

POLITE PEOPLE

by

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FADE IN:

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A party takes place. YOUNG PEOPLE in their 20s and 30s socialize. MUSIC plays from a stereo. ELI POLITE, 28, stands by himself in a corner with a drink in his hand, smiling shyly as people pass by him. He's a decent-looking guy and clean-shaven. He looks across the room at a NERVOUS GUY by himself.

Eli walks over to the Nervous Guy.

ELI
Hi. I'm Eli.

The Guy sticks his hand out.

NERVOUS GUY
Evan.

They shake hands.

ELI
Are you a friend of Sam's?

EVAN
Yeah.

ELI
Me too.

EVAN
Cool.

ELI
(pause)
I'm not good at these things.

EVAN
What?

ELI
I said, I'm not good at these things. These parties.

EVAN
Oh, okay.

Silence as they just stand there watching people socialize.

Eli browses through books on a bookshelf by himself. A very drunk woman with long brunette hair, AMY HAYES, 26, pokes Eli's back.

AMY
(smiling)
Hi.

ELI
Um, hi.

She sticks her hand out.

AMY
I'm Amy.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eli and Amy sit next to each other on a bed. Amy still has a glass in her hand.

AMY
...yeah, I thought you were cute.

ELI
Really?

AMY
Yeah.

She pets his smooth, clean-shaven face gently. He seems deeply touched by this.

AMY (CONT'D)
See. Cute.... Can I lie on you?

ELI
Okay.

She rests her head on his lap then intertwines her fingers with his. He can't help but smile a little.

AMY
This is nice, huh?

ELI
Yeah... No one's ever touched me like this. I feel so peaceful.
(beat)
I'm sorry. That was an awkward thing to say. I apologize.

She laughs a little then stops. After a short beat, Eli looks embarrassed. He has an erection.

ELI (CONT'D)
I... I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

AMY
It's poking my head.

ELI
I'm so sorry. Let me adjust it.

She laughs, then accidentally DROPS her glass on the floor, causing it to SHATTER everywhere.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

A decent-looking two bedroom apartment. A short-haired Amy carries boxes and tapes them up while Eli follows her around. Eli's phone RINGS in the background.

ELI
Why are you doing this? Is it something I did?

She stops and looks at Eli, annoyed.

AMY
I told you. I decided to go black.

She continues with the boxes.

ELI
Black? Please don't fuck with me.
What does that mean?

She doesn't respond. The answering machine PLAYS quietly in the background while they continue to fight.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
(over machine)
Hey, Eli. It's me, Charlie. I just wanted to make sure you're coming to the wedding.
(beat)
Can you believe it? Your brother's getting married! Fuck, huh! Well, I hope you can make it. I'd love to meet that girlfriend of yours.
(MORE)

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 You guys getting married soon? It's
 about the right time, right? Well,
 I really hope you can make it. Talk
 to you later, bro.

ELI
 Aren't you going to answer me?

AMY
 No.

She grabs a baseball mitt, almost putting it in a box when:

ELI
 What are you doing? My brothers
 gave me that.

AMY
 You don't even play baseball.

ELI
 You don't either.

AMY
 Eli. I'm bored. I'm almost thirty,
 and I... I can't linger around with
 you any longer. I need change.

After looking Eli straight in the eyes, she puts the mitt in
 the box. Eli just watches her passively as some tears fall
 down his cheek.

AMY (CONT'D)
 Are you crying?

Eli ignores her as he walks out, slamming the door.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Eli sits against the wall, covering his face with his hands.
 A YOUNG GIRL, 10, sits next to Eli, crying. He notices her
 after awhile. She looks at him.

YOUNG GIRL
 Did your boyfriend break up with
 you too?

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

A very pink room. Pink walls, pink bed, pink dolls. The Young
 Girl, Rachel, sits on her bed against her headboard. Eli sits
 on the bed. He looks like he's been crying a lot.

ELI
 You're still young. You'll be fine.
 Okay, Rachel?

She nods. He pats her knee comfortingly, then gets up to leave.

RACHEL
 Hey.

Eli turns around.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Thanks. I'm sure you'll be fine
 too.

She smiles at him. Eli does the best he can to return a smile, but it looks melancholic.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

It's dark. Eli lies wide awake in bed. He looks like he hasn't showered in ages and he has a slight beard.

He turns the light on to reveal a messy room and a messy bed with broken mementos of Amy: torn pictures, ripped clothes, a broken mug, and other broken "couple items."

He reaches under the bed, coming up with Amy's underwear. He puts it up to his nose and inhales. After a brief moment, he quickly pulls it away, disgusted with himself.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli sits at his desk, staring aimlessly at a marked up manuscript. He sets it aside and rests his head on the desk, defeated. His phone RINGS once, but it goes straight to answering machine.

SAM (V.O.)
 (over machine)
 Hey, buddy. It's Sam. What's going on? Why don't you return my calls? You on vacation or something?... Pick up, Eli. How's the book coming along?... I'm coming over, okay?

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Eli opens the door. SAM MURRAY, mid 20s, enters holding a brown bag and a container. He half-smiles at Eli.

They sit in the living room. Silence. Sam fidgets nervously. Eli stares at the table. After a moment, Sam notices his container.

SAM
Oh. Hey, I got you soup.

Sam hands the container to Eli.

ELI
I don't like soup.

SAM
I thought you did... You sure?

ELI
Yes, I'm sure. I don't like soup.

SAM
Oh... Um, can I eat it then?

MOMENTS LATER: They talk while Sam eats the soup.

SAM (CONT'D)
Fuck her. She's a good girl, but fuck her, man. Break ups are hard, but look at the positives. You're a free man now. You can do whatever you want.

ELI
She's the only girl I've ever been with.

SAM
So?

No response.

SAM (CONT'D)
The best thing for you now is to keep yourself occupied.
(beat)
How's my manuscript coming along?

ELI
I'm still working on it.

SAM
Okay, cool. It's just these publishing bastards have a deadline, you know? They're on my nuts with this shit.

ELI
I'll finish it when I finish it.

SAM
Yeah, well, when is that going to be?

No response.

SAM (CONT'D)
I picked you because you've done some good shit for me. It's like you know how to articulate what I'm trying to say. But this is my job, Eli. I need you to do this for me, or I'm going to have find someone else.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eli and Sam play poker at a table. Sam collects the chips in the pot and hands the deck of cards to Eli. Eli handles them nervously. Sam watches Eli trying to shuffle the cards, but it's awkward and ineffective.

SAM
You okay there?

ELI
Uh, yeah.

Eli tries again, but once again, it's awkward. Sam takes the cards and shuffles while Eli just looks at the table, embarrassed.

MOMENTS LATER: They sit on the couch, watching TV. Sam yawns then checks a message on his cell.

SAM
I probably should get going now.

He gets up.

ELI
Yeah? The episode's almost over.

SAM
Yeah, sorry. I'd love to stay, but I can't. I'm meeting up with Bob at some bar.

ELI
Oh. Okay.

SAM

Yeah.

(beat)

Um, did you want to come?

ELI

Oh, no, no. I probably should get some rest.

SAM

Yeah, you'll probably need it for my book, eh?

(chuckling)

Okay man, I'll see you later. Here, I got you something.

Sam tosses Eli the brown paper bag.

ELI

What is this?

SAM

A gift. It'll make you feel better.

He leaves. Eli takes out a tin container from the bag. He opens it and pulls out a bag of weed and a pipe.

He walks to the poker table and tries to shuffle the cards, but fails, clumsily. Suddenly, he flips out. First, he tries to rip the whole deck, but he fails. Then he just tosses the deck, causing the cards to scatter all over the floor.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

The cards are still scattered about. Eli paces around as he glares at his phone. After a moment, he picks it up and dials. It DIALS a few times, then:

AMY (V.O.)

(over phone)

Hello?

Eli attempts to say something but coughs at the same time, making him sound odd.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. AMY'S FRIEND'S APARTMENT - DAY

Amy sits on a couch with a cellphone to her ear. She looks confused.

AMY

Who is--

Eli hangs up. He stands there, petrified and humiliated. After a moment, he slams the phone to the ground, muttering curses under his breath.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eli, thick bearded, sits on a couch, watching TV.

EXT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

On TV SCREEN: An old black and white film noir with a DETECTIVE and his DAME. They stand outside the Detective's office. She puts a cigarette in her mouth. He lights it as she stares intently into his eyes.

DAME

I just want things to be new again,
Jack. I want to be a baby.

DETECTIVE

You'll always be my baby, baby.

He snatches the cigarette away from her mouth and kisses her.

Channel SWITCHES.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

On TV SCREEN: SMOKING MAN coughs violently. A graveyard is shown accompanied by DRAMATIC MUSIC.

TITLE CARD ON COMMERCIAL: Smoking kills.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - DAY

An ordinary, small liquor store. Eli is with the CLERK.

ELI

Pack of cigarettes please.

CLERK

What brand you want?

ELI

What do you mean?

CLERK

What brand do you want?

ELI

I don't know. I don't smoke.

The Clerk eyes Eli suspiciously.

CLERK

I'm going to have to see some I.D.

INT. ELI'S CAR - DAY

Eli opens the pack of cigarettes. He takes one out and examines it by smelling the cigarette. He lights it, inhales, then coughs. He looks it over once more.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A spacious park filled with people having fun. Eli watches them from a bench while he smokes a cigarette.

From a distance, Eli sees a LITTLE GIRL flying a kite. He's fixated.

Something breaks his concentration. He looks down and sees a big wolf-looking DOG panting at him.

ELI

Hi.

The Dog turns his head sideways like he's confused. It jumps on the bench and sits next to Eli. They stare at each other for a moment before it sits on Eli's lap. The Dog jumps off and runs away. Eli looks down to see a wet puddle on his crotch.

EXT. PARK PARKING LOT - DAY

Eli walks toward his car, covering his crotch unsuccessfully. Teenagers pass by and giggle.

At Eli's car, Eli takes one last look at the park and sees the flying kite soaring in the air.

INT. BURGER JOINT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's busy and loud. Eli walks to the HOSTESS.

HOSTESS

Hi. How many in your party?

ELI

Um, one.

HOSTESS

I'm sorry. It's a little loud in here. What did you say?

ELI

Um, one.

HOSTESS

What?

ELI

One!

A moment of silence.

HOSTESS

Oh. Um, okay. What's your name?

INT. RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Eli sits uncomfortably between two loud sociable families. The Hostess calls out:

HOSTESS

Eli. Party of one. Eli. Party of one.

Eli gets up nervously. The families watch him.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Eli sits alone in a corner. The tables around him are crowded with people. At a table next to him, an ANNOYING BOY glares at him, smiling. Eli smiles back, nervously. The Annoying Boy taps his ANNOYING SISTER. They both glare at Eli, causing him to get up and leave.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli sits at his dining table with the phone to his ear. He looks around his messy apartment.

ELI
 (into phone)
 Yes, one large mushroom pizza...
 Okay, thank you.

BEEP of Eli's call waiting. He CLICKS to the other line.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

ADAM POLITE, 30s, paces around in the halls with his cellphone to his ear.

ADAM
 (into cell)
 Finally. Why don't you ever answer
 your phone? We left you like a
 hundred messages.

ELI
 What's wrong?

ADAM
 And you don't even answer your
 door.

ELI
 Adam. What's wrong?

Adam stops pacing. Silence.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Adam?

INT. ELI'S CAR - NIGHT

Eli parks his car and peers out the front passenger seat window.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Eli's older brothers, Adam and CHARLIE, early 30s, stand on the sidewalk looking at Eli.

Eli exits his car and walks toward his Brothers. They force smiles and share an awkward hug.

