INT. DANBURY - NIGHT

A dyslexic young woman named Jessie and her boyfriend Joe moves in his apartment, gathering their things.

JOE
Home sweet home.

JESSIE
Yes, home sweet home.

JOE
How you like it?

JESSIE
You know what, this place is amazing.

JOE
Wow, I’d know you like it. This is awesome. I like it here.

JESSIE
So, it was the bits and pieces.

JOE
Yeah, I kinda felt it.

JESSIE
Ok.

JOE
I always know how likeable you are.

JESSIE
Oh, that’s thankful. I’m going to the bathroom, now. Jessie is going to the bathroom and Joe accidentally walks in on her.

JOE
You know what, Jessie. There’s something good about you.

JESSIE
Joe, Can’t you see that I’m fucking in here.

JOE
You know, I forgot. Honey.
JESSIE
Right, you’re being an idiot.

JOE
Oh, I understand. The way you’re feeling is a turn-off.

JESSIE
Of course, I bet you do.

Jessie takes a poop and Joe continues talking to her.

JOE
If you feel about being lonely in this narrow-minded world, you just got to let me know.

JESSIE
I get the fact that you told me.

JOE
You think you were honest.

JESSIE
I was.

JOE
I see that now.

JESSIE
Do you want to do me?

JOE
I don’t know. Let me tell you a story.

JESSIE
What story?

Joe discuss his story to her.

JOE
At an early age, as a child and a teenager. I had no idea what sex was.

JESSIE
Is all this true?

JOE
During all these years, I had no idea. I felt like I was lonely, didn’t have anyone to talk to. I was ashamed.
JESSIE
That’s sad.

JOE
Fuck me.

JOE
As I said to myself, why the fuck that this happened?

Jessie comforts him, leaving him in pain.

JESSIE
You need a little time for yourself.

JOE
Shit, why do I have to.

JESSIE
You’ll need it to handle the stress.

JOE
I didn’t realize that shit.

JESSIE
Trust me, you need to be better that.

JOE
Wow. What the fuck I was thinking?

JESSIE
What’s wrong.

JOE
Shit, I’ve all been talked to it.

JESSIE
How the fuck do you know about all that?

JOE
I don’t know, it’s in my head.

Jessie checks his head and puts ice nears his face.

JESSIE
You have a headache.
JOE
Yeah, I certainly do.

JESSIE
Here’s this ice.

JOE
Dammit. My fucking head hurts.

JESSIE
I hope you feel better.

JOE
Don’t be giving up on me, Jessie.

JESSIE
Oh, I won’t.

JOE
You’re being sarcastic.

JESSIE
You know I’m there for you, geez.

EXT. . FAIRFIELD- DAY
Joe and Jessie is eating pizza.

PIZZERIA WORKER
What you will like?

JOE
I’ll a Sicilian slice. How much is that?

PIZZERIA WORKER
It cost $4.50

JOE
I’ll have a Sicilian slice. Jessie, do what you want?

JESSIE
I’ll have a beef patty?

JOE
I want a Sicilian slice and a beef patty.

JESSIE
I want it with coco bread.
JOE
Make sure you put with coco bread.

PIZZERIA WORKER
Alright then. Joe sighs, flicks through Jessie’s hair and kisses her.

JOE
You know I love you, Jessie.

JESSIE
What’s that.

JOE
You’re love is too much for me.

JESSIE
Wow, I didn’t believe that shit.

JOE
You got me too fucked up.

JESSIE
I know because I love you.

JOE
Damn, I found that hard to believe. I’m just a little overboard, you know.

JESSIE
Yeah, when you did that. You got drunk, asshole.

JOE
We got drunk. Nobody cares. We just do it.

The pizzeria worker gives them their orders.

PIZZERIA WORKER
Here’s your Sicilian slice.

JOE
Thank you.

PIZZERIA WORKER
Here’s your beef patty.

JESSIE
Thank you.
JOE
These pizza tastes good. The best they ever made. So, um, Jess, what about you.

