

EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAWN

Wintertime in the middle of nowhere. In the distance is a WAREHOUSE covered in snow. Delivery trucks come and go...

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The warehouse is massive. Vast rows of HIGH SHELVES stacked with BOXES. A FORKLIFT speeds down one row, takes a dangerous turn around a corner and disappears. CUT TO:

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Los Angeles. MICKEY (early 30s, cute, takes no shit) is asleep in bed. Her room's silent except for RAINFOREST SOUNDS on her phone. A LOUD BANG on the window wakes her.

MICKEY

... Grandpa?

She pets her cat, GRANDPA, sleeping beside her.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

There you are.

BANG! Mickey jumps to her window and pulls back the drapes where A WILD-EYED MAN STARES AT HER FROM OUTSIDE!

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Fuckin' SHIIIIIT!

MAN

Hahaha! Oh my god. You are FREAKING!

The man laughs. Mickey throws her pillow at the window.

MICKEY

You asshole! I told you I hate that shit.
It's never funny!

The man DERRICK (Mickey's chubby, bearded, hip boyfriend) keeps laughing at her.

DERRICK

Let me in. The door's locked.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bedtime. Dan (early 30s, 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 it is for me.

DAN

You're welcome!

Dan finishes his dance, crawls back into bed, and reads a book called "*Why We Cry*" next to Natalie on her laptop.

DAN (CONT'D)

When's your dad's birthday again?

NATALIE

November 9th.

DAN

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

Natalie puts her laptop on top of Dan's book.

NATALIE

Hey, I saw these online... wouldn't one look great in your place?

Dan scrolls through FLOOR RUGS on a web-site.

DAN

Uh-huh, yeah... I like that blue one.

NATALIE

Really? I liked the gray one.

DAN

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

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mickey sits on her bed, talking to Derrick through the open window. He paces back and forth outside.

MICKEY

Are you coked up?

DERRICK

No.

MICKEY

Come over here.

She motions with her finger seductively. Derrick saunters over and leans through the window. She kisses him. With tongue. Mickey's disgusted.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I can taste that shit in your mouth dude.

She notices Derrick's hand is bloody.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Ew! And why is your hand bleeding?

DERRICK

Oh shit! Ha! I didn't even notice! I must've cut it when I was climbing the fence to get in. I love you babe.

MICKEY

I know. I love you too, but what happened with us not talking for a while?

DERRICK

Ow! My hand. I'm suddenly starting to feel it.

He dramatically grimaces.

MICKEY

Oh, my baby. Come here. Let me take care of you. You want me to take care of you?

He nods his head. She kisses him again as he crawls inside through the window.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In bed with Dan and Natalie. Un-sexy. He orders the rug.

NATALIE

You don't have to if you don't want to--

DAN

No, I want to. I would've bought the rug regardless. Genuinely.

NATALIE

I mean, I like your apartment. It's just sort of... bachelor-y?

DAN

Totally. "Bachelor pads" suck. I love it when you help. I'm no good at that stuff.

NATALIE

Okay, because I never want to hurt my baby's feelings.

DAN

You can't hurt my feelings. I love you.

Natalie kisses Dan. She takes back her laptop.

NATALIE
I'm buying a rug too. One for my place,
one for yours.

DAN
What? C'mon what are we-- that's a waste.
Let's just buy one rug... for one place.
For us. *Let's move in together.*

Natalie swats Dan on the shoulder.

NATALIE
Took ya long enough!

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mickey and Derrick have sex. Blood smears on the sheets.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dan and Natalie have sex. The *Frasier* theme plays on TV.

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Post-sex. Mickey smokes a cigarette. Derrick snores next to her; arms wrapped in gauze. He yells a vague threat in his sleep. Mickey looks miserable.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - LATER

Post-sex. Natalie sleeps next to Dan who finishes his order for ONE gray rug. He hesitates and hits "CONFIRM." The laptop reads: "*EXPECT 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY...*"

INT. WAREHOUSE

And the process begins! We return to the FORKLIFT from before speeding down a row of shelves. It stops and pulls out a PALETTE of rolled-up, plastic-wrapped FLOOR RUGS.

INT. WAREHOUSE

The palette is deposited onto the floor, and we follow one particular GRAY RUG as it's picked up, moved down an ASSEMBLY LINE, and packaged inside a LONG CARDBOARD BOX.

INT. VACANT APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Dan and Natalie, hungry to move into a new place together, tour a vacant apartment with a LANDLORD.

DAN (TO LANDLORD)
And what's the water pressure here like?

INT. VACANT APARTMENT - MORNING

Dan and Natalie tour another furniture-less apartment.

NATALIE (TO LANDLORD)
And what's the water pressure here like?

INT. MICKEY AND DERRICK'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Mickey puts masking tape over the broken window and barricades it with homemade "shelves." Derrick's gone.

INT. APARTMENT - DUSK

Dan and Natalie tour another apartment with a LANDLORD.

LANDLORD
Oh! And the water pressure here is great.

Dan and Natalie nod in approval.

INT. WAREHOUSE

The long cardboard box is loaded onto a delivery truck.

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mickey's on her bed, writing in her journal-- when a FIST BURSTS through her window's shelves! It's Derrick again.

DERRICK
Goddammit Mickey! Stop locking me out!

MICKEY
I'm not! The door is locked and you don't have a key. There's a difference!

DERRICK
Then meet me at the front door!

MICKEY
No. Quiet, you'll wake my roommate. I'm tired of dealing with this crazy shit.
(MORE)

MICKEY (CONT'D)

You're fucking insane! I just built those shelves! I'm not letting you in.

DERRICK

Fine then. Fuck you. I'm out.

Mickey waits a beat, listening for movement. Nothing.

MICKEY

Wait. Derrick!

Nothing. She looks through the window's hole. He's gone.

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR MICKEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

She opens the front door. Nothing. She slams the door.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MORNING

The delivery truck drives off and disappears in the snow.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM

Dan and Natalie, moving in, assemble a bedframe. The bedframe falls apart and Dan gets pissed off with angry tears. Natalie's turned off.

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM

Mickey cries on her bed in fetal position. In her arms she's hugging a MEN'S BUTTON DOWN SHIRT and smelling it.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW KITCHEN

Dan and Natalie argue over a broken Gore 2000 coffee mug. The bloom is *very quickly* coming off the rose.

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM

Mickey is taking all of Derrick's clothing and shoving them through the broken hole in her window. Still crying.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW LIVING ROOM

Dan and Natalie fight over where to put a fainting couch.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BATHROOM

Natalie walks in on Dan masturbating into the bathtub.

EXT. DESERT GAS STATION

The delivery truck, getting closer, gases up at a tank.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bedtime. Dan does an interpretive dance to *The Closer* theme as Natalie ignores him in bed. Exactly as we met them. Different bedroom, same relationship. *Bored*.

NATALIE

... Do you think we rushed into this?

Dan knows it's over.

EXT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Natalie watches Dan as he angrily throws luggage into his car - just days after moving in together.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

The delivery truck turns and exits off the freeway.

EXT. DAN'S OLD APARTMENT - DAY

Dan peers through the windows of his old place, which is already filled with another tenant's stuff. It hurts. He notices a LONG CARDBOARD BOX leaning against the mailbox.

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mickey, on her bed, reads a book called *FACING LOVE ADDICTION* while simultaneously stopping every few moments to check her phone. He's not gonna text back. It hurts.

EXT. DAN'S OLD APARTMENT - DAY

Dan drives away from his old place, with one GRAY RUG sticking out his back window. END OF PROLOGUE.

TITLE CREDIT: "LOVE"

Part One:

MORNING (3 months later)

EXT. HOTEL MONROE - DAWN

A tall brick hotel building in downtown Los Angeles. The sun's about to rise.

