

The Waiting List

by

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ELLA (CONT'D)  
 (into phone)  
 Shit, I promised I'd babysit  
 tonight, didn't I? I've never  
 flaked on you before, but I have to  
 tonight. I just can't be around  
 kids right now.  
 (listens)  
 What's the other option?  
 (listens)  
 Yeah, I've got a sleeping bag, why?  
 Hang on, I got another call.

Ella mutes her phone then hurls into the toilet.

She wipes her mouth and unmutes her phone.

ELLA (CONT'D)  
 Sure, I'll do it. Where and when?

3 INT. BEN'S CAR - DAY

3

Ben, 30s in a suitcoat with a bluetooth headset on, drives  
 his car in heavy commuter traffic.

BEN  
 That's tonight? I totally forgot  
 about it. What kind of pre-school  
 makes you wait around overnight so  
 your kid can sign up?  
 (listens)  
 Yeah, well, it better be good.  
 (listens)  
 Oh, if the mom's group says it's  
 the best...  
 (listens)  
 I'm joking, let's not fight. Fine,  
 never mind. Never mind. Yes, I  
 want what's best for my son. I  
 might lose you, I'm going into a  
 tunnel.

Ben touches his headset off, absolutely not going into a  
 tunnel.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 This is bullshit.

4 EXT. AUDREY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

4

Audrey, 30s, pretty and pregnant, is climbing into her minivan, waving goodbye to two kids sobbing at the door.

AUDREY

(sweetly)

I'll be back tomorrow morning. I love you. Bye-bye. Read some good books tonight with daddy. I love you.

Audrey gets in the minivan.

She looks out at the kids through the windshield and waves while buckling herself in.

Audrey turns the key and there's mayhem inside the car:

Windshield wipers whip back and forth.

Car radio blares at full volume.

The turn signal is clicking left left left left.

She frantically turns it all off.

Audrey waves sweetly at her children, then backs out, head turned away.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Fucking kids.

5 INT. CHRIS' HOUSE - DAY

5

CHRIS, former hipster now in his 30s, lays on the ground. Kids are jumping up on down on his stomach.

The door opens.

CHRIS

Mom's home from work!

The kids run down the hall.

Chris quickly grabs a sleeping bag and iPod.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I'm off. Got to get there early.

CHRIS' WIFE

You're looking forward to this,  
aren't you?

CHRIS

After spending all week with...  
(looks down at kids)  
our offspring, a night alone is  
going to be like...

He whispers something into her ear.

She smiles, slaps him playfully.

CHRIS' WIFE

You are filthy.

CHRIS

I'll be on my best behavior around  
those other parents.

CHRIS' WIFE

Just try not to talk too much. We  
have to see these people for the  
next twelve years.

6 EXT. FOSTER'S CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

6

Ella comes out of the store holding the box for a home  
pregnancy test.

She's reading the back so we see the front.

ELLA

(muttering)  
97 percent accurate.

She takes a deep breath, contemplating the box for a moment  
before stuffing it in her bag and hopping on her bike.

7 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

7

Everyone arrives in the parking lot...

Audrey in her minivan, steadying herself as she gets out.

Ben's fancy car almost runs over Ella on her bike.

He honks. She flips him off.

Chris happily strolls up listening to his iPod, singing obscenities to the music in his ears.

A business woman in heels clicks across the asphalt quickly, cutting ahead of other parents on their way inside. It's KATHRYN, 30s.

The pre-school organizer holds a clipboard and makes everyone sign as they enter the room.

8

INT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY

8

The room has a sofa and coffee table near the middle. A small table with coffee and pastries. The edges of the room are lined with toys.

The organizer speaks to about fifteen people gathered around. She enjoys giving her spiel.

Behind her is a list of first names on a chalkboard.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER

Admission into our pre-school is on a first come, first serve basis. Official registration is tomorrow morning at 8 A.M. Parents started camping out outside the building, which was very flattering for our program, but also created a few problems when you factor in alcohol and a police officer who charged them with loitering.

She rolls her eyes, people chuckle politely.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER (CONT'D)

We came up with this system instead. Registration is still at 8 AM tomorrow. But now we've opened our doors and said, instead of camping outside, bring a sleeping bag, have some snacks, and spend some quality time with the parents of your child's new classmates. Look around you. These are people you'll be seeing a lot of, at drop-offs and pick-ups. At special events.

(MORE)

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER (CONT'D)  
And hopefully at playdates as your  
children get to know each other  
better.

Ben shakes his head.

BEN  
(muttering)  
Playdates.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER  
We have gender specific sleeping  
areas in the adjoining hallway.  
Bathrooms are down the hall.

Ella perks up, a place for her pregnancy test.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER (CONT'D)  
Now, here's the bad news. I hold  
the list in my hand. You've all  
signed on your way in, if you  
haven't, please raise your hand.  
Good. In order to keep your name  
on the waiting list, you must stay  
on the premises for the entire  
evening, until 8 AM tomorrow  
morning when we officially enroll  
the top fifteen names on this list.  
If you leave to kiss your kids  
goodnight, to get a late night  
snack, to go see a movie... Your  
name goes to the bottom of the  
list. Now, who is not one of the  
first fifteen on the list?

The pre-school organizer draws a line under the top fifteen.

Kathryn realizes with horror that she is number sixteen. She  
raises her hand hopefully.

Ben cranes his neck to see her. He's baffled, taken aback.

BEN  
(to himself)  
Kathryn?

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER  
What's your name?

KATHRYN

Kathryn.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER

Kathryn will be in charge of roll calls. Making sure everyone is here. So don't sleep somewhere so private that Kathryn misses you in a head count. Any questions?

No one has any.

Ben raises his hand.

BEN

Can I have the password for the Wifi?

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER

No. Any other questions?

9 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY

9

Music: baby mozart-ish.

Parents settle into their spots.

Audrey takes a spot on a couch, opens a bag and dumps out a stack of trashy celebrity magazines on the coffee table.

Ben sits in a corner thumbing away on his Blackberry.

Chris goes to the snack table, assesses the sugary options.

Kathryn stares at the names on the board, at her name just missing the mark.

10 INT. COUCH - DAY

10

Another mom sits next to Audrey, who is immersed in a tabloid.

PHOTO MOM

When are you due?

AUDREY

(distracted)

Six more weeks.



PHOTO MOM  
You must be so excited.

AUDREY  
Yeah, well, I've already got two.

PHOTO MOM  
Do you have a pictures?

Audrey is still trying to read but trying to be polite.

AUDREY  
You know, I don't.

PHOTO MOM  
I have two. Boy and a girl.

AUDREY  
Congratulations.  
(beat)  
Do you have any photos?

Photo mom takes out her cell phone and holds it in front of Audrey's face, scrolling through photos. Beep, beep, beep.

11 INT. CORNER - DAY

11

Ben looks up from his Blackberry and stares at Kathryn across the room.

She turns her head in his direction and he quickly looks back down to his Blackberry.

Kathryn scans the list up, sees his name on the official list and touches her finger next to it.

KATHRYN  
(to herself)  
Ben.

12 INT. SNACK TABLE - DAY

12

Chris is hoarding M&Ms talking to another parent.

CHRIS  
I used to wait in line for concert tickets. What happened? At least then I got to watch Tricky open for PJ Harvey.

The other parent smiles politely and walks away.

Chris shrugs, then downs a handful of M&Ms.

Ben walks up, grabs for some candy.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Swiper, no swiping.

BEN  
Excuse me?

CHRIS  
Swiper, no swiping.

Blank look from Ben, who walks away.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
(in Swiper's voice)  
Oh, man!

13 INT. COUCH - DAY 13

The photo mom is still scrolling through photos.

Audrey looks impatient but polite, closing her magazine.

14 INT. SNACK TABLE - DAY 14

Chris is chomping on snacks as two parents come up in the middle of a conversation.

HAPPY PARENT  
I mean, before you have children  
you hear everyone say how great  
kids are. Then you have your  
own...

Chris is about to agree.

HAPPY PARENT (CONT'D)  
And it's even better. It's just  
continually rewarding.

