

XMAS

August 1, 2014

Address
Phone Number

Sleigh Bells ring...

And now, the VOICE of SIR IAN MCKELLAN or SIR BEN KINGSLEY or some other IMPORTANT-SOUNDING BRITISH PERSON, intoning:

VOICE (O.S.)
*'Twas the night before Christmas,
and through every borough...*

1 **EXT. SKYLINE**

1

We STREAK ACROSS snowdusted skyscrapers...

VOICE (O.S.)
*The children were snuggled, their
presents wrapped thorough.*

We BOOM DOWN to Park Avenue, HURTLE PAST a line of lit trees, through an UPPER EAST SIDE APARTMENT, where 2 YOUNG BOYS sleep tight in bunkbeds.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*But our tale's not about Santa, or
children, or presents--
(beat)
It's not about giving or learning
life lessons--
(beat)
It's not about Spongebobs or My
Little Ponies--*

3 **EXT. NY STREETS**

3

We push through thinly populated streets, past dimly lit storefronts. FAO Schwartz. Saks Fifth Avenue. To DOWNTOWN,

VOICE (O.S.)
*It's about three dudes, three bros--
(beat)
Three Ride or Die Homies...
(beat)
For one fateful Christmas, 10 years
from the last--
(beat)
Two friends helped another. His
father had passed.*

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

ETHAN FLETCHER, 22, stands at the grave of his father. His two friends, CHRIS ROBERTS, 22, and ISAAC GREENBAUM, 22, stand by his side.

VOICE (O.S.)

His mother was Jewish, his Papa was gone--

(beat)

It seemed, for him, Christmas had sung its swan song.

(beat)

And as he sat alone, on a sad Christmas Eve...

(beat)

His friends, they came over, with much booze and weed.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

DISSOLVE to ETHAN FLETCHER, who sits with his two friends. Chris hands him a beer. Isaac hands him a bong.

VOICE

With tears and with sadness, they sat by their friend--

(beat)

Then they said "No more crying. This sad shit must end."

Now, the three friends toast:

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Christmas used to be about family...

(beat)

Now it's all about friends.

7

EXT. WOLLMAN RINK - NIGHT

7

Isaac, Ethan and Chris climb a fence, drop into the famous Central Park ice skating rink.

VOICE (O.S.)

That first night was magic, for all of this crew...

(beat)

An athlete, an orphan, a self-hating Jew...

(beat)

(MORE)

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*That night was mad special. That
 night was, well, new.*

8 **EXT. WOLLMAN RINK - LATER**

8

They slide across the ice. Chris checks Isaac into the boards.

VOICE (O.S.)
*They hung with each other, did all
 sorta stuff...
 (beat)
 They drank many drinks and fucked
 many shits up.*

9 **EXT. PAPAYA KING, ST. MARK'S - NIGHT**

9

Ethan and the guys order a late-night drunken meal.

VOICE (O.S.)
*Then then one fateful night, 'round
 2004...
 (beat)
 They realized their Christmas could
 be so much more...
 (beat)
 That eve, at Papaya King, they saw
 quite a sight...
 (beat)
 Fellow seekers of joy having one
 crazy night...
 (beat)
 And there was a woman, so thin and
 so tall. They worked up the
 courage, proceeded to call:*

ETHAN
 Excuse me, Miss...

VOICE (O.S.)
*Ethan said, and she turned with
 with a fright.*

ETHAN
 Where were you guys partying
 earlier tonight?

The woman stands on the table:

WOMAN
 At a place so great, words cannot
 describe.

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

With so many drinks for one to imbibe. With so many drugs, I can't believe I survived.

(beat)

Musicians and actors, athletes and models.

(beat)

I even saw Britney Spears fuck herself with a bottle!

She throws confetti into the air. The guys look at each other. That was weird.

ETHAN

What the fuck...

VOICE (O.S.)

Ethan asked.

ETHAN

Is this party called?

WOMAN

Why, you haven't heard? It's the Nutcracker Ball!

10 **EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

10

The guys, on a snowy street, interrogate festively attired people:

VOICE (O.S.)

They asked all around, but to no avail...

(beat)

Where was this great party? This whitest of whales.

11 **EXT. SNOWY STREET - NIGHT**

11

The guys, in regular winter clothes, wander through a blizzard, a COMPASS guiding them.

12 **EXT. SNOWY STREET - NIGHT**

12

The guys, in Christmas sweaters now, wander through a blizzard, holding their phone, their COMPASS APP guiding them.

VOICE (O.S.)
*They wandered through snow. They
 wandered through hail...*

13 **EXT. PARTY ENTRANCE - NIGHT**

13

A bunch of people, dressed up, enter a door. The guys approach, and the door is slammed in their face.

VOICE (O.S.)
*And though year upon year, they
 tried and they failed.*
 (beat)
*They never did tire. They never did
 bail.*
 (beat)
*For though it was windy. And though
 it was cold--*
 (beat)
*Their resolve was unyielding. Their
 spirit was bold...*

14 **ROCKEFELLER CENTER - LATER**

14

We RUSH TOWARD the top of the famous TREE...

To find a HAND, reaching for the star. Fingers stretching...

VOICE (O.S.)
*Yes, this was their Christmas. A
 sight to behold...*

We CREST the TIP OF THE TREE to reveal Ethan. Drunk. Giggling. He's almost got the star in his grip, when...

He falls hundreds of feet to the ground, hitting branch...

After branch. After branch. Until...THUMP.

He's face down in the snow.

VOICE (CONT'D)
So they vowed--

He turns. Isaac and Chris lie right next to him, hands behind their backs. Through bloodied teeth, Ethan spits out:

ETHAN
 Let's do this forever.

CHRIS
 Or until we get old.

2 NYPD COPS look down at our three heroes, shake their heads.

Isaac throws up.

SUPERTITLE: 10 Years Later. Christmas Eve.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

We PAN OFF a modest, Charlie Brown-lookin' Christmas tree to a TV playing "Die Hard", past a set of turntables, and finally...

To ETHAN FLETCHER, 10 years older. In CU, Ethan drops Bing Crosby onto his Technics. He scratches into a Christmas carol...

Pours himself some egg nog...

Plays some guitar along with his Bing Crosby mashup. *

Takes 2 CHRISTMAS SWEATERS from a musty drawer, takes a STEAMER TO THEM...

Folds them, puts them in a gift box...

Drops them into a red FELT SACK...

And looks in the mirror. He puts on a TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER, smooths it out, stares at himself, smiles a wicked smile:

ETHAN
Merry Christmas, bitches.

16

EXT. CROSBY STREET HOTEL - DAY

16

Chris, 34 now, walks through the lobby of the Crosby Street Hotel. He finds 10 GUYS, waiting for him, asking for his autograph. He takes a few selfies with them. Now, a fan holds out a 8x10 glossy of a shirtless Chris drinking a Red Bull:

CHRIS
(playful)
C'mon guys. This is bullshit! You don't have Bill Cosby out here signing boxes of Jell-O. I'm a professional athlete; I'm not just some pitch man.

A BELLMAN approaches:

BELLMAN

Your car is here, Mr. Burns.

Outside, we see the RED BULL LIMOUSINE -- the LARGEST LIMOUSINE YOU'VE EVER SEEN, emblazoned with the Red Bull logo.

CHRIS

Thank you.

(beat)

Happy Holidays, you guys. From Red Bull.

He hands them little bottles of Red Bull.

INT. RED BULL LIMO - NIGHT

Chris pours himself a drink, sits in the limo, watching TV. It's ESPN Plays of the Year:

STUART SCOTT

And the number one play of the year...

(beat)

Who could forget, Philadelphia's Chris Roberts...

On screen: Chris makes a BEAUTIFUL DIVING CATCH.

Chris sips the drink.

18

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - DAY

18

DOLLY PAST several perfect blonde and blue-eyed children, all seated at a giant table ready for Christmas dinner. And we find Isaac, sitting, somewhat uncomfortable. A little blonde girl looks at him, confused:

LITTLE GIRL

So what are you?

ISAAC

I'm Jewish.

LITTLE GIRL

What's that?

ISAAC

It's not that different than what you are. We both come from the same place, but we kind of believe in different things.

LITTLE GIRL

Is that why you look different?

ISAAC

What do you mean?

LITTLE GIRL

Your hair is curly and brown and you have a big nose. And you just look funny.

ISAAC

That? That's because of inbreeding.

LITTLE GIRL

What's inbreeding?

ISAAC

See, Jews are encouraged to marry other Jews but we're all from the same village. So it's technically inbreeding. It's kinda like--have you ever seen Game of Thrones?

LITTLE GIRL

No.

(beat)

Where's your mommy and daddy?

ISAAC

My mommy lives in Palm Beach. And my daddy--he's just not around anymore. He and my mommy split up right after I was born. He's what we call a rolling stone.

LITTLE GIRL

Did you marry Aunt Betsy so you wouldn't have a Jew?

ISAAC

No. That's just one of the wonderful byproducts of that decision.

Now, CINDY, mid-30's, Waspy, interjects:

CINDY

Isaac, what are you telling her?

ISAAC

I'm talking to her like she's an adult.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Isn't that what you're supposed to do with a kid? Talk up to them?

CINDY

No, Isaac. You don't talk that way to other people's kids.

ISAAC

Oh. I'm sorry. I didn't know that.

CINDY

Sweetie, come help mommy in the kitchen.

Cindy scoops up her child, leaving Isaac alone, feeling insecure. And now, BETSY, Isaac's wife, 30 and very pregnant, approaches. She kisses him on the cheek.

BETSY

You'll be fine, babe. You still have a month.

Isaac takes a very reserved sip of wine.

...And now, the doorbell rings. Isaac leaps up:

ISAAC

I'll get it.

He runs out of the room.

19

INT. ISAAC'S FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

19

Isaac opens the door:

ETHAN

Merry Christmas!

ISAAC

Hey, man! Great to see you!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ethan and Isaac enter the living room.

BETSY

Hey, Ethan.

ETHAN

Hey, Betsy. Wow! Look how big you are!

*
*

BETSY
You don't know a lot of pregnant
women, do you?

*
*
*

ETHAN
Oh yeah. I mean, you look tiny!
Hope your baby's okay in there.
Must be cramped.

*
*
*
*

BETSY
Just stop. Great to see you.

*
*

ETHAN
(beat)
Got a little something for you.
Merry Christmas.

*

He hands her an envelope. She opens it, pulls out a little
shirt with a yellow W on it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
It's a Wu-Tang onesie! For the Half-
Jewish Bastard.

BETSY
Jew-Faced Killer.

ETHAN
JewZa.

ISAAC
Guys, this is hurting my feelings.

Ethan walks right to the wet bar.

ETHAN
Isaac, you want a drink?

ISAAC
No, thank you.

Ethan pours himself a lot of scotch. As the doorbell rings.

ETHAN
It must be Chris! I'll get it.

Ethan walks to the door, opens it. We see Chris.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Yo!

They share a hug.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Awww. I missed you, man.

CHRIS
Ha ha. All right. All right, yeah.
Me too.

Ethan holds him tight.

ETHAN
I am so proud of you. That TD
against Miami? Sick. You are having
such a great season.

CHRIS
Yeah. Thanks, man.

Ethan doesn't break the clinch.

ETHAN
I'm making you uncomfortable,
aren't I?

CHRIS
Very.

ETHAN
One more second. Just let me
breathe you in.

Ethan escorts Chris back into the

21

LIVING ROOM

21

He enters with Ethan, gives Isaac and Betsy a hug. CINDY'S
HUSBAND walks up to him:

CINDY'S HUSBAND
Helluva season, Chris!

ISAAC
It's amazing. You used to suck. And
now you're so good!

CHRIS
Yeah. I've been really lucky. Just
focused on the game. Training hard.
You know.

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A slightly buzzed Ethan sits at the piano, plays The Pogues' "Fairytale in New York" for Betsy's family.

ETHAN

It was Christmas Eve, babe/And the drunk tank...

Isaac and Chris look over at him:

CHRIS

How's he been, man? Since the breakup?

ISAAC

I don't know. I'm afraid to ask. You didn't ask him?

*
*
*

CHRIS

I haven't spoke to him in a minute. Shit's been so crazy, with my career just blowing up and all.

(beat)

Hey, sorry I never responded to that voicemail you left the other day. Like I said--

*
*

ISAAC

Shit's been crazy. I get it. I left that voicemail a few weeks ago, but I get it.

CHRIS

I knew you'd understand. I'm gonna piss.

Chris moves away. Ethan approaches:

ETHAN

Does he seem OK? How's he dealing with his newfound fame?

ISAAC

He doesn't tell me anything. We're not as good friends as you guys are.

ETHAN

What are you talking about? We're all best friends.

The guys walk out.

BETSY

Have fun! Take good care of my husband.

(beat)

Isaac? Can I talk to you for a second?

ISAAC

(afraid)

Why? What did I do?

Ethan and Chris wait for the elevator.

BETSY

Nothing! I just--I've got something for you.

She brandishes a LITTLE BOX, wrapped up in a bow.

ISAAC

We're opening presents now? I thought you wanted to wait 'til tomorrow--

BETSY

I'm pretty sure you'll want this one tonight.

(beat)

Sweetie, my angel, you've been such a rock throughout this whole pregnancy. You've been so strong while I've been freaking out. I don't know what I'd do without you. And now, it's Christmas, and we've almost made it--

(beat)

So I thought you deserved this.

His eyes widen. As he opens the present, revealing a cornucopia of drugs: MAGIC MUSHROOMS, PILLS, etc.

ISAAC

Uh...what...is this?

BETSY

It's every drug you've brought into this house and then asked me to hide from you over the last three years.

(MORE)

BETSY (CONT'D)

I thought I'd give it to you guys tonight. Since it's your last Christmas together...

*

Isaac looks from side to side.

ISAAC

Shh. Ethan doesn't know yet.

BETSY

Shouldn't you tell him?

ISAAC

I will. I will. It'll just be easier to tell him another time. You know, when he's not present. Like via text or email. So I don't have to see the look on his face...

BETSY

You should tell him, Isaac. Now, let me just outline some rules to you--

ISAAC

OK.

BETSY

No matter what you do tonight, you are ready to open presents at 9am tomorrow. I don't care if you're puking your guts out at 8:59. Come nine, you gargle some Listerine and get your shit together, OK? That's family time.

ISAAC

Got it.

BETSY

Good. And one more thing--

ISAAC

Anything.

BETSY

We're gonna go carolling down Fifth Avenue and head over to St. Patrick's at midnight. Stay the fuck away from us.

ISAAC

The fuck away. Copy.

BETSY

...You've always said Christmas was for your friends. Take it. Blow it out. Next year, we start our own Christmas tradition. It'll be all about family and we won't do any drugs except wine. And maybe weed.

(beat)

Next year: family. This year, friends and drugs.

ISAAC

OK. I got it.

(beat)

I wish you were coming with us tonight.

BETSY

No you don't. I do, but you don't. Trust me, if I didn't have to worry about our unborn child, I'd be extremely fucking drunk right now.

(beat)

OK. Have fun. I'll call if anything happens...

ISAAC

(suddenly panicked)

Why would something happen? Nothing's supposed to happen. You told me I had another month.

BETSY

Ugh, Isaac, don't beg me for more time. I'm not a loan shark, I'm your wife.

(beat)

Be careful.

EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - DUSK

The guys exit, and freeze in their tracks:

ISAAC

Whoa.

CUT TO the Red Bull Limo.

ETHAN

What the fuck is that?

CHRIS

It's the Red Bull Limo! I'm the new spokesperson for Red Bull, baby. And since this is our last Christmas, I pulled some strings, had them ship this bad boy right here all the way from Hartford. It is so on tonight.