JESSIE
These patty taste good with coco bread. It’s awesome with pepperoni, but it’s good.

JOE
That’s good.

JESSIE
Yeah, smartass.

JOE
Let me have a piece.

JESSIE
Sure.

JOE
These patty is delicious.

JESSIE
Why do you care?

JOE
’Cuz I think it’s good.

JESSIE
You get a little pussy whipped.

JOE
Yeah, nice try.

Jessie’s sister Katie stops by the pizzeria to meet Joe.

KATIE
Hey, sis.

JESSIE
Katie, there you are.

KATIE
I was looking all over for you.

JOE
We weren’t expecting you to be here.
JESSIE
Joe, this is Katie.

JOE
Hello.

KATIE
Hey.

JESSIE
Katie, this is Joe.

KATIE
Hello.

JOE
Oh, hey there.

JESSIE
We were just gonna go. So you hope
get a lot of comfort.

KATIE
Oh, is that so.

JOE
There are no boundaries. We just
gotta learn a little, you know.
Like being on the safe side.

JESSIE
That’s how fucked you are.

JOE
I get to the point of that too.

INT. DANBURY – DAY

There’s a class in session with Mr. Gonzalez.

MR. GONZALEZ
Good morning, everyone.

JESSIE
Good morning,

MR. GONZALEZ
The book we’re reading is called
"The Maze Runner" by James Dashner.

He hands them the books.
MALE STUDENT #1
This is an awesome book.

MALE STUDENT #2
I can’t imagine how fucked up this is.

FEMALE STUDENT #1
It’s awesome.

MALE STUDENT #3
The best book I’ve read in years.

MR. GONZALEZ
Jessie, is there anything you need help with.

JESSIE
Yes. I mean no.

MR. GONZALEZ
If you need any help, I’m here.

FEMALE STUDENT #2
If you need help, go ask him, stupid.

JESSIE
I’m not stupid.

A big guy takes his camera and videotapes a girl’s skirt.

MALE STUDENT #4
Hey, tell me what color your panties are.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
Why should I tell you?

MALE STUDENT #4
Why? Because I wanna know.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
Leave me alone.

MALE STUDENT #4
Come on, I don’t bite.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
Put the camera away.
MALE STUDENT #4
Show me your panties, then.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
Please go away.

MALE STUDENT #4
If you don’t do it, I’ll kill you.

FEMALE STUDENT #3
Put it away or if you don’t, I’ll tell the principal.

MALE STUDENT #4
Like, that’s gonna happen.

He puts away his camera and the teacher comes in.

MR. GONZALEZ
So, where we. Does anyone know the characters from the Maze Runner.

MALE STUDENT #1
Thomas, Teresa, Gally, Newt, Alby, Minho, Chuck, Frypan, Clint, Jeff, Zart, Ben and Ava Paige.

MR. GONZALEZ
That’s good. Ah, Jessie.

JESSIE
What’s it, Mr. Gonzalez?

MR. GONZALEZ
Tell me, what you have read.

JESSIE
I’d think I am blindsided.

MALE STUDENT #2
Are you dumb.

JESSIE
No. Why would I?

MALE STUDENT #1
You have a lack of capacity.

Jessie stands in front of the classroom.

JESSIE
This book about these guys trapped in an island.
FEMALE STUDENT #4
I’m sure she can’t read for shit.

JESSIE
They have to find themselves.

FEMALE STUDENT #5
You’re not bright enough.

JESSIE
I’m sorry you felt that way. Whatever that came from, that’s not my problem.

FEMALE STUDENT #5
Oh, really. Is it?

JESSIE
Don’t start.

FEMALE STUDENT #4
She thinks I’m playing with her. I’m not.

JESSIE
You never learn your lesson, do you.

FEMALE STUDENT #4
You’re screwed.

She grabs her hair, tackles her and starts fighting, then she tries to strangle her before Mr. Gonzalez breaks them up.

