

# Pilot

by

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COLD OPEN

INT: CAFE

Liz is sitting laid back at a table with a cup of coffee.  
Liz glances at the camera, smirks and does a half-wave.  
Pavan walks in with his coffee and takes a seat.

PAVAN

Liz, you're so right, dude. This  
pumpkin spice mocha is amazing!

Mia walks in with her cup of coffee and takes a seat.

MIA

Yep. Best thing white women have  
given us.

LIZ

Well, best thing after wine.

MIA

Didn't Jesus give us wine?

LIZ

Yeah, think about it. He got  
crucified for doing nothing wrong.  
Sounds like a woman to me.

PAVAN

Wasn't Jesus brown, though?

LIZ

Not according to every candle in my  
grandma's house.

Scott walks in with his cup of coffee and takes a seat.

SCOTT

Hey, Pavan, before I forget, you  
owe me 10 bucks for the Wendy's  
yesterday.

PAVAN

Oh, right. Wait, Scott, didn't I  
get you and Mia coffee that one  
time?

MIA

Yeah, but I put your Target bill on  
my card, remember? You forgot your  
wallet?

PAVAN

No, but I was buying that  
conditioner for Liz, and she still  
hasn't paid me back.

LIZ

I literally got Scott Dunkin'  
coffee two days ago.

They all sit in silence for a few seconds. Scott tries to do math on his fingers. Pavan is deep in thought. Mia is looking at her coffee cup. Liz takes a big sip.

SCOTT

We'll just settle it later, but for the record, I am broke. It's all this tipping. They spin that iPad around and I lose all control. How do you do it, Pavan?

PAVAN

I can't help you, man. I fold.

MIA

(sarcastically)

I bet you do.

PAVAN

Easy for you to say! Everyone knows Computer Science majors are born without hearts.

Mia rolls her eyes.

MIA

The key is to not look the employees in the eyes. That's how they get you.

Scott nods.

SCOTT

Do they tip much in Chile?

MIA

No, but there is a 10% service charge on a lot of stuff.

LIZ

That's what we need in this country.

SCOTT

How much do you tip?

LIZ

(bluntly)

I don't.

SCOTT

(astounded)

What?

LIZ

Tipping culture's toxic. They should really raise the minimum wage.

SCOTT

But you're rich! You have a moral obligation. That's like seeing someone choke and not giving them the Heimlich.

LIZ

Heimlich was a Nazi, you know.

PAVAN

(confused)

No... he wasn't?

LIZ

(smirking confidently)

Sounds like one.

<PLAY INTRO>

### ACT ONE

INT: THRIFT STORE

<IMPROV> Liz, Pavan, Scott, and Mia are goofing around in a thrift store. They're showing each other the funny objects. They might see a funny piece of art and joke about it being great dorm decor.

Pavan picks up a mug that says "Mayor Higgins' Hot Chocolate Run 2008."

PAVAN

(holding up mug)

Hey, guys, look at this mug.

LIZ

(reading)

Mayor Higgins' Hot Chocolate Run  
2008.

(laughing)

That's so funny! You should get that!

SCOTT

That's awesome, man!

PAVAN

Yeah, I did need a new mug.

SCOTT

Oh, Mia, by the way, could you help me study for my stats midterm?

MIA

(sarcastically)

They're teaching numbers to you, now? What's next? Shapes?

SCOTT  
(smiling)  
That's what I'm saying! I don't  
need to know math.

MIA  
(laughing)  
Sure, I'll help.

SCOTT  
Thanks!

Liz picks up a gold chain.

LIZ  
Guys, look at this chain. It's for  
\$100 but it's definitely worth way  
more than that.

PAVAN  
You should try to flip it, make  
some money.

LIZ  
Yeah, I think I could I do that.

Liz looks at the camera.

EXT: OUTSIDE JEWELRY STORE

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
Let's see what the jewelry store  
makes of this.

Liz shows the necklace to the camera, and then walks into  
the jewelry store.

INT: JEWELRY STORE

Liz walks in, but notices the jeweler is busy with a  
customer. Liz watches the jeweler's conversation.

JEWELER  
Yeah, best price I can get you on  
this is a thousand.

