

Something Good

by

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INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Still dark out, ALLISON, 17, sits on the side of her bed in her pyjamas and slides her feet into a pair of slippers. She picks up her phone and headphones off the bedside table and puts the headphones on. She presses her phone a few times, stands up and walks out of frame as Chopin's 'Nocturne Op. 15 No. 2 in F-Sharp Major' starts to play and we

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT

Allison walks through the basement floor of the house listening to Chopin.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM

Allison flushes the toilet and washes her hands. She takes a flannel, wets it, squeezes it out and wipes her face.

CUT TO:

INT. STAIRCASE

Allison walks upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Allison walks down the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY

Allison takes the fabric cover off a standing keyboard and pulls up the stand for sheet music and places her phone on it. She unplugs her headphones from her phone, cutting off Chopin and plugs them into the back of the keyboard and moves the cord so it hangs under the keyboard and not over the keys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She turns on the keyboard, making the board of knobs and dials light up before opening a countdown timer on her phone and pressing start. Two hours turns to one hour and fifty-nine minutes and fifty-nine seconds and continues running down. Allison places her hands over the keys and takes a calming deep breath before starting her warm up exercises. We just hear the thudding of the keys as she moves slowly up and down the keyboard, not what she's hearing in her headphones.

FADE TO:

The study is filled with light from the just now rising sun. Allison's hands are now moving extremely fast up and down the keyboard when the countdown timer goes off. She presses her phone, making the alarm stop. She unplugs her headphones and plugs them back into her phone which she presses a few times before putting in her pocket. Chopin's 'Piano Prelude No 15 Raindrop' starts to play as she turns the keyboard off and places the fabric cover neatly over it and walks out of frame.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Allison walks into an empty kitchen. She puts the jug on and takes out a mug and puts a tea bag in it. Going to the fridge, she takes out a bag of croissants and two eggs.

CUT TO:

The croissants cut in half, quietly sizzle face down in a pan over the stoves as Allison stirs her eggs in a pot. A small bottle of cream and a half used butter block sit on the bench beside her mug which is now steaming. She stirs for a few moments, then takes the pot off the heat, continuing to stir before bringing it back on the heat. A few moments more of stirring and she turns the heat off both elements and pours a splash of cream in the eggs and stirs one last time.

CUT TO:

Allison pours the scrambled eggs over the two croissant halves on a large plate. She puts the pot and pan in the sink, filling the pot with water.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Allison on the kitchen bench with perfect posture as she finishes eating her breakfast, Chopin still playing in her ears. We hold on her eating for a few moments when MUM (forties), wearing white pants and shoes and a beige colored top and DAD (forties) in sports track pants and an old rugby jersey walk in. They're carrying bags with them. Allison looks up when they enter the kitchen and slides her headphones down around her neck. We hear Chopin play quietly from her headphones, cheap stereo style.

MUM
(smiling)
Morning honey.

ALLISON
Morning.

Mum walks to the kitchen and boils the jug and looks back at Dad.

MUM
You sure you don't want a hot
drink for the ride? I'm gonna make
myself a tea.

DAD
I'm fine.

Mum takes a travel mug from the cupboard and throws two tea bags in it. Dad looks at Allison.

DAD (CONT'D)
You do your exercises this
morning?

ALLISON
Uh huh.

MUM
That's my girl.

DAD
Our flights coming in at two
tomorrow afternoon. If one of you
could pick us up from the airport
that'd be great.

ALLISON
You know I can just give you a
lift right now, you don't have to
catch a taxi.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MUM

No, you need to stay and practice for your exam next week. And I don't even want to bother trying to get that Katie out of bed.

ALLISON

It's only a twenty minute drive. I've got all day to practice. Let me just take you guys.

Mum fills her mug with hot water.

MUM

Don't worry about it honey, our Uber should be outside any minute now. And besides, when Jerome gets here, I don't want you sitting on the piano all day.

ALLISON

Why is he staying with us again?

MUM

Because he's Mark and Trish's nephew and he's moving in next door with them.

ALLISON

So why is he sleeping here this weekend?

Dad's phone beeps.

DAD

That's our driver. I'll take the bags out and meet you in the car.

Dad steps over to Allison and kisses her on the cheek.

DAD (CONT'D)

Bye honey.

ALLISON

Bye Dad.

Mum takes a spoon out and starts squeezing her tea bags.

MUM

Look, he's just staying here for a couple days because Mark and Trish had to go out of town short notice for a wedding.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MUM (CONT'D)

His flight was already booked to move in this weekend so I said he could stay with us. It's only for today and tomorrow.

ALLISON

So you're just leaving us with a complete stranger?

Mum throws the tea bags in the compost bin.

MUM

C'mon Allison don't be so dramatic.

Look, Trish says he's a really sweet kid and he's your age so you should both have plenty to talk about.

Mum opens the fridge and takes the milk out and heads back to her tea.

MUM (CONT'D)

If you get the rest of your practice out of the way this morning, maybe you and Katie can take him out for lunch or a movie. And if Georgia or Amy ever decide to leave their friends houses, feel free to take them along too.

ALLISON

You know I can't afford to be take him out to lunch and movie.

Mum tops her tea off with milk and stirs. She goes to put the spoon in the dishwasher but it's filled with clean dishes. She closes it and puts the spoon in the sink.

MUM

I *know*. I left my card on the piano for you. And can you please unload this when you're done eating?

You know it wouldn't hurt to get to know him honey. He is gonna be our neighbour for the rest of the year.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Mum puts the milk back in the fridge and screws the top on her mug. She picks it up and kisses Allison on the forehead.

MUM

I've left the car keys by the TV in our room. Don't stress about this Jerome kid, you'll be fine.

ALLISON

Just don't expect me to give him a grand tour of the city or anything.

MUM

(smiling)
Don't worry, I won't.
(walking towards the hallway)
Bye honey, love you.

ALLISON

Love you too.

We hold on Allison for a moment as she sips her tea before we

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Allison takes the credit card off the top of the upright piano in the living room and puts it in the breast pocket of her pajamas. She takes a book out of the seat and sits down. After opening the Chopin sheet music book, she looks at her wrist watch. She sits and stares out the window for a few moments and looks at her watch again, then places her hands over the keys. She takes a calming breath and starts to play Chopin's 'Nocturne Op. 9 No 2 in E flat major' beautifully. The sound echoes loud in contrast from the previous silence. We stay with her a while before we

CUT TO:

The mantelpiece. Family photos - Mum and Dad and their four daughters including Allison. A photo of Allison at a piano recital, Georgia in a tutu, Amy in action on the basketball court and Katie at her year 13 ball.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGIA'S BEDROOM

A messy, over furnished bedroom. Clothes all over the bed. Taylor Swift and The Fault in Our Stars posters on the wall. Polaroid pictures hanging around the rooms in random clumps on the walls.

CUT TO:

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM

Tidy. A bookcase by the bed. Terminator 2: Judgement Day and Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook posters on the wall.

CUT TO:

INT. KATIE'S ROOM

Just as messy as Georgia's room. Clothes everywhere, including every inch of the bed that Katie is not under. She rolls over, waking up and looks at her alarm clock that reads 08:02.

KATIE
(annoyed, quietly to
herself)
Oh my God.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Katie steps into the living room.

KATIE
Jesus Ali, it's Saturday. Why
don't you let yourself sleep in
for once so I can too?

Katie walks into the adjoining kitchen and takes a mug and tea bag out of the cupboard. Allison stops playing.

ALLISON
You're the one who agreed when I
said eight o'clock for a start
time.

Katie touches the jug and fills her mug.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATIE

I know I did but that doesn't mean
you have to start playing at
exactly eight o'clock.

ALLISON

Mum and Dad just left.

KATIE

Yeah I said bye to them last
night.

Katie sits down at the bench and blows on her tea to cool
it down.

ALLISON

I've got Mum's card if you need
petrol when you pick up Jerome.

KATIE

Oh yeah shit.

ALLISON

What?

KATIE

I was supposed to ask you last
night.

ALLISON

(sighs)
What, you need me to pick him up?

KATIE

Pleeeaaase?

Allison rolls her eyes.

ALLISON

Fine.

KATIE

Also, Dillan is coming over, and
since Georgia and Amy are gonna be
out all day, I was wondering
whether we could have the house to
ourselves since Mum and Dad are
gone.

ALLISON

What's Jerome gonna do then?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATIE

Hang out with you?

ALLISON

Seriously? I can't stay out with this guy all day if that's what you're asking.

KATIE

Please Ali, Mum and Dad never go anywhere. This is like the only chance for us to ever have the house in private.

ALLISON

Then why don't you just go flatting? You can't expect me to hang out with him for the whole day.

KATIE

C'mon, please, it's just one day. And you'll have the car and Mum's card so you guys can do whatever you want. Besides, maybe you'll like him. Mum showed me a photo, he's actually pretty good looking.

ALLISON

I don't care what he looks like. And I actually have plans today, thanks for asking by the way.

KATIE

Why, what are you doing?

ALLISON

Erica's doing a practice recital at her house for friends and family at four, so I'm gonna go and support her, and before that I'm catching up with Harriet from school.

KATIE

Harriet from St. Teresa's?

ALLISON

Yeah, someone said she dropped out of school this year or something. She just randomly txt me the other day saying we should hang out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KATIE

I'm sure Jerome won't mind going to see Erica play, and he could just get a coffee or whatever with you and Harriet, he doesn't have to sit with you if you don't want.

ALLISON

You know there's no way you'd agree to this if you were me and I was asking you.

KATIE

(smiling)

If I was single like you I might.

ALLISON

(rolling her eyes)

Oh my God.

KATIE

Ali, please, we haven't had sex in like two weeks.

ALLISON

So? I've never even had sex, why do you think I'd care about that?

KATIE

Please Ali, just do me this favour ok?

ALLISON

(sighs)

Alright, fine, but you owe me big time then.

KATIE

Of course, whatever you want. And I'm sure he'll appreciate you taking him to Cynthia's party tonight. You know, so he can make some friends and everything.

ALLISON

(surprised)

What? How long is Dillan gonna be here?

KATIE

(carefully)

Till like ten?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ALLISON

You expect me to hang out with
someone I haven't even met for
like twelve hours?

KATIE

(screws up her face)
Yeeesss?

ALLISON

You have to do my kitchen day for
the next four weeks then, and that
doesn't count as you owing me.

KATIE

C'mon, that's too much.

ALLISON

Well then no sex for you today.

KATIE

Ok, fine I'll do it.

ALLISON

(smiling)
Good.

Allison turns around to start playing again.

KATIE

Can you play that one I like?

ALLISON

(turning the page in
her sheet music
book)
Weren't you just complaining about
me playing too early?

KATIE

Yeah, well I'm up now.

