

THE FEMALE BRAIN

Written by

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Based on THE FEMALE BRAIN by Louanne Brizendine

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INT. TED CONFERENCE - AUDITORIUM STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Julia, smart a little alpha, 30's, walks onto the stage. She's together but a bit nervous. There's a large TED screen behind her where we will see various diagrams to illustrate what she discusses.

JULIA

Women are crazy. Men are stupid.
Women are obsessed with marriage.
All guys are obsessed with sex. *
We've all heard or thought these
stereotypes at one point or
another. Now, bear with me, what if
they weren't stereotypes? What if
they were facts that, if we changed *
our perception of them, could *
actually be a good thing? *

The audience looks at her with some doubt. *

JULIA (CONT'D)

I'm not only going to focus on the *
Female Brain today. Men's brains *
are fascinating, but that's mostly *
because they've been studied more.
Men do have bigger heads and
thicker skulls than women and in
the old days, scientists assumed
that meant that men had bigger
brains, too. But recently we
learned that women have the same
exact number of brain cells, *
they're just jammed into a smaller *
space. If we just found that out
recently, what else don't we know?

OVER BLACK: FIVE MONTHS EARLIER

INT. STEVEN AND LISA BEDROOM - MORNING - FIVE MONTHS EARLIER

Two butts in bed. STEVEN (40's, sharp, easy), sleeps soundly. *
LISA (40, pretty, seen it all) wakes up. She looks in *
Steven's direction. Straddles him. He wakes.

STEVEN

What are you doing man? Get off. *

She reaches over him to adjust a large mirror next to a *
framed photo of their wedding day. *

LISA

I feel like this mirror is gonna fall. What do you think?

*

STEVEN

I have literally never thought about that mirror. I'm forty. I haven't looked in a mirror in ten years.

*

*

LISA

Can you just hold this up for me?

He begrudgingly gets behind her and holds the mirror as she adjusts it. She arches her back and leans forward. Her ass is against his penis area. Sex does not cross their minds.

*

*

STEVEN

Hurry up, dude.

*

Freeze on Lisa. Superimpose a sketch of her brain on her head, which lights up according to which part of the brain Julia is talking about. (This will happen for every V.O.)

*

*

*

JULIA

(V.O)

The first year of dating someone the brain produces a lot of dopamine, which is the feel good chemical. After about a year dopamine production decreases and our brain starts producing another chemical called oxytocin, which bonds you with someone. This explains why after two years or so you're less passionate but more committed.

*

*

LISA

Are you picking Ty up at school or am I?

*

STEVEN

I'm done early. I'll do it.

Freeze on Steven. Superimpose a brain sketch on his head.

*

JULIA (V.O.)

Nature also has a way of helping men be better fathers by lowering their testosterone levels when they spend a significant amount of time around children, which invariably leads to less sexual desire from those men.

*
*
*

LISA

There we go. That's so much better.

*

Steven collapses back onto the bed. Lisa gets off the bed and bends over to pick up some slippers, ass in Stevens face. Steven covers his eyes.

*
*

STEVEN

Come on! I don't need to see that!

INT. GREG AND ZOE BEDROOM - MORNING

*

A Clippers Jersey on the floor. GREG (26, a giant NBA player sick body) lies in bed. He pulls at his wife ZOE (25, gorg, strong) dressed in a cute work suit.

*
*
*

ZOE

Don't think just because you scored thirty-three points last night that you're gonna get me back in that bed.

*

GREG

It's not that impressive. I put a ball in a hoop. Playin' a sport invented for children.

He pulls her in by her hips, she struggles to get free.

*

ZOE

I have to go to work. And you have to go ice your balls or whatever you do all day.

*
*
*
*

GREG

Why do you have to work again? I'm a professional athlete. Technically I can support both of us. And like twenty other people.

*

ZOE

This isn't the 1800's. I contribute to society. I am my own person. With your last name.

*

He laughs. She looks stresses, putting her hair up. *

GREG

You okay? You're doing that thing
where you put your pony tail crazy
high on your head. *

ZOE

Sophia asked to meet with me today
one-on-one. Am I getting fired? *

Greg takes her hand. *

GREG

I hope so. Then you can be an NBA
wife and take pilates classes and
start a jewelry line that I have to
pay for. *

ZOE

And set women back sixty years. *

Zoe grabs her purse. *

GREG

Kill it, Zo. Love you. *

She exits. He rolls over to the other side of the bed and
sees a MAN (50's) cleaning the window from outside the house.
He hits a remote. *

GREG (CONT'D)

Hey Lorenzo! You need some help? *

LORENZO

No way, man! You need to rest up. I
got fifty bucks on you scoring
twenty points tonight! You stay in
bed. (Then) My man! *

The blinds lower, Greg doesn't know how to stop them. *

GREG

You bet on me? *

LORENZO

Of course. You think I can pay my
bills with this shitty job? *

Off Greg. Touche. *

INT. LAB - DAY

Julia looks over data, a diagram of the brain. Julia hears a sound, quickly reacts. *

JULIA (V.O.)

Women are more sensitive than men to threats. This is because of the amygdala, the part of the brain that senses danger. Female amygdalae are more easily activated, which is why women are generally more hypervigilant and fearful. It also doesn't help that we're smaller than men and full of holes. *

INT. ADAM AND LEXI BATHROOM - MORNING

ADAM (bro, easy, 30's) and LEXI (pretty, a little insecure, 30) do their morning routines. LEXI leans into a magnifying mirror, tweezing her eyebrows. *

LEXI

Ow. Ow. Ow. Better right? *

ADAM

What am I looking at?

LEXI

Do you notice anything different?

ADAM

...yeah...so much better.

LEXI

What is?

ADAM

Your face. *

LEXI

My eyebrows. Do you think I need to lighten them though? I tinted my lashes and lightened my hair--is it weird that my hair, eyelashes, eyes and eyebrows are all the same color? It's a lot of brown, right? *

FREEZE ON ADAM'S CONFUSED FACE.

JULIA (V.O.)

Women are more likely to be perfectionists. This is linked to the anterior cingulate cortex, which is larger in females. This is the center of the brain that helps us recognize errors. Scientists call it hypervigilance, whereas people tend to call it nagging.

*
*
*
*

ADAM

Can we not do this today? I suck at the eyebrow game.

*
*

She kisses him.

*

LEXI

Oh, I can't meet you for lunch today. I'm taking this new exercise class at lunch. It's called "The Cell."

*
*

ADAM

What is that?

LEXI

They lock you in a big white box and you have to exercise your way out of it. Burns eight hundred calories.

*
*

ADAM

I thought you were spinning now.

LEXI

Spinning made my butt too big.

*

ADAM

Good. I love big butts. Everyone does. Have you heard music?

*
*

LEXI

I just need to lose five pounds.

*

ADAM

No you don't. When you get too thin it makes *me* look like a shallow asshole, when in reality, you're the shallow asshole.

*

She laughs. He splashes water on his face.

LEXI

How come you don't use that
exfoliator I gave you?

ADAM

I did. I used it to jerk off and it
had rocks in it.

LEXI

Adam.

ADAM

I still finished, but it was not
easy. *

Adam bends over to grab a razor from a drawer. Lexi notices a
swollen zit on his back.

JULIA (V.O.)

Grooming causes the female brain to
release endorphins, nature's way of
motivating us to stay hygienic. *
Monkeys do it, lions do it, *
girlfriends do it.

Adam looks up, notices Lexi staring.

ADAM

No. What? NO. *

LEXI

It's probably an ingrown hair. I
can get it. *
*
*

ADAM

It hurts like a bitch. You're not
touching it.

LEXI

You don't let me do anything. You
don't use the scrub, you never used
the gift card I gave you for
Brazilian straightening.

ADAM

You want me to do a "process" on my
hair? Lex, I'm a man. I'm supposed
to look terrible.

LEXI

It would be less poofy.

ADAM

I have a girlfriend now. Who cares?

LEXI

My dad cares. His sixtieth birthday
is next weekend.

ADAM

If your dad has a problem with my
hair, I'll give you a million
dollars.

He puts his shirt on, covering the zit. Off Lexi,
disappointed. *

INT. LUNCH PLACE - BAR - AFTERNOON

CHARLIE (30's, scruffy bachelor) sits at the bar with his
sister ERIN (20's, smart, cool lesbian). He swipes at the
Tinder app, talking to the phone. *

CHARLIE *

You're welcome. (then) Not a match? *

I'm a seven, you're teetering on a *

five. Woman, I was trying to do you *

a favor, tube top. *

ERIN

No, your profile photo is a seven. *

In real life you're a five. Mom *

coddled you way too much because *

your self-esteem does not match *

your face. *

Charlie ogles girls on the phone. *

JULIA (V.O.) *

Perhaps the biggest difference *

between the male and female brain *

is that men have a sexual pursuit *

area that is 2.5 times larger than *

the one in the female brain. This *

can obviously be frustrating for *

girlfriends and wives, but men look *

at attractive women the way we look *

at butterflies: they catch their *

brain's attention for a second, but *

then fly out of his mind. *

CHARLIE

Will you please just judge some *

women with me? I need a lesbians *

help. *

ERIN *

Okay, go. *

He and ERIN play a game where they make a noise for every woman that comes up.

Picture #1

	CHARLIE	ERIN (CONT'D)	*	*
Hrongs.		Werppppp.	*	*

Picture #2.

	CHARLIE	ERIN (CONT'D)	*	*
I'm fun!		Alcoholic.	*	*

Picture #3

CHARLIE
I miss my cats.

ERIN
But not more than I miss ComicCon.

A bartender, MAGGIE (20's, cute, strong) expertly sets down some drinks in front of them.

MAGGIE
Here you go.

Charlie watches her go.

ERIN
She's cute.

CHARLIE
You up? (then) I forgot how to talk to people in person.

ERIN
Yeah, eye contact is so 90s.

CHARLIE
(re: phone)
The problem with this is that women don't get dating apps. They show up with their standards and long-term goals. They have on their profile "not looking for a hook-up." Then get off your phone and be Amish. (Then, into phone) Is she hot?

ERIN
(looking at photo)
A Birkin Bag purse? She's shallow. Yuck.

CHARLIE

I literally did not even see a
purse in this photo. See, you're
lucky. You have the luxury of being
attracted to women but you don't
have testicles making you dumb.

*
*

ERIN

I just can't get turned on by a
girl anymore unless I have respect
for her.

*
*
*

CHARLIE

That's brilliant! No wonder you get
so many chicks. I'm gonna use that.

ERIN

You're hopeless. I'm going to pee.

CHARLIE

That's the only bummer with you.
You're like a dude but you still
have the bladder of a girl.

*
*
*

She laughs, smacks him on the head as she goes. On Charlie's
phone, the bartender Maggie's tinder profile appears.

*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Uh oh. Look who it is.

*

JULIA (V.O.)

Although men have earned the
reputation for being more stoic
than women, they actually have
stronger emotional reactions than
females do. However, due to social
conditioning, within 2.5 seconds a
man changes his face to hide or
suppress the emotion.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

CHARLIE

Oh, barkeep!

*
*

Maggie comes over.

*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What do you think of this girl?

*
*

He shows her the phone. It's her Tinder profile.

*

MAGGIE

God damn that's a hot piece of ass
right there. Is it possible that
her boobs are too big?

