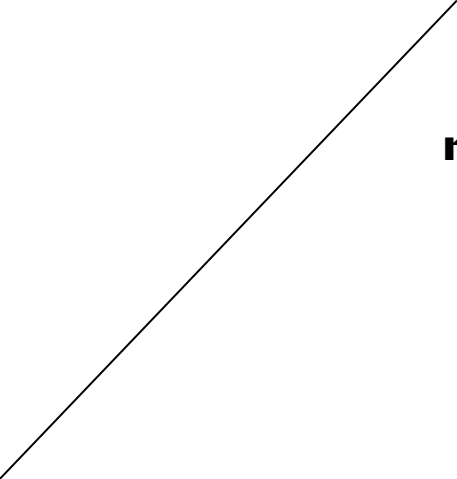




**joe
kelly**

**the many
maras**

joekellywrites@gmail.com



bianca	(any ethnicity, female, 20s)
akhil	(Indian or Middle Eastern descent, male, 20s)
moondoggy	(Black, male, 20s)
gemma	(any ethnicity, female, 20s)
maqa #1	(Klesha Mara, any ethnicity, female, 20s)
maqa #2	(Devaputra Mara, any ethnicity, female, 20s)
maqa #3	(Yama Mara, any ethnicity, female, 20s)
maqa #4	(Skandha Mara, any ethnicity, female, 20s)

*(*The Maras can, and should, be played by the same actress*)*

*M.B.L.O.A.T should be pronounced: M (like the letter)- BLOAT
(like the word.)*

*This is what I was reading, watching,
and listening to while writing this play:*

**MALE VOICE and JUNIOR can be recordings or performed by
one of the men in the ensemble- but should not be
recognizable as such. **

reading

When Things Fall Apart (Pema Choron)
Our Mathematical Universe (Max Tegmark)
Norwegian Wood (Haruki Murakami)
Pterodactyls (Nicky Silver)
Infinite Jest (David Foster Wallace)
Mr. Norris Changes Trains (Christopher Isherwood)
The Unbearable Lightness of Being (Milan Kundera)

*Everyone pronounces Junior like Yunion except Akhil,
he says Junior*

watching

HunterxHunter (Hiioji Kojina)
The Big Snooze (Bob Clampett)
Seinfeld (Jerry Seinfeld, Larry David)
Scorpio Rising (Kenneth Anger)
Space Jame (Joe Pytko)
Work of Tyrone Lebon
Work of Bill Wurtz
Work of Shane Black

listening to

Blonde (Frank Ocean)
Baker's Holiday (Chet Baker)
But You Caint Use My Phone (Erykah Badu)
Awaken! My Love (Childish Gambino)
None of the Clocks Work (Amit Obe)
Greatest Hits (Patsy Cline)
Scenery 1976 (Ryo Fukui)
Vibrate: Best Of (Rufus Wainwright)

*“I am young and confused and obsessed with certain
problems that I think right now distill
the experience of being human.”*

-David Foster Wallace in a letter to
his editor Gerald Howard.



part 01 / the heroes in a zone of comfort

*"Akhil come here.
Put your hand
near the stove."
-Bianca*

PART 1: THE HEROES IN A ZONE OF COMFORT

IN DARKNESS.

MALE VOICE

Okay. Let's just go over everything one last time to make sure you're good. Oxygen.

FEMALE VOICE

Check.

MALE VOICE

I am checking-

FEMALE VOICE

I mean yes. Affirmative.

MALE VOICE

Oh- right, sorry. Nerves, I guess. Suit integrity.

FEMALE VOICE

100%

MALE VOICE

Cable anchorage-

FEMALE VOICE

Can we just go?! My adrenaline is-

MALE VOICE

I just have to-

FEMALE VOICE

Fine.

MALE VOICE

There's a list.

FEMALE VOICE

Go.

MALE VOICE

Ahem. Cable anchorage.

Secure.

FEMALE VOICE

Radio.

MALE VOICE

Connected.

FEMALE VOICE

MALE VOICE

Now- Dr. Mara, can you verbally confirm you are of sane and sound mind and willingly volunteering for this expedition of your own volition.

FEMALE VOICE

Yes.

MALE VOICE

Mara... are you sure you wanna to do this alone?

A SPOTLIGHT illuminates the FEMALE VOICE, it's MARA #4. She's wearing what looks like a futuristic space-suit, the helmet of which she bounces nervously up and down on her knee. A long chord is attached to her waist and drawn tight by some anchor-point in the darkness.

MARA #4

I'm sure.

A low not-quite-mechanical rumbling starts. Mara #4 puts on her helmet which clicks into place.

The rumbling intensifies.

MALE VOICE

(yelling over the rumbling)

THE PORTAL IS OPEN!

Just as the rumbling is about to reach some sort of breaking point it suddenly STOPS- the spotlight CUTS OFF.

We're back in darkness.

An eerie sci-fi synth- something dark and foreboding-
BUILDS to a crescendo then-

CLICK

The lights are switched on-

Mara #4, is gone. We're in a completely new space. MOONDOGGY's APARTMENT. The apartment is large and cool as hell. Like one you'd see profiled on Nowness or some-other hip interior design blog. There is a couch center-left that is angled in front of the TV. To the right is a dining area and kitchen. Doors to the back and sides suggest more rooms and long hall-ways. The down far right is the entrance to the apartment. An angel, complete with wings and halo, is collapsed on the couch at center.

BIANCA, the light switcher, crosses and looks over the angel.

On closer inspection we can see the wings and halo are part of a cheap Halloween costume. Glitter is everywhere. The angel is GEMMA.

BIANCA

Gemma. Wake up. We're doing it today.

Gemma stays down.

GEMMA

I'm asleep.

BIANCA

Get the dyson and clean up this glitter. You're not asleep.

GEMMA

The roomba will get it. I'm sleep talking, this is crazy.

BIANCA

The roomba is missing. You just got home, didn't you?

Gemma sits up.

GEMMA

Speaking of sleep, Bianca, how'd you wake up? Did it happen again?

BIANCA

Get the dyson.

GEMMA

Fine.

Gemma stands and stretches. Bianca crosses to the kitchen.

BIANCA

Akhil's coming over. We're gonna break the news, remember?

GEMMA

I remember.

BIANCA

So, I'm thinking of making Eggs in Purgatory. They- I mean, Akhil loves that.

Bianca starts looking through the cabinets and refrigerator gathering ingredients for Eggs in Purgatory.

GEMMA

Where's Moondoggy?

MOONDOGGY enters from the back hall.

MOONDOGGY

Yo!

BIANCA

Speak of the devil!

MOONDOGGY

(flashing the sign of the horns)

Hail satan- what's up?

GEMMA

Happy cut day!

BIANCA

Gemma, vacuum!

Gemma exits in search of the hand-held vacuum.

BIANCA

Moon, I have a job for you.

MOONDOGGY

Good morning to you too.

BIANCA

Akhil's coming soon- and then we have the interviews, I need you to get some hot coffee and donuts.

MOONDOGGY

Hot coffee?

BIANCA

Yes. And donuts.

MOONDOGGY

It's like 1,000 degrees out-

BIANCA

I read that if you hand someone a hot drink they'll subconsciously perceive you as warm and welcoming. Like a grandma. It's a trick to ease bad news.

MOONDOGGY

Interesting.

BIANCA

Yeah, so. Go.

MOONDOGGY

Isn't Junior coming?

BIANCA

He's on his way, yes.

Gemma returns with the vacuum.

GEMMA

This is out of batteries.

MOONDOGGY

Can't Junior get the coffee and donuts-

BIANCA

Hot coffee and no- I don't want to burden Junior with anything.

MOONDOGGY

Burden?

BIANCA

You know his fiancé just ran off with that etsy guy.

MOONDOGGY

What? What etsy guy?

GEMMA

You don't know?

MOONDOGGY

They broke up? Is that even possible?

GEMMA

She left him for this guy she found on etsy who custom crafted her jade vaginal egg.

“Jade vaginal egg” is extremely funny to the three of them.

MOONDOGGY

Jade vaginal egg?

BIANCA

He's feeling really lonely these days. You know Junior has a lot of... masculine pride.

GEMMA

So are we not allowed to mention the jade vaginal egg?

MOONDOGGY

I have a lot of questions about the jade vaginal egg.

BIANCA

We all want to know about the jade vaginal egg and it's alleged healing properties- but I don't think he's ready to laugh about it.

MOONDOGGY

Akhil's gonna say something.

GEMMA

Oh he's absolutely going to say something-

MOONDOGGY

Does he know?

BIANCA

He knows.

MOONDOGGY

He's gonna say something. Especially if he feels attacked after the meeting.

GEMMA

He's gonna lash-

MOONDOGGY

Dude's a lasher-

BIANCA

Well that's what the hot coffee is for. Moon?

MOONDOGGY

Alright I'm on it-

BIANCA

Love you- hurry back! We need you here. Akhil respects you.

MOONDOGGY

I'll run.

BIANCA

Love you!

Moondoggy exits.

GEMMA

What'd you get up to last night?

BIANCA

I practiced what to say to Akhil.

GEMMA

Did you and Moondoggy...?

BIANCA

No.

GEMMA

Man.

BIANCA

We even tried your- *suggestion* again.

GEMMA

You did? What did you do? Female pilot and air marshal? Maid and messy guest? Jim Henson and a young, suggestible Muppet looking to break into the industry?

BIANCA

School girl thing again. I got detention for doing too much science.

GEMMA

Doing too much science?

BIANCA

It's his thing.

The door buzzes. Bianca walks up to the intercom and presses TALK.

BIANCA

HELLO?

VOICE

shrmbl wrble

Bianca presses DOOR.

GEMMA

Who's that?

BIANCA

Junior. I hope. I'm not ready to talk to Akhil. I don't have anything warm to hand him yet-

Gemma puts the vacuum on the coffee table.

BIANCA

Don't put that there. Put it away. I cleared that off for the donuts. The donuts go there. The coffees will go on the counter next to me so I can hand them out.

GEMMA

You need to chill out. You're way too on edge right now.

Gemma takes the vacuum and begins to walk off.

BIANCA

Dude, the couch is still covered in glitter

GEMMA

There are no batteries!

BIANCA

Use the remote!

GEMMA

I'm not using the remote to pick up glitter you sycophant- how would I even do that?

BIANCA

You really do have the mind of a god damn sentient peanut, you know that? I mean use the batteries from the remote!

GEMMA

I WAS JOKING!

BIANCA

I KNOW YOU WEREN'T!

There's a knock at the door. Gemma and Bianca freeze.

AKHIL

Yo- It's Akhil!

Gemma and Bianca embrace and whisper intensely.

BIANCA

Help me! I don't know what to say!

GEMMA

You said you practiced!

BIANCA

I didn't practice enough, you peanut! It wasn't enough!

*KNOCK*KNOCK*KNOCK*

Gemma pulls Bianca further from the door so they can speak normally.

GEMMA

Just be honest. It's not personal, it's business.

BIANCA

It's not personal, it's basketball.

GEMMA

I like that. Say that. *It's basketball*. Cool. You're cool you know.

BIANCA

No, no, no, your's is better. *It's business*. That's perfect. You say that.

AKHIL bursts into the apartment. He's dressed in athletic gear and holding a basket-ball.

AKHIL

I found my key.

BIANCA

GEMMA

AKHIL!

AKHIL!

BIANCA

So happy you could make it!

GEMMA

Get over here you big little cutie!

The girls both walk over to Akhil and give him big hugs.

AKHIL

There's a fucking yellow 1993 Porsche 911 Carrera parked outside.

Bianca returns to cooking. Akhil crosses and sits next to Gemma on the couch, placing his ball on the table.

