Welcome to Hittyville

by

Mike Doyle
FADE IN

EXT. - PARKING LOT - DAY

JUDY, the girl from the leasing office, walks with KEVIN to his new apartment. Kevin is in his twenties, better looking than average but doesn’t care. He almost never smiles. Judy, thirtysomething, has big hair, lots of jewelry, high heels. She is professionally perky. Overly so.

JUDY
So where were you before here?

KEVIN
Upstate.

JUDY
Oh. Where upstate?

KEVIN
Danville.

JUDY
Where’s Danville?

KEVIN
Upstate.

JUDY
But I mean, what’s it near?

KEVIN
Uh, Poterville?

JUDY
Hmm. Never heard of it.

MITCH (O.S.)
Hey Judy!

JUDY
Oh, hey, Mitch! That’s Mitch. He’s kind of a mad man. He’s always at the parties. We have parties once a month at the clubhouse. They’re lots of fun. In the summer we have them by the pool. Tenants love them. Mitch usually brings his guitar. You play guitar? Or anything?

KEVIN
I play guitar a little.
JUDY
Oh. Maybe you guys could play
together sometime.

She looks at Kevin for a response. None comes.

JUDY (CONT’D)
Well I think you’ll be very happy
here. We usually get a keg for our
parties. There’s one this Saturday
as a matter of fact. Maybe we’ll
see you there.

Again, no response.

JUDY (CONT’D)
We have cokes, too. If you don’t
drink.

INT. - APARTMENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Judy enter the empty apartment and look around.

JUDY
So here’s your unit. Pretty much
identical to the one you liked.
This one even has a view to the
pool. There are lots of cute girls
here. You have a girlfriend?

KEVIN
No.

JUDY
Well that might change. You’re not
gay, are you?

Kevin squints at her.

JUDY (CONT’D)
Guess not. Don’t usually ask that
kind of thing but, you know, these
days...

Kevin continues to squint at her.

JUDY (CONT’D)
Right. Well, here’s your key. If
you need anything just let me know.
I’m usually in the office and if
I’m not there somebody else will
be. Either Pam or Judy. The other
Judy.

(MORE)
They call us Judy One and Judy Two. I’m Judy One.

I started working here first.

Any questions?

KEVIN
Nope. Think I’m all set.

JUDY
Okay. We’ll let you get all moved in then. And we hope you enjoy living here at the Hartford Arms.

KEVIN
I’m sure I will.

Judy leaves. Kevin opens the blinds and looks out the window. He sighs.

INT. - PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

ROGER shows Kevin around. Roger is middle-aged with a combover and glasses. He wears short sleeved shirts with a tie and polyester pants.

ROGER
...and here of course is the make line. Sauce is here, flour’s there, toppings are up there...the standard setup. You can probably figure it out from here.

Any questions?

KEVIN
Nope. Looks pretty straightforward.

ROGER
I tell you, your timing couldn’t’ve been better. Last guy disappeared on me and you wouldn’t think it but there’s only a handful of guys in this town can toss a decent pizza. I been doin’ it myself the past week or so and I gotta tell ya’, I ain’t one of those guys. Ain’t that right, Jill?

JILL walks by carrying an empty pizza tray.
JILL
What’s that?

ROGER
I was telling Kevin here that I’ve been tossing the pizzas this past week. Pretty bad, huh?

JILL
They weren’t that bad. I seen worse.

ROGER
She’s just saying that cause I’m her boss. They were terrible.

Well, I’ll leave you to it. If you need anything I’ll be in my office.

KEVIN
Roger that.

ROGER
What?

KEVIN
Roger...Oh, no, I meant, like, you know...Roger. Over and out.

ROGER
Oh. Oh, got it.

Roger goes to his office. Jill sets down the pizza tray and wipes her hands on her apron as she walks back to Kevin. Jill is twentysomething, attractive, dark and streetwise.

JILL
So...you’re the new guy.

KEVIN
I’m the new guy.

JILL
I’m Jill.

She extends her hand. Kevin shakes it.

KEVIN
Nice to meet you, Jill. I’m Kevin.

JILL
Nice to meet you, Kevin. You’re not from around here, huh?
KEVIN
No.

JILL
Where ya’ from?

KEVIN
Upstate.

JILL
Whereabouts?

KEVIN
Danville.

JILL
Never heard of it.

KEVIN
It’s a small town.

JILL
So’s this one.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - NIGHT

Jill and JEREMY are smoking cigarettes and talking. Kevin walks out and lights up a smoke. Jeremy is in his twenties. He’s unshaven, unkempt and jittery. He talks in a coarse, whiskey voice.

JEREMY
How’s it goin’ man? Findin’ your way around?

KEVIN
Oh, yeah. You work in one pizza joint you worked in them all.

JEREMY
I’m Jeremy, by the way.

Jeremy extends a hand nonchalantly. Kevin shakes it.

KEVIN
Kevin. Nice to meet you.

JEREMY
Nice to meet you. You toss a hell of a pizza.

KEVIN
Thanks. Not much to it.
JEREMY
You’d be surprised. Ain’t but four or five guys in this town can do it. Guess there’s one more now.

KEVIN
Guess so.

JEREMY
Ed, the last guy, just disappeared. Fucker owed me money, too.

KEVIN
Well that sucks.

JEREMY
Ah, fuck ‘im. Where you from, Kev? You go by Kev?

KEVIN
Sure. Why not. I’m from upstate. Little town called Danville.

JEREMY
Oh, yeah. Blue Rhino’s got a plant up there.

KEVIN
(surprised)
Yeah. You been there?

JEREMY
Was there once. I used to work for them. For six months anyway until I got caught tokin’ up on the job.

JILL
When was this?

JEREMY
Couple years ago.

JILL
I could use a couple tokes right now after that shift.

JEREMY
I’d help you out with that but I’m dry. Shit, whole town’s dry. How ‘bout it, Kev? Don’t suppose you brought any kind buds down with you from Danville...
Kevin reaches into his pocket and fishes out a one hitter. He hands it to Jeremy.

KEVIN
Help yourself. Just be sure to share with the other children.

JEREMY
My man.

Jeremy packs up the pipe and hits it. He exhales and relaxes.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
Kevin, you’re gonna do just fine here. Just fine.

INT. - KEVIN’S BEDROOM - DAY

Kevin sleeps in his very dark room. He is awakened by a KNOCK on the door. He slowly opens one eye.

INT. - KEVIN’S LIVING ROOM - DAY

More knocking.

KEVIN
Coming.

Kevin opens the door. It’s MITCH. Mitch, 45, is a nerd who tries desperately to be cool but just can’t pull it off. He wears denim almost exclusively.

MITCH
Hey. You must be Kevin.

KEVIN
That’s me.

MITCH
Mitch Mitchell, I’m over in 1640. Nice to meet you.

He extends his hand. Kevin shakes it.

KEVIN
Yeah, nice to meet you.

MITCH
Didn’t wake you up, did I?

KEVIN
Uh, yeah, actually.
MITCH
Out late partying, huh? I can dig it.

KEVIN
Na. Working actually.

MITCH
Working? What kind of work you do? Bartender?

KEVIN
I toss pizzas.

MITCH
Oh, yeah? Where at?

KEVIN
Pizza Bella? Right around the corner?

MITCH
Oh, yeah. Go there all the time. Hey, maybe you could hook me up with some free za sometime.

KEVIN
No.

MITCH
Naw, I’m just messin’.

So Judy in the leasing office tells me you play guitar.

KEVIN
Little bit.

MITCH
Awesome. Maybe we could jam sometime. What kind of music you like to play?

KEVIN
Just, you know, whatever.

MITCH
Solid. Solid. You in a band?

KEVIN
No.
MITCH
Right on. Hey, we got a party up at
the clubhouse tomorrow night. You
should come by. Bring your guitar.

KEVIN
Uh, actually I gotta work tomorrow
night.

MITCH
Oh. Bummer. Some other time, then.

KEVIN
Yeah. Some other time.

MITCH
Alright, well, I’m over in 1640.
Apartment 309. Just come on over
anytime you wanna jam.

KEVIN
Kay.

They stand there, looking at each other.

MITCH
Well, good to meet you. See you
around.

KEVIN
Yeah.

They shake hands and Mitch walks off. Kevin closes the door,
shakes his head and slumps off to bed.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Jill and RACHEL are smoking cigarettes and talking. Rachel is
twentysomething but acts younger. She’s attractive in a
bohemian way. A little slow on the uptake.

RACHEL
So is he cute?

JILL
Yeah. Cute guy. Kinda rough around
the edges but definitely cute.

RACHEL
Kinda like Jeremy?
JILL
Ew, no. Jeremy’s a dirtbag. I mean, I like him, don’t get me wrong. You think Jeremy’s cute?

RACHEL
Not really. Well, kinda. I just meant rough around the edges. You know, like Jeremy.

JILL

RACHEL
Ooh. Can’t wait to meet him.

Jill looks at her watch.

JILL
Well he should be here any minute.

Kevin walks up from around the corner. He looks at his watch.

KEVIN
Looks like I got time for a smoke.

He fishes his cigarettes out and lights one up.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
Morning, ladies.

JILL AND RACHEL
Morning.

JILL
Kevin, this is my roommate and our fellow co-worker, Rachel.

Rachel extends her hand.

RACHEL
Hi.

KEVIN
Hi. I’m Kevin. Nice to meet you.

RACHEL
Nice to meet you, too. So I hear you got my roommate stoned out of her mind last night.
KEVIN
What?? That doesn’t sound like something I would do. Surely there’s been some kind of mistake...

RACHEL
Yeah, right. So I guess you like to party, huh?

KEVIN
Not me. I’m a church boy. Sing in a choir and everything.

RACHEL
Please. I just hope you saved some for me.

KEVIN
Madam, I have no idea what you’re talking about. I’m just here to make some pizzas. Just want to give an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay.

JILL
Where’s your car?

KEVIN
Don’t have one.

JILL
You walked here?

KEVIN
I’m only a couple blocks away. No big deal.

JILL
How’d you get down here?

KEVIN
Rented a truck. Dropped it off at the U-Haul place up the road.

JILL
Ahh...

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - NIGHT

Kevin stands in the doorway looking outside at the rain. Jeremy walks up behind him.
JEREMY
Shit, man. It’s really comin’ down.

KEVIN
Yep.

JEREMY
You got a ride home?

KEVIN
No.

JEREMY
You want a ride home?

KEVIN
Yeah. You mind?

JEREMY
Not if you don’t mind breakin’ out the one hitter.

KEVIN
Mi marijuana es su marijuana, amigo.

JEREMY
Grassy ass. Hey, you got any plans? You wanna go grab a couple beers?

KEVIN
Sure.

INT. - JEREMY’S CAR - NIGHT
Kevin and Jeremy smoke up and crank some Led Zeppelin on the way to the bar.

INT. - BAR - NIGHT
Kevin stands in front of the juke box. TINA sidles up next to him. She is the prom queen, captain of the cheerleading squad, everybody’s favorite. She’s pretty drunk.

TINA
Whatcha gonna play?

KEVIN
I don’t know. Any suggestions?

TINA
No Woman No Cry.
KEVIN
Yeah, I already picked that one.

TINA
Good choice. What else ya got?

KEVIN
I got that one, Let’s Get It On and Let’s Stay Together.

Tina slaps his arm and leaves her hand there.

TINA
Shut up. You just named three of my all-time favorite songs of all time.

KEVIN
Huh. You have good taste in music.

TINA
Why thank you. I would say that we have good taste in music.

KEVIN
Yeah, that’s probably...

