

SCENE 1. WE HATE PARTIES

*A few friends lug suitcases on.
Some are large, some are tiny – the suitcases.*

SEBASTIAN

I love Michael and Ally, but do we always have to go away for Michael's birthday?

HARLOWE

I don't know, it's exhausting. Thank god the cabin has cable now.

SEBASTIAN

Those first couple years coming up here were rough.

ADE

I love going away! I love weekends out of the city.

SEBASTIAN

That's because you make in a week what I make in a month.

ADE

Too blessed to stress.

SEBASTIAN

You are a live laugh love pillow.

ADE

And you invited this pillow into your home, so don't pretend you don't love it.

SEBASTIAN

I'm not pretending anything.

HARLOWE

Cute! Thank you for the ride. And I can't wait to not speak to you two for the rest of the night!

ALLY and MICHAEL enter.

ALLY

Hi! Ah! Thank you so much for coming!

Hugs all around.

ADE

Happy Birthday, Michael!

MICHAEL

Thank you! We're so happy to have you here!

SEBASTIAN

Thanks for having us, love to get out of the city! Cabin looks great, as always!

MICHAEL

How was the traffic?

SEBASTIAN

Really fucking annoying. Fuck traveling on a Friday afternoon!

HARLOWE

It did give us extra time though, to finish that podcast—that we all thoroughly enjoyed—and I especially loved all of the graphic explanations of how all the women were murdered.

ADE

You watch Law & Order SVU, don't act like you're better than our murder podcast.

HARLOWE

SVU's a classic.

ADE

What?

HARLOWE

Mariska is a goddess divine.

ALLY

Damn it!

MICHAEL

What's wrong?

ALLY

Rana and Meg can't come.

HARLOWE

Oh, that sucks!

ADE

What happened?

ALLY

She's in labor.

HARLOWE

Oh hell yes!

SEBASTIAN

Aw.

ALLY

Goddamnit.

ADE

Whoa!

ALLY

Sorry—it just, would have been nice to have them here. For Michael's birthday.

MICHAEL

Agreed. But—they have a good excuse.

ALLY

Come inside! Let's have some alcohol! Gotta toast the birthday boy.

MICHAEL

Thanks so much for coming, guys. It means a lot.

They slowly enter the house.

SCENE 2. WE LOVE PARTIES

The Gang sits around the living room.

SEBASTIAN

No, no, no, best birthday party ever, was Ally's 23rd.

ALLY

I do not remember any of it.

ADE

Girl, you were incredible.

ALLY

Was I nice?

MICHAEL

Very nice.

HARLOWE

And slutty.

ALLY

No!

SEBASTIAN

Yes! I think all of us got a kiss that night.

ALLY

Oh god, I'm sorry.

HARLOWE

Rude. You liked it.

MICHAEL

That was the first time we ever kissed.

SEBASTIAN

Took you two long enough.

ADE

Y'all shoulda dated in college.

SEBASTIAN

Y'all? You are not from the south.

HARLOWE

Hey, hey, hey—Ok, A toast to Michael and Ally, who we all adore, and as your perpetually single friend, thank you for teaching me what love is.

They start to cheers.

ALLY

So, wait, I Need to—really quickly. One second. I know we brought you here under the pretense of this being Michael's birthday—and this being a birthday party... but it's not. We are...getting—A divorce! And because you are all our best friends and we share all of you, we wanted to kind of use this as a last hurrah. Because we will not be hanging out as a group anymore. Because we can't do that. So... we are genuinely sorry, for whatever pain this might cause you. But know this, for certain, that we are in more pain than you. And it is HEARTbreaking. But we will... do it. Because we have to.

MICHAEL

Babe...

ALLY

Oh! No pet names. Also! At the end of the weekend, we'd like to have a sort of... draft. Um. Imagine a... Fantasy football league—thing—I dunno. Michael?

MICHAEL

Yeah! Or like aaaa Dream Broadway Casting uh sort of thing, but, along the lines of—we are all great friends. We love you all. And so at the end of this weekend, we just do a sort of draft, like the yes, fun fantasy football draft to see who gets to stay friends with whom. No biggie!

ALLY

Totally, keep it easy, keep it fun.

MICHAEL

And obviously we would like it to be an even number going with whomever—well, as even as we can get--, but um we understand if everyone prefers one of us over the other, that will be deeply upsetting, but also understood. Yeah, so that's where we're at. And I hope that you all... are good with that.

ALLY

Yeah! Thanks, Michael. That is. It. That's the gist OF the weekend here. Any Questions? Oh god, I'm such a Kindergarten Teacher...

MICHAEL

You did great, babe.

ALLY

Thanks, but no babe, remember? So, are there any questions?

Their friends are shooketh.

ALLY

Cool. So... let's... eat some snacks!

HARLOWE

So, I'm gonna have to, I'm gonna have to, I'm gonna have to—What?

ALLY

We are getting a divorce. And you need to pick which one of us you want to be friends with. Tiny Pickle?

She offers HARLOWE a cornichon.

MICHAEL

Cornichon.

ALLY

Sure, babe.

MICHAEL

No, babe, remember.

ALLY

Remember what?

MICHAEL

No "babe".

ALLY

No, babe, what? What are you trying to say, are you ok?

MICHAEL

Babe, I—shit. Right, No "babe," no "sweetheart." One of your rules, remember?

ALLY

Not rules, just helpful guidelines to ease our separation.

MICHAEL

Right, got it. Thanks, ba- Ally. Oh, I have to check on the duck!

ALLY

I'll come with and ice the cake.

*SEBASTIAN, ADE, and HARLOWE
are left alone and shocked.*

SEBASTIAN

What the hell is happening around here?

HARLOWE

I am.../shocked.

ADE

/Thrilled.

HARLOWE

What?

ADE

Look, the next step for them was kids and I have no interest in entering the Kid Chapter of friendship. Say NO to Baby Showers. Say NO to 1st birthdays. Just say NO to Babies!

HARLOWE

I like babies.

ADE

You're a freak.

HARLOWE

Fair.

SEBASTIAN

Ok, what the fuck are we going to do?

ADE

Negotiate visiting rights?

SEBASTIAN

I know, I mean, Ally is a great baker.

ADE

But Michael's such a good cook. How many dinner parties must we sacrifice?

SEBASTIAN

I guess let's see how dinner and dessert go tonight.

HARLOWE

They seem fine, I don't really understand why--

ADE

What if we set up a trial? Like a competition? We each pick a game and whoever wins our game—wins us. We're the prize.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, I like that.

ADE

I know it's nice to feel wanted.

SEBASTIAN

Isn't it?

HARLOWE

Look, I think that's it. I think we just have to make them feel wanted, as individuals, not as just a couple. And then we'll all be able to stay friends.

SEBASTIAN

I like the game idea.

ADE

Thank you.

SEBASTIAN

I'll do Charades.

ADE

I'll do Strip Poker.

HARLOWE

Rock, paper, scissors?

ADE

Jeezus, you're boring.

SEBASTIAN

And predictable.

He makes some lewd scissoring gesture.

ADE

Come on! Get in the spirit of the Games!

SEBASTIAN

The Great American Divorce Games!

ADE

The Amazing Divorce Race....

SEBASTIAN

Who wants to be a divorcee?

ADE

That's fun.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks!

HARLOWE

Family Feud?

SEBASTIAN

No!

ADE

Too real.

SEBASTIAN

Not funny.

ADE

Whose friend is it anyway?

HARLOWE

Ok, that's not bad.

Ally and Michael return.

ALLY

Ok, what did we miss?

MICHAEL

Oh, right, a cornichon. Harlowe, can you pass them over?

SEBASTIAN

Well, we were all actually talking and we came up with an—

HARLOWE

But do you want a cornichon or a tiny pickle?

SEBASTIAN

An idea of how to—

HARLOWE

‘Cause it seems like Ally...

ALLY

No, Harlowe, don't get started—

HARLOWE

Wants a tiny pickle.

SEBASTIAN

As I was saying—

ADE

Sweetie, maybe not now.

HARLOWE

And that just makes me wonder if--

SEBASTIAN

I'm in the middle of saving the day, just let me--

ALLY

That's not what I meant--

ADE

Darling, drop it.

HARLOWE

That's why you're getting a divorce? Was your pickle not tiny enough for her?

HARLOWE!

ALLY

Fine.

SEBASTIAN

Oh my god.

ALLY

Don't be mad--

ADE

What?

HARLOWE

I mean...

MICHAEL

You two are impossible.

ALLY

A timer goes off.

Dinner's ready!

MICHAEL

Thank god.

ALLY /ADE/SEBASTIAN

SCENE 3. NO TAKESIES BACKSIES

Off stage we hear: "--Dear Michael, Happy Birthday, to you!" And claps.

MICHAEL and HARLOWE walk on with plates of cake.

MICHAEL

I know Ally makes great cakes, but I'm the cook—remember for your 22nd – when I cooked that five course meal for you and your parents?

HARLOWE

Can we just enjoy your birthday? Oh—I got you a present...

She walks offstage to get it.

MICHAEL

The best present would be your undying loyalty...

HARLOWE
(Offstage)

You have that.

MICHAEL

So you pick me?

HARLOWE

Stop it. Shut up and open your present.

*She tosses him a small box.
He opens it and finds a pair of keys inside.*

MICHAEL

Thanks? I love them: so shiny.

HARLOWE

Doofus. I got you a boat.

MICHAEL

You bought me a boat? You're insane—

HARLOWE

It's just a little boat.

MICHAEL

This is way too generous—

HARLOWE

Shut up—Do you like it?

MICHAEL

I mean, I love it—what color is it? I mean, I'll love it no matter what—

HARLOWE

Green.

MICHAEL

Oh god, I'm so happy.

HARLOWE

Good.

MICHAEL

I was wrong. This is a better gift than your undying loyalty. Actually, you can go now—this was all just a long con for this present.

HARLOWE

Yes, 12 years of friendship for one thir—

MICHAEL

Don't say the price, please.

HARLOWE

--Thirtieth birthday gift. I wasn't going to say the price. I may be gawdy but I'm not gauche.

MICHAEL

Have you been doing the crossword again?

HARLOWE

Every Sunday. I live a very fulfilling life.

MICHAEL

It's too much. I can't accept it.

HARLOWE

It was final sale. No takesies backsies. It was in the contract.

MICHAEL looks at her skeptically.

HARLOWE

Look—just take it. You know I like to spend my money on my people and you’re one of them. And it’s not like I have to save money for “the wife, the house, the mortgage, the kids” or anything like that—

MICHAEL

I guess I don’t have to either now...

HARLOWE

I mean, you’ll find someone else, Michael.

MICHAEL

Oh, that’s, I mean, I’ve thought about it, and yeah... it all just seems so big.

