

The First (few) Years  
'The Woman with a Thousand Faces'

written by

Ashlie Victoria Hollis

[Ashlie.hollisv@gmail.com](mailto:Ashlie.hollisv@gmail.com)

TEASER

FADE IN:

**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

**CASSIDY YOUNG**, 25, African-American, hipster cool-nude-basks in the sun, on her back in the middle of a field, as she stares wide-eyed towards-

**THE SKY**

In swirls of purple and red billowy clouds. Creatures circle around overhead. A griffin begins to zero in on Cassidy and just as it's about to devour her whole it dissipates into a fluster of butterflies.

**CASSIDY**

Starts to blink wildly. A smile creeps onto her face.

CASSIDY  
That wasn't so bad.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)  
You sure about that?

Startled Cassidy shoots up and turns to see DEPUTY.FUZZ a small bunny rabbit staring at her.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
Cassidy, you have to know that was only the first wave. The second one is far worse.

CASSIDY  
Deputy.Fuzz, how goes it?

Cassidy, fully dressed in Afro-punk garb, surveys her surroundings. Abandoned makeshift homes sit sprawled along the open field. Trash, clothes and empty beer cans litter the ground. It all looks like the aftermath of a killer party.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
I can't decide if you're insane or just an idiot?

CASSIDY  
I can be both.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
You're not seriously going back.

CASSIDY  
I said I was. All great adventures  
must end either with death or  
knowledge.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
(grimacing)  
Oh my God. You do realize you're  
high on acid, right?

CASSIDY  
Of course. You know, I think drugs  
get a bad reputation. I think it's  
the user who is bad not the  
substance.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
I should walk you back.

Cassidy picks up Deputy. Fuzz and inappropriately cuddles  
him.

CASSIDY  
That's oddly nice of you.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
Yeah. I'm a sweet like that-

Cassidy tries to lick him.

DEPUTY.FUZZ (CONT'D)  
No.  
(beat)  
Ready?

CASSIDY  
Do I have a choice?

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
You always do.

Cassidy puts him down. She spots her bag nearby and grabs it  
rustling through its contents. She pulls out a small mirror  
and a lipstick-Blue lipstick-and puts in on.

CASSIDY  
(satisfied)  
Ready.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
Great and for the love of God hang  
up that phone.

Cassidy notices her phone laying in the grass. She looks at

**THE SCREEN**

**BITCHFACE 59:02**

**CASSIDY**

Hangs up the phone and looks concerned.

Deputy. Fuzz heads into the woods and Cassidy follows him.

They pass a sign nailed to a tree that reads:

*NOW LEAVING 'HUG LIFE' COMMUNE. WE  
WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU EVEN WHEN NO  
ONE ELSE DOES.*

**EXT. WOODS - DAY**

Deputy. Fuzz hopes through the dense brush of the woods.  
Cassidy can barely keep up as she tries to make out the path  
in front of them.

She stops dead in her steps.

A sea of PEOPLE in yellow run all around them. They all head  
in the same direction.

CASSIDY  
(to herself)  
Where are they going?  
(to the People)  
Where are you going?

They pass her by.

Deputy. Fuzz is now next to her instead of ahead.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
Is that even a question. There's a  
monster out here...somewhere...and  
it's coming for all of us.

The two watch in silence as the people run over the edge of a  
mountain.

DEPUTY.FUZZ (CONT'D)

Huzzah!

The two continue down the path.

CASSIDY

So, are we running towards it or  
away from it?

DEPUTY.FUZZ

Running is the obvious answer; it's  
hardly the solution.

They stop at a fork in the path.

DEPUTY.FUZZ (CONT'D)

This way.

CASSIDY

Are you telling me there's no  
escape? Ever?

Cassidy bolts down the opposite path.

DEPUTY.FUZZ

(deep sigh)

I didn't say that.

Cassidy appears again right where she started.

DEPUTY.FUZZ (CONT'D)

You wanted this remember.

She runs down the path again more determined than before.

DEPUTY.FUZZ (CONT'D)

How long do you really think you  
can go on like this? Everybody has  
their limits Cassidy-even you.

Cassidy appears again. Winded and defeated.

DEPUTY.FUZZ (CONT'D)

You can try to outrun the monster  
but you've already lost.

(Notions to the correct  
path)

Retreat.

Cassidy smokes a cigarette. They continue down the correct  
path.

CASSIDY

Why would I ever want to leave?  
Nothing good can come from this.  
There is absolutely no proof that  
this is the bad place and out there  
is the good place.

DEPUTY.FUZZ

Oh, brother.

CASSIDY

I could be dead right now and my  
only lasting achievement would be  
that I read all the Goosebumps  
books including Fear Street and the  
Nightmare Room series.

DEPUTY.FUZZ

How on earth could you be dead? No  
one would bother murdering you and  
you have enough dumb luck to never  
die by accident and I think we both  
know you're too self-involved to  
kill yourself.

Cassidy is clearly not listening.

CASSIDY

It would be like "Stand By Me".  
Pittsburgh is lousy with train  
tracks. They would all come and be  
sad for me.

DEPUTY.FUZZ

How poetic. Just admit you're  
scared.

CASSIDY

I'm not scared. I'm just worried.  
I'm riddled with worry. What if no  
one ever finds me on that train  
track? I would have died the way I  
lived-forgotten.

Deputy. Fuzz turns to Cassidy who is in her old world.

DEPUTY.FUZZ

You are not forgotten, you can  
never be forgotten. So stop pitying  
your hypothetical self and get  
movin'.

CASSIDY  
 You're right...I'm a fighter...I  
 got spark and shit...I got this.

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
 I'm glad you think so because we're  
 here.

Cassidy stands in front of a glowing, glittering, bright hole  
 that leads out of the woods.

CASSIDY  
 I'm gonna be Ok right?

DEPUTY.FUZZ  
 Meh.

**EXT. ROAD - DAY**

Cassidy looks around. Abandoned store fronts and little shops  
 of yesteryear. Yep, she is definitely in the bowels of the  
 Pittsburgh Mon Valley.

A luxury S.U.V sits idle on the side of the road. **LATASHA**  
**'TASHA' COLEMAN**, 26, blonde, pretty, and clean steps out of  
 the vehicle and walks towards Cassidy. They both smile at  
 each other.

CASSIDY  
 Bitchface!

TASHA  
 Hey!

Cassidy welcomes her with open arms. Tasha welcomes her with  
 an open hand to the face. SLAP. Cassidy falls to the ground.

TASHA (CONT'D)  
 Did you feel that?

CASSIDY  
 (holding her face)  
 Uh huh.

TASHA  
 That's life. Now get in the car.

Reality has just hit Cassidy in the face and it wears  
 jeggings.

I/E. TASHAS S.U.V. - DAY(MOMENTS LATER)

Tasha shoves Cassidy into the passenger seat and buckles her in. Cassidy still high and in shock just stares ahead blankly.

INT. TASHAS S.U.V. - DAY

Tasha climbs into the driver seat, starts the truck, and pulls off.

TASHA  
You asked me too.

CASSIDY  
Yeah. You're a good person.

END TEASER

ACT 1**I./E. TASHAS S.U.V - DAY - TRAVELING**

Tasha drives down a mountain road. Cassidy, still high, makes her way to the back of the huge truck. She falls over at every turn.

CASSIDY  
Is this a test?

TASHA  
Just climb back there and get it.

CASSIDY  
Why is your car so big?

Cassidy makes it to the trunk which is full of family-size boxes of snacks.

TASHA  
Do you see them? Grab me a juice box.

Cassidy grabs every snack in sight like it's the holy grail of food.

CASSIDY  
You sexy bastards.

As Cassidy makes her way back to the front of the car she notices two empty car seats.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Tasha, where are your kids?!?

TASHA  
With my mom. How high are you?

Cassidy tosses all the snacks onto the floor before she plops herself down in the passenger seat.

TASHA (CONT'D)  
Do you honestly think that I would hit you in front of my kids?

Cassidy attacks the snacks.