FEMALE STUDENT #6
See, that’s what happen when you fuck with her.

FEMALE STUDENT #4
You’re going to get it, pussy.

JESSIE
What the fuck you doing?

FEMALE STUDENT #4
I’m on to you, dumb learner.

JESSIE
I’ll fucking kill you.
FEMALE STUDENT #4
I hope you rot in hell.

JESSIE
I have dyslexia. That’s how my brain works.

FEMALE STUDENT #4
You’re one of the slowest bitches I’ve ever met.

JESSIE
Don’t make me get you.

FEMALE STUDENT #4
You’re not going to do anything.

Mr. Gonzalez breaks them up.

MR. GONZALEZ
Enough, what were you guys thinking.

FEMALE STUDENT #4
She was making fun of me.

JESSIE
No, she was.

FEMALE STUDENT #4
She did. I know she was.

MR. GONZALEZ
Jessie, you’re in detention.

JESSIE
What, no. Why is she blaming me.

MR. GONZALEZ
Alright, what are you trying to say.

JESSIE
I didn’t make fun of her. She did.

MR. GONZALEZ
She should be in detention.

JESSIE
Yes.
MR. GONZALEZ
I’ll make she shit for that as well.

EXT. GREENWICH - DAY
Jessie going to the library.

LIBRARIAN
Hello

JESSIE
Oh, hey there.

LIBRARY VISITOR #1
Are you, okay.

JESSIE
Yes, It’s so hard to read and write.

LIBRARY VISITOR #2
Can you read well?

JESSIE
No, I have dyslexia.

LIBRARY VISITOR #3
Okay, then.

JESSIE
It’s complicated.

LIBRARY VISITOR #4
Read these books.

Jessie is reading and writing a report, little to no avail.

JESSIE
Damn it.

LIBRARY VISITOR #6
You’re alright.

LIBRARY VISITOR #7
You look confused.

JESSIE
I can’t read and write a single sentence.
LIBRARY VISITOR #8

Geez.

JESSIE
I need help.

EXT. FARMINGTON - NIGHT

Jessie is giving birth at the hospital.

NURSE #1
C’mon, push.

JESSIE
Oh, no. I can’t.

NURSE #2
You can do it.

JOE
You can push.

JESSIE
Ok, then.

Jessie pushes the baby some more, then the arrival begins.

NURSE #1
It’s a boy.

NURSE #2
It’s a boy.

NURSE #3
You had a boy.

JOE
It’s a new milestone for us. I can’t wait.

JESSIE
We have a son.

JOE
So, what you’re gonna name him, sweetie.

JESSIE
We’ll name him Jason.

JOE
Thank you guys for letting our wonderful son Jason to the world. We gladly thank you for that.
NURSE #1
I hope you enjoy the time you have with him.

NURSE #2
Don’t thank me. We’re just doing our jobs.

NURSE #3
Go ahead and enjoy your arrival.

JOE
Alright, we will.

JESSIE
Oh, I can’t wait tomorrow.

JESSIE
I can’t, too.

INT. DANBURY – DAY
Jessie is visiting her mother in the hospital.

JESSIE
Hey, Mom.

LEAH
Hi, Jessie.

JESSIE
Mom, how’s everything.

LEAH
I’m doing fine. So, how’s my grandson?

JESSIE
He’s great. He’s with his dad.

LEAH
I believe your son Jason would become a bright little boy with a future ahead of him.

JESSIE
I hope he is.

LEAH
I’ll prove to you that he can be successful.
JESSIE
I hope he’s not dyslexic like I am.

LEAH
Of course he won’t, sweetie.

JESSIE
I mean, I guess so.

EXT. BRIDGEPORT - NIGHT
Jessie holds Jason now that’s he a toddler.

JESSIE
Jason, can you say your first word.

JASON
Yes.

JESSIE
Say, Mama.

JASON
Mama.

JESSIE
Oh, my god. You did it.

Joe goes in the living room to see his son says his first word.