GEMMA

Akh, do you think I have the mind of a sentient peanut?

AKHIL

Of course not.

GEMMA

Thank you.

AKHIL

Is this glitter? Fuck-

Akhil gets up and wipes glitter off his butt.

BIANCA

Are you hungry Akhil?

AKHIL

Oh- yeah! What're you cooking? Smells really good

BIANCA

It's Eggs in Purgatory. I made it especially for you because it's your favorite and I value you as a dear friend. No matter what.

AKHIL

What?

GEMMA

Do you have any Vyvanse Akh?

AKHIL

Not on me. Where's Mr. Moon?

BIANCA

Getting hot coffee and donuts. Actually- can you not leave that ball there?

AKHIL

Is Junior coming?

GEMMA

He's supposed be here already. This is the donut area.

AKHIL

Fucking Junior.

Akhil places his ball on the counter.

BIANCA

Ahem.

Gemma takes the ball and places it back on the couch.

GEMMA

Junior's nice. And you know about his situation. Be nice.

AKHIL

It's Junior. He spells it with a J. It's Junior. His fiancé didn't leave him for a yade vaginal egg maker.

BIANCA

He's Dominican-

AKHIL

Like, fourth generation! And he milks it for everything it's worth- He doesn't even speak Spanish! He pretends he does.

BIANCA

He's lonely.

AKHIL

Yeah well... what's up? What did you want to talk about? What's with the wings?

GEMMA

I went out last night.

AKHIL

You just get back?

GEMMA

No I just woke up.

AKHIL

If you guys like Junior so much how come you weren't at his birthday thing last night?

GEMMA

Cause we went to his birthday brunch.

AKHIL

There was a brunch?!

BIANCA

It was small.

GEMMA

He paid for everything.

AKHIL

Fucking Junior!

BIANCA

Moondoggy and I just wanted a quiet night.

AKHIL

Was somebody doing too much science again?

Silence.

AKHIL

Guys?

BIANCA

I think it would be best if we waited for Moondoggy to get back.

AKHIL

What? Why? What is it? Is it bad?

GEMMA

No.

AKHIL

Okay.

They all sit in awkward silence.

GEMMA

So, did you guys see this thing about the scientist that got stuck in the other dimension? The chord broke. They can't contact her. People are freaking out.

BIANCA

She what? Really? I was reading about her last night- how she was this like, pioneering woman and none of the men believed in this hidden dimension until she proved it-

GEMMA

Yup. She's missing.

BIANCA

That is so sad! No!

Akhil stands up.

AKHIL

This is fucked- I don't want to just sit here and wait- just tell me what's going on. I can't-

Gemma stands.

GEMMA

We're kicking you off the basketball team.

Bianca stands.

BIANCA
Gemma!

GEMMA
What?

BIANCA
That's not how-

GEMMA
Okay. I'm so sorry-

BIANCA
God!

GEMMA
But we're kicking you off the team.

AKHIL
What? Seriously?

BIANCA
Akhil, come here. Put your hands near the stove. It's warm.

Bianca leads Akhil into the kitchen. Gemma lays back down on the couch.

GEMMA
I did it like a band-aide.

BIANCA
You did it like a fool!

AKHIL
Why are you doing this- this act of violence?

GEMMA
Come on man, you know you're not the same player you used to be when you were still...

AKHIL
Are you fucking kidding me?

BIANCA
Well. You know, when it was the two of you- your defense was amazing.

AKHIL

I started this rec team!

GEMMA

Moon started it.

BIANCA

I actually started it.

AKHIL

Whatever! I can't believe this. You think Asim was the better player?

GEMMA

You know you haven't been as good since the surgery. You're like a little Indian Derrick Rose.

AKHIL

I was going through physical therapy!

BIANCA

It's been five months.

AKHIL

So let me get this straight, cause it sounds a little fucked up, sounds like you guys got me a little fucked up right now. You're sitting there and you're telling me, you actually believe, you actually all seriously, in this current reality, cause you got me fucked up right now girls, you actually truly believe that I was a better asset to this team when I was a fucking Siamese twin?

GEMMA

You're not supposed to say that-

AKHIL

I can say it! I was it! You just called me a little Indian Derrick Rose!

GEMMA

It's not just that Asim was the better player- it's your width.

BIANCA

You just can't set picks like you used to.

AKHIL

Guys! Seriously?!

GEMMA

And you've got two left hands.

BIANCA

We'll still give you a cut! Since you were part of the original team and everything. But it's not exactly a hustle if we keep losing.

AKHIL

We've only lost like four games!

GEMMA

Six.

BIANCA

Eight.

GEMMA

Eight?!

BIANCA

Eight.

AKHIL

We've only lost like eight games! That's not... does Moondoggy agree with this?

BIANCA

Yeah. I'm sorry Akhil, it's not personal-

BIANCA

It's business

GEMMA

It's basketball.

AKHIL

Fuck you, fuck you, fuck Moon, and triple fuck Junior. Where ever he is. I see how it is. I get it. Don't need to explain it to me. You fucking traitors. You fucking bloodsucking rats.

GEMMA

Dude, are you crying?

AKHIL

No. I just- I got glitter in my eye. Where's the roomba?

GEMMA

He's missing.

AKHIL

Got rid of him too, eh? Cause he was broken? You just throw out all your broken friends?

BIANCA

Akhil, honey, no! I think he just got stuck under the couch.

AKHIL

FUCK!

Akhil hurls the basketball against the wall. It's a lot.
Everyone just sorta sits in the moment- shoulders raised
and tense and mouths open like *ope*.

Akhil knows it was too much.

AKHIL

I'm sorry guys. I get it, I really do. I just need to... I need to like... I'm gonna go back
down and look at the Porsch some more.

BIANCA

Okay. Don't go back uptown, okay? I'll be done with this in ten minutes and we can all
eat, okay? I have stuff for mimosas if you want.

GEMMA

Yeah come back up and we'll all eat and laugh and chill.

AKHIL

...and mimosas?

GEMMA

So much mimosas

AKHIL

Okay.

Akhil rushes out, wiping tears from his eyes.

GEMMA

See? We didn't need Moondoggy, that wasn't so bad. Not like when we told him he
needed to stop wearing Hollister. He flipped.

BIANCA

Asim used to dress so cool.

*KNOCK*KNOCK*KNOCK*

Bianca walks over and opens the door. Moondoggy bounds in, absolutely BURSTING with energy, hands full with a dozen donuts and a tray with four coffees.

BIANCA

Moondoggy! What took you so long? Have you heard from Junior? He-

MOONDOGGY

SOMEBODY TELL ME I'M NOT DREAMING!

GEMMA

You're not dreaming. Did you see Akh? Was he crying?

Moondoggy crosses to the kitchen and hands Bianca the coffees. Placing the donuts on the counter.

MOONDOGGY

I'M NOT DREAMING?

BIANCA

No you're not dreaming- stop yelling.

MOONDOGGY

In that case- Bianca, we need to break up.

BIANCA

We need to... what?

MOONDOGGY

Break up. If this is real life.

BIANCA

Wait what?

(to Gemma)

Is it?

GEMMA

It is.

Bianca looks down and sees the hot coffees in her hands. She quickly puts them on the counter- taking the donuts and placing them on the coffee table before collapsing on the couch with her head in her hands. Gemma stands and backs away.

MOONDOGGY

Is it really!?! Oh my GOD. This is just- it's monumental.

BIANCA

Wait, Moon, stop. I can't tell if you're joking.

MOONDOGGY

I'm not.

BIANCA

Moon.

GEMMA

I'm gonna go fold my... shower.

Gemma retreats to her room. Moondoggy stays standing.

BIANCA

What's going on- did something happen?

MOONDOGGY

Yes.

BIANCA

Okay, what is it? Let's talk about this. Sit down. I don't understand why you're- Sit down. Come here.

MOONDOGGY

I know, I'm sorry, bub. It's crazy. But I have to do this.

BIANCA

Do what? Don't joke with me. Did you do something?

MOONDOGGY

I'll tell you. I'll get right to it.

BIANCA

Moon, you know I love you. Just tell me what you did?

MOONDOGGY

Okay, so, I was walking to the donut pub. And this.. Jesus Christ, I'm shaking, this *lady* came around the corner. And she just... she was the most beautiful lady I've ever seen in my life.

BIANCA

I'm sorry...What?

MOONDOGGY

Like, not just in person, I mean ever. Like on t.v. or on the internet. Models, movie-stars, Helen of Troy. Nothing like that.

BIANCA

Sorry, but *What?*

MOONDOGGY

The most beautiful lady of all time.

BIANCA

Who?

MOONDOGGY

I don't know! She walked right past me and I was just *struck*.

BIANCA

So you're breaking up with me because of a woman that passed you on the street?

MOONDOGGY

A lady. She's really the type that you see her and you go, "oh that's a lady". Like they say in poems, you know what I mean bub. The most beautiful lady of all time.

BIANCA

And you don't know her name, or anything about her?

MOONDOGGY

No.

BIANCA

But- what? You're gonna go try and be with her? Leave me and find her?

MOONDOGGY

No, I don't... that's not the point.

BIANCA

Then tell me Moondoggy, what is the fucking point? Because right now my boyfriend of six years is standing in front of me slobbering like an idiot over some random fucking stranger-

MOONDOGGY

Don't talk about her like that.

BIANCA

I don't know whether or laugh or cry or scream.

MOONDOGGY

Me neither.

The door BUZZES. Moondoggy walks over and presses DOOR.

BIANCA

Wait don't- Can we just talk for a minute?

MOONDOGGY

Point is, I can't be with you when I know she's out there- probably, I don't know- reading a book. Some sexy science book. It's all I can think about. I can't be here with you. Here for you. I can't be satisfied here in the present with you anymore. Starting now.

Moondoggy settles down on the arm of the couch, he's starting to drift.

MOONDOGGY

That's why I took so long, I was figuring it all out in the donut pub. I sat down and I saw it all. Ya' know, life is kinda like a donut pub-

BIANCA

-Shut up. You're sick, you're insane, and you're breaking my heart.

MOONDOGGY

I'm sorry. It's over.

Akhil enters, over compensating for his awkward exit by coming in way too high-energy.

AKHIL

Did somebody say MIMOSAS!?

MOONDOGGY

No I said "I'm sorry, it's over."

AKHIL

Oh. From outside it kinda sounded like mimosas.

BIANCA

I'm going for a walk.

Bianca storms out of the apartment.

AKHIL

What's going on?

MOONDOGGY

We just broke up.

AKHIL

What? Why? Because they kicked me off the team? Did you fight for me bro?

MOONDOGGY

No I want you off the team too.

AKHIL

Oh.

MOONDOGGY

I saw this lady on the street. The most beautiful lady of all time.

AKHIL

And?

MOONDOGGY

That's it. I just- something came over me. I realized I couldn't be with Bianca when I knew this lady was out there.

AKHIL

What?

MOONDOGGY

Like they say in poems and stuff.

AKHIL

So you dumped her?

MOONDOGGY

Yeah.

AKHIL

Shit.

MOONDOGGY

Yeah.

AKHIL

Well, what did she look like?

MOONDOGGY

Bro, I can't even-

AKHIL

Big boobies?

MOONDOGGY

No.

AKHIL

Big ol' jiggly butt?

MOONDOGGY

No- I need literature. The old masters, they'll help me.

Moon crosses to a bookcase next to the t.v. He grabs a stack of books and brings them to the couch. He starts to look through them obsessively.

AKHIL

The old masters? What the fuck are you talking about bro?

Gemma returns from her room.

GEMMA

Yeah Moon, what the fuck?

