

Hook-up

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on the title page of your script.

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INT/EXT. CONVERTIBLE - NIGHT

GRETA (20) unbuttons the top button of her skimpy dress showing even more of her cleavage than was already on show. One speed hump and she'd no longer be in the dress, not that this vehicle would make it over a speed hump.

Greta throws her head back and laughs.

EXT. VERONICA'S COUNTRY HOUSE - NIGHT

The convertible pulls up to a large country house. VERONICA (30), elegant, steps out of the driver's side and walks around to let Greta out.

INT. VERONICA'S COUNTRY HOUSE - NIGHT

Veronica enters the house with Greta who immediately ogles the artwork on the walls and inside the many cabinets, which contain all sorts of objet d'art.

GRETA

This place is amazing.

VERONICA

I knew you'd appreciate it. It's hard to meet people with good taste these days. People are so -

GRETA

Common? You should meet my friends.

VERONICA

I bet you stand out like a rose between thorns.

GRETA

I've always thought so.

Veronica moves closer to Greta and they kiss passionately.

VERONICA

There's something really special I want you to see.

Veronica takes Greta's hand and runs to the next room. At the door she places her car key in a bowl atop a pedestal.

INT. VERONICA'S HOUSE - GALLERY - NIGHT

Greta gasps, this room is even more impressive. It's darker than the last room and filled with statues and display cases, with paintings and tapestries covering every space on the walls. They are illuminated by spotlights which gives each piece its own sense of grandeur. In the middle of the room there is a large glass cylinder exhibit, exquisitely detailed in gold. It has steps leading up to it, and is big enough to fit a person inside.

Greta walks around the room drinking it all in. Veronica disappears for a moment, unnoticed by Greta and returns with two glasses of wine. Greta continues to gawp at the artwork.

GRETA

I can't believe this place. How much is it all worth?

Veronica sneers, turns away and hides the glasses.

VERONICA

It's all worthless without someone to share it with.

GRETA

So you're single?

VERONICA

People say I'm quirky.

GRETA

You seem perfect to me.

Veronica looks away pensively.

GRETA

What is it? You can tell me, I won't judge you.

VERONICA

Alright.

Veronica takes a deep breath and turns back to Greta.

VERONICA

I need to watch someone shower before I can sleep with them.

GRETA

Is that all. Would you like me to shower for you?

VERONICA

Yes. I would find more joy in watching you, than in any 'thing' I own here.

GRETA

Show me to a bathroom and I'll put on a show for you.

Veronica looks to the cylindrical glass cabinet. Greta follows her eye line.

GRETA

In that?

INT. VERONICA'S HOUSE - GALLERY - LATER - NIGHT

Greta, dressed in a silk robe, looks up at the exhibit. Veronica pushes a button, the door opens. Bright lights inside flicker on. Greta looks unsure.

VERONICA

It'll only be brief, but if you don't want to?

GRETA

If it's what you need - I'll do it.

Veronica holds Greta's face tenderly and pulls her to her lips. They kiss. Greta climbs the steps into the exhibit.

Veronica looks pensive as the door closes.

Warm water jets spray Greta, which surprises her. She begins to move her hands over her body, caressing her breasts then moves up to her neck and face.

Veronica touches her face with her fingertips, then moves down her smooth body and past her navel. Greta continues to massage her body as Veronica begins to moan with pleasure. Greta hears Veronica and moves her hand between her legs and starts to enjoy the experience until she notices a strange odor.

The water continues to spray and Veronica groans now with delight. Greta however seems to freeze in place with her hand covering her pubic hair and the other hiding her breasts.

Veronica lets out a loud squeal as she orgasms. She slaps the side of the glass as she stares into Greta's eyes watching her turn blue as she asphyxiates.

Veronica watches Greta for a moment longer.

VERONICA

Let she who is without sin, cast the first stone.

EXT. PET SHOP - DAY

Large posters in the window read: CLOSING DOWN SALE.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Ballet music plays on an old record player as JOANNA (20), an Indian-Asian American, dances gracefully. A DWARF HAMSTER watches her as it clutches its food in its paws. A COCKATIEL cocks its head and SQUAWKS.

