

5-2018

Experience

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Recommended Citation

McKenzie, Cheyenne, "Experience" (2018). *Senior Honors Theses*. 109.
https://scholarworks.uno.edu/honors_theses/109

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EXPERIENCE

An Honors Thesis

Presented to

The Department of Film

of the University of New Orleans

In Partial Fulfillment

Of the Requirements for the Degree of

Bachelor of Arts in Film and Theatre, with University High Honors

And Honors in Film

By

Cheyenne McKenzie

May 2018

Abstract

Experience is a feature-length script following our protagonist Emily as she gains experience in her career, life, and primarily her love life. Shortly after graduating university, Emily starts a job at a digital media company in Los Angeles where she meets Jivan, an IT worker who just moved to the US from Nepal. The two start a relationship and soon discover that the path of an inter-cultural relationship is not something they could have prepared for. The inspiration for this script came from some of my own experiences in a long-term inter-cultural relationship with a partner from Nepal.

Experience

written by

Chey McKenzie

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Sun flows in through large bay windows, scattered desk clumps are brightly decorated with pictures and little toys. Each desk computer has a big sticker with the user's name written in a cartoonish font. The large open office space is filled with young creatively dressed people.

KEVIN, 28, a tall handsome Korean guy leads the way. He is followed by EMILY, 22, an average plain-looking young woman. Her less-than-stylish clothes and too-hot sweater show that she hasn't quite adjusted to Los Angeles yet.

KEVIN

(With a faint Korean accent)

So, Emily, this will be your clump. You'll start out here in the general pool of newbies, but don't worry, if you're eager to learn a team will scoop you up quickly. No one really gets stuck here for long.

EMILY

Well that's a relief.

KEVIN

(Mostly to himself)

Well, I guess unless you suck. Then you get stuck here a few months until you're fired.

EMILY

(Playfully)

Less relieving, there Kev. Now I really don't get why they send you to give the new kids tours.

KEVIN

(Recovering)

Don't you worry Ms. Emily, that won't be you! Actually I volunteered to give you the tour, I was pretty impressed in your interview. Not to brag, but normally senior producers get to pass off shit like this, but you seemed worth 15 of my precious minutes today. So no stress, I'm sure you'll get a team in no time.

Emily blushes and looks up at Kevin almost smitten. Kevin gives a kind smile back. Emily almost says something until a loud alarm goes off on Kevin's phone.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Sorry kid, that's your 15 minutes.
I gotta go, I promised my boyfriend
I would sneak out before my shoot
today and take him to brunch.

Kevin rushes off and Emily is left standing there alone. She awkwardly looks around for a moment then hurriedly sits at one of the computers in the clump.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily's room is a messy museum of her life. Polaroids of friends and bonfire hangouts line the walls along with playbills and concert tickets. A half-built dresser sits abandoned in the corner among piles of partially folded clothes.

Emily sits on the corner of her bed in a nest of pillows and blankets with headphones in, half-watching something on her laptop. Her face lights up when the video call icon pops up in the corner of her screen

EMILY

Mommy!

EMILY'S MOM

(O.S.)

Emmy! How was your first day baby?

EMILY

It was pretty good, I think. I mean... I don't really know. Things move pretty fast around the office, I hope I was keeping up okay. It's just, everyone is supposed to know how to do everything and honestly, I don't even know how I got hired. I have never even seen half the equipment they use in person until today.

EMILY'S MOM

(Comforting, motherly)

No, honey, don't say that. I'm sure you kicked that first day's ass. You had to have, you are my offspring after all. Only the best comes from these genes...

(MORE)

EMILY'S MOM (CONT'D)

(playfully)

... well that is if you ignore the fact that your 35-year-old brother is back to sleeping on our couch and that your sister is probably not ever going to make it out of high school. 35-year-old brother is

EMILY

Yeah, you're really batting 100 there Mom, aren't ya?

EMILY'S MOM

Anyway, moving on from the trainwrecks that are your siblings, have you made any friends out there yet?

EMILY

(sheepishly)

Well, Alice seems cool I think I am gonna go out with her and her boyfriend this weekend.

EMILY'S MOM

(Over dramatic)

NO! No, no, no, no, no! My daughter is not going to third wheel with her Craigslist roommate and her boyfriend. Jesus, why are my kids such losers?

EMILY

Gee Ma, thanks for the unconditional love and support.

EMILY'S MOM

Anytime, babe. Now I gotta go, your life is depressing me and I gotta get to sleep. Nighty night, loser.

EMILY

Night, Ma.

Emily closes her laptop and looks at the clock propped on a pile of clothes next to her bed. It is only 7:30.

She looks at her phone and finds no messages.

She is about to give up and call it another early night when BANG BANG BANG.

Emily's roommate ALICE, 24, very pretty lets herself in and drops down onto Emily's bed with great dramatic effort.

ALICE

Seriously, tell me. Why the fuck are guys such dicks? Like seriously, why the fuck can't they just ask like people every now and then!?

Emily sits up and awkwardly puts a hand on Alice's arm to console her.

Alice immediately pops up away from Emily's touch.

ALICE (CONT'D)

No eww gross, calm down. It's not like I give a shit. I mean I knew from day one that there was no real potential there with Trey anyway. I just thought I was the one with the upper hand this time.

EMILY

What do you mean, "upper hand"?

ALICE

I totally thought I had him whipped you know? Here I was thinking I was calling the shots like some boss ass bitch. Come to find out, I'm his side piece.

EMILY

Oh no! Alice, that sucks. I'm so sorry he did that to you.

ALICE

(with a tinge of sadness)

I mean I don't care, I was cheating on him too. It just sucks to find out I didn't wield some majestic womanly power over him. We were just like any other two jackasses wasting each other's time.

The two sit in silence for a moment. Alice seems to have already moved on from her romantic drama, while Emily still doesn't know how to address the situation.

EMILY

So... we're not sad about you and Trey breaking up?

ALICE

(Annoyed)

Who said anything about breaking up!? Wait, did Trey tell you we broke up?

The whole situation is far beyond Emily's grasp, she just sits there staring at Alice with a dumb look on her face. whole situation is far be

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Emily sits at her desk with giant headphones that cover most of the sides of her head. She is staring at her computer monitor intently, oblivious to anyone else in the office around her. Over her shoulder we see that she is editing a video.

Kevin walks up to Emily and touches her shoulder to get her attention. Emily jumps so that her headphones get pulled halfway off, as she tries to recover she drops them on the keyboard.

KEVIN

(Laughing)

Oh shit, sorry, Em. I didn't mean to scare you.

EMILY

(Attempting to joke)

No it's fine, it isn't your fault. I'm just wildly awkward and spaz out in the face of any social interaction. You know, especially with boys. Even gay boys, still as weird as a 13-year-old.

KEVIN

(laughing awkwardly)

Yea, I-uh I guess some things never change... anyway I was just coming over to see if I could borrow you for my shoot? One of my assistants called out sick today.

EMILY

Oh yea, sure. Let me just... I'll just save where I'm at with this and then I'll head on over.

KEVIN

Great, thanks. You're a life saver, kid.

Kevin walks away and Emily looks back at her computer to save her work.

EMILY
(To herself)
Wait, fuck!

Emily turns after Kevin and sees he hasn't reached far.

EMILY (CONT'D)
(Half-whispering, half-yelling)
Kevin! Where are you shooting?

KEVIN

MIMICKING EMILY'S TONE
Sound State 4... Emily?

EMILY
What?

KEVIN
Why are we pretending to whisper?

Emily pauses a moment, expressionless.

EMILY
(speaking now)
I... do not know.

Kevin laughs and leaves.

Emily turns back to her desk to see the others at her clump staring.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES OUTSIDE OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Emily sits alone at a picnic table eating her lunch. She is watching a stand-up special on her phone with earbuds in. One of the other girls from her desk clump sits at the table with Emily, she is Emily's age and her fashion sense shows she has spent a lot more time in LA than Emily has.

Q
Hey, you're Emily right? I'm Q, I think we started on the same day.

EMILY
(Surprised)
Oh hey, yeah.. I'm Emily. Yeah, we probably did.

Q

(Excitedly)

You look pretty friendly with Kevin, you gonna try to get on his crew for that project?

EMILY

Which project? Is he doing something special?

Q

Girl! Don't you check your e-mail? He sent something out to all the new people before lunch. He has a crew and project all set to go to India to shoot some series thing in some villages. He is leaving next week and all of a sudden the assistant he was gonna bring with him comes down with mono!

EMILY

Oh, shit, mono? That sucks.

Q

You're zoning in on the wrong part of the story. There's a spot open for a paid trip to India! I looked into it and as long as you already have a passport the visa is really easy to get. You gonna try for it?

EMILY

(Quickly)

Oh no, that's not for me.

Q

How come, do you not have a passport?

EMILY

I do, I've gone to Canada a few times. I just don't think it's a great idea to be going to rural India like that. I mean, they have pretty high crime rates in places like that. I feel like a bunch of Americans going there with all that expensive equipment is a bit of a target, don't you?

Q looks at Emily dumbfounded.

Q
 Seriously? You're gonna pass up an opportunity like this? It's like a paid vacation.

EMILY
 (Defensively)
 I just don't think it is a great idea okay? I'm not interested.

Q
 Suit yourself, I am not gonna pass this chance up. I'm gonna go talk to him now.

Q excitedly jumps up from the table and practically runs back inside to find Kevin.

Emily sits at the table for a little while longer before discarding her half-eaten lunch and heading back to work.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily is back perched in her blanket nest. She is video chatting with her mother.

EMILY
 I'm right, aren't I? I mean places like that just aren't great for American tourists. I mean it would be one thing if they were shooting in the city, but those villages are just too remote, they'd be too far from anything if there was trouble.

EMILY'S MOM
 I think you're completely right. India certainly seems like a nice place to visit on a vacation in their tourist areas, but it really doesn't seem safe to me to send a bunch of young people out to those poorer areas with all that expensive equipment.

EMILY
 (Nervous)
 Wait... this isn't racist, right? Like I'm not racist for not wanting to go there right?

EMILY'S MOM

(Quickly)

No! Of course not! You don't hate Indians, you just don't want to go there.

There are a few seconds of awkward silence

EMILY

Okay... well I guess I'll let you go then. I haven't had supper yet, so I'll go find something to eat.

EMILY'S MOM

Alright honey, and remember you're not racist! You're just practical!

EMILY

Yeah, okay... thanks Mom. Night.

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

The main office space is still pretty empty, most people haven't come in yet.

Find Emily in the canteen area making a cup of tea. After adding some milk and cinnamon the tea levels are precariously close to the edge lip of the mug. Emily carefully walks across the office space to her desk in the farthest clump over.

