom.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jason goes directly to the shoe box under their bed. He looks for something, angry. Determined. Mara stands by the doorway.

MARA
Jason! Say something!

Jason stops. Defeated.

JASON
You were so right. I can't- From
the very beginning, we needed to
talk.

Jason turns around with the ring box in his hand.

JASON (CONT'D)
What should I do with this?

MARA
Oh, my-

Mara's urgency dissipates. Utter shock now takes over her whole body. She remains quiet.

JASON
(verge of tears)
I had a whole thing planned... I
was gonna take you to the beach
where we used to star gaze. All of
our friends were gonna be there-
Everyone would've yelled surprise!
It was going to be... amazing.

Jason carelessly throws the ring box to her. Mara catches it. Jason shakes his head and walks out of the room.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mara follows behind Jason.

MARA
Jason I-

Jason turns around.

JASON
Why didn't you tell me?

MARA
What?

JASON
Even if all of what you said is
true. You could've come home that
night and told me that he tried
something with you. But *you didn't*.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mara walks backwards into the kitchen.

MARA
(scoff)
Ok, so it's my fault?

JASON
I don't know Mara! But I feel like
shit and that is your fault.

MARA
I wanted to tell you- This was
killing me! I wasn't sure how to-

JASON
-Is that what this whole night is
about?
(beat)
You planning out how to tell me
that you "maybe" cheated on me?

Mara spaces out, looking for something, words, a way to share
her feelings, anything.

Suddenly, floating in front of Mara, a medium sized green
apple colored bottle, the last bottle, a blue vine pattern
around the neck. It reads: **TRUTH BOMB**.

Mara eyes it. The bottle spins seductively in front of her.

JASON (CONT'D)
Don't.

Jason grabs it out of the air and slams it on the table. The bottle starts shaking, *like a tea kettle about to boil over.*

JASON (CONT'D)
Enough games, enough magic, enough
whatever the fuck this is. Let's
talk.
(beat)
What is going on with you?!
Seriously. I understand this year
has sucked for a lot of reasons but-
this is how you're choosing to tell
me?!

Mara finally looks up at him. THE TOP OF THE BOTTLE EXPLODES like champagne, with a piercing **STEAM WHISTLE SOUND!**

MARA
Choosing to tell you? Jason, I've
been trying to talk to you- but
every time we just- we never get to-
We work, we get home, we watch
something, we go to bed. That's the
fucking routine. I've tried to tell
you multiple times and you just
make jokes as if that fixes
anything.

Mara throws back the ring.

MARA (CONT'D)
That thing is not a solution...
it's an ambush.

Jason is speechless.

MARA (CONT'D)
Look, I'm sorry but-

- *In the background, the explosion makes the game spinner come alive, slowly starting to spin and spin. The box, rumbling and shaking -*

JASON
-Woah, woah. No. Stop. We aren't at
apologies yet.

Mara sits.

MARA

Ok. What do you want me to do?

(beat)

I know what I did was wrong. I'm not crazy. I just got caught up- I left! I was just trying to fix everything-

JASON

-are you kidding?

MARA

-STOP INTERRUPTING ME! I hate it so much when you interrupt me!

JASON

-Oh my god! I stood up for you! I was just trying to help you!

MARA

I never asked for your help!

- *ON THE GAME: we see the different sections on the spinner, lighting up one by one. Jason and Mara are way beyond noticing.* -

JASON

How many times are you allowed to say that but whenever I ask you to close the gate-

MARA

...close the gate? The fuck are you talking about?

- *The Lover's Kiss. Section lights up, we can hear Mara moaning-*

JASON

I'm talking about THE GATE. How many times do I have to tell you to close the gate?! If you're allowed to bring up the same things all the time!!

MARA

Jason... how can you think that-

JASON

They are both things we tell each other a lot!

- *The **THE FLOOR IS LAVA** Section lights up, a small explosion of lava flies out of the game/box.* -

MARA
But that's not the same! At all.

