

One Week

By

Bennyman

BLACK SCREEN

STELLA (V.O)

It's unhealthy to have a patient
with that kind of relationship to
you.

RICHARD (V.O)

She's not my patient.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

STELLA HEINES, in her early sixties, eats breakfast with
RICHARD HEINES, a similarly-aged man.

RICHARD (CONT)

Anyway, did I do the eggs right?

STELLA

They're great. I like them runny.

Richard smiles lovingly.

STELLA (CONT)

You still talk to her, though.

RICHARD

She's Reubin's girlfriend. Not as
her therapist.

Stella is un-impressed.

STELLA

That girl needs more than therapy.

RICHARD

I think she's doing just fine.

STELLA

You just don't understand. Reubin's
not *your* son. You would care if
someone like her was with one of
your kids.

Richard is offended and stops eating.

RICHARD

I'd like to think Reubin is one of
my children. I'm his step-dad.

Stella frowns, upset.

STELLA
Sorry. I didn't mean that.

Break.

STELLA (CONT)
I just hope she's okay this week.

RICHARD
She will be, I assure you.

EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

REUBEN JAMIESON, in his late twenties, stands in front of a house that is on the verge of being complete with LUCE POWERS, who is heavily pregnant. A toddler, about 2 or 3, ETHAN JAMIESON, plays with a toy in his hand beside them.

Reuben grabs Luce's hand.

REUBEN
Did you see the little room near the laundry? The nursery?

LUCE
Uh-huh. So cute.

They smile at each other. Luce looks at a huge shipping container on the lawn of the lot, locked securely.

LUCE (CONT)
Do you think it's safe? All our stuff locked up like that?

REUBEN
It's safe enough. Don't worry, it's a great neighborhood and it's only a week until we move in. You know how close my Mom and Richard live? We can check everyday if you like.

Luce shakes her head, chuckling.

LUCE
I'm just being stupid. Let's get this over with.

Luce picks Ethan up and holds him by the hip. Reuben grabs him off her.

REUBEN
He's too heavy for that now.

Luce shrugs and they all get in the car.

EXT. HEINES HOUSE - DAY

An older but well-kept house. Reuben and Luce's car is pulled up on the curb. Reuben hugs Stella at the front door.

STELLA
Where's Ethan?

REUBEN
He's in the car, Luce is just getting him out.

Luce is getting Ethan out of a child seat.

Stella yells into the house.

STELLA
Richard! They're here! Come help with the bags!

REUBEN
It's like, three bags. We're only here for a week.

STELLA
Luce can't carry things in her state.

Ethan runs up to the house. Luce lights a cigarette by the car.

STELLA (CONT)
(sarcastic)
Of course, she can still *smoke*.

REUBEN
Don't say anything, Mom.

Ethan runs up to Stella. Stella picks him up.

ETHAN
Nanna!

STELLA
My little man.

They hug.

STELLA (CONT)
Did you see your new room?

ETHAN
Yeah, it has blue walls.

Reuben smiles.

REUBEN
Blue's his favorite color.

STELLA
(bluntly)
I know, he's my grandson.

Richard walks out.

RICHARD
Reuben. How are you?

REUBEN
Richard. How's it's going?

Richard tussles Ethan's hair, who is still being held by Stella. Richard waves to Luce, who, still by the car, smiles and waves back.

RICHARD
Did your Mom tell you I retired?

REUBEN
Yeah, that's awesome. Must have been doing very well.

RICHARD
Very well. Sold the practice to a company from New York, I'm set until...well, death, I guess.

STELLA
He's on a cooking spree at the moment. He's been making dinner since three.

Richard is kind of embarrassed.

RICHARD
It's roast. You have to.

Stella puts Ethan down. Luce, carrying two small bags, approaches the house timidly. Richard grabs the bags off her.

RICHARD (CONT)
I'll put them in the spare room.

LUCE
Thanks Richard. How are you Stella?

STELLA
I'm great, Luce. Great. How many weeks? Reuben doesn't know.

Reuben is uncomfortable.

REUBEN
I don't go to the doctor with her.

LUCE
Five weeks. I told you, Reub.

REUBEN
Sorry. It changes every week, y'know?

Luce and Reuben smile at each other. Richard and Stella don't, almost as if they don't get it.

LUCE
Thankyou for letting us stay here.

STELLA
Don't be stupid. Richard's retired and we have two spare rooms now.

They both smile.

STELLA (CONT)
Anyway, let's go inside before Richard fucks up the meal he's been cooking.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Richard, Stella, Reuben, Ethan, Luce and VIVIANE JAMIESON, Reuben's sister, in her late thirties, sit around a dining table and eat what appears to be a gourmet, well-made meal.

VIVIANE
So, Luce.

LUCE
Viviane.

VIVIANE

What are you up to these days? I mean, I'm assuming you're not at the Manhattan gallery anymore.

LUCE

Well, you're right. I'm not.

VIVIANE

So what are you doing then? I know Reuben's doing well but surely not enough to support you and Ethan alone?

The mood is tense and silent. Ethan perks up, hearing his name, but obviously doesn't understand.

LUCE

I'm a curator at the Heckscher, but I start maternity leave in two weeks so I've been writing a lot too.

VIVIANE

Writing? So that's your long term plan?

Luce smiles, as does Viviane. Neither of them are sincere.

LUCE

My long term plans involve raising my family. Sometimes people who don't have kids, such as yourself, forget that's an option.

Reuben interrupts them.

REUBEN

Vivian and Dad are starting a business.

LUCE

That's interesting. Selling encyclopedias? Or car phones?

The clinking of cutlery.

VIVIANE

I'm going to the bathroom.

Viviane gets up.

VIVIANE (CONT)
Dinner is great, Rich.

Richard smiles.

RICHARD
Thank-you Vivianne.

The silence continues for quite a while after Vivianne leaves.

STELLA
I'm sure no one was, but if you're wondering where Simon is he's out at his friends.

REUBEN
Yeah, I figured.

STELLA
He'll be back tomorrow, though. He really wants to catch up, Luce.

LUCE
Yeah, me too. Simon's great.

EXT. PORCH - NIGHT

Luce sits on the back porch, in pyjamas, smoking a cigarette. As she takes a drag, Richard walks onto the porch. He sits next to her.

LUCE
Oh. Hey Rich.

RICHARD
Luce.

LUCE
Does Stella know I can see her looking at me through the window?

RICHARD
She doesn't like you smoking.

LUCE
I don't either, really.

Luce puts the cigarette butt out.

RICHARD
I'm not going to lecture you.

LUCE
You're not my therapist anymore,
right?

RICHARD
Exactly.

Luce thinks for a second.

LUCE
I miss it, though. Therapy with
you.

RICHARD
I miss it too. Couldn't keep it up
though, even if I didn't sell the
practice.

LUCE
I know. Reuben thought it was
weird. I told him you couldn't tell
his Mom anything anyway, but he
still didn't like it.

RICHARD
Have you got a new therapist?

LUCE
I'm contemplating ending therapy.

Richard shakes his head.

RICHARD
You can't. It doesn't just go away.

LUCE
I'm still on my meds.

RICHARD
The meds are just part of it. You
need to talk to someone. Reuben's a
smart boy, but he's not very mature
with things like this.

Luce nods.

LUCE
Do you agree with Stella?

RICHARD

About what?

LUCE

About me and Reuben. That Reuben made a bad decision being with me. That Ethan was a mistake, and this is another one.

RICHARD

She doesn't think that. She just wants to understand. Stella doesn't truly understand what's going on.

Luce laughs.