AKHIL

Was she blonde?

GEMMA

Was she blonde!?

MOONDOGGY

I don't know. Gemma, where are our poetry books?

AKHIL

You don't know?

GEMMA

Since when have you been into poetry?

Moondoggy pulls a book from the shelf

MOONDOGGY

Shakespeare? He's supposed to be good right?

GEMMA

Where's Bianca?

MOONDOGGY

She left, because I saw the most beautiful lady of all time-

GEMMA

Where?

MOONDOGGY

On the street. *Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?*

AKHIL

Do you think the 911 is hers? That would be insane-

Akhil looks through the donuts, picking and eating

GEMMA

(re: Moondoggy)

Are *you* insane?

MOONDOGGY

I'm enlightened.

GEMMA

You're deranged.

MOONDOGGY

Okay, so picture, like, you're some bum-ass bubbi living in a time full of disease, and death, and darkness- you'd be like, "Yeah, this is life. This is what we got."

GEMMA

You're talking about Bianca? Disease, death, and darkness?

MOONDOGGY

You'd be dreaming about heaven right? Like, "Yup, today I have to shovel the poop pile into the poop pit, but when I die of poop poison at least I'll go to heaven." But what if you found heaven here on Earth? And that you didn't have to die to get there? That it was real? And she had black hair?

AKHIL

What's poop poison?

MOONDOGGY

The most beautiful lady of all time. M.B.L.O.A.T.

GEMMA

The fact you only went to college on an athletic scholarship is really showing.

AKHIL

Does this mean Bianca's off the team?

GEMMA

No, Bianca is not off the team. You are. You're off the team.

AKHIL

So Junior's in then? You're sticking with Junior.

MOONDOGGY

Junior can rebound.

GEMMA

Moon, come back to Earth. Have you thought about this for a second beyond just dumping Bianca?

MOONDOGGY

Uh...

AKHIL

But Junior sucks. He's so boring bro. He's always posting pictures of his nieces and nephews and shit. Kids a fucking squid dude.

GEMMA

Akh, can you have some perspective please? Moon is ripping our friend group apart because of a stranger he saw on the street.

MOONDOGGY

She's not just a stranger.

AKHIL

Yeah Gem, weren't you listening? She's the manifestation of the promise of heaven on Earth or some shit.

MOONDOGGY

Exactly!

AKHIL

We're talking M.B.L.O.A.T. Gemma, keep up.

MOONDOGGY

Yes, bro. Thank you.

GEMMA

You two are actually ridiculous.

Moondoggy slams his book shut.

MOONDOGGY

This sucks! They're not even close. I need... the internet!

Moon runs off back to his room.

GEMMA

How are you being so chill about this?

AKHIL

Relax. They've broken up tons of times.

GEMMA

What? Really? Bianca never told me that.

AKHIL

I'm more concerned with this team mutiny against me. It's a coup, is what it is. An act of treasonous violence.

GEMMA

But he never acts like this. He's being *so* weird.

AKHIL

Yeah well, guess she must have been pretty beautiful. The M.B.L.O.A.T.

Bianca, who's been crying, kicks open the front door.

BIANCA

YOU CAN'T BREAK UP WITH ME BECAUSE I'M BREAKING UP WITH YOU!
BITCH!

GEMMA

He's in his room.

BIANCA

Fuck.

Bianca storms off towards Moondoggy's room.

BIANCA (OFF)

YOU CAN'T BREAK UP WITH ME BECAUSE I'M BREAKING UP WITH YOU!
BITCH!

Bianca re-enters, steaming.

AKHIL

You okay?

BIANCA

Me? I'm fine. Why?

GEMMA

Uhh...

AKHIL

Uhh...

BIANCA

This is fine. Everything will be fine. Moon's just being... a little crazy. We're still doing the interviews.

AKHIL

The interviews?

GEMMA

B, ex-nay on the interviews-ay

BIANCA

Akhil, we've scheduled several interviews for a new player. It's unfortunate you have to find out like this, having only just found out you're the one being replaced, but that's life. Sorry. But I'm not, cause I'd do it again.

GEMMA

Bianca come here.

BIANCA

Sorry that wasn't a part of your plan today, Akhil! Guess shit just happens!

AKHIL

Bianca- have a mimosa.

BIANCA

Guess life's just a big fucking joke!

GEMMA

I am *not* dressed for this.

BIANCA

THEN GO GET FUCKING CHANGED GEMMA! Stop complaining all the time! Do something about it!

GEMMA

Okay- you know what? Fine!

AKHIL

No. Please, don't go-

Gemma exits. Leaving just Akhil and Bianca.

BIANCA

I left the Eggs in Purgatory in the oven. It's ruined. It's Eggs in Hell now.

AKHIL

Oh yeah. I'll shut this off- *before you stick you head in it.*

Akhil turns off the oven.

BIANCA

My life is Eggs in Hell.

AKHIL

So... I guess I should leave. Before the interviews.

BIANCA

No- don't go. Stay. Mimosas.

AKHIL

Yeah okay. I'll pour them.

Akhil gets up and starts preparing the mimosas.

BIANCA

I'm not moving out.

AKHIL

Yeah, this is totally just as much your apartment. So.

He swigs the champagne, then pours the entire bottle and a splash of orange juice into a large pitcher.

BIANCA

You don't have to pay the rent to own an apartment you know.

AKHIL

Sure.

BIANCA

There are other ways. Like, I decorated this whole place. And I clean. And cook. God damn it I'm about to fucking FLIP OUT.

Bianca stands and starts pacing. Akhil walks over and delivers the mimosas. Pouring some into two flutes.

AKHIL

So is Junior just not coming? Wouldn't mind him now.

BIANCA

I'm a catch, Akhil.

AKHIL

Oh, for sure.

BIANCA

And I'm hot. Maybe not like, a *lady* or whatever, but I look good. I have good skin, and nice hair. I work out. And my collarbones are prominent but I still have big boobs. You know how rare that is?

AKHIL

Like Mr. Clean with hair.

BIANCA

Lil Wayne?

AKHIL

Yeah.

BIANCA

See? I'm hip! What more could you want!?

They both chugs their drinks. Akhil pours two more. They sit in silence for a moment. Akhil looks around the room. Bianca stares dead ahead.

BIANCA

Do you miss him?

AKHIL

What?

BIANCA
Asim.

AKHIL
Of course.

BIANCA
Still?

AKHIL
Yeah, still. It's only been five months.

BIANCA
How much?

AKHIL
What?

BIANCA
How much do you miss him.

AKHIL
A lot.

BIANCA
Do you feel like you can still function? With out him?

AKHIL
I mean- yeah that's kinda why I... we wouldn't have gotten the surgery if we didn't think we could function with out each other.

BIANCA
I don't mean physically I mean like... do you think you can be *you* with out him? Is there a you with out him?

AKHIL
Is there a me?

BIANCA
Or is it like Peter Pan's shadow after it's been cut off. Just flat, and dark. Does it kill you? Do you just wanna die? Do you just wanna fucking kill yourself because you find yourself so fucking repulsive?

AKHIL
...no.

BIANCA

Yeah. Me neither.

AKHIL

So Gemma is-

BIANCA

Changing.

AKHIL

Changing. Right. She's usually pretty quick about that? Or... does she usually take... forever.

BIANCA

I can't stop thinking about that scientist.

AKHIL

What scientist?

BIANCA

The one in the other universe. Alone.

AKHIL

Oh yeah! Let's talk about that, what's going on with that? She's stuck there, or?

BIANCA

Completely beyond reach.

AKHIL

How do they know she's alive?

BIANCA

They don't

AKHIL

Like Pavlov's cat.

BIANCA

Schrodinger.

AKHIL

He named the cat *Schrodinger*?

BIANCA

I wonder why she did it. Why she went. Do you think she knew the risks?

AKHIL

Maybe that's why she wanted to go. To be completely alone.

BIANCA

I don't think I can do it, Akhil.

BUZZ.

BIANCA

Oh! That's probably our first interviewee.

Gemma returns, now dressed for the day.

GEMMA

I got it.

Gemma presses DOOR and walks back over to Bianca and Akhil.

GEMMA

You sure you're ready for this?

BIANCA

Yeah of course. Moon, get out here.

GEMMA

B, Junior isn't answering my texts. I'm getting worried.

BIANCA

We'll start without him. I'm sure he didn't just vanish from the face of the Earth.

BLACK OUT. From the darkness... a voice:

JUNIOR (OFF)

(Entirely American accent)

Hello? Where am I? Aye dios mio!

The eerie sci-fi synth from earlier builds before abruptly stopping. LIGHTS UP. Akhil, Bianca and Gemma are exactly where we left them.

AKHIL

Shouldn't you be wanting to see them actually play? Like a try-out? Whats the point of an interview.

GEMMA

I already asked that.

BIANCA

This is someone we're gonna be spending a lot of time with. We've gotta like them.

Moon enters.

MOONDOGGY

Ahem

AKHIL, BIANCA, GEMMA

Oh fuck.

MOONDOGGY

(very fast)

*She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies*

He takes a deep breath- everyone jumps in to stop him.

GEMMA

Enough!

MOONDOGGY

But there's more!

BIANCA

No. This won't work. One on one.

GEMMA

What?

BIANCA

We'll take turns talking to them, then after we've all seen everyone we can compare notes.

AKHIL

What am I supposed to do?

BIANCA

You're gonna do it too.

MOONDOGGY

How many people are we seeing?

BIANCA

There's only three.

*KNOCK*KNOCK*KNOCK*

GEMMA

Who's first?

BIANCA

Lets do me, you, Akh, Moon. Okay? Ready? Go back there- I don't want to freak them out with all of us at once.

Gemma Akhil and Moon start to walk off.

MOONDOGGY

This is great, I can finish that poem- and I've got some others that I started writing myself.

AKHIL

Jesus Christ.

They exit. Bianca opens the door for the visitor...