Emily safely reaches and gently sets her mug down and turns on her computer... as soon as she turns to take something out of her backpack the computer immediately shuts itself back off. Confused, Emily hits the power button again and goes about setting up her desk for the day. Again, the computer shuts off. She notices again and once again hits the power button, this time watching the monitor as it flashes on for a moment and shuts back down.

EMILY

Fuck!

Looking around there are only two other people in the office, all the way on the other side of the giant room.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(To herself,
sarcastically)

Oh great... another wonderful opportunity to talk to strangers.

Emily makes her way over to the other side of the room where the others are.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(Nervously)

Hey guys, my computer isn't turning on. Do either of you know what to do?

GUY #1

(Dismissively without looking)

Nah, better call I.T.

EMILY

Okay... do you know the number?

GUY #2

You have a directory at the newbie desk clump.

EMILY

Yeah... Well, thanks for the help guys.

When neither answers her, Emily awkwardly turns and makes the long walk back to her desk.

She reaches her clump and finds the old, dog-eared copy of the directory in the drawer of the desk next to her. She flips to the page and looks up the number for I.T. She calls and a thickly accented voice comes over the line.

I.T. GUY

(O.S.)

You've reached Techies, you've got Jivan. What could you have possibly broken so early in the morning?

EMILY

Umm... I'm not sure. My computer won't turn on.

JIVAN

Well then, I guess I can't tell you to turn it off and on again, can I? In that case try unplugging it and plugging it back in.

EMILY

Okay, stay on the phone I'll try.

Emily bends down and crawls under the desk. She grabs her computer wire and follows it into the tangles mess attached to the power strip. She unplugs it, counts to ten and plugs it back in. She crawls out and hits the power button on the computer. This time only the fan whirs for a second and shuts off, the screen never even flashes.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Jay-vaan? That didn't work.

JIVAN

(Mockingly)

It's Jivan, not Jay-Vaaaaan.

EMILY

Okay... sorry. It didn't work...

JIVAN

You mentioned, okay I'll come over there in a minute.

EMILY

Okay, how long?

JIVAN

Just a sec.

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

The office has filled up and Jivan still hasn't come in. Emily is checking her watch and starting to complain when he jogs through the door. He is average height and muscular. Far from the stereotypical South Asian, he is handsome with thick black hair and a very full, well-groomed beard. He wears glasses with thick black, half-round frames.

JIVAN

(His accent is thicker in person when he is a little out of breath)

Hey, Sorry. Actually, today is my second day only and I accidentally went to sound stage and just got yelled at for interrupting a shoot.

EMILY

Oh, sorry about that. That sucks. Anyway yea, here's the computer that isn't turning on.

JIVAN

Okay, I'll look

As Jivan takes a seat and starts looking over the computer tower Emily tries to make small-talk.

EMILY
You know Kevin?

JIVAN
Yep.

EMILY
He's doing a project you'd probably be interested in. He is doing some series about some rural villages in India.

JIVAN
(Pausing to look up, a little annoyed)
... And why would I be interested in a project about India?

EMILY
(Backpeddling)
Oh... I don't know I just thought, I don't know... it seems interesting.

JIVAN
You think I'm Indian right? I'm not Indian. Not every foreign brown guy is Indian.

EMILY
No! I never said I thought you were Indian. I wouldn't assume. Anyway, what are you?

JIVAN
(Not really mad anymore but giving her a hard time)
What am I? Wow, so I'm reduced to my nationality now? I am from Nepal, so I am Nepali.

EMILY
(more of a question than a statement)
Oh wow, Nepal... That's a, nice place.

JIVAN
Yes. I know you know, but just to say it...

(MORE)

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Nepal, the small country between India and China is a very beautiful place. It is too bad so many Americans don't know anything about it.

EMILY

Oh yeah, that's really too bad...

Jivan is still looking over the computer but he hasn't made much progress.

JIVAN

So, unfortunately, your computer is quite dead. I cannot fix this, I will have to get a new tower to you. We have some in the office for you guys to borrow while you wait for them to order you a new one.

EMILY

Okay, how long does that normally take?

JIVAN

No idea, I just started so I don't know what anything normally does yet. Okay, I'll go now. I will tell them you need a new computer.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY- NIGHT

The digital clock on the security desk reads 10:38, the only light in the lobby comes from the street lights outside shining through the big glass doors.

Emily enters the lobby from the office space, she looks run down and very ready to go home. She looks at the clock, then out the glass door. There is no one around and despite the lamps the street is dark. She hesitates at the door for a moment until...

Jivan comes into the lobby from the hallway leading to the tech room, assuming he's alone he lets the door slam behind him.

Emily jumps and turns around quickly

EMILY

Jesus Christ! Sorry you scared me.

JIVAN

Yeah, I've realized I have that effect on Americans. I think it is the beard. I guess people assume I am one of those "Radical Islamic Terrorists".

Emily laughs louder than even she expected.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

I don't think white people are allowed to laugh so hard at Muslim jokes, that feels racist to me.

EMILY

Oh no! I'm not racist, I'm not.

JIVAN

Don't worry, I really don't care if you're racist against Muslims, I'm Hindu anyway.

EMILY

Oh, cool. That's like Buddhism right?

JIVAN

(His joking tone is gone)
Well, no. Buddhism is like Buddhism, Hinduism is like Hinduism. They are both ancient religions we don't need to be justified against each other.

EMILY

Sorry, I didn't mean anything... I just don't really know much about a lot of religions.

JIVAN

I have noticed that about many Americans. Anyway, I will leave now.

EMILY

(Hesitant now that the conversation took a turn)
Are you going to the parking garage? I am kind of nervous about walking over there alone at night...

JIVAN

Oh... okay yeah, sure. I am taking the bus, but I will walk you to the garage if you like.

EMILY

Please?

Without verbal confirmation he starts out the door and towards the parking garage. Emily starts half joking to catch up with him.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Did I offend you? Is it offensive to ask about religion in your country?

JIVAN

"In my country" no, it is not offensive to ask about religion. It is just annoying that every American I have met needs to know about my religion, my country, my accent, my language. Like I need to justify everything about not being American to prove I am safe enough to be in your precious country. I haven't even been here that long, and I am already tired of being everyone's only international connection. You know, I did not even want to come to the US. The entire time I was filling out my visa forms and applying and giving interviews I always was wishing I would get rejected. They didn't so here I am.

EMILY

Why did you even apply in the first place then?

JIVAN

What else was I supposed to do? I was a topper at my university, my father said I should go to America and be successful, my friends said I should go to America and be successful. So I came to America, now they all automatically think I am successful.

They reach the only car in the parking garage and stop in front of it.

EMILY

Okay, so can I ask you a totally awkward question?

JIVAN

Yes, those seem like the ones you can ask only.

EMILY

Okay... so are we friends now? 'Cause I can't tell, like sometimes it feels like we don't like each other and sometimes it feels like we do and we just met today so this is a really confusing dynamic to have so soon.

Jivan doesn't answer right away, he lets the question sit between them for a moment.

JIVAN

Well honestly, I think I don't like you and a lot of what you say is kind of little-minded.

This clearly was not the answer Emily was expecting. She doesn't say anything or look at him.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Those circumstances make it unfortunate for me that I think you are my first friend since I've come to the US.

Emily looks at Jivan; he does not look back but he has a big smile on his face.

EMILY

That's mean, but cool... because other than my roommate I think you are my first friend since I moved to California, so honestly, you're probably my first friend in California period.

JIVAN

Oh man, I can't believe this. I am a South Asian I.T. Guy, who everyone thinks in Indian... and my first friend is a loser. Wow, I am one of the only brown characters they ever show on American T.V. Shows.

Emily laughs a little too hard again.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Okay weirdo, I am gonna guess
you're too tired to be out anymore
and send you home now.

EMILY

Yeah, I guess that is a good plan.
You want a ride to the bus stop at
least?

JIVAN

No, it is right outside only.
Besides, in America I am the scary
guy so I think I will be okay.
Goodnight.

EMILY

Goodnight

Laughing Emily gets in her car and leaves.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily walks into her room and pushes the piles of dirty
clothes out of her way on the way to flop on her bed. Smiling
she pulls out her phone and sends her mom a text: "I made a
friend..... and he's kinda cute".

MONTAGE

Emily and Jivan sitting together eating lunch every day and
walking to her car together every night.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES OUTSIDE OFFICE - DAY

Emily and Jivan are eating lunch and laughing at videos on
Jivan's laptop.

EMILY

Oh hey, so are you going to
Jenifer's thing tonight?

JIVAN

Probably not, I don't know what
you're talking about. They don't
normally invite tech support to the
fun stuff.

EMILY

Oh...It's Jenifer's birthday tonight so we're all going to some bar together. They invited like everyone from the office, but you should totally come I won't really know anyone else otherwise.

JIVAN

You work with them every day, how do you not know them?

EMILY

Shut up! I'm bashful.

JIVAN

Americans are so stupid. Why are you all shy, anxious, little sad children? Grow up and learn to deal with your problems, kiddo.

EMILY

Nooooo, don't make me do that tonight. Come to Jenifer's thing and I promise I'll grow up tomorrow instead.

JIVAN

I don't know, I really don't like that stuff. It's so loud and Americans are so crazy at parties I just feel overwhelmed

Emily turns into a child with puppy dog eyes.

EMILY

Pleeeeeease, please, please, please please please?

JIVAN

No, no, no, no, no.

EMILY

How do you say please in Nepali?

JIVAN

Kripaya.

EMILY

What now?

JIVAN

Kri-Pie-Ya.

EMILY

Okay Kri-Pie-Ya Kri-Pie-Ya Kri-Pie-Ya?

JIVAN

Fine! My God you are pathetic.

EMILY

Yay! I don't mind being pathetic!
Okay, I'm gonna get to work and
leave before you change your mind
I'll text you the details.

INT. EMILY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Emily is more dressed up than we have ever seen her, clumsily digging through her make-up bag looking for something she hasn't used in a long time.

Alice comes in and surveys the mess on the counter.

ALICE

Fuck, you're making a mess. I
didn't even know you owned make up.

EMILY

Yeah, cause it's fucking stupid and
annoying and makes a mess on my
hand every time I touch my face.

ALICE

Cause you're really not supposed to
be touching your face all the time,
dumbass.

EMILY

Fuck you, just help me figure out
what to do here. I really want to
look hot tonight.

ALICE

Oh my God... are you going to get
fucked tonight!? Jesus, this is
amazing, don't go to his place
bring him back here I wanna see
what kind of guys get you all hot
and bothered.

EMILY

Shut up, I'm not gonna "get
fucked", it's one of my co-worker's
birthdays so I'm going to a work
thing.

