GAY DISPOSITION
by
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FADE IN:

INT. DINER - DAY

JEROME DAVID, 20s, sits at a table facing someone we don’t see yet nervously. He looks down into his soda, then back at the someone.

JEROME
Um, those are lovely breasts you have there.

We see the someone Jerome is talking to. It’s BILL DAVID, 50s -- Jerome’s father. He looks at Jerome very sternly.

BILL
That’s no way to talk to your father.

JEROME
I’m sorry, Dad.
(beat)
Um, nice dick?

Bill just stares at Jerome.

INT. JASON’S ROOM - DAY

Jerome opens his weary eyes and flinches a little after waking up from his dream. He looks around at the unfamiliar room and the Tom Selleck poster on the wall above the headboard.

He looks at the lump beside him, lifts his blanket, sees that he’s naked, and smiles a little. The lump stirs a bit before it lifts the blanket.

LUMP
(pained)
Ah, my ass.

It turns and looks at Jerome. It’s a naked man in his 20s -- JASON NADER. Their eyes widen. Jerome falls off the bed.

TITLE CARD: Gay Day.

INT. JASON’S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jerome and Jason still stare at each other in a tense, awkward, silent moment. Jerome looks elsewhere. He sees his boxers embracing Jason’s boxers at the foot of the bed.
Jerome slinks out of the bed, covering his crotch with his hands while bending over in an awkward position so nothing shows accidentally. Meanwhile, Jason looks up at the ceiling in disbelief.

Jerome gingerly lifts Jason’s boxers away from his and slips his boxers on, then quickly looks around the room to find his clothes scattered about. A daunting look sweeps across his face as he has to make the long journey to each article of clothing.

He grabs his shirt on a couch, one sock by the closet, and his shoes by a table. He stands by the front door, looking around for his hidden pants.

Jason turns on his side and faces the opposite direction from the front door as he gets in a semi-fetal position and closes his teary eyes.

Jerome looks under the couch, then the table, and finally under the bed where he finds the pants. He reaches across under the bed but to no avail. He gives up and walks across to get it when he sees that Jason’s face is looking toward the direction he wishes to go to.

Jerome quickly lowers his body to snatch the pants but as he does, Jason’s eyes open and their eyes meet. Jerome quickly grabs his belongings and dashes out the room.

**INT. JASON’S BATHROOM – DAY**

CINDY NADER, 17, looks at herself in the mirror while brushing her teeth. Behind a closed door, Jerome THROWS UP into the toilet. Cindy looks at the closed door suspiciously. She spits the paste from her mouth.

> **CINDY**
> Jason?
>  
> **JEROME (O.S.)**
> No.
>  
> **CINDY**
> Jerome?
>  
> **JEROME (O.S.)**
> Yeah.
>  
> **CINDY**
> Are you okay?
>

Jerome THROWS UP again. Cindy looks worried.
INT. JASON’S FOYER – DAY

Jerome carries his shoes -- one of which has some vomit on it -- to the front while Cindy follows him. Jerome sits down, wipes it off with a paper towel, and puts them on. Cindy crouches by him and watches. He looks completely lost and distant.

   CINDY
   Did you do ecstasy?

   JEROME
   Yes. I mean, no. I didn’t.

   CINDY
   Why did you say, yes?

   JEROME
   I didn’t.

A brief pause as Jerome ties his second shoe.

   CINDY
   You’re missing a sock. Want me to get it for you?

   JEROME
   No. I didn’t bring a second sock.

   CINDY
   Yeah, you did. I saw you yesterday.

   JEROME
   I have to go now.

He gets up and heads out.

   CINDY
   Bye, Jerome.

He leaves, ignoring Cindy.

INT. JEROME’S CAR – MOVING – DAY

Jerome drives listlessly -- his mind elsewhere.