Allison smiles to herself and starts playing 'Kenaston'
by Chilly Gonzales. We listen for the first few bars
before we

CUT TO:

INT. ALLISON'S BEDROOM

'Kenaston' continues as Allison, now in jeans and a
casual top, gets ready to leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She opens one of her dresser draws and takes out a blank CD with a heart and the words 'Kiwi Mix' drawn on it in red sharpie. She lifts up her arms and smells her armpits before leaving the room.

CUT TO:

INT. KATIE'S ROOM

Allison walks in. Katie's back in bed on her cell phone.

KATIE

You leaving?

ALLISON

Yeah, so how am I supposed to know which one is him?

KATIE

Mum said he'll be wearing pink running shoes and a Yankee's cap. I can show you a picture if you want.

ALLISON

I'm sure I'll spot him.
(leaving)
Cya.

KATIE

Bye.

Allison closes the door behind her as 'Kenaston' fades and we

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

Allison unlocks her Mum's car and hops inside.

INT. CAR

She starts the car and puts the CD in and pulls away. 'No Man' by Eva Prowse starts with a bang and gets turned up even louder. We stay inside with Allison as she sings along and the opening credits start. Allison knows all the words and really gets into it, winding the window down and singing loud when the chorus kicks in.

CUT TO:

EXT. WELLINGTON AIRPORT - UPPER LEVEL CARPARK

Allison parks and turns the car off, stopping 'No Man' and gets out.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT

Allison waits outside Gate 16 as people come out. She spots JEROME (17), wearing pink Nike's and a worn out Yankee's cap. Allison just watches him. She keeps watching him, staring as he walks right past her. After he gets about twenty metres away.

ALLISON
(to herself)
Shit.

Allison runs after him and catches up.

ALLISON
Jerome?

Jerome turns around.

ALLISON
I'm Allison, Katie's sister, she was supposed to pick you up.

JEROME
(smiling)
Hey!

Jerome goes in for the hug but Allison has already put out her hand to shake and they pause awkwardly. Jerome takes her hand.

JEROME (CONT'D)
(still smiling)
Oh ok, it's nice to meet you.

ALLISON
Nice to meet you too. Um, you checked-in a bag right?

JEROME
Yeah, should we head downstairs?

CUT TO:

INT. BAGGAGE CLAIM

Allison and Jerome stand waiting for Jerome's bag. They don't say anything as they stare at the bags moving slowly on the conveyor belt.

CUT TO:

EXT. WELLINGTON AIRPORT - UPPER LEVEL CARPARK

Allison and Jerome in silence until they reach the car.

ALLISON

It's this one here. I'll pop the boot.

Allison hops in the drivers seat and pops the boot open. Jerome puts his suitcase and backpack in and hops in the passenger seat.

INT. CAR

Allison starts the car. 'Distant Sun' by Crowded House plays quietly from the stereo as Allison starts driving out of the parking lot.

JEROME

How long a drive is it back to your place?

ALLISON

Uh, well we actually can't go back to the house until tonight.

JEROME

Ooook.

ALLISON

Katie wants the house to herself since my parents are away till tomorrow afternoon. Her boyfriend's coming over. That's why she wanted me to pick you up this morning.

JEROME

Oh, ok.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON

They're in that annoying honeymoon phase where their entire relationship just consists of finding somewhere to have sex since they both still live with their parents.

Jerome looks at Allison surprised and smiles.

JEROME

So how old is Katie?

ALLISON

Nineteen. She's doing her second year for a teaching degree right now.

JEROME

Cool. And you have two more sisters right?

ALLISON

Yeah, they're twins. Amy and Georgia. They're fifteen. Do you have any brother's or sister's?

JEROME

No, just me. My parents got divorced when I was three.

ALLISON

I'm sorry, that kinda sucks.

JEROME

Yeah, but it's not like I remember us ever being like a normal family or anything. I never thought it was all that bad until people starting expecting me to feel down about it when I got older.

They sit in silence for a few moments, listening to 'Distant Sun' as it plays on.

ALLISON

So there's a couple things I have to do today but since we can't go back to the house you're gonna have to come with me. Hopefully you don't get too bored.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JEROME

That's totally fine. I just hope I'm not ruining your plans or anything.

ALLISON

No, it's ok, I'm just catching up with a friend I haven't seen in a while, then going to see another friend do a practice piano recital at her house. I'm sure you'll like it, she's amazing. But that stuff's not for a couple hours so we have some time to kill first. Have you had breakfast yet?

JEROME

No, I'm starving actually. I had to get up early to go to the airport and I didn't eat anything before the flight. Is there a place around here that does pancakes?

ALLISON

(smiling)

Yeah, there's a place in town I know that does pretty good ones.

JEROME

(smiling)

Awesome.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAKEFIELD ST

'Distant Sun' cuts out as Allison and Jerome close the car doors and walk into Joe's Garage restaurant.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S GARAGE

Allison and Jerome are sitting opposite each other in a booth. 'Hearts Like Ours' by The Naked and Famous is playing quietly in the background. Jerome is making his way through pancakes topped with banana and bacon, while Allison sips on an iced chocolate with whipped cream.

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CONTINUED:

ALLISON

So you're moving down for rugby?

JEROME

Yeah. I'm from a pretty small town so my school doesn't have a very good team.

ALLISON

Is that so you can play in nationals and that kind of stuff?

JEROME

Yeah, my Dad really wanted me to move down last year when Mark and Trish first offered to have me but my Mum only just agreed now for my last year.

ALLISON

What position do you play?

JEROME

I'm a half back.

ALLISON

Oh cool. And you want to be in the All Blacks one day?

JEROME

Yeah, that's the dream. I like to think that if I work hard enough it's something that could be possible one day.

ALLISON

(smiling)

I'm sure it is.

Jerome takes a mouthful of bacon and pancakes before speaking again.

JEROME

Your Mum sent my parents a little bio of your family since we're gonna be neighbours. Are you the one that plays the piano?

ALLISON

Yeah.

JEROME

What kind of stuff do you play?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON

Well I have to play a lot of classical stuff for school and exams but I really enjoy it anyway. And I like just playing a lot of pop stuff for fun.

JEROME

Do you write some of your own music too?

ALLISON

Yeah, I like to write too. I have a friend, Cynthia who's a really good singer so I write songs for her to sing. We're planning on putting an EP together this year. I just need to finish the lyrics on a couple of the tracks so we can start organising to record it.

JEROME

That sounds awesome. So it's like a duo kind of thing with you on the piano and her singing?

ALLISON

Yeah, and I'll sing a bit of harmony sometimes too. Right now we wanna keep it real simple, just keys and vocals at the moment. Then after the EP, if we're happy with it we'll start putting a band together. But at this stage we just want to put a solid half dozen tracks or so together and see how it goes.

JEROME

Is that what you want to do? Like for a living I mean?

ALLISON

Yeah, like you said, that's the dream I guess. I can't imagine doing anything else so I guess it better work out.

JEROME

(smiling)

That's kinda how I see it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JEROME (CONT'D)

I'm not trying to be good at anything else besides rugby or have some kind of plan B because any time I spend on that is just time I could be getting better at rugby. That's part of the reason I wanted to come down here. I wanted to be around more players who've decided that Rugby is an actual career option who could push me to work even harder.

ALLISON

Ok so I don't know if you feel the same about this but do you think it's weird when you talk to people and they're not chasing after anything? Like they don't have a big dream they think about everyday. They just go to school and hang out with friends and family and watch TV but that's really all that's going on in their life?

JEROME

Oh my God, yeah. I was talking to a friend about this a while ago. She's really into photography and wanting to do that and we were just saying how hard it was to imagine living but not having a dream that you're going after. I can't remember a time when I didn't want to be a rugby player, so I've always had this thing that I've been working on. I just don't get what that mind-set must be like. It actually kind of fascinates me because most people are actually like that. They have their friends and their hobbies but otherwise kind of just live day to day. It almost seems like a crazy way to live. Is it the same for you with music and piano?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ALLISON

Pretty much. There was a point where Katie, Georgia, Amy and me were all getting piano lessons and slowly, one by one, my Mum stopped paying for them for my sisters because they wouldn't practice enough and didn't really care. Georgia was always more interested in dance and drama and that stuff, Amy loved sports, basketball being her obsession and Katie, well Katie pretty much just wanted to hang out with her friends. Me and Amy always laughed about how we thought Katie did in fact have a dream it was just her dream was finding the perfect guy.

Jerome smiles as he takes in another mouthful of pancakes.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Anyway, for some reason I just tolerated practicing piano more than everyone else. I didn't mind practicing the same piece over and over again, doing my scales and finger strengthening drills. I liked the process and the desire to play it perfectly. It kind of felt therapeutic, sitting there on my own all the time, making myself better. But it wasn't until a few years ago, I was fourteen I think, when Katie was dating this guy who was in a band that I kind of flipped a switch with piano. This guy that Katie was going out with played keyboard in a band and when he'd come over, Katie would sit at the piano with him and he'd play her these little songs that he'd wrote for her. I was kind of in awe. It just never occurred to me that I could be writing my own music. All I ever did was practice other peoples songs and learnt them for exams which is all I was ever taught to do. So one day when Katie was in the bathroom I asked him if he could show me how to write and that was it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

After he gave me a few lessons, which really annoyed Katie, I started writing for myself and piano just turned into this whole other thing. It was like the relationship I had with the piano went up to this whole other level and all of a sudden I saw all this possibility with it. That's when I started taking it more seriously and kind of like you I guess, wanting to spend as much time as I could practicing, getting stronger and faster and all that kind of stuff.

JEROME

Yeah, I couldn't imagine what I'd do with all my time if I didn't have some kind of focus.

ALLISON

I think it adds a lot of pressure though. Especially for us because sports and music have no guarantees. If we wanted to be a doctor or a lawyer, there's a pretty straightforward path. You know, you study hard, you get the grades, you go to medical school, do your placements or whatever and get a job. Not that that's easy, it's just nice and laid out for you which is the difference.

JEROME

I guess I'm a bit luckier in that hard work pays off a lot more easily in sports than in music. Like if I work hard and perform better than my competition, people will notice. But for you, it's hard work and then all this other stuff like marketability and image and networking and even just plain luck sometimes.

ALLISON

(smiling)

That's what my parents keep reminding me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

They're super supportive and encouraging but they're always the first ones to tell me that what I want to do doesn't necessarily work out all the time. But they also understand that if I really wanna make it in that world I have to be willing to go all in otherwise I'm just crippling myself with the already bad odds.

JEROME

Exactly. Otherwise what's the point right? My friends would get annoyed at me for not drinking sometimes at parties and things but if I had to get up and run or practice the next day it hurts progress. When other people aren't chasing like you are it's hard to convince them that as ridiculous as wanting to be an All Black or a musician is, you have to take it seriously or it's a waste of time.

ALLISON

That's why I'm working hard on the songwriting at the moment. Because I like writing solo stuff on the piano too but there's no real money in it. I really wanna push hard with the traditional songs I'm writing for Cynthia for a while. That way, if I get to a point where I can carve out a career from it, I can do the classical compositions too and not worry about having to try make a living off them.