Chris walks away, deflated. Then reaches back quickly for a bag of pickle flavored chips.

15 INT. TOY AREA - DAY

15

Chris sits down with his chips, starts scrolling through his iPod.

Kathryn approaches slowly.

CHRIS  
Sorry, you want some pickle chips?

KATHRYN  
No, I... Okay, maybe one.

Kathryn reaches in the bag, pulls out exactly one chip and holds it between her fingers, sniffing it suspiciously, but not eating it.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)  
My name is Kathryn.

CHRIS  
Chris.

KATHRYN  
Are you one of the lucky ones with your name on the official list, Chris?

CHRIS  
I am. That's three mornings a week I get a break from my four-year-old.

Kathryn can tell a joke has been told but doesn't know how to respond.

KATHRYN  
I will give you five-hundred dollars for your spot.

Chris can't tell if she's serious.

CHRIS  
Five hundred, huh? My wife would kill me, and I'd have to find a new pre-school.

KATHRYN  
Did I offer too low? I'll double it. One thousand for your spot.  
(MORE)

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

You can have my spot. I'm the first one on the waiting list. Anyone drops out, you have a thousand dollars and a kid in the best pre-school in town.

CHRIS

Like I said...

KATHRYN

Have you told your wife? Does she know that you made it on the official list?

Chris considers that for a moment.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Fifteen hundred. Triple my original offer. You tell your wife you got here and other people arrived earlier.

CHRIS

How do I explain the money?

KATHRYN

Do you tell your wife everything? You can't hide fifteen hundred from her?

CHRIS

She'd just know. I couldn't hide it.

KATHRYN

Tell her you won it playing poker here tonight.

CHRIS

Me? Win at poker? For fifteen hundred? It'd be more believable if I told her I blew all the dads for a hundred dollars each.

Kathryn's posture gets rigid.

KATHRYN

What's our impasse?

CHRIS

Sorry?

KATHRYN

What do I need to do to make you say yes?

Chris wants to say it but doesn't.

CHRIS

Someone here will probably take your offer. I can't. I just can't.

Kathryn signs with disappointment. She places the chip back in the bag.

KATHRYN

Let's never speak of this again.

She walks off.

CHRIS

Nice meeting you, Kathryn.

He looks back in the bag, pulls the chip out and tosses it behind him.

16

INT. COUCH - DAY

16

The photo mom is still showing Audrey pictures on her phone.

Audrey fakes a kick in her belly. She holds her belly.

AUDREY

Ooh. Sorry, I just. Can I put my legs up?

Audrey points to her belly.

The photo display stops.

The photo mom gladly moves.

Audrey puts her feet up and cracks open her magazine with a pleased smirk.

17 INT. TOY AREA - DAY

17

Extreme close up of two animal crackers with Chris' thumbs holding them.

He's faking two cartoonish voices for each and moving the crackers as they talk.

CHRIS  
 (first voice)  
 I love children.  
 (second voice)  
 Me too.  
 (first voice)  
 They bring so much joy to my world.  
 (second voice)  
 I am so fulfilled. Yeah!

Chris chomps the heads off each animal cracker and surveys the room.

Chris sits down by the toys and watches Ella across the room.

Ella seems lost, out of place.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
 So, are you a mom?

Ella is surprised by the question.

ELLA  
 What? No. My sister. She wanted me to babysit or come here. I just couldn't be around kids. No offense...

CHRIS  
 None taken. I can't stand kids either.

ELLA  
 So you're not a dad?

CHRIS  
 Stay-at-home dad actually. I became disenchanted with the whole, aren't kids the most wonderful blessing thing a long time ago.

ELLA  
So kids aren't the most wonderful  
blessings ever?

CHRIS  
What does your sister think?

ELLA  
She's a single mom and... Oh, my  
god.

Chris is alarmed by this sudden change.

CHRIS  
What?

ELLA  
I just realized. Nothing.

Ella blanches.

18 INT. CORNER - DAY

18

Ben is typing away on a QWERTY keypad furiously.  
Two high heel shoes stop directly in front of him.  
He looks up. It's Kathryn.

KATHRYN  
Ben?

Ben feigns surprise, remains seated.

BEN  
Kathryn? I didn't recognize you.  
I thought you looked familiar.

She smirks, totally not buying it.

KATHRYN  
How have you been?

BEN  
Good.

KATHRYN  
Yeah?

BEN

And you?

KATHRYN

Good.

BEN

It's been a long time.

KATHRYN

It certainly has.

BEN

Do you have a son or daughter?

KATHRYN

Daughter. You?

BEN

Son.

KATHRYN

That's great.

BEN

Yeah.

KATHRYN

Last time I saw you...

Ben braces for it.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Was a long time ago.

Ben notices the hand holding his Blackberry is trembling slightly. He pockets it.

BEN

We've got new lives now, huh?  
Kids. Pre-school. Not like the  
old days.

Kathryn stares deeply into his eyes from her elevated position.

KATHRYN

I don't miss the old days.

Ben stares back just as intensely.



BEN

Neither do I.

KATHRYN

But still. This is going to be weird.

19 INT. TOY AREA - DAY

19

Chris is snacking on pickle chips.

Ella hasn't entirely warmed to him yet, but she's interested in what he has to say.

CHRIS

Yeah, once you have kids, you're no longer part of the normal adult world. It's over. There's this secret world of parents. You never notice it until you're in it. All you need is an infant in your arms and you're in. Total strangers will talk to you on the street. You make plans to meet with people you have nothing in common with except your kids are the same gender and born two months apart.

Ella tries hard to comprehend the frustration she's picking up on.

ELLA

Are you saying being a parent is bad? Do you have regrets?

Chris shrugs.

CHRIS

You're always supposed to say having kids is the best thing in the world. Kids make you happier than anything else. The reality is, sometimes I miss being totally selfish. Randomly deciding to go see a movie that starts in ten minutes. Getting drunk and sleeping off a hangover. It's totally immature, I know, but I miss it.

Ella pulls her bag close to her.

ELLA  
I gotta take a leak.

Ella stands up and leaves.

CHRIS  
(to himself)  
Fine, I'll shut up.

20

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

20

Ella enters the bathroom.

She looks at herself in the mirror.

She stands sideways in the mirror, imagining a belly, puffing out her stomach.

Ella opens the home pregnancy test box and pulls out the little pen, then shoves the box to the bottom of the trash.

She stares at the test for a moment, then hears the door open.

Ella shoves the test pen in her pocket.

Audrey enters the bathroom.

AUDREY  
God, I want this baby out of me  
now, you know?

Ella laughs awkwardly.

ELLA  
Pregnancy doesn't look fun.

AUDREY  
This is my third time. The first  
is the worst.

Ella deflates a little.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
After this one, my cervix will  
probably be permanently dilated to  
ten centimeters anyway.

Ella makes a circle with her hands, guessing the size of ten centimeters.

ELLA  
Ten centimeters? Does it hurt?

AUDREY  
Not after the epidural.

Ella is curious.

ELLA  
What's an epidural?

AUDREY  
They give you a shot in your spine  
so you don't feel a thing.

ELLA  
You didn't have it naturally then?

AUDREY  
Well, the babies still came out my  
vagina. It's not like I pooped  
them out my ass.

ELLA  
I didn't mean....

AUDREY  
Speaking of ass... I've got these  
terrible hemorrhoids. Didn't have  
them the first two pregnancies.

Audrey tugs at her butt cheeks.

Ella looks on in a combination shock and disgust.

Audrey whips out a tube of Preparation H, points it at the stall.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
You done in there?

ELLA  
It's all yours.

21 INT. TOY AREA - DAY

21

Chris is talking to one of the other parents who sits and listens with a blank face to everything Chris says.