ALICE

Okay, a girl like you does not put on make-up for "a work thing". There has to be a guy. Or a girl, I don't judge. Oh my God! It's that Indian guy you were talking to your mom about isn't it!? Oh my fucking god! You're trying to seduce the Indian tech dude!

EMILY

First of all, he's not Indian, he's Nepali.

ALICE

Okay, whatever basically the same thing.

EMILY

Wow, that's so ignorant. No it isn't. Anyway, second of all it has nothing to do with him. This is just the first time I'm going out with people from work so I wanna look nice. Fuck you.

ALICE

But he's gonna be there, right?

EMILY

I mean, yeah. It's a work thing, everyone will.

ALICE

Jesus, you're such a bad liar. You're totally gonna try to get in bed with him tonight. Here, give me your face I'm gonna help.

Alice starts digging through Emily's make-up bag and choosing her tools.

INT. LOUD BAR - NIGHT

Emily is at a standing table with a group of women all laughing and yelling over the loud music. She doesn't pay any attention to them, her eyes are looking through the dark crowded bar to find Jivan sitting at the bar similarly ignoring a group of guys. He is scrolling through his phone.

Q

(Yelling)

EMILY! What do you want to drink!?

Emily realizes that while she wasn't paying attention they flagged down a waitress.

EMILY

Oh, I'm fine... I am gonna go to the bar.

Q

Oh... Okay then.

Emily leaves and works her way through the crowd to Jivan at the bar.

EMILY

Jivan! Hey!

Emily hugs him from behind. He doesn't pull away but he flinches.

JIVAN

(Confused by the hug)

Hey, Emily! What's up? Having fun yet?

EMILY

No. You?

JIVAN

Nope, I didn't want to come, remember?

EMILY

Oh yeah, I forgot. Hey, do you want a drink? Let's do shots!

JIVAN

Uhh.. yeah, sure.

Emily runs to where the bartender is to order the shots. She smiles and waves at Jivan while he watches her.

Jivan is waiting back at his seat by the bar, as Emily comes back she has a different look about her than normal.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Hey, how many have you had already?

EMILY

None! I haven't started yet I wanted to drink with you! Now come on shots!

Jivan hesitates but he grabs the shot glass from her hand. They take the shots.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Yay! This is so fun right!?

JIVAN
I guess...

EMILY
It will be, we need more alcohol!
I'll get more shots.

Emily runs off and gets more shots from the bartender.

INT. LOUD BAR - CONTINUOUS

Emily and Jivan are still at their place at the bar. A collection of shot glasses sit in front of them. They are each now nursing beers.

As the song over the speakers changes Emily gets excited.

EMILY
Ah! Jivan! I love this song, you
have to dance with me!

JIVAN
No no no, I don't dance. That's not
my thing.

EMILY
Oh come on, don't be such a spoiled
sport! I need my dance buddy!

JIVAN
No come on, find someone else. I
don't like it.

EMILY
Oh please?

Before he could refuse again Emily is tugging Jivan off his stool. He almost trips and then allows himself to be dragged onto the dance floor.

At first Jivan just kind of shuffles his feet awkwardly. As the music goes on he starts to seem a little more comfortable.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Teach me how to dance like a
Nepali!

JIVAN
 Nooo, we don't dance to this kind
 of music. It will look stupid!

EMILY
 Okay, so we'll look stupid
 together! It'll be fun!

Jivan stops dancing for a moment, then he giggles and breaks into a Nepali dance. Emily giggles and then tries to copy the moves he is doing.

They're both fully relaxed and having a good time now. Emily looks at Jivan. She grabs him by the waist and kisses him.

Jivan pulls away and stares at Emily.

JIVAN
 What the fuck!? Why would you do
 that!?

EMILY
 Oh shit, I'm sorry! I didn't
 think...

JIVAN
 Fuck! I'm going.

Jivan storms out of the bar.

EXT. EMPTY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Emily chases him out and sees him walking towards the bus stop.

EMILY
 Jivan! Stop, the buses already
 stopped running anyway.

JIVAN
 Fine, I'll walk home!

EMILY
 Slow down! Come on don't do this to
 me!

Jivan stops.

JIVAN
 I did nothing! You did something!
 What the fuck Emily? We are
 friends, I really like being with
 you, but you know I can't do this!
 (MORE)

JIVAN (CONT'D)

I didn't even want to come to this country. Do you think I would want to fall in love here? Do you think that would even matter!? Because it doesn't. In a year or two, three maximum my parents are going to call me. They have a few names and pictures and I make a choice from that. If I am lucky I will Skype with the girl first, but probably it will all be based on what some Auntie told my mom about her chhori. I know this is the American thing. To meet a guy and move forward, but my life isn't like that.

EMILY

I'm not saying anything has to happen forever. I'm not asking you to call your parents tomorrow and tell them about your new white girlfriend. But let's be honest. We aren't just friends Jivan. You know that. Do you really wanna say you haven't thought about kissing me?

JIVAN

Not like that! Not in the middle of a giant group of fucking strangers!

EMILY

Are you mad that I kissed you or are you mad that I kissed you in public?

JIVAN

I don't know. Both! You just weren't supposed to kiss me.

EMILY

What would you have done if I kissed you earlier last night in the parking garage instead? When we were alone. And don't fucking lie to me, cause I'll know.

Jivan doesn't reply right away. It takes him a moment to admit...

JIVAN

I would have kissed you back. I would have, okay?

(MORE)

JIVAN (CONT'D)

But not like that in there. Drunk, in front of all those people. Not like that!

EMILY

There isn't anyone here now. Kiss me, if there is nothing then I'll pay for your Uber home and I'll let you ignore me til your parents send you those pictures, but if you really feel the way I know you will then why don't we just try. We can play by your rules. We won't plan our wedding we won't be all lovey dovey in public. Huss?

Jivan takes a moment to notice the emptiness of the streets around them. He turns and starts walking away from her.

EMILY (CONT'D)

You really aren't gonna at least fucking try? Just fucking try. Don't think about your dad or your friends back home. Right now Jivan, what do you want to do?

Jivan stops. He turns back towards her. They both walk to close the distance between them.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(Quietly)

We can play by your rules. We can keep it to ourselves.

Jivan kisses Emily; it is awkward at first. He clearly has not taken this step with many others. They kiss and stands there, holding her head in his hands.

JIVAN

Wow, this is like a fucking American movie.

EMILY

I think this is more Bollywood drama.

JIVAN

No, if this is Bollywood, they would have broken into a song so they wouldn't have to show PDA on screen.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Emily sits at a table outside a hipster-looking coffee shop. There are already two cups of tea on the table, but the second seat hasn't been filled. She is smiling and keeps looking at her phone.

Just as she is about to open her phone Jivan comes to the table. Emily stands up and hugs him immediately, he awkwardly returns the hug.

EMILY

Oh my, is this too good to be true?
Me, seeing Jivan Shivakoti outside
of the office? What a treat.

JIVAN

Well, I figure we have some stuff
to figure out. I would rather not
figure it out at the office.

EMILY

(Nervous)

Wait, didn't you have fun last
night? I mean after the dramatic
fight in the street.

JIVAN

No! I mean, yes! Yes. Last night
was great, amazing. I'm happy you
made last night happen. I just, I
don't know how to do this. We don't
do this in Nepal. I mean, I don't
have a huge amount of dating
history, you know. Like I don't
know how to have a girlfriend.

EMILY

Wow, so I'm your girlfriend now?
That's quite a quick promotion.

JIVAN

You want to be, right? I thought
that's what comes next right? We
kissed, we well you know what we
did. We liked it, so dating comes
next, yeah?

EMILY

Yeah, dating. People don't normally
jump into boyfriend-girlfriend
territory the first time they go
home together.

JIVAN

Well, maybe Americans don't, but you guys are notoriously lazy procrastinators. I'm just trying to put a little motivation in you.

EMILY

So, say we're boyfriend and girlfriend. How does that work? I mean I know, no excessive PDA, you're probably not gonna tell your mom about the white girlfriend. So where does this go? Do we have an expiration date already?

Jivan takes a moment before he's answered. He's clearly already considered all of this, but he has to go over it all in his head one more time before he says it out loud.

JIVAN

I've thought of that. You're right, I can't tell mummy, and dad would have my ass on the first flight back to Kathmandu. So let's not put this all over Facebook or anything, yeah? And true, we can't go dreaming of what color our babies will turn out, but I mean nobody does in the beginning. We can just do what feels right for now, and if down the road when mummy and dad start sending pictures we are still feeling right... we will figure out then if we should stay in this relation or not. How is that?

EMILY

Ahh, you know you Nepalis really have a way with romance.

JIVAN

Hey, I know it isn't ideal, okay. I get that. But this is what I can do, okay? This is what I can tell you. I really want to spend more time with you, and I really, really want to spend more time with you like last night, okay? I just need to know that you can accept where I am coming from. I need you to respect that our cultures are different and we gotta figure that out, okay?

EMILY
(Caringly)
Okay.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily and Jivan are laying in Emily's bed cuddling, they are both naked.

EMILY
Okay, so don't take this the wrong way or anything cause I totally like it. You're wicked hot, so don't worry.

JIVAN
Oh yeah, that is a really great way to start a conversation with someone in front of you naked.

EMILY
Whatever, shut up. It's just that, I didn't think Asian guys were so hairy! Seriously look, your chest is shedding on my bed!

JIVAN
(Playful)
Oh wow! Yeah! Man, I am glad you prefaced that with how hot you think I am, I can't imagine how you would say it if it grossed you out!

EMILY
You're a big boy - you can take it.

JIVAN
Oh wow, so now I am fat too? Nice, great. So glad I agreed to date you!

EMILY
I never said you were fat! I mean now that you mention it you have gotten a little squishy since you came to the US. Again, you're totally hot and the fat thing is definitely you projecting your new insecurities on my words.... but yeah, maybe instead of ordering take out every night you and Abhishek could buy some veggies.

JIVAN

Wow, what is my life. I have definitely been upgraded from the South Asian tech guy in this American TV show. I get a love interest, a white one! I get to have insecurities that aren't about losing a math competition. Ahh, America land of the dreams. Also though, to circle back around did an AMERICAN really just imply that I am getting fat!? Holy Shiva! What is happening in the world.

EMILY

Don't worry you're still American skinny, you're just LA fat.

JIVAN

Again, you are a true romantic. You should write Urdu love poetry. The best poets in all the world couldn't match you.

EMILY

Right!?

Jivan's phone rings and interrupts them. He looks at the screen and jumps up.

JIVAN

Holy fuck!

EMILY

What's the matter?