CASSIDY  
(mouth full)  
Well yeah. How else are they gonna learn about healthy friendships?  
(beat)  
(MORE)

Where did this car even come from?  
You didn't have this thing before.

Tasha shuffles in her seat.

TASHA  
It was a gift from Keith.

CASSIDY  
Alright. I need to get me a sugar  
daddy.

TASHA  
Would you stop calling him that? He  
is not my sugar daddy; he's my  
husband.

Tasha watches Cassidy make a face from the corner of her eye.

CASSIDY  
I know. I'm only kidding. What was  
the occasion?

Tasha tightens her grip on the wheel.

TASHA  
No occasion. It was just because.

CASSIDY  
That's cool. That was genuinely  
cool of him.

Cassidy flicks through radio stations, once she lands on a  
song she loves, she turns it up full volume. Tasha turns it  
down to a more appropriate volume.

Cassidy gives Tasha an odd look.

TASHA  
(beat)  
What?

CASSIDY  
Nothing? You cut your hair. I like  
it.

TASHA  
Are you going to tell me why you in  
the woods dressed like Kylie  
Jenner?

CASSIDY

Not if you're going to be judgmental. New Cassidy isn't about judgment.

TASHA

I think we're past that. Just tell me. I think you owe me that much.

CASSIDY

Firstly, I'm not some stupid, doe-eyed, hotsy-totsy who chased after some man who talked real good. Brother Brown Bear and I had an understanding. We did not sleep together because I'm celibate, obviously.

TASHA

Praise.

CASSIDY

Thank you. Praise. I mean, there was some light petting after the '*mental touch*' gathering but it was stopped immediately. Sure, he had a beard and looked sexy but nothing happened. I did opium, I learned to braid, and realized that I am incapable of human emotion without mind altering substances. You know...just chill stuff.

Tasha pokes her lip out at her.

TASHA

Want me to set you up? I'll set you up. There has to be some desperate, cynical, callous wizard-type sub-human for you somewhere. Someone who isn't a cult leader.

CASSIDY

'HUG LIFE' was not a cult. It was a nonconformist, afro-centric, gentrified, love is the key to serenity, commune for lost souls in an unkind world.

Tasha begins to laugh.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Shut up.

Tasha's phone BUZZES she quickly grabs it and reads her text. She curses under her breath and puts it back.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

What?

TASHA

(with a forced smile)

Nothing. It's nothing.

CASSIDY

Tell me. Tell me. Tell me.

TASHA

It's no big deal. It was just a text.

Cassidy eye's the phone and Tasha notices. They both make a dart for it. Cassidy get's to it first.

TASHA (CONT'D)

You don't know my password.

CASSIDY

Mama Hemsworths' B-day.

TASHA

They should just make it a holiday.

Cassidy reads the text. She pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

TASHA (CONT'D)

(re:smoking)

Can you not? In the car please?

Cassidy rolls the window down more.

CASSIDY

Really? Ok.

She hands Tasha back her phone and looks a little hurt.

TASHA

I'm here.

CASSIDY

(with a forced smile)

I'm glad.

Cassidy flicks her cigarette out the window and stares out of it.

TASHA

See, this is why...I knew you were gonna make it a thing. Those assholes.

CASSIDY

I'm not. I know what people must think of me and I understand.

Tasha braces herself for a blow-up.

TASHA

What the hell? Seriously, what the hell? Busy. Can't. No response. And you have no reaction to that?

CASSIDY

New Cassidy has one reaction and one reaction only today 'understanding'.

TASHA

Oh man, give me what you're having.

Cassidy happily reaches into her bag and pulls out a dropper full of acid.

TASHA (CONT'D)

I was kidding.

**INT. APARTMENT - DAY**

Two-bedroom apartment. Extremely messy. Clearly the location of plenty of parties.

CASSIDY (V.O.)

Does everyone hate me now? Because you can tell me and I'd understand.

**INT. APARTMENT - MIMI'S BEDROOM - DAY**

**MIMI KEENER**, 24, doll-face, troubled lies in bed with a goofy smile across her face. She breathes heavy and then grabs the head of the person under the cover's who is pleasuring her.

CASSIDY (V.O.)

Does Mimi hate me?

The person crawls from under the cover's. A **WOMAN**, 28, fiery red hair, porcelain skin grabs Mimi and they kiss ferociously.

TASHA (V.O.)

Oh my God. Honestly, she probably just didn't want to come. You know how she is.

Mimi and her friend go at so hard that they knock over the entire nightstand along with her phone.

CASSIDY (V.O.)

I see. That's her choice and I have to respect that.

**EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY**

**JESSENIA 'JESS' ENDRES**, 23, latina, chubby, very cute pukes behind a dumpster.

CASSIDY (V.O.)

So, Jess is busy? Busy doing what? I don't know. I'm curious because I thought we were so close.

Jess stares at her phone then throws up again.

TASHA

Why would you think that?

She stumbles around the corner and stands in front of the small clinic. It looks closed from the outside. An 'OPEN' sign flickers in the window.

CASSIDY (V.O.)

All I'm saying is what exactly is Jess 'busy' doing? I'm looking forward to asking her.

Jess takes a deep breath and walks in.

**INT. DANA'S LOFT - HALLWAY - DAY**

**DANA IYER**, 25, Hindu-American, poised, and stunning dressed in gym gear is followed by a **MAN**, 30, smarmy, and sexy.

They can't keep their hands off each other.

CASSIDY (V.O.)

See the old me would have been forced to say something like 'Dana can't be bothered to get her head out of her own ass for like three seconds is more like it'. Bue New Cassidy believes in her friends.

For every few steps a kiss follows.

Dana pushes him off.

DANA

(mouths)

Go.

The man makes a sad puppy face but complies. He disappears around the corner towards the elevator. Dana is all smiles.

Dana can feel eyes on her. She gives a quick smile to **MRS. COLLIER**, 60's, Jewish who peers with disapproval at Dana through the crack in her door.

Dana runs into her apartment.

**INT. DANAS LOFT - DAY**

Once inside, Dana is horrified to see every square foot of her loft is occupied with boxes.

TASHA (V.O.)

Or maybe she can't for real.

CASSIDY (V.O.)

Why? What do you know?

**EVAN MCGRATH**, 28, scruffy, and too handsome holds **OZIAS IYER**, 10 months and adorable as they greet Dana at the door with a smile.

TASHA (V.O.)

It's not my business to tell. Just know that she can't.

Dana just stands in the doorway mouth agape.

**I/E. TASHAS S.U.V. - DAY - TRAVELING**

Cassidy stares a hole into Tasha's head. Tasha doesn't budge.

CASSIDY  
*'We are masters of the unsaid  
words, but slaves of those we let  
slip out'* Winston Churchill.

TASHA  
(sarcastically)  
So, nothing from New Cassidy then?

CASSIDY  
I know who my friends are.

TASHA  
Ok, I get it. This is the drugs  
talking.

CASSIDY  
No, This is me talking, New  
Cassidy.

TASHA  
So, now you have an unwavering  
optimism in other people?

CASSIDY  
Why not? This is the New Cassidy.

TASHA  
I liked the old Cassidy.

CASSIDY  
No you didn't. Nobody did.  
(beat)  
What could I expect? I've been MIA  
for months. The world doesn't stop  
just because I want it too.

TASHA  
Still.

CASSIDY  
I didn't expect anything. All I  
know is if my best friend came back  
from an excursion I'd be a little  
more excited to see them is all I'm  
saying.

Tasha skids off the road and turns to Cassidy.

TASHA  
That's bullshit. Excursion? You  
left. You left.

**EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY(MOMENTS LATER)**

Tasha turns into a quiet suburb. It's the type of neighborhood where every house looks the same.

TASHA  
(matter of factly)  
I'm taking you home.

CASSIDY  
Yeah, I know.

TASHA  
Okay?

CASSIDY  
OK.

Cassidy squirms in her seat and starts to hyperventilate.

TASHA  
What's going on here?

CASSIDY  
It's fine I think I'm just reacting to the acid. I took more.

TASHA  
You took more acid? When?

CASSIDY  
When you weren't looking obviously.