CHRIS

I don't know about you, but my daughter got into the Disney Princesses hard. I mean, it started with princess pajamas and fake gowns, but the life changing moment for me was the sing-a-long DVD. The one where they sing their little song that sets up the whole movie. You know, Mulan wants to know when her reflection will show who she is inside. Anyway, after watching this sing-a-long DVD like 900 times, I'm starting to rate the princesses in terms of which ones I'd have sex with. It's like those top 5 celebrity lists, only, what are your top 3 princesses? I'd do Ariel, aka the Little Mermaid, after she got her legs, obviously. It's that little bounce of her seashell bra with the wave crashing behind her. Then it'd have to be Jasmin, from Aladdin. I'm pretty sure she's not a terrorist, not dressed the way she is. And here's the controversial one. Pocahontas. I know historically she was a teenager when all that shit went down, but the cartoon version of Pocahontas looks like the oldest of the princesses. I mean, she's like grad school looking, whereas Snow White looks like a ten year old with makeup. Snow White is the Jon Benet-Ramsay of Disney Princesses.

There's an awkward pause.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

What are your top three princesses?

The other parent signs, shakes his head and leaves.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
It's a legitimate question.

22 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY 22

The sun has set and it's getting later.

Maybe a time lapse of something in front of the school, with the shadow growing longer, then disappearing.

23 INT. TOY AREA - DAY 23

Chris is on his phone.

CHRIS  
Which Polly Pocket is she looking for? Ashley is the blonde one, in her sock drawer. Nicole has black hair and is in the car, probably under the passenger seat. She wants Princess Polly Pocket? Well, that's a problem. She left that one at the park last week. I thought she forgot about it. Have fun explaining that. Night!

He hangs up, shaking his head.

24 INT. CORNER - DAY 24

Ben looks at his watch.

BEN  
Bedtime.

He picks up his Blackberry and speed dials home.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Hi. It's fine. Yes, I got on the list. I'm calling to say goodnight to Thomas.  
(listens)  
And to you too. I didn't mean it that way. Let's not start this. Put him on. Just put him on.  
(his voice softens)  
Hey Tommyboy.

25 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY 25

Music is marimba version of that song from the Galileo DVD.

Other parents are on their phones, saying good nights.

Reading books from memory over the phone.

Singing lullabies and sending kisses.

The parents get melancholic after saying good night to their kids.

Many of them get up after saying good night, grab their sleeping bags and start to file out into the hallway.

26 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY 26

Kathryn notices the people heading out to sleeping areas.

KATHRYN

Stop. Everyone, please. Hold on.

People look annoyed and tired.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

I don't know all your names. And I've been assigned to take roll call. So instead...

Kathryn holds up a pack of cards.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

If your name is on the list, please pick a card.

Kathryn fans out the entire suit of clubs.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Just place the card by your pillow or somewhere I can see it. Thank you.

The cards disappear from her hand one by one, until there's only one left. Chris, Audrey and Ella all grab one.

Ben walks up to Kathryn, reaches out his hand.

Kathryn hands him the Ace of Spades.

BEN

I forget, is this good luck or bad luck?

KATHRYN

Luck is for people who don't know how to control their own destiny.

27 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT

27

The only people left in the room are:

Audrey, resting a tabloid on her stomach, marking the page with her card as she stretches.

Ben, staring across the room, deep in thought with his card stuck to his forehead, Indian poker style.

Chris, examining the snack remnants, flossing his front teeth with his card.

Ella, strumming her card nervously along her fingers like a guitar.

Kathryn, hands pressed together, no card.

Chris turns and assesses the room.

CHRIS

(monster truck voice)

And only five remained. Let the real party begin.

Courtesy smiles, no one is amused.

Chris is bummed.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Seriously though. Who brought alcohol? Sadly, this is the closest I've been to a party in years. I need a drink.

Ella smirks, feeling a little sorry for the old guy.

BEN

All the liquor stores are closed, but I'm up for a beer run.

CHRIS  
Alright, then. What do you guys  
like? Black Butte Porter?  
Terminator Stout?

KATHRYN  
If you're going on a beer run, give  
me your card.

Chris is confused.

CHRIS  
I'll bring it with.

KATHRYN  
The rules say...

BEN  
Come on, Kathryn.

KATHRYN  
We're all here for one reason. To  
get our kids into pre-school.

AUDREY  
And meet the other parents.

KATHRYN  
Rules are rules. My responsibility  
is to make sure anyone who leaves  
goes to the bottom of the list.

CHRIS  
(inaudibly)  
Bitch.

KATHRYN  
What?

Chris relents.

CHRIS  
She's right.

BEN  
What?

CHRIS  
She's right. We can't leave to get  
alcohol. Who can we call?



They all think for a moment.

BEN

My wife is home with my son.

CHRIS

I could call my babysitter, but I don't think she's even old enough to buy cigarettes.

They look at Audrey hopefully, but she shrugs.

AUDREY

Sorry guys.

Reluctantly, they look at Kathryn.

CHRIS

Since you're the rule enforcer, can your husband pick up some beer?

KATHRYN

My ex-husband lives in Seattle.

CHRIS

You got any boyfriends, things like that...?

Ella gets into the mix now.

ELLA

You sad sad men. Is this what I have to look forward to?

Ella flips open her phone, dials.

ELLA (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hey, it's me. What do you have left over from the party last night? No beer? Okay, I need a huge huge favor.

Ben walks over to Kathryn.

BEN

What's going on?

KATHRYN

You know me Ben. I'll play dirty to get what I want.

BEN

You're not making the best  
impression here.

KATHRYN

I'm really disappointed I won't be  
spending time with Mr. Mom over  
there.

Ella snaps her phone shut.

ELLA

Okay. Vodka is on the way.

Chris and Ben cheer.

ELLA (CONT'D)

I had older people buy me beer in  
high school, so just returning the  
favor.

CHRIS

Older people. Awesome.

28 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT 28

Montage with crossfades of them moving around the room.

Or montage like Baby Einstein videos of toys moving.

29 INT. COUCH - DAY 29

Ella has joined Audrey on the couch, reading tabloids.

Ella sneaks glances at Audrey's pregnant belly.

ELLA

Is it ever weird?

AUDREY

Is what weird?

ELLA

Having something alive inside you.  
A tiny little human being growing  
inside you.

AUDREY

It's not as weird as having, I don't know, a unicorn grow inside me.

ELLA

Can you feel it? Kicking and moving around?

AUDREY

All the time. Keeps me up. Babies are nocturnal. The motion from walking around rocks them to sleep. Being perfectly still in bed wakes them up. This one's kicking right now. Want to feel?

Ella begins to put her hand out, then slowly takes it back.

ELLA

I don't want it to be weird.

AUDREY

My God, strangers on the street start rubbing my belly.

ELLA

Really?

Ella looks at Audrey's belly.

ELLA (CONT'D)

Thanks, though.

Audrey stares at Ella with a mix of curiosity and understanding.

30 INT. CORNER - DAY

30

Kathryn leans against the wall with her arms folded.

Ben is pacing in and out of frame.

BEN

How did I become this? I work long hours. I don't get to see my son very much during the week because I'm gone early and come back in time to kiss him goodnight.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

But I'm providing for him. Nice home in a safe neighborhood with good schools. The best healthcare plan around. College savings plan before he's even in pre-school.

Kathryn is listening, but unimpressed.

KATHRYN

Now, on top of that, add disapproval from people who don't think a mother should work full time, or pity you for having to, and you've got my situation.

BEN

People still look down on mothers who work full time?

KATHRYN

You're a terrible parent. You shuttle them off to day care. You didn't breast feed. You're absent from their life. But I'm giving my daughter all the opportunities and freedoms I never had. If I were a guy, what I'm doing would be expected.

Ben looks at her with the perspective of knowing her years ago.

BEN

If you're still anything how I remember, I know you're a good mom, Kathryn.

Kathryn smiles despite herself. Her smile sours, like when you're having fun on Sunday night and realize you have to work Monday.

31 INT. COUCH - NIGHT

31

Chris strolls up as Audrey and Ella read tabloids.

CHRIS

Where's your vodka guy?

ELLA

He'll be here, relax.

He looks at Audrey's belly.

CHRIS

You're not going to give birth on the couch, are you? If you have to rush to the hospital, you'll lose your place in line.

AUDREY

I'm sure she'd make an exception.

