Desperate me

By Anthony Brennan
INT. CAFE

the scene shows Jackson being flustered as he walks in. He is holding a phone in one hand and paper work in the other. This should show how unorganized and how unaware his life is, waiting at the table is his friends Rhian and James

JACKSON
sorry sorry sorry, I am so late I just slept through my alarm, again.

RHIAN & JAMES
classic Jackson (laughing)

JACKSON
I know, I know classic me. Anyway I have some great news that is going to prove I am not a spinster

RHIAN
Oh well I am looking forward to hearing this

JACKSON
Be nice, so anyway I spent the night with Bryan

JAMES
What? Oh my god? thats a big step

JACKSON
yeah I’ll talk about that later, the sex was amazing well at least I thought it was. He kept pushing me down when I would look back at him and before either of you make a paper bag joke or say its because he didn’t want to look at me hear this, he said he loves me

RHIAN
okay i hate to ask but did he say it before or after sex

JACKSON
what why would you ask that, why does it matter? he said he loves me

RHIAN
yeah I know he said he loves and I’m not taking that away from you, but I just want to know when he said it

(CONTINUED)
JACKSON
I’m not answering that

JAMES
I think Rhi is asking because you have just started seeing him and he was kind of pressuring you into having sex

JACKSON
what, this isn’t some after school moral story, I wanted sex as well

JAMES
yeah, when you said to him that you thought the relationship was going somewhere and now he saids he loves you and you guys have sex its just a little...

JACKSON
a little what? What? I can’t believe this! I have come to you guys after being told the most amazing thing in the world and all you can do is question his motives

RHIAN
Don’t be this friend right now, just answer the question or don’t, I think it is weird thats all

JACKSON
fuck you, what would you know about a relationship? you cheat on every guy you meet. You have no leg to stand on and you (points to James) you wouldn’t know what a relationship is, you have sex with every guy you meet online so lets not even go their

JAMES
c’mon Jackson, don’t deflect, we didn’t mean it like that. Just sit down and we will talk about the positive, right Rhi?

JACKSON
No I am not talking to you two, I can’t believe this. I never get to be happy I am always the friend everyone goes to for their shitty (MORE)
JACKSON (cont’d)
whoa is me problems and I listen to how hard it is being attractive and single and finding the right guy and the whole time I am thinking what the fuck is your problem. The one time I am happy the one fucking time. I can’t deal with this right now, I am behind on my uni stuff and I probably can barely afford this coffee, which is another thing stop choosing places that are expensive, I am a uni student I can barely afford the noodles I am living off. i can’t deal with this

Jackson storms out and trips over and the waitress brings the coffee over to Rhian and James

JACKSON
oh fuck, Jesus fucking Christ, What are you all looking at, its like you haven’t seen a fat person fall over. Fuck my life

RHIAN
shit, he is going to be mad for days

JAMES
he will get over it, hopefully. If he makes it back to his house safely (both laugh)

EXT. CENTRAL CITY MAIN ROAD

Jackson is walking down the city main road after his fight he is frantically calling his boyfriend to see him. and walks back to his apartment. He is living with 3 straight guys

INT. JACKSON APARTMENT

Bryan is waiting at the apartment outside the door

JACKSON
I am so sorry I called you

BRYAN
No its fine, i was only showering anyway

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACKSON
I need to know something, and I need you to be honest

JACKSON
Do you remember what you said yesterday?

BRYAN
I said many things, what are you referring to?

JACKSON
you know, the thing you said

BRYAN
I honestly don’t remember, what did I say.

JACKSON
Jesus fuck, Jesus fucking Christ
Bryan, they were right

BRYAN
what, and who are they?

JACKSON
you said you love me, you said you mother fucking love me

BRYAN
when? I don’t remember that

JACKSON
I feel like such an idiot

BRYAN
hey don’t feel bad, you probably misheard me. I wouldn’t have said I love you maybe I like you, no, probably not that

JACKSON
get out

BRYAN
what, c’mon this is stupid

JACKSON
you know where I come from, when someone saids they love you that is what it means

(CONTINUED)
BRYAN
Was it while I was having sex with you

JACKSON
yes, it was. Why does it matter?