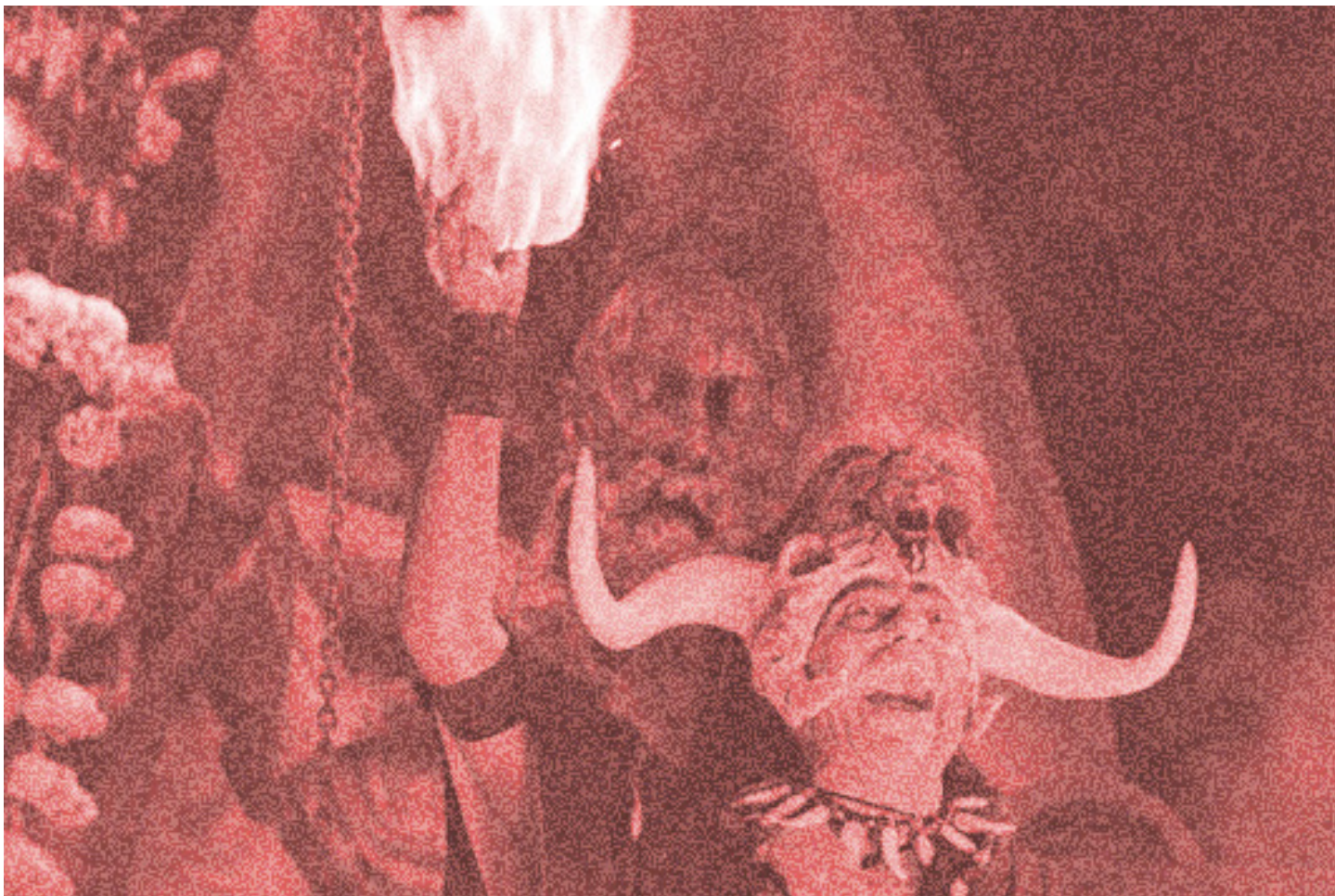
BLACK OUT.

A voice calls out from the void.

MARA #4

Hello? Anyone? Dr. Zimmerman? Dr. Citgo?... Evan? This is Dr. Mara, I have a message for you- for everyone. This is just the beginning.

The familiar eerie music...



PART 02

KALI MA!

*"Isn't it weird
that they try
to make you
wanna fuck
Lola Bunny?"*

-Akhil

PART 2: KALI MA!

Lights up, everything is exactly the same as before the black out.

A young woman enters. This is Mara #1. She's in athletic gear, ready to play.

MARA #1

Hi, I'm here about the basketball team?

BIANCA

Yup, thanks for coming! I'm Bianca.

MARA #1

Mara.

BIANCA

Nice to meet you, come on in.

MARA #1

Thanks, I hope I'm not too early-

BIANCA

No you're right on time. Want some coffee?

MARA #1

I'm good, thanks.

BIANCA

You sure? It's hot.

MARA #1

I'm fine.

BIANCA

Shit.

MARA #1

What?

BIANCA

Sit. Make yourself comfortable.

MARA #1

Thank you.

Mara #1 crosses and sits on the couch, Bianca pours herself some coffee from the to-go cup into a mug.

MARA #1

So. Is there gonna be, like, a try-out?

BIANCA

No, we just want to talk to you.

MARA #1

We?

BIANCA

Yeah- well we're gonna take turns.

MARA #1

Oh. Okay.

Bianca sits across from Mara.

BIANCA

So, tell me about yourself- you're very pretty.

MARA #1

Oh thank you! Um, well I'm in grad school right now, doing early childhood education.

BIANCA

So you want to be a teacher?

MARA #1

Yeah- to start. I'm thinking I'd actually like to go into counseling.

BIANCA

So you're like a psychiatrist?

MARA #1

Oh well n-

BIANCA

What do you know about sleep paralysis? It's been happening a lot lately. I'll just wake up and be frozen. Trapped in my own body. It's horrible.

MARA #1

Oh wow. Yeah, I don't know.

BIANCA

And so do you know about this thing where you see a man in a hat? I read this online after it happened to me. There's this man, that, when you wake up, and you're having your temporary paralysis, you can see out of the corner of your eye- and he's just standing there at the end of your bed. It's fucking FREA-KY.

MARA #1

That does sound freaky.

Bianca stands and begins to pace around the apartment.

BIANCA

So, I wake up and it happens. And I can feel my body just *rotting*, I can picture being dead and worms eating me while I decay like an old pumpkin- and the whole time there's this *man* just watching me, judging me, and I just want to make him understand. But I can't move, I'm just fucking stuck inside this *thing* and I can't get out and I know I'll never get out- and even if I peel off all of my skin, and scratch out my eyes, my feet will still be too big, and my teeth too crooked, and my chin too sharp, and I'll never be a *lady* and I'll definitely never be the M.B.L.O.A.T and what's the point of even trying when it's all gonna melt away anyway, like in Indiana Jones... what would you say about that? In your professional opinion.

MARA #1

Um, first- not a professional. Second I'd say that probably suggest some issues with... like, some misplaced internalized sense of ineptitude? I don't want to overstep-

BIANCA

Overstep? Mara, please. My boyfriend of six years just dumped me because he saw someone on the street he thought was the most beautiful lady of all time.

(a manic laugh)

I mean, come on. Let's skip the small talk, okay? Let's get real.

Bianca lies down on the couch. She's in full therapy mode.

MARA #1

Is that true? I'm so sorry-

BIANCA

Do you think there's such thing as a soul? Do you think your soul leaves your body when you die?

MARA #1

Yes, I do. I'm half Danish, or my mom is, my dad's Italian- and we have a tradition that when someone dies, we open a window so that the soul can fly out. We did it for my grandma.

BIANCA

Like you don't want her around anymore?

MARA #1

I guess not after it's time to move on.

BIANCA

What if they're moving on to hell? Can you keep the window shut? If I was dying and Danish I'd lock all my windows. Not getting rid of me so easily.

MARA #1

It can be scary- but sometimes that can be an opportunity to learn and grow.

BIANCA

Learn and grow?

MARA #1

Yeah.

BIANCA

But you're dead.

MARA #1

You're not.

BIANCA

Am I annoying you?

MARA #1

What? No?

BIANCA

I'm sorry. We're good. I'm good.

She sits up.

MARA #1

Oh- don't you want to hear about, like, I played basketball in High School or-

BIANCA

Nah, Moon'll handle that. It was nice meeting you, I hope it works out.

MARA #1

Yeah- of course. You too.

Bianca exits as Gemma enters- Bianca whispers something into Gemma's ear as they pass each other.

GEMMA

Oh! You're a psychiatrist?

MARA #1

No! I'm not. I'm really not.

GEMMA

Gemma.

MARA #1

Hi Gemma, Mara. I love that name.

GEMMA

Thank you! My parents got it for me.

MARA #1

Haha, right.

GEMMA

So, you're not a psychiatrist? Or?

MARA #1

No, I'm still in school. I'm a nanny.

GEMMA

I used to do that, but I got fired cause I was taking all the kids Adderall and he was, like, flipping out at school and shit.

MARA #1

Oh my god.

GEMMA

So Mara- what do you do for fun?

MARA #1

Oh, I like to exercise- obviously, because I'm here, and I don't know, I read and I'm, like, addicted to Netflix of course-

GEMMA

Do you drink?

MARA #1

Yeah, I mean- socially of course. Love my wine. Gin and Tonic sometimes.

GEMMA

Did Bianca offer you a Mimosa?

MARA #1

Oh- no, she didn't.

GEMMA

Want one? I'm gonna have one.

MARA #1

No, that's okay. Thank you. I have to pick up the girls after this.

Gemma gets up and makes herself a drink.

GEMMA

It's cool they have a psychiatrist as a nanny. You can keep them from getting fucked up.

MARA #1

I'm not-

GEMMA

It's too late for me- I am so fucked. My best friend just got dumped and is totally devastated and I'm like- shouldn't you be happy?

MARA #1

Bianca?

GEMMA

Can I tell you something? If we're gonna be playing together I have to know I can trust you.

MARA #1

Are we gonna be playing at some point today?

Gemma lies down on the couch, sipping her mimosa occasionally.

GEMMA

I met this guy at The Box last night,

MARA #1

No.

GEMMA

-this self proclaimed former-anarchist-current-buddhist with a penchant for burning down post offices who had *literally* just gotten out of prison and was saying how it taught him all about how to read people and respect boundaries. And the whole time he's telling me this he's leaning in so close I can feel his lips brushing against my ear, like, I'm not worthy of the same respect because I, what? Don't pose a threat? Or it's like I'm just some object to be touched and handled however he wants and then suddenly I'm wet. Like *wet*.

MARA #1

Oh gosh. Wow, okay.

GEMMA

Like the bottom of a duck.

MARA #1

I get it-

GEMMA

Yeah, fucked right? And then they start playing Paramore at the club- and suddenly I'm back in eighth grade, cutting myself in my parent's bathroom. And it all *clicks* like- all the depraved shit I crave from these men is just an extension of that same need to feel punished that I developed when I was a kid, probably. What do you think?

MARA #1

Oh, um, yeah... I mean, I love Paramore.

GEMMA

Like I just crave after this thing I know is gonna hurt me and won't fill me up but I can't stop reaching for it. Like that German chick in Indiana Jones when she's reaching for the Holy Grail or whatever-

MARA #1

You know- I haven't actually seen any of the Indiana Jones movies.

GEMMA

I'm a sex addict. I am. And it's like- I'm good at it? You know? The best. It feels good to be the best at something. And it's so readily available. I picked up a guy at the grocery store. I like older guys. I like men in power. I like being able to control these men who would deny me the right to- fucking, vote- or whatever? You know?

MARA #1

Oh- yeah. You gotta vote.

GEMMA

I know what you're thinking. Paging Dr. Freud! Nope. My dad was great. I'm actually from London- I don't have an accent cause I went to an American school- ASL. My dad was one of the Queen's Foot Guards. You know, with the big hats? He was the best. I never once saw him smile. Even at home. He would just stare straight ahead all the time. He was dead for 6 hours before anyone even knew. Total class act.

MARA #1

Do you see a psychiatrist?

GEMMA

I did, but I fucked him.

MARA #1

Oop.

GEMMA

Blah. Of course, being aware of my shit doesn't make it better. Maybe it makes it worse. Cause you know and you can't do anything.

MARA #1

I think it's a step. It's definitely a step in the right direction, but we have to be careful because sometimes it's just, um, it's like a clever way of tricking ourselves into thinking we're in control of, like, those bad behaviors. It's like when you say "oh I could quit smoking whenever I want" but you don't? Or maybe not. Like I said, I'm really not a psychiatrist. And I don't smoke.

GEMMA

The illusion of control.

MARA #1

Yeah I guess man. I don't know.

GEMMA

Sorry. I can't talk to my friends about this shit. They're all total fuck nuts.

A gasp from off.

MARA #1

Oh. Well, I'm sure they would love to listen. In fact, they'd probably be more help to you.

GEMMA

Nah- I like you. You're a professional.

MARA #1

I'm really not.

GEMMA

I hope you can rebound. We're lacking in that department-. I'll send out Akhil.

MARA #1

How many more of you-

GEMMA

Don't freak out- I'll just tell you now, Akhil has two left arms.

MARA #1

He has three arms?

GEMMA

No- I literally mean he has two left- you know what? You probably won't even notice it.

Gemma exits as Akhil enters. She whispers in his ear as he passes.

MARA #1

Akhil- is that right?