Her eyes glare over at Kathryn across the room.

CHRIS

I can just picture one of those scenes in movies where they're like PUSH and you're sweating and crying. It's totally not like that.

AUDREY

Let me guess, your wife had an epidural too?

Ella listens with interest.

CHRIS

Yeah, the doctor was like, alright push if you feel like it. Then we'd wait for the next contraction.

(casually, for effect)

Wasn't the weather nice last weekend? We drove out to the coast. Okay, push. There's your baby.

ELLA

I'm learning all the secrets of having a baby.

This elicits a knowing look from Audrey.

CHRIS

Don't rush it, you got plenty of time on the clock. The last thing you want to be is under twenty-five and pregnant.

Ella forces a smile that fades quickly.

32

INT. CORNER - NIGHT

32

Ben slouches against the wall while Kathryn continues her hawkish look over the room.

BEN

So you and Rob... Divorced?

KATHRYN

Let's not talk about it.

BEN

We don't have to.

KATHRYN

You're still married, yes?

BEN

Barely. We're on thin ice.

KATHRYN

You, having trouble committing?  
I'm shocked.

BEN

Looking back, doesn't it all seem  
so silly?

Kathryn considers this.

KATHRYN

I think the problem was it was  
overly sincere. We took ourselves  
so damn seriously.

BEN

I guess that's what I mean. One  
good thing about having kids is you  
stop thinking about yourself and  
focus on making their life better.

Kathryn grins.

KATHRYN

Preaching to the choir.

Chris is sitting on the floor against the couch with Audrey and Ella. He's reading a magazine with Angelina Jolie and her kids on the cover.

CHRIS

Can you imagine the Oedipal complex you'd have if you were one of Angelina Jolie's kids?

AUDREY

Do kids actually get Oedipal complexes? I thought that was just something college professors talked about.

CHRIS

If Angelina Jolie were my mom, I'd be seriously conflicted. She's got more kids than Mia Farrow. Speaking of which, you ever see one of Angelina's first movies, Hackers? She's got the Mia Farrow haircut.

ELLA

Who's Mia Farrow?

CHRIS

From the Woody Allen movies?

ELLA

That's Scarlett Johanssen.

CHRIS

No, the older movies. Not the ones with Diane Keaton though. You ever see Rosemary's Baby?

Ella shakes her head.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Anyway, maybe there's something about having that short cropped haircut and having lots of kids.

AUDREY

Yeah, but Angelina didn't have short hair when she adopted all those kids.

CHRIS

The hair thing is irrelevant. What I was trying to say was, if Angelina Jolie was my mom, would it be weird to jerk off to her? I already shoved my entire body out of her vagina. What's more fucked up than that?

Audrey and Ella both look at Chris with shock.

Chris realizes he's crossed a line, but he's not apologetic.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I'm around kids all day. Can I just not candy coat everything? Throw around some fucks and-- technically vagina isn't even a swear word.

Audrey and Ella exchange looks, not sure how to react.

Audrey turns slowly and composes herself for what she's about to say.

AUDREY

What if you were one of Angelina's adopted kids though? Technically she's your mom, but you never crawled out her womb, so...

Ella gets a text message and jumps off the couch.

ELLA

Vodka's here.

34

INT. CORNER - NIGHT

34

Ben's eyes follow Ella across the room.

BEN

I think the alcohol has arrived.

Kathryn sighs.



KATHRYN

Being a bitch is such hard work.

She walks away.

35 INT. COUCH - NIGHT

35

Ella displays the bottle of vodka triumphantly.

Audrey feigns excitement.

AUDREY

Can't wait to get shitfaced. Oh,  
wait, I'm pregnant.

Ella looks at her, realizing she shouldn't drink either.

Kathryn arrives with a stern look as Ella hands Chris the bottle.

KATHRYN

I don't think this is a good idea.

CHRIS

Come on, nobody left the premises.  
We're forced to be here, but no one  
said we're being forced to stay  
sober.

KATHRYN

The pre-school director said  
alcohol caused problems in the  
past.

CHRIS

Yeah, a bunch of drunks outside  
arguing with cops.

KATHRYN

You think it's a good idea to drink  
where kids play?

CHRIS

If there's no kids around, who  
gives a shit? It's not like we're  
drinking it out of baby bottles.

KATHRYN

Very mature attitude.

Chris' face brightens up.

CHRIS  
Actually, that gives me an idea.

36 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT

36

A small table with tiny chairs is set up next to the toys.

Plastic cups rest in front of Chris, Ben and a stuffed animal. There's one free chair.

Ella pours vodka from the plastic teapot.

ELLA  
One shot or two?

CHRIS  
Two.

BEN  
One. Okay, two.

Away from the action, Kathryn smirks at Ben's response.

Audrey comes over and sits on the floor.

AUDREY  
I don't want to miss out on a tea party.

Ella puts the tea pot down, walks away.

CHRIS  
Aren't you going to have a drink?

Ella is a little flustered.

ELLA  
Probably, yeah. I just got to visit the mom's room first.

Ella grabs her bag and walks away.

Kathryn eyeballs her.

37 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

37

Ella enters the bathroom, looking around to make sure it's empty.

She goes into a stall and unwraps the pregnancy test.

Ella positions the test so she can pee on it. We can hear that she's peeing.

ELLA

Please, let it be no. Please.

Ella starts to bring the test up, but it catches on the toilet seat and falls into the toilet.

ELLA (CONT'D)

Fuck.

She stands up and looks down into the toilet. The test is just sitting there.

ELLA (CONT'D)

It is my piss.

Ella reaches her hand into the toilet and pulls out the test.

She shakes it out, splattering the floor.

ELLA (CONT'D)

Work. Come on, work.

She waits, fanning out the test as she exits the stall.

Ella's eyebrows screw up in disappointment. It didn't work.

She throws the test in the trash.

38 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT

38

Ella comes back from the bathroom and heads toward the tea party.

Kathryn halts her.

KATHRYN

Just a heads up. I'm going to run this alcohol-on-pre-school-premises thing by the director. Get her take on it.

Ella is confused.

ELLA

Are you trying to be the teacher's pet or something? Or are you just a total brown nose?

Kathryn's face contorts into smugness.

KATHRYN

You don't have kids, I don't expect you to understand.

ELLA

My sister--

KATHRYN

Single mom? I'm one too. I don't expect anyone to give me a medal.

ELLA

Neither does she.

KATHRYN

Does she know you've made the list already?

ELLA

She knows I'm here.

KATHRYN

Look, maybe we got off on the wrong foot. Your place in line has value to me. I'd be willing to compensate you for it. I don't care if the money goes to you, your sister, you split it.

ELLA

Seriously?

Kathryn seems hopeful.

KATHRYN

You'd get my spot in line. I'm the first name on the waiting list.

ELLA

That's... so sad. You try to seem like you're all by the rules, but only when it's in your favor. Maybe I'll run this bribery thing by the director. Get her take on it.

Ella walks away.

Kathryn is completely deflated.

39

INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT

39

Ella joins the tea party.

Chris, Ben, and Audrey are sitting on the ground now, but still using the table.

CHRIS

Have a drink.

Ella brushes off the suggestion.

ELLA

Better not. One of you pervy old guys might take advantage of me.

CHRIS

I can handle being called pervy. But old... Second time tonight. Ouch.

Ben pours Chris more vodka.

BEN

Here, drink your troubles away.

Kathryn's legs arrive on the scene.

Ben and Chris look up at her expectantly.

Kathryn drops down into a sitting position.

KATHRYN

I'm on the waiting list.  
(beat)  
Make mine a double.

Kathryn smiles and they warm to her as Ben pours her drink.

40 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 40

Music is 99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall.

Close up of the vodka bottle mostly full.

Crossfades as the bottle slowly empties to about a quarter full.

41 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 41

They are all a little more relaxed.

CHRIS

You know what I hate? When someone, it doesn't matter if they have kids or want kids, but when someone tells you they're trying. They're trying to have kids.

AUDREY

You feel sorry for them?

CHRIS

Sorry for them? No, I picture them trying.

