

The Overwhelming Urge to be Completely Destroyed

A Comedy in Two Acts

Sam Wood
375 Broome st, apt 3
New York, NY 10013
(608)220-0715
Samwood3000@gmail.com

Cast of Characters

<u>MILES:</u>	22, a grocery stocker.
<u>HARRY:</u>	23, a pizza delivery boy.
<u>CLIFF:</u>	22, Eddy's boyfriend of 2 years, a junior partner.
<u>EDDY:</u>	23, Cliff's girlfriend of 2 years, a debate coach.
<u>ROSS:</u>	23, a political campaign staffer.
<u>MARCY:</u>	19, a college drop-out.
<u>DAPHNE:</u>	22, an after-school program coordinator.
<u>BLY:</u>	23, Noah's girlfriend of 4 years, a receptionist.

Place

A large suburban house in Wisconsin

Time

Saturday, September 26th, 2020

ACT I
Scene I

Setting: The common area to a large suburban house. A sitting area with a phone down right, an exit to the patio and pool down left, kitchen up left. A big door up center, a stairwell up right. A large, conspicuous picture of a well-dressed, good-looking young man in his twenties off center. This is Noah. Hallways at left and right. Music, probably modern hip-hop or R&B, plays.

At Rise: Harry opens the door to reveal Miles.

MILES

Hey.

HARRY

Hey.

MILES

How are you?

HARRY

Holding up. Glad you could make it.

MILES

Definitely.

(Miles enters.)

HARRY

How was getting over here?

MILES

Eh.

HARRY

It's good to see you.

MILES

Glad to be here.

HARRY

After I saw you at the funeral, I knew we had to catch up.

MILES

Well, I'm glad to be here.

HARRY

Like we used to. What were we, 11?

MILES

Yeah... 12, even, sometimes.

HARRY

Though I suppose we've seen each other now and then since then and now.

MILES (brain turning)

Glad to be here.

(They open up to everyone. Daphne, Marcy and Ross are in the sitting area. Cliff is in the Kitchen. Eddy floats. Throughout the play, everyone indulges, eventually getting drunk and/or high. Each actor should decide exactly when this happens.)

HARRY

Here's everyone.

MILES

Hey, Cliff.

CLIFF

Hey.

MILES

Hey, Eddy.

EDDY (plainly)

Hello, baby.

MILES

Ross.

ROSS

Hey, dude.

MILES

Marcy.

(Marcy nods.)

DAPHNE

Hey, Miles.

MILES (mildly)

Daphne! Hey!

DAPHNE

Hey!

MILES

How are you?

DAPHNE

Holding up.

(A pause.)

MILES

Well, this is it, huh?

HARRY

Yeah.

CLIFF

All that's left.

MILES

I'm still rattled.

EDDY

We all are.

CLIFF

It's... It hasn't hit us yet.

MILES

Hasn't hit me.

HARRY

Oh, definitely.

CLIFF

Feels... surreal. I keep expecting I'll be told it's a joke. I don't know.

ROSS

It was quite the whammy.

MILES (consoling)

Well, seeing you all is nice.

HARRY

Yeah.

MILES

You definitely make it all seem... real.

MARCY

Is that better?

MILES

Better than worse.

DAPHNE

I'd bet better.

MARCY

Whatever you say.

EDDY (not seriously, but firm)

Shut up, Marcy.

MARCY

Eat my ass.

ROSS

Bly's here.

HARRY (surprised)

Really?

CLIFF

Yes. Upstairs.

DAPHNE (concerned)

Oh.

MILES

Is she now?

EDDY

She's resting.

CLIFF (concurring)

Likely.

HARRY (at the thought of Bly)

Damn.

CLIFF

Yeah.

MILES

How's Bly holding up?

EDDY

Holding up.

CLIFF

She's alright.

EDDY

Snores a lot. Though I'm told that's natural.

CLIFF

She's been staying here with me.

EDDY

With us.

CLIFF (automatically)

With us since she got out of the hospital. She may come down yet, so be nice should she.

MILES(self-pityingly)

I'll be horrible, you know me.

DAPHNE

Oh, don't be.

ROSS (to Daphne)

Ahh, he's not intimidating. No offense.

MILES

None taken.

ROSS (under his breath)

Like a goldfish...

HARRY

How's her arm?

CLIFF

Not too bad.

EDDY

It's not broken but it's uhhh...

(She mimes a sling, forgetting the word, which is sling.)

MILES

Oh, that's good.

MARCY (genuinely)

Good?

CLIFF

Still in a sling.

EDDY

A sling, yes. Poor girl.

MILES

Not broken, I mean.

MARCY

Whatever you say.

EDDY

At least it's not her writing arm.

CLIFF

Yeah, so...

EDDY

Miles, my love, do you want something to drink?

(Eddy goes to the kitchen to make Miles a drink.)

MILES

Oh, sure. What do you have?

CLIFF

Well, we've inherited some vodka, rum, whiskey, vodka, uh... even more vodka. There's beer and-

EDDY

Some seltzers, honey.

CLIFF (continuous)

Ross brought a lot of it.

ROSS

It makes me seem less horrible when I do nice things.

DAPHNE

Oh, hush.

CLIFF

And yes, seltzers. Oh, and we have a favorite- absinthe.

DAPHNE (curious)

Favorite?

HARRY

Oh, shit!

CLIFF

This and ginger ale go nicely.

MILES

Can't say I've had that.

DAPHNE

Absinthe?

HARRY (to Daphne, rhetorically)

It's green.

DAPHNE (mimicking Harry)

Greeeen.

CLIFF

And ice.

DAPHNE

That's a funny word.

HARRY

Absinthe?

DAPHNE (drawn out)

Green.

EDDY

Didn't Noah like it, honey?

CLIFF

Yes, he did. He introduced me to it.

DAPHNE

Oh, that's sweet.

HARRY (to Daphne, feeling the need to explain)

It's licorice-y.

CLIFF (to Miles)

And pretty much any mixer you'd want.

MILES

I'll take a screwdriver.

ROSS

How daring...

(Eddy remembers.)

EDDY

Oh, honey, should I get the...

CLIFF

Oh, sure. Now everybody's here..

ROSS

What is this?

CLIFF

A small surprise.

EDDY

Here, I'll let you to make the screwdriver yourself.

MILES

Sure.

EDDY

So, you can make it to your desires.

MILES

My whims.

(Eddy starts to exit. Miles enters further and sees the photo of Noah.)

MILES

Woah, what a picture.

CLIFF

It is.

EDDY

His mom let us keep it after the funeral.

(Eddy exits.)

MILES

Oh, that's sweet.

MARCY

Get it framed.

CLIFF (shrugging)

Maybe.

MARCY

Or you could use it as a dartboard, I guess.

MILES

Oh, Ross, nice eulogy, by the way.

ROSS

Sure.

MILES

I was wondering-

DAPHNE

Hmm?

MILES

Why'd you end it with, "Everything Sucks?"

MARCY

Yeah!

(Cliff chuckles.)

ROSS

Oh, that?

MARCY

Bleak even for you.

ROSS

Oh shit, yeah. Cliff knows.

CLIFF

Cliff does know.

ROSS

And Harry.

HARRY

Mmhmm.

ROSS

I guess most people don't.

CLIFF

No.

HARRY

How were they ever to know?

MILES (curious)

No, what?

ROSS

He never told his mom this, but he got a, fucking, uh, tattoo-

MARCY (remembering)

Oh!

(Cliff points to her to answer.)

MARCY

On his ass!

HARRY

Yes!

ROSS

On his ass that says, "Everything Sucks."

DAPHNE

Oh! No, wait really?

ROSS

I suppose the proof is six-feet under now.

DAPHNE

Like, an in-joke?

MARCY

Why?

ROSS (good-naturedly)

Did he get it? I don't fucking know.

HARRY

It's punk, isn't it?

CLIFF (leading in)

Well-

ROSS (handing it over to Cliff)

Yeah.

HARRY(excitedly)

Yeah!

CLIFF

Not many people know this: We also got it.

MARCY

Really?

DAPHNE

Really?

MILES

No!

HARRY

Yeah. A few days ago, as like a way to honor him. Here.

(Harry, Cliff and Ross all stand and moon at the others. Eddy reenters emptyhanded.)

EDDY

Honey, I couldn't- oh, God.

DAPHNE (appalled, covering her eyes)

Hahaha!

HARRY

Oh, sorry Eddy.

CLIFF (with his pants still down)

Was it not there?

EDDY

No.

CLIFF (getting up)

Hmm. I'll look for it in a minute.

EDDY

Showing off your very charming tattoo?

MILES

Very charming.

DAPHNE

I think it's fun.

MARCY (sarcastically)

And a great sentiment too.

CLIFF

Did you see, Marcy?

(He turns toward her. She covers her eyes.)

MARCY

Oh, I saw.

(A pause. Cliff looks at the portrait of Noah.)

CLIFF

You know, I never expected him to die so young.

MILES

He was timeless.

EDDY (to Cliff)

Well, you never expected him to die sober, either.

CLIFF (weakly)

Shut the fuck up.

EDDY

Sorry.

CLIFF

Don't talk about him like that.

ROSS (agreeing with Eddy's statement)

It's true, though.

MARCY

You know, that tattoo is pretty fucking punk.

(A pause.)

MILES

This is your place, Cliff?

CLIFF

Yeah.

DAPHNE

Nice, isn't it?

MILES

Yeah.

EDDY

Nice, isn't it?

MILES

Yeah. (unconvincingly) What's a guy like you doing in a place like this?

(Daphne gives a pity laugh.)

MARCY

A house built out of tax brackets.

CLIFF (Unamused)

Good one.

MARCY

Piss off.

MILES (to Cliff)

I'm glad to be here.

CLIFF

I'm glad we can use it.

(Ross looks at the picture.)

ROSS

He was destined for a blaze of glory, I think. To go in a fireball. He's got the face for it.

DAPHNE

Doesn't he just?

MARCY

Something in the jaw.

EDDY

And the attitude!

ROSS

Exactly. His whole shape. Not like how he went.

(A solemn pause.)

HARRY

The seatbelt is a miracle invention.

CLIFF (sadly)

And there's a pool out back. And, uh, we have a game room.

MILES

You own all this?

HARRY

His parents do, but they're in Acapulco right now.

EDDY

God, they're so... They tan poorly.

CLIFF (regaining control)

Does everyone have a drink?

EDDY

They'll look like ghouls.

ROSS

Lucky ghouls are in vogue.

EDDY (to Cliff)

Hey, we should give Miles a tour!

MILES

Oh, that'd be nice.

CLIFF

Make yourself comfortable first.

Scene II

Setting: Continuous from scene I.

At Rise: Harry and Miles draw close to each other.

MILES

What're you drinking, my friend?

HARRY

A PBR.

MILES

Good.

HARRY

It's made by union boys, so you know. Every bit helps.

MILES (enthusiastically)

I suppose so!

HARRY

Yeah.

MILES

And thank you for inviting me.

HARRY

No worries.

MILES

I feel a little out of place, though.

HARRY

Wish we could've invited more.

MILES

I really knew Noah only... peripherally.

HARRY

But since, like, kindergarten.

MILES

That's true.

HARRY

And we've been friends since elementary school. I'm glad you're here, man. We're all glad. Noah'd be glad.

MILES (unsure)

Yeah.

HARRY

Well, I'll drink to that.

MILES (unsure)

Sure.

HARRY

So, what do you do these days?

MILES

Oh, uh, well, I call myself a writer.

HARRY

Oh, cool!

MILES

But I work at a grocery store.

HARRY

I see. No shame in labor.

MILES

Yeah.

HARRY

I'm glad you stuck with creative stuff though. I always saw you as a creative type.

MILES

Yeah.

HARRY

What kinds of things do you write?

MILES

Uh... well... a lot of things.

HARRY

I've always been very impressed by people who can concentrate for that long on one thing. Like, I got this cousin, Ralph, and he's just... anyway. That's a part of my brain I just can't get to. It's probably all the drugs and the way too much alcohol.

MILES

Maybe. And thanks.

HARRY

That'll be my doom, I guess. But I suppose I had it coming.

MILES

Essays, mostly. But I do some poetry.

HARRY

That's cool. I always knew you were going to do cool things; it's what I like about you.

MILES

What do you do?

HARRY

I deliver.

MILES

Yeah?

HARRY

Yeah, I deliver pizza.

MILES (of the compliment)

Oh, thanks by, the way.

HARRY

Yeah, no problem. I mean it.

MILES

Do you like delivering pizza?

HARRY (humored)

That's a question I'm not asked often.

MILES

Yeah?

HARRY

It's not the worst.

MILES

No shame in labor, my friend.

HARRY

None at all. You holding up O.K?

Scene III.

Setting: Continuous from scene II.

At Rise: Daphne and Ross come over.

ROSS

Hey, boys.

MILES

Hey, Ross!

DAPHNE (kindly)

Hey, boys.

ROSS

How's it going?

MILES

I'm holding up enough.

ROSS

Where've you been at?

HARRY

Oh, he's a writer.

ROSS

Oh, do you do that for money?

MILES

No, I stock shelves. I wish.

HARRY

Vital work.

ROSS

You're right. It's a job needs doing.

MILES

I think the joke too is eventually they'll probably get a robot to do it who's better than I am.

DAPHNE

Ah, but could that robot write how you write?

MILES

I should hope it's more skilled than that.

ROSS

Do you at least like writing?

MILES

Heh, yeah. I do, but strangely enough, the more I write, the worse my grammar becomes.

(Ross clears his throat.)

MILES

What do you do?

ROSS (clearly trying to be humble)

Oh, nothing.

HARRY (remembering)

Oh, shit you, uhh...

DAPHNE (jutting in)

He works at Senator Baldwin's office.

MILES

Oh, as like, an aide?

HARRY

Or as Senator Baldwin?

ROSS

Yeah, essentially.

DAPHNE

If you boil it down.

ROSS

Me and Tammy.

HARRY

I'm gonna get another drink, but I want you to know I think that's very cool and I'm still listening.

(Harry backs off.)

MILES

How long have you been doing that?

ROSS

1,000 years.

MILES

How are you, Daphne?

DAPHNE

I'm good. I work in afterschool programming, to answer before you ask.

MILES

Oh, very cool.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

MILES

You like working with kids?

DAPHNE (remembering)

Oh, geez.

ROSS

They're not too bad, right?

DAPHNE (diplomatically)

They're uh, wild.

MILES

Yeah?

DAPHNE (pushing it off)

Yeah, you know.

ROSS

That's kids for you.

DAPHNE

Yeah... I found a trick-

MILES

What is it?

DAPHNE

That if I just yell "HEY KNOCK IT OFF" they settle down quick.

(Daphne's yell makes everyone jump.)

MARCY

Good god.

HARRY

Huh? What?

ROSS

Don't worry, Harry.

MILES

That's hilarious.

(Daphne smiles.)

DAPHNE

Thank you.

ROSS

She doesn't actually do that.

DAPHNE

I could!

ROSS

That's cute.

DAPHNE (to Ross)

We seem to only see each other at the afterparties to funerals.

ROSS

Afterparties is a choice word.

DAPHNE

But we do.

ROSS

We do.

MILES

You do.

ROSS

Damn right we do. Now you, I guess.

(They smile and have a little toast.)

DAPHNE (remembering)

Last time was, uhh, ohh, Ben, wasn't it?

ROSS

Yeah.

MILES

Oh shit, Ben Gustafsson?

DAPHNE

Yeah.

MILES

That's a damn shame.

DAPHNE (turning to Ross)

Where's Caroline?

ROSS

She's out of town.

MILES

Caroline?

ROSS

My girlfriend.

DAPHNE

I love her.

ROSS

Yeah...

DAPHNE

How's that going?

ROSS

We just opened up our relationship, actually.

DAPHNE

Don't sound so leading.

MILES

Hahaha.

ROSS

Honestly, a breath of fresh air for both of us.

DAPHNE

Ross and Miles, you'd be cute together.

ROSS

No doubt in my mind.

MILES

Sure.

(They weakly cheers.)

ROSS (casually)

Hey, I was gonna bring this out later, but I figured, as some small gesture, I brought some cocaine for everybody. (to all) Everybody, there's cocaine if you want it!

DAPHNE

Oh, really?

MARCY (half-joking)

Oh, it's like Christmas all over again.

ROSS

Hey, I made that Christmas memorable.

MARCY

Ask yourself if in a good way.

DAPHNE

Oh, can I pay you for some?

ROSS

No need, no need.

(He smiles at the two of them.)