LUCE

What a load of bullshit. She probably thinks I'm suicidal, or crazy. Post-partum shit, like I'm going to chuck a hair-dryer in the bath with Ethan. And she's married to a psychiatrist! I told my so-called friends in Brooklyn I was borderline and they thought I was being self-indulgent.

RICHARD

You're not self-indulgent, and I know Stella is trying.

LUCE

Well maybe she is. But I know Viviane hates me.

RICHARD

And you have to understand why, Luce. You're not blameless.

LUCE

But I don't get it. I'm marrying Reuben, not Viviane. Not Stella. If they think I'm some unstable filthy hipster girl than that's Reuben's problem, not theirs.

RICHARD

Maybe if you opened up to them more they would understand?

LUCE

I don't want to open up to people who wanted a fucking DNA test on Ethan to be sure he was Reuben's.

RICHARD

Stella never wanted that, Viviane was just trying to hurt you. This isn't a therapy session so I can say this stuff, Luce. You DID cheat on Reuben.

LUCE

Yeah, I cheated on REUBEN - once - and I TOLD him. I was down. He forgave me.

Richard puts his hand on Luce's knee.

RICHARD

I know. And I bet you miss being friends Vivian, too?

Luce thinks for a second.

RICHARD (CONT)

You hurt Viviane that night as well.

Richard gets up.

LUCE

I don't want to feel this way with Reuben's family for the rest of my life.

RICHARD

You made yourself an outsider, Luce. You don't want to repair it.

Luce grumbles.

LUCE

Go to bed, Richard. Stella will make you charge me if you stay out here too long.

RICHARD

You're proving my point. Goodnight Luce.

Richard walks inside.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM

Reuben lays in bed, half-asleep, and Ethan lays on a spare mattress asleep.

Luce creeps in and climbs into bed. Reuben stirs.

REUBEN
(quietly)
Hey.

Luce kisses Reuben on the neck and he rolls over, kissing her back. He recoils.

REUBEN (CONT)
You smell like smoke.

He rolls over again.

EXT. HEINE'S HOUSE - DAY

Luce exits the house, dressed nicely, and walks towards the car. She unlocks it.

Stella kneels in the front garden, planting seeds.

STELLA
You got work?

LUCE
Yeah. Today's Reuben's day off so I'm taking our car. Him and Ethan are still asleep.

Stella smiles.

STELLA
Lazy boys. Drive safe.

LUCE
Yeah. Thanks, Stella.

INT. ART MUSEUM

Luce leads a group of TOURISTS through a modern and diverse art museum. She is finishing the tour.

The tourists disperse and Luce politely smiles at each one, leaving.

Another curator, CIDNEY, around Luce's age approaches.

CIDNEY

Reckon that'll be the last one for the day?

LUCE

No idea. Isn't there some convention at the Stratford?

CIDNEY

The NRA. Not interested in anything mounted on a wall unless it's a deer head . Lunch?

LUCE

Yeah. Right.

INT. CAFE

Luce and Sidney sit at a table in a hip cafe. It's busy.

CIDNEY

We ordered fucking forty five minutes ago. Reggie's gonna call me any minute now saying we need to be back.

LUCE

Has Reggie ever actually done that?

Sidney thinks.

CIDNEY

I don't think Reggie has my number.

They both laugh inwardly.

CIDNEY (CONT)

Aren't you staying at your in-laws? Did you tell me that or was it someone else?

LUCE

Not my in-laws. Reuben and I aren't married.

CIDNEY

Yeah, what do you call them then?

LUCE

Excuse me?

CIDNEY

If they aren't your in-laws, what do you call them?

LUCE

Stella and Richard? I don't know. I don't care.

CIDNEY

What are they like?

LUCE

Reuben's step-dad used to be my therapist, so he's alright.

CIDNEY

Oh, right. Therapy.

LUCE

Yeah. That.

Luce sips her coffee. A WAITER brings them over their food.

WAITER

So sorry about the wait. We're jam-packed.

CIDNEY

So sorry about the tip, then.

Cidney brushes the waiter off. Luce is made uncomfortable.

CIDNEY (CONT)

You can't be intimidated by wait staff. They have the easiest job in the world. I was a waitress at the busiest cafe in Manhattan to put myself through college.

Luce laughs.

LUCE

(sarcastic)

A real rags-to-riches story.

CIDNEY

Fuck you. After they divorced my parents couldn't pay for college and and therapy and meds like yours did.

LUCE
Yeah, I'm really sorry my life
wasn't as hard as yours. Didn't you
live in SoHo?

CIDNEY
Didn't you live in Brooklyn
Heights? What's your point?

LUCE
Nothing. Sorry. Really.

Cidney tries her food.

CIDNEY
Seriously, it tastes like shit
here. My cousin's an idiot, this
place is awful.

Luce is quiet, in disagreement.

CIDNEY (CONT)
I think I met Reuben's sister once.

LUCE
You would have, her and I used to
be pretty close I guess. It started
out as sympathy cause I just moved
to Long Island and she was like
"yeah, come out with me and my
friends". She was kind of awesome
back then.

CIDNEY
Isn't she really old?

LUCE
Like, late thirties? She was born
'73 or something.

CIDNEY
She's too old to worry about.

LUCE
That's gross, don't say stuff like
that. We sound like fifteen year
olds.

CIDNEY
What's wrong with that?

EXT. HEINE'S HOUSE - DAY

Luce arrives back at the house, pulling up at the curb. All other cars are gone from the driveway except one, beat-up second-hand car.

Luce walks in the house.

INT. FOYER

Luce inhales. She screws her face up. She smells something. She drops her handbag at the door of the spare room. She walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

On the fridge door, a post-it note is read by Luce. It says: "Luce: me, mom and Rich took Ethan to see Aunt Becca. Be back for dinner. Love, Reuben."

Luce inhales again. She follows the smell to the porch.

EXT. BACK PORCH - DAY

SIMON HEINEN, (17) sits on the back porch smoking a joint. Luce walks to the porch door silently and sees him. She is unsure whether to let her presence be known.

LUCE

Simon.

Simon almost leaps out of his seat.

SIMON

Fuck! It's just you.

LUCE

I can smell that from the front door.

SIMON

Mom and Dad don't know what it smells like. They think its the neighbors burning compost.

LUCE

There's something wrong with them.

Simon shrugs. Luce sits down. She lights a cigarette.

SIMON
That's bad for the baby.

LUCE
Pot's bad for *you*. You want kids?

SIMON
No.

LUCE
Well. Good then.

Luce takes a drag from her cigarette.

SIMON
Are you still crazy?

LUCE
Is that what your parents say?

SIMON
Mom implies it. Dad says he feels
sorry for you?

LUCE
I was never crazy.

SIMON
It must suck being the black sheep.

LUCE
It must suck being Stella's kid.

SIMON
Ask your boyfriend? But yeah, it
does.

Luce thinks for a moment.

LUCE
No, I didn't mean that. I'm sure
she's fine.

SIMON
She is. Relativity I guess. I
really want to be able to complain
though.

LUCE
Complain about your sister, then.

SIMON
Half-sister.

LUCE
No, seriously. Complain about her.

SIMON
She told everyone you cheated on
Reuben but Dad made her keep it a
secret from Mom.

Luce is shocked.

LUCE
Stella doesn't know?

SIMON
We keep a lot of secrets from Mom.

LUCE
Oh. Now I kind of feel sorry for
her.

SIMON
She overreacts. Remember how Vivian
dated a woman for a while? I was
like thirteen...so that's four
years ago I guess.

LUCE
Ah yes, the failed lesbian phase.