JOE
Can you say, Dada.

JASON
Dada.

JESSIE
He knows the word very well.

JOE
I’m sure he knows every step of the way.

JASON
Mama. Dada.

JOE
I believe the word is right.

JESSIE
Yeah, right.
JOE
I’m thoughtless.

JESSIE
Believe in yourself.

JOE
What am I doin’? I don’t wanna sit there and waste my time doing this and that.

JESSIE
Come on, take a look at yourself.

JOE
I don’t feel like myself anymore.

Joe sits down and sighs while Jessie comforts him.

JESSIE
You have time on your hands.

JOE
I feel I different in the inside than in the outside.

JESSIE
Tell me what’s the difference then.

JOE
To be proven right, you need to feel that you’re wrong.

JESSIE
That’s the worst thing a person could’ve done.

JOE
I feel the consciousness in any person.

JESSIE
If you need all the comfort I can give you, I’m here for you.

JOE
Thanks, I need all the comfort.

JESSIE
Anytime.
INT./EXT. STAMFORD - DAY

Jason is going to school for the first time.

JESSIE
Jason, wait.

JASON
What is it, Mom?

JESSIE
I made you a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with juice.

JASON
Thanks, Mom.

JOE
You got everything, son.

JASON
Yes, I got everything.

JESSIE
I hope you guys enjoy yourselves.

JOE
Alright, we will.

JESSIE
Bye.

JASON
Bye.

JOE
See ya, honey.

Joe walks Jason to the school bus.

JOE
Remember, this is your first day.

JASON
Okay, Dad. I trust you.

JOE
Have good behavior.

JASON
What if they treat me different?
JOE
It doesn’t matter if you’re different. You are who you are.

JASON
Geez, I wish.

JOE
Trust me, you’ll learn.

JASON
How am I supposed to have friends when they really don’t.

JOE
Don’t worry.

JASON
Alright, I will.

JOE
Make you sure you do well.

JASON
I will.

JOE
See you later, son.

Joe leaves for work while Jason goes to school.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRUMBULL - DAY

Jason is reading while Ms. Eckstein helps him.

MS. ECKSTEIN
No, Jason. That’s not how you read.

JASON
What’s the right way?

MS. ECKSTEIN
There is no right way. Figure out what works for you or what doesn’t.

JASON
I should give up.
MS. ECKSTEIN
You shouldn’t give up.

Ms. Eckstein gives him writing worksheets.

MS. ECKSTEIN
Put some effort in writing.

JASON
Alright, then.

MS. ECKSTEIN
Embrace your efforts.

JASON
The letters, the written word. I can’t do it.

MS. ECKSTEIN
What do you mean, you can’t do it?

JASON
I don’t want to.

MS. ECKSTEIN
No. Yes you are.

Ms. Eckstein grabs Jason by his arm.

JASON
Please, I do everything you want.

MS. ECKSTEIN
What for?

JASON
Anything. Please let me go.

MS. ECKSTEIN
Unless you do what I ask you to do.

JASON
No.

MS. ECKSTEIN
I’m going to the principal’s office to call your parents.

JASON
No, don’t this.

Ms. Eckstein is at Principal McLean’s office to make a phone call.
PRINCIPAL MCLEAN
Ms. Eckstein, what can I do for you.

MS. ECKSTEIN
Now’s not the time, McLean.

PRINCIPAL MCLEAN
What is it do you want, then?

MS. ECKSTEIN
I need to make a phone call.

Ok.

Ms. Eckstein calls Jason’s parents.

JESSIE
Hello, who is this?

MS. ECKSTEIN
It’s Ms. Eckstein.

JESSIE
Hey, Ms. Eckstein

MS. ECKSTEIN
Something’s not right with your son.

JESSIE
He has a problem with reading.

MS. ECKSTEIN
He also can’t write and spell. He’s a bright and intelligent boy but has an inability to read.

JESSIE
I have it too but I was misdiagnosed.