CHARLIE

Nice beard.

ADAM

It's nice to finally see you again.

Silence.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I guess we should get going now.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The brothers pass by a gift shop. Eli stops and looks at it. The brothers see this and stop.

ADAM

Eli?

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli sits between Adam and Charlie with a stuffed bear in his arms. He stares blankly forward while Adam and Charlie look at the stuffed bear then at him.

ADAM

Why'd you buy that?

ELI

I don't know. It's weird visiting without anything to give.

CHARLIE

Why didn't you just buy him flowers?

Eli attempts to say something, but gives up. A moment of silence. Adam laughs a little as he says:

ADAM

Hey Eli. Remember that time you pushed Dad down the stairs?

Eli looks uncomfortable.

ELI

I don't think that was me.

ADAM

It was you, I remember. Why'd you do it? Why'd you push Dad down the stairs?

ELI

I--

CHARLIE

I remember why he did it. Eli started yelling after Mom threw away his doll collection. Remember, he started running around the house?

ADAM

Oh, right, and then Dad got in his way. Princess Eli. He was so wild.

Adam and Charlie laugh and tap Eli annoyingly.

ELI

Stop it.

They don't.

ELI (CONT'D)

Stop touching me.

They stop, then start again.

ELI (CONT'D)

Stop it!

They stop.

CHARLIE

We're just messing with you.

ELI

Yeah, just like when you told Mom having dolls means I'm gay, huh?

ADAM

It's not our fault Mom believed us.

ELI

Those were my only toys.

CHARLIE

Well, now I'm sorry. I had no idea you liked them so much.

ELI

Whatever. When can we go in?

CHARLIE

When the nurse calls us.

Silence.

ADAM

Oh, and remember that time Eli hit
Dad with a baseball bat?

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

The brothers walk fast, stopping at a door to a room.

ADAM

Ready?

Eli and Charlie nod.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

GRADY POLITE, 60s, lies in bed. He is unconscious and has
bandages on his wrists. The brothers stand facing Grady. The
stuffed bear lies on Grady's bed.

ADAM

Let's go outside. I can't look at
him like this.

They don't move. They just stare in disbelief.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

The brothers stand outside in the hallway. DR. BUJALSKI, 40s,
walks to them.

DR. BUJALSKI

Boys?

The brothers look at him.

DR. BUJALSKI (CONT'D)

I'm not quite sure how to tell you
guys this, but your Father... He...
His wounds, they were self-
inflicted.

CHARLIE

We're aware of that.

DR. BUJALSKI

Oh.

ELI

What do we do with him?

DR. BUJALSKI

Well, we have a variety of options. We have a mental rehabilitation center, he could see a psychiatrist, there's group therapy. Several options.

ADAM

What do you suggest?

DR. BUJALSKI

I can't say. I don't know your Father.

The brothers glance at each other with uncertainty.

DR. BUJALSKI (CONT'D)

Oh. This was in your Father's pocket.

Dr. Bujalski takes out a note from his pocket and hands it to Adam before taking off. The brothers study it.

CHARLIE

What is it?

ADAM

It's his suicide letter.

ELI

What's it say?

ADAM

I don't think we should read this. Maybe he could tell us in person.

INT. HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Eli walks to the brothers' table, carrying three cups of coffee. He sits and sets a cup by each of them while Charlie reads the letter. Adam takes a sip of his coffee, unsatisfied by the taste.

ADAM

You forgot to put sugar in it.

ELI

You didn't tell me. Do you want me to go get you some?

ADAM

Forget it. Just remember next time.

He sets it aside while Eli looks down at his own coffee, disheartened.

ELI
Why are you reading his letter?

CHARLIE
So we know how to help him.

Charlie puts down the letter.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I had no idea he was so lonely.

ELI
Does it mention anything about us?

ADAM
Barely.

CHARLIE
(reading)
"I'm sorry Adam, Charlie, and Eli for doing this. It's not you. It's me." That's it.

ADAM
What should we do with him?

CHARLIE
I don't think Dad should reside in a mental hospital. I think he just needs love. I mean, it's right here in the letter.

Eli gets up.

ADAM
Where you going?

ELI
I need some fresh air.

ADAM
Why?

ELI
I don't know. It's hot in here.

ADAM
Stop being so dramatic. Sit back down.

ELI
Why does everything I do or say
have to be "so dramatic?"

Adam tries to say something, but fails. Eli walks away.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Eli smokes as he watches the sky. Charlie approaches him.

CHARLIE
What's wrong?

ELI
Nothing.

CHARLIE
You really hate us, don't you?

Eli ignores him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
When did you start smoking?

ELI
I just started.

CHARLIE
You should quit. Mom--

ELI
I don't even know why I'm here.
It's not like he's dead.

CHARLIE
Look at it this way. We're all
that's left for Dad. He has no one.
No friends, no--

ELI
He's got Bill.

CHARLIE
Bill's a dog, and he died.

ELI
Bill died?

Charlie sighs.

CHARLIE

I know he wasn't the ideal Father
to us, but he's still our Dad.
Remember that.

Charlie puts his hand on Eli's shoulder, then walks back
inside. Eli continues to smoke a moment longer, then walks
back, kicking the air with frustration.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The brothers whisper as they walk. Dr. Bujalski approaches
them.

CHARLIE

What are we going to do?

ADAM

One of us should take him.

CHARLIE

Which one of us?

They meet Dr. Bujalski.

DR. BUJALSKI

Have you guys made a decision?

ADAM

We're taking him.

DR. BUJALSKI

Mr. Polite, look we--

CHARLIE

We're taking him. We're all he's
got. We're not having him stay in
some hospital. He's our Father for
Christ's sakes.

DR. BUJALSKI

Look, Mr.--

CHARLIE

I know you don't know us that well,
but we're good people. We'd get an
award. We know we can do this.

DR. BUJALSKI

I--

CHARLIE

We're taking him. That's that.

DR. BUJALSKI

Look, I--

CHARLIE

That's that!

Dr. Bujalski sighs.

DR. BUJALSKI

It's against our policies, but fine, I'll let you guys take him.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

DR. BUJALSKI

But, make sure you watch him constantly. Never leave him alone, keep him away from anything that may harm him: knives, razors, anything. And remember, never ever leave him alone.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Grady is asleep. The brothers talk, away from the bed.

CHARLIE

Who's going to take him?

ADAM

I will.

CHARLIE

No, you can't. You have a baby on the way. It's not the right situation for Dad or you.

(beat)

I'll take him. I can postpone the wedding.

ADAM

You already sent out the invitations. It'll be too complicated. I'll take him. Don't worry.

CHARLIE

Well, no, you can't. You and Claire will have to take care of the baby all the time, and I don't think Dad will be too happy with the baby crying all night long.

ADAM

Well, then, what are we going to do?

Adam and Charlie ponder this to themselves. Eli looks at Grady. He's fixated.

CHARLIE

I don't know. I guess he'll have to go to a hospital.

ELI

Maybe I can take him.

Adam and Charlie don't seem to hear Eli.

ADAM

We'll talk to the doctor about it.

CHARLIE

Know of any hospitals?

ELI

I'll take him.

ADAM

Not now, Eli.

(to Charlie)

The doctor will probably suggest places.

CHARLIE

Alright. Well, then I'll--

ELI

What the fuck!

Adam and Charlie look at Eli, surprised.

ELI (CONT'D)

Why do you guys always ignore me?

I'm sick of it!

(beat)

I'll take him.

CHARLIE

You?

ADAM

Are you even capable of taking care of yourself?

ELI

Yes!

ADAM

What about someone else?

ELI

Yes. Jesus Christ, Adam. Let me do this. You guys are busy. I don't have a lot going on. I'll take him.

Adam thinks for a moment, then walks close to Eli.

ADAM

This is very serious.

ELI

I know.

ADAM

No, you can't do it. I don't want you hurting Dad again.

ELI

What's wrong with you? That was like twenty years ago and they were by accident!

ADAM

Charlie, what do you think?

CHARLIE

I don't think he should do it.

ELI

Then what was all that "he's still our Dad" talk for?

Charlie doesn't say anything.

ELI (CONT'D)

I'm also his son. I can do it. I know I can.

ADAM

How do we know that?

ELI

You trust me.

ADAM

How can we do that? You're never around. We live in the same God damn city and you never visit us. Even when we try to come by, you make up some excuse.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)
This is the first time we've seen
you since Mom's funeral.

ELI
(pause)
Come on. He's my Dad. I won't mess
up.

CHARLIE
(to Adam)
Can I talk to you outside?

ADAM
All right. We'll be right back,
Eli.

Adam and Charlie walk out. Eli walks and looks around the room as he slowly makes his way to Grady. Eli looks at Grady's bandaged wrists then touches them gently. They twitch a little.

Adam and Charlie walk in. Eli gets up, startled. Eli walks toward them.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Fine, you can take him.

Eli nods.

CHARLIE
Eli, you sure you can do this?

ELI
Yes. How bad can it be?

Grady wakes up with the stuffed bear lying on top of him.

GRADY
Why is there a bear on me?

The brothers walk toward Grady.

CHARLIE
Dad!

GRADY
Charlie?

Grady looks at his sons.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Adam. Eli. What are you guys doing
here?

ADAM
You tried to kill yourself.

Grady doesn't say anything. He just looks away.

CHARLIE
How are you doing?

No response.

ADAM
Dad, Eli's taking you with him.
He's going to take care of you.

Grady looks at Eli.

GRADY
Eli?

ADAM
Yeah.

A pause. Grady sounds a little scared.

GRADY
Wh... why?

ADAM
Because we didn't want you in a
psychiatric facility. It's either
him or that.

GRADY
But, why Eli?

ELI
I got you that bear.

Grady looks at the bear, then at all of his sons towering over him.

INT. POLITE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Darkness except for light coming from the TV. A WOMAN SHOUTING and a DOG BARKING come from the TV. Eli sleeps on the couch. He stirs a bit on the couch before waking up. He sees Charlie sleeping on the floor with an old home video on.

INT. POLITE HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

On TV SCREEN: YOUNG ELI, 8, stands timidly and dejectedly by a broken vase on the floor. MRS. POLITE, mid 30s, screams from downstairs. A DOG BARKS in the background.

MRS. POLITE (O.S.)
 God, you're worse than a dog, Eli!
 A dog! At least dogs are loyal and
 reliable, but you, you, God, I
 can't even speak!

CLANKING DISHES are heard from downstairs. YOUNG ADAM, 12, exits a room and walks over to Young Eli.

YOUNG ADAM
 God, you're so stupid, Eli. Why are
 you so clumsy?

Young Adam hits the back of Young Eli's head, then looks into the camera.

YOUNG ADAM (CONT'D)
 Are you recording this?

YOUNG CHARLIE (O.S.)
 (laughing)
 Yeah, I'm going to show it to my
 friends.

YOUNG ELI
 (quietly)
 Stop it.

YOUNG ADAM
 What?

YOUNG ELI
 Stop it.

INT. POLITE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli gets up, turns the TV off, then puts a blanket over Charlie.

EXT. POLITE HOUSE - DAY

Eli puts a luggage bag in the trunk, then walks over to Adam who stands by the car.

ADAM

Here. Take this. I put our numbers
in it.

Adam hands him a cell phone.

ELI

I have a phone.

ADAM

Well, now you have a cell phone.

ELI

I don't need one.

ADAM

Eli, take it for Christ's sakes.
You can't just have a house phone.
What if something were to happen to
Dad when you guys go out?

ELI

We'll be in public. Someone will
call help for us.

ADAM

Don't be so difficult. Just take
it. Think of it as an early
birthday present, okay?

