

LOVE

"PILOT"

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INT. MICKEY'S APARTMENT - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

MICKEY (late 20s, bright, tough) hangs a shelf above her bed in a studio apartment. Her CAT hisses at the window.

MICKEY
(to cat)
What's wrong, Grandpa?

Mickey sees a MAN crawling through her open window.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Fuckin' SHIT!

Mickey grabs a book and chucks it at the man's head.

MAN
Ow! Jesus!

MICKEY
... Eric?

She turns on a lamp and sees ERIC (20s, scruffy, chubby) squeezing through her window. He falls onto the floor.

ERIC
Awww mama. Come here. I love you!

MICKEY
Dude, you're bleeding.

ERIC
I am?
(stares at hand, mesmerized)
Wow. That's how much I missed you. My
hand's bleeding, my *heart's* bleeding--

MICKEY
What am I looking at? Acid?

ERIC
(smiling)
Molly.

MICKEY
Unbelievable.

She walks into her KITCHEN and pulls out a first aid kit.

ERIC
Maybe I cut my hand on your fence? I had
to climb many fences to be this romantic.

MICKEY

Ring a doorbell next time. No. Don't.
Just go. You're not supposed to be here.

ERIC

I need you mama. I don't wanna break up.

Mickey kneels beside Eric to tend his wound. She softens.

MICKEY

Yeah. This week's been rough for me too.

ERIC

But me too though. All my moms and dads
miss you. Kissy?

She knows he's bad but -- fuck it. Mickey kisses Eric. He
touches her with his bloody hand.

INT. GUS'S BEDROOM - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Bedtime. GUS (late 20s, goofy, sincere) stands at the
foot of his bed doing an interpretive dance to the *Boston
Legal* theme on TV. His girlfriend NATALIE watches in bed.

NATALIE

I think this is more for you than for me.

GUS

You're welcome!

Gus crawls back into bed next to Natalie (20s, grounded,
conservative). They kiss and turn back to their laptops.

GUS (CONT'D)

When is your dad's birthday again?

NATALIE

November 9th.

GUS

Cool. I got a fun gift idea for him.
(shows laptop screen)
Some slippers that look like beagle paws.

Natalie turns her laptop to Gus. It's a WEB-SITE OF RUGS.

NATALIE

You should get a rug for your place.

GUS

Uh-huh yeah, I like that red one.

NATALIE
I liked the green one.

GUS
I was just gonna say, green's probably my
second favorite.

MOMENTS LATER: Gus and Natalie have mild "relationship
sex" in bed. They talk as they kiss.

NATALIE
I'll just get the green rug for my place--

GUS
No I like the green rug. It's a waste to
buy two. Let's buy one... *for one place.*

NATALIE
Are you--do you want to move in together?
Gus re-positions and has sex with Natalie doggy-style.

GUS
I do. Maybe get our own place? Do you?

NATALIE
Mmmmmmm... yes!

GUS
(faster, more turned on)
Then let's! Move in! TOGETHER!

Gus orgasms as the *Boston Legal* end credits theme plays.

INT. MICKEY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Mickey nudges awake Eric, snoring with a bandaged hand.

ERIC
M'huh?

MICKEY
You can't drop in like that again.

ERIC
Fuck. I texted you before I came over.

MICKEY
You texted me to meet you at a bar.

ERIC
It was a *club*. There was a DJ.

MICKEY

I can't run to you every time you text.

Eric rolls out of bed and puts on his shoes.

ERIC

I gotta go. I'm done with this.

MICKEY

Right. See you through my window tonight.

ERIC

Seriously! This is it. I love you but...
you gotta fuck off. I'm shutting you out.

He crawls OUT THE WINDOW he came in. She yells after him.

MICKEY

No! This is ME shutting YOU out!

Mickey, hurt and angry, slams her window shut.

INT. GUS'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Gus, in bed, stares at his laptop. *This is it.* He takes a panicky breath... and orders ONE GREEN RUG. The screen's message says: "EXPECT 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY..." CUT TO:

EXT. FARMLAND - EARLY MORNING

Somewhere miles away in Middle America... in a snowy field... a GIANT WAREHOUSE stands alone... silent.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Inside it's loud and WORKERS bustle with INVENTORY. A FORKLIFT turns the corner with a palette of GREEN RUGS.

We follow a SINGLE GREEN RUG as it travels down an assembly line, gets packaged in a LONG BOX, and loaded onto a DELIVERY TRUCK driving outside into the snow.

A PRE-CREDIT SEQUENCE begins and we hurtle through "4-6 weeks of delivery" in a fast TWO-MINUTE BURST of FLASHES:

INT. VACANT APARTMENT - DAYS LATER

Gus and Natalie tour an empty apartment with a LANDLORD.

LANDLORD

... and the water pressure is perfect.

Gus and Natalie nod to each other. They'll take it.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The delivery truck barrels down a highway with Gus's rug.

INT. GUS AND NATALIE'S NEW KITCHEN - DAYS LATER

Gus and Natalie, unpacking in their new kitchen, argue over a broken Kerry/Edwards '04 mug.

INT. MICKEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHTS LATER

Mickey and Eric, dressed up, come home from a night of partying (apparently back on-again). They snort coke.

MICKEY

Sit down.

