

SMASHED

Written by

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BLUE PRODUCTION DRAFT
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Super Crispy Entertainment
(310) 922-3933

OVER BLACK:

CLINKING GLASSES and other assorted BAR SOUNDS.

KARAOKE ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Let's give a hand to Rodney!

Scattered APPLAUSE and LAUGHTER.

KARAOKE ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Next up, we've got a little lady
named...KATE!

Joyful APPLAUSE.

BAR VOICES (V.O.)
Yeah, Kate!

THE OPENING MUZAK STRAINS OF A "KARAOKE SONG TO BE
DETERMINED"

FADE IN:

1 INT. KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT 1

CLOSE ON: KATE HANNAH -- late-20s, pretty and wholesome and, *
oh yeah, piss drunk. She stands on a tiny

KARAOKE STAGE

in the far corner of a half-empty dive bar.

Kate holds a MICROPHONE and dances as she SINGS a bad karaoke
version of "SONG TO BE DETERMINED." What Kate lacks in talent
she more than makes up for with charm and enthusiasm.

At a table near the stage is --

-- CHARLIE HANNAH: Kate's husband, late-20's, scruffy but *
handsome, also pretty damn drunk. He enthusiastically claps
and points to Kate, making up a cheering section along with --

-- OWEN HANNAH -- Charlie's younger brother, early-20's -- *
who sings along with --

-- the small but energetic CROWD.

Kate begins to ramble between verses -- and gleefully points
to Charlie and Owen. For the moment, this drunk girl is the
Queen of Karaoke.

LATER

Kate finishes the song and drunkenly tumbles off the stage to join Charlie and Owen.

CHARLIE
That was so good, baby!

KATE
Bullshit.

CHARLIE
I'm serious. You sing like an angel
-- a drunk angel.

Owen and Kate LAUGH.

KATE
If you were writing about my
performance for your blog, what
would you say?

CHARLIE
I'd say that, uh...my wife is the
sexiest, most amazing woman alive.

KATE
That would be such a shitty article
-- nobody would read it.

Kate and Charlie laugh and kiss -- and then Kate glances at Owen and makes a puppy dog face.

KATE (CONT'D)
(to Owen)
Aw...we need to find you a lady,
Owen.

OWEN
Yeah -- I've been trying to flirt
with the bartender, but...I can't
tell.

Owen motions to the --

-- FEMALE BARTENDER, early 20's.

*

KATE
She's hot! What can't you tell?

OWEN
She looks like she could kick my
ass. No way would she go for a guy
like me.

KATE
You're being a little girl -- just
go talk to her.

OWEN
(clearly shy)
I don't know...forget about it.

KATE
(not going to take "no"
for an answer)
I'll take point -- follow me.

Kate stumbles to the bar. Charlie and Owen follow. Kate puts her arms around Owen and gets the attention of the bartender.

KATE (CONT'D)
I want to buy a gimlet for me and a
double-shot of whiskey for my
brother-in-law 'cause he's had a
hard week.

FEMALE BARTENDER
'Kay.

The bartender quickly pours the drinks.

FEMALE BARTENDER (CONT'D)
That's fifteen.

KATE
Wait -- don't you wanna know what
happened to him?

The bartender rolls her eyes and checks around the bar to see if there are other customers. It's pretty dead -- so she listens.

FEMALE BARTENDER
(unenthused)
What happened?

KATE
He just got back from England --
because he went there for a girl! A
preppy, bitchy girl. Diane
Court...that was her name. He loved
her so much that he went with her
because she had a fellowship or
something. He gave up being a
kickboxer. A kickboxer!
(sad)
And she dumped him.

*

The bartender sizes up Owen. The trio waits with anticipation to hear her response, which is --

FEMALE BARTENDER

(to Owen)
You kickbox?

OWEN

(caught in the headlights)
Yeah.

And...that's all Owen's got.

KATE

(jumping in)
And he teaches kids at the
kickboxing studio. Oh, they're so
cute!

The bartender glances back to Owen.

OWEN

(finally)
A lot of 'em don't have parents --
so...it's kinda more than just a
teacher/student thing.
(beat)
I know it sounds silly, but I feel
responsible for them -- like...
(emotional)
...I could be their parent.

Kate slides down the bar to Charlie.

KATE

(hushed)
I think I got him laid.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

KATE

She seems totally game.

CHARLIE

Sure she just didn't want to get
into your pants?

Kate rolls her eyes.

KATE

I think I'm done for the night.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

Owen wanders over, dejected. *

OWEN

She's seen "Say Anything."

CHARLIE

Eh, well...what're you gonna do, huh?

(beat)

Wanna drive us home?

KATE

No -- he needs to keep working it!
You guys stay here. *

CHARLIE

I don't want to watch my brother
not score. I want to go to bed with
you and...

(whispered into Kate's
ear)

...you know.

KATE

I'll be home when you get there. We
can "you know" then.

OWEN

(to Charlie)

Yeah, man -- you don't have a job
to wake up for in the morning or
anything.

CHARLIE

Writing is a job! Not having to
report to an office only makes work
harder.

(to Kate)

Baby, you drank a lot. I think Owen
should take us home -- you're too
drunk to drive.

KATE

So's Owen.

(suddenly focused)

I'm not that drunk. Besides, you
know I focus when I drive -- it
sobers me up.

CHARLIE

Tell that to the cops.

Kate kisses Charlie and hugs Owen.

KATE
 (to Charlie)
 I love you, baby. I'll be waiting
 for you in a nice warm bed. You
 have exactly one mission: get your
 brother laid -- and don't talk to
 any other women.

Beat.

CHARLIE
 That sounds like two missions.

KATE
 No, it's just one.

CHARLIE
 (to Owen)
 It kinda sounded like two, right?

OWEN
 (nodding)
 It did.

Kate grins and slowly backs away towards the door.

KATE
 (really fast)
 GoodbyeIloveyouboth!

2 EXT. **KARAOKE** BAR - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

2 *

Kate stumbles out of the bar and hears a GROAN. She glances
 over and sees:

A drunk woman -- FREDA, 30s -- sitting on the curb. She MOANS
 again.

Kate glances around the parking lot. Nobody else but her and
 Freda.

KATE
 You okay?

FREDA
 (quick)
 Yeah. Are you?

KATE
 (taken aback)
 Um...sure.

FREDA

Good.

(whispers)

Hey, I'm not really okay.

KATE

Oh...

FREDA

My bitch sister just took off and left me here so she could hook up with some asshole. Now what am I supposed to do? Huh? I don't have a car here.

KATE

I guess I could...

FREDA

You'll give me a ride? Oh my god! Thank you!

Freda gets up quickly -- and almost falls over. *

KATE

I was gonna say "call you a cab," 'cause, you know -- I don't even know you.

FREDA

It's not far. Please? Pretty please...?

Kate looks dismayed. Not sure what to do.

CUT TO:

3 INT./EXT. SUBARU (MOVING) - NIGHT 3 *

The car passes through Chinatown on its way downtown. *

Kate drives with Freda in the passenger seat. Freda glances down at the floor and notices a FLASK. *

FREDA

You know, you shouldn't drink and drive.

KATE

I wasn't --

FREDA

Just kidding. Can I have a sip?

Kate's speechless.

FREDA (CONT'D)
I'm really thirsty.

KATE
It's, uh...whiskey.

FREDA
Fuck yeah, it's whiskey! I love whiskey. You're the real thing, huh? A hardcore drinking bitch like me!

Freda takes a swig from Kate's flask.

KATE
I don't know. No.

FREDA
Can I smoke in your car?

KATE
(slightly annoyed)
Okay, fine -- go ahead. Can you just roll down the window?

FREDA
Of course -- I'm not uncivilized.

Freda takes out a --

-- CRACK PIPE and lights it, deeply inhaling crack smoke.

KATE
(in disbelief)
WHOA!

Kate immediately pulls the car over.

KATE (CONT'D)
Not what I thought you meant.

FREDA
Want a hit?

KATE
No, I...is that pot?

FREDA
(as though it's a ridiculous question)
Of course not! What do I look like? A stoner?

(MORE)

FREDA (CONT'D)

(beat)
It's crack.

KATE

Oh, shit! No...no thank you.

FREDA

C'mon -- it's good crack.

KATE

I don't, um...I've never smoked crack.

FREDA

(surprised)
Really? This stuff is the truth --
and it'll sober you up.

KATE

Uh...I think you should go.

FREDA

I'm not getting out in the middle
of nowhere. Do you know what could
happen to me all alone out here at
night?

*

KATE

I don't know -- people might offer
you crack?

FREDA

Seriously? It's not a big deal --
just take a little hit.

Kate and Freda stare at each other. A stand-off.

KATE

I said no.

FREDA

One hit won't hurt you. It'll sober
you up.

Kate glances at the pipe, which Freda wiggles in front of
her.

FREDA (CONT'D)

(high-pitched cartoon
voice)
Smoke me!

Kate LAUGHS.

KATE

One puff. Then we are both going home.

Freda nods. Long beat.

KATE (CONT'D)

Fine.

Freda puts the pipe into Kate's lips and lights it. Kate sucks in crack smoke. Her eyelids flutter.

FREDA

You've got money, right?

4

EXT. DOWNTOWN - STREET - NIGHT

4

Near some TENTS, CARDBOARD BOXES, and SHOPPING CARTS --

-- Kate smokes crack with FREDA and TWO OLDER MEN. They pass around TWO PIPES.

LATER

Freda is passed out on a SLEEPING BAG on the sidewalk.

Kate is animatedly telling a story to the two guys -- who're still smoking crack.

KATE

(mile-a-minute fast)

... 'cause I feel like I understand what it's like to be homeless, ya know? I mean, if you didn't know me, if we hadn't connected tonight, you might think: "There's some upper-middle-class, NPR listening, self-congratulatory, insulated, lazy liberal bitch. Probably never had to worry about anything." But that's not true at all! I grew up poor, man. Single mother. McDonald's used to have one day a week where they sold 29 cent hamburgers, and another day where they had 39 cent cheeseburgers. My mom and me would go there and she'd get twenty burgers -- that was the limit, probably set up for folks just like us -- and then she'd put 'em in the freezer and we'd microwave 'em for dinner throughout the week.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I was kinda overweight until high school, to be perfectly honest. Eating used to be my thing. When I started drinking, though, I kinda stopped eating so much.

(back on track)

But anyway, the point is: You and me, we're not so different.

The two guys aren't paying much attention to Kate. They're more concerned with their crack pipe.

- 5 EXT. DOWNTOWN - SIDEWALK - DAWN 5
 Kate is asleep on the curb. She looks awful. Suddenly, Kate's eyes widen. She looks around at her surroundings, confused, then jumps to her feet.
- 6 EXT. DOWNTOWN - STREETS - DAWN 6
 Kate runs through the streets.
- 6A EXT. DOWNTOWN - STREETS - DAWN 6A *
 We TRACK along with Kate as she dashes past various buildings. *
- 6B EXT. DOWNTOWN - STREET - DAWN 6B *
 We stare down a long, empty street, the downtown SKYSCRAPERS towering in the distance. From out of nowhere -- *
 -- Kate appears at the end of the street and sprints towards the camera. *
- A LEGEND APPEARS OVER THE IMAGE OF KATE RUNNING:

"SMASHED"

- 7 INT./EXT. SUBARU (MOVING) - DAWN 7
 Kate drives -- a paranoid expression on her face and her hands tightly gripping the steering wheel. She glances down at --
 -- her CELL PHONE in the passenger seat. 21 missed calls.

She passes various sites on her way from downtown to Highland Park. *
*

8 EXT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - MORNING 8

Kate slowly pulls into the driveway of a small, cute house.

9 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/HALLWAY/KITCHEN - MORNING 9 *

Kate walks into the kitchen to find --

-- Charlie asleep at the kitchen table. CELL PHONE next to his head. Empty BEER BOTTLES litter the table.

Kate tip-toes across the kitchen.

Charlie quickly jerks up.

CHARLIE
(confused)
Huh?!

KATE
Shhh...it's okay, baby. Go back to sleep.

CHARLIE
What happened? I came home and you were gone and I waited and waited.

KATE
It's a long story.

CHARLIE
I was worried. I kept calling you.

KATE
I ended up...

Charlie SNIFFS Kate.

CHARLIE
You smell funny. What do you smell like?

KATE
I fell asleep in my car. Near the bar. I was too drunk to drive.

CHARLIE

So, why didn't you come back or
call me?

KATE

Charlie --
(beat)
-- I'm fine.

CHARLIE

Well, maybe I'm not. I worry, baby.
I love you -- and you know how you
get sometimes.

KATE

I love you too. But I'm home. It's
over. I gotta get to work.

CHARLIE

I can't be worried about you all
the time.

Kate rubs Charlie's hair and kisses his forehead.

KATE

Don't worry so much. I'm fine.
(beat)
C'mon -- let me get you to bed.