*
*

He swipes to more photos. One comes up of her and a kid. *

CHARLIE *
Do you have kids? *

MAGGIE *
I volunteer with kids. That's *
Hector. Don't worry, I don't think *
I'm better than you. I am better *
than you, but I don't think I am. *

He laughs. She pours shots. *

CHARLIE *
So...swipe left? *

MAGGIE *
Yeah, probably make both of our *
lives easier. *

CHARLIE *
Okay. Left it is. *

MAGGIE *
Go for it. *

He holds the phone up. She stares him down. *

CHARLIE *
Fine. I'm gonna. *

MAGGIE *
I'll do it. *

She reaches for the phone. *

CHARLIE *
NO! I'll do it! *

He turns the phone around so him swiping left would actually *
mean swiping right. *

CHARLIE (CONT'D) *
BAM. Swiped *left*. Like I said I *
would. *

She puts out two shots. *

CHARLIE (CONT'D) *
To Hector. *

MAGGIE *
To Hector. Who knows his right from *
his left. *

They clink. Maggie downs her shot. *

INT. JULIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Julia gingerly sips Soylent. She flips through photos of peoples faces expressing every possible human emotion. Her grad student ABBY (26, smart, millennial) hovers. *

ABBY *

Julia, want some coffee or something? *

JULIA *

No thank you. *

Abby deflates. Julia looks concerned. *

JULIA (CONT'D) *

So, in this test, the females were much more adept in identifying fear and sadness than men were. Like, much more. *

ABBY

But the males were better at identifying anger...

JULIA

This disparity is extreme, so I think we should administer the test again to make sure this is right. *

Abby deflates.

ABBY

Can we take a little break first? We've been going since seven. It's three. I mean, aren't you hungry? *

JULIA

I've already had two meals. *

Julia indicates a bottle of Soylent.

ABBY

That weird grey drink is your food? *

JULIA

Soylent is a complete meal replacement. So I don't need to waste time deciding what to eat, unwrapping it, cooking it, chewing it. It's ridiculous. *

ABBY

That can't be healthy.

JULIA

It has every vitamin and mineral
you need. *

ABBY

Can we just go for a walk? Get some
Vitamin D? My thighs are stuck
together. Please! *

Abby holds up one of the photos of a person with a sad
expression. *

ABBY (CONT'D) *

Come on! You're a girl. You're
supposed to be good at identifying
sadness on people's faces,
according to YOUR study. *

Julia relents. *

JULIA

Fine. Fifteen minute break. But
only because brain rest ultimately
improves focus. *

EXT. JULIA'S OFFICE

Abby and Julia walk through a courtyard. Abby sips a
smoothie. *

ABBY

So, what's your deal? Are you
dating anyone? *

JULIA

That's not work talk... *

ABBY

We aren't working. And females need
to bond. You said that in one of
your papers. *

JULIA

I don't date. I refuse to be a
puppet of my brain's primordial
chemical reactions. Our brain is
designed to trick us into
procreating and I'm not falling for
it.

They sit down on a bench.

ABBY

So you've never been in love? *

JULIA

You mean have I had my neurotransmitters swamped with dopamine, norepinephrine, and phenylethylamine because they thought some guy had good genes? Yes. And it was exhausting. So. *

ABBY

So, do you-

JULIA

Of course. (Then) were you going to say masturbate?

ABBY

No, I was going to say get sad. But maybe for you those things go hand in hand. *

JULIA

Look, I get all my needs met. I get dopamine and oxytocin from my dog, emotional connection from my girlfriends, and purpose from my work. All boxes checked. *

ABBY

That's like, a total life hack. *

JULIA

Knowing your primal neurobiology gives you the freedom to live in an evolved way. I don't have to waste time questioning people's motives, over thinking, being insecure, rereading a text message fifty times...I know how my brain works. So, this whole "being a girl" thing? I beat it, bro. I beat it. (Then) What about you? *

ABBY

I just started seeing someone.

JULIA

That's so great! Congratulations. *

INT. NASTY GAL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Zoe sits across from SOPHIA AMOROUSO, (gorgeous and intimidating.)

*
*

SOPHIA

So, Zoe, how do you feel you've been doing?

ZOE

Well, I know I over-estimated how much beach-wear we would move in this stage of the season. I take full responsibility and I've been working with the team to source solutions.

*

SOPHIA

Not your fault. We got screwed by hurricane Bonnie. What a bitch.

*
*

Zoe struggles to stay composed.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

So, I've been thinking and I decided to promote you to Senior Fashion Buyer. I like how you boss people around. It's intense yet not controlling. And your tweets are kinda funny.

*
*

ZOE

Are you joking?

SOPHIA

I have two hundred employees. I don't have time to joke.

Zoe squeals.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

You should probably just thank me and leave.

ZOE

Thank you! Leaving! (then, blurts)
You're so pretty. Sorry!

*

Zoe composes herself, walks out.

INT. NASTY GAL OFFICES - NIGHT

Zoe works at her desk, keeping one eye on Greg's basketball-game on a TV. Greg makes a play, the crowd goes nuts (many wearing his jersey). Zoe pumps a fist.

SPORTS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Basker has the ball. Curry tries to stop him--OH NO! That's a hard fall for Basker.

Zoe looks up at the TV. Slow-mo replay of Greg landing awkwardly and falling to the ground.

ZOE

Oh my god!

Zoe gasps. It looks bad. She grabs her bag and runs out.

EXT. L.A. STREET - NIGHT

Charlie's phone vibrates: a Tinder notification. It's a match. He opens the app and sees that he and Maggie have matched. She left him a message.

Maggie: USE A CONDOM. MAGGIE. (213) 980-8234.

Off Charlie, fist pump.

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: A mans hand hammering a nail into a bare wall. It's Julia's father, BILL, (60's, tired) Julia's mother LYNNE, (60's, a little kooky,) sits at the dining room table with a laptop. Julia plays with her dog on the floor. They're surrounded by boxes in various stages of being unpacked.

LYNNE

Why are you even on Facebook in the first place? Isn't it for perverts?

JULIA

I'm sure there are perverts on there. Four percent of men are sociopaths, so I'm sure there are some on there but it's not specifically for perverts. Can you just please delete those photos, mom?

LYNNE

Okay, but how do I know which ones to delete? You have tons of pictures on here. This is like a jackpot for perverts.an

JULIA

All I need you to do is delete the album that says "wedding."

Julia pulls her dog close, glimmer of sadness in her eye. Lynne scrolls through photos of Julia and ERIC, (30's, cute, sweet looking.) The photos show Julia and Eric on vacations, kissing, etc.

LYNNE

What about the honeymoon album? Do you want to keep that one?

JULIA

Mom. Any pictures you see of Eric, please delete.

Lynne focuses on the computer screen.

LYNNE

He was so nice. And what a handsome couple you were. I still don't understand what happened.

JULIA

He left me, mom. Pretty simple.

Bill hammers a nail into the wall.

LYNNE

Bill, why aren't you using a stud finder?

Bill doesn't respond.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

(to Julia)

Why isn't he using a stud finder?

JULIA

I don't have any tools because Eric took the toolbox. And the plunger. Who takes a plunger in a divorce?

Bill struggles to hammer a nail into the wall.

LYNNE

Bill, you're going to ruin her
drywall. (Then) Bill, say
something.

BILL

(pointed) I love you.

Lynne rolls her eyes. Julia puts her fingers in her ears and
mumbles under her breath. Her system for when they fight.

JULIA

(singing, sotto)
"...Thank you for being a friend,
travel down the road and back
again, your heart is true--"

LYNNE

Great, now she's doing the singing
thing. You know she doesn't like
when we argue-

*

JULIA

No, go ahead. If I've learned
anything in this life it's that I
can't stop you two from fighting.
So knock yourselves out while I
retreat into the safety of my other
family, the Golden Girls:
"...you're a pal and a confidant--"

LYNNE

See what you did Bill?

BILL

(pointed)
I'm so sorry, Lynne. I'm all done.

*

He has hung a modern, plain white painting with a thin black
line through it, equal space above and below the line.

*

*

JULIA

Dad, that's upside down.

*

*

BILL

It is?

*

*

LYNNE

Yeah, it looks ridiculous like
that.

*

*

*

Off Bill, at a loss.

*

INT. GREG AND ZOE KITCHEN - MORNING

On Zoe's wedding ring as she and Greg eat breakfast. The cook, MONA (40's) sets cereal down in front of Craig. *

GREG

Thanks, Mona. You hungry? Want some breakfast?

MONA

Oh, no, no.

GREG

Come on, have a bagel.

Mona nods her head and shyly leaves. Greg turns to Zoe.

GREG (CONT'D)

Does this ever make you feel weird? Having all these people in our house? *

ZOE

We both work. Whose else is going to do all this?

GREG

Yeah, we need a wife.

JIMMY (30's's, scruffy) walks by, fiddling with a plant. *

GREG (CONT'D)

So, do you know this guy or are we about to get murdered?

ZOE

That's Jimmy. You're always on the road when he's here. *

GREG

Oh, hey man.

JULIA (V.O.)

The dorsal preammillary nucleus is the "defend your turf" area in men. It's larger in the male brain and contains special circuits to detect territorial challenges by other males. When challenged, males produce more testosterone, which immediately makes men more confident. *

JIMMY

I'm Jimmy. I'm the plant guy. I take care of your plants.

GREG

That's a cactus...

JIMMY

Gotta change the rocks.

Jimmy sprinkles rocks on the cactus. Greg looks to Zoe.

GREG

I don't need these people in my house doing what I'm perfectly capable of doing.

ZOE

Okay, then how about you oversee the redo of the bathroom?

GREG

How about I just redo it myself so my house isn't full of more strange men? *

ZOE

You're going to build a bathroom? *

GREG

Yeah, just give me the tiles and... other items that I will need. *

ZOE

Building a bathroom takes skill. You have to be able to line up tiles perfectly--

GREG

Zoe, I am a physical marvel. My hand eye coordination is in the .01 percentile. Try me. *

Greg moves his hands around his face.

GREG (CONT'D)

Throw something. Throw anything at me.

She take a spoon, scoops some jelly from a jar and underhand throws it at him. It hits his shoulder.

GREG (CONT'D)

I wasn't ready for that because
nobody has ever thrown jelly
before.

*

She wipes the jelly off him.

ZOE

I have to get to work.

Zoe kisses him, grabs her purse and leaves.

GREG

So do I. I have a bathroom waiting
for me to come refurbish it. Just
got to fuel up first.

Greg sits by himself at the table. After a beat, he looks at
the plant guy, who is now watering a plant.

GREG (CONT'D)

(to plant guy)

So, uh. I take it you watch Between
Two Ferns?

*

Off Greg, holding a basket of various tools.

*

INT. RITE AID - DAY

*

Lexi, carrying a basketful of beauty products, approaches the
self-help check out station. She tries to scan self-tanner to
no avail.

Lisa approaches with a basketful of domestic items: Clorox,
toilet paper, bread. She tries to self-check out, also to no
avail.

LISA

Hey, hey, little lady!

LEXI

Lisa!

*

They hug.

*

LEXI (CONT'D)

I haven't seen you since Adam's
birthday. How have you been?

LISA

Hanging in. Hey, do you have any
idea how to work this thing? Do I
need an app or something?

LEXI

No, I can't get it to scan either.

Beep! Lexi finally scans something.

LEXI (CONT'D)

Yes! I got it!

LISA

Ahh. I feel like I've worked my whole life so I wouldn't be a check out girl at Rite Aid. And yet here I am, being a check out girl at Rite Aid. And not even a good one.

Lexi laughs. Lisa looks over at the beauty products in Lexi's basket.

LISA (CONT'D)

What is all that? Is it Halloween already?

LEXI

No, I mean, that's just my stuff. It's just, you know, products.

LISA

Look at you, all trying and whatnot.

Lexi looks over at Lisa's basket.

LEXI

What do you buy? (Looking) Whole milk? Whoa, Wonder Bread? They still make that?