JOANNA

Come on guys, you've seen me dance to this hundreds of times.

Joanna continues to dance around the shop. The song finishes, but she keeps her poise and looks up. A framed photo of an alt-rock girl, holds her attention. The shop phone rings. Joanna quickly runs over to the counter where a laptop sits.

JOANNA

Pets for you, Joanna speaking, how may I help today?

She flips open the laptop screen full of command windows of computer code.

JOANNA

Yes, it's our last week in business.

She begins typing at speed, the conversation becomes almost automatic.

JOANNA

Twenty five years - I know - Since Everything Pets opened we've just not been able to compete.

She stops typing.

JOANNA

These superstores are killing us small businesses! Asshole! Fuck you!

Fred (50), a 60's hippy - born into the wrong decade, enters from the storeroom.

FRED

Another happy customer?

JOANNA

Sorry Dad, I just can't stand them. If they're not acting like vultures they're telling me how great Everything Pets is.

FRED

It won't matter once the new buyer signs the papers.

He looks at the laptop screen.

FRED

What are you working on?

JOANNA

It's an algorithm for my client.

FRED

The one you've never met?

JOANNA

It's how us kids work these days, and he pays well!

FRED

I'm not judging, and until the money comes through for this place -

JOANNA

We'll be fine, and so will mom.

INT. BAR - TABLE - NIGHT

TONI (20), a human Barbie with unflattering botox-ed lips and KIRSTY (20), alt-rock style and attitude, sit at a table full of empty glasses.

KIRSTY

So there I was in this fancy five-star hotel in Bangkok banging this guy, when in walks his wife and kids.

TONI

No way! Did you know he had kids?

KIRSTY

He may have mentioned it.

TONI

So what did you do?

KIRSTY

The only thing I could do, I fucked her as well!

They sit back and laugh.

KIRSTY

It's the truth, I swear. We stuck Netflix on for the kids, I'm not a total deviant!

TONI

So where else did you visit on your travels?

Toni notices Joanna and waves.

KIRSTY

Europe, through Asia and Japan, then down to Oz.

TONI

I've always wanted to see Australia.

KIRSTY

Then South America, where I met some very shady people.

Kirsty turns around.

JOANNA

Hi Kirsty.

They both hug briefly.

KIRSTY

I'm glad you came. How's your mom?

JOANNA

Better thanks. You're so tanned.

KIRSTY

Traveling has that effect. If you'd have come with me you'd be tanned too.

Toni gulps down the last of her drink.

TONI

I'm ready for another.

KIRSTY

Mine's a Mojito, although God knows what they'll make me here.

JOANNA

Have you seen Greta today Toni? We'd planned to meet at the dress shop.

TONI

Probably getting cold feet. That guy she's marrying isn't right for her.

JOANNA

Don't you have a date tonight?

KIRSTY

She's been telling me all about Hook-up, the new app you're all using.

JOANNA

It's a beta version, not available to the general public.

KIRSTY

Yeah, Toni told me when I installed it. I have a blind date tomorrow.

JOANNA

Oh?

TONI
Right, better go, wish me luck!

INT. ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Toni walks up to a booth where MR. ARNOLD (50) sits.

TONI
Mr. Arnold? I thought you were in
prison?

MR. ARNOLD
They let me out early.

TONI
I take it Joanna doesn't know?

MR. ARNOLD
I'd rather leave the past where it is.

TONI
Great, because I'm starving.

Toni sits.

MR. ARNOLD
Me too Toni.

Mr. Arnold stares at Toni with hungry eyes.

TONI
What do you recommend?

MR. ARNOLD
Oh, I'll eat anything.

EXT. ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT RESTAURANT - LATER - NIGHT

Toni holds the door open as Mr. Arnold struggles to leave the
restaurant.

TONI
I'm so stuffed.

MR. ARNOLD
Me too, although I could manage more
dessert.

TONI
You dirty old bastard.