INT. JASON’S LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

A small party takes place with young people. They drink, smoke, dance, socialize. MUSIC plays in the background from a stereo. Jerome stands by himself at a corner away from everyone. He seems sad.
INT. JASON’S ROOM - NIGHT

MUSIC plays. A small group including Jerome, Jason, CHARLOTTE, NANCY, and TOM sits in a circle on the floor. Drinks are by each of them and in the center of the circle, there are ecstasy tablets.

They each take a tablet and swallow them, smiling at each other.

Nancy packs a smoking pipe while the others dance and socialize.

Jerome sits on chair, his mind altered with drugs, as he watches Sophia and Nancy getting intimate with each other in the corner of the room.

INT. JEROME’S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jerome slams on the brakes. In front of him at a crosswalk, an OLD MAN, 40s, pounds the front of the car and spreads his arm out threateningly.

OLD MAN
Watch it!

Jerome opens his window and sticks his head out.

JEROME
I’m sorry! I’m sorry, okay!?

OLD MAN
Just watch it next time, okay?

JEROME
Okay. I’m sorry.

The Old Man continues to walk. Jerome shakes his head, disappointed with himself.

INT. JEROME’S HOUSE - DAY

Jerome enters and sees that it’s empty.

INT. JEROME’S ROOM - DAY

Jerome sits on his bed and cries.
INT. JEROME’S ROOM - NIGHT

Jerome looks at pictures on his computer. The pictures are of Jerome and Jason hanging out with people. He goes through the pictures quickly before stopping at one with a girl in her 20s -- SOPHIA. The picture shows Sophia smiling and standing on grass; very simple yet perfect.

Jerome looks at this with a mix of sadness and joy along with his previous feeling of being lost.

LATER: Jerome paces around the room with his phone. After a while, he stops and looks at his phone.

Jerome sits on his bed with the phone to his ear. It DIALS three times before someone picks up.

    SOPHIA (V.O.)
    (over phone, tired)
    Hello?

Jerome sits up straight. He’s nervous.

    JEROME
    (into phone)
    Sophia?

A long pause proceeds. Jerome looks around nervously.

    SOPHIA (V.O.)
    Jerome? Is that you?

    JEROME
    Yeah.

    SOPHIA (V.O.)
    What is it? It’s two in the morning.

    JEROME
    Oh. I’m sorry. I didn’t realize. Um, should I call back tomorrow?

    SOPHIA (V.O.)
    Are you drunk?

    JEROME
    What, no.

    SOPHIA (V.O.)
    What is this then?
JEROME
I don’t know. I... Look, I’ll let you get back to sleep but can you meet me tomorrow in the afternoon?

SOPHIA (V.O.)
Okay, fine.

Another pause.

JEROME
Um, bye.

SOPHIA (V.O.)
Bye.

He leaves the phone by his ear until she hangs up. After she does, he leaves it there a little longer before finally putting it down.

MOMENTS LATER: Jerome lays on his bed, restless and bored with the lights on. He sits up and pulls a tin box from under his bed. He opens it and takes out a smoking pipe.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

Houses are lined up in the suburbs.

INT. JEROME’S BATHROOM - MORNING

Jerome brushes his teeth. He brushes deep inside his mouth to reach the farther away teeth, but he gags. He spits out the paste and looks at himself in the mirror with the paste dripping down his chin. He looks disgusted.

JEROME
You are not gay.

BILL (O.S.)
What?


JEROME
Good morning.

BILL
Yeah.

Bill walks past Jerome to the toilet.
EXT. SOPHIA’S HOUSE - DAY

Jerome stands outside looking at the house.

He walks up to Sophia’s porch. He rings the doorbell. After a moment, Sophia opens the door.

    JEROME
    Long time no see.

Sophia half-smiles.

They walk away from her house. Sophia looks around.

    SOPHIA
    Where’s your car?

    JEROME
    I walked.

    SOPHIA
    Why?

    JEROME
    I felt like it.

    SOPHIA
    Are you high?

    JEROME
    What?

    SOPHIA
    I said, are you high?

    JEROME
    Oh. Okay.
    (beat)
    Oh, um, no. I’m not high.

He smiles stupidly at her. She gives him an angry look then walks back toward her house.