CHARLIE

I'm up now -- how 'bout I make us
bacon and egg sandwiches?

Kate smiles.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(knows he's got her)
Magic words.

10 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - MORNING 10

Kate takes a shower -- while she drinks a BEER. *

Gets dressed.

Puts on make-up.

11 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING 11

Kate walks into the kitchen, ready to go. Charlie is at the
stove, cooking bacon and eggs. He hands Kate a MUG OF COFFEE
and gestures to the table -- where there's a CHECK.

CHARLIE
Check for your mom's on the table.

KATE
Thanks, baby.

Kate takes a sip of coffee.

KATE (CONT'D)
Why does the coffee taste so much
better when you make it?

CHARLIE
Because I make it with love -- and
bacon.

Kate LAUGHS and kisses Charlie.

12	INT./EXT. SUBARU (MOVING) - DAY	12	*
	Kate takes a right on a STREET and then pulls into the		*
	PARKING LOT AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		
	She's about to get out, but then notices...		
	...the FLASK on the floor.		
	A FEW MOMENTS LATER		
	Kate chugs what's left in the flask.		
	ACROSS THE PARKING LOT		*
	MR. DAVIES -- the assistant principal, early-40's, slightly		*
	nerdy but not bad looking, watches --		*
	-- Kate drink in her car.		*
	CHILDREN pass by in the distance.		*
	Mr. Davies takes a beat, but instead of saying anything he		*
	walks away through the parking lot.		*
	Kate doesn't notice she's been seen.		*
13	OMITTED	13	*

14

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

14

Kate stands next to a CHALKBOARD in front of a class of THIRD GRADERS. She's really animated -- doing her "game show hostess" schtick.

On the chalkboard are the letters: "AN"

KATE
(to the class)
Now, if I add a "C," what word do I have?

A STUDENT raises her hand.

KATE (CONT'D)
Yes, **Hillary**?

HILLARY
Can?

KATE
That's correct! Can. You've won an all-expenses paid trip to the blackboard, **Hillary**!

Hillary hesitates. She looks embarrassed.

KATE (CONT'D)
C'mon...there's a washer-dryer combo in it for you.

Hillary shuffles up to the board and writes "CAN."

KATE (CONT'D)
Great job, **Hillary** -- let's give her a round of applause!

The class APPLAUDS.

Hillary smiles and goes back to her seat.

KATE (CONT'D)
Can anyone use "can" in a sentence?

A student -- ANGELA -- raises her hand.

KATE (CONT'D)
Yes?

ANGELA
"Hurry up in there -- I gotta use the can!"

The students GIGGLE.

KATE
 (quickly moving on)
 Wonderful, Angela. You get a Camaro
 with flames painted on the hood.

The students CHEER.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Now --
 (to the class)
 -- what's another word I could make
 by adding a letter to "an"?

Nobody raises their hand.

KATE (CONT'D)
 C'mon...

Finally, a student in the back -- RAMON -- raises his hand.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Yes -- Ramon?

RAMON
 P.

KATE
 P...okay, what word would that make
 if I added a "P"?

RAMON
 Um...pan?

KATE
 Pan! That's right. Ramon
 Martinez...COME ON DOWN!

Ramon walks up and begins to write "PAN."

KATE (CONT'D)
 Wow! Just look at that excellent
 penman --

Kate stops suddenly and raises her hand to her mouth. She
 quickly runs behind her desk, leans over, and discretely --

-- VOMITS on the floor!

Ramon -- who's just inches from the pool of vomit -- looks
 horrified.

Kate glances up from behind her desk to see --

-- the kids all make grossed-out faces and say things like --

KIDS
EW! GRODY! GROSS! YUCK! IT SMELLS
LIKE CHEESE! SLOPPY JOE! GRANDPA!
SHRIMP! BACON!

Embarrassed, Kate quickly gets TISSUES from her desk and begins cleaning up the mess.

KATE
(to the class)
I'm so sorry you had to see that.

HILLARY stands up. *

HILLARY
Mrs. Hannah -- are you pregnant? *

KATE
What?

HILLARY
My mommy threw up when she was
pregnant with my little sister. Are
you pregnant? *

Some of the kids begin WHISPERING (saying things like "Ooh!"
"She's gonna have a baby.").

RAMON
Are you?

Kate seems flustered and says --

KATE
Yes.

15 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

15

Kate sits across a desk from --

-- PRINCIPAL BARNES: female, early 50's, stern, scattered, and clearly a softy at heart, she wears a pair of GLASSES around her neck. *

PRINCIPAL BARNES
Vice Principal Davies will be
looking after your students for the
rest of the day -- so you don't
need to worry about that.

KATE

Oh, that's really good to know.
I'll have to thank him.

(beat)

I just feel awful for getting sick
in front of my students.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

Oh, please -- they're troopers. I'm
sure they've seen plenty worse.

(beat)

So -- how long have you been
pregnant?

KATE

Um...it's the first trimester.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

Well, it's very exciting. You must
be thrilled.

KATE

(nods)

Uh-huh.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

Can I ask a...personal question?

KATE

Okay.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

How's it...

(beat)

...going for you?

KATE

Huh?

PRINCIPAL BARNES

The pregnancy, I mean.

Kate's not sure how to respond.

PRINCIPAL BARNES (CONT'D)

Having kids wasn't in the cards for
me. I came close, but...

Principal Barnes drifts off into thought for a moment, then
catches herself and quickly shifts gears.

PRINCIPAL BARNES (CONT'D)
 ...I mean, it's like I've got a
 couple hundred kids here --
 (forces a laugh)
 -- but...I don't fool myself. It's
 not the same.

KATE
 (considers her reply)
 Well...it's hard to explain.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 Of course...

KATE
 I wouldn't call it a burden, but --

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 It's a responsibility.

Beat.

KATE
 Yeah. Exactly.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 (nods)
 You're so lucky.
 (beat)
 Can I...touch it?

KATE
 Um, I don't...okay -- but it sleeps
 a lot.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 Of course.

KATE
 Like...a lot.

Principal Barnes gets up and kneels next to Kate. She places
 her hand on Kate's belly and closes her eyes.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 (whispers)
 Hello in there. Can you hear me?
 You're a tiny miracle. Did you know
 that? A miracle.

Principal Barnes looks up at Kate and smiles -- with tears in
 her eyes.

16

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

16

Kate walks down the hall and comes to the door of her classroom. Through the glass she sees --

-- Mr. Davies. He notices Kate and smiles (the concerned smile you give someone right after they've publicly embarrassed themselves).

Kate mouths the words --

KATE
(silent)
Thank you.

-- and gestures "come here."

Mr. Davies gestures to the class that he'll be right back -- before he walks out to talk to Kate. He's got a slightly nervous demeanor -- somewhere between "I never became comfortable talking to women" and Asperger's.

MR. DAVIES
Is everything, um...okay, Mrs. Hannah?

KATE
Yeah, well...I'm really embarrassed -- but I feel a lot better. And I just wanted to say thank you.

Mr. Davies glances down the hall.

MR. DAVIES
Look -- I'm not a fool.
(whispered)
I know you were drinking this morning.

Kate looks shocked.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)
I saw you.

KATE
(taken aback)
Oh, no, I...

MR. DAVIES
Drinking when you're pregnant is really dangerous.

KATE
 I know that! Oh, God, I...
 (long beat)
 ...listen -- I'm not actually
 pregnant.

MR. DAVIES
What?

KATE
 I'm just really hung over. The kids
 started asking me questions after I
 vomited and I panicked.

MR. DAVIES
 Oh. That's...not good.

KATE
 I know. I...please don't say
 anything.

Mr. Davies looks torn, unsure how to respond.

MR. DAVIES
 Just...go home. Get some sleep.

Before Kate can say a word, Mr. Davies heads back into the
 classroom.

17 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY 17

Kate has her face fully in the sink while water runs over it
 and --

-- TWO LITTLE GIRLS curiously watch.

18 INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - DAY 18 *

Kate and Charlie play POOL while splitting a PITCHER OF BEER.
 It's a bit early to be drinking, but hey -- why not?

KATE
 I had such a crappy morning.

CHARLIE
 Me too. I spent like three hours at
 the post office trying to buy
 stamps and stuff.

Kate takes a long sip of beer.

KATE

I told my class I was pregnant.

Charlie looks up at Kate with a beaming smile. He leans over and grabs her hand.

CHARLIE

(excited and sort of
confused)

Oh, baby, that's --

KATE

I'm not. Pregnant. So don't worry.

CHARLIE

(deflated)

Oh.

(beat)

'Cause it would be great news -- if
it was true.

(beat)

'Course then I'd have to drink your
beer...

KATE

Well, it was a lie. I just lied to
my class. After barfing in front of
them.

CHARLIE

(cringes)

Ooh...

KATE

Yeah, that's what they said.

(long beat)

Listen...I can't do this anymore.

A look of complete terror and confusion passes over Charlie's face.

CHARLIE

What do you mean?

KATE

I dunno. I think I might...drink
too much.

Charlie LAUGHS.

CHARLIE

Oh. That. Yeah...you kinda do.

Charlie swigs his beer.

KATE

I know I do -- I'm a fucking mess...

CHARLIE

Baby -- that's not true. You're beautiful. And brilliant. And I love you. I wouldn't be married to a "mess."

KATE

I left work after puking in front of little kids. And...now I'm drinking in the middle of the day.

*
*
*

CHARLIE

Well, those things happen sometimes.

(beat)

I mean, they shouldn't happen all the time, but...it's the price of, uh, truly living life.

KATE

Isn't that like a slogan for some kind of beer or toothpaste or something...?

CHARLIE

No. And it's true -- you and me, we're not just some boring couple in the suburbs who don't sleep with each other and have nothing to talk about except whatever TV show they're currently into.

(beat)

We, like...still know how to party.

KATE

Yeah...

(beat)

...I think I need to slow down.

(beat)

And I might need help.

CHARLIE

I'll help you.

KATE

I know, but...I might need more help.

CHARLIE

Yeah? Like a therapist?

KATE

I don't know -- I just get stupid
when I'm drunk, and I'm drunk a
lot.

CHARLIE

We just like to have a good time.

KATE

Yeah, well...

(beat)

...you've gotta promise not to tell
this to anyone.

CHARLIE

(curious)

I promise.

KATE

That includes Owen.

CHARLIE

Of course.

KATE

Well, last night I kinda, um...

(hushed)

...smoked some crack.

CHARLIE

WHAT?!

Some bar patrons glance at Kate and Charlie.

KATE

After I left the bar, I, uh, picked
up this drunk girl and...I don't
really remember what came next, but
I ended up smoking crack with her.

CHARLIE

(confused)

Uh...how's that even happen?

(beat)

You give someone a ride and she
rewards you with crack?!

KATE

Well...she seemed desperate. She
really needed a ride home.

CHARLIE

Where?

KATE
Downtown. I think she maybe lives
in...a tent?

CHARLIE
What?

KATE
Well...she might be homeless. Or a
prostitute. Or just some lost
sorority girl.
(thinks about it)
To be honest, I'm not sure...

CHARLIE
(disgusted)
Oh, my god...you smoked crack with
some random stranger? Did
you...share a pipe?

Kate doesn't answer. She doesn't need to.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Ughhh...
(beat)
Just playing Devil's advocate, but
maybe it's the crack-smoking you
need help with and not the
drinking.

Kate gives Charlie a dirty look.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I'm just saying.

KATE
The drinking led to the crack-
smoking. The drinking leads to
everything stupid I do.
(beat)
I mean...can you even remember the
last time we had sober sex?

Charlie begins to answer, but then...goes blank. He tries to
remember. And can't.

CHARLIE
We'll chill out with the booze for
a while. We can just be wine-with-
dinner people.
(beat)
How's that sound?

*

19

EXT. STREET - DAY

19

Kate and Charlie joyfully ride BICYCLES home from the bar.

CHARLIE

Maybe you should go to, uh... one of those meetings. They have 'em over there.

Charlie gestures to a

BUILDING (could be a church or different type of building where AA meets).

Kate LAUGHS.

KATE

Yeah, right.

CHARLIE

Remember when I was shit-faced and took that Q & A pamphlet from there?

KATE

(laughs)

Holy shit! And we answered "yes" to like every question and at the end it was like, "If you answered 'yes' to any of these you're an alcoholic!"

CHARLIE

Yeah...

(nostalgic)

...that was fun, wasn't it?

Kate smiles and nods.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey --

Charlie gestures to the street.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

-- look out for that crack!

Kate looks down but sees nothing.

KATE

What crack?

CHARLIE

Oh, sorry -- I thought there was a crack there...

(grins)

...but you must have smoked it last night.

Kate rolls her eyes -- and then jokingly swerves towards Charlie, trying to knock him over. He LAUGHS and speeds away. Kate chases after him.