MR. ARNOLD
Here's my ride.

TONI
Is that a Bentley?

A CHAUFFEUR exits the vehicle and walks around to let him in.

MR. ARNOLD
Nothing but the best for me.

TONI
Well, it's been a pleasure.

MR. ARNOLD
Do you need a lift? It's no trouble,
and I'll behave, scouts honor.

Toni thinks for a moment then looks into the Bentley.

TONI
Is that a bar?

MR. ARNOLD
I have a bottle of bubbly on ice.

TONI
You'll keep your hands to yourself?

MR. ARNOLD
I promise.

Toni enters the vehicle and Mr. Arnold follows licking his
lips.

INT/EXT. BENTLEY - NIGHT

Toni can't believe the opulence of the vehicle. The window
separating the chauffeur slides down smoothly. Toni is
literally shocked when the chauffeur tasers her.

MR. ARNOLD

Not too much, I want her rare.

Toni slouches, unconscious, as Mr. Arnold takes her hand and lifts it to his mouth. He places his salivating mouth over her finger and bites down at the knuckle. CRACK. Blood begins to gush from the wound as Toni wakes SCREAMING. The last thing Toni sees is Mr. Arnold's teeth bearing down on her.

INT. JOANNA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joanna wakes up feeling like death. Kirsty walks in with a cup and sets it down on Joanna's bedside table.

KIRSTY

Morning sleepy head.

JOANNA

Meh.

Joanna slides her legs out of bed and sits up. She realizes she's naked and quickly covers herself with a pillow.

JOANNA

I can't remember getting home. Wait we didn't?

KIRSTY

Relax, I wouldn't take advantage of you like that. I slept on the floor, look.

She points to a sleeping bag.

Joanna draws her curtains and rejects the sunlight like a vampire. She sips from her cup, then drinks it all down.

JOANNA

So, is it good to be back?

KIRSTY

You know what, it is.

JOANNA

Do you think you'll head off again?

Kirsty shifts uneasily.

KIRSTY

I don't know. I made some bad choices while I was traveling.

JOANNA

What did you do?

KIRSTY

I spent the first six months partying and getting into all kinds of trouble. When the money ran out, I thought I'd get by hanging with the people I'd been partying with, I was wrong. I spent a few nights working the streets, thinking I could make some easy money. After a few 'dates' I found out the hard way that there's a reason these people pay for a good time.

Kirsty pulls up her shirt at the back to show a one-inch scar.

JOANNA

Oh my God, Kirsty.

KIRSTY

The cops knew my face by that point and didn't want to know.

JOANNA

Why didn't you call me I could've sent some money?

KIRSTY

By then I was so ashamed of myself. But one woman took pity on me. She ran a local restaurant and let me wash dishes. It took me months to earn enough money to get back home.

JOANNA

Oh Kirsty, that just breaks my heart.

Joanna touches Kirsty's hand. She remembers something.

JOANNA

Wait a minute didn't you get that scar in gym class?

KIRSTY
Yeah, it was a good story though
wasn't it?

JOANNA
You bitch.

Joanna laughs.

Joanna's cell phone BUZZES. They both jump. Joanna checks her phone and sighs.

JOANNA
I've got a date.

KIRSTY
Come on, it could be the best thing to
happen to you.

Kirsty uses Joanna's cell phone as a mirror.

KIRSTY
I'm going to get going, I've got a lot
of work to do for my date tonight.

JOANNA
Be careful.

KIRSTY
Of course, you know me.

INT. BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Kirsty walks up to VINNY (30), sat at the bar. He's handsome and looking sharp in a three piece suit.

KIRSTY
Hi, are you here for a Hook-up?

VINNY
I like what you did there. Can I just
say, you look beautiful.

Kirsty kisses his cheek. Vinny goes in for the double kiss and then smells her. Kirsty lets it go - Hey, he's handsome.

VINNY
Let me order some drinks, get ready
for an eyeful. Bartender!

The BARTENDER walks over.

BARTENDER
(snaps)
Yes.