ISAAC

That is so awesome, man!

ETHAN

What a beautiful Christmas miracle! A filthy rich athlete in need is given the corporate limo he always dreamed of.

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*
*
*

CHRIS

Started from the bottom now we're here! Now get in!

*
*
*

25

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

25

The guys sit in the limo. Isaac can't believe it.

ISAAC

SO AWESOME.

ETHAN

All this because you catch a ball real good!

CHRIS

I think it has more to do with how handsome I am.

ETHAN

Well, shit. Let's toast to both.

Ethan pops some champagne:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

To Chris' success. To Isaac's baby...

CHRIS

And to Ethan's pops. Celebrating Christmas with Jesus up there in heaven.

ISAAC

Respect.

They toast. Now, a VERY HANDSOME DRIVER turns around:

HANDSOME DRIVER

Evening, gentlemen. Happy Holidays.
I'm Brandon. It's my privilege to
be driving you around tonight.
Anything you need, just don't
hesitate to press the call button
on that console right there in
front of you...

CHRIS

Thanks, man.

HANDSOME DRIVER

So where to?

ETHAN

Rockefeller Center, friend.

HANDSOME DRIVER

If you guys need me, I'll be right
there on the other side of this
here partition. Happy Holidays!

He rolls up the partition.

CHRIS

Nice guy.

As Isaac brandishes his box:

ISAAC

Guys, check this out--Betsy gave me
all the drugs I bought and then
asked her to hide from me over the
last few years! All at once!

Ethan and Chris peer into the box:

ETHAN

It's like you married Hunter S.
Thompson.

ISAAC

I know! Awesome, right? And all she
asked is that I stay the fuck away
from her the entire night! She's
the best wife ever! Want some
mushrooms?

ETHAN

Nah. They make me freak out. Can we just hold off on the drugs till after dinner?

*
*
*
*

ISAAC

Sure. But then it's on.

*
*

EXT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER - NIGHT

The Red Bull Limo pulls up to the Rockefeller Center. The guys get out, push through tourists, and arrive at the edge of the famous tree.

ETHAN

Here we are. Friends, allow me to open my sack and reveal to you its treasures...

Ethan opens his Santa Sack, removing 2 CHRISTMAS SWEATERS. He hands one to Isaac and Chris. They each put theirs on. And Ethan launches into a speech:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Gentlemen, 10 years ago, my father, James Anthony Fletcher, passed away. And you guys were there for me. That night, we formed the most beautiful tradition in the history of bros...

(beat)

See, guys, for years, Christmas was only for the devoutly religious, people who actually liked their families, and people who loved to buy stuff. It was never for people like us: the ones from broken homes, the ones without parents, the non-believers. What were *people like us* supposed to do on Christmas? What were people whose *fucking dads died* supposed to do on Christmas? Sit around and watch heartwarming movies? *FUCK THAT*. So, ten years ago, we made a life-changing decision. We said, "We will not go gently into that silent night." We said, "No more"!

(beat)

We were taking Christmas back. New Years? New Years is for amateurs! On Christmas, you can get into any bar in this city.

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

On Christmas, you can meet tons of emotionally vulnerable women. On Christmas, you --and me, my friends, we can rule this city.

(beat)

Y'all know how this goes down: we begin at Rockefeller Center. Then onto Hunan Balcony for shitty Chinese food. Then, once we're good and drunk on reasonably priced specialty Chinese cocktails, we go to FAO Schwarz, for merriment and joy. After that, we attend a baker's dozen of weird bars that are open on Christmas Eve for no good reason at all. And then, this kid I used to bartend with dated this girl whose roommate used to fuck Skeet Ulrich and said he maybe has a lead on the address to the Nutcracka...

CHRIS

I'm gonna stop you right there, dude.

(beat)

I have a surprise for you guys...

(beat)

I got the hookup. Thanks to my newfound fame as an elite professional athlete, and my man Tommy Mason, tonight... we three wise men... are going to the Nutcracka Ball!

*
*
*

Silence.

*

ETHAN

No way.

ISAAC

NO. FUCKING. WAY.

*
*

CHRIS

Yeah, man.

ETHAN

Holy fucking shit, man. This so fucking perfect! I can't believe you pulled this off!

He jumps up and down, hugs his friends.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I am more excited than I've ever
been in my entire life right now.
Let's go. Let's go immediately!

CHRIS

We don't wanna get there too early.

ISAAC

What do you mean? Why not?

CHRIS

Just, I--I gotta get in touch with
Tommy and get the address first.

ETHAN

OK. But we're definitely invited to
this party, right?

CHRIS

Mos def.

Ethan pulls out a flask with three tiny metal shot glasses
and pours. *

*
*

ETHAN

To the Nutcracka Ball!

27

EXT. FAO SCHWARTZ - NIGHT

27

Isaac and Chris stand atop the famous floor piano, just like
in the movie "Big", and dance out the opening notes to
Kanye's "Runaway". We PUSH IN on Ethan, who lifts a Fisher
Price megaphone to his mouth:

ETHAN

Who got ya/who got ya/who got ya!

MONTAGE

We push in on the marquee...

Everything at 48 FPS, like a rap video: an elderly Jewish
woman bites into lo mein; a Muslim lady fills out a crossword
puzzle; an Indian man cracks a fortune cookie; a Chinese guy
seals a take-out container. And OUR CREW STRUTS IN, bad as
fuck. *

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*
*

INT. HUNAN BALCONY - NIGHT

ETHAN

The Nutcracka ball. I cannot believe it. This is, like, the most perfect Christmas ever. I'm so excited. I heard last year David Bowie performed "Little Drumemr Boy" with a Bing Crosby hologram.

ISAAC

I heard they spike the eggnog with molly.

CHRIS

I heard one year the Rockettes had a fucking gangbang there.

ETHAN

Dude, check it!

He points to the wall, and there's a SIGNED HEAD SHOT of CHRIS.

CHRIS

Huh.

ISAAC

What?

CHRIS

Nothing, it's just--

(beat)

I don't remember ever giving them my head shot. And I don't love being under Al Roker like that.

ETHAN

Stop complaining, man. Your fucking face is on the wall of Hunan Balcony. That's a huge win. Appreciate it.

(beat)

Besides, you're above Loni Anderson and Peabo Bryson.

CHRIS

I don't know who those people are.

(beat)

So, long time, man! How you been?

ETHAN

Food, you know? Can't complain. Music's going good.

(MORE)

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*

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Producing some shit for some other people. Playing a few gigs here and there.

*
*

CHRIS

You dating anyone?

ETHAN

Nah. Just kind of on the rebound still. Finding myself again and shit like that. It's only been 3 months since Diana and I broke up. I mean, we went out for almost a year. I think the equation is like 6 months of mourning for every year you go out, so...soon. It's all good. I've got a few prospects...

ISAAC

You should get on Tinder, and every other fuck-app there is. I missed that boat and it kills me.

CHRIS

Tinder just gives you access. It wouldn't have gotten you laid more, it'd just let you disappoint more girls quicker.

(to Ethan)

And how's work?

*

ETHAN

Same shit. Still catering part-time. Serving small portions of shitty food to super rich people who don't look me in the eye. People like you guys.

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*

ISAAC

I'd like to say we appreciate it, but we don't.

*
*
*

CHRIS

There's nothing worse than when they look you in the eye.

*
*
*

ISAAC

I fucking hate it when they do that.

*
*
*

Chris and Isaac have a good laugh.

*

ETHAN

The great thing is I'm making so little that I can still collect unemployment. Between the two, I have enough money to chill, work on my music and sharpen my motor skills on the Wii.

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CHRIS

Well, you were always the most talented one of us, so it's only a matter of time for you, man.

ETHAN

Sure, yeah. But I mean, like I said. I'm doing good.

(beat)

Anyway, who cares about my bullshit. You're about to have a fucking baby! Let's talk about that!

ISAAC

I'm pretty fucking psyched about this kid, you know? I figure, my cousin knocked his girlfriend up when he was 20, and that kid turned out cool, so how hard can it be? I can afford a nanny, so I can outsource a lot of it. And the concept that I would have a little female me? With less back hair? That sounds pretty fucking cool.

(to Chris)

How bout you, man? How you been feeling?

*

CHRIS

I've been good. Thanks for asking.

ISAAC

For sure, dude. And physically? How's your health? That ankle thing that kept you out a few weeks back. You're over it?

CHRIS

Yeah. Been on a new diet. Got a new trainer. Set me straight.

ISAAC

Good. I was worried about you. And your contract negotiations? They're going well?

*
*

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You think you're gonna re-up with Philly? I imagine they'll offer you millions, with the year you're having...

CHRIS

Dude, what's with all these questions?

ISAAC

Jesus, can't a concerned friend ask an ailing friend how he's doing?

ETHAN

You're on his fantasy team.

CHRIS

Isaac, you fucker!

ISAAC

What? It's a keeper league and I need to make plans for next year! This isn't all about you. I really need to do my due diligence here. I mean, I don't want to drop you, but--

CHRIS

What? How you gonna drop me when I just lent you 50 grand?

ETHAN

50 grand? Why'd you lend him 50 grand? He's a successful lawyer! If anyone should be borrowing 50 grand it's me!

ISAAC

It's no big deal. We're just...we put a deposit down on a place Westchester.

ETHAN

You didn't tell me that.

ISAAC

It might not even happen.

ETHAN

I just think it's weird that you didn't tell me, since I see you all the time and Chris never calls either of us back.

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*
*

ISAAC

He recommended a realtor. We saw a house we liked, and we put an offer down. We got this kid coming, I can't raise a child in New York City. She'll grow up fucking crazy. You ever see the movie *Kids*? All they did was do drugs and fuck each other till they got AIDS. And that was the 90s.

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CHRIS

I mean, we all grew up in New York in the 90s. None of us got AIDS.

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ETHAN

Yeah. This is 2014. Who the hell is dumb enough not to wear a condom?

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*

ISAAC

Fine. AIDS aside, we also need more space. A yard.

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ETHAN

A yard? You don't need a yard! You have the park.

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ISAAC

And you know what the park has? Crackheads.

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ETHAN

Growing up near crackheads builds character! And you can just walk around them. I mean, we wouldn't be who we are today if we had "yards". Plus, it's post-Guilliani, all the crackheads have been dumped in the ocean or whatever the fuck he did with them! You're making a mistake!

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ISAAC

You're not my wife.

*
*

ETHAN

I sort of am. I'm the next closest thing to your wife.

*
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*

ISAAC

Sorry dude.

*
*

Ethan hides how crushed he really is.

*

ETHAN

Huh. So I guess...that means we're not doing Christmas next year.

The guys look at him, nod solemnly.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Oh...

(realizing)

Oh! OK. Cool. I get it. Well, cool. So...last Christmas, huh? Good to know.

CHRIS

Look, man--it's just--shit's different now, you know? We've got a lot of shit going on in our lives...

ETHAN

I get it.

CHRIS

It's the end of an era. And the beginning of a new one...

ISAAC

You can always have Christmas at our house...

ETHAN

In Westchester! Awesome! Waiter! Let's get some shots over here! Let's toast to Westchester!

They look at him. Chris' cell rings.

CHRIS

(excited)

Oh shit! It's Mason. I'm gonna take this.

(beat)

'Sup man! Where you boys at?

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Tommy Mason, smoking a cigar, surrounded by athletes (Carmelo Anthony, Derek Jeter, Blake Griffin, Victor Cruz, etc.). They are just finishing a giant steak dinner.

TOMMY MASON

Sup, my man? You psyched for tonight?

*

*

*

*

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CHRIS
 Yep. Pretty psyched.

TOMMY MASON
 Right on. It's gonna be sick.
 (beat)
 So, listen, we just gotta meet up
 with Durant to get the address...

Chris looks at Ethan, gives him the thumbs up.

CHRIS
 Great! That's great. Should we meet
 up with you guys or what?

TOMMY MASON
 We?

CHRIS
 My friends. They're coming with. I
 told you that.

TOMMY MASON
 Shit! I totally forgot. I think
 it's fine. Maybe...

He looks at his friends, unsure.

CHRIS
 Maybe?

TOMMY MASON
 Just meet us at the Swizzle Lounge.
 9 o' clock.

CHRIS
 Swizzle Lounge. Got you.

TOMMY MASON
 DJ. You got that cigar cutter?
 (beat)
 Hey, can you bring weed? We're
 running low.

Jeter passes him a cigar cutter. Tommy cuts a cigar.

CHRIS
 Weed... Uh...

TOMMY MASON
 You said you had the hookup.
 Remember?

CHRIS

Right! Of course I have the hookup,
nigga. This is my home town.

TOMMY MASON

Nice. See you later.

He hangs up.

ISAAC

Why are you talking like that?

CHRIS

Like what?

ISAAC

So...black?

CHRIS

That's how I talk.

ETHAN

Dude, we went to a Dave Matthews
show together.

CHRIS

There's a black guy in the Dave
Matthews Band. Yo Isaac, you got
any weed in that box? *

Isaac opens the box, looks at it. A beat. *

ISAAC *

Cocaine, molly, mushrooms. Not sure
what that is... Whoa, I think
that's a quaalude! Like from "Wolf
of Wall Street"! I didn't know they
made those anymore. This is like an
antique. But yeah, no weed. *

CHRIS *

Fuck. We need to find some. Ethan? *

ETHAN

I don't smoke anymore. Makes me
kinda paranoid. I started getting
panic attacks.

CHRIS

But I said I'd do it. I can't go
back on my word. They're gonna
think I'm wack.

ISAAC

Oh no! Not "wack"!

(beat)

They really should just have an app
that brings you weed.

ETHAN

Duber.

(beat)

Get it?

Ethan looks through his phone.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I mean, I guess we could try--

(beat)

Mr. Green.

ISAAC

Our high school drug dealer?

31

EXT. PS 132 - NIGHT

31

The guys stand huddled at a pay phone outside their old high school.

ISAAC

Why does he need to meet us at our
old high school again?

ETHAN

He was the only drug dealer who
picked up. And, as you might
imagine, he was a little skeptical.
Having not heard from us in 15
years. He would only agree to go
exactly where we used to meet...

Now, from the other side of the street, a CAR TAPS on the horn.

The car SPEWS SMOKE. In the front seat, a SHADOWY FIGURE sits. The guys look at Chris expectantly:

CHRIS

Guys, I'm famous. I can't be seen
doing this.

ISAAC

Seen by who? There's nobody here.

ETHAN

You're the one that needs weed. You go.

(beat)

We bought from him a thousand times in high school and never got seen. Trust me. It's safe.

Chris exhales, starts walking to the car.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hey Chris!

He turns, sees Isaac and Ethan holding their phones up, flashbulbs go off!

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hey! It's Chris Roberts!

ISAAC

Oh my God! He's buying drugs!

Chris looks at them, pissed. A beat.

ETHAN

See. No one cares.

Chris walks away. Ethan turns to Isaac:

ISAAC

Alright. And I will...

Isaac opens his box of drugs and rifles through it.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

...smoke... two cigarettes and... take... a valium.

Isaac pops a pill in his mouth and lights up a cigarette. Ethan dials.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Want something?

Isaac holds the box out to Ethan.

ETHAN

Is that as York Peppermint Patty?

ISAAC

You can't have that. Betsy knows I crave those when I'm mushing. It's my special treat for later. Want some cocaine?

ETHAN

Please stop offering me cocaine.

*
*

Ethan turns to Isaac:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

That limo is so fucking cheesy. I can't believe he drives around in that thing.

ISAAC

It's free and filled with liquor. And it's got lasers. I approve.