TASHA  
Are you freaking kidding me right now? I can't take you home like this.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Don't freak out. You're gonna make me freak out. Ahhhhhh!

TASHA (CONT'D)  
Do you need a banana or something? I think I have one in my bag.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
No. No. No. Pull over...pull over!

Tasha slams on the brakes.

**EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - SIDEWALK - DAY**

Cassidy hurdles herself out of Tasha's truck. She hunches over and dry heaves on the sidewalk.

PASSERBYERS just go about their day as they walk past her. A CHILD watches her in amazement.

CASSIDY

Do yourself a favor kid, don't go  
to college, or else you'll end up  
like me.

Tasha steps out of the car and walks over to Cassidy.

TASHA

Are you OK?

Cassidy pushes Tasha down and hops in the truck.

**INT. TASHAS S.U.V. - DAY**

Cassidy now in the driver's seat attempts an escape.

CASSIDY

Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

**EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - SIDEWALK - DAY**

Tasha watches as Cassidy and the truck stop and go all the way down the block until it glides down the hill and into a parked car.

**INT. TASHA S.U.V. - DAY**

Cassidy has moved back into the passenger seat. She stares sheepishly out the window.

Tasha gets back into the car and gives Cassidy a 'What the hell?' look.

CASSIDY

I forgot I can't drive.

END ACT I

ACT II

## INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - DAY

Tasha has the kind of home you would see in a magazine. Very beautiful, extremely unmoved, and every surface has been meticulously cleaned.

There is not one thing out of place.

## INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen; fine wood cabinets, marble countertops, and stainless steel appliances.

Tasha is on the phone and Cassidy can't help but touch every surface in the room.

TASHA

(talking on the phone)

It was a raccoon...Yes, I'm sure.  
No, I didn't check...it was  
probably rabid or something...It  
came out of nowhere...Ok, well if  
you feel more comfortable  
inconveniencing my husband with  
this binal claim then go right  
ahead.

Cassidy smiles at the photos of Tasha's family; husband Keith(28), daughter Avery(3), and son Malcolm(2) on the fridge.

CASSIDY

I don't think I've ever been to  
your house before.

TASHA

(still on the phone)

We spend too much money for this  
insurance for you to be questioning  
me like this. I'm the victim...Ok,  
thanks Marcy...I won't ruin your  
life today.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Jesus these people.

Tasha tosses a coin in what appears to be a swear jar much to Cassidy's horror.

CASSIDY

Binal?

Cassidy hops onto the counter.

TASHA

It's a word.

Cassidy notices two mini whiteboards with strings sitting on the counter and looks puzzled.

TASHA (CONT'D)

It's a new product I'm trying out for my vlog. It's some kind of effective communication technique. Rosie recommended it.

Cassidy writes on the whiteboard: 'O'donnell?'.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Pope.

Cassidy writes: 'Olivia?'.

Tasha gives Cassidy a disappointed look.

CASSIDY

I'm Sorry.

TASHA

I get it. I know you don't wanna go back to that awful place but-

CASSIDY

I'm excited to be going back.  
(beat)  
Just not yet.

TASHA

Is this how it's going to be from now on? You know you can't keep doing things and hoping for the best anymore, right?

CASSIDY

Meaning?

Tasha reaches into Cassidy's bag and dumps out the acid into the sink.

TASHA

No more hard drugs. You owe it to yourself and T-

CASSIDY

Well, let's not forget where I got those drugs from.

TASHA

Don't do that.

CASSIDY

Sorry.

Cassidy walks out of the room into the hallway that connects from the kitchen. Tasha can still be seen from where Cassidy stands.

TASHA

I had stuff to do today. I was gonna go to the grocery store. And maybe sneak off to a cold yoga class. I had a groupon. That's non-refundable fun out the window.

CASSIDY

You didn't have to come get me, I would've just hitched back.

TASHA

And you would have been kidnapped by a very handsome serial killer.

CASSIDY

I could be a serial killer.

TASHA

How?

Cassidy catches a whiff of herself-not good.

CASSIDY

Feminism.

(beat)

I'm gonna change.

Cassidy waits for a response as she heads up the stairs. Finally-

TASHA (O.S.)

Alright. Put on normal clothes. You're back in civilization...you can't dress like you're going to Coachella every day.

CASSIDY

I would never go to Coachella.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY**

Cassidy sits in the bathtub eyes closed. Very still like a corpse. The water has turned cold. Phone in hand. Text messages on

**SCREEN**

**HOME:** *Where did you go?*

**HOME:** *When are you coming back?*

**HOME:** *Wow...really Cass?*

**CASSIDY**

pulls herself out of the tub and walks over to the sink. She stares in the mirror.

CASSIDY

(to herself)

This is where you belong. This is where you're needed. This is where you're loved.

She opens the medicine cabinet only to see tons of pill bottles. All prescribed to Tasha. Cassidy takes one out and reads the label.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Tasha?

TASHA (O.S.)

Yeah?

Cassidy puts the bottle back.

CASSIDY

Nevermind, I figured it out.

She closes the cabinet and get's dressed in her 'normal' clothes.

**INT. DANAS LOFT - DAY**

Dana sits in front of her computer on the floor. Boxes tower over her. Her computer BEEPS. A message.

**THE COMPUTER SCREEN**

Lliam  
Guess who's famous?

There's a link to **indiewire.com**. She clicks it and the main photo on the website is the guy from earlier and her at an event. They look happy and glamorous.

As Dana scans the site she notices a photo of Evan with a caption that reads:

**Dawn of Assassins star spotted in da 'burgh and this town just got a lot hotter!**

Dana stares at the screen. One of the boxes spills out stills of a young pretty girl. An imprinted kiss mark is at the bottom along with 'Love, Ava!'

Dana grabs the computer and storms into the other room.

**INT. DANAS LOFT - COMMON AREA - DAY**

Together sit OZ and Evan. They watch *DAWN OF THE ASSASSINS*. A micro-budget T.V. Show.

EVAN  
Here it comes.

Evan is on the screen with Ava.

GUNNER (EVAN)  
You know what I always say 'Love,  
it's a killer'.

Posters, standees, t-shirts, and even a few mugs are all about from the show. Dana is on most of these items. Not all but most.

EVAN  
Boom! Oz buddy one day that's gonna  
be your catchphrase.

DANA  
Evan?

EVAN  
Hey. Say hey mommy. Hey, Mommy.

Dana shoves the computer screen in Evan's face.

DANA  
Low profile. Low profile.

Evan notices the look on Dana's face and straightens up. He grabs the computer from her and reads the headline.

EVAN

I can't believe I have fans here too. That's crazy.

(beat)

I swear I didn't tell anybody I was here.

DANA

It doesn't matter. I don't want Oz bombarded by weird fans.

EVAN

My fans are not weird. What about your fans?

DANA

The Dana-lions are very cool.

EVAN

So are Evan's Angel's.

DANA

It's different. I'm not on the show anymore.

EVAN

Well, no one is, it's on hiatus.

They both share a laugh.

EVAN (CONT'D)

OK. I agree.

(to Oz)

We don't want your first words to be 'Hey, aren't you that dude from that one thing?'

DANA

God, the rumors are going to fly. Ozzie you have famous parents. Sorry.

EVAN

That's right, kiddo. You have a famous mommy and a real famous daddy.

DANA

Can you just...please?

Evan's phone RINGS right next to Dana's foot. As she reaches down to grab it she notices Ava on the caller-id.

She hands him his phone quietly gauging his reaction. A slick smile creeps across his face as he hit's ignore and begins to type a message.

DANA (CONT'D)  
So, you're still seeing her? But  
you live here now.

EVAN  
Yeah, we're doing the long distance  
thing.

Evan holds up his hand and reveals a promise ring.

EVAN (CONT'D)  
Soulmates ya know.

DANA  
(laughing)  
Come on.

Evan makes a face. His phone RINGS again, this time his reaction is clear as day, love.

DANA (CONT'D)  
Evan, what's the game plan with  
your stuff?

EVAN  
Chimo mama. I've got some moving  
guys coming over to help me unpack  
later.