LISA

I'm forty. I get to eat carbs.

LEXI

God I miss carbs. And gluten...

LISA

(looking at Lexi's cart)
Press on nails? I do not miss those days. I'm telling you, being married is where it's at. You don't have to glue anything to your body anymore. You even get to have pubes!

*
*
*

LEXI

You do?

*

LISA
Yeah. So many.

*
*

LEXI
Well, my mom always says
relationships are like plants, if
you don't clip and water them, they
die.

*
*

This lands with Lisa.

*

LISA
Yeah, that's a good point actually.
I guess white moms know stuff too.

*

They laugh. Off Lisa, contemplating.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Steven and Adam are on a playground of a middle school. Adam
is trying to make a merry-go-round go as fast as possible.

*
*

ADAM
Is this what it's come to? For us
to chill I have to come hang out at
a school? This could get me on
MegansLaw, dude.

STEVEN
I have a family. If you want to
hang out with me alone you have
three options: my work, school, or
next to my house by the garbage
cans.

*
*

ADAM
Hey, what do you think of my hair?

STEVEN
I think less than nothing about
your hair.

ADAM
Lexi wants me to straighten it.
Should I give in?

STEVEN
Of course. If my wife wanted me to
get my hair straightened, I
wouldn't even question it. I would
just go through life looking like
Katt Williams.

*

ADAM

But if I give into this, who knows
what else she'll want me to do.

STEVEN

That's not how it works. She'll
never stop bringing it up. Women
can't beat us up physically, so
they've figured out that the way to
control us is to beat us up
emotionally. Wear down our self-
esteem like little kidney shots to
the soul. (then) That's not how you
do it.

Steven jumps on the merry-go-round.

ADAM

But I'm fine with my hair like
this.

STEVEN

You're spitting in the wind, man.
My wife buys me clothes, tells me
where to be, and what I need to
pick-up. I basically a driver for
PostMates.

ADAM

But do you like that?

STEVEN

Like it? I don't even know what that
means anymore. It's like asking a
zombie if he likes brains, it's not
important. It's actually kind of
liberating that she does
everything. I only have to make
like two decisions a day and
they're usually about when to piss.

ADAM

That does sound cool actually.

TWO KIDS (10) walk by, glued to their iPhones.

STEVEN

Sorry, do you guys need this?

KID

For what?

The kids go back to their iPhones.

INT. EQUINOX GYM - THE NEXT DAY

Adam runs on the treadmill. He spots a guy with great hair doing sit-ups.

MUSIC CUE: "Pony" by Ginuwine.

As he rocks back and forth, his hair flows in SLOW MOTION. Adam watches, envious.

Another guy walks into frame. He undoes a hair tie and shakes out his hair in slow-mo. Adam can hardly take it. *

INT. OBSERVATION LAB - MORNING

Julia analyzes data. The stacks of photos of faces are spread out everywhere. Abby approaches drinking a giant coffee. Julia holds up a happy face over hers. *

JULIA

How are you this morning?

ABBY

Couldn't sleep last night, so I had to take an Ambien which made me groggy, but I just had some coffee so that's helping. And don't worry, if this doesn't work I'll take half an adderall. *

Abby puts a photo of a crazed looking person over hers. *

JULIA

Where do you get all these drugs? *

Abby grabs a external hard drive from her bag and gives it to Julia. Julia plugs it into the computer. *

ABBY

My brother gave me the Ambien and my gyno gives me Adderall.

JULIA

First of all, your gyno's only jurisdiction is your reproductive organs, not your brain. And you shouldn't take your brother's Ambien. That drug metabolizes differently in men and women, so you can't just take the same dose. *

ABBY

That explains A LOT.

JULIA

And why can't you sleep?

ABBY

Well, sometimes I'm just not tired.
But I'm always so tired, you know?

JULIA

So, wait until you're tired then go
to sleep. *

ABBY *

Sounds exhausting. *

JULIA *

Exactly! *

Julia pulls up the file she was looking for. She reads the
data, deflates. *

JULIA (CONT'D)

Damn it. *

ABBY *

What? *

JULIA *

I've done this test four times and
women are still scoring twenty
percent less on spatial tasks. Damn
it. *

ABBY *

The subjects weren't primed, you
took the time limit off... *

JULIA *

There's gotta be another bias.
Maybe I should administer the test
later in the morning. Early in the
morning people usually have lower
blood sugar... *

ABBY *

It sounds like you don't like the
results you're getting. *

JULIA *

The last thing people need is more
ammunition for negative female
stereotypes. "Dr. Brizendine found
that women are worse at spatial
tasks, that's why they can't drive
or read maps. *

(MORE) *

JULIA (CONT'D)

They also shouldn't be president!"
I don't want to be responsible for
that. We'll do it again next week.

*

Julia gets up, Abby follows her.

*

INT. HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Abby and Julia walk down a corridor toward the observation
room. Abby digs around in a folder, pulls out photos of
kittens.

*

*

ABBY

So, why did you have me Google
photos of kittens for six hours?

*

*

JULIA

Well, number one, you probably
would have been doing that anyway
given how much Ambien you take.

ABBY

True.

*

Julia grabs the photos, looks at them non-chalantly.

*

JULIA

Today, we're testing empathy levels
in men. We show the subject images
to see if their supramarginal gyrus
in their cerebral cortex lights up,
which would mean they feel empathy.
And what kind of psychopath doesn't
have an empathetic reaction to a
god damn kitten?

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

ABBY

You?

*

*

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julia and Abby enter to find a subject, KEVIN, masculine,
dimensional, 30's, sitting on a chair next to the FMRI
machine. He looks at Julia. Instant chemistry.

KEVIN

Good morning.

JULIA

Hi.

Julia gets flustered, recovers.

*

JULIA (CONT'D)

Okay...I'm Dr. Brizendine. I'll be administering the test on you today.

KEVIN

I'm Kevin.

JULIA

(way too defensive)

I know. It's on your paperwork. Anyway, you'll be in this module for a couple minutes.

KEVIN

You coming in?

Abby laughs.

JULIA

No.

KEVIN

I was kidding.

JULIA

I know.

A lab technician puts a neck brace on Kevin.

KEVIN

(to Julia)

But if I wasn't and you did want to come in, I wouldn't try anything. Mostly because I can't move my head, so you'd have to do all the work.

Julia tries not to be amused. Abby looks at her, does a funny robot move. Kevin gets on the bed.

JULIA

You'll be seeing various images. The MRI will do the rest. `So, look at them.

Julia lingers too long, then abruptly turns and walks away.

INT. OBSERVATION BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Julia presses a button that moves Kevin into the module. Abby follows her in doing the funny robot walk.

ABBY
(robot impression)
Bee bee boop boop. E.T. phone home.

*
*
*

JULIA
E.T. was not a robot. He was an
alien.

*
*
*

ABBY
That's exactly what a robot would
say! And that guy was totally
flirting with you.

*
*
*

JULIA
He's a guy. He can't help it. He
has to sexualize everything. To his
brain I'm just blow up doll.

*
*

ABBY
He seems sweet.

JULIA
You won't be saying that once we
see inside his brain.

A slide of a kitten appears in front of Kevin's face, also on
Julia's computer.

ABBY
Awww.

Julia indicates the screen showing a map of Kevin's brain.

*

JULIA
If he felt empathy, this area would
light up.

ABBY
But that kitten is adorable.

JULIA
He's not feelin' the kitten.

*

ABBY
It's in a teacup!

*

A slide of a desperate polar bear on a floating ice cap
appears. A sliver of red on the brain map.

*
*

ABBY (CONT'D)
It's lighting up! So he's not a
serial killer.

*

JULIA

That's still on the low end, even
for a guy.

*

A cute baby comes up. They look at the screen. No red.

*

ABBY

Nothing on that baby!? What a
sicko.

JULIA

(pointing)

In females, this whole section
would light up red.

*

*

ABBY

What kind of weirdo doesn't think
that baby is cute?

*

JULIA

All of them. Men are only wired to
respond if it's *their* baby.

*

ABBY

Are you serious?

JULIA

Yeah. Now do you see why I refuse
to participate in society?

*

ABBY

Wow. I'd be depressed if I wasn't
on anti-depressants.

JULIA

You're on anti-depressants?

ABBY

Everyone's on anti-depressants.

*

JULIA

Do you have clinical depression?

ABBY

No. But it's good. I feel less
crazy.

JULIA

That's interesting because you
sound insane.

Kevin's scores show up on the computer.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Kevin here is on the lowest end of the empathy scale. Turns out the guy you thought was so sweet, so adorable is actually the guy who trapped those girls in a basement in Cleveland for seven years.

*
*
*
*
*
*

Off Abby, looking at Kevin, horrified.

INT. STEVEN AND LISA KITCHEN - DAY

Steven stands behind the kitchen counter, chopping a piece of meat with a sharp knife. Lisa enters, lights up.

*
*

LISA

Hey! How are you, babe?

STEVEN

What?

LISA

Just asking how you are.

STEVEN

You haven't asked me that in like five years. I remember because last time you asked me I told you LeBron moved to Miami.

LISA

I know. And that's not cool. Which makes me wonder if...do you think maybe we've given up a little bit?

STEVEN

What do you mean?

Steven walks out from behind the counter, revealing he's wearing crappy shorts and crocks.

*

LISA

You're wearing crocs with socks.

STEVEN

So are you.

LISA

These are flats.

STEVEN

Well, then I got some bad news...

LISA

I just feel like we've stopped trying...we should, like, connect more. I mean, I stage houses for my job. I make old things look new. We should do that for our relationship.

STEVEN

Sounds expensive.

LISA

Remember how we used to dress nice for each other, we had date night, we had sex all over the house?

STEVEN

That was back when our walls didn't have finger paintings all over them. Kind of kills the fuck vibe.

Lisa grabs some various small plants from around the kitchen and puts them under the sink. Waters them.

*
*

LISA

We used to be such a fun couple. We used to do fun things...we had hobbies together.

STEVEN

Yeah, that's back when we were friends. But we have plenty of hobbies. We pay bills together, we have insurance together. We have water damage in the basement together.

*
*
*
*

LISA

I'm serious.

STEVEN

Isn't that the point of being married? You don't have to do all that stuff? We're out of the woods. Now we get to coast. We don't have to pretend we like doing stuff. We can do what we want.

LISA

Which is what?

STEVEN

Not a god damn thing.

LISA

Come on, relationships take work.

STEVEN

I have a job. You want me to work two jobs?

LISA

Yes. I always hear about these couples that become platonic. Their marriages deteriorate and then all of a sudden you have a secret family!

STEVEN

You think I'm gonna take on three jobs?! (then) Fine. I'll take off the socks.

Off Lisa but trying to hide her concern as she stares at his crocks.

INT. FASHION SHOWROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON: a beautiful pair of shoes on A FIT MODEL, 20. She changes outfits behind a curtain. Zoe flips through a catalogue, sitting with sales reps for a British garment supplier, MARCO (30's, British) and HANK (hipster, American), they settle in next to Zoe with coffees.

MARCO

So, Zoe, since it's your first time in the buyer's position with us, you pick a look from the catalogue and our model will show it to you.

Zoe looks through a catalogue

ZOE

Great. The printed maxi dress please.

MARCO

(calling)

Maxi dress, Ash! (then, to Zoe) Your dress is crazy sexy. Puts the nasty in NastyGal.

Zoe is taken aback.

ZOE

Okay, so you can't say things like that.