JEROME

That's really cool. And I don't know anything about piano or songwriting or anything, but I love hearing about stuff that people are super driven about. I'd love to hear you play sometime if you don't mind.

ALLISON

I'm sure you'll hear me practice this weekend.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I have to play this Chopin piece
for an exam next week and now
since we have to be out all day,
I'm probably gonna be going over
it all day tomorrow.

JEROME

(smiling)
Can't wait to hear it then.

ALLISON

(smiling)
Yeah, maybe the first couple times
you hear it but after a few hours
you'll be asking for earplugs.

Jerome smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. TORY STREET

Allison and Jerome hop back into the car.

INT. CAR

Allison turns on the car. She presses a button on the
stereo and 'Good Morning Baby' by Bic Runga & Semisonic
starts to play as she pulls out onto the road.

JEROME

Thanks for the breakfast.

ALLISON

Don't worry about it, it's my
Mum's card.

Jerome smiles.

JEROME

So what time do you have to meet
your friend?

ALLISON

It's not for like an hour and a
half so I was thinking I could
take you up to the Botanic Gardens
or something. Have you been there
before?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEROME

No, what is it?

ALLISON

Basically just a bunch of gardens but it's a real nice place to walk around, especially on a day like this.

JEROME

Sounds good to me.

Beat.

ALLISON

So was your Mum real sad when you left?

JEROME

Yeah. She was saying how it's unfair that she had to lose me a year earlier than all the other Mum's and I felt kind of bad. But she's gonna come down and visit me and see Mark and Trish every couple months so we'll get to see each other which is good.

Allison's phone starts ringing as he finishes his sentence.

ALLISON

Shit, sorry.

Allison shifts in her seat a little so she can take her phone out of her pocket. She looks at it quickly before looking back to the road. Georgia's name is on the screen.

ALLISON

(Holding the phone
out to Jerome)

Here, can you answer and put it speaker please? It's Georgia. I bet she's calling to ask for a ride.

Jerome takes the phone and answers it for her, holding it up beside her. He turns the stereo down.

ALLISON

Hey Georgia.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Hey Ali, what are you doing at the moment?

ALLISON

I just picked up Jerome from the airport. I'm gonna go show him the botanic gardens.

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Who's Jerome?

ALLISON

He's Mark and Trish's nephew. He's moving in with them remember?

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Oh yeah, he's staying with us this weekend right?

ALLISON

Yeah, that's why I picked him up this morning.

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Oh, right. So I called Katie and she said you've got the car all day.

ALLISON

I'm guessing you need a ride somewhere?

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Yeeaaaahhh. Ashley's Mum was supposed to take us to ballet but she can't do it anymore and if we catch the bus we'll end up missing half the lesson coz the next one's not coming for like forty-five minutes.

ALLISON

Ok, well, we're just in town at the moment. I'll be there in like ten minutes. Wait outside for us ok?

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Thank you so much!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALLISON

Yeah, just make sure you're outside so we don't have to sit there waiting for you.

GEORGIA (O.S.)

We will.

ALLISON

Ok, see you soon.

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Cya.

Jerome hands Allison her phone back.

ALLISON

Thanks.

She squeezes it into her pants pocket again.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I'm practically a free taxi for her and Amy. I end up taking them to most of their practices now since Mum's work load at Weta's picked up the last couple months.

JEROME

Your Mum works at Weta?

ALLISON

Yeah, she's got a pretty sweet job. She does character design stuff, like creatures and aliens and all that. They're working on some big Hollywood sci-fi movie so her hours are pretty crazy right now.

JEROME

Man, your family sounds pretty awesome.

ALLISON

(smiling)
They're alright I guess.

'Good Morning, Baby' fades away as we

CUT TO:

EXT. WELLINGTON

Establishing shots of the city, the wharf and Seatoun.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

'Youngest Child' by Eva Prowse is playing quietly from the stereo as Allison slows down on a Seatoun street and we see GEORGIA (15) and ASHLEY (15) up ahead waiting on the footpath. They're both in tights and sweaters, wearing colourful backpacks. Allison stops and they both climb in the back and put their seat belts on.

ALLISON

Hey.

GEORGIA

Hey.

ASHLEY

Hey Allison. Thanks for picking us up. It's all my Mum's fault.

Allison pulls out onto the road and does a U-turn, heading back where they came from.

ALLISON

No worries. This is Jerome guys.

Jerome turns to the back and holds his hand up.

JEROME

Hey.

Georgia and Ashley both smile at him.

GEORGIA/ASHLEY

Hi.

Jerome faces the front again. Ashley and Georgia take out their phones and start using them.

ALLISON

(looking at Georgia
in the rearview
mirror)

Are you guys at Thorndon or
Kilbirnie today?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEORGIA
(still on her phone)
Uh, Kilbirnie.

ALLISON
So what happened with your Mum
Ashley?

Ashley looks up from her phone.

ASHLEY
Oh my God, it was so embarrassing.
She had some of her old friends
from college over last night and
one of them who works for a
vineyard brought a whole case of
wine over for her and they ended
up drinking like half of it. I
don't think my Mum's even been
drunk since Henry was born but
last night she got so wasted. We
tried to wake her up this morning
and she was so hungover she
couldn't even talk properly.

Ashley laughs a little to herself.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
She was all like "arrrgghghh
oooohhhh, just let Mama sleep ok?"

Georgia laughs and looks up from her phone as Allison and
Jerome smile.

GEORGIA
You should've seen her Ali. She
was dancing so crazy. She started
grinding on Ashley's Dad at one
point and his face went sooo red.

ASHLEY
Oh my God, I wish I never saw
that. So gross.

GEORGIA
(back looking at her
phone)
If I ever see my Mum do that I
think I'd just throw up on the
spot.
(looking up at
Allison in the
rearview mirror)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, since we're actually a bit early, can we stop at the KFC drive-thru real quick? We haven't had anything to eat yet.

ALLISON

And KFC's what you want to eat before your lesson?

GEORGIA

C'mon, we're only fifteen. We don't have to worry about getting fat for like at least a year.

ALLISON

(smiling)

Well I don't get how that makes any sense but yeah, we can stop.

GEORGIA

(smiling)

Yuss!

'Youngest Child' cuts off as we

CUT TO:

EXT. KILBIRNIE KFC

We see their car pull in and enter the drive thru.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

'Something So Strong' by Crowded House now playing quietly from the stereo. Georgia takes her wallet out as they wait for the car in front of them to move forward.

GEORGIA

(at Ashley)

I'll just get us a couple snack burgers.

ASHLEY

Ok.

ALLISON

I've got Mum's card so don't worry about paying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEORGIA

Can we order more then?

Jerome smiles.

ALLISON

Yeah, whatever.

Georgia smiles. Allison turns down the stereo as she pulls up to the order speaker so Georgia's window is beside it. Georgia rolls down her window.

VOICE

Welcome to KFC. Are you ready to place your order?

GEORGIA

Yep. Can I please get a snack burger combo with Mountain Dew for the drink and also a medium popcorn chicken?

VOICE

And is that all for today?

Georgia turns to Ashley.

GEORGIA

What do you feel like?

ASHLEY

Can I just get a snack burger combo too please but with Pepsi Max?

GEORGIA

You want popcorn chicken too?

ASHLEY

No thanks.

Georgia turns and faces the box again.

GEORGIA

And can I also get another...

CUT TO:

Jerome and Allison in the front as Georgia finishes Ashley's part of the order.

GEORGIA

You want a drink or anything?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JEROME

No thanks.

VOICE

So that'll be \$12.95. Please drive
through to window number two.

'Something So Strong' cuts off as we

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR PARK

Allison pulling up outside the dance studio in the
Kilbirnie Countdown parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

'Listening For The Weather' by Bic Runga now playing
quietly from the car stereo. Ashley and Georgia take off
their seat belts as Allison brings the car to a stop.

ALLISON

(at Georgia)

Are you gonna go to Amy's game
later?

GEORGIA

Uh, I dunno. What time is it on?

ALLISON

It starts at 7PM at school. We'll
probably go since Katie wants the
house to herself for the whole
day.

GEORGIA

Yeah, maybe we'll see you there
later.

ALLISON

Ok, just let me know.

Ashley and Georgia get out with their bags and KFC.

GEORGIA

Alright, thanks Ali.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ASHLEY

Yeah thanks for the ride Allison.

Allison rolls her window down as Georgia passes her.
Ashley walks ahead on the other side.

ALLISON

Do you guys need a ride back to
Ashley's after your lesson?

GEORGIA

Na, it's ok. We can just catch the
bus since we won't be in a rush.

ALLISON

Alright. Well I'll see you at the
game then.

GEORGIA

(Walking backwards
away from the car)
Yeah, maybe. I'll text you ok?

ALLISON

Ok, cya.

GEORGIA

Bye.

Georgia turns the right way round and runs to catch up
with Ashley. Allison winds up her window, backs out and
drives out of the carpark.

ALLISON

Guess that kind of cancelled the
gardens for now. We gotta head
back to town now to meet my friend
Harriet.

JEROME

No worries. Maybe we check them
out later.

ALLISON

I'm sure we'll find the time. We
do have all day.

Jerome smiles. Allison's phone rings again.

ALLISON

Jesus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She takes her phone out and looks at her screen -
'unknown number'.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Can you put it on speaker again
please? It's probably Harriet.

Jerome takes the phone from her, answers it and holds it
in place again.

ALLISON

Hello?

HARRIET (O.S.)

Hey, is this Ali?

ALLISON

Yeah is that you Harriet?

HARRIET (O.S.)

Yeah, I got your number from
Cynthia.

ALLISON

Sweet. We still on for twelve
thirty?

HARRIET (O.S.)

Yeah, I was just calling to see if
it's not too much of a hassle, did
you wanna just meet at my house?
We're still in the same place on
Donald Street. I was supposed to
meet someone in town before you
but it got postponed.

ALLISON

That's totally fine. I'm just in
Kilbirnie at the moment so I could
be at yours in like twenty minutes
if that's all good?

HARRIET (O.S.)

Yeah, sounds good.

ALLISON

Oh and I have a family friend with
me. He's staying with us for the
weekend so I'm showing him around.
Is it ok if he comes along?

HARRIET (O.S.)

Of course.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALLISON

Ok cool. See you in like twenty minutes then.

HARRIET (O.S.)

Cya.

Jerome hands Allison the phone.

ALLISON

Thanks.

Allison puts the phone back in her pocket.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Are you sure this isn't boring for you? I could drop you at the movies or something if you'd rather do that.

JEROME

No, this is cool. I've never really spent more than a day or two in Wellington so even just driving around and seeing the place is kinda cool.

ALLISON

Alright, well it's gonna be a long day, especially since you got up early for your flight.

JEROME

(smiling)

I'm sure I'll be fine.