JIVAN

Mummy! She is calling on video chat! I can't answer here!

EMILY

So don't answer.

JIVAN

Oh my God! You are so American! I can't not answer my mother! Here give me my shirt and be still.

Emily grabs Jivan's shirt from the pile of clothes on the floor and tosses it to him.

EMILY

What are you gonna do?

JIVAN

Shhh! I am going to go to the corner and answer. I'll pretend I am at home or something. You just be quiet!

Jivan throws on his shirt and runs his hands through his hair. He runs into the corner and answers the video call.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Hi mummy!

JIVAN'S MOM O.S.

Chhora, tu ke chha hal kabar?

JIVAN

Ma dherai ramro, mummy. Hajur ra Daddy kasto chhan?

As Jivan talks to his mother, Emily looks on, amused. Jivan is not a very good liar and he is really sweating trying to act normal.

Jivan talks for a moment then rushes off the phone.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Okay, la bye mummy. La la bye.

Jivan hangs up.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Oh my God that was so scary!

MONTAGE

-Emily and Jivan laying in bed watching movies.

-They go to a fancy restaurant for dinner

-Jivan surprising Emily at her desk with dinner while she works late.

-They drive home from work together

-Jivan inviting Emily over for his roommate's birthday.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily lays in bed while Jivan brushes his teeth in the bathroom. They are talking to each other through the open door.

JIVAN

Yeah, I know this is your room and everything, but why does it have to be so messy? Why don't you just fix that dresser and put your clothes away nicely?

EMILY

Why do you care what my room looks like?

JIVAN

I'm just saying, if I am gonna be spending a lot of time here I would like if it didn't look like a place to keep the animals.

EMILY

You're being dramatic, it isn't dirty it's just messy. There is a big difference.

JIVAN

What is the difference, it looks dirty to me.

EMILY

Messy means disorganized, cluttered, stuff like that. Dirty means unsanitary. My room is not unsanitary, it is just dirty.

JIVAN

Oh my God, I can't believe you just said that. You're ridiculous.

EMILY

Okay, if it bothers you so much, when we wanna spend the night we can just do it at your place.

JIVAN

No, you know not that.

Jivan finishes and comes back in the bedroom.

EMILY

Why not that?

JIVAN

Because, Abhishek's family is in the same town as my family.

(MORE)

JIVAN (CONT'D)

If I have my white girlfriend spending the night all the time he is definitely going to tell his parents and they will definitely tell mine.

EMILY

I mean he knows you have a girlfriend I have met him before. Why would he rat you out all of a sudden?

JIVAN

Okay, yeah. He knows I have a white girl who I hang out with and he is smart enough to figure out I date you. But that's not how it works, he pretends he doesn't know and doesn't have to tell, as long as I don't make it too obvious.

EMILY

You are literally always talking about how ridiculous Americans are, but that is next level right there.

JIVAN

That's the deal, that's just how it is. Whatever, fine don't clean your room. I don't care.

EMILY

Come on, let's go to bed. It's too late of this.

Jivan shuts off the light and lays down.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Hey... I need to tell you something.

JIVAN

What?

EMILY

I know this is kind of a not great time, seeing as we just confirmed the secrecy of our relationship for the foreseeable future... but I...

JIVAN

Oh fuck, you're not pregnant, are you?

EMILY

No! Oh my god, shut up why do you have to ruin this?

JIVAN

Shit man, you scared me... okay, sorry sorry, what?

EMILY

Well, I love you.

There is a long silence in the darkness.

JIVAN

Yeah, me too.

EMILY

Really?

JIVAN

Oh yeah, what's not to love? I'm smart, talented, extremely handsome.

EMILY

Jesus, smartass. For a moment I thought you were gonna be sweet with me.

JIVAN

Shut up, you know I don't have to be sweet with you... but, I do love you too.

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Emily is at her desk editing, Jivan is at the desk clump next to hers helping them with miscellaneous technical issues.

After he finishes with his work he goes to Emily.

EMILY

Hey, you. What are you doing up here out of your cave?

JIVAN

The foodie team broke their animation pad again. They are truly idiotic.

EMILY

Oh yea, they suck. Hey though! I'm glad you came up I was about to text you, Alice got back together with her boyfriend again and they wanna go to dinner tomorrow night. Double date it.

JIVAN

No, come on. She's crazy and they're so annoying. Either break up or don't.

EMILY

Don't be a jerk, plus I already said yes. This was more telling you than asking you.

JIVAN

Why do you do this to me? You know I don't like this stuff.

EMILY

Exactly, you never like doing coupley stuff. So if I want to do it I have to make plans before I ask you. Be more cooperative and you'll get more info.

JIVAN

You're the literal worst. I gotta get back to work.

EMILY

Lunch later?

JIVAN

Nah, I am gonna work through today.

EMILY

Okay then...

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The restaurant is crowded but nice. The light is low, and everyone is talking in overly polite quiet voices. Music faintly flows from a string quartet in the corner.

Jivan and Emily make their way to the host.

JIVAN

Wow, I did not expect a guy who dates Alice to pick a place like this.

EMILY

Oh yeah, he's rich. Either his parents own this place or his parent's friends do. Don't worry, if he actually had to pay he wouldn't take us anywhere this nice.

The host is in his late 20s, with hair waxed so perfectly into place it's almost distracting.

HOST

Good evening, welcome to Rahul's do you have a reservation?

EMILY

Umm we are meeting our friends, It's probably under his name. Trey... shit, Jivan what's Trey's last name?

JIVAN

Don't look at me, I don't know the guy any more than you do.

HOST

Ah, you must be Mr. Lamont's guests. He and Ms. Dexter are at the table.

He quickly moves out from behind his podium and swiftly lead them to the best table in the dining room.

JIVAN

Holy shit.

EMILY

Yea, seriously.

ALICE

Oh my God! Hey guys! I'm so glad you came!

EMILY

Well, you know where to find me so it would be pretty awkward if we refused to show.

ALICE
True, I do like trapping people
into friendship with me.

TREY
And relationships.

ALICE
What the fuck Trey?

TREY
Kidding, babe. Kidding.

A waiter comes and saves them from whatever squabble Trey and Alice were edging towards.

After the waiter leaves a wine list he swoops back out.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

ALICE
So, Jivan. I've been seeing you
around the apartment a lot lately.

JIVAN
Oh yeah, you don't mind, do you?
It's just more convenient for us to
stay in Emily's room than mine.
Abhishek is a little more nosey,
you know.

ALICE
Oh no, it's totally fine. It just
made me a little curious. You know,
I see you guys together all the
time I just naturally started
thinking about you guys more...

JIVAN
Okay? Thinking about what?

ALICE
Well, you know. How do your parents
feel? Aren't Muslims like not
supposed to date Americans?

The silence is heavy in the air as Jivan thinks of how to respond to that.

EMILY
(Trying to joke)
Actually! Jivan isn't Muslim, he's
Hindu.

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

So, we don't really know much about what Muslims are allowed to do.... Plus there are Muslims from America so I think they can date Americans too...

ALICE

Oh, so they're cool with it then? Wow, that's so cool. I didn't know people from that part of the world were so open-minded.

Jivan and Emily share an uncomfortable look.

JIVAN

Well, actually... I haven't exactly told my parents about Emily really... because...

EMILY

(Jumping in)

...because we just decided it would be better not to tell them right off.

TREY

Damn, babe. You give me shit about ignoring your texts at least my mom knows you exist.

Alice punches Trey's arm and hushes him immediately.

ALICE

(Like she pities Emily)

Oh Trey shut up, don't say things like that if you don't know what you're talking about. I'm sure if Emily and Jivan talked about it they're both very happy keeping it a secret. Not everyone needs to share their happiness with everyone to prove they have it.

TREY

Whatever you say, bae.

ALICE

Ugh, seriously though guys it is so beautiful that you're dating. Like wow, can you imagine how cute their little bi-racial babies are gonna be? Oh and they're gonna speak so many languages! Like little brown super babies!

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)
Seriously Em, I think it is so great that you're dating an immigrant. That's totally the future.

Alice takes no notice of the discomfort of everyone else at the table.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Ooh! If you guys get married you have to invite me! I saw an Indian movie once with a wedding it was so beautiful! I love the little dots on the foreheads.

EMILY
Uhh it's kind of weird to be already praising our non-existent bi-racial babies, Alice.

JIVAN
Um no, no babies. No wedding. Can we stop talking about this? We're not even getting married.

EMILY
So it's already decided then? We're not getting married ever?

JIVAN
What the fuck Emily, don't you start talking crazy now too, that's not what I meant. We just have not even talked about it! We aren't talking about this here.

EMILY
Why do you always get to decide when we talk about this stuff? Why is it crazy that I think we could have a future?

JIVAN
Em, we've fucking talked about this before and I am definitely not talking about it here. Come on, I want to go home, now.

Jivan storms away from the table bumping into the waiter who was sheepishly waiting for a moment to go take orders.

INT. EMILY'S CAR - NIGHT

Emily and Jivan drive home in silence. They don't look happy.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily is lying on her bed while Jivan is looking through the clothes on the floor for pajamas.

JIVAN

You wanna do something this weekend? Go to the movies or something? They're showing a Bollywood movie at the theater by that Chinese restaurant.

EMILY

Sure.

JIVAN

It looks pretty good, but Salman Khan is in it. I know you don't love him, but still it'll be fun.

EMILY

Yeah.

Jivan stops looking through the clothes on the floor and at Emily. She is lying in bed just staring at the ceiling. He goes over and lays in the bed next to her.

JIVAN

What's up?

EMILY

You realize, Alice basically said, "They don't have to look happy to be happy", right? You think we don't look happy?

JIVAN

No, I mean yeah, we do. I'm sure we do. Fuck what Alice said, she's not winning any awards for healthily functioning relationships this year.

EMILY

But like think of it, honestly. When do people ever see us happy? I mean how many people in our lives even really know we are dating?

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

Just people from work and we're too new there. They don't really give a shit.

JIVAN

So, what does it matter who knows that we're dating?

EMILY

I mean, if you're proud of something you let people know about it right?

Things get quiet between them for a long moment.

When it seems like Emily isn't going to say anything else Jivan gets up to look for his pajamas again.

EMILY (CONT'D)

So what does that mean then, you're not proud of me? Nah, not even that. If you were just not proud of something you would still own up to it when someone brings it up... but you don't do you? I've noticed, when you talk to your mom. If my name ever comes out of her mouth you start saying no real quick.

JIVAN

You are not being fair, Emily. We fucking talked about this. I can't tell my parents.

EMILY

Why though? Yes, I know. It's against your religion, but so isn't the beef that you justify eating every now and then. It's against your culture, but so isn't fucking everything else about living in America. So you're willing to break the rules, you're just not willing to own up to it when it comes to me.