20

INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

20

While an old 70's R & B song plays on a RECORD PLAYER, which is next to STACKS AND STACKS OF RECORDS --

-- Kate and Charlie drunkenly slow dance, drink WINE, and LAUGH at an AA PAMPHLET.

*

CHARLIE

"Have you missed days of work or school because of drinking?"

KATE

Absolutely.

CHARLIE

"Do you envy people who can drink without getting into trouble?"

KATE

Envy isn't exactly the right word...

CHARLIE

"Do you have 'blackouts'?"

KATE

Yeah, but who doesn't?

CHARLIE

"Has your drinking caused trouble at home?"

KATE

No! We're great.

CHARLIE

Yeah. Definitely. But we still had a lot of "yes" answers.

(refers to pamphlet)

Yep...we still qualify as drunks.

KATE
I'm gonna go!

CHARLIE
(disbelief)
Yeah, right.

KATE
No -- I'm serious! I'm gonna go.
What time is it?

CHARLIE
Eight.

Kate gets up.

KATE
See ya.

CHARLIE
(doesn't believe her)
Uh-huh...

Kate takes a big sip of wine.

KATE
(quite serious)
This is me: going.

Charlie LAUGHS -- he doesn't buy it.

CHARLIE
You've been boozing.

KATE
So? You should come too!

Charlie LAUGHS.

CHARLIE
Yeah, right. You can't go to AA
wasted. It's like a rule or
something.

KATE
Oh, yeah? Watch me!

21 INT. MEETING HALL - NIGHT

21

An AA meeting is in progress.

An OLDER WOMAN stands at the podium sharing her story.

The room is filled with --

-- different groups of PEOPLE, all of whom sit with their "own group," like a high school lunch room -- but the people are adults. There are distinct groups of --

-- "PRETTY WOMEN" --

-- "OBSESSIVELY TATTOOED PEOPLE" --

-- "BUSINESSMEN" --

-- and "HIPSTERS."

As Kate -- who's slightly confused -- enters the building, a hip looking man -- DONOVAN, 30's -- stops her, extending his hand.

DONOVAN

(whispers)

Hey, I'm Donovan. Welcome.

KATE

Hi Donovan -- I'm Kate!

Donovan "shushes" Kate.

DONOVAN

You must be a newcomer, huh?

KATE

A what?

DONOVAN

(whispers)

Um, I'm not really allowed to talk to new chicks, but there are lots of women here who can help you out.

KATE

(confused)

Okay.

(beat)

Do I just sit wherever?

DONOVAN

The meeting already started so just try to find a spot anywhere.

Kate drunkenly stumbles to the back of the room, saying things like "sorry" and "I like that jacket" as she takes a seat next to two very CLEAN CUT WOMEN.

As the woman at the podium continues to speak, the women next to Kate quietly try to welcome her.

LILY

Are you new? *

KATE

To this? Yeah. Why's everyone
whispering?

SHANA

It's hard, huh? *

KATE

I guess.

LILY

Everything's going to be fine.
You're home. *

Kate doesn't respond -- just looks around with the fear anyone would have if they felt they had just accidentally joined Jim Jones' church.

LATER

The room is COMPLETELY FULL -- with over ONE-HUNDRED PEOPLE.

The tattooed man stands at the podium.

TATTOO MAN

Not to embarrass anyone, but so
that we may get to know you better -
- is there anybody here in their
first thirty days of recovery?

Several PEOPLE scattered throughout the room stand up and introduce themselves as alcoholics.

Kate stands up.

KATE

I'm Kate. I...I'm...I guess I'm a
little drunk right now.

People burst into LAUGHTER.

KATE (CONT'D)

Do you want me to talk about my
childhood or something?

TATTOO MAN

(painfully polite)

You know, Kate, we actually ask that you don't share if you've had a drink or any mind-altering substance in the past 24 hours.

*

KATE

(not listening)

I can -- I kinda hate my dad and don't talk to him. And my mom...oh, man...I don't even know where to start. She's, like, stuck in the 80's and kind of a metalhead. Her last boyfriend called himself a drummer but really just gave drum lessons to little kids and --

TATTOO MAN

(tries to shut Kate up)

Welcome, Kate.

(forces a smile)

It gets better.

KATE

(not picking up the hint)

I like drinking is the thing. I mean, I don't want to say you guys are wrong or anything...

Kate nervously LAUGHS.

Some of the PEOPLE in the crowd look embarrassed for Kate.

TATTOO MAN

Thank you -- we're all here to help. We do have to move on, though.

The woman next to Kate gets her to sit back down.

LILY

Don't worry, sweetie -- there'll be plenty of time to tell your story.

*

A young woman -- AMBER, 22 -- approaches the podium.

AMBER

Hey, I'm Amber, alcoholic. I can't really believe that it's been five years. I mean, my life was a mess back then. Now I'm back in school, I have an amazing man, I love my parents -- it's crazy...

KATE
 (way too loud)
 How old is that girl?! Can she even
 go to bars?
 (to Amber)
 How old are you, Amber?

SHANA
 Be respectful.

*

Kate seems surprised at being chastised.

AMBER
 (gaining intensity)
 Um...okay? It's because I did the
 work. I got down on my knees and
 prayed every night! I went to a
 meeting everyday!

KATE
 Everyday?

AMBER
 It wasn't easy, but I've gotta say,
 I owe everything to AA. Well, AA --
 and God, of course!

The whole room APPLAUDS.

LATER

Everyone is standing, holding hands, and saying the SERENITY
 PRAYER.

EVERYONE
 God grant me the serenity to accept
 the things I cannot change --
 courage to change the things I can -
 - and wisdom to know the
 difference.

KATE
 AMEN!

Everyone turns and looks at Kate.

KATE (CONT'D)
 (embarrassed)
 Okay...I think I'm good.

Kate quickly leaves the meeting as clumsily as she arrived.

22

EXT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

22

Kate chugs frozen Margarita straight from a PITCHER.

KATE

So much for that.

Kate and Charlie stand in their backyard, which is criss-crossed by WHITE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS and has some old LAWN FURNITURE.

They drunkenly play CROQUET.

*

CHARLIE

Was it a bunch of old biker guys?

KATE

No, it was...I don't know.
Enthusiastic people. A lot of
really ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE!

CHARLIE

Yuck -- I hate enthusiasm. I'm
sorry it wasn't cool.

Charlie thinks for a moment.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I can't really imagine never
drinking. I guess I don't have to,
though --
(beat)
-- you're the one with the problem.

Kate nods in agreement.

*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey -- I love you. I don't want you
to have to drink.

KATE

I don't have to drink.

(beat)

I just really like to drink.

*

CHARLIE

(sincere)

Good -- 'cause you're my favorite
person to drink with in the whole
damn world.

Charlie leans in to kiss Kate. They make out for a moment,
and then Kate...

...BITES Charlie's lip. Charlie pulls back, shocked. Kate grins mischievously.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, no you didn't!

Charlie lunges at Kate, who dodges him and LAUGHS. Charlie dives and playfully tackles Kate. They begin to wrestle in the grass -- it's cute and loving but perhaps a little too intense.

23 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 23

Kate and Charlie are making out on the bed. Kate starts to unbutton Charlie's shirt. As it turns out, Charlie's extremely drunk (and it's apparent in his movements and voice).

CHARLIE

Are you trying to have some sex?

Kate removes Charlie's pants and takes off her clothing. She climbs on top of him and --

-- they start having sloppy, drunk sex.

After a few beats, Kate notices that Charlie isn't moving. She looks down to discover that --

-- he's passed out.

Kate pauses for a moment...then continues to ride her unconscious husband.

24 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 24

Kate drinks what's left in the TEQUILA BOTTLE as she drunkenly searches the fridge, counter, and cupboard for more booze. She finds a few sips here and there at the bottom of a couple BEER BOTTLES -- but she seems frustrated that there isn't more alcohol in the house.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Kate puts on her slippers, robe and --

25 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 25

Kate drunkenly rides a BICYCLE down the street (still in her robe and slippers).

26

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

26

Kate tries to open the LOCKED glass fridge where the BEER is kept. After several attempts, she gives up and grabs TWO BOTTLES OF WINE from a shelf.

Kate sets the bottles on the counter. *

The CLERK -- a tired looking man in his 30's -- looks at Kate with pity.

CLERK

You know I can't sell you this,
Kate.

An ELDERLY MAN -- shopping for frozen food -- glances over at Kate. *

KATE

What? You can't tell I'm 21? Come on -- I'm in here all the time. You know me.

CLERK

Yes, I do, Kate. And I know you're old enough -- but it's too late.

The clerk holds up his WATCH (which reads 2:45).

KATE

C'mon -- we can just pretend it's before two...

Kate reaches down and tries to rewind the clerk's watch.

CLERK

(not amused)
Stop it.

KATE

It's just a little wine. I'm not driving or anything.

CLERK

I don't think so. Sorry.

Kate gives him a big, flirty smile.

KATE

Come on, dude -- I'll let you have a sip if you want.

Kate tries to do a "sexy" dance.

CLERK

It's the law. I can't sell alcohol
after 2 a.m. You know that.

KATE

Why don't you give it to me, then?
That wouldn't hurt anything. A gift
-- because we're friends.

CLERK

I could lose my job.

Kate doesn't have anything to say back -- so she glances at
the Elderly Man in the frozen food section. *

KATE

(to the elderly man; meant
to be a whisper, but way
too loud)

You distract him, okay?!

The elderly man puts up his hands, not wanting any part of
it.

CLERK

Look -- why don't you get a bottle
of water or a coffee or something
instead?

KATE

Water or coffee? Fuck you. What --
just cause I won't suck your dick?

CLERK

(had enough)

Oh my god. Okay, enough -- you
gotta go.

Kate doesn't budge.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Seriously, Kate. You should go.

KATE

Fuck you! Fuck you! Fuck you!

Kate is hysterical and her eyes are starting to fill with
tears.

KATE (CONT'D)

This is bullshit!

(beat)

I have to pee.

Kate runs down the aisle and tries to open the bathroom door -
- but it's locked. She hides from view, and then squats down
and begins to pull up her robe.

CLERK

What the fuck are you doing?!

KATE

(caught)

I didn't mean to! Sometimes I just
have to pee really, really bad. *

CLERK

(frustrated)

Get outta here NOW!

KATE

(pleads)

C'mon...can't we drink together?

The clerk clearly isn't going to budge. Kate nods, resigned,
and then...

...grabs a BOTTLE OF WINE and dashes out the door.

27 EXT. L.A. RIVER - DAWN

27

Kate is passed out on the concrete bank of the Los Angeles
River. The empty bottle of (screw top) wine is next to her.

Kate's bicycle lays in some weeds nearby.

A bird SQUAWKS.

Kate slowly wakes up, confused, and in a zombie-like state
she gets up and trudges home, wheeling along her bike.

28 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

28

Kate is awakened by the deafeningly loud ALARM CLOCK and the
sound of a news radio ANNOUNCER. She looks at the clock and
realizes that --

-- it's 7:30.

She jumps out of bed in a panic.

KATE

Charlie!

Kate pauses when she realizes her back is wet. She looks down
at the bed, which is --

-- COMPLETELY SOAKED.

KATE (CONT'D)
 (mumbled)
 Not again.

Half-asleep, Charlie rolls over onto the pee-soaked part of the bed.

CHARLIE
 Come back to bed, baby.

KATE
 I have to go to work. You snoozed my alarm again. I'm gonna be late.

CHARLIE
 Well, you peed on me so I guess
 we're even.

*
 *

KATE
 I have a weak bladder.

CHARLIE
 Well...I can't go to work like this.

KATE
 You work from our kitchen.

CHARLIE
 Yeah, but changing the sheets is my real job.
 (beat)
 Hey -- where were you last night?

KATE
 Huh?

CHARLIE
 I woke up at like 4 a.m. and you were gone.

KATE
 Where would I go at 4 a.m. alone?
 You must've been dreaming.

Kate then glances down and notices --

-- that HER FEET ARE COVERED IN DIRT AND GRASS.

She pauses, slightly alarmed, but continues getting ready.

29 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - BATHROOM - STALL - DAY

29

Kate's on her knees, puking into a toilet.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Kate exits the stall to find --

-- Principal Barnes standing by the door.

KATE

I...

PRINCIPAL BARNES

I can only imagine the chemistry
experiment that's going on --

Barnes points at Kate's stomach.

PRINCIPAL BARNES (CONT'D)

(smiles)

-- in there.

30 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

30

Kate sits on a SMALL CHAIR reading a CHILDREN'S BOOK to her
class --

-- who're sitting Indian style in a semi-circle.

RAMON

Are you gonna have a boy or a girl?

KATE

I don't know yet.

HILLARY

When will you know?

KATE

Not until summertime. You guys will
be on vacation.

RAMON

If you have a boy what will you
name him?

KATE

Maybe...Woodrow Wilson?

ANGELA

That's a name for a man -- not a
baby!

*

The children LAUGH.

Kate LAUGHS too -- but looks a little freaked out.