ELI

Fine.

He takes it.

ADAM

Hey.
(beat)
Do a good job.

INT. ELI'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Eli drives with Grady on the passenger seat. It's silent. Eli
looks over at Grady.

ELI

What's wrong?

GRADY

What?

ELI
I thought you grunted.
(beat)
Did you grunt?

GRADY
No.

ELI
Oh.

Silence.

ELI (CONT'D)
Hungry?

GRADY
No, I'm okay.
(beat)
Do you want to eat?

ELI
I'm fine.

A beat.

GRADY
This is a comfortable seat. Is it
leather?

ELI
No.
(beat)
Do you like leather?

GRADY
It's an okay fabric.

ELI
Yeah... But, I don't like how
leather gets really hot in the
summer.

GRADY
Yeah. Or really cold during the
winter.

Silence.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eli opens the door. Grady enters and looks around the
apartment. They both just stand there, not sure what to do.

ELI
 I, um, I have to check on
 something. You can sit on the couch
 if you want.

Grady walks over to the couch and sits while Eli goes to his room. Grady feels the couch material then starts to sob.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eli paces around his room, finally sitting on his bed with his head buried in his hands. After a moment, he takes a deep breath and heads out.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Eli comes back out and sees Grady crying.

ELI
 Dad?

No response.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Dad? Are you okay?

No response. Just crying.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - DAY

Eli is on the phone.

ELI
 (into phone)
 Hey.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sam sits at his desk reading, Gertruda by Sam Murray, while talking on his cell.

SAM
 (into cell)
 Eli! Where have you been, man?
 How's my book coming along?

ELI
I can't talk about that right now.
This may sound a little odd, but
what do you do when somebody cries?

SAM
What do you mean?

ELI
How do you make it stop, or I don't
know, cheer the person up?

INT. ICE CREAM STORE - DAY

A simple, friendly-looking store. Eli and Grady sit at a table. They look serious and awkward together. They eat their ice creams silently.

ELI
How's your ice cream? Is it
cheering you up?

GRADY
It's okay.

ELI
Do you want some more?

GRADY
No, I'm fine.

Silence. Eli eats more of his ice cream, but stops and massages his temples.

GRADY (CONT'D)
You okay?

Eli stops.

ELI
Yeah. Just an ice cream headache.

GRADY
You used to get those a lot.

ELI
No. That was Adam.

GRADY
Oh.

Silence.

GRADY (CONT'D)

Um, I have to use the restroom.

Grady gets up.

ELI

Wait.

Grady stops and looks at Eli, confused.

INT. ICE CREAM STORE - BATHROOM - DAY

Grady pees in a urinal while Eli watches from behind uncomfortably.

ELI

Sorry. It's just, you know, I...
I'm not supposed to leave you
alone.

A MAN opens the door. Eli and Grady look at the Man. The Man looks at them as he slowly closes the door and exits. Grady sighs.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

As Eli and Grady walk to Eli's car, they pass a YOUNG FATHER, 30s, and his YOUNG SON, 6, smiling and holding hands. Eli and Grady see this, then continue to walk uncomfortably.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli and Grady walk in the house. Eli looks at Grady.

ELI

I'll see you in the morning.

Eli walks away, then stops.

ELI (CONT'D)

Don't do anything to yourself.

Eli walks to his room and shuts the door. Grady looks around.

GRADY

Where do I sleep?

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - MORNING

Eli sleeps. His cell VIBRATES. He answers.

ELI
 (into cell)
 Hello?

Charlie sounds like he's struggling with something.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 (over cell)
 Hey... it's Charlie.

ELI
 Hey.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 How are things with Dad?

ELI
 He's fine. Are you okay?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie's face is sweaty and it bobs around. He looks like he's having sex.

CHARLIE
 That's... good.

ELI
 What?

CHARLIE
 Yeah. Listen, I... I, um, got you help.

ELI
 I told you, I don't need a shrink.

CHARLIE
 Huh? Oh, no. Someone to help... with Dad.

ELI
 Why? I'm doing fine.

CHARLIE
 She's a friend of Jane's and she just got laid off. So, I figured I could help her out.

ELI
 What can she do?

A FEMALE MOANS sexually.

Eli sits up.

Charlie is having sex with his fiance, JANE.

ELI (CONT'D)
Charlie?

CHARLIE
I got to go, buddy. See ya!

Eli puts the cell down. His cordless phone RINGS.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Grady lies awkwardly on the couch with his legs extended over the side. It looks like it hurts. Eli walks in and curiously observes Grady's sleeping position.

ELI
Dad?

No response. Eli walks over to Grady and nudges him. He slowly wakes up.

GRADY
What? What is it?

ELI
You know, there's another room.

Eli motions to the other room. Grady looks.

ELI (CONT'D)
I have to go out now.

GRADY
Okay.

Beat.

ELI
You have to come with me.

GRADY
Why?

ELI
You're not supposed to be alone.

Eli starts for the door. Grady looks over at the other room again, muttering quietly to himself:

GRADY
Not supposed to be alone, huh?

INT. SMALL RESTAURANT - DAY

Eli, Grady, and Sam eat at a table. Sam poorly impersonates Marlon Brando.

SAM
"You don't understand! I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I could've been somebody." Tough shit, huh?

Grady stops eating and looks at Sam, dumbfounded.

ELI
What are you doing?

SAM
It's my Brando.

GRADY
Marlon Brando?

SAM
Yeah. It's pretty good, huh?

GRADY
No. Not at all.

SAM
Well, you're the first to think that. So, what are you here? Visiting?

GRADY
Yeah. I guess. Eli didn't tell you anything?

SAM
Nope. He doesn't really tell me anything.

Grady looks at Eli. Sam's gaze falls on Grady's bandaged wrists under his long sleeve shirt.

SAM (CONT'D)
What happened to your wrists?

Eli shakes his head.

SAM (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

Grady looks at his wrists.

GRADY
I... um, I cut them.

SAM
Shaving accident?

Eli looks away. He can't take it.

INT. SMALL RESTAURANT - LATER

Eli and Grady are about to walk out when Sam grabs a hold of Eli's arm.

SAM
Hey. Can I talk to you in private?

ELI
I can't leave him alone.

SAM
We're in a public place. He's not going to do anything. Right, Grady?

GRADY
(to Eli)
Just talk to him.

ELI
Fine. We'll talk in viewing distance, okay?

SAM
That's fine.

They walk a couple feet away from Grady.

ELI
What is it?

SAM
What do you mean, what is it? Why aren't you editing my book? I don't want to be a dick, but come on. Seriously. You asked me for this job and now, you're taking care of your Dad? I'm sorry about what's happened to him, but you're not being responsible.

ELI
Sam, I'm editing it.

SAM
Yeah? Then where is it?
(beat)
Look, I've been talking to Matt
about editing my book.

ELI
You've been talking to other
people?

SAM
Yeah. I need to get this thing
done. Now, what's it going to be,
Eli? Are you going to do this for
me or am I going to have to get
someone else?

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eli lies in bed, reading the manuscript.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - OTHER ROOM - NIGHT

Grady lies bored and restless in bed. He switches the lamp on
by the bed.

He digs through his luggage bag, pulling out the stuffed
bear. He sets it aside by his bag when he notices the wall.
It's plastered and scratched up.

He looks through the nightstand drawers and takes out a
scratched up yo-yo. He studies it.

Grady tries to successfully use the yo-yo, but fails each
time. It just drops and never comes back up. Giving up, he
sits back on the bed looking awfully miserable.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Eli and Grady step out. Eli carries the manuscript. LITTLE
KIDS play baseball with a wiffle ball. The PITCHER throws the
ball. The BATTER swings. Grady flinches and stumbles, almost
falling before Eli catches him.

ELI
What's wrong?

GRADY
It scared me.

ELI
What did?

GRADY
I don't know. The swing.

ELI
Why?

GRADY
It reminded me of that time you hit
me with a baseball bat.

Eli looks away guiltily as JORDAN GALLAGHER, a girl in her 20s, approaches them, carrying a container. She wears sandals.

JORDAN
Excuse me. Are you guys, Eli and
Grady Polite?

Eli and Grady look at Jordan.

ELI
Yeah. Do I know you?

JORDAN
No. Um, Charlie sent me?

ELI
Oh, hi. Nice to meet you. This is
Grady.

Grady waves.

JORDAN
Hi. I'm Jordan.

ELI
Like the basketball player.

JORDAN
What?

ELI
Michael Jordan.

JORDAN
Oh. Yeah. Right, like the
basketball player.

Awkward beat.

ELI

Yeah, I'm sorry. I didn't know when you were showing up. Charlie never told me.

JORDAN

Are you guys going somewhere?

ELI

We're getting some breakfast.

JORDAN

Mind if I tag along?

ELI

(to Grady)
Do you mind?

GRADY

No.

ELI

Okay. Sure. What's in the container?

Jordan looks at the container.

JORDAN

Oh, it's just--

Jordan accidentally drops it on the floor. Some cookies fall out. Eli and Jordan bend down to get them.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

It's okay. I got it.

ELI

No, I got it.

JORDAN

It's fine. Really.

Eli accidentally steps on Jordan's foot while picking up the cookies causing her foot to bleed.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Ah! Shit!

The Little Kids laugh and point.

Jordan rubs her foot while Grady looks away, embarrassed.

ELI
Oh my God. I'm sorry.

Jordan groans in pain.

ELI (CONT'D)
What do I do?

JORDAN
Can I have a bandage or something?

Eli runs toward the apartment, but stops and runs back.

ELI
I don't have bandages.

JORDAN
Well, get me something!

INT. DINER - DAY

Eli sits across from Grady and Jordan at a booth, reading the manuscript. Jordan's foot is covered with a taped on towel; it's ridiculously bulky. She reads and covers her face with the menu. Eli sets the manuscript aside.

ELI
How's your foot?

JORDAN
Morose.

Jordan puts down her menu.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Look, I'd love to stay mad at you,
but unfortunately, given that this
is now my job, I can't. So let's
just drop it, okay?

ELI
Okay.

JORDAN
So, if you have any other
questions, please ask away.

ELI
Um, okay. How long have you been a
nurse?

JORDAN
I'm not a nurse.

ELI
I thought Charlie said you were helping my Dad.

JORDAN
That doesn't make me a nurse.

ELI
Sorry. What was your job before this?

JORDAN
I worked at an art gallery. They weren't doing too well, so they fired me.

ELI
I'm sorry.

JORDAN
Yeah, well, bad things happens. But I applied for this art fellowship so hopefully something good will happen. You just got to keep on trying, right?

ELI
Right.

Jordan turns her attention to Grady while Eli continues with the manuscript.

JORDAN
Hey, Grady. I think me and you should get to know each other since we're going to be seeing each other a lot. What's your favorite movie?

GRADY
I don't have one.

JORDAN
Okay, what do you like to do?

GRADY
Um, read?

JORDAN
Oh, yeah? Who's your favorite author?

GRADY
I don't know. Hemingway?

ELI
You like Hemingway?

GRADY
Yeah.

ELI
Me too. I love The Old Man and the Sea.

GRADY
Yeah. That's a good one.

Awkward silence.

ELI
Yup.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eli, Grady, and Jordan walk in. Jordan carries a grocery bag. Grady walks to the bathroom.

ELI
Where are you going?

Grady stops.

GRADY
I have to pee. Are you going to watch me?

ELI
No.

Grady enters the bathroom. Eli takes the bag from Jordan.

ELI (CONT'D)
I'll take this.

He walks to the kitchen and puts the grocery items in the fridge. She follows.

JORDAN
You guys aren't very close, huh?