MILES (quietly)

Marcy's your cousin, right?

ROSS

Yeah.

(He smiles. In the background, Harry is bent over.)

HARRY

Very cool, Rossy.

ROSS

Harry, do you want any?

HARRY

In a second.

DAPHNE

What's wrong?

(Harry is trying to tie/fix/untangle his shoes.)

HARRY

My shoelaces are indecipherable.

EDDY (butting in)

No shoes, please.

HARRY

O.K., O.K.

EDDY

Thanks, baby. By the door.

CLIFF (in her voice)

Thanks, baby.

HARRY (calmly, maybe a tinge of annoyance)

Yeah, no worries.

EDDY

I don't sound like that.

CLIFF

Of course, honey.

ROSS

Alright, here, I'll get it going.

CLIFF

Thanks, Ross.

(Ross gets the cocaine. Cliff exits.)

ROSS

No worries. Merry Christmas.

Scene IV

Setting: Continuous from scene III.

At Rise: Miles crosses to Marcy.

MILES

Hey, Marcy.

MARCY

Hey.

MILES

You're the one controlling the music?

MARCY (not serious)

If that's all I am to you.

MILES

Hahaha.

MARCY

Why, do you have a request?

MILES

Yeah.

MARCY

Here, be quick, type it in.

(She hands him her phone.)

MILES

Thanks. How's your sister?

MARCY

Good.

(She is very unenthusiastic. The whole conversation is awkward and slow.)

MILES

You know we had French together.

MARCY

I know.

MILES

I think I came over to your house once-

MARCY

Yeah?

MILES

Yeah. To watch TV.

MARCY

Yeah?

MILES

Yeah. Margot invited me.

MARCY

Hmm.

MILES

Yeah. And I remember being so nervous because she was all cool, and all her friends were all cool and older than me. I was so desperate, then... I... uh...

MARCY

Yeah.

MILES

I think it's silly now. I think I ended up talking to your dad for most of the night. How is he?

MARCY

Dead.

MILES (taken aback)

Oh, God. I'm sorry.

MARCY

Hey, it's O.K. You didn't know.

MILES

Shame about that. I didn't really know him, but he was a nice guy when I did.

MARCY

I wasn't very close with him.

MILES

Shame about Noah.

MARCY

Yeah.

MILES

Did you know him well?

MARCY

Yeah, actually.

MILES

I suppose that's.... why you're here.

MARCY

That's a good guess. And you knew him well?

MILES

Umm...

(He didn't. He is unsure how to answer.)

(Cliff enters.)

EDDY

So, honey, it wasn't there?

CLIFF

No, I checked.

EDDY

Upstairs?

MARCY

Oh, Cliff!

CLIFF

Yeah?

MARCY

You know who I saw yesterday?

CLIFF

Who?

MARCY

Stella.

CLIFF

Oh, shit. Really? Hahaha!

MARCY

I know, right?

CLIFF

God, I haven't seen her since that um...

(A private memory surfaces.)

MARCY

That one time.

CLIFF

That one time.

MARCY

When we...

CLIFF

Fuck me. Yeah. That's so funny. Fucking Stella. Surprised she's still alive.

(Cliff exits. Marcy smiles to herself.)

MILES

Who's Stella?

MARCY

Hmm? Oh, you don't know her, I don't think. But yeah, Noah and I were close. We used to party together a lot.

MILES

Yeah.

(Marcy speaks dreamily, as if reliving a memory.)

MARCY

He was wild. He, Cliff and I were close.

MILES

Not anymore?

MARCY

Hard to be close with a dead man. And Cliff looks pretty good on Eddy's leash.

MILES

I never really hung out with him in high school. but I heard he went, uh, pretty hard.

MARCY

Endlessly. He was a man on fire. I remember late nights at unremembered places... and we never could make small talk. But we'd be somewhere and slouch around. I would brush the dandruff off his coat.

MILES

Dandruff?

(A quick pause. Miles almost starts to repeat himself.)

MARCY

Dead skin.

MILES

I suppose so.

MARCY

And he was always yacking about the bour- the... uhh, buhh

MILES

Bourgeoisie?

MARCY

Bour – that, or feminism or how we all needed to move to Boston right now, dammit, and then he'd turn to do a rail of coke like it was drinking water. Fucking wild man. Fucking animal... animal. Turn himself inside out with drugs.

MILES

Geez.

MARCY

But it's a living, I guess. And smarter than all of us.

MILES

Sounds on fire to me.

MARCY

Sure.

MILES

Yeah... yeah.

MARCY

Dandruff is kind of funny, because it is dying, but only in a small way. Like finding out Santa isn't real, or seeing your crush date someone you hate.

MILES

Oh.

MARCY (leading into her next sentence)

Oh-

MILES

Yes?

MARCY (genuinely)

Did you want any?

MILES

What? Coke?

MARCY

Yeah.

MILES

Not yet.

MARCY

Funny.

MILES

Funny?

MARCY

I do.

Scene V

Setting: Continuous from scene IV.

At Rise: Miles crosses to Marcy. Marcy crosses to where the cocaine is. Eddy snorts some. The song Miles chose starts. It is Daphne's favorite song (the person playing Daphne should pick. If the person doesn't have a favorite song, default to either "Pony" by Ginuwine or "Time of the Season" by The Zombies).

DAPHNE

Hey, how are you doing?

MILES

Good.

DAPHNE (excitedly)

Good?

MILES (affirming)

Good!

DAPHNE

Good!

MILES

All things considered. You alright?

DAPHNE

Oh, I'm O.K. Good even.

MILES

Yeah?

DAPHNE (affirming)

Yeah! I mean the funeral sucked. But this is my favorite song!

MARCY (jutting in)

Thank him.

DAPHNE

For the funeral? Sure.

MARCY

Music, babe.

DAPHNE

Fuck yeah!

MILES (really?)

Fuck yeah?

DAPHNE (affirming)

Fuck yeah!

MARCY (humored)

I'm glad you're feeling how you're feeling.

DAPHNE (to Miles and Marcy)

Oh, come on, dance.

MILES

It's groovy.

DAPHNE

Uh, yeah it is.

MILES (under his breath)

Groovy.

(Daphne lightly dances. Miles maybe does a two-step. Marcy snorts some cocaine.)

MARCY

Fuck! Good stuff, Ross.

ROSS

Damn Marcy.

MARCY

Yeah?

ROSS

Yeah, no worries.

MARCY

Clean. Shit.

EDDY (new feeling washing over her)

Fuck.

ROSS

Yeah?

EDDY

Yeah. My head always gets this weird sensation.

ROSS

Odd.

MARCY

Hmm, yeah.

HARRY

Yeah?

EDDY

Fuck. It's good though. Fuck and my chest always rushes.

HARRY

Like...

(She looks at him.)

EDDY

Like, my heart and lungs.

HARRY

Yeah.

EDDY

Yeah. God, it certainly wakes me up. Invigorates the spirit. (to Marcy) God, when's the last time we did coke together?

MARCY

That was at Ben Gustafsson's.

EDDY (remembering)

Shit, yeah.

MARCY

Yeah.

EDDY

Fucking Ben Gustafsson.

ROSS

Candy, Harry?

HARRY

Well, if you insist.

(Cliff enters.)

CLIFF

I couldn't find it.

EDDY

Really?

CLIFF

Yeah. I don't know where it went.

ROSS

Oh, your surprise?

(Marcy shakes her hair out.)

CLIFF

Damn, Marcy, you good?

MARCY

Mhmm...

EDDY

Well, we'll look later.

CLIFF

Oh... you know (in a whisper) we could show them the...

EDDY

Oh, that'd be good.

DAPHNE

Hmm?

CLIFF

Alright, everybody, about that house tour I promised: We gotta get it out of the way at some point, we gotta, and some of you know, but my parents put a lot of choice stuff into his place.

ROSS

Sure, I'm for it.

CLIFF

Great.

HARRY

If you lure me into a trap, I'll be very cross.

(Eddy laughs.)

MARCY

Alright.

EDDY

O.K!

HARRY

Unimaginably cross.

CLIFF

So, this way, come on, kids, we have...

(They start to exit.)

DAPHNE (hushed call)

Miles!

(Exeunt all but Daphne and Miles. The music slowly leaves after them.)

Scene VI

Setting: Continuous from scene V.

At Rise: Daphne and Miles chat, starting in whispers.

MILES (curious)

Hmmm?

DAPHNE

Come over here.

MILES

O.K.

DAPHNE

Good.

MILES

I'm here. Now what?

DAPHNE

Sit with me. I want to talk with you.

MILES

O.K.

DAPHNE

I've missed you.

MILES (pleased)

Sure.

DAPHNE

God, that's a nice picture.

MILES

It is.

DAPHNE

He was a nice man, wasn't he?

MILES

He was.

DAPHNE

I think so. Did you know, this is my favorite song.

MILES

I did.

DAPHNE

One of them, anyway. You've got a good memory.

MILES

The one thing I pride myself on since I'm apparently not intimidating.

DAPHNE

Like a goldfish!

MILES

Yeah?

DAPHNE

Well, I don't know.

MILES

Sure.

DAPHNE

Would you pick fight, flight or freeze?

MILES

What do you mean?

DAPHNE

Say you were attacked by a big cat. In the jungle.

MILES (wondering)

Ooo...

DAPHNE

Do you fight, fly or just freeze up?

MILES

I (joking) Well, I'm not intimidating.

DAPHNE

Sure.

MILES

Is that true?

DAPHNE

Eh, it's as true as you make it. Marcy's not big but she's scary.

MILES

Probably freeze.

DAPHNE

Hmm.

MILES

Why, what would you do?

DAPHNE

I'd freeze too.

MILES (in agreement)

Hmm.

DAPHNE

Ross said fight, Marcy said fight, Harry said fight, and Cliff said flee, which I appreciate.

MILES

And Eddy?

DAPHNE

I don't know, didn't ask her.

MILES

Huh.

DAPHNE

But I freeze.

MILES

Same brain.

DAPHNE

Well, you're something else... Your personality, your mind, is so... blue, to me.

MILES

What, like an aura?

DAPHNE (considering)

Oh, maybe, actually.

MILES

I always wondered what my aura was.

DAPHNE

Well, now you know, I guess.

MILES

I'm blue.

DAPHNE

In my professional opinion.

MILES

Huh. I didn't know you were into spirituality.

DAPHNE

Well, only maybe. I meant in my mind you're blue, like, how I perceive you.

MILES

Hmm?

DAPHNE

How I perceive your... gestalt. Your person.

MILES

What do you mean?

DAPHNE

I have synesthesia.

MILES

Oh, really?

DAPHNE

Mhmm.

MILES

I never knew.

DAPHNE

I didn't either, for a long time. And it's, essentially, you know, all my wires are crossed. Like, certain senses are linked to other senses. Not always strongly, though the drugs and alcohol strengthen them. Like, especially when I'm high everything feels swirly and gets pastel.

MILES

Oh no.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

MILES

So... I'm blue?

DAPHNE

At least, how I remember you is blue.

MILES

Yeah?

DAPHNE

Yeah.

MILES

I don't hate that.

DAPHNE

You're cute.

MILES

You don't know how hard I try.

(She makes a decision.)

DAPHNE

I might need to update my senses, though.

MILES (unsure of what she means)

Sure, O.K... Did you want to go on the house tour?

DAPHNE

Later, eh? Here, give me your hands. Look me in the eye and say something.

MILES

Uhh, “*actor ad libs*”

DAPHNE

O.K., sure. O.K. Now, can I touch you?

MILES

O.K.

DAPHNE

Here, touch my forehead with yours.

MILES

O.K.

DAPHNE

O.K. Sorry if I'm clammy.

MILES

You're O.K.

DAPHNE

Am I, though?

MILES

Well, it's a good clam.

DAPHNE (humored)

Shut up. I'm getting a picture. I know for me, touch is a big part of my synesthesia. Here, could I hug you?

(They hug.)

MILES

Sure.

(An awkward pause.)

MILES

Working with kids must be fun.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

(An awkward pause. They unhug.)

MILES

It's nice to see you.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

MILES

It's been a long time.

DAPHNE

It's a shame we never became good friends.

MILES

Yeah.

DAPHNE

I always had a friend-crush on you, if that makes sense.

MILES

Really?

DAPHNE

Yeah. You seemed cool.

MILES

I didn't know that. I didn't know much about you, really.

DAPHNE

But yet you remembered my favorite song.

MILES

I did.

DAPHNE

You're very sweet.

MILES

Yeah?

DAPHNE

And unintimidating.

MILES (unsure)

Good?

DAPHNE

Did you like me?

MILES

I suppose so.

DAPHNE

I thought so.

MILES

Well, you're easy to like.

MILES

I suppose I had a normal crush on you.

DAPHNE

Yeah?

MILES

As opposed to a friend-crush. But also that, I suppose. I don't know. I'm sorry to be so surrendering. I may be a little drunk.

DAPHNE

A little, he says.

MILES

I do says. But, uhh...

(A pause.)

DAPHNE

Let me know if this is a strange question.

MILES

Shoot.

DAPHNE (laughing a bit)

Can I kiss you?

(A half-second.)

MILES

For the read-

(Miles doesn't bother finishing the sentence. They kiss for a second.)

MILES (scanning her face)

Was that blue?

DAPHNE

Very.

MILES

I think I need a drink.

(Miles gets up.)

DAPHNE (humored)

Sure. You're silly.

MILES

Uh, what colors are everyone else?

DAPHNE

Hmm?

MILES

If I'm blue? I'd say like Harry is like, cyan.

(Daphne is lost to the portrait of Noah.)

MILES

Daphne?

DAPHNE

Sorry, I get lost staring at that portrait.

MILES

Hmm.

DAPHNE

He was a beautiful guy.

MILES

So are you.

DAPHNE

Huh?

MILES

Never mind. God, I can't look at you.

DAPHNE

Why?

MILES

You're just, very pretty.

DAPHNE

Ha! You're pretty too.

(He rushes over to her. Maybe he gets there in time.)

Scene VII

Setting: Continuous from scene VI.

At Rise: Bly enters from the stairs. Her nondominant arm is in a sling.

BLY (flatly)

Hey, Miles.

MILES (embarrassed)

Oh shit, sorry.

DAPHNE

Hey, Bly.

BLY

Hey.

DAPHNE

You O.K?

BLY

I heard them coming upstairs so I snuck down. (self-admonishing) I'm Cliff and Eddy's shy cat, these days.

DAPHNE

How's your arm?

BLY (matter of fact)

Been worse.

DAPHNE

Really?

BLY (faintly smiling)

Well, I suppose that's just something to say. But it doesn't hurt, at least.

MILES

I'm sorry about Noah.

BLY

Sure. Thanks. You hear enough condolences and they kind of whirr into one big hum.

DAPHNE

I suppose.

(Bly makes herself a drink.)

BLY (a sudden vigor)

But let me tell you, seatbelts, what a fucking invention. It might've been more than my arm.

DAPHNE (pitying)

Oh, Bly.

BLY (mirrors)

Oh, Daphne. (changes the subject) I like your hair, Miles.

(Miles touches his hair.)

DAPHNE

There's coke if you want.

BLY

I just came down for a drink, I'll be out of your hair in a minute.

DAPHNE

Oh, stay, I've missed you.

MILES

Yeah.

DAPHNE

I hope you're O.K., I can't begin to imagine...

(Daphne trails off. Miles nods.)

BLY

It's funny, everybody asks me if I'm O.K., which, you know, I won't complain about. Even bastards like Ross ask, (in his voice) "you O.K? You O.K. babe?" And I say "Thank you, thanks, I'm O.K." pretty much every time. And I let my voice go soft or break a bit. I don't know why I do that, why I say I'm O.K. I think it just runs up to my brain stem and it's a kneejerk, after hours of just going bleh bleh bleh bleh. Or maybe it is because, despite my best efforts, I am O.K. Isn't that strange? That I feel fine? Maybe like a soreness in my butt every now and again and my arm, but like, no, I'm alright, I think. Well, not entirely. I can feel in some undercurrent, some animal undercurrent to my soul, some trace, that I wanted... this, all this, the funeral, the picture, the crash, the house, the body in bed, the seatbelt, the emptiness, the everything, all the billion little cracks forming, I wanted it to destroy me. But it hasn't. Guess I'm made of steel. It's funny how we were supposed to have so much more time together. Huh.

Bly downs the drink she has just made.

DAPHNE (knowingly)

Hmmm... Mmhmm... Hmm... yeah.