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT OFFICE - MORNING

Mickey, on a phone at her work desk, jots down some info.

She hangs up and makes an announcement to her co-workers SHERYL (black, 40s) and ROB (30s, slobby, lacks grace but gets along with Mickey).

MICKEY

211 and 213 are having an affair.

ROB

Ooooh. Give me the dirt.

SHERYL

You think everyone is having an affair.

MICKEY

Ok but listen, both of their hotel rooms share a door and housekeeping says one room is completely spotless. Someone's sneaking over into the other's room.

ROB

Why wouldn't they get just one room?

MICKEY

Covering their tracks. Credit card bills, business expenditures, and the like. It happens here all the time.

SHERYL

It happened once. Maybe.

MICKEY

I'm telling you, 95% of all "business trips" at hotels are secret adultery getaways. This guy on the phone just ordered two whole cinnamon rolls.

SHERYL

So he's a fat-ass. Or he's ordering for a prostitute. Either way, who are we to judge?

A timer BEEPS. Rob refers to a list and dials the phone.

ROB

Good morning Mr. Gaines, it's 7 AM. This is your wake-up call-- (pause) I'm sorry that your door was rattling, sir...

MICKEY

Why aren't we clocked out by now? Any sign of the morning crew yet?

ROB

Nobody.

MICKEY

I guarantee when Linda comes in, she'll have an excuse about her kids.

The phone on Mickey's desk rings. She glares at it.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Uccck! I can't do anymore of these. I wanna go home!

(picks up phone)

Hello? French toast, uh-huh...

(covers phone, to Rob)

By the way, this lady is *screaming*.

(resumes order)

-- a glass of orange juice, uh-huh, yes--

Someone from the morning crew appears. It's LINDA.

LINDA

Hey gang, sorry I'm late. My boys had marching band practice this morning.

INT. BEDROOM - DAWN, MEANWHILE

Dan is asleep in a bed littered with mini-Twix wrappers, when a FRISBEE lands inside the balcony next to his window. He wakes up and pulls himself out of bed.

INT. DAN'S APARTMENT

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

EXT. DAN'S BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

--and steps out onto his second-story balcony. Some COLLEGE KIDS play Ultimate Frisbee in courtyard below.

COLLEGE GUY

Hey man, sorry!

DAN

C'mon, are you kidding? Who cares? Just have fun.

Dan tosses the Frisbee back to the college kids. Poorly.

COLLEGE GIRL

Everybody in for another game?

DAN

Wow. You're all up early.

COLLEGE GUY #2

We haven't gone to sleep yet!

DAN

Okay. Fun. Yeah.

COLLEGE GIRL #2

We go back to college tomorrow.

DAN

You're all on spring break?

COLLEGE GUY

Study abroad.

DAN

Really? In LA?

COLLEGE GUY #2

Yeah. College credit. I was an intern at Animal Planet.

DAN

Cool. Very familiar with that. Love it.

COLLEGE GUY

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

COLLEGE GIRL

Since temporary housing is, like, one step up from a dorm room.

The group all laughs. Dan does too, a little wounded.

DAN

Haha. Totally. This place-- wow it sucks.

COLLEGE GUY #2

Yeah I'm gonna miss everyone here. All the drug dealers and child actors--

COLLEGE GIRL #2

-- and sad divorcees.

DAN

Haha yeah. I'm just here on business. Entertainment stuff mainly. But I'll let you get back to your Frisbee game--

COLLEGE GUY

Well hey, we're partying here all day. Drop by anytime. We got booze and weed--

DAN

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

Dan steps back inside and stares at a BLACK MOLD growing in the carpet under a sink between his bathroom and bed.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - MORNING

Mickey exits work in back by a loading dock. She bums a smoke from a ROOM SERVICE WAITER and walks to her car as Rob trails behind her, out of breath.

ROB

Hey Mickey? You wanna get breakfast?

MICKEY

No way dude. I'm exhausted. How are you not tired?

ROB

Oh yeah I'm like mega tired too, no yeah.

MICKEY

Cool. See you tomorrow.

Mickey speeds off in her car, done with her workday.

INT. DAN'S SPRINGWOOD APARTMENT - MORNING

Dan, starting his work day, does his morning routine: eats cereal while watching ID Network; takes a shower; tucks in his shirt; combs his hair; stares at black mold.

EXT. CHURCH HALL - MORNING

Mickey steps out of her car and runs into a church hall.

EXT. SPRINGWOOD APARTMENTS GROUNDS - MORNING

Dan drives along the weaving roads of THE SPRINGWOOD, a "living community" with pools, tennis courts, burnouts and the elderly. Its depressing. Dan drives out the gate.

INT. CHURCH HALL - MORNING

Mickey sneaks into the back of a morning AA MEETING. She takes a seat and listens to someone speaking.

EXT. AIRPORT - MORNING

Dan pulls up to the curb of a Returning Flights terminal. His friends MANNY and LISA wave. Luggage at their feet.

INT. DAN'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

On the FREEWAY. Dan's at the wheel, with Lisa riding shotgun and Manny in back.

LISA

Oh my god, the guy next to me on the plane would not stop farting. And he was with his wife and mom!

MANNY

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

DAN

Nah. Happy to do it. I missed you two. How was your trip?

LISA

So much fun. I love Manny's family.

MANNY

They all came for my sister's wedding.

LISA

Manny's dad is so cute. They couldn't keep him off the dance floor. And Manny cried during his brother-in-law's vows.

MANNY

Weddings are... emotional for me.

DAN

Me too. They're like airplanes. You lose air to your brain and start bawling.

LISA

We just talked about this! I cried when the pilot announced we were landing.

DAN

I saw *The Pursuit of Happyness* on a plane and lost my shit.

EXT. CHURCH HALL - LATER

Post-AA meeting. Mickey steps out with rest of the group.

INT. MICKEY'S PLACE - MORNING

Mickey walks up to her place: an old-fashioned, shabby house. From a past era of Silver Lake.

INT. MICKEY'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Mickey steps in back, where she's greeted by her hippie roomie GIA sipping tea and petting Mickey's cat.

GIA

Morning, Mick-ster.

MICKEY

Hey. Morning.

GIA

How was work?

MICKEY

Alright. I'm considering hooking up with my dumb co-worker but only as a last resort. Shit! I forgot to feed Grandpa!

GIA

I just fed him.

MICKEY

Gia! Thank you.

Mickey's phone beeps. It's a text: "U avail tmrw morn?"

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Melanie Newman? What she want?

The doorbell rings.

GIA

You expecting someone?

MICKEY

Fuck!

INT. MICKEY AND GIA'S LIVING ROOM

Mickey sits on the couch with two women RENE and PAM. She has a microphone set up and some janky radio equipment.

MICKEY

Okay, everything should be in order. You guys ready?

RENE

Yup.

MICKEY

Make sure you speak into the mic.

RENE (INTO MIC)

YUP!

INT. DAN'S CAR - MORNING

Dan drives Manny and Lisa along a neighborhood street.

DAN

But y'know, I agree with your sister, a live band is always better than a DJ---

MANNY

So how'd the move out of Springwood go?

DAN

It's funny. I didn't end up moving out.

LISA

That apartment fall through or something?

DAN

No. Kind of. It just wasn't going to be possible to move all my stuff out of me and Natalie's apartment in time so--

LISA

You're at The Springwood another month?

DAN

One more month. Then I'm out.

Dan parks his car, pops the trunk, and jumps out.

INT. MICKEY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Mickey sits on the couch with Rene, Pam, and the mic. Everyone's wearing big headphones.

MICKEY

So basically all I'm gonna do is ask you questions about your relationship. Like how you met, what struggles you have -- I want you to really get down to brass tacks here.