AUDREY

That is so wrong.

CHRIS

How can you not picture it? Someone says, we're trying to have a baby. Basically they're saying, we're having sex with no birth control, no pill, no condoms, no oral. We have purely vaginal sex. He blows a load in my vagina and we just let it sit there and hope it turns into a baby.

KATHRYN

Disgusting.

CHRIS

Exactly. Why are they sharing that information with me?

ELLA

So when you were trying to have kids, did you tell everyone you were dropping a load in your wife's vadge?

CHRIS

Just because I'm not 16 doesn't mean I can't cause an unplanned pregnancy.

AUDREY

Great, I just pictured a rubber breaking.

Ella's laugh mellows.

42 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 42

Cutaway to naked Barbie and Ken dolls entwined in a sexual position.

Everyone is in the background, out of focus.

43 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 43

Ben is holding a teacup of vodka.

Kathryn watches him closely, holding a drink but not drinking it.

BEN

I don't like the idea of play dates.

AUDREY

But they're nice for kids. Meet other kids. Play.

BEN

I just don't like the term play date. It's like, you play house. Play war. Play date. I don't want to associate a child and dating for any reason.

CHRIS

I don't think it's supposed to be a candlelight and a mix tape kinda date.

BEN

What about just playing? Can't I just say, come over and play? Let's play?

AUDREY

Sure, why not?

BEN

Because everyone turns that into a play date. I have a solution. Let's say you meet someone at the park and your kid wants to go over and play at their house. Instead of saying, let's have a play date, you hand them a card.

CHRIS

Like a Hallmark, please play with me, card?

BEN

Like a business card. It has the kids' first name only, age, a contact phone number, maybe parent's email. Then briefly lists the times they aren't in pre-school or occupied with other scheduled activities.

AUDREY

A business card?

BEN

A business card. For playing.

AUDREY

So you want to get rid of play dates. And replace them with toddler business meetings?

Ben shrugs.

Kathryn pours him another drink.



KATHRYN

You need to be more drunk for that  
to make sense.

44 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 44

Cutaway to a doll staring over in their direction. They are  
out of focus.

45 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 45

Ben, Chris, and Kathryn are laughing at something.  
Ella and Audrey aren't having as much fun.  
When the trio stop laughing there's that awkward moment.  
Chris points to Ben and Kathryn.

CHRIS

So you guys used to know each  
other?

Ben and Kathryn exchange looks.

BEN

Back in college.

KATHRYN

We used to date in college.

Chris is surprised.

CHRIS

Wow. That must be... pretty  
fucking awkward.

KATHRYN

It was kind of shocking at first.

Ben shrugs it off.

BEN

We're adults.

CHRIS

Yeah, but... Never mind.

BEN  
What? Say it.

CHRIS  
By dating, you mean fucked. You fucked each other. And then you fucked other people and had babies. And now you'll push your kids on the swingset next to each other and pretend it never happened.

KATHRYN  
Classy summary.

CHRIS  
Do your spouses know?

Kathryn looks at Ben pointedly.

BEN  
No. Not yet. Is it relevant?

CHRIS  
If my wife fucked some guy that I'd be waving to while dropping off my kids, I'd want to know.

Chris shakes his head.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
God, maybe I wouldn't.

BEN  
It was over a decade ago. It's not like my semen is still in her.

KATHRYN  
(to Ben)  
Gross, don't you start too.  
(to Chris)  
So your wife never screwed any other guy except you?

CHRIS  
No guys I have to hang out with socially. With my kids around.

KATHRYN  
It was a long time ago.

CHRIS

Doesn't matter. I'm weird about stuff like that.

Ben takes a drink from a plastic toy cup.

BEN

It's called being a grown up. Chances are, most of the girls you screwed in high school and college are out there being moms right now. If you grew up in the area and they didn't leave either, you're going to bump into them at parks or school.

KATHRYN

I used to bump into my husband's mistress at Whole Foods. I savored every awkward moment. I'd follow her around with my shopping cart. Toss things in her cart when she wasn't looking.

CHRIS

Glenn Close, Fatal Attraction.

Kathryn smiles and sighs.

Ben and Chris look at her, waiting for an explanation.

KATHRYN

I'm not in any mom's groups. Most of my friends from work don't have kids. And if they do, they don't talk about them because kids can be a professional hindrance. I never get to talk like this.

Chris raises his plastic cup.

CHRIS

Here's to talking shit about your kids.

Audrey is laying on her side, rubbing her belly.

Ella watches her, lost in thought.

Audrey looks at her.

AUDREY

How far along are you?

The question surprises Ella.

Audrey's calm look relaxes her.

ELLA

I don't know.

AUDREY

When did you find out?

ELLA

I still don't know for sure. The math isn't on my side though.

AUDREY

Didn't you take a home test?

Ella scoffs.

ELLA

Bought one, but no results yet. How could you tell?

AUDREY

You're very interested in this.

Audrey rubs her belly.

ELLA

That's all though? I don't have a pregnant glow? I'm not emanating childbearing pheromones or anything like that?

Audrey is amused.

AUDREY

No, I just sensed your curiosity and made a wild guess.

ELLA

It would not be good timing.

AUDREY

It never is.

ELLA

I'm single. No boyfriend. This is totally unplanned. I love kids, but now is not the right time.

AUDREY

Even married couples have unplanned pregnancies.

ELLA

That's what Chris said.

Audrey points to her belly with both hands.

ELLA (CONT'D)

But you've already got two.

AUDREY

I never wanted three. Two is plenty. I only have so much energy and attention. I'm afraid with three, I'll spread myself too thin.

ELLA

I can tell you're a good mom.

Audrey rolls her eyes, then gets serious.

AUDREY

I'm afraid I've jumped the shark. So far I've done a good job of maintaining some semblance of my pre-kid identity. But three kids is a lot of diapers to change, snacks to pack and messes to clean up. I'm afraid being a mom is going to be my only identity.

ELLA

Would that be the worst thing?

AUDREY

Short term, not really. But what about eighteen years from now.

(MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

My kids all move out and I turn into one of those women who age twenty years in six months because there's no one to take care of anymore. Your single purpose in life has been filled and now what the hell are you supposed to do?

ELLA

That's a long way away.

AUDREY

Time goes fast when you've got blinders on. And kids can be the ultimate blinders.

Ella looks a little shaken.

47 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT

47

Kids music.

Close up of a Lincoln Log cabin that gets assembled in crossfades without ever seeing the hands making it.

48 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT

48

Chris is looking at the Lincoln Log cabin.

Kathryn is sitting awfully close to Ben.

CHRIS

This doesn't seem like the most efficient way to make a house.

BEN

It's pretty logical.

CHRIS

Using these, sure. But if you were out in the woods.

Chris holds up a handful of logs.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

This is a lot of trees to chop down.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

And I assume you're not using a gas powered chainsaw back in pioneer days. Then you've got the chop out the notches.

KATHRYN

How would you have made a house?

CHRIS

What'd Indians do? Kill a buffalo and make a teepee with its hide and a few sticks?

KATHRYN

What would you do in winter?

CHRIS

It's not like Indians lived in teepees in the summer and log cabins in the winter. They survived. The winters, at least.

BEN

I'd make the log cabin. That's your job. You're out there being a pioneer. So you go and chop down the trees. Notch them out. Stack the logs. It's not like you're spending your time in the woods Googling your old girlfriends.

Awkward exchange between Ben and Kathryn.

BEN (CONT'D)

You just need to focus on shelter and food.

Chris gets up.

CHRIS

On that note, I need something to soak up this booze.

Chris walks off.

Kathryn fakes a yawn.

She rests her head on Ben's shoulder.

KATHRYN  
I'm ready for bed.

Ben looks at her conflicted.

49 INT. SNACK TABLE - NIGHT

49

Audrey is already at the snack table, picking over things but not eating anything.

Chris arrives, dives his hand into the animal crackers.

CHRIS  
You ever make hillbilly teeth with these?

Chris puts the animal cracker in his upper lip so the legs hang down like rotten teeth.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
(in hillbilly voice)  
Can your daughter come over for a playdate at my house?