Scene VIII

Setting: Continuous from scene VII.

At Rise: The group touring the house comes back. This is as animated as Marcy has been. They talk as they enter...

MARCY

Wait, so, the fake bookcase that led to the home theatre was cool as hell but-

HARRY

I can't believe your parents have a sex dungeon!

MARCY

That's wild!

CLIFF (searching, flatly)

My parents are very...

ROSS

Liberated?

EDDY

Definitely.

CLIFF (flat)

Sure, that's the word, I suppose.

MARCY

It's maniacal!

CLIFF

It's just a room, guys.

MARCY

It was *just* a room, too.

HARRY

Yeah.

MARCY (elaborating)

At one and the same time completely underwhelming but also very, very overwhelming.

HARRY

Absolutely. (Seeing Bly) Hey, Bly! How are you feeling?

(Harry crosses to Bly.)

BLY (Smiles)

Better. I didn't know they had a home theatre.

HARRY

Yeah, it's really nice. You've been to the sex dungeon?

MARCY

Yeah, it's really nice.

BLY

I bet.

CLIFF (to Bly)

Can I get you anything?

BLY

How about a second one of these?

CLIFF

Jack and Coke?

BLY

Yes, my love.

CLIFF

Sure thing.

HARRY

It's nice to see you.

BLY

It's nice to see you, too, Harry.

HARRY

I'm still working at Sal's.

EDDY (disbelief)

Really?

BLY (disbelief)

No shit, really?

HARRY

Yeah.

BLY

How long have you been there?

HARRY

4 years.

BLY

Fucking hell.

ROSS (to Bly)

How long have you been staying with these jerks?

BLY

Since I got out of the hospital.

ROSS

How's the, uh, hospitality?

BLY (jokingly)

Oh, you know.

MARCY

Hehehe.

BLY

Best they can do.

CLIFF (knock it off)

Oh, come on.

BLY

You've been lovely, Cliff. It's like the Ritz. Though I really have been underutilizing the sex dungeon, I realize. (She looks at the photo) It's a nice picture of him, isn't it? I took it. It's his one good angle on camera. He was beautiful in person though.

ROSS

He really was.

CLIFF (sentimental)

More than that. He was gorgeous, and just so kind, and soft and on-the-ball.

EDDY (playfully)

Oh, shut up.

DAPHNE

I agree with you, Cliff.

ROSS (as if clearing up a point)

We got those ridiculous ass tattoos, Bly.

BLY (confirming)

Everything sucks?

ROSS

It certainly does.

DAPHNE

That's so funny.

(Daphne laughs.)

ROSS (leading)

So, how did it feel?

BLY (confused)

What, *your* tattoo?

ROSS

The crash.

BLY (unable to describe)

I, oh... I don't remember. I suppose it felt like nothing at all. (a long pause) I remember when the EMTs came, and I was still conscious, looking at his body. And I tipped his head up. And I held it there for a second. I didn't recognize him. I knew it was him, but it wasn't. It couldn't have been.

EDDY

Hey, Bly, did you move the thing?

BLY (lost)

The thing?

EDDY

The surprise?

BLY

The... Oh, that? No. It still should be in the closet.

CLIFF

It isn't.

BLY

Really? Where'd it go?

MARCY

They can't find it.

DAPHNE

Oh, just tell us! What is it?

ROSS

You'll see. They'll find it.

BLY

Eddy, do we have anything fun to do?

EDDY (offering)

There's cocaine.

MARCY

There's quite a bit of cocaine.

DAPHNE

Indeed.

BLY

Anything... this is the wrong word but: domestic?

EDDY(innocently)

We'll have to do it on the patio, because it is a bit messy, but, I brought Silly String.

Scene IX

Setting: The patio out back. Two pool chairs and a small table at center. The lip of the pool downstage, and the backyard up. Lights from the house off right. Minimal lighting.

At Rise: Everyone is armed with a can of silly string. Ross lights a cigarette.

MILES

O.K., O.K.

BLY

Alright, let's dance.

(A Silly String fight commences. Actors can ad lib. They run around and play with the sprayers as the moment goes on.)

MARCY

Fucker...

ROSS

Eat it!

CLIFF

Bly, did you get any coke?

DAPHNE

Look out!

EDDY

O.K., you bastard.

BLY

This was a good call.

DAPHNE

Wow!

ROSS

Careful with that.

EDDY

O.K., watch the eyes.

(Eventually, the moment peters out.)

DAPHNE (to Miles, energetically)

O.K., have you ever done that thing where you spin around a bunch and then look up at the stars?

MILES

No.

DAPHNE (adding to her statement)

Quickly look up.

EDDY

Yeah, you fall on your ass.

MILES (disbelief)

No way!

EDDY

Try it.

DAPHNE

Try it, Miles!

MILES (game)

O.K!

(Miles spins. Lights shift to Harry and Bly.)

HARRY

Hey Bly, can I talk to you?

BLY(not enthused)

If you must.

HARRY

Inside?

BLY

Oh, but it's a lovely night.

HARRY

A bit humid.

BLY (deal with it)

Oh, well.

MILES

Oh, shit!

(Miles falls.)

HARRY (to Bly)

Are you O.K.?

MILES

Yeah.

BLY

Me?

HARRY

Yeah.

BLY (ending it)

I'm a-O.K., my guy.

HARRY

Yeah?

BLY

What's your problem?

(Harry and Bly step aside from the group.)

MILES

Woah, woah.

BLY (somewhat sarcastically)

I guess I've been a bit cooped up, like the big chicken I am, but, you know, I don't mind, Harry. It's nice to have Eddy and Cliff around. I like company. There, is that a good answer?

HARRY (serious)

We missed you at the funeral.

BLY (serious)

Me too. Too much pain in my arm.

HARRY

I just wanted to make sure you're alright.

BLY

You don't need to worry about me.

HARRY

It's just what you said sounded, like, a little dark.

BLY (confused)

What? That's just, my... Bly-ness. I don't need to cry, do I?

HARRY

That's not the Bly I know.

BLY

Harry, please.

HARRY

I want you to- Sorry, I'm prying.

BLY (please stop)

Yeah, you are.

HARRY

Sorry.

BLY (not angry)

So, fuck off.

HARRY

Sorry.

BLY

It's O.K.

HARRY

Sure.

(A pause.)

BLY

Can I show you something?

HARRY (joking)

It's not your fist in my face, is it?

BLY (humored)

Not yet.

(Bly and Harry exit back into the house.)

DAPHNE

Do we have anymore cans?

EDDY

No, just the one box.

MILES (generally)

That's lame.

ROSS

God, it's a hot night.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

CLIFF

I just want to rip something.

ROSS (exhaling)

God it's hot.

MILES (to Marcy)

How are you?

MARCY

I'm holding up.

MILES

And you, Ross?

ROSS

Holding.

MILES

You, Daphne?

DAPHNE

Up.

MILES

That's good.

ROSS

I can't tell if today has been long or short.

MILES

Mmm.

(A pause.)

ROSS

Do you think you'd join or dodge if there was draft and you got called?

MILES

I don't know.

ROSS

Me neither.

CLIFF

I'd fight.

(A pause. Crickets chirp.)

EDDY

The funeral was nice.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

EDDY

It was nice to see Noah's mom.

DAPHNE

She's so sweet.

EDDY

Do you think she knew about the uhh...

DAPHNE

The what?

EDDY (unsure how to phrase it)

The uhhh...

MARCY

What?

EDDY (coming clean)

There's gotta be a more elegant phrase than ass tattoo.

DAPHNE

Oh. No, I don't think she did.

MARCY

That's funny.

EDDY

She had so many good stories about him.

MILES

That's true.

EDDY

Someone should tell her.

DAPHNE

Oh, don't.

EDDY

No, someone should.

DAPHNE

Eddy.

EDDY

What?

DAPHNE

It's... it's silly.

EDDY

It is. It's stupid. It was stupid when he got it and it was equally as stupid when Cliff got it.

ROSS

Well, you're right, but I don't like hearing it.

CLIFF

Come on, babe.

EDDY

Whatever.

DAPHNE

Fuck off.

EDDY

Sure.

CLIFF

Marcy, do you have any thoughts?

MARCY

Everything sucks.

CLIFF

Eddy, honey, don't mind Daphne. She's just drunk. Don't worry about her.

DAPHNE

Yeah, I'm just some lousy bitch.

EDDY

Are you ever going to tell Noah's mom?

CLIFF

I wasn't planning on it.

ROSS

If she ever sees our collective asses, we'll tell her.

MARCY

It was kind of a stupid decision.

ROSS

What was?

MARCY

Getting tattoos.

ROSS

Fuck off.

DAPHNE

It's funny though.

MARCY

It is, it is. Two things can be true, dude.

DAPHNE (drunk)

O.K., O.K., heheh, hear me out, in defense of ass tattoos: A man ought to change himself up every once in a while.

ROSS

Yes?

DAPHNE

Yesss.

ROSS

You O.K.?

DAPHNE (suddenly concerned)

Why, do I look not O.K.?

ROSS

Just curious.

MILES

Why ought a man change himself up?

DAPHNE (losing herself)

Heheh. I don't know.

ROSS

Yeah?

DAPHNE

But he should. Keep things entertaining.

MILES

Well, if he doesn't change himself, the world will for him.

DAPHNE

Yeah, that, Miles.

(Daphne laughs to herself.)

CLIFF

Fuck.

ROSS

Yeah?

CLIFF

Nothing. I miss him so bad.

MARCY

Oh, geez.

EDDY

It's O.K., baby. You two knew each other for so long.

MILES

Yeah.

ROSS

When did you guys meet?

CLIFF

It was at summer camp. (Cliff chokes up) I think we were fourteen.

DAPHNE

Yeah?

(He starts crying silently.)

ROSS (is that it?)

Any more to that thought?

CLIFF

I'm sorry, no. We were so young.

EDDY(sweetly)

Oh, honey, are you O.K.?

MILES

Oh, I'm sorry, Cliff.

CLIFF

Oh god, I can't breathe well.

DAPHNE

It's O.K.

CLIFF

My insides... feel like they're swimming. God, I- I'm O.K.

(A pause.)

DAPHNE (slowly trying to move past it)

The first memory I have of him is we had a math course together, when, well, I used to be good at math. And he was nice. I used to cheat off of him when I couldn't get something. And he never got annoyed about it. Never. I think I did better than him in the class, too.

MILES (surprised)

You cheated?

DAPHNE

Oh, yeah, all the time.

EDDY (sounds about right)

Hmm.

DAPHNE

All the time.

ROSS

Well, I don't blame you.

EDDY

Why'd you cheat?

DAPHNE

I wanted a good grade, so I could go to college.

EDDY (slightly condescending)

You dropped out, didn't you?

DAPHNE

No.

EDDY

Oh. O.K. You just gave me that vibe.

MARCY (not serious)

Fuck off.

EDDY

Whatever.

MARCY

Your boyfriend is crying.

CLIFF (louder than expected)

SHUT UP!

(A pause.)

CLIFF (crying)

Are we out of Silly String?

EDDY

Mostly. There's a few left.

ROSS

How many did you get?

EDDY

Well, but before you all came, Cliff and I got a little carried away. So not as many anymore.

CLIFF (crying)

They're so fun.

Scene X

Setting: The main room of the house.

At Rise: Bly and Harry sit. Bly has produced two boxes. One is a jewelry box, the other is about the size of a shoebox.

HARRY

What's your secret?

BLY (lightly)

It's nothing horrid.

(She hands him the jewelry box. He opens it.)

HARRY

It's a ring.

BLY

Yeah.

HARRY

What is this?

BLY (simply)

It's a ring.

HARRY

No, what is it to you?

BLY

Noah proposed two days before.

HARRY

Shit.

BLY

Yeah.

(A short pause.)

HARRY

Do you mind if I smoke?

BLY

No.

HARRY

O.K., thanks, most people say no.

BLY

It's O.K.

(Harry smokes.)

HARRY (getting back into it)

He proposed?

BLY

Yeah.

HARRY

Universe has a wicked sense of humor.

BLY

Yeah. At least it's funny.

HARRY

Sure.

BLY (digressing)

Sometimes. Tell me, what's the last thing he said to you?

HARRY

Why?

BLY (softly)

Just curious. I can't really remember any last words.

HARRY

He said, "O.K., sure, whatever."

BLY

Yeah?

HARRY

And then he told me to go fuck myself.

BLY

Yeah? Hahaha.

HARRY (seriously)

Yeah. I guess he was mad at me still when he died, and I know we would've made up, but still.

BLY

Well, he was a grumpy man.

HARRY

It hurts. It makes me- It was over nothing too.

BLY

Hmmm.

HARRY

It was, it was all politics.

BLY(teasing)

Politics?

HARRY

Politics. Melodrama.

BLY (teasing, in a lower tone)

Melodrama.

HARRY

Exactly. You get it.

BLY

Sure... O.K. Thanks for telling me. And, well, thank you for visiting me in the hospital.

HARRY

Don't mention it.

BLY

I should say, I told him I needed to think about it.

HARRY

About what?

BLY

The thing you're holding.

HARRY (playing dumb)

My cigarette?

BLY (almost angry)

You're a stupid idiot.

HARRY

I'm joking.

BLY (recovering)

Jackass.

HARRY

The ring?

BLY (simply)

Yeah.

HARRY

Oh.

BLY (with a sad smile)

So, he died mad at me too.

HARRY

Sorry, I don't know what to say to you.

BLY

You're cute. Sorry, that was heavy.

HARRY

It was a bit heavy, haha.

BLY

Hehehe.

(They smile.)

HARRY

Hehehe. I don't know how much heavier it can get, though.

BLY (happily)

Oh, believe me. You're lucky I can't cry.

HARRY

Yeah. I mean, yeah.

BLY

Hahaha.

HARRY

Hahaha.

BLY (wistfully)

Damn.

HARRY

You're O.K.

BLY

I'm drunk.

HARRY

I'm getting there.

BLY

Can I show you something else?

HARRY

Is it heavy?

BLY (with a laugh)

Somehow, even heavier.

HARRY

Really?

BLY

Yeah, so you gotta be willing.

HARRY

I am willing.

BLY (joking, affirming)

Are you willing and ready?

HARRY (affirming)

Ready and willing, Bly, my love.

BLY

Here, it's in this box. On your own terms.

(He opens it.)

HARRY

Oh, God.

(The audience does not see it, but inside is assumed to a gun.)

BLY (honestly)

Yeah, I've thought about it.

HARRY

Where'd you get this?

BLY

It's one of my dad's.

HARRY (reiterating)

You thought about it.

BLY

And I still might do it.

HARRY

That's just the alcohol talking.

BLY

Hehehe. (seriously) I told Eddy I might.

HARRY

Eddy?

BLY

Yeah, but Eddy sucks. (earnestly) She sucks, Harry.

HARRY

I'm gonna close this back up.

BLY (drunk)

I won't. Don't worry. But I wanted to show someone.

HARRY

Sorry, I'm not great company.

BLY (joke)

I don't suppose I could get you to kill me?

HARRY

Where should I put this?

BLY

Anywhere.

HARRY

O.K.

(As he puts it away, she speaks...)

BLY

Harry, every single person on the planet has suffered, and suffered greatly, and I don't know why I thought I'd be any different. I don't know about you, maybe you've been lucky. Have you? I tell you, in five years from now, when we don't know each other anymore, and you're living some fabulous life with a cat and a car and a beautiful wife, I'll cross your mind one night and you'll remember me, you'll remember me and wonder, "what's she up to? What is my darling Bly doing?" and I can guarantee around 70% of the time the answer will be suffering. I think about 70% of the world is always suffering, anyhow. At least we have alcohol.

HARRY (earnestly)

Can I get you some water?

BLY

God, I'm drunk. My head hurts.

HARRY (checking in)

Bly.

BLY

Yes, dear?

HARRY

You're crazy.

BLY

Hehehe.

HARRY

Hehehe.

(They share some sad, wistful smiles.)

BLY (suddenly very sober)

Geez, my blood sugar is dog shit.

Scene XI

Setting: The patio out back.

At Rise: Cliff lies on the ground, silently crying. Miles sits nearby, and Eddy and Marcy have started a heated debate.

MARCY

No, his middle name was James.

EDDY

What the hell are you even talking about?

MARCY

It was James.

EDDY

I don't know where you're getting that from.

MARCY

Really?

EDDY

James?

MARCY

James.

EDDY

Marcy.

MARCY

James, Eddy.

EDDY

It's Henry.

MARCY

Is that even a name?