31

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY

31

Kate eats her PACKED LUNCH with Mr. Davies.

KATE

Thanks again for covering for me.

MR. DAVIES

I can't promise to cover for you every time you get pregnant.

KATE

There won't be another time.

MR. DAVIES

I genuinely hope not. Look -- I didn't tell Barnes, but if anything like this happens again I'll have to.

Mr. Davies smiles -- a sweet, genuine smile.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

Okay...Kate?

KATE

(nodding)

Okay...

(not sure what to say)

...David?

Beat.

MR. DAVIES

Dave.

Kate tries to hold back a smile.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

I know -- Dave Davies...yup...hah-hah. Anyway, uh, is everything okay with you?

KATE

I don't know.

(beat)

Um...no?

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
 I puked in front of my class and
 then told everyone I'm pregnant.
 That's not really okay, huh?

MR. DAVIES
 No, I don't think so.

KATE
 I went to AA last night.

MR. DAVIES
 (slightly uncomfortable)
 Oh, yeah? What'd you think of it?

KATE
 It was awful. I kept getting
 shushed.

MR. DAVIES
 I don't normally tell people I work
 with this... but --

Mr. Davies takes a COIN that says "Nine Years" out of his
 pocket and shows it to Kate.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)
 -- I'm a bit of an expert when it
 comes to these things.

KATE
 (shocked)
 You?

MR. DAVIES
 Yeah, me. I've lived a strange one. *
 I'm nine years sober, AA and NA.
 (beat)
 I used to drink cocaine.
 (off Kate's shocked
 expression)
 It's really cheap in the
 Philippines.

Mr. Davies takes a beat to think about what he's saying.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)
 Listen, Kate. I know meetings can
 be weird. Especially at first, but
 if you want to...you never need to
 feel like you have to...but the
 ones I go to are pretty small. Nice
 little groups.
 (beat)
 I'd be happy to take you.

KATE

Maybe that would be good...I don't know.

MR. DAVIES

No pressure, okay. That shit saved my life, though.

Principal Barnes walks in.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

(switching gears)

Well, I'm scheduled to observe Ms. Carol's art class. They're making macaroni art, so...I'm pretty stoked.

Mr. Davies gets up to leave -- discretely winking at Kate as he exits.

Principal Barnes watches Mr. Davies leave, a puzzled expression on her face.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

(to Kate)

Mrs. Hannah -- I've got something for you...

Principal Barnes opens the MINI FRIDGE to reveal a huge jug of ORANGE JUICE.

PRINCIPAL BARNES (CONT'D)

Folic Acid! You need it now like never before.

KATE

(beat)

Thanks.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

I bet your mother is over the moon, huh? Probably planning you a baby shower...?

KATE

Oh, well...she and I aren't that close.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

Oh, I'm sorry. Well, listen -- any motherly thing you need -- I'm here, okay?

*

Barnes hands Kate a large glass of juice.

PRINCIPAL BARNES (CONT'D)
 Now drink up -- that baby in
 there's thirsty!

KATE
 Okay.
 (takes a sip of orange
 juice)
 And...you're kinda the only person
 at school -- besides Mr. Davies --
 who knows I'm pregnant. Could
 you...?

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 My lips are --

Principal Barnes mimes "zipping" her lips.

32 EXT./INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY * *

Kate walks in the front door to see -- *

-- Charlie working on his computer. A BEER next to him. An
 old record PLAYS on the record player.

KATE
 Hey...

CHARLIE
 Howdy.

Kate collapses on the couch next to Charlie and kisses him.

KATE
 How was your day? And what's that
 smell?

CHARLIE
 Eh -- alright. Couldn't find
 oatmeal so I made ketchup soup.

KATE
 (cringes)
 Charlie! You need to eat.

CHARLIE
 What? It's tasty.
 (beat)
 So...I'm going to see that band
 from Iceland with the triplets play *
 tonight. Want to come with me and *
 Owen to check it out?

KATE
Oh, that sounds fun, but...

CHARLIE
C'mon -- Owen can't pick up girls
without you.

KATE
I don't know...this guy I work with
-- Mr. Davies --

CHARLIE
The Vice Principal?

KATE
Yeah -- turns out he's sober and
invited me to a meeting.

CHARLIE
(surprised)
Wow, that's...uh, cool.

Charlie goes silent.

KATE
What?

CHARLIE
Nothing -- I just...I didn't think
you really loved the meeting you
went to yesterday. In fact, it
sounded like you hated it. So I'm
kinda surprised you're going back.

KATE
Well...this is a smaller meeting.
It might be different. I dunno -- I
think I want to give it a fair
shot.

Charlie nods.

KATE (CONT'D)
Besides -- I was hammered last
night.
(beat)
Go on and have fun out drinking
with Owen tonight. Seriously. I'm
just gonna, you know, try something
different...

*

Charlie pulls Kate close to him.

CHARLIE

I'm here for you, okay? Even though
I drink -- I could slow down if you
need me to.

(forces a smile)

I'm sure I could.

33 EXT. CHURCH - AA MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 33

Kate approaches a small church.

Mr. Davies waits outside.

35 INT. CHURCH - AA MEETING ROOM - NIGHT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER³⁵

Mr. Davies walks Kate into a medium sized room where --

-- about TEN PEOPLE are getting coffee, talking, and setting
CHAIRS IN A CIRCLE.

Kate looks around the room, scoping out the people, who're
very different from the crowd at the previous night's meeting
--

-- several BLUE COLLAR MEN --

-- JENNY: 40-ish, with dark hair and a confident, sort of
tough demeanor -- *

-- a few OLDER PEOPLE, and a YOUNG COUPLE.

Mr. Davies directs Kate over to a table with COFFEE and
COOKIES.

MR. DAVIES

This is a little more my speed. No
one here is the slightest bit hip.

KATE

Does everybody just...kinda, you
know -- talk here?

MR. DAVIES

Pretty much. Someone leads -- tells
their story. And then everyone else
shares -- talks.

KATE

So since you're taking me here does
that make you my sponsor?

MR. DAVIES

No -- I **don't think I could** do that. *

(off Kate's expression)

'Cause, um...

(nervously searches)

...**well, it could get weird.** But I'll help you find one if you want. *

(gestures to the seats)

We should sit down.

Kate looks around the room at everyone taking their seats.

KATE

(takes a deep breath; to Mr. Davies)

I can't believe I'm really here.

MR. DAVIES

It gets better. Weirder, maybe -- but better.

LATER

The meeting has begun and everyone sits in a circle of chairs.

Jenny is midway through her speech. *

JENNY *

...all I knew about taking care of myself was fucking people over and lying to get by. I had no idea how to even look for a normal job or pay my bills on time -- or pay my fucking bills at all.

(beat)

Now I pay my bills online.

The group CHUCKLES.

JENNY (CONT'D) *

And I found a love in **cooking**. I've got my own **catering business** now. *

And...maybe I just replaced alcohol with chocolate chips and cigarettes, but still...it's been years since I woke up in a park -- in a different state. *

LAUGHTER.

Kate leans in towards Mr. Davies and whispers --

KATE
I kinda like her.

MR. DAVIES
Sponsor potential?

Kate nods.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)
Get her number at break.

KATE
I feel like you're my wingman.

Kate grins at Mr. Davies, who smiles shyly and glances away.

LATER

An older man -- ARLO -- stands and announces.

ARLO
Arlo, Alcoholic. There'll now be a
ten minute break. Smoke em' if you
got em.

As some of the PEOPLE go outside --

-- Kate walks over to Jenny, who's getting a cup of coffee.

KATE
Hey, I liked your speech.

JENNY
Thanks. All that dumb shit happened
so I'm glad that now it's at least
entertaining.
(beat)
What's your name?

KATE
Kate. This is my first meeting.
Or... first meeting where I'm not
wasted.

Jenny LAUGHS.

JENNY
Oh, yeah -- I remember doing some
of that.

KATE
I don't really know how this stuff
works.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

But...could I get your number? I mean, I may not need it, but...

JENNY

Yeah, of course. I can help explain it to you -- and also, we can just talk.

KATE

Okay. Yeah.

(beat)

You've been sober since you were 24?

Jenny nods.

KATE (CONT'D)

That seems really young.

JENNY

I didn't have much of a choice -- I crashed my car into a nursing home.

(beat)

I think the break is just about over. This meeting is the kind where everyone can share. Sharing always helps me, so...if it's not too weird -- try introducing yourself and telling the group what's going on.

LATER

Everyone is sitting down and sharing. The woman (TINA) next to Kate is finishing up.

TINA

...anyway, that's where I'm at today. Thanks for listening.

Everyone looks at Kate.

KATE

Okay, um...hello. I'm Kate and...

(long beat)

...I'm an alcoholic?

Kate nervously LAUGHS.

GROUP

Hi, Kate.

KATE

Sorry. I don't mean to laugh --
it's just saying those words...

(beat)

...I think I'm an alcoholic, but I
don't really know. I drink -- a
lot. I've always drank. Everyone I
know drinks a lot. I never really
thought I had a problem -- lately
though it seems like maybe I do. I
just want to be able to drink a
beer without it turning into twenty
-- or wetting my bed.

(beat)

It seems like every time I drink
something awful happens. All the
shit that I used to laugh off isn't
really funny anymore. The dumb
drunk stuff has gone from
embarrassing to scary.

(beat)

I'm kinda...scared.

Kate stops. Looks around self-consciously.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

A SERIES OF short, quick scenes:

35 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY 35

Kate sits at her desk grading papers. Kate's hand has an uncontrollable tremble as she tries to carefully make red checks on students' papers. Self-consciously, she steadies her right hand with her left. *

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

36 INT. SUBARU (MOVING) - DAY 36

Kate shovels chocolate chips from the bag into her mouth while driving.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

37 INT. CHURCH - AA MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 37

Kate is at a meeting -- talking to Jenny. *

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

38 EXT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT 38

While Kate and Charlie eat dinner, Kate drinks WATER but focuses on Charlie's glass of WINE and the slow, careful sips he takes.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

39 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 39

Charlie and Owen play video games and LAUGH while Kate tries to concentrate on a book -- but is clearly distracted by how loud the guys are.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

40 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 40

Charlie sleeps on the other side of the bed as Kate writes in a notebook. Kate stops writing. She stares at Charlie as he sleeps.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

41 EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY 41

Kate rides her bicycle hard. It might even be...exercise?

FADE TO BLACK.

MR. DAVIES (V.O.)
How about ninety days?

FADE IN:

42 INT. CHURCH - AA MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 42

EVERYONE is dressed differently, some people have different hair-cuts, etc.

Mr. Davies stands up, holding a PLASTIC CASE.

MR. DAVIES

Is there anyone here who has ninety days of continuous sobriety?

Kate stands up -- she looks way more "together" than she did earlier. She gives Mr. Davies a hug -- and he hands her a "90 DAY CHIP."

KATE

I'm Kate. I'm an alcoholic.

Everyone CLAPS.

EVERYONE

Hi, Kate.

Kate sits down next to Jenny and gives her a hug. *

JENNY *

(whispered)
Congratulations.

43 EXT. JENNY'S CATERING BUSINESS - NIGHT 43 *

Kate -- who eats a piece of CAKE -- sits on a patio with Jenny, Mr. Davies, and several other PEOPLE from AA. *

JENNY *

I'm really proud of you, Kate.

KATE

I kinda can't believe it's been ninety days.

(beat)

The longest I've gone since high school without drinking was, like, a week.

MR. DAVIES

My first three months were such hell. I think I'm only sober today because I just never want to go through that again.

KATE

It's weird -- in after-school specials the getting-sober part was only like a minute of the movie and suddenly...daddy's all okay.

Several people LAUGH.

KATE (CONT'D)

But it's so fucking hard and weird and suddenly I have all these other problems now that drinking isn't the problem.

JENNY

Like what?

*
*

KATE

Everything else. Work, my non-existent relationship with my mom...

JENNY

When was the last time you saw her?

*

KATE

(tries to remember)
A year, at least.

JENNY

Well...maybe it's time.

*

KATE

Maybe.

(beat)

And then there's my marriage. I mean, Charlie's great. Really great, he's supportive, especially at first. It's strange, though. I feel like alcohol was the thing that connected us and now that I don't drink we lead these two very different lives.

(beat)

We haven't slept together in forever...

(laughs)

I haven't pissed myself in awhile, though. So that's good.

JENNY

It takes time.

*

Kate gives an exasperated look.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(half-stern cheerleader
tone)

Keep working the steps.

(glances at her watch)

Let's grab coffee tomorrow, okay? I
should actually run you home now
and come back. I need to start
locking up.

KATE

I could stick around and help
you...

MR. DAVIES

(to Kate)

I could take you home.

(off Kate's reaction)

If you want.

44 INT./EXT. MR. DAVIES' CAR - NIGHT

44 *

Mr. Davies pulls up to Kate's house.