ELI
Why do you say that?

JORDAN
I'm not stupid, Eli.

ELI
Were you close with your Dad?

JORDAN
When he was alive, yeah.

ELI
Oh. I'm sorry.

JORDAN
Yeah, well, bad things happen.
(beat)
Look, I'm sorry about your Dad. If
you ever need someone to talk to,
I'm here.

ELI
Thanks.

JORDAN
Charlie told me this story about
you when you guys were kids. He
said you hit your Dad with a
baseball bat.

ELI
That was a long time ago.

JORDAN
Wow. And now you're taking care of
him.

ELI
Yeah. That was a long time ago.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Grady naps on the couch with the TV on. Eli reads and marks up Sam's manuscript at his desk.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - DAY

Jordan is on her knees, dusting a shelf with a duster. She turns her head around and sees herself in a stand up mirror. After a moment, she stops and starts to cry a little. She proceeds to clean after wiping her tears.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli and Jordan are by the door. Grady still sleeps. Eli gives Jordan a key.

ELI
Okay, here's your key.

JORDAN
Thanks.

ELI
So, you live by Charlie?

JORDAN
Yup. How come I never see you at any of his parties?

ELI
I don't go up there that often.

JORDAN
Oh... Well, I guess I should get going now. Tell Grady I said bye.

ELI
Okay.

She leaves. Eli closes the door and looks at Grady.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The TV is on. It's dark except for the light from the TV. Eli walks out of his room and sees that no one watches it. His eyes widen.

He sees light coming from the partially closed bathroom door. He quickly opens it and sees Grady with shaving cream on his face.

ELI
Why are you shaving so late?

GRADY
I always shave at night.

Eli spots a razor blade on the counter.

ELI
Why's that there?

GRADY
I was shaving.

ELI
You can't be going off in the middle of the night like that.
(beat)
(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
I can't have you sleeping alone.
The doctor said.

GRADY
Where will I sleep then?

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eli and Grady sleep next to each other in bed. Grady farts. Eli's eyes open widely. He sniffs then looks over at Grady, disgusted.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - MORNING

Grady looks at Eli wearing a surgical mask over his mouth and nose. Eli wakes up after a moment and looks at Grady.

ELI
Morning.

GRADY
Don't you have to go to work?

ELI
I work from home.

GRADY
What do you do?

ELI
I'm a book editor. Sam's one of my clients.

GRADY
Oh.
(beat)
Why are you wearing a mask?

Eli, realizing he has the mask on, quickly snatches it off.

INT. BOOK STORE - DAY

People shop, but it's quiet. Eli checks out various albums in a row of music CDs. He glances down the row to find Grady browsing through CDs, uninterested.

At the movies section, Grady looks through the "Special Interests" section. He looks through them, listlessly, until he stops at one with the title, Beautiful Sights. The cover has a very beautiful landscape sight on it.

He passes it, but glances back at it. He wants it, but is too shy to ask for it.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Jordan lies on her knees and scrubs the dirty tile floor.

INT. ELI'S CAR - MOVING - DUSK

Eli drives. Grady sits passenger. They both stare off impassively.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eli's lamp is on. Eli sits up in bed and marks up Sam's manuscript. Grady tries to sleep by facing the other way, but is unable to. He turns toward Eli.

GRADY

Can you turn the light off? I can't sleep.

ELI

I'm editing this.

GRADY

You can't do it later?

ELI

No.

GRADY

Okay.

He turns back around and tries to sleep. Eli watches him for a moment before turning his lamp off. He tries to edit the manuscript with his cell phone light.

GRADY (CONT'D)

Sorry.

ELI

It's okay.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Eli finishes brushing his teeth. He exits.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eli comes out of the bathroom and sees Grady sweating, groaning, and doubling over in pain. Eli rushes over to him.

ELI
Dad! What's wrong?

GRADY
(struggling to speak)
I feel like shit. My insides.

ELI
I'll take you to the hospital.

Eli tries his best to hold Grady up, but fails.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Eli's car stops at the front of the hospital.

INT. ELI'S CAR - DAY

Eli sees a MEDIC outside. Eli rolls down the window.

ELI
Hey!

The Medic walks over.

ELI (CONT'D)
My dad's feeling a bit sick and
he's heavy. Can you help?

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Eli sits down in a chair reading a magazine. His cell VIBRATES.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Eli's on his cell.

ELI
(into cell)
We're at the hospital.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Jordan leans on her car while on her cell.

JORDAN
(into cell)
What happened?

ELI
I don't know. He was sweating a lot
and he couldn't walk straight.

JORDAN
Oh my God. Should I go to the
hospital?

ELI
No. We'll be back soon.

JORDAN
Okay.

They hang up.

A couple feet away from Eli, CINDY, mid 20s, a skinny, pretty girl, takes out a cigarette. Eli watches her, fixated by her beauty, but looks away out of shyness. After a moment, he musters up confidence and asks:

ELI
Need a light?

CINDY
Um, yeah. Sure.

Eli walks toward her.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Hi. I'm Cindy.

Cindy sticks her hand out for a handshake.

ELI
I'm Eli.

He shakes it. Eli takes out his lighter. She cranes her head toward Eli, expecting him to light it. He tries repeatedly, but fails each time.

ELI (CONT'D)
Must be out of fluid.

CINDY
Let me try.

She gets it on the first try.

CINDY (CONT'D)
I don't think it's out of fluid.

Eli puts his lighter away, embarrassed.

CINDY (CONT'D)
So, what brings you here?

ELI
My Dad. He looked like he was in pain.

CINDY
Oh. That's cool.

Eli looks at her, confused.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Sorry. I don't know why I said that.

Silence.

ELI
So, you like smoking?

CINDY
Um, yeah.

ELI
Yeah, I like it too.

CINDY
Do you want a cigarette?

ELI
Um, yeah. If it's okay with you.

She hands him a cigarette. Eli tries to light it, but fails. He smiles nervously at her. She lights it for him.

ELI (CONT'D)
Thanks. I usually could get it to light. I don't know why I can't right now.

She just smiles. Awkward silence. Grady comes out of the hospital. Eli flinches, not realizing he came out.

ELI (CONT'D)
Hey.

GRADY
You smoke?

ELI
Yeah.

GRADY
It killed your Mother.

Awkward. Eli drops his cigarette and crushes it. Grady walks away toward the car. Eli just stands there, utterly embarrassed to do anything. Cindy looks around, not sure what to make of the situation.

INT. JORDAN'S CAR - DAY

Jordan sits in the back, drawing a picture on a pad in a very mundane manner.

INT. ELI'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Eli drives. Grady looks out the window in the seat next to him. It's quiet for a moment, then:

GRADY
I have kidney stones.

ELI
Jesus Christ. Does it hurt?

GRADY
Yeah. It hurts so much that I want to kill myself.

ELI
Hey. Don't say that.
(beat)
Think happy thoughts. Try to be happy.

Eli glances at a depressed Grady who continues to look out the window. Eli turns the RADIO ON.

VOICE ON RADIO (V.O.)
...other news, a music teacher from San Pedro, California kills wife and kids--

Eli quickly turns the radio off.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Eli and Grady walk toward the building. Jordan runs after them, calling out:

JORDAN
Hey! Wait up.

Eli and Grady turn around.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A nearly empty section at the beach. Large rocks, boulders lie across the shoreline. Eli, Grady, and Jordan walk along the shore, eating cones of ice cream.

ELI
What are we doing here?

JORDAN
I thought this would be a nice change of setting after going to the hospital. Plus, don't you ever just go out for a walk on the beach?

ELI
No. I don't mean to be rude, but how long are we going to be out here? I have to get some work done.

Jordan glances at the large cluster of rocks facing the ocean. She hands her ice cream to Eli, ignoring his question.

JORDAN
Hold this.

Jordan jogs toward the rocks.

ELI
Where you going?

She stops and points to the rocks. She continues. Eli and Grady watch her walking along the rocks, stopping when she reaches the edge. She watches the ocean with her arms stretching out -- a look of serenity on her face.

Eli and Grady walk closer to the rocks. Eli eats both ice creams.

ELI (CONT'D)
What do you think she's doing?

GRADY
Looks like she's watching the
ocean. Why don't you ask her?

Eli calls out to Jordan.

ELI
Hey! Jordan!

Jordan looks at them and shouts back:

JORDAN
What?!

ELI
What are you doing up there?

JORDAN
I'm watching the ocean. Come up
here, so we don't have to shout.

ELI
Okay!

Beat.

JORDAN
Are you eating my ice cream?

MOMENTS LATER: Eli walks on the rocks, getting closer to
Jordan's position. He looks nervous and a little scared.
Grady trails behind him.

ELI
Is this safe?

JORDAN
Yeah.

ELI
These rocks won't roll away or
anything?

JORDAN
Nope.

Eli and Grady reach Jordan. They stand beside her.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
(smiling)
Good job, boys.

ELI
Why are you up here?

JORDAN

I know it's cheesy, but, you know how people have their "happy places"?

ELI

I guess.

JORDAN

This is mine.

ELI

Why this place?

No response.

ELI (CONT'D)

Jordan?

A look of sadness on Jordan's face.

JORDAN

Look at it. It's beautiful.

Eli and Grady look out at the ocean. It is beautiful.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

And I lost my virginity here.

Eli's attention is back on Jordan.

ELI

What?

JORDAN

Well, not on this rock, but on one just like it.

(beat)

I just turned 21 and this guy took me and... it was just perfect. The view, the breeze, everything. It was just the best night of my life. That's why I find myself climbing these rocks. To relive the moment.

All of a sudden, Jordan looks really hurt and frustrated. She's on the verge of crying.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I mean, fuck. What the fuck am I doing with my life? I wanted to be a photographer, an artist, something meaningful.

(MORE)

JORDAN (CONT'D)

This thing I'm doing, it's not worth the years I've spent in school. I like you guys, but this isn't what I envisioned myself doing.

Jordan cries. Grady hesitates then walks over and gingerly pats her back. After a beat, she turns around and puts her arms around Grady, holding him tightly. Eli watches them, touched by their genuine embrace.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli works on the manuscript at his desk.

At the kitchen, Jordan washes dishes. Grady sits at the dining table, reading a newspaper. He looks at her, then puts down his paper, and walks over to her.

GRADY

Do you need help?

JORDAN

Sure.

She glances at his bandaged wrists when he lifts his sleeves up. They proceed to clean the dishes together.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

You're pretty good at this.

GRADY

Am I?

JORDAN

Yeah. I've never seen such an adept plate wiper before.

They share a little laugh.

GRADY

I guess I picked up a few things from my maid.

Another laugh.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eli works at his desk. Grady and Jordan walk toward Eli.

JORDAN
 Hey, Eli. Grady and I are going to
 go fishing. Do you want to come?

ELI
 This late?

JORDAN
 Yeah.

ELI
 No, I should really work on this.

JORDAN
 All right. Well, see you later.

ELI
 Okay. Not too late.

JORDAN
 I'll bring him back before his bed
 time. Don't worry.

They head off.

GRADY
 Um, bye, Eli.

ELI
 Bye.

Eli watches them leave before he reluctantly works on the
 manuscript again.

EXT. PIER PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Jordan opens the trunk of her car, revealing fishing poles
 and a box of bait.

JORDAN
 Can you help me with these?

Grady grabs the poles.

GRADY
 Did you plan this?

JORDAN
 (smiling)
 You caught me. Come on. We'll have
 fun.

EXT. PIER - NIGHT

A nice night out as people fish around the pier. Grady and Jordan sit close to each other and fish by the railing.

JORDAN

This is pretty cool, huh?

GRADY

Yeah.