EDDY

That's his dad. His middle name was after his dad.

MARCY

Henry?

EDDY

Henry.

MARCY

It's James.

EDDY

Marcy.

MARCY

James.

EDDY

Henry.

MARCY

Not henry.

EDDY

Henry.

MARCY

Not Henry.

EDDY

Marcy.

MARCY

Don't Marcy me.

EDDY

It is Henry.

MARCY

No

EDDY

Yes.

MARCY

James.

EDDY

I don't know what to tell you.

MILES

I thought it was George.

MARCY

Eddy- look, whatever. It's not-

CLIFF (sobbing)

My boy, my beautiful boy. I love you so much, so so much. God, I'm scared.

MARCY

Can I get you anything?

EDDY

Just give us a moment, Marcy.

CLIFF

I hate feeling all this.

MARCY

Sure.

EDDY

Thank you... Actually, I need to use the bathroom, back in a flash.

(Eddy exits.)

MARCY

Sure... (to Miles) It was James, right?

MILES

Uhh... I'll, I'll go, I think. Not that... uh...

(He slowly gets up and lingers at the exit. A long, long pause.)

MARCY

You alright?

(A pause.)

CLIFF (with some levity)

Eh, I've been worse.

MARCY

I've seen it.

CLIFF (sullen)

Yeah.

MARCY

It's nice seeing you. I kind of miss how often we would, get together. I kind of forgot, it's crazy, how much time we've been around. You're uh... how should I say it? I don't know, but, you're a really good guy, Cliff. You're, funny and... well, you don't need me feeding your ego. But I think a lot of you. More than I should. May I, uh, read you something? I was too scared to read at the funeral... it's only a couple of days old... Can I take your silence as a yes? (a pause) O.K. I am taking your silence as a yes, let me-

CLIFF

Marcy.

MARCY (concerned)

Yeah?

CLIFF

Oh, whatever.

MARCY (nervous)

Sure, O.K. It's about Noah... so...

CLIFF

Yes, just read it.

MARCY

O.K!

(Marcy either pulls out her phone or a notebook to read a passage aloud.)

MARCY

O.K. (reading) "In the gentle sundown of a long, slow Wednesday, I am once again confronted, as I always am, with the long continuity of myself as I cross the border to Wisconsin. The land here is indescribably pretty, with pink clouds and a blue sky and such a delicate, muted green in the leaves and fields. I cannot describe it to you. You would have to see it. I remember the field behind my mother's house, where wildflowers are, and in an afternoon much like this one, in the perfumed air with the cicadas calling, thinking, "it is a shame that I must leave this place." And as I return now, here is that thought again, come back to me, like an old habit."

And then I had a joke here, but, I'll just skip it... Unless you want me to read it? I'll just skip it.

“The land here, to me, is full of ghosts. Not evil ghosts from modern horror or bed-sheet ghosts with eyeholes or even just vague energies or lights and mirrors. No, none of those. I suppose the ghosts here are subtle. I suppose I’d like to offer my own kind of ghost: the kind of ghost that lives only in pictures and in notes in shoeboxes under beds, a kind of ghost like a shy cat. It comes at your request; you conjure it, it conjures you: you at 17, or 10, or 5. It is a toy, a picture, a song, even a handprint. Sometimes it is nothing at all. But it is the remembrance of your past self. A delicate hour-long ghost. It is the only kind I have known. It is what home, broadly, means to me. It is a way of putting on my old selves, like a set of clothes, a costume, to become all the girls I once was. The poor goth 16-year-old with bangs. The awful, awful, ugly, 14-year-old. That innocent 11-year-old, afraid of rollercoasters and boys and the dark. Returning is finding all the ghosts of myself stretched out over the land, whether in the field behind my mother’s house, or the place where I buried my father, or where my first boyfriend dumped me, all saying, “it is a shame you must leave again,” calling me back, no matter how not shameful it feels to leave.

But as I return this time, I look for you, for your ghosts, as you are gone beyond finding, except in pictures in books, or organized papers, or certain skid marks on a driveway. Recordings of you playing piano. Your trophies. I want to conjure you. I keep this silly notion that you will return to me, again, somehow. That I don’t have to live with this emptiness, this strange and hollow hunger. I don’t know why I feel this way. But still, I look for you in all the unconscious corners of the world, in the material, if only to find something I already knew, if only to find the bit of me that was you. I call to you, “it is a shame that you have left me...” just as the land does it’s best to shame me...”

A pause.

CLIFF

Is that it?

MARCY (quietly)

I didn’t finish writing it.

CLIFF

Oh.

MARCY

That’s also why I didn’t read it. Did you like it? (as tender as she physically can be) I was gonna say, so far, I guess, in looking, I’ve found him in you. A lot of him. I think that’s special... Did you like it?

CLIFF

Sorry, I kind of spaced out.

MARCY (hurt)

Really?

CLIFF

Sorry, I, I just had my mind elsewhere. I like your voice though.

MARCY

Oh, O.K.

(Cliff has somewhat recovered from his cry.)

CLIFF

You O.K?

MARCY (not O.K.)

Yeah.

MILES

Wow.

(They both look at him.)

CLIFF

You said there was a joke?

(She gets up and quickly exits, holding back tears.)

MARCY

Yeah, and it's really funny.

Scene XII.

Setting: The main room of the house.

At Rise: Daphne, Ross and Bly smoke a pipe and pass it around. By this point in the act, everyone is quite drunk and acts accordingly.

BLY

Gah, I've needed some weed all day.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

BLY

It's good shit.

ROSS

Yeah, no problem.

BLY (feeling it wash over her)

Geez.

DAPHNE

What?

BLY

Nothing.

DAPHNE (dropping it)

Sure.

BLY (making fun of her)

Suuure.

DAPHNE

What?

BLY

That's how you say it.

DAPHNE

No, I do not.

BLY (continuing to make fun of her)

No I do naaat.

DAPHNE

Whatever.

BLY

Suuuure.

DAPHNE (confused but humored)

Haheha, fuck off.

BLY

I'm just teasing.

DAPHNE

Sure!

BLY

I can't believe it's not legal here yet.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

ROSS

Yeah, I get it from this Korean guy from Minnesota. He's like this 20-year-old punk and he makes a shit load of cash off of it. (considering) He's a good guy.

DAPHNE

Yeah?

ROSS

It's funny, he's so busy running drugs he hired a guy, he legitimately hired a guy to take his college classes for him, so his parents don't find out. And I'm pretty sure he's getting a green card marriage in like a month.

BLY

Really?

ROSS

Yeah. It's funny-

BLY

What's funny?

ROSS

It's funny, he told me, he went to New York recently and dropped something like 30K in cash at fancy stores. Like 5K on shoes alone.

BLY

What's funny about that?

DAPHNE

Damn.

ROSS

But the funny part is, not one person at those stores gave a singular shit at all.

DAPHNE

Really?

ROSS

And he was all confused because he thought it was impressive, but that happens all the time there. That's what the people who go to those fancy stores do.

DAPHNE

Haha.

ROSS (finally)

What a putz.

BLY

This is good stuff.

ROSS

Yeah, anytime. We should hang out.

BLY

Where's Harry?

ROSS

Around. I saw him go somewhere.

DAPHNE

O.K., Ross, this may sound weird but...

ROSS

Sure, what?

BLY (making fun of Ross)

Suuuure.

DAPHNE (almost seriously)

Fuck off, Bly.

BLY

You fuck off.

DAPHNE (back to Ross)

This weed feels very, like, sunset colors.

ROSS

Phenomenal observation.

DAPHNE

Yeah, like pink, and orange and yellow and...

ROSS

...purple?

DAPHNE

Yeah.

ROSS

Cool.

DAPHNE

I have synesthesia.

ROSS

Oh, nice.

BLY

Nice.

DAPHNE

You're very sunset colors too.

ROSS

Am I?

DAPHNE

Yeah.

ROSS

Hmmm.

DAPHNE

At least, I always remembered you like that.

ROSS

That's sweet.

DAPHNE

Here, I can update my senses.

ROSS

Yeah?

DAPHNE

If you think that'd be fun.

BLY

What color am I?

DAPHNE

Ooh, I'd be happy to tell you, let me just get Ross first. Here, hold my hands.

BLY

No, what color am I?

ROSS

Piss off, Bly.

BLY

Whatever.

ROSS

How long have you had synesthesia?

DAPHNE

Oh, for a while. It actually took a while to realize how I perceive things is different from how other people perceive things. Now, you put your forehead on my forehead.

(They touch foreheads and make eye contact. Ross pulls back.)

ROSS

I'm a big fan of you, Daphne.

DAPHNE

Yeah?

ROSS

Yeah.

(A pause.)

ROSS

Hey, actually, do you wanna make out instead?

DAPHNE

Oh, sure!

(They kiss, first a little then a lot. They fall into the couch.)

Scene XIII.

Setting: Continuous from scene XII.

At Rise: Marcy hurriedly enters from the patio, crosses the stage and exits the other side.
Harry enters from the left hallway.

HARRY

Oh cool, you're smoking.

BLY

Well, I don't know if I look that good.

HARRY

Hahaha, fuck off.

BLY

Yeah, here.

(She hands him the pipe. Miles enters and sees Daphne and Ross.)

HARRY

Dope, thanks.

MILES (of Daphne and Ross)

Oh, wow.

BLY (unsure what he is looking at)

Hmm?

MILES

The uh...

HARRY (of Daphne and Ross)

How'd that happen?

BLY

How the fuck should I know?

MILES (mostly O.K.)

I, need a drink.

BLY

I'm just some colorless asshole.

HARRY

Well, I don't know about colorless.

BLY (whatever)

Yeah, geez. Miles, babe, can you get me a drink.

HARRY (muttering)

Maybe red.

MILES

Sure.

BLY

Another one of these.

(She holds her drink up. It is still full.)

MILES

Jack and Coke?

BLY

Yezz. Did you check out the dungeon yet?

MILES

Not yet.

BLY

You'd like it.

HARRY

Would he?

MILES

I've never had the use of one at my liberty.

BLY

Hahaha! You speak like an old man.

(Daphne breaks away for a second.)

DAPHNE

It's true, he does!

MILES

I know, I feel so old. By the time I'm 50, I'll feel ancient.

DAPHNE

Oh, that's silly.

BLY

I think you'll just feel like yourself.

MILES

Maybe. I don't know what that feels like.

BLY

Nothing, I imagine.

MILES (unsure what to say)

Hey, uh, Daphne?

HARRY (calling him over)

Miles, sit!

MILES

Sure.

BLY

With my drink, babe.

MILES

Sure, I got it.

DAPHNE

Yeah, come over.

MILES

Let me make myself a drink.

HARRY (to the group)

You all feeling good?

ROSS (slurred)

Eh, I'm good.

HARRY

Well, you sound great.

(Daphne laughs.)

ROSS (to Harry)

Jackass.

HARRY

Feel good?

ROSS

I do.

DAPHNE

I do too. But I also feel funny, like there's a lingering feeling of tension, in my gut.

BLY

Maybe it's all the drugs and alcohol.

DAPHNE (mock disbelief)

Really? Never!

HARRY

What do you think Cliff and Eddy's surprise is?

DAPHNE

I don't know. I'm curious.

MILES

Could be anything.

ROSS (to the portrait)

Hey, Noah, come sit!

DAPHNE (serious)

Jackass.

BLY (amused)

Oh, it's funny.

ROSS

He's kinda giving me the creeps.

MILES

He's fine.

ROSS

It's that smile.

BLY (jokingly)

That damn smile.

(Eddy enters from the bathroom.)

BLY

Hey Eddy, honey.

EDDY

Hey.

DAPHNE

What should we do? We should do something fun.

EDDY

We have backgammon.

HARRY

Strip poker.

EDDY

Or that.

BLY (typical of Harry)

Oh, you'd love that.

DAPHNE

Maybe later, Harry.

HARRY

I like the version that whatever anybody takes off, one person has to put on. So, you end up with a bunch of naked people and one person wearing like seven layers.

ROSS

I like that.

MILES (typical of Ross)

You would.

BLY

Oh, he would.

EDDY

Hmm... what about Never Have I Ever?

ROSS

What, are we fourteen?

BLY

You act like it.

ROSS (almost serious)

Oh, fuck off.

HARRY

Oh, that'd be fun.

DAPHNE

I'll start.

(Marcy enters. She hides her feelings.)

DAPHNE

Hey Marcy Cakes! Sit down.

MARCY

Why?

EDDY

We're playing never have I ever.

MARCY (shrugs it off)

What are we, fourteen?

ROSS (vindicated)

She gets it.

MARCY

I like strip poker.

ROSS (very vindicated)

She gets it!!

MARCY

I need a drink first.

BLY (to Ross)

She's 19, asshole.

(Cliff enters.)

HARRY (defensive)

She could put the clothes on.

EDDY

Why is she drinking? Cliff?

CLIFF (mumbles)

I don't know...

DAPHNE

O.K. the game is Never Have I Ever, and yeah, drink if you've done it.

MILES

Sure.

EDDY

And clap!

BLY (to Cliff)

Hey, how are you?

CLIFF

Fine. (to the portrait) Hey, Noah.

BLY

Sit.

CLIFF

How are you?

BLY

Fine. I don't think I'll know how drunk I am until I stand up and topple over.

HARRY (injecting)

Like blocks.

BLY (starting to slur her speech)

Precizely.

They all put up ten fingers.

DAPHNE

O.K. so, never have I ever... broken a bone.

(Bly, Harry, Cliff clap, drink, put a finger down.)

HARRY

Never have I ever left the country.

(Daphne, Eddy, Cliff, Ross clap, drink, put down a finger.)

MILES

Done cocaine.

(Everyone else claps, drinks, put down a finger.)

ROSS (annoyed)

O.K. fuck off.

DAPHNE (defensive)

It's legal for him to say that-

ROSS (to Miles)

Oh, try some. O.K?

EDDY

We won't pressure you.

BLY (of the pipe)

Can I get the thing?

(The pipe gets passed to her.)

MARCY

Never have I ever gotten kicked out of Walmart.

CLIFF

Fuck off.

(Cliff claps, drinks, puts down a finger.)

DAPHNE

Really?

CLIFF

Look-

MARCY

You were so pissed.

BLY

Never have I ever gotten into a fist fight at Costco.

CLIFF (exasperated)

Fuck off.

(Cliff claps, drinks, puts down a finger. They have ganged up on him.)

CLIFF

Never have I ever covered the bathroom of a Red Lobster in vomit.

(Bly and Marcy clap, drink, put down a finger.)

BLY (to Marcy)

Well, we walked into that.

MILES (disbelief)

What! What the hell! You guys, that's heinous. Hehahe.

DAPHNE (to Miles)

Old man.

(She laughs.)

EDDY

Never have I ever owned a cat.

(Marcy, Miles, Ross clap, put down a finger, drink.)

MARCY

O.K., sure.

CLIFF

You guys fucking suck.

EDDY

Oh, Cliff.

CLIFF (drunk)

Legitimately!

ROSS

Never... hmmm... never have I ever had oral sex in a movie theater.

(Eddy does a spit take. Bly and Harry clap, put down a finger, drink.)

EDDY

God, Ross!

BLY (as she does)

Dammit! Why did I clap?

ROSS

So, the rumors were true!

MILES (confused)

Wait, what?

MARCY (really?)

Geez, man.

ROSS

O.K. I always suspected it. I heard rumors for the longest time.

EDDY

Ew.

MARCY(thinking it over in her mind)

Huh.

CLIFF (don't judge)

Edna.

EDDY

Why a theater?

DAPHNE (confused, but intrigued)

Really?

BLY

Uhhh... Hehehe.

(She laughs into her drink.)

MARCY

Why not a sex dungeon?

HARRY (to Bly)

Should I protest at all?

BLY

No, it's O.K.

CLIFF

Oh, fuck off, really? When?

ROSS

How?

MARCY

Wait, what movie was it?

BLY

Inside out (or another topical movie gag).

(A mixed reaction from the group. Some wince, some cackle.)

HARRY

Good film.

CLIFF

Idiots.

DAPHNE

Never have I ever been pegged.

(Ross claps, puts down a finger, drinks. He gets up for more drink.)

ROSS

Judge me, I don't care.

DAPHNE

So, the rumors were true!

MILES

OOO!

HARRY

Unbelievable.

EDDY (scandalized)

Oh, my.

BLY

So adventurous.

(She smiles.)

ROSS

Daphne-

DAPHNE

Yes, dear?

ROSS (jokingly)

Go fuck yourself.

DAPHNE

Ha!