Audrey shakes her head, puts an animal cracker in.

AUDREY  
I'm starved but feeling too bloated to eat.

CHRIS  
(in hillbilly voice)  
Tell your brother you're not having any more of his babies.

Audrey laughs, swallows her cracker, as does Chris.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Something on this table has to sound good.

AUDREY  
It all looks good, I just don't want to make it that much harder to get back to my pre-pregnancy weight. I hate feeling so huge.

Chris shakes his head.



CHRIS

I never understand that. I think pregnant women are hot.

AUDREY

Liar.

CHRIS

There's something about that perfectly round belly. It's got this magnetic power like cleavage or something. A giant breast coming out of your stomach.

AUDREY

That's... not normal.

Chris gets frantic.

CHRIS

I'm not hitting on you.

Audrey forces a smile.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Wait, I didn't mean it like that. I just meant, I'm not only saying pregnant women are sexy as a pickup line. You're attractive and you look totally hot pregnant. But I don't want you to think, you know-- I'm married.

AUDREY

I am too. It's still nice to hear you look totally hot pregnant. My husband doesn't think that way.

CHRIS

Seriously? He doesn't even appreciate nature's free boob job?

AUDREY

It's a limited time only. And he's got to share them.

CHRIS

He's got some time left. If I were him, I'd--

Chris catches himself.

Audrey blushes but she knows how to rescue these situations.

AUDREY

Usually I don't mind letting people touch my belly. But in your case, it might be a little creepy.

She laughs, he pretends to sulk.

CHRIS

Clearly, the bigger problem is breastfeeding though.

AUDREY

Yeah, once those teeth start coming in, I'm afraid to get my boobs bit off.

CHRIS

I meant a problem for your husband.

AUDREY

Oh, my boobs belong to my husband?

CHRIS

He's sharing them, sure. But more importantly, you can't go on the pill if you're breastfeeding.

AUDREY

There are other forms of birth control.

CHRIS

Yeah, but how long have you been married?

AUDREY

Eleven years. Shit, eleven years.

CHRIS

A guy in his thirties who's been married eleven years shouldn't have to wear a condom. Unless he's in a brothel in Thailand, or something.

AUDREY

The longer you breastfeed, the more the child's brain grows. Better nutrition. All that stuff they publish reports on.

CHRIS

When you've got that gorgeous belly, everything is fair game. Once the baby comes out, he's got a year of wearing latex.

AUDREY

If only he would.

CHRIS

Anyway, eat something. We're getting low on snacks.

Chris grabs another handful of animal crackers.

Audrey sighs, doesn't touch the food.

50

INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT

50

Ben and Kathryn are laying next to each other, heads propped up with stuffed animals or toys. Their knees are up.

BEN

I can't even talk to her anymore. Our house is chaos.

KATHRYN

Have you tried marriage counseling?

Ben chuckles.

BEN

You know how I found out she was pregnant? At marriage counseling.

KATHRYN

No shit.

BEN

The subject of children came up. I said I wasn't sure if I even wanted kids. She said, I guess now is a bad time to tell you I'm pregnant.

KATHRYN

What did you say?

BEN

Who knows? I was in shock. I love my son. But I'm not in love with his mother anymore.

KATHRYN

And you won't get a divorce?

BEN

I couldn't do that to Thomas.

Kathryn's knees fall in Ben's direction. Her face gets closer to his.

KATHRYN

You're like me. You'll do what's best for your kid. No matter what.

51 INT. SNACK TABLE - NIGHT

51

Chris and Audrey move slowly from the snack table to the couch.

AUDREY

I never really talk to the stay-at-home dads at the park.

CHRIS

Yeah, we're the lepers of the playground.

Audrey laughs.

AUDREY

It's not that bad, is it?

CHRIS

I call it the Mr. Mom, Little Children conspiracy.

AUDREY

What's that mean, exactly?

CHRIS

Mr. Mom in the movie was a pretty innocent guy.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Michael Keaton, doing goofy things, feeding babies chili, mostly trying to maintain his masculinity in what was a bizarre role reversal at the at the time. I mean, the guy was horrified to be buying tampons for his wife.

AUDREY

What's Little Children?

CHRIS

You haven't seen that one? It's got Kate Winslet and some guy who looks like Jude Law as the stay-at-home dad. They start hanging out together at the pool and parks. Next thing you know, he's banging her on the washing machine.

AUDREY

That's what stay-at-home dads want?

CHRIS

To bang Kate Winslet on a washing machine? Sure. But it doesn't matter what we want. It's what husbands think. And moms are no better. Basically, we're viewed as the guys who want to bang your wife or molest your kids and we're in the same places you are all day long.

AUDREY

I don't know. I see a stay-at-home dad and I think it's just a guy who lost his job or he's trying to write a novel or some shit like that. He thinks he's taking a break from work until he realizes he's got a twenty-four seven job with no breaks, no weekends and everyone thinks he's taking it easy.

CHRIS

You've just confirmed all my suspicions.

Audrey thinks a bit, tries to be helpful.

AUDREY

Can't you hang out with other stay-at-home dads?

CHRIS

No way. They're too fucking creepy.

AUDREY

Was Kate Winslet naked? She's always naked in her movies.

CHRIS

Full frontal, if I remember correctly. I gotta take a leak.

Chris heads toward the door.

52 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT

52

The sound of a door opening jolts Kathryn up.

Chris is going outside.

KATHRYN

Excuse me. Where are you going?

Chris comes halfway back in the room.

CHRIS

I'm going to take a leak outside.

KATHRYN

Bathrooms are down the hall.

CHRIS

It's a nice night. I like pissing outdoors. Feel the breeze...

KATHRYN

Urinating outside the pre-school seems like a good idea?

CHRIS

I'm not going to piss on the building or anything.

They stare each other down.

Ben pops up.

BEN  
I need to piss too.

Kathryn gives him a disapproving look.

53 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT

53

We see them from behind as they aim toward a bush.

Ben is pissing, Chris isn't.

CHRIS  
What's going on with you and your  
college fuck buddy?

BEN  
I saw you hitting on Audrey over  
there. She's pregnant, that's  
gross. It'd be like a threeway.

CHRIS  
Dude, you crossed a line.

BEN  
Okay, let me change the subject.  
Do you spank?

CHRIS  
Like my wife?

BEN  
That I don't want to know.

CHRIS  
No, spanking is for people who  
can't keep their emotions in check.  
Or for white trash who spanks  
because they got spanked so it must  
work. It's seems totally  
ineffective and just teaches that  
violence solves problems.

There's a lull as Ben finishes pissing.

BEN  
I spank my kid.

CHRIS

Oh.

(beat)

You know, sometimes I get frustrated with kids. What I want to do is shrink down to their size, only retain all of my agility and coordination. Then I picture fighting with them. Like a full on cage match, no rules. Flying off the couch kicks. Shoving them back and wailing on them. Like Fight Club. Only with toddlers and me shrunk down to three feet tall.

There's an awkward pause.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I can't piss and talk at the same time.

54

EXT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT

54

Both are done peeing and walk slowly back.

BEN

You're a stay-at-home dad?

CHRIS

You're a stay-at-work dad?

BEN

I just want to get your opinion. You're around kids a lot. What do they want most from parents?

CHRIS

Stability. Reliability. Routines. I'm not talking about financial security either. They just want to know what to expect when they wake up and go about their day. Shit's coming at them from all directions. They just want to know they got a parent they can rely on. Who, you know, loves them.

Ben absorbs this explanation.



55 INT. COUCH - NIGHT

55

Audrey is in mid-conversation with Ella.

AUDREY

I'll probably get a standard bikini wax because you don't want to have your legs spread out in stirrups with your bush hanging down.

Chris and Ben ahem loudly.

CHRIS

What are we talking about ladies?

AUDREY

Girl stuff.

CHRIS

Just get a Brazilian wax. You can see everything in those stirrups.

Ben looks around.

BEN

Where's Kathryn?

ELLA

She's checking to make sure everyone is still here before going to bed.