He sits on her bed. Mickey straddles him for a lap-dance.

ERIC

Well okay. I'm not mad at this.

INT. GUS AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gus and Natalie assemble a bed. It falls apart and Gus gets pissed-off with angry tears. Natalie is turned off.

INT. MICKEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mickey and Eric hate-fuck and orgasm together. MATCH ON:

INT. GUS AND NATALIE'S NEW BATHROOM - NIGHT

Gus, mid-orgasm, masturbates in the tub as Natalie walks in. They argue again. The bloom's coming off the rose.

EXT. GAS STATION - DUSK

The delivery truck gases up at a pump in the desert.

INT. CLUB - NIGHTS LATER

Mickey drinks beers in a dingy CLUB with Eric and his "House of Pain"-looking buddies CURT and BRAD.

ERIC
Hey ma, can you get me some cigs? Please.

BRAD
(not looking up from phone)
Yo me too, mom.

MICKEY
Stop calling me "mom!" All of you!

INT. GUS AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gus does an interpretive dance to the *Boston Legal* theme as Natalie watches in bed. She's not amused.

NATALIE
... Do you think we rushed into this?
Gus stops dancing. He knows it's over.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

Eric and Mickey argue outside. He smokes her cigarette.

ERIC
My friends aren't bossing you around!
They're having fun. Stop being lame.

MICKEY
Fuck this shit. I'm going home. This is
done. I'm shutting YOU out.

Mickey walks away from Eric. She knows it's over.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAWN

Delivery truck exits a freeway and enters a neighborhood.

INT. MICKEY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

Mickey, heartbroken and bleary-eyed, hangs her shelf.

EXT. GUS'S OLD APARTMENT - DAY

Gus, heartbroken and bleary-eyed, drives his car with boxes of his stuff to his old place. There's a NO VACANCY sign out front and a LONG BOX leaning by the door. Huh?

MOMENTS LATER: Gus drives away with a GREEN RUG in back.

INT. MICKEY'S STUDIO APARTMENT / GUS'S CAR - SIMULTANEOUS

Mickey hangs her shelf SOBBING as Gus drives his car SOBBING. The TITLE APPEARS ON-SCREEN over Mickey and Gus:

"LOVE"

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - LOS ANGELES - EARLY MORNING

A 7-Eleven just before dawn. **CAPTION: THREE MONTHS LATER.**

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

The sliding doors part and Gus enters with shaggier hair and looking slightly sadder. He greets a CLERK (50s, female, grouchy) behind the counter.

GUS

Morning.

The clerk says nothing. Gus steps into the candy aisle.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE CANDY AISLE

Gus weighs his choices of candy, taking his time. We're no longer breezing through 4-6 weeks. We're in THIS DAY.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Gus steps up to the counter and puts down an armful of TWIX BARS. The clerk adds up the tally.

CLERK

Breakfast of champions huh?

GUS

Yeah, not too healthy, I guess.

CLERK

My son eats just like you. He's 17. Ick!

GUS

I know. It's gross. It's bad. I'm bad.

CLERK

How old are you? Someone your age knows better than to eat candy for breakfast. I bet your parents are real proud of you--

MICKEY (O.S.)
Jesus Christ, lay off the guy.

REVEAL: Mickey is waiting behind Gus in line. Butting in.

CLERK
Pardon?

MICKEY
Don't shame this guy. I don't see any
fresh produce sections. Fuck, people come
here for tobacco and lotto tickets. Your
slogan should be "No Judgments."

CLERK
Well he's not complaining.

MICKEY
Hey fella. How'd this lady make you feel?

GUS
Um. I dunno? Like a weirdo.

MICKEY
It's okay if you're a weirdo.

Mickey and Gus lock eyes. And hold. Strangely touched.

CLERK
That's \$6.78.

Gus puts down some cash and backs away. The doors slide
open. Gus watches Mickey address the clerk.

MICKEY
I'll have a pack of cigarettes and some
lotto tickets too.

The clerk scowls at Mickey. The doors slide shut. Mickey
looks over... and Gus has vanished.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Mickey drives off in her car, as Gus drives away in the
other direction. The sun rises. **CAPTION: "MORNING"**.

EXT. SATELLITE RADIO BUILDING - MIDTOWN - MORNING

Mickey pulls into a high-rise's UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT.

INT. SATELLITE RADIO STUDIO - MORNING

DR. GREG (late 40s, satellite radio host) sits at a microphone with headphones on, listening to a CALLER.

CALLER (O.S.)

-- and it's like, there's times where I just think, "Ok, am I being used here?"

DR. GREG

Uh-huh, uh-huh. Well you know there's a saying I like and it's "we choose to be used." Isn't that true?

CALLER (O.S.)

Wow. That's so true.

DR. GREG

I like that saying. It's a good saying.

REVEAL: Mickey is seated next to Dr. Greg with a stack of note-cards. She gives him the "time" signal. He nods.

DR. GREG (CONT'D)

Well thanks for calling. Unfortunately we have to wrap up this morning's edition of "Love is Blind." I'm Dr. Greg Blind. Stay tuned for "Pat's Reflections" here on The Self Network, satellite radio's official advice station. *"You listen but we hear."*

The song "We Gotta Love Thang" kicks in. Mickey waits patiently, holding a glass of water out for Dr. Greg.