Allison and Jerome smile at each other. 'Listening For The Weather cuts out as we

CUT TO:

EXT. KARORI

Establishing shots of different parts of Karori as we hear Jerome, Allison and Harriet talk and the sound of tea being prepared.

HARRIET (O.S.)

I was just watching one of the videos you and Cynthia put up from a jam session you guys did and I was kinda blown away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON (O.S.)

Oh thanks.

HARRIET (O.S.)

You sure you don't want a tea
Jerome?

JEROME (O.S.)

No, I'm fine thanks.

HARRIET (O.S.)

And ever since I started playing
drums a couple years ago I've
really been wanting to start
putting some original stuff out. I
was thinking that if you were
interested, we could do some piano
and drum instrumentals, maybe even
think about adding vocals later.

ALLISON (O.S.)

Yeah, we can definitely give it a
go.

HARRIET (O.S.)

It wouldn't be anything super
serious that you'd have to commit
to or anything but I was thinking
we could just jam a few times and
decide whether we think it might
work or not.

ALLISON (O.S.)

Yeah that sounds good.

HARRIET (O.S.)

You wanna just go for it now? I
can bring my kit up here by the
piano.

ALLISON (O.S.)

Yeah, let's do it.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Jerome, Allison and HARRIET (17), carry the different
pieces of the drum kit and set them by an old looking
upright piano. Jerome heads back to the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEROME

(at Harriet)

I can go grab the last couple things.

HARRIET

Thanks.

Harriet sets up the drum kit. Allison takes a seat and lifts the lid on the piano.

ALLISON

I love how it's all old and yellowed. I feel like it'll bring more character to the sound.

HARRIET

(smiling)

I guess that's a positive way of looking at our run down piano.

Jerome walks back in with the high-hat and the drum stool and sets them down.

HARRIET

Thanks.

Harriet places the high-hat and the stool in position and sits down. She picks up her sticks. Jerome sits at the dining table where he can see them.

HARRIET

I really just wanna do something nice and easy listening to start with. I've been listening to Norah Jones' Come Away With Me album on repeat lately if that's any kind of indication.

ALLISON

Ok cool. So you want me to just start messing around and we'll see what happens?

HARRIET

Yeah, I don't really know how this works so if you wanna play something I'll just come in whenever.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON

Ok, well I'll just give a few
chords I've been playing around
with lately a run through.

Allison takes a breath and starts by playing four chords with a slow tempo. She repeats these chords over and over, slowly adding a melody with her right hand. Harriet gets into a comfortable sitting position. She nods her head slightly and starts to add a simple accompanying drum beat. They play for over a minute, getting into the groove and finding each others rhythm. After a few more bars Allison starts to softly hum a melody. She continues to hum as they both play on. Still humming, Allison breaks into a chorus on the keys before heading back to the verse chords. Jerome watches Allison, staring at her as she softly hums and plays beautifully. The music they're playing slowly fades as we hold on Jerome's face for a while. We hear the sound of them walking and hoping in the car and Allison starting it up.

ALLISON (O.S.)

My friend's recital isn't for a
little bit. There's an ice cream
place that's by the beach over
those hills if you wanna check it
out.

JEROME (O.S.)

Yeah, that sounds good.

FADE TO:

EXT. MAKARA

Shots of the hills and roads in Makara. A white church with green trim and a run down cottage. Farms, animals, a cyclist out riding. We hear footsteps walking on a gravel path before we

CUT TO:

EXT. MAKARA BEACH WALKING PATH

Allison and Jerome walking, half eaten ice cream cones in their hands.

JEROME

That was aweome watching you guys
play.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEROME (CONT'D)

I've never seen people just making music on the spot like that before. It's like you guys were speaking this other language that I couldn't understand. And you were awesome by the way. I can't wait to hear you play again.

ALLISON

Thanks. I think it went surprisingly well. Besides her mentioning Norah Jones, I had no idea what she was wanting to do with the music, not to mention we haven't really even seen each other since primary school.

JEROME

Well it sounded like you guys were pretty in tune with each other. Have you seriously not seen her since primary school?

ALLISON

Only in passing where we'd say hi but we've never like hung out before. She wasn't really in my friend group in primary school. She used to be hardout into sports. She always won cross country every year and wasted everyone at the school athletics competition. I guess she started playing drums and just liked it way more.

JEROME

So you guys will probably be hanging out more now though right?

ALLISON

Oh yeah, I mean I definitely want to. I think that's why I love playing so much. It's almost like, I dunno, like how you said, it's like speaking another language. Music can make you connect with someone else on a whole other level and you do it all without words.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

It's like this weird shared experience and I feel there's this special thing where unlike most other creative things where language plays a huge part, music is just completely based on emotion and it doesn't matter how smart you are or what cultural or political themes you understand or where you're from or whether you've seen this or experienced that. It's just sounds that make you feel something. Like for example I love reading, but compared to music, books are always gonna be restricted by the fact that they rely on human language and that's always going to be a box. We only have a certain amount of words at any given time that we can try use to express whatever we want to say which is so weird when you think about it. It's probably why I love art so much. It's like music uses sound and art uses color and materials and infinite levels of perspective and size and texture and can be anything. They're like limitless art forms in a way that make language seem so restrictive.

Beat.

ALLISON

Sorry if I'm boring you with all this music talk.

JEROME

No, no, it's interesting. It's like I was saying at breakfast, since I'm in this one track mind-set for rugby it's cool to hear about other peoples stuff that I have no idea about.

ALLISON

(smiling)

Well just let me know when you want me to shut up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JEROME

(smiling)
I'll keep that in mind.

Allison and Jerome reach the bottom of a hill.

ALLISON

You wanna go all the way up? It's
a pretty cool view.

JEROME

Yeah, let's do it.

FADE TO:

EXT. HILL

Allison and Jerome walking, pretty close to the top of
the hill.

JEROME

Can I ask you a personal question?

ALLISON

Uh, yeah, sure.

JEROME

Have you ever been in love before?

ALLISON

Ummm...

JEROME

Sorry, that's a weird personal
question. I shouldn't of asked you
that.

ALLISON

No, it's fine. I um, no, I've
never been in love before. Why are
you asking, have you?

JEROME

No, I haven't either. I was just
asking because, and this is
probably gonna make me sound like
a child, but if you had been in
love, I was gonna ask if you could
explain what that feels like or
what that felt like.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON

I don't think that makes you sound like a child. I wonder about that too sometimes as I'm sure most people who haven't been in love do.

(smiling)

Usually after I watch something like Love Actually.

Jerome smiles.

JEROME

I just don't get why people who haven't been in love aren't asking about it all the time.

ALLISON

What do you mean?

JEROME

Well love's like this thing that's universally agreed upon as being the most powerful feeling in the world. So if you haven't felt it yet, you know, not including family and friends kind of love, but if you haven't felt romantic love, wouldn't you think that that'd be the number one experience you'd be going after?

Allison smiles.

ALLISON

When you put it that way it sounds pretty good. But I guess as much as I'm curious about all that, I'm so passionate about everything else I'm doing at the moment I don't feel like not having fallen in love is as if I'm missing something in my life.

JEROME

And I'm kind of the same way because of what I'm doing too but it's still there at the back of my mind all the time.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JEROME (CONT'D)

And when I watch a movie like, well yeah, like Love Actually, it makes me wonder why everyone on the planet isn't just obsessed with love their whole lives.

ALLISON

I think everybody is when you think about it. It's just different kinds of love. Like sometimes the thing you love most is your job, then maybe it's your girlfriend, then your wife and then your kid. I think there's just too much in the world that you can love for all of it to be directed at romantic love all the time.

They reach the hilltop and both stop before the edge and take in the view. In the distance, the South Island is just visible.

JEROME

You're right about the view.

ALLISON

Pretty awesome right?

We hold on them for a while as they look out over the ocean. Jerome looks to his side at Allison and they make eye contact for a moment before Allison looks back out as 'Catastrophe' by Yumi Zouma starts to play.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

'Catastrophe' now playing from the car stereo as Allison and Jerome drive through Makara.

JEROME

So is Erica in your music class at school?

ALLISON

Yeah, we've been in the same music class since year nine. There's only like twenty people in our year who do music so we have the same class every year.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEROME

You guys must all be really close then.

ALLISON

Ahhh, I wouldn't go that far. Well at least not for me. I don't really hang out with any of them outside class. Most of them have become these annoying music snobs and all they ever talk about now is jazz and how pretty much everything anyone else listens to is crap. Erica's one of the only ones left in the class I can still have a conversation with about music and not want to shoot myself. It's like ever since we studied jazz for a term in year eleven, all of sudden everyone's a jazz expert and pop music is beneath them. Sometimes I just feel like shaking them and saying, "do you realise that less than two years ago, you didn't even know who Duke Ellington was?"

Jerome smiles making Allison smile too.

ALLISON

What? Are you gonna take that offer to tell me to shut up now?

JEROME

No, I just, I have no idea who Duke Ellington is.

ALLISON

Oh, it doesn't matter, that's not really the point. I just mean, you know, like when someone discovers an old band or movie and they love it but then they ask everyone if they like it and if they haven't seen it or heard it they're all like "oh my God, how have you not seen that?" Carefully leaving out the fact that they only just found out about it a few days ago.

JEROME

(smiling)

Yeah I know what you mean.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JEROME (CONT'D)

I have a friend who was exactly like that when he got into The Smiths a while ago. I guess it doesn't bother me as much as it does for you though.

ALLISON

Just don't curse me out because I haven't listened to Revolver yet and you'll be fine.

'Catastrophe' cuts out as we

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

A large open spaced living area that's well furnished where rows of fold out seats are facing a grand piano. Allison and Jerome take a seat in the back row, leaving a little space between them and the other guests, about two dozen, already seated. ERICA (17) stands up from one of the seats in the front where she was talking to another girl and faces everyone. The room quiets down.

ERICA

Hi everyone. Thank you all so much for coming today. As most of you know, I'll be performing a series of Thelonious Monk pieces at Saint James Theatre next weekend. I want to use the opportunity to perform a few of the pieces I've learnt more recently that I don't have the same level of familiarity with yet as I do with my favourites that I've been playing for ages. This first one I'm going to play is called Blue Monk. It's the first track from his solo album called Thelonious Alone in San Francisco. Oh and really quick, if you need to use the bathroom at any point, it's the first left down the hall.

Erica sits down as silence presides over the room. After a few moments, she raises her hands above the keys and starts to elegantly play Blue Monk. We listen for the whole track and cut between Erica and her fingers, Jerome and Allison watching Erica and each other and the girls in the crowd, some paying attention, some not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

When Erica reaches the end of the song and everyone starts clapping we

FADE TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Everyone is mingling and sipping from champagne flutes. 'Ribs' by Lorde can be heard playing in the background. Allison and Erica are talking in the corner of the kitchen.

ERICA

God, I'm so nervous for next week.

ALLISON

You're gonna be fine.

ERICA

I hope so. You know I didn't think I was even gonna be able to play today after this morning.

ALLISON

Why, what happened this morning?