HARLOWE

Well, it’s not. People don’t end up together all the time.

MICHAEL

I don’t know, we had a lot of plans...

HARLOWE

Ok, well, we’ll make some plans. Let’s plan to go to a strip club!

MICHAEL

That’s not—

HARLOWE

Let’s plan to get you laid!

MICHAEL

Well—

HARLOWE

Ha! See!

MICHAEL

It’s just-- I just. I don’t know—everything’s kind of... up in the air. I don’t *have* to do anything. I don’t *have* to want anything.

HARLOWE

Are you a homosexual?

MICHAEL

What? No--

HARLOWE

No, I mean, just—welcome to my world. Where you actually get to figure out what it is that you want. You have options now.

MICHAEL

Sounds exhausting. I'm going to get more cake. Want some?

HARLOWE

Sure. Yo—I heard you're sleeping on the couch this weekend?

MICHAEL

Yeah, Mum turned the fourth bedroom into a tanning salon.

HARLOWE

I'll take the couch, you take the room.

*SEBASTIAN walks in, with a mug,
moaning and collapses onto the couch.*

MICHAEL

No, no, you're a guest.

HARLOWE

It's fine, I don't mind the couch.

MICHAEL

No, I'm fine, thanks.

SEBASTIAN

Wow.

HARLOWE

Michael, your back's gonna die here and I am not tying your shoelaces for you again. That was a one time thing.

MICHAEL

That's why I got Velcro, baby.

HARLOWE

That's disgusting, don't wear those in front of me again. Dibs on the couch, shut up, I'm getting us more cake.

MICHAEL

I fucking love you.

SEBASTIAN

Michael.

MICHAEL
(whispering)

You're definitely my first mate.

HARLOWE

Oh Captain, my mother-fucking Captain.

HARLOWE exits to the kitchen.

SEBASTIAN

Miiiiichael, that duck! THAT DUCK.

ADE AND ALLY join them in the living room, with cake.

ADE

The CAKE, ALLY!

SEBASTIAN

Thaaaaa duuuuuuck. Quack quaaaaack.

ADE

Cake. Not one layer, not two layers, Three layers!

HARLOWE returns with more cake.

ALLY

Ha, ok ok, it's not a competition. Oh. So you really liked the cake?

MICHAEL refuses the cake from HARLOWE.

MICHAEL

No thanks, Bit dry...But how much did you like the duck?

SEBASTIAN

Oooo. There was,uh. This really FAScinating, mm, article the other day. About the dangers of Lead, in Antique Ceramic Mugs. So, you know, People usually think of lead poisoning affecting

kids, the kinder, childREN. But in ADULTS! It can lead to Memory loss. Abnormal kidney function. AND reduced Sperm count in men. And bad stuff in women too, yeah.

HARLOWE

Lovely.

SEBASTIAN continues to sip out of the ceramic mug.

SEBASTIAN

Sometimes... Lead poisoning can even lead to death. Oooo!

SEBASTIAN pretends to be a ghost. Then takes Another sip.

ADE

Ok, sweetie, put the antique ceramic mug down.

SEBASTIAN

But—

ADE

I think...we should play The Game.

They all gasp and whisper/echo, "The game, the game, the game, the game."

HARLOWE

OH my god, no we can't. Without Meg and Rana the teams are all fucked. And remember what happened last time?

ALLY

It was an illegal move!

HARLOWE

It was a classic triangulated fish with a lemon peel twist and you know it.

ALLY

You and Michael cheated, I had to call you out!

MICHAEL

You were on our team!

ALLY

I know, but—there are rules for a reason.

HARLOWE
Oh Come on, fuck the rules, we made them up like 10 years ago!

ALLY
But--

ADE
Fuck the rules!

SEBASTIAN
Of course you say that.

HARLOWE/ADE
No rules, no rules, no rules!

SEBASTIAN
Yeah, but! Sometimes rules are important!

ALLY
Agreed!

HARLOWE
Nah, nah, nope!

SEBASTIAN
But Rules are the basis of civilization!

HARLOWE
Yeah, maybe the board game: Civilization. But people have to break rules or else—

ADE
--Blegh, life is boring!

SEBASTIAN
Well, whatever, but speaking of games... We! were thinking—

ADE
Not yet, it's/

HARLOWE
/Michael, do a shot with me. These people are nerds.

HARLOWE and MICHAEL do a shot.

SEBASTIAN

I don't understand! Why you won't bring up the plan--

ADE turns on some music. They start dancing.

ADE

Baby, dance with me?

SEBASTIAN

I don't know—I think I'll—

ADE

Love, this is your favorite song. Don't stop those hips from doing what they do best.

SEBASTIAN picks up the beat.

ADE

Ok, gurl yes.

SEBASTIAN starts dancing harder.

SEBASTIAN

I hate you.

ADE

I hate you too.

ADE dances with SEBASTIAN.

HARLOWE joins in. MICHAEL and ALLY slowly creep in too. The group dances.

The music turns to a slow song.

SEBASTIAN grabs ADE and they dance.

MICHAEL asks for ALLY'S hand, she takes it. And cheers up and dances with him.

HARLOWE dances by herself.

The COUPLES and HARLOWE dance.

ALLY watches HARLOWE.

She separates from MICHAEL and takes HARLOWE'S hand.

*ALLY and HARLOWE dance for just a moment,
before ADE takes MICHAEL'S hand and dances with him.*

The GANG dances.

HARLOWE, ALLY, and ADE walk in with tons of designer shopping bags.

There's like a sexy dance moment to the song "MAMMA MIA" by HUGEL, Amber Van Day. It's like a runway show practically, think White Chicks or The Sweetest Thing.

HARLOWE

Wake up, sleepyheads, we're back! God, the local grocery store is expensive!

ALLY

I know.

ADE

Good thing you had all these extra bags in your car.

ALLY

Oh yeah, my mother-in-law —future Ex-Mother-In-Law saves all of her designer shopping bags and gives them to us, because she "knows I just LOVE to save the environment."

HARLOWE

Weird thing to be passive aggressive about.

ALLY

I know, Nina's just like that.

ADE

Shit. Nina and I get botox together every 3 months... can I still do that-- when you're divorced?

ALLY

Mm... I don't know. I guess? Does that mean you're picking Michael?

ADE

What is with this picking thing? Can't we just all—oh god—get along?

ADE is mortified by their own Kumbaya behavior.

ALLY

No. We can't. Michael and I are fine right now. But things haven't been good and aren't going to be good. And I don't really want to involve any of you in our—shit. I just want things to be separate. So no—we can't just all get along and see each other and have things like they were before. Nothing is going to be like it was before.

HARLOWE

For you.

They look at her.

HARLOWE

I mean, for you it's going to be different. But for us... I mean, yeah—I like spending time with you two as a couple. But I also...prefer spending time with you two separately. Michael and I have our friendship and you and I are friends. You're not a unit. In my eyes, exactly.

ALLY

We've been together for 7 years, what do you mean we're not a unit in your eyes?

HARLOWE

Well, just. It's a good thing! We all went to college together, we all have our own... shit together, ya know? I'm saying that you two exist outside of each other to me. Right, Ade?

ADE

I...Do agree. That they are separate people. But I also acknowledge that they've been a two-for-one special for a while.

ALLY

What?

ADE

Oh no.

ALLY

Like a fucking deal at a shoe store?

HARLOWE

That's actually more of a Buy one Get one: BOGO-- if you will. AND IT'S A REALLY GREAT DEAL.

ADE laughs. ALLY shoots daggers.

ALLY

This isn't a fucking joke! I'm getting divorced!

ADE

Oooo, You're a scary bitch. Let me take that for you.

ADE grabs ALLY's grocery bags and peaces out.

HARLOWE fishes around in her grocery bag.

Ice cream?
HARLOWE

I can't. I'm lactose—
ALLY

I know, I got coconut based.
HARLOWE

Two METAL SPOONS get thrown on stage.

Thanks, Ade.
HARLOWE

HARLOWE picks up the spoons, cleans them off, and offers one to ALLY.

Fine.
ALLY

They sit together and eat some ice cream.

Was it something you wanted? The divorce.
HARLOWE

No, I didn't *want* a divorce—no one *wants* a divorce.
ALLY

I dunno, seems like you're pretty eager to leave my boy, Michael. Shit. I don't know anything.
Eat more ice cream.
HARLOWE

They do.

I do. I do want the divorce. So does Michael. But I was the first one to say the word, "divorce."
ALLY

A phone dings. HARLOWE checks it.

Meg's still in labor...
HARLOWE

Sounds painful.
ALLY

HARLOWE

She's on drugs. She's ok. She keeps sending me watermelon and knife emojis... I think she wants a c section.

ALLY

Yikes.

HARLOWE

Eh. It'll be done soon and babies are fun!

ALLY

Sure.

HARLOWE

Sure? You love babies.

ALLY

I dunno... babies are... babies.

HARLOWE

Yes...

ALLY

No. I was going to say—babies are one of the many reasons why we're getting divorced.

HARLOWE

I thought you two were on the same page about babies. And wanting them and stuff.

ALLY

We are. We were. But. We got married and then everyone just kept asking us "when are you gonna get pregnant?" "is there an announcement coming?" "When am I gonna be a grandma?" It's fucking exhausting. And when you actually think about—the whole thing is terrifying. And and it made me terrified.

HARLOWE

Well, that's normal I think. Being a parent seems terrifying. And parents are terrified. I think parents spend most of their time just trying to not unalive their babies. Babies are always trying to kill themselves. They're worse than college freshmen.

ALLY

It's just a lot of pressure. And no one else seemed to realize how stressful it was.

HARLOWE

Your husband—soon to be ex-husband—is a lot of good things. But sometimes he’s not that smart. For instance, he dated me—a flaming homosexual for three months. So sweet, so dumb.

ALLY

Fuck, I always forget that. I mean I don’t—I think about it sometimes because, I’m a crazy person and have a running tally of his past girlfriends. But I forget that you know him like that.

HARLOWE

Oh, I don’t know him like that. We never—ever. No. No offense. It was my last ditch effort at being a hetero and I failed miserably. Look, Michael’s my best friend—It sucks that you felt alone in the baby thing.

ALLY

It’s fine. We’re getting divorced now at 30—I can meet someone again in a year or so, date for a year and a half, get engaged, have a short engagement, get married, and still have a baby before I’m 35—it’s fine.

HARLOWE nods her head—terrified.

HARLOWE

Mm... good plan.

ALLY

I mean that has to be the plan—I have to have a plan. Because I do, I want kids and I need to think logically and practically about it. I have to plan it.

HARLOWE

Or not. You... could... see... what happens. And go from there.