RICKY
What the fuck is going on here?

Kevin and Tina turn around and look at RICKY, a short, spoiled, abrasive prick.

RICKY (CONT’D)
I go to the shitter for five minutes and already you’re hitting on dudes?

TINA
I wasn’t hitting on him, we were...

RICKY
Oh please. You’re practically sucking his dick. Why don’t you just fuck him in front of everyone here?

KEVIN
Whoa, whoa. Lighten up, Francis.

RICKY
Who the FUCK are you?
Ricky gives Kevin a two handed chest shove. Kevin counters with a quick right jab that catches Ricky squarely on the chin. Ricky drops like a sack of concrete potatoes.

KEVIN
I’m the guy who just knocked your ass out.

Everyone in the bar stops talking and moving and looks on at the scene.

Jeremy, up at the bar, quickly digs out some bills and slaps them on the bar. He hurries over to Kevin.

JEREMY
Let’s get the fuck out of here.

KEVIN
I’m cool. I’m cool.

JEREMY
No, we’re leaving. Now.

Kevin looks down at Tina, whose trying to revive Ricky.

TINA
You better go.

KEVIN
I’m sorry. You shouldn’t let him talk to you like that.

JEREMY

INT. - JEREMY’S CAR - NIGHT

KEVIN
...I was just picking out some songs and she came over and we just started talking about music. Then that little douche bag came up and started yelling at us. Then he shoved me and I hit him.

JEREMY
Yeah, well, that little douche bag’s dad owns half of this whole town. Plus he’s the mayor. Plus he’s corrupt as shit. Plus he’s a mean-ass son of a bitch. And his son, that dude you just leveled? (MORE)
JEREMY (CONT'D)
He’s even worse. I’m afraid you
fucked with the wrong dude, dude.

KEVIN
Fuck him. What’s he going to do?

JEREMY
I don’t know. But if I were you I’d
be watchin’ my ass.

INT. - PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Kevin makes a pizza. Rachel comes over and puts up an order.

RACHEL
Need a large pepperoni.

KEVIN
Kay.

Rachel leans against the counter.

RACHEL
So...I heard you beat up Ricky Cory
last night.

KEVIN
Let’s keep that on the down low,
kay?

RACHEL
Why? You’re a hero.

KEVIN
I wouldn’t go that far.

RACHEL
You didn’t grow up here. That
little prick has pissed off
everybody in this town at least
once. Most of us a lot more than
that. It’s about time he got what
he deserves. I just wish I coulda
been there.

Kevin tosses pizza dough from fist to fist.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
You closing tonight?

KEVIN
Yeah. You?
RACHEL
Yeah.

INT. - MAYOR’S OFFICE - DAY

The MAYOR is at his desk, talking on the phone. Two uniformed police officers sit in chairs opposite him. The MAYOR, 58, is a large man in an expensive suit with a permanent scowl. The cops look like cops -- sunglasses, hats, mustaches.

MAYOR
...Turns out he left his credit card at the bar so we got his name, his address, where he works... I’m gonna send a couple of the boys over to bring him in.

RICKY (O.S.)
(through phone)
No, Dad.

MAYOR
Whaddya mean no? Assault and battery is a crime, son. Not sure if you’re aware of that. There’s laws in this town...

RICKY
Just let me handle this. I can take care of myself. I don’t need your help.

MAYOR
Hey, it’s not about help. It’s about obeying the law, Ricky. You can’t just go around suckerpunching people. This boy’s gonna get punished for his deed. That’s the way the system works.

RICKY
Dad, please. Let me take care of this. I got skin in this now. It’s personal. Let me take care of it.

MAYOR
What’re you gonna do?

RICKY
I’m gonna even the score, that’s what I’m gonna do.
MAYOR
How?

RICKY
Don’t worry about it. I know what I’m doing. You always told me to stand up for myself. That’s what I’m gonna do.

MAYOR
(sighing)
Okay, boy. Okay. Just be careful. I may be the Mayor but that doesn’t mean you can get away with just anything. Just be careful.

RICKY
I will.

MAYOR
Okay. See ya.

RICKY
Bye.

The Mayor hangs up the phone.

MAYOR
It’s alright. Apparently Ricky is going to take care of this himself. Whatever that means.

COP #1
Guess the apple doesn’t fall too far, eh, chief?

MAYOR
I guess not.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY
Kevin and Jill are smoking and talking.

JILL
You were flirting.

KEVIN
I don’t think so. We just have similar taste in music.

JILL
Flirting.
KEVIN
Not flirting.

JILL
If your account of it is actually what happened then that, my friend, is flirting. She’s a hottie, you can admit it.

KEVIN
I promise I wasn’t flirting. I was just talking to her.

JILL
Uh huh.

We used to be best friends. Back in, like, sixth grade. Then we went on to middle school. Then high school. Then she started cheerleading, I started hanging out with the stoners...

KEVIN
You still talk to her at all?

Jill shakes her head.

JILL
No. Especially not since she started dating Ricky. Ewww. God, if I had a nickel for every sleazy comment that little prick ever made...Man I wish I coulda seen it. I’d a paid fifty bucks to see it.

KEVIN
Really wasn’t that big a deal. I wish it had never happened.

JILL
Oh but I’m so glad it did. And I can assure you I’m not alone.

Kevin looks at his watch and flicks away his cigarette.

KEVIN
Alright.

He walks back into the pizza parlor.
EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

Kevin is walking home from work. He wears a leather jacket and has his hands in his pockets. It’s cold. He turns down an alley. At the end of the alley a dark figure emerges from the shadows. It’s Ricky. He points a gun at Kevin.

   RICKY
   How’s it goin’, asshole?

Kevin freezes in his tracks.

   RICKY (CONT’D)
   Yeah. Not so tough now, are you?

   KEVIN
   You’re pretty tough behind that gun.

   RICKY
   I’d rather be on this end than the end you’re on.

Kevin just looks at him.

   RICKY (CONT’D)
   So tell me this: How does it feel to know that you only have about five minutes left in this world?

Kevin continues to look at him, saying nothing.

   RICKY (CONT’D)
   Well?

   KEVIN
   I don’t think you have the balls to kill me.

   RICKY
   Wrong, bitch.

Ricky fires the gun through a silencer. The bullet hits Kevin in his left shoulder. Kevin drops to one knee. Ricky runs off.

   KEVIN
   Ow, fuck! Oh, the little fucker shot me. Oh, Jesus. Oh, Jesus. Ah, fuck!

He starts to walk toward home, cussing the whole time.
EXT. - APARTMENT PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Mitch parks his car and gets out as Kevin walks quickly toward him.

KEVIN
Mitch! Mitch!

MITCH
Oh, hey, dude. How’s it going? You wanna jam a little bit? I know it’s late but I’m down if...

KEVIN
No. Can’t. You have a cell phone on you?

MITCH
Uh, yeah. What’s up?

KEVIN
Can you call 911? I’m hurt.

MITCH
Sure. Sure, buddy. What happened?

KEVIN
I’ve been shot.

MITCH
Are you serious?

KEVIN
Yeah. I’m losin’ a lot of blood. Whoa. I gotta sit down.

Mitch notices the blood running down Kevin’s white pants and faints.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
Oh, for Christ’s sake...

Kevin picks up Mitch’s phone and calls 911.

INT. - HOSPITAL SEATING AREA - DAY

The NURSE walks up to the DETECTIVE. The nurse is old and ugly. The detective is fat and disheveled. They’re both losers.

NURSE
The patient is awake now.
DETECTIVE
Oh. Thank you. What room is he in again?

NURSE
401B.

DETECTIVE
Thank you.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin is lying in bed with his left arm in a sling. The detective KNOCKS on the door.

KEVIN
Come in.

The detective enters.

DETECTIVE
Are you Kevin Halloran?

KEVIN
Yeah.

DETECTIVE
Kevin, I’m Detective Marshall with the Hittyville Police Department. I’m here to ask you some questions if you’re feeling up for it.

KEVIN
Uh. Yeah. Sure.

DETECTIVE
How’s the wound?

KEVIN
Hurts.

Was that one of the questions?

DETECTIVE
(chuckling)
No. That was just me being concerned. I have a son your age. Hate to see this kind of thing happen.

He breaks out a small notepad and pen.
DETECTIVE (CONT’D)
So can you tell me what happened?

KEVIN
Well, I was coming home from work and...

DETECTIVE
What time was it?

KEVIN
Uh...I guess I left work at about 12:30 or so?

DETECTIVE
At night?

KEVIN
Yeah. Last night. Well, early this morning technically but...
Anyway, I was coming home, and I usually cut through this alleyway next to the Quickie Lube on Main Street to save a little time...
So I was walking through the alley and uh...uh...this guy...this guy just came out of nowhere and uh...uh...he had a gun and...uh...just kind of pointed it at me and said, ‘Give me your money’...and I said, ‘I don’t have any cash but...’

DETECTIVE
Was that true?

KEVIN
Was what true?

DETECTIVE
That you didn’t have any cash?

KEVIN
Yeah, actually it was. I don’t usually have cash. What with everywhere having the little swipe machines...

DETECTIVE
Gotcha.
KEVIN
Yeah, so, I said I didn’t have any cash and I went to get my credit cards but he just popped me.

DETECTIVE
He shot you when you were reaching for your credit cards?

KEVIN
Yeah, I just reached into my pocket to get my cards and...bam! Next thing I know I got this searing pain in my shoulder.

The detective takes all this down on his notepad.

DETECTIVE
Did you happen to get a good look at him? What he was wearing? How tall he was? Was he black, white? That sort of thing.

KEVIN
Uh, no. Not really. It was really dark at the time and, uh, he was uh, wearing a mask so...

DETECTIVE
What kind of a mask?

KEVIN
Just a black ski mask.

DETECTIVE
The ski mask was black?

KEVIN
Well it looked black at the time.

DETECTIVE
How tall was he? It was a male, right?

KEVIN
Yeah. Definitely male. I guess he was about my height. He was a good ten yards away from me so I couldn’t really tell.

DETECTIVE
Could you tell if he was white or black?
KEVIN
Uh, if I had to guess I would say he was white. Just going by the way he talked.

The detective continues to write in his notepad for a while.

DETECTIVE
Anything else?

KEVIN
No. That’s it.

DETECTIVE
Do you know if anyone would have a reason for doing this to you? Any past encounters that might have led to this?

KEVIN
Not sure. I suppose.

DETECTIVE
You mentioned your credit cards. Guess you were missing one, huh?

KEVIN
Sir?

The detective reaches into his trenchcoat pocket and pulls out a credit card. He tosses it onto Kevin’s chest.

DETECTIVE
You started a tab about a week ago at Rueben’s Bar & Grill. But you never closed it out. Mind tellin’ me why?

KEVIN
Pretty sure you already know why.

DETECTIVE
I’d like to hear your side of it.

KEVIN
Well, I was standing at the juke box picking out songs. Then this girl came up and asked me what I was gonna play. We started talking a bit and the next thing I know her boyfriend is yelling at her, saying rude things, acting very hostile. I told him to calm down, he shoved me, I hit him.
DETECTIVE
You assaulted him.

KEVIN
I was defending myself. He shoved me.

DETECTIVE
From the accounts we heard you defended yourself pretty well. People said you dropped him cold.

Kevin shrugs.

DETECTIVE (CONT’D)
So this guy who shot you last night...you don’t think it was the guy you clocked at Rueben’s?

KEVIN
Doubt it. The guy at Rueben’s was a good bit shorter than the guy who shot me.

DETECTIVE
You know, they say that attackers always look bigger to their victims. They say that the victim has a distorted perception of their attackers due to the circumstances. You don’t suppose that might be the case here?