(beat)

How do you know Charlie?

JORDAN

I met him through Jane, like I think three years ago? She was my roommate and one day, she brought home Charlie from a party, and now, they're getting married.

(beat)

We've known each other since we were little girls.

GRADY

Oh, yeah?

JORDAN

Yeah, it's so funny, you know. We'd have these sleep overs and talk about all these guys we'd want to marry. Like she had this Tom Selleck poster taped just above her headboard, and...

(trailing off)

She's getting married now. She was my best friend and now, now she's my boss. How fucked up is that? I'm really blabbering, aren't I? I'm sorry. I usually don't. Honestly.

GRADY

No, I like it. It balances us out.

They share a moment. She smiles. He looks away nervously.

JORDAN

I'm not really catching anything.

GRADY

Let me see your pole.

She reels in and hands her pole to Grady. Grady examines the bait.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 Here's your problem. You're using
 the wrong hook and bait.

He opens the box and exchanges the hook and bait for more
 proper ones. She watches obediently.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 You're going to want to use a
 smaller hook so it'll fit in the
 fish's mouth. You see?

JORDAN
 Yeah.

GRADY
 You don't fish much do you?

JORDAN
 (laughing)
 Not at all.

He coughs and massages his side.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
 Is it the kidney stones?

GRADY
 I think.

JORDAN
 Okay, let's get you home.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eli wakes up in bed. He hears Grady COUGHING and MOANING
 outside.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Eli is next to the closed bathroom door.

ELI
 Dad?

Grady coughs and moans. He struggles to speak.

GRADY (O.S.)
 Yeah?

ELI
 What's the matter?

GRADY (O.S.)
It's the God damn stones...

ELI
Aren't you taking pills for it?

GRADY (O.S.)
I forgot to get them.

ELI
You forgot them? Should we go to
the hospital?

GRADY (O.S.)
No!... ah... ah... fuck!

ELI
Dad! Open up!

After a moment, the door opens. Grady is on all fours,
sweating and crying.

GRADY
You don't know how much this hurts.

Eli kneels to be on the same level as Grady.

GRADY (CONT'D)
You don't happen to have any booze,
do you?

ELI
No.
(beat)
I might have something that may
help.

Grady looks up at Eli.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's quiet. Grady sits on the couch. Eli sits down next to
him, holding a tin container. He opens it to reveal a bag of
marijuana and a pipe. Grady looks at Eli, concerned. Eli
catches this.

ELI
Sam gave it to me. I don't do...
this.

Eli packs the pipe and hands it to Grady.

GRADY

I can't. It doesn't seem right.

ELI

Sam says it makes you feel better.

GRADY

Eli, I can't do this with you. I--

Grady wrings with pain.

GRADY (CONT'D)

Forget it. Light it.

Eli lights it after a few tries. Grady inhales and coughs a little.

ELI

Feeling better?

GRADY

No. I don't feel anything.

ELI

Hm... Maybe I should give you more.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eli and Grady sit on the couch. They look relaxed and peaceful. Grady laughs strangely with a high pitch.

ELI

What's so funny?

(beat)

Oh wait, I get it.

Eli laughs like a hyena.

GRADY

I feel... fluffy and delicious. I feel like eating myself.

Eli giggles.

ELI

Man, I'd love to fly a kite right now. I just want to run real fast and just see that thing fly. God, I'm imagining it right now. It's so beautiful, so fucking beautiful. Do you see it?

GRADY
I see it. I see it.

Grady chuckles, then after a long, quiet beat:

ELI
I'm not stupid.

Eli smiles melancholically.

ELI (CONT'D)
I mean, I can do things well. I'm pretty good at things, like I can teach people, you know. I may not be able to shuffle cards, but I can do other things. But I just don't say anything because what if it's not right.

GRADY
What are you talking about?

Eli just smiles.

GRADY (CONT'D)
(pause)
Your Mother wasn't very good at shuffling cards either.

ELI
(uninterested)
Yeah? I didn't know that about her.

GRADY
She was a hell of a poker player though. When we were in college, we'd have these weekly poker games and she was always winning every other week. She was good.
(beat)
You know why I married her? Adam. I got her pregnant. Don't get pregnant, Eli. It messes up your whole life.

They look at each other for a long moment until it gets awkward.

ELI
I'm going to put some music on.

Eli gets up and turns the stereo on. LIGHT, MELLOW music plays.

ELI (CONT'D)
You like this?

GRADY
It's nice.

Eli smiles. He lies on the floor by the couch as he stares at the ceiling.

ELI
Hey. Mind if I lie here for awhile?

GRADY
It's your floor.

ELI
Thanks.
(beat)
So... um, why'd you try to kill yourself?

Grady, nervously picks at the arm of the couch while looking around, trying to figure out what to say.

ELI (CONT'D)
Never mind. I'm sorry.

GRADY
No. It's alright. It's okay.

A silence.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Do you still play the flute?

ELI
No. Adam kept making fun of me because he said it looked like I was putting my mouth on a... well, you know.

Grady chuckles a little. They're both getting tired.

GRADY
Hey Eli?... Eli?

ELI
Yeah?

GRADY
Don't ever listen to what you know is wrong, but think is right.

ELI
What?

GRADY
Okay?

ELI
Okay.

Eli nods. They look exhausted.

ELI (CONT'D)
I feel good.

GRADY
Me too.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Grady sleeps, sitting up, while Eli sleeps lying down with his face intimately close to Grady's crotch. Eli wakes up, his eyes shooting wide open after realizing where he is. He quickly moves away from Grady and sits up. He sees Jordan in the kitchen, washing dishes.

He walks to her.

ELI
Hey.

Jordan looks at Eli trying to conceal a smile.

JORDAN
Hey.

ELI
I'm going to take my Dad to get his pills. Are you fine here?

JORDAN
Yeah. What did you guys do last night?

ELI
Nothing.

JORDAN
Then why were you guys sleeping on the couch together?

ELI
I... what? No, we weren't.

JORDAN
I just saw you guys. What happened?

ELI
Nothing. I'm not supposed to leave
him alone, remember?

JORDAN
Yeah, but why were you guys
together on the couch?

Eli sighs.

ELI
Fine. I... I smoked him out.

She stops.

JORDAN
You smoked him out?

ELI
Yeah. I don't know what else to
call it.

She just looks at him.

ELI (CONT'D)
He was in pain.

She chuckles.

JORDAN
Wow. That's just, wow. Beautiful
bonding.

ELI
Yeah. Well, maybe it was.

JORDAN
Oh. Was it now? I'd love to hear
about this.

She sits at the table.

ELI
What are you sitting for?

JORDAN
I want to hear about this.

ELI
You're serious?

JORDAN

Yes! Sit down.

Eli sits down across from her. He looks down at the table, thinking. A long moment of silence.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

You don't have to talk about it with me.

He looks at her. Another silence.

ELI

I don't know. I feel pretty good today.

She smiles courageously at him.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

A small pharmacy. Eli and Grady sit by each other, waiting to be called. Eli writes in his notebook. Grady holds his side as he grimaces a little.

GRADY

What are you writing?

Eli stops.

ELI

Oh, it's nothing. Just a short story.

GRADY

Don't you have to work on Sam's book?

ELI

Yeah... I just need a break from it. If I keep going at it, then I'll start to ruin it. It just happens.

GRADY

Oh. I've read one of your stories before.

Eli looks kind of excited.

ELI

Really? Which one?

GRADY
I think it was called "The
Uncomfortable Family."

Eli's excitement diminishes. He looks embarrassed.

ELI
Oh. Well, it's just, you know, a
story.

GRADY
Yeah. I know. Why aren't you a
writer?

ELI
I am.

GRADY
I mean, professionally. I remember
you wanted to be one.

Eli thinks.

ELI
I don't know. I never liked people
reading my work. It's like people
expect me to act like how I write,
but it's all just fiction.

GRADY
Like "The Uncomfortable Family,"
right?

ELI
Um, yeah.

GRADY
I'm sorry for asking all these
questions.

ELI
It's fine. Really.

GRADY
Why'd you do decide to become an
editor?

ELI
I don't know. I guess after a
couple of friends from school asked
me to edit their pieces, it grew on
me. I don't know. I liked working
with them. I kind of liked the idea
of improving their work.

The Pharmacist calls over the PA.

PHARMACIST (ON P.A.)
Grady Polite. Grady Polite.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - DAY

Jordan wipes the dust off the nightstand, accidentally pushing a book off. She gets down to pick it up when she notices something under the bed. She reaches for it and sees that it's a framed picture of Eli and Amy. She examines it for a moment then puts it aside.

MOMENTS LATER: She sits on the bed with her cell to her ear.

JORDAN
(into cell)
No, it's just that I was cleaning and I found this picture on the floor. I was just wondering if it was dropped by accident or if it was left there purposely.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
(over cell)
Yeah, they've been going out for years. Pretty gal. I don't know how Eli got so lucky.

They chuckle.

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Say, how's it going over there?

MOMENTS LATER: She picks the picture up and sets it on the nightstand.

EXT. PHARMACY - DAY

Eli and Grady walk back to the car. On the way:

ELI
Hey, wait a minute.

They stop.

ELI (CONT'D)
Do you maybe want to do something or something?

GRADY
With Jordan?

ELI
No. Just the two of us.

GRADY
Um, what do you have in mind?

EXT. PARK - DAY

Eli and Grady sit on a bench that faces a basketball court. They watch the Young Father and the Young Son having a good time playing basketball.

EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

The Young Father and the Young Son walk away from the court, laughing and smiling. Eli and Grady stare at a basketball lying on the middle of the court.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Eli and Grady are on the basketball court. Grady dribbles the ball awkwardly. He smiles coyly at Eli to hide his desire not to play. Eli watches for a moment, then:

ELI
Okay, um, I'm going to defend you.

He awkwardly defends Grady with his arms waving up and down. Grady looks at him, concerned and confused.

GRADY
All right. I'm shooting.

He shoots, but Eli blocks him viciously causing the ball to fly back and Grady to fall on his ass. Eli just stands there looking down at Grady, shocked at what he just did.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Eli and Grady walk toward the building. Grady tries to hide his limp. A furious Sam approaches them from his car.

SAM
Hey! Eli!

Eli and Grady turn around toward Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
What the fuck, man. Where were you?

ELI
I was out.

SAM
Does that mean you're done?

ELI
No, but I--

SAM
You're supposed to be done with it
by now. Stop being so
irresponsible.

ELI
I'm almost done.

SAM
Yeah? Well, I gave you plenty of
chances to be done. Not almost.

ELI
Look, Sam. I--

SAM
I don't want to hear it. This is
your last chance. I don't want to
lose our friendship over this.
Don't make this weird, Eli. Don't
make it weird.

Sam walks back to his car. Eli stares off, humiliated. Grady watches him.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli and Grady walk in with Grady trying to hide his limp. Jordan sleeps on the couch with rubber gloves on her hands. She sits up when Eli closes the door.

JORDAN
Hey. I made macaroni and...

Jordan watches Grady limp to the bathroom.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
What's wrong with his leg?

ELI
We played basketball.

JORDAN
You played basketball?

ELI
Yes.

JORDAN
Why?

ELI
I thought it would be fun.

She sees something is bothering Eli.

JORDAN
What's wrong?

ELI
Nothing's wrong. I'm sorry, but I
have to do some work. Is that okay
with you?

JORDAN
Yeah. Of course. It's your
apartment. I'll just get my things.

She gets up and puts the gloves away in the kitchen. He walks
to his desk.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Oh. Some guy named Sam kept
calling.

ELI
I know. I talked to him.

He sets the manuscript in front of him and works. She heads
off.