SIMON
Mom cried for two days straight and
tried to get us to go to church
again. Dad set her straight and it
turned out Vivian was just
experimenting.

LUCE
Personally, early 30's is too late
to be experimenting. If you want to
experiment, do it now.

SIMON
Did you ever do it?

LUCE
Experiment?

SIMON
Yeah.

Luce laughs.

LUCE

What a creepy question to ask,
Simon. I'm your future
sister-in-law.

SIMON

You and Reuben are actually getting
married?

LUCE

Eventually.

SIMON

Well, good luck.

Simon puts the joint out. He walks to the garden bed, digs a
tiny hole and covers it with soil.

LUCE

That's stupid, I saw your Mom
planting seeds this morning. Shes
going to dig up the garden and see
that.

SIMON

I could always blame you.

LUCE

Good idea. Do that.

They both smile. The front door opens audibly. Simon runs up
the porch and, quite hilariously, tries to "wade" the smell
out of the air.

STELLA (OS)

You home Simon?

SIMON

Yeah, on the porch.

STELLA (OS)

What about Luce?

SIMON

She's here too.

A long silence from Stella.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The sun is setting as Luce and Stella stand at the kitchen counter. Stella chops up a chicken breast.

LUCE
I thought Richard was the cook
these days?

STELLA
I don't think he's quite equipped
to cook every night just yet.

Luce laughs and Stella smiles to herself.

LUCE
Do you want any help?

Stella looks shocked.

STELLA
Oh...no. That's alright, dear. I
think Reuben, Ethan and Richard
will be home soon anyway. They
stayed for a little longer than me.
Becca gets on my nerves a little.

LUCE
Are you sure you don't want any
help?

STELLA
Of course I am. Go make yourself at
home. I relish cooking now that
Richard tries to do it so often. I
think he figured out how zen it is.

Luce smiles and walks off.

INT. SIMON'S BEDROOM

A knock. Simon sits on his bed with a laptop.

SIMON
Come in.

Luce comes in.

LUCE
Your mom's not letting me help make
dinner.

SIMON
Power play?

LUCE
Maybe. Maybe she wants your Dad and Reuben to come home and see me lazing around while she slaves in the kitchen.

SIMON
Maybe she's being a good host? No ulterior motive?

LUCE
You really believe that?

SIMON
No, that sounded stupid even as I said it.

Luce smiles.

LUCE
(re: laptop)
What are you looking at?

SIMON
Funnily enough, it's about you. The personality thing Dad says you have, I'm looking up what the meds you get are like.

Luce is taken aback.

LUCE
Are you one of those people who don't care about social boundaries?

SIMON
Like aspergers or like an asshole?

LUCE
Asshole.

SIMON
I guess. It says you can get prescribed xanax.

LUCE
Yeah, I am. So?

SIMON

Me and my friends want some.

Luce sits on the bed.

LUCE

I'm not giving you prescription drugs.

SIMON

We just want to try it. Zane, a guy I know, takes his dad's sometimes and he says its glorious.

LUCE

If you actually need it, it doesn't feel like anything at all.

SIMON

Well, I won't know if I don't *try it*.

Luce frowns.

LUCE

Alright. I'll give you two if you do something for me.

SIMON

Like what?

LUCE

Tell me anything your mom or sister says about.

SIMON

I pretty much do that anyway, but alright.

LUCE

I'll give you it before I go to bed tonight.

Outside the room, Richard and Reuben audibly come home. Luce stands up.

SIMON

Deal.

INT. FOYER

Luce picks up Ethan and cuddles him. Richard and Reuben drops their stuff at the door.

REUBEN
Fuck that was tiring. I really
don't like that woman.

LUCE
Yeah?

RICHARD
We should have followed your Mom's
lead.

REUBEN
(to Luce)
She used the excuse that she has
three extra people to cook for to
leave early.

ETHAN
I got cupcakes!

REUBEN
Yeah, and she stuffed him her
gluten-free bullshit baked goods so
now I'm betting he won't eat
dinner.

ETHAN
(laughing)
I'm not going to eat dinner!

REUBEN
How was work?

LUCE
Heaps of traffic, had to have lunch
with Cidney, tours filled with
rednecks. Pretty crappy all round.

REUBEN
I still think our day was worse.

They smile and kiss.

STELLA (O.S)
Dinner in about half an hour
everyone! On the porch.

REUBEN

I'm gonna take a shower, can you try to calm him down before dinner?

LUCE

Yeah. (to Ethan) We can watch Family Guy with the sound muted!

ETHAN

Yay!

INT. LIVING ROOM

Luce sits on the sofa with Ethan in her lap watching the TV. Luce has a blank look on her face. She swallows, upset.

BLACK SCREEN

A phone ringing.

LUCE (V.O)

The apartment's kind of a mess. But yeah, come over.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT

A younger Luce, obviously not pregnant, opens the door to her apartment for a MUCH younger-looking Viviane. The apartment is untidy but relatively clean. It's very small.

LUCE

Sorry. I just haven't had the motivation to tidy up.

VIVIANE

It's fine. If Lynne wasn't so meticulous our apartment would be a pigsty.

LUCE

You want some coffee? Reuben sprang for some huge coffee machine that he loves and I never use.

VIVIANE

Sure.

Luce wanders to the kitchenette and starts a coffee-making ritual at a huge machine, which overbears the room.

LUCE
It's so ridiculous isn't it? The machine, I mean.

VIVIANE
Well, Reub paid for it didn't he?

LUCE
Yeah. I know.

Viviane regrets what she said.

VIVIANE
Oh, I didn't mean anything like that.

LUCE
Of course. Yeah.

A long pause. The machine whirs loudly.

LUCE (CONT)
So you and Lynne? That's still going on?

VIVIANE
Yeah. We're both very committed. She just moved in but it feels so right. Mom refuses to take it in and cries everytime I call.

LUCE
Some parents just aren't receptive to their kids coming out. Especially this late in life.

VIVIANE
Oh, I'm not coming out. Not as "gay", at least.

LUCE
Oh. But you're in a relationship with a woman?

VIVIANE
I don't identify as a gay women.

Luce rolls her eyes to herself. She walks to the sofa, which Viviane is now sitting at, with two cups of coffee.

LUCE
So, what's up?

VIVIANE

Me and my friends love this club, a couple miles away. We're going out tonight and you're free to come?

LUCE

Oh. Sure. That sounds great.

Viviane sips her coffee.

VIVIANE

Well, it *is* good coffee.

Luce smiles politely. Viviane doesn't know what to say.

VIVIANE (CONT)

I'm only going to tell you this if you don't tell my brother.

LUCE

Okay. Wait. How bad is it?

VIVIANE

It's got nothing to do with Reub so it shouldn't be bothersome.

LUCE

Okay. Tell me.

VIVIANE

You know, before, what I was saying about identifying as a gay women?

LUCE

Yeah, it was like- thirty seconds ago. Yeah.

Viviane laughs.

VIVIANE

Well, yeah. Well, I don't know how I feel about this. With Lynne. Like, I thought I had feelings for her - sexual feelings - for the early part of our relationship but now, now that's waned and there's nothing left.

LUCE

Why are you telling me this?

VIVIANE

I don't know. Alternative to
silence?

LUCE

And why can't I tell Reuben?

VIVIANE

The only thing more awkward than
coming out to your family is
rescinding it a month later.

LUCE

I thought you weren't coming out?

Viviane ignores this, sipping her coffee.

VIVIANE

And now, my friend Toby. I dunno. I
feel something there, with him. I
met him platonically through a
Start-Up seminar in Queens and he's
coming out with us tonight and -
eugh. I just have to tell someone
so it's like, I'm not just lying to
everyone and it's a *problem*, not a
lie, you know what I mean?