32

INT. MR. GREEN'S CAR - NIGHT

32

Chris sits into the passenger seat. Across from him, MR. GREEN (early 40's). On his REAR-VIEW MIRROR, a HOLIDAY BELL hangs. It blows softly, eerily in the wind.

MR. GREEN

Evenin', kid.

CHRIS

Hey, man. Great to see you. Remember me?

*

MR. GREEN

No.

*
*

CHRIS

Well, I'm just glad you're open on Christmas.

*
*

MR. GREEN

Lotta people need me on Christmas. What do you want?

CHRIS

Your best weed, please.

MR. GREEN

You want the best?

(ominous)

My best shit? You sure?

CHRIS

I mean, yeah.

(beat)

Uh, is there any reason not to?

He opens his glove compartment, pulls out a little plastic case of weed, labeled "FUTURE". He packs a bowl for Chris, hands it to him.

MR. GREEN

Here, try this. See what you think.
It's indoor, hydroponic, makes you
a little tingly, may give you some
visions of the future.

Chris looks at him, furrows his brow.

CHRIS

What?

MR. GREEN

Trust me. Just try it.

Chris takes a big hit. PUSH IN ON HIM. He coughs up smoke.
His eyes widen. Music swells...

And Mr. Green looks at him, expectantly:

MR. GREEN (CONT'D)

So...?

CHRIS

Uh, yeah, cool, man.

MR. GREEN

You're not seeing the future right
now?

CHRIS

Nah. But I'm definitely pretty
high.

MR. GREEN

Damn. I just--I wanted to show you
a vision of your future in order to
teach you a lesson about your life
on this Christmas Eve.

(beat)

Must've given you the wrong weed.
I'm a little high myself. Anyway,
that'll be a hundred bucks.

Chris looks at him, weirded out.

CHRIS

Ha. You're funny, man.

MR. GREEN
Thanks, kid. I'll see you in a couple hours.

CHRIS
Actually, uh--

MR. GREEN
I'll see you in a couple hours.

CHRIS
What?

Mr. Green closes the door, drives away.

33

EXT. PS 139 - CONTINUOUS

33

Isaac and Ethan greet him:

CHRIS
That was fucking weird. But I got the weed. Now let's go get high with Kevin Durant, right?

ISAAC
Yes!

INT. CRAFT COCKTAIL BAR - NIGHT

A fancy bar, empty, quiet. A bartender brings the guys fancy drinks with basil and shit in them:

BARTENDER
Here you go. That'll be fourteen each.

ETHAN
Fourteen bucks?

CHRIS
Don't worry, I got you, man.

Chris reaches for his wallet, checks his phone:

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Shit. They're late.

ETHAN
Only a few minutes late. Relax.

ISAAC

You guys, there's an awful lot of cocaine in this bag. I better start doing some of it. Do you want any?

CHRIS

No, I don't. Dude, please don't do cocaine before they get here. You're gonna just talk non-stop and embarrass me. Please don't do coke.

ISAAC

You have fame and adulation. All I have are these drugs.

*

CHRIS

Well, I don't really know these guys that well. They're, like, the best athletes in the world and I really want them to like me. You don't understand this shit.

ISAAC

And you don't understand the pressure of bringing life into this world, and the amount of narcotics it takes to ease that pressure.

*

*

ETHAN

Chris, you're a professional athlete who makes millions of dollars. Isaac, you're about to have a baby with an awesome wife who gives you drugs and a nice house that her dad bought for you. You guys should both stop bitching--

*

*

*

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ISAAC

Oh, great. Now you guys are ganging up on me. You know what that makes me feel like doing? Cocaine. Do you guys want some?

*

*

*

*

*

Ethan holds up his drink:

ETHAN

Alcohol is my cocaine.

ISAAC

Very well. 'Til we meet again.

Isaac leaves. Ethan takes a sip of his drink:

ETHAN

For fourteen dollars, I was kinda hoping for more.

(beat)

Hey, we're right across the street from Bar 169. You think your friends would wanna go over there for some karaoke?

CHRIS

Nah, I don't think they'd want to do that.

ETHAN

Come on! It's a Christmas tradition! One last song for our last Christmas. End of an era, right? Tell them to meet us there!

*
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CHRIS

Tell a bunch of famous people to do Karaoke in a public place. They're not gonna want to do that. That shit would be all over YouTube in seconds. And I can't just tell them to meet us there. They told me to meet them here. And I know they're fucking late but we have to just stay here and wait it out.

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Chris checks his watch.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Where the fuck are they?

ETHAN

Dude, they'll call you. You're part of their club now. You shouldn't worry about fitting in with them. Shit, I bet they're worried about fitting in with you. You're better than half those guys.

Isaac sings "White Christmas" while cutting up a line of cocaine.

ISAAC

I'm dreaming of a White Christmas/Just like the ones I used to snort...

He rolls up a bill, snorts the line.

INT. CRAFT COCKTAIL BAR - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Chris talk:

ETHAN

...And you're *so much better* than you used to be. You got jacked. I mean, you weigh 30 pounds more. Your pecs move involuntarily. Your head is bigger. Your neck is, like, abnormally big--
(beat)
Oh shit. You're doing steroids!

CHRIS

Nah, man. I'm not doing steroids. *

ETHAN

Yes you are!! Let me see your balls! I know exactly how big they're supposed to be! *

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Come on, man. I know you. *

CHRIS

What are you talking about? I just said I wasn't doing steroids. Let's drop it, OK? *

ETHAN

Dude, I was there when you learned how to lie. You can't lie to me. I'm your best friend. Look me in the eye and tell me you're not doing steroids... *

He looks slightly to the right of Ethan.

CHRIS

I'm not doing steroids.

ETHAN

That's my forehead.

CHRIS

I'm just working out harder.

ETHAN

Right. Cool. But in between workouts, are you injecting steroids into your body?

(beat)

Come on, look in my eyes. Right here. Unburden yourself. Look, I won't even make you say it. Does the drug you're doing that makes you better at football start with "s" and end with teroids?

Chris looks Ethan in the eye:

CHRIS

Maybe.

(beat)

Promise you won't tell anyone...

ETHAN

I promise.

Isaac returns from the bathroom:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yo, he's doing steroids! He didn't even tell us! Can you believe it?

ISAAC

Nice!

(beat)

That's great news, man. I'm definitely gonna win my fantasy league this year! Hey, who else is doing steroids? Can you get Bradford Maxwell to do steroids? He's on my team. And if he's already doing steroids, definitely tell me, because I'm gonna drop him. Wait, can I do some?

ETHAN

That is so crazy, man. I cannot believe you're doing that shit.

CHRIS

It's normal, you guys. Literally everyone is doing steroids. Any time you're watching a sport, and someone is good at it, they're on steroids. You want to know who took the most steroids ever? Michael Jordan, Mike Tyson, Tiger Woods.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Can you imagine how many steroids
Bo Jackson took to play all those
sports? He took baseball steroids
and football steroids!

(beat)

You know what Bo knew? Shooting
himself in the ass with steroids!

ISAAC

I'm not judging you.

ETHAN

I kinda am.

ISAAC

Actually, I'm really supportive of
this idea. Hey, if you do more
steroids, will you get even better?

The Bartender returns:

BARTENDER

Sorry, you guys. We're about to
close.

CHRIS

Why?

BARTENDER

Uh, because it's Christmas.

CHRIS

Y'all can't stay open for a few
more minutes?

She shakes her head.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(upset)

They forgot about me. I can't
believe it.

ETHAN

Dude. I'm sure they'll call.

CHRIS

(sadly)

Yeah.

ETHAN

Hey? You know what would make you
feel sooo much better?

His wife, a tattooed smiling mother, comes over and gives him a big kiss. They play peekaboo with their baby. The baby and Isaac lock eyes. Isaac waves his hand. *

ISAAC
(smiling)
Hi baby! Hi! *

The baby instantly starts freaking out and screaming. The mother looks at Isaac in disgust then turns her and the baby away. *

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Shit. Why did I do cocaine? I don't even like cocaine. Cocaine sucks.
(beat)
In my head, the only solution is to do more cocaine, but logically I don't want to do more cocaine.
Here, hide this cocaine from me...

He hands it to Ethan.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Remember, only give it back to me if I say that I really want to do it.

Onstage, a HIPSTER begins to sing "Father and Son" by Cat Stevens. Isaac looks to the baby, then back to Ethan, frantically:

ISAAC (CONT'D)
What the fuck is that?

Ethan shrugs.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Oh no.
(beat)
Give it back! Give it back now!

Ethan looks to Chris, who is surrounded by adoring fans. Chris's phone rings. *

CHRIS
Mason, what's up, man?!

Chris rushes outside. Ethan watches his friends walk off, and feels truly alone. *

EXT. BAR 169 - NIGHT *

Chris steps onto the street, past people smoking. *

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Yo! I can't hear you!

*
*

INTERCUT WITH: Mason, on a streetcorner, outside a bumping club.

MASON

Yo! We are so sorry! We totally forgot to call you!

*

CHRIS

Oh, yeah! No problem, man! I'm just glad you called...

MASON

We're at a club! Beats are LOUD! Durant totally changed the plan, man! I am SO SORRY!

*

CHRIS

It's all good. We've just been chilling. I kinda lost track of time.

MASON

Well, we're about to meet Durant across town at The Spotted Taint!

CHRIS

Oh, OK. So we'll meet you there--

MASON

It's tough to get in! If it were just you, we could probably swing it, but since you're with friends, I'll just text you when Durant gives us the address of the party!

CHRIS

All right. Cool, then. So, um, we'll just, like, wait for you?

MASON

Shit, man. I really don't know! I guess, since we know the party's in Brooklyn, just head to Brooklyn!

CHRIS

Brooklyn's kinda a big place--

He hangs up. Chris is hurt, pulls a joint from his pocket, takes a hit.

VOICE (O.S.)
Could I get a hit?

Chris turns to see Q'UISHA, a quirky looking hipstery girl standing behind him.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Ethan is sitting at the bar, alone. He throws back a shot. And now, he hears:

VOICE (O.S.)
Ethan?

Ethan looks up, sees DIANA, 30.

ETHAN
Whoa. Hi.

DIANA
Hi...

ETHAN
What are you doing here?

DIANA
Best karaoke selection in the city.
(beat)
I should've known you'd be here.
It's Christmas. I'm surprised
you're not getting your stomach
pumped by now.

ETHAN
I will be very soon. Don't worry.

DIANA
You guys were awesome up there. I
finally got to see you do the
Beastie Boys. Which one were you
again? Adrock?

ETHAN
Mike D.

DIANA
You missed my Miley Cyrus. I
destroyed "Wrecking Ball".

ETHAN
You still like that song?

*

*

DIANA

Uh, yes. It is one of the greatest songs of the 10's. So--you guys having a good night?

ETHAN

Good. Yeah. We're going pretty hard because it's our last Christmas together, I guess.

DIANA

Whoa. That's news. Are you OK with that?

ETHAN

Totally. I mean, it's time. You know?

DIANA

Glad to see you're exhibiting some sign of maturity.

ETHAN

Yep. I'm super mature. I got my prostate checked last week. We're all growing up, really. Isaac's having a kid. Chris is all famous. He can't be normal anymore.

(beat)

And you? Why are you out? I thought you'd be with your family. Isn't that, like, a sin? To leave your family on Christmas night?

(beat)

Everything's fine, by the way. With my prostate.

DIANA

I know. I stuck a finger in your butt once. Remember?

ETHAN

Your fingers are far more slender than Dr. Walderson's. So, speaking of changing the subject--how's the family?

DIANA

Oh, now you care about my family? A little late, isn't it?

ETHAN

Uh...

DIANA

I'm fucking with you. We had our traditional awful dinner. I'm sleeping at my folks' house. But me and my friends are going to this thing tonight...

ETHAN

What thing?

DIANA

Oh, just some party. It's nothing.

ETHAN

What party?

DIANA

(confessing)

Some guy Sarah's fucking invited her. And if I could get you in, I would, because I know you've always wanted to go--

ETHAN

Wait a minute. Are you going to the Nutcracka Ball?

DIANA

Yeah. I'm so sorry. I--

ETHAN

Don't be sorry. We're going too! Chris got us invited since he just got famous or whatever.

DIANA

That's--that's awesome. So we're both going...!

(beat)

...Your last Christmas and you get to go to the dumb party you've always wanted to go to.

ETHAN

Poetic, right?

DIANA

Yes. I'm very happy for you. Seems like tonight will be the greatest night of your entire life.

ETHAN

Most likely. I'm happy for me too. Are you seeing anyone?

DIANA

Totally. A couple guys. With really big dicks. Like, silly big. Like, novelty size dicks.

ETHAN

That's awesome. I'm seeing a bunch of girls with giant vaginas, but I don't really think it works the same way.

44

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

44

Isaac exits the bathroom, wiping his nose, goes to the bar, and sees SARAH standing there.

ISAAC

I know you, right?

SARAH

Yeah! I'm Sarah. I work with your wife!

ISAAC

Crazy. That's so great. We've never really talked. Like, isn't it weird how you meet people and like you never really TALK to them? We should talk. Lemme get you a drink.

Isaac puts his phone on the bar and sits down. We see that Isaac and Sarah have the SAME PHONE.

45

EXT. BAR 169 - CONTINUOUS

45

Chris and Q'Uisha, locked in conversation:

CHRIS

What brings a fine-ass girl like you out on Christmas all alone?

Q'UISHA

I'm not alone. I'm just waiting on some friends.

CHRIS

You tried calling them?

Q'UISHA

Don't have a phone.

CHRIS

Oh, you're one of *those* girls. I read about this in "The Week". "Cord Cutters", y'all are called.
(beat)
You could borrow my phone if you want--

Q'UISHA

It's all good. I'll see them when I see them.
(beat)
Or I won't. Whatever.

He looks at her, smitten.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Isaac is ordering drinks from the bartender, while Sarah checks her phone as she waits down the bar.

ISAAC

(yelling)
They don't have Ketel One!! Is Grey Goose okay?! Can you hear me?!

SARAH

Yes! Fine! Whatever!!

He does another bump off a key when nobody's looking. He gets a beer and a martini from the bartender. As he's walking with the drinks, his nose starts bleeding and drips into the martini. Isaac nonchalantly wipes his nose with his sleeve, not noticing the blood. He hands her the martini. * *

They cheers. She takes a sip.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Mmm... This is good.
(looks at the color of drink)
Shit. Did you order me a crantini by accident?

ISAAC

No. It's mar. Not cran.
(chuckles)
That's funny. Like they're all part of the Tini family. "this is Cran. This is Mar. This is Apple." What other tini's are there? Let's brainstorm--

SARAH
(points to Isaac's face)
Uh... Isaac, your nose is bleeding
pretty badly.

ISAAC
Shit! Is it?!

Sarah looks down at her drink.

SARAH
Oh fuck! You bled in my fucking
drink!

ISAAC
No! No! It's... it's maraschino! *
Or... shit... fuck... this must be *
from all the cocaine... *

SARAH
Cocaine? Isn't Betsy having a baby,
like, any minute now?

ISAAC
WHAT!?! Did you just talk to her? *
Is she crowning!?!? *

SARAH
What is wrong with you. You are a *
fucking mess. I can't believe *
you're gonna be a fucking father! *
Jesus! I'm gonna go throw up now,
excuse me.

Sarah goes to the bathroom. Isaac watches her go, freaked *
out. Sarah bangs on the door. *

INT. BAR BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS *

Inside, Chris and the HIPSTER GIRL hook up in the stall. *

HIPSTER GIRL
Piss off! Someone's fucking in
here!