JORDAN
Do you need anything?

ELI
No. I just need to work on this.
Thanks.

JORDAN
Okay. See you.

She picks up her bag on the couch, then looks at Eli buried
in the manuscript before leaving.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Grady walks in and turns the light on. He looks at his tired,
sad-looking face in the mirror.

He tries smiling, but it looks strange to him. Pain strikes his side as he massages it. He takes his pain reliever medication.

Naked, he hops into the shower. He closes his eyes, enjoying the feel of the hot water drizzling over him. He stops and looks at his bandaged wrists. He grazes them lightly.

INT. JORDAN'S APARTMENT ENTRANCEWAY - NIGHT

Jordan looks through her mail by the mailboxes. She stops at a letter. She opens it excitedly yet nervously. As she reads more and more of the letter, she looks more and more defeated. She looks as if she's about to cry.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli works on the manuscript at his desk. Grady sits on the couch watching TV, holding his side and grimacing in pain. He walks over to Eli.

GRADY

Hey, Eli.

ELI

Yeah?

GRADY

I'm not really sure how to ask you this, but the pills aren't working too well right now.

ELI

What do you want?

GRADY

Um, do you have some more, um, marijuana?

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Grady sits on the couch watching a sitcom. He constantly chuckles quietly to himself. A tired and annoyed Eli looks wearily at the manuscript, trying to concentrate. He reaches for his can of soda before accidentally spilling it on his pants. He sighs, frustrated with himself.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eli turns the light on. He walks toward the closet before noticing the framed picture on the nightstand. He picks it up and looks at it, visibly distraught.

He tosses it aside on the floor and opens his closet for a pair of pants, only to pick up the frame again and with rage sweeping in, almost slams it on the floor before he stops and controls himself.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - OTHER ROOM - NIGHT

Eli looks through the empty nightstand drawer. He closes it and looks around the room, searching for something. He finds it next to Grady's bag -- the yo-yo. He picks it up and attempts to throw it at the plastered wall before looking at the bear by Grady's bag. Instead, he pounds on the bed, defeated.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eli is back at his desk working on the manuscript. Grady now sleeps with the TV on. After a brief moment, Eli stops working and stretches. He glances at Grady sleeping, then at the TV -- a commercial featuring party girls getting naked. He's fixated.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eli walks in. He turns his lamp on his nightstand, on. He picks up the framed picture on the floor and sits on the bed. He sets it on the nightstand as he masturbates angrily to it.

Grady walks in, first looking at Eli, then at the framed picture. Eli freezes, then quickly tries to remove his hand from his pants. Grady leaves.

ELI
Fuck me. Fuck me.

He gets up, but his pants fall. He picks them up and zips up.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Grady paces around quietly saying to himself:

GRADY
Fuck me. Fuck me. Knock you idiot.

A KNOCK. Grady looks at Eli's door. He opens it. Eli stands there, humiliated. He attempts to say something, but decides against it making the situation extremely awkward until finally:

ELI
I'm... sorry?

GRADY
Yeah. It's, um, it's okay.

More awkward silence.

GRADY (CONT'D)
It's natural.

Eli looks like he's about to cry as he sweats profusely.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Eli, it's okay. Really.

ELI
I have to go to the bathroom.

Grady nods. Eli walks shamefully to the bathroom.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Grady walks in. He picks up the framed picture and looks at it.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Eli paces around brushing his teeth. He stops.

ELI
Fuck!

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Eli walks in to find Grady already in bed, awake.

ELI
Hey.

GRADY
Hey.

He gets in bed. They both stare at the ceiling at first, but then Eli turns away from Grady. Eli switches the lamp off. After a moment of silence:

GRADY (CONT'D)
Good night, Eli.

ELI
Okay.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - LATER

Grady sleeps. Eli lies restless in bed. After a moment, he gets up and leaves quietly.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli is at his desk with a packed pipe. He lights it, inhales -
- he's relaxed. He begins work on the manuscript.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - MORNING

Grady wakes up, looking at the empty space next to him.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Grady walks out to find Eli at his desk, asleep on the last page of Sam's manuscript. He also notices the pipe.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Grady cooks in the kitchen. Eli wakes up and walks over. Grady turns around to put the food on plates, but instead looks at Eli.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - LATER

Eli and Grady sit, eating quietly at the dining table.

ELI
I have to go to Sam's after. Is that okay?

GRADY
Yeah. You finished the book?

ELI
Yeah.

Grady stops eating.

GRADY
Congratulations.

ELI
Thanks.
(a long beat)
Look, about last night. I'm really--

GRADY
Don't mention it. It happened. It's
over now.

Eli continues eating, quietly.

GRADY (CONT'D)
I do it too.

Eli stops.

ELI
What?

GRADY
I mast... I masturbate.

ELI
Oh. Um--

GRADY
I used to do it after work. To
relax myself.

ELI
That's... can we not talk about
this?

GRADY
I was just trying to tell you, it's
okay.

ELI
Okay. Thanks.

GRADY
(pause)
When can I go home?

ELI
I don't know.

GRADY
When will you?

ELI
I... I don't know.

LATER: The door opens. It's Jordan. She walks to the kitchen and sees Eli putting the plates in the sink.

JORDAN
Hey.

Grady now watches TV. She puts her stuff down on a chair and takes cleaning supplies out from a cupboard.

ELI
Did you put something on my
nightstand?

JORDAN
What, the picture? It fell. Why?

ELI
What makes you think it fell?

She looks at Eli.

JORDAN
That wasn't supposed to be there?

Eli just looks at her.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Well, I was cleaning and I found it
on the floor. So, I called Charlie
and he said you had a girlfriend. I
figured it just fell.

ELI
She was my girlfriend.

JORDAN
I'm sorry, Eli. Charlie said.

ELI
Charlie says a lot of things.

JORDAN
It's not my fault you don't tell
Charlie important things like that.

ELI
I don't do it because he'd probably
ridicule me.

JORDAN
Why would he do that?

ELI
Because that's just how he is.
(beat)
I have to go now.

He gets up and walks over to Grady.

ELI (CONT'D)
Are you coming with me?

GRADY
No. I think I'll stay here with
Jordan.

ELI
All right. I'll see you later.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

An apartment similar to Eli's. It's messier but bigger. Eli and Sam sit by a coffee table. Sam skims through pages of the new, edited manuscript. Eli waits nervously.

SAM
(while reading)
Wow, Eli. This is really great,
man.

Sam puts down the manuscript. He's touched.

SAM (CONT'D)
I mean it, Eli. Thanks a lot.

ELI
Yeah. No problem.

SAM
See, my pushing really helped you
pull through.

Sam stands up.

SAM (CONT'D)
Give me a hug.

Eli stands up hesitantly. Sam hugs Eli while Eli grimaces.

SAM (CONT'D)
So, I was thinking maybe we could
celebrate tonight. Yeah? How about
it?

Sam walks to the kitchen.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'll invite some people over and
gather up all the guys from school.
It'll be a sweet, little reunion.

Sam digs through his refrigerator.

ELI

No, I don't think I'm going to go.

He returns with two bottles of beer. He hands one to Eli,
studying Eli's expression.

SAM

What's wrong?

ELI

Amy's going to be there.

SAM

I won't invite her then.

ELI

What if someone else does?

SAM

No one will. Look, you didn't fuck
up. Come and have some fun.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Grady sits watching TV. Jordan wipes the coffee table by him.
She stops.

JORDAN

Grady?

GRADY

Hm.

JORDAN

Why didn't you go with Eli?

GRADY

I can't stand watching Eli be
humiliated by his friend anymore.

JORDAN

If his friend's humiliating him,
why don't you talk to Eli about it?
(MORE)

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Tell him that it'll be okay and that he doesn't have to do something he doesn't want to. Why don't you tell him that?

GRADY

I... Why... Are you mad at me?

JORDAN

I'm not mad. I just don't-- Why doesn't he visit you? Why doesn't he visit his brothers?

GRADY

How am I supposed to know?

She takes the remote from Grady's hand and turns the TV off. She takes his hand and gently pulls him up.

JORDAN

Come on. You can't stay here and watch TV all day.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The door closes. A post-it note on the door says, "Recreational activities. - Jordan and Grady."

EXT. PARK ON HILL - DAY

A park on top of a hill over looks the city. Grady and Jordan stand at the edge of the hill, gazing at the busy city. Jordan takes a picture of it with her camera. A box of beer lies by Jordan's feet.

JORDAN

It's nice, huh?

GRADY

Yeah.

He chuckles.

GRADY (CONT'D)

You never notice how beautiful the city is until you actually see it up high.

She smiles.

JORDAN
Hey, I'll take a picture of you.
Stand there and face me.

She walks away and points the camera at Grady and the city.
Grady turns around.

GRADY
Like this?

JORDAN
That's it. Smile.

Grady tries to smile, but it looks forced. She smiles at
Grady's attempt.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Why didn't the frog cry at night?

GRADY
What?

JORDAN
It's a joke. Why didn't the frog
cry at night?

GRADY
I don't know. Why?

JORDAN
Because it croaked.

Grady chuckles. She takes the picture.

GRADY
That's not funny.

She smiles and walks over to Grady.

JORDAN
I just needed you to give me an
authentic smile.

She shows him the picture on her camera. He likes how it
looks.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eli walks in, looking around the empty apartment. He turns
around, takes the post it off, and reads it. He looks around
once again at his empty apartment, not sure what to do.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Eli knocks on the door to an apartment room. A YOUNG MAN, 20s, answers.

ELI
Hi. Um, is Rachel there?

Young Man looks at Eli suspiciously.

YOUNG MAN
She's at school.

ELI
Oh, okay.

Eli is about to walk away, but stops when:

YOUNG MAN
How do you know my sister?

ELI
Oh, her boyfriend broke up with her, so I was helping her out.

A brief awkward silence.

YOUNG MAN
What?!

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eli finishes a letter at his desk. He looks it over quickly then crumples it up and tosses it.

EXT. PARK ON HILL - DAY

Grady and Jordan sit next to each other on the swings facing the city while drinking cans of beer.

JORDAN
How were you guys before all this?

Grady looks back at the city, taking time before he answers.

GRADY
We didn't really... No.
(long beat as he thinks)
It's hard. Having kids. I was young, maybe around your age and I already had three of them.

He looks at Jordan closely.

GRADY (CONT'D)

I just sort of gave up after a while, you know. I was so tired with a wife, job, and... Eli was so young, and I just gave up. What a bastard I am, huh?

JORDAN

No. Not at all. I mean, I think we're all bastards at some point in our lives. Look at me, I don't even have a real job. I graduated near the top of my class, and I have nothing to show for it.

He smiles. A real smile.

GRADY

Where'd you go?

JORDAN

Berkeley.

GRADY

Trying to show off?

JORDAN

(laughing)

Yeah.

She looks at the city. She's deep in thought and serious.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I didn't win the fellowship. They listed the top thirty finalists and I wasn't even listed. Not even in the top thirty.

(beat)

I thought maybe I could have at least been a quarter-finalist and gain some recognition, but I got nothing.

She cries.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I'm sick of people believing in me. It just ends up with me disappointing everyone.

GRADY

Hey. You're not disappointing anyone. You're a good girl, Jordan.

(beat)

You know, I really appreciate this. You taking me out like this. No one ever really took the time to take me out.

She looks at him.

GRADY (CONT'D)

You may not have gotten that fellowship, but come on, you've done a lot for me. Okay?

She nods. He hesitates a little before putting his arm around her.

GRADY (CONT'D)

We're just a couple of, I don't know, people.

They turn and look at the city one last time.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

On Eli's way out, he runs into Grady and Jordan.