HARRY

Never have I ever gotten arrested.

(Cliff claps, puts down a finger, drinks.)

EDDY

Really?

CLIFF

Well, detained.

MILES

Why?

CLIFF

I got into a fist fight at Costco, dipshit. Cocksucker.

ROSS (seriously, cannot believe it)

Fuck off, man.

CLIFF

What'd you say?

ROSS

Stop talking. You're drunk and however clever you feel I promise you, you're just an asshole.

HARRY (why are you saying this?)

Ross?

CLIFF (seriously, but flatly)

Fuck off.

ROSS

I'm an asshole too! I have no delusions about that. Wake up, man.

DAPHNE (laughing, mocks how he said it)

Wake up, man!

CLIFF

You talk exactly like me!

ROSS

But I'm funny about it.

BLY

Sure.

MILES

Never have I ever... I don't know.

MARCY (annoyed)

Say literally anything.

ROSS (serious)

You fuck off, too.

MARCY

Ross.

ROSS (drops it)

Whatever, Marcy.

MILES (meanly)

Never have I ever blacked out.

(Bly, Cliff, Eddy, Harry, Daphne and Ross clap, put a finger down, drink.)

MARCY

Never have I ever not paid my own rent.

EDDY (mulling it over)

Well... no, it doesn't count.

(Cliff, Eddy, Ross clap, put a finger down, drink.)

CLIFF (to Marcy)

Never have I ever dropped out of college.

(Harry and Marcy clap, put a finger down, drink.)

MARCY (unable to think of a comeback)

Never have I ever...

CLIFF

Oh, shit yeah, Harry, I forgot.

MARCY (thought of something)

Been a jackass!

EDDY

Hey, calm down.

HARRY

Let it ride, let it ride.

EDDY

No.

HARRY

This is funny.

EDDY

What's funny about this? We should've done strip poker.

CLIFF (making fun of Marcy's anger)

It's kinda funny.

MARCY

Oh yeah?

HARRY (to Marcy)

You're as intimidating as Miles is.

EDDY

Oh, fuck off.

MARCY

I don't know about that.

MILES

I'm a fighter!

DAPHNE

Sure!

EDDY

Fuck off, Harry.

(Daphne has fully descended into her laughing fit.)

DAPHNE

Hahaha, you're such a...

HARRY

Well, I think they're both jackasses. I'm a jackass, he's a jackass.

EDDY

Sure, Harry.

HARRY

I'm just being honest!

DAPHNE

I'm gonna pee!

EDDY

Oh, save us, Harry, spare us your honesty. Take something seriously.

HARRY

Not worth my time to get mad.

(Silence for a second as everyone stewes, Daphne laughing maniacally.)

EDDY

Never have I ever run over a dog.

(Harry claps, drinks, puts a finger down.)

DAPHNE

Huh?

(Daphne stops laughing.)

MILES (smiling, drunk)

Oh, but it's Bly's turn.

ROSS

And we keep skipping over Noah!

BLY (serious)

Hey.

ROSS

What, I thought you were cool about it?

BLY (annoyed)

What logic is that?

MILES (to Harry)

Did you run over a dog?

DAPHNE (chiding, shaking her head)

Harry, Harry, Harry, Harry, Harry-

MILES (thinking he is funny, but a bit serious)

Oh, shut up, Daphne, fuck's sake!

(She zips her lips.)

HARRY (to Eddy)

I did.

MARCY

Really?

`HARRY

Yeah. Look, it was evening and I, Noah told me to turn really suddenly and it just...

MARCY

Noah didn't...

ROSS (cutting in)

Yeah, it's Noah's turn.

CLIFF (angry)

Get out of my house, man.

ROSS

Why?

CLIFF

Get out of my house, man!

ROSS

Why?

BLY (to Ross)

Stop!

CLIFF

You're being disrespectful, not to me, I don't give a shit, but to the memory of Noah.

ROSS

I wrote a fucking eulogy. I fucking got a tattoo. I'm getting a park bench with his name on it, you don't know what you're talking about.

DAPHNE (chiding)

Is this your house, Cliff? I thought this was mommy and daddy's.

CLIFF

Shut up.

MILES (exasperated)

Shut up! Both of you.

DAPHNE (half-serious, half-joking)

Fuck off.

MILES

Whatever.

MARCY

Oh, come on, don't you want to talk about it?

CLIFF

I pass.

ROSS (regaining order)

O.K. Never have I ever doubted the moon landing.

DAPHNE

O.K. Fuck off. For like a second.

MILES

Wait, what?

EDDY

That's stupid.

(Everyone talks over each other for maybe 6 seconds. Bly stands up.)

BLY

Everyone, everyone. Please, I love you. Shut up. I don't want to offend you. You're all my friends. But come on, have a little self-awareness. (To Daphne) You're an idiot, (to Harry) you're a moron, (to Miles) you're a loser, (to Marcy) you're immature, (to Ross) you're an asshole, (to Eddy) you're a cunt, (to Cliff) you're a dick, and I'm a stupid bitch. There, O.K? That's all that can be said. Those are the things left unsaid, yeah?

(Eddy is very displeased with the insult she has been given.)

EDDY

Never have I ever tried to kill myself.

(A tense pause. Bly looks at her confused.)

BLY

You bitch...

CLIFF

Eddy, I swear to God!

(Cliff stands to make a move towards Eddy but is blocked by the people around him. Eddy gets up too and is blocked by those close to her. They intend to fight. They grab for the cans of Silly String and spray each other. Ad libs convey confusion and frustration. Once they are separated, the rest of the party yells and shouts and argues with each other much in the way they have been.)

HARRY

Hey! Hey! Hey!

EDDY

Goddamn string!

CLIFF (to Eddy)

You bitch.

DAPHNE

HEY KNOCK IT OFF! (civilly) It's yours, Harry.

MILES

Geez, she's effective.

HARRY

Alright! Alright! We all get it! For Christ's sake! Enough! Enough! We get it. That's O.K... You've, you've given me a headache. I'm sorry, Noah. He's probably got a headache too.

CLIFF

Sorry, Noah.

ROSS

I'm sorry, Noah.

DAPHNE (quietly)

Sorry, Noah.

ROSS (to the portrait)

You were a real bastard too.

BLY

Yeah.

EDDY

Yeah.

MILES (to no one)

I wasn't terribly close with him.

HARRY

But he was a great guy. And he liked us for some reason. He even cared about you, Miles.

MILES

Sure.

HARRY

I have a tattoo on my ass that says, "Everything Sucks." As do you Ross, and do you, Cliff. We loved him.

CLIFF (limply)

You suck.

HARRY (knowingly)

I do.

ROSS

I don't want to be here.

MARCY

Me neither.

CLIFF

Well, I just want to sleep, actually.

EDDY

You ran over a dog.

HARRY

I know, I regret it, I suck.

(Marcy sprays some Silly String at him. No one reacts.)

ROSS

I can't do this. I wanted to. But everyone has been saying sad shit and crying. If you want something to cry about, think about how in 10,000 years, the only thing left of us will be plastic. That and 10,000 years of rage scarred into the earth. Fuck! Fuck, I sound like some asshole.(of the picture) And this doesn't help. His smile, it doesn't make me feel warm or fuzzy. It just feels like a strange joke. I loved that smile, but I get it Bly, I don't recognize it. It doesn't make sense.

(Ross knocks the picture over.)

BLY (quietly)

Yeah.´.

DAPHNE

Me too.

(She cries a bit. In fact, everyone cries a bit, some internally, some externally. After a moment...)

BLY

Cliff, can you make me a drink?

CLIFF

Sure.

DAPHNE

I'm really fucked.

BLY

Same.

MILES

I'm pretty much there.

(Miles moves towards the cocaine.)

MILES

Daph, babe.

DAPHNE

Me? Yeah?

MILES

What color is this to you?

DAPHNE

Circle.

CLIFF

Jack and coke?

BLY

Absinthe and ginger ale, please.

MILES

And I just snort it?

HARRY

Yeah, snort it.

MILES

O.K., sure.

HARRY

First time?

MILES

Yeah.

ROSS

It's actually kind of tame.

MARCY

Well-

EDDY

Don't listen to him.

(They gather around. They form almost a renaissance painting tableau.)

DAPHNE (quickly)

I'm next.

ROSS

O.K., and Daphne's next.

EDDY

Then me.

HARRY

Ready?

MILES

Yeah.

BLY

God.

ROSS

So brave of you.

MILES

A man ought to change himself up.

(He snorts some cocaine. Black out.)

END OF ACT 1.

ACT II

Scene I

Setting The main room again, but tidier. A chess board in the sitting area.

At Rise Everyone is sober again. Marcy and Daphne play chess down right and Ross watches them. Bly stands by the door. This is an alternate history Bly and Noah's engagement party, or what it could've looked like. Bly now takes her turn as the host. Everyone is dressed in nicer clothes than act I. After a moment, Bly opens the door to reveal Eddy and Cliff.

EDDY

Hey!

BLY

Hey!

EDDY

How are you?

BLY (energetic)

Holding up.

EDDY

You must be busy.

BLY

I am, I am. Cliff, hello!

CLIFF

Hello, Bly.

BLY

You doing O.K.?

CLIFF

Yes.

EDDY

I'm so happy.

BLY

Yeah?

EDDY

Can I get a hug?

BLY

Of course.

(They hug.)

EDDY

Where's Noah?

BLY

Oh, he's upstairs, come inside.

CLIFF

Thanks.

BLY

He's getting a little surprise for everyone.

EDDY

A surprise?

BLY

It's not much. It's just something to thank everyone for coming to the engagement party.

EDDY

Oh, you didn't have to.

BLY

It was his idea.

EDDY

Where can we put our-

BLY

Coats can come with me. Oh, shoes by the door, darlings.

(Bly exits for a moment to put the coats away.)

EDDY

Shoes by the door.

CLIFF

Nice place.

EDDY

Feels like home, doesn't it?

ROSS

Cliff?

MARCY (not looking up)

Oh, Cliff?

CLIFF

Hey, Ross. Hey, Marcy.

ROSS

How are you?

CLIFF

Fine.

MARCY (still not looking)

Hey, Cliff. Nice to see you.

CLIFF

Thanks.

MARCY (still not looking)

You look good, love the tie.

(Marcy has correctly guessed he is wearing a tie.)

CLIFF

How are you doing?

(Marcy turns and smiles at him, happy with herself.)

DAPHNE

Hey Eddy.

EDDY

Hey Daphne.

MARCY

Well, I'm playing O.K.

DAPHNE (with deep concentration)

She is.

ROSS

They've been going at it. Eddy, you look beautiful.

EDDY

Thank you.

(Bly enters.)

BLY

How was the drive?

CLIFF

Not so bad.

EDDY (over-joyed)

I'm so happy to see all of you. I'm so- it makes me want to sob.

ROSS (matter of fact)

Verkleempt.

(Miles and Harry enter from the patio.)

MILES

Hey!

CLIFF

Hey!

HARRY

Eddy, I didn't hear you come in.

MILES

Cliff! How are you?

CLIFF

Miles, my man!

MILES

We just went out for a smoke. Glad to see you.

HARRY

Yeah, glad to see you.

CLIFF

Glad to be here.

MARCY (of the chess game)

Check.

HARRY

Things are heating up over here.

ROSS

She's good.

HARRY (humored)

Is she? Which one?

ROSS

I don't know I'm just hedging my bets.

HARRY

One of them's bound to be.

MARCY (teased)

Fuck off.

BLY

Alright folks.

EDDY

Is Noah coming?

BLY

He's coming. In a minute. Can I get you two anything to drink?

(Harry crosses to the chess board.)

HARRY

Interesting.

MARCY

Check.

CLIFF

Well, I'll have a-

MARCY

Check.

CLIFF

Absinthe and ginger ale.

EDDY (slightly righteous)

Oh, nothing for me. I've been trying to drink less. I feel like I can

MARCY

Check.

EDDY

-in with my body better.

DAPHNE (looking up from the game)

I'm glad you made it.

ROSS

How long has it been?

EDDY

Oh, uhh...

ROSS

Actually, you know what? Probably at Ben Gustafsson's wedding.

CLIFF

Oh, of course.

BLY

Fucking Ben Gustafsson.

EDDY

That's the last time we saw Miles, too.

MILES (hearing his name)

Hmm?

EDDY

Ben Gustafsson's?

MILES

Oh, yeah.

DAPHNE

I liked that speech you gave.

MILES

Thanks. I'm glad I can use my degree for something.

EDDY

I have a question.

(Bly gives Cliff his drink.)

BLY

Here you are Cliff.

CLIFF

Thanks.

EDDY

Why'd you end it with-

HARRY (remembering)

Oh, yeah.

EDDY

"Everything sucks."

BLY

Oh, that was funny!

MARCY

Checkmate.

HARRY

Nice one.

DAPHNE (with some energy)

Shit.

MILES

Well, it's a funny story...

HARRY

Wait, wait, is it the...

(He points to his ass, discreetly.)

MILES

Yeah!

EDDY (curious)

What?

MILES

I'll tell you sometime.

CLIFF

Hmm?

MILES

Not around polite company.

MARCY (exactly how Harry said it in act I, scene I)

After I saw you at the funeral, I knew we had to catch up.

(No one reacts to this line. A beat.)

BLY (exactly how she said it before)

How was the drive?

CLIFF

Fine.

EDDY (slightly confused)

Bly, honey, actually, could I get a little white wine?

ROSS (exactly as he said it before)

They've been going at it.

BLY

Of course. We have pinot grigio, prosecco.

EDDY

Great.

(Bly holds up a bottle for Eddy to see.)

BLY

This is one of my favorites.

EDDY (not quite annoyed)

Noah's taking his time.

CLIFF

We can wait, we're in no rush.

EDDY (admitting)

I know.

ROSS

Oh, did you see the ring?

(Bly shows the ring off.)

BLY

Here.

MILES

We went out for a smoke. (exactly as he said it before)

EDDY

Oh, that's lovely.

BLY

Actually, Eddy's going to be my maid of honor.

HARRY

Oh, lovely!

MILES

Very nice!

(By now, Marcy has moved away from the chess board.)

MARCY (exactly as she said it before)

Check.

MILES

Congrats.

ROSS

Damn, I was hoping you'd pick me.

MARCY (exactly as she said it before)

Check.

BLY

Don't worry, you can be the flower girl.

EDDY

I'm honored. Actually, I wanted to say something I prepared.

HARRY (exactly as he said it before)

We just went out for a smoke.

EDDY

Yes...

ROSS

How were we to know?

MARCY (from act I.)

A man ought to fuck himself up.

EDDY

Haha... what?

MILES

Glad to see you.

BLY (exactly as she said it before)

Actually, Eddy's going to be my maid of honor!

(The dream starts to unravel.)

ROSS

How were we ever to know?

EDDY (confused but humored)

...yes...

CLIFF (as if he was receiving his drink again)

Thanks.

DAPHNE

Ben Gustafsson.

BLY

Fucking Ben Gustafsson.

MARCY

Check.

DAPHNE

Hmm...

CLIFF

Sure.

DAPHNE (from act I.)

Never have I ever been pegged.

MARCY (from act I.)

This is like last Christmas.

ROSS (from act I.)

I made that Christmas memorable.

MARCY (from act I.)

Ask yourself if in a good way.

HARRY

Oh, lovely!

ROSS (exactly as he said it before)

Have you seen the ring?

MILES

Congrats!

HARRY

Very!

BLY (exactly as she said it before)

Actually, Eddy's going to be my maid of honor.

EDDY

Uhh...

CLIFF

You O.K. babe?

EDDY (remembering)

Wait, but isn't Ben Gustafsson...

DAPHNE (from act I.)

He was a man on fire.

CLIFF (loudly)

Fuck!

MARCY

Check.

DAPHNE

Shit.

BLY (exactly as she said it before)

Can I get you a drink?

EDDY

Sure. Please.

BLY

O.K.

MARCY

Check.

DAPHNE

Fuck.

HARRY (from act I.)

No shame in labor.

MILES (from act I.)

Harry, Harry, Harry...

DAPHNE

Ran over a dog.

BLY

O.K.

MARCY

Hey, Cliff.

CLIFF

Hey, baby.

MARCY

I am so in love with you.

CLIFF

You're perfect.

MARCY

Am I?

DAPHNE (like her laughing fit.)

Hehehe

ROSS

So, this Korean guy from Minnesota, right?

CLIFF

You are perfect in every way.

MARCY

I love you, baby.

(They go in for a kiss.)