ALLY

No. I can’t. I don’t have the luxury of just waiting and seeing what happens with my love life. I want kids and I need to find out how to make that happen. You don’t get it—you don’t get the ticking clock thing.

HARLOWE

Mmm... I think I get it. God this is an annoying conversation to have—I’m a woman—you know that right.

ALLY

Yeah, but you don’t want kids.

HARLOWE

That’s not true.

ALLY

What? You never mention them? You never talk about having them.

HARLOWE

No. But that doesn't mean that I'm not, maybe going to have them. And me having them is a bit more of a to do than you having them. Like... it'd take a little bit more planning than your situation. And... I'm seeing how it goes.

ALLY

Hm.

HARLOWE

I'm not saying that it's bad for you to plan, I'm just saying—maybe be open to things that are different than you expect. I mean, look at the situation right now: just sometimes plans don't work.

ALLY

I know.

HARLOWE

Right.

ALLY

I wish I were you. I wish—I think...Harlowe, I—are you sure this is coconut based?

HARLOWE

Yeah, are you ok?

ALLY

No, I just feel sick. I think...

HARLOWE

Do you want some tums? Or water? Or—

ALLY

No, I think—

HARLOWE

Or lactaid? I don't have any, but I'm sure you do, or Michael does, or—

ALLY

I think—

HARLOWE

Oh my god, are you pregnant?—because that’s complicated with all this--

ALLY

I think I’m gay.

HARLOWE

Oh—that’s different.

ALLY

Or not straight. Or want to be with women? I don’t know.

HARLOWE

You sure you don’t just have a stomachache?

ALLY

I’ve had this stomachache for a long time.

HARLOWE

Ok, well welcome! Hey—it’s ok. This is good. This is exciting! Now like 90% of us in this house are gay!

ALLY

80%-- 4 out of 5.

HARLOWE

Your math is too good for a kindergarten teacher.

ALLY

It’s simple fractions, Harlowe.

HARLOWE

Whatever, homo.

ALLY

Don’t.

HARLOWE

If the Birkenstock fits...

ALLY looks at her feet. She’s wearing Birkenstocks.

ALLY

The GANG sits on or around the couch. Staring at a large TV that we can't see.

They eat pizza and popcorn.

Varying degrees of interest... or lack thereof.

MICHAEL

Yes! Fuck yeah!

*HARLOWE, ADE, and SEBASTIAN tilt their heads,
trying to solve the riddle of this thing they're watching.*

HARLOWE

How?

MICHAEL

I've explained to rules of rugby to you a million times, Harlowe.

HARLOWE

I'll never understand this.

ALLY

They just scored 5 points with a try, which is like a touchdown.

ADE

But earlier a touchdown was 7 points?

ALLY

Yes, that was a penalty try, which is different because the other team had fouled while they—

SEBASTIAN

But before that the other team scored 3 points?

ALLY

Right, and that was for a drop goal, when they dropped the ball on the ground and kicked it on the half-volley.

HARLOWE

I'm going to die if we keep watching this.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry, just a bit longer? I've got a lot of money riding on this game.

But whyyyy—
HARLOWE

ALLY
Harlowe, come on. You know this is important to Michael.

HARLOWE
Ok, but what if every time the boys shorts ride up, we drink.

ADE
I'm in!

SEBASTIAN
Baby, we gotta go on our run later, so maybe no drinking yet?

ADE
But the boys and their shorts!

SEBASTIAN
I know its hard...

HARLOWE
Oh, I bet it is...

HARLOWE and ADE make gay eye contact.

SEBASTIAN
Oh he's hot...

ADE
Who?

ALLY
Oh... yeah he's really hot.

HARLOWE and MICHAEL look to ALLY.

MICHAEL
Him? You think he's hot?

ADE
YEAH.

SEBASTIAN

Right?

MICHAEL

I dunno, he doesn't really seem like your type.

ADE

Honey, he's anyone's type.

HARLOWE coughs.

ADE

Dyke.

HARLOWE

Faggot.

MICHAEL

I just, don't really see you with a guy like that...

ALLY

I just said he was hot, not that I wanted to marry the guy.

MICHAEL

Right.

ALLY

You don't have to be jealous of a guy on TV, thousands of miles away.

MICHAEL

I'm just surprised that's who you'd be into.

ALLY

Everyone said he was hot.

HARLOWE

Not the case, but to your point, the man is categorically hot, Michael. If I were to bestow a binary opinion on him, hot or not, even I would say "hot".

MICHAEL

Cool. Thanks for the input.

ADE

GOAL! Goal! Look! Look! A Goal! A touchdown! A try! Whatever! Michael! Look! Your team.

Yeah.

MICHAEL

That was good, right, Ally?

ADE

Yeah. You got it. That was a good Try.

ALLY

*They watch the rugby game in silence,
except for HARLOWE loudly crunching popcorn.*

SCENE 6: QURRAFTING

ADE works intently on some paperwork.

HARLOWE enters.

HARLOWE

Hey. Oh, shit, you have to work this weekend?

ADE

No, I'm just doing one of those adult coloring books. I find them very meditative.

HARLOWE

Oh. You're not coloring inside the lines.

ADE

I don't really have to.

HARLOWE

Where'd you get the colored pencils?

ADE

Brought my own. What? Do you see any craft supplies around here? Michael's family is too rich for craft supplies.

HARLOWE

Can I sit with you?

ADE

Sure.

HARLOWE exits. ADE notices and shrugs it off.

ADE colors.

HARLOWE reenters with a canvas bag in her hand. She sits next to ADE.

She pulls out a skein of yarn and some knitting needles.

ADE notices and is about to say something, but HARLOWE quiets them.

They craft in silence. For a bit.

ADE starts to say something again about Harlowe's knitting.

HARLOWE

Sh... I'm on vacation.

They sit in silence.

SEBASTIAN walks in.

SEBASTIAN

Oh my god, crafts?? You're crafting?? Knittting? COLORING?

ADE

SH! WE'RE ON VACATION!

SEBASTIAN

Oh. Sorry.

SEBASTIAN exits.

HARLOWE

How's that going?

ADE

I know it's cliché, but I really like it when the blue and yellow mix together to make green.

HARLOWE

Oh.

ADE

Green. I like green.

HARLOWE

That is nice. I was asking about you and Sebastian though...

ADE

Oh. This is a nice green though.

HARLOWE

It is. A very sexy green. And you two are...?

ADE

Not very sexy.

HARLOWE

Do you wanna talk about it?

ADE

I--

HARLOWE

Well, I wanna talk about it—what the fuck's goin' on?

ADE

We are... good. And also... open... to new experiences... together and apart.

Beat.

HARLOWE

You're fucking other people?

ADE thinks about this for a moment.

ADE

Yes.

HARLOWE

And Sebastian can handle that?

ADE

He seems to be enjoying it.

HARLOWE

And you're good with it?

ADE

Oh, I'M enjoying it.

HARLOWE

Of course you are.

They shrug and keep coloring. Then they stop coloring.

ADE

We've been together almost as long as Michael and Ally. Is that boring? Is that boring of us?

HARLOWE

I don't know. You're not boring! And neither is Seb.

ADE

Michael and Ally aren't boring either but they got bored.

HARLOWE

They're a bit boring sometimes...

ADE

Well they are/ straight.

HARLOWE

Straight. Such a shame.

ADE

Michael's hot.

HARLOWE

Yeah, Ally's a babe, too. Oh well.

They go back to crafting.

ADE

Don't tell them. About us fucking other people, please. I don't think they'd get it.

HARLOWE

I am a lock box. A Lock box. Signed, sealed, delivered. But no delivery, ya know?

ADE

Weirdo.

They craft.

ADE

Make me a beanie for my birthday?

HARLOWE

Duh. Please don't color me a picture for mine.

ADE

Deal.

SCENE 7. CHEESE PLEASE

MICHAEL and ALLY fold laundry.

MICHAEL

I think you could have left out the part about me being a jealous asshole.

ALLY

Those are your words, not mine.

MICHAEL

I just—I don't want our friends to think I'm the one who fucked this up.

ALLY

Do you want them to think I'm the one who fucked this up?

MICHAEL

No, no, no. I—

ALLY

Let's just get through the weekend. And have the draft and move on.

MICHAEL

I was thinking... do we have to do it. The draft? I know we decided on it, but it just... it sounded so silly when you announced it. And they're not taking it seriously. May we just scrap the whole thing...

ALLY

Are you fucking kidding me?

MICHAEL

...No?

ALLY

We've had this planned. We have a plan. And now you're backing out?

MICHAEL

I just think it sounds a little crazy! I think they think you're a bit crazy for suggesting this...

ALLY

That I'm crazy? This was our idea. We both agreed that a total separation is what we have to do.

MICHAEL

Yeah, I know but, do we have to be such dicks about it?

ALLY

Everytime I start to think that we don't have to be "such dicks about it" you remind me why we have to be such dicks about it. We just have to do this. Ok?

MICHAEL

Ok.

Silence.

MICHAEL

I was thinking about... cheese. And how, it's kinda crazy, because it's... milk. But we none of us drink milk anymore. But cheese is milk, but grosser, really.

ALLY

But you love cheese.

MICHAEL

And you're lactose-intolerant.

ALLY

Doesn't mean I don't love cheese.

MICHAEL

No. It just makes you sick. Maybe that means you're more evolved? You get sick when you eat moldy aged solidified milk.

ALLY

That makes sense. Or maybe it means I'm weaker—I can't handle the moldy aged solidified milk.

MICHAEL

I don't think I'm going to brag about being able to handle moldy aged solidified milk...

ALLY

It's an attractive quality.

MICHAEL

Eating cheese?

ALLY

Yeah.

MICHAEL

Well, then I guess I'm your guy. Or I was your guy. Shall I go run out to the shop? I think we drank all the beer last night.

ALLY

Ok.

MICHAEL

Do you want me to pick up some more cheese?

ALLY

I'm not going to eat it.

MICHAEL

Right.

SCENE 8. WHERE ARE MY TIC TACS?

SEBASTIAN and ADE walk in the woods, wearing workout clothes.

SEBASTIAN
(Whispering)

I think I just thought they were a done deal? Like: In it to win it no matter what.

ADE

I dunno, I guess there's just no such thing as a Done Deal.

SEBASTIAN

What do you mean?

ADE

I mean anything's possible? People can be together and perfect for each other for a while and then it ends. I don't think it's crazy for that to happen.

SEBASTIAN

Well, do you think that about us?

ADE

Which part?

SEBASTIAN

What do you mean?

ADE

Well, I'm just asking what *you* mean. The Done Deal part or the other part?

SEBASTIAN

I—

ADE

Because I guess the answer to both questions is: I don't know. Maybe.