LUCE

I actually do. Really.

Viviane smiles. She wipes a relieved tear from her eye.

VIVIANE

I feel so much better. I could
never tell any of my *best* friends
about this because I'd seem so
idiotic.

LUCE

Sexual ambiguity is not being an
idiot, it's being a human.

VIVIANE

I feel too old for this.

Luce shrugs.

LUCE

Everyone's too old for something
they still do.

Viviane smiles again.

VIVIANE

Thankyou.

She stares at her half-empty coffee mug.

VIVIANE (CONT)

I was actually wrong about this coffee. It's too strong. Very bitter.

LUCE

You get used to it.

VIVIANE

I can't finish it.

LUCE

Give it here.

Viviane passes her mug to Luce, who walks to the sink and tips it down the basin.

VIVIANE

Sorry, I know that stuff's expensive.

LUCE

Don't worry about it.

VIVIANE

I should probably go. I need to talk Dad into investment money for this Start Up.

LUCE

Sure. See you tonight?

Viviane stands up.

VIVIANE

Yeah. We're all sharing a cab there, so we'll get it to swing by the apartment - like ten thirty?

LUCE

That's great. See you then.

Viviane wipes her face one final time and walks out the front door, waving timidly.

BLACK SCREEN

STELLA (V.O)
What's that smell?

EXT. PORCH - NIGHT

Stella, Richard, Simon, Luce, Reuben and Ethan sit at a plastic folding table on the porch, overlooking the backyard, eating dinner.

STELLA (CONT)
Do you smell it Richard?

RICHARD
It's the fucking neighbours.
Burning compost.

REUBEN
Why would you burn compost? What's
the point of composting if you're
just going to burn it?

RICHARD
They're weirdos.

Simon eats quickly, avoiding the conversation. Luce smiles to herself. Ethan puts food to his mouth and then spits it back onto his plate.

LUCE
Eat it, Ethan. Don't chew and spit.

REUBEN
He's not hungry. Becca filled him
up with sweets.

LUCE
Yeah, which is why he should eat
dinner. He's going to crash in like
an hour from all the sugar.

REUBEN
He's a fucking three year old. He
doesn't need to stay awake.

LUCE
Fine.

Luce resigns. Stella intervenes, touching Ethan's arm.

STELLA
Ethan, if you want to go watch TV
you can go, sweetie.

ETHAN
Okay, Nanna.

Luce lets Ethan down from his seat and he runs inside.

The clinking of cutlery as everyone eats in silence. The front door of the house audibly opens and someone enters casually. Everyone stops eating and listens.

VIVIANE (OS)
Hey Ethan! What's up!

Stella relinquishes her interest.

STELLA
It's just Viviane. (yelling) We're
on the porch Viv!

Viviane walks onto the porch.

VIVIANE
Oh. I didn't think you'd still be
eating this late.

STELLA
We had to stay late at Aunt
Becca's.

VIVIANE
Ew. Okay.

Stella frowns.

STELLA
Have you eaten?

VIVIANE
Yeah, Greyson and me went out to
dinner. I'll just sit down if
that's alright.

STELLA
Yeah, we were just talking to Simon
about his plans.

Simon rolls his eyes. Viviane smiles.

VIVIANE

Have you decided where you're going?

SIMON

No. I might not go to college.

STELLA

Don't be stupid, we can afford it easily. You can do whatever you want after you finish. You can stay in Long Island with your friends even, go to Long Island University.

VIVIANE

Ew, don't go there.

STELLA

My point is that he can do whatever he wants.

SIMON

Right.

Everyone goes back to eating. Viviane pours herself some wine.

LUCE

What are you planning on majoring in Simon?

Simon glares at Luce, who feigns a polite smile.

SIMON

I have no idea.

LUCE

Well, don't do creative arts, or art history, or drama, or interpretation or anything weird like that. I did Art History and you know how much working at a gallery pays?

VIVIAN

We know, Luce. You lucked out with Reuben.

Luce grimaces.

INT. SIMON'S BEDROOM

Simon slams the door to his room, with Luce sitting on his bed.

SIMON
Jesus Christ, she is a cunt.

LUCE
Yeah.

SIMON
But so are you.

Luce laughs.

SIMON (CONT)
You know I hate college talk. The more I'm forced to talk about it the more convinced they become I want it.

LUCE
If you don't want it, don't go? You're an eighteen year old in like, two months? July, right?

SIMON
Yeah. You remembered my birthday?

LUCE
I guess. That's weird. I never remember people's birthdays. I don't know my own Dad's. I bet he doesn't either though.

SIMON
(jest)
Aww, I'm special.

Luce smiles. She reaches into her pocket and gives him a tab of pills.

LUCE
Here.

Simon takes it.

SIMON
Awesome.

LUCE

What's your sister been saying?

SIMON

Half-sister. And not a lot. At least not about you. It's hard to listen in when you don't care and you live in a different home.

LUCE

Yeah.

SIMON

I did overhear her laughing about you writing, or planning to write, to Mom.

LUCE

What did your Mom do?

SIMON

She laughed too.

LUCE

Philestines.

SIMON

I don't normally like school work, but in English my favourite assignments are creative writing.

LUCE

Huh.

SIMON

What are you writing about?

Luce wasn't expecting this.

LUCE

Everything. Things that happen, things that don't happen. Things I wish would happen. I could write about this later.

Simon smiles.

LUCE (CONT)

I'm writing - fiction, you must know - about a girl, in college, who gets raped by a homeless guy and then, instead of inwardly processing her self-digust like all

(MORE)

LUCE (CONT) (cont'd)
fictional rape victims, projects it
onto every man and becomes a
misandrist who plots to kill her
brothers.

SIMON
Because that's what you honestly
believe a rape victim would do?

LUCE
Maybe not that extreme. But not all
rape victims end up timid mice who
cry in the shower. Some lash out,
and want men to fear them like they
fear men. Think vagina dentata.

SIMON
That's gross. But awesome.

LUCE
I don't like talking about my
writing.

SIMON
Yes you do. Don't lie.

LUCE
I'm not lying. If the world is
filled with Stella's and Vivian's,
expressing my writing just ashames
me.

SIMON
I like it. Did I say that?

Luce smiles.

LUCE
Thanks. I should go to bed.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Reuben lays in bed, with Ethan laying next to him. Once
again, Luce creeps into bed.

REUBEN
He refused to sleep on the mattress.
Who knows why.

LUCÉ
It's fine.

BLACK SCREEN

 VIVIAN (V.O)
How great is this place?

INT. NIGHT CLUB

A small, hip and quiet bar. Younger Luce stands around a table with younger Vivian and a group of Vivian's FRIENDS.

The FRIENDS consist of TOBY, in his thirties, balding but handsome, TYLER, similarly aged and still in work clothes, and LYNNE BURKSON, in her thirties, with a short but feminine haircut who is tenderly holding Vivian.

 LUCÉ
Yeah. Maybe we came a bit early.

 VIVIAN
It's always a little quiet. Not many people know it.

 TOBY
It's out little secret. They have cheap drinks and great music.

 LUCÉ
You're right.

Toby finishes his drinks. He notices Luce has as well.

 TOBY
I'm getting another one, what about you Luce?

 LUCÉ
Yeah, I'll come with you.

 TOBY
Oh, that's okay. I'll pay for it.

Luce smiles.

 LUCÉ
Thanks.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - LATER

Luce and Toby sit at a bar table by themselves. Vivian, Lynne and Tyler stand in the distance of the bar, drinking, talking and dancing.