MR. DAVIES

My ex-wife -- she doesn't drink --
well, not like us, but as soon as I
got sober I started to change and
she just...didn't.

KATE

I didn't know you were married.

Beat.

MR. DAVIES

Yeah, I was married once --

(laughs)

-- in my other life. But I
shouldn't be talking to you about
this stuff.

KATE

Why?

MR. DAVIES

I don't know...

KATE

Because you're a dude we can't
talk? I don't get that "men stick
with men, women stick with women"
stuff.

MR. DAVIES

Well, if you were sitting where I'm sitting you'd understand.

KATE

Are you trying to tell me that you have a crush on me?

MR. DAVIES

What am I, one of your students?
Crush?

*

KATE

Yeah, crush.

MR. DAVIES

(long beat)

I kind of do, yes. I have a crush on you. I know that's wrong -- you're newly sober and married and I shouldn't be thinking about you like that. But yeah, I should put that out on the table.

(beat)

Honesty.

KATE

It's okay. I think you're a really good guy.

MR. DAVIES

Oh, great -- good guys are the nerds that carry the pretty girls' books.

KATE

Oh, c'mon...

MR. DAVIES

I think you're beautiful.

Kate smiles bashfully.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

And smart, and sexy, and cool...

Mr. Davies moves slightly closer to Kate.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

And I know it's wrong, but -- in meetings I stare at your lips and your legs and all I can think about is fucking your moist pussy.

Kate jumps back, aghast.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)
 (off Kate's horrified
 expression)
 Oh, crap! I don't know why I just
 said that. I'm really, really
 sorry.

KATE
 WHAT THE FUCK?

MR. DAVIES
 (genuinely sorry)
 Oh, that was a bad thing to say,
 right?

KATE
 YES.

MR. DAVIES
 I'm so, so sorry. I'm just
 confused, and I don't know how to
 talk to women --

KATE
 Jesus -- you can't just go around
 telling people you want to fuck
 their "moist pussy."
 (beat)
 Who even says that?

MR. DAVIES
 I'm really sorry.

Kate gets out of the car, slams the door shut, then leans in
 to say --

KATE
 I have to go inside my house --
 where I live with my husband.
 (beat)
 Thanks for your creepy version of
 honesty.

45 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

45

Kate lies in bed and appears slightly bored as --

-- Charlie is under the covers, going down on Kate.

KATE
 You okay?

CHARLIE
 (from under the covers)
 Yep -- I'm just pacing myself. The
 tortoise wins the race.

KATE
 Actually, I'm not really in the
 mood.

CHARLIE
 But I wanted to give you a 90 days
 gift. *

KATE
 It's okay -- the 90 days was the
 gift.

CHARLIE
 Sorry if I was doing a bad job --
 I'm kinda hammered.

KATE
 It's alright. Charlie...
 (long beat)
 ...I miss you.

CHARLIE
 Huh? *

Charlie comes up from under the covers -- and looks a bit
 tipsy. *

KATE
 I mean...I don't know. I don't
 really feel connected to you
 anymore.

CHARLIE
 Did I do something? *

KATE
No.
 (beat)
 We don't talk that much. *

CHARLIE
 We used to talk, but now you come
 home and go to meetings and by the
 time you get back I'm --

KATE
 Kinda drunk.

CHARLIE
I was gonna say "tired."

Silence.

KATE
There's some stuff I need to do
this weekend. I think I'm gonna go
up to Lake Arrowhead.

CHARLIE
Really? To see your mom?

Kate nods.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Why?

KATE
(defensive)
Do I need a reason?

CHARLIE
With your mom? Kinda.
(beat)
Is this the "amends" step?

KATE
No.

CHARLIE
Well then why're you going?

KATE
(beat)
We send her checks. But we never
actually see her. Sometimes it
feels like I'm paying her to not be
in my life. I thought it would be
nice to visit her.
(beat)
And Jenny thinks it would be a good
idea. *

Charlie LAUGHS.

KATE (CONT'D)
What?

CHARLIE
I don't know...I mean, do you do
everything your sponsor tells you
to do?

KATE

No. Do you think I'm brainwashed or something?

CHARLIE

I dunno...it's been a long damn time since you've seen your mom.

(beat)

And you didn't listen when I suggested we visit her.

KATE

(suddenly gets that it's an ego thing for Charlie)

Oh, baby -- I listen to you. This just...it felt like the right time.

(beat)

With all the changes I'm going through.

CHARLIE

Well, can I come with you? It'll be like a little vacation.

KATE

Um...I think I should go alone.

CHARLIE

Come on, if you do that you'll just get depressed. If I go we can try to make it fun. Go hiking and stuff.

KATE

Well, if you go, don't take this the wrong way but -- I'd like it if maybe you didn't drink.

(beat)

Just while we're there.

CHARLIE

(smiles)

I think I can handle not drinking for like a day.

Kate smiles and snuggles up into Charlie's arms.

46 INT. SUBARU (MOVING) - DAY

46

Kate and Charlie drive and listen to MUSIC.

47 OMITTED

47 *

47A OMITTED

47A *

48 INT./EXT. SUBARU - LAKE ARROWHEAD - RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Kate and Charlie are parked in front of a --

-- HOUSE. Small. A little run-down. Sort of a vague ski cabin look. There's some dirty lawn furniture in the front yard as well as a DOZEN LAWN-GNOMES.

CHARLIE

Ah...the lawn-gnomes. I missed those guys.

Kate playfully punches Charlie in the shoulder.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(waving to a lawn-gnome)

Hi, Holger!

Kate LAUGHS. Long beat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

So...we gonna go in?

Charlie glances at Kate and reads the anxiety on her face.

49 EXT. KATE'S MOTHER'S HOME - DAY

49

Kate and Charlie walk to the front door.

KATE

(unsettled)

I should've brought something.

CHARLIE

You're fine.

KATE

Something, you know? Flowers, or...

CHARLIE

Wine?

KATE

No. Definitely not that.

They get to the door. Charlie looks at Kate -- who seems like she'd be okay if they ran back to the car.

KATE (CONT'D)
 (conceding)
 Go on...

Charlie KNOCKS.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
 S'minute!

KATE
 (under her breath)
 Oh, God...

The door opens, revealing --

-- ROCHELLE: late-50's, wears an old shredded heavy metal band T-shirt and tight ripped-up jeans, looks like she enjoys an afternoon drink or three.

ROCHELLE
 (surprised)
 Katie!

Rochelle wraps her arms around Kate.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
 What're you doing here?

KATE
 I left you a message, mom.

ROCHELLE
 Oh, you know I don't check that thing.
 (notices Charlie; slightly flirty)
 Hello there, young man.

CHARLIE
 Hi, Ms. Foster.

ROCHELLE
 Well, then...
 (beat)
 ...what a lovely surprise -- you two came to visit. Hell has frozen over.
 (laughs)
 Just kidding. Come inside -- let me fix you both some drinks.

KATE
 Just water for me.

Rochelle LAUGHS as she leads the way. Kate glances at Charlie -- she already seems slightly annoyed.

50

INT. KATE'S MOTHER'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

50

Kate and Charlie sit down.

The place is a MESS. Magazines and junkmail everywhere. Too much furniture thrown together in a chaotic manner. The walls are covered with framed HEAVY METAL BAND POSTERS -- and there are ASHTRAYS everywhere, filled to the brim with cigarette butts.

ROCHELLE (O.S.)

...you wouldn't believe how much the neighborhood's changed! After Mr. Baker passed away and the kids put Mrs. Baker in a home, the people that moved in, oof!

Rochelle walks in holding a tray with THREE GIN AND TONICS.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

It's like they don't even understand the concept of birth control in their country!

Rochelle hands Charlie a glass and then goes to Kate and puts a drink on the table in front of her.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

(confides)

If you ask me, I think it's a meth house.

(beat)

They've always got those little five year old twins "playing" in the yard, but I'm pretty sure they're the lookouts.

KATE

That's pretty wild, mom.

ROCHELLE

Right?

(notices that Kate hasn't touched her drink)

What's wrong, honey? Think I forgot how to mix 'em?

KATE

I told you I just wanted water.

ROCHELLE

Oh, please! Where I'm from, "no"
means "yes."

(to Charlie)

Am I right or am I right?

CHARLIE

(forcing it)

Huh-huh...

KATE

That's actually why I wanted to
come up, mom.

(beat)

I stopped drinking.

Rochelle LAUGHS -- then realizes Kate and Charlie aren't
joking.

ROCHELLE

(quickly serious)

Are you telling me I'm going to be
a grandma?

Rochelle tears up with joy.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

Oh -- that's so exciting! I'm gonna
be a grandma!

(to Charlie)

And you know that "no drinking when
you're pregnant" thing is just a
myth. I drank plenty when I was
pregnant with Kate -- and look how
she turned out!

Beat.

KATE

I'm not pregnant, mom.

ROCHELLE

Oh.

KATE

I just needed a break. I'm sober
for the first time in years.

ROCHELLE

Well...

(dismissive)

...we'll see how long that lasts.

KATE
It's been a while, actually.

CHARLIE
(chimes in)
90 days.

ROCHELLE
(to Kate)
You've sure picked the right
partner --
(gestures to Charlie)
-- for this little mission.

CHARLIE
(defensive)
Hey -- I'm not drinking
either...today.

KATE
(to Charlie; slightly
annoyed)
Drink if you want to, Charlie.
(to Rochelle)
Charlie didn't stop drinking. I'm
doing it by myself.
(beat)
And...I started going to 12-step
meetings.

Rochelle looks slightly disgusted.

ROCHELLE
Ah...yes. Assholes Anonymous.
(to Charlie)
Katie's father went to those
meetings a few years after we got
married. Dried up. Left me. You can
see how well that worked out for
me...
(Rochelle gestures to her
living room)
...I raised his daughter in this
PALACE while he's somewhere in
Florida with his shiny new wife and
kids.
(beat)
Bastard.
(long beat; to Charlie)
You better be careful -- they
change.

Kate and Charlie exchange a glance.

KATE
I thought you'd be happy for me,
mom.

ROCHELLE
Oh...I'm sorry -- I'm not being a
good hostess, am I?

Rochelle gets up, takes the drink away from Kate, and chugs
it.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
I'll microwave you your favorite.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Charlie, Kate, and Rochelle watch a REALITY TV SHOW -- while
eating...

...MCDONALDS CHEESEBURGERS.

*

Rochelle rests her head on Kate's shoulder.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry if I acted like a bitch.

KATE
It's okay, mom. I know you can't
help it.

51 EXT. LAKE ARROWHEAD - SANTA'S VILLAGE - DAY

51

Kate and Charlie wander around Santa's Village --

-- an abandoned Christmas-themed amusement park (with giant
ginger bread houses, plastic Christmas trees, etc.) in the
middle of the woods. Creepy and nostalgic at the same time.
Looks like the set of a Christmas horror film.

Kate holds Charlie's hand as she leads him around.

KATE
This place shut down a decade ago
and then there was a fire and now
it's basically abandoned.

Charlie seems totally impressed by the weirdness of the
place.

KATE (CONT'D)
We came here every year the week
before Christmas.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
 And then I worked here in high
 school -- selling hot chocolate.
 And they had real reindeer, too.
 They kept 'em over there.

Kate points at the remains of a PEN.

KATE (CONT'D)
 My mom worked here when she was
 younger. I think everyone who grew
 up around here worked at Santa's
 Village at some point.

*

Charlie just nods and listens -- he's in awe of this place.

KATE (CONT'D)
 This is what I think of when I
 think of Christmas.
 (long beat)
 Thanks for coming up here with me.

CHARLIE
 Of course.

KATE
 I'm sorry my mom's so awful.

CHARLIE
 (shrugs)
 She just can't handle her liquor.

Kate and Charlie look in each other's eyes. Seem to have a moment. And then Charlie asks --

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Did you ever hook up with guys when
 you worked here?

KATE
 Huh?

CHARLIE
 You know -- sneak off with a co-
 worker and do it against a pine
 tree or something?

KATE
 Um...no.

CHARLIE

I mean, if I were a teenage boy working with a stone cold fox like you I'd totally want to hook up with you here. Like...in the ginger bread house.

Charlie puts his arms around Kate.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You were probably the coolest girl in town -- and the prettiest. I'm sure everyone was in love with you.

Kate giggles. They kiss. It's sweet.

52 OMITTED 52 *

53 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY 53

Kate walks in to her class to find --

TEACHERS

SURPRISE!

-- a GROUP OF TEACHERS -- including Principal Barnes and Mr. Davies -- standing in the room, which has been decked out for a --

-- BABY SHOWER.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

I couldn't keep quiet. Sorry. I just had to tell everyone so we could celebrate.

KATE

(shock)

Oh...you shouldn't have.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

You don't have to thank me -- just open your presents!

Kate looks at her desk which is stacked with PRESENTS wrapped in pink and baby blue wrapping paper. There's also a CAKE.

KATE

Wow...