Ben is surprised.

CHRIS

Got to hand it to her, she's working hard to bump her name up one slot on the list.

56 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT

56

Ella is curled up in a ball snoring lightly.

Chris is sprawled out using his sleeping bag as a pillow.

Ben sleeps flat on his back, his hands folded on his chest like a corpse.

Audrey is sound asleep on the couch.

Audrey's eyes bolt wide open.

She holds her stomach.

AUDREY

Shit.

Audrey shakes Ella awake.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Wake up, Ella.

Ella opens her eyes confused, not really sure who this person in front of her is.

ELLA

(groggily)

Is everything alright?

AUDREY

I need you to drive me.

This wakes Ella up fast.

ELLA

Holy shit. Fuck, you're going to have the baby?

Audrey smiles.

AUDREY

This isn't labor. I've got a mad craving for a maple and bacon donut.

This seems reasonable to Ella. She gets up.

ELLA

What if she checks?

Audrey seems unimpressed.

AUDREY

This belly gives me a lot of leverage.

ELLA

I don't want my sister to lose a spot for her kids.

AUDREY

If it comes to that, I'll give you mine.

57 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT 57

Audrey and Ella silently push Audrey's car with the lights off.

Ella is near the driver's side, pushing and steering.

Audrey is behind the vehicle pushing.

They both speak in hushed tones.

ELLA

Are you sure you don't want to get in and steer? Let me do all the pushing.

AUDREY

You can hop in easier if we need to hit the brake. Besides, we just need to get far enough away so the engine doesn't wake up our favorite friend.

ELLA

In that case, push!

Audrey keeps pushing, doing some delivery style breathing.

58 INT. AUDREY'S CAR - NIGHT 58

Windows down, music blaring.

59 EXT. AUDREY'S CAR - NIGHT 59

Looking out the window of the car we see:

The dark, shiny towers along the South Waterfront.

Hawthorne and Morrison bridges from Naito Parkway.

The streets of Old Town.

60 EXT. VOODOO DOUGHNUTS - NIGHT 60

The car pulls up in front of the donut shop.

The girls go in.

61 INT. VOODOO DOUGHNUTS - NIGHT 61

(Pending location release.)

All the crazy donut combinations. Fruit Loops. Cap'n Crunch.

AUDREY

I need a maple bacon donut.

VOODOO WORKER

I can see that.

62 INT. AUDREY'S CAR - NIGHT 62

Audrey chomps her teeth into her maple bacon donut.

Ella picks Fruit Loops off hers and crunches them.

ELLA

I thought the whole bizarre cravings thing was just a myth. Pickle ice cream, that sort of thing.

AUDREY

This isn't a pregnancy craving. I love maple bacon donuts.

The both laugh.

ELLA

Someone ought to make pickle ice cream. Sell it at every 24 hour mart around.

Ella chomps a Fruit Loop.

Audrey shifts the mood to serious.

AUDREY

Not that I want to pry...

ELLA

Would I keep it?

Ella thinks for a long time.

ELLA (CONT'D)

If it had happened a year ago. No way.

Audrey thinks for a moment.

AUDREY

I had one. Back in college.

ELLA

Did you worry you'd never be able to have kids again?

AUDREY

When I got pregnant with my first child, I kept waiting for something to go wrong. Like I would be punished.

ELLA

I don't believe in that sort of punishment. But it doesn't make the decision any easier.

AUDREY

Start the car. We've got one more stop.

63 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT 63

Kathryn is sleeping.

Her eyes open slowly, an almost diabolical grin on her face.

64 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 64

Ben is sleeping in the same position we last saw him.

Kathryn opens the door to the waiting area.

She walks slowly over to Ben.

Kathryn looks around to make sure everyone else is sleeping.

She notices the empty couch. Thinks for a moment. She starts to move in the direction of the couch.

BEN

Kathryn?

Kathryn turns her attention back to Ben.

They both speak in hushed tones.

KATHRYN

You're awake.

BEN

I was having a dream where I smelled your perfume. And there you were.

KATHRYN

I was having a dream too, Ben. I miss you.

Kathryn reclines on her elbow next to him.

BEN

Seeing you has brought up a lot of memories for me too.

KATHRYN

We adults, Ben. We can do whatever we want.

Kathryn kisses Ben on the forehead, then cheek, then goes for his mouth.

Ben pulls away.

BEN

I'm married.

KATHRYN

This is for old time's sake. One time, that's it.

Ben stares at Kathryn for a long time.

He leans forward and kisses her.

She pulls back, points to Chris sleeping.

65 EXT. FOSTER'S CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

65

Audrey comes out of the store with a box.

She hands it to Ella, laughing in the driver's seat of the car.

ELLA

What'd they say?

AUDREY

(imitating)

I'm pretty sure the test will come out positive.

(normal voice)

You want to take the test here?

ELLA

I'll wait. I don't want to find out I'm pregnant at the same time I'm getting Hep-B from a toilet seat.

66 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

66

Audrey's car is driving into the parking lot.

The headlights go out.

The engine is turned off.

The car rolls silently into a parking place.

67 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT

67

The door opens slowly.

Audrey and Ella sneak in, like teenagers avoiding parents.

They survey the room.

Chris is snoring away. No sign of Ben.

ELLA

Ben must have moved to one of the rooms.

AUDREY

If Kathryn found we went out, she'd  
be waiting here to bust our asses.

They do a weak high-five.

Ella holds up the box.

ELLA

I'm going to get my future told.

AUDREY

Good luck. Hopefully that donut  
won't create any false positives.

68 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

68

Ella opens the door slowly, unintentionally quietly.

She pauses as she hears noises.

It's the unmistakable sound of two people screwing in a  
bathroom stall.

Ella sees Ben's shoes underneath.

She sees Kathryn's bejeweled hand holding on top of the  
stall.

Ella's eyes widen as she backs out slowly.

69 INT. COUCH - NIGHT

69

Audrey is just sitting down on the couch when Ella comes in,  
full of excitement.

AUDREY

That was fast.

Ella can barely keep it together.

ELLA

Ben and Kathryn are in there...

AUDREY

What? No!

Ella nods.



ELLA  
Fucking in a pre-school shitter.

AUDREY  
I'm going in there.

Ella puts her hands up as Audrey rises.

ELLA  
No! I mean, why?

AUDREY  
I hate people who say one thing,  
then do another person's husband.

ELLA  
We can't get involved. I mean,  
you're going to see these people  
almost daily for a long time. It's  
none of our business.

Audrey shakes her head.

AUDREY  
Now I have an official reason for  
hating that bitch.

70 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

70

Ben and Kathryn are straightening themselves out.

Ben looks a little dazed, regretful.

Kathryn appears laser focused.

BEN  
That was...

Kathryn looks at Ben icily, very matter-of-fact.

KATHRYN  
I need your spot, Ben.

BEN  
My spot?

KATHRYN  
I'll be stuck on the waiting list  
unless you drop out.

Ben is stunned.

BEN

That's why you did this?

KATHRYN

I thought you knew me better. I'm not a very nostalgic girl.

BEN

You can't have my spot.

KATHRYN

I'm ready to tell your wife. Marriage hanging by a thread. This will surely end it. Is that what's best for your son?

Now Ben is angry.

BEN

You scheming little whore.

KATHRYN

Let's not get irrational, Ben.

BEN

Leave my son out of this.

KATHRYN

That's what I'm asking you to do.

Ben moves toward her menacingly. She doesn't back down.

BEN

You'd ruin a marriage, tear apart a family, so your kid can get into this fucking pre-school?

They're face to face.

KATHRYN

All the mom's groups say it's the best.

(beat)

But don't put the blame on me, Ben. You're the one with the shitty marriage. You're the one who fucked a scheming whore.

(MORE)

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

You can save it all, just by taking  
your name off the list.

Ben turns away from her sharply and walks to the door.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Can I take that as a yes?

The door closes behind him.

71 INT. COUCH - NIGHT

71

Audrey and Ella are on the couch. Ella is tapping the  
pregnancy test against her knee.

AUDREY

You could take that test outside.  
Or go in the men's bathroom.