TOBY

My twin sister went to NYU about the same time as you. I was in Ohio.

LUCE

Really? What was her name?

TOBY

Samara Cole? She majored in archeology. She works in a related field now, but for nearly ten years there she was a barista.

Luce laughs.

LUCE

I know what you mean. How much demand do you think there is for Art History majors in Long Island?

TOBY

If you graduated NYU, why aren't you in Manhattan or Brooklyn? Where the actual art is?

Luce laughs again.

LUCE

I moved here a few months ago. Did Vivian not talk about me beforehand?

TOBY

Is she meant to?

LUCE

No, but I can imagine her doing that.

Toby laughs. Luce concentrates on his face.

LUCE (CONT)

Are you gay?

TOBY
Nope. Is it the baldness? Because I
didn't choose that.

 LUCY
 (laughing)
No, I was just wondering. I can't
imagine a straight man who would
forge a close friendship with a
lesbian he has no chance with.

 TOBY
No chance? At all?

Luce looks at Vivian across the bar, who stares at her and
Toby talking with slight jealousy.

 LUCY
 (beat)
No chance at all.

 TOBY
I'm straight. I assure you.

He puts his hand on Luce's leg. Luce reacts negatively at
first, then looks across at a fervent Vivian. This inspires
her to kiss Toby.

She kisses passionately, keeping both eyes on Vivian the
whole time. Vivian begins to storm over.

BLACK SCREEN

 ETHAN (V.O)
Mommmy!

INT. SPARE BEDROOM

Ethan, laying between Luce and Reuben, shoves Luce who is
asleep.

 ETHAN
Wake up!

Luce and Reueben both stir awake. Luce looks at the clock.
It says 6.30 A.M.

 LUCY
Fuck, it's barely even morning
Ethan.

ETHAN
Mommy said "fuck"!

REUBEN
(groggy)
I heard it.

Luce laughs, and cuddles Ethan in order to get him to lay down again.

LUCE
Go back to sleep, Ethan.

ETHAN
No!

REUBEN
We should just get up. Mom will want to leave for the beach by eight anyway and you know what's Ethan's like getting ready.

ETHAN
(playing)
What am I like?

LUCE
Fuck. I don't want to wake up after dawn on a Saturday.

REUBEN
Fine, don't. We'll leave without you and you can sleep in.

Luce doesn't like this either.

LUCE
And what would that look like?

REUBEN
Who cares?

LUCE
Fuck it, I'll get up.

REUBEN
Good.

Reuben rolls over and out of bed.

INT. CAR - DAY

Reuben drives, Ethan in the backseat in a baby seat, while Luce sits in the passenger seat smoking a cigarette.

LUCE
It's going to be freezing.

REUBEN
Yeah, I know.

LUCE
Your Mom's retarded. Who goes to the beach in New York fall?

REUBEN
Her and Richard are so excited that we're moving close by so they've organised this sort of crap. Lay off.

LUCE
You're right. Sorry.

A long silence. Luce looks in the rearvision mirror and sees Ethan asleep in the carseat.

LUCE (CONT)
What the fuck? He refuses to sleep at the crack of dawn and then he knocks out as soon as we get in the car? Jesus Christ.

REUBEN
He's 2, leave him alone

Luce throws her cigarette butt out the window and turns to Ethan in the backseat. She lightly shakes his knee.

LUCE
(meanly)
Hey, Ethan. Wake up! We're nearly there!

Ethan stirs, groggily.

REUBEN
We're not nearly there at all! Let him sleep. I know what you're doing and it's petty. He won't get what you're doing.

LUCE

What am I doing? You need to wake
up *this minute* Ethan!

Ethan is awake now and starts crying out of tiredness.

REUBEN

What's wrong with you?

LUCE

Stop crying Ethan.

Ethan snuffles and slowly stops crying.

REUBEN

You want some ice-cream?

ETHAN

No, it's cold.

REUBEN

We'll have ice-cream when we get to
the beach?

ETHAN

I don't care.

Luce rolls her eyes.

REUBEN

Why did you wake him?

Luce ignores Reuben.

LUCE

I bet Viviane wears a two-piece.
And I bet her boyfriend wears a
speedo or some shit.

REUBEN

I met Greyson, and he's not gay. If
that's what you're implying.

LUCE

Not saying anything like that. He
just sounds like a speedo person.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Luce, Reuben and Ethan sit on towels on the beach. It seems cold. The beach is rocky and the sky is gray.

Ethan plays in the sand.

LUCE

I honestly don't think they're coming.

REUBEN

Don't be stupid.

Vivian and GREYSON, in his thirties and already thinning hair, approach the three of them. Vivian tickles Ethan and he laughs.

REUBEN

Hey guys.

VIVIANE

Greyson, this is my newpew Ethan and Reuben's girlfriend. Lucy.

Greyson bends over to shake Luce's hand, who's sitting down.

LUCE

It's actually Luce.

GREYSON

Luce.

VIVIANE

Mom and Richard are on their way. Not sure if Simon's with them.

REUBEN

I hope so. It would be nice if at least everyone was here, since the weather's like this.

Viviane and Greyson put a towel day and share sitting on it.

VIVIANE

If he does come, I hope he brings his little girlfriend.

REUBEN

Simon has a girlfriend?

VIVIANE
Um, only for like two months. Her
name's Maxine. She's a *senior*.

They both laugh. Greyson doesn't really get it and Luce is actively upset by Viviane and Rueben's getting along.

BLACK SCREEN

VIVIANE (V.O)
What the fuck are you doing?

INT. NIGHT CLUB

A younger Viviane has pulled a younger Luce away from Toby and is aggressively talking to her.

LUCE
I'm so sorry...I should probably
leave.

Viviane nods as if to point out how obvious that is.

LUCE (CONT)
Are you upset because I'm dating
your brother or because of your
hetererotic crush on this Toby guy?

VIVIANE
Excuse me?

LUCE
Which one is it?

VIVIANE
It doesn't matter you fucking nut
job!

Viviane, disgusted, turns away. Meanwhile, Toby is still sitting at the bar unaware of what's going on. He makes eye contact with Luce and they smile at each other.

Luce walks over to Toby and whispers in his ear.

INT. BATHROOM

A dirty and unkempt bathroom with a single stall and urinal. Visible under the wall of the stall are Luce's feet, facing Toby's feet.

The stall walls thud and bang as the two clumsily make out. Toby unzips his pants.

BLACK SCREEN

STELLA (V.O)
It's a beautiful day.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Stella, Richard and Simon have joined Viviane, Greyson, Luce and Reuben sitting on the sand.

VIVIANE
Are you retarded Mom? It's freezing.

STELLA
Maybe I meant it's beautiful because we're all here.

Simon laughs loudly, which inspires almost everyone to giggle.

Their attention turns to Ethan, who, in the distance, plays in the sand. He knocks over a quick sandcastle one of the others obviously built for him.

GREYSON
How old is Ethan, Luce and Reuben?

LUCE
He's just over two. He's so great, he normally sleeps on his own and he talks so well.

REUBEN
I only realised how old he'd gotten when we had to stop referring to his age in months.

Greyson smiles.

GREYSON
That's awesome. And you're pregnant again?

LUCE
We don't waste time, I guess.

They all laugh. Even Viviane forces a smile.

VIVIANE

Luce has a personality disorder.

Stella slaps Viviane on the thigh.

STELLA

Shutup, Viviane.

VIVIANE

What? If we're introducing each other. It's not a bad thing. It's an elephant in the room. It's like shes paraplegic and we're forcing her to get around without a wheelchair.