CHRIS *
You just don't give a fuck, do you? *

INT. BAR 169 - NIGHT

Ethan and Diana, still locked in conversation. She gets a
text.

DIANA

Oh, shit. I have to go. I just got a text from my friend...

ETHAN

Who?

DIANA

Uh, Sarah. She's standing right over there.

ETHAN

What did she say?

DIANA

Her text reads, and I quote, "Jesus Christ, Diana. I thought you were done with that loser. Let's get the fuck out of here."

They turn, see Sarah, who is motioning for them to get the fuck out of there.

ETHAN

Cool, well. Good advice. Tell her I say hello. And that I'm sorry I'm a loser. And I'm working on it. And I hope to see you guys later...

(beat)

Hey, you're standing under mistletoe...

Without missing a beat, she reaches above her head, grabs the mistletoe, throws it to the ground.

DIANA

Not anymore.

ETHAN

You really nipped that in the bud. Hey, did you miss me? You kinda seem like you missed me.

DIANA

Yes. I missed you. Too bad you weren't who I hoped you'd be.

ETHAN

If it makes you feel better, I wasn't who I hoped I'd be either.

(beat)

And I missed you too.

DIANA
I missed you too.

ETHAN
You already said that.

They look at each other. Diana's lips curl into a smile.

DIANA
Here...

She tosses him the mistletoe, walks away...

DIANA (CONT'D)
Merry Christmas, man.

...But not before turning back around, and giving him one last look.

INT. BAR BATHROOM

Now, Chris exits the bathroom. Along with Q'Uisha. Isaac barrels past them, and into the

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A camera phone flips on. We see ISAAC, huddled in a stall. He stares at the camera conspiratorially, whispers:

ISAAC
Dear Isaac, this is a message to sober you for tomorrow morning and also for the rest of your life. It is with sound mind and body that I, Isaac, declare you, Isaac, unfit to be a father. I know that, and you know that, but ABSOLUTELY NO ONE ELSE CAN KNOW. This is not just the drugs talking. Actually, this *is* the drugs talking. The drugs have given you clarity. The drugs are making some very salient points right now.

*

*
*
*

(beat)
Actually, it's you *and* the drugs talking. This is a you-drugs collabo. You and the drugs told me that you will put your child in great danger. Do not touch that child, Isaac. If you lay a hand on her, she is doomed. Do you understand me? You are so immature.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You are mentally and emotionally unfit to be a father, and it is incredibly irresponsible to even try such a thing. So first thing tomorrow, you get up and you find that kid a new home. A loving home. Put it up for adoption. Leave it on a doorstep. Take a weaving course, make a basket, and send that baby down the river like Moses. Anything. Just do it.

(beat)

And remember, you're not being selfish. It's selfish to keep her. You have to know that, Isaac. You have to. I believe in you. Good luck.

*
*

*

Isaac puts some cocaine on a key and snorts a giant bump.

INT. BAR 169 - NIGHT

Ethan sits at the bar, alone. Chris comes up behind Ethan, adjusting his clothes. Now, Isaac approaches.

*
*

ISAAC

Things went bad. I just got blood in that girl's drink. Fuck. She's so mad. Let's get out of here. Please.

*

Chris approaches:

CHRIS

Yo, check it out.

*

Chris points at the hipster girl and waves. She mildly acknowledges his wave.

*
*

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I just banged that hipster chick in the bathroom.

*
*

(beat)

Look at her. She's so real.

Isaac looks over at her. She's at the buffet, putting a bunch of chicken fingers onto a plate.

ISAAC

She's hitting the buffet pretty hard.

CHRIS

Yeah. She must be one of those
model girls who can eat and eat and
never gain weight.

He walks away. Isaac calls after:

ISAAC

She's wearing mismatched shoes, by
the way.

ANGLE ON the GIRL. Who is, indeed, wearing mismatched shoes.

CHRIS

Marches to her own drum, man.

*

ISAAC

Guys. Let's go. Now.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

The guys get into the limo. Isaac's nose is still bleeding
and throughout the scene he is collecting napkins from around
the limo to sop up the blood.

*

*

*

The Driver turns:

DRIVER

Where to, guys?

They look at each other.

CHRIS

Brooklyn.

ETHAN

Just...Brooklyn?

CHRIS

Mason said head to Brooklyn.

ETHAN

Was he more specific? Brooklyn's
pretty big.

DRIVER

Which bridge would you like to
take, sir?

CHRIS

I don't know. Whichever one's
closest I guess.

DRIVER

As you wish... that's a line from the Princess Bride. You guys ever see that movie? You got Robin Wright Penn, well I guess that was before she was a Penn, so I guess you could say she "lost her Penn", but the weird thing about her career is now that House of Cards has-

Ethan does up the partition. Isaac finishes stuffing tissue up his nose to clog them up and stop the bleeding.

ETHAN

Yo, we have to get to that party. When are they gonna call with the address?

CHRIS

Soon. We're just gonna head to Brooklyn and Mason's gonna text us the address to the party as soon as he meets up with Durant.

ISAAC

You guys, pass me my drug box. I need to switch this up fast. The cocaine has betrayed me!

Isaac grabs the drug box, takes out the cocaine, and hurls it out the window.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

See you in hell white devil!
Honestly guys, only bad people do that shit. It was making me a bad man. I'm never doing that shit again. I mean seriously, I can't feel my own emotions, like, at all. I need the mushrooms. I need to feel all my emotions at once just so I know I still have them.

Isaac starts to eat mushrooms.

ETHAN

Hey, you guys--
(beat)
So, I just ran into Diana...

ISAAC

Bummer, dude.

ETHAN

Actually, it's great. She's going to the Nutcracka Ball--

CHRIS

Wait, she's going? Why didn't you ask her for the fucking address?

ETHAN

I can't ask her for the address. I don't want to look weak in front of her. I don't want to remember this night like that. Because I just decided, I'm gonna try to win her back...

CHRIS

That's cool, man. I still wish you coulda asked her for the address.

ETHAN

I've been thinking and, well, I'm gonna ask her to marry me there...

*
*

Isaac and Chris look at each other, surprised... A long beat.

*

CHRIS

Really?

*

ISAAC

Uh, why?

*

ETHAN

Because...when I saw her just now, I realized that I missed the shit out of her. I mean, I was really happy with her. And she always said the only problem in our relationship was that I never took the next step. That's why she broke up with me. So now, I'm ready to take that step. You guys said it yourselves, you have so much shit going on. It's about time I had something for myself...

CHRIS

So, do you really want to get married?

ETHAN

Yeah. Definitely.

A long beat.

ISAAC

You gonna call and ask for her
dad's hand?

ETHAN

Uh, that would be an awkward first
conversation...

ISAAC

You haven't met her dad? You guys
dated for a year! I met Betsy's dad
on our first date. I actually met
Betsy through her dad. Her dad's my
dentist. He still is. That's the
kind of man I am...

(beat)

Chris probably actually *is* a dad.

CHRIS

Hey. Stop making black jokes.

ISAAC

I would never make a black joke.
That's an athlete joke.

A beat.

CHRIS

Well, shit, man! I guess we should
stop asking questions and
congratulate you!

*
*

ISAAC

Yep. That's huge!

*

Isaac eats more mushrooms.

*

ISAAC (CONT'D)

We're out of drinks, so let's toast
with Red Bull!

Isaac eats more mushrooms.

*

CHRIS

Really happy for you dude.

*
*

ISAAC

(mouth full of mushrooms)
Mazel tov! You want some mushrooms?

*
*
*

ETHAN

Nah I'm cool.

*
*

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Think you might be going a little
overboard with the drugs tonight?
You're gonna have a fuckin' heart
attack if you keep this up.

ISAAC

(mouth full)

Yo, I'm so excited for you, but
you're a fucking pussy. And me?

Isaac opens the limo sunroof and stands up, popping his head
out

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I AM THE GOD OF DRUGS!

Isaac eats more mushrooms.

Chris instinctively checks his pockets.

CHRIS

Shit. Where's the fuckin' weed?

Isaac and Ethan shrug.

ISAAC

Don't look at me. I didn't touch
the weed. I've been doing every
drug *but* weed.

ETHAN

Forget the weed. Let's just go to
the party.

CHRIS

No. I told my friends I'd bring
weed, so I can't go to the party
without weed. And you guys can't
get in the party without me. So
we're getting some goddamn weed.

EXT. CHRIS'S MOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The guys stand in front of a nondescript apartment building.

CHRIS

I still don't understand how we
ended up at my mom's house--

ETHAN

I told you, he'll only meet us at
places he's met us before.

Ethan walks away, checks his phone. Isaac turns to Chris, whispers:

ISAAC

He's proposing? What the fuck?

CHRIS

I know! It's a terrible idea.

ISAAC

Maybe it's good, actually. He needs to get his shit together. That's the only way we can still be friends. He can marry that girl, she'll whip his ass into shape, he won't be a loser and we can actually still hang out with him...

CHRIS

C'mon, man. That's pretty harsh.

ISAAC

No. The divide's too great. Our friendship can't handle it. We can't even tell him about our vacation in Cabo...

CHRIS

Don't you ruin our vacation in Cabo.

ISAAC

Oh, I won't. I love Cabo.

(bea)

That's what I'm saying! If he gets married, maybe he can come on our vacation in Cabo...

CHRIS

Shh. He's coming back.

Ethan comes back.

ISAAC

I'm cold. Can we wait upstairs?

CHRIS

He said he'd be here in 30 minutes.

ISAAC

That's drug dealer speak for 2 hours...

(beat)

C'mon. Let's go upstairs.

CHRIS

We can't...

ISAAC

Why not?

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Because my mom doesn't know I'm in town, OK?

ETHAN

You didn't tell her you were here?

CHRIS

She thinks I'm still in Philly. I took a suite at the Crosby.

ETHAN

But she's all alone. On Christmas.

CHRIS

Look, man, I don't wanna deal with her tonight. Whenever I come home, she parades me around to all her friends. She's so fucking proud of me and shit. I can't deal with it.

ETHAN

That's fucked up, dude.

Ethan looks at Chris. This explains a lot. He looks to Isaac, who's shivering.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hey, Chris. Does your mom still have your Nintendo 64?

CHRIS

Probably. Why?

ETHAN

Madden '95?

CHRIS

Dude, that's not cool.

ETHAN

I think he's afraid, Isaac.

ISAAC

Sounds scared to me.

Chris glares at Isaac. A beat.

CHRIS
Fine. One game.

INT. CHRIS'S ROOM - LATER

A Billy Joel Greatest Hits CD lies next to an old Discman, hooked into an old boombox. Chris plays NFL 2K with Ethan on the Nintendo 64. Ethan reads his old high school YEARBOOK. Open to a page of he and his friends, splashing the fountain at the Metropolitan Museum. He flips the page, sees his name:

MOST LIKELY TO BECOME THE NEXT EDDIE VEDDER: Ethan Fletcher.

Along with a picture of a long-haired Ethan, shredding a guitar.

CHRIS
So, do you know how you're gonna do it?

ETHAN
I was thinking I could play her favorite song for her. Wrecking Ball.

CHRIS
Her favorite song is Wrecking Ball?

ETHAN
Miley Cyrus is her favorite. You guys think I should propose and then sing Wrecking Ball after she says yes? Or do I sing the song first and then ask her?

We see Isaac is wrapped in blankets on Chris' childhood bed, only his beard and eyes poking out.

ISAAC
I'm so cold. No matter how many blankets I wrap myself in I'm cold. It's like the more blankets, the colder I get. Guys, why is this happening to me?

CHRIS
'Cause you ate way too many mushrooms.

ISAAC
Yeah, but whose fault is that?

ETHAN *
Yours. Only yours. *

ISAAC *
As long as Betsy never finds out *
we'll be able to survive the *
winter. *

Chris and Ethan go back to their conversation. *

ETHAN *
Should go home and grab my guitar? *
Or just sing a capella. *

ISAAC *
(to himself) *
Never-ending winter... *

ETHAN *
Oh! You know what'd be dope? I *
should sing in front of the whole *
party. Just go balls to the wall. *

CHRIS *
No, no, no. Definitely don't do *
that. Play it cool. Just take her *
aside and have a nice private *
moment. *

ETHAN *
But I want to do something special. *
Girls love it when guys take a *
chance. I've gotta do it in front *
of everyone. Remember senior year, *
when I sang that Mr. Jones to Kelly *
Jones and cleverly changed the name *
to Miss Jones...? *

CHRIS *
...I still can't believe you got to *
hook up with her. *

ETHAN *
I did so well in high school. Lotta *
hand jobs. *

CHRIS *
Oh, shit. This is the best part of *
the song. Right here. *

ETHAN *
You're the only black person I know *
who likes Billy Joel. *

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Or at least it'll be a start. *

(beat)

You guys hungry? I'm getting a
little peckish.

CHRIS

No food. We don't leave this room.

ISAAC

We're going to have to eat each
other.

Now, Ethan's phone vibrates. He looks at it.

ETHAN

He's downstairs.

CHRIS

I went last time.

ISAAC

I'll go! I gotta puke anyways... *

ETHAN *

You sure dude? *

ISAAC *

Yeah guys... I'll be fine as long
as I have these precious blankets. *

Isaac, wrapped in a blanket, heads out. *

CHRIS *

Make sure to be quiet! Don't wake
my mom! And don't get those
blankets dirty! *

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

The elevator door opens. Isaac exits the elevator, into the
almost surreal lobby, lit by blinking multicolored Christmas
lights.

ISAAC

Alright lobby, let's dance. *

And vomits loudly. And there's Mr. Green, parked in his car.
He honks the horn, flashes the lights.

INT. CHRIS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chris plays Nintendo. Ethan looks down at his phone:

CHRIS

It's funny how horribly he's
handling this. I mean, I've seen
people handle shit badly, but this
is comical. Most guys I play with
have like 7 kids. They don't give a
shit.

*
*
*
*
*
*

ETHAN

Yo, have your friends called yet
with the address?

*

CHRIS

No. They have not called with the
address.

*
*

ETHAN

Okay.
(beat)
Are you sure?

*
*
*
*

CHRIS

I have literally had my hand on my
phone all night in case its starts
to vibrate.

*
*
*
*

ETHAN

Well, do you just have it on
vibrate? Or vibrate and ring.
That's the fail safe.

*
*
*
*

Chris gives Ethan a look.

*

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Sorry, I don't mean to be pushy.
Tonight's just a big deal. Some
pretty life-changing shit is going
down for me--

*
*
*
*
*

CHRIS

It's a big deal for me too, man.
You see the desperation in my eyes.
I need to get to that party as
badly as you do.

*
*
*
*
*

ETHAN

Why? You shouldn't be desperate
about anything. You're rich. And
famous. And pretty fucking sexy.

*
*
*
*

CHRIS

Well a lot of pressure comes with
that. Tonight has to be perfect. I
only get one shot at this.

(frustrated)

Where the fuck is Isaac?

*
*
*
*
*
*56 **EXT. CHRIS' MOM'S HOUSE**

56

And vomits loudly. And there's Mr. Green, parked in his car.
He honks the horn, flashes the lights.

58 **INT. MR. GREEN'S CAR**

58

Isaac gets in. Mr. Green puffs on a joint. The car is filled
with smoke. Mr. Green turns the ignition, takes off:

MR. GREEN

So, what can I get you...?

ISAAC

A morning after pill and a time
machine that can take me back about
8 and a half months.

*
*
*
*

MR. GREEN

What?

*
*

ISAAC

I don't know, man. I'm pretty
fucked up. My friend sent me here,
Who are you again?

*

MR. GREEN

I sell weed.

ISAAC

Right. Nice! Maybe that'll level me
out. I'll take two!