-*The **Mirror.Mirror** Section lights up, we can hear a mirror shattering.* - Jason looks at the game, back to Mara.

JASON
What do you want from me?

-**Karaoke Night** lights up, with an explosion of confetti-

MARA
I don't know! I've never felt more lost. More thrown around, more pressured. Everyone keeps saying "oh my god my thirties were so much better than my twenties!" But I've never been so... out of time.

(beat)
And you keep planning things.
Without asking, without checking in!

-*A crying baby accompanies **FUTURE PLANNING** lighting up-*

JASON
Come on... It's only in a relationship when people start thinking about kids- And we talked about it- multiple times, this isn't coming out of nowhere.

MARA
That was a year ago. When I had a path and job and everything was supposed to be stable! You keep assuming- just assuming that everything will be ok! How do you know?!

JASON
I don't. I just know I wanna figure it out with you.

- *The game/box may as well be short-circuiting, freaking out - Mara is on the verge of tears.*

MARA

I don't know if I want that or anything like that...anymore.

(beat)

Tonight wasn't about Ashby or anything that happened with him.

-YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE lights up, letting us hear Ashby's silky voice laughing one more time-

MARA (CONT'D)

It was about us... maybe taking some time apart-

JASON

-Hey hey hey I love you. I know I do. And maybe I haven't been as engaged as I could have been. And I'm sorry for that. But I know, that I want to do this whole "life plan" with you. You're my *everything*. Don't throw this away. I love our lives.

(beat)

I know that at the end of the day, I want to be with you, watching shitty reality tv, on our lumpy couch, in our home.

Why is that not enough for you?

(though tears)

...What should I do with this?

Jason gestures to the ring box still in his hands.

MARA

I can't be your *everything*.

JASON

But you are--

MARA

--No, Jason.

(beat)

I don't like who I am when I'm around you.

TRUTH BOMB section lights up, **DING!** The spinner finally stops spinning. The sections dim down and return to their darkened state.

A small note pops out of the game/box.

Mara suddenly looks nauseous. She dry heaves.

JASON
Are you ok-

She takes another step back and... *BLEH!*

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

BLEH! Jason vomits into the toilet.

BLEH! Mara vomits into a bucket. She sits against the wall. There is a long, drawn out silence.

MARA
Is this still part of it?

JASON
No. This is real.

Beat. Jason looks up at her with sad eyes.

JASON (CONT'D)
You don't like who you are when
you're around me?

MARA
I want to. Like myself, I mean. I
just... haven't for a bit.

BLEH! Mara vomits again. She sits back, trying to breathe.

The two share a long moment of silence. Mara slowly gets up.

JASON
What are you doing?

Mara looks at her bucket.

MARA
There's nothing left in me.

Mara leans against the wall. Jason looks at her.

JASON
We can figure *this* out?

MARA
(smiles sadly)
What's left to figure out.
(beat)
I think... I'm gonna walk to
Kaitlyn's or something... I just
need air.

She looks again to Jason, and walks out of the bathroom.

EXT. LA STREET - DAWN

Mara walks out the front door and down the walkway. She breathes in the cold night air.

Mara swings the gate open aggressively then SLAMS it shut.

The gate door bounces back open as Mara storms down the sidewalk.

She reaches a stoplight. A RED HAND stops Mara. She waits.

The hand turns into a L.E.D. WALKING PERSON.

Instead of walking forward, Mara turns around... She walks along the sidewalk. She picks up her pace.

Mara approaches the front gate and-

CLOSES the gate.

She properly locks it into place. After one decisive exhale, she leaves.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Jason shuffles into the living room, observes the remains of their night.

The confetti from the musical bottle, the burns of lava on their furniture.

INT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAWN

Jason walks in, sees on the counter the open bottle of **TRUTH BOMB**.

He picks it up. Turns it upside down only to find that it's **EMPTY**. Completely Empty.

Jason sees the note sticking out of the spinner, he picks it up, reads it.

You are now stronger than ever. Thank you for playing.