PRINCIPAL BARNES

Go ahead.

OTHER TEACHERS

'C'mon, Kate! You're gonna love
what I got you! Is it a boy or a
girl?

LATER

Kate opens a present -- a MOBILE.

KATE

(seems nauseous)
Oh, it's so...nice.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

(enthusiastic)
It's to hang over the crib!

KATE

Uh-huh...

MONTAGE: Kate opens presents while the teachers CLAP.

Eventually, Kate begins to CRY -- which everyone assumes are
tears of joy.

Principal Barnes takes a bite of cake.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

Mmmm...it's so moist.

Kate glances at Mr. Davies, who cringes.

54

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

54

Kate walks to her car.

MR. DAVIES (O.S.)

Kate!

Kate looks back to see Mr. Davies running over -- but she
doesn't reply or slow down.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

Kate?

KATE

(stops)
What?

MR. DAVIES

Listen -- I am so, so sorry. You
have no idea how much this has been
eating me up.

Long beat.

KATE

What you said to me was really fucked up.

MR. DAVIES

I know.

KATE

What were you even thinking?

MR. DAVIES

I wasn't -- I was just...I try to be really honest.

KATE

I get that. But you can't force your "honesty" on everyone you know.

Mr. Davies nods. He looks really embarrassed.

KATE (CONT'D)

(changing tone)

I'm flattered that you have...feelings for me. I am. But I'm married.

MR. DAVIES

I know. I'm sorry. I'll apologize to your husband if you want.

KATE

No -- you don't have to do that. I didn't even tell him. But...you can't say that to a girl -- like, ever.

MR. DAVIES

Okay.

KATE

Seriously. Consider that a rule of thumb.

(beat)

Someday, you're gonna meet a nice, available lady -- but if you say "moist pussy" to her, you will never, ever, ever get to see that part of her body!

MR. DAVIES
 (even more embarrassed)
 Okay.
 (beat)
 Thank you.
 (nods)
 I feel like this was a really good
 talk.

Kate forces a smile.

55 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

55

Kate stares at a --

-- HALF-EATEN BIRTHDAY CAKE ("OWEN" is still sort of legible)
 on the kitchen table. It's totally mutilated.

She walks out the back door into the

BACKYARD

where she finds

Charlie, Owen, and one of Owen's friends --

-- GREG, 21 --

-- listening to loud MUSIC while they play FOOSBALL.

They're all SHIT-HOUSED.

GREG
 ...getting married would fucking
 suck. I can't even imagine waking
 up to the same person for the rest
 of my life.

Kate walks out.

GREG (CONT'D)
 What's up, Kate?

OWEN
 Hey, Kate.

KATE
 I see you guys found the birthday
 cake Jenny and I baked.

OWEN
 Yeah, thanks! You should get a
 slice.

KATE
 (to Charlie)
 I, uh...kinda thought we'd all eat
 it together.

CHARLIE
 Baby -- I didn't even think about
 that. I'm sorry.

OWEN
 It was really good.

GREG
 We have plenty of tequila to make
 up for the cake.

OWEN
 Kate's in AA -- so she can't drink.
 She hasn't drank in forever -- like
 thirty-eight days or some shit.

KATE
 Ninety-five days, actually.

GREG
 That sucks! Do you still smoke
 weed?

KATE
 No, I wasn't a big weed smoker
 anyway.

OWEN
 You smoked crack though, didn't
 you?

Kate's face goes blank. She stares at Charlie.

GREG
 Shit -- I hear crack gets you so
 high!

CHARLIE
 No -- my wife doesn't smoke crack.
 Jesus...

OWEN
 What? I'm joking around. I know
 Kate's not a crackhead or some
 shit.
 (to Kate)
 It was just that one time, right?

KATE
 (angry; to Charlie)
 Thanks, Charlie.

*
 *
 *

Kate storms out of the room.

*

CHARLIE
 (to Owen)
 It's your birthday, man, so I'm not
 gonna make a big deal out of this --
 but you need to shut the fuck up
 sometimes.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

56 OMITTED

56

*

57 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM/BATHROOM - NIGHT -
 MOMENTS LATER 57

*

Charlie walks in to see Kate getting ready to go to bed.

*

CHARLIE
 Listen -- I'm sorry. He's
 drunk...really drunk.

KATE
 I'm not mad at him -- I'm mad at
you! You said you wouldn't tell
 anyone about what I did.

CHARLIE
 I'm...sorry. I...was drunk too when
 I told him.

KATE
 Great.
 (beat)
 Why don't you guys just go to the
 bar now?

CHARLIE
 You wanna come?

KATE
 I'm hanging here.

CHARLIE
 I'm sure they have near-beer, baby.
 It'll be fun.

KATE
 I'm staying in.

CHARLIE
That sounds like a lot of fun.

KATE
Bye.

Beat.

CHARLIE
I love you.

Kate doesn't say a word.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I love you...?

KATE
Yeah...
(long beat)
...I love you too.

58 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - MORNING

58

Kate stands at the BLACKBOARD -- teaching addition and subtraction to the class.

A little girl -- ISABEL -- raises her hand. *

KATE
Yes?

ISABEL
Mrs. Hannah -- shouldn't you be more fatter? *

KATE
What?

ISABEL
'Cause of the baby. My mom got real fat. *

KATE
(taken off-guard)
Well... "Shouldn't you be fatter?" is the correct way to ask that question.

Kate goes back to the board -- clearly wanting to move on.

KATE (CONT'D)

Now, one day when you're very old
and wise fourth graders, you'll
learn about multiplication and --

ISABEL

Mrs. Hannah -- Shouldn't you be
more fat?

*

All the students look at Kate. She's on the spot. Flustered.

KATE

Well, I...

Kate searches for something to say. Anything. But then she
blurts --

KATE (CONT'D)

...I'm not going to have a baby.

CLASS

OOOH!

Kate immediately looks like she wishes she could take it
back.

KATE

See -- I was pregnant but, it
wasn't my time, I suppose...

Another little girl -- WINNIE -- jumps in.

*

WINNIE

Mrs. Hannah -- did you kill the
baby?

*

KATE

WHAT? No -- of course not!

WINNIE

'Cause my mom says that when you
kill a baby you go to hell and you
can't even go to church to ask god
for forgiveness.

*

The students begin to WHISPER to each other.

Another boy -- TOBY -- asks --

TOBY

Mrs. Hannah -- are you going to
hell?

KATE

No! I didn't kill my baby! Okay, listen kids -- we shouldn't be talking about this. But...

(beat)

...sometimes women get pregnant and then early on -- before it's even a baby -- they stop being pregnant.

WINNIE

Because a doctor murders it!

*

KATE

No -- not because a doctor murdered it.

(beat)

It's called a miscarriage. That means it wasn't my plan -- it's just what happened.

(composes herself)

Does anyone want to ask me any questions?

The class nods but seems silently freaked out.

KATE (CONT'D)

Let's get back to subtraction -- or addition. Or both.

59

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY

59

Kate sits with Mr. Davies eating lunch.

MR. DAVIES

Well, that was bound to happen at some point. Kids notice things like that.

Kate nods.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

But I had no idea how pro-life little Winnie Reddy is.

(beat)

Remind me to wear my "May the fetus you save be gay" T-shirt to the next banana split night.

*

Kate half-laughs.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

And just think: the kids got a lesson about life and death that nobody planned on. I mean, you're years ahead of the standard curriculum for, uh, third graders.

KATE

Does it matter that I lied? That I was never pregnant?

MR. DAVIES

You want me to answer that as a friend or as someone who takes the twelve steps very seriously?

Kate shrugs.

MR. DAVIES (CONT'D)

Well, the good thing is that it's all over now. Principal Barnes will think you're a martyr for losing a baby.

(beat)

The kids won't ask about it anymore and as long as you don't toss your cookies again you won't have to deal with it.

KATE

(long beat)

And the bad news?

MR. DAVIES

You lied. To your boss -- and a bunch of small children. Who trust you. And rely on you to help them differentiate right from wrong.

KATE

(slowly nods)

That's all, huh?

60

INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM/KITCHEN/BEDROOM - NIGHT

60

*
*

Kate and Charlie eat TAKE-OUT FOOD in SILENCE. Kate texts on her CELL PHONE -- not even paying attention to Charlie.

CHARLIE

Well...

(beat)

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 ...I gotta say -- this is the
 boringest meal I've had in about as
 long as I can remember.

Kate doesn't look up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Who're you texting?

KATE
 (still looking down)
 Jenny.

*

CHARLIE
 She's like a parole officer.

KATE
 She's my sponsor.

CHARLIE
 I'm glad to know every little fuck-
 up I have is gonna become a topic
 of conversation with some chick I
 don't even know.

Kate finishes her text. Puts down her phone.

KATE
 (fake enthusiasm)
 So...what'd you do today, honey?

CHARLIE
 I finished some writing and met up
 with Owen to watch the game and
 toss a few back. Dear.
 (beat)
 You do anything special?

KATE
 I lied to my class again. I told
 them that I had a miscarriage.

Charlie LAUGHS.

KATE (CONT'D)
 That's not funny.

CHARLIE
 Yeah, it is. Telling kids fucked-up
 stuff is totally funny...in, you
 know -- a kinda fucked-up way.

KATE

Great, well -- I'm glad I'm not actually having a baby.

CHARLIE

God, Kate -- come on. What else were you supposed to do?

KATE

Well, I feel like a piece of shit for lying.

CHARLIE

It's not that big a deal. Jesus. Is this what those meetings teach you? To make drama out of nothing?

KATE

It's not nothing. I lied to little kids and to my boss because I can't take responsibility for my actions.

CHARLIE

Why don't you go and tell the Principal that you were never pregnant? That the reason you puked is because you smoked crack all night? Would you feel better about yourself then?

Beat.

KATE

I've been thinking about doing that, actually.

(thinks about it)

Yeah. I think I would feel better about myself.

CHARLIE

Fine. Do it, then. I guess you don't need a job.

KATE

I could be like you -- I could stay home drinking all day and never do anything responsible.

CHARLIE

(hurt)

I never do anything responsible? What about buying this house that we live in? Or the food that we're eating?

KATE

Having rich parents doesn't make you responsible. I think it's pretty much done the opposite.

Charlie looks stunned.

*

CHARLIE

Oh, I'm sorry that I have a family that supports us -- and not the other way around.

KATE

What the fuck is that supposed to mean?

CHARLIE

Nothing, Kate. But you can't be mad at me because my family has helped us out. You should be grateful we don't have to struggle.

KATE

I wouldn't care if we struggled with money. I've struggled with money my whole life.

(beat)

I'd rather worry about where my next meal is coming from than if I -- in some drunken stupor -- married a man who just wants to party and meet bands.

CHARLIE

What the fuck are you talking about?

KATE

I'm talking about you being a baby. A selfish baby.

CHARLIE

You know what?

KATE

What?

CHARLIE

I fucking hate AA! It turned you into a bitch. A brain-washed bitch.

KATE

At least I'm not drunk all the time.

CHARLIE

Yeah, you don't drink booze for three months and suddenly you're some saint? You have it all together and I'm just a baby?

Kate doesn't answer.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm trying, Kate. I'm trying to understand you. But it's hard. You're different and maybe it's good that you're different. Maybe I'm bad and bad for you or something -- because I didn't think the person you were before was so awful. I loved that person. Yeah, she drank a lot and she did some silly things...but she was my Kate.

KATE

You loved that person? Do you not love me now?

CHARLIE

Yeah, of course. But it's different. You're different.

KATE

Before I was a mess.
(beat)
I'm finally getting my life together -- and you loved me more before?

Charlie looks at the floor.

CHARLIE

(soft)
Kinda, yeah.

Charlie looks like he immediately regrets what he said.

61 INT./EXT. JENNY'S CATERING BUSINESS - NIGHT

61 *

Kate follows Jenny from her patio to her kitchen as she cleans up.

*
*

KATE

I feel so fucking weird right now -- Charlie doesn't love me like he used to and I've lied to my students multiple times.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

(beat)

I just don't feel...normal right now.

JENNY

Well, you're not normal.

(beat)

None of us are.

KATE

Everything in life isn't connected to being an alcoholic.

JENNY

I'm not just talking about alcoholics.

(beat)

People are fucking weird. We all have a lot of shit we carry around in our heads that doesn't make sense.

(beat)

At least alcoholics have tools to work through it.

KATE

"Steps"...

JENNY

Yeah, steps -- and talking and listening and crying...

KATE

I have the crying part covered.

JENNY

I know, right? I think my first year I cried tears I'd been saving since I was eight.

(beat)

It's hard to live your life...honestly. You know?

Kate nods.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Any idea what you're gonna do about your school situation? What you're gonna say?

Kate shakes her head.

KATE

I don't know what I'm gonna do about anything.

JENNY

Listen...you wanna stay in my guest room tonight? You can watch movies, get some good sleep...?