SEBASTIAN

Maybe?

ADE

Yeah, maybe. Maybe we're a done deal—maybe we're good right now and we'll be together as long as... we're good.

SEBASTIAN

So you're not certain that you love me?

ADE

That's very much not what I said.

SEBASTIAN

But you don't know if we're gonna be together forever.

ADE

No, I don't know. How could I know that?

SEBASTIAN gets very quiet.

ADE

Hey. I love you. I'm with you because I want to be with you and because I'm in love with you.

SEBASTIAN

But you don't know if you want to be with me forever.

ADE

I don't know what I'm going to have for breakfast tomorrow, but I know I'm going to eat.

SEBASTIAN

What the fuck? What does breakfast have to do with this?

ADE

Hun-- Where are my headphones?

SEBASTIAN

Do you love me?

ADE

Yes! God I can't go for a run without my headphones.

SEBASTIAN

Why because you'll have to talk to me the whole time?

ADE

You know I don't talk when I run.

SEBASTIAN

You're an asshole.

ADE

I love you and I love how hot you are and I love my headphones that help me stay in shape to be your hot lover. So I'm going to walk back to the house and find my headphones.

SEBASTIAN

Ok.

ADE stops and turns back.

ADE

Will you please hold my hand and come back inside with me? And help me find my headphones?

SEBASTIAN takes their hand.

SEBASTIAN

I think you left them on the counter.

ADE

Thank you, my love.

SEBASTIAN

Fuck yeah I'm your love.

ADE

You're insane.

SCENE 9. HOW TO: GAY?

ALLY sits on the couch, lost in thought.

HARLOWE enters, with an idea. But hesitates.

HARLOWE

Ally—

ADE and SEBASTIAN arrive back from their run.

HARLOWE

How was the—running?

MICHAEL walks in, all sported out.

MICHAEL

Ready everyone? Those pickles ain't gonna ball themselves.

ADE points at themselves, "who me?"

ADE

Oh, no we just did the sports-ing.

MICHAEL

But... pickleball.

SEBASTIAN

Fuck, I do love pickleball.

MICHAEL

Yes, he does!

ADE

Well, I am sitting my ass down—

MICHAEL

They have a new sauna... and robes we can sneak home.

ADE turns on a dime, grabs SEBASTIAN.

ADE

In the car...You're driving.

And they exit the house.

HARLOWE sits on the couch with ALLY.

MICHAEL

You don't want to come? You always crush us at pickleball.

HARLOWE

Nah, nah, I'm good. Uh, Ally and I are gonna stay here and have some girl time.

ALLY and MICHAEL give her a look.

HARLOWE

Paint our nails and stuff.

They do a double-take.

HARLOWE

What? Nail care is very important in the lesbian community. For me! As the lesbian here.

MICHAEL

Ok, sure. Wait why?

HARLOWE

Well, so that you don't—do you really want me to get into this? I can talk about this for days—it's my favorite subject.

SEBASTIAN (*offstage*)

Michael!

ADE (*offstage*)

MICHAEL!

SEBASTIAN/ADE

Michael! Michael Michael! Michael!

MICHAEL

Coming! Have fun with the girl time! We can talk about this later-- if it's important to you.

MICHAEL is such an ally.

HARLOWE

Thank you, Michael. Means a lot.

MICHAEL leaves.

HARLOWE
Ok, so what's your type?

ALLY
My type?

HARLOWE
Uh, yeah.

ALLY
Um...

HARLOWE
Like, who do you want to fuck?

ALLY
Um... I don't know?

HARLOWE
Ok, like who are you attracted to?

ALLY
I don't know.

HARLOWE
You don't know?

ALLY
I—

HARLOWE
Like, name someone you think is hot.

ALLY
I—this is a really stressful conversation for me.

HARLOWE
Ok, ok, um...

She grabs a magazine nearby.

HARLOWE

How about we look through this together and say who we think is hot. Or pretty. Or yeah.

HARLOWE starts to flip through, ALLY peers over her shoulder.

HARLOWE
Ok, so, how does she make you feel?

ALLY
Fat?

HARLOWE
No—try to think... well... like a man? Ew no I hate that. I hate that, I hate that. Just look at her. And. Look at her and what do you think?

ALLY
I like her hair.

HARLOWE
Ok.

HARLOWE flips through some pages.

HARLOWE
Oh. Her—thoughts?

ALLY
I... like her blouse.

HARLOWE
Oh my god, Ally.

ALLY
I don't know what you want from me!

HARLOWE
Ok. Just give me...

HARLOWE flips through again.

HARLOWE
Ok, her. Does she make you feel anything?

ALLY
Um...

HARLOWE

Like... do you want to...

ALLY

Fuck her? I don't know! I—

HARLOWE

No... do you want to... wake up next to her? And you, would you... smile, when you opened your eyes and saw her next to you in bed?

ALLY

No.

ALLY takes the magazine and flips a couple of pages.

ALLY

Her. I would like to wake up next to her.

HARLOWE

Oh! We do not have the same type. You're a doppelbanger...

ALLY

Um... what?

HARLOWE

So, you're kinda like into people that look like you.

ALLY

Um. I don't... am i?

HARLOWE

Well, she's really beautiful and looks kinda like you.

ALLY

Ok well, I mean, she is really beautiful, but I don't think we look a lot alike.

HARLOWE

No, you do.

ALLY

Are you saying we all look alike to you?

HARLOWE

No, no, no, I, I. Hey. Just don't pretend you don't know you're gorgeous.

ALLY

I... I... think...

ALLY flips through the magazine looking for an excuse.

ALLY

I think she isn't hot.

HARLOWE

To you, she isn't hot. That doesn't mean she's not hot.

ALLY

Sorry, am I not saying gay enough things for you?

HARLOWE

No- that's not—

ALLY

It really irritates me, Harlowe, when you pretend that you're this, fucking, know all Thing.

HARLOWE

No, just some—

ALLY

And now you know this about me and, like. Why did I tell you? Maybe I'm just—maybe I'm fine and--

HARLOWE

No, Ally, I was saying that some people are hot when you least expect it. And a lot of people are fuckable.

ALLY

Oh.

ALLY flips through the magazine some more.

ALLY

What about you?

HARLOWE

What about me?

ALLY

Like, everything. Who do you like? How has dating been? Is it fun? Are you happy?

HARLOWE

Ok, hold on, this is your time. We're talking about you right now. Look, we've got some time. They'll be hitting pickles for hours. Wanna like, watch something gay? Learn a little...

ALLY

Um. I—yeah. Yeah, I do. Can we?

HARLOWE

Yeah, duh, of course. Um, ok... Have you done all of the gay mandatory viewing? Did you download the spreadsheet?

ALLY

What? No, is there a spreadsheet? That's exciting!

HARLOWE

Actually there is.

ALLY

Uh, so I, I watched that movie about the teenage boys going to prom together when that came out.

HARLOWE

Oh, darling sweet girl.

ALLY

What, it was good! Michael cried.

HARLOWE

Oh, god. We'll circle back to that. Alright, movies...I mean, do I want to start you with something super sexy or something super sad or something super, well that's really it—they don't give us many options. It's either sex and longing or longing and death. A lot of Death.

ALLY is terrified.

HARLOWE

There's a really sweet Lady rom com that we can watch. It's kinda the best. It's also kinda the only one we have, but... you'll love it.

HARLOWE puts her laptop down on the table, and presses play.

ALLY settles in.

Thank you.

ALLY

Of course.

HARLOWE

ALLY leans her head against HARLOWE'S legs.

HARLOWE feels something. She struggles to decide how to respond. But she does.

They watch the film.

SCENE 10: COMFY COZY

ALLY sleeps on Harlowe. HARLOWE watches the movie and smiles.

ADE, MICHAEL, SEB return from Pickleball. ADE is in a fluffy robe.

HARLOWE quickly stops the movie and scooches away from ALLY.

MICHAEL

No, you dove! Ade, you dove for that ball!

SEBASTIAN

They're very fast when they want to be.

ADE

I love inspiration—and that two bounce rule got me going.

SEBASTIAN

Did it...

HARLOWE

Shhh... the crazy one's sleeping.

MICHAEL

Aw, she never naps.

HARLOWE

Big day. It's hard being a girl.

ADE

Amen.

SEBASTIAN

I'm starving, when do we get to eat again?

MICHAEL

Oh, tonight's dinner is gonna be good. My world famous roast!

ALLY

And my shmooshfle.

HARLOWE

She's aliiiiive!

SEBASTIAN

What'd she say, what's for dessert?

MICHAEL

You napped. You never nap!

ALLY

I dunno, I was really cozy and comfortable.

ADE

That bitch is tired from all the dancing last night. This bitch gets it.

SEBASTIAN

What? I am very strong. I'm just not as good at chasing balls as you are, apparently.

MICHAEL

Alright, I'm gonna shower.

SEBASTIAN

Ugh, me too. Oh, Babe, after, can we check out that yard sale down the road? There was this great credenza there that I can't stop thinking about.

SEBASTIAN starts to exit.

ADE

No, Sebastian, we do not have room for a credenza, but yes, lets look at her and touch her, and tell her we love her.

SEBASTIAN

Sebastian? What did I do? Am I in trouble?

ADE

No, you're not in trouble, I just said your name—

SEBASTIAN

Because if I'm in trouble, maybe just tell me, instead of being passive aggressive.

ADE

Shut up, we're going to the yard sale.

Ade rubs their temple.

ADE

But first, I think... I'll take a bath...

ADE sunset boulevards off the stage.

MICHAEL

So shower, then I'll get dinner going in a bit?

ALLY

Mmhmm...

ALLY nestles back into the couch, next to HARLOWE..

MICHAEL

Shit, Ally, I forgot I told the neighbors we'd stop in for a quick drink—they're up for the weekend and I haven't seen them in ages—would that be ok?

ALLY

5 more minutes and then I'm all yours.

ALLY nestles in more.

HARLOWE gets up.

MICHAEL

I don't really need you to be all mine, feel free to do what you want. But thank you.

HARLOWE

I'm gonna go for a walk.

MICHAEL

Back for dinner?

HARLOWE

Are we doing dinner? Seems like everyone's got shit to do.

MICHAEL

Of course we're doing dinner. Maybe around... I dunno--

HARLOWE

Cool, yeah, I mean, don't wait for me though. Just do whatever works for everyone.

SCENE 11. WEEDING GREY GARDENS

*HARLOWE walks in with a backpack on.
She's barefoot and just relaxing.
She's bored and thinking. And bored. And thinking.*

HARLOWE

I am... incredibly bored.

*She reaches into her backpack and pulls out a beer.
She cracks it open and drinks. She lies back and groans.*

In walks TALA.

TALA

Hi!