BOARD ENGINEER (O.S.)

We're clear.

Dr. Greg takes the glass of water from her and chugs it.

MICKEY

Great show, Dr. Greg.

DR. GREG

You can't use orange marker on these cards anymore. Under these lights? On these cards? It's unreadable. I thought that said "blister." This is basic associate producer stuff. Understand?

MICKEY

Totally. No orange. I realized that halfway through. Won't happen again.

She re-fills Dr. Greg's glass with water from her bottle.

DR. GREG
(winks, smiles)
Alright, I'll stop being annoying. Let's
do the post-mortem in my office.

INT. DR. GREG'S OFFICE - LATER

Mickey sits across from Dr. Greg at his desk in a glass
walled office. Outside is a variety of STATIONS' STUDIOS.

DR. GREG
We have to get rid of that engineer. I'll
call Rob in HR. Does that make me evil?

MICKEY
No! Please. This is a business.

DR. GREG
Can you call Rob for me? Never mind, I'll
do it. If you do it, Rob will think I'm a
pussy. Get him on the phone for me and
then I'm taking off for the day.

Mickey collects her things and heads for the door.

DR. GREG (CONT'D)
And for tomorrow, do me a favor and write
up a list of topic ideas. Let's say 15.

MICKEY
On it. You see those ones I gave you?

DR. GREG
Yeah. Some were ok but a lot of that
stuff-- poly-amorous love, sadomasochism--
ehh, that's not really what our listeners
want to hear on their drives to work.

MICKEY
Really? I just figured since the show's
big message is "love who you are" that'd
include being open to the different ways--

DR. GREG
Hey you might be ok with it, your friends
might be ok with it, but our listeners
aren't and I'm not. Question! What's a
good band to workout to? Something new.

MICKEY
I dunno. The Monkees?

DR. GREG

Haha! You're the best, Mickey. On second thought, call Rob for me? Thanks!

She forces a smile on her way out. Strange guy. CUT TO:

INT. GUS'S NEW BEDROOM - MORNING, MEANWHILE

Gus sleeps in a bed covered with Twix wrappers and self-help books. A FRISBEE hits Gus's window and wakes him up.

INT. GUS'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Gus in PJs walks through a PRE-FURNISHED TEMPORARY-LIVING APARTMENT (a'la The Oakwood). The only thing *not* pre-furnished is his GREEN RUG. He slides open a glass door--

EXT. GUS'S BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

--and steps out onto a balcony and picks up a Frisbee. Some COLLEGE KIDS (two guys, two girls) yell from below.

COLLEGE GUY

Hey can you toss our Frisbee down? Sorry!

GUS

Sorry? You kidding? Who cares? Have fun.

Gus throws the Frisbee back to them. Poorly.

GUS (CONT'D)

You're all up early.

COLLEGE GUY #2

We haven't gone to sleep yet!

GUS

Ok. Fun. Yeah. I was up late too. What's the special occasion?

COLLEGE GIRL

We go back to college tomorrow.

GUS

You're on spring break?

COLLEGE GUY

Study abroad.

GUS

In Los Angeles?

COLLEGE GUY #2

Uh-huh. I was an intern at Animal Planet.

GUS

Cool. Very familiar, yes.

COLLEGE GUY

So our college puts us up at The Springwood for a semester.

COLLEGE GIRL #2

Since this shit-hole is, like, one step up from a dorm room.

COLLEGE GIRL

Haha yeah, I'll miss all the drug dealers and child actors and sad divorcees here.

GUS

(a little wounded)

Haha yeah, I'm just here on business. But I'll let you get back to your Frisbeeing.

COLLEGE GUY

Well hey man, we'll be here all night partying. Drop by. We got booze and weed!

GUS

Alright then! Work-time for me. You all have fun now. Stay safe, you goofs!

Gus backs up into his apartment. CUT TO:

MICKEY AND GUS'S DAILY MORNING ROUTINE SEQUENCE:

Mickey and Gus do their separate MORNING ROUTINES...

... Gus, in his pre-furnished apartment, takes a shower and eats cereal while watching a true-crime show.

... Mickey, finishing her graveyard shift at the radio station, leaves work as most other employees arrive.

... Gus drives through THE SPRINGWOOD, a depressing living community behind GRIFFITH PARK and exits the gate.

... Mickey, in her car, grabs a FLASK from the glove box and takes a pull. She drives out of the underground lot.

... Gus drives his car onto a STUDIO BACK-LOT, as Mickey parks her car outside a DINER.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - MEANWHILE

Mickey eats breakfast with her friends SOPHIE, ELLIOT and MEGAN (cool kids; all with bed-head). Mickey eats bacon.

MICKEY

-- and it's like, I think listeners *do* want to hear about S&M in the morning. Who's against getting horny before work?

SOPHIE

Are you drunk?

MICKEY

A little.

ELLIOT

Kind of early in the day, isn't it Chief?

MICKEY

Dude, I work a night shift. So for me, this right now is like 5 P.M.

MEGAN

So what do you do when it's 5 P.M.?

MICKEY

I drink.

(everybody laughs)

But fuck, these graveyard shifts have been killing me. I can't fall asleep when the sun's up. It's bugging me out.