ERICA

Oh my God, I was too busy setting everything up, I haven't even told you. James broke up with me.

Jerome steps up to them.

ALLISON

Oh hey, Erica, this is Jerome.

JEROME

Nice to meet you.

(looking at Allison)

I feel like I'm interrupting something. I can wait outside if you want.

ERICA

No, it's totally fine. I was just telling Allison that my boyfriend dumped me this morning.

JEROME

Oh, I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERICA

Thanks.

ALLISON

I thought he's still on exchange?
Are you ok?

ERICA

Yeah, I'm ok. I feel like I
should've seen it coming.

ALLISON

That's such a low thing to do.
Doesn't he get back in like two
months?

ERICA

Yes, but he's fallen in love with
some girl at the school he's at
over there.

ALLISON

Oh my God.

ERICA

He said he feels horrible about
falling for someone else while we
were still together and the least
he could do was break up with me
before he did anything with her.

Jerome looks out of place. Erica turns to him.

ERICA

I'm sorry, I hope this isn't
making you uncomfortable.

JEROME

No, it's ok. I don't know who this
James guy is but if he dumped
someone as talented as you than I
feel like he's probably made a
mistake.

ERICA

(smiling)
Even though you've just met me I
appreciate you saying that.

ALLISON

I can't believe he couldn't just
wait till he got back.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

What does he think's gonna happen with this other girl? It's not like he's gonna move to Italy or anything. Jesus, he's probably just horny and isn't thinking straight.

ERICA

Well he is a seventeen year old boy.

ALLISON

(smiling)

I guess that's his biggest problem right there.

Erica laughs. Allison turns to Jerome.

ALLISON

No offense Jerome.

Jerome just smiles.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

And it's not as if we all don't have that same problem. It's like we're smart enough to know what the problems are, just not experienced enough to recognize them when they happen to us, that's all.

I just hope you don't take too much of this to heart because James doesn't have a clue what you're worth if he's gonna dump you for the chance of having some foreign fling.

Erica smiles warmly at Allison. Jerome looks at Erica.

JEROME

(to Erica)

I thought you were amazing on the piano by the way.

ERICA

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JEROME

(at Allison)

If you haven't already planned to go with friends, we should go see her play next week if you want.

ALLISON

Yeah, that sounds good.

ERICA

(smiling)

So Allison was telling me about the lock out situation at the house. How's your little Wellington tour going today? Has Allison been keeping you entertained?

Allison looks uncomfortable.

JEROME

Oh she's been awesome. We just did like a little hike in Makara to see this really cool view. I'm sure you've seen it before.

ERICA

Yeah, it's really nice out there. So you're gonna be living next door to Allison for the rest of the year?

JEROME

Uh huh. Till school finishes.

ERICA

That's so cool. You guys can hang out whenever you want then.

JEROME

I don't know about that.

(turns to Allison)

I'm sure you'll be sick of me by the time we get through the rest of the day.

ALLISON

(smiles)

I think it's gonna be the other way round actually. I've already spent half the day complaining about all my first world problems.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ERICA

(smiling)

Sounds like me whenever we hang out.

Jerome finishes his drink and puts it on the kitchen bench.

JEROME

I'm just gonna use the bathroom real quick.

Jerome leaves.

ERICA

You sure he's not your boyfriend? Coz the way he looks at you is starting to make me think otherwise.

ALLISON

(surprised)

What? No, he's family friend. I told you, we literally just met this morning.

ERICA

I know, I know, but c'mon, I think you guys would be pretty cute together.

ALLISON

I don't know. And what do you mean the way he was looks at me?

ERICA

(smiling)

Oh my God Ali, don't pretend like you haven't noticed. He's practically making out with you in his head every time he looks at you. I almost feel bad just for seeing it. You know, like when you see a dog get all excited and aroused and it's thingy gets all red at the tip?

ALLISON

(confused)

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ERICA

You know, then you feel
embarrassed for the dog but you
can't stop looking down there coz
it's so blaringly out there? Well
that's what I feel like looking at
him looking at you.

ALLISON

I don't have a dog so I don't know
what you're talking about and I
haven't noticed him looking at me
like that at all.

ERICA

Well whether you've noticed or
not, if you like him, you better
keep him away from this lot.

Erica motions to the rest of the girls in eye sight.

ERICA (CONT'D)

He's probably the first boy
they've seen all year.

Allison smiles.

ALLISON

I'm sure he'll be fine.

Allison sips her drink and looks out at the rest of the
girls mingling.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM

Jerome does up his fly and flushes the toilet. He looks
in the mirror and notices a loose piece of dry skin on
his right cheek.

JEROME

Dammit.

He scratches it off and makes sure the rest of his face
is cleaned up ok.

FADE TO:

EXT. COURTNEY PLACE - EARLY EVENING

Shots of Courtney Place as the sun is about to go down. People sipping beers in the outdoor seating areas of bars, couples walking, families out for dinner. We finish with Allison and Jerome walking into Sweet Mother's Kitchen.

ALLISON (O.S.)
My friend Cynthia's throwing a
party tonight.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEET MOTHER'S KITCHEN

Allison and Jerome are mid way through their meals/milkshakes. 'She Will Have Her Way' by Neil Finn is playing quietly in the background.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
If you want, we can go check it
out after Amy's basketball game.

JEROME
Yeah, I mean, if you're happy to
take me along with you I'm keen.

ALLISON
I wasn't planning on going but
since we'll still have a couple
hours to burn after the game it
sounds like a good excuse to go.

JEROME
You not much of a party person?

ALLISON
Not really. High school parties
are so weird.

JEROME
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON

I mean like most girls go to parties because they wanna dance and drink and have a good time with their friends while most boys go to drink and to find a girl, any girl really who'll put out for the night. Don't you think that's a weird combination?

JEROME

I don't really go to parties just to find a girl to sleep with though. I don't really think my friends do either. We just go to hang out and listen to music and that kind of thing.

ALLISON

Well maybe it's different where you're from but that hasn't exactly been my experience with guys or parties around here.

JEROME

What's so different about parties down here?

ALLISON

Ok, so let me ask you this. Don't you think it's bizarre that teenage girls are told if they have sex they're skanks or sluts and get shamed for it but on the other side, teenage boys are encouraged to have sex with as many girls as possible and get called a pussy or a faggot if they've never been laid before? Doesn't it sound like there's something really, really wrong with that?

JEROME

Yeah, I guess, I haven't really thought about that before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON

And going back to what you said at the beach, when you say it's weird that everyone isn't talking about love all the time, I say, why isn't everyone talking about the fact that the world is telling girls to be one thing, and boys to be the opposite, and expecting everything to just magically work out and be ok even though societal expectation is making that literally impossible. It's like people don't seem to have any idea how big of a problem this is, or they do and they just don't care about it because it's us, it's teenagers and know one cares.

JEROME

Sorry, I don't know if I fully get what you're saying.

ALLISON

Ok, let me paint you an exaggerated picture. Take a boy, an only child. He goes to an all boys high school and doesn't really do any extra curricular activities, just hangs out with friends. In health class he learns about sex but not about women. He learns about condoms, STD's and abortion, but never about consent. He's surrounded by only guys, so he doesn't really have any real female friends. He watches movies like Project X with his friends where girls are nothing but sexual objects. Outside school his time is filled with video games and watching porn alone at home. Every night he watches these sex crazed women on his laptop do anything to satisfy the guy or the multiple guys in the scene with her. Never does he register the fact that porn stars are not a realistic representation of themselves, let alone women in general.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

And add on to that the fact that women's sexual drive doesn't reach its peak till years after high school, for some it doesn't even start till they've finished school. But of course the boy doesn't know this, why would he? Because everything he's taught is focused on not getting an STD or a girl pregnant, as if those are the two most important things when it comes to sex. As far as he's concerned, girls his age want it as bad as he does. Then add to the mix the media telling him if he's not sleeping with as many girls as he can, he's a loser. So when you add all this up what do you expect to get?

JEROME

Uhhh

ALLISON

You get a kid who see's girls as nothing but a sexual prize. Then add to that that girls are told not to have sex and are shamed if they do and it's a total nightmare. Think about how a guy at a party gets frustrated when he doesn't score or whatever. It's because that's all girls are to most of them, a prize. Something they can brag to their friends about. Rather than seeing girls as human beings or possible friends, you have a whole generation of boys growing up not seeing us as people at parties, but rather as gatekeepers. Someone who is going to say yes, or say no. And it's their job to make us say yes, or with the help of a bit of alcohol and maybe some drugs, maybe we'll say nothing at all and they'll take that as a yes. Does that all not seem crazy to you?

JEROME

Um, yeah, I mean it does, I've just never really thought about it like that before.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JEROME (CONT'D)

I'm from a really small town, it doesn't really work like that where I'm from.

ALLISON

How does it work then?

JEROME

Well there's only one high school, and it's co-ed. I had forty-two people in my whole year split into two classes. Everybody knows each other, boys and girls. There literally isn't enough people for casual one nights stands to be happening all the time with different people. And since everyone knows each others' parents and families, I think there's just a bit more respect all around because it's a tight knit community. The few parties that I'd go to, it's all the same people. You can't exactly get away with being a complete douche because you'll be seeing the same people again next weekend and the weekend after that too. I mean, Jesus, that stuff you're saying is kind of depressing if that's what it's like in a bigger city.

ALLISON

I'm sorry, I forgot you're from such a small town. I'm making it sound like this super disgusting thing but I'm just trying to point out how twisted and hypocritical the culture is. Don't you think it's a pretty big deal?

JEROME

Yeah, I definitely do. I've just never really seen that kind of thing first hand, that's all.

ALLISON

Well, if you decide to have any kind of social life at all this year, just don't get your hopes up for what it's like out there.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I know we've barely gotten to know each other but you seem like the romantic type and it's anything but that with most people our age in this city. If you want romance round here, you have to go against the grain and carve that out for yourself.

JEROME

(smiling)

Sounds like you kinda know what you're talking about.

ALLISON

(smiling)

Well obviously I can't say from personal experience but I know what I've seen and it's not people slow dancing and falling in love at parties. It's more like people drinking more than they can handle and making bad decisions.

JEROME

(still smiling)

Well after all that, I'm totally fine just hanging out more if you don't wanna go to the party.

Allison laughs a little.

ALLISON

God, now I actually kinda want to take you since I painted such a dark image in your head.

JEROME

Totally up to you. I don't mind either way.

ALLISON

Yeah, let's just go. And it should be fun since it's at Cynthia's. She one of my best friends and unlike other people, she actually throws a party with good music rather than trying to turn her house into a nightclub. I hate parties where the music's so loud you can't even have a proper conversation with anyone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

JEROME

Not sure about what I'm wearing though. I packed my bag so tight I don't really want to open it till we're at your house but that means I'll have to go to the party in this.

ALLISON

Aw don't worry about it. No-one will care.

JEROME

You don't think wearing running shoes to a party is gonna look weird?