HARLOWE

Jeez-What? Hi. How can I help you?

TALA

Are you staying here?

HARLOWE

Yes.

TALA

I'm Tala. I live just around the corner- I know the family here.

HARLOWE

Yeah, I know them too.

TALA

Oh, are you—did I? I'm sorry did I offend you already? Sometimes I offend people immediately. I'm just kinda like that.

HARLOWE

No, I'm being an asshole. I'm friends with Michael and Ally, we're up here for the weekend for Michael's birthday.

TALA

Nice! Oh my gosh that's awesome! How are they?

HARLOWE

Good! No, auto-pilot- Not great—getting a divorce. Kinda a terrible weekend so far.

TALA

Oh... Why are you here?

HARLOWE

Exactly. But also why are *you* here?

TALA

I came by because... so I'm friends with Michael's Dad and... So... my parents are visiting and I live in their house and it's technically their, like, country home, but it's my house—its where I live. So I live up here and I'm friends with Michael's dad and he has a garden—a great garden. Not a GREY Garden, a Great garden. And he lets me "pick" from it. He lets me come here and "harvest" his garden...

HARLOWE

Are you fucking Michael's Dad?

TALA

No! He sells me weed.

HARLOWE

Oh! Just say it next time, that was weird. A lot of circling around. I'm Harlowe by the way.

TALA

Nice to meet you.

HARLOWE

Do you want some pot?

HARLOWE opens her backpack up.

TALA

Yes. Please. Help me.

HARLOWE offers her a joint.

What are your parents like?
HARLOWE

Nice. Good. Terrifying. Disappointed.
TALA

Oh my god, are you my sister? What'd you do that was so wrong?
HARLOWE

I live in the Woods and I'm an artist.
TALA

Oo that's good.
HARLOWE

You?
TALA

I'm gay.
HARLOWE

And?
TALA

That's it.
HARLOWE

Oh... that's kinda boring.
TALA

It really is. It's not, it's the best. So you and Michael's dad don't fuck.
HARLOWE

No.
TALA

What kind of artist?
HARLOWE

Sculpture. Wood sculpture.
TALA

HARLOWE

Like a carpenter?

TALA

Sort of.

HARLOWE

Have you heard of... Jesus? He was one of your top guys apparently.

TALA

Yikes, does not ring a bell. What's his Instagram, I'll check out his work.

HARLOWE

Every time I come up here, we just sit inside and drink. Or we sit outside and drink. What is there to do up here?

TALA

Drink. Smoke. Make Merry.

HARLOWE

Have sex?

TALA

Dude, are you drunk? It's the afternoon.

HARLOWE

No, just lonely. Being in this house with couples—even couples that are divorcing is...

TALA

Lonely?

HARLOWE

Annoying. I'm really good at being alone, but there's something that's hard about being alone with other people.

TALA

That's a good reason to move to the Woods.

HARLOWE

Are you a realtor? Do you take 6 percent?

TALA

I am. Oh god.

HARLOWE

What?

TALA

I'm a realtor!

HARLOWE

I thought you were an artist?

TALA

I am! But I'm also a realtor—god you're out touch if you think I can just be an artist.

HARLOWE

Yeah, well do you know a place up here, in case I start looking?

TALA

I do. In fact, I've got a lead that's pretty nearby...

HARLOWE

You're moving? Where are you going?

TALA

No—Michael's place—Michael's Dad's place.

HARLOWE

What? Really? I thought they were going to retire here?

TALA

No, heading to Florida, tax evasion stuff. They're selling it. Not listed yet though.

HARLOWE

Michael didn't say anything.

TALA

I mean, I think it's public knowledge. People around town know.

HARLOWE

I think I'm just gonna keep my mouth shut and hope for the best. That's the kind of weekend we are having around here.

TALA

Ok, well. I hope I didn't say anything I shouldn't have. Do you mind if I—

There's an awkward moment and pause here where HARLOWE tries to figure out what TALA is going to do. Maybe a light game of charades.

Go “weed” that garden?

TALA

Oh, sure. I mean—fine with me.

HARLOWE

Thanks. I’ll—

TALA

Nice to meet you. I’ll be here—and around.

HARLOWE

I’ll see you again. I’ll probably pass you in 5 minutes... and I’m around too-- Just if you need something. Ya know. You’re not alone in the woods anymore.

TALA

No, my realtor is here.

HARLOWE

3% commission and free pot!

TALA
(shouting into the wind)

Why are you still here?

HARLOWE

I’m not. I’m leaving.

TALA

No, why are you still here in bumblefuck, New York?

HARLOWE

It’s quiet here.

TALA

And you like quiet?

HARLOWE

I sleep well when it’s quiet.

TALA

There’s nothing here.

HARLOWE

For you, maybe. TALA

No. I'm just— HARLOWE

Confused. TALA

No. I haven't been confused for a long time. HARLOWE

So what are you? TALA

Concerned? Over why you live in the same town you grew up in. HARLOWE

It's quiet, I like it. TALA

Isn't that a waste? Of your time? HARLOWE

No. TALA

Of your life? HARLOWE

I've just always liked being alone. TALA

HARLOWE thinks for a while.

So you want to live alone in the woods, forever? HARLOWE

Yeah, that's the idea. TALA

Sounds like a good idea, for you. I'd hate it, but seems like you like it. HARLOWE

I'm happy.

TALA

I'm not. But I think that's normal?

HARLOWE

It's not.

TALA

What do you know, carpenter jesus freak?

HARLOWE

Do you want any pot? From the garden?

TALA

Sure...

HARLOWE

I'll be back in a bit.

TALA

I'll be here.

HARLOWE

Isn't that a waste? Of your life?

TALA

TALA walks off.

HARLOWE

I've got time to waste.

SCENE 12. WHAT'S IT LIKE?

SEBASTIAN sits doing a puzzle.

ALLY joins him.

ALLY

Do you think... you, I, you were, were you... scared? When you started dating Ade?

SEBASTIAN

No.

ALLY

Not even a bit?

SEBASTIAN

I mean, sure. I was worried. That they wouldn't like me. But that's what relationships are like.

ALLY

But they were your first, right?

SEBASTIAN

OH. Well... yeah, how do you know that?

ALLY

I... I think you mentioned it.

SEBASTIAN

Oh. That makes sense?

ALLY

I think over martinis?

SEBASTIAN

Oh. THAT makes sense!

ALLY

So they were the first?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah.

ALLY

And they were fine with that?

SEBASTIAN

I don't know. Honestly. I didn't tell them. Until we were kinda happily ever after.

ALLY

Oh.

She looks stunned.

SEBASTIAN

Well, they didn't ask. And they were happy. And I was happy. I mean what business did I have telling them I'd never done that before?

ALLY

But you'd been with people before... with girls I mean.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah.

ALLY

So how did that like... translate?

SEBASTIAN

Uhhhhhh. Not well? I mean. Look—what are you asking? Yeah sure, honestly, I love your question because no one's ever asked me—no one has ever been... fucking brave enough to ask me. Or interested enough. Meg sort of did once, but everyone always asks Ade, about...everything. I mean... it's MY sex, Life, I guess who the fuck cares—but thank you... for TAKING an interest. Sure, so... I didn't tell them. Because it wasn't their LOT to know. Like... I WAS scared. I was nervous. I was worried I wouldn't be good at something that I knew would change my life. So I didn't tell them I hadn't been with someone like them before. And it didn't matter.

ALLY

So, it was chill?

SEBASTIAN

It was hot. And weird. And bad. And good. And then really good. And that's how things still are. All over the place. And that's why we're still together. It's chaos.

ALLY

Good chaos?

SEBASTIAN

The best.

SCENE 13. MASHED POTATOES W/ A SIDE OF SUICIDE

HARLOWE and TALA sit together on the ground.

HARLOWE

Sometimes I think I want to kill myself.

TALA

Do you know how you'd do it?

HARLOWE

No. I just have this thought in my head "I should kill myself" but I never think anything more than that.

TALA

Ah. I'm sorry you want to kill yourself.

HARLOWE

It's just a thought. I don't think I want to do it. Atleast I don't always think I want to do it.

Beat.

TALA

Do you know how you'd do it? Kill yourself.

HARLOWE

Yeah. I have this train ticket that I booked. And I keep pushing it back. But it's like an e-voucher now, so I can move it whenever I want to, to whenever I want. It'd take a little bit of planning. I have to buy the gun. I hate guns but—I don't want to have a moment of regret. Like if I jumped off a building or took pills. I don't want to have those seconds to think... that I fucked up again. So I'd get a gun. I think I want one of those pearly ones—mother of pearl handled ones. Like that you'd pull out of your purse in the 1930's. Or maybe a cowboy pistol. I'd have to see the options. I'd be upset if it were just one of those black generic-looking guns. But I think I'd get a gun pretty easily. Then I'd book the train. To this place we used to go when I was little. Or as close to it as I can get. I thought I'd walk from the train, but it's a long walk. Like 6 hours. And that's weather dependent, ya know. So that's something to consider too.

TALA

You could always Uber. From the train.

HARLOWE

Oh, yeah. That's a good idea. Then I could wear less, like, comfortable shoes, and more ya know cool shoes that I'd want to be found in.

TALA

I just thought Uber—

HARLOWE

I know. And I'm not going... So, I'd, I'd Uber, or walk. To this hill. We always used to drive past. I've never been to the top of it. But its the most beautiful hill. And it has this tree on it. Just sitting there. Overlooking this valley of green—again weather dependent, though--but rain would be nice. There's also a restaurant down the hill. I could get some mashed potatoes there. Or a steak. Or burger. I'm a vegetarian but I love meat. I'm just morally opposed to it—the cruelty. But yeah, I don't want to get a stomachache or cramps right before I shoot my head off. So. Maybe just the mashed potatoes. Have a beer at the bar while they're making them. And I'd walk up the hill. And eat them. And I'm gonna take a bottle of Champagne with me, I think. Really nice Champagne. And drink that. And I don't want to shoot myself under my chin. I'd do it at the temple. Straight across. Cleaner, I think. Seems neater. Less gruesome for someone to find. That's gonna suck for them. But I think the train ticket purchase would atleast narrow the search when I'm a missing person. So... that's... how I'd do it.

TALA

Oh.

HARLOWE

I guess pushing the ticket back is a good sign. But I do have it. Just something for me to think about.

TALA

When did you buy it?

HARLOWE

On a really good day. I was really happy all day. And then I got sad. So I made a plan.

TALA

Very pragmatic of you.

HARLOWE

I don't know what that word means.

TALA

You've never heard it before?

HARLOWE

No, I have. I just have no idea what it means.

TALA

It's like...

She pulls out her phone to read from dictionary.com.