PAM

Right. Brass tacks. You told us over the phone.

EXT. MANNY AND LISA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Manny and Lisa follow Dan to the back of his car trunk, where he's helping them remove their luggage.

LISA

Well how long can moving out really take? Just go over there and grab your stuff.

DAN

Yeah I dunno, I mean, I only lived there a few days, so it just feels like I need more time to process--

MANNY

Look buddy, we know you're heartbroken, but just get it over with. It'd take an hour. Tops. Natalie doesn't even have to be there. When is she usually out?

DAN

I think she's out of town this weekend--

LISA

Perfect. We can help you.

MANNY

YES! We can help you! No matter what, you gotta get out of Springwood. We've never seen you so sad. Even back in college.

LISA

And I'll give you the same advice I gave you then: "Get drunk. Get laid." You're too uptight. Why torture yourself when you can be stupid and have fun?

DAN

I have fun. I'm not sad. I'm feeling my feelings. And this is when I should be taking care of myself most. I can't just start living recklessly now.

Dan closes his car trunk. He hugs Manny and Lisa.

DAN (CONT'D)
I'm late for work.

MANNY
You going to Brad's barbecue thing
tonight?

LISA
I guarantee someone there will give you a
blow-job. People go crazy at barbecues.

MANNY
Sounds like we can count on you there!

INT. MICKEY'S LIVING ROOM

Mickey begins recording on her equipment.

MICKEY
And here we go...
(into the mic)
Hi guys! Hi friends, frenemies, ex's, and
future soul-mates. Welcome back to your
favorite love advice podcast: "Just the
Tip(s)." As always I'm your hopelessly
romantic host Mickey Shore and today
we're going to talk once again about
everyone's favorite subject, whether they
admit it or not: love.

She smiles at Rene and Pam drinking tea on the couch.

PART TWO: DAYTIME

INT. BOY'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

A BOY reads comics on his bed. His TWO SISTERS barge in.

SISTER
You're in big trouble, little dude.

BOY
Doesn't anyone knock in this family?

SISTER #2
Dad's gonna kill you when he finds out
you took his hydroid crystals to school.

BOY
I didn't take dad's hydroid crystals--

His sister picks up her brother's backpack and dumps out
PURPLE, GLOWING CRYSTALS onto his bed.

BOY (CONT'D)

Okay... I *borrowed* 'em! Awww what's the worst that could happen?

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

SISTERS AND BOY

Grandma?!

The donkey brays and bears its teeth.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Aaaaand *CUT*!

An ASSISTANT DIRECTOR steps onto the bedroom, which we reveal is a set for a *Wizards of Waverly*-like kids show (about triplets from outer space living in the suburbs).

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

(CONT'D)

Alright everybody, we're moving on to the Space Cube set. Let's get the donkey to his trainer and the kids to their tutor.

Dan, in back of the TV STUDIO, grabs some textbooks.

INT. CLASSROOM TRAILER

Dan sits at a table with CREEDANCE, SAMANTHA, and ARYIA - the three child actors who played triplets from before. They're all roughly the same age (10). No relation.

DAN

So if I have three oranges and someone takes away five, what do I have?

SAMANTHA/ARYIA

Negative two.

DAN

Right. Negative two. That make sense?

CREEDANCE

How old do you think that donkey is?

DAN

Creedance. Please. We're done in fifteen minutes, then it's the weekend, ok buddy?

CREEDANCE

Is the donkey my age?

DAN

Let's do a couple more integer problems, then we can spend the rest of the time talking about whatever you feel like.

SAMANTHA

Grow up, Creedance. It's just a donkey.

ARYIA

We had one on-set last season.

DAN

Easy. All of you get so feisty on days you shoot argument scenes.

CREEDANCE

Do you know how old the donkey is?

DAN

I dunno, I wanna say... what do you think, Sam? Aryia? 10 years old?

SAMANTHA

Something like that. Maybe 20.

DAN

Yeah ok. The donkey's 20 years old.

CREEDANCE

Cool. That's cool. I want to be 20.

DAN

Yes. Alright. Let's get back to work. Hey I'm excited about the donkey too but-- ok I have one orange and someone takes five--

ARYIA

(reading from her i-Phone)

"Donkeys rarely live past age 27--" yep, we were right. When will this donkey die?

DAN

Alright. We talk about the donkey for the next 5 minutes, then promise me we'll spend the rest of class learning.

DISSOLVE TO:

Later. Dan is deep in conversation with the three kids.

SAMANTHA

So do you and Natalie even talk anymore?

DAN

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

CREEDANCE

Are you moving back in with her?

DAN

Probably not. Why? Do you think I should?

ARYIA

No. You need time alone.

DAN

Yeah time alone would be good. Sometimes I get so bogged down with everything, I think about, like, leaving it all behind y'know? Just tossing my phone into the river and driving out of town. Living off the grid. *Into the Wild*-style. I mean, this city's surrounded by deserts and mountains-- somebody could just park their car on the side of the road and start walking and disappear--

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

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Back to set, everybody.

DAN

Alright kids, you got me this time, but seriously, next Monday, we're finishing up this chapter. For reals.

INT. MICKEY AND GIA'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Mickey escorts Rene and Pam to her front door.

RENE

That was fun-- and you'll edit out the part about my parents right?

MICKEY

Totally. I marked down the time.

RENE

I mean, everybody's parents get into arguments at Disney World, but--

MICKEY

It rarely gets physical, I understand. I'll let you know when it goes online. Hope to have you both back soon.

The guests step out the door. Mickey lights up a cigarette and plops down on her couch as Gia walks by.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Sorry if I was a bitch earlier.

GIA

It's fine. Aren't you super-tired?

MICKEY

Yeah. I'm heading to bed now. I've been sleeping really shitty lately.

GIA

It's those graveyard shifts at the hotel. They make people go crazy. Studies show.

Gia grabs her purse and sits next to Mickey on the couch.

MICKEY

I don't get it. I feel good, I'm not stressed, Derrick's out of my life--

GIA

I totally forgot to tell you. I saw Derrick the other night.

MICKEY

Really? Where?

GIA

After one of his band's shows. Super wasted with some trashy girl.

MICKEY

Whatever. I don't care. Fuck him dude. I really don't care, honestly.

GIA

You shouldn't. Here. Take these.

Gia pulls out a prescription bottle from her purse.

INT. TV STUDIO - LATE AFTERNOON

Dan watches the CAST and CREW wrap work and say goodbye. Creedance pets the donkey once more. Dan is melancholy.

INT. MICKEY AND GIA'S LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Gia opens up her prescription bottle.

GIA

If you can't sleep, these will gently drift you off to slumber sweet times.

MICKEY

What are they? Ambien? No. I took one once and things got weird. I e-mailed everyone I went to camp with and told them how much they all meant to me.

Mickey's phone vibrates on the coffee table.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

That's probably one of them now.

(checks her phone)

Man! Melanie texted me like 15 times when I was doing my podcast. Get off my dick!

(reads texts)

Oh my god, she works for satellite radio now and her boss wants to meet me.

Tomorrow morning. 9am. Yay!

GIA

All the more reason to get some rest...

Gia shakes out two pills from the bottle and puts them in Mickey's palm.

MICKEY

I can't. I have a shift later tonight. I'll be in a zombie coma.

GIA

Just hold these for safe keeping. I'm worried about you. And seriously, don't worry about Derrick.

MICKEY

Uh okay. Thanks. I won't.

EXT. SPRINGWOOD GROUNDS - SUNSET

Dan returns to Springwood at sunset, weaving his car past ELDERLY walking, KIDS playing, and COLLEGE KIDS partying.

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - SUNSET

Mickey closes her curtains tight and shuts out all the daylight. She considers taking the pills, but instead puts them in her own bottle and gets into bed.