EDDY

I wanted to say a few words.

HARRY

Sure, Eddy.

ROSS

Yeah.

MARCY

Check.

DAPHNE

Oh, shouldn't we wait for Noah?

BLY

Oh, she can say it again.

ROSS

He's not going anywhere.

EDDY (suddenly remembering)

His funeral was nice.

BLY

What?

CLIFF

What, honey?

MARCY

Eddy?

EDDY (continuing to remember)

His mom had so many good stories.

BLY

That's...

HARRY (worried)

That's an unusual joke.

DAPHNE (not getting it)

I think I get it.

ROSS

We're those your words?

(As Eddy speaks, everyone else slowly tears the room apart, knocking glasses over, the chess board off the table, dumping chips onto the floor, and generally making a mess. One by one, they exit. The person playing Marcy should be the first to exit to give them time to change into everyone's clothes from act I. The other characters can simply just change out of their nicer outfits into their underwear, or parts of their act I costume, however comfortable they are with showing skin. After she finishes, Eddy throws on a bathrobe to indicate that she is almost naked.)

EDDY

No, here I just wanted to say... I'm glad to see you all. It's been so long. Marcy, I haven't seen you in ages, but you're still just as smart, as unique, or you Ross, I've missed you. And you, Harry, I still think of you fondly, do you remember that night I slept in your car? And Miles, you wonderful guy, so sensitive and so sweet. You helped me through a lot of my tougher moments. Oh, and Daphne, Bly, you two are like sisters to me. I know Cliff values you all just as much. (by now, almost everyone else has left) I suppose I wanted to talk about marriage... but, well, marriage is like a house, or a garden, and you build it or water it together, and everyone's house is different, and yet they all have rooms and walls and a history. Marriage is a lot about understanding, trust, independence and reliance. Watering. Plastering. It's complex, it's a two-person job. You need to have each other, and you can't go it alone, you can't just... I think you

have to communicate, you see, and that's why I think you'll be good at it because you're so talkative, but I reckon someday, five years from now, someday, someday...

(She falls to the couch.)

Scene II

Setting The main room again, but destroyed.

At Rise The dream ends. Everyone has left the living room, save Eddy, who lies in a stupor. A moment passes. Cliff enters, furious, nearly naked.

CLIFF (straining)

Where the hell is it? Where the... It was... Gotta retrace... and I turn to go with it and go...
What did she say... And as I turn to go, I set it down. Well...

(Cliff tears the set apart looking for the surprise.)

CLIFF

Goddamn it! Fuck!

EDDY

Honey...

CLIFF

What!?

EDDY (softly)

Honey?

CLIFF

Goddammit you're no help.

EDDY

What's wrong?

CLIFF

Where the hell is it!

EDDY

What's wrong? Cliff, Cliff! What's wrong?

CLIFF (coming down a little)

Despite my best efforts, I cannot, I cannot locate the fucking cocking surprise. It is in the house somewhere, isn't it?

EDDY

Oh, baby.

CLIFF

Cause it is here. Unless someone's fucking with me. Unless the world is fucking with me right now. Where is the... where are my fucking clothes!? Ah, shit, I'm in it now. My mind's gone. My brain's in fucking Idaho.

EDDY (dreamily)

Oh, it was such a lovely night.

CLIFF

What?

EDDY

And Bly didn't have to go through all that trouble to get us those goodie bags.

CLIFF (Are you stupid?)

What the hell are you saying? I have looked everywhere. In every unconscious corner of this house. Fuck. It's taunting.

EDDY

It's O.K., baby.

CLIFF (exhales)

Oh, Marcy. (correcting himself) Eddy.

EDDY

Yes, baby?

CLIFF

Fuck. Goddammit.

EDDY

I know, baby.

(He crosses to her.)

CLIFF

How are you?

EDDY

It's a lovely night.

CLIFF

Yeah?

EDDY

Where's everyone?

CLIFF (It hits him again)

Goddammit!

EDDY

Sit with me. Let me calm you. It's a beautiful night. Just look at the stars.

(Cliff looks confused, as they are indoors.)

EDDY

You are so pretty, my baby, you are so gentle.

CLIFF (calming)

O.K. I'm sorry. Was I mean to you?

EDDY

No.

CLIFF

I called you a bitch.

EDDY

It's alright.

CLIFF

Are you O.K.?

EDDY

Mhmm.

CLIFF (testing her)

...where are we?

EDDY

Does it matter?

CLIFF

Just tell me.

EDDY

Ummm...

(She buries her head into his chest.)

EDDY

Yours, silly.

CLIFF

Fuck me. I thought I was gone.

EDDY

What's that?

CLIFF

Your brain's in fucking Alaska.

(A pause.)

EDDY

We're not in Alaska, Cliff.

CLIFF (grim)

No. We are here. Did you move the surprise?

EDDY

What surprise?

(A beat.)

EDDY

Wait, did you call me Marcy?

(A noise offstage.)

CLIFF

What was that?

EDDY

What was what?

CLIFF

Hey! Hey!

Scene III

Setting Continuous from scene II.

At Rise Marcy quickly crosses to the door. Her hair is a mess. She is wearing almost all the clothes from act 1.

MARCY (crossing)

Hey, I'm just gonna grab my shoes and go because I really don't want to be here-

CLIFF (urgently)

Marcy. Marcy.

MARCY (continuous)

And it's been fun wearing your clothes and all, it really has, but here, you can have them back now. I'm never playing strip poker like that again. It's barely a game!

CLIFF (firm)

Marcy.

MARCY

What?

EDDY (lazily)

Marcy...

MARCY

Look-

CLIFF (firmest)

Marcy.

EDDY (quietly)

Henry.

MARCY

Fuck off. I'm not a dog.

CLIFF (matching her)

Fuck off.

EDDY

Marcy...

MARCY

I've got a car coming, and I'd prefer if you didn't talk to me.

EDDY

You know, he just called me Marcy.

CLIFF (off-guard)

I-

MARCY

Dammit Cliff!

EDDY

Marcy, how'd you get so good at chess?

MARCY (confused)

What?

EDDY

Chess.

MARCY

I don't play chess.

EDDY

I saw you. You also tried to kiss Cliff, which was cute.

MARCY

I'm not the kind equipped for chess. And no, I didn't.

EDDY

You did! I don't know why'd you lie to me about something dumb like that. And you are smart enough, though it's not about smarts. There are like, what, only like two different games of chess.

CLIFF (confused)

What??

MARCY

I don't need you to tell me I'm smart. And Cliff is not my type.

(Marcy makes for the door.)

CLIFF

Marcy!

MARCY

And don't "Marcy" me. My name is Marceline. Have your clothes.

EDDY (to herself)

Chess is either: someone wins, or no one wins.

(Marcy takes off the topmost layer of clothes and throws them at Cliff.)

EDDY (an aside to Cliff, whispered)

Is she mad at me?

MARCY

I'll be gone in a few minutes. (checking her phone) 5 minutes. 6 minutes. Thanks for a great night.

(A very long pause. Cliff dresses himself and orbits around and gets a drink.)

EDDY (as if nothing has happened)

You know, Marcy, Cliff's parents are down in Acapulco, and I was telling them they should try and go cliff diving, if they get the chance. And I know they'd hate it, I can assure you, but still, God, the mental image of them trying to do it was just too funny. Your dad seemed game to try, but your mom just hated it. Which, I understand. She's... oh God, I just had a very horrible intrusive thought. Do you think anyone's ever missed the water? Eee. One sec.

(Eddy calmly exits. During this exit, she changes out of her "dream" clothes and into underwear or act I clothes, still covered by the bathrobe. Marcy and Cliff look at each other.)

CLIFF (tender)

Marceline, you're something. I don't know what it is, but whatever it is, I like it. I fucking dig it. It's under my goddamn skin. It's funny, I don't remember meeting you. You just faded in, I just opened my eyes one day and you had been there beside me, quietly, insistently, reminding me, making me feel full, happy, like a, gust of wind...

MARCY (somewhat sweetly)

Yeah? I'm no metaphor.

(They move close to each other.)

CLIFF

Always there, in the background. Constant. Like a rash... Or friendlier than a rash, I mean...

MARCY

Sure.

CLIFF (clunkily)

Yeah, that, whatever. You're... lyrical? No... uh. Sorry, you know I'm not a words guy. But what I don't get- I think you like being miserable. Which is, not weird, but, it's weird. I wish you were happy. I think you deserve as much.

(She throws her shoes at him.)

CLIFF (serious)

Don't throw things at me, you know I hate that.

(Marcy scowls.)

MARCY (exasperated)

Is there something you want me to say?

CLIFF

No.

MARCY

Do you want me to say thanks?

CLIFF

What do you think I-

MARCY

Don't look at me like that, Cliff.

CLIFF

You don't-

MARCY

I don't know what you want from me. This is all that I am. God don't look at me like that. I hate how you make me feel. Can I have my shoes back?

(Cliff returns her shoes. Eddy enters, though neither of them notice. Eddy's robe can be open a bit now to reveal that the old costume is no longer underneath.)

MARCY

Cliff, I...

CLIFF

It's O.K.

MARCY

You know how I spend my nights?

CLIFF

Sleeping?

MARCY

I spend most of my nights sweating in my underwear drinking and smoking and masturbating and blowing my mind out on TV and... eating because I'm bored... and most of my days are spent- doing nothing. Working. I'm just some guy. I'm tired. I'm, drunk. I threw up in the bathroom. And I just want to go home.

CLIFF

Marcy, listen to me... you are, quincennial.

EDDY

Cliff.

CLIFF

Oh, Eddy.

EDDY

I think you mean she's quintessential.

CLIFF (resigned)

Yeah.

MARCY

She's right.

EDDY

Well, I was wondering who threw up in the bathroom. You know, I think I'd still go cliff diving. I think it'd be such a full body high. Pure adrenaline. I went skydiving once for my mother's birthday, and God, it was strange to feel, but I love the feeling of falling.

(Eddy curls up with a pillow. The phone rings.)

EDDY (sleepily)

Hello? Oh hey. Mmhmm. Mmhmm. Sure. Alright, yes. Bly and Noah's engagement party. Mmhmm. Yes, we're there. O.K. We'll still be there, probably leave around 11. Alright, see you soon.

MARCY

Who was that?

CLIFF

Eddy?

EDDY

Oh.

(Eddy hangs the phone up.)

CLIFF

Who was that?

EDDY

Uh... wait. What day is it?

MARCY

Sunday.

EDDY

What happened to Saturday?

MARCY

Time.

EDDY

Oh.

CLIFF

Who was it?

EDDY

Time has a funny way of doing that.

CLIFF

Do you need water?

EDDY

I need a smoke.

CLIFF

Alright.

EDDY

It's funny. I have no idea who that was.

CLIFF

What did they say?

EDDY (with a smile)

I don't know, I think they were French.

MARCY

Were they actually?

EDDY

Oh, oh, the funeral was lovely, wasn't it?

CLIFF

Marcy, do you have her clothes?

MARCY

Uhh... yeah, I think.

(She takes off a layer and throws them at Eddy.)

EDDY

Thanks....

CLIFF (to Eddy)

Oh, honey...

(Cliff goes to comfort her.)

EDDY

Wait, you called me a bitch...

Scene IV

Setting Continuous from scene III.

At Rise Bly and Harry stumble in, mostly naked. They are *drunk*.

HARRY

Hey.

BLY

Hey, 'scuze us.

EDDY

Where are you going?

BLY (snappy)

Fuck you.

HARRY

Upstairs.

EDDY (hurt)

Oh.

BLY

Did you find the you-know-what?

CLIFF (sudden)

No! I did not.

EDDY

He didn't.

MARCY

I'm leaving.

BLY (worried)

Oh, really?

MARCY

Yeah.

HARRY

We're gonna swim.

BLY

He's gonna swim, I'm gonna watch.

HARRY (to Cliff)

Do you have a swimsuit upstairs?

BLY

His underwear is too precious to use.

(Bly and Harry turn to each other. They flirt.)

HARRY

Yeah?

BLY

I'm just kidding.

HARRY (sincere)

I don't want it wet.

BLY

I want it wet.

HARRY

Do you?

BLY

Yeah.

(A pause. They lock eyes.)

HARRY

God, I want you.

BLY (quick)

Yeah?

(Bly and Harry start to make out, softly at first, then urgently.)

MARCY (mortified)

Oh, God.

CLIFF (tired)

What the hell...

EDDY

Oh!

CLIFF

Bly, Harry, knock it off.

BLY (almost angry)

Fuck off.

EDDY

Bly!

BLY

Eddy, I swear to fucking God, what now?

EDDY

Look, I don't know what-

BLY

Shut up. We're done.

CLIFF

Bly!

BLY

We are done!

EDDY

But-

BLY

I don't know how to explain it better than we are no longer friends. Let's get out of here, Harry.

EDDY

Bly...

BLY (to Eddy)

You, dumb, you...

EDDY

What?

BLY

Suck my dick. This bitch, this... she's...

(Bly slouches upstairs. Harry stays.)

MARCY (mouthing)

Oh, shit.

(A pause. Cliff turns to Eddy.)

CLIFF (not knowing what to say)

Marcy, is your ride-

MARCY

Four minutes.

HARRY

I'm gonna make sure she's O.K.

CLIFF

Whatever, Harry.

HARRY (Thinking of arguing with Cliff)

You know what? Never mind...

(He exits. He reenters, grabs some snacks and exits again.)

Scene V

Setting Continuous from scene IV.

At Rise Eddy contemplates what has happened.

EDDY

Oh, goodness. This is like a dream I had.

CLIFF

Oh, don't tell me a dream story. O.K! They're so boring. Unless I'm in it, it's gonna be boring as shit. Cock.

EDDY

You aren't.

MARCY (curious)

Am I?

EDDY

No.

(A pause.)

CLIFF

Fo-

EDDY

It was an abstract dream. It was slow and lurid and languid, and I felt like, well, it was dream-like. And I was floating, in this measureless ocean of space, and then I felt this vague migrating pain in my right shin, and suddenly, almost like a burst of rain, the world cracked up, there were cracks everywhere, infinite cracks in the spaceless colors around me, and it all broke silently and quickly and also without breaking at all. It was strange. Like some sort of kaleidoscope. I just knew everything was being blown apart, even if it didn't necessarily feel like it was. Except in the shin.

CLIFF

Eddy.

EDDY

What?

CLIFF

Nothing. Why'd it remind you?

EDDY

Well, I feel the same, but now, well, I've only lost her. And she's only gone in theory. But I can feel it, now, in the shin, how it'll feel in six years from now when she'll cross my mind. Worrying about where she is and what she's doing. It'll explode in me. It feels real, so real, even though it's not happened. I've already lost her. Even though she's just up a flight of stairs and I could talk to her.

CLIFF

You could.

MARCY

I don't think you should.

EDDY

I won't. I won't.

(A pause.)

MARCY (checking her phone)

Two minutes.

CLIFF (sobering)

Marcy, I don't want to lose you.

MARCY

Cliff... I'm tired.

CLIFF

You're like... my... sister, I think.

MARCY

O.K. It's late.

CLIFF

Or like myself. We could play some chess.

MARCY

Yeah?

CLIFF

Or I could make some coffee. Eddy, coffee?

MARCY

You're sweet. But that's not enough.

CLIFF

Oh, O.K.

MARCY (of her phone)

Now it's back up to four! Dammit.

EDDY

Typical.

CLIFF

I had a dream the other day. I was a pirate, and I had a lightsaber, and I was in this castle that also reminded me of my middle school, and-

MARCY (exploding)

Dammit! My ride's been canceled! Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

EDDY

Marcy!

MARCY

Goddammit!

CLIFF

Marcy.

MARCY

Cliff!

CLIFF

It's O.K.

MARCY (wilting slightly)

I just want to go home.

(The phone rings.)

EDDY

Yes, hello? Hello? Hello? Nobody there.

Scene VI

Setting On the patio, by the pool. Daphne and Miles lie on a pool chair together asleep, and Ross sits leaning forward near them in his own chair, looking into the pool.

At Rise Miles slowly comes to and looks around.

MILES

Oh, guhh.

ROSS

Hey, princess.

MILES

Hey.

ROSS

How do you feel?

MILES

Ask me how do I feel. How do I look like I feel?

ROSS

Like a princess.

MILES

Good. Wait, am I Daphne?

ROSS

What?

MILES

I thought I was Miles.

ROSS

You are, you are.

MILES

Oh.

ROSS

I'm like, 70% sure you are.

(They laugh.)