Jivan stops looking through the clothes again, but this time he doesn't lay down.

JIVAN

If you cared to listen to what I say every now and then you would know why I can't tell my parents. You remember?

(MORE)

JIVAN (CONT'D)

They're still collecting names for rishtas in a year or two. Those names might sound like a lot of things, but they sure as fuck aren't gonna sound as white as Emily.

EMILY

So that's it then? There really is just no future for us?

JIVAN

No, you know that is not what I am saying. Do not do that to me. All I am saying is that we did not exactly plan for things to get serious when we started, I don't know what to do about it now that it happened.

EMILY

Now that it happened? Like it's a bad thing. That's really nice, I really feel the love tonight, babe.

JIVAN

Are we seriously having this fight right now because Alice and whatever the Hell his name is aren't impressed with how we couple? Seriously? What Alice thinks of us this that important to you?

EMILY

Not just Alice, everyone. You know, when I told my mom that you weren't gonna tell your parents about me she said I shouldn't date a guy that wouldn't own the fact that he dates me.

JIVAN

I am not doing this tonight. Let's do this tomorrow, I am tired and listening to Alice all night gave me a headache. Can we please go to bed?

EMILY

Of course, we always do things exactly the way you want to do them. Let's go to bed now then.

JIVAN

What!? What will make you happy.
Tell me what to say I will say it,
tell me what to do, I'll do it.

EMILY

Tell someone about me, just one
person that you didn't meet in the
US.

Jivan lays down in bed and faces away from Emily.

JIVAN

After Christmas time my brother
will be done with his thesis
research, we can talk to him and
tell him then. Okay?

Emily pulls Jivan over to face her.

EMILY

Thank you.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily is alone in her room curled up with her laptop in her
lap. She is video chatting with her mother.

EMILY'S MOM

So, I know that you get a couple of
weeks off at Christmas and you
probably don't have any plans yet
so I have an early present for you!
Your dad and I bought you guys
tickets to come home for Christmas!

EMILY

Wait, you bought us tickets? Like
both me and Jivan?

EMILY'S MOM

Yes! You know, we just can't wait
to meet him. It's so exciting a new
city, a new job, a new boyfriend!

EMILY

I don't know mom... I mean things
are fine we aren't breaking up or
anything, but I don't know if we
are exactly ready for a trip like
this.. Like going all the way to
Maine to meet all my family at
Christmas... for two weeks?

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

That's kind of a huge deal. I don't know if he'll be up for it.

EMILY'S MOM

Well, you and him both better get up to it, because I spent a lot of money on these non-refundable tickets and I want my kid home for Christmas Goddammit. Anyway, you work on getting your boyfriend excited to come home for Christmas, I am going to go force those horrible nephews of yours into the tub before bed.

EMILY

Alright, goodnight mom, love ya.

EMILY'S MOM

You too, kid.

Emily hangs up and tosses her computer to the other corner of the bed.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES OUTSIDE OFFICE - DAY

Emily and Jivan sit at the picnic tables eating their lunches together but not speaking.

Emily stops eating and looks up at Jivan.

EMILY

(nervously)

So I have some news...

JIVAN

Oh fuck...

(whispering)

...you're not...

Jivan looks around to make sure no one is paying attention, he mimics holding a baby.

EMILY

No! Jesus Christ, no I'm not pregnant.

JIVAN

Shit don't scare me like that. What? What is your news?

EMILY

First off, fuck you, there was no reason to freak out about that. Second of all... mom bought us tickets to fly to Maine for Christmas. Like both of us.

JIVAN

So... you want me to go home with you for Christmas? Like and meet your parents and all?

EMILY

Well, I wouldn't say I'm jumping for joy over it cause you've kinda been a jerk lately but since mom already booked the flight, yeah I guess I do.

INT. PLANE

Emily and Jivan sit in the plane ignoring each other.

Jivan takes one of Emily's earbuds out.

JIVAN

The other day at lunch you said I was being a jerk lately. How have I been a jerk?

EMILY

You realize you have only said you loved me once.

JIVAN

So what? Why do I have to say it all the time? If you know why do I always have to say? I hate that, it's so American.

EMILY

Well news flash: your girlfriend is American.

JIVAN

Yeah, okay that's fine, but your boyfriend is Nepali so maybe you should think about that. I have never even told my mother I love her.

The landing announcement comes on and interrupts their argument.

INT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

Emily and Jivan are coming down the stairs of the airport and Emily's parents are already standing at the bottom. As soon as they get off the stairs Emily's mom charges them crying with hugs and kisses.

When Emily's mom goes to hug Jivan he awkwardly accepts without reciprocating, clearly not used to PDA.

EMILY'S MOM

Oh my God! I'm so excited, I can't believe you're really back for Christmas. I missed my baby girl so much.

EMILY

Well you pretty much guaranteed I'd come when you forced me, now didn't you, ya crazy bitch.

EMILY'S MOM

Yep, that's my job as the mom.

EMILY'S DAD

(Pushing mom out of the way)

Get away from my daughter, it's my turn.

When he lets go of his daughter, Emily's father turns to Jivan.

EMILY'S DAD (CONT'D)

Ah get over here, kid. How the fuck are you doing? Emily tells her mom so much about you. Not me, cause she never talks to me at all.

EMILY

If you don't shut up, old man, I'm gonna get right back on that plane.

EMILY'S MOM

Both of you shut up and come on, I'm tired it's time to go home.

INT. EMILY'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emily and her mother are setting up an air mattress on the floor.

EMILY'S MOM

Sorry you have to stay on the air mattress, we weren't expecting your brother back in the house.

EMILY

Well that was stupid of you. I called that divorce coming the day he married the bitch.

EMILY'S MOM

That's what that fancy college education gets you, I guess. Don't be a little bitch about it around your brother though, he's feeling bad about it.

EMILY

Yeah, being a 30-year-old loser who has to move back in with mom and dad will do that to you.

Jivan comes into the room after a shower.

EMILY'S MOM

Well I'll go off and let you two get some rest. Nighty night, bitches.

EMILY

Night, mom.

Emily's mom leaves and Jivan and Emily sit on the bed.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Well, considering we came from LA where it is currently 8pm, I'm not the slightest bit tired. What about you?

JIVAN

I have actually never felt more awake than this moment. We have to stay pretty quiet though. Wanna watch TV then?

EMILY

Oh about that. You may have noticed we live in the middle of East Bumfuck nowhere, Maine. We don't have cable.

JIVAN
You're American, from America, IN
AMERICA... you do not have cable
television? Fuck me.

EMILY
Well, actually that doesn't sound
like a bad idea, that.

Emily moves towards Jivan.

JIVAN
(Jumping up and whisper-
screaming)
Are you serious? I am not having
sex in your parent's house!

EMILY
It's fine, we're adults we can do
whatever we want, and we can be
quiet about it.

JIVAN
Um, no thank you. What if your
brother comes down or your sister
busts through the front door?
Seriously, why do you never think
about anything?

EMILY
Jesus Christ, fine if you're not in
the mood whatever, but don't turn
this into a fight for fuck's sake.

JIVAN
I am not fighting, I'm just asking
why you can't be more practical.

EMILY
Oh my God, nope. I'm not doing this
on our first night at my parent's
house. I am gonna pop some
melatonin pills and fall asleep.
You fix your attitude by tomorrow
lunch time. We are going to meet
some of my high school friends at
Fairground's.

JIVAN
Where are we going? I don't want to
meet anyone. Can I just not go? You
know I don't like meeting people.

EMILY

Fairground's, it's like a bar-y
restraunt-y place in town, and you
definitely have to go. I'm not
bringing my boyfriend home for
Christmas and then not letting
anyone meet him the whole time.
Suck it up.

Emily pops some sleeping pills and lays down, pushing Jivan
out of her spot as she does.

INT. BAR - DAY

Fairground's is empty save a table of old men wearing plaid
shirts and bragging about their latest hunting adventures in
the corner. Emily and Jivan sit at the bar with Emily's
friends HANNAH and STEPHANIE.

STEPHANIE

So Jivan, what's your favorite
thing about my best friend?

JIVAN

Well, she is certainly different
than anyone I ever met back in
Nepal. It has been pretty
interesting to get to know her.

EMILY

AKA, it's a white girl fetish.
That's okay, though. As long as I'm
getting some.

Jivan shoots Emily an angry look.

JIVAN

I am gonna go use the bathroom. I
will be back.

Jivan leaves.

HANNAH

He's cute! A lot quieter than I
expected you to end up with,
though.

EMILY

Yeah, so apparently having the same
friends since kindergarten doesn't
teach you how to meet people. I've
discovered I am incredibly bashful
and awkward in LA. Weird, huh?

HANNAH

Well you're awkward here too, you just never noticed. Anyway, he's hot so whatever. How are things going?

EMILY

Well, actually. Things have been a little off lately. We kind of are going through a rough patch.

STEPHANIE

What's wrong?

EMILY

I don't know... I mean, when we started dating we kind of had an agreement that we wouldn't get too caught up in planning the future because of the culture differences and stuff, but now it is getting hard to ignore that I don't really love that idea.

HANNAH

Oh shit, that sucks. I'm sorry, hon.

STEPHANIE

Yeah, that's shit. So is he like totally against committing? Why did you bring him home then?

Jivan comes back to the group and the girls go quiet.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Hey there, can you do me a favor Jivan? Can you go across the street to the gas station and buy me a lighter? I need a new one and we need a way to get you out of the bar so we can girl-talk some more.

JIVAN

Oh yeah, okay. I guess I'll be back soon then.

Jivan leaves again, when he walks out of the bar the girls resume their huddle over their drinks.

EMILY

Mom surprised us with tickets home for both of us.

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

Anyway, I don't know, he hasn't actually said that out right. It is starting to feel like that, though. Like when we are alone he says he loves me and all that, but he won't even tell his family I exist. Other than his brother, but even he can't know we are dating.

STEPHANIE

Nope. Fuck that. If he doesn't even want to tell his mom about you, leave it. A guy isn't worth that kind of trouble.

EMILY

It isn't his fault. The cultures are just so different, we don't want to cause any drama for his family back home.

HANNAH

I get that, and it is really great that you're being sensitive... but you have to think about yourself too. You can't just let him run everything, he's gotta compromise some places too.

As they are talking a group of loud young men in their early to mid-twenties comes in. The pack leader is a tall, handsome 22-year-old who keeping the attention of his group with his loud animated bragging.

EMILY

Oh my God, Stephanie, look whose hot cousin just walked in!

STEPHANIE

First off, gag me. Second off, don't worry the whole town can hear that showoff when he comes in.