DANA  
That's a lot of money. You can just  
do it yourself

EVAN  
Dana, relax. I'm here. You can  
relax now.

Evan kisses her on the cheek which feels as awkward as it looks.

Evan holds his phone up to reveal Ava on video chat.

AVA (O.S.)  
Did you see?  
(Noticing Dana)  
Hey girl.

Dana gives a weak wave.

EVAN  
Yeah, that's so crazy.

He hands her Oz and leaves for the bedroom.

Dana turns and runs into a standee of Evan. She punches it.

**INT. JESS AND MIMIS APARTMENT - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY**

GIGGLES and sweet MOANS can be heard from the couch that sits where the rest of the kitchen should be.

ARMAND HOLGUIN 24, latino, nerdy, and cuddly stares at the couch, way too long, before he announces himself.

ARMAND  
Ahem.

Only one head pops up from under the covers. It's Mimi who is very naked and not shy about it.

Another head pops up. The woman from earlier.

They both giggle.

ARMAND (CONT'D)  
May this couch never burn; for it belongs in a museum.

MIMI  
Hey, Armand.

ARMAND  
Mimi. Rachel? Seen Jess by chance?

RACHEL  
Aww. That's so sweet you miss your girlfriend.

Mimi and Armand look at her as if she were an alien.

MIMI  
She needed avocado or something. I'm like 'dude, every place delivers' just use an app. Why, are you bored?

ARMAND  
Yes. Your apartment is so boring.

MIMI

Then go out.

ARMAND

Nu-uh. Lawrenceville has gotten very douche-y. Everytime I step foot outside I'm bombarded with bad art and chai lattes.

MIMI

Sorry.

Armand grumbles under his breath as he heads back into Jess's bedroom.

Mimi looks at Rachel who types a text.

RACHEL

I'm sorry, but I think you should tell him.

MIMI

I'm not gonna tell him. I shouldn't have told you.

RACHEL

Mimi, darling, I am so grateful that you felt comfortable enough to share with me. However, sometimes people can't see their own undoing until it's too late.

MIMI

No. Friends don't tell friends BF's about said friends secret abortion's. And don't call me darling, my grandma does that, it's a turn-off.

RACHEL

Are you saying I'm old like a grandma?

MIMI

You may be reaching cougar status. Which is hot.

Mimi tries to start up again with Rachel and begins to kiss her neck.

RACHEL

Wait, I've read about this or maybe it was a documentary...actually it may have been a YouTube rant.

(MORE)

Anyway, it was all about these young girls who get addicted to abortion's like tattoos. After their fifth one they barely feel it anymore until their getting one like every month. That's scary isn't it?

Mimi gives up at this point.

MIMI

Yes. Our generation is fucked up.

RACHEL

I'm not suggesting that's what's going on here, but it does have some same red flags. Maybe you two should open up a dialogue about that in a safe place.

MIMI

Please don't agenda push to me right now. I wanna retain my afterglow.

Armand re-enters the room and get's coffee. Rachel's phone RINGS.

RACHEL

I have to take this.

Rachel grabs up a cover and heads into Mimi's room but not before she motions to Armand.

MIMI

Mando, how do you feel about tattoos?

ARMAND

Gross.

MIMI

That's what I thought.

Mimi picks up a decorative throw pillow and stares at it confused. She puts it down and puts on a random shirt she finds in the cushion.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Stop making that face.

ARMAND

What face?

MIMI

Like you're picturing us having sex.

ARMAND

Because, I'm big, I gotta be a creeper?

Armand hands her a coffee in a mug that matches the throw pillow. They both peek around the corner to see if Rachel is out of sight.

They kiss. Armand gives her a mischievous look.

MIMI

Don't tell me.

ARMAND

Nothing. Zero info. That's weird.

Mimi shushes him.

MIMI

I thought you were like a ./sign. How could you not find something about her? This makes everything ten times more complicated.

ARMAND

Maybe there is nothing. Which is boring. Why can't you cheat with someone cool and interesting?

MIMI

It's not...cheating...it's an experience. I'm entitled to an outward experience. And she's great. Isn't she great? So cool and sexy...it's like I'm scissoring Juliette Moore.

ARMAND

Yeah.

Mimi's bangs her head against the wall.

MIMI

I need to get out of this.

Armand grabs the decorative throw pillow and places it between Mimi and the wall.

ARMAND

Yeah.

(beat)

On that note, we need to talk.

**INT. CLINIC - DAY**

The clinic is small and overcrowded. Babies are cranky and loud with their mothers. Young girls are seated in the reception area. They all look ashamed.

Jess avoids eye-contact as she makes her way to the bullet-proof glass box the receptionists sit in.

A **NURSE** 40's, large black woman sits in front of her computer and types as two smaller **NURSES** 20's, latina work behind her. There is a small intercom. Jess presses the button.

JESSENIA

Hello. Hi.

The tiny glass box is smaller up close. One of the light bulbs flicker. Jess notices a bullet-hole in the glass. None of this fazes her.

NURSE

(not looking up)

Yes.

JESSENIA

I'm here for the procedure.

NURSE

Sweetie I can't hear you.

JESSENIA

I'm here for the procedure.

NURSE

Which one?

Jess looks confused.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Oh lord. Calandra! Calandra come here please.

A tiny SPANISH NURSE comes out from the back.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Can you please ask this child what she needs?

NURSE CALANDRA  
 (in Spanish)  
 What are you here for?

JESSENIA  
 (in Spanish)  
 I speak English.  
 (to the black nurse)  
 I speak English.

NURSE  
 Ok, so what are you here for?

JESSENIA  
 Abortion.

Nurse Calandra walks away.

NURSE  
 Name?

JESSENIA  
 Jessenia Endres. But I'm not-

NURSE  
 (While typing)  
 -I don't see you. Did you make an  
 appointment?

JESSENIA  
 Well I called. Somebody said I  
 could be squeezed in-

NURSE  
 Who said that?

JESSENIA  
 I don't know. It's an emergency.

NURSE  
 It always is an emergency. I don't  
 know who you talked to but you have  
 to make an appointment.

The Nurse continues to work and Jessenia just stands there in shock. Jess turns to leave. Just as she heads for the door she grabs a potted plant from off the coffee table and SMASHES it against the window.

JESSENIA  
 Your lucky I don't sue your asses.

The office goes silent and everyone stares at Jess.

JESSENIA (CONT'D)

I got that birth control pill from here because my insurance works here and then I got pregnant anyway. Then I get the abortion pill and that shit didn't work. Nobody get the pill!

The large black nurse comes out of the box. The other two tiny nurses cower behind filing cabinets.

NURSE

You need to calm down. It's not our fault you're in the position your in-

JESSENIA

Really? So whose fault is it? Mines? There's? It's our fault because we're the women? It's our fault some idiot nutted in us and now we have to clean it up. That's what you're saying isn't it? The pussy is the problem. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Not us. You all. Bunch of high and mighty bitches.

(in tears)

I won't be made to feel guilty or bad.

The nurse just stares at her, eyes full of pity, and hands Jess a form.

Jess turns and finds a little corner to sit then begins to fill out the form.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY**

Cassidy stands in the hallway and looks around for Tasha.

TLC's 'Good at being bad' BLARES through the house. Cassidy startled walks downstairs.

Cassidy follows the music until she is at the basement door.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY**

Cassidy is floored by the massive basement set-up. It's an in-home studio just for Tasha.

A huge banner sits behind a desk that reads 'Happily Ever After' with a photo of Keith and Tasha on the background.

CASSIDY

What the-?

Tasha waves for Cassidy to sit with her on the floor as she rolls the biggest joint with proficiency.

TASHA

I needed a place to shoot my vlog so...it's nothing special...but it's mine.

CASSIDY

Where does he work again?

TASHA

UBER.

CASSIDY

For Uber?

TASHA

At UBER.

The walls are littered with eclectic artwork from local artists. Awards for Tasha in Filmmaking from festivals all over the country.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Just a little something. A sure fire way to knock the edge off.

Tasha lights up the joint and hands it to Cassidy.

