

ACT I

'Talía'

INT. HOUSE - LATER THAT EVENING *

Jack and Talia sit on the raft. Talia sips from glass of water, her luggage off to the side. *

Robbie swiffers around both of their feet. *

ROBBIE

Sorry, didn't expect guests today. *

Dougie walks out of the bedroom wearing a pink bathrobe. *

DOUGIE

Is this yours or Andrea's? *

ROBBIE

What do you think? *

On the raft, Jack's about to say something to Talia, but stops himself. Suddenlly, the door bursts open. *

Talia shoots up as Andrea enters, followed by Mel. *

TALIA

Andrea! *

ANDREA

Talia! *

Andrea puts her suitcase down and embraces Talia with a hug. *

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Talia, it's been so long. Have you met everyone? *

TALIA

Kinda. *

ANDREA

~~Well, this is my husband Robbie, my friend Mel, our neighbor Dougie and Jack. Guys this is Talia.~~ *

What's going on? What are you doing in LA? *

Andrea takes a seat on the raft next to Talia. *

TALIA

I kinda walked out of my major thesis presentation. *

Sunset PPL Pilot

Emily Baker Casting

FYI

ANDREA

You what?

*

TALIA

My PHD. At Harvard. I was standing in front of all my colleagues, the dean of my college, the entire mathematics department. I was discussing model theory, obviously.

*
*
*
*
*

ROBBIE

Obviously.

TALIA

And then all of a sudden I start thinking about Mr. Peplinski.

ANDREA

Mr. Peplinski?

TALIA

Mr. Peplinski, our prof at NYU. Remember that class we took together, Anj - Feminism in Modern Theatre and Post-Industrial Globalization? For some reason all I could think about was Mr. Peplinski and our all female production of Glengarry Glen Ross.

ROBBIE

You guys Ghostbustered Glengarry Glen Ross?

*
*

Start 1 →

TALIA

I was ten minutes away from accomplishing everything I've worked for in the last ten years. And then it hit me - my whole life I've been living the safe plan, the back up plan, the Plan B. And I thought, why am I standing in front of people talking about math? Because it's safe? I'd much rather be standing in front of people doing Glengarry Glen Ross! And so I walked out.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

ANDREA

And you came here?

TALIA

Yeah, I mean, where else would I go? I want to be an actress.

~~Handwritten scribbles~~ 2/3

MEL

Amazing.

TALIA

I figured it would be like what we
planned after college, Anj. It just
felt right, you know?

*
*
*

ROBBIE

Sure, but didn't you start coming
to your senses on your way here?

TALIA

What do you mean?

ROBBIE

It's a five hour flight from
Boston. I would have totally
started to realize the rashness of
my decision somewhere over the mid
west.

DOUGIE

Was it a direct flight?

*

TALIA

I had an hour layover in Phoenix.

*

ROBBIE

I definitely would have turned back
in Phoenix. Did you change planes?

*
*

TALIA

I didn't change planes. I didn't
turn back. I'm doing this. I mean,
you guys are the ones that inspired
me to move to LA.

*
*
*
*

MEL

We did?

TALIA

Yeah. I don't want to sound like a
stalker, but I've kinda been
following you on Facebook. All of
you.

*
*
*
*

They all look at each other, a little confused.

TALIA (CONT'D)

(to Mel)

Mel, you're a stand up comedian,
right?

(to Dougie)

(MORE)

TALIA (CONT'D)

And Dougie, you're, like, a YouTube star or something.

(to Andrea)

And, Anj, you have this amazing job at a studio.

(to Robbie)

And your husband, Robbie, works at that sick bar in Malibu that all the celebrities go to.

(to Jack)

...and you... I dunno, what you do?

JACK

I do... stuff.

TALIA

You guys are all going for it, you know. You're not living your Plan B's. You're living your Plan A's.

(to Anj)

So I was thinking, can I crash with you Anj? That's what people do when they move out to LA right? They couch surf?

← Stop!

INT. HOUSE - A BIT LATER

Jack and Robbie argue in the corner.