AKHIL

I don't need a fucking psychiatrist.

MARA #1

Good! Cause I'm *not* a psychiatrist.

AKHIL

God- everyone thinks I'm supposed to be losing my mind or some shit because of Asim. I'M FINE!

MARA #1

I'm here about the basketball team- are you on the team?

AKHIL

No.

Akhil slumps onto the couch.

MARA #1

Oh.

AKHIL

They cut me. Because I suck, apparently.

MARA #1

Oh I'm sure that's not true! It's probably just because chemistry is really important in basketball. So- maybe you just- did you know Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team?

AKHIL

He actually only got bumped to JV 'cause he was a sophomore. He just told everyone he was cut because he was obsessed with proving people wrong. Did you know Michael Jordan was a selfish compulsive gambler who's debt got his father killed?

MARA #1

Oh- no, I didn't know that.

AKHIL

Yeah. Space Jam was a PR cover-up to explain away his forced break from the NBA.

MARA #1

I love Space Jam.

AKHIL

Isn't it weird that they try to make you wanna fuck Lola Bunny?

MARA #1

What?

AKHIL

Never mind.

MARA #1

Who's Asim?

AKHIL

How do you know about Asim?

MARA #1

That's the first thing you said when you came in here. "They think I'm supposed to be losing my mind because of Asim"

AKHIL

He's my brother. Or he was. He died.

MARA #1

I'm sorry.

AKHIL

No it's okay, it's not my fault.

MARA #1

Your fault?

AKHIL

Yeah it's not your fault. You don't have to apologize.

MARA #1

No you said "it's not my fault"

AKHIL

It's... not?

MARA #1

Um... how did he die? If you don't mind my asking?

AKHIL

He- well, we were conjoined twins.

MARA #1

Oh wow.

Akhil walks over to the book case and starts looking through it while he talks.

AKHIL

I was just so *sick* of sharing everything. This isn't even my right hand- it's Asim's left hand. Everything is a compromise, everything you do is seen and heard. And everyone always asking you if you've seen Stuck On You. You know that movie where Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear are conjoined?

MARA #1

Oh yeah- I think I know it.

He sits next to Mara #1.

AKHIL

They're *xiphopagus* in that movie. Here-

(he stands up and indicates the side of his rib-
cage up to his shoulder)

That's what we were. And in cases like ours surgery is possible. Risky, but possible. Asim didn't want to take that risk. But I was so tired of missing out on things. I love cars. I just wanted to be able to fit in a normal drivers seat and drive my own car. I begged and begged and begged. I'm sorry I'm rambling- we can talk basketball.

MARA #1

Can we?

Akhil lies down on the couch.

AKHIL

Then finally, on our 24th birthday- Asim handed me keys to a new Toyota Corolla. You know how hard it is to surprise a conjoined twin?

MARA #1

I'd say pretty hard.

AKHIL

He was finally giving in to my begging. So we get the surgery and it's just... a total shit show-

MARA #1

What happened?

AKHIL

It's complicated but basically- my heart was failing, and Asim... Asim was beyond repair. And we're organ donors so they took his heart and... yeah. I mean. Even when you're just born, as a conjoined twin- the survival rate is only 25%... so the fact that we even. I sold the Corolla.

MARA #1

I am so- that's just so terrible. I am sorry that you had to do that.

AKHIL

Do what?-

MARA #1

The whole-

AKHIL

-Kill him?

MARA #1

No! Akhil! You didn't- no!

AKHIL

You think I killed my brother?

MARA #1

Of course not-

AKHIL

God maybe I did. Killed him and took his fucking heart. Just because I wanted to be alone. I still walk through doors sideways, just because of muscle memory... like my body can't forget him.

MARA #1

I'm sure he'd be happy to know that he was able to save your life.

AKHIL

Ripped out his fucking heart. Like Indiana Jones.

MARA #1

Did you guys all just watch that movie or-

AKHIL

And today- I'm scared they kicked me off the team because they hate me as much as I hate myself.

MARA #1

Akhil, you deserve a life of your own. You both went into that surgery knowing the risks, you did it to give each other the chance of a better life.

AKHIL

I wasn't giving anything. I *took*. I took his arm, I took his heart, I took his life. I just take, take, take.

MARA #1

Hey, if you wanted a life to yourself so bad, then use it! You better go out there and do something good! You're wasting it away by just wallowing in all this guilt and self pity. It's pretty- well, it's a bit masturbatory if you ask me.

AKHIL

Excuse me?

MARA #1

Like after Michael Jordan's dad got murdered- what did he do? He made Space Jam! Kids everywhere love that movie! It's just all about perspective man. Okay? Go do some good and earn your brother's heart.

AKHIL

Fuck.

MARA #1

Sorry.

AKHIL

I'm sorry if I wasted your time.

MARA #1

No- what?

AKHIL

I'll send out Moon...YO MOON! YOUR TURN!

Akhil gets up and exits as Moondoggy enters. Mara stands to greet him.

MARA #1

Look, I don't know what you've heard but I'm not a psychiatrist and I'd really just like to talk about basketball stuff and not- you know- other stuff.

MOONDOGGY

Huh? Like what? I'd read you my poems? HA! They're not finished.

MARA #1

That's fine.

MOONDOGGY

Let's talk basketball. I'm Moondoggy.

MARA #1

Mara.

They shake hands. Mara sits on the couch. Moondoggy stands.

MARA #1

It's just that your friends all- for whatever reason- they all thought I was a psychiatrist so they were just unloading all this really personal and private shit- *excuse me*-

MOONDOGGY

Really?

MARA #1

Yeah- don't get me wrong, I'm always willing to help but that was just, like, wow. You know? Boundaries. Especially- like, isn't this supposed to be a try-out? Like, I moved to New York for school and I'm having a hard time meeting friends and I've always been a part of a team- since I was little- maybe that's when it all started- my father used to never hold my hands because he used to say they were too clammy. He would say

(Italian accent)

"Mara! Your hands are a-so a-clammy"-

MOONDOGGY

-Mara, I'm gonna cut you off right there.

She sits up.

MARA #1

Oh my god! I'm sorry- I'm half Italian so I can do the accent-

MOONDOGGY

No, it's fine it's just... did any of them actually tell you what we're doing here?

MARA #1

What we're doing?

MOONDOGGY

Yeah.

MARA #1

I mean... you play basketball right?

MOONDOGGY

Yeah.

MARA #1

Well, to be honest we didn't get into that part of it-

MOONDOGGY

That's okay. Okay, so- I actually played in the NBA.

MARA #1

What!? Seriously? What team?

MOONDOGGY

Celtics. You've probably never heard of me- I only played one season- then they cut me.

MARA #1

Oh- wow, no- I mean, that's still, like, *amazing!*

MOONDOGGY

This is my apartment. Gemma and Bianca live here with me- we've been coasting off my rookie contract money since we I got drafted. *They don't have jobs.*

MARA #1

Okay-

MOONDOGGY

I'm sort of like the bread winner, you understand?

MARA #1

Sure.

MOONDOGGY

But my rookie deal wasn't huge. The money's running out. So we play against other teams, teams with big shot people- investment banker people, trust-fund, Wallstreet-fuckers, you know. *Manhattan* people.

MARA #1

Okay?

MOONDOGGY

And we hustle them. We put money on the game- we make it seem like we're not that good- They think- "We can take these losers. I played Lacrosse at Yale! They've only got one black guy!" You know how *people* are. Then we beat them and we *take* their money.

MARA #1

Uh- Is that legal?

MOONDOGGY

Look, if you're not comfortable with this then there's no point in seeing if you can play.

MARA #1

I'm sorry Mr. Moondoggy- but yeah I'm not very comfortable with that. Plus you're all sorta- no- It's that I'm not comfortable with that. *Leave it Mara.*

MOONDOGGY

Okay. It would be great if you didn't tell anyone about-

MARA #1

Of course. No, that's- of course.

MOONDOGGY

Great. You know what- I think I actually would like to share my poetry with you. Maybe you could give me some notes?

Moondoggy stands and takes out a small notebook from his back pocket. Mara #1 stands.

MARA #1

Actually I, like, *really* have to go pick up the girls I nanny for so-

MOONDOGGY

Oh- okay. Right, of course. Thank you.

Mara #1 gets up and all but runs from the apartment. Upon hearing the door shut, Akhil, Gemma, and Bianca all walk out from the hallway.

BIANCA

She left? Moon! What the hell?

MOONDOGGY

She wasn't comfortable with the scamming aspect of our little operation.

Gemma pours herself another mimosa.

GEMMA

Scam? It's not a scam. It's a hustle.

AKHIL

Pour me one bubbi.

GEMMA

You got it.

Gemma pours Akhil a mimosa.

MOONDOGGY

Right, well let's just lead with that okay? It's a huge waste of time to do this one on one-

BIANCA

Oh you wanna do the next one together? You won't feel trapped by that?

GEMMA

Oop.

Gemma hands Akhil a mimosa.

AKHIL

Thanks.

MOONDOGGY

Bianca, you're still upset I can tell.

BIANCA

No shit! Can I have one?

GEMMA

Strong one.

Gemma pours Bianca a mimosa.

MOONDOGGY

So you guy's didn't show her the poems like I asked?

AKHIL

Of course we didn't show-! *Jesus Christ...* Gemma?

GEMMA

Moon I don't think Bianca wants to hear any of your poems about this situation right now-

Gemma hands Bianca a mimosa and sits on the couch.

MOONDOGGY

Not even the one about the puddles? And how they're like little gatherings of feelings that the sun-

GEMMA

No. I think maybe it would be best- Bianca maybe we should call it quits with the interviews for today? And you two can...

Bianca chugs her mimosa while staring at Moondoggy.

Talk. GEMMA BIANCA
No.

*KNOCK*KNOCK*KNOCK

MOONDOGGY

Here we go.

Moondoggy walks to the kitchen and pours himself a mimosa.

AKHIL

Christ.

GEMMA

Junior?

MOONDOGGY AKHIL

Please be Junior. Fucking Junior. *

Bianca walks over to the door and opens it. It's Mara #2.

BIANCA

Hey!

MARA #2

Hi! I'm here for the basketball team interview?

GEMMA

Is Junior just straight up missing?

BIANCA

Yeah that's us.

MARA #2

Oh awesome. I'm Mara.

BIANCA

Mara?

GEMMA

Another Mara?

MARA #2

You guys know another Mara?

BIANCA

Not really, come on in. I'm Bianca, this is Gemma, Akhil and Moondoggy.

MARA #2

Are you talking about the scientist on the news? Dr. Mara?.

AKHIL

Oh yeah, what's going on with her?

MARA #2

You haven't heard?

AKHIL

Heard what?

BIANCA

Want a mimosa Mara two?

MARA #2

Just ones fine.

Bianca prepares a mimosa for Mara #2.

AKHIL

Heard what?

MARA #2

She's alive.

GEMMA

She is?

MARA #2

She managed to send a message back.

AKHIL

What did it say?

Bianca hands Mara #2 her mimosa.

MARA #2

"For everyone, a void."

BIANCA

Avoid what?

MARA #2

No, a void. Like, there's a void for everyone. Or it was a typo.

AKHIL

A typo!?

MARA #2

They don't know. That's the only message she was able to ping back- they're trying to get the portal or whatever back open.

MOONDOGGY

"For everyone, a void..."

MARA #2

I don't get why they don't send in a really big claw thing like they have in arcades and just yank her out. I think she *wants* to be in there. That's my theory.

AKHIL, BIANCA, GEMMA,

Wow.

Everyone sips their mimosas.

MARA #2

So what's up, we balling or what?

MOONDOGGY

Look this isn't just something we do for fun. We're not a regular team.