CUSTOMER 1  
(offended)  
I paid four for this! What are you  
talking about?

JEWELER  
(visibly angry)  
You think you know better than me,  
buddy? I do this for a living,  
buddy.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
That's not very nice.

CUSTOMER 1

(angry)

You're a fraud! I'm taking my  
business elsewhere, thief.

JEWELER

(angry)

You know what? You get out of my  
store! I don't want you here! Take  
your things and leave!

The customer starts packing his things up. The jeweler gets  
a call and picks up the phone.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

Yeah, maybe eBay's the move, here.

Liz takes her time to look through the store. She overhears  
the jeweler's conversation.

JEWELER

(softening up  
immediately)

Hey, baby! I got your text. I've  
got your favorites for movie night  
this weekend, alright?

The jeweler pauses. His face drops into a frown.

JEWELER

(disappointed)

Oh, you want to spend this weekend  
at your mom's house? Oh, okay.  
Alright, talk to you later, honey.

Liz doesn't want to sell her necklace here any more, but  
she's still browsing the shop until she's interrupted.

JEWELER

(flatly)

Can I help you?

Liz is startled.

LIZ

Yeah, do you know where the  
bathroom is?

JEWELER

Yeah, just down the corner.

LIZ

(quickly)

Thanks!

Liz flashes the jeweler a half-smile before leaving.

EXT: OUTSIDE JEWELRY STORE

Liz walks outside.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
That guy's a scammer!

INT: CLASSROOM 1 - NIGHT

Mia and Scott walk into the classroom.

SCOTT  
I can't thank you enough, man. I  
feel like I'm so screwed.

MIA  
When's your midterm?

SCOTT  
3 days.

MIA  
Yeah, you're screwed. But not  
completely. Alright, focus up.

Mia is working on the whiteboard while Scott is staring thoughtfully at the whiteboard. Shots of Scott staring while his thoughts of formulas come out of him. Also, visuals of his distracted thoughts like "I'm hungry" and "Why do cured meats expire? How cured are they?" Are overlaid on his face. Shots of Mia explaining stats.

MIA  
And then you use the Z table to  
find the value for 2.34.

SCOTT  
Mia, thank you so much for  
explaining everything. But there is  
no fucking way I can remember all  
of this for the exam.

MIA  
But you get it, right?

SCOTT  
Yeah.

MIA  
Well, you're a psychology major.  
You'd probably know how to remember  
stuff most efficiently, right?

SCOTT  
Yeah, we've read a couple papers.

MIA  
Yeah, do something useful with your  
education for once.

SCOTT

That was the one thing I was hoping  
I'd never do.

MIA

Alright, I'm gonna go to bed. I got  
to wake up early for my 9:00 AM  
class. I can't afford to be late  
again.

SCOTT

Yeah, doesn't your professor hate  
you?

Mia nods.

INT: MIA'S ROOM

Mia wakes up with a start. She's still a bit groggy but she  
looks to her phone. Her phone doesn't switch on.

MIA

(panicked)

Shit! I forgot to plug my phone in!

Mia looks to her computer.

MIA

(panicked)

9:17!

Mia puts on her shoes haphazardly and runs out of her room.

EXT: STREET

Mia is running as fast as she can to her class. She stops,  
and runs back. The camera is stationary.

MIA

(panicked)

My backpack!

Mia runs out of frame. A few seconds elapse. Mia runs in the  
direction of her class again, this time with her backpack.

INT: CLASSROOM 2

Mia runs into her class.

PROFESSOR

Ah, look who finally decided to  
grace us with her presence.

Mia is panting but manages to let out a sigh. She takes off  
her backpack and walks into class.



INT: CHEMISTRY LAB

Pavan is talking with some of his friends in the lab while holding his Hot Chocolate Run coffee mug from the thrift store.

PAVAN

No, yeah. Seth Rogen's career definitely peaked in 2008 with Pineapple A-S-A-P.

The head researcher, Dave, walks in. He's wearing a beanie for Mayor Higgins' Hot Chocolate Run.

DAVE

Hey, Pavan, how are those samples going?

Pavan isn't relaxed any more. He stumbles over his words.