    JEROME (CONT’D)
    Hey!

Jerome follows her. He tries to touch her arm but she pushes it aside.

    JEROME (CONT’D)
    Come on. I’m sorry.

She ignores him and continues. Jerome stops following her and just stands in front of the house. He looks hopeless.
JEROME (CONT’D)
I had to do it.

Sophia turns around and looks at from her porch.

SOPHIA
Don’t give me that.
(beat)
You know, I was kind of looking forward to seeing you again. I thought maybe you’d changed.

She’s about to go back into her house, but stops when Jerome says:

JEROME
I really had to! I swear! It has to do with why I wanted to see you. Just let me explain.

SOPHIA
Tell me now.

JEROME
Not here.

Sophia opens her door.

JEROME (CONT’D)
Okay, okay, fine. Just... can we at least go in your backyard? Wait, no, that sounded wrong. When I say backyard I don’t mean your ass. Shit. No ass. Backyard as in location. Not ass.

Sophia looks at him, completely lost.

EXT. SOPHIA’S BACKYARD - DAY

Jerome sits on the ground while Sophia stands in front of him with her arms folded.

SOPHIA
Are you lying?

Jerome shakes his head solemnly.

JEROME
No. I’m not.

After a moment of staring him down, she crouches next to him.
JEROME (CONT’D)
I’m not gay... Right?

SOPHIA
No. I don’t know. Why are you telling me this?

JEROME
As cheesy as this may sound, you’re probably the only person I could count on to help me.

Jerome smiles a little and pokes Sophia’s cheek. She brushes it aside.

JEROME (CONT’D)
Remember when I used to do that?

She smiles but tries to hide it by looking away. Jerome sees it.

Jerome lays on his back and looks at the sky.

JEROME (CONT’D)
So, what am I supposed to do now?

SOPHIA
What can you do? You’re high.

JEROME
Then what am I supposed to do when I come down?

SOPHIA
We’ll talk about it when you’re sober.

She sits down more comfortably on the ground and watches Jerome watching the sky.

SOPHIA (CONT’D)
So, did you like it?

JEROME
You were better.

As soon as he lifts his head to look at her, she looks up at the sky.

INT. HARDWARE STORE - DAY

Sophia is browsing through various cans of paint in the aisle of paints.
She walks around with the can of paint when she spots Jason from a distance. She waves at him. He notices her and waves back. As she walks to him, he looks very nervous and tries to hide something behind his back.

JASON
Hey Sophia. Um, what are you doing here?

SOPHIA
(gesturing her can)
Just redecorating my room. What are you doing here?

She spots some portions of rope Jason tries to hide behind his back. Seeing her doing this, he reveals it to her.

JASON
(looking at rope)
I... um, I’m also redecorating my room.

SOPHIA
With rope?

JASON
Yes.

SOPHIA
I don’t understand. How do you decorate a room with rope?

JASON
It’s... it’s post-modern. I’m sorry, but I really have to go now.

SOPHIA
Oh, okay. See ya, Jason.

JASON
Bye.

She watches him walk away, worried.

INT. SOPHIA’S CAR - DAY
Sophia sits in her car with her phone.

SOPHIA
(into phone)
I don’t know. He bought rope.
JEROME (V.O.)
(over phone)
Maybe it is post-modern.

SOPHIA
I don’t know. He seemed really nervous.

JEROME (V.O.)
What, you think he’s going to hang himself?

SOPHIA
Maybe. I don’t know, Jerome!

JEROME (V.O.)
Well, what should we do?

A moment of silence.

JEROME (V.O.) (CONT’D)
Wait. Someone’s at my door. I’ll call you back.

SOPHIA
Okay. But make it fast. I’m worried.

INT. JEROME’S HOUSE - DAY
Jerome is on the phone. He’s on his way to the front door.

JEROME
(into phone)
You got it. Bye.

He hangs up and opens the door. It’s Jason. He holds a jacket.

JASON
Hey.

JEROME
Hi.