KEVIN
Could be, I guess. Doubt it though. Like I said, the guy who shot me looked to be about my height.

DETECTIVE
And how tall are you?

KEVIN
I’m about six two, six three.

DETECTIVE
And how tall would you guess the guy at Rueben’s was?

KEVIN
Bout five six, five seven.
DETECTIVE
And you don’t think the two incidents were connected in any way? This wasn’t somebody getting you back?

KEVIN
Like I said, I’m not sure. Don’t think it was the same guy though.

DETECTIVE
And you don’t think the two incidents are related in any way?

KEVIN
I have no idea. I suppose it’s a possibility.

The detective continues scribbling in his notepad.

DETECTIVE
Okay, well, I guess that’s all the information I need. Unless there’s something else?

KEVIN
No. No I think that’s it.

DETECTIVE
Okay, well, thank you for your cooperation. We’ll be in touch if we hear of anything. And if you think of anything else, just give me a call.

The detective hands Kevin a business card.

DETECTIVE (CONT’D)
Rest up, now. Have a good day.

KEVIN
You too.

The detective leaves. Kevin rubs the business card and the credit card together as he thinks. He sets them down, sighs, and puts his head down on his pillow.

INT. - ROGER’S OFFICE - DAY

Roger works at his computer. His phone RINGS.

ROGER
Hello?
KEVIN (O.S.)
(through phone)
Roger?

ROGER
Yeah.

KEVIN
Hey, it’s Kevin.

ROGER
Hey. How’s it goin’?

KEVIN
Well. Not so good, actually. I got mugged last night on the way home from work.

ROGER
Oh dear God. Where was this?

KEVIN
This little alley next to the Quickie Lube. I usually cut through there to get to my apartment. Saves a few minutes. Anyway I was walking through there and a guy came out of nowhere with a gun. Told me to give him my money. I told him I didn’t have any cash so he shot me.

ROGER
Oh my God!

KEVIN

ROGER
Jesus. That’s the weirdest thing I’ve ever heard. That kind of thing doesn’t usually happen around here.

KEVIN
Yeah. Guess I’m just lucky. At any rate I won’t be in today. Guess I’ll be out for a while...

ROGER
Yeah, yeah. Geez. Well don’t worry about that.

(MORE)
I’m sure Tommy will be able to cover some shifts and...well, I guess I’ll have to make a few more pies...God, that’s the weirdest thing I’ve ever heard. Are you okay? I mean, are you fixed okay for money? Do you need an advance or anything? Can’t do much for you but I can help you out a little. Just so’s you can eat while your recovering...

KEVIN
Oh no, no. I’ll be fine. Thanks, though. And, you know, maybe it’s the morphine talking...or maybe it’s the fact that I nearly died last night but...well, I don’t usually get sentimental but I do want to thank you for hiring me. God only knows what kind of medical bills I’d be facing if I didn’t have any health care.

ROGER
Well, I’m sorry it’s not better coverage. I know the co-pays are pretty high. It’s not the best but I suppose it’s something.

KEVIN
It’s better than what I had before, which was nothing, so thanks.

ROGER
Yeah. No worries. Well, listen, you rest up. Get yourself all better. Your job will be here for you when you’re ready to get back in the saddle.

KEVIN
Thanks, Roger. I appreciate it. And, hey, I’m sure you’ll want to tell the girls so try and break it to them gently. You know how chicks are.

ROGER
Yeah, I know how chicks are. You over at General?

KEVIN
Yeah. Room 401B.
ROGER
Alright. Hey, take it easy, kid. We’ll see you around.

KEVIN
Yeah, see you around.

Roger hangs up and shakes his head.

ROGER
Mmmm.
Mmmm, mmmm, mmmm.

He gets up and opens the door to his office.

ROGER (CONT’D)
Hey Jill? Rachel? Could you come in here for a second?

INT. - MAYOR’S OFFICE - DAY

The Mayor is talking with the detective who interrogated Kevin.

MAYOR
Ski mask, huh?

DETECTIVE
Yes, sir.

MAYOR
Huh. Said he was about six two, six three?

DETECTIVE
Yes, sir.

MAYOR
Hmmm. Could be anybody.

The detective shrugs.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
Interesting.
INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin plays solitaire with his good hand. There’s a KNOCK on the door. Kevin looks over at his roommate, an old man who has fallen asleep.

KEVIN
Come in.

Jeremy enters gingerly.

JEREMY
Dude?

He rounds the corner and sees Kevin.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
Dude.

KEVIN
Hey, man. How’s it goin’?

JEREMY
Dude, you okay? What happened?

KEVIN
Got shot.

JEREMY
Bet I know who. Told you to watch your ass.

KEVIN
Wasn’t really much I could do.

JEREMY
Guess not. Maybe you should start packin’.

KEVIN
Maybe so. You out on deliveries?

JEREMY
Yeah. Had that crazy Asian couple around the corner so thought I’d pop in.

KEVIN
Preciate it.

JEREMY
You need anything? Want me to swing by your place and get you anything?
KEVIN
Uh, yeah. Some clothes to go home in would be good.

JEREMY
No problem. Anything else?

KEVIN
Nah. They’ll probably send me home tomorrow. Our health care’s not so great.

JEREMY
No complications from the surgery or anything?

KEVIN
Nope. Healing like a trooper. So they tell me.

JEREMY
Any of your nurses hot?

KEVIN
No. They’re hideous.

JEREMY
So it’s not like that movie I saw, Naughty Nurses Number Nine?

KEVIN
No.

JEREMY
Well that sucks. Although I gotta tell you, you’re gonna get so laid because of this.

KEVIN
Why do you say that?

JEREMY
Oh, come on.

(girl’s voice)
Ooh, poor Kevie! You got shot? Ooh, let me make it better.

(regular voice)
That bullet wound is gonna be a pussy magnet, you’ll see.
KEVIN
Doubt it very much.

JEREMY
You’ll see.

Jeremy looks at his watch.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
Alright man, I gotta book. Lemme have your keys.

Kevin points to his jacket.

KEVIN
Over there in my jacket.

JEREMY
Hey is your....

He makes the smokie, smokie motion.

KEVIN
Inside pocket. Help yourself.

JEREMY
Can you sneak out for a...

KEVIN
No. Dude, I’m so whacked out on morphine right now...

JEREMY
Oh yeah?

KEVIN
Yeah, they gave me this little button so anytime I want I can just put myself on a drip.

JEREMY
Sweet. Aren’t they afraid you’ll o.d.?

KEVIN
I think it’s regulated so you can’t. Especially for druggies like me.

JEREMY
Alright well...what apartment you in?
KEVIN
It's building 1648, apartment 209.

JEREMY
You don't have a rottweiler or anything like that, do you?

KEVIN
No.

JEREMY
Alright. I'ma head out. Take it easy, bro.

KEVIN
Yeah, you too.

JEREMY
I'll be back after I get off my shift. The girls wanted to see you too so we might all come around eightish.

KEVIN
I think visiting hours are over at eight.

JEREMY
Seriously?

KEVIN
Yeah. They’re nazis about it too. That dude’s grandkids tried to see him last night at eight ten and they wouldn’t let them up.

JEREMY
Fuck.

KEVIN
Yeah.

JEREMY
Well, shit. Guess we’ll be by tomorrow. You won’t be going home today, will you?

KEVIN
Don’t think so.

JEREMY
Alright. Well, call the shop if you need anything and I’ll swing it by.
KEVIN
Alright, thanks.

JEREMY
Peace.

KEVIN
Yeah. See you around.

Jeremy leaves.

INT. - MAYOR’S OFFICE - DAY

The mayor sits at his desk opposite the cops who were in his office earlier.

MAYOR
So according to the victim it happened last night in an alleyway next to the Quickie Lube on Main Street. Go on by and check it out.

COP #1
You got it, chief.

The cops get up to leave.

MAYOR
Oh and guys?

They stop before the door.

COP #1
Yeah, chief?

MAYOR
Don’t look too hard, huh?

COP #1
I’m sure we won’t find shit.

They laugh and leave.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Jill and Rachel smoke cigarettes and talk.

RACHEL
Is it eight yet?

Jill looks at her watch.
JILL
Three twenty.

RACHEL
Ugh. This day is taking forever.
Who’s got the late shift?

JILL
Jesse and Tommy.

RACHEL
Just Jesse and Tommy?

JILL
Yeah. Been so dead at night lately.

RACHEL
True.

JILL
That’s so fucked up about Kevin.

RACHEL
I bet any amount of money that
Ricky had something to do with it.
Little prick. I can’t fuckin’ believe it. Who goes around
shooting people? That’s insane.

JILL
 Doesn’t matter who did it, I just
feel bad for the guy. Wonder if his
parents have been notified. Have
you ever heard him mention anything
about his family?

RACHEL
Never.

JILL
No. Me neither. Poor guy.

EXT. - ALLEYWAY - DAY
Cop #1 and Cop #2 stand on the street looking up the alley.
They’re eating donuts and drinking coffee.

COP #1
You see anything?

COP #2
Unh uh. You?
COP #1
Unh uh.

COP #2
Oh well. This investigation’s done.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT
The nurse finishes taking Kevin’s vitals and leaves. Kevin looks up at the ceiling. Tears begin streaming down the sides of his face.

INT. - JEREMY’S CAR - NIGHT
Jeremy and Rachel park in front of Kevin’s apartment.

RACHEL
Maybe we should just do this in the morning.

JEREMY
Take two seconds. Come on.

INT. - KEVIN’S BEDROOM - NIGHT
Jeremy and Rachel enter. Clothes, books, pizza boxes, empty beer cans, etc. are strewn about. Rachel sits on the bed as Jeremy begins opening dresser drawers and pulling out clothes.

RACHEL
Oh my God.

JEREMY
What?

RACHEL
These sheets. Oh my God, they’re soooo soft.

JEREMY
You see a suitcase anywhere? Or a backpack or something?

RACHEL
Look in the closet. Wow. They must be like 30,000 count. This is the softest thing I’ve ever felt in my life.
Rachel begins sprawling out in Kevin’s bed. Jeremy finds a backpack in the closet.

JEREMY
Good call.

Jeremy starts stuffing clothes in the backpack when he notices a bankbook on top of the dresser. He opens it up and looks at it.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
Holy shit!

RACHEL
What?

JEREMY
He’s got a hundred and fifteen thousand dollars in his savings account.

RACHEL
Seriously?

JEREMY
Yeah, check it out.

RACHEL
Well that explains how he can afford these sheets. Mmmmm. Bet they feel great when you’re naked.

JEREMY
Let’s find out.

Jeremy starts to take off his clothes. Rachel giggles.

INT. – KEVIN’S BEDROOM – DAY

A cell phone RINGS. The room is very dark. From under the comforter, Rachel reaches down and pulls her cell phone out of her jeans pocket.

RACHEL
Hello?

JILL (O.S.)
(through phone)
Where the hell are you?

RACHEL
Who’s this?
JILL
It’s Jill! Where the hell are you?
We’re supposed to go see Kevin
before work.

RACHEL
What time is it?

JILL
Ten.

RACHEL
Oh, shit.

JILL
Are you at Jeremy’s?

RACHEL
No. No. Of course not.

JEREMY
Who is it?

JILL
Ooooh. You’re at Jeremy’s. You
little slut.

RACHEL
I’m not at Jeremy’s.

JEREMY
Who is it?

RACHEL
Shut up.

JILL
Rach, I can hear him. You’re a
little slut. I’m totally telling
everyone.