MARA #2

I figured. That guy has two arms.

BIANCA

We play people for money. We hustle them.

AKHIL

We're hustlers.

GEMMA

We're hustlers. You'd be replacing Akhil.

AKHIL

Man-

MARA #2

Okay, so? What're you asking?

MOONDOGGY

Are you comfortable with that?

MARA #2

Comfortable? I was thinking, like, "what's my cut." Seriously? Comfortable? Yes. I'm fucking COZY with that.

MOONDOGGY

Really? That's great-

MARA #2

I've scammed before, I used to get creeps to venmo me twenty bucks for a snapchat of my elbow in a g-string.

GEMMA

I used to steal heart pills from the people I baby-sat for and then sell them in the library as Adderall. Then I would actually steal the sons addy and take it for myself

MARA #2

Oh my god! Do you still have any? Kidding. *But not.*

BIANCA

When I was an under grad I would just take parking tickets from people whenever I saw them and then put them on my windshield so I could park where ever and they'd think I already got ticketed.

MARA #2

Bianca, you evil genius!

AKHIL

While I was working as a dog walker last month- I carried around a bag of old banana peels and when the dog pooped I'd just put an old peel on top of it so that the poops looked like old bananas and I wouldn't have to pick them up.

Silence. Mara #2 starts a slow clap. Akhil, Bianca and Gemma laugh.

MARA #2

Look at us! Scammers!

AKHIL, BIANCA, GEMMA,

Scammers!

MOONDOGGY

Okay, great- guys. Good. So, now that that's out of the way-

GEMMA

Mara, do you like to club?

MARA #2

Love it.

BIANCA

What about reading? Do you read?

MARA #2

All the time- just finished 1Q84

AKHIL

Cars?

MARA #2

The movie or the concept?

AKHIL

Uh-

MARA #2

Kidding- I'm a total car-nut. Speaking of, did you see that Porsche out front?

AKHIL

The carrera?!

MARA #2

If it rained a little bit and you put that thing under some street lights at magic hour I would actually fuck it.

AKHIL

Well that's settled.

GEMMA

You're perfect.

BIANCA

She's perfect.

MOONDOGGY

Well. Okay. Can you rebound?

MARA #2

Oh yeah, I was an all state power-forward in high-school. I didn't play in college because I spent most of my time volunteering at an animal shelter.

AKHIL BIANCA AND GEMMA

Awwwww

MOONDOGGY

Wow alright.

MARA #2

Guys. I'm all about three things. Good times, partying, and having fun.

AKHIL

Hell yeah.

MOONDOGGY

Seems like one thing.

BIANCA

She's perfect- you're perfect.

MOONDOGGY

Okay let's not skip steps here-

Mara #2 stops suddenly. Her smile twists into a quivering lower lip.

MARA #2

Steps?... Like stairs?

MOONDOGGY

No like procedural-

MARA #2

I was the only one who took the stairs that day... and now not a day goes by that I don't wish I had been in that elevator with them. My whole family was in town for a family reunion. They wanted to see my apartment. Top floor. They all crammed into the elevator. They thought it would be funny. I was the only one who couldn't fit. The weight was too much and the cable snapped. They were all crushed. Every single person in my entire family. Both sides. Except me... I should have been in there. There was room. If I could go back in time, I'd climb in on top of cousin Emily. I'd be with them.

MOONDOGGY

Uh...

MARA #2

Excuse me!

Mara #2 runs off into the bathroom, sobbing.

GEMMA

Nice going Moon.

BIANCA

What the fuck! Why'd you have to dig up her fucking hidden trauma!?

GEMMA

You're a monster!

AKHIL

I was about to ask her out!

GEMMA

I can't believe you're gonna ruin this for us.

MOONDOGGY

How was I supposed to know the word 'steps' would set her off? That was like something out of *the Manchurian Candidate*-

BIANCA

You were being weird the whole interview!

MOONDOGGY

I just don't think we should settle.

BIANCA

Settle?

MOONDOGGY

I mean we should see all the applicants.

BIANCA

She's not good enough for you?

MOONDOGGY

I just don't want to... commit to-

BIANCA

OH MY GOD! We're talking about the basketball team here Moon! Do you have to make this about us?

MOONDOGGY

B-

GEMMA

Bianca.

BIANCA

She's great okay? She reads, she volunteers, she's funny, she's all about good times, she's athletic, she's hot, she cooks, she cleans- I mean, what more could you want? When is it enough for you? For a team mate I mean?

AKHIL

Hey guys. I'm all about, you know, open conflict- or whatever. But could we maybe wait to talk about this till she's gone?

GEMMA

These walls are pretty thin.

BIANCA

I know how thin they are Gemma. Or did you think we were all just total fuck nuts?

GEMMA

Oh my god! You were listening to me?

BIANCA

Of course we were listening! You were back there with us when we were listening to everyone else!

AKHIL

Wait you eavesdropped on me too? I told you specifically not to do that!

MOONDOGGY

(to himself)

I don't know if anything will ever be enough for me.

GEMMA

Seems like it was the only time you were listening to me Bianca!

BIANCA

Ugh, why do you even care? We all know you're a nymphomaniac. You talk about it all the time! "Hey guys, just fucked my professor! Hope the TA I'm fucking doesn't find out!"

GEMMA

Like your body dysmorphia is some big secret.

MOONDOGGY

Is true fulfillment a fallacy?

AKHIL

The two of you are fine- you just self diagnose yourselves with whatever topical thing you think is going to give your lives some fucking edge. You have no idea what real problems are.

BIANCA

You know Akh, I'm actually happy to hear you say that because you've been in such denial about your guilt.

AKHIL

Don't start-

BIANCA

No, seriously. I just can't believe it was some random stranger that you chose to open up to about everything and not us. We're your friends, Akh-

AKHIL

You're not my friends. You guys don't give a shit about me.

GEMMA

Akhil! Of course we give a shit about you.

AKHIL

You're all so self obsessed. Look at Moon- just living with you two has driven the guy completely god damn bonkers!

MOONDOGGY

The old masters gave me nothing...

GEMMA

We didn't do that to him! He's clearly having a quarter life crisis. It doesn't take the first Mara to figure out he feels like his life's meaningless now that his basketball career's flamed out.

AKHIL

God you've just got everyone all figured out, don't you Gemma?

BIANCA

You think that's really it?

GEMMA

Ugh! Stop! Stop- what's the point of this? We don't need to be doing this right now.

AKHIL

Yeah I mean- she's either taking a monster dump or she's scared to come back out.

BIANCA

Moon, is that it?

MOONDOGGY

*She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright -*

AKHIL

Hey! Snap out of it!

MOONDOGGY

What? Oh- sorry. I was just thinking.

GEMMA

Bianca, sweetie. Can you go make sure she's alright in there?

BIANCA

Me?

GEMMA

Yeah.

BIANCA

Um, sure.

Bianca walks down the hall. Gemma grabs Moon and slaps him across the face.

GEMMA

Come on ya' big oaf. You big stupid oaf. Pull it together!

Akhil steps in and slaps Moon.

AKHIL

Enough with the poetry shit! You're freaking everyone out.

MOONDOGGY

I'm sorry guys I just- it's out there. We don't have to wait. Life on Earth can be perfect.

GEMMA

Sure it can buddy. It's just that you've really sent Bianca into a little bit of a tailspin here. Can we try to think about her a little bit?

MOONDOGGY

I'm thinking about all of us. We're all so lonely and afraid but the answer's-

Bianca returns.

BIANCA

She's gone.

GEMMA

What do you mean she's gone? Mara? YOU OKAY?

BIANCA

The sink was still running.

AKHIL

Where did she go? Did anyone see her walk out of here?

MOONDOGGY

"For everyone, a void."

BIANCA

No! This sucks! She was perfect!

GEMMA

Moon scared her off. Fucking elevator.

AKHIL

Can I just say- if she could go back in time, why wouldn't she tell them to get off the elevator? Why was she saying she wanted to climb in on top of cousin Emily?

MOONDOGGY

*And then a Plank in Reason, broke,
And I dropped down, and down –*

BIANCA

This is insane! Did she disappear? Did Junior disappear? What the FUCK is happening to Moon? Why is everyone leaving me!

*KNOCK*KNOCK*KNOCK*

BLACK OUT.

In the darkness we can hear Mara #4.

MARA #4

Did you get my message? I'm just the first one. This is the beginning of something very, very, lonely. It's started, and it's all my fault. I just wanted to prove them all wrong. I just wanted to be the first. I want to go back- I want to go back!

The eerie music returns... this time even more sinister. It fades away...



PART
03

exodus
33:20

*"There is perfection!
Right in front of us! And
she's covering it up as if
ashamed- As if wrong.
You're not wrong! You're
perfect! You're perfect!
You're perfect!"*

-Moondoggy

PART 3: EXODUS 33:20

Lights up. Bianca, Gemma, Akhil and Moondoggy are all standing around where we left them.

*KNOCK*KNOCK*KNOCK*

GEMMA

Oh my god! It's her!

AKHIL

She's back!

GEMMA

I'm coming Mara!

BIANCA

Mara THANK GOD!

Gemma, Akhil, and Bianca all run to the door and open it. A woman stands before them with her face and body are COMPLETELY COVERED with a large winter scarf, oversized sunglasses, a floppy gardening hat, and rubber dish washing gloves. This is Mara #3.

GEMMA

Mara?

MARA #3

Yes?

BIANCA

Wait, what?

GEMMA

Where did you go?

AKHIL

What're you wearing?

Moondoggy stands up. He's staring at Mara #3.

MOONDOGGY

It's her.

MARA #3

Am I late? I'm sorry.

GEMMA

What are you talking about?

MOONDOGGY

It's *her*. The M.B.L.O.A.T.

MARA #3

I'm here about the basketball team. To interview. This is the right place right?

BIANCA

You're not Mara?

MARA #3

I am.

AKHIL

Which one?

BIANCA

Wait you're Mara or your name is Mara?

MARA #3

Um- yes? Both-

GEMMA

But you're not *our* Mara?

MARA #3

I think I'm at the wrong apartment.

Mara #3 turns to leave.

MOONDOGGY

NO! This is the right place. Come in, please. Come in.

AKHIL

This girl's name is also Mara? Bianca did you put that in the ad?

GEMMA

How do you spell it?

MARA #3

M, a, r, a.

GEMMA

Huh.

AKHIL

We didn't ask any of the other Mara's how they spelt it.

GEMMA

Oh yeah-

MARA #3

My grandmother's name is Mara so I'm not even the only Mara in my family. I guess it's a pretty common name.

MOONDOGGY

Nothing about you is common, my lady.

AKHIL

Oh christ.

BIANCA

Come in. Sorry we're a bit- um, come in. Want some coffee?

Bianca picks up the coffee as Mara #3 enters and walks center.

BIANCA

Oh well now it's cold. Never mind.

MARA #3

That's okay. It's pretty hot out.

GEMMA

Yeah you must be hot with that- er...

MARA #3

Yeah I'm sorry about this- it's for safety.

BIANCA

Are you sick?

MARA #3

No, no! Not at all. I'm sorry, I don't mean to make you uncomfortable.

GEMMA

Never!

MARA #3

I understand that this can look a bit odd.

BIANCA

No, oh my god! Of course not, you're totally fine.

GEMMA

How about a mimosa?

MARA #3

Okay.

Gemma pours Bianca a mimosa.

BIANCA

I don't want *you* to feel uncomfortable.

MARA #3

I'm more comfortable with it on thank you.

BIANCA

Okay, great should we start the interview?

MOONDOGGY

Do you remember me?

MARA #3

I'm sorry?