MARCO *
Sorry. I mean, it's a compliment. *

Silence. *

MARCO (CONT'D) *
So, if I like your outfit I should *
just not say anything? *

ZOE *
Absolutely. *

MARCO *
So girls dress up to call attention *
and then when you get the *
attention, you don't want it? *

ZOE *
This might come as a shock to you, *
but I didn't get dressed with you *
in mind. *

MARCO *
Ya sure? Seems like peacocking. *

ZOE *
I think we've evolved past that. *

MARCO *
Have we? Men and women had one type *
of relationship for millions of *
years. Then forty years ago, women *
enter the workforce and guys are *
just supposed to change *
immediately? *

ZOE *
Forty years is a long time. *

MARCO *
Evolution takes forever. As far as *
my DNA is concerned, forty years is *
like, a second. *

ZOE *
Look, if you want to hold onto *
sexism, I can't stop you. *

MARCO *
I'm not sexist. My body is. *

ZOE *
OK. So, do you have a price break *
for large orders of this item? *

The model walks out in the dress. *

MARCO *

Ashley, turn around, sweetheart. *

ZOE *

No! No need. No need for you to
turn around, Ashley. *

Ashley doesn't know who to listen to. *

ZOE (CONT'D) *

(to Marco) *

I love the dress. We want it. *

Ashley, you can go back in there. *

Don't turn around, just back away. *

Ashley backs away slowly. *

INT. WOMEN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Zoe leans against a stall, crying. She tries to catch her
breath.

She composes herself, organizes her paperwork, dries her
eyes. Back to work.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Abby and Julia walk across the pretty campus. Abby texts.
Julia holds a water bottle.

ABBY

So, I was thinking about the
spatial task thing. Do you think we
could get rid of the bias if we let
people take it again if they want
to? Feeling like you only have one
shot at something is a lot of
pressure. *

JULIA

That's actually a great point. *

ABBY

Or the room being too cold? It's
freezing in there. I can't focus
when I'm cold.

Julia's phone rings.

JULIA
One sec. (Then) Hello?

INT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY - SAME TIME

Intercut Kevin at a contracting job.

KEVIN
Hey, it's Kevin. From the MRI
machine.

Julia panics.

JULIA
How did you get my number?

The look on Abby's face lets us know it was her. Julia
squirts her Abby with her water bottle.

ABBY
Hey!

KEVIN
Stop asking questions. Just let me
be a cutie.

JULIA
I only answered because I thought
someone was in the hospital--

KEVIN
Sorry to disappoint you. So,
there's no cool way to ask this,
but how about you let me see you
tomorrow night?

Beat. We see her speechless for the first time.

JULIA
I have work.

Julia squirts the water at Abby again.

KEVIN
It's a Saturday.

JULIA
I'm a stripper.

KEVIN
Then I'll run into you anyway.

Julia squirts what's left of the water bottle at Abby.

JULIA

I can't date someone in my study.
I'm a scientist and you're--

*

KEVIN

Tired of hearing you boring
excuses.

*

*

JULIA

The stripper one wasn't boring.

*

Julia grabs Abby's purse. She takes stuff out of it and
throws it onto the lawn.

KEVIN

Text me your address, I'll pick you
up at seven. I'm hanging up now.
Love you!

*

*

*

JULIA

I can't believe you gave him my
number!

Julia throws some of Abby's make up onto the lawn.

ABBY

He asked! Was I going to say?

*

Julia throws what's left of Abby's purse.

JULIA

You gave your boss's number to a
test subject? Your generation is
the worst.

Julia walks on as Abby picks up her stuff off the grass.

*

JULIA (CONT'D)

You know what? I would fire you,
but everyone else your age is just
as boundary-less as you.

ABBY

Can you at least help pick this
stuff up?

JULIA

Of course not. (Then, seeing some
prescription drugs) And you don't
need all these pills!

*

Julia grabs two pill bottles off the ground and takes them.

ABBY

That's for my thyroid thing!

JULIA

You don't have a thyroid thing!
You're ten!

(re: Kevin)

You saw that guys brain scans. He
is literally a cro magnon. He's a
cave man.

ABBY

That's perfect for you! You can
have completely detached sex with a
big dumb animal! Sex releases
endorphins, which help with stress,
which could make you way more
effective at work.

Julia ponders this.

JULIA

Well, why didn't you say that
earlier!?

INT. GREG AND ZOE BATHROOM - DAY

The bathroom is a fucking mess. He's been working for days.
There's dust and levels and piles of tiles and caulk guns.

His laptop is open and YouTube videos are playing.

YOUTUBE GUY (V.O.)

"Remember to apply the caulk in
fluid motions."

GREG

(to video)

Yeah, I fucking tried that you self-
assured dickhead! It doesn't work!
Maybe I need to grow a rat tail
like you to be able to make tile
stick to fuckin' walls!

He rips the shower curtain off of it's rings.

GREG (CONT'D)

SHIT!

With this, Zoe walks in from work and sees Greg splayed out
on the floor, panting. He sees her and collects himself.

GREG (CONT'D)

Hey, babe. See, I work all the time now. I'm such a busy bee.

ZOE

I see that. How's it going?

GREG

(out of breath)

Well, I've been testing out a lot of caulks today. And these....these are not the caulks for us.

*

ZOE

Honey, I don't think this is really your wheelhouse. Why don't you just let me call a contractor?

GREG

(out of breath)

A contractor?! Fuck that. I got this.

ZOE

A contractor could probably get it done in a day. And you could use your time for stuff like rehab--

GREG

Honey. We don't need a contractor. What we need is for you to respect your incredibly competent and strong husband. Okay?

ZOE

Okay. Of course.

GREG

How was your first day as senior buyer with all the big shots?

ZOE

(covering)

So good. Met with some brand reps and they're super great to work with. Super nice. Super.

*

*

*

Three tiles fall from the shower. Greg improvises.

GREG

Oh, did those tiles finally fall? Good. Right on time.

EXT. FOOD TRUCK AREA - DAY

A taco falls to the ground as Charlie and Maggie walk along.
He picks it up. *

CHARLIE *

If you don't think I'm going to eat
this taco as if it never fell on
septic pavement, you've got another
thing coming because these were
almost one dollar. *

MAGGIE *

The number one thing I look for in
a guy is a strong immune system, so
let's see what you got. *

He likes her. *

CHARLIE

Including these tacos, I've now
lost sixty five bucks dealing with
you and I haven't seen so much as a
boob. *

MAGGIE

Is that how you judge your life, by
the amount of boob you see? *

CHARLIE

Look, I don't *hate* butts. *

MAGGIE

Just *women*. Got it. *

They laugh.

CHARLIE

So are you really thirty? *

MAGGIE

Yeah, why?

CHARLIE

A lot of people lie on dating
sites. *

MAGGIE

Should I have lied? Should I feel a
deep shame as an unmarried thirty
year old woman? Please sir, take
pity on this old spinster. How old
are you? *

CHARLIE

Thirty-three.

*

MAGGIE

A single thirty three year old man. You know what that means? It's time to upgrade from two roommates to one.

CHARLIE

So what are you doing on Tinder? If you wanted to get a guy to talk to you, you could just like, go to the gym.

*

*

*

*

MAGGIE

Just trying to meet my soulmate, as long as he's not more than three miles away. And if they are more than three miles away I charge extra.

*

Charlie smiles. They walk in silence for a second.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm glad we're at the point in our relationship where we can be quiet and have it be...

CHARLIE

Awkward as shit?

*

She laughs. It starts to rain.

*

MAGGIE

Rain? Since when does California have water?

*

*

CHARLIE

C'mon, there's a sports bar around the corner.

*

MAGGIE

A bar that has sports? My only love sprung from my only hate...

CHARLIE

Let's go, it's pouring. Then again, your shirt is white so I'm quite torn.

*

*

She laughs, pushes him down the street.

MAGGIE

It's only supposed to rain in L.A.
when couples fight in movies. Let's
get in a fight!

*
*
*
*

CHARLIE

Love to!

*
*

INT. SPORTS BAR - LATER

A ball swooshes through a hoop. Charlie and Maggie are
playing pop-a-shot (the little basketball game). Maggie
wins.

*

CHARLIE

God damn it, feminism!

MAGGIE

(doing basketball player)
This is so crazy right now. I just
want to thank God almighty, and my
wife, and all my side bitches.

CHARLIE

I'm going to the bathroom to
convince myself that you beating me
at basketball does not make you a
gay woman.

*

He turns to go.

MAGGIE

You mean go check your Tinder.

CHARLIE

You really think I'm an asshole,
huh?

MAGGIE

Sure do.

He kisses her super quick, but it's great. Catches both of
them off guard.

*

EXT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kevin and Julia pull up in his car.

KEVIN

Abby told me you haven't been on a
date since like the 90's or
something?

*
*

INT. SILENT MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Julia and Kevin are in line at the concession stand. Couples
in front of and behind them holding hands. *

KEVIN

What would you like? Neon yellow
nachos or (re: candy display)
diabetes? *

JULIA

I'll have a hot dog. *

KEVIN

(to employee) *

And I'll have some Sour Patch kids
because I LOVE KIDS. I can't wait
to be a father. *

JULIA

That doesn't work on me.

KEVIN

Right, you're not a girl. I forgot.

JULIA

So, why are you taking my test? If
you're a contractor you don't need
the money. *

KEVIN

Damn right. I'm about to pay for
this hot dog in cold cash. *

He throws a ten dollar bill down like it's nothing. *

JULIA

Why would you do a study that only
pays a hundred dollars? *

KEVIN

My uncle was in the social sciences
department at my college, always
complained normal people didn't
sign up for studies, now I do it
when I have free time. I know, I'm
the best. *

She tries not to be impressed. *

JULIA

If this was a date and I were a
person, this whole shtick you're
doing would actually be working. *

KEVIN

Yeah, but I have a tiny penis,
irritable bowel syndrome, and I'm
prone to seizures where I swallow
my own tongue and blurt out racial
slurs.

*
*
*
*

JULIA

You had me at "tiny penis."

*

The employee sets down a very large hot dog. They can't help
but laugh like kids.

*
*

INT. FANCY OUTDOOR WINE TASTING - EVENING

Steven nibbles on a pig in a blanket. He and Lisa stand in
front of a table with tons of wine. Steven takes a swig.

*
*

STEVEN

Okay, this one tastes like wine.

He sips another wine.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

This one tastes like wine too. Can
we go?

LISA

No, we're staying. I don't want to
waste my Groupon.

STEVEN

Can't we just drink wine coolers in
the garage like normal broke
adults?

LISA

Come on, this is sexy. We're doing
sexy fun things so we're not some
boring married couple.

STEVEN

Me driving us home drunk is sexy to
you?

LISA

Come on, take it seriously.

Steven takes a sip of another one.

STEVEN

You're never going to believe what
this one tastes like: old ass
grapes!

*
*

Off Lisa, embarrassed.

INT. LISA AND STEVEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

Steven now drinks a beer. He and Lisa are tipsy, both trying
too hard to initiate sex. They are on the bed, taking their
clothes off.

*

LISA

Wait, not on the comforter.

Lisa pulls the comforter off.

STEVEN

I thought it was on sale.

LISA

I don't want to mess it up.

*

He gets on top of her. She pulls him in.

STEVEN

Ow! Your ring just cut me!

LISA

It's this engagement ring.

*

STEVEN

I knew I shouldn't have gotten you
a real diamond.

She laughs, but now the mood is dead. They both know it.

LISA

What time does Target close?

*
*

INT. SPORTS BAR BATHROOM - NIGHT

*

Charlie waits in line for a urinal. He takes out his phone
and after a beat, clicks on the Tinder App.

On the App: he has a message. He clicks on it. It's from
Maggie.