EXT. SPRINGWOOD APARTMENT BUILDING - DUSK

Dan parks his car. Across the lot is an AMBULANCE. Dan walks up to college kids who stopped partying to watch.

DAN

What's going on?

COLLEGE DUDE

Somebody died.

DAN

Oh my god. Really? Who?

COLLEGE DUDE

An old lady. One of the tenants told us--

COLLEGE DUDE #2

Dude. Seriously. Don't. I'll barf.

COLLEGE DUDE

Then don't listen. No one's forcing you.

COLLEGE DUDE #2

Man you get so hostile when you're drunk.

COLLEGE DUDE

Whatever. He said an old lady slipped in the shower and hit her head and died.

DAN

Fuck. Really? That's terrible.

The ambulance pulls away and exits the gate. No sirens.

COLLEGE DUDE

And I guess when she slipped in the tub, the water kept running on her body for like a week so when the neighbors found her, the bathtub was filled with mush.

DAN

Gah. Wha? Why are you--? Don't tell me these things. That's very--

(chokes up, eyes with tears)

That's very rude of you.

COLLEGE DUDE

Oh. Hey man, I didn't--

COLLEGE DUDE #2

Dude, I told you it was gross.

COLLEGE DUDE

You told me to tell him!

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Mickey falls asleep in bed. Next to her is a laptop with Derrick's "*in a relationship*" status on the screen.

INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Dan enters with his plastic key-card and sets down his backpack. He notices the black mold under his sink.

MOMENTS LATER: Dan's on the phone with the front desk.

DAN

Yes. Under the sink. In the bathroom. I mean, between the bathroom and bedroom. Whatever that area is. I guess I'm just a little frustrated because I've called about this a couple times and--

(examines mold)

I think it's from the pipe dripping water onto the carpet-- well then why put carpet under a sink? Seems unhygienic.
Carpets in bathrooms make me feel weird.

MOMENTS LATER: Dan's off the phone, scrubbing the mold with paper towels and Windex. He gathers up the mess.

INT. SPRINGWOOD GARBAGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dan opens a hatch and tosses garbage down a metal chute.

INT. SPRINGWOOD APARTMENTS CORRIDOR

He returns to his apartment door, but can't get inside. The door's locked and Dan's missing his key card.

INT. SPRINGWOOD GARBAGE ROOM

Dan returns to the garbage room in search of his card. No sign. He looks over at the garbage chute with dread.

INT. GARBAGE CHUTE

The chute door opens and Dan slides head-first/belly-down holding himself up with his feet. He shines his phone's flashlight into the trash looking for his card when he hears something... *a muffled conversation from afar...*

WOMAN (O.S.)

... not until later...

CHILD (O.S.)

... is it a surprise?

Dan, curious, twists around and pulls himself up into the chute next to a vent. He hears a man and some TV noise...

MAN (O.S.)

... last time, numbers were improving...

TV NOISE (O.S.)

... tomorrow is Will Smith's birthday!

Dan pulls himself higher but loses his footing and slides out of the chute onto the floor. He hears DISTANT SCREAMS in the chute and runs out the room. This place is weird.

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Mickey is awake in bed. Derrick's relationship status still staring at her. Her hair is messy and she looks like she's been crying.

MICKEY

Fuck this shit.

She hops out of bed, runs to her closet and starts digging through clothes. She's going out tonight!

PART THREE: NIGHT

INT. MICKEY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mickey, looking hot in a sexy outfit, gets ready in the mirror. But where is she going...?

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Backyard barbecue party. Fairly mild. Music plays but no one dances. People eat burgers. Dan hangs out under a tree with Manny, Lisa, and buddies AARON and TED.

AARON

I totally understand. I mean, I lost it at my sister's wedding too. Her vows *destroyed* me.

TED

Did she have a live band or a DJ?

Dan scopes the party. Restless. He pulls out his phone.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Mickey valets her car and steps inside past security.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Loud. Hyper-energized! Tech dudes prepare instruments onstage. Mickey walks up to the bar and orders a drink.

MICKEY

Water-tini please.

BARTENDER

Martini?

MICKEY

Water-tini. Water in a martini glass.

Bartender smiles and goes off for Mickey's drink. She scans the club, keeping lookout for someone.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Dan, Manny, Lisa, Aaron and Ted eat burgers under the tree as PARTY-GOERS mingle, drink, smoke pot, etc.

Dan texts Natalie: *"Let's hang when yr back in town..."*
Then immediately regrets it. Ted shares with the group.

TED

If I ever get married, I'm definitely riding up to the alter on a horse. How rad would that be?

LISA

Fellas, let's cut the wedding talk for tonight. We're here to party. Right Dan?

AARON

Dan doesn't want to party?

DAN

Of course I do. I always want to party. I keep suggesting we all go camping--

TED

You oughta follow Lisa's "getting drunk and laid" guide--

LISA

Yeah, remember when Aaron and Ted did it? It worked wonders for them.

AARON

She's right.

TED

It did.

LISA (CONT'D)

So do it already. What's stopping you?

DAN

Don't you think it's a little weird that you take such pleasure in your friends partying and having sex?

LISA

I've never been above living vicariously.

Dan thinks about it, then shrugs and walks over to a keg.

LISA (CONT'D)

Damn, you Catholic boys. So repressed. But one little nudge and off you go.

MANNY

I'm Catholic and I'm not that way.

LISA

No honey. You were different.

Lisa rolls her eyes. Aaron and Ted laugh.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Mickey drinks her water-tini at a table in the corner, when she spots Derrick, sweaty, in the crowd. The two make eye contact. Derrick walks over.

DERRICK

... Mickey?

MICKEY

Derrick. Hey. I thought that was you.

DERRICK

Did you see our set?

MICKEY (LYING)

Your set? No. What? I didn't even know you guys were playing.

DERRICK

Just got done. Crowd was really into it. Fellas and me were tight. Good to see ya.

MICKEY

Right. Yeah. Been a few months.

DERRICK

Y'know, I'm sorry how things went down.

MICKEY

It's fine.

DERRICK

I'm sorry about the hole in your window.

MICKEY

A part of me actually thought that was kind of romantic.

DERRICK

Haha. Cool. So... what's up with you?

MICKEY

Everything is just the best. I'm still living with Gia. And she's, like, the best roommate ever. And my podcast, well, I don't want to jinx it...

(MORE)

MICKEY (CONT'D)

but I got some good news-- I think I might get my own show on satellite radio.

DERRICK

Really? Wow. Holy shit, that's pretty cool. So it's like your podcast or--

MICKEY

Probably. Similar territory. Love and relationships. We don't know necessarily.

DERRICK

When you say "we?"

MICKEY

Me and Melanie Newman.

DERRICK

Oh I remember her. Your "normal" friend.

MICKEY

Ha! Right! Normie Newman. She works at the radio station and I guess her boss is a fan or something? I don't know. Weird, right? He wants to meet me anyway. I'm like, super fucking nervous.

DERRICK

Yeah that's really-- exciting stuff is happening for me too. Labels sniffing--

DERRICK (CONT'D)

I can't say which label, but they're pretty cool. I know we said we'd never do a major, but--

MICKEY

So I'm just trying to stay focused about my meeting tomorrow and I'm pretty confident I'll get--

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Well, good for you.

MICKEY

My own home. Career's taking off. *Finally* living the adult life. Best part is I'm doing it myself. It's like I don't need to be in a relationship to feel complete--

DERRICK

Totally, totally--

MICKEY

Don't get me wrong, I love the single life. Going out. Meeting new people.

DERRICK

Yeah I guess it's so great you had to run down here and tell me all about it right?

MICKEY

What? That's-- whatever Derrick. Don't fucking act like you didn't change your relationship status on purpose!