Jason takes the entirety of the box, the empty bottles and throws them away.

Jason notices a single cookie Mara left for him from her batch in the morning, as promised.

Jason smiles a sad smile. Picks up the cookie.

EXT. MARA AND JASON'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - EARLY MORNING

Jason sits on the steps leading into the house, still holding the scrap of paper, and the cookie. Tears form in his eyes, as the sun begins to come up over the mountains.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. NAPA VALLEY WINERY - DAY

We swirl around a beautiful vineyard decked out for some sort of fancy, sexy celebration. You got us, it's a wedding.

ON SCREEN TEXT: One Year Later.

NICELY DRESSED GUESTS face a beautiful altar, hanging on the RABBI's every word. A man's foot comes down and breaks the glass, like all good Jewish weddings. The CROWD ERUPTS!

CROWD
Mazel Tov!

CHEERS and SHOUTS echo around Kaitlyn and Antonio! They share a kiss. It's beautiful. Antonio cries more than Kaitlyn.

ANTONIO	KAITLYN
I love this woman!	You guys!! I'M FUCKING MARRIED!!

Louder cheers. They walk down the aisle, hand in hand.

INT. NAPA VALLEY WINERY - KITCHEN - DAY

Against the chaos of a kitchen in full operation, MARA, in a head chef uniform, leads her team with an optimistic yet decisive pace. The passionate staff adores her.

This is her domain. *And she owns it.*

Mara gently plates the most perfect looking ravioli, whatever she was trying at the start of the film she's certainly figured out now.

MARA

Let's go! Let's go! Let's go! This poor couple has been *dieting* for weeks! Let's give them a fucking orgasmic meal!

LINE COOK

Yes, chef!

SOUS CHEF

Yes, chef!

One of the SERVERS comes into the kitchen.

SERVER

They want to see you boss.

MARA

Great. Keep the scallops on low until I get back. I want a sauce check on the mushroom risotto. I'll bring you all back some shots!

Everyone WHOOTS as Mara smiles and exits.

EXT. NAPA VALLEY WINERY - MAIN TENT - DAY

Mara walks by the outside of the tent, peaking inside for a glimpse. A beautiful wedding reception. Couples mingle and dance under the sound of incredible jazz. Mara smiles.

KAITLYN (O.S.)

Pork Chop!

Kaitlyn and Antonio pull Mara into a massive bear hug.

MARA

Hey, guys! How's everything? Did you eat something?

They both nod, beaming.

KAITLYN

It's perfect! Better than we ever could've- Everyone's complimenting the food, and it's just... Thank you.

Antonio and Kaitlyn look at each other lovingly.

ANTONIO

My buddy Ryan, who I Zumba with, he's this amazing party planner and he's been looking for a catering company to be his go-to for his events. I'd love to introduce you?

And this, this is everything to Mara.

MARA
Toni, that would be incredible!

ANTONIO
My pleasure, my pleasure.

KAITLYN
Take a second off, go check out the tent... it's pretty cool.

The lovebirds wander off. Mara walks inside the tent.

The music grows. It's a funk/pop type band. They play a fast paced and uplifting song ala *Erasure's Chains of Love*.

It's really catchy. Mara finally notices it. Her eyes go wide. On stage...

...**JASON**, 5 o'clock shadow and wearing a slick suit, singing, dancing like David Byrne.

JASON
*Do you remember there was a tiiimme
When people on the street we're
walking hand in hand in hand. They
used to talk about the weather.
Making plans together. Days would
last forever.*

Jason looks good. More put together than we've ever seen him.

JASON (CONT'D)
*Come to me, cover me, hold me
Together we'll break these chains
of love.*

The crowd loves it, dancing, cheering. Jason throws a drum solo to **RACHEL** [18, purple hair], she crushes it.

Mara stands there, unable to look away. Jason comes back to the mic.

JASON (CONT'D)
*Together we'll break these chains
of love Don't give up, don't give
up now. Together with me and my
baby. Break the chains of love*

Finishing the song to lots of applause and cheers.