CASSIDY

A Tasha special? Really? I'm so flattered. I didn't think-

TASHA

Hard drugs. I said hard drugs. This is weed.

(takes a huge hit)

'Weed is from the earth. God put this here for me and you.'

They take turns puff, puff, passing.

Cassidy walks around the room and finds a projector. She turns it on and an experimental silent film plays.

They watch together as they let the weed take over their bodies.

CASSIDY

You're so stinkin' talented you  
make me sick.

TASHA

You didn't even know I was there.  
You looked really happy.

CASSIDY

I was.

(beat)

Let's run away from here.

TASHA

Can't. I have carpool.

END ACT II

ACT III**INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY**

Jess wakes up groggy in a dimly lit exam room. She lies there for a moment. The black nurse from earlier comes in.

NURSE  
Hey, how you feelin'?

JESSENIA  
Good-not good.

Jess focuses in on the woman she stood off with earlier. She looked different to her somehow. The nurse sits her up and gives her pillow a fluff.

JESSENIA (CONT'D)  
Sorry...Nurse?

NURSE  
Shondelle. And child please you'd be surprised how often that happens.

Jess tries to reach for some water by her bed but can't reach it. Nurse Shondelle takes pity on her and hands it to her.

JESSENIA  
Thanks.

Nurse Shondelle is about to leave when Jess stops her.

JESSENIA (CONT'D)  
Hey, can I ask you something? Do you like your job?

NURSE SHONDELLE  
Does anybody?

JESSENIA  
Do you like being a woman?

NURSE SHONDELLE  
Does anybody?  
(beat)  
Boyfriend or other?

JESSENIA  
Boyfriend. Does it matter?

NURSE SHONDELLE  
You tell me.

JESSENIA

No. Is that terrible? I, honestly, don't care if he knows. I, mean, I love Armand very much but seriously that could change. I'm more concerned with myself. I'll know and I will always know. There comes a time in every woman's life when she can't rationalize anymore. I know me I would spend my whole life rationalizing to myself. Constantly answering questions that people are too polite to ask. But I'll ask. Every day, I'll ask myself, what if?

NURSE SHONDELLE

Don't you have any friends to talk to about this?

JESSENIA

Just one. If she were here she would be sliding back and forth in that swivel chair. And she would be making me laugh. I can only imagine her advice to me.

NURSE

Well?

JESSENIA

'Whatever you do just don't watch JUNO for a while.'

CASSIDY (V.O.)

Whatever you do just don't watch JUNO for a while.

**INT. DANAS LOFT - COMMON AREA - DAY**

Evan holds Oz out for Dana to take. She doesn't.

DANA

I have to take a shower.

EVAN

I don't know how.

DANA

Well, maybe you should learn. I've had months to perfect it.

EVAN

Let me watch you do it first.

Dana grabs a diaper and wipe from the baby bag and changes Oz.

EVAN (CONT'D)

It's so funny. Ava tried to teach me how to do this and I was just all thumbs.

Evan takes Oz back once Dana is done. Dana hands Evan the diaper which he does not take. Dana walks over to the diaper genie and tosses it.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, she is great about stuff like this. She has little brothers and just loves babies.

DANA

Does she?

EVAN

She said she can't wait to visit Pittsburgh. She's never been here. I'm like what? This place is amazing...

EVAN (CONT'D)

You know when I told her I was coming here to be with this little guy Tammy was so cool about it. She told me 'A kid needs its dad around, I get it, babe'. When we were on set all I did was talk to her about Oz. Most girls would totally be turned off by a guy who has a kid with another girl...but that is what's so great about her.

DANA

Is it? Well...great. You know I'm sorta seeing someone too.

EVAN

Like, a sex thing?

(to Oz)

I can't wait for you two to meet. Dana I'm really glad you're letting me be involved. I know you could have been a total bitch about this but I'm glad you weren't. Your good people.

Dana pulls the diaper genie bag out of the pale. She hands it to Evan-who just stares at it.

DANA

Can you put it outside the door? I want to take it the chute later.

Evan takes the bag and places it outside. The door across the hall opens all the way to reveal Mrs. Collier.

EVAN

Hi, Mrs. Collier. Do you remember me? I'm Evan I visit Dana sometimes. I'm living here now.

MRS.COLLIER

Evan, of course. Mr.famous man. Let me look at you with baby.

She pinches both their cheeks.

DANA

Hey, Mrs. Collier. How are you today?

MRS.COLLIER

I hope you ran this by the board. No co-habitation allowed. Azoy handsome! Look at that face.

DANA

It's just for a little while. He just got into town...

MRS.COLLIER

You came to get married? Yes?

EVAN

No, no. I came to spend time with my son.

MRS.COLLIER

Good boy. No living in sin right?

DANA

Goodbye Mrs. Collier.

Mrs. Collier takes that as her cue to leave.

EVAN

She is hilarious.

DANA

A riot. He has to get ready for his nap.

Dana reaches for Oz only for Evan to pull away from her.

EVAN

I was gonna take him to the  
playground. We need more dad and  
son time.

DANA

But, what if he needs changing?

EVAN

Please. Please mommy. Please.

DANA

Fine. But you can not draw  
attention to yourself. I don't want  
Oz bombarded by groupies.

EVAN

I'm going to go get changed.

This time he kisses her on the cheek and it feels more comfortable. He hands her Oz and leaves. As he walks away he takes his shirt off. Dana tries not to stare.

Dana's smile fades when she realizes that Evan has left a mess, plus the boxes, all over the apartment. And she still needs a shower.

**INT. JESS AND MIMIS APARTMENT - BATHROOM - EVENING**

Rachel soaks in the tub as Mimi shaves her legs and brushes her teeth by the sink.

RACHEL

This is so exciting. You're sweet  
for throwing her a party. I'm dying  
to ask her a million questions.

MIMI

You're coming? Why?

RACHEL

Morbid curiosity. I mean she  
disappeared-

MIMI

Cassidy didn't disappear she left  
and she's back now. It's only an  
interesting mystery if they don't  
come back.

RACHEL

Still, she must have this huge  
wealth of knowledge now.

MIMI

I'm sure.

RACHEL

The missing friend to your odd group.

Mimi chuckles at the statement.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Sorry, but you have to admit you and your friends are an odd bunch.

MIMI

That's her fault. She sort of adopted all of us.

RACHEL

I hope she's not one of those people whose full of shit.

Mimi climbs into the bath with Rachel and takes her hands.

MIMI

Being friends with Cassidy is like being friends with a Sesame Street puppet. Really loud and erratic but oddly sincere and insightful.

RACHEL

What do you mean?

Mimi sits quietly for a moment and just looks at Rachel's eager expression.

MIMI

When we were younger Cassidy loved disappearing. We'd go to the mall she'd vanish into the crowd or we'd go to the park, she'd wander off, and we'd find her on a bench somewhere. It drove all of us insane. One day Cassidy called all of us and said 'we have to go for a walk'-so we did. It was nothing special; just a walk around our neighborhood. Me, Tasha, and Dana were all walking together, gossiping about boys, and other dumb crap. And then there was Cassidy way behind us so uninterested and unfazed by everything-

RACHEL

Simple joys.

MIMI

We kept shouting for her to 'hurry up' but she just shouted back 'slow down'-we hadn't even noticed she had run off again. So we waited and waited. It was getting later and later. The street lights had come on and no Cassidy. I wanted to go home, Dana was in tears, and Tasha wanted to wait-so we did.

RACHEL

How awful.

MIMI

Anyway, we were good and worried, and Cassidy comes running out towards us. She looked...her clothes were all dirty and ripped. She had like a huge gash in her leg. I said 'What the hell happened to you?' and she smiles this big goofy grin and says 'Walk a mile in another man's shoes long enough and you're bound to get lost and bruised' then she just starts laughing. I thought Tasha was gonna murder her right there in the middle of the street.

Rachel's eager face has been replaced with abject horror.

RACHEL

It was a joke to her.

MIMI

Classic Cassidy.

RACHEL

Is that what this time was? A joke.