JASON
(looking at jacket)
Um, you left your jacket at my house. Here it is.

He hands the jacket to Jerome.
JEROME
Thanks.

An awkward moment of silence.

JASON
All right. See ya.

JEROME
Bye.

Jason heads off.

JEROME (CONT’D)
Wait. Where you going?

Jason turns around.

JASON
Home. I’ll see you later.

Jason leaves.

INT. JEROME’S ROOM – DAY
Jerome sits on the floor by the bed while Sophia paces around the room.

SOPHIA
That’s it? Why didn’t you say anything to him?

JEROME
What was I supposed to say? He doesn’t want to remember that night. I certainly don’t.

SOPHIA
He’s probably hanging himself right now.

JEROME
He wouldn’t do that. I’ve known him since we played in the sandbox. He was the joker of the group.

SOPHIA
He probably wouldn’t have had sex with you too, right?

JEROME
What do you suppose we do?
INT. SOPHIA’S CAR – MOVING – DAY

Sophia drives. Jerome sits in the front passenger seat.

    JEROME
    Left here.

She turns.

    JEROME (CONT’D)
    (pointing to the house)
    Okay, the house with the red car over there.

EXT. JASON’S HOUSE – DAY

Jerome and Sophia jog to the front of the house and RING the doorbell. No answer. They RING again. No answer. They RING and KNOCK multiple times.

    JEROME
    Open up, Jason! Someone open up!

Finally, Cindy answers the door.

    CINDY
    What the hell’s the matter with you guys?

    JEROME
    Where’s your brother?

    CINDY
    In his room. What’s going--

Jerome and Sophia walk past Cindy and head toward Jason’s room. Cindy follows them.

INT. JASON’S HOUSE – DAY

They make their way to Jason’s locked room. They knock on it.

    JEROME
    Jason, open up.

    SOPHIA
    Open up, please.

    CINDY
    What’s going on?
JEROME
We think he might be doing something he’ll regret.

CINDY
What? Move. I’ll open it.

They move. Cindy takes out a card and puts it between the door crack by the doorknob. After a few yanks, she is able to unlock the door. Jerome and Sophia give her a look of gratefulness. They open the door to find Jason with his eyes closed, solely in his underwear, and dancing with headphones on while swinging the rope around. Jerome, Sophia, and Cindy stand watching with their mouths slightly agape.

JEROME
I’m sorry, Cindy.

Jason finally sees them and freezes.

JASON
What?

CINDY
I think he took some E.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Houses are lined up.

INT. JEROME’S ROOM - NIGHT

Jerome lays on the floor by his bed looking at the ceiling while Sophia sits on a chair the opposite side of the room. He turns his head toward the tin box under his bed. She turns around, looks at Jerome, then gets up and lays down beside him.

SOPHIA
What are you looking at?

He looks at the ceiling again.

JEROME
Nothing.
(beat)
Do you think I’m gay?

SOPHIA
How am I supposed to know? I’m not you.
JEROME
I know, but what’s your opinion? Do you think I’m gay?

SOPHIA
No. Maybe bi.

Jerome starts to cry a little.

JEROME
I don’t feel gay, but how would I know what it feels to be gay? Maybe I’ve always been.

She looks at him.

JEROME (CONT’D)
What if... what if I’m subconsciously gay? Not that there’s anything wrong with being gay.

SOPHIA
Does it really matter?

No response.

SOPHIA (CONT’D)
You suffer from solipsism.

JEROME
No, I don’t. I’m just concerned.

SOPHIA
About who? This is why I broke up with you. You’re self-indulgent and you’re infatuated with drugs. I couldn’t stand it any longer.

JEROME
I’m sorry, Sophia.

SOPHIA
But you were funny. I’ll give you that.

They half-smile at each other.

SOPHIA (CONT’D)
Maybe I’m not the right person to talk to. I didn’t know you all my life.

(beat)

(MORE)
I talked to my Mom the other day about some problems I was having and it was really nice. It was like a spiritual cleansing.