ALLISON

(smiling)

You're in Wellington now. Most people who buy running shoes here have never run a day in their life. They're like fashionable now or something. You don't have to worry about a thing.

JEROME

(smiling)

Oh ok cool. That's weird though.

ALLISON

(still smiling)

I'm sure you'll get used to this place pretty fast.

FADE TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - EVENING

Jerome and Allison entering the gym. We can hear the sounds of basketballs bouncing inside.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM

About fifty people are scattered throughout the bleachers. Families, friends etc. Clumps of teenage boys and girls talking with each other and using their phones. Jerome and Allison take a seat at the mid-court section, half way up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The two basketball teams are warming up on each end of the court in two lines doing lay-ups. One team in black with gold trim, the other in white and with black trim.

JEROME
(as they're sitting)
What one's Amy?

Allison points to the black and gold team.

ALLISON
She's number seven.

Jerome looks and finds her. AMY (15), is a spitting image of her twin sister Georgia.

JEROME
Oh my God, she looks exactly the same as Georgia.

ALLISON
(smiling)
No-one outside family can fully tell them apart.

JEROME
What position does she play?

ALLISON
She's a point guard. She's been going hardout with the training and the fitness lately. She's pushing to get a high school scholarship and move to America for her last year of school.

JEROME
She must be pretty good.

ALLISON
(smiling)
Oh yeah, she's good. But there's also not much competition when it comes to girls basketball here at the moment.

Amy lays the ball up. As she runs to the back of the rebounding line, she notices Allison and runs up to them.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
(as Amy heads towards them)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

She really needs to go to America
and play with more people at her
level and higher.

Amy gets up the bleachers and stops in front of them.

AMY

Hey! Thanks for coming.

ALLISON

No problem.
(motioning towards
Jerome)
This is Jerome.

AMY

(offering her hand)
Hey Jerome, nice to meet you.

JEROME

(shaking her hand)
Nice to meet you too.

ALLISON

(at Amy)
You seen Georgia anywhere? She
text me saying she was already
here.

AMY

Yeah, I saw her and Ashley a few
minutes ago, they're probably in
the bathroom.
(looking back at the
court where her team
is huddling up)
I better get back down there.

Amy turns and runs down the bleachers.

ALLISON

Good luck!

AMY

(without turning,
focused on stepping)
Thanks!

Amy reaches her team huddle and puts her arms around two
of her teammates.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JEROME

So this is like some sort of pre-season league?

AMY

Yeah, there's like four schools that just do a round robin twice. Amy's team has won all their games so far. She's been averaging twenty points a game which is crazy because they only average about seventy points as a team.

JEROME

(smiling)
That's awesome.

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Ali!

Allison looks up and sees Georgia and Ashley coming up towards them. They take a seat beside Allison. Georgia leans forward a little so she can see Jerome.

GEORGIA

(smiling)
Hey Jerome.

JEROME

Hi Georgia.

The players are now making their way out onto the court.

GEORGIA

(at Allison)
So we talked to Amy's coach and she said we could practice our competition piece in front of everyone at half time.

ALLISON

Is that the Cosmic Love one?

GEORGIA

No, I don't think you've seen this one yet. It's to that Fur Patrol song you told me to listen to. We did the choreography ourselves.

ALLISON

(smiling)
You guys made up a dance to 'Lydia?'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ASHLEY
(cutting in)
Yeah, the dance is so stupid but
it's really fun.

We hear the whistle blow off screen and

CUT TO:

Court action as the referee tosses the ball for tip off. Amy retrieves it from her teammates tip in her own half. She immediately bursts forward and dribbles round the half court traffic. When she gets to the safety defender in the keyhole she passes her with ease with a perfect euro step and lays the ball in. As soon as the ball drops through the hoop she hustles back on defense. We go back to Allison and Jerome.

ALLISON
(yelling)
Yeah Amy!

JEROME
(smiling)
Jesus.

ALLISON
(smiling)
Yeah, she's obsessed with Russell Westbrook.

JEROME
Who's that?

ALLISON
Oh, he's the point guard for OKC, the team Steven Adams plays for. He's super aggressive. Amy wants to be like the female version of him one day.

We go back to court action as Amy dives for a loose ball on defense, tipping it to one of her teammates and falling on the floor. Her teammate grabs it and initiates a fast break. Amy gets up fast, runs the lane and gets the ball back from her teammate and lays it in. We go back to the bleachers.

GEORGIA
(sighing)
Oh my God. It's just gonna be another blow out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Ashley's looking at her phone, not paying attention to the game.

FADE TO:

Shot of the scoreboard: Time Remaining: 0:00 WGC 38 - 18
SMC

CUT TO:

Both teams are at the changing room entrances, just finishing going inside. There are two square mats on the floor with round pieces of tin on them and a portable speaker with a phone plugged in sitting nearby. Ashley and Georgia walk into the middle of the court carrying a chair each and place them facing each other next to the speaker. Ashley sits on the chair closest to the speaker as Georgia steps forward and addresses the crowd.

GEORIGIA

(loud)
Hey everyone!

The chatter in the crowd dies down as everyone looks down at Georgia on the court.

GEORGIA

I'm Georgia,
(pointing at Ashley)
and this is Ashley.

I'm also Amy's twin sister so if you thought you were seeing double that's probably why. Anyway, Ashley and I are competing in a contemporary dance competition soon and we wanted to practice our routine in front of a crowd so, um, I hope you guys like it.

ALLISON

(cheering)
Woohoo!

Georgia looks over at Ashley and nods her head. Ashley pushes something on her phone and 'Lydia' by Fur Patrol starts to play. She goes into character and pretends she's talking to someone in the empty chair opposite her all ditsy and flirting like. She puts her hand through her hair and pretends like she's laughing at a joke. Georgia just stands there during the intro, tapping her right foot to the beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Just before the first verse starts, Georgia steps forward and starts lip syncing the lyrics and dancing. As she dances, she looks at Ashley, annoyed, and circles around the two chairs until the end of the first chorus where she snaps into a different character and sits in the chair beside Ashley. As Georgia sits, Ashley too snaps out of character and stands, taking Georgia's place dancing and lip syncing the lyrics to the second verse and chorus. Georgia is now pretending to listen intently, nodding. She rubs the arms of the invisible person in the chair opposite her, comforting them and mimicking things like "no, no, it's ok" etc - very understanding. When the bridge starts, Georgia snaps out of her chair and character and joins in sync with Ashley, doing the same choreography with perfect timing as they now step forward and tap dance on the pieces of tin on the mats. When the bridge ends and the third verse starts they transition into dance partners, hand in hand, spinning and twirling, like lovers. They burst apart for the final choruses with more shared choreography, this time with much more physical and expressive movements. Right at the end of the song they both sit down on the chairs, side by side instead of facing each other with their arms and legs crossed, exaggerated frowns on their faces. Everyone in the crowd claps. Jerome is in awe. He looks at Allison.

JEROME

(smiling)

You guys are like the coolest
family I've ever met.

Allison smiles.

FADE TO:

Court action. The referee hands the ball to one of Amy's teammates at halfway, who throws it in, now playing offense in the other direction.

ALLISON

When the game's over, we can just
head straight to Cynthia's.

JEROME

Cool. Is it just at her parents
house?

ALLISON

Yeah, they have a real nice place
with a cool view of the city.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

GEORGIA

(to Allison)

Do you reckon you could drop me
and Ashley off at her cousins
house on the way? She lives in
Newtown.

ALLISON

Yeah that should be fine.

Back to court action. One of Amy's teammates jumps up and grabs a defensive rebound. Amy runs the lane fast and receives the outlet pass. A defender sprints back and jumps up, colliding with Amy as she tries to block her. Amy manages to take the contact and make the lay-up but lands awkwardly on her ankle, rolling it as the whistle for a foul is blown. Amy's teammates rush up to her as she stays on the ground in pain, holding her ankle. We go back to the bleachers. Allison has her hand over her mouth.

ALLISON

(worried)

Oh my God.

Back on the court, her teammates and coach go to help her up but she waves them off, getting up on her own. She walks with a limp to the end of the bench where she sits down. A couple of her teammates make a mountain with their gear bags so Amy can prop her leg up. Allison runs down the bleachers to the teams bench.

ALLISON

Are you okay?

AMY

(smiling)

Yeah I'm fine. Just a roll,
nothing serious.

(looking up at the
scoreboard)

We're up by thirty anyway.

ALLISON

You want me to get anything?

AMY

No, it's ok, Ruby's already gone
to get some ice.

Allison sits down next to Amy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

AMY

(smiling)

So how's Jerome been going? You guys were looking pretty cozy up there.

ALLISON

(smiling)

What's that supposed to mean?

AMY

(smiling)

You know what I mean.

Before Allison can say anything Ruby (15) arrives with an ice pack.

RUBY

(tying the ice pack
around Amy's ankle)

Hey Allison.

ALLISON

Hey Ruby.

Ruby finishes with the ice pack and sits on bench with them.

AMY

Thanks.

ALLISON

(to Amy)

You still want to go back to Ruby's to stay the night again or should I just take you home?

Ruby cuts in before Amy can reply.

RUBY

(smiling)

Of course she's coming, we still need to finish watching Girls.

Allison smiles. 'Short Truth' by Yumi Zouma starts to play quietly.

ALLISON

Ok, well I have to drop Georgia and Ashley off somewhere too so you guys will have to find a way to all squeeze in the back since Jerome's coming too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

AMY
(smiling)
We'll be fine.

Just as the short, quiet intro ends and the beat starts
we

CUT TO:

EXT. WELLINGTON CITY - NIGHT

Shots of Wellington city lit up with lights. Just before
the vocals start we

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

Allison's driving, Jerome riding shotgun. Georgia,
Ashley, Amy and Ruby are all squeezed in the back. Ashley
and Georgia are singing loudly smiling and dancing with
their shoulders in the squashed space that is the back
seat.

GEORIGA
Turn it up!

Allison turns it up. Ashley/Georgia keep singing and
dancing in their own zone. Amy and Ruby watch them
smiling.

JEROME
(to Allison)
Who sings this song?

ASHLEY/GEORGIA
(cutting in, loudly)
Yumi Zooooooooouma!!!

Jerome smiles as they keep singing in the back. We watch
as Allison drives and smiles, looking back at them
singing and dancing in their seats through the rear view
mirror.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

We watch as they drive off. Yumi Zouma fades as we

FADE TO:

INT. CAR

'Barricade (Matter of Fact)' by Yumi Zouma plays quietly mid song from the car stereo as Georgia and Ashley get out of the car.

ALLISON
(turning back in her
seat)
Make sure you call me if you guys
stay out late and need a ride ok?

GEORGIA
(climbing out)
Thanks Ali!

ASHLEY
Thanks again for the ride Allison.

ALLISON
No problem. I'll see you guys
later.

GEORGIA
(closing the door)
Bye!