MIMI

No. This was just mean.

RACHEL

What a handful.

MIMI

Well, you don't know her...so.

Mimi climbs out of the tub and wraps herself in a towel.

RACHEL  
You're done?

MIMI  
I hit my criticals.

Mimi leaves the bathroom.

**INT. JESS AND MIMIS APARTMENT - JESS'S BEDROOM - EVENING**

Mimi watches as Jess holds one of the decorative pillows in between her fingers then chucks it out an open window.

MIMI  
I know.

Mimi rushes over to her and tries to kiss her but Jess turns away.

MIMI (CONT'D)  
It's not fair. Every day I feel you pulling away from me. You love him more than me and I'm gonna have to deal with that. We both had to know this wasn't gonna last.

JESSENIA  
Fine, then I guess we're done here.

Mimi starts to leave but stops in the doorway.

MIMI  
Friends first...you said that.

Rachel comes by the room.

RACHEL  
Hi, sweetie. How you feeling?

JESSENIA  
I'm fine, thanks for asking, friend.

Rachel kisses Mimi on the cheek and they head into her room.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - EVENING**

**KEITH COLEMAN**, 27, boyish good looks, conservative demeanor home from work walks about his house. He smells the weed.

KEITH

Tash? Baby? What happened to the car?

He makes his way up the stairs to the bedroom.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - BEDROOM - EVENING**

Keith stands in the doorway and watches Cassidy and Tasha asleep in bed.

Keith crawls into bed next to Tasha and holds her close. Tasha doesn't stir. Cassidy who was only half-asleep looks over at Keith.

Keith grabs his white-board from his nightstand and motions for Cassidy to grab the other.

Cassidy writes: 'I'm back.'

Keith writes: 'I see that.'

Keith writes: 'The car?'

Cassidy draws a very crude dead raccoon.

Keith writes: 'Hungry?'

Cassidy writes: 'Yes?'

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING (MOMENTS LATER)**

Keith is busy cooking and Cassidy watches him for a short while.

CASSIDY

What'd you make?

KEITH

Waffles.

Keith lays pancakes out for her which makes her smile. They both sit down and begin to eat. This is all very pleasant until-

CASSIDY

I crashed the truck and blamed it on a woodland creature.

Keith just laughs. Cassidy, confused, starts to laugh as well.

KEITH  
You say that like I don't know you.

CASSIDY  
I'm going to be honest from now on.  
This is the new me.

He starts to laugh again.

KEITH  
New you? Who are you kidding?  
(re: her look)  
Cassidy, you have a million  
problems but being honest ain't one  
of them.

CASSIDY  
I'll pay for the damage.

KEITH  
Mm-hm. I'll bill you.

CASSIDY  
Why do you hate me?

KEITH  
Why do you care?

CASSIDY  
I don't, babe. But I would really  
like to know.

KEITH  
For one you don't seem to realize  
how completely inappropriate it is  
to call someone else's husband  
'babe'.

CASSIDY  
Sorry.

KEITH  
You smoked weed in my house. The  
air quality is ruined.

CASSIDY  
Why have weed if not to smoke it?

KEITH  
Outside. At night. After the kids  
are asleep and The Mindy Project  
has gone off.

(MORE)

Not in the middle of the  
afternoon...what if the delivery  
guy came by or our parents...what  
would they think?

CASSIDY

That we're a grown ass women who  
smoke weed?

KEITH

Point is that was our weed. The  
family weed and you infringed on  
that.

Keith goes over to the stove and grabs more pancakes.

CASSIDY

That all?

He slides another pancake onto Cassidy's plate/

KEITH

No. Not even close. Tasha needs  
dependence, stability, and she  
needs to feel safe. I give her  
that. I gave her a home and  
children. Access to my credit card  
for whatever she needs. You give  
her something else that I just  
can't seem to figure out.

CASSIDY

You mean honesty. Tough love? A  
fucking reality check once in a  
while? A chance to be herself?

Keith stands before Cassidy like a preacher in front of his  
congregation.

KEITH

Look, I get that you are anti- all  
of this. But this is her life and  
she needs to focus on-

CASSIDY

You?

KEITH

Everything. Without you coming out  
of the woods with all your Cassidy  
B.S.

CASSIDY

So, what are you her proxy hero?  
She can't just live in this fantasy  
world you've created for her here.

Kith snatches the photo's off the fridge of his family.

KEITH

None of this is a fantasy. These  
are her kids. We are man and wife.  
What aren't you getting?

(beat)

She won't say anything and you know  
she won't. But I will.

Cassidy continues to eat her pancakes then she starts to  
laugh.

CASSIDY

Sorry, I just think it's funny that  
you refer to yourself as man and  
Tasha as wife.

KEITH

There. This isn't a New Cassidy.  
This is just another layer of weird  
to add to the other layers of weird  
you already have.

(scoffs)

New Cassidy? I'm not buying it.

Now done with her food Cassidy picks up the plate and licks  
it clean. Keith watches in amusement.

CASSIDY

Those pancakes sucked.

Cassidy grabs up her bag and begins to leave but is stopped  
when she see's Tasha who doesn't see Keith.

TASHA

Ok, Mimi is having a party for you  
tonight.

(noticing Keith)

Hey, I didn't know you were here.

They embrace.

KEITH

Yeah, I was just talking to Cass  
about her going home.

CASSIDY

Yeah, and I was just telling him to fuck off.

TASHA

Cass.

KEITH

Uh-oh. Someone has to put money in the 'swear jar'.

They all laugh. Cassidy hugs Tasha tightly.

CASSIDY

Thank you.

TASHA

I'll see you later.

Cassidy leaves the room. She can still be seen from the kitchen. Tasha and Keith share a look. Keith pulls out his wallet and takes out a twenty.

KEITH

Wait. Wait. Wait.

Keith runs out after Cassidy. A short exchange can be heard between the two and then the front door close.

**EXT. BAR - DOWNTOWN (PITTSBURGH) - NIGHT**

In front of the *Whale's Belly* bar Cassidy peeks through the window. It's dark, not a soul in sight. She walks to the front door and sticks a note in the cage.

KEITH (V.O.)

Cass, I don't hate you. I'm a christian it's not in me to hate; but you are a sad, frightened little girl and I feel really bad for you, sometimes.

She walks off. Headphones on, as she tries to drown out the hustle and bustle of the world around her.

END ACT III

ACT IV**INT. DANAS LOFT - HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Cassidy knocks on Dana's door. Mrs. Collier comes out of her apartment.

MR.COLLIER (O.S.)  
Who is it this time?

MRS.COLLIER  
It's the nice one.

MR.COLLIER (O.S.)  
What?

MRS.COLLIER  
The colored one.

Cassidy laughs at the identifier.

CASSIDY  
Hi, Mrs. and Mr. Collier. How have you been?

MR.COLLIER (O.S.)  
Hello dear. Bebe give her some candy.

Mrs. Collier gives Cassidy candies from a dish.

MRS.COLLIER  
Their living in sin those two.

CASSIDY  
What now?

**EXT. DANAS LOFT - BALCONY - NIGHT**

Dana and Cassidy look at the view of downtown Pittsburgh from her loft. They share a cigarette.

CASSIDY  
You whore-faced whore.

DANA  
He's not living here. We're co-parenting. That's it.

CASSIDY

That sounds like something you made up. I can not believe you let him move in after what he did to you.

DANA

Dude. I need help. I admit it-single motherhood-not for me. But the past few days have been brutal. He's a complete fucktard.

CASSIDY

Well at least he's trying and easy on the eyes.

Evan sits inside, shirtless, eyes glued to his cellphone as Oz plays in his playpen.

DANA

That's what's so scary. It's like living in a fantasy sequence where he is all 'nice' to everyone and inexplicably shirtless all the time. I sent him to the market and he came back with free fruit.

CASSIDY

Cool.

DANA

Cassidy, I sent him out to get diapers. Now I know what it's like dating Johnny Depp.

CASSIDY

Dating?

DANA

No. He's dating her. Their 'soulmates'. And she wants to 'visit'.

CASSIDY

Oh hell no.