Emily gets up and runs over to the group of young men.

EMILY

Gregory LeVois! Oh my god, how are you, you magnificent beast!?

GREG

Emily! Why the fuck didn't my bitch of a cousin tell me you were in town!

Greg envelopes Emily in a big bear hug. After the hug he loosens but keeps his hands on her hips.

EMILY

You know she likes to keep me to herself, she's very selfish like that. How are you though!? Fuck me, I missed you so much.

GREG

Interesting, because you don't call me up very often. Actually, I haven't gotten a single call in months. What, you move out to LA and already become such a big success you can't remember the little people.

EMILY

Babe, you are anything but little.

GREG

(Playfully pushing her away)

Okay, get fucked kiddo. Come on, buy me a drink, I'm sure you owe me one.

Greg and his group join Emily and hers at the bar.

STEPHANIE

Hey, loser. Hey gang of losers.

GREG

Excuse me, ya dumb shit. Why didn't you tell me my bestie is coming back?

STEPHANIE

Well if she was really your bestie you would've already known that, now wouldn't you?

Greg flips Stephanie off and orders a round of drinks. Jivan comes back into the bar, unimpressed with the growing number of people to interact with.

JIVAN

I have returned, here is your lighter. Emily, you ready to get going?

EMILY

No! These guys just got here!

GREG

Well who's this?

EMILY

Oh Jesus! I can't believe I forgot to tell you. This is Jivan, he's my boyfriend. Jivan, this is Greg, we went to high school together.

GREG

Wow, Emily has a real-life boyfriend? I thought I would be the closest you ever got.

EMILY

Oh shut up. Greg and me were kind of permanently cast as each other's love interests in all the school plays. I don't know why but my guess is something pervy on Mr. Martin's part.

JIVAN

Oh well, it is good to meet you then, Greg.

The two men take a moment to size each other up. Greg gets off his bar stool and shakes Jivan's hand; he is nearly a full foot taller and the image of the All-American man.

GREG

Hey bud, it's good to meet you. How did you guys meet?

JIVAN

We work together, she is horrible with computers so I had to come fix hers.

GREG

Wow, Em. I never figured you'd end up with a techie.

EMILY

You should know this by now Greg, I'm full of surprises.

GREG

I guess you are. Anyway, come on, one quick lunch shot and then I gotta get back to work, okay?

EMILY

Greg! I am not gonna let you take a shot and then go drive a skidder! Get out of here.

GREG

Yeah, yeah, fine. I'll see you later, babe.

As Greg leaves he kisses Emily on the cheek and punches Stephanie on the arm.

GREG (CONT'D)

See ya ladies, Jivan.

INT. EMILY'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emily is laid on the air mattress and Jivan is sitting on the couch. She is watching something on her laptop and he is working on his.

JIVAN

(Suddenly closing his laptop)

So, you were definitely into Greg in high school, right?

EMILY

What? No, of course not. He's just a friend.

JIVAN

Yeah, a friend you had a crush on.

EMILY

You're crazy. Anyway, why would you care who I may have had a crush on before we even met?

JIVAN

Well you seemed pretty comfortable with him today too.

EMILY

Yeah of course, because we have been friends for years. That doesn't mean anything.

JIVAN

If it did not mean anything you would admit you wanted to sleep with him in high school.

EMILY

Jesus H Christ, come off it! Would it really make you feel better if I said that yeah, Greg is hot stuff and I wanted to climb that tall bod like a tree in high school?

JIVAN

Well, no. I did not love hearing that, but at least you're not lying anymore.

EMILY

You're a psycho, you know that. Absolutely psycho! Holy fuck, why did you even come if you just wanted to pick fight every night? You are exhausting.

JIVAN

I am just saying, it is pretty weird that I walked in while you were being eyeball fucked by the guy you wished you could get with in high school and he did not even know I existed.

EMILY

First off, eyeball fucked isn't a thing and that sounds creepy as hell. Second off, I cannot handle this jealousy right now from a guy who won't even tell his mother I exist.

JIVAN

Oh yeah, that will be good for everyone. I will call Mum and Dad and tell them I am at the parent's home of my Gori girlfriend sharing a bed. That will go great, they won't hate you at all.

A pile of books collapses off the table in the other room and over the half wall Emily's mom is seen retreating from the other room in a hurry.

EMILY'S MOM

I didn't hear you fighting, I wasn't listening. Dinner is ready come up!

Emily shoots an angry look at Jivan and throws a pillow at him as she storms upstairs.

INT. DINING ROOM TABLE - NIGHT

Around the table are Emily, Jivan, and Emily's parents, brother, and sister. They all sit silently eating; Emily, Jivan, and Emily's mom all stare directly at their plates.

EMILY'S BROTHER

So ahh, what's going on with the awkward silence? Did Mom walk in on you guys doing it?

EMILY'S DAD

Jesus, Ty don't make me hit you.

EMILY

No, she didn't walk in on us doing it you perv.

TY

Just practicing our awkwardness then? Great.

EMILY'S MOM

It was nothing, I was just cleaning up downstairs and I overheard a little tiff.

EMILY

(Angrily)

Mom, can you not?

EMILY'S MOM

What? It's fine, everyone fights. It's normal.

EMILY

You know what's not normal though, Ma? The family holding a fucking council over it at dinner. So can we drop it, do you think? Thanks.

Things go tense and quiet.

After a long moment...

EMILY'S DAD

So... I saw a deer the other day...

EMILY'S MOM

Oh really? Where, that's fun!

EMILY'S DAD

Ummm..... okay I didn't see a deer
and I can't think of a lie where I
saw it. I just didn't want to sit
in the awkwardness anymore.

INT. EMILY'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emily is on the bed and Jivan has a pillow and blanket on the
couch.

EMILY

Well, that sucked.

JIVAN

Yes it did. Hey, I am sorry this
trip is not going so great. I think
we are just having problems right
now, so it is a little hard for me
to like get into it and socialize
with your people.

EMILY

Yeah, I was getting that vibe.
Hannah and Stephanie wanted to meet
up for dinner tomorrow night but
maybe I should cancel, yeah?

JIVAN

No it's fine, you can go. I will
stay here, I have a lot of work I
should catch up on so I am not
behind when we get back. I was not
planning on leaving the office over
Christmas.

EMILY

Yeah, okay. That's good I guess.
Good night then, I am gonna go to
sleep now I am pretty tired.

Emily goes to kiss Jivan but instead of the normal kiss on
the lips he turns it into a kiss on the cheek.

JIVAN

Night then.

INT. FAIRGROUND'S - NIGHT

Hannah, Stephanie, and Greg sit at a booth in the corner of
Fairground's. They all already have beers and have clearly
been settled in since they got off work.

Stephanie and Hannah are already sitting on the same side of the booth so when Emily comes in she slides in next to Greg.

GREG

Hey hey, Hollywood. I hope you don't mind I crashed the party. I figured you probably aren't gonna be in town long, so I wanted to steal some time with you while you are here.

EMILY

Oh no, that's totally cool. Actually, I'm glad you came, the trip hasn't gone quite as one would hope so the more company the merrier.

GREG

Oh, shit... I guess that's why J isn't here?

EMILY

J?

GREG

Yeah, sorry man your boyfriend's name is tricky. I figure J is easier.

EMILY

Yeah, he doesn't really like nicknames so maybe don't call him that to his face. Also, yeah that's why he isn't here. We kind of needed a breather.

GREG

A breather, from your vacation?

Greg reaches over to Emily and pulls her tight to him.

GREG (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, kid. You should be coming home on top of the world showing off all your success out in LA. Not sitting in this bar sulking about a boy with us just like we were in high school again.

EMILY

Yeah... hey I gotta pee. I'll be back.

STEPHANIE

Oh me too, I'll come.

Emily and Stephanie head towards the bathroom.

As soon as they get in there Stephanie starts giggling.

EMILY

What happened? Why the fuck are you laughing like that?

STEPHANIE

Oh my God, Greg is totally laying it on thick right now. Christ, you could totally get him home right now.

EMILY

What are you talking about? He's just being friendly, that's what friends do Steph.

STEPHANIE

Uh-uh no way. I love Greg, but he isn't that sweet. He is definitely trying to move on you, you just can't see it.

EMILY

Don't you think he had plenty of time in high school? If he ever wanted to make a move on me he would have long ago. Besides remember, my boyfriend sitting at my parent's house?

STEPHANIE

Yeah, your non-committal boyfriend that doesn't even want to get to know your best-friends since you were five? Sounds like quite the catch.

EMILY

Shut up, you don't know what you're talking about.

STEPHANIE

All I am saying is it would be pretty sweet if you got with Greg. If you guys get married, we would officially be related.

(MORE)

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Plus, Greg is practically my brother instead of a cousin, so you would pretty much be my sister. That's way better than following around some guy who keeps using his culture as an excuse to ignore your feelings.

EMILY

Wow, seriously fuck off. Now I really do need to pee - let me go.

After the flush Emily emerges from her stall with a new attitude.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(Curiously)

I mean, do you really think a guy like Greg would be into me? Like, he could pull any girl he wanted to in school and I was the most thoroughly single person in the state.

STEPHANIE

That was just because you never gave him a chance. He always had a crush on you. Why do you think he did all those plays he obviously hated? I mean it was never some fairy-tale thing. I'm sure he just wanted to tap that, but he definitely couldn't get any girl he wanted cause you would never notice him pining you dumbass.

EMILY

Whatever, come on let's go back. They're gonna think we died in here.

EXT. FAIRGROUND'S PARKING LOT - NIGHT

All cars but two are gone from the parking lot. Emily and Greg are leaning against Greg's truck talking.

EMILY

Well shit, I forgot how early closing time is around here. 11:30 and we're already pissed and the bar parking lot is already empty.

GREG

Yeah, I guess the elderly forest dwellers around here don't party nearly as hard as you guys out there in Cali.

EMILY

They sure don't. Also, it was pretty traumatic to be getting drunk in the same tiny bar as my elementary school teachers. That is something I certainly don't miss about the Valley.

GREG

Yeah, well you get used to it. You know I've gone shot for shot with Carpenter before?

EMILY

No! You got drunk with Nate Carpenter!? Damn son, every girl who ever graduated from Sacopee would kill for that chance.

GREG

I don't get the appeal. I mean sure he's tall and handsome and super fit and hilarious... wait, I forgot where I was going with that point. Yeah, I guess he is the perfect male specimen... Thank God he moved out of town, I don't think I could keep up with that competition forever.

EMILY

Oh shut up, there is not competition for you in this town, you know that.

GREG

You know people always say that, yet here I am always single.

The two of them stand there looking at each other for a moment.