DERRICK

I'm glad you saw that shit. You fucking kicked me out of your life! *Our* life!

A small crowd around them starts to watch.

MICKEY

We had no life! You did coke and ecstasy and broke into my room! And what about that fat girl Quinn or whatever the fuck her fat name is...

DERRICK

That was one time!

MICKEY

I paid for the hotel room you fucked her in without even knowing! What the fuck is that?

DERRICK

Why the FUCK did you come here? So you could brag about some shitty piece of good news about your PODCAST CAREER? Wow, way to go. Thanks for stopping by. Go *cry in your sleep* some more BITCH.

MICKEY

FUCK YOU! I HATE YOU! YOU RUINED MY LIFE!

A security GUARD approaches.

SECURITY

Ma'am?

MICKEY

Calm down! I'm leaving.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Dan and his friends dangle their feet in the pool. The party's loosened up *especially* Dan singing with music.

MANNY

How you feeling buddy?

DAN

So geeeed. Good.

MANNY

Are you drunk?

DAN

Yes.

AARON

Are you high?

DAN

Yes.

LISA

You smoked pot? When did he smoke pot?

DAN

In the kitchen. When I got my drinks.

TED

This is the first time you drank?

DAN

Yes.

TED

And smoked pot?

DAN

Right. And a pill.

LISA

You took a pill?

MANNY

Which one?

DAN

Thanks.

AARON

Dan will be dropping acid by dawn.

LISA

(TO DAN) Are you okay? You feel alright?

DAN

I feel *great*. Genuinely. You're right. I just needed to loosen up more. Ever since I've been at The Springwood, I've had this, like, feeling in the pit of my stomach y'know? It's like that feeling you get at night when you think someone broke into your house and a killer is coming down the hallway to kill you so you just sit there waiting in terror-- I call it "The Dread." This dark cloud of a bad feeling. My whole life I've felt "The Dread" but ever since The Springwood it's the only feeling I know. I can't escape it. I can't escape "The Dread."

Dan stares into the pool.

MANNY

But you're feeling great now remember?

DAN

I am! Don't let me forget this. It feels good to take risks. I love you all.

Dan finishes his drink and drunkenly hugs his friends.

INT. MICKEY'S CAR - MEANWHILE

Mickey, upset about Derrick, speeds to work - changing into office clothes and toning down her club make-up.

EXT. BACKYARD - MEANWHILE

Dan, in total drunk/high party mode, starts up a dance party and gets lots of folks dancing. He cuts a rug like "The Closer" theme is playing.

INT. HOTEL BUILDING - MEANWHILE

Mickey pulls in the parking lot to start her night shift.

EXT. BACKYARD - MEANWHILE

Peak party-time. Dan jumps into the POOL with a group of other semi-naked people.

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT OFFICE - NIGHT

Mickey, back at work, sits at her desk. Rob and Sheryl work at theirs. Rob eats. Sheryl stands up, looking sick.

SHERYL

Hey you two, I must've eaten something bad because I can't-- *egggh*. Can you both *-eggghh-* handle the office on your own?

MICKEY

I guess.

ROB

Definitely. Get home now.

SHERYL

Okay, thank... *eggghh*... you.

MICKEY

Remember though, I have that meeting at 9
so the morning crew *has* to be here or--

SHERYL

I understand. Peter said he spoke with
the morning crew and they-- *eggh*-- know.

MICKEY

Okay. Because it's really important.

Sheryl slowly exits in pain. Rob waves goodbye.

ROB

Get well, Sheryl!

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Dan, Aaron and Ted (post-pool; giddy; damp hair and
clothes) stumble up to Manny and Lisa.

MANNY

You guys wanna hit the road now?

DAN

But I never said hi to Brad!

AARON

Yeah let's get out of here.

DAN

But let's keep doing this now please.

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

Mickey and Rob slack off with Sheryl gone. Mickey's desk
phone rings. She picks it up and defiantly hangs back up.

ROB

Balls-y.

MICKEY

I can't do this shit tonight dude.

ROB

They're just gonna call you again.

MICKEY

Wrong. They'll call the front desk and
it'll be their problem now.

ROB

I thought you'd be happy Sheryl's gone.

MICKEY

I am but-- whatever. I had this thing happen with Derrick before work and I got something big after work in the morning--

ROB

Chill out. Sheryl's gone.

MICKEY

You're not helping. I'm like, nervous and angry and-- I'm-- Fuck!

ROB

Easy. Don't you have Klonopin?

MICKEY

In my purse.

Rob walks over to Mickey's purse and digs through it.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I'm only supposed to take them if it's an emergency. AA loophole, I guess. Whatever the fuck that means.

ROB

This feels like an emergency.

Rob opens a prescription bottle and shakes out a pill.

INT. MANNY'S CAR - NIGHT

Manny's at the wheel, with Lisa riding shotgun and Dan in back. Reversed from this morning. They listen to music.

DAN

Wow. WOW! Thank you both. So much fun.

LISA

You're welcome. Why didn't you talk to that girl in the red shirt? She said she was into you.

DAN

Awww I was too fucked up. Plus I didn't want you all staring at me.

MANNY

Baby steps. I get it. And look at the big guy who used three substances tonight.

LISA

We're very proud.

DAN

I never said hi to Brad! It's funny, when you host a party, you never get to talk to anybody, isn't that true?

INT. SPRINGWOOD COURTYARD - NIGHT

Dan, a big rubber SHOWER MAT under his arm, staggers across the courtyard as SECURITY breaks up the wild, colorful party. He passes a MOTHER having a smoke.

MOTHER

How obnoxious are these kids huh?

DAN

What's that?

MOTHER

Party party party. This is a living community. Not the Holiday Inn in Fort Lauderdale.

DAN

Maybe they're young people celebrating this one special moment in their lives?

MOTHER

Riiight. What's the mat for?

DAN

So I don't slip in the shower and crack my head open and turn to mush because I don't have any loved ones to find me. Hey, I lost my key card. Could you--

MOTHER

The front desk can help you.

The Mother puts out her cigarette and goes back inside. Dan starts walking for the front desk as CORA, an upbeat college girl, runs up next to him.

CORA

Cool mat. You do yoga?

DAN

No this is for-- it's not-- no yoga.

CORA

Have we met? You look really familiar. I swear I had a crush on you once.

DAN

Oh. Ha. Yes. Maybe. Nice of you to say. I'm sure I had a crush on you once too.

CORA

Did we have a class together?

DAN

No. I'm not-- I'm not in college.

CORA

You live here at The Springwood?

DAN

Here? Um. No. I don't. Too creepy. I was just visiting my buddy. Heading home now.

CORA

You have your own place?

DAN

Uh-huh... yeah. I live-- I live alone.

CORA

Lucky. The idea of sleeping here one more night makes me want to kill myself. What part of town do you live in?

DAN

East LA.

CORA

I love East LA! Beautiful homes.

Dan stops walking, right outside the FRONT DESK area.

DAN

You want to check out my place?

CORA

Sure. Is it alright if I bring my friend?

DAN

Sure.

CORA

The two of us want to leave Los Angeles in a blaze of glory. Take some risks.

DAN

Well, that's what I'm all about now. Taking big, gigantic risks. Get your friend. I'll call a cab.

Dan pulls out his phone and sends another text to Natalie: *"when do u get back in town?"*

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

Rob and Mickey (now relaxed) chat away from their desks.

ROB
You feel better?

MICKEY
Yes. *Much*. Thank you. And for the record,
I don't give a shit about Derrick. I'm
nervous because of this meeting thing--

ROB
Ok what's this bad ol' meeting about?