BRYAN
well hun, it was during sex. People say shit when your having sex

JACKSON
I am going to die, I am going to never leave my house again

BRYAN
oh its not that bad, nothing has changed between us

JACKSON
my self esteem isn’t that low, were done

BRYAN
what? whatever. Its your loss

JACKSON
my loss, you have a small penis

BRYAN
yeah well your fat, good luck finding someone like me.

JACKSON
Fuck you I could go to a animal shelter and find another fuckinbg dog like you. I deserve good things, I deserve to be happy fat or not

Jackson slams the door in Byran’s face, and starts crying he goes to the answering machine and plays his messages

RICHARD
Hi son its your dad, in case you have forgotten. well its your sisters birthday and your mum and I were wondering if you were coming, I know you and your mum haven’t spoken for a while...
CONTINUED:

JACKSON
five years

RICHARD
...but it would be great to see your face every now and then. Anyway call my cellphone if you don’t feel like calling the land line

Jackson, still angry from the fighting he has had today, calls his home and his mum picks up

SARAH
Hello

JACKSON
I’m not coming to Ella’s birthday, and please stop calling me. I hate you and I can’t stand getting all the stupid invitations to shit things. You are trash and I hate you, don’t fucking call me again

Jackson starts breathing heavy and throws the phone across the lounge. He lies down and starts crying. He falls to sleep in the corner. His flatmate Brad wakes him up

BRAD
are you okay? why are you in the corner

JACKSON
I’m fine Brad, can’t a person sleep in the corner

A couple of days past and Jackson hasn’t handed in his assignment and hasn’t left his house. He gets up to get noodles out of the pantry and grabs his Mi-goreng noodles than has a bath and lies in the bath. He picks up the phone and calls Rhian

RHIAN
Hello

JACKSON
he said it during sex

RHIAN
what?
JACKSON
he said he loved me when he was cumming, I didn’t tell you guys because than I would have to admit that the fantasy I wanted was just that a fantasy. Am I a loser?

RHIAN
no sweetheart your not, I am sorry I brought it up

JACKSON
no its fine, you were just being a good friend and I was being an asshole as usual. I don’t know why you put up with me

RHIAN
don’t pity yourself, are you in the bath now?

JACKSON
No, yes

RHIAN
you always have baths when your depressed, you need to hop out and have a shower but not to after you tell me what’s been happening in your life these past two days?

JACKSON
I broke up with Bryan, and I called my mum

RHIAN
ooh? one, good for you two, How did that go with your mum, wait, you didn’t do it when you were angry did you?

JACKSON
I might have

RHIAN
shit, what did you say?

JACKSON
not much, I said I hate her and to not call me again

(CONTINUED)
RHIAN
fuck Jackson, that is bad, that is really bad, I know you are angry at her but holding onto all this anger all the time is getting you nowhere. It always ends up consuming you and then when you're angry, you get angry at all the wrong people

JACKSON
I said sorry

RHIAN
no you didn’t, but it doesn’t matter. I know you are sorry but that doesn’t mean that the next time your angry your going to snap at me or someone else not so forgiving

JACKSON
I know, I know

RHIAN
well I have something for us to do

JACKSON
Not the Buddhist place again. I can’t sit for that long ever. I cramped for hours

RHIAN
no I just came back from a visit with my friend Alex

JACKSON
is that the one you had a lesbian relationship with?

RHIAN
No, that was Rowena, and I don’t talk to her anymore she went batshit crazy and sends me photos of rainbows, don’t ask. No Alex is the one who is my spiritual friend

JACKSON
oh yeah the hippy that doesn’t eat anything that cast a shadow

RHIAN
yes, anyway I spent the night at hers when I was feeling depressed and...
JACKSON
wait you spent the night at hers when you were depressed, why didn’t you call me?