JORDAN

Hey, Eli. Where you going?

ELI

Um, Sam's place. He's throwing a party for the book. Where were you guys?

JORDAN

The park.

ELI

Oh. Cool.

(beat)

Yeah, well, I should get going.

Eli doesn't go though. He just stands around.

ELI (CONT'D)

Um, so, I don't know, do you guys want to come?

JORDAN

Yeah.

GRADY

Okay.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A party takes place. People in their 20s and 30s socialize. MUSIC plays from a stereo. Eli, Grady, and Jordan enter. Grady looks around and sees that he's the only old one. It makes him look slightly disappointed.

MOMENTS LATER: Grady sits with a group. They all listen to a hip-looking guy named SEAN, mid 20s, speak.

SEAN

It's just, you know, too many of these fake people act like they know about these bands when they don't know a thing. Like, they'll have a shirt of some band but they'll only know like three songs by them.

(to Grady)

Have you heard of Milo Corps?

GRADY

Um, no.

SEAN

The Sha Shas?

GRADY

No.

SEAN

All right, well, these bands are like hardcore underground, you know. They...

Eli drinks and watches Grady for a while, then finds Sam getting a drink in the kitchen. Eli walks up to him.

ELI

Hey.

SAM

Oh, hey, what's up? Having fun?

ELI

Yeah. Hey, about all that stuff about the editing--

SAM

It's all cool, man. I forgive you.
Go out there and mingle. Have some
fun!

He gives Eli a friendly punch on the shoulder then walks away. Eli watches him, obviously annoyed.

Jordan and MATT, 20s, talk near a corner. They both have drinks in her hands. Matt is tipsy.

MATT

You're an artist too? What kind?

JORDAN

Mostly painting.

MATT

That's cool. I'm an editor. I'm
really good at it, I believe
because people say I am. So, I must
be.

Jordan nods, uninterested. He scans her from head to toe. He starts chuckling.

MATT (CONT'D)

I think you're really cute.

JORDAN

Oh. Thanks.

MATT

(pause)

May I... may I edit you?

MOMENTS LATER: Grady sits on a couch in the living room. He drinks from his cup. Jordan sits by him. They look at each other, eyes wide open -- never have they met such strange people.

Eli, with a drink in his hand, looks through Sam's shelf of books. SOMEONE taps his back. Eli turns. It's Amy. He looks deeply hurt and nauseous.

AMY

I thought that was you.

ELI

What are you doing here?

Amy looks around at the crowded apartment.

AMY
 Um, same reason why everyone else
 is here.
 (beat)
 Congratulations, Eli.

She hugs him awkwardly. A brief moment of silence as they think about what to say.

AMY (CONT'D)
 We met here, didn't we? At one of
 these parties?

ELI
 Yup.

AMY
 (pause)
 So, how are you doing?

ELI
 I'm okay. You?

AMY
 Yeah, me too. It's nice seeing
 everyone again.

He nods. Awkward silence as Eli drinks more of his drink. She looks down at her own.

AMY (CONT'D)
 I'm going to get a refill. I'll see
 you later.

She walks away. He tries not to watch her, but he fails.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - LATER

The music is LOUDER and the room is darker. People dance. Eli dances a little, bobbing his head while drinking. He stares at Grady and Jordan happily dancing together. Eli looks away and sees THREE BIG GUYS dancing intimately with and around Amy. He downs his drink and walks away.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Eli finishes peeing and FLUSHES the toilet. He looks at himself in the mirror, obviously very drunk.

ELI
 Just go out there... have fun, fun,
 fun.

He smiles a little to himself, then frowns right away.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

People still dance. A CUTE WOMAN presses her backside against Eli's crotch. He succumbs to her advances and dances with her. After a moment, he finds Amy excusing herself from the Guys she was dancing with. She leaves. Eli dances for a little while longer, looking at the door before completely stopping.

EXT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli looks around for Amy. He sees her across the street.

ELI

Hey!

She turns around. Eli waves to her, then runs across the street.

ELI (CONT'D)

Where you going?

AMY

I forgot my phone in my car.

ELI

Okay, cool. I'm going to follow you. Is that cool?

AMY

Um, yeah. Okay.

They walk toward her car.

ELI

So, like, who were those guys touching you and stuff in there?

AMY

I don't know them. We were just dancing.

ELI

Oh. Cool. Remember we used to dance together?

AMY

Um, yeah.

ELI

I liked that. It was nice knowing
someone wanted to touch me.

She looks at Eli, slightly amused yet disgusted.

ELI (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm taking care of my Dad now.
He tried to kill himself, but now,
I'm taking care of him so he
doesn't kill himself again.

(laughing)

Shit. I mean, try to kill himself
again. Right?

AMY

Right. Well, I'm glad you're
helping him.

ELI

Yeah?

AMY

Yeah.

They reach her car. She starts to unlock it, but stops after
Eli presses her against the car and makes out with her. She
pushes him away after a moment.

AMY (CONT'D)

What the hell, Eli?!

ELI

What's wrong?

AMY

I can't do this.

ELI

Why not? You did it to me when we
first met.

AMY

That was different. I was drunk
then.

ELI

You're not drunk now?

AMY

No.

(long beat)

Eli. I'm seeing someone.

ELI
 What, those guys you were dancing
 with?

AMY
 No. You don't know him.

ELI
 You're lying.

AMY
 No. I'm not.

Eli starts to cry. Amy stands there, not sure what to do.

ELI
 I'm so stupid. I'm sorry, Amy. I'm
 so sorry. I'm so... fuck!

Eli punches the window of Amy's car hard, but it doesn't
 break.

AMY
 Eli!

He moans as he sits on the sidewalk, sobbing and massaging
 his fist.

ELI
 Can't even break a fucking window.

AMY
 It's okay, Eli... It's a strong
 window.
 (beat)
 Let's go back... Eli?

She touches his shoulder, but he dismisses it. After a
 moment, her cell RINGS from her car. She opens the passenger
 door and answers it.

AMY (CONT'D)
 (into cell)
 Hello?... Hey... No, I'm outside
 with... a friend. Why, are you
 here?... Okay, I'll be there in a
 few... Yeah, I love you too.

She puts her cell away and bends down to Eli's level.

AMY (CONT'D)
 Eli, I have to go now. Let's go
 back, okay?

No response.

AMY (CONT'D)
Come on, Eli.

From a distance, across the street, Jordan watches them cautiously.

AMY (CONT'D)
Eli?... Say something.

After a moment, she gives up and walks away across the street. She passes Jordan on her way back to Sam's place.

Jordan crosses the street and towers over Eli.

JORDAN
Why are you sitting on the
pavement?

He doesn't respond. She sits down on the pavement and faces Eli.

ELI
I'm not clumsy.

JORDAN
I know you're not.

She studies him.

ELI
I made this letter card thing for
you because I thought maybe you'd
like it, but I threw it away
because maybe you wouldn't, you
know.

She looks at him, concerned.

ELI (CONT'D)
I remember writing a poem for my
Mom's birthday because I thought
it'd be a nice gift. But she didn't
like it. She said it was insulting.
It had no substance. And then I
threw it away and she yelled at me
for doing that. But you're so nice
and I really wanted to do something
for you.

JORDAN
Why are you telling me all this?

ELI
 I don't know. I feel like it. I
 know you won't make fun of me.

He looks away, ashamed. Seeing this, she puts her arm around Eli and gently pulls him in close to her.

JORDAN
 Thanks, Eli.
 (beat)
 What about your Dad?

ELI
 What about him?

JORDAN
 Where was he when your Mom said
 that to you?

ELI
 He was there but he wasn't mean.

JORDAN
 What did he do?

ELI
 Nothing. He watched.

She looks at his bruised fist.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A calmer Eli sits on the couch by Grady and Jordan. Grady and Jordan's attention are on Sean, sitting on another chair facing them. He holds an acoustic guitar.

SEAN
 So, what you want to do is...

Sean continues to talk, but no words are heard. Eli gazes across the room at Amy talking intimately with her BOYFRIEND by a corner. She grazes his chest. They kiss lightly, then start making out. Anger and sadness linger on Eli's face. He's defeated.

INT. ELI'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Jordan drives, Grady sits on the passenger seat, and Eli sits in the back, staring hopelessly out the window.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Eli, Grady, and Jordan stand by the car.

JORDAN
I'll see you guys tomorrow.

GRADY
Yeah.

She hugs and kisses Grady on the cheek. She takes a good look at Eli.

JORDAN
See you tomorrow, Eli.

She hugs him and kisses him on the cheek.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Bye.

She leaves.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli walks in to the other room. Grady watches at first, not sure what to do, then follows.

In the other room, there is a loud BANG on the plastered wall. Grady turns the light on to find Eli angrily crying and swinging the yo-yo against the wall.

GRADY
Eli! Stop!

Grady tries to hold down Eli, causing them to both struggle as they try to achieve their respective objectives. The yo-yo flings around uncontrollably as it hits Grady hard on the side of his head. They both stop. Eli's eyes are wide. Grady massages his head, then after a moment collapses on the floor.

ELI
Fuck.

Eli kneels by Grady. He sees Grady's eyes staring at him. A long moment of silence.

GRADY
You hit me again.

ELI
It was an accident.

GRADY
 Why do you always throw these
 tantrums?

No response.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 You're not going to answer me?

ELI
 I don't know.

GRADY
 You're going to have a God damn
 nervous break down if you keep this
 up. Give me the yo-yo.

Eli hands the yo-yo to Grady.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 Help me up.

Eli pulls Grady up. Grady sits on the bed and massages his
 head while Eli stands uncomfortably. Grady notices Eli's
 bruised hand.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 Why is your hand bruised?

No response.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 Answer me.

ELI
 I punched a window.

GRADY
 A window? What the hell's the
 matter with you? Is it Sam?

Eli just looks at Grady, hopeless.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 Sit down.

Eli sits by Grady. Grady holds out the yo-yo.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 You can't keep doing things like
 this. I'm serious.

(beat)
 (MORE)

GRADY (CONT'D)

What are you going to do when one day this thing doesn't help you any more?

Eli doesn't say anything. He just sort of shrugs his shoulders.

GRADY (CONT'D)

I don't want you to do something like I did. You can't keep holding everything in and exploding all of a sudden.

ELI

What am I supposed to do then?

They sit there for a long time in silence.

GRADY

Did you know your Mom cheated on me?

Eli shakes his head, no.

GRADY (CONT'D)

She cheated on me with... my best friend. Really my only friend.

(beat)

I found these letters and... I saw them kissing once. But the worst part of it wasn't even the affair. No.

(beat)

I found out the guy, he's some big shot millionaire business man now and he started up some world-wide charity to help underprivileged kids. It's just how... how does someone do something so bad yet do something so good like that?

ELI

Fuck her, you know. Fuck her. I know that much.

GRADY

Yeah. I should've broke it off. Maybe we'd all be better.

(beat)

You're just going to have to learn to talk to people. Some people actually care... I care.

Eli starts to cry softly. Grady sticks his hand out. Eli shakes it.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - ELI'S ROOM - LATER

Eli and Grady lie in bed with the lights on.

ELI
You don't have to sleep with me.

GRADY
I'll sleep here tonight.
(beat)
Thanks.

Eli turns the lamp off.

INT. JORDAN'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jordan drives with Grady next to her, and Eli in the back. Eli stares out the window.

INT. MALL - DAY

A busy mall. Eli, Grady, and Jordan walk around, looking at stores.

GRADY
I remember he liked magic a lot as a child. He used to run around naked with this blue wand, yelling, "Slay the princess! Slay the princess!" Never knew what it meant.

Jordan laughs.