MICKEY
Well y'know I've been doing my own
podcast for a couple years now and it's,
like, an advice show about relationships
and romance and love? And my entire life,
I've wanted to do my own show on
satellite radio-- well, not satellite
radio because it didn't exist my whole
life-- but like, y'know, a show where I
take people's calls and listen to them
open up their hearts and I help them. I
just want to help people. It's really
important that I help people. You mind if
I lay on the floor?

AB
No. Go ahead.

MICKEY
I just think it'd feel really good to lay
on the floor right now.
(lays on floor)
Ahhhh. I was right. This feels great.
It's really important that I'm on the
floor. You want to lay down here with me?

Rob lays down next to Mickey on the floor.

ROB
That Klonopin hit you hard.

MICKEY
Yeah what was in that Klonopin? Booze?

ROB
Tell me if it's weird but can I take one?

Mickey's desk phone rings. She picks it up and nods yes
to Rob. He goes to her purse for the pill.

MICKEY
Hello? Yes. What would you like? Let me
write it down...

Mickey pretends to write in the air. Rob cracks up.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Thank you. Your cookie will be there in not too many minutes.

Mickey hangs up the phone and joins in laughing with Rob. He brings over the prescription bottle.

ROB

So which one's the Xanax?

MICKEY

What do you mean? All of them.

ROB

No, there's two kinds in here.

Mickey shakes all the pills onto the palm of her hand.

MICKEY

Fuck. Did you give me a white or yellow?

ROB

Yellow. White. You can't remember which color you put in your own mouth?

MICKEY

Well there was two yellow in there. Now there's only one. So I took an Ambien.

ROB

An Ambien? What? No. Really?

MICKEY

Yes. That's why I've been so... dynamic.

ROB

What should we do? Are you ok? Aren't you like sober or something?

MICKEY

I'll ride it out. Everything's okay...

ROB

Tell me if this is weird but can I take the other Ambien?

Mickey nods from the floor. Rob swallows the pill.

MICKEY

When did I get down on the floor?

EXT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW/OLD APARTMENT - AFTER HOURS

A TAXI CAB pulls up in front of Natalie's place - the one Dan momentarily lived in a few months ago. He stumbles out with Cora and another person.

CORA
I love your neighborhood!

DAN
Shhhh. We have to be quiet here.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S FRONT DOOR - LATE NIGHT

Dan pulls out his key ring. He peers through the window, a little nervous, and looks at Natalie's stuff inside.

DAN
Home.

He unlocks the door. It works. Cora steps inside with her friend WILL (notably, a dude). Cora whispers to Dan.

CORA
Are you pissed off or something?

DAN
No. I just-- I didn't think your friend was a guy. More like a girl.

CORA
I said "my friend Will."

DAN
I don't think you did. Would've noted it.

CORA
Well, we can still have fun together.

Cora smiles and bounds into Dan's new/old living room.

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

Mickey and Rob, giggling, lay on desks pushed together.

ROB
Haha - and then the food goes back into his mouth but he can't control it - haha.

MICKEY
Haha! That's hilarious.

They stop giggling and look at each other with weird Ambien-ed out sex eyes. Maybe they'll kiss?

MICKEY (CONT'D)
I wonder what our friends in 211 and 213 are up to.

ROB
Who?

MICKEY

The adulterers in the hotel.

ROB

Oh yeah. You think 211 snuck into 213?

MICKEY

There's only one way to find out.

She leaps off her desk and runs out. Rob chases after.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Dan, anxious, steps into the living room for the first time in months. Will, snotty, snoops around.

WILL

So you live here all alone?

DAN

Yep.

WILL

It's kind of girly.

CORA

Will. Cool it. Jesus. I love it.

DAN

No. It's true. I was living with a girl here but we broke up and she moved out but some of her stuff is still here.

CORA

Nursing a broken heart, yeah?

WILL

You should see my dorm room. Very man-ly.

There's a NOISE. Dan freezes. Terrified. It's nothing.

CORA

Why so jumpy? And why are you tip-toeing?

INT. ROOM 211 - AFTER HOURS

A knock on the door. It opens, and Mickey and Rob step inside a dark hotel room. Mickey turns on the light.

MICKEY (WHISPERS)

See? This room is completely empty...

She tip-toes over to a cosmetic bag in the bathroom.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Except for the tell-tale *cosmetic bag*.
Get it? She does her make-up in here then
bounces through the adjoining door and
they hook up in his room.

She tosses the bag to Rob and goes to the adjoining door.

ROB

Hey we better go. She could come in--

MICKEY

You think they're fucking now?

Mickey jumps onto the bed and puts her ear to the wall.
She gestures for Rob to join her, who reluctantly gets up
onto the bed and puts his ear to the wall. They listen.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM - MEANWHILE

Cora sits at the foot of Dan and Natalie's (former) bed.
Will crouches by a silent TV, as Dan enters with drinks.

DAN

Who's thirsty?

WILL

How do you get the speakers to work?

DAN

I-- I don't remember--

WILL

Don't remember?

CORA

Thanks Dan.

Cora and Will take their drinks. Dan sits in a chair.

CORA (CONT'D)

Why are you sitting all the way over
there? Come here.

Cora pats on the bed next to her. Will rolls his eyes.
Dan, a little uneasy, gets up and sits down on the bed.

DAN

Sorry. My judgment's impaired. I did lots
of drugs tonight.

Cora leans over and kisses Dan on the mouth, until the TV
suddenly BLASTS NOISE and they split apart.

WILL

Got the speakers on!

DAN
Thanks Will. We all appreciate it buddy.

INT. ROOM 211 - MEANWHILE

Mickey and Rob, ears to the wall, stare at each other listening for sex sounds together.

MICKEY
Huh. No show tonight. Too bad.

ROB (NERVOUS)
So maybe we should get out of here then?

Mickey starts making some sex sounds.

MICKEY (WHISPERED)
Ooooh... yes...

ROB
Shhhh. Let's go.

MICKEY
Uhhhh... yeaaah...

Rob caves in and joins her.

ROB
Mmmmm... ooohhh...
MICKEY
Ahhh.... nuhhh...

The two giggle... and kiss. And tumble to the bed below.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM

Dan and Cora make out on his former bed. Will sits on the floor watching TV with his back turned, irritated.

WILL
Time to go Cora.

CORA
I told you it was going to be awhile.

WILL
I have to pack.

CORA
Just go into the living room and wait.

WILL
No. That's weird.

CORA
Then what do you want, Will?

Will stands up, and faces Cora and Dan on the bed.

WILL

I want to go out with you again.

CORA

Well that's not happening. And as far as sex goes, we're strictly non one-on-one. That's the agreement. I wanted to do something crazy in LA and you're getting in the way of me doing something crazy--

DAN

Hey, if you two are upset, maybe we--

WILL

Dude, the tip of your dick is sticking out of your pants.

Dan tries to cover his penis, but Cora stops him.

CORA

No. Keep it out. Listen Will, you can either be a baby and whine and complain about this or you can be a man and sit there and enjoy it.

Cora goes for Dan's crotch. Dan tries to pull away.

DAN (FRANTIC)

Maybe we should discuss some things first? I feel like we didn't discuss some things first. There are gray areas!

INT. ROOM 211

Mickey and Rob make-out on top of the bed's covers.

MICKEY (WHISPER)

Hotel rooms are so gross. My ex once fucked a fat girl in a hotel room.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM

Dan and Cora, in their underwear, make out in bed.

WILL

I can't see.

Will sits in a chair beside the bed.

DAN

Oh. Sorry-- wait, never mind.

CORA

Dan, if you don't feel comfortable with this, just say--

DAN

I don't feel comfortable with this.

CORA

That's cool. I understand. We'll go.

DAN

No. Stay. But maybe your friend isn't here taking a lookie loo?

CORA

Yeah I dunno. I just feel like that'd be rude to Will.