PAVAN

Good, Dave. I'm just taking my break right now.

Dave notices Pavan's mug.

DAVE

Ah, that mug.  
(pointing to his beanie)  
Looks like we're matching!

PAVAN

(awkwardly)  
Haha, yeah!

DAVE

2008, huh? Did your parents participate in the run?

PAVAN

(nodding)  
Uh-huh.

DAVE

That's great! My wife used to work a lot with that charity.

PAVAN

(nodding)  
Nice!

DAVE

Do you know what category your parents participated in?

PAVAN

(nervously)  
Uh... The... marathon.

DAVE  
(squinting)  
What?

PAVAN  
(more nervously)  
The half-marathon, I mean.

DAVE  
What... What do you-

PAVAN  
(faking confidence)  
The relay!

DAVE  
You have no clue what the hot  
chocolate run is, do you?

PAVAN  
No.

DAVE  
(disappointed)  
That's a shame.

PAVAN  
No, I'm sorry. I was at a thrift  
store and-

DAVE  
(bluntly, staring into  
Pavan)  
My wife died in a thrift store.

Dave shakes his head.

DAVE  
Unbelievable.

Dave walks off.

## ACT TWO

INT: DINING COMMONS - NIGHT

The camera starts at a table with some random people. It slowly pans to our main characters' table.

RANDOM GUY 1  
(in exaggerated voice)  
Yeah, I did track in high school,  
but that's just not me any more.

Liz, Scott, Pavan, and Mia are seated. Scott is babbling to himself.

PAVAN

I don't know what to do! Is it so bad to find Mayor Higgins' Hot Chocolate Run funny?

LIZ

My favorite part is the 2008.

Liz's phone pings, she takes it out and looks at it.

LIZ

Sorry, I thought somebody was interested in my eBay listing.

PAVAN

For the gold necklace?

LIZ

Yeah.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

(showing her phone)

My new pillows just arrived.

LIZ

I think nobody's biting cause they don't know what the quality is... Wait, Pavan, could you test my necklace in your lab?

PAVAN

(hesitantly)

Liz... We aren't allowed to use the lab for personal projects. I don't know, I'm kinda on thin ice already.

MIA

Hey, couldn't be worse than Scott. He's broken.

Scott was babbling to himself, but snaps out of it to respond to Liz.

SCOTT

I'm not broken. I'm just using memory techniques to remember the formulas for my statistics quiz.

Liz and Mia smile.

MIA

Not just any techniques. Tell him what it's called.

SCOTT

I'm using mnemonics which is like using acronyms to-

LIZ  
(still smiling)  
No, the other one.

SCOTT  
(carefully)  
And I'm using chunking, which-

Liz, Pavan, and Mia start laughing.

PAVAN  
(laughing)  
Chunking! Classic.

Liz and Mia agree.

PAVAN  
(settling down)  
Is it working, though?

MIA  
(to Scott)  
How do you find the expected value  
of an exponential distribution?

Pavan, Mia, and Liz watch Scott.

SCOTT  
Uh, Normal Puppies Eat... Eat. E is  
for Exponential... So...

Scott notices everyone looking at him.

SCOTT  
No, I know. This is working.

Everyone continues to stare at Scott for a few seconds.

SCOTT  
Mia was late to class again.

Everyone continues to stare at Scott.

SCOTT  
Her professor hates her.

Everyone continues to stare at Scott.

SCOTT  
(groaning but smiling)  
Ugh, I hate you guys.

LIZ  
Pavan, could you? Please? It won't  
take very long, I assume, with no  
knowledge of physics or chemistry.

Pavan has trouble deciding but he feels Liz pressuring him.  
He looks nervous.

PAVAN

Yeah, sure. We can go to the lab after hours.

LIZ

Yes! Thank you!

SCOTT

Could you guys get me some thumbtacks? I wanna put some flash cards on my wall.

PAVAN

We can't bring lab stationery out of the lab.

SCOTT

It's thumbtacks!

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

Pavan's a bit of a stickler.

LIZ

I got you, Scott.

MIA

While, I'd love to keep talking about thumbtacks with you guys, I'm gonna go shower and then sleep early.