*
*

MR. GREEN

Any requests? Sativa? Indica?
Hybrid? Or, like, something that
shows you the future?

ISAAC

I don't know man. You're the pro. I
guess I'll just take the last one
you said.

MR. GREEN
Yeah. Yeah you will.

Mr. Green packs a bowl and passes it to him.

MR. GREEN (CONT'D)
Here, have a taste. Make sure you
like it.

Isaac takes the pipe and takes a hit. A plume of cloud comes out of his mouth and hazes around his head. He coughs ferociously then looks up and is in a completely dark room.

ISAAC
Hello? Hello? Mr. Drug Dealer?
Where am I?

59

INT. STRIP CLUB

59

A muted version of POUR SOME SUGAR ON ME starts playing. A kind of scary version. A spotlight beams down and reveals a pole in the middle of the room. A hot STRIPPER starts dancing and the lights raise a bit to reveal an awesome strip club filled with men waving money.

ISAAC
Whoa man... this is amazing weed.
And an aaaaaamazing strip club.

MR. GREEN (O.S.)
Is it?

Isaac sees Mr. Green beside him smoking a blunt.

ISAAC
Wh... what do you mean?

UNSEEN ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Annnnnnnnd next on the stage we
have... ISAAC'S DAUGHTER!!!

An unbelievably trashy looking girl with a tattoo of a cross intertwined with a Jewish star on her lower back takes the stage.

ISAAC
Wait... I'm not the Isaac he's
talking about right? Tell me
there's another Isaac! Tell me
there's another Isaac!!!

MR. GREEN

I'm sorry, but you're the only
Isaac here.

ISAAC

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!

Mr. Green blows a huge puff of smoke in Isaac's face and the weed smoke swirls around him and everything starts spinning. We focus on Isaac's face as what seems to be different Christmas lights flash against his face akin to 2001: A Space Odyssey. Isaac screams and we hard cut to-

60

INT. MR. GREEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

60

Isaac is screaming in Mr. Greens car.

MR. GREEN

Hey! Hey! Quit it man! I run an illegal business here. I can't have you screaming like you just got murdered.

ISAAC

But everyone's gonna get lap dances from my daughter!

MR. GREEN

What?

ISAAC

That vision of the future!

MR. GREEN

Yo man, you're gonna have to go now. It'll be 100 bucks for the weed.

ISAAC

Anything you want just make the pain stop!

Isaac throws all the money in his wallet at Mr. Green and takes the weed and starts to get out.

MR. GREEN

See you at 2:57 yo.

ISAAC

What?

MR. GREEN

You'll see.

Mr. Green drives away, leaving a horrified Isaac on the side of the road.

61

INT. CHRIS'S MOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

61

Isaac steps back Chris' house. Shutting the door quietly behind him. He gingerly steps through the apartment. He bumps into a table, accidentally knocking over a vase.

Right before it crashes to the ground, he grabs it! He exhales, keeps moving,

Now, his phone RINGS! The ringtone is Iggy Azalea's "Fancy".

Chris sticks his head into the hallway, looks at Ethan:

CHRIS

Dude! You're gonna wake my--

VOICE (O.S.)

Hello?

Chris shakes his head. Shit.

CHRIS

Hey, Ma. It's just me.

Chris's mom enters, in her bathrobe. Her eyes light up.

CHRIS'S MOM

Oh my God! Chris!

(beat)

Ethan! Isaac! What are you doing here?!

*
*

CHRIS

We thought we'd surprise you.

*
*

Chris's mom is so happy.

*

INT. CHRIS'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The guys eat voraciously. Isaac takes a slug from a glass of white wine. Chris's mom sits at the table with them, sipping tea. She couldn't be happier.

CHRIS' MOM

More meatloaf, Isaac?

We jump into ISAAC'S POV. Chris' Mom extends her hand across the table. To Isaac, it is a black tentacle dripping with viscous goo. Isaac wills himself to say:

ISAAC

Thank you.

(beat)

May I have some more Chardonnay to wash down my acid reflux medication?

Chris' Mom pours some wine for Isaac, who puts a Molly on his tongue, guzzles it down.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Is anyone else suffering from acid reflux?

ETHAN

(whispers)

What the fuck is that, dude?

ISAAC

(whispers)

I'm freaking out. These mushrooms have turned on me. I need some molly to get even.

CHRIS' MOM

Who's Molly?

CHRIS

Molly is Isaac's best friend, mom.

ISAAC

I'm friends with a woman. And that's her name.

(beat)

I have woman friends. My wife is OK with it. Some wives don't let their husbands be friends with women but my wife is supercool with me being friends with women but only this one woman named Molly who I've been friends with for a really long time.

CHRIS' MOM

That's nice, Isaac.

ISAAC

She's black. Just like you guys.

(changing the subject)

Uhh, Ethan's getting engaged tonight!

*
*
*

CHRIS' MOM *
What?! Ethan, baby, that's *
wonderful. Who's the lucky lady? *

ETHAN *
Her name's Diana. *

CHRIS' MOM *
How long have you been together? *

ETHAN *
I mean, we're not really together-- *
currently. But we did date for a *
year, until she broke up with me *
because I wouldn't take the next *
step. And tonight I'm gonna get her *
back.

CHRIS' MOM *
Good for you. I like that. Take a *
chance, baby. Lemme see that ring. *

ETHAN *
Uhh, I don't exactly have one. But *
she's not super materialistic *
anyway. *
(off Chris' Mom's look) *
I need a ring, don't I? *

CHRIS' MOM *
You do. *

ETHAN *
Do you by chance have any old *
shitty rings lying around? *

CHRIS *
Wow. Seems like you really care for *
this girl. *

ETHAN *
I'll get her a good one later! It *
would just be a temp ring. I'll *
give it back, Mrs. Roberts, I *
promise. *

Chris' mom looks at Ethan, feeling for him. She takes one of *
her rings off. *

CHRIS' MOM *
Here. *

CHRIS
 (incensed)
 Mom! That's Grandma's ring!

*
 *
 *

ETHAN
 Oh my god, thank you so much. I'm
 going to take such good care of
 this.

*
 *
 *
 *

CHRIS
 No. No way.

Chris snatches the ring, goes off into the other room.

**(ALL OF ISAAC'S TEXTS SHOULD BE INTERCUT WITH THE SCENE
 ABOVE)**

*
 *

Isaac's phone chimes. He looks at it. His eyes widen.
 It's a picture of a beautiful penis. He is confused.

ISAAC (V.O.)
 What the fuck? Who is this person?

James: You like it?

Isaac looks down at it, now quite concerned.

ISAAC (V.O.)
 Do I like it? Hmm. I don't want to
 insult this guy... I mean, it's not
 my cup of tea, but *like*?

BACK TO ISAAC, who receives another text:

The same penis. Erect now.

James: Do you like it more now?

Isaac thinks, types:

Isaac: Dope dick homey.

A beat. And now:

James: Tx. Do you want it?

Isaac: Of course I want to have a dick like that.

James: Do you want to suck it?

Isaac: No I don't. I've never sucked a dick before.

James: You've never sucked a dick?

Isaac: I once touched a guy's dick at summer camp but that's it.

ISAAC (V.O.)
 Why did I just tell him that? Fuck.
 I don't even know this guy. All
 right, you can do this.

James: You said you never sucked a dick before. But tonight you're gonna.

Isaac: Oh no I'm not. I can't. I'm about 2 have a baby.

James: You're pregnant?!?!

Isaac: I mean my wife is.

James: Yer married to a woman?

Isaac: Yeah. :)

James: Is she into guys?

Isaac: Of course. How do you think we met?

Meanwhile:

Chris returns to the room.

CHRIS
 Here. This is my high school
 championship ring.

ETHAN
 I can't use this. It has the year
 1998 written on it.

CHRIS
 This is what you get, man. It's
 ring-shaped and it's shiny.

ETHAN
 It's gonna be huge on her.

CHRIS
 Put it on her thumb. You can't use
 grandma's ring.

ETHAN
 Fine. Thanks, man.

CHRIS
 You're welcome.

CHRIS'S MOM

Oh, I almost forgot, I need more headshots.

She goes into the other room, comes back with a stack of 8x10 glossies of Chris:

CHRIS

What do you mean?

CHRIS'S MOM

I got you on the wall at Katz's. Right above Kelly Ripa. They love you there.

CHRIS

Wait, ma--you're signing my headshots and handing them out at restaurants around the city?

CHRIS'S MOM

What? I go in, I say my son wants to be on your wall, they give me a free lunch. It doesn't hurt anyone!

CHRIS

It's dishonest.

CHRIS'S MOM

Dishonest. Please. I'm your mother. I'm just proud of you. That's all.
(to Isaac, Ethan)
He works so hard. You can have all the talent in the world, but unless you work hard--

Chris looks down, sheepish:

CHRIS

C'mon, ma. I didn't work that hard...

CHRIS'S MOM

No, you did. You worked damn hard and now my boy's a superstar. The numbers you're putting up this year? And in a contract year! Shit!

*
*
*
*

CHRIS

Mom, you're embarrassing me.

*
*

CHRIS' MOM

Oh please. I'm allowed to brag. I'm your mother.

CHRIS

Please for the love of god stop.

CHRIS' MOM

I'm so proud of you. Boys, I got so excited, I may have cooked a little too much here.

(beat)

You know what? Chris, why don't I wrap this up and you all can take it to the homeless shelter? Not everyone is as fortunate as us on Christmas. It's only a few blocks away. I'm sure they'd appreciate it.

Ethan and Isaac look at each other, pretty bummed out.

CHRIS

Of course we'll do that, mom. You're right, not everyone is as fortunate as us on Christmas. It's the right thing to do.

CHRIS' MOM

You boys are so sweet. I'll wrap the food up now.

She gets up from the table. Isaac's phone chimes. Ethan looks over at Isaac and sees he has a concerned and confused look on his face.

ETHAN

Dude, what's going on with you?

ISAAC (V.O.)

(in his head, not talking)

This guy keeps sending me dick picks and it's freaking me out.

ETHAN

Isaac?

ISAAC (V.O.)

What?

ETHAN

Why aren't you saying anything?

ISAAC (V.O.)

What do you mean? I'm saying plenty! Is my mouth broken? Am I dead?!?

ETHAN

What're you looking at on your phone?

Ethan leans over and sees one of the dick picks.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Whose dick is that?

ISAAC (V.O.)

I don't know! That's the whole problem!

ETHAN

Dude, why aren't you speaking? Chris, there's something wrong with Isaac.

ISAAC (V.O.)

He has no idea how right he is. There's so much wrong with me. I'm fear incarnate. I have no soul. And now my mouth is broken. I have to start it up again. Okay Isaac, you can do this. One, two-

ISAAC

I. Am. Isaac!

Isaac holds his phone up and shows Chris the picture of a dick.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But this is NOT Isaac's dick. Why?

ETHAN

Put that away! What the fuck are you doing?

Ethan grabs the phone from him.

CHRIS

Jesus Christ, we've got to get him out of here.

Ethan examines the phone.

ETHAN

Dude, this isn't your phone. Whose phone is this?

*
*
*

Isaac thinks.

*

ISAAC

Gasp It's blood mouth's phone! We must've switched phones in the bar...

*
*
*
*

(beat)

*

Oh no! The video! Destroyer of worlds! Is on my phone!

*
*

ETHAN

What video?

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What video?

ISAAC

I left my future sober self a message about how I should never be a father.

ETHAN

Why would you do that?

ISAAC

Because he needs to know! He has no idea what's coming for him! He's completely unprepared!

(beat)

Shit. How am I ever gonna get that back. I'm screwed.

ETHAN

Call her.

*
*

ISAAC

Genius! How did you think of that?!

*
*

Sarah and her friends do shots in a loud club.

SARAH

This is so much fun!

DIANA

What?

SARAH

I said it's so much fun!

DIANA

It's so fucking unnecessarily loud in here!

64

INT. CHRIS' MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

64

ISAAC

Shit. She didn't pick up. Oh god, what if I never find her? And she gets to go Da Nutcracka Ball and we don't!

*
*
*
*
*

CHRIS

Wait, what? She's going to the party?

*
*
*

ETHAN

Seriously? That's great! Then we don't need to rely on Chris's friends who will probably never call. We can just use Find my iPhone...

*
*
*
*
*

CHRIS

They're going to call, they're probably just--

*
*
*

ETHAN

It doesn't matter now! Now we can just track her to the party!

*
*

Ethan starts the APP and tracks Isaac's phone.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yes! There it is! She's in midtown. And she isn't moving so she's probably already there! Lets get rid of this food and get down there.

*
*
*

66

EXT. SOUP KITCHEN - SOON AFTER

66

The guys walk towards the soup kitchen.

ISAAC

This isn't soup. Are they gonna take it?

ETHAN

They feed them more than soup,
Isaac.

ISAAC

That's good. Cuz if I was hungry,
I'd want more than just soup. That
wouldn't fill me up. I'd want a
nice piece of some steak. Some
potatoes. Fuck, I'm hungry, when
are we going to eat something?

*
*

CHRIS

My mom just served a giant dinner.
The leftovers are in your hand.

*
*
*

ISAAC

Finally! Something going right.

*
*

Isaac starts unwrapping the food.

*

CHRIS

What are you doing?! You're gonna
eat the homeless people's food
right in front of them-

*
*
*
*

ISAAC

(mouthful of food)
It's our food. They should be
thankful we're sharing.

*
*
*
*

They reach the HOMELESS SHELTER.

CHRIS

Oh my god. It's *her!*

SNAP ZOOM ON: Q'uisha. Walking out of the Homeless Shelter,
carrying a TURKEY.

ETHAN

Do you not know her name?

*
*

CHRIS

Look how amazing she is. She is the
living embodiment of Christmas
giving. First she gives me a fuck
for the ages and now she's giving
out turkeys to the homeless.
Unreal. She makes Mother Teresa
look like a fucking whore!

*
*

ETHAN

Umm, I don't think you're reading
this situation right.

*

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, by the way she's clutching that turkey, I don't think she's planning on giving it away.

They watch her as she ducks into an alleyway.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Ohhh no. Dude, you fucked a homeless girl.

*
*
*

CHRIS

Fuck you Ethan! No I didn't!

*

ISAAC

Well did you ask her if she was homeless before you slept with her?

*

CHRIS

Who the fuck asks that question? You're crazy.

67

EXT. TENEMENT BLDG.

67

In the distance, they see Q'uisha duck into a shitty run-down Tenement Building.

ETHAN

Am I?

*

CHRIS

She's not fucking homeless. I'll prove it. Come on.

68

EXT. HOMELESS CAMP

68

In the distance, they see Q'uisha standing by a dumpster with a GROUP OF HOMELESS PEOPLE. Some CRACKHEADS. Some TWEAKERS.

CHRIS

Maybe she's a... social worker.

ETHAN

Supplying crackheads with turkeys?

Isaac shakes hands with random crackheads.

*

ISAAC

Hello. I'm Isaac. Hello. Isaac.

*
*

From a safe distance away, they observe Q'uisha:

ETHAN

How do you explain that garbage fire?

Q'uisha is now lighting a garbage fire in a large drum.

CHRIS

Uhh, she's not just going to leave these poor people with a frozen turkey. She's gonna cook it for them. I told you, she's giving.

ETHAN

I don't know, dude. I think she's just straight-up homeless.

CHRIS

Okay, new angle. She's an undercover cop and she's infiltrating them. Deep cover.

ETHAN

Well she's really immersed herself in the role.

CHRIS

She's not fucking homeless. I'll prove it. Come on.

Chris storms off towards her. Q'uisha turns, sees Chris:

Q'UISHA

Hey. What's up? Didn't think I'd see you again.