RHIAN
really? with all your problems, I can’t call you

JACKSON
Ouch, but true. Sorry carry on

RHIAN
yeah well she made me do this kind of exercise and it made me feel a whole lot better. I’m actually excited to see if I can follow this through. and it would be great for you. Lets meet up for coffee and we will do it together

JACKSON
Ugh, I’m not sure. I have a lot on. I am watching re runs of friends all day so you know...

RHIAN
c’mon my shout

JACKSON
buy a sailor a drink, I’m keen for free food. Somewhere not so expensive though

RHIAN
okay, I’ll try and see if I can do it. Maybe tomorrow?

JACKSON
sounds good, oh shit I have to do my uni assignments, maybe tomorrow night?

RHIAN
okay, tomorrow night, give me a text or message me on facebook

JACKSON
okay will do

RHIAN
I love you and you are loved. Just know that okay?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACKSON
okay, okay. K bye love you

FLASHBACK

INT. ANDERSONS HOME

Jackson and his mum are arguing

JACKSON
god, I am so sick of you and sick
of pretending you are a good mum
when all you are is a monster.

SARAH
enough with your queeny dramatics

JACKSON
Queeny dramatics? What does that
even mean. Fuck you

SARAH
everyone was wondering why I let my
dad into our lives and when I found
out he was touching you I knew on
some level it must have been
because you acted so queer

JACKSON
What do you mean (starts
uncontrollably crying) what the fuck
do you mean Sarah?

SARAH
I mean, it can’t have been all of
his fault, maybe you lead him on
unintentionally because of the way
you are you know all (imitates
putting hand down, stereotypical
gesture)

JACKSON
I can’t believe you, your
disgusting. I fucking hate you you
worthless piece of shit mother.

END FLASH FORWARD
EXT. MCCAFE

JACKSON
I can’t believe you chose this place haha (kisses Rhian on the cheek) Hi

RHIAN
Hey, I know right, I did good right

JACKSON
you did good kid haha

INT. MCCAFE

Jackson and Rhian are sitting at the table and Rhian grabs a huge notepad

JACKSON
Wait let me guess your going to show me a series of pictures and I have to make out what it means to me

RHIAN
be serious or else this isn’t going to work

JACKSON
okay, okay I’ll be serious.

RHIAN
Okay take this bit of paper and write in the middle your name

JACKSON
okay (writes his name in the middle of a blank pad)

RHIAN
okay now write in the top left ‘positives’ are you doing it?

JACKSON
Yeah I am see (points to where he has written)

RHIAN
kay, now put in the bottom right, negatives and in the top right put wants and needs’
JACKSON
okay

RHIAN
now in the bottom left put ‘what
you want to let go of’ okay when
your done tell me

JACKSON
okay I’m done

RHIAN
now list everything in the
categories on the paper so what you
see as positive about yourself and
negative

JACKSON
what I want and need and what I
want to let go etc etc. I got this

Jackson starts writing down in negatives - Liar, manipulator, mean spirited and fat in positives he puts - good eyes, friendly, vivacious, compassionate, loving, sometimes gentle nature, talented, great cook in wants and needs he puts - Wants someone to love me and not be repulsed, want to travel the world, to achieve something significant in my lifetime, to have my own family and own my own house, to be debt free and for what he wants to let go of he puts - my grandfather, my y discontent and hate towards my mum, my selfishness and arrogance, my better than everybody else attitude and my emotional eating and my fear I will repeat what I my granddad did to my own kid

JACKSON
okay I’m done

RHIAN
okay, now read it out

JACKSON
(reads it all out)
told you I’m fucked up

RHIAN
i have never judged you, I wouldn’t
start now

JACKSON
but I do it to you all the time

(CONTINUED)
RHIAN
I really hate when you act like this, I love you for you so shut up

JACKSON
(starts imitating Alfalfa from 'The little rascals')
you are so beautiful to me

RHIAN
ha ha, okay now you need to keep this piece of paper and after a year you need to go through this and write out another one and compare the two of them and see how different or not different they are, but hopefully different

JACKSON
okay, so is this my Bridget Jones moment? I’m going to do great things now

RHIAN
you’re being sarcastic but I have a feeling this will work this is going to change your life you watch. Anyways I have a doctors appointment

JACKSON
is everything okay?