VINNY
Same again for me. The lady will have?

KIRSTY
A vodka and lemonade.

The bartender smiles at Kirsty, then turns away ignoring Vinny.

KIRSTY
She seems to have a problem with you.

VINNY
Some people can't take a compliment.

INT. BAR & GRILL - LATER - NIGHT

A few drinks in, the conversation flows.

VINNY
That's so exciting, I'd love to go
traveling.

KIRSTY
So, what do you do Vinny?

VINNY
I run a publishing company.

KIRSTY
Wow, an entrepreneur.

VINNY
Would you excuse me, I really need to
take a leak.

The bartender arrives collecting glasses.

BARTENDER

You want to watch him honey, he's a real sleaze-bag.

KIRSTY

Sounds to me like you're jealous.

BARTENDER

Just trying to do you a favor.

KIRSTY

What's your problem?

BARTENDER

He's hit on every girl in here. Said my tits would look great on the cover of his magazine.

KIRSTY

I'll take my chances.

BARTENDER

Suit yourself.

Vinny returns to the table.

KIRSTY

Can we go some-place else to eat?

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Kirsty and Vinny leave the bar. As they pass an alleyway Vinny grabs her.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Vinny pushes Kirsty up against the alley wall, attempts to kiss and grab her.

KIRSTY

No. Please stop. I'm not ready for this yet.

VINNY

Come on, I know you want it.

KIRSTY

Seriously stop. The dates over.

VINNY

It's over when I'm finished.

He takes out a knife from his jacket and repeatedly stabs her.

Moments pass and Kirsty slumps to the ground. Vinny looks down at her lifeless body and puts his knife back in his jacket. He moves his hand to his crotch.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Cheap food, cheaper drink - this place is bustling. Joanna approaches JOE (35) a red-faced, scruffy man who looks like he's already had a good drink. She taps him on the shoulder.

JOANNA

Hi, are you here for the blind date?

JOE

You're not a foreigner are you?

JOANNA

What? No, I'm American.

JOE

Good, I specifically said no foreigners on my profile.

JOANNA

Have I caught you at a bad time?

Joe grabs his beer and they head over to a table where two people are sat talking. They notice Joe, grab their drinks and split. Joe sits down leaving Joanna to seat herself.

JOE

I suppose you're going to criticize me for not helping with your chair?

JOANNA

I wasn't going to mention it.

JOE

But you thought it.

Joanna smiles not giving him the satisfaction of being right.

JOE

Don't you broads wanna be treated equal?

JOANNA

You have a fair point.

Joe brightens up and smiles at Joanna showing off a gruesome set of teeth. He grabs a menu and knocks over the salt shaker. He takes out his phone.

JOE

You'll need the app to order here.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER - NIGHT

Joe is ranting. Joanna smiles politely.

JOE

And then this Mexican undercuts me, saying he can do it for half my price. Well I told him to call me when he needs his second-rate job repairing.

Joanna sips from her glass. Joe waits for a reaction.

JOE

You don't have much of an opinion, I'll be honest I like that.

He swills down the rest of his beer and adds the empty glass to the other three on the table. He notices the salt shaker.

JOE

I mean look at this.

He tips the shaker over showering the table in salt.

JOE

We don't make nothing no more, that's why folks are on welfare. Meanwhile those lazy immigrants are sponging off the government.

JOANNA

My mom isn't a lazy immigrant.

JOE

Holy shit, she talks!

JOANNA

My mom came here and has paid into the system all her life.

JOE

I knew you were foreign.

JOANNA

I told you, I'm American.

JOE

Yeah, but your family ain't.

JOANNA

Trace your family back and you'll find that they ain't either.

JOE

I preferred it when you didn't talk. I'll give you a chance to apologize so we can go back to my place for a one-night stand.

Joanna throws her water in Joe's face.

JOANNA

There's my answer.

A sea of people part as Joanna storms out, they slowly merge back together as Joe takes off after her.

JOE

Goddamned foreigner!

A group of men turn to face him.

GROUP MEMBER

I hope you're not talking to us?