HARLOWE

Oh god...

TALA

I just want to get it right! Ok, ok it's "of or relating to a practical point of view or practical considerations." So like, instead of being emotional about it, you're being practical about it. And I respect that.

HARLOWE

How pragmatic of you.

TALA

Shut the fuck up.

HARLOWE

I'm still figuring out if I like you.

TALA

No you're not. You love me.

HARLOWE

I think you're a fine friend to have found in the woods.

TALA

That's a huge compliment really. I mean... how many of your friends would you like if you stumbled upon them in the woods?

HARLOWE

Ya know, I just told you I wanted to kill myself.

TALA

And?

HARLOWE

Well, like, don't you want to tell me not to?

TALA

I dunno, I don't really know you. I don't know whether you should kill yourself or not.

Oh no.

TALA

I'm kidding, stop, wait. Don't kill yourself?

HARLOWE

That was very convincing...

TALA

Just—don't count on people you just met to save you. I'm sorry. I just simply don't have the time.

She looks at her wrist, as if she had a watch on.

TALA

I wish I could, but I'm all booked up this week.

HARLOWE throws something at TALA, whatever she might have in her hands.

TALA

What?!

HARLOWE

You suck.

TALA

Not as much as you think *you* do.

HARLOWE

Jesus Christ, get over yourself.

TALA

You first.

HARLOWE

Come inside? Have some drinks with us?

TALA

Yeah, no, I'm ok.

HARLOWE

You don't want to join us?

TALA

No.

HARLOWE

Oh, do you have plans with your parents?

TALA

No. I just don't want to do that.

HARLOWE

Ok.

SCENE 14. BRUH, PASS THE BURR

SEBASTIAN, ADE, and MICHAEL sit closely together.

MICHAEL in the middle. It's quiet. It's awkward. But also comforting. They're holding bottles of beer.

ADE picks up a 6 pack that's sitting next to them, with 3 beers left and hands it down the line. Each of them finishes the bottle and takes a new one, replacing the empty bottles into the 6 pack.

ADE

I don't really like beer.

SEBASTIAN

Shh... this isn't about you.

They sit in silence again.

SEBASTIAN

(in a butch voice)

How ya feeling, man?

MICHAEL

You don't have to ask me that.

SEBASTIAN

But we care—

MICHAEL

No, but really don't ask me that. I'm sorry about dinner. I've never burned a roast before.

ADE

Crunchy!

MICHAEL

And Ally was supposed to make souffles, but.

Stomachache. SEBASTIAN/ADE

Yeah... MICHAEL

But, how *do* you feel? ADE

I'm... I, I don't want to... I don't want to be single. MICHAEL

Oh. SEBASTIAN

Why not? It's the best. ADE

SEBASTIAN shoots him a look.

Well it can be great. And I think you should be excited. ADE

But I did that. I was that. For half my life—more than half my life. And I don't want to be alone. I was already alone. MICHAEL

But do you want to be with Ally? ADE

MICHAEL thinks about this.

She's great. She's perfect. MICHAEL

So? SEBASTIAN

I can't stand her. MICHAEL

But you two are—when did it get this bad? ADE

MICHAEL

It's always sorta been like this. Just time and pressure... that's been added.

ADE

Omg, like a diamond.

MICHAEL

What?

ADE

Sorry, nevermind.

Silence.

ADE

No, no, it's just funny because time and pressure on coal is what creates a diamond. But here, it's what's ruined your marriage. Just interesting. How different things can be. Contextually, ya know?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah... so, Michael, we're here for you.

MICHAEL

Oh... so you're choosing me?

SEBASTIAN

That's not a real thing, is it?

ADE

Like we're gonna see you both—even if it's not together.

MICHAEL

I don't think so. We're having a... separation of things.

ADE

Well, honey, we're not things.

SEBASTIAN

They're right.

ADE is surprised and delighted with this agreement.

SEBASTIAN

We aren't your *things* to be divided.

I think the end is Nigh. MICHAEL

Well, that's dramatic. ADE

You love drama. MICHAEL

Ok, that's nearly a hate crime. ADE

You do--We've watched RuPaul together. MICHAEL

Shut up, Michael. ADE

They all drink in silence. A long long sip.

ADE takes out their phone.

Do you think we should ask the lesbian to join us? ADE

No, she'd drink all the beer. MICHAEL

True. SEBASTIAN

They drink again. They're kinda done their drinks.

But do we have more booze? SEBASTIAN

Just some old cherry Amaretto. MICHAEL

Oh!! ADE

SEBASTIAN

Gross. Let's do it.

SCENE 15. GAY SHIT.

HARLOWE is on the couch, trying to sleep, but restless.

ALLY tiptoes in, heading to the kitchen.

HARLOWE

Hey.

ALLY

Oh! Sorry! I didn't mean to wake you—

HARLOWE

I was awake.

ALLY

Can't sleep?

HARLOWE

Nah, not tonight. Why are you up?

ALLY

Just thinking...

HARLOWE

About?

ALLY

It's just really scary to think that'll I'll never be here again. Ya know, we've been all been coming up here since college. That's over a decade ago. And I love it here. And I hate it here. And I hate that I'll never be back here. And he'll back here. And I don't know where I'm going to be. And that's really good too. Because I hate it here.

HARLOWE

A lot of bugs.

ALLY

A lot of bugs! I think I'm a bad person.

HARLOWE

Nah. Maybe... but you're pretty great too.

ALLY

So whose side are you on?

HARLOWE

Oh, in the "draft"? Well, I don't think my points are worth that much. Or will advance anyone's teams very far... I don't understand fantasy football. Is that the game we're playing, I don't really know. I don't like football! I know I'm gay, but I'm not *that* gay.

She gets a blank stare.

HARLOWE

Well I am *That* gay, but not that kind of gay. I like candles, not fantasy football.

ALLY

Do you have crystals?

HARLOWE

Ughhh what a stereotype. Yes, of course I have crystals to protect me and my home. They sit in my windowsill and they keep me safe every night. It's cute. We love it. It's cute.

ALLY

It is.

They have a moment.

HARLOWE

Yikes.

ALLY

It's not yikes. I hate that you just said "yikes".

HARLOWE

You hate a lot of things tonight.

ALLY

Go to bed.

HARLOWE

You won't let me sleep.

ALLY

I'll be quiet.

HARLOWE

That's not what I mean. You'll keep me up no matter what.

HARLOWE leans in and kisses her. It's a lot, for both of them. ALLY pulls away.

HARLOWE

(Whispering)

I choose Michael. I'm on his team. IM KIDDING!! Jesus, you psycho. Fuck.

ALLY

Fuck.

HARLOWE

Am I? Is this? The reason?

ALLY

I don't know.

HARLOWE

Does Michael know?

ALLY

About what? We just kissed. I've never done that before.

HARLOWE

Wow your sex life was a lot worse than I thought.

ALLY

Shut the fuck up.

HARLOWE

Tell me.

ALLY

There's nothing to tell. I have no idea what's going on.

HARLOWE

I don't believe you.

ALLY

I need you to.

ALLY leans in for another kiss. They kiss.

HARLOWE

I believe that.

ALLY

Don't be gross.

HARLOWE

I can't help it—this is how I am when I want someone.

ALLY stands up abruptly.

ALLY

I... that's not. I, we don't – I can't —FUCK THESE BUGS!

ALLY shakes and dances and shakes and tries to lose the bugs.

HARLOWE exits. She comes back shortly with two glasses and an almost empty bottle of cherry amaretto.

ALLY

No.

HARLOWE

I think drinking's a great idea.

ALLY

You always think drinking's a great idea.

HARLOWE

And am I ever wrong?

ALLY

Yeah, you are.

HARLOWE

Well that's fucking rude. Come 'er. Have a drink with me.

She pours the drinks. ALLY meanders over to her.

ALLY
What is that?

HARLOWE
No idea, cherry something.

HARLOWE raises the drinks to toast.

HARLOWE
To fucked—

ALLY downs the drink.

HARLOWE
Opes ok! To fucked up times and never enough limes.

She downs her drink.

HARLOWE
Fuck.

They stare at each other and almost kiss again.

HARLOWE
It's like a fire hydrant huh?

ALLY
What?

HARLOWE
I mean... now that it's happening I kinda don't want it to stop.

She leans in to kiss her. ALLY deflects.

ALLY
I think... it's late.

HARLOWE
You're late.

ALLY
Stop. It's late.

HARLOWE

Don't do that. Come on, stay here with me.

ALLY

What do you want from me? What do you want?

HARLOWE

Just time with you.

ALLY

We can have breakfast together. We WILL have breakfast together.

HARLOWE

With everyone else.

ALLY

Yeah. And that's how I want it to be.

HARLOWE

I haven't been in love with you this whole time.

ALLY

What?

HARLOWE

I haven't been in love with you this whole time. I want you to know that. It's not like I've always loved you and you're making my life right now. I haven't been—I don't think I've been...I don't know. I don't know what I want and I don't know what you want. I don't know anything. But I don't want you to walk away from me.

ALLY

I think you're being over-dramatic.

HARLOWE

Maybe you are straight.

ALLY

Fuck you.

HARLOWE

Do you want to?

They kiss, deeply, heavily. HARLOWE pulls away.

HARLOWE

Why don't you go to bed.

ALLY

Do you not want me?

HARLOWE

You don't know what you want.

ALLY

That's cruel.

HARLOWE

I shouldn't have kissed you.

ALLY

That's even crueler. Come on. Don't fuck around with me.

HARLOWE

Let's go back to sleep.

ALLY

I don't want to. I want to—

ADE walks on.

ADE

You guys are being loud!

ALLY

Sorry.

ALLY walks off.

HARLOWE

My bad.

ADE heads to the kitchen.

MICHAEL enters, he's a bit drunk.

MICHAEL

Hey.

HARLOWE

What. No! Go to bed, Michael.

MICHAEL

I can't.

HARLOWE

Oh my god.

MICHAEL

I'm just— really fucked up.

HARLOWE

Yes. The whole thing—

MICHAEL

The whole thing—

HARLOWE

It's really fucked up.

MICHAEL

Yeah. Wait. What whole thing?

HARLOWE

The whole thing.

MICHAEL

What whole thing?

HARLOWE

All of it. Divorce! Friends! Love-sss. Ekgh—no. Michael, please go to sleep.

MICHAEL

I'm just—

HARLOWE gets up.

HARLOWE

Goodnight Michael.

MICHAEL

Wait please, stay with me for a second.

HARLOWE slows to a halt.

Gah—ooooook. What's on your mind?

HARLOWE

I'm kind of happy?

MICHAEL

Oh. Good.

HARLOWE

Yeah. But...

MICHAEL

Oh no...