SCOTT

The 9:00 AM?

MIA

Exactly.

PAVAN

Why do you even need flash cards, Scott? What about your chunky?

Liz and Mia laugh.

INT: CLASSROOM 1 - NIGHT

We open behind Scott staring at a whiteboard with statistics equations on it. Scott is scribbling in a notebook. We zoom in over his shoulder to see him try to solve a math question. He gets it wrong and he's frustrated. He pulls out a piece of paper with memory techniques on it and crosses some out. He uses his laptop to search "how to study psychology paper." We focus on his face while he uses his mousepad to click on several things. We see his screen again. He's in a Wikipedia rabbit hole on some stupid page like the 2013 Oscars. There is no hope for him any more.

INT: MIA'S ROOM

Mia wakes up to an alarm, puts on her shoes and backpack and leaves her room.

EXT: STREET

Mia walks to class.

INT: CLASSROOM 2

Mia walks into her classroom to find it empty.

MIA  
(smiling to herself)  
First person to show up today! Take  
that you old bastard.

Mia looks at the clock which reads 8:39. Mia takes a seat and puts her backpack on the floor. Mia pulls out her phone and scrolls through some app. We zoom in on the clock which cuts from 8:39 to 8:45 and cut back to Mia still on her phone. We zoom in on the clock which cuts to 8:50, and Mia is still on her phone. We do this until the clock 9:15 and Mia slowly looks around more puzzled each time. Finally, Mia pulls out her computer and logs on.

MIA  
Shit!

Mia runs out of the door.

INT: CLASSROOM 3

Mia runs into the classroom, panting.

PROFESSOR  
Well, well, well, I'm glad you're  
joining us, even if it is 20  
minutes late.

MIA  
I'm so sorry. I just found out the  
class was moved here.

PROFESSOR  
Right, that's why I sent the email  
out last night.

MIA  
(quietly)  
I made it to the other classroom 20  
minutes early.

PROFESSOR  
(condescendingly)  
And we're all very proud of you.  
Take a seat.

Mia is really disappointed. She walks past the professor into class.

INT: DINING COMMONS - DAY

The camera pans from random people's tables to our main characters' table.

RANDOM GUY 2  
(in stupid voice)  
The Starbucks on campus is worse  
than the Starbucks off campus.

Mia, Liz, and Scott are seated at a table with some food.

MIA  
Can you believe that? It's like  
anything I do, I'm late.

LIZ  
That sucks.

MIA  
Yeah... How's the studying going?

SCOTT  
I abandoned the other techniques  
for just making a mind palace. I  
read a paper that said it's the  
most effective.

MIA  
A mind palace? What is that?

SCOTT  
It's like the technique Sherlock  
Holmes uses. You imagine a place  
you know really well, and place  
objects that symbolize the things  
you want to remember.

LIZ  
So is the place that you imagine my  
shadow?

SCOTT  
(sarcastically)  
Ha-ha. No, I imagine Worcester High  
School, which is probably worse.

Pavan walks in with his plate and takes a seat.

MIA  
How are things going in the lab?

PAVAN  
Bad. Dave is still kinda pissed  
off. Did you make it to your class  
on time today?

MIA

I made it to my classroom on time.

PAVAN

That's good.

MIA

But my professor had a last-minute classroom change.

PAVAN

That's not so good.

MIA

It's terrible! It's like the world's conspiring against me to make this one particular old man mad at me!

LIZ

Eh, old people are always grumpy. We should hotbox every nursing home.

SCOTT

Alright, guys, I'm gonna head out. Actually, Liz and Pavan, are you guys gonna get my thumbtacks by tonight?

LIZ

Yeah, we're hitting the lab tonight.

PAVAN

Wait, why do you still need them? Aren't you building your imaginary castle?

SCOTT

Mind palace. And I need them to map it out. Alright, thanks Liz! I'll see you guys.

Scott gets up, takes his plate, and walks away. He leaves his phone behind.

LIZ

Hey, Robert Downey Jr., you forgot your phone.

Scott walks back and picks up his phone. Liz smiles at him.

SCOTT

It was the Benedict Cumberbatch version of Sherlock. So... Mind palace...