RACHEL
Would you calm down. I’m not at
Jeremy’s. I’ll explain later.
Christ, you’re worse than my
mother.

JILL
Well are you coming back here?

RACHEL
Yes. I’ll be there in ten minutes.
Christ.
Rachel hangs up.

    RACHEL (CONT’D)
    Get up.

    JEREMY
    Who was that?

    RACHEL
    Jill. We’re late. Get up.

    JEREMY
    What time is it?

    RACHEL
    Ten.

    JEREMY
    Oh, fuck.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin is playing solitaire again. A KNOCK on the door. It’s DR. PECKER, the hospital shrink. Dr. Pecker, 49, has frizzy, uncombed hair, a big nose, big bushy mustache and glasses. He has the mannerisms and voice of a man who sings songs to children for a living.

    DR. PECKER
    Knock, knock. Hello? Anyone home?

Kevin looks over to find his old roommate still asleep.

    KEVIN
    Yeah. Come on in.

Dr. Pecker enters.

    DR. PECKER
    Hi! You must be Kevin.

    KEVIN
    That’s me.

    DR. PECKER
    Hi, Kevin. My name is Dr. Pecker. Do you have a minute?

    KEVIN
    Sure.
So you’re probably thinking, ‘What’s this guy doing here? Dr. Rosenthal is my doctor’. Well, you’re right, Dr. Rosenthal is still your doctor. I’m actually a different kind of doctor. A psychiatrist, actually, and just for good measure I like to talk to people who...well, people who have had experiences like yours.

Gotcha.

So, if it’s okay with you, I’d just like to talk to you for a little bit. Is that okay?

Sure.

So, Kevin, how are you feeling about things? I’m sure you didn’t expect anything like this to happen.

Uh, no. No. Can’t say I saw this coming. I’m okay, though. Stuff happens. You know.

Right. Right. My wife actually has a coffee mug that says that. Only it doesn’t say ‘stuff’ it says something else. She can be coarse. But are you having any emotional...uh...

I guess, you know, some of my patients who have been through what you’ve been through...they have a hard time. ‘Why me?’ is a question I hear people frequently ask. Are you having any feelings like that?

No.
DR. PECKER
Well good. Good. Listen. Kevin. It’s important to know, first and foremost, that what happened to you wasn’t your fault. Okay? It wasn’t your fault.

KEVIN
Okay.

DR. PECKER
The second thing you need to know is that, hey, this was probably just a one-time thing. Okay? And just because this happened once, that doesn’t mean it will ever happen again. Okay? In fact, it’s very likely that it won’t happen again. So there’s no need to hide yourself away from the world.

KEVIN
Okay.

DR. PECKER
Okay. You seem to be taking this well. Better than most.

KEVIN
Thanks.

DR. PECKER
Yeah. Okay, well, is there anything you’d like to talk about?

KEVIN
Nope.

DR. PECKER
Okay. Okay. Well, here, I want you to take my card and, if you start...you know...having feelings or emotions that you’re not quite sure how to deal with...just give me a call, okay?

KEVIN
You got it, Doc.

DR. PECKER
Okay. Well, rest up. Dr. Rosenthal says you’re healing well so you should be out of here soon.
KEVIN
That’s what I’m hoping for.

DR. PECKER
I’m sure. I’m sure. Always good to sleep in your own bed. Are you currently employed?

KEVIN
Yes, sir.

DR. PECKER
What’s your line?

KEVIN
I make pizzas.

DR. PECKER
Oh! I love a good pizza. Where do you work?

KEVIN
Pizza Bella?

DR. PECKER
Oh, yeah. Know it well. Get take out all the time. I think your delivery guy might be smoking some wacky tabacky if you know what I mean but the pizza’s great. Best in town.

KEVIN
Glad you like it.

DR. PECKER
So, geez, guess you probably won’t be able to make pizzas, huh?

KEVIN
No. Most people don’t know this but pizza making is all in the shoulders.

DR. PECKER
Really?

KEVIN
No. But you still can’t make them with one hand. I’ll be out of work for a little while.
DR. PECKER
Oh dear. Well, do you have any hobbies? Anything you can do with one hand?

Kevin looks at him with his eyebrows raised.

DR. PECKER (CONT’D)
Okay, let me rephrase that. Do you have any means for passing the time while your recovering?

Kevin looks at him with the same expression.

DR. PECKER (CONT’D)
Yeah. Okay, here’s my concern. And this is true no matter why you’ve had surgery: The downtime can get you. Okay? People who are used to working can very often have problems when they’re not able to work. It’s very important that you find a way to fill up your days while you’re recovering. Very important. I see you’re playing solitaire. That’s a good start. I would also recommend things like crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, movies.

I had one patient who used their recovery period to watch the American Film Institute’s top one hundred movies. I thought that was a great idea.

KEVIN
That is a good idea. Maybe I’ll do that.

DR. PECKER
There you go. But just be sure to get out every once in a while, too. Okay? Maybe go out to see a movie. Maybe go bowling. I’m assuming you’re right handed, most people are.

KEVIN
I am.
DR. PECKER
Yeah, so, make sure you go out. See friends. Do you have a significant other?

KEVIN
No, sir.

DR. PECKER
I’m sure you have friends, though?

KEVIN
Yeah. Got a few friends.

DR. PECKER
Well make it a point to go out with them. You know, dinner, coffee, maybe go to a bar for a few drinks, if you drink...that sort of thing. You know what I’m saying, right?

KEVIN
I do. And it’s good advice. I’ll be sure to take it to heart.

DR. PECKER
Well good. Good. I’m sure you’ll do just fine. And like I said, if you start feeling bad, just give me a call.

KEVIN
Okay. Thanks, Doc.

DR. PECKER
You bet.

Dr. Pecker pats Kevin on his good shoulder.

DR. PECKER (CONT’D)
Take it easy, kid. Rest up. We’ll have you out of here in no time.

INT. - JEREMY’S CAR - DAY

RACHEL
Oh my God what if he knows? What if he can tell?

JEREMY
He won’t be able to tell. It’s fine.
RACHEL
We should wash the sheets.

JEREMY
If you wash the sheets he’ll be able to tell. Otherwise he won’t suspect a thing. Besides, it’s not like we did anything that...you know...we didn’t leave any...evidence or anything.

Rachel just looks at him.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
I’m just saying...it was a fairly...clean operation.

The way we did it.

Clean.

RACHEL
Yeah, you’re right. Ooh, drop me off here.

JEREMY
What for? You going bowling?

RACHEL
No, I just don’t want Jill to see you drop me off.

JEREMY
Why? Are you embarrassed?

RACHEL
What? No, I just don’t want her to know...

JEREMY
You’re embarrassed. You’re ashamed to be seen with me.

RACHEL
No. No, it’s not that. I’m glad we did it. It’s just...well, do you want everyone to know? Cause if Jill knows then everyone’s gonna know.

JEREMY
I don’t care.
RACHEL
Really?

JEREMY
Not a bit. Hell, you’re the hottest girl I’ve ever been with. I want everyone to know.

RACHEL
Awww, that’s so sweet.

Seriously, though, drop me off here. She already thinks we slept together and I hate it when she’s right.

JEREMY
Even when she’s right?

RACHEL
Especially when she’s right. Here, just pull over.

Jeremy pulls over.

JEREMY
Fine. Listen, though. I had a blast last night. You’re awesome.

RACHEL
Yeah, it was fun. I’ll see you at the hospital, or Bella’s... one of the two.

JEREMY
Yeah, see you in a bit.

They kiss. Rachel gets out. She comes back in for another quick kiss.

RACHEL
Yum.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin is playing solitaire again. There’s a KNOCK on the door. Kevin looks over to see his old roommate sleeping.

KEVIN
Come in.

Jeremy enters.
JEREMY
S’up, brah.

KEVIN
Hey.

JEREMY
Got some clothes for you.

Jeremy holds up a backpack.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
I got your hot pink thong. Figured that was probably your favorite pair.

KEVIN
It is. Thanks.

JEREMY
Yeah. How you feelin’? How’s the wing?

KEVIN
Little better today.

JEREMY
Good man. So when they gonna let you out of this joint? Six goes on the seven.

KEVIN
Hopefully today.

JEREMY
You need a ride? Dude, six goes on the seven.

KEVIN
Nah, I’ll just take a cab.

JEREMY
Do you not see that red six next to that black seven?

KEVIN
Oh, yeah. Thanks.

JEREMY
I can give you a ride. You don’t have to call a cab.
KEVIN
It’s cool. Not too far. Be a couple bucks.

JEREMY
Just call me when they’re about to let you out.

KEVIN
Don’t want to put you out.

JEREMY
No trouble at all. I’m sure Roger won’t mind. Just call me. Let me do this for you.

KEVIN
Yeah, alright. Thanks.

JEREMY
You know it’s okay to ask for help. You need a ride...or...you need somebody to help you smoke all that kind bud you got...or...you bring a chick home and she’s all like, ‘hey, do you have a friend? I’m feeling really horny’, you know, anything like that. Just let me know.

Hey. I’m there for you, bro.

KEVIN
Preciate it.

INT. - JILL’S CAR - DAY
Rachel and Jill are driving to work.

RACHEL
What are you doing? You missed the turn.

JILL
We don’t have time.

RACHEL
We got twenty minutes.

JILL
Yeah. That’s not enough time.
RACHEL
We’ll just go for a second.

Jill glares at her.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
We have time. We’ll just go for a quick visit.

JILL
You know, Rach. You knew I wanted to see him. You knew that. And still you stayed out all night, which, I’m not judging, Lord knows I’ve done it on more than one occasion. But you knew I wanted to see him before we went in to work.

RACHEL
So turn around. We got twenty minutes.

JILL
No. By the time we park, go in, find his room, sign in or whatever...no. These things always take longer than you think. We’ll be late.

RACHEL
So we’ll be late. Roger and Tommy will be there.

JILL
Yeah, Tommy’s a fuckin’ retard. He couldn’t take an order if his life depended on it.

RACHEL
So Roger can take the orders.

Jill glares at her again.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
Oh, God, Jill, I’m so sorry.

JILL
It’s fine. Whatever.

RACHEL
You like him, don’t you?

JILL
Don’t start.
RACHEL
You do. You like him.

JILL
I’m dead serious. Don’t even start.
You’re already on my shit list.

RACHEL
Why?

Jill glares at her again.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

KNOCK on the door. Kevin looks over at his old roommate, who’s asleep. Kevin looks closer. The man is eerily still. Kevin whips an unopened Jell-o cup at the man. It hits him in the face. The man doesn’t move.

KEVIN
Great.

KNOCK on the door.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
Yeah.

Door opens.

GERALD (O.S.)
Kevin Halloran?

KEVIN
Yeah.

GERALD enters. Gerald, 55, is a small man in a tidy suit. He has beady eyes and sharp features. Most people want to punch him in the face after being with him for five minutes.

GERALD
Hi, Kevin, my name is...

KEVIN
Yeah, hold up for a sec.

Kevin pages the nurse.

NURSE (O.S.)
(over intercom)
Yes?

KEVIN
Yeah, I think my roommate’s dead.
KEVIN (CONT’D)
Hello?

NURSE
Somebody will be right there.

KEVIN
(to Gerald)
Sorry. You are...?

GERALD
Names Pinsky. Gerald Pinsky. I’m a reporter for the Hittyville Times. Well, I’m also the owner slash Editor in Chief. Got a minute?

KEVIN
I already told the cops everything. You can get the story from them.

GERALD
Did you tell them it was Ricky Cory that shot you?

KEVIN
Close the curtain, will you?