DANA

I know but what the fuck am I supposed to say? He's here and she's more than 'understanding'-cunt.

CASSIDY

I hope this works for you guys.

(beat)

(MORE)

I came all the way over here to talk about my misadventure, now it feels sub par to what's going on here.

DANA

Keith, actually said all that to you?

Cassidy shrugs her shoulders.

DANA (CONT'D)

Are you gonna tell Tasha? She's your best friend, come on.

CASSIDY

Can we not say 'best friend' it feels so third grade.

DANA

It is third grade. Everything in life is third grade.

CASSIDY

Are you mad at me? Is everyone mad at me? You can just tell me. I already feel like a dick.

DANA

No. No, honey. It was a little shocking at first...you were just gone one day...and weren't coming back. Should we call the police? Put out a missing person.

CASSIDY

Why didn't you?

DANA

You just needed time. I think everyone got that. Then you were found at HUG LIFE fine and happy.

CASSIDY

You guys knew where I was?

DANA

Yeah...I mean...you guys had an instagram.

**INT. DANAS LOFT - COMMON AREA - NIGHT**

Dana and Cassidy come back inside. Evan is still on his phone and Oz can be heard CRYING in his playpen. Cassidy goes and picks him up.

DANA

Hey, so I'm going out tonight. You think you'll be alright?

EVAN

I can handle it. I've watched him before. Hey, you'll be back like what...10:30?

DANA

I could get someone else.

Evan waves her off and takes Oz from Cassidy.

EVAN

Nah. Man, I'm hungry.  
(to Oz)  
Sushi?

DANA

He can't eat...just don't kill the baby.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Tasha sips on an artesanal beer as Keith flicks through the T.V. Channels in the living room.

TASHA

Blech. Where did you get this beer?

KEITH

Randy made it.

TASHA

Randy? Your cousin in prison?

KEITH

Randy who used to be in prison.  
It's good right? Come sit down.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Tasha sits next to Keith and cozies up to him.

KEITH

What are we watching tonight? Tiny house, alright. Now this is better than some party?

Tasha stares blankly at the T.V.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Hey, maybe later we can... Babe? Yoo-hoo!

TASHA

Sorry, I just can't believe you threw her out.

KEITH

I did not throw her out. I nudged her in the right direction-she needs to go home. Home. Did the words 'I'm going home.' even leave her mouth? Is she even thinking about it?

TASHA

I know how to handle my friend and if you nudge her she is going to do everything in her power to nudge back. Do you even care that this could send her running again?

KEITH

She shouldn't have run in the first place.

Tasha gets back up and heads into the kitchen again. Neith follows after her.

**INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Tasha starts to wash what little dishes sit in her sink.

KEITH

Cass will be OK.

TASHA

Yeah I know...it's just...you made it sound like all that stuff came from me.

KEITH

Us. I was speaking for us.

TASHA

I don't know if I like you speaking for me.

KEITH

You used to like it. You used to love it.

TASHA

Yeah, when I'm trying to rent a car and they won't give me the weekend deal. Not personal things. You made me sound like some lobotomized stepford wife.

KEITH

Ok.

TASHA

I can speak for myself!

Keith gives her a look.

TASHA (CONT'D)

What?

KEITH

You're yelling. If you're going to yell we should pull out the whiteboards.

Tasha shoves a dollar into the 'swear jar'.

KEITH (CONT'D)

It's really not that big if a deal.

TASHA

Then why even tell me?

KEITH

Because, I know she would just misconstrue everything in her favor.

(beat)

I gotta say I'm a little shocked here babe. I thought you'd be relieved that I stepped in and did the dirty work for you. I mean you're the one who said 'I don't wanna be friends with her anymore...'

TASHA

I know what I said. Don't quote me to me.

Tasha finishes the dishes and starts to drink her beer again.

KEITH

She's a bad influence babe.

TASHA

What are we some thirteen year old hooligans sneaking beer and hooking up with seniors after the big game?

KEITH

No. Not anymore. Thank God. You two at thirteen were the worst. Remember, when Cassidy spit in my hair, that one time at lunch? What was that?

Tasha snickers into her beer.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Look, Tash I think it's really sweet that your friends with her still-but there is going to come a time when you have to get friends more on your level. Maybe when Cassidy grows up a little bit you can revisit the friendship.

TASHA

She is grown-up. She's just Cassidy's version of grown-up.

KEITH

I don't think so.

Keith get's distracted by the T.V. And sits on the couch. Tasha dumps the beer into the sink and tiptoes down into the basement. She is gone for a few moments and then comes back up.

TASHA

Hey, babe. I'm gonna run out for Moscato and tampons. I'll be right back.

KEITH (O.S.)

TMI baby but I love you.

Tasha leaves.

**EXT. JESS AND MIMIS APARTMENT - YARD - NIGHT**

The party is in full swing. Fifty of Cassidy's closest friends over-run the tiny yard. Armand is manning the grill and Jess is pouring shots left and right. Mostly for herself.

MIMI

I'm not going to pretend to know  
what you're going through-

JESSENIA

So don't. Where's Rachel?

MIMI

Bailed. Something came up.

Jess tries to hide her smile.

Cassidy and Dana stand with a **GROUP OF PEOPLE**. They all talk and laugh as Cassidy regals them with her stories.

CASSIDY

T's true. We had to sync our  
periods together-

**JON**, 20's, very drunk burst into the middle of the crowd.

JON

Cassidy Young. The girl. The myth.  
What can I say? Bitch, ditched me  
at prom.

(beat)

Who are you?

CASSIDY

That's up for interpretation.

Jon stumbles over to Cassidy. Face to face. Cassidy stands firm. Jon on the other hand falls over immediately.

JON

Seriously, who the fuck do you  
think you are?

A few other guys come over to help him up.

CASSIDY

Bye, Jon.

Cassidy and Dana walk way.

DANA

Wow, that's like the fifth time  
that's happened tonight.

CASSIDY  
Well, I am awesome.

Tasha walks up to Cassidy and Dana. She smiles as she passes Jon.

TASHA  
Was that Cody?

CASSIDY  
Jon. Remember he took me to prom.

TASHA  
I do. And his name is Cody.

CASSIDY  
Hold it, you let me go to prom with someone named, Cody?

Mimi spots Cassidy and the rest of the girls.

MIMI  
Hey.

CASSIDY  
Hi. Dude, everyone I've ever slept with is here.

MIMI  
Yeah. For a popular girl you don't seem to have a lot of friends.

Jess pounds shot after shot.

CASSIDY  
Hey, Jess.

Jess gives her a 'what's up' head nod.

MIMI  
Jess, shouldn't you be taking it easy?

Armand runs over with a tray full of shots for all the girls.

ARMAND  
It's a party. Let's party!  
(to Mimi)  
As per your order's madam.

CASSIDY  
You know me.

They all grab a shot.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Too?

Do they really need a reason? They all take their shot and start to gasp from the horrible taste.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Oh my god. What was that? That wasn't even cute.

JESSENIA

I'm pregnant.

ARMAND

What?

MIMI

Still?

ARMAND

What?

END ACT IV

ACT V**EXT. JESS AND MIMIS APARTMENT - ROOF - NIGHT**

Cassidy, Mimi, Dana, and Tasha watch the party rage on without them.

DANA

I need a nap. Being old sucks.

MIMI

She said she didn't want me to come.

TASHA

What woman in the history of all womanhood would ever want to go through that alone?

CASSIDY

It was a little asshole-y.

MIMI

Do you really think you're in any position to judge?

Tasha passes out baggies. Inside the baggie: One joint and one cookie.

TASHA

I brought one for everyone.

All the girls laugh.

TASHA (CONT'D)

This one's for Jess...

Cassidy nabs the baggie. The girls pass around a lighter and smoke there weed as they look over the party below.

Cassidy watches Jess and Armand down in the yard. They appear to be screaming at each other.

TASHA (CONT'D)

God, guy's did we fuck up our lives?

DANA

No. Technically we won't 'fuck up' for another 20 years. We are however currently fucking up. So, there's still time for turnaround.