They share a nice awkward hug.

CHRIS

Haha, yeah neither did I. Nice place. What the, uh, fuck are you doing here?

Q'UISHA

This is just a place I come to sometimes.

Chris looks at her, smiles.

CHRIS

...You know, it occurs to me that we don't really know each other that well...

*

Q'UISHA

I'm Q'uisha.

CHRIS

Yeah, well you failed to tell me anything else about you.

Q'uisha stokes her garbage fire and shrugs.

Q'UISHA

Sometimes Q'Uisha just gotta be Q'Uisha.

CHRIS

That explains nothing. Look, I'm gonna be super straight with you and I don't mean any offence by this-

(quietly)

You don't, like, have anything, do you?

*
*
*
*

Q'UISHA

Motherfucker, I'm homeless. I don't have shit.

On Chris, processing...

CHRIS

No I mean, have anything... Down there?

Q'UISHA

Yeah, I got a bomb-ass pussy. You banged it. Don't you remember?

CHRIS

Um, will you excuse me a second?

Chris goes pale. He turns and walks back to Ethan:

ETHAN

So how did it go?

CHRIS

You're right. She's homeless. I had sex with a homeless person. Oh god.

*

ETHAN

But you used a condom--

CHRIS

Of course not. Listen, if you're not gonna be reasonable, I can't talk to you about this.

ETHAN

Are you being serious right now?
You didn't use a fucking condom?

*
*
*

Chris turns around and sees Q'Uisha lighting up a joint.

*

CHRIS

Hey. Is that my weed?

*

Q'Uisha suddenly RUNS!

*

CHRIS (CONT'D)

*

Q'uisha! Where are you going?! I don't care about the weed! I just need to know if you have AIDS!
FUCK! Guys! Get in the limo!

*
*
*
*
*

69

I/E. LIMO - CONTINUOUS

69

The guys jump in. Chris frantically lowers the partition.

CHRIS

Step on it!! After her!!

LIMO DRIVER

Who?

CHRIS

Her! The hot homeless chick!

Q'uisha books it down the alley.

LIMO DRIVER

Really?

The Driver steps on the gas, sending all the guys flying backwards. It fishtails around the corner.

*

ISAAC

Jesus Christ. Slow down! This is terrifying!!

*
*

CHRIS

No! Speed up!

LIMO DRIVER

Guys it's very confusing--

ISAAC
SLOW DOWN!!

CHRIS
FASTER!!

ETHAN
A limo chasing a homeless person in the projects. This is probably one of the more socially fucked up things a person can do.

CHRIS
Yeah?! How about fucking a guy and not telling him you're homeless?!
(beat)
Ugh, no wonder she was so "earthy" down there.

ETHAN
You went down on her?

CHRIS
I'm a gentlemen, Ethan!

*

Q'uisha runs across the street as the light turns YELLOW. Chris bangs on the hood of the limo.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Run it! Run it!

LIMO DRIVER
AHHHHH!!!

The Limo Driver runs the light.

ISAAC
NO!! Hit the brakes!!

70 **EXT. STREET**

70

The Limo Driver then slams on the brakes. SCREECH!! They come to a stop in the middle of intersection.

ISAAC
Phewf. That could have been--

CRASH!! The limo is T-BONED by a TOW-TRUCK!

71 **INT. LIMO - NIGHT**

71

Inside the limo, the guys look around, dazed.

CHRIS
I'm sorry, guys. I have to get her.

*

They guys look into the distance, where Q'uisha disappears into the darkness.

ETHAN

What? She's so far away. You'll never catch her.

CHRIS

I'm on steroids, motherfucker.

(beat)

I'll call you. We'll meet up later.

And he runs off. The Driver calls out to him.

DRIVER

Wait!

(tosses Chris a red bull)

It gives you wings!

Chris catches the red bull then runs off again.

Ethan looks at Isaac:

ETHAN

What the fuck are we gonna do!

DRIVER

Don't worry, guys. The good people of Red Bull will take care of it.

ETHAN

What?

DRIVER

We're more than your corporate sponsors, we're your friends.

ETHAN

Wow. That is so cool. Thank you.

Ethan scans the iPhone:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

The girls are really close, man. A couple blocks away. They've been stopped for a while.

EXT. ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

Sarah stands with her cousins. They stare at carolers, singing.

SARAH
 You guys seen enough of this
 tourist crap?

Her cousins nod.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Good. Taxi!

She hails a cab...

Just as her turns the corner, Ethan consults his phone:

ETHAN
 They should just be right up
 here...

ISAAC
 Wait. Do you hear that?
 (beat)
 It's so beautiful. Oh, man. The
 molly's starting to kick in now.

In the distance, the sound of CAROLERS. Now, Isaac turns, to see a throng of carolers. He closes his eyes, basking in their dulcet tones. He opens his eyes, sees her: BETSY.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 It's my wife! YEAH!

ETHAN
 Oh no.

ISAAC
 Wow. This is the most perfect
 moment of my entire life. She's my
 favorite person in the world. And
 she's here!

Ethan grabs Isaac, and pulls him backwards into a...

PORTO POTTY

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 What are we doing in here?

Ethan raises his phone up, clicks the FLASHLIGHT APP, shines it in Isaac's eyes. Isaac GROANS in pain.

ETHAN
 This is the one thing she asked you
 not to do.

ISAAC

It's cool. I just want to tell her that she's pretty and that I love her and then we'll leave.

ETHAN

No way, man.

ISAAC

I love you too, Ethan. But you can't stop me.

(beat)

I'll call you. We'll meet up later.

74

EXT. PORTO POTTY

74

Isaac BUSTS OUT OF THE PORTO POTTY.

ISAAC

Babe! Wife! It's me! I love you!

BETSY

Isaac?

She frowns at him...

And Ethan steps out of the Porta-Potty.

He watches, as Ushers urge the carolers inside. And now, it's quiet.

Ethan stands there, alone.

He pulls out his phone and sees he received a text from Diana "This happening? Where am I going?" He responds "Definitely happening. Address coming soon. Can't wait to see you." *

Ethan smiles and digs into his pocket, pulling out the ring. He looks at it, proud and excited. *

Behind Ethan, we see someone approaching - it appears to be Santa Claus. *

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Chris spots Q'Uisha at the end of an alley. He runs after her. He's gaining on her. He's about to catch her...

And she turns a corner onto a thin, cluttered alley. In an elaborate series of parkour-like moves: she leaps over a garbage can with a fire in it. She kicks it back. Chris leaps over it...

She keeps running, comes upon a series of boxes that create a staircase leading over a fence. She deftly runs over them, stepping on specific ones and hops the fence.

Chris reaches the boxes, runs on them and one of them gives way beneath him, dropping him five feet!

CHRIS

Aaargh!

He pushes himself up, looks up, and climbs the fence. Q'Uisha's at the end of the alley. She disappears around the corner.

Chris looks down, recommits himself to the fight...

Keeps running.

INT. ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

A packed midnight mass. A choir sings "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". Isaac sits there amongst families and beautiful, beaming children. Isaac's eyes wander around the Church.

Stained-glass images and statues of Christ on the cross. He catches Nana giving him a look like, "That's right. Your people did that." Betsy leans over, whispers to him:

BETSY

If you're gonna violate my one rule, you're gonna sit through this whole service.

ISAAC

OK. I love you. How long is it?

BETSY

(smiling)
Hours.

ISAAC

Your Christian rabbi's fantastic. What's his name? Where did he train? He's so handsome. My rabbi looks like Mandy Patinkin. Don't get me wrong, I love Mandy Patinkin--

BETSY

Shhh.

ISAAC

Okay, I'm sorry. I love you.

Now, Isaac's phone buzzes:

BETSY

Turn that off, please.

He pulls out his phone to silence it. And we see a picture of a penis on the screen.

BETSY (CONT'D)

What the fuck is that? Is that a fucking dick pic? What the fuck have you been doing?

ISAAC

Nothing.

BETSY

Well, that was definitely a picture of a dick! And it wasn't your dick!

ISAAC

It's fine. Relax. This guy's just been sending me pictures of his dick. You're overreacting.

BETSY

What guy? Whose dick is it?

ISAAC

I don't know whose dick it is. Can we just drop it? It's no biggie.

(beat)

Actually, it kinda is a biggie. This dude's got a dope dick. Could you imagine if my dick was even half that big?

*
*
*

The Couple behind them notices what they're looking at.

OLD LADY

Oh my god.

ISAAC

I know, right? That's a handsome hog. Kind of hog that'd win the county fair, know what I mean?

*
*

BETSY

Shut the fuck up. What are you doing? You have to stop. You're in a church!

He does. Now, Isaac scans the church. His eyes land on a mosaic etched into the ceiling: burning hellfire.

He turns away, sees a BABY crying. The child's MOTHER smiles apologetically. Isaac turns, sees Jesus on the cross.

ISAAC

I'm gonna throw up. I love you.

BETSY

Don't throw up.

ISAAC

I have to. And I love you.

BETSY

Isaac, don't you dare fucking throw up. If you love me, you will not throw up.

ISAAC

Where are the barf bags? Where are they?

Isaac searches through the pew, throwing pamphlets in the air.

BETSY

There are no barf bags, Isaac--

ISAAC

BLAAAAAH!

Isaac PUKES right in the middle of St. Patrick's cathedral. The whole congregation turns.

Isaac looks up, sees the whole congregation looking at him...

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I'm Jewish! Don't judge me!
(pointing at Jesus)
He's Jewish too!

And runs out of the church!

77

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

77

Chris chases after Q'Uisha. He spots something: a SHOE. He picks it up, hurls it at Q'Uisha. She doesn't break stride, sees the reflection of the shoe in a broken mirror next to her, ducks. It whizzes past her, missing her head by inches!

She climbs up a fire escape with cat-like agility. He follows her. She runs to the edge of roof, looks back with steely eyes.

CHRIS
Q'Uisha. Don't.

She nods, and gracefully falls backwards in slow-motion. Her eyes remain locked on Chris:

CHRIS (CONT'D)
No! Q'Uisha!

She's about to hit the ground. At the last moment, she expertly contorts her body and gently lands in a dumpster. She looks up, daring him to follow:

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Fuck that.

They lock eyes... As Q'Uisha throws her hoodie up like a cloak and disappears into the night. Chris looks down at his dick...

It's hard.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Damn. She's hot.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Ethan wanders the streets, sad. Neon signs dissolve in and out all around him like he's a barfly in a 50's movie. He pulls the ring out of his pocket, looks at it. He's about to put it back in his pocket when-

SANTA (O.S.)
Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ethan turns around, startled.

ETHAN
Holy fuck. You scared the shit out of me Santa.

SANTA
Ho! Ho! What's a boy like you doing all alone on Christmas eve?

ETHAN
Just waiting for my friends to come back. They kind of ran off.

SANTA
Ho! Ho! That's not in the spirit of Christmas, leaving a friend alone like that.

ETHAN

They've got plenty in their lives
to deal with. They're kind of off
doing there own thing.

SANTA

What a beautiful ring.

ETHAN

Yeah. I'm going to propose to this
girl tonight.

SANTA 2 (O.S.)

But haven't you been a naughty boy?

ETHAN

What?

Ethan turns to see another Santa behind him.

SANTA 3

Naughty boys don't get to keep
their toys.

Ethan sees two more Santas appear.

ETHAN

What the fuck is happening?

One of the Santa's pulls out a SWITCH BLADE.

SANTA

We're robbing you, you dumb fuck.

Ethan is terrified.

78

EXT. ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

78

Isaac, hyperventilating, steps out onto the street.

BETSY

Isaac!

ISAAC

I'm sorry!

BETSY

Isaac, I've tried to be cool...

(beat)

I've literally tried to be the
coolest wife in the history of
civilization...

(beat)

(MORE)

BETSY (CONT'D)

But you need to get your shit together.

ISAAC

You're right! I just don't know how! I'm gonna suck at being a dad! And I'm scared!

BETSY

Oh, you're scared? I'm scared. Everyone's scared! Being scared isn't an excuse to act like an idiot!

She turns around, walks away.

ISAAC

OK! You're right! You're right! Forgive me! Or don't! I don't deserve your forgiveness! I fucking suck!

BETSY

Agreed!

ISAAC

I'm terrible! I'm the worst!

Betsy turns back, walks right up to him:

BETSY

Isaac, do you think we're making a mistake by having this baby? Be honest. Because if you do, you fucking tell me right now.

Isaac looks like a deer in headlights.

ISAAC

No. I want this baby.

BETSY

You promise?

ISAAC

Yes, I promise.

BETSY

Fuck you.

She walks away again.

ISAAC

But I love you!

BETSY

FUCK YOU!

ISAAC

I LOVE YOU!

(to himself)

I gotta get that fucking phone
back.

80 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS 80 *

The Santas surround Ethan. *

SANTA *

Empty your pockets, asshole. *

ETHAN *

Come on, you guys. This is *
Christmas, and you're robbing *
people dressed like Santa? *

SANTA 1 *

Yeah. That's the joke. Now kindly *
empty your pockets or we'll beat *
the fuck out of you. Ho, Ho, NOW! *

Santa 1 holds out a big red sack filled with shit they've *
been stealing from people all night. *

ETHAN *

Absolutely. *

Ethan hurriedly empties his pockets. He puts his phone and *
wallet into the sack, but he seems incapable of handing over *
the ring. *

SANTA 1 *

Move it, asshole. The ring too. *

SANTA *

Stop guys! We've taken enough. Let *
him keep the ring. *
(to Ethan) *
Good luck with your proposal, man. *
Merry Christmas. *

ETHAN *

Really?!

SANTA *

No. *

Santa snatches the ring out of Ethan's hand. *

SANTA (CONT'D)

Shit kick him!

They shove him to the ground and shit kick him.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Isaac, heart-broken, walks down the street. Chris suddenly runs out of an alley.

ISAAC

Oh thank god! Chris, I'm in a lot of trouble. We need to get to the party and get my phone, or my marriage will be over.

CHRIS

She got away.

ISAAC

She got away? You're a professional football player. Who's on steroids. How did she get away?

CHRIS

She had some weird homeless knowledge of the area. The kind of knowledge you only get from really living on the streets.

(beat)

Yo, it was sexy.

They hear a groaning and turn to see Ethan stumbling towards them all beat up.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Dude! What the fuck!

ETHAN

Oh, great! You guys got here just in the nick of time to stop a bunch of angry Santas from beating the shit out of me and stealing everything I have.

ISAAC

That just happened?

ETHAN

Yeah it just happened cuz you guys fucking bailed on me and left me alone and I was supposed to propose to my girlfriend--

ISAAC
Ex-Girlfriend.

ETHAN
Whatever. But now I don't have a
motherfucking ring to give her.

*
*

CHRIS
You lost my high school
championship ring?

ETHAN
Yes. And also I got mugged and got
the shit kicked out of me!

CHRIS
That was the state championship,
man. I had 2 TD's in that game...

ETHAN
Look at my eye! I did not mean for
this to happen! I'm just a normal-
sized human being! I can't take on
6 people! Maybe if you were here,
you could've kicked their asses
what with all those steroids
coursing through your veins...
(beat)
Let me see your phone.

CHRIS
Why?

ETHAN
To find Isaac's phone.

He grabs Chris' phone.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
They've been stopped in Red Hook
for an hour. That must be it.

...And starts to walk away.

ISAAC
Where are you going?

ETHAN
To this fucking party.

Ethan walks away, pissed. The guys follow him.

INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT

The guys wait on a train platform. Ethan looks down, sullen.

CHRIS

Hey, maybe this is for the best man. I mean, you guys aren't even technically going out, right? Maybe you need some more time to think about this, you know?