Scott walks away.



INT: CHEMISTRY LAB

Pavan is in the lab and preparing a weighing scale. Liz walks into the lab holding thumbtacks and dish soap.

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
Where were you?

LIZ  
Foraging for thumbtacks.

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
I thought you were joking.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
I wasn't.

LIZ  
(holding up her dish  
soap)  
I also got this.

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
Dude! Why can't you just buy dish  
soap?

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
Who has the time?

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
Liz! Can you get me a beaker?  
They're in the cupboard there.

LIZ  
What about this one?

Liz drains a beaker that was on the counter in the sink.

PAVAN  
(whispering loudly)  
No! Dude! What if we needed those  
chemicals for tomorrow? Dave's  
gonna kill me!

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
(jokingly shrugging)  
Well, we can't do anything now.

Liz uses her dish soap to wash the beaker and places the beaker dramatically in front of Pavan. Pavan sighs.

PAVAN  
(exhausted)  
Dude, this is the last time I'm  
doing you a favor.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
(smiling)  
He doesn't mean that. He loves me.

Pavan fills the beaker with some water. He places the necklace on the weighing scale.

PAVAN  
You know, there's a famous story about density and gold. Archimedes was called in by the King, and-

LIZ  
Was he hot?

PAVAN  
What? I- How- I don't know.

LIZ  
Then I'm beginning to lose interest.

Pavan looks at Liz and then transfers the necklace into the beaker.

PAVAN  
He came up with how to test gold, and he did it in a bathtub.

LIZ  
Well, I do get my best ideas in the shower. Like you remember when I smuggled all those mini M&Ms from the dining hall ice cream bar in a water bottle?

PAVAN  
Yeah.

LIZ  
All shower, man. All shower.

PAVAN  
I bet Archimedes didn't have to deal with this kinda distraction when he was working.

LIZ  
(sarcastically)  
Who even wants to be like that guy? He probably died working on a math problem.

Pavan pauses.

PAVAN  
That's actually exactly how he died.

Pavan and Liz hear a noise. Pavan panics. Liz is a little shaken.

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
We have to leave! Shit!

Liz grabs her thumbtacks in a hurry. Pavan and Liz both almost leave. They both run back frantically. Liz comes back to get her necklace from the beaker.

LIZ  
(whispering)  
The necklace!

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
The sink looks different!

Pavan awkwardly tries to rearrange the sink to how it was. He rearranges some beakers, and grabs the dish soap. He doesn't know what to do with it so he throws it in the hallway.

LIZ  
(whispering)  
Dude!

Pavan tries to leave, but runs back again.

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
The lights!

Pavan switches off the lights. They both run out from the lab quietly.

INT: HALLWAY

Liz and Pavan run out of the lab. Liz trips a little and drops her thumbtacks.

LIZ  
(whispering)  
Oh shit!

PAVAN  
(whispering)  
Leave it! Come on!

LIZ (TO CAMERA)  
Aw, man!

Liz and Pavan run through the hallway. The camera focuses on the spilled dish soap and thumbtacks that form a Home Alone-esque trap.

INT: MIA'S ROOM

Mia is in bed. She gets up. A few seconds later, her alarm rings. We enter a montage set to a song that sounds like Eye of the Tiger. She's determined to be on time to her class today. Mia stretches.

MIA  
Wake up on time: check!

Mia brushes her teeth.

MIA  
(with her toothbrush in  
her mouth)  
Brush teeth: check!

Mia comes out from the bathroom.

MIA  
Shower: check!

Mia eats some sugary cereal like Lucky Charms.

MIA  
(with her mouth full)  
Healthy breakfast: check!

Mia puts on her shoes.

MIA  
Shoes: check!

Mia puts on her backpack.

MIA  
Backpack: check!

Mia types on her computer.

MIA  
Check email for any last minute  
changes: che-

Mia's face drops instantly. The music stops playing.

ACT THREE

INT: DINING COMMONS - DAY

We cut to Liz, Scott, Pavan, and Mia seated at a table. Liz, Scott, and Pavan look shocked.

PAVAN  
(shocked)  
HE DIED?

MIA  
He. fucking. died.