MOONDOGGY

I saw you on the street earlier. This morning. Outside of the Donut Pub.

MARA #3

Oh no...

Moondoggy stands up on the couch.

BIANCA

You know each other?

GEMMA

Wait-

AKHIL

Don't-

MOONDOGGY

I WROTE THIS POEM FOR YOU!

*When the air is crisp like chips
And the clouds are round like discs
You walk past me like a stranger
But there is no stranger danger
Than the threat of never meeting you.*

AKHIL

That was the fifth draft.

MARA #3

Look- I really don't want to get into all that.

BIANCA

You're the girl? The lady?

MARA #3

I'm really sorry. I should have been wearing my cover.

MOONDOGGY

You should never wear that! Take it off!

Moondoggy tries to remove Mara #3's "cover" but she avoids him.

MOONDOGGY

Let your beauty shine!

Akhil and Gemma grab Moondoggy and restrain him.

AKHIL

Get a hold of yourself!

MOONDOGGY

Unhand me vagrant! Street rats!

GEMMA

What the fuck's wrong with you?

MOONDOGGY

There is perfection! Right in front of us! And she's covering it up as if ashamed- As if wrong. You're not wrong! You're perfect! You're perfect! You're perfect!

MARA #3

This is what it does. My face-it's my curse. I'm simply... too hot.

BIANCA

Oh fuck off!

GEMMA

Bianca! Come on-

MARA #3

No- it's okay. This is all my fault. How dreadful-

BIANCA

Look what you've done to my boyfriend! You turned him into a god damn lunatic!

MOONDOGGY

Lunatic? Ha! The moon pales in the light of her beauty! Her beauty shines like the high noon sun when it blocks out the moon altogether- wait shit, a poem's starting to come together here-

MARA #3

That's your boyfriend?

MOONDOGGY

Was! We broke up! My high noon sun! I'm single!

MARA #3

Oh my god. I'm so sorry. Truly- I, I didn't mean to... I should have been wearing my cover. It was just so nice out.

BIANCA

This is all your fault you freak!

MARA #3

I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to-

BIANCA

Didn't mean to what? Destroy my life? By existing? Yeah well. Too late. I know exactly what kind of girl you are-

MARA #3

Please, excuse me-

BIANCA

I bet you never needed braces. And you don't sweat. And you have a golden retriever at home and two perfect handsome brothers who're star athletes and your Christmas card is all of you hugging the stupid dog in some field somewhere. And you're one of those girls who actually likes giving head, too.

MARA #3

Please- Bianca, was it? You're beautiful- please, you don't have to compare yourself to anyone. And I'm sweating right now.

BIANCA

Stop being nice! I want to hate you!

MARA #3

I should go. This always happens. I need to just stay inside. *What was I thinking going outside? I'm so selfish. Stupid Mara! Stupid!*

Mara #3 starts to hit herself.

GEMMA

Hey! Hey calm down- it's okay. Here sit down-

Gemma grabs her and leads her to the couch.

MARA #3

No I've done enough damage.

GEMMA

God your arms are so strong- yet somehow soft and elegant-

MARA #3

I'm going!

BIANCA

No! No- you're gonna sit right there and show me what you look like.

MARA #3

No- that won't... that's not a good idea.

BIANCA

I have to know.

AKHIL

Let her leave- this is insane!

GEMMA

I kinda wanna see what she looks like.

MOONDOGGY

You all have to see- please.

MARA #3

I should really-

BIANCA

Please. I don't want to be left here just wondering.

MARA #3

Okay. Just something small. An ear.

GEMMA

What's one ear gonna-

Mara #3 turns and reveals her ear to the four. It's the most beautiful thing they've ever seen.

BIANCA

Oh...

GEMMA

My god.

AKHIL

I can't-

BIANCA

How can a solitary piece of the larger whole be so complete in it's perfection?

GEMMA

It's as if a single part of the infinite beauty is still infinitely beautiful.

AKHIL

Infinity is composed of an infinite number of little infinities.

MOONDOGGY

Your ear is a little infinity.

MARA #3

Alright there. Satisfied?

MOONDOGGY

What rhymes with infinity?

Bianca starts to cry.

BIANCA

Oh my god. I'm a goblin.

GEMMA

I'm a troll.

AKHIL

I'm in love.

MOONDOGGY

I told you.

MARA #3

Okay. Thanks for your time I guess... goodbye.

MOONDOGGY

No! Please- just stay. Can you stay for a little? And just talk with us?

BIANCA

I'm sorry I yelled at you. I didn't know.

MARA #3

I really shouldn't.

AKHIL

Wait- please. They don't understand... But I do. Your handicap. I know what it's like.

MARA #3

You do?

AKHIL

You're too beautiful. It's like you're deformed.

MARA #3

Yes.

AKHIL

No one knows how to act around you- what to say?

MARA #3

Yes!

AKHIL

Even when you're covered people avoid you- right? Even when you try to hide it they don't know how to behave. And that feeling follows you every where. It's like a bubble- people shifting glances, looking down, stumbling over words.

MARA #3

And the stalkers!

AKHIL

Oh- well, sure. I don't know about that side of it.

MOONDOGGY

I know about that! At Michigan people treated me like a god. No one can live up to that. Then every spot I fell during the draft I could feel their disappointment in me- to have so many people who expect so much from you.

MARA #3

Yes! It's a nightmare!

MOONDOGGY

I'm sorry.

MARA #3

No- it's okay. It's just hard. It's been really hard.

There is a silence. Gemma hands Mara #3 a mimosa and she moves to drink it, but can't, due to the scarf around her face.

AKHIL

Have you ever been in love?

MARA #3

Once. In fifth grade. Curtis Putnam. He was my neighbor. We'd ride our bikes to the park and play basketball together. We held hands and we even kissed once. Just once. Then I hit puberty that summer and I started getting all this attention. I had to quit basketball because so many people started coming to my games just to watch me. All these dads that didn't even have kids on the team- and so their wives were complaining to the school, saying I was some sort of whore or whatever. I was thirteen.

GEMMA

That's terrible.

AKHIL

Mara...

MOONDOGGY

I'm sorry.

MARA #3

Yeah well- Curtis's dad was one of them- that would come to watch me... and he, like, he would always come try to hang out with us when I was over Curt's house and just be really weird. Offering me things. It just got really, really bad.

BIANCA

Oh no.

AKHIL

No, no, no.

MARA #3

He kicked Curt's mom out of the house. And then he used all of Curt's college money to buy this fucking Ferrari- and look- I swear I never, *ever*, said anything to his dad about liking cars- but I had a poster of a white Ferrari Testarossa in my room-

Bianca, Gemma, Moondoggy look to Akhil.

AKHIL

It's dope.

MARA #3

-and Curtis thought- I don't know. He never said anything specific about it. But right after that, I hear all these sirens and I look out my window and the Ferrari is up in flames. My family moved right after that and I started being home-schooled- I had to start covering up like this when I was sixteen.

AKHIL

Wow.

MARA #3

I've never even kissed anybody since then. I can't. I've never felt like anyone really loved me- everyone always tells me they love me. But it's not the me inside- under this fucking face.

GEMMA

Mara, I want to hug you- oh my god. I'm gonna cry,

MARA #3

I'm sorry- I saw your ad and I thought I could come here and I could join this team and- I don't know. I fucked it all up. I always do.

GEMMA

No!

BIANCA

Mara- I want you to join our team.

MARA #3

Gosh- I don't know.

MOONDOGGY

I shouldn't have acted like- I'm really sorry. I didn't consider what you were feeling- I just... I was so obsessed with the idea. It wasn't *you* really.

BIANCA

You can stay covered up the whole time. You never have to show us anything.

MARA #3

That's really sweet. Truly.

AKHIL

Mara I understand you- I do. I get it. The guilt, the shame, the-

MARA #3

No.

AKHIL

I-

MARA #3

You don't. I'm sorry. None of you do.

AKHIL

But-

MARA #3

I'm sure you feel guilt and shame and all that. Really I'm not trying to deny that. But it's not my guilt. It's not my shame.

AKHIL

Of course-

MARA #3

We're islands. Everyone of us. I learned that when I saw Curtis standing there in front of that burning Ferrari. He wasn't burning it for me He was burning it because of his idea of me. The me that existed inside him. There was never any connection- between ME and HIM.

AKHIL

I really think...

MARA #3

There's never any connection between us and anyone. We're just islands.

Mara #3 turns and runs from the apartment- Akhil rushes after her.

AKHIL

Wait!

BIANCA

Mara!

GEMMA

Let her go. She's right.

Akhil crosses back over and falls to the ground behind the couch and out of sight.

MOONDOGGY

I can't believe how I acted towards her-

GEMMA

The stuff she was saying about all those older men going to watch her games. I feel sick. Absolutely sick.

BIANCA

Moon... can we talk?

MOONDOGGY

Huh? Oh... yeah we probably should.

Gemma looks behind the couch.

GEMMA

What the hell?

BIANCA

What?

GEMMA

He's gone.

BIANCA

Akhil!? I'm sure he just crawled away.

GEMMA

Did he crawl away? What a little creep-

MOONDOGGY

Nothing matters.

GEMMA

When she started talking about that guy, Curtis, I-

BIANCA

Gemma do you mind?

GEMMA

Right. Of course. Just keep it to myself then.

Gemma steps back, clearly hurt. She vanishes.

Moon and Bianca don't notice. They stand at opposite ends of the room.

BIANCA

So. That was her.

MOONDOGGY

Yeah.

BIANCA

Nice ear.

MOONDOGGY

Oh yeah.

BIANCA

I guess that's pretty much what it had to be.

MOONDOGGY

I couldn't do it justice. I couldn't explain what I was feeling. I couldn't explain how I was feeling *before* I saw her-

BIANCA

Before?

MOONDOGGY

The feeling- *this feeling* is still too much. It's too big for my body. That's why I've been so- AUGH!- I don't know. I want to be able to make you understand. I've always wished there was a way where you could show other people exactly what you're feeling. Like a machine you could plug your head into and then you could share the thing exactly as you feel it. You don't have to say anything, and so nothing gets lost that way.

BIANCA

Moon... you know that's exactly what you said the first time you told me you loved me?

MOONDOGGY

Oh- yeah... I guess it's sorta like that.

BIANCA

Don't you care about how I'm feeling? Don't you wanna plug into me?

MOONDOGGY

I don't think I could handle that.

BIANCA

Handle what?

MOONDOGGY

You. Your little heart. You feel so much.

BIANCA

You couldn't handle how much I love you?

MOONDOGGY

I can't even handle it right now!

BIANCA

Do you love me at all?

MOONDOGGY

Of course I love you. I'll always love you. It's just-

BIANCA

It's just.

MOONDOGGY

Look, Bianca- maybe we *are* Islands. Maybe she's right. The third Mara. Maybe we're Islands. So what? Islands are the best! And if you get a bunch of Islands together then, bam! You've got Hawaii. Everyone loves Hawaii.

BIANCA

I guess. But what about when you're stranded on island.

MOONDOGGY

Well- no, cause you *are* the island.

BIANCA

What about shipwrecks? When you thought you were safe on a boat but it sinks, then you're stuck on a deserted island all by yourself. Alone.

MOONDOGGY

No- Bianca I really still love you- in a way.

BIANCA

Stop. Look, Moon- next time you break my heart can you make sure to just really fucking break it. Just shatter it and scatter the pieces in the wind so I won't be able to put it back together and break it again.

MOONDOGGY

See? This is what I'm talking about. I can't have that power!

BIANCA

You have all the power Moon! You're so fucking powerful!

MOONDOGGY

No- stop, I don't want to have that ability- to, like, fucking- hurt you so much.