SOPHIE

You want a sleeping pill?

MICKEY

Like what? Ambien? Nah. I took one once and I woke up having to apologize to everyone in my life.

MEGAN

I remember that night.

MICKEY

And yet, I don't.

They laugh again. Mickey munches on some more bacon.

INT. BOY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A BOY reads comics on his bed. His SISTER barges in.

BOY

Doesn't anyone knock in this family?

SISTER

Dad's gonna kill you when he finds out
you took his Temlar crystals to school.

BOY

I didn't take dad's Temlar crystals--

She dumps out PURPLE, GLOWING CRYSTALS from his backpack.

BOY (CONT'D)

Ok I *borrowed* 'em! What could go wrong?

They look over and see a DONKEY in a SORCERER'S ROBE.

SISTER AND BOY

Grandma?!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Aaaaand *CUT!*

An ASSISTANT DIRECTOR steps into the bedroom, which we
reveal is a SET for a *Wizards of Waverly*-like kids show.

ASST. DIRECTOR

Ok we're moving on to the Space Cube set.
Let's get the donkey to his trainer and
the kids to their TUTOR.

Gus, in the TV STUDIO, gathers his tutoring materials.

INT. CLASSROOM TRAILER - MORNING

Gus stands in front of two child actors CREEDANCE and
ARYIA (from before, both age 11) seated at desks inside a
small trailer-turned-CLASSROOM. Gus points at a map.

GUS

So what mountain range is this?

ARYIA

The Rocky Mountains.

GUS

Yep. The ol' Rockies. See that Creedance?

CREEDANCE

How old do you think that donkey is?

GUS

C'mon buddy. Focus. Ten more minutes and
no more class until Monday, okay?

CREEDANCE

Is the donkey my age?

ARYIA

Grow up! It's just a donkey. We had one on-set last season.

CREEDANCE

Shut up, Aryia!

GUS

Whoa. Easy. Ok. No more talking. Learning starts... NOW.

MINUTES LATER: Gus and the kids are deep in conversation.

ARYIA

So do you and Natalie even talk anymore?

GUS

Kind of. Not really. It's complicated. And I'm not saying that because you're kids. I'd say that to any of my friends.

CREEDANCE

Are you two moving back in together?

GUS

Probably not. Why? You think we should?

ARYIA

No. You need time alone.

GUS

Yeah. Time alone would probably be good.

The door opens. A PRODUCTION ASSISTANT pops in her head.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Aryia. Creedance. Back to set.

GUS

Okay you got me this time kids, but we finish this chapter on Monday. For reals.

EXT. DINER - MEANWHILE

Mickey and Sophie walk to their cars post-breakfast.

SOPHIE

So hey you want some sleeping pills?

MICKEY

What are you, my dealer?

SOPHIE

Yes. I run an Ambien Empire. *I'm a li'l sleepy Scarface.* So what's keeping you up? Eric still texting all the time?

MICKEY

No. He stopped. Finally. And all it took was two agonizing months of ignoring him.

SOPHIE

Well that's great. Good for you.

MICKEY

Yeah but now he's stopped texting and there's nothing left to ignore. It makes me sad-- it makes me sad I'm sad. I thought I was doing better.

SOPHIE

You are. This is just residual bullshit. All of this proves you're over him.

MICKEY

I guess. Still. Okay gimme pills already.

EXT. STREET INTERSECTION - DAY, LATER

Mickey, driving from the diner, stops at a red light. Across from her, Gus, driving from work, also stops. The light turns green. The two pass unnoticed. **CAPTION: "DAY"**

EXT. AIRPORT PARKING STRUCTURE - DAY

Gus parks in an AIRPORT PARKING STRUCTURE.

INT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

Gus waits at a BAGGAGE CAROUSEL with his friends NICK (bro-ish) and MANNY (big pussycat). They're all laughing.

NICK

Holy shit, this old guy next to us on the plane was hilarious. He kept telling us dirty jokes that always ended with a guy getting his dick cut off or something.

GUS

Haha. That old guy is my new best friend.

MANNY

Hey man, thanks for picking us up. I know it was a tight squeeze with your job and--

GUS

Nah. Happy to do it. I missed you dudes.

NICK

We missed you too buddy. It was awesome getting out of the city for a week. How was your big move out of The Springwood?

GUS

It's funny. It didn't end up happening.

NICK

That one-bedroom fall through?

GUS

Kinda. There just wasn't enough time to move all my stuff out of me and Natalie's place. So.

NICK

So you're at Springwood another month?

GUS

One more month. Then I'm out. Really.

NICK

Just go over to Natalie's and grab your stuff. We'll help. Natalie won't care.

GUS

Yeah I dunno. I mean we only lived there for a few weeks so... maybe we need more time. Like what if we get back together?

Manny and Nick exchange concerned glances. Silence. Gus points at a suitcase passing by on the carousel.

GUS (CONT'D)

... Is that your suitcase?

NICK

No.

MANNY

No.

EXT. MICKEY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Mickey parks her car and walks up to a beautiful HOUSE --

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

-- and into its BACKYARD where a small BUNGALOW resides.
REVEAL: Mickey's studio apartment is a guest-house behind her landlady's home. Mickey realizes she's locked out.

MICKEY

Shit.