GERALD
Yeah. They’ll never hear us through the curtain.

KEVIN
I’m not worried about that. I just don’t want to watch them put that dude in a body bag. Let the man have a little dignity at least.

Gerald closes the curtain.

GERALD
Now then, about your assailant.

KEVIN
I told you, I already told the police everything.

GERALD
Yes, I know. But you lied.

KEVIN
Good luck proving that.
GERALD
There was a witness. Man in your apartment complex was out walking his dog.

KEVIN
Well then, good luck to you and the witness and his dog.

GERALD
Is that how they handle things up in Danville?

KEVIN
Typically people don’t get shot in Danville.

GERALD
Do people get cold cocked in bars?

KEVIN
No. But reporters get their asses beaten in hospital rooms if they don’t get the fuck out.

GERALD
Whoa, whoa, whoa. I’m on your side, fella. I’m just trying to get to the truth.

KEVIN
Yeah, well, I’m just trying to get through the day.

GERALD
So you’re just going to let Ricky Cory get away with this? As if that little prick hasn’t already gotten away with everything he’s ever done? As if that family hasn’t already ruined enough lives in this town with their greed and their lies?

KEVIN
Look. I’m sorry if I’ve been abrupt. I’ve been shot. I just found out that I have a slight fever so I can’t go home until tomorrow. My roommate just died and my shoulder is killing me no matter HOW MUCH FUCKING MORPHINE I PUMP INTO MY SYSTEM...
Kevin angrily hits the button that releases drops of morphine into his I.V. repeatedly.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
You obviously have a beef with the Corys. I do not. I just want to recover and get on with my life. Please respect that.

GERALD
Even if it means lying to the police?

KEVIN
You have your story, I have mine. And guess what. I was there.

Nurses and a doctor enter the room. They shuffle about outside the curtain. The doctor calls the time of death.

GERALD
Okay. If that’s the way you want it. But I’m gonna get to the bottom of this. With or without you.

KEVIN
Okay. You do that. By the way I loved your piece on the cat show. That’s great stuff.

Kevin holds up the newspaper and waves it.

GERALD
Mock me if you will. It’s a small town. We have a small newspaper.

KEVIN
No, no. I’m serious. Probably win you a Pulitzer.

GERALD
Good day, Mr. Halloran.

Gerald leaves.

KEVIN
Yeah. See ya. Can’t wait to read your next article. Hey, I heard a kid took a shit over on Burton Street. Maybe you should cover that. (to himself) Prick.
Jill and Jeremy are smoking and talking.

JEREMY
I have no idea who the dude was.
Never seen him before.

JILL
What time did they leave?

JEREMY
I guess it was about eleven thirty or so. Maybe twelve.

JILL
You swear to God it wasn’t you?

JEREMY
Wasn’t me what?

JILL
When I called this morning I could have sworn I heard your voice.

JEREMY
(laughing)
You think she went home with me?

JILL
Oh, come on. Like you’ve never thought about it. I see the way you look at her.

JEREMY
Yeah, she’s hot but... no. Wasn’t me.

JILL
Swear to God?

JEREMY
Swear to God.

JILL
You’re a lying sack of shit.

JEREMY
(laughing)
It wasn’t me.

JILL
Liar.
She takes a drag and exhales.

    JILL (CONT’D)
    How’s Kevin?

    JEREMY
    Good. I’m hoping he calls later to get a ride home. Get me out of work for a little while.

    JILL
    He’s going home today?

    JEREMY
    Supposed to.

    JILL
    Well let me know when he calls, okay?

    JEREMY
    Yeah. Sure.

Beat.

    JEREMY (CONT’D)
    You like him, don’t you?

    JILL
    Course I like him. He’s a cool guy.

    JEREMY
    No but you like him.

    JILL
    Whatever. You’re as bad as Rachel.

    JEREMY
    I see the way you look at him.

    JILL
    Go to hell.

Jill flicks her cigarette butt and walks back inside.

INT. - MAYOR’S OFFICE - DAY

Ricky enters.

    RICKY
    You wanted to see me?
MAYOR
Sit down.

Ricky sits down.

RICKY
What’s up?

The Mayor fixes himself a cocktail.

MAYOR
What’s up? I’ll tell you what’s up. You got that needledick reporter Pinsky crawlin’ up my ass about this Halloran shooting, that’s what’s up. Sloppy, Ricky. Very, very sloppy.

RICKY
What? He said it was a masked guy about six feet tall. That doesn’t sound like me.

MAYOR
Oh, cut the shit, Ricky. It’s me you’re talking to. Now, look. We have complete deniability on this. Don’t worry. But goddamn it, I told you to be careful. I told you not to do anything stupid. And what do you do? You shoot a man in plain view of a guy out walking his dog. Smooth, kid. Real smooth.

RICKY
Dad, I only winged him. I knew what I was doing. I wasn’t going to kill him...

MAYOR
That’s not the point!

The Mayor throws his cocktail against a wall. It shatters all over the room.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
How many FUCKING times do I have to clean up your messes? Huh?

RICKY
Dad, don’t worry about it. I can handle this.
MAYOR
Oh, yeah. Let’s let you handle it. Cause that worked so well last time...

RICKY
You said it yourself, we have complete deniability on this. The guy’s scared. He won’t say shit.

MAYOR
God, that guy’s been a prick since we were in kindergarten. Like he’s fuckin’ Woodward and Bernstein. Really chaps my ass. Cocksucker.

He fixes himself another drink and softens up.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
You could have done it better, son. That’s all I’m saying. What he did to you was unforgiveable. So far as I’m concerned he got what was coming to him. But there’s a better way to take care of these things. That’s all I’m saying.

Beat.

You coming over for dinner tonight?

RICKY
Yeah. I’ll be there.

MAYOR
Okay. See you then.

RICKY
Okay. Thanks, Dad.

MAYOR
Yeah.

Ricky leaves. The Mayor presses the intercom on his desk.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
Ethel?

ETHEL (O.S.)
(through intercom)
Yes, sir.

MAYOR
Clean up on aisle four.
ETHEL
Yes, sir.

INT. - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Soft KNOCKING on the door. Kevin is sleeping in his bed. More soft KNOCKING. The door opens. Tina enters. She moves slowly, speaks softly.

TINA
Hello?

She rounds the corner and sees Kevin sleeping.

TINA (CONT’D)
Kevin?

Kevin wakes up and blinks until everything is in focus and he fully understands who his visitor is. His knit brows relax. He is happy to see her.

TINA (CONT’D)
(sweetly)
Hi.

KEVIN
Hi.

TINA
How are you feeling?

KEVIN
Good. How are you?

TINA
Good.

KEVIN
Who’s your friend?

He looks at the purple stuffed octopus Tina has brought.

TINA
Oh. This is Otto. I figured you could use a couple more arms so...

KEVIN
That’s sweet. Thanks.

TINA
(covers her mouth and begins to cry)
I feel so bad.
(MORE)
I feel like this is all my fault. I’m so sorry. This never would have happened if...

KEVIN
Hey, hey, you didn’t do this. This wasn’t your fault.

TINA
It was. If I hadn’t flirted with you...

KEVIN
That was hardly flirting. We were just talking.

TINA
No. I was flirting. I thought you were cute.
I still do.

KEVIN
Well, the feeling is mutual but this still wasn’t your fault. Your boyfriend’s a psychopath.

TINA
He’s not my boyfriend anymore.

KEVIN
Well that’s good. I mean, I’m sure he has a good side, I just haven’t seen it yet.

TINA
No. No. He’s a spoiled prick. Always has been. I guess I thought I could change him. I don’t know what I was thinking.

He was sweet for a little while. When he was first coming after me.

Goddammit I’m so stupid.

She pulls herself together and starts speaking calmly and evenly.

TINA (CONT’D)
That night at the bar. After you left. When he finally came to.

She gives a slight laugh.
TINA (CONT’D)

You hit him pretty hard...

Anyway, after you left he got
really pissed off. More pissed off
than I’ve ever seen him. And I’ve
seen him pretty pissed off.

Anyway, he started blaming me.
Saying it was all my fault. He
called me a whore. Threw a drink in
my face...

KEVIN
I’m sorry.

Tina shrugs.

TINA
Anyway, that was the last time I
saw him. Hopefully it’ll be the
last time I ever see him. Asshole.

She sniffs.

TINA (CONT’D)

He drags you know.

KEVIN
What?

TINA
Oh yeah. Big old drag queen. Third
Saturday of every month. Couple
towns over in Mumford. Bar called
the Tool Box. Goes by Nicky.
Darling Nicky. After the Prince
song.

I’m the only one in the world who
knows. I flat busted him one night.
It was his birthday and I went over
to surprise him. Caught him packing
up all his drag gear.

Surprise!

He totally spilled the beans. It
was like it was killing him that he
could never tell anyone...

(MORE)
I swore to God I’d never tell a soul but the way I see it all bets are off now. All is fair, as they say.

KEVIN
You gotta be kidding me.

TINA
Nope. I don’t think he’s gay. At least he’s not full on gay. Might be bi, I guess. Anyway, yeah.

KEVIN
I’ll be damned.

TINA
Do me a favor, though, and keep that under your hat until I’ve left town.

KEVIN
Where you going?

TINA
Texas. My aunt and uncle have a ranch down there. Told me I could stay there if I was willing to do a little work. Guess we’ll see how that goes. It’ll be safe, though. I got a little girl. Amber. She’s six. She’ll be safe there. We’ll both be safe there.

There’s a comfortable silence between them.

KEVIN
How did you know who I was? How did you know where to find me?

TINA
It’s a small town, sweetie. You sneeze in your car and the guy on the radio says ‘God bless you’.

(off Kevin’s look)

You left your card at the bar.
And there’s only one hospital.
And there hasn’t been a shooting here in over ten years so it got a good bit of press.
KEVIN
When you leaving?

TINA
Well. I’m currently selling everything I own, more or less. By the way, if you’re looking for furniture I can get you a deal. Then, soon as I’ve done that, I’m gone.

KEVIN
What kind of furniture?

TINA
Are you serious?

KEVIN
Yeah. I just moved here. I need a living room set.

TINA
I have a living room set. Couch, love seat, chair and a half, ottoman, coffee table, all of it.

KEVIN
How much?

TINA
I’m trying to get a thousand for the whole set. I’ve only had it a year.

KEVIN
Deal.

TINA
Seriously?

KEVIN
Yeah. Seriously.

TINA
You haven’t even seen it.

KEVIN
Why? Is it girly?

TINA
No. Not at all. It’s a really good deal. I swear. It’s in good shape. There’s a slight Kool-aid stain on the...
KEVIN
You know what, I’m sure it’s fine. I’m not even worried about it.

TINA
Sweet. Thanks.

KEVIN
Least I could do. I do need a favor, though.

TINA
What’s that?

KEVIN
I could use a hand moving it in. Not sure Otto and I can manage it ourselves. Even though we have nine arms between us.

TINA
Done.

Beat.

KEVIN
I wish we could have met under different circumstances.

TINA
Yeah. Me too.

Tina grabs his good hand and gives it a squeeze.

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

Red lights. Fire engines. Firemen. Hoses. The Hittyville Times has burned to the ground. A fireman is talking to Gerald Pinsky.

FIREMAN
Looks like it was electrical.

GERALD
Electrical.

FIREMAN
That’s right.

GERALD
That’s a damn lie and you know it.
FIREMAN
You know, now that I think about it, I’m pretty sure I saw quite a few code violations in there. You could be facing some serious fines, Mr. Pinsky. Some very serious fines.

GERALD
You won’t get away with this. You tell your boss Mr. Cory that he won’t get away with this.