BIANCA

You're over powered. Too much power.

MOONDOGGY

None of this matters anyway. Can't you see the world's ending?

BIANCA

You think you're so cool cause you don't need other people. Well guess what- I like that I need people.

MOONDOGGY

I can't do this. I don't want to hurt you. I don't want to let people down anymore. I handle the expectations.

BIANCA

I like that I love people. I like that I work my ass off to make people feel loved. That's good. If everyone did that- the world would be a better place. Would the world be a better place if everyone acted like you? Writing poems and feeling sorry for yourself?

MOONDOGGY

I straight up can't see right now.

BIANCA

I started this team, this hustle, when you were down and depressed cause you got cut- I gave you a purpose!

MOONDOGGY

Bianca, Akhils gone. He disappeared.

BIANCA

So maybe I need to work on loving myself a little bit more. Sue me. I like some things about myself. I'm generous. I rarely lie. I'm a really good speller.

MOONDOGGY

Gemmas gone too.

BIANCA

Am I supposed to love everything about myself? That's crazy. It's obsessive. Is it a sin to want to be better?

MOONDOGGY

Junior's gone.

BIANCA

What about Junior?

MOONDOGGY

I'm going too. I'm stepping out.

What are you talking about?
BIANCA

Feels weird. It feels really weird.
MOONDOGGY

Moon?
BIANCA

Moondoggy disappears into the couch.

Moon? Where'd you go?
BIANCA

The pieces of the set are all cleared away while the eerie music plays. Slowly, the music begins to break apart. Chords fracturing, expected rhythms left unfinished, etc.

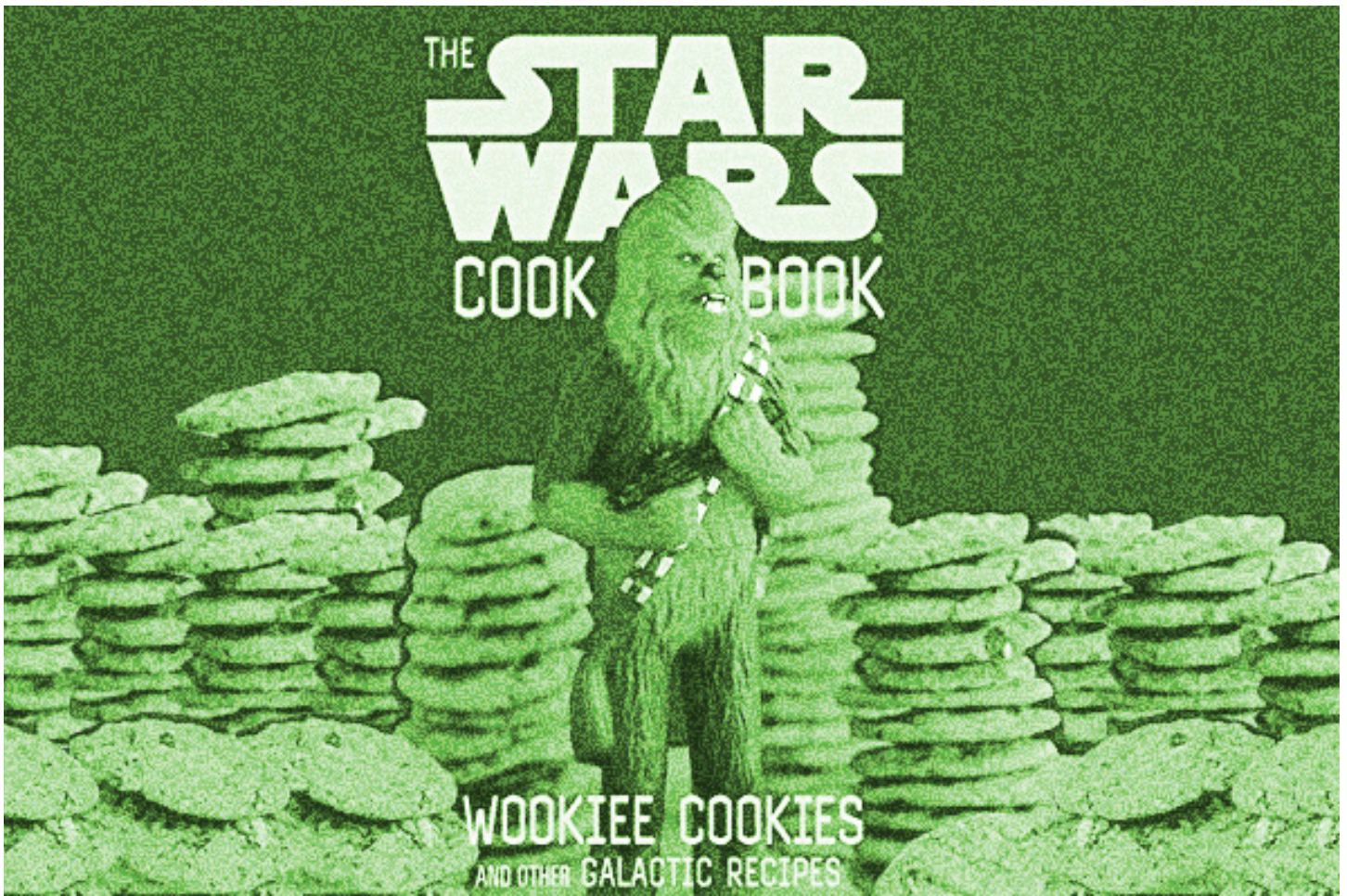
Hello? What's happening?
BIANCA

The couch pulls away, under it is the roomba.

The roomba!
BIANCA

Bianca picks up, the roomba hugs it to her chest, and runs from the disassembling apartment.

The space between notes grows more and more distant until there's silence and the stage is EMPTY. Then-



part 04 / actually john, everybody is an island

*"A Wookiee Cookiee!
A Wookiee Cookiee!
My kingdom for a
Wookiee Cookiee!"*

-Mara #4

PART 4: ACTUALLY JOHN, *EVERYBODY* IS AN ISLAND

LIGHTS UP.

This is the VOID... the other universe. Everything is white and goes forever in all directions. Mara #4 enters. She's been alone here for a week. She has no sense of time. She drinks water from a pack on her back that leads to a tube in her helmet. The long chord connected to her suit hangs limp. This was the chord connecting her to the world... it's broken.

MARA #4

Mmm...

Mara gathers up the chord and tries to jump rope. She fails. The last straw. Mara gathers the chord and tries to wrap it around her neck- she can't because of the helmet.

Frustrated, she drops the chord.

She's ready to die. She takes a deep breath in and REMOVES her HELMET and places it on the ground.

A beat.

Her face grows red- then suddenly she exhales... and inhales. She can breath.

She's not happy- she wanted so badly for it to be over. She falls to the ground.

MARA #4

AHHHHH! AH! AH! AH!

She cries. After a moment she looks at her helmet.

MARA #4

It's hell. I'm in hell. Hell isn't other people- it's me. It's just me. Me and you.

She bites her thumb and uses the BLOOD to draw a SMILING FACE on the glass of the helmet.

MARA #4

Hey... what's your name? Helmet... Mr. Helmet. Dr. Helmet. Helmy, Helmer, Helmo... Helmo... Hello Helmo... *Hello Mara...* No okay we don't need to do a voice for you- I'm not there yet.... am I? Am I? AM I? Hahaha- no I'm not. I'm hungry Helmo..

Maslow's Hierarchy, ya know? That whole... pyramid of needs. Man, you should have seen me tumble down that fucking pyramid. At first- it was all about proving my discovery. I felt so fucking proud. I did it! They doubted me- a woman- they never thought a woman could do it. So I did. Then I couldn't un-do it. Then came embarrassment. Embarrassed that I needed someone. Someone was gonna have to come get me. Save me. Probably Evan. Fucking Evan. Then *he'd* get all the glory- the media would eat that shit up. But he didn't come. No one came. Then... then I felt alone. Then I realized I might die here. Now... I'm just so fucking hungry.... bacon egg and cheese, on an everything bagel, toasted, with a hot coffee, milk and sugar, milk and... cookies? Cookies! Wookiee Cookies!

Mara #4 gets up. She starts to wander around.

MARA #4

From the Star Wars Cook Book- mmm with cinnamon and chocolate and brown sugar. Fuck me. A Wookiee Cookie! A Wookiee Cookie! My kingdom for a Wookiee Cookie!... That's from Richard III, Helmo. You know Shakespeare?

Mara #4 picks up Helmo.

MARA #4

Alas, poor Mara! I knew her, Helmo, a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy... Everything's breaking apart Helmo. This is just the start. I'm the first one to break apart. You're gonna break a part from me. Then my arms, and legs and teeth and ears. It'll all just break apart and spread out over an impossibly vast distance. Forever.

Mara #4 throws Helmo across the void. She screams.

MARA #4

Fuck! Me! Fuck me! Okay. Time isn't real. Here, time isn't real. Maybe I've only been here for a day. Maybe it's only been five seconds. What's that? Oh, the time? Right now? It's never. *Oh I'm sorry I thought it was now!* It is! It's never now. It's never not now. That's it. I'm the start. I'm the Big Bang. I'm God. This is what God must have felt like. God was insane. God was hungry. God felt so alone.

Mara #4 lies down, completely still.

A long beat.

MARA #4

This is what you wanted, wasn't it? You doubted yourself. You hate yourself. You couldn't break the cycle so you just stepped out of it. Now everyone's going to step out of it. Then what'll there be? If we all step out we'll all just be so terribly alone. So?

What're you gonna do about it? You gotta face it. You gotta accept it. People are difficult and brutal and mean and they can be so cold.

Mara #4 sits up.

MARA #4

I want touch. I want to be touched. I want to share. I want to love and learn and grow and change! Create something from nothing. But it's not nothing. It's everything. It's all here. If it's everything, which it is, then it's all here. Do I bring it together...?

Mara #4 tries to bring nothing into something.

MARA #4

I don't... uh...

Mara #4 looks at her hands waving in front of her.

MARA #4

Oh. It's me. I gotta start with me.

Suddenly a tray of cookies and a glass of milk fall from above- they crash into the ground. Mara #4 screams.

MARA #4

Glass- Milk? Cookies-

She eats one.

MARA #4

Cinnamon, chocolate, warm... Wookiee Cookies. Oh! Oh- yes! Yes!

Suddenly a spotlight- brighter than the void shines down. From the light descends a giant claw.

Mara #4 reaches out for it.

Spotlights find Akhil, Gemma, and Moondoggy- each of their individual voids. They each reach up.

END OF PLAY

Taste the play!

Make Wookie Cookies at home!

(from the Star Wars Cook Book by

Robin Davis, 1998)

Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

ingredient\$

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup milk chocolate chips
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

in\$truction\$

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Put the flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon in a mixing bowl.

Stir with the wooden spoon until well mixed.

Set aside.

Put the butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar in another mixing bowl.

Using the electric mixer set on high speed, beat together until well blended and creamy, about 3 minutes. (You can do this with a wooden spoon, but it will take longer.)

Beat in the eggs and vanilla extract. Add the flour mixture and stir with the wooden spoon until blended.

Stir in the chocolate chips.

Scoop up a rounded tablespoonful of the dough and drop onto a baking sheet. Repeat until you have used up all the dough. Be sure to leave about 1 inch between the cookies because they spread as they bake.

Using pot holders, put the baking sheets in the oven.

Bake until golden brown, about 10 minutes.

Again, using pot holders, remove the baking sheets from the oven. Lift the cookies from the baking sheets with a spatula, and place on cooling racks.

Let cool completely. *Enjoy!*