Cassidy has secluded herself from the rest of the girls.

MIMI

She's doing it again. What's wrong,  
Cassidy?

Cassidy just shakes her head.

DANA

So, Mimi what's it like munching on  
vintage carpet?

MIMI

I don't know. What's it like coming  
in second to a tween-ager?

TASHA

Ohhh!

Dana throws her cookie at Mimi.

CASSIDY

Why didn't you guys come get me?

Mimi and Tasha look at Dana.

DANA

My bad.

(beat)

We agreed that we would let you get  
whatever this was out of your  
system. I knew you'd come back.  
Know that.

MIMI

We all knew that.

CASSIDY

Really? You all agreed?

(beat)

All day I've focusing on everyone  
but myself.

TASHA

You've been avoiding. Sorry, but  
you have.

CASSIDY

Is that what I've been doing?

MIMI

It's what you always do. You say  
you don't wanna make a big deal  
about things and then...

Cassidy looks to Tasha who just turns away.

DANA

Sweetie we love you but sometimes-  
this-can be a bit much.

CASSIDY

Well, I'm sorry, I failed like you  
all assumed I would. I haven't  
changed. But, I'm still Cassidy.

MIMI

Yeah, you are, so stop with the  
bullshit.

CASSIDY

Bitch, this isn't bullshit. This is  
my life.

TASHA

Maybe we should go.

CASSIDY

You go. This is my party.

Cassidy hops off the roof into the yard.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Who wants to see my tits?

The crowd starts to cheer.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

My people.

Cassidy grabs a bottle and heads towards the shore.

**EXT. SHORE - NIGHT**

Cassidy sits by the shore a few feet from the apartment.  
There is a couch and a nice view of the river.

Cassidy smokes her joint and scribbles on a little piece of  
paper.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

That's nice. That you?

Cassidy snaps out of her daze. SETH early 30's, worldly,  
handsome, with a warm smile hands her a drink and sits down.

CASSIDY

Looks like me doesn't it?

SETH  
You an art student or something?

CASSIDY  
Or something.

He sits down next to her on the couch and pulls out the note she left him earlier at the bar.

SETH  
You know I could just give you my number instead of you doing all this ominous shit.

CASSIDY  
No, because all I would do is 'accidentally' send you a picture of my tits and then you would fall in love with me. I don't like romantic inclinations.

Seth takes the joint from her and takes a drag. He taps his shoulder and motions for Cassidy to lay her head on it. She does.

SETH  
I wouldn't be doing my cool older guy duties if I didn't give you my shoulder to get high on.  
(beat)  
I didn't think you'd come back.

CASSIDY  
I've spent all day trying not to leave again because I know I will just end up right back here. And I hate it here...I hate it here so much. And I'm just trapped.

SETH  
Running away isn't always the answer.

CASSIDY  
Maybe. I ran away because it was the right thing to do at the time. And I came back because it was the adult thing to do.

SETH  
And then you realize it can never be both.

(MORE)

That it turns out you were just standing in one spot as the rest of the world kept moving without you. Yeah, I told myself the same stuff after I left 'Novas'. Then I had to keep reminding myself that life is an art form very few people ever perfect. But never forget these words: You'll be OK.

They both laugh.

CASSIDY

Why do people think that's so comforting?

SETH

I don't know. Maybe, it makes them feel comfortable?

CASSIDY

I'm not going to be OK because sometimes you're just not.

The mysterious people in yellow emerge from the river and walk to the other side of the shore.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

This is where you belong. This is where you're needed. This is where you're loved.

Cassidy and Seth stand hand in hand and watch them disappear into the woods.

SETH

This is where your journey has taken you. This is not the end.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

This is where your journey has taken you. This is not the end.

**EXT. JESS AND MIMI'S APARTMENT - YARD - NIGHT**

Tasha watches Cassidy and Seth. Mimi and Dana watch jess and Armand sit alone on a blanket, the fight has stopped and they look happy.

DANA

What do you think?

MIMI

Not my problem.

Mimi disappears into the crowd. Dana's phone RINGS.

DANA  
 Hello? What...he was...ok.  
 (hangs up the phone)  
 I'm gonna kill him.

Dana walks over to Tasha who looks more than a little torn.

TASHA  
 The whole time she was gone I felt  
 zero obligation to keep in touch  
 with anyone. Maybe if I just paid a  
 little more attention.

DANA  
 As Cassidy would say 'I don't need  
 to see you to know you exist in my  
 life'. I gotta go. Kiss those  
 little darlings for me.

**INT. DANA'S LOFT - HALLWAY - DAY**

Dana runs down the hallway. Mrs. Collier stands her doorway  
 already waiting for her.

DANA  
 Where?

Mrs. Collier motions to Dana's loft.

MRS. COLLIER  
 Do yourself a favor; go easy on  
 handsome.

**INT. DANA'S LOFT - NIGHT**

Dana enters a now clean apartment. Not a box in sight. She  
 looks over and sees a standee of her from the show.

**INT. DANA'S LOFT - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

In her bed asleep are Evan and Oz. They look like angels.

Dana changes into her pajamas.

EVAN  
 Did you have fun?

DANA  
 Yeah. How'd you guy's do?

EVAN

This one clonked out a little while ago. He was a little fussy but coming in here made him feel better, I guess. Your bed is pretty comfy. I should sleep in here more often.

Dana lays down next to them. They both smile down at OZ.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Can I tell you something? I had planned on dumping him off on someone so I could go to this party.

DANA

Evan you can't just-

EVAN

The party was fun. I met some excellent people. But I had this sinking feeling the whole time. I just kept seeing his face when I handed him off. Broke my heart.

DANA

It's hard leaving them.

EVAN

It's so hard. This is so hard.  
(taking Dana's hand)  
I'm sorry this is so hard.

DANA

I'm really glad you're here.

EVAN

Me too.

#### EVAN'S PHONE

Lights up. A picture of Ava pops up on the screen

Evan hops up and answers the phone.

EVAN

Hey babe. I was just dreaming about you.

(to Dana)

'Night.

Evan leaves the room but leaves the door ajar. Dana shuts the door completely. Her phone buzzes. A text.

DANA

No way.

**I/E. TASHA'S S.U.V/NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT**

Tasha pulls up in front of Cassidy's house. It's a lovely suburban home in the nice neighborhood from before.

TASHA

We're here.

Cassidy stares out the window

CASSIDY

Can't I live in ignorance a little while longer?

TASHA

Scared?

They sit in silence for a few moments.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Cassidy...no one is upset...or judging you for anything.

CASSIDY

That's bullshit because I'm upset and judging myself all the time.

TASHA

You'll be OK.

Cassidy climbs out the car.

CASSIDY

What choice do I have?

Tasha climbs out of the car and steps in front of Cassidy. Tasha reaches out to her which makes Cassidy flinch.

TASHA

Not matter what happens... We're best friends. We don't stop being best friends just because one of us does something the other's don't like.

Cassidy makes a face.

TASHA (CONT'D)

What?

CASSIDY

Nothing, that was just so cheesy.

TASHA

You're an ass.

Tasha gets back in her car.

TASHA (CONT'D)

(out the window)

Call me so I know you got in OK.

CASSIDY

I'm not gonna do that.

**INT. TASHAS S.U.V. - NIGHT**

Tasha's phone BUZZES. A text.

TASHA

Interesting.

She pulls off.

**INT. CASSIDY'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT**

Cassidy stands in the foyer and looks around. A lovely suburban home.

She goes to the table and leafs through the mail addressed to her--mostly bills. She tosses them in the trash bin and makes her way upstairs.

**INT. CASSIDY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Cassidy makes her way across the room to turn on the lamp. A baby CRIES and Cassidy walks over to a crib that sits on the other side of the room.

CASSIDY

Hey, there's my girl. Mommy missed you so much.

Cassidy smiles as she cradles TSARIA YOUNG(12 months) in her arms. Cassidy's phone BUZZES. A text.

**Jess:** He proposed!

The lights flicker on. Cassidy turns to the person who stands in the doorway.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Erm...surprise.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END