HARLOWE

I don't know if it's because Ally and I are breaking up—or because we're finally being honest with each other?

MICHAEL

Well...honesty is... key. And runs deep. And sometimes what you think is honest is—

HARLOWE

I just... things feel good. And easy? For the first time in a long time. And now, everything is out on the table. And we've talked and talked and yelled and cried and talked and I love her.

MICHAEL

Fuck.

HARLOWE

And even more than that... I love... me.

MICHAEL

Oh.

HARLOWE

And who I am in her eyes.

MICHAEL

Ah. Ok—so...

HARLOWE

It's just nice, ya know. To be loved, how she loves me.

MICHAEL

HARLOWE

Let's go back to focusing on you. You said you love yourself.

MICHAEL

Yes. I'm great. I know this. I am not afraid to say that I am pretty freakin' great.

HARLOWE

Cool ok, so. Why don't you focus that love you have for yourself on... being happy and single. And... ready to mingle?

MICHAEL

But I don't know if that's what I want...

HARLOWE

It's your birthday weekend. And you chose to celebrate it by announcing your divorce. That's weird. And a cry for help, or something. But come on. Mikey—do you think it's working?

MICHAEL

No. but. Does that mean I don't want it?

HARLOWE

Well, what are some other things you want?

MICHAEL

I dunno... to go to a Formula 1 race.

HARLOWE

Ok! We can make that happen!

MICHAEL

That'd be fun.

HARLOWE

Good! Yes!

MICHAEL

Do you think Ally would come?

HARLOWE

MICHAEL.

His shoulders cave in like a little sheep.

HARLOWE

If you wanted her to come, I'm sure she would.

MICHAEL

Yeah... I hate that.

HARLOWE

I dunno. It's your relationship. The two of you have to figure it out.

MICHAEL

It was figured. It was done. But I dunno. This weekend—is...

MICHAEL/HARLOWE

Weird/Fucked.

HARLOWE

Sure. I'm gonna go to sleep.

MICHAEL

Ok. I love you.

HARLOWE

You're on my bed.

MICHAEL

Oh. Well we can just cuddle?

HARLOWE

Mikey, no. You're a large man. And I don't cuddle. And I definitely don't cuddle large men.

MICHAEL

Please. Pleeeeease.

She sits on the ground next to the couch and holds his hand.

MICHAEL

You're the best.

HARLOWE

Hey, just remember: Everyone's an asshole and we're all just trying to be happy.

MICHAEL

Ok.

Ok. HARLOWE

MICHAEL pulls out his phone and clearly pulls up a dating app and starts swiping left and right.

But I'm really an asshole. MICHAEL

No, I am. HARLOWE

No, I'm an asshole— MICHAEL

No, I'm the asshole-- HARLOWE

ADE walks back in.

Everyone's an asshole. It's not special. ADE

ADE sits on the couch.

What are we doing? What's the vibe? ADE

We're assholes. MICHAEL

Ade? SEBASTIAN (Offstage)

SEBASTIAN enters.

What are you doing down here? SEBASTIAN

We're being assholes. ADE

Assholes, asshole, assholes! MICHAEL

SEBASTIAN

Well, I'm aware that you're an asshole.

ADE

Thank you so much, I love you too!

SEBASTIAN

You left me alone in bed.

ADE

Ally and Harlowe woke me up and I'm getting water, so I'm not fucking hungover tomorrow! Do I need to send you a calendar invite so you know what I'm doing at all times?

MICHAEL

Ally? Is she down here? She's so mad at me.

HARLOWE

No, no, shh, sweet boy.

SEBASTIAN

I don't need to know where you are, I just—I worry about you.

ADE

I'm coming right back up, I just got sidetracked by drunk boy over here.

MICHAEL

You're the dunky one, slam dunk... basketball.

SEBASTIAN

I just don't like it when you're not in bed with me.

ADE

I always come back.

SEBASTIAN

I just worry that you won't.

ADE

My love, I'll always come back to you. I trust you. Please trust me?

MICHAEL

I have a trust fund.

SEBASTIAN

We know you do, sweetie. *(To Ade)* I do. Trust you. I love you.

ADE

I love you too. Is it ok if we...

ADE motions to go back upstairs.

HARLOWE

Can you take him with you, please?

MICHAEL snores.

SEBASTIAN

But he's so big.

ADE

But you're so strong...

SEBASTIAN

Baby...

HARLOWE

Can't we just—

HARLOWE, SEBASTIAN and ADE work to move MICHAEL onto SEBASTIAN'S back, like a fireman practicing with a doll that's seen better days.

ALLY enters.

ALLY

We have to talk about— oh.

MICHAEL looks very dead.

HARLOWE

He's alive. Don't worry.

SEBASTIAN

I got him.

SEBASTIAN does not get him. But he slowly drags MICHAEL out, with ADE holding a foot or maybe a shoe that comes off.

HARLOWE and ALLY are together.

ALLY

We can't do this.

HARLOWE

Can I be friends with Michael? And more than friends with you?

ALLY

What are you saying?

HARLOWE

I want to be friends with Michael. And I want to fuck you.

ALLY

That's really... a lot. And fucking bold.

HARLOWE

And what do you think?

ALLY

I think those aren't the rules of the game we're playing.

HARLOWE

Rules? Look, I didn't come here for a game. I came to wish a good friend a happy birthday. And now I find myself with an opportunity.

ALLY

Oh yeah?

HARLOWE

Yeah.

HARLOWE steps away from her.

HARLOWE

But I don't think you want me to take advantage of this opportunity. So...

ALLY

What opportunity? Like a Buy one get one-

HARLOWE

Off?

I don't think that's the saying. ALLY

Who the fuck cares? HARLOWE

Whatever you're doing... it's too much for me. ALLY

Shit, ok so-- HARLOWE

I can't do that. I can't be this. I can't—I can't— ALLY

Ok. HARLOWE

Silence.

What do you want to be? HARLOWE

Happy. ALLY

Oh. That's a tough one. HARLOWE

Happier? ALLY

Ah, now we're getting somewhere. How long have you been... unhappy? HARLOWE

Always. ALLY

I always used to be unhappy too. It wears off. HARLOWE

It wears off? ALLY

HARLOWE

Yeah. It fades, like paint. And then you're just you.

ALLY

What's that like?

HARLOWE

Horrendous. Turns out we're all assholes when we're being ourselves.

ALLY

Sounds kinda nice.

HARLOWE

I think the hardest thing, is that you have to be ready to hurt people. You can't be yourself and not hurt people.

ALLY

But I'm nice.

HARLOWE

Yeah, you are. The kindest and best of folks. But you can't always be that.

ALLY

Can you shut the fuck up. Sorry, but you're not a fucking Sage Wisdom Sapphic Whatever!

HARLOWE

No, you are correct, I'm not whatever you just said I am. Look—

ALLY

Don't. Don't fucking tell me what to do or how to be or what it's like. I've been living like that this whole time. With people telling me: how to be, what to do, what I'm like. Can't you see that's gross. That's not what this should be.

HARLOWE

You're right.

ALLY

I think you should go.

HARLOWE

Ok.

ALLY

I think you should leave. And I think the easiest thing would be for me to go back upstairs. And to Michael. And tell him I'm sorry. And that I love him.

HARLOWE

Sometime you have to stop doing the easiest thing.

ALLY

I'm going upstairs. To bed.

HARLOWE

Goodnight.

ALLY

Fuck you.

ALLY exits.

HARLOWE is alone.

SCENE 16. THE DRAFT

The Next Morning.

MICHAEL

The table looks great.

MICHAEL walks up behind her and embraces her.

ALLY

Don't touch me.

MICHAEL

Ok.

MICHAEL takes a long pull from the beer he has.

MICHAEL

Well, it's a beautiful table. Thank you for making breakfast.

ADE and SEBASTIAN enter.

ADE

Oh my god, breakfast smells amazing.

ALLY

Thank you!

MICHAEL stares vacantly into the ether.

SEBASTIAN

I am so ready to eat.

HARLOWE enters.

MICHAEL

And I am so ready for this draft.

ALLY
I thought you didn't want to do the draft?

SEBASTIAN
Wait-No Draft? Are you getting back together?

ADE
Please don't have babies.

ALLY/MICHAEL/HARLOWE
No.

MICHAEL
I'm done. Let's do the draft.

SEBASTIAN
But breakfast is right over there...

MICHAEL
I'm texting Rana and Meg for their votes.

ALLY
They're not just gonna text us their votes. We have to talk to them. Zoom them or something!

MICHAEL
This isn't a business meeting, I don't want to zoom them—plus let's not bother them, they have a baby.

SEBASTIAN
They're probably dying to be bothered.

ADE
Babies are very boring.

MICHAEL
Everyone, just pick who you want to be friends with. Harlowe—you first.

HARLOWE
No, so, we—we don't want to do this.

MICHAEL
You have to.

We don't want to.

HARLOWE

You have to.

MICHAEL

Ok—so we thought of like a Game system, like a Game Show!—So we each pick a game and whoever wins that game gets that person? Like Friend or No Friend!

HARLOWE

No.

MICHAEL

But—

HARLOWE

Come on, Harlowe--

MICHAEL

She's not selling it right.

SEBASTIAN

You really should have let us pitch it.

ADE

It was our idea.

SEBASTIAN

Fine.

HARLOWE

I'm gonna send them a zoom link.

ALLY

Honey, we don't have to do a zoom, they can just text us.

MICHAEL

What did we say about pet names—No more. Not allowed. Sorry. We just haven't even been able to pitch to Meg and Rana what we have to offer.

ALLY

I mean I've got this cabin...

MICHAEL

MICHAEL takes a selfie of himself and sends it to Rana and Meg.

ALLY

You have a cabin in the woods—terrifying—I have ever lasting love and affection and everyone knows I’m the best gift giver.

ADE inhales sharply.

ALLY

What was that?

ADE

No no no, nothing, nothing.

ALLY

What was it, Ade?

ADE

I just... I think it’s important not to discount Michael—what Michael brings to—gift giving.

ALLY

Seriously? This is about who’s better at giving gifts? I’M THE ONE WHO SHOWS UP TO EVERYTHING. Michael never even wants to go to your birthday parties! And your precious cabin, Michael? It’s fucking infested with mosquitoes!

HARLOWE

We didn’t want to come to this party! AND LOOK WHERE WE ARE NOW! It’s not even a fucking birthday party anymore—it’s a draft—a war—of friends—come the fuck on! I’m not having fun! Are you two having fun? I could be home, alone, getting high! Or listening to Taylor Swift! Or fucking myself! Why! Am I Here?

ALLY

Because you’re in-fucking-love with me.

Silence.

SEBASTIAN

You listen to Taylor Swift?