MILES

I just thought, you called me princess, and I thought you'd call Daphne princess.

ROSS

Yeah?

MILES

Because you're romantic with her.

ROSS

Sure, Daphne can be a princess.

MILES

She is.

ROSS

I'm not romantic with her though.

MILES

Is there any coke left? I feel miserable.

(Miles realizes he doesn't have many clothes on, nor does Ross, nor does Daphne.)

MILES

What, where are my clothes? (of himself and Daphne) Did we,(of the group) did we have a...

ROSS

No.

MILES

Oh. Were we going to?

ROSS

We lost them in strip poker.

MILES

Sure. Who won?

ROSS

I don't know. It's kind of beside the point.

MILES

It's barely even a game. (looking to Daphne) God.

ROSS

Do you have some kind of crush on her?

MILES (tender, considering)

Not until now. Hmm. And when we part tonight, it'll be some odd, migrating memory. Not quite a dream, but practically. How inconstant I am. How suddenly grateful and alight and jealous, wholly conjured from what? A kiss? And straight again in some hours from now blank, blank and among grocery shelves, as if it never mattered who had kissed who or for how long.

ROSS

The degree of tongue.

MILES

Exactly. She's a real phenomenon, I think. I don't know. Maybe you wouldn't call it love then, since it's so short and compromised, but I love her. And you?

ROSS

Maybe I do. I love plenty of people, in little ways, I guess. I love Cliff. I love Bly.

MILES

Do you love me?

ROSS

Not yet.

MILES

Yeah?

ROSS

But I could. You're cute.

MILES

Heheh. I think she loves you.

ROSS

Yeah?

MILES

I don't know what she sees in you.

ROSS

Really?

MILES

Other than the obvious. But I think she does.

ROSS

I'm not very good at accepting love.

MILES

I could love you, Ross.

ROSS

You know, the second time my girlfriend Caroline and I broke up, she told me she loved me.

MILES

Second time?

ROSS

Yeah, I know. And I think that was the first time someone had said that to me and I felt it, in my body, in like an electrochemical way. And it broke my heart a little because she said it as she turned to go. She's a good person, I think, but she really likes to say things she knows will rattle around in your brain. Like yesterday, she said, "Our hands should be bigger" and that's just, really confused me. Now we're back together, and... well... (a new thought hits him) we never say I love you. I think we both know that love means so much that it kind of stopped meaning anything real.

MILES

Yeah?

ROSS

Yeah. So, I do love Daphne, whatever that means.

(Miles laughs. He is impressed.)

MILES

What color are you?

ROSS

To her? I didn't get that far.

MILES

Really?

ROSS

No.

MILES

How'd it happen?

ROSS

Hehehe...

MILES

How'd it *happen*?

ROSS

We were touching.

MILES

Yeah.

ROSS

And I said, "I'm a big fan of you, Miles."

MILES (correcting)

Daphne.

ROSS

Yeah, Daphne, sorry. Maybe you are Daphne.

MILES

I'd like that.

ROSS

Well, here, I said, "actually, can I kiss you?"

MILES

Uh huh. What did I say?

ROSS

Well... you're not Daphne, though.

MILES

I could be.

(They meet eyes. The real Daphne starts to wake up and stretch.)

DAPHNE

Oh man. Hey boys.

ROSS

Hey.

MILES

Hey.

DAPHNE

Oh wow. (exactly how miles said it) Uhh, hehe, did we have a...

MILES

No.

DAPHNE

We're we going to?

ROSS

No.

(She puts her head on Miles.)

DAPHNE

O.K. What're you up to? I could use some coke.

ROSS

Talking about Caroline.

DAPHNE

I feel like shit. Oh, she's so sweet.

MILES

And love, broadly.

DAPHNE

You guys are too sweet. I love you both, so much.

ROSS

Is that the drugs and alcohol speaking?

DAPHNE

No, it's Daphne. Hehe, where'd our clothes go?

ROSS (remembering)

Oh, shit.

MILES

Strip poker.

ROSS

Marcy has 'em.

DAPHNE (remembering)

Hahaha, that's right, she does.

MILES

You know, Marcy ought to be published. She's good.

DAPHNE

Yeah?

ROSS

Yeah?

MILES

She's real good. Better than I'll ever be.

DAPHNE

You've read her writing?

ROSS

You hardly know her.

DAPHNE

Where's my drink?

ROSS

Oh, it's-

MILES

Well, I heard her. Reading her stuff.

DAPHNE

And it's good?

MILES

Better than anything I've ever written.

DAPHNE

That's not true.

ROSS

Yeah, I'm sure her stuff sucks.

MILES

Ross.

DAPHNE

Oh, whatever. You should tell her. God, I'm tired. I feel a bit numb up and down my arms. Well, here's to getting destroyed and, I don't know, practicing funeral rites, and unrealized threesomes.

(They do a small toast.)

DAPHNE

Is this what Noah would have wanted?

ROSS

What do you mean?

DAPHNE

I just miss him.

MILES

Yeah.

DAPHNE

Are you really getting a park bench for him?

ROSS

Yeah.

MILES

That's sweet.

DAPHNE

Let me know if I can contribute to it.

ROSS

No, no, it's O.K.

DAPHNE

That really is sweet of you, Ross.

ROSS

I feel like I owe him.

MILES

Yeah?

ROSS

Yeah. It's funny, because he hated nature.

DAPHNE

And tell Caroline I miss her.

MILES

I'm big fan of you, Daphne.

DAPHNE

Thanks, bug.

Scene VII

Setting Continuous from scene VI

At Rise Bly and Harry enter.

BLY

Hello.

DAPHNE

Hey! Come sit.

HARRY

Any of you gotten in yet?

MILES

Oh, no.

DAPHNE

I find myself getting lost in the ripple of the water.

ROSS

Really?

DAPHNE

It looks so still, but there's an ever so slight ripple.

MILES

Can you see a reflection?

DAPHNE

Can either of you?

MILES

Yeah.

ROSS

Yeah.

DAPHNE

Huh.

BLY

We should do something. I'm, I need to use my energy.

HARRY

Sure.

ROSS

Well, we've been drinking.

BLY

You're cute.

HARRY

Or swim. I like swimming.

BLY

Oh, you should get your clothes from Marcy before she leaves.

ROSS

She's leaving?

BLY

I think so.

MILES

Oh, O.K.

DAPHNE

In a minute.

ROSS

It's cooler without them, if I'm honest.

BLY

What, style-wise or heat-wise?

ROSS

Funny.

MILES

A little bit of both.

BLY

We should do something! I can't stand this stillness. I'm gonna set on fire.

(No one does anything. A pause.)

HARRY

Euchre? (pronounced you-ker)

DAPHNE

Swimming.

ROSS

Spin the bottle.

DAPHNE

Sheepshead.

HARRY

Swimming.

BLY

Spin the bottle?

MILES

Wait, what?

DAPHNE

Ooh.

BLY (laughing)

Oh my God.

MILES

I don't know.

ROSS

It'll be fun.

BLY

Spin the bottle.

HARRY

Well, as long as I don't get cooties.

DAPHNE

Hehehe...

ROSS

You definitely don't have those already.

HARRY

Eat my cock, Ross.

MILES

What bottle should we use?

BLY (deciding)

Oh, but that's silly. If Eddy comes out here, someone throw something at her.

ROSS

Oh, sure.

MILES

Why?

HARRY

Hey, Bly?

BLY

Yes, baby?

HARRY

Enjoy the night.

BLY

I will. A shoe would work.

DAPHNE (of a bottle)

This would work.

HARRY

Oh, prosecco.

BLY

That'd be good. Definitely knock her out.

ROSS

The ol' prosecky.

BLY

You know what Cliff would say?

HARRY

Hmm?

BLY

Prosecco to champagne is like a can of coke.

MILES

A can of coke to what?

HARRY

Champagne, I guess.

ROSS (of the bottle)

How's she spin?

DAPHNE

Like a dream.

MILES

What happened to sheepshead?

HARRY

Or swimming.

MILES

I can't swim.

DAPHNE

Oh, I realized I don't have any shoes to throw at Bly.

BLY (correcting)

Eddy.

DAPHNE

Eddy, yeah. Or pants.

ROSS

Well, throwing pants would hardly hurt her.

MILES

We should get Marcy out here.

ROSS

I don't think she should play.

MILES

For the clothes!

DAPHNE

I think it might've been a mistake to play strip poker.

MILES

Yeah?

DAPHNE

Now it's cold.

BLY

O.K. I can start.

(She reaches for the bottle but doesn't spin it.)

DAPHNE

Oh, a quick toast.

HARRY

Yeah?

DAPHNE

Hello, everybody. I just love you all so much. To friends!

BLY

Oh, Harry, Harry.

HARRY

Yeah?

(She pulls him over and kisses him. This makes everyone uncomfortable.)

BLY

Hehehe, O.K. that was my first spin.

HARRY

O.K. I'll spin.

ROSS

You're not gonna swim?

HARRY

I only want to swim if anyone else wants to swim.

(Harry spins, it lands on Miles.)

HARRY

Oh, Miles.

MILES

Yeah.

HARRY

Come here!

MILES

Just a peck.

(They kiss just a peck.)

MILES

O.K. I'll go.

(Miles spins. It lands on Harry.)

MILES

Oh, hey, Harry.

HARRY

Hey buddy.

MILES

Long time no see.

HARRY

Another peck.

(They quickly peck.)

ROSS

O.K. I'll go.

MILES

Nice stubble.

HARRY

I agree.

(Ross spins. It lands on Miles.)

MILES

Wow.

BLY

Damn.

MILES

I'm hot tonight.

ROSS

Hot every night, baby.

DAPHNE

Hehe.

BLY

Ooo...

HARRY

My goodness.

MILES

Look, Ross.

ROSS

Yeah?

(They share a look.)

DAPHNE

Here, I can go!

(The bottle stops on Bly.)

BLY

Oh, me?

DAPHNE

Hey.

ROSS

Go for it.

(Daphne and Bly make out. The boys make small talk.)

MILES

Oh man! She skipped us.

ROSS

Yeah!

(They try to laugh it off.)

HARRY

I guess she was just eager.

ROSS

She really is full of love.

MILES

Yeah.

(A pause.)

MILES

You guys excited for the badger's schedule?

ROSS

Eh.

HARRY

I think the worst is Iowa, honestly since we don't have Ohio state.

ROSS

Yeah. Or Michigan.

HARRY

Eh.

MILES

Yeah. Man fuck Ohio state.

HARRY

Well, like if Chryst could get a quarterback that's mobile enough.

ROSS

See, I don't think it's about the mobility, per se.

MILES

Well, the team looks good, though.

ROSS

They do, they do.

HARRY

Well, that depends if any of the games even happen.

MILES

That's true.

(The make out session ends.)

BLY

Geez.

DAPHNE

God, that brings me back.

BLY

I never know what to say after.

DAPHNE

Hehehe.

BLY

God, we really are still fourteen, aren't we?

HARRY

Never left.

(Bly spins. It lands on Ross.)

ROSS

Hello, madam.

BLY

Watch the arm.

Scene VIII

Setting Continuous from scene VII.

At Rise Marcy enters, she has taken off most of the other's clothes. Cliff follows her.

MARCY

Here's your shirt, jackass.

(Marcy pegs clothes at Ross.)

ROSS

Thanks.

MARCY

Fuck off.

ROSS

I'm being sincere.

CLIFF

Sure.

MARCY

I know. Here, everybody, dress yourselves. You don't have to act it, but at least you all can look civilized. I'm tired, can anyone give me a ride?

(Marcy throws the clothes around.)

BLY

Uhh...

MARCY

Let me rephrase, is anyone fit to drive? Piss.

HARRY

I can swim.

MARCY

Nice trunks.

HARRY

Yeah, thanks.

MARCY (wilting)

O.K., O.K., I'm so tired.

CLIFF

Bly, you O.K?

(Bly nods. Harry moves to Marcy.)

MARCY

Don't touch me. Sorry, I'm on the edge. I need a smoke.

DAPHNE

Marceline?

MARCY

Yes?

DAPHNE

I think that's my shirt.

MARCY

Oh, O.K., I'm sorry.

(Marcy goes to take off the shirt.)

DAPHNE

No, it's alright. It looks good on you.

MARCY

Mmm. I feel so, like, the sensation of burning your tastebuds on coffee, but that feeling over my whole body.

HARRY

Coffee-body.

MARCY

Exactly, coffee-body.

BLY

Anything I can do to help my love?

MARCY

No. Not in a way I know.

(A pause.)

ROSS

You remember when we went to the zoo?

MARCY (curious)

When?

ROSS

It was my mom and dad and your mom and dad and us, and Margot.

MARCY

Yeah.

ROSS

Like, eight years ago.

MARCY

Mmhmm.

ROSS

I remember I got extremely sunburned. Vehemently.

CLIFF (not mean)

Did you have a point, Ross?

ROSS

Point? No. Sorry.

MARCY (sincerely)

I remember.

ROSS

I suppose when I got back, I had the same sense of being fried.

DAPHNE

Hehehe.

ROSS

By the way, you guys really blew through that cocaine.

MILES (remembering)

Oh, Marcelline. I just wanted to say-

DAPHNE (co-signing)

Oh, tell her-

ROSS (agreeing)

Yeah-

MILES

Yeah, I-

(The sound of someone entering alerts Harry. He looks and sees who it is.)

HARRY (warning her)

Oh, Bly.

Scene IX

Setting Continuous from scene VIII.

At Rise Eddy enters.

EDDY

Hey.

DAPHNE

Hey.

ROSS

How are you?

EDDY

Holding up. And you?

ROSS

Upholding.

EDDY

Any of you gone swimming?

HARRY

No.

EDDY

I... I've been out of it, let me tell you. I feel as if I've just woken up from a dream. I- I thought I was at, it's silly, for the briefest second, at... what would've been your engagement party, Bly, if ever you would have had one. And you all were there, and it was beautiful. Oh, you can all swim, if you'd like. It's not my pool... but.

HARRY

I'd like.

EDDY

But I realize, well, it was just a... Marcy, you were good at chess.

MARCY

I was?

EDDY

Mmhmm.

DAPHNE

And me?

EDDY

You were bad at chess.

DAPHNE (muttering)

Cock.

EDDY

But I'm here again, and frankly, the house is a mess. I would ask for your help... if anyone can help me clean.

(A pause. Bly exits.)

EDDY

Nobody else?

`

(Eddy exits after Bly.)

Scene X

Setting Continuous from scene IX.

At Rise A moment passes after the girls leave.

HARRY

Don't worry, I hid the gun.

MARCY

Everything sucks.

HARRY

Are you O.K., Marce?

MARCY

No, I'm just reading your ass.

DAPHNE

Hehehe.

(They all laugh.)

HARRY

How about we swim, eh?

MILES

Let me get one last spin.

(Miles spins it. It lands on Ross.)

MILES

Really?

ROSS

Again. The odds.

MARCY

It's random.

DAPHNE

When did he get that tattoo, anyhow?

ROSS

Noah?

DAPHNE

Yeah.

ROSS

After he transferred universities.

CLIFF

Yeah.

MARCY

Really?

ROSS

It was a momentous time in his life. A hard time. A mad time.

MILES

God.

HARRY

Yeah.

DAPHNE

“Noah.” A good name for him.

HARRY

True.

ROSS

Deep and rich, like the ocean.

DAPHNE

The original Noah was a sailor.

CLIFF

Even more, it has the quality of water itself. That texture of the unknown abyss. “Noah.”

(An awkward pause.)

MARCY

Sure.

DAPHNE

That's good.

CLIFF

Thanks.

ROSS

A bit sappy.

DAPHNE (sounding it out)

“No-ahhh.”

HARRY

It really is a shame the way things go.

ROSS

I remember sitting in a hot tub with him. And this was the summer before college, and I was so, I was so sad. I was so scared. I was nothing but beer and who knows what else. And I can still feel them, all the substances, flickering underneath me, every time I bend or stand too quickly or put my head on a pillow, like flames getting more oxygen. Just on my heels. It's all so fragile.

MILES

You said something about a hot tub?

ROSS

Yeah, yeah. I was crawling out of my own skin because I was high as hell and convinced a car or an asteroid or some loose sharp object would get me, was out to get me. And Noah, he smiled at me, also high as hell, and didn't even say anything profound. But he touched my shoulder and told me about the TV he was watching. I was buzzing myself to death and he made me alight again upon the earth. He grounded me. I think you were there, too, Harry.

HARRY

I was, I was.

ROSS

And you certainly didn't say anything profound.