*
*

KATE

You sure that's okay?

JENNY

Yeah, of course. That's why I spent money on a guest bed -- so people could sleep in it.

(beat)

I know it might feel like it, but really, you don't have to figure everything out tonight.

(smiles)

You've got time.

*

62 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY 62

Kate goes into her classroom and finds a NOTE on the desk.

63 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY 63

Principal Barnes hugs Kate.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

I'm so sorry, Kate.

(beat)

I haven't told many people this, but when I was young -- younger than you...I lost a child too.

Kate's stunned. Looks like she feels terrible.

KATE

I'm...I'm really sorry.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

It's okay. It was a long, long time ago. Still hurts sometimes. But eventually...you move on. You have to.

(beat)

Have a seat.

Kate sits down.

PRINCIPAL BARNES (CONT'D)

I got a phone call from a very upset parent. That's how I found out about...you know. Frankly, I'm not sure why you didn't feel like you could tell me.

KATE

I freaked out -- a student asked why I wasn't fat and I just froze up and then another student was saying I killed my baby and I didn't know what to do.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

I'm not angry with you -- but I need to be clear that this doesn't happen again.

KATE

It won't. I promise that.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

By "not happening again," I mean that you don't discuss any controversial topics -- things the school board deems "family matters" with your class.

(beat)

No sex. No god. No drugs and alcohol.

KATE

Okay, I...

Kate straightens up in her seat, takes a deep breath. She seems...exhausted.

KATE (CONT'D)

...I can't keep doing this. I feel awful.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

(confused)

I know this all must be hard for you --

KATE

No. You don't understand.

(beat)

I have to be honest with you.

PRINCIPAL BARNES

What do you mean?

KATE
Principal Barnes...I wasn't ever
pregnant.

Principal Barnes looks shocked.

KATE (CONT'D)
I lied -- to the class and to you --
because I was scared.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
But...you vomited in class.

KATE
I know. And when that happened I
didn't know what to do because the
truth is --

PRINCIPAL BARNES
Oh, my god -- are you really ill?
Is it cancer?

KATE
No, well, yes. I have a disease,
but, um...
(beat)
...it's alcoholism.

Principal Barnes goes from concerned -- to angry.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
What?

KATE
I've been working on it. I'm one-
hundred days sober. When that
happened I'd been out drinking and
was hung over and --

PRINCIPAL BARNES
You vomited in front of children
because you were hung over?

KATE
Yes.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
And lied, saying that you were
pregnant?

KATE
Well, a student asked if I was
pregnant -- and "yes" just kind of
fell out of my mouth.

Principal Barnes looks disgusted.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
That's sick, Kate.

KATE
I know.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
No, I don't think you understand
how wrong that is. To lie to me --
to the children. You know I felt so
terrible for you when I found out
that you had a mis -- ?
(beat)
-- how can you play with people's
emotions like that?

KATE
I was sick.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
Jesus...you told us you had a
miscarriage.

KATE
I'm sorry.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
I threw you a baby shower.

KATE
I'm really sorry. I am. I've been
wanting to tell you the truth
because honesty has become really
important to me. I'm in AA now and
doing the steps and working with a
sponsor and everything.
(beat)
It's really hard. I mean, I think
my husband might hate me, and --

PRINCIPAL BARNES
I'm sorry, but what you did is
totally irresponsible.

KATE
I know.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
(beat)
I can't have you here anymore.

KATE
 (surprised)
 Am I being fired?

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 No, no -- the state wouldn't allow that without a report. I'm not going to write a report. Because, frankly, I have no idea what that report would say.

(beat)
 But I'm forcing you to take a leave of absence and I think it's in your best interest if you find a job elsewhere.

KATE
 Listen -- I'm really sorry, but I'm doing the right things now.

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 I believe you -- or I want to. I really do. But honey -- I believed you before.

(beat)
 I'll have a sub take over your class starting tomorrow. It's late enough in the year that we can just say you're having personal problems --

Principal Barnes looks at Kate.

PRINCIPAL BARNES (CONT'D)
 -- which seems to be the truth.

KATE
 Principal Barnes --

PRINCIPAL BARNES
 Not another word. I'm upset right now -- very upset -- and I think I'm doing you a favor by not reporting you.

Kate struggles to say something, to try to explain herself but no words come out until she musters --

KATE
 Thank you.

Kate stands, defeated, and leaves the Principal's office.

64

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - STAIRS/HALLWAY - DAY

64

*

Kate glumly marches down the stairs -- holding a BOX filled with some of her things (including the BABY SHOWER GIFTS).

*

Mr. Davies stops her.

MR. DAVIES

Kate -- what's going on?

KATE

I told Principal Barnes about everything.

MR. DAVIES

(terrified)

What? Everything? Did you tell her about...?

Mr. Davies gestures to Kate's crotch.

KATE

(confused)

Huh?

(gets it)

Oh, God -- no. I told her that I'm an alcoholic. And that I lied. And she fired me.

MR. DAVIES

(relieved)

Oh...

(but concerned, too)

...my god, Kate -- I'm sorry.

KATE

I've been going to AA and trying to be sober and this is what it got me.

(beat)

Fired, for telling the truth.

Mr. Davies awkwardly puts his arm around Kate's shoulder.

MR. DAVIES

I'm sorry. I wish there was something I could do.

KATE

I'm a fuck-up. I'll always be a fuck up. I'm just like my mom.

MR. DAVIES

(confused)

No, no -- you're a wonderful, smart woman Kate. You can't let this get you down.

KATE

I gotta go.

Mr. Davies takes Kate's box of things from her.

MR. DAVIES

Let me walk you to your car.

Kate throws her arms around Mr. Davies and begins to --

-- full-on SOB.

Mr. Davies seems flustered and a little scared but tries to comfort Kate.

65 INT. SUBARU (MOVING) - DAY 65

Kate cries as she drives.

She glances in the backseat at --

-- all the baby shower gifts --

-- and sobs even harder.

66 INT. DIVE BAR - DAY 66

Kate walks into a near-empty, depressing dive. She nervously sits at the bar.

The BARTENDER -- a gruff looking guy with the sleeves rolled up -- approaches. *

BARTENDER

What do you need?

KATE

Whiskey. Double.

The bartender gives Kate her drink. Kate immediately downs it.

KATE (CONT'D)

Can I have another one?

BARTENDER

Sure -- you gotta pay for the first one, though. Eight bucks.

Kate puts a TWENTY DOLLAR BILL down.

The bartender pours her another shot.

LATER

Kate has clearly been drinking for awhile -- she's curled up at the bar, nursing her BEER.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Look, Miss -- I don't wanna be a downer or anything 'cause I take it you've had a bad day, but um... I think you need to go home.

KATE

Why?

BARTENDER

Cause you're pretty drunk -- and it's four p.m.

KATE

What about him?

Kate points to an old CRUSTY MAN at the other end of the bar.

KATE (CONT'D)

You're not kicking him out.

BARTENDER

I'm just trying to be a pal.

KATE

Stop it -- you aren't my pal. I just got fired, and I just quit AA.
(beat)
It didn't work.

BARTENDER

Oh, boy...

KATE

You know what? I was fine -- had a husband that loved me and maybe I sometimes did embarrassing stuff, but it was a phase.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I go to AA and sober my husband and I start fighting and stop fucking -- and sober I get fired! Isn't that what's supposed to not happen?

BARTENDER

Wow, okay, well...I'm real sorry. But this place gets a little nuts after sundown and I don't think a pretty girl who just left AA should be here.

(beat)

I'm gonna call you a cab.

KATE

NO! I don't want a cab. I want --
(glances around)
-- drugs. Can you hook me up?

The bartender rolls his eyes.

KATE (CONT'D)

C'mon...let's go out back and smoke some crack.

BARTENDER

Lady, you're done.

KATE

You think I'm above smoking crack? 'Cause I'm not. And are you really gonna tell me you're not a little attracted to me...?

Kate leans across the bar, trying to look "seductive" -- but she just looks like she might fall off her bar stool.

BARTENDER

No.

KATE

Just a teensy bit...?

BARTENDER

Not in the slightest.

KATE

Well...you might want to consider investing in glasses, buddy. 'Cause I'm a...a stone cold fox. And I'm smart. And I'm...

Kate begins to cry.

KATE (CONT'D)
...a good person.

BARTENDER
I think it's time for you to go home. Now are you gonna let me call a cab?

KATE
(suddenly angry)
NO! I'm not. I've got friends. They'll pick me up.

BARTENDER
You do that.

KATE
I'll call Mr. Davies. He has dreams about me.

The bartender takes a long look at Kate -- as though he's trying to size up if she's insane.

BARTENDER
Hope that works out for you.

KATE
Can't believe my luck. I just want to get drunk and a bartender won't let me.
(beat)
Life is stupid.

Kate stands up -- almost falling over -- and glares at the bartender.

KATE (CONT'D)
You hear me? Life is FUCKING STUPID!

Kate goes over to the old man at the end of bar, winks at him, then picks up his drink and chugs it.

67 INT. MR. DAVIES' CAR (MOVING) - DAY

67 *

Kate is slumped in the back seat.

In the front seat is Mr. Davies and Jenny.

*

KATE
Davey-wavey...I called you. Why'd you bring her?

JENNY

We're worried about you, Kate.

KATE

(accusing)
Parole officer.

MR. DAVIES

She's your sponsor.

JENNY

It's gonna be okay. You stumbled.
You'll get back up.

Silence.

KATE

How 'bout we drive to Mexico and
party our asses off? My treat.

Jenny and Dave glance back at Kate --

-- whose face reveals what a bad state she's in.

KATE (CONT'D)

(holding back tears)
Sounds fucking stupendous, right?

68 EXT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

68

Kate gets out of the car.

Mr. Davies and Jenny watch with concerned expressions as --

-- Kate stumbles to her front door.

JENNY

Kate! Are you sure you're --

KATE

(over her shoulder)
Fuck off.

69 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING
ROOM/KITCHEN/HALLWAY/BEDROOM - DAY

69

Charlie plays a VIDEO GAME -- with the TV hooked up through
his STEREO SPEAKERS.

Kate opens the doors and walks in, wobbly.

CHARLIE
 (not looking up)
 Babe -- you gotta hear this with
 the speakers hooked up. It's
 insane.

Kate says nothing. Just stares at Charlie.

Charlie looks up -- and is surprised to see Kate clearly
 drunk.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Whoa...what happened to you?

Charlie stops playing the game.

KATE
 I'm drunk. I'm fired from my job.

CHARLIE
 Oh, no...

KATE
 We got any drinks?

CHARLIE
 Uh...we have soda. I can make
 coffee.

KATE
 Don't be cute with me. You know
 what I mean.

CHARLIE
 So...I guess you aren't doing the
 AA thing anymore?

KATE
 What gave that away?

Kate turns and goes to the kitchen --

-- reappearing a moment later with a BOTTLE OF TEQUILA, salt
 and limes.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Come on, baby -- let's do some
 shots.

CHARLIE
 What's going on?

KATE
I'm celebrating. What the fuck does
it look like?

Kate takes a shot.

KATE (CONT'D)
Are you gonna be a little girl or
are you gonna drink with me?

CHARLIE
I don't know what the right thing
to do here is.

KATE
Okay, so let me see if this makes
sense: you say you miss the old
Kate -- the Kate who drinks and
blacks out and has fun.
(beat)
Well...here she is.

Kate smiles -- but she looks more desperate and drunk than
fun.

CHARLIE
Baby, I didn't mean that. I was
just being a jerk.

KATE
Fuck yeah you were. And what? Now
you won't drink with me?

CHARLIE
I don't know. Having a beer or
something is one thing, but...I
think you really may have a
problem.

Kate LAUGHS.

KATE
Well thanks for all the support
when I was trying to be sober!

Kate takes another shot.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry. I didn't realize --

KATE
Of course you didn't realize! You
don't fucking care about me.

CHARLIE

What are you talking about?! Of course I care about you. I love you.

Kate takes a shot and approaches Charlie.

KATE

I love you too. Love is the easy part. It's the rest of the shit that's hard.

Kate kisses Charlie.

KATE (CONT'D)

Take off your pants.

Charlie gently pushes Kate away.

CHARLIE

Look -- I think you should get to sleep. You're really wasted.

KATE

I don't wanna sleep. I wanna fuck.

Kate pulls Charlie -- who struggles -- down to the couch...and straddles him.

CHARLIE

Please, will you stop?

KATE

No! I want you to fuck me!

Charlie calmly tries to move Kate off of him.

CHARLIE

Really. This is weird.

KATE

Be a man and fuck your wife!

Charlie -- who's creeped out now -- forcefully pushes Kate off.

CHARLIE

No! Jesus -- what the fuck is wrong with you?

Kate has become quite angry and belligerent by this point -- and begins picking up HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS and throwing them at Charlie.