JACK

This isn't fair. You're asking me to give up the raft for a random stranger? I'm not sleeping on the floor.

ROBBIE

Lower your voice. First of all, she's not a random stranger, you idiot, she's Andrea's friend. Second of all, the raft is mine. My parents had it imported for me when we were in sixth grade.

JACK

I still don't understand why a twelve year old would ask for an imported Italian sofa.

ROBBIE

I've always been interested in interior design, you know that.

Talia, Andrea, Dougie and Mel sit together across the room.

Handwritten scribbles and the number 4/7.

EXT. COMEDY SHOP/PATIO - SAME TIME

The patio is enclosed by brick walls and green shrubs. Jack and Mel sit at one of the few tables. Mel's phone BUZZES. *

MEL

It's Dougie. He's got a visual on Amanda. He says-

(reading)

-Amanda's mood seems jovial and upbeat. *

(to Jack) *

Hmm, she always struck me as such a bitch. Sorry. *

(reading) *

She has a nice smile. She texts with grace and humility.

JACK

Well, she's not texting me with grace or humility. I'm still waiting for a response from yesterday! *

MEL

(still reading)

She is a tigress. An old soul with supple lips and breasts.

INT. CAFE - LATER

The cafe is packed with a mix of people - in line, waiting for coffee and food and eating at the many scattered tables. *

Andrea sits at a table alone, looking at her watch, when Talia enters suddenly. She looks upset as she moves through the crowd, then takes a seat across from Andrea. *

Start 2 →

ANDREA

Talia! Where have you been? I've gotta be back at the office in like ten minutes. *

TALIA

I'm so sorry, Anj. I just had the worst experience at this casting meeting. I was four sentences into my three page Mamet monologue when the casting director cut me off. He started criticizing my clothes and my face and my body and then he said I was too old! That's gotta be some form of harassment right? *

(MORE) *

5/7

TALIA (CONT'D)

Like ageism? Is there like a casting HR department where I can file a report? Ugh, this was supposed to be a fresh start and it totally doesn't feel like it.

*
*
*
*
*

ANDREA

That sucks, Talia. So, are you gonna pack it in? Head back east?

TALIA

Well, no. I mean, I can't. I have to give this at least six months to a year, right?

ANDREA

Six months to a year? Are you serious?

TALIA

Well, yeah. I figured you'd be cool with it, Anj. I mean, we're best friends, right?

*
*
*

ANDREA

We were best friends in college. Talia, before yesterday I hadn't seen you in six years.

*
*
*

TALIA

I know! But I feel like we've totally kept up with each other.

ANDREA

How's that?

TALIA

Well, for one, we wish each other happy birthday every year. And you've liked a few of my statuses. And I love all of yours.

ANDREA

You can't love a status. Listen Talia, I just don't think you realize what you're doing here. You have this crazy idealistic vision in your head about moving to Hollywood....

Andrea notices that Talia isn't paying attention. She's just looking at her phone.

in the 1

6/7

TALIA

James just changed his status to single.

ANDREA

I thought you broke up with him?

TALIA

I did... For now... I thought...

ANDREA

Well you did buy a one way ticket across the country.

TALIA

That doesn't mean he's supposed to be single.

ANDREA

Talia, I need to get my bosses laundry back to him.

TALIA

He's single.

← Stop 2

Andrea stands, picking up a hamper of laundry next to the table. *

ANDREA

Okay. Let's walk and talk, okay? *

TALIA

He's single. *

INT. COMEDY SHOP/BAR - MEANWHILE

Dougie leans on the bar, discretely texting while spying on Amanda. Amanda stands behind the bar a ways away. She looks down at her phone, giggling to herself. *

EXT. COMEDY SHOP/PATIO - SAME TIME

Jack and Mel chill on the patio. The table is full of empty bottles. They've had more than a few. *

JACK

I'm not asking for much. Just a girl who's smart, beautiful, talented, creative, knows what she wants, who challenges me, who makes me better. That's it. *

7/7