Ella thinks about it.

ELLA

At this point, I'll wait until I  
get home. I don't want to get too  
emotional in front of a bunch of  
strangers.

AUDREY

I'll give you my number. If you  
want to talk or anything...

ELLA

Thanks.

AUDREY

But there's one thing I won't do.

ELLA

What's that?

AUDREY

I will never ever babysit.

Ben charges through the room, goes out the front door.

They look over their shoulder at Ben leaving. (only one door,  
so how?)

ELLA

Wonder what that was all about?

72 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT 72

Ben falls to his knees in the grass.  
He pounds his forehead against the earth.  
He crumples into a ball and falls to his side.

73 INT. TOY AREA - NIGHT 73

Chris wakes up suddenly and awkwardly from his sleep.  
He pops his head up, looks at Audrey and Ella on the couch.

CHRIS  
Who's baby is crying?

They look at him confused.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Was there just a baby crying?

They shake their heads.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Sheeeit.

74 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL - NIGHT 74

Chris walks outside, sucks in the fresh air.  
He unzips his pants, prepares to take a leak.

BEN  
You better not piss on me.

Chris jumps back.

Ben is under him right where he was going to take a leak.

CHRIS  
What the fuck are you doing there?  
I almost had a fucking heart  
attack.

BEN  
Just resting under the stars.

CHRIS  
Did my cock add to the beauty of  
nature?

Chris looks around.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Isn't this where we pissed last  
time?

Ben inspects his arm and side.

BEN  
I thought it was morning dew.

75 INT. COUCH - DAY

75

The first rays of light are out.

Audrey goes to the window to see the sunrise.

She sees something that amuses her then turns to Ella.

AUDREY  
Check this out. Male bonding.

Ben and Chris are outside, sitting on the grass, leaning back  
on their hands.

Ella comes over to the window, smiles.

76 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY

76

Ben and Chris are sitting in the grass.

Behind them, Audrey and Ella walk in their direction.

ELLA  
Hope we're not interrupting a  
romantic moment here.

BEN  
Just guy talk.

AUDREY  
I bet.

Ella sits down.

ELLA

The grass is all wet.

Ben and Chris look at each other.

Audrey plops down.

They all gaze at the early morning light, a little sleepy, but totally in the moment.

AUDREY

This reminds me of parties when I was younger. You're up all night. You know it's time to quit when the sun comes up.

CHRIS

I think we just scratched the surface of the true Audrey.

She laughs.

AUDREY

You haven't even begun to scratch the surface of my secret life.

BEN

I wasn't looking forward to this night at all. But it's been the kind of fun I haven't had in a long time.

Ella and Audrey steal glances.

CHRIS

We should do this every year. Even if our kids are already enrolled. Meet in a big room with a bunch of parents. Bring a shitload of alcohol. And everyone just bitches honestly. No more acting like responsible adults or role models for our kids. No parenting platitudes allowed.

AUDREY

Sounds too good to be true.

Chris sighs. Then his face gets brainwashed happy.

CHRIS

I love my kids too much to spend a night away from them.

They all laugh.

ELLA

Well, you guys aren't nearly as pathetic as I thought you'd be, considering you're a bunch of old married parents.

CHRIS

I will actually take that as a compliment.

BEN

Wow, I've earned the respect of a twentysomething whose only accomplishment is graduating college and getting an entry level job.

CHRIS

You'll be in our shoes someday.

AUDREY

Hopefully not too soon.

Ella considers this for a moment.

ELLA

I guess there are worse things than being a parent.

Chris tries to think of one.

They all get quiet and watch the morning unfold.

77

INT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY

77

Kathryn stands in front of the list written on the whiteboard with a triumphant, love the smell of napalm in the morning, look.

She erases Ben's name from the list and smiles.

78 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY 78

Cars and vans arrive.

A spouse gets out with a carrying case of four coffees.

79 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY 79

Ben is gazing out the window.

Kathryn comes up behind him.

Ben points out to the parking lot at a car that pulled in.

BEN

There's my wife.

KATHRYN

What are you going to tell her?

BEN

She won't be happy. But I'm doing  
the right thing.

KATHRYN

Of course you are.

BEN

What's the second best pre-school?

KATHRYN

I'll email the mom's group. Let  
you know.

Ben gets up and goes outside.

We stay in the room with Kathryn and watch as he approaches  
his wife's car.

Ben's wife is already yelling at him about something.

He puts his hands up to get her attention. Then he starts  
talking.

Her face goes ashen. Utter disbelief.

Ben points to the school, seemingly at Kathryn.

Ben's wife sinks her head, shakes it. It's too much. She  
slaps him. She shouts something loud but brief at him.



She gets back in her car and peels out.

Ben slumps back to the pre-school dazed.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Thank you. I know that was hard.

Ben looks at Kathryn.

BEN

I was thinking how if you sacrificed your body to get your kid in this pre-school, it must be good. And I was thinking about a conversation I had with Chris. I don't want my kid to grow up seeing his parents fight all the time. We stretched our marriage out longer than we should have. I can still be a great dad to my son without being married to his mother.

Kathryn is confused.

KATHRYN

Wait, what are you saying?

BEN

I just told my wife I fucked an old girlfriend in the bathroom. My marriage is over. But my son is going to this pre-school.

Kathryn is shocked, defiant.

KATHRYN

You can't...

Ben looks at the board with the names on it.

BEN

Hey, who erased my name?

He holds up his Ace of Spades card, then writes his name back in.

BEN (CONT'D)

You should probably email that mom's group.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

I hear the second best pre-school  
is just as hard to get in as this  
one.

Kathryn is full of suppressed rage.

Ben looks at her without an ounce of pity or compassion.

KATHRYN

Fuck you.

BEN

Not again.

Kathryn storms out of the pre-school.

80 INT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY

80

There is a line of people waiting.

At the front of the line is a desk where the pre-school  
organizer is taking checks and having parents sign enrollment  
forms.

Ben, Audrey, Ella and Chris are filling out forms, paying  
checks.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER

We like to keep our student teacher  
ratio low. But we've got a part-  
time volunteer, so I think we can  
add two more students to this  
year's class.

Pre-school Organizer goes to the whiteboard, looks at the  
waiting list.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER (CONT'D)

Kathryn? Where's Kathryn?

The organizer waits. Waits.

She goes to the next name.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER (CONT'D)

Okay, then. Barbara?

A hand raises.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER (CONT'D)  
And, Paul?

A hand raises.

PRE-SCHOOL ORGANIZER (CONT'D)  
You're both in.

Kathryn's name is wiped from the list.

81 EXT. PRE-SCHOOL - DAY

81

Ella is on her bike, ready to go.

Chris and Audrey are saying goodbye.

ELLA  
(to Audrey)  
I've got your number. I'll call  
and let you know.

AUDREY  
Please.

CHRIS  
Know what?

ELLA  
Bye, Chris.

Chris waves as Ella bikes off.

CHRIS  
(shouting to Ella)  
Thanks again for the vodka.

Audrey elbows him in the ribs.

Chris looks at Audrey.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
So even though I'm a stay-at-home  
dad, promise you'll still talk to  
me like a normal human if you see  
me at the park?

AUDREY  
Promise you won't leer at my  
pregnant belly?

They laugh. She points to her eyes then belly when she says...

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Remember, eyes up here, not down here.

CHRIS

Good luck pushing that thing out.

AUDREY

Thanks.

(heartfelt)

You're a good dad, Chris.

CHRIS

Shit, with all the time I'm putting in, I better be.

(beat)

Your kids are lucky to have a mom like you. And your husband is a fool not to take advantage of that belly.

AUDREY

You stay-at-home dads have a one track mind.

They wave casually and go off in opposite directions.

82

INT. ELLA'S APARTMENT - DAY

82

Ella is sitting cross-legged on the toilet lid.

She takes a deep breath and stares down at her pregnancy test.

We slowly push in closer and closer until all we see are her eyes nervously awaiting the results.

Ella's eyes look up quickly, full of certainty and emotion.

Ella knows.