Greyson is being made uncomfortable.

LUCE

Great analogy, Viviane.

RICHARD

That was really an inappropriate thing to say, Viviane.

VIVIANE

Be quiet, Richard.

Richard doesn't know what to say.

VIVIANE (CONT)

Actually, Richard. (to Greyson) Richard was Luce's therapist for - what was it? - two years. The things he's holding back, the fucked up things he knows about Luce - so Richard, don't be quiet.

Luce goes to stand up.

RICHARD

Even if I wasn't a therapist and I wasn't bound to confidentiality, I wouldn't sacrifice anything personal that Luce had told me.

LUCE

Thankyou, Richard.

VIVIANE

How fucking noble!

Stella slaps Viviane. Viviane, face reddening, stands up.

SIMON

What the fuck?

GREYSON

Look, I have to go. Viv, you can get a ride back with one of these guys right?

Vivianne ignores him, focusing her attention on Stella. Greyson essentially runs away.

STELLA

I'm sorry I hit you. But you can't be saying things like this. I don't understand why you're doing this now.

VIVIANE

What I don't understand, *Mom*, is why even though we all essentially live under the same roof and those two will soon be living two fucking streets away, you feel the need to pull together fun little shindigs like this?

RICHARD

Viviane, go home. You didn't have to come.

VIVIANE

Oh, but I did. Do I want to take Luce's place as the fuck-up of this family?

RICHARD

That's not true -

VIVIANE

You're right, she isn't part of this family.

LUCE

Fuck you, Viviane.

REUBEN

Just ignore it, Luce.

LUCE

How can I ignore her when SHES TWO FUCKING FEET AWAY?

Ethan, in the distance, notices his mother's screaming and yelling and crawls back towards them.

VIVIANE

Oh, *by the way*, Mom, even though I know you love to think of us as a perfect family who goes to the beach and eats dinner on the porch, they're all fucking lying to you. Even Simon knows.

STELLA

Knows what?

LUCE

Don't you dare Viviane!

VIVIANE

Three years ago, right as Luce fell pregnant with little Ethan, I, as per your suggestions, took Luce out on the town with my friends.

REUBEN

Don't tell this story, please. Viviane.

VIVIANE

But, of course, one night away from Reuben and Luce lets herself get fucked by a guy in the toilets at the bar.

Viviane glares at Luce proudly and angrily. Stella is agasp.

STELLA

Why wasn't I told this?

VIVIANE

Maybe because your husband, the mental doctor, didn't want to shatter your illusion of a happy family.

Luce is deeply upset. Her and Reuben grab their towel and stand up. Simon has been taking this all in silently.

LUCE

Ethan! Here!

She runs over to Ethan and picks him up.

STELLA

Did you know this Reuben?

REUBEN

Of course I did. Luce called me the day after, crying.

VIVIANE

Only because she knew I would tell him.

REUBEN

Fuck off, Viv. You know it's a borderline thing.

VIVIANE

That's fucking bullshit.

Luce is crying.

LUCE

Please, let's go!

VIVIANE

She's can't get away with cheating on Reuben with the borderline thing, not again.

Reuben turns to leave. Richard and Stella still sit on the ground.

INT. CAR - DAY

Reuben drives back. Ethan sits in the back, covered in sand in the carseat. Luce is angry and upset, crying and sobbing. Reuben has his hand on her leg, trying to comfort her.

REUBEN

Everyone has forgiven you for the Toby thing - me, Richard, and I'm sure Mom understands. Viviane, by bringing it up now to hurt you, is being the bitch. You've done nothing wrong.

Luce wipes tears from her eyes.

LUCE

I don't want to be at that house anymore.

INT. FOYER

Reuben opens the front door. Luce, Ethan on her hip, pushes past him and she rushes into the spare bedroom.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM

Luce lays on the bed, curled up holding a confused Ethan, crying.

Reuben knocks at the door, and with no response, gives up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Richard stands, pacing, on the phone. Stella sits, almost catatonic, on the sofa, as does Reuben.

RICHARD

I don't give a FUCK Viviane! You've upset the whole family. You think you can just pull shit like that and we're not going to care? You're not welcome here at this house. I don't care. Shutup.

STELLA

No!

RICHARD

(covers receiver)

What?

STELLA

She's my daughter.

RICHARD

(into phone)

Don't come around Viviane. I know you heard that. Please don't come around tonight.

Richard hangs up the phone.

RICHARD (CONT)

I can barely understand her, she's crying that much. I don't know where she gets off accusing Luce of being crazy when she acts like this.

STELLA
Shutup, Richard.

RICHARD
Fine. I'm going to bed. Reuben,
tell Luce I'm happy to talk to her
whenever she feels better.

REUBEN
Alright, Richard. Goodnight.

Richard goes into their bedroom. Reuben begins to stand up as well. He walks over to Stella, who is still mindlessly gazing at the TV.

REUBEN
Mom?

STELLA
Yeah, honey?

REUBEN
Are you disappointed in me?

Stella looks up at Reuben, glazed and sad eyes. She is upset at the notion.

STELLA
Why would you even say that?

She gestures to Reuben for a hug. He bends down to embrace her. She kisses his cheek.

REUBEN
Do you think Ethan looks like me?

Stella is sobbing.

STELLA
(crying)
Exactly like you.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ethan and Luce lay in bed. Ethan is asleep, Luce lays awake. She reaches around for Reuben, but he isn't there.

She looks at the clock. 1am.

She gets up, checks Ethan. She tucks him in the bed.

EXT. HALLWAY

Luce creeps down the hallway. The only light on in the house is coming from Simon's room.

INT. SIMON'S BEDROOM

A light knocking. Simon is in pyjamas, on his laptop at his desk.

SIMON

Come in.

Luce walks in. She looks like a mess in the light. Still wearing stained makeup, belly far too large for T shirt and hair sticking out, she looks at Simon and smiles.

SIMON (CONT)

I feel so sorry for you.

Luce sits down on the bed.

SIMON (CONT)

Really, I do.

LUCE

Why?

SIMON

Because Viviane's...gone insane. Or something.

LUCE

I did cheat on your brother.

SIMON

Three years ago.

Luce shrugs.

LUCE

I don't know if I'm sad because I feel guilty or because everyone's mad at me.

SIMON

The only person mad at you is my sister.

LUCE

It was the only shred of respect I had left with your mom...I was a

(MORE)

LUCE (cont'd)
crazy hippie but I was faithful to
her son. That's gone.

SIMON
I understand. I forgive you. Why
wouldn't my mom?

Luce smiles.

LUCE
Boys are stupid.

Simon smiles as well. He sits next to Luce. Luce rubs her
belly.

LUCE (CONT)
Whenever I don't take my pills for
a few days, she kicks really hard.

SIMON
She?

LUCE
Yeah. She. Feel.

Simon feels her belly.

SIMON
That's awesome.

LUCE
I know.

Luce looks Simon up and down.

SIMON
What's up?

Luce kisses Simon passionately. He reciprocates. She grabs
his crotch enthusiastically and takes off his pants.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Richard stands in the kitchen in front of a very upset
Simon. He pats Simon on the back, who has tears in his eyes.

Stella sits at the kitchen island, shaking her head. She
looks physically ill.

Down the hallway, Luce steps out of Simon's room. They all stop and stare at her. Simon looks hurt.

Luce walks, terrified, down the hall towards them.

She stops at the end. Richard, exasperated and mad, looks her in the eyes.

RICHARD
Please get out of my house.

LUCE
What?

STELLA
What's wrong with you?