EVERYONE
Cya/bye

Georgia closes the door and Allison pulls back out onto the road as Amy puts her seat belt on, having moved to the side seat with more room now.

AMY
(to Ruby)
Did you met Jennifer, that new
American girl? She just started
today.

RUBY
No, but I think she's supposed to
be in my media studies class so
I'll probably meet her tomorrow.

AMY
(smiling)
It's so weird talking to her. I
think before she came here she
thought we all lived on farms and
rode sheep to school.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ruby smiles. Curious, Allison looks at Amy through the rear view mirror.

AMY (CONT'D)

She was asking us questions like,
"so do people here know like
Justin Bieber and Beyonce?"

RUBY

(rolls her eyes)
Oh my God.

AMY

I know, it's like, do you not
understand how the internet works?
She couldn't believe we had
Netflix, you should've seen her
face.

RUBY

Did she not even look up what New
Zealand was like before she came?
Why did she even choose it for her
exchange?

AMY

She said she knew they shot Lord
of the Rings and the Hobbit movies
here and that was about it. I
think she was hoping she might be
staying with a family in the Shire
for six months. People like that
make me feel sorry for Americans
sometimes.

RUBY

Why?

AMY

Because they live in this giant
bubble. Ok, so I was thinking
about this after talking to that
Jennifer girl and it just made
sense to me. Americans have to be
the most culturally ignorant
people on the planet because
they're the centre of the world.
Every other country has their own
culture, and then they also learn
American culture too.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AMY (CONT'D)

We have our own way of doing things, but then we learn American stuff because everyone watches Hollywood movies and listens to American pop music. We have our own news but we also follow American news and politics too. The difference is, hardly anyone in America is watching other peoples movies and listening to other peoples music and watching our news because their the centre of attention. I feel like it makes them culturally disadvantaged when they go out into the world because they've only ever had to learn one way of life. And it's not even really their fault because why learn any other culture when you live in the most dominant one in the world.

RUBY

(smiling)

You got all that just from talking to Jennifer about Justin Bieber?

Yumi Zouma cuts of as we

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

Allison pulls up on the side of the street and Amy and Ruby get out, saying goodbye.

AMY

Cya.

RUBY

Bye.

They close their doors and walk up the drive to the nearest house as Allison pulls away and drives off. 'Gather to the Chapel' by Liam Finn starts to play.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

'Gather to the Chapel' coming from the car stereo. We watch as Jerome and Allison sit in silence, driving. After a few bars, Jerome starts.

JEROME

Man, if Amy plays like she did tonight in every game, there's no way she wouldn't be getting a scholarship right?

ALLISON

Yeah, at this point it's less about trying to get one and more about getting one at the best possible school.

Jerome smiles.

JEROME

That's so awesome for her.

ALLISON

And the craziest thing is that last year she wasn't that much better than the other girls on her team. No one watching any of their games last season would say she was any kind of standout.

JEROME

So what happened?

ALLISON

It was this whole process she went through with my Dad after their season finished last year and she said she wanted to make basketball into a career.

It started when she was getting stressed out about choosing her option subjects for this year because at our school, if you wanna do any of the sciences like chemistry or physics, or stuff like economics or accounting, you have to start doing it in year eleven.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON (CONT'D)

She ended up having this kind of meltdown because even though she's smart and can do all that numbers stuff, she has no interest in it but was getting all worried about what she was gonna do with her life. So my Dad just sat her down one night and said "look, you have the fundamentals to be a great basketball player one day, and if you're serious about playing professionally, we can make it happen for you and you can just study whatever you're interested in and stop worrying about a normal career." But he also told her that her summer was going to be a write off and made her promise that if they invested in a private coach and trainer to work with her full-time for the whole off season, that she'd commit one hundred percent, otherwise it'd just be a waste of everyone's time and money. So just like that, a few days later Amy was getting up before sunrise just like me. But instead of playing the piano, she was out running. Monday to Friday she shoots a hundred free throws after her run before she comes in for breakfast. I love practicing with my headphones on in the morning, quietly hearing the sound of her shooting outside. I don't know what it is but I feel so good, practicing in the morning knowing she's out there, working hard, just as determined as me but with something completely different. It wasn't an easy off season for her though. She couldn't hang out with friends as much as she used to, she couldn't eat so much junk food and had to go to sleep early almost every night but eventually she started to enjoy the fact that she could see how much better she was getting.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

My Dad went as far as making her delete all her social media accounts which at first didn't make sense to me but now it kind of does. He told her that in order for to be a great player she had to learn how to be a leader. He thinks this whole culture of young kids spending half their time following celebrities on snap chat, Instagram, twitter or whatever, that all that creates sheep like habits that make you a follower and not a leader. Because if all you do all day is watch other people on TV, listen to other people's music, marvel at other people's achievements and constantly like other people's photos and favourite other people's tweets, what do you think that does to you? There's just so much stuff out there and everyone's on like five different social media platforms so just to keep up to date on all that stuff is like a full time job that she doesn't have time for.

JEROME

It's like how people say that if you're posting all that inspirational crap like photos and quotes all the time on your Facebook or whatever, you're probably not living like any of that because you're spending all your time posting that stuff in the first place.

ALLISON

Exactly. It's like our generation has a different way of reacting to inspiring people and events.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

For example, I feel like a lot of the other girls on Amy's team, when they see Lebron or Curry doing these amazing things in the NBA, their reaction isn't one of inspiration and a need to get in the gym and shoot five hundred shots a day, their reaction is to go out and buy a Warriors singlet or a Cavaliers hat. It's like too many people our age just want to be fans and not enough people want to be great. And I don't want to be a great musician one day because I think I'm any more special than anyone else, I just want to do something big with my life, something that has an impact on a lot of people. I have this fantasy of our family being like a super family one day. If Amy becomes this big sports star, Georgia becomes a great dancer, I become successful with music and Katie goes on to be a great teacher we could be awesome. And as much as I loved Amy before she started taking basketball so seriously, I love her twice as much now because it makes me so happy that she believes she can be great. You know, that she's decided that she's going to push herself to be better than everyone else. I just think that's such an awesome quality to have because it almost feels like you're saying to yourself, I'm gonna get more out of life than the people around me. Coz what's the point in living if you're not gonna dream big?

Jerome smiles. Allison smiles back.

ALLISON

What?

JEROME

(smiling)

Nothing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JEROME (CONT'D)

You're just, well, you're definitely not like everyone else and I'm glad I'm chasing after something myself instead of living my life through a news feed, otherwise I'd feel pretty awkward right now.

Allison laughs.

ALLISON

Well I probably wouldn't of said all that if you were.

Beat.

JEROME

Hey um, so thanks for taking me around today. It sounds like it was kind of thrown on you last minute and I um, I appreciate you hanging out with me all day.

Allison looks at Jerome and smiles.

ALLISON

I'm glad I did.

'Gather to the Chapel' ends as we hold on them for a moment before we

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE CYNTHIA'S HOUSE

Allison and Jerome walk towards the front door of a large wooden home where a party is clearly going on. 'Where Are You' by Nakita can be heard playing inside.

CUT TO:

INT. CYNTHIA'S HOUSE

A series of shots of a pretty chill party. Teenagers drinking from bottles of cheap wine and colorful RTD's. Everyone just hanging out and talking. We see Harriet talking with a few people, drinking. Close-ups of Chuck Taylor's and Doc Martins.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A girl giving another girl an oracle card reading on the kitchen floor as a few other kids sit around them watching and drinking. A group on the balcony passing a joint around.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Jerome and Allison walk into a large open style living room where most of the people are hanging out. CYNTHIA, seventeen, runs over to them.

CYNTHIA

Hey!

Cynthia hugs Allison.

ALLISON

(smiling)

Hey.

Cynthia looks at Jerome smiling.

ALLISON

This is Jerome, he's my new neighbour.

CYNTHIA

(smiling)

Nice to meet you Jerome. Can I get you a drink?

JEROME

I'm okay thanks, unless you have like juice or something.

CYNTHIA

Not drinking tonight?

JEROME

I don't want sound like a douche but I can't really drink on my training program at the moment.

CYNTHIA

(smiling)

That doesn't make you a douche at all. And yes, we do have juice I think.

(at Allison)

You want anything Ali?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON
I'm good for now.

CYNTHIA
(smiling)
Suit yourself.

Cynthia turns and leaves. Allison looks around the room.

ALLISON
C'mon, I'll introduce you to some
of my friends.

'Where Are You' gets louder as we

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

No live sound as Allison introduces Jerome (glass of orange juice in his hand now) to a group of girls including LYDIA, seventeen, redhead.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Cynthia dancing with another girl in the kitchen.

The girl on the floor is still doing an oracle card reading but with a different person.

CUT TO:

Feet tapping to the beat of the music.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Allison talking with a few friends including Harriet.

Jerome now talking to Lydia on her own. She's very animated and smiling wide. 'Where Are You' fades as we

FADE TO:

EXT. BALCONY

'A World Alone' is mid song as Cynthia and Allison talk outside. Cynthia's making her way through a peach coloured RTD.

CYNTHIA

(smiling)
I'm surprised you came tonight,
you usually never come to these
things.

ALLISON

Thought it might be nice for
Jerome to come meet some people.
He only got here this morning.

We see Lydia obviously flirting with Jerome inside the living room. She laughs and touches his chest. Jerome smiles.

CYNTHIA

(looking inside,
smiling)
Lydia looks like she's about to
jump him.

Cynthia looks at Allison who's looking inside, a blank look on her face.

CYNTHIA

(smiling)
Oh Allison. He's done a number on
you.

Allison turns to Cynthia with a delayed reaction.

ALLISON

(looking at Cynthia)
Huh?

CYNTHIA

You like him don't you?

Allison shrugs.

ALLISON

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYNTHIA

(smiling)

Oh my God, I can't even remember
the last time you looked twice at
someone.

ALLISON

(annoyed)

Well it looks like he's having a
pretty good time in there with
Lydia.

They watch as Lydia keeps flirting with him.

CYNTHIA

It's kind of annoying how hot she
is sometimes.

We can see Jerome, his glass empty, motion that he's
gonna get another drink. He turns to walk away but Lydia
holds his hand and pulls him back, a smile on her face.
We see her mouth "wait a second" and go in to kiss him.

CYNTHIA

(shocked)

Oh my God.

As she kisses him, Jerome pulls away fast and we continue
watching from outside as he apologizes to Lydia and walks
away.

CYNTHIA

(smiling)

I'm pretty sure the only reason
someone would deny Lydia Baker is
if they had another girl on their
mind. Either way, you better get
in there before someone else makes
a move.

Cynthia finishes her drink.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

(walking inside,
smiling)

I'm in the mood for love Ali and I
think you are too.

We hold on Allison before we

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Jerome is pouring himself a glass of juice. Allison walks in and he sees her and smiles.

JEROME

Hey.

ALLISON

You having a good time?

JEROME

Yeah. Your friends are um, really nice.