Mickey peers over at her landlady's house.

INT. GUS'S CAR - MEANWHILE

Gus drives with Nick riding shotgun and Manny in back. They sing along to the radio.

GUS

So you two had a fun vacation?

MANNY

Yeah, I mean, at first I was nervous about travelling with Nick's parents because I didn't know if they'd like me--

NICK

C'mon, my parents love you.

MANNY

I love them too. But you know.

NICK

Well I didn't tell you, but on our first day in Oahu, my dad pulled me aside and said "Me and your mom really love Manny."

MANNY

Really? Aw. That's cool.

Nick reaches back and takes Manny's hand. They have a sweet couple moment. Gus, missing Natalie, gets jealous.

GUS

So happy for you guys.

MANNY

Should we tell Gus?

NICK

Yeah. You want to or should I?

MANNY

You do it.

GUS

What's going on?

NICK

Dude, Manny and I are getting married!

GUS

Whoa! Ok! Congrats! Wow.
 (very overwhelmed)
 SO HAPPY for you. My two best friends!

MANNY

I had no idea he was going to propose.

NICK

Me neither. But there we were in Hawaii
 with my family and it just seemed right.

MANNY

The wedding's next summer.

GUS

(eyes filling with tears)
 Like I said. SO HAPPY for you two.

NICK

Aw buddy. You okay?

GUS

I'm great! Such happy, HAPPY news. Y'know
 I always imagined this summer would be
 when me and Natalie would get married...

Gus's hands begin to SHAKE. He GASPS for breath.

NICK

Fuck. Is this a panic attack? Pull over.

GUS

Don't be nuts. There's no need to-- *acck!*

Gus's arms freeze against his chest and his hands come
 off the wheel. The car SWERVES. They all SCREAM!

EXT. FREEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Gus has a panic attack next to his car on the side of the
 freeway. Nick and Manny watch over him.

MANNY

We shouldn't have told you at the wheel.

INT. LANDLADY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A back-door creaks open. Mickey sneaks in her landlady's
 house and tiptoes into the kitchen. She scans a key rack.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

.... Are you robbing me?

Mickey whips around and sees her landlady DANIELLE (mid-60s, cool but kind of batty) behind her, drinking tea.

MICKEY

Danielle! Hi. Sorry, I locked myself out. Usually I keep a spare under my mat but--

DANIELLE

I took it. I didn't want any intruders to get in. That's the first place they look.

MICKEY

Ah. Ok. Maybe next time, give a heads up--

DANIELLE

You don't want another intruder breaking into your place, right?

MICKEY

Right. Yes. To be fair, he wasn't really an intruder. More like my boyfriend.

DANIELLE

Well, I got that bill for the damages to my fence, if you can give it to him.

MICKEY

Y'know what? I'll pay it. He and I aren't really talking anymore.

DANIELLE

Huh. That's why it's been so quiet.

EXT. FREEWAY - MEANWHILE

Gus works through his panic attack on the side of the freeway with Nick and Manny. Cars speed by and honk.

GUS

Seriously guys. Happy news. Ignore this.

NICK

Look man, I know you don't want to hear this right now, but you need to get the fuck out of The Springwood. Your heart is broken, I respect that, but I've never seen you so freaked out. Even back in college. And I'll give you the same advice I gave you then. *Get fucked up. Go wild. Get laid.* Every girl you hook up with, you end up dating for 5 years. Just loosen up for once! Why torture yourself when you can be stupid and have fun?

GUS

I have fun! I'm not sad. I'm *melancholy*!
I'm feeling my feelings! God, you sound
just like ARYIA from work! This is when I
should be taking care of myself most. I
can't just start living recklessly now!

Gus steps in traffic mid-panic-attack to get in his car.

INT. MICKEY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

Mickey closes her curtains and collapses onto the bed.
She takes out Sophie's sleeping pills but puts them back.

MICKEY

Fuck it.

She shrugs and pops a pill. And *one more* to be safe.

EXT. SPRINGWOOD TEMPORARY HOUSING COMPLEX - DUSK

Gus drives back home through The Springwood as the sun
sets. Hordes of COLLEGE STUDENTS party in the courtyard.

EXT. SPRINGWOOD PARKING LOT - DUSK

Gus walks up to some COLLEGE DUDES watching an AMBULANCE.

GUS

Whoa. What happened?

COLLEGE DUDE

Some old lady died. One of the tenants
told us she fell in the shower and I
guess the water kept running on her body
for like a week so when the neighbors
found her, the bathtub was full of mush.

GUS

(eyes welling up)

Jesus! Why? Why are you--?! Don't tell me
these things! That's very-- fuck you man.

COLLEGE DUDE #2

See dude, I told you it was gross!

COLLEGE DUDE

You told me to tell him!

EXT. SPRINGWOOD APARTMENT BUILDING - DUSK

Gus, raw and emotional, opens the door to his building.
He stops. His hands SHAKE. He feels another PANIC ATTACK--

--until he sees the COLLEGE PARTY raging in a COURTYARD.
He walks toward the LIGHTS AND COLORS... MATCH ON:

INT. MICKEY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - DUSK

Mickey lays in bed, wide awake, lightly TRIPPING on the
LIGHTS and COLORS forming on her walls from the Ambien.