SCOTT  
He died hating you.

LIZ  
You know he's gonna haunt you.

MIA  
(nodding)  
Passive-aggressively.

They sit in silence for a second.

SCOTT  
Anyways. Liz, did you sell the necklace yet?

LIZ  
Dude, my eBay account got banned.

PAVAN  
Wait, why?

LIZ  
Apparently, I was "impersonating a celebrity" with my username.

MIA  
What was it?

LIZ  
Real Uma Thurman Sixty Seven.

PAVAN  
That's crazy.

LIZ  
What? I just really like Uma Thurman.

SCOTT  
I can see that.

MIA  
I can see why you got banned.

LIZ  
Anyway,  
(in a British accent)  
how's the case, Mr. Holmes?

SCOTT  
Not good, man. Not good.

PAVAN  
Mind palace didn't work out?

SCOTT

No, dude. I spent so long trying to find the best way to study, and it did not pay off.

LIZ

You know, maybe you would've been fine if instead of studying how to study, you had just... Studied.

SCOTT

It's true. But maybe if I had my thumbtacks.

LIZ

Yeah, I'm sorry about that. There was a whole thing. We were with the gold, and then-

Scott's phone buzzes. He looks at it. He's confused but delighted.

SCOTT

What?

MIA

What is it?

SCOTT

My midterm's been postponed to next Thursday.

LIZ

There we go! And you were chunking your pants about it!

Mia and Pavan laugh.

PAVAN

That's great!

SCOTT

(puzzled)

My professor was on his way to his office and he slipped on some thumbtacks?

Liz is shocked but smiling. Pavan is just shocked. They look at each other, until Liz looks at the camera.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

Now, that's crazy!

MIA

Well, at least you have plenty of time to study now.

SCOTT

Yeah, that's true. But I think I'd rather just leave it to the last minute.

LIZ

Yeah, that's future Scott's problem. Fuck that guy!

SCOTT

Exactly! I think next time, I just have to commit to one of the techniques, though, you know? No half measures.

Liz starts to get up.

LIZ

Speaking of measures, I gotta go to the jeweler.

PAVAN

I thought you said he was a dick.

LIZ

He was, but I can't sell it on eBay now.

MIA

But he's a scammer, right? He's gonna undercut you?

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

(shrugging)

Yeah.

SCOTT

Isn't today your aca-

Harsh cut.

INT: ACADEMIC ADVISOR OFFICE

We peer through the door to Liz's academic advising appointment. We can barely hear the audio.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Look, I get it. I want you to succeed, but you have to-

Liz looks nervously back at the camera. Harsh cut.

INT: JEWELRY STORE

Liz walks into the jewelry store. The jeweler is talking with another customer. Liz overhears their conversation.

JEWELER

This one, 18 Karats, is normally 15 to 15 and a half thousand, but I'll tell you what. It is an old piece. For you, I'll do 9 grand flat.

CUSTOMER 2

I told you, I want 14 karats but a bigger piece.

JEWELER

Did I say this one was 18? I meant 14 and it's for about 3 grand flat. You know, I have so many items, it's hard to keep track.

CUSTOMER 2

(obviously lying)

Yeah, you know what, I'll be back later.

Customer 2 is on his way out.

JEWELER

(angry)

Oh, I know your type! You say you'll be back and then you never are! Don't lie to me! I'm not stupid! Get out of my store!

CUSTOMER 2

(to Liz)

Don't do business with that guy.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

Yikes!

Customer 2 leaves.

JEWELER

(to Liz)

Hey, can I help you?

Liz takes out the necklace from her pocket and walks up to the counter. She pouts and looks a bit sad.

LIZ

Hey, I want to sell this piece. It's 14 Karats, I think? My dad gave it to me as a birthday gift, but I have to sell it.

The jeweler picks up the necklace from Liz's hand and examines it.

JEWELER

(rudely)

What are you hoping to get for it?



LIZ

I don't know much. My dad said it was worth about 2 thousand.

JEWELER

(rudely)

Hmmph... And do you know the cut? The weight?

LIZ

No... I just really need the money for college.

JEWELER

(softening up)

Oh, yeah? My daughter goes to Wesleyan.