Greg starts passively kicking the hunks of snow out of the wheel-wells of his truck.

GREG (CONT'D)

I'm really glad you came back around this winter, kid.

(MORE)

GREG (CONT'D)

I miss you like hell. It's been a real bummer since you went off to school.

EMILY

Oh come on, I can't imagine you did anything but get more popular once you became a real grown up who can get drunk and showoff in bars like a real man.

GREG

Strangely enough, getting drunk in a bar with your dad's friends every night of the week while your scrolling down your phone looking at everyone going off to college and seeing the world beyond Southern Maine isn't crazy fulfilling.

Emily's phone dings, she checks it.

EMILY

Hey, that's Jivan. He's asking when I'll be back, I guess I should get heading home. You good to drive?

GREG

Nah, but I'm not gonna. I'm staying across the way with Dave tonight.

EMILY

Good. Okay bud, I'll see you around. Sleep tight.

GREG

Yeah, night.

As they are about to part Greg pulls Emily into another bear-hug.

GREG (CONT'D)

I do miss this. Get home safe and text me when you do, yeah?

EMILY

Yeah.

INT. EMILY'S PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emily comes in to see Jivan already fallen asleep on the couch. She pulls out her phone to text Greg.

She finds her way to his Facebook page and starts swiping through his pictures. She pauses on one of them at a keg party in the woods. They are sitting against a fallen tree with their arms wrapped around each other.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Emily's family are with Emily and Jivan dropping them off at the airport.

EMILY'S MOM

Oh I can't believe I am letting you abandon me again. I knew I should have bought that rope at the hardware store the other day.

EMILY

Oh get real old woman, you wouldn't be able to overpower me.

EMILY'S MOM

You don't know the power of a mother's obsession, my love.

EMILY

Jesus you sap, come on, goodbye hugs. We got a plane to catch.

Emily's mom and dad pull her and Jivan both into a tight group hug.

EXT. EMILY'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Emily and Jivan stand outside her door.

JIVAN

You know what, I am really tired now. I think it would be better if I go home. I think we would both sleep better if we had our own bed space. You know how small your mattress is.

EMILY

Yeah, if you wanna go home that's fine. I guess if we are going back to work tomorrow you have to be rested up.

JIVAN

Okay, goodnight then.

Jivan quickly pecks Emily on the cheek and leaves.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily drags her suitcase in and drops it on the floor as soon as she gets to her room. She makes her way over to her bed and slumps down on top of all the rejected outfits she didn't pack.

BING

The screen of her phone lights up and it is name she sees across the notification bar. She puts the phone down and grabs her laptop.

BING

Another message from Greg calls her attention and Emily opens her phone. When she clicks on the chat she sees the picture of them against the log in high school and a message that reads: "I know you're gonna be tired, but I just came across this. Hope you got back to your place alright".

Emily smiles and sets the phone down.

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

The office is loud and bustling with people recounting the tales of their Holiday adventures. Q and Emily sit at their clump.

Q

So, how was it? Bringing the boy to meet the parents, were you guys nervous?

EMILY

Yeah, it was pretty nerve-wracking, I've never brought a guy home before. That isn't the exciting thing to be talking about though. How was your trip? How did you guys get on with Kevin's project?

Q

It was great! You totally should have come on, we did so much cool shit.

(MORE)

Q (CONT'D)

Plus, the crew we were supposed to be working with over there flaked and it turned out to be just us so we had a lot more freedom to do whatever we wanted which was so cool. Plus, the videos got great numbers when we released them. I heard they are gonna turn it into a series and travel around more. If they do you totally have to try to jump on board. It would be so great.

EMILY

Yeah, if they do I'll look into it for sure.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES OUTSIDE OFFICE - DAY

Emily sits at the normal picnic table alone. She has her lunch out but she hasn't started eating it yet.

BING

Jivan's name pops up on Emily's screen with a message: "Sorry, I can't make it to lunch today, got a lot of work to do".

INT. OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY- NIGHT

Emily is waiting by the door of the lobby when Q and Kevin are leaving.

KEVIN

Who are you waiting for? Jivan already left earlier.

EMILY

Oh... when did he leave?

KEVIN

At lunch, that's really weird I definitely assumed he would have told you. I guess he just wasn't thinking though, you know it is hard to remember your partner can't actually read your mind sometimes. Bad news like that tends to make you space on that stuff.

EMILY

Wait, what bad news would he have gotten? He didn't tell me about anything.

KEVIN

Oh... well, I'm uncomfortable now so I think it is probably time for me to get home.

Kevin and Q rush out the door.

EXT. JIVAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Emily is standing at Jivan's front door, knocking. After a moment of nobody answering she starts pounding.

EMILY

Babe! I know you're at home, please just open the door so we can talk like fucking adults, could you? What is going on?

The other side of the door is still silent.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(Under her breath)

Fuckin A, what is going on?

Emily turns and starts to walk down the hallway; just as she is about to turn the corner the sound of a dead lock unbolting catches her attention.

Slowly, Jivan opens the front door and stands to the side for Emily to come in. She passes him silently and neither makes eye contact with the other.

INT. JIVAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Everything is wrong in Jivan's living room. The coffee table is flipped over and the cups that sat on top are broken on the ground. A broken entertainment set drawer sits flung across the room from the entertainment set under the whole it left in the wall.

EMILY

Holy shit, what happened? Did you do this? Are you okay?

Jivan closes himself off and sits on the arm of the sofa facing away from Emily.

Emily comes up behind him.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Seriously babe, not to be a bitch but this is kind of bordering on the beginning of a 48 hours episode so you're kind of freaking me out. What is going on?

JIVAN

Why would I want to tell you, you can't take anything seriously or keep anything private?

EMILY

Okay don't be like that. Come on, if something is going on with you I have to know. Jivan, you're my boyfriend and we have barely even seen each other since we came back from a very unsuccessful trip to visit my family. This is not the ideal environment for blossoming love.

JIVAN

You fucking serious right now? You are going to make this about you?

EMILY

No, no. I'm sorry, please tell me.

There is a long silence.

Emily sits on the couch and tugs on Jivan's arm for him to sit next to her.

JIVAN

So, uh something happened back home... something bad...

EMILY

What do you mean? Is everyone okay?

Jivan stands up and starts pacing around behind the sofa.

JIVAN

Not really, my friend Abhilash died.

Jivan has stopped pacing. He is trying hard to fight the emotion threatening to overtake the room.

EMILY

Oh Jesus, Jivan I'm so sorry. What happened?

JIVAN

He was riding a bus back to his village. The roads in the mountain areas are really dangerous and there was a mud slide. They were going around a corner and the road was not big enough for the bus anymore, so it fell off the mountain. A lot of people died.

Jivan's knees buckle and he supports himself on the back of the couch.

Emily tries to wrap her arms around him, but he shrinks away from her.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

I think it would be better if you leave. I think I just want to be alone for the night.

EMILY

Are you sure? I don't think you should be alone right now.

JIVAN

Please just go, I just really, really want to have a night alone tonight, okay? Please? I love you, but tonight I need to be by myself.

EMILY

(reluctantly)

Okay...

Slowly Emily stands up and goes to Jivan. This time when she puts her arms around him he falls into her. They stand there wrapped around each other for a while.

INT. EMILY'S CAR - NIGHT

Emily is sitting motionless in her car outside of Jivan's building staring out the windshield.

BING

Her phone lights up in the passenger's seat. It is a message from Greg:

"Hey there, miss me yet?"

She shuts off her screen and puts the phone back face down.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES OUTSIDE OFFICE - DAY

Emily is sitting alone at the picnic table with her lunch. She reluctantly starts eating by herself.

After a moment Jivan comes up and sits down with her.

EMILY

Babe! You came in today? I thought you would take the day off.

JIVAN

No, I didn't want to sit around doing nothing.

EMILY

Oh that's great. I'm glad you decided to come, I was worried about you being alone too much.

JIVAN

I mean, I do have a roommate I haven't really been alone.

EMILY

Yeah, I guess not.

Jivan pulls out his lunch and they start eating in strained silence.

After a few tense moments of this Emily pulls out her laptop.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Oh, hey. I wanted to show you this stand-up video, it is so funny.

JIVAN

I am not really in a comedy mood right now. Besides I don't like to watch stand-up with you anyway. I don't like American stand up, I never get the jokes.

EMILY

Okay... Do you wanna watch anything then?

JIVAN

Do we need to? Can't we just eat?

EMILY

Oh sure. Yeah, sorry. I just thought it would be good to not sit in the quiet.

JIVAN

I like the quiet sometimes. I'm sorry, I like being around you. I am glad you are here with me right now, but can I just be with you in the quiet?

They go back to silently eating their food.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily is sitting in her room video chatting with her mother.

EMILY

I don't know, I feel bad. Obviously this is a really hard thing for him to deal with and I don't want to be a bitch about this. He's just so different now. Like being around him is so strained and stressful. I don't enjoy it right now. I kind of feel like I don't want to spend a lot of time around him right now.

EMILY'S MOM

Well then good luck not wanting to be a bitch, because you are being one.

EMILY

I'm not trying to be. I'm just being honest, I don't want to be around when he is bringing the bad energy all the time.

EMILY'S MOM

Are you going to break up with him?

EMILY

No, of course not! I would never dump someone because he's having a hard time like that I'm not heartless.

EMILY'S MOM

Really? Are you sure about that? So far you have said that you don't want to be a bitch and you aren't heartless. Still though, everything else you say is kind of painting you like a heartless bitch.

EMILY

What the fuck Mom?

EMILY'S MOM

Honey, you know I love you and you've always been my and your dad's favorite. That being said, you are being really selfish about this. He is going through one of the hardest things that a person can go through and your sitting here bitching to your mother about how it's sad for you that he isn't being tons of fun right now. Can't you see how that is a bit selfish of you?

EMILY

I'm just trying to look out for my own self-care which is something that you always taught me.

EMILY'S MOM

No, don't put that on me. You know that is not an accurate way to describe what is going on right now. You are getting overwhelmed by the stress of a real-world adult situation and now you are looking for an easy way out of the emotional commitment.

EMILY

I'm not trying to get out of anything. I literally just said I don't want to break up with him.

EMILY'S MOM

But you do want to abandon him. You want to keep the relationship because when life is good, it is fun. Then when things go bad you start wanting to not spend time with him when he is sad because you like being around him for the fun parts.

EMILY

Shit, that sounds really dickish when you say it like that.

EMILY'S MOM

I think you really need to think about this situation. If you are really feeling like you want to start avoiding him while he is in a rough patch, then maybe this is a sign. Being in an adult relationship means that you have to step up in these emotional situations.