*

Maggie: Dickhead, get back here and make-out with me some
more before I sober up.

He laughs and puts his phone away.

INT. ADAM AND LEXI APARTMENT - NIGHT

Adam enters, furious. Slams the door. His hair is straightened. It's unbelievably ugly.

LEXI (O.S.)

Hey!

ADAM

Fuck you!

She comes down the stairs.

LEXI

What? (Then, seeing him) Whoa.

ADAM

I told you!

LEXI

...It's not that bad-

ADAM

I look like Chris Angel! Gay Chris Angel. So, Chris Angel.

LEXI

I don't even remember what he looks like. That's kind of a dated reference.

Adam walks away from her. Lexi follows.

LEXI (CONT'D)

Look, if they should have trimmed it on the sides it would look better. I can trim it if you want--

ADAM

No. No more cutting, no more straightening, no more scrubbing. I'm done. No more notes!

LEXI

I'm just saying, if it was shorter it would look better. I'm trying to help...

ADAM

No, I'm gonna take a shower and hope I can get my hair back.

(MORE)

*
*
*

*
*
*
*

*
*
*

ADAM (CONT'D)
My birth hair. The hair that God
knew matched my face.

Adam goes into the bathroom. Slams the door.

INT. SILENT MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Julia and Kevin sit in the front of the theater. We see the
silhouette of their heads as they narrate a black and white
silent film in old timey voices. The couple on the screen
looks very in love. *

KEVIN
(old timey voice) *
You are the most beautiful lass in *
the world, Agnes! *

JULIA *
But, Harold, how can that be since *
I'm dying of scurvy! *

KEVIN *
It's not your body, it's your mind *
I love! *

JULIA *
But I can't read or vote! *

KEVIN *
I don't care Agnes, it's your *
heart, let's run away together! *

JULIA *
I'm wearing forty pounds of *
bloomers, Harold, I can barely walk *
much less run. *

KEVIN *
Then let's just be together *
forever. Let's build a family! *

JULIA *
I guess I can commit to that, given *
that I'll die during child birth! *

They laugh. CUTE AS HELL. *

INT. MAGGIE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Maggie finish having sex. Charlie gets off of her. He turns over and grabs a box of unopened condoms.

CHARLIE

Well, that was stupid.

MAGGIE

Agreed. But you pulled out and I have an IUD. And I'm gonna just pray to the lord that you don't have anything.

CHARLIE

I don't have anything. Swear.

MAGGIE

Do you have HPV?

CHARLIE

Doesn't everyone have HPV?

MAGGIE

No. But based on that reaction you absolutely do.

CHARLIE

And now you do too.

MAGGIE

No way, I got the prevention shots so I'm immune.

CHARLIE

No, no. My HPV is super strong. They've overcome shots many a time.

Maggie laughs, drinks some water.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

So...you're sure you're IUD is working?

MAGGIE

Yes.

CHARLIE

Don't they sometimes fall out?

MAGGIE

I think I'd notice if a six hundred dollar piece of metal fell out of my uterus. Kind of hard to miss.

CHARLIE

(a little nervous)

But aren't there certain days or something where you are more likely to get pregnant--

*

MAGGIE

I'm sorry. Do you think after knowing you for a day that I would want your...short, paranoid baby?

*

CHARLIE

I just hear stories about girls tricking guys in the NFL.

*

MAGGIE

Easy. You're five foot ten inches and as I recall, horrible at sports.

*

*

CHARLIE

So you don't want kids?

MAGGIE

Who said that? What is it with you and kids?

CHARLIE

Most girls are like obsessed with having kids.

*

*

MAGGIE

Well, maybe when I find a guy who doesn't annoy the shit out of me, yeah.

*

Maggie goes to the bathroom.

*

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go pee. (Then) On second thought, I'm gonna lay down and put my legs above my head so all your sperms have a better chance of burrowing into my ovaries.

CHARLIE

(dead serious) Is that a thing?

MAGGIE

No! Jesus you're paranoid.

*

She gets up. We follow her.

*

JULIA

(V.O)

Now that having children isn't women's only function in society, we can postpone the urge which challenges the "ticking clock" stereotype. Maybe women aren't always going to be as procreation-crazy as everyone thinks.

CLOSE ON: Charlie's anxious face.

JULIA (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

Studies have actually shown that men think about sex roughly seven times more than women do and it's not just about the orgasms, so maybe it's actually *men* who are "obsessed" with kids.

EXT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Julia fiddles with her keys.

JULIA

You coming in?

She opens her door, revealing her barren apartment.

KEVIN

Sure. (then, seeing her place.) Should I call the police? You've clearly been robbed.

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Julia and Kevin enter. Julia gets down to business.

JULIA

I just moved in--haven't really had time to unpack. What do you drink?

KEVIN

Depends on what kind of guy you're into. Tequila if you want me to fall asleep. Whiskey if you want me to yell at strangers in Spanish. Whiskey and Bourbon if you want me to get an unfortunate tattoo and disappear for three days. Your call.

Julia walks around an awkwardly placed wall on the way to the fridge. When she opens the fridge, its filled only with white bottles of Soylent. She opens the freezer, it's empty.

JULIA
(sotto)
Shit.

Kevin feels the wall to see what it's made of.

KEVIN
This is a terribly placed wall. I
can take this down in no time.

Julia fishes through her briefcase and places some office items on the kitchen counter.

JULIA
I don't have alcohol, so here are
our options: we can sniff White
Out, a sharpie, or Rubber cement.

KEVIN
Why do you hate my brain cells so
much?

She moves towards him, seductive.

JULIA
Or we could just try to do this
sober.

She takes off her shirt, revealing a boring bra.

KEVIN
Wow.

JULIA
I know. I swear I have better bras,
but I haven't unpacked them yet.

KEVIN
Yeah, is that a nursing bra?

She laughs, puts his hands on her chest in a very unromantic manner. He feels them for a minute, then pulls his hands away.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I don't think we should do this.

JULIA

That makes no sense. Your
testosterone should be surging and
causing you to make reckless
decisions.

She moves towards him, kisses his neck.

KEVIN

Okay, technically I don't even know
you. You could drug me and steal my
liver. That's happening a lot now
in New Mexico. And old Mexico.

JULIA

I can't steal your liver. I don't
have any ice to put it in.

He gently puts her shirt over her to cover her chest.

KEVIN

I vote we don't sleep together.
It'll just mess things up. And I
want to see you again for some
reason.

He kisses her hand and goes. She's stunned.

EXT. FASHION SHOWROOM KITCHEN - DAY - OMITTED

INT. GREG AND LEXI'S FOYER - DAY

Greg walks on crutches through the kitchen and down the
hallway. On the phone.

GREG

What did the MRI say? But it feels
good. So, the healing isn't ahead
of schedule, but it is on schedule?
Okay, later. (hangs up, then) Zo?
Where are you?! Hello?

INT. LEXI'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Greg opens the door and walks into the unthinkable...Zoe has
her legs up on her desk and is masturbating to something on
her computer. She has headphones on.

GREG

OH MY GOD!

ZOE

No!

She tries to turn the computer off and ends up pushing the monitor off the table onto the floor. It keeps playing.

ZOE (CONT'D)

It's not what you...oh, God this is so weird. This is literally my worst nightmare.

GREG

Small world!

ZOE

Please just out of here!

GREG

I live here! Jesus, what are you even jerking off to?

ZOE

Don't call it that!

It's a FOOTBALL PLAYER having sex with a CHEERLEADER.

GREG

Are you kidding? Little on the nose, don't you think?

ZOE

That's like the first thing that comes up! I mean, you want me to check your browser history there, MILFy?

GREG

Guys are supposed to be gross!

Greg reluctantly walks toward her, unbuckling his pants.

ZOE

What are you doing?

GREG

Well, do you want me to have sex with you-

ZOE

No!

GREG

But you're so horny! You're just going to do that alone?

ZOE
Please just leave!

*

Greg goes.

*

GREG
Fine, I'll leave you alone for your
spank-fest!

ZOE
Don't call it that!

*

Off Zoe, horrified.

EXT. GREG AND ZOE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Greg leans against the wall, aghast.

GREG
What's happening to our family?

INT. CHARLIE'S PARENT'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie BBQ's with his dad, TOM, 50's. Tom wears a cooking
apron that says "get off my grill."

TOM
Why don't you take her word for it?

CHARLIE
She volunteers with kids!

TOM
Yeah, she sounds like a horrible
person.

CHARLIE
She may not even know she wants
kids, you know? Even if she doesn't
think she wants them, her body
does. Her body could play tricks on
her mind. I hear about these guys
who have fun with some hot chick,
and then boom! Next thing they
know, they're taking swigs from
their flasks at Build-A-Bear.

*
*
*
*
*

TOM
Kids now have it too good these
days.

*
*

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

When you were a kid the closest thing we had to Build-A-Bear was putting some dish soap on a garbage bag.

*

CHARLIE

When did you feel like you were ready to have kids with mom?

*

TOM

Like three years ago.

CHARLIE

What?

TOM

No man wants kids; you have kids, then you start wanting them. You figure it out. No offense, but I did not want you at all. Frankly I just started liking you a couple months ago.

*

*

*

*

Tom laughs. Charlie is horrified.

*

TOM (CONT'D)

What? You want me to lie?

*

*

CHARLIE

Yes!

*

*

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

*

Julia texts as she walks into her kitchen. As she turns the corner to get to the fridge, she bumps into the weirdly placed wall. OW.

*

*

*

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - LATER

*

Kevin is there working on the wall. He's taken it down, now smooths it out. He's sweating, kind of dirty. It's hot. Julia watches, conflicted.

*

*

*

KEVIN

You know, underneath this paint, there's actually some really beautiful molding. The bones of this place are good, there's just a lot of superficial damage.

*

*

*

*

*

*

Beat.

*

JULIA
Do you want a water or something?

KEVIN
I was thinking we should get something to eat. Or we can order Chinese, watch a movie?

JULIA
I have to work tonight.

KEVIN
Why are you pretending this isn't a date?

JULIA
Because it's not. You're removing my wall.

KEVIN
You must like something about me because you could've gotten any contractor to this. Frankly I'm overpriced and I have some terrible reviews on Angies list.

JULIA
What do I owe you?

KEVIN
Five hundred bucks. But I'm not taking your money. However, if you want to pay me in favors, I'm not going to fight you.

Julia goes to unbuckle his pants, drops to her knees.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Woah! Woah, what happened to you? That just made me want to fight your dad.

He pulls her up.

JULIA
What's the problem?

KEVIN
Can we maybe kiss first?

JULIA
...the problem with that is I'd produce oxytocin. Which is kind of a disaster.

KEVIN
You might be over thinking this.

JULIA
Why won't you have sex with me?

KEVIN
Because when I do that to quickly,
it always seems to ruin things.
Don't you want to aim a bit higher?

JULIA
No.

Beat.

KEVIN
Okay, then I'm going to head out.
When you can handle being treated
like a human being, let me know.

He takes his stuff and leaves.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(as he goes)
Don't touch the paint! It needs to
dry!

Off Julia, confused.

INT. STEVEN AND LISA KITCHEN - EVENING

Steven is on his laptop. Lisa gingerly walks up behind him
with an evil smile on her face. She spooks him.

STEVEN
Gahhh!

LISA
I got something. From one of the
mail room guys at work.

STEVEN
Do I want to hear this?

LISA
I got some Molly. The drug.

STEVEN
Is that the one that makes you eat
faces?

LISA

It's like the new ecstasy. Let's take it after Ty goes to sleep.

Steven picks up his phone.

STEVEN

Let me just Google it. (Typing) how long is jail time for drugs with kid in house?