ETHAN

The only fucking reason you don't want me to propose is because its going to embarrass you in front of you douchebag fucking friends, who are CLEARLY not your friends. I don't know why we're even still referring to them as your friends.

CHRIS

Fuck you, Ethan. Way to kick me while I'm down. I might have AIDS.

ETHAN

That's your own fucking fault. Why don't you wear a condom like a normal human being instead of acting like a 16 year old? It's fucking idiotic. If you end up with AIDS you deserve it.

ISAAC

Calm down, man. You're gonna ruin the night--

ETHAN

I'm gonna ruin the night? You've been ruining the night ALL NIGHT cuz you've been doing drugs non-stop like a fucking addict.

ISAAC

I thought I've been pretty funny.

ETHAN

No, what you've been is fucking selfish. You're just all wrapped up in your own shit. Plus you had this fucking baby earlier than we all agreed! You guys have just been the shittiest friends all night.

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I told you I'm going to propose and
all you guys have done is poked
holes in my plan and put it down.
What? I can't have anything of my
own?

CHRIS

What?!

ETHAN

You're rich and famous and Isaac's
a fucking perfect picture of the
American dream with a fucking
awesome wife and a kid on the way
and I'm fucked.

CHRIS

That's because you never got a
fucking job! Or grew up!

ETHAN

I thought I had time! And then I
just woke up one day and I was a
loser and you guys were successful!
Whatever. Fuck it. You guys don't
understand. It's all so easy for
you two...

CHRIS

Easy? I worked crazy hard, man!
Isaac worked his ass off! He went
to law school!

ETHAN

You didn't work hard! You took
steroids!

CHRIS

I worked hard *and* I took steroids!

ISAAC

I just worked hard. Law school was
hard. My job sucks. My wife doesn't
love me anymore.

ETHAN

Your job sucks?! What do you make,
300 thousand dollars a year?

ISAAC

450. After my bonus. I had a really
good year.

ETHAN

I haven't made that much money in my entire life.

CHRIS

It's hard for us too. You have no idea what it's like to be us.

ISAAC

OK, OK. Stop lumping me in with you, Chris. Let's be honest, you don't really know what's going on in my life. Maybe if you responded to that voicemail I left you three months ago, you would...

CHRIS

Well, if I wasn't on your fantasy team, you wouldn't give a fuck about me either.

(beat)

I told you I was doing steroids, man. And you were excited about it! I've never seen you so happy! That was a cry for help!

ISAAC

Well, I'm sorry! I've been doing drugs all night! That's a cry for help! There wasn't one drug I took tonight that wasn't a cry for help! I think at one point I was literally crying for help!

ETHAN

Well, I never cried at all. You guys have so much more than I do and I never once put any of my shit on you.

A long beat.

And Chris looks over at Isaac, who's on his phone:

CHRIS

What are you doing?

ISAAC

Dropping your ass from my fantasy team. You're dead weight, man.

CHRIS

Fuck you! I want my 50 grand back!

ISAAC
 I already fucking spent it!
 (beat)
 And you know what else? I don't
 want to go to Cabo with you!

CHRIS
 Don't say that shit. You love Cabo.

ETHAN
 You guys are going to Cabo
 together?

ISAAC
 NOT ANYMORE!

82

INT. KOREAN DELI - NIGHT

82

The guys walk out of the subway and approach a Korean Deli. *

ETHAN
 We're here. *

ISAAC
 Great. *

CHRIS
 Awesome. *

Chris takes off his Christmas sweater and checks his
 reflection out. He buttons a button on his shirt, smooths out
 his pants. Ethan notices. *

ETHAN
 You're not gonna wear your sweater? *

CHRIS
 Nah, man. *

ETHAN
 OK. Cool. That makes sense. *

A nondescript Korean deli.

ISAAC
 Is this the right place?

Ethan consults his phone:

ETHAN
 Looks like it.

The guys walk up to the counter, where a KOREAN MAN stands.

KOREAN MAN

What do you want?

CHRIS

Uh, I don't know.

ETHAN

We want to, um, go to... the party. *

He consults a clipboard:

KOREAN MAN

What's your name?

CHRIS

Chris Roberts.

He looks at the list. The guys inhale. He nods.

KOREAN MAN

Come with me.

He leads the guys back through the deli. They look at each other. This is weird. *

They move through billowing plastic and into a...

FREEZER

They walk past stacked cases of beer, toward a giant metal door. The Korean Man pushes on the handle and opens it, revealing...

84

INT. NUTCRACKA BALL - NIGHT

84

The guys enter a tunnel of light. Christmas lights all around. They stare in wide-eyed wonder. A Christmas song pulses slowly around them, finally kicking in.

Isaac silently pops another Molly.

And the guys stare at each other. A shared moment of excitement. For a second, they almost forget they're in a fight.

They reach the end of the tunnel, which opens into...

85

INT. THE BEST PARTY EVER - NIGHT

85

A crazy, amazing Christmas-themed party lit with strobing Christmas lights.

Tron meets Burning Man meets the North Pole. The guys enter, stare at each other. Isaac stands there, looks at Chris and Ethan. They share a sad moment.

CHRIS
I'm gonna go find Mason.

ETHAN
I'm gonna go find Diana. Have a great fucking night.

ISAAC
I'm getting my phone back.

The guys split up. Isaac and Sarah spot each other through the crowd.

ANGLE ON ISAAC

Who spots Sarah, approaches her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Hey!

SARAH
Get the fuck away from me.

ISAAC
No. You don't understand. We switched phones.

SARAH
We did? Jesus.

ISAAC
You didn't notice?

SARAH
No. I recently got hypnotized to look at my phone less. I was tweeting while driving and hit a dog. That was my rock bottom.
(beat)
Did you bleed on my fucking phone?

ISAAC
No.

He hands over the phone. There is dried blood on it.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Maybe a little bit.

He starts to wipe it off.

SARAH
You didn't look at it, did you?

ISAAC
A phone is like a person's diary. I
would never violate your privacy
like that.

They exchange phones.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(super relieved)
Oh, thank God. By they way, your
friend James is really lucky...

SARAH
Thanks. Your wife is not.

ISAAC
...I just mean because he has a
huge cock.

VOICE (O.S.)
Did someone say cock?

Isaac and Sarah turn to see JAMES FRANCO. He puts his arm
around Sarah.

JAMES FRANCO
Yo! What're you guys talking about?
Sup bro, I'm James.

ISAAC
Hey... I'm... Isaac. Wow. This is
crazy. You're THE James.

JAMES FRANCO
Man, this party is fucking insane
You guys wanna dance?

ISAAC
Sure!

The three of them hit the dance floor.

Chris wanders the party, smiling, taking in the adulation.

Now, Mason approaches:

MASON
You made it!

CHRIS

Yeah.

MASON

Oh shit! We were supposed to call you back, weren't we? My bad, man. The night just got really fun and we totally forgot.

CHRIS

It's cool. I was busy too. *

(beat)

Hey, I brought the weed!

MASON

Cool. Just put it over there with the other shit.

Chris looks to the right, where a LITTLE SLEIGH full of weed sits.

MASON (CONT'D)

Oh, OK. Yeah...

He tosses his little weed jar on top.

CHRIS

So this is it!

MASON

Yes. The greatest party in the history of everything. For all the finest people Christmas forgot. We got Jews, Asians, pagans, Jehovah's witnesses, freaks, orphans, adopted kids who hate their fake parents. Pretty much anyone who hates spending time with their family, really.

CHRIS

Nice.

87

INT. NUTCRACKA BALL - NIGHT

87

Ethan walks through the party with purpose. *

ETHAN

Alright... where am I gonna do this? By that giant snow globe...
hmm... *

*
*
*
*

Ethan walks around and sees there is a stage with music equipment on it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hmmm.

He wanders toward the stage and sees... MILEY CYRUS!

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Holy fuck.

He starts thinking and has an idea. Nervously he heads toward her, then his confidence builds as he approaches. He taps Miley on the shoulder.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Pardon me Miss Cyrus. I hate to bother you but I have a quick question. There's a girl coming here tonight and she's a massive fan and Wrecking Ball is literally her favorite song ever and I was going to sing it to her, here, tonight, and then propose to her. I'm sure your very busy but the fact that you're here seems like a Christmas miracle and I just have to ask if there's any chance you would be into maybe being part of my proposal.

Miley stares at him thinking.

MILEY

So...what're you thinking?

Ethan can't believe there's even a chance.

ETHAN

I mean, I guess ideally you would start playing Wrecking Ball and I'd come out at the end and get on one knee and propose. It would blow her mind.

MILEY

But you were gonna sing the song yourself, right? So you can sing?

ETHAN

I mean, not well but--

MILEY

If you can sing, why don't you just
sing with me? Then, like, when the
song crescendos you should drop to
one knee and just do it.

ETHAN

Oh my god. Miss Cyrus, this is just
the greatest thing anyone has ever
done for me.

MILEY

I mean, it's too romantic for me to
say no. But you have to stop
calling me Miss Cyrus.

ETHAN

You got it... Miley! I can't
believe this is happening! UNREAL!

95

INT. NUTCRACKA BALL - NIGHT

95

Isaac is on the dance floor with James Franco, both sweaty,
totally vibing on each other.

JAMES FRANCO

Oh my god, man! You're like, the
greatest dancer!

ISAAC

I'm on so much molly you wouldn't
believe it!

Sarah dances beside them, clearly ignored by James.

88

INT. NUTCRACKA BALL - NIGHT

88

Chris walks with Mason. They run into CARMELO ANTHONY:

CARMELO ANTHONY

Yo! It's Paul Revere! How was your
legendary ride, my man?!

CHRIS

What do you mean?

CARMELO ANTHONY

Hey Shaq! LeBron! Check this shit
out!

Melo pulls out his phone. SHAQ and LEBRON gather around it. On it, a video recorded earlier in the night of Chris performing "Paul Revere" with his friends. They start laughing.

MASON

That's fucking ridiculous!

SHAQ

You look mad foolish.

CARMELO ANTHONY

Who are these other assholes?

CHRIS

No one. They're no one.

LEBRON

That sweater's cool, though.

CHRIS

Really? I still have it. I just took it off because I didn't think you guys would like it--

LEBRON

That makes it not cool.

Chris slowly realizes these guys aren't his friends. They're just dicks. *

INT. NUTCRACKA BALL - CONTINUOUS *

Ethan spots Diana across the room. He pushes through the crowd, to her: *

ETHAN

Diana!

DIANA *

This party is incredible! *

ETHAN *

I know. *

DIANA

I can't believe we're here together. Life is fucking weird. You know?

They lock eyes. We then hear CHEERS. *

MILEY (O.S.)
Merry Christmas, New York City!!

Diana turns to see see Miley Cyrus taking the stage. The opening to WRECKING BALL starts. Diana goes ape shit.

DIANA
OH MY GOD!!! AHFFF!!

Diana spastically grabs onto Ethan, clawing his back and arms.

ETHAN
Ow! OW! Wait right here, okay? Do not move.

Ethan runs off as Diana rocks out, entranced.

INT. NUTCRACKA BALL - STAGE - NIGHT

Ethan runs on-stage and takes the mic beside Miley and joins into the chorus.

ETHAN
Wre-e-eck me!

Diana's mind is blown. Ethan and Miley continue the song together as a duet.

ANGLE ON: CHRIS hears Ethan's voice over the speaker.

CHRIS
Oh my god.

ANGLE ON: ISAAC, rocking out with James Franco's arm around him.

ANGLE ON: DIANA, making eye contact with Ethan. It's fucking beautiful.

The SONG ends and everyone goes crazy.

Ethan grabs the mic and gets down on one knee.

MILEY
Shh. Quiet. Quiet, y'all.

ETHAN
Diana...

Ethan's line of vision to Diana is obscured by some people in front of her.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yo dude. Yeah, you in the red. Move over for a sec.

Confused, the guy moves.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's better.

(deep breath)

Okay. Diana, you are the best thing that ever happened to me. Ummm, wow. It is a lot harder in front of a bunch of people. Nervous. I don't know why I'm so nervous. Probably the people.

(beat)

The thing I really wanna ask you is... here goes...

Diana slowly realizes what's happening. Ethan gets down on one knee, drenched in sweat and drunk.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Listen, I know we're not really even going out anymore, and I know I'm all beat up and I know I'm all sweaty and I know I'm pretty drunk but none of that changes the truth...

(heavy breathing)

One sec. Sorry.

(to Miley)

Jesus. How do you do that for a whole concert?

(beat)

...And the truth is, I fucked up when I let you go. When I saw you tonight I knew that. And I'm never gonna let you go again. So...

(beat)

Will you marry me?

Everyone looks to Diana who stands there, stunned. Ethan waits on his knee for a long beat as everyone in the party awaits her answer.

RANDOM DUDE (O.S.)

Uhh, where's the ring, dude?!

ETHAN

Umm...

(to Diana)

I don't have a ring right now. But I did earlier tonight. I swear!

MURMURS in the crowd. Miley leans over to Ethan. *

MILEY *

Are you fucking serious? You don't
even have a ring? *

ETHAN *

I got robbed by a wild pack of
Santas earlier. They stole it.
(to Diana) *
But it was a really nice ring! *

MILEY *

What the fuck's going on here? Do
you know how stupid you're making
me look? *

Everyone looks to Diana. She's incredibly uncomfortable. *

ETHAN

OK, everyone. Let's keep it down
here. Give the lady a chance to
respond.

Beat.

DIANA *

Yes.

The crowd cheers. Ethan and Diana walk off the stage. They
look at each other.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Uh, can I talk to you for a second?

They stand to the side of the stage:

DIANA (CONT'D)

I can't marry you.

ETHAN *

Wait, what? Why not? I love you.

DIANA *

I loved you too. And I missed you.
A lot. But, Ethan--we broke up. We
haven't spoken in 3 months and you
come in here all beat up and crazy
and you propose to me in front of a
bunch of fucking strangers. What is
going on with you? Are you OK?

ETHAN

So that's a no.

DIANA

Yes it's a fucking no.

ETHAN

You said you wanted me to take the next step. And I do exactly that, with gusto. With Miley Cyrus at the FUCKING NUTCRACKER BALL! That's some dope fucking shit! What more do you want!

DIANA

That's not what I meant about a next step, man. There's a lot of daylight between what we had and a wedding proposal.

ETHAN

So why'd you say yes out there?

*

DIANA

You were drowning. You were gonna start a fucking riot. We're not even going out anymore.

ETHAN

I know. I referenced that in my speech.

DIANA

I'm just gonna give you some space.

ETHAN

I don't really want...space.

DIANA

Well, you fucking need it.

She walks away.

ANGLE ON ISAAC

Who looks at his friend, sees him hang his head, start to walk away...

Isaac chases after him.

*

ISAAC

Ethan!

*

*

Isaac bumps a crowd of people trying to smoke a bowl, knocking a flaming ember onto the ground that ignites a guy dressed as Santa Claus, setting his sleeve on fire:

*

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Holy shit. Dude, your sleeve is on fire.

Isaac desperately looks around, grabs a glass of water, throws it on the guy, who SHOOTs UP IN FLAMES!

SANTA 1

That was alcohol!

Isaac's eyes land on a fire extinguisher. He grabs for it, sprays the guy, putting out the fire.

ISAAC

Jesus. You all right?

SANTA 1

Yeah--I'm fine, buddy. But, man, you gotta watch yourself.

ISAAC

I know. Let me get you a towel...

Isaac slips, falls, headbutting the guy and knocking him unconscious. A GIRL runs up to him:

GIRL

Todd! Todd! What did you do to my husband?

CARMELO ANTHONY (O.S.)