Joe gets safely out of earshot.

JOE

Whatever, you goddamned immigrants.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Joe spots Joanna running away, takes out his cell phone.

JOE
Oh, this ain't over.

MR ARNOLD (O.S.)
Is it done?

JOE
Not yet, I need her address.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Joanna is sat, still shaken, she takes out her cell phone.

INSERT: CELL PHONE: THE TIME READS 10.00PM.

JOANNA (TEXT)
Kirsty where are you?

INT/EXT. TAXI - NIGHT

Joanna checks her cell phone.

INSERT: CELL PHONE: THE TIME READS 11.00PM.

They approach a roadblock. A firefighter in the road stops the taxi.

EXT. PET SHOP - NIGHT

The pet shop is in flames, Joanna bolts from the taxi in hysterics.

JOANNA
DAD. NO!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Joanna sits next to a bed where a middle aged woman sleeps. Various tubes feed into her. A ventilator puffs and wheezes next to the bed.

JOANNA
Mom, what am I going to do?

She grabs her bag and pulls out a letter.

INSERT: LETTER: PATIENT BALANCE DUE... ..\$147,527.00

She pulls out her laptop and opens a command window.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

The building is derelict. Joanna walks past a Bentley. She finds a door into the school and opens it.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Joanna makes her way down the corridor. She briefly looks through each classroom door.

She stops outside the headteacher's office when she hears voices.

JOE (O.S.)

I have another date tonight.

MR. ARNOLD (O.S.)

We've been told to wait here.

Joanna pushes the door open just enough to spy inside and sees Mr. Arnold sat at a desk.

JOANNA

(whispers)

Mr. Arnold?

A CLACK echoes from the corridor which scares Joanna, making her hide for a moment. She peers back inside the office.

She SCREAMS when Vinny appears from out of the shadows and pushes her into the office.

INT. HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mr. Arnold is sat at a desk with Joe stood nearby. Vinny pushes Joanna again and she bumps into the desk

MR. ARNOLD

Bravo Joanna! Tell me, how did you find us?

JOANNA

Us? I used my online security camera recordings to track that fuck!

Joanna points at Joe.

JOANNA

Saw him get picked up in a Bentley, which I tracked here.

MR. ARNOLD

Yes, I'm sorry about your dad, Joe can be a bit of a hot head.

JOE

You reconsidered my offer?

VINNY

She's mine.

JOE

We started something that I'd like to finish.

MR. ARNOLD

I want what's left and be quick about it, I'm starving.

JOANNA

You're all insane.

JOE

She was my date.

VINNY

You're not man enough for her.

Joe and Vinny fight. Vinny takes out his knife and holds it to Joe's throat. Joe backs off.

VINNY

To the victor go the spoils.

He approaches Joanna and smells her hair. Before he can touch her, Joanna knees him in the balls. He drops the knife but takes Joanna down with him. Joanna spots the knife and slides it up her sleeve. She gets to her feet.

JOANNA

Never touch me again.

Vinny wearily gets to his feet. Joe charges at Joanna who high-kicks him in the face. She stands poised as he falls to the floor unconscious.

VINNY

Jesus, what's with Buffy here?

A cell phone on the desk buzzes. Mr. Arnold checks it.

JOANNA

Is this about revenge? All because I helped send you to prison?

MR. ARNOLD

Of course not, although revenge is a sweet bonus. You still can't see the bigger picture, you never could.

JOANNA

The app, it's a honey trap.

MR. ARNOLD

You're almost there.

JOANNA

Seems pretty obvious.

MR. ARNOLD

Is it? And is it obvious that it's your work? A bit of code here and an algorithm there.

JOANNA

My work?

MR. ARNOLD

But her vision!

JOANNA

Her? I don't understand.

MR. ARNOLD

I wanted you to come on this journey with me, instead you had me locked up like a pervert.

JOANNA

You touched me, and I wasn't the only one. That's why you were locked up, you creep.

MR. ARNOLD

I wanted to taste you, but that will all have to wait as she wants to meet you.