LIZ

That's cool! Does she visit much?

JEWELER

(disappointedly)

Oh... Uh, kind of.

LIZ

That's too bad. I visit my dad any chance I get.

Jeweler stares at the necklace with melancholy for a few seconds. Liz speaks up after a few seconds, still pouting.

LIZ

So, what do you think?

JEWELER

My best price would usually be 300, but for you, I can do 350.

LIZ

(sad, on the verge of tears)

No, but my dad promised me it was worth 2000! I really need the money for school! 350 won't get me anything! This was my favorite birthday gift, too! Please! Can you do something more?

JEWELER

(consolingly and quietly)

Hey! Hey! Calm down, honey! I'll do it for 1000, okay?

LIZ

(still very sad)

Can you please do 1500? Please?

JEWELER

I'll give you 1250, okay? Come on.  
You're okay.

LIZ

(less sad)

Thank you so much. Could I please  
get that in cash?

JEWELER

Yeah, sure, let me ring you up.

The jeweler takes her necklace, and gives her an envelope  
full of cash.

LIZ

(happy)

Thank you so much! I'll never  
forget this!

JEWELER

Stay in college, okay?

Liz opens the door to leave.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

(holding up her envelope  
and smiling)

22-inch 14-karat rope diamond cut  
yellow gold 4.5-millimeter. Goes  
for about eleven-seventy, usually.

Liz leaves the jewelry store.

INT: CAFE

The camera pans from random people's tables to our main  
characters' table.

RANDOM GUY 3

(in stupid voice)

My roommate's really messy, but I'm  
really clean.

Liz, Mia, Pavan, and Scott are seated at a table with coffee  
cups.

MIA

Thank you so much for the coffee,  
Liz!

Scott and Pavan agree.

LIZ

No problem, guys! Pavan helped a  
lot, too!

PAVAN

Thanks. Dave might be mad at me,  
though. He doesn't like people  
touching his glassware.

SCOTT

Sounds like a fun guy.

LIZ

Like a mushroom.

Nobody is impressed except Liz. Liz is happy that she came  
up with that joke.

PAVAN

How was your appointment, Liz?

LIZ

It was good.

Liz forces a smile at Pavan and the camera.

LIZ (TO CAMERA)

It was good.

MIA

Nice... I think I'm gonna head out,  
though.

Mia gets up to leave.

PAVAN

Yeah, I have to go to the lab.

Pavan and Scott get up to leave.

SCOTT

And I have to go study.

Liz gets up to leave, but she doesn't take her jacket.

LIZ

What technique are you using this  
time?

They all walk out of view from the camera, toward the exit.  
The camera zooms out slowly to behind the counter, where  
there sits a tip jar.

SCOTT

(off-camera, distant)  
It's this niche thing called  
reading the textbook.

LIZ

(off-camera, distant)  
Wait, guys, I forgot my jacket.

Liz walks back in, grabs her jacket in the unfocused background, and walks up to the counter. She drops a \$100 bill into the tip jar, and walks to the exit again.

<PLAY CREDITS>

COLD CLOSE

INT: CHEMISTRY LAB

Pavan walks in to the chemistry lab. Dave has a lineup of all the chemists, which Pavan joins. Dave is confronting them to find out who touched his glassware. Pavan looks really nervous.

DAVE

Now, one of you, has touched my glassware. I left a beaker by the sink last night, but when I came in this morning, it was washed and filled with distilled water. Somehow, that was the second weirdest part of my morning, after crossing that puddle of bloody soap.

(accusingly)

Pavan, do you know who did this?

PAVAN

(sweating)

Uh... I don't know Dave.

Pavan nervously points to the person next to him. The person next to him looks at him angrily. Pavan breaks.

PAVAN

It was me, Dave. I'm sor-

DAVE

(to the lineup)

This is the kind of initiative we need around here. Even while I had left the lab, Pavan was preparing the lab for today's procedure. Thank you, Pavan. Alright, get to work, guys.

Dave walks away.

PAVAN

(nervous but happy)

Oh, yeah, no problem, Dave!

Pavan nervously smiles at the lineup. They look at him angrily. Pavan's smile fades away.