MICKEY

Awww shiit.

Mickey hears vibrating and picks up her phone. Her
Ambiened-out eyes fixate on a text from Eric:

ERIC'S TEXT

*"Wanna meet at Bliss House tonight? 3294
Wilton. Miss you Mickey."*

MICKEY

Awwwww ssshiittt!

EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

The sun sets over L.A. **CAPTION: "NIGHT"**. CUT TO:

EXT. SPRINGWOOD COURTYARD - NIGHT

Gus walks around the OUTDOOR PARTY, taking it in and
feeling out of place. Hordes of COLLEGE KIDS drink,
dance, and go wild. He starts to exit, when he hears:

COLLEGE GUY #1 (O.S.)

Look! Our buddy from the balcony!

Gus sees the 4 Frisbee-playing college kids from before.

COLLEGE GUY #1 (CONT'D)

Dude, you dropped by! That's awesome!

GUS

Oh. Yeah. Thanks. I heard the music and
I, uh-- I'm Gus by the way.

COLLEGE GUY #2

Gus! I'm Chris. This is Nate.

COLLEGE GIRL #1
I'm Hailey.

COLLEGE GIRL #2
Reese.

NATE
You get a drink yet man?

GUS
No, I don't-- I'm not a drinker.

NATE
Right on. We've met lots of folks at The Springwood who just got out of rehab.

GUS
No I mean, I've never been a big drinker.

Nate pushes a RED CUP OF BEER into Gus's hand.

NATE
Fuck! Tonight you will be! Bottoms up!
Nate and the gang chug. Gus takes a small sip.

INT. MICKEY'S STUDIO APARTMENT

Mickey lays in bed, staring at Eric's text with AMBIEN VISION. The phone's colors THROB and SMEAR. She debates text-ing him back, when Mickey gets a call from Sophie.

MICKEY
Sophie. My girl.

SOPHIE (O.S.)
Shit. I was calling to see if you fell asleep. I realize now that's a bit of a Catch-22.

MICKEY
I'm awake. Your pills didn't work. I mean I feel a li'l sleepy but... (*trails off*)

SOPHIE (O.S.)
... Micks? You still there?

MICKEY
You heard of this club The Bliss House?

SOPHIE (O.S.)
Um, I've been there a couple times. Why?

MICKEY

Eric texted me to meet him there.

SOPHIE (O.S.)

What a loser.

MICKEY

You think I should go?

SOPHIE (O.S.)

No! You hate Eric. Plus, you sound super drugged up. Go to sleep now. And please, promise me you won't meet up with Eric.

MICKEY

I promise, I promise, I promise. Bye.

She hangs up and instantly texts Eric.

MICKEY'S TEXT

"See u soon!"

Mickey jumps out of bed and starts to get ready.

INT. MICKEY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

We see Mickey in a BIZARRE, DRUGGED-UP version of the "GETTING SEXY FOR THE CITY" montage...

... styling herself in cracked-out clothes and make-up while eating spoonfuls of peanut butter

... listening to two music players at once while Skypeing with a friend, running an iron, and pre-heating an oven

... gulping a cup of coffee before checking herself in the mirror and stepping outside with a TV at full volume

EXT. THE SPRINGWOOD COURTYARD - NIGHT

Gus dangles his feet in the pool with his new friends Chris, Nate, Hailey and Reese as the party rages on around them. Gus is veeeerrry loosened up.

NATE

How you feeling buddy?

GUS

So geeeee. Good. Geed.

HAILEY

Are you drunk? You high?

GUS
Yes... and... yes.

CHRIS
When did he smoke pot?

NATE
By that table. When we got more drinks.

REESE
Have you smoked pot before?

GUS
No. Also a pill.

NATE
You took a pill?

GUS
Thanks. I've never been WASTED!!!

HAILEY
Are you okay? Do you feel alright?

GUS
I feel *great*. Genuinely. My buddy Nick was right. I just needed to loosen up. This whole time I've been at Springwood, I've had this, like, feeling in the pit of my stomach y'know? Like that feeling you get at night when you think there's a killer inside your house and he's coming down the hallway to kill you so you just sit there waiting in terror? The Dread, I call it. I've felt it my whole life but at Springwood, The Dread is inescapable.

The college kids look at each other, not knowing what to say. An ANGRY MAN yells at a BIG GROUP around the pool.

ANGRY MAN
Hey! QUIET! Families live here! This is a living community, not Fort Lauderdale!

Gus stands up and yells at the Angry Man.

GUS
Hey MUMMY! Maybe we're just young people celebrating this one special moment in our lives before we fucking slip in a shower and turn to mush because no one we love is around to save us! FUCK YOURSELF!

The Angry Man backs away and the college kids cheer.

GUS (CONT'D)

Don't let me forget this feeling! I love you all!

Gus drunkenly hugs his new friends by the pool.

INT. BLISS HOUSE LOBBY - NIGHT

Mickey steps into the Bliss House's crowded, ornate LOBBY. She scans the crowd and texts Eric.

MICKEY'S TEXT

"At Bliss House. U here?"

Mickey straightens out her AMBIEN VISION to take in the lobby, filled with people of ALL AGES in CONSERVATIVE clothes. *Definitely not a club. More like a church.*

Mickey grabs a STRANGER by the arm.