HARLOWE

Um.

ALLY

Tell them.

HARLOWE

I really enjoyed her last couple of albums.

ADE

Oh girl.

ALLY

No! About us.

HARLOWE

What are you talking about.

ALLY

Tell them what happened last night.

HARLOWE

Ally, stop.

MICHAEL

What happened last night?

SEBASTIAN

What happened last night?

HARLOWE

Nothing.

ALLY

She kissed me. And she's in love with me.

HARLOWE

What are you doing?

ALLY

I'm sorry, but, why shouldn't they know.

MICHAEL
(to Harlowe)

You kissed her?

HARLOWE

Michael—that's not... yes, we kissed, and--

ALLY

And she's in love with me.

HARLOWE

I said that I'm not in love with you.

MICHAEL

You kissed my wife?

HARLOWE

Soon to be ex-wife, so—

MICHAEL

What? How could you—

HARLOWE

You were looking at other girls last night!

MICHAEL

That's, well—

ALLY

Other girls?

MICHAEL

Did you kiss her back?

ALLY

You can have her.

MICHAEL

What?

ALLY

In the friend draft. You can have her. I don't want her.

ADE

So now you're allocating us?

ALLY

You win her, Michael.

That's pretty fucked up. SEBASTIAN

Or hot— ADE

It's not hot! SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry! ADE

I love you, it's ok! SEBASTIAN

Are you in love with her? MICHAEL

No, I— HARLOWE

Don't lie. Just tell me. MICHAEL

Why don't you stop lying to us? HARLOWE

Take her, she's yours. ALLY

I think she wants you. MICHAEL

No. I'm giving her to you. ALLY

HARLOWE

Ok no, no NO. I'm not involved in any of this. I mean, I am. This is not about us—our friendships. These are separate matters—I—fuck. Look. I am not something that can be given—so you can go fuck yourself about that. And you're both fucking liars, ok? Michael, why haven't you told anyone that the cabin's for sale. Yeah, his "selling point" – which, you're better than that, you don't need a selling point, is for sale. And Ally, oh my god, Ally, maybe just start with being honest with yourself—and don't throw me away. And talk to fucking Ade and Sebastian,

they're right here, they can help. And... I'm sorry! yeah—I am a liar, I love—look, I love you. Both. Yes, I love you both. Don't be weird about any of this. You are both incredibly important to me and you know that. So please, just. I love you both.

HARLOWE leaves.

ALLY
Is that true? Is the cabin for sale?

MICHAEL nods.

ALLY
Why didn't you tell me?

MICHAEL shrugs.

ALLY
Why?

MICHAEL
I just—I just didn't want to lose everything, my wife, my friends, our place, all at once.

ADE
You're not losing us.

SEBASTIAN
Yeah, we're in it for the long haul.

MICHAEL
That's what she said.

SEBASTIAN
Gross, not the time.

MICHAEL
No. That is what she said. When we got married. And look where we are now.

ALLY
I'm not going anywhere.

MICHAEL
Yeah, you are—and you're going there with my best friend?

ALLY

I'm sorry.

MICHAEL

Are you gay?

ALLY

I, I... I'm just—not the person I thought I was when we got together. I really tried, Michael.

MICHAEL

I know you did. I know you tried.

ALLY

Screw the draft.

MICHAEL

Yeah?

ALLY

Yeah. Screw it. I mean, let's try it. Let's try staying friends. This was not a good weekend, but... maybe it'll get better.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, it gets better.

MICHAEL

I think we could try that, yeah...

SEBASTIAN

Trust us.

ADE

If you can't trust horny Harlowe, you can trust us.

MICHAEL

Right.

ALLY

What do you two think? Or unless you want to do the draft?

SEBASTIAN/ADE

No no no no no no.

ADE

It is, it is, it is, a beautiful Sunday morning. Let's have a lil' brunch. Get a lil' drunk. And not talk about any of our problems.

Classic. SEBASTIAN

Shush. ADE

Love you. SEBASTIAN

Love you too. Thoughts? ADE

MICHAEL and ALLY stare at each other.

We can break into my parents' booze? MICHAEL

Fuck yeah, baby. SEBASTIAN

Sorry, Nina! ADE

Wait. Ade, Sebastian, can I talk to you? ALLY

Sure. SEBASTIAN

Mm... that bacon smells really good. I'm gonna go-- eat some. MICHAEL

He exits.

So you and Harlowe... SEBASTIAN

I know... ALLY

ADE

Girl, you're excited!

ALLY

No! Yes. Help.

SEBASTIAN

What are you thinking?

ALLY

I don't know if I can handle her.

ADE

She's a weird little creature, but she's a good one.

ALLY

You don't think she's just...

SEBASTIAN

Trying to fuck you?

ADE

I dunno! Could be fun—a good learning experience!

SEBASTIAN

That's what I thought you were.

ADE

And look how wrong you were, you glorious man.

ALLY

She scares me. And I don't know if I can stop myself around her. From actually giving... everything to her.

ADE

All I'm saying, my darling sweet Ally, is to...

SEBASTIAN

--be Open.

ADE

And give her a chance. To be who you need.

SEBASTIAN

You are such a thoughtful bitch.

ADE
You too, baby.

SEBASTIAN
God, you're spectacular.

ALLY
What is with you two? You're so into each other.

They shrug.

ADE
Love?

SEBASTIAN
Yeah, love. I think I forgot for a bit that we were in love.

ADE
Same. Woops.

MICHAEL enters.

MICHAEL
Rana just texted me. Rana chose me. And Meg chose you. They said you get the baby too.

ALLY
Well fuck them.

SCENE 17. CHICKS N' WINGS

HARLOWE walks into the woods. TALA sits on a bench eating a chicken wing. There's a plate of chicken wings in front of her.

Hey. HARLOWE

Sup. TALA

What are you doing out here? HARLOWE

Eating some chicken wings. Want some? TALA

No, I'm a vegetarian, remember? HARLOWE

Oh. Want one? TALA

Yeah. HARLOWE

HARLOWE sits next to her and grabs a wing.

Is that ranch? HARLOWE

Hahha yeaah— TALA

*HARLOWE dips it and eats. Wow. Magic.
They sit and chew together in silence.*

HARLOWE
Do you just do whatever you want to do?

TALA
Pretty much.

HARLOWE
Is that nice?

TALA
Pretty much.

*HARLOWE throws her chicken bone away and grabs another.
This one seems heavier than the last.*

HARLOWE
But really.

TALA
I have no idea.

HARLOWE
How is this chicken still warm?

TALA
God is good.

HARLOWE
What?!

TALA
Chicken is good. I don't really like to ask questions when chicken is good.

HARLOWE
You are very calming.

TALA continues to eat wings.

HARLOWE
What do you want?

TALA

More chicken.

TALA stands up to go get more chicken from God knows where.

HARLOWE

Hey, hey—no—what do you want? What are you doing here?

TALA

Eating chicken.

HARLOWE

Can't you tell me anything about yourself.

TALA

I have.

HARLOWE

But like—what—you're just ok out here? Eating chicken.

TALA

Yeah. I am.

HARLOWE

How?

TALA

Delivery.

TALA reaches underneath of something and pulls out more chicken. She sits back down and eats.

HARLOWE

Are you real?

TALA

Yeah. I think so.

HARLOWE

I'm not really sure if I am.

TALA

What does it matter either way. We're here aren't we? Oh this is spicier. Can you pass me the ranch?

HARLOWE chews on some celery.

HARLOWE

Why do they always include celery?

TALA

It mitigates the pain.

HARLOWE spits out the celery.

HARLOWE

Not for me.

TALA

Dramatic much?

HARLOWE

I hope you live forever. Like an ancient wood nymph or something.

TALA

I want to die young—at the latest 50.

HARLOWE

That's fucking sad.

TALA

No. It's not. I just don't have to be here for a long time. Ya know, I'm here for a good time, not a long time.

HARLOWE

Oh. I guess I'm here for a long time, not a good time.

TALA

Hey, progress. Yesterday you said you wanted to kill yourself. So... I don't know if it's just meeting me, but it seems like your perspective has really changed.

HARLOWE

Can I have another chicken wing?

TALA

Ah, sorry, they're all gone. Just bones left.

HARLOWE nods... of course. She stands up.

HARLOWE

I think the groups heading out in a bit... seems like we've officially destroyed the weekend.

TALA

We?

HARLOWE

Me. I destroyed the weekend.

TALA

Oh. I'm glad I didn't destroy it. Phew. Nailed it.

HARLOWE

It was really nice to meet you, Tala.

TALA

You too. Come back up anytime, for chicken and weed...yeah.

HARLOWE

Thanks.

Scene 18. THE HARDEST THING

HARLOWE enters.

There is a note on the couch. She reads it.

HARLOWE is Alone. Again.

HARLOWE

Cool. Classic.

MICHAEL enters from the bedrooms.

MICHAEL

Oh. I thought we'd be gone before you got back.

HARLOWE

Yeah I figured, from the note. I'm so sorry, Michael.

MICHAEL

You're really fucked up, Harlowe.

HARLOWE

I know. Wait, did you say "you've really fucked up, Harlowe" or "you're really fucked up, Harlowe?"

MICHAEL

The latter. You are really fucked up, Harlowe.

HARLOWE

Ah.

MICHAEL

I'm not really sure the difference.

HARLOWE

One seems more temporary. The other is less fixable.

MICHAEL

Ok, well. We're heading out. Ade and Sebastian booked tickets for us to a house tour—or antique auction—or something like that. So, we gotta go.

HARLOWE

Ah, the perils of being gay and upstate.

He starts to leave.

HARLOWE

I wish you'd stay, so we could...

MICHAEL

You should leave soon too—they're showing the house in a bit.

He goes to leave again.

HARLOWE

Mikey—

MICHAEL

I'll call you. You do have to tell me where the boat is, after all.

HARLOWE

The long con?

MICHAEL

The long. Hard. Con. Don't fuck it up, Harlowe.

HARLOWE

Don't fuck what up?

He exits.

ALLY enters.

ALLY

Hi.

Hi. You're still here.

HARLOWE

I am.

ALLY

I wasn't expecting you. I wasn't expecting us.

HARLOWE

I shaved my legs twice this morning.

ALLY

Hot?

HARLOWE

I couldn't remember if I had already shaved them—because I was thinking about you.

ALLY

In the shower? Hot.

HARLOWE

Harlowe, focus.

ALLY

I'm sorry, I'm nervous.

HARLOWE

Me too.

ALLY

I think I could lo-

HARLOWE

ALLY stops her.

I don't know what's going to happen. But...I don't want to do the easiest thing anymore.

ALLY

Me either.

HARLOWE

They smile and lean in for a kiss.

END OF PLAY.