RHIAN
yeah, its just my normal 6 monthly check up

JACKSON
Oh your so middle class, haha I haven’t been to the doctors in like 5 years

Jackson and Rhian say goodbye and walk separate ways

INT. JACKSON APARTMENT
All of the guys are home, Logan is working out in the corner, brad is watching TV and Cameron is on his computer

JACKSON
hey guys

(CONTINUED)
BRAD
their he is Mr. can’t I sleep in
the corner? what are you doing
home? don’t you have uni?

JACKSON
yeah, I’m taking the day off

BRAD
what a surprise

LOGAN
that guy Bryan called he was
checking if you were home wanted to
talk to you

CAMERON
ooh who’s Bryan, some raging homo
you met? Have you fucked him

JACKSON
that is weird you would ask and yes

LOGAN
well he sounded desperate to talk
to you, the sex must have been good

JACKSON
okay why can’t you guys be like
normal straight guys and be
homophobic and don’t ask me stuff

BRAD
because its 2012 Jacky, don’t be so
narrow minded

JACKSON
I’m the gay one, how can i be
narrow minded? Anyway I have to go
because this is awkward. I just
came back to change

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE

Rhian is waiting in the doctors room nervously she is
tapping her fingers on the desk, the doctor walks in

DR. ROSE
So your blood work has shown high
levels of hCG which indicates that
your pregnant but I will perform a
pelvic exam just to be sure. What
would you like me to do?
RHIAN
I umm, I’m not sure what I want to do, what are my options for an abortion?

DR. ROSE
well the quicker the decision the better the test have shown that you are about 2 weeks in so you have about 5 more weeks and then after that it becomes slightly more difficult, I’ll grab some pamphlets for you and we can discuss your options next week if you’re not ready to talk about it now

RHIAN
great thanks doctor

DR. ROSE
in the meantime it might be good for you to let the father know so he can come on board

RHIAN
I don’t know who the father is

DR. ROSE
Okay

RHIAN
Can I find out who the baby is? You know with a blood test or something

DR. ROSE
unfortunately not until the baby is born can you request a blood test for a baby, the earliest would be blood taken from an umbilical cord during childbirth but until than its impossible and unethical to carry out blood test on an unborn baby

RHIAN
shit, motherfucker shit. Thank-you doctor I’ll grab those pamphlets

Rhian is inside her car and she lights up a cigarette and starts dialing Jackson
CONTINUED:

JACKSON
hey you, what's up

RHIAN
hi, just checking on you

JACKSON
ha ha suicide watch is it? I'm fine
I have so much on this evening, I'm
going to see my sister can you
believe it

RHIAN
really, that's so good!

JACKSON
I know right, but I'm only going to
drop her present off. baby steps.
Who knows maybe the list will work
ah aha, anyway are you okay you
sound a bit weird

RHIAN
yeah I'm fine, I was just checking
on you.

JACKSON
well I'm fine, I'm not crawled up
in my bedroom watching you've got
mail, or sleepless in Seattle so
I'm doing good. Okay don't worry
about me, worry about you, maybe go
hang out with one of your
boyfriends ha ha make the rounds,
I didn't mean that to sound slutty
maybe I did ha ha. Anyways I have
to go, I got to catch the bus. But
call me later okay? Love you

RHIAN
shit

The end scene shows a montage of Rhian looking at her
pregnancy test and throwing it in the bin and Jackson,
dropping off his present for his sister at the door step, he
watches through the lounge window as he walks away. He sees
his sister and his little brother and his mum and dad at the
table. She is eating her birthday cake

END SCENE