EMILY

What are you saying? Do you mean you think I should break up with him?

EMILY'S MOM

I'm not saying that, but if you aren't willing to do what you need to supporting him, this situation isn't good for either of you. So if you aren't ready for a serious relationship it's time to jump ship now before you ruin everything and he hates you, because I also know you have a big need to be liked.

EMILY

Fuck Mom, you're supposed to tell me good things to make me feel better when I call you with stuff like this.

EMILY'S MOM

Well, on the bright side I bumped into Greg today at the supermarket. He was asking about you an awful lot. I think he might be interested.

EMILY

Mom, I'm not gonna break up with Jivan to go and maybe date Greg in a long-distance relationship just because things aren't going perfect right now.

EMILY'S MOM

I just think that you should keep in mind that you two also weren't doing very well before you came home, and you didn't seem to be enjoying each other's company very much while you were here.

EMILY

Christ, mom. Well now that you've depressed me I am gonna leave it on that note and go to bed. I'll talk to you tomorrow, and please don't be such a downer about it then. Goodnight.

EMILY'S MOM

Goodnight.

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Kevin comes up to Emily who is at her desk working.

KEVIN

Hey Emily, how's it going?

EMILY

You know how it is, a lot to catch up on after the holidays. Plus things have just been a little stressful lately, you know worrying about Jivan and all.

KEVIN

Well hey, I have an idea on how you might be able to get a bit of a break.

EMILY

Really? How?

KEVIN

Well, my last videos did really well so they are giving me a series. It's gonna be a travel thing, and eventually we are gonna be doing some big things overseas. Now though, we are starting with a two-week trip to Vegas. Q said you have been really working on your camera skills and my guy just quit to go work on real TV.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

You think you wanna come along?
It's basically a free trip to
Vegas?

EMILY

Oh my God, yes!

KEVIN

Wow, really? I thought you would
want to talk it over with Jivan,
but this is great. I'm glad to have
you on.

EMILY

Oh yeah, I guess I will run it by
him... but I'm sure he'll be fine.
I'm sure.

Kevin leaves and Emily goes back to her work, but now she is
much less focused.

BING

Emily's phone lights up with a text from Jivan:

"Hey, wanna hangout tomorrow? We can go for lunch?"

EXT. CAFE TABLE - DAY

Emily sits fidgeting at a patio table. It is a nice sunny day
and the patio tables are all filled.

Emily's phone starts ringing. Greg's smiling face lights up
her screen.

EMILY

(Before answering, to
herself)

Wow, great timing Gregory.

She answers:

EMILY (CONT'D)

Hey, Greg what's up?

GREG

Nothing, I just got done with some
work and I thought about you, so I
thought I would call and say hi. I
know I must seem pathetic, but now
that I got a little bit of time
with you again I am really missing
you.

EMILY

Yeah, I miss you too, Greg.

GREG

Nah, you're just being nice cause you don't want me feeling bad. I know you're having a blast out there in the nice warm sun. Me, I'm stuck here in the snow with nobody around to make me think I'm funny. You know, none of the dinks at work ever laugh at my jokes, having you around for a few days was a real ego boost.

EMILY

Oh shut up, now you're just fishing for compliments. You're always showing off I'm sure you have more fans than just me.

GREG

That's true actually, I am very popular. Anyway, how is work going? Doing anything amazing lately?

EMILY

Actually, I'm really excited. I got invited yesterday to work on a project that is shooting in Vegas. It'll be so cool, basically getting paid to hangout in Vegas for two weeks.

GREG

Shit! Congrats, kid that's so cool. Man, it's too bad they don't need any half-assed lumber-jacking done over there. So how's the boyfriend feel about that? Cool girlfriend going off to the party capital of the world all alone for a couple of weeks?

EMILY

(Remembering)

Oh, actually I can't believe I forgot. I gotta go actually I am waiting to meet him right now, he'll be here soon.

GREG

Oh.. yeah, okay. Well, you two have a good time then. I'll talk to you later?

EMILY

Yeah, talk to you later.

After a few moments Jivan comes up, and they share a long hug before he sits down.

JIVAN

You look really pretty today.

EMILY

Thanks, I showered for you, you're welcome.

JIVAN

Hmm... so how is your weekend going?

EMILY

Well, it hasn't really started yet so only time will tell I guess.

JIVAN

Yeah...

EMILY

How are you doing? How are you feeling?

JIVAN

You know... I don't know. Not great. Things are kind of going a little shit right now. I just have to day though, I'm really grateful that you're being so good to me right now. I know I kind of am closing off a little. I guess that is just what I do when I have bad things happen. I just do not really like sharing my feelings all the time.

EMILY

It's okay, I have no idea how I would react if this happened to me.

Emily holds Jivan's hand

JIVAN

I'm so glad you are here with me. I don't think I could handle this alone. I know I don't share this stuff with you really, but it is true. You are great.

EMILY

I guess this is the time I should mention something then...

JIVAN

What?

EMILY

Well, I actually am gonna be leaving for a couple of weeks... I got called to do a shoot in Vegas.

JIVAN

What? Now? Can't they get someone else to go? I can't believe they're making you go now, they all know what is going on.

EMILY

Well, that's the thing. They aren't actually making me go. I just really want to.

JIVAN

What?

EMILY

I have never worked on a shoot away from the studio before. I need to get some experience, don't I?

JIVAN

There will be other times to get experience. It isn't like this shoot in Vegas is going to make your career is it? Why can't you just wait a while and stay here with me?

EMILY

I love you, you know that right?

JIVAN

I do yeah. I love you too.

EMILY

I just think... sometimes, it doesn't necessarily come down to loving someone.

JIVAN

What?

EMILY

I just mean, things... between us... they kind of, they don't feel very great lately do they? Like even before we went home, we started a rough patch a while ago. Don't you think?

JIVAN

I guess... wait, what the fuck is happening here? Are you breaking up with me?

Worried about drawing attention to them Jivan looks around and starts speaking under his breath.

JIVAN (CONT'D)

Are you fucking dumping me now? Like now, here in front of everyone? Now? Do you know how I am feeling now?

EMILY

I'm sorry, I guess I am. I honestly didn't expect that I was going to today. I just, I think I'm not happy around you anymore. I know it is a bitchy thing to say to someone who just had their friend die, but I'm not. I just, I can't do this. I can't be in this without the fun bits. I just cannot keep on waiting for the better, waiting for the happy.

JIVAN

You know why you've had to be waiting for the happy lately? Because my fucking friend who I knew longer than I've been able to talk is dead. He died doing something he does all the time. What? You think if your friend died you would pop up right quick and be happy and smiles right away?

EMILY

Listen I'm just saying...

JIVAN

Fuck you, I don't want to hear it. You don't listen to me, why should I listen to you. You're a child. You are a fucking little child. Don't you think I would want to be happy and have fun with you too? I just can not do that right now.

EMILY

Jivan, I'm sorry... I just...

JIVAN

No. No, I'm leaving. Have fun on your trip. I'm sure they need you there more than I need you here right now, right? See you around.

Jivan quickly and angrily pushes away from the table and leaves Emily sitting alone.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily is rushing around her room stuffing clothes messily into an open suitcase on the bed. Next to the suitcase is her open laptop. From the laptop Greg's voice can be heard.

GREG

I told you, you should have started packing yesterday minimum. You're gonna forget a bunch of shit now running around last minute like an idiot.

EMILY

Shut up, either say something supportive or leave me alone, okay?

GREG

Right, I'm totally wrong. You're a completely put-together person and this crash-through life lack of planning that you work with is definitely going to pay off in the long run.

EMILY

Ugh, never mind. Just shut up, you're no good at pandering.

An alarm goes off.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Fuck! Welp, that's it I gotta head downstairs they're gonna be here any second now. I guess anything that hasn't made it into my suitcase now just isn't coming.

GREG

Told you! Dumbass, I hope you forgot to pack any underwear at all.

EMILY

Okay, creep. Keep your mind off my undies, okay?

GREG

Ehhh get out of here, kid, you have people waiting on you.

Emily hangs up, throws her laptop in her backpack and runs out of the room.

EMILY

(from out of the room)

Fuck!

She runs back in, forces her suitcase closed and drags it out with her.

INT. HOTEL BUFFET - DAY

In the middle of a huge hotel buffet hall Kevin and his partner sit at a big table surrounded by cameras and crew members. Emily is setting up one of the cameras.

KEVIN

Alright guys, apparently a real famous person is gonna come in because celebrities are all cheap fucks and they are kicking us out for now. We gotta go and come back later.

Scattered bitching from all the crew members that just wasted all of their time setting up to have to take everything down without getting a shot in.

EXT. HOTEL OUTDOOR SITTING AREA - DAY

Emily and the rest crew have taken over the patio area slouching all over the furniture like bored high-schoolers on a field trip.

Emily's phone starts to ring, she takes it out of her pocket to reveal Greg's grin across her screen. She answers excitedly.

EMILY

Hey, you!

GREG

So, how much free time are you getting on this super-stressful work trip of yours?

EMILY

Actually, a shit ton. I honestly don't know how we are getting away with getting paid for this.

GREG

That's good to hear. Hypothetically, how would you feel about a pop in?

EMILY

What?

GREG

So say someone got a bit drunk last night and maybe ended up buying a plane ticket to Vegas and then a bit still drunkenly stumbled on a plane this morning and has found himself sitting outside the airport not knowing where to go. Would you welcome a visit from that foolish young man?

EMILY

Oh my God, are you serious!? Are you in Vegas, right now?

GREG

Yup, sure am. I don't even have a change of undies so now I feel pretty stupid now giving you all that shit about not packing properly.

EMILY

You big dumb loser. Yeah, come on over. We are actually hanging around our hotel now. I'll text you the address you can show up here.

GREG

Great, see you in a bit. Fuck! This is cool shit man.

EMILY

Or psychotic, we'll see how stalker-ish you seem when you get here.

She hangs up and Q looks at her.

Q

Who was that?

EMILY

Uh.. his name is Greg, he's a friend from home. Looks like he decided to pop around.

Q

Pop around? From Maine? To Vegas? Just a pop? Damn girl, moving on fast. I see you, go ahead and get your cute on - they aren't gonna let us back in there for a while anyway.

EMILY

No, it's not like that. He's just a friend.

Q

Okay, whatever you say. Ya liar.

Q leaves Emily. Emily looks at her phone, the wallpaper is still her and Jivan. She opens her phone and searches Jivan's name on Facebook. When his profile pops up, there is a big "add friend" button by his smiley profile picture.

EMILY

(to herself)

Yeah, fair enough I guess.

She closes the app and changes her wallpaper to the generic option of a bunch of zoomed in flowers.