MS. ECKSTEIN
It’s time for you to come to this school.

JESSIE
I’ve never seen anything of that.

MS. ECKSTEIN
Well, you need to come quick.
JESSIE
Almighty, I will.

Jessie comes to the school and meets Ms. Eckstein.

JESSIE
Ms. Eckstein, what do you see me?

MR. ECKSTEIN
I’m talking about your son Jason.

JESSIE
What is it?

MS. ECKSTEIN
Your son has dyslexia.

JESSIE
I guess I have it. I was never diagnosed.

MS. ECKSTEIN
Well, I don’t care. Have your child to get a diagnosis.

JESSIE
Where do I see one?

MS. ECKSTEIN
Go to an psychologist. They’ll tell you what to do.

JESSIE
What else does he has?

MS. ECKSTEIN
I don’t know much to tell you, Ms. Joyce.

JESSIE
Okay, then what.

MS. ECKSTEIN
Go ask Principal McLean. If not, then asks assistant Principals King and Todd.

JESSIE
Okay.

Jessie then goes to the principal’s office.
JESSIE
Mr. McLean.

PRINCIPAL KING
Excuse me, Mr. McLean’s not here.

JESSIE
So what are you then.

PRINCIPAL KING
I’m Principal King. I’m the assistant principal. This is Ms. Todd.

PRINCIPAL TODD
Hi, Ms. Todd.

PRINCIPAL KING
We want you to here to know about your son’s potential.

JESSIE
What do you to expect? He’s an intelligent boy.

PRINCIPAL MCLEAN
We know that. That what he is.

INT. NEW YORK - NIGHT
Jessie is at the hospital, diagnosing her son.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Is there anything going on with your child?

JESSIE
Something’s not right here.

PSYCHOLOGIST
He might have several learning problems.

JESSIE
Like what.

PSYCHOLOGIST
That’s not dyslexia. He’s just a gifted illiterate boy.

JESSIE
Okay, is that so?
PSYCHOLOGIST
Let me evaluate for him for a bit.

JESSIE
Alright, then.

The psychologist takes Jason for an evaluation.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Jason. Can you read?

JASON
Yes.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Keep your eye on the page.

JASON
I will.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Keep your eye on the page.

JASON
You didn’t let me try.

PSYCHOLOGIST
You’re just giving up now, you’re just being lazy.

JASON
Lazy. Why?

PSYCHOLOGIST
You’re dumb.

JASON
I give up. I lost it.

PSYCHOLOGIST
No wonder you’re a cry baby.

JASON
I can’t do it.

She then teaches Jason to write.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Here’s some writing worksheets.

JASON
I don’t want to, it’s hard.
PSYCHOLOGIST
Do the best you can.

JASON
I don’t do it correctly, I don’t want to do it.

PSYCHOLOGIST
I’ll hope you be successful.

JASON
This is hard.

PSYCHOLOGIST
I’ll be with you every step of the way.

Jason writes on the worksheets little to no avail.

PSYCHOLOGIST
No, Jason. That’s not the way you write.

JASON
This is the way I write.

PSYCHOLOGIST
It’s not.

JASON
Ah, I’ll never be better.

PSYCHOLOGIST
You have to work even hard than other children.

JASON
That’s not fair.

PSYCHOLOGIST
You have to work at it.

JASON
I’ll never be better.

PSYCHOLOGIST
You have to figure out what’s right for you or what doesn’t.

JASON
You’re right.

Jessie comes in the psychologist’s office for the results of the diagnosis.
JESSIE
What are his diagnosis?

PSYCHOLOGIST
He has dyslexia, dysgraphia and ADHD.

JESSIE
What does that mean?

PSYCHOLOGIST
He just have the inability to read and write.

JESSIE
I have that too. My father, brother, niece and nephew has it.

PSYCHOLOGIST
I’m sorry to hear that.

JESSIE
Okay.

PSYCHOLOGIST
It’s hereditary and runs in families.

JESSIE
I had no clue.

THE END