KATE

With me? With me?! What the fuck is wrong with me? I try hard and I get shit on! Fucked up family, fired from my job -- this marriage. Nothing's wrong with me! What's wrong with YOU?!

CHARLIE

Kate, you need to --

KATE

What? What? What do I need? I can't drink because I'm crazy or something and I can't stay sober because of you!

CHARLIE

You're blaming other people for your problems.

Kate picks the tequila bottle back up, takes a sip, then --
-- runs at Charlie and tackles him to the ground.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Stop it! You're acting like a freak!

Kate rips Charlie's SHIRT --

-- and holds the bottle over his head while straddling him, as if she's about to hit him with it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

No! What's wrong with you?

Kate holds the bottle in the air and looks hard at Charlie. She begins to weep.

KATE

I can't be sober and be with you.

Kate gets a flash of anger again and just as it seems like she's about to hit Charlie with the bottle, she --

-- upturns the bottle and begins to chug the tequila.

Charlie tries to yank the bottle away, but Kate holds on tight. With the bottle at Kate's lips -- and tequila pouring down her chin -- the couple wrestles for control of the bottle.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

70 INT. JENNY'S CATERING BUSINESS - KITCHEN - DAY 70 *

Kate wears a UNIFORM and carefully works on a CAKE. *

On the other side of the kitchen, Jenny makes APPETIZERS. *

JENNY *

How's it coming? *

KATE

You tell me.

Jenny walks over and tries the icing. *

JENNY *

(nods with approval) *

Delicious. *

KATE

(proud)

Thanks.

71 INT. CHURCH - AA MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 71

A middle-aged MAN stands at a podium in front of a medium sized group of PEOPLE -- about twenty-five or so, including Kate, Jenny, and Mr. Davies -- and says -- *

CHUCK *

At this meeting we give cakes to celebrate sober birthdays. We have one birthday tonight -- for Kate, for one year.

(beat)

Jenny and Dave are giving her the cake. *

Kate hugs everyone -- then blows out ONE CANDLE on a CAKE before standing at the podium.

KATE

Hey, I'm Kate, alcoholic.

GROUP

Hi, Kate.

KATE

I've heard that your best day drinking is worse than your worst day sober.

(beat)

Well...that is SO not true! I had amazing times drinking, dancing, and laughing...feeling like the most adorable, charming girl in the world. And I was adorable.

(beat)

I'd piss my pants, but I was still cute.

People in the crowd LAUGH a little bit.

KATE (CONT'D)

When I first tried getting sober, I figured that as long as I didn't drink...everything else would just magically work out. But it didn't.

(beat)

My marriage fell apart. I got fired from my job. And that shit happened SOBER! I never read that in any pamphlet...

(shakes her head)

...that isn't what I signed up for.

(beat)

Um...so, I relapsed. Another shitty slogan I've heard in the rooms is that when you're sober for a bit and drink again "the disease waits for you, picks up where it left off."

(beat)

I'm sorry you guys, but I HATE those slogans. They all sound like bumper stickers. But, I have to admit...for me, that last one is pretty damn true.

(beat)

When I drink...I become another person. And that person is a pretty big asshole. Well, unless you want to give me drugs or buy me drinks -- then that person is awesome.

People knowingly LAUGH.

KATE (CONT'D)

I wasn't happy being the "good-time girl," though. And honestly, I wasn't very good at it.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

(beat)

My life is really different than it was a year ago. I live alone. I'm bored a lot more. I have a job that pays a lot less.

(beat)

I'm thankful for the program -- for my friends in here who took the time to help me and give a shit about me.

Kate glances at Jenny and Mr. Davies. *

KATE (CONT'D)

There are people that used to be a part of my life that I miss -- a lot -- but...

(long beat)

...I'm really grateful for this boring new life of mine.

Kate smiles and steps down from the podium as people CLAP.

72

INT. BAR - NIGHT

72

*

Charlie, Owen, and a woman -- MILLIE -- stand at the bar, drinking BEER and WHISKEY SHOTS. Owen speaks -- but Millie seems way more into Charlie.

OWEN

I was in North Carolina for a while -- Durham -- playing minor league ball. I had some real heat. That's when I met Crash, here. *

(gestures to Charlie)

He'd been sent down to single-A to teach me how to carry myself as a pro ball-player. We got involved with the same woman -- an older chick -- but Crash won her in the end.

(beat)

He's really taught me some...important life-lessons.

Millie nods.

MILLIE

Wow...that's a pretty crazy way to meet.

OWEN

Yeah. It is.

MILLIE

You guys are sorta like that
movie...what's it called?

OWEN

(plays dumb)
I don't know. Which one?
(to Charlie)
Do you know what movie she means?

Charlie -- who's pretty hammered -- shakes his head.

MILLIE

"Bull"...something? What is it?

Charlie and Owen feign ignorance.

MILLIE (CONT'D)

Whatever. It'll come to me.
(to Charlie; flirty)
So...what do you do now, Crash?

CHARLIE

I write about music.

MILLIE

Really?

Owen gestures to a WAITRESS to bring THREE MORE SHOTS.

CHARLIE

Yeah...I do freelance for a lot of
magazines. But print really is
dead. So now most of my stuff winds
up on websites. Which is
depressing. 'Cause you can't hold
it -- you can just look at it. It's
like...

Charlie seems lost in drunken thought. Long, awkward silence.
Millie puts her hand on Charlie's arm.

MILLIE

Like what?

CHARLIE

Huh?

MILLIE

You were talking about writing for
websites and you kinda trailed off,
honey.

OWEN

(trying to save the
situation)

So, Crash -- why don't you tell
this nice lady about the 21 days
you were up in "The Show," and what
the crowds were like, and --

CHARLIE

It was crazy. I...

Charlie drifts off for a moment.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(to Millie)

I'm sorry -- I'm sure you're a
great lady. You have lovely hands
and hair but...

Charlie begins to walk away, wobbly on his feet.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

...I'm gonna go to the...I'm just
gonna go.

Charlie stumbles off.

MILLIE

(as Charlie leaves)

You want a ride...?

Charlie exits the bar.

MILLIE (CONT'D)

(to Owen)

Um...is he cool to drive?

OWEN

Yeah, he'll be fine -- on his
bicycle.

MILLIE

He rides a bicycle?

OWEN

Oh, yeah --

(smiles)

-- as a teenager, he was a bike
racing champion growing up in
Bloomington, Indiana. He and his
friends were called the "Cutters" --
and they beat a bunch of rich
college kids in this big race. It
was great.

(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)

(beat)
Back then, I was a kickboxing
instructor...

73 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 73

Charlie rides his BICYCLE down the street. Swerving all over the place, he's obviously drunk.

Red and Blue LIGHTS flash behind him. Charlie turns to see --
-- a POLICE OFFICER. *

74 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 74

Charlie leaves Kate a VOICEMAIL MESSAGE.

CHARLIE

(into phone; seems sort of
nervous)

So, I got into a little trouble --
drunk in public. On a bicycle.

(beat)

Um, I was thinking...maybe I need
to go to one of those meetings. I'd
like to go with you, though. If
that's cool.

(beat)

Let me know if we could discuss it
sometime, okay? Maybe you could
come over to our -- um, my house?

(beat)

Uh...yeah. Thanks.

Charlie hangs up the phone.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(to himself)

"Let me know if we could discuss it
sometime?"

(shakes his head)

Such an idiot...

75 EXT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - STREET/FRONT YARD - DAY 75 *

Kate and Charlie stand by Kate's car, which is parked in front by the street. She's just arrived. Awkward tension.

CHARLIE

Miss our house?

KATE
Um...yeah. Sometimes.

CHARLIE
(hesitant)
Miss me?

Beat.

KATE
Sometimes.
(long beat)
I've been sober for a year.

CHARLIE
Really?

KATE
Yeah.

Kate reaches into her purse and takes out her ONE YEAR CHIP, showing it to Charlie.

CHARLIE
They gave you that?

KATE
Yeah. A couple of days ago.
Tuesday.

CHARLIE
Oh...wow. Congratulations. That's
really...really...just great. I
mean it.
(beat)
Tuesday is the night I got pulled
over.
(laughs)
Parallel lives, huh?

Kate rolls her eyes.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
So -- you dating anyone?

KATE
(taken aback)
Charlie...

CHARLIE
Are you?

Silence.

KATE

No.

Charlie seems relieved.

CHARLIE

Me either. Owen keeps trying to get me to be his "wing-man" and it's ridiculous and these girls in bars are so lame and I just keep thinking how I wish I was meeting you in a bar for the first time and I didn't come with any baggage and I could buy you a drink and flirt with you all night and ask for your number.

(beat)

Wanna go out sometime?

KATE

I don't think it's a good idea.

Charlie nods. Long beat.

CHARLIE

I fucked up, didn't I?

Kate looks down, doesn't speak.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I did. I know I did. I had a beautiful woman who used to love me and now when I see her she doesn't even want to look me in the eyes.

KATE

Charlie, please don't do this.

CHARLIE

I miss you. I miss the way you taste and smell and...I miss things about you that used to drive me nuts! I miss you liking shitty 80's music and fake punk-rock from the 90's...

KATE

I don't like shitty 80's music.

(beat)

I like good 80's music.

CHARLIE
 ...and all I want to do is touch
 you one more time to just, remember
 -- to make sure it was real.

Silence. Kate looks Charlie in the eyes and gives him a slight smile.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 (changing course)
 Or...maybe I'm a just a delusional
 fucking idiot.

76 INT. KATE & CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 76 *

Kate and Charlie walk in -- it looks sort of the same, but a number of items are missing, and it's messier. In general, the room looks more "dude."

KATE
 You look really thin.

CHARLIE
 Yeah?

KATE
 When did you last eat?

CHARLIE
 I dunno -- like...I'm not sure.
 (seems slightly concerned
 that he can't remember)
 I think, um...

KATE
 Should we order something?

CHARLIE
 Sure, yeah -- or I could make a
 bacon and egg sandwich...

KATE
 I don't know. I haven't really been
 doing the meat thing.

CHARLIE
 Jesus. It starts with alcohol. Then
 meat.
 (beat)
 Have you given up fun, too?

Kate looks at Charlie -- he's half-smiling, not sure if she finds him funny.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 (off Kate)
 Sorry. Bad joke.

Kate cracks a smile.

KATE
 Fine. Bacon and egg sandwiches. But
I'm gonna make them.

Charlie raises his eyebrows.

CHARLIE
 Okay...

LATER

Kate's at the stove, cooking bacon and eggs.

Charlie goes to the FRIDGE and gets a BOTTLE OF BEER.

Kate glances at him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Sorry.

Charlie puts the beer back in the fridge.

KATE
 I don't care if you drink a beer.

CHARLIE
 You sure?

KATE
 Yeah. Whatever.

CHARLIE
 (thinks about it)
 No...I'm good.

LATER

Kate stands by the stove and watches as --

-- Charlie -- who sits at the kitchen table -- wolfs down the
 bacon and egg sandwich.

Kate seems pleased that Charlie enjoys it so much.

They look a little tired -- like they've been playing a while. Kate seems to be much better than Charlie.

CHARLIE
Have you been playing a lot?

KATE
I haven't played in over a year.

CHARLIE
Then how're you beating me?

KATE
I don't know. Innate talent?

They keep playing.

CHARLIE
I haven't met anyone even vaguely interesting since we separated.

KATE
Um...stick to the game, okay?

Long beat.

CHARLIE
I've been masturbating like crazy.

KATE
Charlie --

CHARLIE
I miss you.

KATE
Stop it.

CHARLIE
Okay. Fine.

Beat.

KATE
You could've been killed.

CHARLIE
(confused)
What?

KATE
Riding your bike -- drunk.

CHARLIE
But I wasn't.

KATE
But is that really the point?

CHARLIE
What are trying to say?

KATE
(beat)
I worry about you.

CHARLIE
(laughs)
Yeah, I can understand that. I used
to worry about you. But now I know
you're okay.
(beat)
That makes me happy...I mean, it
fucking sucks that you're better
off without me but I'm glad you're
doing well.

No reply from Kate.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Would you move back in if I came to
meetings?

KATE
You should go for yourself, not to
make me happy.

CHARLIE
But, would you?

KATE
I'm not moving back in.

That wasn't the response Charlie wanted to hear.

KATE (CONT'D)
Listen, I should go. It's gonna get
dark soon.

CHARLIE
We can always turn the lights on.

KATE
I don't know...

Beat.

CHARLIE
So, would you at least...let me
take you out on a date?

Kate says nothing.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Maybe...?

Kate shakes her head.

Charlie seems hurt -- but still determined.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Okay...fine. 0 for 2.
(new direction)
Last question: can we just...play
one more game?

Kate doesn't answer.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
C'mon...you keep kicking my ass.
It's embarrassing. You've gotta
give me a chance to redeem myself.
(soft)
Please.

Kate thinks about it for a long beat, and doesn't say yes...

...but she also doesn't say no.

There's a look of hope in Charlie's eyes.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END