JEROME
I can’t talk to my Dad. We... I can’t talk to him.

SOPHIA
Just try it.

LATER: They are asleep on the floor.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING
Sprinklers shoot water on a lawn. An alarm clock BUZZES.

INT. JEROME’S ROOM - MORNING
The alarm clock’s BUZZING is louder. Jerome and Sophia sleep on the floor. Jerome wakes up and turns the alarm clock off. He stretches and Sophia wakes up.

Jerome hands Sophia the tin box.

JEROME
Can you toss this on your way out?

SOPHIA
What is it?

JEROME
You ask so many questions.

She smirks at him, then leaves.

INT. JEROME’S HALLWAY - MORNING
Jerome peeks a look toward the kitchen. He sees Bill reading a newspaper and eating breakfast. He hides, peeks again, then hides, but Bill sees him.

BILL
What the hell are you doing?

He puts his paper down. Jerome walks and sits down across from him.

BILL (CONT’D)
Well, what were you doing?
JEROME
Nothing. Just seeing if you were in the kitchen.

BILL
Why?

JEROME
I don’t know. How are you doing?

BILL
Fine.

JEROME
Work going well?

BILL
Yeah. You’re acting very strange.

JEROME
I’m sorry that I’m interested in how your life is.

BILL
What’s this about? Have you decided to move out?

JEROME
No, but it’ll happen soon. I don’t know, we never talk. At least Mom used to.

BILL
Well make it fast. I have to go soon.

Jerome hesitates. He looks very nervous.

JEROME
Um, well, I went to... I went to a party like two nights ago and um, it was fun. Do you miss Mom?

BILL
Yes. What’s this about the party?

JEROME
It was fun. You ever think about dating anyone again?

BILL
I haven’t really thought about it. Is that all? I have to go now.
JEROME

Yeah.

Bill gets up.

BILL

All right. I’ll see you later. Buy some chicken.

JEROME

Okay. Bye.

He watches Bill leave.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jerome and Sophia are at a basketball court with athletic clothes. Jerome bounces a basketball.

SOPHIA

This is ridiculous.

JEROME

How? You used to love this game.

Jerome posts up against Sophia. They laugh. She strips the ball away from Jerome and successfully makes a lay-up. Jerome watches her from half-court, smiling with hands on his hips.

They’re playing now with more intensity. TWO ATHLETIC GUYS walk toward the court.

ATHLETE #1

Yo, you guys want to play two on two?

Jerome and Sophia look at each other.

The basketball swishes through the net. Athlete #2 pumps his fist.

Sophia grabs a rebound and puts it back in. She slaps five with Jerome.

Jerome defends Athlete #1 with his arms wide open, but Athlete #1 posts up against him very intimately. Jerome tries to back off, but Athlete #1 gets closer and closer. Jerome looks over at Sophia but she’s occupied with defending Athlete #2.

Jerome makes a shot. Athlete #2 slaps Jerome’s rear end to congratulate him. Jerome glares at him.
Jerome dribbles the ball but is intensely double teamed by both Athletes -- their bodies are very close to Jerome making him look very uncomfortable. Athlete #1 strips the ball and heads toward the basket as Jerome just stands there, pissed.

Athlete #2 makes the last shot, pumps his fist, and slaps five with Athlete #1.

ATHLETE #2
Good game guys.

MOMENTS LATER: The Athletes walk away together. Jerome and Sophia hang out at the courts.

JEROME
He touched my ass.

SOPHIA
Did you like it?

JEROME
(laughing)
Shut up.

MOMENTS LATER: They walk toward the parking lot.

SOPHIA
So, I take it you told your Dad about your night. Told you it’d make you feel better.

JEROME
I didn’t tell him. I tried though.

SOPHIA
It’ll happen. I trust you.

JEROME
Thanks.

EXT. SOPHIA’S HOUSE - DAY
Jerome’s car stops at the front.

INT. JEROME’S CAR - DAY
Jerome sits in the driver’s seat looking at Sophia.