He squints, reads the phone.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Minimum forty years...(looks up)
I'm in.

EXT. GREG'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

*

Greg lies on a massage table as a physical therapist, DENNIS, 50's, haggard yet sage, works on his knee.

*

GREG

...and she had headphones on. Who listens to porn?

*

*

DENNIS

Listen to me: you're like the hottest guy I know. (then) I mean, if you're not man enough for her than I'm an eleven year old girl.

GREG

I'm telling you, our vibe is off since I got hurt.

DENNIS

The vibe of the world is off. Nobody knows what to be anymore. Women want to be MMA fighters but also for us to hold the door open for them. They want to make the reservation at the restaurant, but they want us to pay. Like, pick a lane dude.

GREG

I got injured three months ago and we've only had sex like five times. I show the slightest weakness, and it's a turn off.

DENNIS

That's not good. You gotta get your power back. She needs you to be a man. These gender roles are in us, since 5,000 B.C. Choke her, spank her.

*
*

GREG

You chokin' your wife?

DENNIS

Well, she just got a new neck, so now isn't the best time. But I have, and let's just say, a good time was had by all.

GREG

I cant choke my wife. I'm two hundred and fifty pounds--

*
*

DENNIS

Good point, you'll kill her. Then find another way to be the alpha. You gotta show her who's boss.

*
*
*

GREG

Where do I draw the line?

DENNIS

Where you're going, there are no lines, man. I'm telling you, she wants you to be a caveman! (caveman voice) Me man, you woman!

*
*
*
*

Dennis beats his chest a little too hard.

*

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Ow.

*
*

INT. FASHION SHOWROOM

*

Zoe is wrapping up a deal with Marco.

*

ZOE

Well, it was a pleasure doing business with you.

*
*
*

MARCO

The pleasure was all mine.

*
*

Zoe turns to go. As she turns we see Marco looking at her ass. She feels it. She clenches her jaw, keeps walking.

*
*

INT. STEVEN AND LISA LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lisa opens her hand, revealing two pills of Molly. Steven opens his mouth. She places it on his tongue. He grabs a gallon jug of water and washes it down. Then she does. They just stare at each other, expectantly.

INT. STEVEN AND LISA LIVING ROOM - LATER

Steven and Lisa are watching TV.

STEVEN
You feel anything yet?

LISA
I don't know. Do you? *

STEVEN
Not sure. I'm black and I'm
watching Fox news. That's not
normal. *

Steven turns the channel to Bravo. NANCY GRACE is on the screen. They watch. *

NANCY GRACE
Oh, you're definitely high, Steven.
You are too Lisa. You two are high
as fuck. *

Lisa and Steven look at each other and die laughing. *

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lisa and Steven are dancing up a storm. A strobe light is flashing, club music blares. Lisa dances on a table. Steven throws dollar bills at her.

We go wide to reveal that there is no music playing and the strobe light is actually the light flashing from Ty's bike.

LISA
Should we turn on some music?

STEVEN
Is there not music on right now? *

LISA
I don't think so.

They keep dancing like idiots.

INT. TY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steven and Lisa, high as fuck, stare into the camera adoringly. Kissing it, petting it. Finally, we see what they're looking at. It's Ty, their 10 year old staring suspiciously back at them.

TY

What's going on with you two?

LISA

Nothing, baby cupcake.

STEVEN

Just really love you and wanted to let you know.

TY

Are you on drugs?

STEVEN/LISA

What? Why would you say that? We can't just love our son?

They slowly back out of the room.

STEVEN

That's a crazy thing to say to your parents.

LISA

Whaaaat? Boy you watch your mouth!

They scurry off.

EXT. HALL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

They look at each other, laughing.

STEVEN

(whispering) That was so close.

LISA

(whispering)
Our son is a fucking narc! *

STEVEN

I know! We gotta smoke that fool.

They're holding each other to keep from laughing too loud. *

MAGGIES BEDROOM -- OMITTED *

INT. KEVIN'S LOFT - **OMITTED**

*

INT. GREG & ZOE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zoe slips out of the shower, and wraps herself in a towel. The bathroom is still under construction. Greg enters, a gleam in his eye.

GREG

What do you think of my handiwork?

ZOE

It's great. Totally coming along.
Proud of you, babe.

GREG

Are you?

She turns around, sees him there.

ZOE

Oh, hi.

He takes her, kisses her neck.

GREG

Well, I am a man. And I
can...destroy and hammer things.

ZOE

Mmmhmmm...

She getting into it. Greg pulls her hair a tiny bit. She likes it. He lifts her onto the sink.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Are we gonna break it?

GREG

No. Because I build sturdy things.

He tosses her out of frame. Onto the floor. They're having sex. He pulls her hair.

GREG (CONT'D)

You like that?

ZOE

You know I do.

GREG

You like when I'm the man and
you're the woman?

She giggles. Yes. He looks around, at a loss of what to do next. He lifts her up and timidly shoves her face into the toilet.

ZOE
What the fuck?

She fights her way out of it and stops him.

ZOE (CONT'D)
What is wrong with you!

*

She grabs a towel and wipes her face off.

GREG
I'm being a man!

He smacks her a little on the cheek. She smacks him hard across the face.

*

ZOE
STOP!

*

*

GREG
Why is it okay to pull your hair
but not shove your face in the
toilet?

*

ZOE
I don't know, maybe because one is
playful, and one is the place where
our shit goes, you fucking weirdo.

*

GREG
I'm sorry. It's a fine line.

*

ZOE
Between a toilet and not a toilet?

*

GREG
I was told to ask for forgiveness
not permission.

ZOE
What prison inmate told you that?!

GREG
So can we resume? With the sex?

ZOE
No. Because now I have to take
seven more showers.

*

Greg takes the towel from her and hangs it up on a towel rack. The rack falls off the wall.

*

GREG

First thing Monday I will fix that.
First thing Monday.

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Maggie texts Charlie. "Hi." She sees that he's texting something. Then it goes away.

MAGGIE

Oh boy.

INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Charlie is torn. Instead of texting back, he goes to the Tinder app. He starts swiping. He comes upon SADIE, beautiful, 48. He swipes right. It's a match. He types her a message.

CLOSE ON:

Charlie: Congrats on liking me.

Sadie: We used to go to the same gym. You used to flirt by pretending you didn't know how to use the elliptical.

Charlie: THAT'S RIGHT. I knew you looked familiar.

Sadie: Wanna meet for a drink? At my house? Off Charlie, intrigued.

INT. ADAM AND LEXI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam's hair is still straight but more to the side. Lexi notices the zit on his back. It's more red.

LEXI

Babe, that zit looks real bad.

ADAM

It's not a zit, I'm telling you. It feels really deep or something. I'm going to the doctor on Thursday.

LEXI

You're never going to go to the doctor.

(MORE)

LEXI (CONT'D)

And the doctor would just squeeze
the puss out so it stops hurting.
Please.

*

ADAM

Have you not futzed with my body
enough?

LEXI

I'm just trying to help.

ADAM

Jesus, fine.

Adam reluctantly turns around.

LEXI

(so excited)

Oh my god, okay! Thank you!

Lexi goes in to pop the zit.

ADAM

OWWWWW!

LEXI

I'm just trying to...hold on. It's
hard to grip-

ADAM

FUCK! Your nails! You're like a
falcon!

LEXI

Sorry!

She's leans in close to the zit and squeezes even harder.

ADAM

OWWWW!!!

*

*

The zit pops and a blob of bloody puss hits Lexi in the neck
and face.

*

LEXI

Oh my god!

Adam turns around and sees the puss and blood on Lexi's face.
He laughs heartily.

*

LEXI (CONT'D)

This is not funny!

ADAM

How did we not film that? We'd be a
YouTube sensation!

Off Adam, DYING laughing. Lexi is frozen.

INT. SADIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Sadie, (bohemian pretty, 48) lie in bed, post-
coital. Charlie's out of breath. She isn't.

CHARLIE

Are you sure I'm not 48 and you're
not 33?

SADIE

I can't imagine how out of breath
you'd be if you were on top.

He looks over at a framed photo of cute kids.

CHARLIE

Oh, you already have kids. Great.

SADIE

They're not mine.

CHARLIE

Oh. So you don't have any?

SADIE

No kids. I know! I'm a monster!

CHARLIE

I wasn't going to say that. You
just don't hear that a lot.

SADIE

I just never felt the need.

Charlie snickers.

CHARLIE

Were you married?

SADIE

Nope. Plenty of offers, but I don't
know. My friends told me to say
yes, but I told me to say no.

CHARLIE

But what if the right guy came
along?

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Like, what if Jason Statham broke down the door right now, kicked my ass, and proposed to you?

SADIE

I'm listening.

CHARLIE

Okay, so you marry him. And then what? If you don't want kids? What do you do? Just like, have sex and hang out and wait to die?

*

SADIE

I don't think it would be as romantic as that, but yeah, that's the idea. To grow old together.

CHARLIE

Hmm. Well, what do people do with their time if they don't have kids?

SADIE

Well, I still haven't watched The Wire. (then) I mean, I don't think I can even have kids anymore so I don't really think about it.

Charlie sits in silence.

CHARLIE

So, like, no grand kids? What are you gonna do? Have an exchange student come over so you can tell them old person stories? Or start an old person stories podcast?

*

*

SADIE

You really want kids, huh?

CHARLIE

NO! (then) I mean, not right now. But eventually maybe. When if I find a lady that's cool, I'd maybe consider it.

SADIE

Well, there you go. That's reasonable.

*

Off Charlie, pensive.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT - LATER - 3AM

Adam sits on hospital bed. A DOCTOR, 50's, addresses him.

DOCTOR

I've seen a lot, but I gotta say
this is the first time I've seen
someone pop a tumor.

ADAM

Is everything okay?

DOCTOR

We did a fast biopsy, and at this
point I wouldn't totally rule out
some growth underneath the cystic
wall, possibly a Basil cell.

ADAM

Is that, like Cancer?

DOCTOR

Possibly.

ADAM

Cancer cancer?

DOCTOR

I have to acknowledge the
possibility so you don't sue me,
but likely not. Good thing you
caught it though.

Off Adam, freaked. Lexi enters, frantic.

LEXI

What is going on? Why haven't you
answered my texts?

ADAM

I told you not to come. Just leave.

DOCTOR

(to Adam)

Is this the popper?

Adam nods. The doctor smirks, exits.

LEXI

What's happening? *

ADAM

We're done. *

LEXI

What?

ADAM

You popped a tumor. So please
leave.

*
*

LEXI

It's a tumor!? Is it cancerous?

ADAM

Possibly.

*

LEXI

Oh my god! I swear I was just
trying to help--

ADAM

Help? Help would have been, 'Hey,
why don't we got to the doctor
together so you can get that looked
at?' Instead, you picked at me
because I don't look like Brad
Pitt.

*

LEXI

I was just trying to help--

*

ADAM

Stop saying that. You might find
this crazy, but I actually like
myself. I like my curly hair and my
hairy back and my approach to
cystic tumors.

*

Lexi wells up.

LEXI

You're breaking up with me in the
hospital?

*

ADAM

Yeah, I'm sure you can think of
many better ways to do it, to
improve our break up, but I don't
have to do things your way anymore.
So, bye.

*
*
*

A NURSE, 30's, enters.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Now if you'll excuse me, someone is
here to help me. Actually help me.

*

Adams eyes tells her he's done. Crushed, she goes.

INT. CAMPUS - MORNING

Julia walks through campus. Her phone rings. It's Kevin. She sends it to voice mail.