ALLISON

(smiling)

You talking about Lydia? I was out on the balcony with Cynthia, we couldn't help but notice.

JEROME

(smiling)

Is she always that friendly?

ALLISON

(smiling)

Only to guys with pink shoes.

Jerome smiles as 'World Alone' abruptly cuts out and everyone looks around.

CYNTHIA (O.S.)

(loudly)

Hey everyone! Come into the living room.

Jerome looks at Allison who shrugs, unsure.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Everyone including Allison and Jerome stand in the massive living area looking at Cynthia, who's standing next to the table with a speaker on it and a Silver iPod Classic 160Gb plugged in. Jerome and Allison are at the back by the wall.

CYNTHIA

Thanks everyone for coming, I love you guys.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

So as most of you know, when I
drink too much I get emotional and
when I get emotional there's only
one song in the world I want to
listen to so if you don't mind.

Cynthia pushes a button on the iPod and 'Don't Dream It's
Over' by Crowded House starts to play. Cynthia walks into
the middle of the room and takes one of her friends and
starts to slow dance with her. Other people start pairing
up and dancing slow together. We watch as a few more
people go to the middle of the living and start dancing.
After a while, Jerome looks at Allison.

JEROME

(nervous)

Would you like to dance?

Allison smiles.

ALLISON

Yeah, I would.

Jerome reaches out and holds Allison's hand and leads her
into the middle of the living room. They stand close and
slow dance like the others around them. We watch them
dance for a long while, looking each other in the eye,
both nervous, smiling as they hold onto each other. As
the song finishes and gets quiet, they stop moving but
continue to hold each other. They look at each other for
a moment before they're interrupted by the ring of
Allison's phone. Allison quickly reaches for her phone.

ALLISON

Sorry.

Allison answers the phone as everyone else starts to talk
and mingle again and 'Keep It Close To Me' by Yumi Zouma
starts playing.

ALLISON

Hello?

...

Hey Ashley.

...

(Allison looks
worried)

We'll come over right now, just
stay with her until we get there
ok?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

...

No it's fine.

...

Ok, thanks Ashley.

Allison hangs up and puts her phone in her pocket.

JEROME

(concerned)

Everything ok?

ALLISON

(starting to walk)

We gotta go.

Jerome follows her.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Georgia's passed out drunk at
Ashley's cousin's house so we
gotta go pick them up.

'Keep It Close To Me' cuts out as we

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET

Allison parks, turns off the car and gets out briskly.
Jerome follows her up to the house where music is
playing.

JEROME

I hope she's ok.

ALLISON

(as they reach the
door)

Me too.

INT. HALLWAY

Allison and Jerome enter the house and into a hallway.
'Goldmine' by Kimbra plays quietly from somewhere else in
the house. Young teens are drinking and talking along the
hall. Allison goes up to a boy and girl talking, the
closest people to the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON

Excuse me.

They stop talking and look at her.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Hey. Do you guys know Georgia?

GIRL

Yeah, I think she's on one of the
couches in the living room.

ALLISON

(walking away)

Ok, thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Allison and Jerome walk into the living room where more young teens are sitting on the couches, drinking and sharing a joint, talking. 'Goldmine' is coming from a portable speaking sitting on the floor in the corner with a phone plugged in. Ashley is sitting next to Georgia, who's lying on one of the couches looking dazed. Jerome and Allison go over to them. Allison crouches down by Georgia's head, Jerome stands nearby.

ASHLEY

(worried)

I'm so sorry, I didn't even think
she was drinking that much.

ALLISON

(crouching down)

It's fine Ashley, it's not your
fault.

(to Georgia)

Georgia?

Georgia, her eyes half opened, looks at Allison.

GEORGIA

(smiling)

Heeeeeeeey. What are you doing
here?

ALLISON

C'mon, you gotta get up so I can
take you home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Georgia smiles at Allison and has a slow response time.

GEORGIA

Huh?

Georgia closes her eyes again. Allison rubs her shoulder gently.

ALLISON

C'mon Georgia, we gotta go.

Georgia opens her eyes a little.

GEORGIA

Wwhy?

She closes her eyes again. Allison stands up.

ALLISON

(to Jerome)

Can you give me a hand getting her up?

Jerome steps forward and they sit her up. Allison sits on the couch next to Georgia and puts one of Georgia's arm over her shoulder.

ALLISON

(to Jerome)

Here, hop under her other one and we'll walk her out to the car.

Jerome sits down on Georgia's other side and puts her other arm over his shoulder.

ALLISON

Ok, one, two, three.

Jerome and Allison stand up, bringing Georgia with them. They start walking out of the living room. The other teens just carry on chilling.

GEORGIA

(smiling, dazed)

Where are we going?

'Goldmine' cuts out as we

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET

Wide oner as Jerome and Allison ease Georgia into the back seat of the car.

ASHLEY
(as they ease Georgia
inside)
I'm pretty sure she only had a
couple drinks when I went outside
for a bit and when I came back in
she was on the floor sleeping.

ALLISON
Don't worry about it Ashley, it's
fine.

Ashley hops in on the other side of the back seat as Allison and Jerome hop in the front.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

'Dying Day' by Gin Wigmore plays quietly from the car stereo. Georgia's sleeping in the back seat.

ASHLEY
Your Mum's still outta town right?

ALLISON
She doesn't get back till tomorrow
afternoon.

ASHLEY
Georgia should just come back to
my house. My Mum would be pissed
if she knew Georgia was like this
and I let her go home when her Mum
wouldn't be there for her in the
morning.

ALLISON
Are you sure?

ASHLEY
Yeah, my Mum will want to make
sure she's ok. She'll make her
something good for breakfast and
everything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALLISON

Ok. Make sure you call me if she needs anything. I'm picking up my parents from the airport tomorrow so I'll come pick her up on the way.

We hold on Georgia's sleeping face before we

FADE TO:

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM

Wigmore still playing quietly as Jerome and Allison support a dazed Georgia onto Ashley's bed. Allison takes off Georgia's shoes as Ashley puts the duvet over her. Allison crouches down beside Georgia's head.

ALLISON

(softly)
You're gonna stay here at Ashley's again tonight ok?

GEORGIA

(smiling, half
asleep)
Ok.

ALLISON

I'm gonna pick you up tomorrow afternoon on the way to get Mum and Dad from the airport. I'll see you tomorrow ok?

GEORGIA

Ok.

ALLISON

Love you.

GEORGIA

(eyes closing)
Love you too.

Allison stands up.

ALLISON

(to Ashley)
Make sure she has a shower in the morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ASHLEY

Yep, I will.

ALLISON

(walking out, Jerome
following)

Ok, thanks Ashley, we'll see you
tomorrow.

ASHLEY

Bye.

'Dying Day' finishes as Allison and Jerome leave Ashley's
bedroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE ASHLEY'S HOUSE

Allison and Jerome hopping into the car. Allison starts
it up and pulls out onto the road.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

JEROME

(smiling)

Man, I think this has been the
longest day of my life.

ALLISON

Yeah, sorry you had to tag along
with me everywhere today.

JEROME

Aw no, I didn't mean it like that.
I'm just used to only doing like
one or two things in a day and I
felt like we went to a million
places which was awesome. It was
such a good way to see the city
and meet some of your family.

ALLISON

Well I'm glad you enjoyed it
because it would've been a
nightmare if we had to hang out
with each other all day and we
didn't get along.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jerome smiles.

JEROME

Yeah, that would've been pretty awkward.

ALLISON

I feel embarrassed for Georgia though. It's not like having to go pick her up like that is a regular thing or anything. She's gonna be so annoyed that you saw her like that.

JEROME

Well hopefully not too annoyed. That kinda stuff happens to everyone at some point.

Allison smiles.

ALLISON

You know what? You wanna make this day a little bit longer?

JEROME

(smiling)
Sure.

We hold on Allison smiling before we

CUT TO:

EXT. GLENMORE STREET WELLINGTON - LATE EVENING

We stay in a wide as Allison and Jerome hop out of the car and close their doors. They walk towards the entrance to the Botanic Gardens.

ALLISON

(walking)
Maybe we were supposed to miss our chance to come here during the day so you could see it for the first time all lit up like this.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOTANIC GARDENS

Allison and Jerome walking through one of the colourfully lit up areas of the botanic gardens onto a pathway where dozens of flower beds of different colors are lit up by multicolored lights.

JEROME

This is awesome.

Allison smiles. Beat.

ALLISON

Do you ever think about legacy much? Like what you're gonna leave behind after you die?

JEROME

Uh, not really, why do you?

ALLISON

For some reason I've been thinking about it a lot lately. I think it's probably something to do with being in year thirteen now and having to make a bunch of decisions about what I'm gonna do when school finishes.

JEROME

What kind of legacy do you want when you think about it?

ALLISON

I don't know, I just want to feel that when I die, I've impacted more than just the people around me you know what I mean? Like I've been responsible for music that's been able to reach a lot of people and be a positive part of their lives.

I just, I don't know, I don't wanna just come through life and leave without having any real impact. I wanna make people feel things, make them think.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEROME

I can't say I have quite the same worldly ambition as you but if what I've learnt about you and seen you do today is anything to go by, I feel like only something drastic could stop someone like you from having the kind of impact you wanna have.

Allison smiles.

JEROME (CONT'D)

And if seeing you play with Harriet is anything for me to judge by, I feel like you're gonna be making the kind of music that plenty of people will be listening to coz I'll be one of them.

ALLISON

(smiling)

Thanks.

They come up to a large duck pond where they stop at the rail and look around at all the trees and flowers lit up for a few moments.

JEROME

I want to say something even though I feel like it might ruin this whole day we've had together.

ALLISON

I'm sure whatever it is it can't be that bad.

JEROME

Ok well, I know we only just met this morning so this might sound crazy but I really like you Allison. And I know it's only been one day but I've never met anyone like you before so even if it means ruining the friendship we might of had this year I guess I'll just have to live with that because I couldn't imagine having to see you all the time and only be able to be just friends.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JEROME (CONT'D)

I mean the way you are with your sisters, the way you play piano, the way you smile, it's been driving me crazy all day. And I don't want all that to freak you out but I don't know what else to say. I just, I think you're amazing Allison. And maybe today's got me over romanticizing you because obviously every day isn't going to be like this but I don't know, for some reason I just feel like I have to tell you.

Allison looks at Jerome for a moment and smiles. When she doesn't reply Jerome continues.

JEROME

Sorry if I just ruined everything.

ALLISON

You didn't ruin anything.

Allison looks at Jerome nervously for a moment before she leans forward and kisses him softly. They smile at each other when they pull apart. Allison takes one of Jerome's hands in hers.

ALLISON

(smiling)

C'mon, I wanna show you my favourite part.

Allison and Jerome leave the duck pond area hand in hand. As they leave the frame, 'Something Good' by Bic Runga starts to play and we stay at the duck pond. Just as the lyrics "Something Good" are sung for the first time we

CUT TO BLACK

THE END