SOPHIA
Thanks for inviting me. I had a lot of fun.
JEROME
I want to kiss you.

SOPHIA
Do you?

JEROME
Yeah.

SOPHIA
Maybe after you talk to your Dad.
Bye, Jerry.

She leaves.

INT. JEROME’S KITCHEN – NIGHT

Jerome brings some plates to the dining table filled with a bucket of chicken and side dishes. He sets a plate by Bill and one on his side of the table.

Jerome and Bill wash dishes together. Jerome watches Bill scrubbing a knife stained with old hardened food nervously. The action looks sexual.

JEROME
Dad?

BILL
Yeah?

JEROME
I was telling you about that party earlier and please don’t overreact, but I...

He watches the scrubbing of the knife.

JEROME (CONT’D)
...can you put that knife down for a minute?

Bill sets the knife aside and looks at Jerome sternly.

JEROME (CONT’D)
I had sex with Jason.

BILL
Come again.
JEROME
I was under the influence of alcohol and some drugs and it happened.

BILL
Jason -- your male friend?

JEROME
Yes.

BILL
He used to be on your little league team.

JEROME
I know.

BILL
I have to sit down.

Bill walks over to the table and sits down massaging his head. Jerome sits across from him.

JEROME
I was feeling really lonely and he was there. I’m really sorry for telling you all this, but I need help. I know you’ve probably felt lonely after Mom passed away and... I need help.

BILL
With what? I’ve never had a... homosexual experience.

JEROME
I don’t think I’m gay. I just need help dealing with this -- with, I don’t know. Something.

A moment of tense silence.

BILL
I have to go to bed.

Bill gets up and leaves Jerome sitting alone with dirty dishes.

INT. JEROME’S ROOM - NIGHT

Jerome sits on his chair and he’s on the phone.
MALE VOICE (V.O.)
(over phone)
Sorry, Jerome. All out.

MOMENTS LATER: Jerome sits on his bed, phone to his ear.

JEROME
(into phone)
You’re out too?... All right, thanks anyway.

MOMENTS LATER: Jerome looks out his window, phone to his ear.

JEROME (CONT’D)
(into phone)

Jerome hangs up and collapses on his bed.

INT. JASON’S ROOM - NIGHT

The door opens. Jason and Jerome enter.

JEROME
Sorry. I’m having trouble sleeping.

JASON
You called the right guy. I’m on some killer LSD right now. You want some?

JEROME
No. Just a dime bag and could I borrow a piece?

JASON
You got it, man.

MOMENTS LATER: Jerome sits on Jason’s bed. Jason speaks from the closet.

JEROME
Hey, Jason?

JASON (O.S.)
Yeah.

JEROME
How do you feel about that night?
JASON (O.S.)
The party? It was sick, man. You see those girls making out?

JEROME
Yeah. Um, but what about later that night?

Jason comes out with a very solemn expression.

JASON
To be honest, I haven’t been doing very good after that night. I’ve been going all out with the drugs trying to forget it.

JEROME
Okay. Forget the bag. I got to go.

Jerome gets up and leaves.

INT. JASON’S HOUSE – NIGHT

Jerome approaches the front door when the lights turn on. A weary Cindy watches him. Jerome walks up to her.

JEROME
Talk to your brother. He needs help.

She nods as Jerome leaves.

EXT. SOPHIA’S HOUSE – MORNING

Sophia walks to her car in work attire. Jerome walks toward her.

JEROME
Hey. You.

She turns around startled.

SOPHIA
Jesus, you scared me.

He looks at her, totally inspired and infinitely grateful. He hugs her.

JEROME
I’m gay.

He pulls away then kisses her lips.
JEROME (CONT’D)
No pun attended.

She smiles.

JEROME (CONT’D)
I’ll see you later. I have to finish a conversation with my father.

She watches him leave.

INT. JEROME’S KITCHEN – MORNING

Bill heads for the kitchen but stops when he sees Jerome sitting at the table with a newspaper. Jerome sets the newspaper aside and smirks at Bill.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.