INT. LAB KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

Julia enters. Abby's working. *

ABBY *

Good morning. Did you get in touch with Kevin? He just called. *

JULIA *

That's weird. *

ABBY *

How's the hot Neanderthal intercourse? *

JULIA *

There was none. He wouldn't have sex with me. *

ABBY *

No sex? Woah, he's even kinkier than I thought he'd be. *

JULIA *

Given his brain scans, I can't help but be a little insulted, but maybe he's married or something. *

ABBY *

Julia, I'm sorry. That sucks. *

JULIA *

It's fine. He's exactly what I thought he was. So. It's good, it means our studies are accurate. *

Abby opens a bottle of Advil. *

JULIA (CONT'D) *

What's wrong? *

ABBY *

Migraine. It must be from this stupid new birth control. *

JULIA
Then you shouldn't be on it.

ABBY
But then I'd have a baby. Which
would probably just lead to more
migraines.

JULIA
Why don't you try going off it?

ABBY
I'm way too crazy without it.
Everything makes me cry, everything
pisses me off. I'm a total mess.
You'd hate it. (Robot voice) "I
have no time for feelings."

Julia doesn't like this joke as much as she used to.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Beep beep. Beep beep? Boop?

INT. STEVEN AND LISA BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Lisa struggles to wake up, hung over. She feels the bed for
Steven. He's not there. She realizes she's still fully
dressed. She sighs, defeated.

INT. STEVEN AND LISA LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven is asleep in a dog crate with the dog. Lisa enters.

LISA
STEVEN...

He wakes up and realizes his situation.

STEVEN
Should I be embarrassed about this?
Because I'm not.

Lisa helps him out of the cage. The dog rushes out. Steven
struggles to get out of the crate.

LISA
This didn't work, did it?

STEVEN
I don't think Molly was designed
for people in their forties. I feel
like I got hit in the chin.

LISA

No, I mean, this whole thing. We didn't even have sex on MDMA. It didn't even occur to us! What kind of couple doesn't even have sex on ecstasy?

*

*

Lisa sits, exhales.

*

STEVEN

I think maybe we're just putting too much pressure on this.

LISA

We've spent time together, we've not spent time together, I give you your space, I don't give you space, I'm nice, I'm mean. None of it's working. And it hasn't been working for a while now.

*

*

*

*

STEVEN

(wincing)

I guess there's always couples therapy.

LISA

We don't need that though. I don't have any problems with you. I mean, I don't get mad at you, I don't want you to change...

STEVEN

I've already changed myself in every possible way for you.

*

LISA

There is one thing we haven't tried yet.

STEVEN

I never thought I'd say this, but for once in my life I don't want to have a threesome. I don't want someone else to see how awkward it is between us.

Lisa laughs.

LISA

No, the only thing we haven't tried is breaking up. I mean, maybe we should just call it?

STEVEN

Whoa.

*

Beat.

*

LISA

Honey. Has it ever occurred to you that we should break up?

*

*

*

STEVEN

This feels like a trick.

LISA

Don't you feel like this has maybe run its course or something?

STEVEN

I don't know. I just feel like this is how it's supposed to be. You get married, things are boring, you stick it out. Everyone told me that was going to happen so it's kinda what I expected.

*

LISA

I guess, but I don't want to be a cliché. We don't have to settle for this.

STEVEN

Are you divorcing me?

LISA

Do you want to stay together?

STEVEN

(playful) Of course not.

They laugh.

LISA

There we go! See, twelve years is a success. Most people don't make it half as long as we have. And to walk away on a high note? I think that's honorable.

*

*

Beat. Steven thinks hard.

LISA (CONT'D)

Give me three reasons we should stay together.

STEVEN

The house, our cell phone plan--we get three phones for the price of one. And to cancel it is a nightmare. They keep you on hold forever. So let's just stay together.

*
*
*
*

LISA

(playful) Exactly! We shouldn't stay together because we're too lazy to get a new phone plan.

*
*
*

STEVEN

Ty.

*
*

Off Lisa, concerned.

INT. TY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

*

Ty is in his 10 year old boyishly decorated room, on an iPad. Steven and Lisa enter.

STEVEN

Hey, Bud.

*
*

LISA

Baby, can we talk to you for a second?

TY

Sure, ma.

They sit down on the bed.

STEVEN

I have something to tell you.
(then, panics) Fine, Lisa, you can tell him.

TY

Why are ya'll acting so weird?

LISA

Well, you know mommy and daddy have been together for almost twelve years now. And we were thinking about possibly separating, not for sure--

TY

Okay. Cool.

STEVEN

Huh?

TY

I mean, whatever. Lots of my friends at school have divorced parents.

LISA

Right. Exactly.

TY

So does this mean I get to have two birthday cakes? Two Christmases? Two houses?

*
*

STEVEN

Yes, I think it would mean that. Well, daddy might have to get an apartment if mom is a jerk and takes the house.

Steven looks at Lisa anxiously. She laughs.

EXT. LEXI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - RHODE ISLAND - EARLY EVENING

Lexi carries bags as she approaches the classy, shabby chic house. People mingle outside. Lexi's mother, CHERYL (60's) impeccable, intense, looks around the party, spots Lexi.

CHERYL

There's my baby! Look at you. You look so...healthy.

Lexi takes in the dig.

LEXI

Hi mom.

CHERYL

It's good! Bodies are in now. That super skinny thing is over.

Cheryl air kisses Lexi, missing her face by like a foot.

LEXI

Why are you so tall all of a sudden?

Cheryl holds up the skirt of her long dress.

CHERYL

Sketchers shape ups makes sandals
now! Every hour you wear them you
burn three hundred calories.

LEXI

Where's dad?

CHERYL

He's somewhere. I made him go
change his suit. He looked
ridiculous. You know your dad, he
would wear sweatpants all day if I
let him. (then) Where's Adam?

LEXI

We're taking a little break at the
moment. I mean, he got his own
place, so it might be a big break.

CHERYL

What did you do?

LEXI

Why do you assume I did something?

CHERYL

Okay, then what did he do? *

LEXI

(relents)

I guess I kind of annoyed him.

CHERYL

What happened?

LEXI

Well, I was just trying to--

Lexi notices that Cheryl is rocking back and forth.

LEXI (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

The camera pans out to reveal that Cheryl is lifting her leg
behind her in tiny pulses while standing.

CHERYL

I read an article that said you can
work your butt if you do this for a
minute during every conversation.
By the end of the day you could
have twenty minutes of working out.
(Then, noticing) Hi Jane!

(MORE)

*
*
*
*
*

CHERYL (CONT'D)
(Then, to Lexi) People are coming.
Do you want to change?

*
*

LEXI
I'm changed. These are my clothes.

*

CHERYL
Well then at least put your hair
up, it's all in your face. What
happened to your eyebrows?

LEXI
Mom.

Cheryl pulls out lip gloss. Applies it perfectly without
looking.

CHERYL
It's a lot of brown.

LEXI
Mom, just...stop.

CHERYL
I'm just trying to help.

Beat. This hits Lexi. Cheryl holds out the gloss.

CHERYL (CONT'D)
Gloss?

LEXI
No, no gloss. And please stop
nitpicking my appearance. I'm
thirty years old. I mean, why would
anyone want someone constantly
trying to pick apart their
appearance!? It sucks.

*

Lexi's eyes well up, realizing she's been an asshole. She
turns to go upstairs.

*

CHERYL
(holding the gloss out) It's
Chanel!

*

Cheryl is left there, still doing leg lifts.

INT. KEVIN'S LOFT - NIGHT

Kevin FaceTimes Julia. It rings once and is sent to voice
mail. Kevin is bummed.

*

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Julia watches a horror movie alone.

INT. KEVIN'S LOFT - NIGHT

Kevin scrolls through Julia's Facebook page. He sees that they have a mutual friend. He clicks on the mutual friends page, going through pictures. He clicks through photos she's tagged in and comes across a photo of people at a wedding.

Julia is in a beautiful wedding dress. The photo is captioned as "J and E's wedding." Kevin processes. *

INT. GREG & ZOE HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Greg enters, hears banging coming from the bathroom.

INT. GREG & ZOE BATHROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A WORKER is doing reconstruction in the bathroom.

GREG

Excuse me? The hell are you doing?

WORKER

The lady hired me to fix this.

GREG

Well, she's not authorized to do that. I am the man and I am in charge of what goes on in this house.

WORKER

Well, she paid me, so.

GREG

Okay, well, you can leave now. Sorry about the mix up.

WORKER

I have a work order. She paid me.

GREG

I'm the lady's husband and it's cancelled.

WORKER

I'll just finish up, then be on my way. Whoever tried to fix this before really fucked it up.

GREG

I'll smash you in the face with that hammer, dude.

WORKER

And then I guess I'd sue you.

GREG

Great. See you in court. I'll be the guy with the most powerful legal team in the country wearing a gorgeous blue suit.

*
*
*
*

WORKER

(sotto)

Probably the only team that will want you. Lakers till I die, bro.

Greg snaps, shoves the handyman. They grapple, although it's tricky because Greg is trying to keep his knee out of the scuffle. Zoe enters.

ZOE

Hey, hey, hey! Stop!

GREG

What the fuck, Zo! You hired him without asking me?

ZOE

It was supposed to be a surprise--

Greg pulls away from the guy.

GREG

You should have let me finish it myself.

ZOE

(to worker)

Sir, can you excuse us for a moment.

The worker goes.

WORKER

See, I'll listen to *her*.

*

Greg tries not to explode. The handyman exits.

GREG

Very clever, guy who spends ninety percent of his time in bathrooms!
(then, to Zoe) Why are you even home? It's noon.

*

Beat.

ZOE

I quit. I quit my job.

GREG

What?

ZOE

I just thought it was what I was supposed to do; get promotions and make money. I didn't just wanna be some rich guys housewife.

*

*

*

GREG

Don't worry. I probably won't be rich for that much longer. My money managers probably steal from me.

*

*

*

*

ZOE

I felt like if I wasn't working 24/7 I was letting all women down or something. But it just wasn't the right fit.

*

*

*

*

*

GREG

So do something else. You can start a nonprofit, make ugly handbags?

*

ZOE

I don't know. But I think whatever I decide to do next, I'm gonna be my own boss.

*

GREG

That's hot.

ZOE

But first I'm going to take some time off because I'm pregnant.

GREG

Are you shitting me?

ZOE

Clean up your language. You're a dad now.

Greg is stunned, then he grabs her hard. They hug and kiss.

GREG

Holy shit! Wait, when? It's mine,
right?

He laughs.

ZOE

You're in the NBA. Of course it's
yours.

GREG

From when?

ZOE

From the toilet night.

GREG

We're having a toilet baby?

ZOE

Well, you are from Alabama.

He lifts her up, spins her around, sits her on the counter.
Suddenly one of the faucets spurts on and water explodes
everywhere. The worker appears in a small hole in the wall.

WORKER

You could never do what I do, bro!
You don't got the gifts! You got no
gifts! KOBE forever!

INT. JULIA'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Julia works in her office. Kevin enters. Abby follows.

KEVIN

Hi.

Julia is taken aback.

JULIA

Hey. I'm at work...

ABBY

I tried to stop him but then I
realized I didn't want to!

Abby disappears.

KEVIN

Why are you avoiding me?

JULIA
I've just been busy. *

KEVIN
That's what I say to girls when I
don't want to date them. *

JULIA
Can we talk about this later?

KEVIN
I say that too.