Luce starts crying.

RICHARD
No. Don't cry. Just leave.

LUCE
Where's Ethan?

RICHARD
He's with Reuben and Viviane.
They're not here.

LUCE
What? So I can't see them?

STELLA
You don't deserve it.

Luce walks towards the spare room.

LUCE
Whatever. It takes two people to
have sex, Stella.

STELLA
You took advantage of a seventeen
year old boy!

Luce storms off into the room.

INT. SPARE ROOM

Luce clumsily and angrily changes out of pyjamas, sobbing loudly. She shoves all her clothes into her bag.

STELLA (OS)
Hurry and get going. Reuben left
the car here for you.

Luce grabs her bag and walks out.

INT. FOYER

LUCE
Well where are the keys?

STELLA
On the side table near the door.
Leave please.

Luce looks back on the family. Simon is in tears. Richard is legitimately angry. She grabs the keys and storms out.

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

Luce, driving her and Reuben's car, races through a stop sign at a busy suburban intersection. Another car screeches to a halt to avoid hitting her.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX

A huge, modern complex of expensive-looking condos. Luce's car screeches into the car park.

Luce gets out of the car and lumbers up the steps to the front door of the condos. She bangs on the door.

Greyson answers it.

LUCE
Where's Ethan? And Reuben?

GREYSON
I'm sorry Luce...

Viviane appears beside him.

VIVIANE
Fuck off, Luce. You're disgusting.

LUCE

I just want to see Ethan.

VIVIANE

Too bad. Go stay with a friend.
Richard is helping Reuben sell the
house. Someone will bring Ethan
over later in the day - and take
him back by night.

LUCE

You can't do that. Give me my son.

VIVIANE

You're a fucking crazy person!

Luce tries to look over Viviane's shoulder.

LUCE

Reuben! Don't do this. Come talk to
me!

VIVIANE

Leave, Luce. Please.

BLACK SCREEN

MORGAN (V.O)

She's sick again, Blaine.

INT. POWER'S LIVING ROOM

Luce sits, dejected, at the kitchen counter with her
overly-made-up and overdressed mother MORGAN POWERS in her
lavish kitchen.

Morgan is on the phone. She hands the phone to Luce.

MORGAN

Your dad wants to speak to you.

Luce takes the phone.

LUCE

Hey, Dad. Where are you?

MORGAN

He's in Florida.

Luce ignores Morgan.

LUCE

Mom's exaggerating. The birth plan is the same.

Morgan rolls her eyes.

LUCE (CONT)

I'm still speaking to Richard, the step-dad. He's been bringing and taking Ethan for a few days.
(break) It'll work out, please don't worry. Do you want to speak to Mom again? (Break) Okay. Bye.

She hangs up the phone. Morgan's tone has changed. She's smiling.

LUCE

What the hell Mom?

MORGAN

Sorry, it's just...I've never gotten a chance to see you this pregnant. I never see you.

LUCE

Long Island isn't that far from Brooklyn. You could always come visit.

MORGAN

I could say the same to you.

A long pause. Morgan looks at the belly.

MORGAN (CONT)

Does she kick?

LUCE

She's kicking right now. Feel.

Morgan feels her belly and smiles.

MORGAN

What are you going to name her?

LUCE

We don't know yet. I'm going to have to discuss it with Reuben.

MORGAN

Really?

LUCE
Yes? He's still the father.

Morgan shrugs.

MORGAN
I don't get it, Luce.

LUCE
I know you don't.

MORGAN
If he can't take you when you're
not well he doesn't deserve to be a
father.

Luce laughs.

LUCE
You really don't get it.

MORGAN
Fine. I don't get it.

Morgan walks to the fridge.

MORGAN (CONT)
What do you want for dinner?

LUCE
I'm not really hungry.

MORGAN
Well, I'm making something later.

She closes the fridge.

MORGAN (CONT)
Where are you going to live, Luce?

LUCE
I found a place. In Brooklyn.

MORGAN
Really?

LUCE
It's small. But cheap.

MORGAN
What about the gallery in Long
Island?

Luce shrugs.

LUCE
I'll find something in Brooklyn.
I'm on maternity leave.

Morgan frowns. She forces Luce into a hug.

MORGAN
I worry about you.

LUCE
Mom.

MORGAN
All the way out there. And now,
alone.

LUCE
I'm not alone.

MORGAN
Those people. That family. Kicking
you out like that.

Luce retreats from the hug.

LUCE
Do you even know them?

MORGAN
I met Stella and Richard last year,
remember? At Ethan's second
birthday. They were so uppity, like
they were better than us.

LUCE
Maybe they are.

MORGAN
Don't be so stupid.

Morgan rubs Luce's belly again.

MORGAN (CONT)
You know my friend Sophie Armbrust?

LUCE
The social worker?

MORGAN
Uh huh. She said, well she was
talking about borderline
personality disorder.

LUCE
About me, you mean?

MORGAN
Don't be so self-centered. It came up naturally. She had a case with a girl who had it, like you do.

LUCE
Yeah?

MORGAN
I'm so sorry.

LUCE
What? For what?

MORGAN
Sophie said...I just know what you're going through now. I'm sorry for not appreciating it.

Luce smiles.

LUCE
It's okay.

MORGAN
I got so worried about you, and then you called me and said you split up with Reuben - and you were sick again.

LUCE
I never said I was sick - I was always sick.

MORGAN
But you were better for a while.

LUCE
Not really, Mom.

Morgan frowns again.

LUCE (CONT)
Stop frowning.

MORGAN
I know, it looks awful, right?

They both laugh. Morgan stops laughing, and looks serious again.

MORGAN (CONT)
Are you okay with raising two
children alone?

BLACK SCREEN

A baby's crying.

INT. HIP APARTMENT

Luce's new, well-decorated and small apartment. A tiny window reveals a view of a Brooklyn street.

Luce sits at her laptop, no longer pregnant, smoking a joint. She reads off printed paper, edited a written document on her computer.

The baby's crying is audible. She stands up, puts the joint out. A knock at the apartment door.

RICHARD (OS)
Luce?

LUCE
One second, Richard.

Luce opens the window. She runs to the front door and opens it. Richard stands in the doorway with Ethan next to him and a two-week old baby girl BRENNNA in his arms. Luce smiles. Richard passes Brenna to Luce. Brenna is crying.

RICHARD
I couldn't calm her down before I
got here.

LUCE
It's fine.

ETHAN
Hey Mommy!

Ethan hugs Luce at her legs.

LUCE
Hey, Ethan.

Luce smiles at Brenna, who's crying subsides.

RICHARD
I guess maybe she just missed you.

LUCE

Was their enough pump milk for the weekend? Or did Reuben run out again?

RICHARD

He said it was fine.

LUCE

Oh, good. I can't wait until she can go on formula.

RICHARD

She can go on formula now if you like. It's just not as good for her.

LUCE

It's fine. I'll wait.

Ethan runs inside.

LUCE

Be careful around the kitchen Ethan.

Richard turns to leave.

LUCE (CONT)

Wait, Richard. What's Reuben up to?

RICHARD

Um, more of the same I guess. He's at the firm still.

LUCE

I'm sorry you had to drive all this way. You did tell Reuben I can drop the kids off to him to save you guys the drive?

RICHARD

He doesn't think that would be appropriate.

Luce shrugs.

LUCE

Sure.

Richard looks her up and down.

RICHARD
Are you stoned?

Luce ignores him.

LUCE
I've been writing.

RICHARD
I can see. That's great, Luce.

Luce is uncomfortable.

LUCE
Do you want to come in and sit down
at least? If we're going to talk?