JASON (CONT'D)
 Oh man, thank you so much ladies
 and gentleman! Let's give another
 round of applause to the amazing
 couple huh!

INT. NAPA VALLEY WINERY - MAIN TENT - LATER

The guests sit and eat. The food has all been served and toasts are going around.

GRANDPA
 ...And as the moon came up over the mountains, we sat there, on our horses, in silence. Johnny turned to me and said for probably the very last time: Keep your face in the sunlight, and let the shadows fall behind you. He was my best friend. The only man, I've ever loved...

Confusing if not emotional, especially for the elderly woman seated next to him, embarrassed.

GRANDPA (CONT'D)
 -Anyway. To the bride and groom!

Polite, yet uncomfortable applause. Kaitlyn and Antonio cheers, leaning into each other.

KAITYLN
 Is that your grandpa?

ANTONIO
 No? Isn't that your grandpa?

KAITYLN
 No.

ANTONIO
 Huh.

EXT. NAPA VALLEY WINERY - BACK OF TENT - LATER

Jason and his band scarf down food on their break. LIAM (35) Jason's guitar player, takes a big bite.

LIAM
 Man, this is pretty fuckin' good.

Jason stares at his plate, thinking.

LIAM (CONT'D)

What?

JASON

Nothing, I just- I'm pretty sure
I've had this before-

Jason sees a medium-sized catering truck parked nearby.

ON THE TRUCK: **Anatoly's:** *we look forward to feeding you.*

MARA (O.S.)

Hey, stranger.

Jason turns to see Mara. Jason walks over to her. He takes her in.

They stand in what feels like their own little world.

JASON

I want to say... Maddy?

Mara laughs.

JASON (CONT'D)

How are you doing?

MARA

Uh, really good, you?

JASON

Can't complain.

Beat.

MARA

You were really impressive up JASON (CONT'D)
there. Did you- The food is great.

JASON (CONT'D)

Sorry, what?

What?

MARA (CONT'D)

They both laugh.

MARA (CONT'D)

Your own band?

JASON

Yeah, I- I actually- yeah.
(beat, gestures)

Me and Liam opened like a little
music academy after school thing.
Got like... seventeen students now.

MARA

Woah.

JASON

Yeah! Actually um Rachael over
there is one of them!

RACHEL waves at Mara. She waves back.

MARA

Wow. Good for you.

JASON

And this? You cooked, right?

MARA

I did.

JASON

I knew it... The food is amazing.

MARA

Thank you. Thank you.

Both of them don't know what to say now, giving way to an
awkward silence.

MARA (CONT'D)

I actually should-

JASON

-Congrats on... All of this.

He gestures to all of the happy people eating Mara's food.

JASON (CONT'D)

You're really doing it, huh?

MARA

Yeah.

And yet another beat. They both laugh again.

JASON

Not for nothing, but I'm sorry.

MARA

Don't be. It was for the best.

Jason smiles, trying to hide some sadness behind his eyes.

MARA (CONT'D)

Do you... wanna grab a glass of
wine or something? Catch up?

Jason sees his band getting back up on stage.

JASON
How about a dance?

MARA
(*really?*)
A dance?

JASON
Yeah. What could possibly happen
from one dance?

INT. NAPA VALLEY WINERY - MAIN TENT - DAY

Jason and Mara walk on to the dance floor. Liam, Jason's guitar player sees Jason, and walks up to the microphone.

LIAM
Alright, ladies and gentlemen, this
next song is dedicated to all you
lovers out there.

The band moves into a fast-paced love song. Something like a *Burning Love* by Elvis Presley.

The crowd gets into it *fast*. Soon, everyone around Mara and Jason dance.

Mara and Jason start to dance together, a little awkward at first, but slowly their old rhythms return. They both smile.

As the music crescendos, among all the celebration, Mara looks at Jason. Jason stares back at Mara, and we-

CUT TO BLACK.