JOANNA

Who goddammit?

MR. ARNOLD

There's a vehicle waiting outside. Go.

Mr. Arnold hobbles over to Joe and bears down on his unconscious body, begins to feed like a starving hyena.

MR. ARNOLD

Waste not, want not.

INT/EXT. BENTLEY - NIGHT

Joanna looks out of her window at a row of equally spaced trees. She turns to look through the windshield at an impressive country house.

EXT. VERONICA'S COUNTRY HOUSE - NIGHT

The Bentley pulls up to the house where Veronica waits. Joanna steps out and walks past Veronica's Convertible.

INT. VERONICA'S HOUSE - GALLERY - NIGHT

Veronica walks into the Gallery, Joanna cautiously follows. A morbid curiosity pulls her closer to the large glass cylinder exhibit in the middle of the room. She covers her mouth to stifle a cry.

JOANNA

Greta!

VERONICA

Don't worry it was relatively painless.

JOANNA

Where are the others?

VERONICA

You catch on quick. I'm afraid there wasn't much left of Toni after your old Headteacher was done with her.

Veronica walks over to a curtained area. She pulls the rope to unveil Kirsty, laying the way she was when she died.

JOANNA

(sobs)

NO. KIRSTY!

JOANNA

You monsters! What's the matter with you?

VERONICA

Quite a bit actually. Regardless, my app has had it's test, and I'm ready for it to go out into the world.

JOANNA

My friends are dead.

Joanna looks to Greta, then to Kirsty.

JOANNA

(shouts)

MY FATHER IS DEAD!

VERONICA

Come now, don't get hysterical.

Joanna begins to shuffle the knife loose from her sleeve.

JOANNA

Why did you choose my friends and I?

VERONICA

I didn't.

JOANNA

Mr. Arnold?

VERONICA

He said you were bright.

They circle each other, both sizing-up the other.

JOANNA

How did you convince them to kill for you?

VERONICA

I found their weakness.

JOANNA

My algorithms scraped all their information from social media.

VERONICA

Then I gave them a push.

JOANNA

You flooded their feeds with negative content.

VERONICA

Then I let nature take it's course.

JOANNA

You paired predator with prey.

VERONICA

It's time for a new world order Joanna.

JOANNA

Who made you God?

VERONICA

Why, you of course.

JOANNA

If I gave you that power, I can take it away.

Joanna presents the knife.

VERONICA

You don't have it in you.

JOANNA

You know nothing about me.

VERONICA

I know how envious you were of Kirsty.

Joanna looks to her dead friend.

VERONICA

Fornicating across the globe while you had to stay and look after mom and dad.

Veronica moves closer. Joanna threatens with the knife.

VERONICA

You may have a temper, but you're not a killer.

Joanna stabs Veronica in the stomach. Veronica is stunned.

JOANNA

That's for Greta.

Another stab to the stomach.

JOANNA

That's for Kirsty.

Another stab to the stomach.

JOANNA

And that's for my dad.

Veronica is panic stricken as she slumps to the floor.

VERONICA

What are you doing?

JOANNA

Here's the deal. You're going to pay for my dad's and my two friends' funerals.

VERONICA

You can go to hell.

Joanna looks around the room, walks away.

JOANNA

If they don't get the burial they deserve. All of this - gone.

VERONICA

(weeps)

Not my things.

JOANNA

I'll hack into your heating system, or find a device connected by wi-fi and torch this place. I could do this using a cell phone in prison, so no cops understand?

Veronica nods. Joanna throws her a cell phone.

JOANNA

If you survive, get some help. I'll be watching.

Joanna smiles as she passes the bowl holding the car key.

JOANNA

And I'm taking the convertible.

INT/EXT. CONVERTIBLE - NIGHT

Joanna speeds down the road lined with trees. She brakes hard bringing the vehicle to a stop.

INSERT: CELL PHONE - HOOK-UP APP.

Joanna holds her finger on the app. An uninstall prompt appears. She presses the prompt and the app disappears.

She speeds away.

FADE OUT

THE END