HARRY

Yeah, I'm an idiot, I know.

DAPHNE

You're not an idiot.

MILES

He didn't mean that.

ROSS

But I needed you there, too. I still need you.

(A pause.)

CLIFF

What stories come to mind when you think of Noah?

DAPHNE

Ooo.

HARRY

What, to me?

MARCY

No, generally, right?

CLIFF

Generally.

HARRY

Good question.

DAPHNE

Hehe, well, I remember, two summer ago, we...

(The lights fade out.)

Scene XI

Setting The main room of the house, still destroyed.

At Rise The lights fade up. Eddy and Bly are cleaning up the damage. It takes a while.

EDDY

I ordered a pizza.

(A long pause. The phone rings.)

BLY

Hello? Hello?

(A beat. Bly hangs the phone up.)

EDDY

No one?

BLY (flatly)

Yeah.

EDDY

We keep getting these blank calls.

BLY

Mmm...

EDDY

Maybe it's just an electrical issue.

BLY

Maybe.

(A beat.)

EDDY

Maybe it's a ghost.

BLY

Huh?

EDDY

I'm not serious.

(A beat.)

BLY

Maybe it's Noah come to haunt me.

EDDY

And leave you a spooky voicemail?

BLY

Yeah, definitely.

EDDY

What do you think he'd say?

BLY (by rote)

Everything sucks.

EDDY

Yeah?

BLY (quietly)

Yeah.

EDDY (prodding)

Not, oogie-boogie let the bad times roll?

BLY

No.

EDDY (dropping it)

No, probably not. You're right.

(A pause.)

BLY

Why'd you say that?

EDDY (genuine)

Oogie-boogie let the bad times roll?

BLY

No, that I tried to kill myself. I told you; I told you in confidence, and you threw it in my face.

EDDY

I-

BLY

You did. That sucked.

EDDY

I-

BLY

Why'd you say that?

EDDY

I don't know, I don't know.

BLY (affirming)

You don't know.

EDDY (knowing that's a bad answer)

I know.

BLY (searching)

That's...

EDDY

You can tell me.

BLY (betrayed)

Can I?

EDDY

Yes. For real.

BLY

That's, that's not good enough.

EDDY (knowing)

I know.

(A pause.)

BLY (matter of fact)

We're not friends anymore.

EDDY

You say that like it's a weather report... I don't know if this is relevant, but I don't think I have any friends. And people don't like me very much, if that helps you.

BLY (quietly, warmly)

Fuck off.

EDDY

I've always thought of you as my friend.

BLY (more serious than before)

Fuck off.

(A pause.)

EDDY

I can take those bottles.

BLY

O.K.

EDDY

And the chessboard goes there.

BLY

Sure.

(Eddy looks at Bly.)

EDDY

I think I'm a bad person.

BLY

I'm not in the mood to pity you.

EDDY

That's alright. I'm sorry. I'm really sorry.

BLY (are you?)

Yeah?

EDDY

I miss Noah. It might not feel real to Cliff, or you, but it feels real to me, it's felt real ever since I heard.

BLY

I miss him too.

EDDY

Of course.

BLY (surrendering)

But... I thought I'd miss him more.

EDDY

That's O.K.

BLY

I turned down a life with him I often dreamt of. Why?

EDDY

Why did you?

BLY (at odds with herself)

I don't know.

EDDY

That's fine.

BLY (genuine)

You think that makes me a bad person?

EDDY

No. I don't know. I spend most of my life not knowing.

(They restore the photo of Noah to it's standing position.)

BLY

What was my engagement party like?

EDDY

Uhh... beautiful, but insufferable.

BLY

Sounds right.

EDDY

If we planned it, absolutely.

(The girls look at each other. Maybe they smile.)

Scene XII

Setting On the patio again.

At Rise Harry is in the middle of finishing a story.

HARRY

But luckily that dog got scared from all the noise and the paramedics made it in time. And that's how Noah almost killed me!

MARCY

Wow!

CLIFF

Unbelievable.

HARRY

I know! I was there and I don't quite believe it.

MARCY

That's the most fascinating story I've ever heard you tell.

HARRY

Thank you, thank you. I try very hard.

MARCY (jokingly)

Whatever.

ROSS

I'm gonna head in.

MARCY

Yeah, it's getting cold.

CLIFF

Sure.

HARRY

Oh, there was that other time...

(Marcy and Harry exit. Miles pulls Ross back.)

MILES

Uhh, Ross?

ROSS

Yeah?

(They kiss briefly.)

ROSS

Sure.

MILES

We should go in.

ROSS

O.K.

(Miles and Ross exit. Daphne stares into the waters of the pool.)

CLIFF

Daph? Hey, Daphne. Daphne.

DAPHNE

Yeah?

(Cliff looks at her looking at the water.)

CLIFF

Oh, there's not a mouse in there, is there?

DAPHNE

I- the water.

CLIFF

Yeah, its water.

DAPHNE

The water is so clear. I can't see my own reflection.

CLIFF

You know. I went with my parents to the Maldives, and the water there is so, so clear, you can hardly make out a reflection.

DAPHNE

Mmhmm...

CLIFF

I know on Lake Superior though, in the morning on the southern shore, cause I've seen it once, the sky, right at dawn, it blends perfectly with the water. It is all reflection, and the land feels like it is in this white, silvery void... I liked your story about Noah.

DAPHNE

Oh, what? Sorry, I kind of spaced out. You said something about the Maltese?

CLIFF

Here, let me adjust the lights.

(He gets up and interacts with the switch offstage. He returns.)

CLIFF

Can you see any better?

DAPHNE

Maybe.

CLIFF

Can you see me?

DAPHNE

Yeah... You're yellow, Cliff.

CLIFF

Yellow?

DAPHNE

Yeah. In my mind. Yellow and the taste of coke.

CLIFF

Can you see yourself?

DAPHNE

Yes.

CLIFF

What color are you?

DAPHNE

I don't know. I've never thought about that.

CLIFF

Hmm.

DAPHNE

That's strange, I've never thought about that.

CLIFF

Well, there you are.

DAPHNE

Yeah.

CLIFF

You must see something.

(They look together for a second in silence. Then, Cliff starts to exit.)

DAPHNE

I see, uh, motion, spiraling. Like the motion of a hand in hair or a kid in a waterslide, or how electricity must feel running down the phone cord.

CLIFF

Really?

DAPHNE

I don't fucking know. It's only water.

CLIFF

Ass.

DAPHNE

I see me. Me and the spiral.

CLIFF

What color is all that?

(A pause.)

DAPHNE

Green.

CLIFF

I think that's an excellent color.

DAPHNE

Mm.

CLIFF

I see it. I'll be inside.

(Cliff exits. Daphne looks ambivalent. It's hard to tell if this is a positive or negative experience.)

DAPHNE

I'm starting to feel that trick of time, of the generational slip, of hour into day into month into year and into the rest of time. When I was a girl... though I still am... but before object permanence, I knew that all we have is now, that things only exist, really exist, when they are with us, in moments of clarity, before they go back down below the waterline. You know, nothing is so permanent. Right, Cliff?

(She looks around, but he has gone.)

Scene XIII

Setting The main room of the house, restored to its initial act I, scene I condition.

At Rise Bly and Eddy hold each other on the couch. Harry stands behind them on his phone, and Ross sits nearby. Eddy is nearly asleep. Marcy is in the kitchen on her phone. They sit in this moment. Eventually, Harry leans over and kisses Bly on the cheek. Bly waits for a second, kisses Harry on the cheek, and after a moment, pulls him onto the couch...

BLY (loaded)

Hey.

HARRY

Hey.

BLY

I... um...

HARRY

Yeah? What's up?

BLY

I... O.K. so, this isn't an apology.

HARRY

I know you better than to think that.

BLY

But, well I suppose the heart of it is that I feel extremely embarrassed.

HARRY

Extremely?

BLY

Actually.

HARRY (humored)

Actually! Oh no!

BLY

What! That's not funny... look, I had a lot of *blegh* in my system, a lot of weird things, and I'm sorry-

HARRY

This isn't an apology.

BLY

Right, no... I had a bunch of gunk in my head and...

(She peters out.)

HARRY

O.K.

BLY

I'm glad for you, but... I don't want to date you.

HARRY

Oh, same.

BLY

O.K., good.

(They have a small laugh.)

HARRY

Were you worried?

(Bly considers.)

BLY (somewhat defeated, exhaling)

My whole body aches, Harry. I am just... my soul is growling. Everything is slightly wrong, and I know exactly why but I can't stop it.

HARRY

Do you need medicine?

BLY

No.

HARRY

Then you'll be O.K.

(A pause.)

BLY

Do you think we could work? Hypothetically.

HARRY

Yeah?

BLY

Just as a thought experiment.

HARRY (unenthused)

Eh.

BLY

I agree.

HARRY

We could've. Though I still love you, in a way.

BLY

In a way, I love you too.

(Ross interrupts.)

ROSS

Do you love me?

BLY

Especially you.

ROSS

Why's that?

BLY

You're fun.

ROSS

Fun?

BLY

You bring the drugs.

(The phone rings.)

BLY (to Noah's picture)

And baby, I love you too, but fuck off a little... (picking up the phone) Hello? Oh shit, it's the pizza. Eddy?

EDDY (groggy)

Yeah?

MARCY

Pizza time.

EDDY

Oh, shit.

(Eddy goes to the front door.)

ROSS

But to say this, if you ever need anything, you name it, anything, baby, I can get it for you. I've got a guy.

BLY

Minnesota guy?

ROSS

Yeah. Minnesota guy.

HARRY

Anything?

ROSS

Yeah.

HARRY

O.K. How about Heroin.

ROSS

Sure.

HARRY

Sick.

ROSS

I won't do Heroin myself, though. Everybody I've met, and I legitimately mean everyone, says that it's just the best feeling life has to offer. Like, it is a serene bliss. Like heaven.

BLY

I hear that too.

ROSS

Everybody says that, but also that's how it fucking gets you. My Minnesota guy hears this all the time.

HARRY

That's, there's no way that's true.

ROSS

He said so. I like acid, myself.

HARRY (dismissive)

I don't give a shit what he said. Acid's good, though.

ROSS

Whatever, man.

HARRY

Acid's just... (deliberately) the Tops.

BLY

In Heaven, we'll all get to do opiates.

(Cliff enters.)

CLIFF

Knock it off, you two.

(Eddy brings the pizza to the table.)

EDDY

Here we are.

CLIFF

Everyone have a drink?

BLY

Yes.

MARCY

Mhmm.

HARRY

Yes.

ROSS

Yes.

MILES

No.

CLIFF (almost a question)

Let me get you something.

MILES

Uhh, the absinthe and ginger ale, please.

CLIFF

Alright.

MILES

Hey, Marceline.

MARCY

Yeah?

MILES

I just wanted to say on the patio, you're a really talented writer.

MARCY

Yeah?

MILES

Yeah.

MARCY (teasing)

What about when I'm off the patio?

MILES (not serious)

Fuck off.

MARCY (teasing)

Sorry.

MILES

But you're good. Better than me or any of my writing friends.

MARCY

Thanks.

MILES

I hope that you keep it up. I got a degree in creative writing, and I still don't know what the hell I'm doing. My first story was this weird, fictional eulogy for a dog. And my second story was about a girl who could fly.

MARCY

That sounds interesting.

MILES

If only it was. I think I know good writing when I hear it. And I heard you.

MARCY (sincere)

Thank you, Miles.

MILES (rambling)

You just get it. You just feel it.

MARCY (humored)

Do I, huh?

MILES

Yeah, I think.

MARCY

Hmm.

MILES

How long have you been writing?

MARCY

Funny enough, I get it from my dad.

EDDY (motherly)

Marcy take your shoes off.

MARCY

Sorry, I put them on when I was attempting to leave.

CLIFF (genuine)

What, did you not get another car?

MARCY

I don't have money like that!

EDDY

Really?

MARCY

Yeah.

CLIFF

Fuck off you don't.

BLY (curious)

Was it that bad? That expensive?

HARRY

Who cares, O.K?

CLIFF

She's just trying to get home, I thought she would've gotten another car.

EDDY

Did they not refund you?

ROSS (condescending)

Just get another car.

MARCY

Fuck off.

CLIFF

Hey, enough language.

MARCY (incredulous)

Really?

MILES

Don't make a rule you won't follow.

EDDY (agreeing)

You have a habit.

CLIFF

Do I? Do I?

EDDY

Not accusing you, geez.

HARRY

Calm down, dude.

CLIFF (dropping it)

Whatever.

MARCY

O.K., I've called one.

CLIFF

Just wait an hour and I'll give you a ride.

MARCY

You just badgered me to get one!

BLY

Just cancel it.

MARCY

No, it's too late.

ROSS (You're an idiot)

Fuck off.

MARCY (with an edge)

You fuck off.

EDDY

Everything sucks.

MILES (annoyed)

Shut up.

HARRY (happily)

Hey, thanks for the pizza, Eddy.

CLIFF (loudly)

Oh, everyone, shut up! What time is it?

MARCY

4:00 am.

ROSS

Fuck.

HARRY

Shit.

EDDY

Fuck, I work in like four hours.

(A pause. Marcy uses the remaining Silly String and sprays some at Cliff. Everyone looks to her. Ross stifles a laugh. The moment passes.)

HARRY

A small toast, to Noah. The only one there ever was.

(They all cheers their glasses. A long pause. Cliff grabs a can of Silly String and sprays some at Marcy.)

MARCY (happily)

Fucker!

CLIFF

We're even, now.

(Some people laugh.)

CLIFF (remembering)

Oh, fuck me.

MARCY

Yeah?

CLIFF

I just remembered where the surprise is at.

EDDY

Oh, go get it.

MARCY

What is it?

EDDY

You'll see. It's good.

MARCY

I doubt it.

ROSS

I doubt it too.

MILES

Me three.

CLIFF

Oh, Fuck all of you.

(Daphne enters, dazed.)

BLY

Oh, Daphne, my love, come here.

DAPHNE

Do we have any blow left?

BLY

I'm sure we do. Come here my baby.

(Daphne crosses into Bly's arms, or arm, as one is in a sling.)

DAPHNE

Hello.

BLY

Hello.

CLIFF

Let me finish my pizza then I'll get it. But it's a good surprise. Marcy, read something, would you?

MARCY

Me?

HARRY (quietly)

Yeah.

CLIFF

Yeah. While we wait for your car.

ROSS

While we wait for the surprise.

MILES

While we deteriorate.

DAPHNE (dreamily)

Can I have pizza?

BLY

Miles, get her a piece?

DAPHNE

You know, I don't know why anything is the way it is. There are so many things that could be real, yet this is all that remains. Us, with morphine and croissants and, dogs and HBO.

MILES

That's true.

MARCY

Well, Harry will run over the dogs.

DAPHNE

Somebody ought to figure that out.

BLY

Would that it were different?

DAPHNE

I don't know, Bly.

BLY

Oh, my beautiful girl.

(Bly runs her hand through Daphne's hair.)

DAPHNE (ambiguously)

I'd still end up here, feeling the same. Good pizza.

MILES (so-so)

Well, it tastes of pizza.

DAPHNE

That's all you need, really.

MARCY

I think there're onions in the sauce.

EDDY

I can taste it.

CLIFF (flatly)

Pizza's pizza.

HARRY

Mhmm. Yeah. Marcy, anything you're working on these days?

ROSS

Poetry? Screenplay?

DAPHNE

Or essays.

MILES

That's what I do.

MARCY

I, I do fiction.

ROSS

Fire away.

MARCY (pulling out her phone/notebook)

Here, let me find it. This is just a draft by the way. A draft of a draft. Chapter 1. I remember it was during the heatwave of last summer, the heatwave WKOW said we'd have to "sweat out," when I would traipse around the apartment in my underwear at 3 am after burning out my eyes on screen after screen, when I would exit said apartment in my underwear and swim through outdoor humidities to go for a smoke, when we would leave clubs that smelled like jazz with no cash left in our pockets and one of us was always sick and one of us was always dying and one of us was always figuring out where they could live, when we thought about how to talk to girls, or how we might throw ourselves from the rooftops if we could only find the time for it, when we parted the waters and got ice cream, when we were flawless geniuses, sweet ineffable stunners who had never felt pain, when we'd sleep for twelve hours until midafternoon and think everyone around us was an idiot, when we grew mustaches, when we broke the coffee pot, it was during that heat wave I forgot about her. It was in the heat wave of this summer, I remembered.

END OF ACT II.

.(Curtain.)