Richard shakes his head.

RICHARD
We're not going to talk. I've got
to drive back to Long Island.

LUCE
Okay. Sorry.

RICHARD
No, it's fine.

Richard steps out of the doorways and starts walking down
the hallway. Luce goes to close the door, but Richard stops
her.

RICHARD
Wait.

LUCE
Yeah?

RICHARD
I talked to Reuben today when I
picked the kids up. I think he
misses you.

LUCE
Really?

RICHARD
He suggested the same thing as you-
that you guys pick up and drop off
the kids instead of Stella and I.

LUCE
So why did you lie?

RICHARD
Stella doesn't want you guys
talking. Not yet anyway.

Luce looks offended.

LUCE
Reuben's nearly thirty.

RICHARD
At the end of the day, if he wants
to let his mom make those kind of
decisions - it's up to him.

LUCE
Sure. Okay.

RICHARD
But if YOU don't care what Stella
thinks - and this isn't a
suggestion from me personally -
you're free to see Reuben.

Luce smiles.

LUCE
Thankyou.

RICHARD
I'm not saying it's okay with me.
I'm saying it doesn't matter who
its okay with.

LUCE
Of course.

RICHARD
Brenna needs to be fed.

LUCE
Yeah.

Richard smiles politely, turns, and closes the door as he leaves. Luce stands in her apartment, smiling happily.

She sits at her computer chair. Ethan plays with a toy, visible in his bedroom.

Luce seems content. She looks out the window, and breastfeeds Brenna. It's sunny outside.

BLACK SCREEN

An elevator dings.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Luce steps out of the elevator into an office building. She holds a bag over her shoulder, Brenna in her arms and Ethan in tow. Ethan tugs at her dress.

ETHAN

Is this where Dad works?

Luce walks on, ignoring him. She approaches the reception desk. The RECEPTIONIST smiles at her.

RECEPTIONIST

Can I help you?

LUCE

Hi, I'm looking for Reuben Jamieson's office. I think I've been here once before.

RECEPTIONIST

Sure, I'll just call through to him. May I ask who to tell him this is?

LUCE

I'm not a client. I'm...these are his kids.

The receptionist looks at Ethan and Brenna. She smiles at Ethan.

RECEPTIONIST

Okay then.

She dials into the phone.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT)

Mr. Jamieson? A lady is here to see you. She has your son and daughter with her.

She smiles again.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT)

Of course.

She hangs up.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT)
If you walk through, past the cubicles, there's a hall. His office is marked at the end.

LUCE
Thankyou. Come on, Ethan.

INT. REUBEN'S OFFICE

Reuben works at his computer. He is dressed well. Luce, outside, knocks.

REUBEN
Come in.

Luce comes in with Ethan. Ethan runs up to Reuben and hugs him.

ETHAN
Daddy!

LUCE
Ethan!

Ethan sits on his lap.

LUCE
Hey, Reuben.

REUBEN
What's up? Richard just called and said he went to pick up these guys and you weren't home.

LUCE
I thought I'd drop them off myself. Save Richard the gas. I guess I forgot to call him.

REUBEN
Oh. Very thoughtful.

LUCE
Thanks.

REUBEN
You look really good, Luce.

LUCE
Really?

REUBEN

Uh - huh.

LUCE

I haven't actually lost any weight,
I think it's just because I can
actually wear my old clothes again.

Reuben smiles.

REUBEN

How are you?

LUCE

Great. I moved to Brooklyn, but I'm
still technically getting paid by
the gallery on maternity leave.

REUBEN

What about after that?

LUCE

I've been talking to one of my old
college friends. She's working with
an art historian making a
documentary and in a few months
he's going to need research
assistants.

REUBEN

That's great.

LUCE

I've got so much free time.

REUBEN

I can imagine.

LUCE

I've been writing. Like,
consistently. I sent my novella to
my friend who works with a
publisher. Haven't heard back.

Reuben smiles.

LUCE (CONT)

What about you?

REUBEN

Well, I don't know if Richard or
Mom have told you much. But I had
to stay with them until last week.
I just stated renting in Montauk.

LUCE
Montauk? That's so far from your
parents.

REUBEN
Maybe that's a good thing.

Luce sits at the desk. She passes Brenna to Reuben.

LUCE
Careful, just got her to sleep.

Reuben smiles at Brenna. Luce opens up her bag, showing
Reuben bottles of breast milk.

LUCE (CONT)
Do you think this is enough for the
weekend?

REUBEN
That's heaps. We only ran out once
because I was overfeeding.

LUCE
Oh. You used to do that with Ethan.

REUBEN
I know.

Ethan tugs at Luce's dress again. She lifts him up onto her
lap.

REUBEN (CONT)
Can I ask you something?

LUCE
I guess.

REUBEN
Why did you sleep with Simon?

Luce smiles.

REUBEN (CONT)
What's funny?

LUCE
I don't know.

REUBEN
You don't know what's funny, or why
you did it?

LUCE
I guess it was to hurt Viviane.

Reuben frowns.

REUBEN
Really? That's all?

LUCE
That's my best guess. I don't
really know why I do anything like
that.

Reuben nods.

LUCE (CONT)
I know that wasn't as cathartic as
you thought it would be...but I
really don't know. I am sorry,
though. What I did was gross and I
know it hurt you.

REUBEN
It did hurt me. It hurt Simon.

LUCE
I know. I'm sorry.

REUBEN
I just...I just don't understand.

LUCE
I don't either. I wasn't well.

REUBEN
That seems like a crutch.

LUCE
How is it a crutch? I'm taking full
responsibility. I'm really, really
sorry Reuben.

REUBEN
No, you're saying you don't
understand why you did it so you
don't have to confront being
selfish.

LUCE
It WAS selfish! I know that!

REUBEN
Well SAY that! SAY you were being
selfish, don't say you were sick.

LUCE
Sorry. I was being *selfish*.

Reuben rubs his temples.

REUBEN
I don't want to argue about this.
It's for nothing.

Luce is upset.

LUCE
For nothing?

REUBEN
What's the point in this argument?

LUCE
So we can talk again! And raise our
kids together.

REUBEN
Is that why you came here? To make
things better?

LUCE
I don't want to get back with you,
if that's what you mean. But
wouldn't it be better if we talked?

REUBEN
You don't want to get back
together?

LUCE
You do?

Reuben shrugs.

REUBEN
I keep thinking about when we were
going to move into that house and
live together in a place we
actually owned. It made me so
happy.

LUCE
Me too.

Luce stands up.

LUCE (CONT)
I should go. You finish work now
don't you?

REUBEN
Yeah. I do.

Luce turns to go. She hugs Ethan.

REUBEN (CONT)
How about...you take the kids this
weekend?

LUCE
Why?

REUBEN
Is that okay?

LUCE
I'd love to, but it feels like pity
from you.

REUBEN
It's not pity.

Luce picks Brenna up.

LUCE
Fine. Okay. Come on, Ethan.

REUBEN
I'll get your address off Richard
and I'll pick the kids up on
Wednesday?

LUCE
So we're swapping weeks?

REUBEN
Is that cool?

LUCE
Yeah. I literally have no plans, at
all.

Reuben smiles.

LUCE (CONT)
Can we keep talking on Wednesday?

Reuben shrugs.

REUBEN
What is there left to say?

EXT. OFFICE PARK - DAY

Late in the afternoon, Luce loads the kids into the car. She straps them both into car seats. She looks up at the office building, which blocking most of the remaining sun.

She gets in the driver's seat. The car pulls out onto the street and drives away.

BLACK SCREEN

END