JULIA
Okay. *

KEVIN
Why are you messing this up? I like
you. *

JULIA
No, you're probably just having
dopamine withdrawal. *

KEVIN
You can't tell me what I'm feeling. *

JULIA
I actually can. I've seen your
brain scans. So, you can pretend
and or play this game for your ego
or whatever-- *

KEVIN
I'm not pretending. *

JULIA
Your neurology disagrees. You
didn't have empathy for a kitten. *

KEVIN
So? I'm not a cat person. I'm
allergic to them and they're rude. *

JULIA
Look, I don't do this whole
passion, love thing. I'm just "not
that kind of girl." *

KEVIN
You're totally that kind of girl.
You're the one whose pretending. *

JULIA *
Really? *

KEVIN *
You were married. *

Beat. *

JULIA *
Yeah. Even more proof that this is *
impossible. *

KEVIN *
Brain plasticity. Or elasticity? *

JULIA *
Plasticity. *

KEVIN *
Yeah. I Googled it. It says that *
our brains can change. So, now *
what? *

JULIA *
Please just drop it. *

He relents. Turns to go. As he goes... *

KEVIN *
For someone who studies women, you *
sure hate being one. You should *
take one of your own tests *
sometime. *

This hits Julia. She watches him through the window as he
walks to his car. Off Julia, pained.

INT. OBSERVATION BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

Julia enters. Abby is on the computer.

JULIA *
Can you load in some slides I *
haven't seen please? *

ABBY *
Okay...

INT. FMRI - CONTINUOUS

Julia is in the FMRI machine. She looks at a slide of a bunny *
snuggling with a baby pig. Then one of a baby and a pit bull *
puppy. *

INT. OBSERVATION BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Abby and the tech watch. Julias brain is lighting up. *

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julia looks at a photo of twin babies. *

INT. OBSERVATION BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Abby and the tech watch her brain activity. Julia's frontal
lobe is completely red.

TECH

Whoa. She's human. *

Abby scribbles notes.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A slide comes up of a sweet, old couple holding hands. Julia *
stares at it. She's visibly affected by the pictures. Tears *
stream down her face. *

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Julia enters, emotional and anxious. Abby smiles. *

JULIA

What? *

ABBY

I have good news and I have bad *
news. And they're both the same *
news. You scored in the ninety- *
eighth percentile. *

Julia can't help but laugh a little. *
*

JULIA

Oh god, I'm such a girl! *

INT. ADAM'S NEW APARTMENT

Adam makes food in his new, unpacked apartment. A knock at the door. He turns the burners down, opens the door. Reveal Lexi: she has no make up on, has freckles, and her hair is frizzy.

ADAM

Can I help you? (then, realizing)
Lex?! Fuck. Jesus.

LEXI

Hi.

ADAM

Holy shit. You look so pale. Is that a wig? Do you have mono?

LEXI

No, this is what I look like. No make-up, no hair straightening, no tanner, no false eye lashes, nothing.

ADAM

Did your place burn down?

LEXI

I just wanted to show you that I can stop. I can stop trying to change you. Because it feels terrible. My mom criticized me my whole life and I guess I sorta caught it. I thought when you love someone you change them, you change yourself--

*
*
*

ADAM

Why would you want to change yourself? You look gorgeous like this. You have freckles! They're so cute.

*

LEXI

Really? I always thought I had to cover them up to look perfect...to "get an even skin tone for spring and summer."

ADAM

No way, they're hot. You look like the Wendy's girl. I love Wendy's.

LEXI

I'm trying to say I'm sorry. And I would like to try again.

ADAM

I will try this again with you if you can handle getting demoted to just girlfriend. You're no longer my stylist, my nutritionist, my beautician, my personal trainer, my doctor...

LEXI

The perfectionist in me can't stand it, but I accept my demotion.

ADAM

I really don't want to have to say this, but when you try to change me, it hurts my feelings. I know society says I'm not allowed to admit that I have feelings, but I guess I do.

*
*
*
*
*
*

He pulls her in for a hug. He musses up her hair.

*

LEXI

I'm so sorry.

*

ADAM

Ooh. I like your hair this way! Are you Dominican?

*

They laugh.

EXT. STEVEN AND LISA BACK YARD - DAY

A casual party. People mingle. Lisa talks to a girlfriend, LINDSAY, 40.

LINDSAY

So, did he cheat?

LISA

Nope.

LINDSAY

You can tell me.

*

LISA

I'm telling you, our relationship ran its course. That's it. We still love each other very much.

*
*

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

And we wanted to have this party to try and take the stigma off divorce.

LINDSAY

Right. (then) Online affair?

LISA

(at a loss) Sure. Fine.

LINDSAY

I knew it!

Lisa spots Steven walking into the party.

LISA

Hey, nobody believes that you didn't cheat on me!

They hug.

STEVEN

I can't tell if that's an insult to me or you. Damn girl, look at you in those heels. Divorced a week and you're already wearing heels.

*

*

LISA

I haven't worn heels in ten years and they're killing me. Maybe we should get back together. This is bullshit.

*

*

STEVEN

Too late. I just got my own debit card.

Steven takes his jacket off to reveal a 90's shirt.

*

LISA

I thought I threw that shirt away.

STEVEN

You did, but I resurrected it from the trash. Single Steven is back!

Steven grabs a plate of food. Lisa notices a pretty girl, (30's) enter the party.

LISA

Oh look, Rebecca is here. You should go talk to her.

STEVEN
Why would I talk to her?

LISA
You've always had a crush on her.

STEVEN
No I haven't. Pssssh.

LISA
We're divorced, you don't need to lie to me anymore.

STEVEN
Oh, right! I can be honest now.
(then) That girl is fine. *

LISA
Go say hi.

STEVEN
Okay, okay.

He gathers his courage, Lisa brushes him off as he goes.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
What do I do again? Talk about the news?

LISA
Just ask her about herself. And don't do that thing were you lick your teeth!

He gives her a thumbs up and approaches Rebecca.

STEVEN
Hey, Rebecca. You look slammin'.
People don't say slammin' anymore
do they? *

Rebecca looks at him like he's insane.

STEVEN (CONT'D)
Sorry, I'm out of practice.

REVERSE ON: Lisa, smiling.

EXT. MAGGIES BAR - NIGHT *

Charlie walks up to the bar. He presses play on his phone, holds it above his head. The phone plays "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel. He waits there for an awkwardly long time. *

CHARLIE
(calling)
Maggie?

A GIRL walks toward the bar door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Excuse me, could you ask the
bartender to come closer to the
windows?

The girl looks at him like he's insane.

INT. MAGGIE'S BAR

Charlie enters, annoyed. Walks up to Maggie and continues to
play the song.

MAGGIE
What are you doing?

CHARLIE
This is the song from "Say
Anything."

MAGGIE
Say what?

CHARLIE
You haven't seen "Say Anything?!"

MAGGIE
No.

CHARLIE
I'm John Cusack.

MAGGIE
The guy from National Treasure?

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Who?

CHARLIE
Never mind! Anyway, You win. I
decided I'll date you.

MAGGIE
Wow. I feel like I'm in a fairy
tale! (then) You can leave now. Go
play your shady games on someone
else because I'm too grown for this
shit.

He puts his phone on the bar. *

CHARLIE *
Here. Take it. *

MAGGIE *
Why would I want the old iPhone. *

CHARLIE *
I want to be able to trust me. So, *
you can take me off Tinder, *
Twitter. I'll take off the tinted *
screen so when you're next to me *
you can read my texts. *

MAGGIE *
You have a tinted screen? *

CHARLIE *
I said I'll take it off! (then) *
So, are we dating or not? *

Maggie takes the phone, deletes a couple Apps we don't see. *
Gives the phone back to him. *

MAGGIE *
Now we can date. *

He looks at his phone. *

CHARLIE *
You got rid of Angry Birds! Are you *
insane! *

She pulls him in for a kiss. Cuties. *

INT. TED TALK - PRESENT MOMENT *

JULIA *
After years of research I found *
that male and female brains are *
wired very differently. Frankly, I *
was disappointed by the results *
because they didn't feel like *
social progress, so I kept looking *
for a bias. I re-did the studies *
over and over and it turns out that *
there was a bias in the study. A *
subjective, very problematic bias. *
That bias was me. *

The crowd rumbles. Someone who had been texting the whole *
time looks up from their phone. *

JULIA (CONT'D)

I went into all this thinking that girls being more emotional, sensitive, and communicative was a bad thing because our society makes us feel so ashamed of it. I viewed these qualities as weaknesses, but that was a flaw in my approach and in some ways, my life. The truth is, these stereotypical female qualities are actually strengths. Baby proofing a house, writing a thank you note, leading by consensus...those all sound pretty good. The chemicals our brains release are what life's about. When I look at life as a scientist, I see a woman at the park experiencing "a secretion of dopamine and oxytocin." But as a human, I see a woman at the park watching her child take his first steps.

*
*
*

INSERT: Abby backstage watching. She tears up.

JULIA (CONT'D)

We can choose science and proof or we can choose beauty and uncertainty.

(tearing up)

Oh, Jesus, here comes the prolactin. I mean--I'm emotional and I'm gonna cry.

*
*
*
*

The crowd laughs.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Julia awkwardly leaves the stage.

*

INT. TED TALK - BACKSTAGE

Abby's face is wrecked from crying. Julia hugs her.

ABBY

That was so good! (then) Sorry, I'm a mess.

*

JULIA

It's good! Crying is healthy.

*

Julia starts to cry too. *

ABBY
Thank god because it feels so good! *

JULIA
I know! It does! *

A guy enters, is weirded out. *

JULIA (CONT'D)
Cam down, sir, they're just
emotions! *

ABBY
Yeah! Do not shame us for having
feelings! They're healthy so you
can walk on, sir! *

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - LATER *

Julia opens her fridge. She runs her fingers over the wall
Kevin fixed, pensive. She notices something. *

CLOSE ON: A tiny heart Kevin carved into the wall. *

INT. THE LAST BOOKSTORE *

Julia enters the charming bookstore. A couple people browse.
She turns a corner to see Kevin, in his work clothes,
building shelves.

JULIA
Hi.

Kevin looks up. *

KEVIN
Oh, look who it is. Dr Strange-
ly...hates love.

JULIA
You vandalized my apartment. *

Kevin goes back to his work. *

KEVIN
How did you even know I was here?
Did I reveal all my location
coordinates in your scans? *

JULIA *
You Instagrammed it. *

KEVIN
I don't know if this is a good idea *
for me. I read some of the papers *
you wrote online. Bleak stuff. *

JULIA *
I saw my brain scans, so. I'm here *
to tell you I'll stop pretending. *
And I'll go on a real date. *

KEVIN *
You can honestly tell me you think *
relationships work. *

JULIA *
No. I can't tell you that. *

KEVIN *
You really need to watch more *
romantic comedies. That is not what *
the girl is supposed to say when *
she tries to get the guy back. *

JULIA *
Look, this is just a bunch of *
chemical reactions that eventually *
peter out-- *

KEVIN
Here we go.

JULIA *
You're gonna think other girls are *
pretty, you're gonna forget my *
friends names, you're going to make *
me cry and I'm gonna get jealous *
and insecure and paranoid and it's *
really gonna suck sometimes, but *
I'm ready. *

KEVIN
I would never intentionally--

JULIA
You're gonna break my heart. But
that's okay. It'll be worth it.

Julia tears up. Kevin puts his tools down, puts his arms
around her. Leans her onto a book shelf.

KEVIN

I think you might break my heart.

JULIA

God I hope so!

KEVIN

That is NOT what you're supposed to say!

They laugh, kissing as we pan out over the numerous books, *
whose wisdom our characters are not taking, whose romance
they're choosing to buy into.

The screen turns BLACK AND WHITE like the silent movie we saw *
earlier. In old movie cursive, over the screen is written...

THE END. *