MICKEY

Excuse me, where am I?

STRANGER

The Bliss House.

(smiles)

Is this your first time? Welcome.

Mickey backs away for the door-- *when she steps into Eric looking more cleaned-up and happier.* He hugs Mickey.

ERIC

Mickey! I'm so glad you came!

MICKEY

Yeah. This bar's fucking weird.

ERIC

This isn't a bar. Have you never heard of Bliss House?

MICKEY

What is it, like a night club?

ERIC

No. I like to think of it as a church for all churches. This midnight service is the best one. You'll love it.

MICKEY

Shit, I can't-- I have to get up early in a couple days.

Eric takes Mickey's hand and guides her into...

INT. BLISS HOUSE HALL - CONTINUOUS

... a LARGE HALL, with 120 or so people seated auditorium style. Eric guides Mickey to their seats.

ERIC
Best seats in the house.

They sit down. Mickey looks down at a STAGE in the CENTER of the hall, theatre-in-the-round-style.

MICKEY
So this is your new jam huh?

ERIC
I know it might seem strange, but I felt the same way when I first came. But for once, *I'm happy now* and I guess I just wanted to share that happiness with you.

MICKEY
I can respect that. Let's do it up.

Mickey tries to sober herself up as HOUSE LIGHTS lower. NEW AGE MUSIC plays and CLERGY in COLORED ROBES enter.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Uh-oh.

MICKEY AND GUS'S MASS GATHERINGS SEQUENCE:

We see Mickey witness a MIDNIGHT SERVICE at BLISS HOUSE as Gus PARTIES at THE SPRINGWOOD in peak fucked-up mode:

... Gus loses himself on the dance-floor, as Mickey warms up to the CHURCH CHOIR's music and joins in singing

... Gus shares a joint with Reese, as Mickey gets swept up and raises her arms in unison with the CONGREGATION

... Gus and Hailey make out as Mickey stares at a GLOWING ALTAR (and has a momentary religious experience)

... Mickey and Gus SYNC UP in their individual moments of LOSING THEMSELVES to JOY and ECSTASY: Mickey prays, as Gus and other semi-naked PARTY-GOERS jump into the pool.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPRINGWOOD BUILDING - LATER

SPRINGWOOD SECURITY clears out the party and sends people home. Gus walks with his new friends, wet and giddy.

GUS

Oh my god, how fun was that?!

NATE

You're a fucking maniac.

GUS

You guys are a fucking maniac.

CHRIS

Alright, I have to pack. Hailey. Reese.
See you on the airport shuttle?

REESE

Uck. Yes. In four hours.

HAILEY

I'm sleeping all the way back to Boston.

Nate and Chris high-five Gus, and go into the building.

REESE

What about you Gus? Up to anything now?

GUS

Uhhh yeah. Sawing. Some. Logs.

HAILEY

You want to help me and Reese pack?

Gus is speechless.

INT. BLISS HOUSE HALL - MEANWHILE

The choir stops singing. Mickey drips with sweat and smiles. A high-ranking ELDER speaks from the stage.

ELDER

Before we adjourn into this good night,
let us welcome our newcomers. Rise.

The congregation claps. Eric encourages Mickey to stand. She stands up and politely smiles to people, bugging out.

ELDER (CONT'D)

Now, please newcomers, step down and join
me now to be baptized.

A few NEWCOMERS start walking down the aisles to the center stage. Eric nudges Mickey. She shakes her head no.

ERIC

C'mon. I saw how much you loved it.

MICKEY

... Fuck it.

Mickey squeezes by a row of people and walks down to the center stage-in-the-round. She's freaking out.

INT. HAILEY AND REESE'S SPRINGWOOD APT. - NIGHT

Gus sits on a bed as Hailey and Reese pack suitcases. They're all out of their wet clothes and in towels.

GUS

Crazy. Your place is identical to mine.

HAILEY

It sucks we have to fly back. We wanna move to L.A. after college.

REESE

We never did anything fun while we were here. We had these wild plans-- oh god.

GUS

Like what? Six Flags?

REESE

No. Like-- (laughs)-- never mind.

HAILEY

We wanted to have a three-way.

REESE

Hailey! You shit! Oh my god.

HAILEY

Just while we were in L.A. because all the guys at our school are fucking dorks. Have you ever had a three-way?

GUS

... Me? I thought you were asking Reese.

HAILEY

No, I know Reese hasn't. Have you?

GUS

Trying to remember. Hmm I don't think so.

Hailey and Reese sit down next to Gus and touch him.

GUS (CONT'D)

Is this the three-way? Is it happening?

REESE

Yes Gus. I think that was clear.

GUS

Okay cool. I just wanted to acknowledge it, since I know it's a goal for you two.

INT. BLISS HOUSE - MEANWHILE

A half-Christian/half-rave ritual takes place on-stage as Mickey stands in the back of a line of newcomers.

HIGH ELDER

Step forward.

A newcomer at the front of the line steps forward, bows, and is baptized with an ORB held by the High Elder.

MICKEY

What the fuck?

The line moves forward and Mickey takes another reluctant step. *The ritual's WEIRD DANCE-CULT MUSIC plays under...*

INT. HAILEY AND REESE'S SPRINGWOOD APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gus makes out with Hailey and Reese, all naked in bed.