Cora starts taking off Dan's underwear. Faraway on a dresser, his phone vibrates with a text from Natalie...

INT. ROOM 211

Mickey and Rob have tweaked-out, Ambien-sanity sex on top of the covers. Trying to stay quiet. Rob's out of breath.

MICKEY (WHISPER)

... You travel much?

ROB (WHISPER)

What? No. Ehhh. Not really.

MICKEY

Outside the city? Big Bear? Joshua Tree?

ROB

I don't like camping.

MICKEY (WHISPER)

Sometimes I fantasize about ditching my job and my apartment and my friends and my ex's and just going up into the mountains and living alone like a hermit.

ROB

We have to be quiet.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will watches Dan and Cora, both naked, make out on the bed. Music is blasting. Dan isn't having fun.

DAN

I really can't-- we shouldn't--

CORA

Let's just start doing it and you won't even notice that he's watching--

Dan tries to concentrate on a pile of magazines on the night-stand, when he notices one is addressed to a man.

DAN

The fuck?

CORA

What's wrong now?

DAN

My sister. She's fucking some other guy.

CORA

Huh?

DAN

Never mind.

WILL

Less talk! More rock!

Cora pulls Dan on top of her. Dan, mind swirling, is about to have sex when he notices Will is ALSO NAKED.

DAN

Alright now Will, is that appropriate?

CORA

Dammit Will! Follow the rules!

DAN

Ok! Lots of fun gang. You're good people but time to pick up your duds and scoot.

INT. ROOM 211 - MEANWHILE

Mickey and Rob, post-sex, lay on top of the covers.

MICKEY (WHISPER)

So hey, it's a tough job market out there... I think we can both agree not to make this weird at work right?

Rob is ASLEEP. The front door rattles. Mickey gasps.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Rob. 211. She's back--

Rob jerks awake. The front door rattles again.

ROB

It's nothing. People call and complain about the doors rattling all the time.

Mickey, over it, rolls off the bed and fixes her clothes. Rob pulls up his pants. The two tidy the room and open the door-- when THE ADJOINING DOOR OPENS FROM THE SIDE!

A WOMAN IN PAJAMAS steps inside. She freaks out.

WOMAN IN PAJAMAS

WHO?!!

Mickey and Rob take off running down the hallway.

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM - MEANWHILE

Dan, passed out and alone in bed, snores --- as his phone glows on the dresser with more texts from Natalie.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

Mickey and Rob catch their breath as they ride the elevator down together. The fun is over.

ROB

I think I might barf or something.

Mickey nods and spaces off into nothing, when-- CUT TO:

Last Chapter (for now): NEXT MORNING

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT OFFICE - MORNING

Mickey, at her desk, stares at Solitaire on her phone.

LINDA (O.S.)

Morning, I'm here.

Mickey SNAPS out of it and sees Linda from the morning crew standing before her desk.

MICKEY

You're here early.

LINDA

I'm here *late*. On purpose. Because I refuse to deprive my boys of marching band lessons just so you don't bitch.

MICKEY

You're late?

LINDA

Yeah. And I don't give a shit.

MICKEY

How late are you?

LINDA

Oh you're keeping track now? I just caught you sleeping on the job.

MICKEY

No! I don't care! I need to know--

She looks at the wall clock. It's 8:05.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

FUCK! My meeting!

INT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW BEDROOM - MEANWHILE, MORNING

Dan sleeps in bed. Cora, not happy, stands by the door.

CORA

Wake up!

Dan sits up in bed. Already in panic.

DAN

Cora! Morning! How'd you sleep?

CORA

Me and Will need a ride to Springwood.

DAN

I don't have my car. It's at the, uh...

CORA

We should've been back an hour ago--

DAN

Brian's house! My car's at Brian's house. I didn't get to say hi to him. Sorry, last night was the first time I ever--

WILL (O.S. IN HALLWAY)

We have to go NOW!

DAN

Of course. Sorry. I'll pay for your cab.

Dan goes over to the dresser and grabs his wallet.

DAN (CONT'D)

Cora. Last night. Did we...?

CORA

Yes.

DAN

Wild night huh?

Cora gives Dan a hug and disappears. He puts his wallet down next to his phone and sees he has new texts from Natalie. He reads over his texts from last night...

DAN'S TEXTS

"let's hang when yr back in town..."
"when do u get back in town?"

He winces, then reads Natalie's new texts...

NATALIE'S TEXTS

"get back tmrw morn. we should def hang"
"can u pick me up at airport? no presh"

Dan reels a bit. He reads Natalie's final text...

NATALIE'S TEXTS (CONT'D)

"boarding now... land at 915am... miss u"

Dan frantically looks at the time: 8:20 a.m. He launches into action, making her bed and tucking in his shirt.

EXT. LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD - DAWN

A quiet street. A TAXI CAB roars by.

INT. TAXI CAB - MORNING

Mickey rides in back, changing clothes and toning up her "work" make-up for "meeting" make-up. Her phone vibrates.

MICKEY (ON THE PHONE)

Hey. You still at work?

INT. JANITOR'S CLOSET - MEANWHILE

Rob, on his phone, curled up in one of those floor sinks.

ROB

... yes? (beat) Where are you?

INT. TAXI CAB - MORNING

INTERCUT between Mickey in the cab and Rob in the sink.

MICKEY

In a taxi. My meeting's in 20 minutes and me driving a car was not happening.

ROB

Did you fall asleep?

MICKEY

I don't think so? I'll be honest, I'm not really in the fun part of Ambien right now. More the "strung out and semi-hallucinatory" part. When the taxi pulled up, I thought it growled at me.

ROB

Ok you sound busy and hey, as far as last night... it's not a big deal we made out--

MICKEY

We didn't make out.

ROB

Yeah we did. Last night. In the room.

MICKEY

What? No. We just kissed. By the wall. Then we heard the door. Wait! You're right. We *did* make out. Wow I forgot--

ROB

Like I said not a big deal. And it goes without saying, you know I'm gay.

EXT. DAN AND NATALIE'S NEW APARTMENT - MEANWHILE

Dan waits outside - nervous, pacing. His buddy TED pulls up in his car and steps out with the engine running.

DAN

Ted! Thank you man. You're a life saver.

TED

Don't worry about it. You were a maniac last night buddy--

DAN

Yeah I guess so. Well thanks again, I knew you lived nearby so--

TED

Just be careful. It's my brother's car. He's out of the country.

DAN

Sure. Of course if your brother was *in* the country, I'd run his car right off the road. Kidding. That's not a funny joke to make. Sorry. I'm jumpy.

INT. TAXI CAB - MEANWHILE

Mickey leans forward, closer to the TAXI DRIVER.

MICKEY

How many more blocks we looking at?

CAB DRIVER

A few?

Mickey looks ahead at an approaching TRAFFIC JAM. She glances at the taxi's meter. The red digital numbers *GLOW* and *PULSATE* in Mickey's eyes. She's TRIPPING!

INT. TED'S BROTHER'S CAR - LATER

Dan drives on the phone. The car's clock reads 8:50.

DAN

So I get this text asking me to pick her up the airport but-- is it too soon?

MOLLY (O.S.)

Well, is this something you want to do?

INT. MOLLY'S CAR - MEANWHILE

MOLLY, Dan's oldest sister, drives her car and talks on her blu-tooth as her two kids sleep in the backseat.

MOLLY

Because if you really want to do this, then I'd say pick her up. But if you have any doubts whatsoever--

INTERCUT between Ted and Molly's cars.

DAN

Well obviously I have doubts.

MOLLY

Then don't do it.

DAN

It's too late. I texted her I'd be there.

MOLLY

Then why'd you call me?