FIREMAN
Now that’s a damn lie.
(evil smile)
And you know it.

INT. - JILL’S CAR - NIGHT
Jill is on her cell phone.

JILL
Yes, I’m trying to reach Kevin Halloran?

OPERATOR (O.S.)
(through phone)
What room?

JILL
I’m not sure.

OPERATOR
Hold please.

Beat.

OPERATOR (CONT’D)
What was the name again?

JILL
Halloran. Kevin Halloran.

OPERATOR
One moment, please, I’ll put you through.

JILL
Thanks.

Several rings.
KEVIN (O.S.)
(through phone)
Hello?

JILL
Hello?

KEVIN
Speaking.

JILL
Hey! It’s Jill.

KEVIN
Hey, Jill, how’s it going?

JILL
I’m alright. How are you?

KEVIN
I’m gonna make it.

JILL
I thought you were coming home today.

KEVIN
Yeah, I was supposed to but I’m running a slight fever so they’re keeping me here one more night.

JILL
How’s the shoulder?

KEVIN
It’s alright. The morphine helps a bunch.

JILL
Ooooh. Save some for me.

KEVIN
Yeah, right?

JILL
Well, look, me and Rachel and Jeremy just got off work so we’re going out to get completely fucked up. Wanna come?

KEVIN
Sure. Where we going?
JILL
Up to Spuckey’s.

KEVIN
Okay, cool. See you in ten.

Beat.

JILL
Okay, joke’s over. This is making me sad.

KEVIN
Don’t be sad, you’re going out. It’ll be fun.

JILL
I wanted to see you this morning. We didn’t have time, though, since Rachel was whoring it up last night and didn’t get home until quarter after ten. Pretty sure she and Jeremy are doing it.

KEVIN
Really?

JILL
Yeah, I’m pretty sure.

KEVIN
He was here this morning, though.

JILL
He probably came...Holy shit!

Jill catches sight of the scene at the Hittyville Times.

KEVIN
What?

JILL
The paper’s burning down.

KEVIN
The what?

JILL
The newspaper. Holy shit! There’s all these fire engines and police cars in front of the Times. Good God, look at it. Oh my God, it’s completely burned down.
KEVIN
That’s fucked up.

JILL
Yeah. Hey, I’m gonna let you go, okay? I just wanted you to know I was thinking about you.

KEVIN
Preciate it.

JILL
When you get all better you’ll have to come out drinking with us one night.

KEVIN
Yeah. We’ll do that. We’ll do that lots of times.

JILL
Cool. Oh, and, hey, Rachel and I are working the late shift tomorrow so we were gonna come by and see you before work, if you’re up for it.

KEVIN
Yeah. That’d be great. Love to see you guys.

JILL
Okay, cool. Alright I gotta go. See you tomorrow.

KEVIN
Uh huh. See you then.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL’S APARTMENT - DAY

Jill is drinking coffee and reading a magazine. Her cell phone RINGS.

JILL
Hello?

KEVIN (O.S.) (through phone)
Hey. It’s Kevin.

JILL
Hey. How you doing?
KEVIN
Good. Real good, matter of fact. My fever broke last night so they’re sending me home.

JILL
Oh. That’s great. Guess I won’t be coming to see you then.

KEVIN
Well, not at the hospital anyway. Hey, do you know where Jeremy is by any chance?

JILL
Unh-uh. No idea. He’s not here. Him and Rach are still trying to keep it on the down low. Like it’s some big secret. Did you try to call him?

KEVIN
I did but I think I just have his cell. Do you have his home phone number?

JILL
He doesn’t have one, he just uses his cell. He’s not answering it?

KEVIN
No. I tried it a couple times but...

JILL
He’s probably still passed out. We got pretty hammered last night.

KEVIN
Oh. Oh, alright. Guess I’ll just call a cab then. Thanks any...

JILL
Call a cab to take you home?

KEVIN
Yeah. They’re finishing up all the paperwork now. I’ll probably get to leave soon. He told me...

JILL
Don’t call a cab, I’ll take you home.
KEVIN
Oh, it’s no big deal. I’m only a couple blocks...

JILL
No, no, no. Let me pick you up. I want to. I want to see you.

KEVIN
Uh...okay...if you’re sure it’s no problem. I’d hate to impose...

JILL
Stop. I’ll be there in half an hour?

KEVIN
Uh, yeah. Half hour will be perfect. Thanks.

JILL
See you then.

INT. - MAYOR’S OFFICE - DAY
The Mayor sits with Cop #1 and Cop #2.

MAYOR
Hey, did you guys happen to read that article in the paper this morning?

The two cops look at each other, confused.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
Oh, that’s right. There was no paper this morning.

He laughs heartily. The two cops catch on and start laughing as well.

COP #2
Good one, Chief.

INT. - JILL’S CAR - DAY
Jill is driving Kevin home. She pulls into a parking spot in front of Kevin’s apartment.

KEVIN
This is it.
Kevin gets out of the car and opens the back door. He takes out a backpack and slings it over his right shoulder.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
Thanks for the ride. See you around, I guess.

JILL
You need a hand with anything?

KEVIN
Nope. I’m good.

JILL
Want me to make you a sandwich or anything? Do some laundry?

KEVIN
Nah, I’ll make do. I really want to just take a shower in my own shower and sleep in my own bed. Check my mail. You know.

JILL
Okay. Well, see you around.

Jill reverses very quickly and speeds off, like she’s angry or in a big rush. Kevin looks after her, his eyebrows knit.

INT. - KEVIN’S LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Kevin unlocks his door and enters. His cell phone RINGS. He picks it up off the sideboard and opens it with his chin.

KEVIN
Hello?

GERALD
Mr. Halloran. Hello. It’s Gerald Pinsky.

KEVIN
How did you get this number?

GERALD
Oh. A good reporter never reveals his sources. You’ll be happy to know, though, that Richard Cory burned down the Hittyville Times last night.

KEVIN
I heard. That sucks.
GERALD
You sure I can’t persuade you to come clean about the shooting?

KEVIN
Not a chance.

GERALD
So we’re just gonna let this corruption go unchecked?

KEVIN
Correct. Although I do have something that might be of interest to you.

GERALD
Oh?

KEVIN
Can’t tell you what it is quite yet but give me a call in two, three weeks.

GERALD
Oh, I’ll be sure to do that. And just for the record I think you’re a coward.

KEVIN
That’s fine. Sticks and stones. Good luck to you in your war against the Corys.

GERALD
(furious)
I can’t believe...

Kevin closes the phone with his chin.

INT. - GROCERY STORE - DAY

Kevin is shopping. He’s in the soup aisle looking at different kinds of soups, trying to decide which ones to buy. Rachel silently approaches him and gently rams his cart.

RACHEL
(kidding)
Hey, you jerk, watch where you’re going.

Kevin looks surprised then realizes who it is.
KEVIN
Oh. Hey.

RACHEL
How’s it going? I didn’t know you shopped here.

KEVIN
Yep. You ever tried this one?

He holds up the can of soup he’s deliberating on.

RACHEL
Yeah. It’s good.

Kevin puts it in his cart. Rachel looks at the contents of his cart: mostly ramen noodles and mac and cheese.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
Is that what you eat?

KEVIN
This and pizza.

RACHEL
Like carbs much?

KEVIN
There’s hot dogs in here.

RACHEL
God. That’s awful. When was the last time you had a home cooked meal?

KEVIN
Where do you think I cook all this stuff?

RACHEL
No, I mean a real home-cooked meal. Like with a salad, maybe some wine...

KEVIN
Oh. God. Been years.

RACHEL
Years?

KEVIN
Yeah. At least three years.
RACHEL
Don’t you ever go to your parents’ house for dinner?

KEVIN
Parents are gone.

RACHEL
Both of them?

KEVIN
Yep.

He holds up another can of soup.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
What about this one?

RACHEL
That one’s good too. You’re breaking my heart. Come over tonight. Jill and I are cooking spaghetti and meatballs.

KEVIN
Yeah, no carbs there.

RACHEL
Yeah, I know. But Jill makes an awesome marinara. Plus we’ll have salad. When was the last time you ate a salad?

KEVIN
Three years I guess.

RACHEL
Yeah. You’re coming over.

KEVIN
Thanks but...

RACHEL
Oh no, no, no. No buts. You’re coming. Even if I have to come to your apartment and drag you over.

KEVIN
Okay. Thanks.

RACHEL
I’ll invite Jeremy too. It’ll be a double date.
KEVIN
Let me guess: you’re with Jeremy.

RACHEL
Why would you say that? Because you like Jill?

KEVIN
Yeah. That’s why.

RACHEL
I know you do.

KEVIN
Whatever. Everyone knows you and Jeremy are doing it.

RACHEL
(looking shocked)
Everyone does not know. Besides we’re not even.

KEVIN
Okay. Have it your way.

RACHEL
Six thirty. Don’t be late.

KEVIN
Kay.

Rachel walks off. Kevin holds up one last can of soup.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
What about this one?

RACHEL
(trailing off)
That one sucks.

Kevin shrugs and puts it in his cart anyway. He takes out his cell phone, opens it with his chin and pushes some buttons.

JEREMY (O.S.)
(through phone)
Hello?

KEVIN
Hey. Rachel’s about to call you to invite you for dinner. Say yes.

JEREMY
Uh, okay.
KEVIN
Hey can you pick me up?

JEREMY
Uh, okay.

KEVIN
Cool. Dinner’s at six thirty so try to get to my place by six.

JEREMY
Okay.

KEVIN
We’ll have an apertif, if you know what I mean.

JEREMY
I don’t know what that means.

KEVIN
It’s a cocktail served before meals in Europe. Only in our case it won’t be a cocktail, if you know what I mean.

JEREMY
Yeah, man. Sounds good. Ooh, that’s her. Gotta jump.

KEVIN
See you at six.

INT. - KEVIN’S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tina, her brother MATT and his friend CHRIS have just delivered the living room furniture. Matt and Chris are strapping young lads. Kevin is seeing them off. He shakes their hands before they leave.

KEVIN

MATT
Yeah, no problem.

CHRIS
Anytime, man.

They leave. Tina stays. Kevin pulls out a wad of bills from his pocket and gives it to Tina.
KEVIN
Here you are, Miss.

Tina counts it.

TINA
Here, you gave me too much.

She tries to hand back some bills.

KEVIN
Oh. That’s for the guys for helping out.

TINA
Oh, you don’t have to do that. He’s my little brother.

KEVIN
No, it was really cool of them. Tell them drinks are on me.

TINA
Okay. That’s really nice. Thanks.

Beat.

KEVIN
So when you leaving?

TINA
It’s looking like early next week.

KEVIN
Wow. Your girl looking forward to seeing all the pretty horses?

TINA
Yeah. That’s all she talks about these days. That and the fact that she doesn’t have to go to her school anymore. She doesn’t like her school.

KEVIN
Well the change will be good for her.

TINA
Yeah. Be good for both of us, really. I been in this town way too long.
KEVIN
Okay if I call you from time to
time. See how you’re doing?

TINA
Yeah. I’d like that.

KEVIN
Okay. I’ll do it then.

Beat.

TINA
Well, I guess this is good-bye.

KEVIN
Yeah.

They make several attempts to hug. It’s awkward.

TINA
Here I just...

KEVIN
Oh, yeah...

TINA
Your shoulder...

KEVIN
Yeah.

TINA
If we could just...

KEVIN
Oh, fuck this.

Kevin gently but firmly grabs the back of Tina’s head and
kisses her deeply, passionately. She returns it in kind and
then some. It smoulders for a good twenty seconds, then they
pull away slowly, their eyes to the ground.