GUS

This is nice. Yes.

REESE

You want to have sex?

GUS

Yeah yeah, sure. I got a condom.

(putting on condom)

Hey, uh, you two should kiss.

HAILEY

Nah that's ok.

REESE

Yeah we don't want to.

GUS (CONT'D)

You're not into it? I noticed you hadn't.

REESE

It doesn't really work for us.

GUS

Oh ok. I got you. I'm sort of, like, the conduit. So maybe that's something we go over? Ground rules. Because I feel like there's a lot of gray areas at play here--

HAILEY

Get in me.

She pulls Gus on top of her. He looks at Reese sheepishly and reaches out to touch her boob.

INT. BLISS HOUSE - MEANWHILE

Mickey stands second in line at peak freak-out. The High Elder stares into Mickey's eyes and speaks to her.

HIGH ELDER

Step forward.

Mickey looks up into the crowd and sees Eric motioning for her to step forward. She freezes. She can't move.

INT. HAILEY AND REESE'S SPRINGWOOD APT. - MEANWHILE

Gus, Hailey and Reese fool around. He makes conversation.

GUS

So how'd you two meet? In college?

REESE

No. We knew each other before then.

GUS

High school. Cool. Yeah, I went to my college with some high school buddies. At first I was worried I'd be overdependent--

HAILEY

We knew each other before high school.

GUS

No shit. Like junior high?

REESE

Before that.

GUS

Elementary?

REESE

We're sisters.

GUS

Ahh-GAH!

(reels off bed, stands up)

No! Why?! No! Ewww!

HAILEY

Relax. What's wrong? Y'know, for most guys, this is-- whatever-- a fantasy.

GUS

To be a participant in incest?

REESE

Whoa. Hey. This isn't incest.

HAILEY

We're not kissing. We never touched.

GUS

C'mon! You two are naked in front of each other. That's incest by a mile.

HAILEY

So I guess it was incest when we took baths together as little girls?

GUS

That's WORLDS apart! I took baths with my sister but we're not seducing strangers!

INT. BLISS HOUSE

All eyes are on Mickey as the High Elder repeats himself.

HIGH ELDER

(growing impatient)

Step forward.

Mickey takes a step forward. She starts to kneel and bow, until-- she stands back upright and addresses the crowd.

MICKEY

You know what guys? Not really feeling this. So I'm gonna hit the road and wish you all the best. Stay cool-sies!

Mickey rubs the orb, Apollo Theatre-style, and walks off.

INT. HAILEY AND REESE'S SPRINGWOOD APT. - MEANWHILE

Gus gathers his clothes as Hailey and Reese watch.

GUS

Sorry, I'm not judging. It's just-- it's a surprise and in all fairness, you should've given me a heads up. You're good people but its time for me to scoot.

He exits holding his clothes. The girls roll their eyes.

EXT. BLISS HOUSE - NIGHT

The ceremony is done and a crowd of people exit onto the sidewalk. Eric walks up as Mickey lights up a cigarette.

ERIC
You embarrassed me.

MICKEY
I wasn't trying to.

ERIC
This is important to me.

MICKEY
I understand. But it's not for me.

ERIC
Well maybe this isn't for you and that's okay, but Mickey? You need to get your shit together.

MICKEY
Beautifully put, oh great one.

Mickey does a salute from the ritual and takes off.

MICKEY AND GUS'S WALKS OF SHAME:

After hours. Mickey tries to hail a cab outside Bliss House, but gives up and starts walking up the street.

Gus walks across the Springwood courtyard where party trash is scattered everywhere. A bonfire smolders.

Mickey and Gus SYNC UP in their individual moments of walking home. They share an epiphany: They're alone.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MEANWHILE

Back at the warehouse, a forklift carries a palette of RED RUGS. One RED RUG moves down an assembly line, gets packaged into a long box and thrown on a delivery truck.

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK FOREST - AFTER HOURS

Mickey takes a shortcut through the Griffith Park FOREST.

EXT. SPRINGWOOD COURTYARD - AFTER HOURS

Gus steps away from the smoldering bonfire and walks into the Griffith Park FOREST behind The Springwood.

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK FOREST - EARLY MORNING

Gus, semi-naked, walks through the misty forest before dawn. It's like some new exotic world. He climbs a cliff.

EXT. CLIFF - SUNRISE

Gus stands on a CLIFF overlooking the city, watching the early moments of sunrise. He sees the light touch a BODY on the edge of the cliff... about to roll off...

GUS

Holy shit!

The body rolls and just before it slips off, we CUT TO:

EXT. MICKEY'S GUEST HOUSE - MORNING

A DELIVERY MAN knocks on the door of Mickey's guest house. No answer. He leaves a LONG BOX beside her door.

EXT. CLIFF - MORNING

We RETURN to Gus just as he pulls the body back from the edge. The body wakes up. REVEAL: It's Mickey, startled.

MICKEY

Jesus! What the fuck?!

GUS

Oh. Sorry. I didn't want you to fall
and... y'know, die. Are you okay?

Mickey looks around and takes in her surroundings. She stares at Gus... and takes his hand. They stare at one another.

MICKEY

Do you know a way out of here?

END CREDITS.