ELI
I was the princess.

GRADY
Oh.

INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE MALL - LATER

They walk and carry gift bags while watching stores closing down. Eli looks off at something. He's fixated. Jordan sees what Eli sees.

JORDAN
Oh my God. A carousel.

At the center of the mall is a carousel. KIDS ride it while PARENTS watch. MUSIC that defines happiness plays from the carousel speakers.

ELI
They look so happy.

JORDAN
Do you want to go on it?

ELI
Oh, no. No.

JORDAN
Come on. When's the last time you've been on?

ELI
I've never been on one.

JORDAN
Well, it's never too late.

ELI
I think I'm a little too old to be riding a carousel.

JORDAN
There's no age limit on it.

ELI
That's not what I meant.

The HAPPY MUSIC stops. The ride's over. Jordan takes Eli's hand.

JORDAN
Come on. I'll go with you.

ELI
I don't know.

GRADY
Go, Eli. You'll have fun. Trust me.

ELI
Aren't you going to ride too?

GRADY
Maybe I will next time. I'll watch you.

MOMENTS LATER: Eli and Jordan sit on the carousel horses -- Jordan in front of Eli. Eli looks at the CHUBBY BOY on the horse next to him. The Boy smiles at him. Jordan turns around and smiles at Eli. Eli returns nervous smiles. The HAPPY MUSIC begins. It starts.

Grady grimaces a little and grabs at his side. He watches Eli and Jordan with a gleam in his eye. A smiling MOTHER approaches Grady.

MOTHER
Which ones yours?

GRADY
Huh?

MOTHER
Which kid is yours?

GRADY
The one with the beard.

MOTHER
Oh. He's... very tall.

Eli starts to look more relaxed and content as he continues to ride on the carousel.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

They are by Eli's car, saying their good-byes. Eli and Grady carry gift bags.

JORDAN
Thanks for tonight. I had a great time.

She hugs them both.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
See you at the rehearsal.

She walks away toward her car.

ELI
Wait. Jordan.

Grady looks at Eli. She turns around. He doesn't say anything.

JORDAN
Yeah?

ELI
 (hesitating)
 I don't know. Do you maybe want to
 come up and hang out for a bit?

JORDAN
 I should really get going. Got to
 get up for the wedding rehearsal.

ELI
 Come on. It's just a rehearsal.
 Hey, I rode the carousel.

She looks at him, amused.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli and Grady sit on the couch while Jordan sits comfortably
 on the floor. On the coffee table, are empty glasses of wine
 and a bottle of wine.

GRADY
 I think I'm going to bed now.

He pats Eli's leg.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 Good night, Eli.

He bends down to hug Jordan.

GRADY (CONT'D)
 Night, Jordan.

JORDAN
 Good night.

He walks away.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
 You let him go on his own.

ELI
 Yeah. I guess I did.

A beat. Eli drinks some more of his wine.

JORDAN
 How are you doing?

ELI
 I'm alright.

She studies him.

JORDAN
You bottle up a lot in, don't you?

ELI
I'm working on breaking the
bottle... That was stupid.

She smiles. He sits down beside her on the floor using the
couch as his backrest.

ELI (CONT'D)
What happened with you and that guy
on the rock?

JORDAN
Um, well, we were together for like
seven years. He proposed, and then
I just realized this wasn't the guy
for me.

ELI
How did you know?

JORDAN
I just knew. I felt it.

MOMENTS LATER: They sit on the floor, tired.

ELI
You're so good at it.

JORDAN
At what?

ELI
Talking to people.

JORDAN
Am I?

ELI
Yeah. You are. I mean, I saw my Dad
hugging you and it was so...
genuine. I wish I could do that.

JORDAN
What, hug?

ELI
No, I mean--

She opens her arms.

JORDAN

Come on.

After a moment, he hugs her. Tighter and tighter. He closes his eyes, enjoying every moment of it. They stop.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I'm really glad I met you guys. I don't feel so bad when I'm with you two.

They smile and chuckle quietly. Their eyes close.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

ELI

I don't know. You're laughing too.

She rests her head against Eli's shoulder. They fall asleep.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Eli sleeps on the floor with Jordan. Jordan opens her eyes and checks her phone.

JORDAN

Shit.

She gets up, causing Eli to wake up.

ELI

Hey.

JORDAN

We're going to be late. Wake Grady up. I'll see you there.

She heads for the door.

ELI

Hey. Wait a minute.

She turns around. Eli walks over to her. He looks at her for a long moment not sure what to do next.

ELI (CONT'D)

Um, thanks.

He hesitates before hugging her. She smiles at him.

JORDAN

Okay. Go wake your Dad up.

She leaves.

INT. ELI'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Eli drives. Grady sits next to him. They drive on a nearly empty highway with only a few cars.

GRADY
Are we lost?

ELI
I don't think so.

MOMENTS LATER: Eli looks around at the road.

GRADY
Eli?

ELI
I think we're lost.

Grady looks out his own window, annoyed.

GRADY
Here, give me your phone. I'll call Jordan.

Eli digs through his pockets, failing to pull out a cellphone. Grady starts to sweat quite a bit.

ELI
I forgot it.

GRADY
What?

Grady sweats even more and starts to cough as he looks sicker by the second.

ELI
What's wrong? The kidney stones?

No response.

ELI (CONT'D)
Shit.

EXT. SIDE OF HIGHWAY - DAY

Eli's car pulls to the side. Eli quickly steps out of the car and rushes to Grady's side. He opens the door.

ELI
Where are your pills?

GRADY
(struggling)
Already took them.

ELI
Let me try to find some help.

He tries to leave, but Grady grabs at his arm, lowering Eli to his level. Eli sees Grady's terrified face, crying.

GRADY
Help me.

A beat.

ELI
Let's see if you can pee it out.

Eli tries to pick Grady up, but struggles.

ELI (CONT'D)
Here, I'll give you a piggy back ride. Get on.

Grady tries, but he also struggles.

GRADY
This is stupid.

ELI
You can do it. Just wrap your legs around me.

Grady wraps his legs around Eli.

MOMENTS LATER: Eli carries Grady far away from the car, so cars passing by are not able to see. Eli sets Grady on his feet and puts an arm around him for support.

ELI (CONT'D)
We're alone now. We're all alone now. We're okay. I'm going to take your pants off so you can pee, okay?

GRADY
I don't need help.

ELI
Dad, please. It'll be easier.

Grady grunts. Using one arm to support Grady, Eli awkwardly uses his other to unzip and lower Grady's pants.

ELI (CONT'D)

All right, whenever you're ready.

GRADY

I can't. I'm nervous.

ELI

Relax. We're friends.

Grady bites his lips as he continues to struggle.

ELI (CONT'D)

Come on, Dad.

(thinking)

I masturbate. You masturbate. We all masturbate.

Eli catches Grady eyeing him. A long moment of silence as Eli really looks at Grady.

ELI (CONT'D)

I have to talk to people, right? Well, okay. Fine. I wanted to take care of you because I was lonely, but I don't know. I just saw you lying there in bed and I remembered you being so friendly and considerate. You never yelled at me. But I... I wish you stood up for me when I was a kid. I wish you didn't just look at me and watch it happen.

Eli waits for Grady to pee.

ELI (CONT'D)

Come on. You can do it.

Grady finally PEES out the stones. He screams at the top of his lungs. Eli smiles a little.

GRADY

(panting)

Can I pull my pants back up now?

Eli lets go of Grady as he puts his pants back up. Grady sighs relief.

They walk back toward the car in silence. After a moment, Grady pats Eli's back, then he puts his arm around him like buddies do.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. BURGER JOINT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The same restaurant Eli went to by himself. The Hostess calls out:

HOSTESS

Eli. Party of five. Eli. Party of five.

A clean-shaven Eli, Grady, Jordan, Adam, and his very pregnant wife, CLAIRE stand with their wedding clothes on. They walk up to the Hostess.

ELI

Hi, I'm Eli.

INT. BURGER JOINT RESTAURANT - LATER

They sit at a table, eating and talking. Adam taps Eli.

ELI

What's up?

ADAM

You think Dad's ready to go home now?

ELI

I think so.

Adam pats Eli's back.

ADAM

Good job, Eli. He really looks like he's doing better. I shouldn't have doubted you.

Eli hesitates before saying:

ELI

I was thinking about going to a show next weekend, and I got an extra ticket. Maybe you want to come with me?

ADAM
It's not a musical is it?

ELI
Yeah. It is a musical.

Adam looks at a confident Eli.

ADAM
Oh. Um, yeah. Sure. Thanks.

They continue eating. Eli looks across the table at Jordan talking to Claire and Grady. He just smiles.

INT. JORDAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A small, cozy apartment. Posters of paintings hang on the wall, an easel sits at a corner, and a couple of canvas lie against a wall. Jordan sits on her couch reading a catalog. Someone KNOCKS on her door.

She opens it. It's Eli.

ELI
Hi.

JORDAN
How'd you know where I live?

ELI
I asked Charlie. What are you doing?

JORDAN
Not much. Do you want to come in?

MOMENTS LATER: They sit on the couch watching a movie. Eli notices the catalog. He picks it up. He looks at it. It's a community college catalog.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
I'm taking nursing classes. I feel like I did a pretty job with your Dad.

ELI
What about the painting?

JORDAN
I'm still doing it, but I figure I'll support myself by helping old folks while I try to sell some paintings.

He sets the catalog down and continues to watch the movie.

ELI
I've been meaning to ask you, but
is your foot healed?

She looks at him then laughs.

JORDAN
What?!

Eli laughs too.

LATER: Eli and Jordan are by the door saying their good-byes.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Thanks for coming.

ELI
Yeah.

A quiet moment as Eli looks at her, then kisses her.

ELI (CONT'D)
See you later.

She watches him leave down the hall.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Kids play in an open field in the park. A clean-shaven Eli is out there. He's the only one who's not a kid. With a kite in his hand, Eli runs quickly but it barely lifts up the ground. He tries repeatedly but it fails each time.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Grady sits on a bench reading a paper. Eli walks and sits by him.

GRADY
Where's the kite?

ELI
I gave it some kid. It wasn't
working.

Grady looks across the field.

GRADY
That kid?

Eli looks across the field.

A SHORT KID runs around with Eli's kite flying in the air.

ELI
How the... whatever, I don't need
it.

Eli looks at the paper Grady reads, then their eyes meet.

GRADY
This is about me, isn't it?

ELI
Well, I mean, it's a, it's a story,
you know, and... yeah, it's about
you.

GRADY
It's good. It's honest. I like it.

Eli is touched. He looks down to hide his embarrassment.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Taking the writer's path again?

ELI
Yeah. I'd like to do both.

GRADY
Good for you, Eli.

A brief pause.

ELI
Are you going home soon?

GRADY
I think I'll stay around to see my
grand kid, then maybe I'll travel
or something. Maybe find a girl.

They smile. Grady pulls his sleeves up, removing the bandages. His wrists are scarred.

ELI
Does it hurt?

Grady touches them, nodding his head, no.

GRADY
Maybe I should write a memoir. This
would be a good chapter. You could
edit it.

A moment of silence as they watch people playing at the park.

EXT. PARK - A LITTLE LATER

Eli and Grady walk. They pass the Young Father and his Young Son, holding hands and smiling. Eli and Grady watch them.

They continue walking. Eli attempts to grab Grady's hand, awkwardly. Grady lets go and looks at him, strangely.

GRADY
What are you doing?

ELI
I saw the Dad and the... they were holding hands.

GRADY
Don't do that.

They continue walking in silence. After a moment, Grady takes Eli's hand. Eli looks at him.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Shut up.

They continue.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END