TINA
Ooookay.

KEVIN
Yeah.

TINA
Nice doin’ business with ya.

KEVIN
Yeah.
TINA
Should probably...they’re waiting.

KEVIN
Yeah.

Tina leaves. Kevin slowly closes the door behind her and leans on it for a beat or two.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
Wow.

INT. - KEVIN’S LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Kevin is sitting on his new couch playing Grand Theft Auto Four. The room is dark save for the electric blue strobe of the TV. He is transfixed by the game. There’s lots of SHOOTING and CAR NOISES coming from the TV.

There’s a KNOCK on the door.

KEVIN
Come in.

Jeremy enters.

JEREMY
S’up freak?

KEVIN
Hey, man, what’s up?

JEREMY
Sweet. Is that four?

KEVIN
Yeah. Just came in.

JEREMY

KEVIN
What time is it?

JEREMY
It’s almost six thirty.

KEVIN
Oh, shit. We gotta go.

Kevin pauses the game, gets up, painfully puts on his jacket and grabs a bottle of wine off his breakfast counter.
KEVIN (CONT’D)
Hey, dude, can you carry this?

JEREMY
Oo la la. You bought wine?

KEVIN
Flowers too. Figure it was the least we could do.

JEREMY
You tryin’ to get some lovin’ from Jill?

KEVIN
Why would you say Jill? What if I’m tryin’ to get with Rachel?

JEREMY
Are you trying to get with Rachel?

KEVIN
No. This is just the way my mama raised me. Come on, we’ll smoke up in the car.

JEREMY
My man.

They start to leave but Jeremy sets down the wine and picks up the gaming control.

JEREMY (CONT’D)
Let me just kick this hooker a few more times.

KICKING and MOANING NOISES come from the TV.

KEVIN
Come on, dude, we gotta go. We’re late.

JEREMY
Okay coming.

He presses a few more buttons then sets the control down, picks up the wine and heads for the door.

KEVIN
What’s with you and kicking hookers?

JEREMY
I like kicking hookers.
KEVIN
Lock that door, will ya?

Jeremy locks and closes the door behind him.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL’S APARTMENT - DAY

KNOCK on the door. Jill answers it.

JILL
Wow. Look at you guys. And you bought wine! And flowers! That’s so sweet. And you look so handsome.
Come on in, dinner’s ready.

Kevin and Jeremy enter.

JILL (CONT’D)
Just toss your coats on the couch there.

They obey.

JILL (CONT’D)
Rach! The guys are here!

Rachel comes out into the living/dining/kitchen area.

RACHEL
You guys are...awww, you bought flowers!

JILL
And wine!

RACHEL
And look, Jeremy, you even look nice.

JILL
He cleans up nice, doesn’t he?

Jeremy gives a “what the hell” gesture.

JEREMY
Do I not usually look nice?

RACHEL
No, you’re fine, it’s just...well, nevermind. Hi. It’s good to see you.

Rachel gives Jeremy a smooch.
Well, I guess that cat’s out of the bag.

Oh, come on, everyone knows already.

Everyone knows.

How does everyone know?

Doesn’t matter. Sit down. Get some salad. You too, Kevin.

Jeremy and Kevin sit down.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL’S APARTMENT - LATER

Jill, Rachel, Kevin and Jeremy sit around the table, post meal. They are sated and happy. A phone RINGS.

Oooh. That’s my mom. I gotta get that.

Rachel gets up and leaves.

Hey, Jill, where’s your bathroom?

Back between the bedrooms. Just follow Rachel.

Kay, thanks.

Jeremy gets up and leaves.

Wanna go smoke?

Sure.

Grab your glass. We’ll go up on the roof.

Jill grabs her glass and the bottle of wine.
KEVIN
Should we tell...

JILL
They’ll figure it out. Plus it’ll
give them some time alone. Come on.

EXT. - APARTMENT ROOF - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jill and Kevin smoke cigarettes and drink their wine up on
the roof. A high school MARCHING BAND plays faintly in the
distance.

KEVIN
Huh. Never saw the whole town
before.

JILL
Not much to it.

She points in various directions as she speaks.

JILL (CONT’D)
I grew up just over there. Lived in
the same house until two years ago.
There’s the elementary school,
there’s the middle school, over
there’s the high school. Guess
there’s a football game tonight.

Man, I gotta get out of this town.

KEVIN
Where you gonna go?

JILL
Anywhere. Did I tell you Tina
Gardner came by the other day?

KEVIN
Who’s Tina Gardner?

JILL
Tina. The girl you were flirting
with at Reuben’s. Ricky Cory’s
girlfriend. Or, ex-girlfriend I
should say. Came by with her little
girl. Her girl’s cute. I know the
baby daddy. Used to date him,
matter of fact. That was before
Tina started dating him. That man
was good for exactly one thing.
KEVIN
What’s that?

JILL
Nothing. Had some pretty blue eyes, though. We both fell for them. She fell a little harder than I did, obviously. Said she’s moving down to Texas.

KEVIN
Yeah, she told me.

JILL
(surprised)
When was this?

KEVIN
She came to see me in the hospital the other day.

JILL
When?

KEVIN
The other day. Bought some furniture off her.

JILL
You guys got a thing goin’?

KEVIN
No.

JILL
You sure?

KEVIN
I’m sure.

JILL
Cause it sure sounds like you got a thing goin’.

KEVIN
Nah. It would never work. We’re too star-crossed.

JILL
What does that even mean?
KEVIN
Just, you know...another time, another place, we might’ve had something. But not here. Not now. It’s just not in the cards.

There’s a word for it. I knew it once but I can’t think of it now.

JILL
Unrequited.

KEVIN
Yeah. That sounds about right.

Jill grows uneasily quiet.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
What’s the matter?

JILL
Nothing.

KEVIN
Seemed like you got really sad just then. What happened?

JILL
I dunno. I’m jealous, I guess.

KEVIN
Jealous of what?

JILL
That Tina’s getting out of this town. That you like her. I dunno. You got any weed?

KEVIN
Yeah.

Rachel comes through the door on the roof.

RACHEL
Hey you freaks, come on. We’re going out.

JILL
Where we going?

RACHEL
Spuckey’s. Big Underwear is playing tonight.
INT. - BAR - NIGHT

MONTAGE of photos from the night out showing the foursome doing shots, drinking beers, dancing, hugging on each other. They seem to have befriended a HOBO at some point during the evening.

INT. - JILL AND RACHEL’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The foursome stumbles in, very drunk. Jeremy and Rachel stagger off to Rachel’s bed. Kevin dives for the couch and lies there, eyes closed, face up.

JILL
Unh-uh. You’re not sleeping here.
Come to my bed.

KEVIN
Can’t. Hammered.

Jill starts to pull on him.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
No, seriously, I’ll get sick...be gross...yucky...

JILL
You can make it, come on.

KEVIN
No can’t...room’s spinning...I’ll hurl. Seriously. Just leave me here.

Jill, obviously dejected, slumps off to bed.

INT. - JILL’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jill lies awake in her bed. From the other room she hears spanking and other naughty noises as Jeremy and Rachel fool around. She pulls a pillow from behind her head and covers her face. Her body shakes as she cries without abandon.

INT. - BAR - DAY

Sad songs play on the juke box, pool balls SMASH together. Gerald Pinksy sits at the bar. He’s a wreck. He swizzles his cocktail mindlessly, oblivious to everything going on around him.
The front door CREAKS open and Kevin walks in. He sits at the end of the bar, his back to the wall. His arm is no longer in a sling.

The BARTENDER greets him. He’s a big, fat man with a beard, tattoos, and a t-shirt that’s too small.

BARTENDER
What can I getcha?

KEVIN
Bottle of Bud, please.

BARTENDER
See some ID?

Kevin shows his ID. The bartender CRACKS open a beer and sets it down on the bar in front of Kevin.

BARTENDER (CONT’D)
Three fifty.

Kevin puts a bill on the bar.

KEVIN
Keep the change.

BARTENDER
Thanks, buddy.

Kevin takes a big swig and sets his beer down. Gerald continues to swizzle his drink.

GERALD
Mr. Halloran.

KEVIN
Gerald. How are you?

GERALD
Oh, I’m fine. Except for the fact that it took me eighteen years to build a profitable newspaper and in one night it was burned to the ground by the Mayor’s henchmen.

But aside from that I’m fine.

KEVIN
Yeah, sorry about your paper. Sucks, man.
GERALD
Oh. Well. You’re sorry. Well, that makes it all better. Thanks. Don’t suppose you’d be willing to tell the authorities that Ricky Cory shot you so we could at least get one of those bastards, would you? Are you that sorry?

KEVIN
No.

GERALD
Didn’t think so. Chicken shit.

KEVIN
See? There you go again with the name calling. That doesn’t help anything.

Look, Gerald, print’s dead. Everyone knows that. It’s all about the internet these days. Hell, even the big newspapers are moving that way. Bit of advice for you: get a copy of Building Web Sites for Dummies and start up thehittyvilletimes dot com.

Can’t burn down the internet.

Gerald slowly turns his head to Kevin.

GERALD
That’s it? That’s why you wanted to meet me?

KEVIN
No. I wanted to tell you that there’s a bar over in Mumford called the Tool Box. You should go there this Saturday night. Bring a camera. Probably won’t solve all your problems but I think it will help.

GERALD
If I go there will you testify?

KEVIN
Forget testifying. You’ll never bring them to justice for all they’ve done. But trust me, this will help.
Kevin all but finishes his beer.

GERALD
Trust you.

KEVIN
Yep.

GERALD
Tool Box.

KEVIN
Yep.

GERALD
Saturday.

KEVIN
Yep.

GERALD
Mumford.

KEVIN
Yep.

GERALD
Okay.

KEVIN
There you go. I promise you won’t be disappointed.

Kevin finishes his beer, slaps Gerald on the arm and puts some money on the bar.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
Here. Drinks are on me.

Kevin leaves. Gerald resumes staring at his drink.

INT. - PIZZA PARLOR - DAY
Kevin is making a pizza. Rachel puts up an order.

RACHEL
Need a medium veggie and a large cheese.

KEVIN
Roger that.
RACHEL
Also need a favor.

KEVIN
Kay.

RACHEL
(sotto voce)
So, you know Jill’s birthday is coming up.

KEVIN
Yeah.

RACHEL
So, I was thinking about throwing a surprise party for her next Saturday.

KEVIN
Sweet.

RACHEL
Yeah. But I need you to get her out of the house for a couple hours so I can set everything up.

KEVIN
What if we’re working?

RACHEL
I already set it up with Roger. He’s going to schedule all of us for the early shift next Saturday so we’ll be off by eight.

KEVIN
Okay.

RACHEL
So you’ll do it?

KEVIN
Sure. Be happy to.

EXT. - BEHIND THE PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Jill and Kevin are smoking and talking.

KEVIN
Hey, where’s a good place to get Chinese food in this town?
JILL
In this town? Nowhere.

KEVIN
Been craving Chinese.

JILL
There’s a good place over in Dodgen.

KEVIN
You’ve been there?

JILL
Uh huh. It’s good.

KEVIN
Wanna go?

JILL
Sure. When?

KEVIN
How ‘bout Saturday?

JILL
After work you mean?

KEVIN
Yeah.

JILL
Okay.

KEVIN
You mind driving?

JILL
Figured that was coming.

KEVIN
Tell you what. If you drive, I’ll pick up the check.

JILL
Deal.

INT. - MAYOR’S OFFICE - DAY

The Mayor is at his desk, looking at his computer. The two cops stand behind him.
MAYOR
What's the address?