DAN

Pep talk? To lie to me and say this is a good idea. I mean, I'm not coming into this with any delusions but... Natalie and I might get back together here. And maybe-- *maybe* that *IS* the best thing!

Dan slows down for a TRAFFIC JAM. He gets antsy.

INT. TAXI CAB - MEANWHILE

Mickey, stuck in traffic, gets antsy in the backseat.

MICKEY

Can I just pay and get out?

EXT. BUSY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Mickey steps out the cab. As she runs across the street--

CUT TO:

INT. MICKEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT, FLASHBACK 1993

Mickey, age 13, sneaks out through her bedroom window.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - MEANWHILE, 1993

Dan, 12, uses a ruler to make perfect Xs on a to-do list.

INT. UNDERGROUND CLUB - NIGHT, 1995

Mickey, 15, at a wild punk show kisses a GIRL.

INT. CIVIC CENTER - MEANWHILE, 1996

Dan, 14, rocks out at a BRIAN SETZER ORCHESTRA concert.

EXT. ART GALLERY - NIGHT, 2000

A sea of hipsters clear a path for Mickey, 20, who walks past the velvet rope and side-cheek kisses a BOUNCER. She snorts coke while someone is licking her cheek.

INT. BOOK STORE - MEANWHILE, 2000

Dan, 19, laughs hard at a book reading by DAVE BERRY.

INT. TOUR VAN - NIGHT, 2009

Mickey, 29, smokes weed on a tour bus with LI'L WAYNE.

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE - MEANWHILE, 2009

Dan, 29, and his NIECE are scared by SKELETONS-- CUT TO:

EXT. BUSY STREET - MORNING, PRESENT DAY

Dan rear ends someone.

DAN
Shit! Fuck! Mother shit fuck!

EXT. BUSY STREET IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN - MORNING

Mickey makes it to the other side of the street and steps inside the building.

INT. SIRIUS BUILDING ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

Mickey rides the elevator up, frazzled but ready. She looks at the buttons which GLOW bright. Brighter and BRIGHTER... Mickey is TRIPPING before the interview.

EXT. STREET - MEANWHILE

Dan argues with the ANGRY MAN he just rear-ended. He shoves a piece of paper into the Angry Man's hand.

DAN
Just take my contact info! I have to get to the airport! My ex-girlfriend and I are working shit out--

ANGRY MAN
My wife and kids are in there. What do I give a shit about your life?

MOMENTS LATER: Dan tries to pull back into traffic but the car's front bumper is falling off and blocking him. He gets out of his car and starts RUNNING to the airport.

INT. SIRIUS RADIO FLOOR - MEANWHILE

Mickey steps off the elevator where she's greeted by MELANIE (type A chick).

MELANIE
Mickey! A little late but that's cool. I get it. Bill is waiting for you in the boardroom.

MICKEY
Okay. Good. How do I look?

MELANIE
You look a little--

MICKEY

Thanks. I feel good about the meeting.

MELANIE

Excellent. Like I told you, everybody here is a big fan. And don't forget: Bill is *blind*. You didn't forget that did you?

MICKEY

That is a legendary piece of information and something I would never forget.

Melanie opens the boardroom's doors for Mickey.

INT. BOARDROOM - MORNING

BILL sits in the center of what seems to be five different types of computers. He clearly has a special set up that is working out extremely well.

MICKEY (SOTTO, TO MELANIE)

I thought he would be wearing sunglasses?

MELANIE (SOTTO)

He's blind honey, not deaf.

Melanie shuts the door. Mickey stands in front of Bill not really knowing what to say.

BILL

Ah, yes. Mickey Shore of "Just the Tip(s)." Pleasure to meet you Mickey. You may take a seat wherever you'd like. Makes no difference to me. Clearly.

Mickey laughs nervously.

EXT. SIDE OF THE STREET

Dan, running, sees the AIRPORT way up ahead and picks up his speed-- when he trips and falls in a ditch. He gets back up and runs some more! His phone rings.

INTERCUT with Natalie standing curbside at the AIRPORT:

DAN

Natalie! Hey! I'm almost there!

NATALIE

Respond to my texts!

DAN

I did-- I said I was coming to get you.

NATALIE

I texted you not to now. I got a cab.

DAN

No no. I'll pick you up. We can catch up. I just picked up Manny and Lisa at the airport yesterday. I'm good at it!

NATALIE

Why are you breathing so hard?

DAN

I had a car accident and I'm on foot. But I'm running Natalie! I'm running to you!

NATALIE

So instead of getting into this cab right now, you want me to wait for you to run here with no car? Sounds fun. No thanks.

DAN

Alright that's true but yeah let's hang--

NATALIE

I don't know. I need time. Being out of town for the weekend really opened me up.

DAN

Fuckin SHIT! Whatever! Fuckin whore-bait!

Dan throws down his phone onto the street.

INT. SIRIUS RADIO BUILDING HALLWAY

Mickey, in shock, steps out of the boardroom where she's greeted by Melanie waiting behind a door.

MELANIE

How'd it go?

MICKEY

A mess. It was a mess. I was a mess.

EXT. SIDE OF THE STREET - MEANWHILE

Dan pulls off the front bumper of Ted's brother's car, tosses it into the backseat, and speeds away.

INT. TED'S BROTHER'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Dan, very upset, drives and talks on his scuffed phone. We INTERCUT between him and his sister Molly, on the other end, now playing with her kids in a DEN.

DAN

I'm so sick of this shit! I date these girls, y'know, who are so big on commitment and moving in and marriage but they end up running away. I just want to live free and be wild! I should be dating wild girls who never want to settle down.

INT. SIRIUS RADIO FLOOR - MEANWHILE

Mickey and Melanie walk up to the elevator.

MELANIE

Well, I'm sad the meeting didn't go well--

MICKEY

What's wrong with me? I didn't prepare at all. I had my head up Derrick's ass. Why? Why do we date guys like that Melanie? So we can focus on their shit and not ours?

MELANIE

I don't date guys like Derrick. I'm married.

MICKEY

I know! And that's what I want. I'm sick of running around and chasing-- I just want to get married and have kids and settle down. I should be dating a guy whose nice and stable and kind.

MELANIE

Well I'm not you, but before I met Eric I took a break from dating. Got some alone time in. Really helped me.

MICKEY

I like that. Alone time. Alone.

INT. TED'S BROTHER'S CAR - MEANWHILE

Dan, at the wheel, on the phone with his sister Molly.

MOLLY (O.S.)

Maybe instead of getting into another relationship, you just enjoy your time alone?

DAN

Yeah, this little girl told me the same thing yesterday... y'know what? Yeah. Alone. "Off the grid." Alone.

INT. SIRIUS RADIO BUILDING - MORNING

Mickey, physically and emotionally drained, walks out of the building and steps onto a PUBLIC BUS.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - MEANWHILE

Back at the warehouse, the forklift speeds down another row of shelves and pulls out a palette of rugs. A GREEN RUG moves down the assembly line, where it's packaged in a long cardboard box and put on a delivery truck. CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT ROAD - MORNING

Way outside Los Angeles. Dan pulls over Ted's brother's busted car to the side of the road. He steps out, smashes his phone with a rock, and walks toward a MOUNTAIN...

EXT. MOUNTAIN - MORNING

Dan climbs the mountain. Near the top, he finds Mickey asleep on a cliff. He walks over and notices she's crying in her sleep. Dan takes Mickey's hand and she wakes up.

DAN

Sorry. I didn't want you to fall off.

Mickey wipes the tears from her eyes and scowls at Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)

Okay. I'll leave you alone.

MICKEY

No. Stay.

She takes back Dan's hand and looks at him with love. Dan nods blankly and sits beside her. He watches Mickey as she looks out at the vast desert terrain...

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Can you give me a ride home?