COP #2
Http. Colon. Forward...

MAYOR
Just give me the domain.

COP #2
The what?

MAYOR
The domain.

COP #2
Oh. Http. Colon...

MAYOR
That's the... It's Firefox, I just need the... here, give it to me.

Cop #2 hands the Mayor a small, torn piece of paper.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
Shittyville dot com. Oh that's clever. Never heard that before. It's only spraypainted on the goddamn water tower every year...

He waits impatiently for the page to load.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
Come on. Piece of shit.

Finally.

What is this? What am I looking at? Is this a fag site? What the?

COP #2
Is that Ricky?

MAYOR
Oh dear God...(reading to self)...son of Hittyville Mayor Richard Cory was in full flower at the Seventh Annual Queen’s Ball in...

His lips continue to move as he reads, though there’s a pause in the audio until he resumes...
MAYOR (CONT’D)
Ricky, whose Drag name is Darling Nicky, won first place honors with his over the top costume and his sultry rendition of “It’s Raining Men”...

The Mayor buries his head in his hands. The two cops give each other an uneasy look and try to hide their amusement.

The Mayor presses the intercom.

MAYOR (CONT’D)
Ethel?

ETHEL (O.S.)
(through intercom)
Yes, sir?

MAYOR
Ethel, get my son in here now. Or should I say my daughter.

ETHEL
Sir?

MAYOR
Ricky. Here. Now.

ETHEL
Yes, sir.

INT. – JILL AND RACHEL’S APARTMENT – NIGHT
Rachel is busy putting up decorations, filling bowls with ice, etc. A good number of guests are mingling, drinking, etc. Rachel’s phone RINGS.

RACHEL
(loudly)
Hey, everybody, be quiet that might be Jill.

The guests shush each other down. Rachel looks at her cell phone. She answers it.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
Hello?

KEVIN (O.S.)
(through phone)
Hey. She’s on her way.
RACHEL
What do you mean? Aren’t you with her?

KEVIN
No. She just dropped me off. I had to act natural and that was the natural thing to do.

RACHEL
Shit. You’re right. Guess I didn’t think of that.

KEVIN
Is everybody there?

Rachel signals to the guests that it’s okay to talk again.

RACHEL
Yeah. Does she suspect anything?

KEVIN
No. She’s clueless.

RACHEL
Good.

Beat.

RACHEL (CONT’D)

KEVIN
Yeah, I know. Take some pictures, will you?

RACHEL
Of course.

KEVIN
Thanks.

RACHEL
So you’re still coming, right?

KEVIN
Yeah. Only I’ll have to call a cab so it might be a little while.

RACHEL
Cab? What? No. Don’t call a cab. We’ll come get you. Soon as we yell surprise I’ll come pick you up.
KEVIN
Oh, you don’t have to come. I mean, I appreciate it and all but, I mean, you have to play hostess so...

RACHEL
No, no, no. No big deal. Jill can take over for a little while.

KEVIN
You could send Jeremy.

RACHEL
Unh uh. I need to talk to you anyway so that’ll give us a chance to talk.

KEVIN
What about?

RACHEL
About Jill.

KEVIN
What about Jill?

RACHEL
I’ll tell you when we talk. I gotta go. She’s gonna be here any minute now.

KEVIN
Okay. See you in a few.

INT. - JILL’S CAR - NIGHT
Rachel and Kevin are driving to the party, passing a joint back and forth and listening to soft rock from the 70s.

RACHEL
So just give it to me straight: are you into Jill or not?

KEVIN
Yeah. I am.

RACHEL
So why haven’t you done anything about it?
KEVIN
I dunno. I guess I don’t want it to end.

RACHEL
What?

KEVIN
Our relationship. I like it the way it is. I like seeing her when I go to work. I liked getting Chinese food with her tonight. I like that we’re friends.

RACHEL
That makes no sense at all. If you were going out with her you could see her all the time. When you go to bed, when you get up in the morning...

KEVIN
Yeah but...

RACHEL
But what?

KEVIN
(sighs)
It’s like this. The second you kiss a person, a clock starts counting down. It’s the beginning of the end. Might be a month, might be a year, might be five years. But things fall apart. Relationships just fail far more often than they succeed. It’s the nature of the beast. And I don’t want my relationship with Jill to end. Ever.

So, I guess, to answer your question...I guess I haven’t done anything because I really, really like her.

I like her too much to kiss her.

RACHEL
Wow. That is the most romantic thing I think I’ve ever heard in my life.
She hits the joint and exhales.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
It’s also complete and utter bullshit.

KEVIN
It’s not. Think of all the guys you’ve dated. Remember that magic feeling before you kissed them? And now how do you feel about them?

RACHEL
Hey. I’m still friends with several guys I’ve dated.

KEVIN
Yeah but it’s different, isn’t it? The magic is gone.

RACHEL
I guess. At least we had some good times, though. The memories are nice.

Beat.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
Look, dude. Jill’s been talking a lot about you. She likes you. A lot. But what you don’t realize is that your relationship is gonna change either way. Either you make a move or she’ll pull away. I’ve known her a long time. I’ve seen this before. She’ll start pulling back and getting colder and colder and when you talk to her the talk will get smaller and smaller.

Eventually things will boil down to saying ‘hi’ and ‘bye’ and ‘some weather we’ve been having’. Trust me.

You didn’t go to bed with her the night we went out and I heard about it for a week. She came home tonight and after the big surprise she looked so sad I thought she was going to cry. She was expecting something to happen tonight. With you, I mean.

(MORE)
RACHEL (CONT’D)
And I knew the second she walked in the door that it didn’t happen.

KEVIN
Well... the night is still young.

EXT. - ROOF - NIGHT
The party is in full swing. Guests are drinking and laughing. Several guests have started lighting fireworks.

GUEST #1
I don’t know who started it but it’s hilarious.

GUEST #2
What’s the name of the site?

GUEST #1
Shittyville dot com. You gotta check it out. He’s all in drag, singing, dancing.

That dude used to terrorize me in high school.

GUEST #2
Oh. He was a dick to everyone. Guess it’s because he had to suppress his inner homo. I can’t wait to see him in drag.

Off in another corner of the party people start singing Happy Birthday.

EXT. - ROOF - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS
Rachel carefully carries a birthday cake over to Jill. There are twenty-six candles on it. Jill is wearing a tiara and holding a sparkler. The crowd finishes the song.

RACHEL
Make a wish.

Jill pauses and blows out the candles. The crowd cheers.

RACHEL (CONT’D)
Who wants cake?

GUESTS
I do. Me, etc.
EXT. - ROOF - LATER

Kevin is sitting on an adirondack style lawn chair. Jill is sitting on his lap wearing his jacket and her birthday tiara. Her head is resting on his shoulder and her eyes are closed. He is much bigger than she is.

KEVIN
J’ya have a good birthday?

JILL
Mmm hmmm.

KEVIN
J’ya get your wish?

JILL
Not yet.

KEVIN
Whadja wish for?

JILL
Can’t tell.

KEVIN
You can tell me.

JILL
Unh uh. Can’t tell you or it won’t come true.

Beat.

KEVIN
Jill?

JILL
Hmmm?

KEVIN
Do you remember what your fortune said tonight?

JILL
Mmmm. Said I would be taking a trip to a far off land. Guess that fortune doesn’t know me too well. I’ve never been out of Hittyville County.

KEVIN
Really?
JILL
Mmm hmmm.

KEVIN
Huh.

Beat.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
Jill?

JILL
Hmmm?

KEVIN
How hammered are you?

JILL
Pretty hammered.

KEVIN
So if I told you something do you think you would remember it?

JILL
Mmm hmmm.

Beat.

KEVIN
Baby?

Jill suddenly wakes up and looks him in the eyes.

JILL
Did you just call me baby?

KEVIN
Yeah.

Beat.

KEVIN (CONT’D)
I need to tell you something...and...it’s probably gonna change things a bit. But I have to tell you anyway.

JILL
What is it?

KEVIN
Well...I got you a present...
JILL
You already took me out to dinner.

KEVIN
I know but...

Beat.

JILL
What is it?

KEVIN
Here’s the thing: My dad died when I was seven. He didn’t have any insurance so my mom and I had to get by on her teaching salary and checks from Social Security. It wasn’t horrible or anything, we got by just fine. But my mom swore to herself that she wouldn’t make the same mistake my dad made.

So when she passed on a couple years ago, I collected a pretty big death benefit. Don’t get me wrong, I’d rather have my mom around but...Anyway, I also got the house we lived in...So right before I moved here I sold the house and made even more money.

What I’m saying is, if I give you something big, I don’t want you to think it’s this huge thing, cause, to me it’s really not. I know that sounds kind of arrogant but I want you to accept the present I’m about to give you.

JILL
What is it?

Kevin reaches into the inside pocket of his jacket, which is close to Jill’s breasts. She’s a little breathless at first but understands when he pulls out the envelope. He gives it to her.

KEVIN
Here. Happy birthday, sweetie.

Jill opens the envelope to find two airline tickets, an itinerary and a brochure to a tropical island. She’s stunned.
JILL
Oh my God. Kevin! Who’s the other ticket for?

KEVIN
Anyone you want. Or you could sell it and go by yourself. Totally up to you.

Jill gets a devilish look on her face.

JILL
If I take you... will you finally fucking kiss me?

KEVIN
Yeah.

JILL
You sure?

KEVIN
I’m sure.

JILL
Can I get some proof of that? Little security deposit?

KEVIN
Wow. A security deposit. That’s hot.

JILL
Shut up.

They kiss tenderly. Jill smiles.

JILL (CONT’D)
I got my wish.

KEVIN
Me too.

EXT. - BEACH - NIGHT

Jill and Kevin lie on a blanket looking up at the stars. Small waves roll in gently. The moon lights the night.

JILL
Can I ask you a personal question?

KEVIN
Shoot.
JILL
Normally I wouldn’t ask this but I figure we’ve been having sex like rabbits on roofies for the past week so I figure that earns me a pass.

KEVIN
You’re right. It does. That was written into international law at the Geneva Convention.

JILL
How much money do you actually have? I mean, what I really want to know is...do you have enough to open your own pizza shop?

KEVIN
Probably.

JILL
Why don’t you?

KEVIN
Because I’m twenty-eight.

JILL
What’s that got to do with it?

KEVIN
Owning a pizza shop is a lot of work. You see how much Roger’s there. Dude never takes a day off. I don’t want that much responsibility at this point in my life.

JILL
So you could hire a manager.

KEVIN
Nah. I’d want to run the show.

JILL
So you have thought about it?

KEVIN
Oh sure. Guess I thought I would do it some day. Just not now. One day, though. When I’m ready to settle down.

Beat.
JILL
You could hire me as a manager.

KEVIN
Hmmm. Then I’d be sleeping with the boss. That’s fraught with peril.

JILL
Fraught with peril?

KEVIN
Indeed.

JILL
I got news, sweetie. You’re already sleeping with the boss.

KEVIN
You’re not the boss of me.

JILL
Am too.

KEVIN
Are not.

Jill rolls onto her side and starts kissing Kevin.

JILL
(softly)
Am too.

KEVIN
Are not.

Jill starts running her hands down his body.

JILL
Am too.

KEVIN
Ooooo.

Okay, you are.

Jill kisses him again.

JILL
But you’re my favorite employee. Probably get Employee of the Month, depending on how this goes...
KEVIN
Does that mean I get a bonus?

JILL
Feels like you already have a bonus...

...a big bonus.

Kevin smiles.

FADE OUT