Yo! What the fuck?!?

Now, Isaac turns, sees a group of athletes closing in on him...

*
*

CHRIS

Oh shit.

*
*

ISAAC

Oh no. You guys. Don't do this. It's Christmas. I'm on so many drugs. Please.

CARMELO ANTHONY

Who the fuck you here with, man?

ISAAC

I'm uh... I snuck in alone.

CHRIS (O.S.)

That's not true. He's with me.

They turn, see Chris, standing there.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
He's my friend.

89

EXT. NUTCRACKA BALL, ROOF - NIGHT

89

The sad Charlie Brown Christmas song plays. Ethan walks out onto the roof. The city lights twinkle in the distance.

Ethan stares at the New York skyline, sullen.

And now, it starts to SNOW.

He looks up into the air.

VOICE (O.S.)
Magical night, isn't it?

He turns, sees Mr. Green.

ETHAN
Oh. Hey. You again. Dude, you are like everywhere.

MR. GREEN
I end every Christmas at this party. It's fucking awesome. If you ever have any trouble getting in, just let me know.

ETHAN
OK. Thanks.

MR. GREEN
Want a hit?

He holds out a joint, dramatically.

ETHAN
Nah, I'm good.

MR. GREEN
Suit yourself. So, how's the night going?

ETHAN
Pretty shitty.

MR. GREEN
Wanna talk about it?

ETHAN
Nothing to talk about. It's just--
(beat)
(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I spend every Christmas with my friends, only this is the last time we're gonna do it because one of them's about to have a kid and move away and the other one's getting all famous and they're both fucking dicks. And I just proposed to a girl I'm not even dating anymore like a fucking lunatic and everyone's leaving me and I'm totally alone.

MR. GREEN

Your friends won't leave you. They need you, kid.

ETHAN

Right. What do you know, man?

MR. GREEN

Shut up and smoke this.

ETHAN

Weed makes me paranoid.

MR. GREEN

It's not paranoia if it's true. And this shit will show you the truth.

ETHAN

You're kind of making me uncomfortable.

MR. GREEN

Hit it. Trust me.

ETHAN

The truth does sound pretty cool.

He takes the joint, hits it. Its ember glows GREEN...

And now, they're in...

INT. ETHAN'S DAD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ethan sits in his dad's house, watching *Love, Actually*, surrounded by boxes. Now, the doorbell rings. He opens the door, to reveal Isaac and Chris:

ETHAN

Yo.

CHRIS

Sup, man!

ETHAN

What're you guys doing here?

ISAAC

We're keeping you company because your dad just died and we figured you might be sad.

ETHAN

I'm all right. It was a lot of stuff to pack up, but I'm good. Old people have so much shit, you guys. Remember this: throw shit out.

CHRIS

You wanna play Nintendo?

ETHAN

Nah. Look, I appreciate you guys coming, but I'm fine. I'm just gonna watch TV and chill. I'm cool.

ISAAC

Fuck that. You're coming with us.

CHRIS

I got Madden '94 at my mom's, and some whiskey in my pocket.

ISAAC

And I stole my brothers weed.

Ethan looks at his friends, touched. And now...

He starts to cry. Chris and Isaac seem taken aback and are unsure what to do. Then they look at each other. They know Ethan needs them. And they hug him.

Now, all three start to cry.

ETHAN

I'm just gonna miss him.

ISAAC

Me too. Great fucking guy.

CHRIS

End of an era.

ETHAN

End of an era.

ISAAC

You wanna get really fucking drunk?

ETHAN

Yeah. I do. Thanks, you guys.
You're good friends.

CHRIS

You're a good friend.

ISAAC

You're a good friend.

Their words echo throughout the universe. As Ethan comes back to reality and Mr. Green is standing before him, a little teary-eyed.

MR. GREEN

That was fucking touching, yo. Now take another hit.

Ethan takes another hit. And now, he's in...

EXT. POSTAPOCALYPTIC NEW YORK - DAY

Ethan and Mr. Green stand over a giant crater, against the burned out skyline of New York City.

ETHAN

Whoa. What's this?

MR. GREEN

This is what would have happened if your father had never died. It would have caused a Butterfly Effect that altered the Earth's orbit and placed it directly in the path of a giant asteroid, thereby destroying New York and turning the only survivors into mutants who shoot fire out of their vaginas and dickholes.

ETHAN

Wait, what? What happens when they fuck each other?

MR. GREEN

Kaboom.

ETHAN

That doesn't even make sense.

MR. GREEN

Some of the details might be off,
but I'm pretty sure I got the broad
strokes right.

(beat)

The point is, kid, not only do your
friends need you--the entire planet
needs you. We'd all be fucked
without you. *You are the one.*

ETHAN

Really?

MR. GREEN

No. It's just your friends who need
you. You made up the other shit
because you're super high.

Ethan looks at Mr. Green. A long beat.

ETHAN

Nah. Fuck this. I'm not feeling it.
Everything sucks.

MR. GREEN

Why don't you just kill yourself
then?

Now, WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, Mr. Green grabs Ethan, PUSHES HIM
TO THE EDGE OF THE ROOF. Ethan freaks out as Mr. Green holds
him over the ledge...

ETHAN

Whoa! OK, man. Stop.

And now, from beneath, the sound of voices:

VOICES (O.S.)

Ethan! Ethan!

Ethan looks down, to see Isaac and Chris look for their
friend.

ETHAN

Guys!

They look up.

ISAAC

Yo!

CHRIS

Are you all right?

ETHAN

Yeah. I'm OK.

ISAAC

You wanna get out of here?

ETHAN

What about the party?

CHRIS

This party sucks.

We PUSH IN on Ethan. A smile crosses his face.

101

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK - DAWN

101

Isaac, Ethan and Chris sit on a bench, looking out into the rising light of Christmas Day. They are all bruised, battered. Isaac and Chris hold giant SNOWBALLS to their face.

ETHAN

I can't believe you guys left that party to find me.

ISAAC

Well, there were a number of reasons but, yes, that was one of them.

ETHAN

Thanks.

CHRIS

Ethan, I was thinking, you shouldn't be so scared to put your shit onto us, you know? We used to tell each other our problems all the time when we were kids. What's the point of having friends if you're just gonna pretend everything's OK all the time, right?

(beat)

Because it's not OK, is it, Ethan?

ETHAN

No...

CHRIS

What happened with your girl, man? Talk to us.

ETHAN

I totally fucked it up. She basically said she liked me but I needed to figure my shit out.

ISAAC

Sounds like a pretty smart woman.

CHRIS

So, wait? How did you fuck it up, then?

ETHAN

I don't know. I mean. I guess I just assumed she wanted nothing to do with me anymore since I made a total fucking fool of myself.

ISAAC

Doesn't sound like that to me.

ETHAN

(thinking)
Huh. OK.

CHRIS

Hey, I gotta tell you guys something...

(beat)

I failed a drug test about 2 weeks ago. I'm suspended for the whole season. If I wanna come back, it's at least a year away. And by then, shit, I'll be a year older.

(beat)

They're gonna announce it next week. So I got nothing after tonight.

ETHAN

What do you mean? You could be anything. You could be a coach, or a commentator, or start a restaurant chain.

ISAAC

You have your whole life ahead of you, man. It's not like you have a baby that's gonna come along and ruin everything.

(beat)

You guys, I have to tell you something--

(beat)

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

This whole thing with the baby. It was a mistake.

ETHAN

It was not a mistake, man. You're gonna be a great father...

ISAAC

No, I mean it was literally a mistake. Like, we didn't mean to have the baby. But I'm just so fucking scared about it. I don't get it...

ETHAN

What do you mean?

ISAAC

I don't understand why I'm so scared. I mean, everyone has babies!

ETHAN

Uh, you're scared because as soon as your dad had you, he bailed.

ISAAC

You think?

CHRIS

Yeah, man. You're worried you're gonna end up like him.

ISAAC

Wait. This was really obvious to you guys?

ETHAN

It is fairly obvious. But look, just because your dad bailed, it doesn't mean you're gonna be like him. You're unique.

Snow falls still.

CHRIS

You're a snowflake.

ETHAN

You know, I used to envy you guys, but now I realize your lives are just as fucked up as I am.

CHRIS

Mo' Money, Mo' Problems, man. That shit is true. I got a check this morning, and I literally have like five more problems today.

(beat)

...All those songs are true. "Pimpin' Ain't Easy" either.

ISAAC

I don't think I can move to Westchester.

ETHAN

Why not?

ISAAC

This city is just so awesome and fun. I want my kid to experience the kind of night we had. Without the drugs and sex and stuff.

CHRIS

That's basically all we did tonight.

ISAAC

No. We ate Chinese food too. New York has really good restaurants.

CHRIS

Yeah, I'll probably be moving back here myself, now that I'm retired.

ISAAC

So we can keep doing Christmas!

ETHAN

No. We can't.

(beat)

You guys should spend Christmas with your families. And I've gotta get my shit together.

(beat)

Isaac, you think you could hook me up with some work?

ISAAC

Sure, man.

ETHAN

And Chris, could I borrow a thousand dollars? My rent is due in a week.

CHRIS

Sure, man.

A long beat.

ETHAN

Actually, can I borrow fifty thousand dollars?

CHRIS

Probably. I gotta check.

ETHAN

So we won't hang out on Christmas anymore. It's no big deal. I mean, shit needs to evolve.

(beat)

Hey, maybe next year we could start a new tradition where we go out on New Years and have a crazy night together. I mean, it's kinda, like, ready made for it.

ISAAC

I'm down.

CHRIS

Me too.

And now, Ethan wraps his friends up in a giant hug. They stay there. A beat.

Until, Isaac's phone rings. He looks at it: 35 MISSED CALLS.

ISAAC

Oh no. It's Betsy.

(beat)

35 missed calls! Shit! She must be going into fucking labor!

He picks up, puts on his most sober-sounding voice:

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Hello?

(beat)

Uh huh. OK. OK. So, yeah. We'll head over there now.

He hangs up the phone, calmly:

ISAAC (CONT'D)

She's GOING INTO FUCKING LABOR!

102

INT. ER - DAY

102

Chris, Ethan and Isaac rush in, to see Betsy, in a wheelchair, being wheeled out by her SISTER:

ISAAC
I'm here! I'm here!

BETSY
(sarcastic)
Oh, thank God.

ISAAC
What happened?

BETSY
False alarm.

SISTER-IN-LAW
Hey, asshole.

ISAAC
Good morning, Suzanne. Merry Christmas.
(to Betsy)
Hey, Can I talk to you alone for a second?

103

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

103

Isaac stands next to Betsy. We see for the first time that she's DRUGGED:

BETSY
Oh, man, these pills are good.

ISAAC
I've been such an idiot this whole night. I'm so sorry. I'm just--
(beat)
I actually am worried that we made a mistake. I'm worried I'm gonna be a horrible father. I wish I could be superbrave about this, but I'm actually totally freaking out right now.
(beat)
But I want you to know, I am gonna do my best. I may just have to freak out a little first...

BETSY

Wait, a little...more? You still have more freaking out to do?

ISAAC

...Actually, I think I'm probably done freaking out. The guys helped me realize that I was upset because my parents split up as soon as they had me.

(beat)

I just, I don't want having this kid to mean losing you.

BETSY

We're not gonna be your parents, Isaac. Believe me.

(beat)

And we're not my parents either. Thank God.

(beat)

Dude, that reminds me, last night my grandmother said Hitler did a lot of good things too.

ISAAC

Oh, man. That's crazy.

They walk off into the distance together.

BETSY

I'll tell you about it at breakfast. I'm starving. Let's eat. Man, these pills are really goooood.

ISAAC

By the way, I never want to do any drug that was in that box ever again.

BETSY

Really? That's a shame.

Isaac looks at her. A long beat.

ISAAC

Wait, that was your plan all along, wasn't it? And that's why you didn't put any weed in the box! So we could keep smoking weed!

BETSY

Happy Hanukkah, sweetheart.

Chris gets himself a Red Bull from a vending machine.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey!

He turns around, sees Q'Uisha sitting in the ER.

Q'UISHA

We keep running into each other in the strangest places. What are you doing here?

CHRIS

We thought my friend's wife was about to have her kid, but she wasn't. You?

Q'UISHA

I got stabbed.

CHRIS

What?

Q'UISHA

Yeah. I got stabbed. Here...see?

She pulls up her shirt. Sure enough, there's a a small STAB WOUND there.

CHRIS

Whoa!

Q'UISHA

It's OK. It was my fault. I started it.

CHRIS

Shit. Well, I'm sorry. Hey, um, I got a question for you...

(beat)

You don't, uh, happen to know if you have AIDS, do you?

Q'UISHA

Of course I know if I have AIDS. You think I go around having sex with guys without being tested for HIV? That would be really uncool, man.

CHRIS

So...

Q'UISHA

I don't have AIDS.

(beat)

Why? You don't have anything, do you?

CHRIS

Nah, I'm clean. Only bad shit in my blood is steroids. That's why I've been having such a good season.

Q'UISHA

What do you mean?

CHRIS

I'm a football player.

Q'UISHA

Oh, cool.

CHRIS

You didn't know that?

Q'UISHA

Nah. I don't even have a TV

CHRIS

Then why'd you hook up with me?

Q'UISHA

Cuz you're hot. Why did you hook up with me?

He looks in her eyes, smiles.

CHRIS

The exact same reason.

(beat)

Hey, can I call you some time?

Q'UISHA

I told you, I don't have a phone.

CHRIS

Maybe I can buy you a phone some time?

(beat)

...And a cup of coffee?

Q'UISHA

I'd like that.

They lock eyes. Music swells.

CHRIS

So, uh, how are we going to arrange that--since you don't, like, have a phone or an address or anything--?

Q'UISHA

Just give me your number. I'll find you.

He writes it down on a piece of paper, hands it to her.

Q'UISHA (CONT'D)

Hey, can I list you as my emergency contact?

CHRIS

Yeah, girl. You can do that.

105

INT. DINER - DAY

105

Isaac, Ethan, Chris, Betsy and Betsy's Sister sit at a sparsely populated greasy spoon:

ISAAC

I got it. I got a great name for the baby.

BETSY

What?

ISAAC

Jesus.

BETSY

No.

CHRIS

If you name him Jesus, that makes us the three wise men!

BETSY

I'm not naming my child Jesus.

CHRIS

Lil' Jeezy.

ISAAC

Jesus. Like Hispanic. Jesus Greenberg. Has a nice ring to it.

BETSY

Nope.

ETHAN

How about just Christ?

BETSY

So, wait, you guys didn't tell me anything about your night--

ISAAC

It was really fun.

BETSY

OK. Not a lot of details there, but...

ISAAC

You guys, it's almost 9 o' clock. Time to go home and open presents!

BETSY

You're sober? That was our deal, Isaac. Sober by 9 o' clock.

ISAAC

After that pregnancy scare, believe me, I've never been more sober in my life.

BETSY

I love you, Isaac.

ISAAC

I love you too, dragon. I mean, Betsy.

And now, we see Isaac's POV: a dragon, sitting across from him, wearing Betsy's clothes. It breathes a blast of fire into the air.

VOICE (O.S.)

Oh Christmas, you came! Oh Christmas you went!

106

INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - DAY

106

DOLLY PAST a Rockwell portrait of Christmas morning. 2 blonde-haired blue-eyed children and their parents, Betsy, Chris, and, finally, s BRUISED Isaac, bent glasses crooked on his face, and a beat up Chris and Ethan. Isaac OPENS Ethan's PRESENT, at the foot of a perfect tree.

VOICE (O.S.)

With joy and good cheer/With much money spent.

(MORE)

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (beat)
*With peace and goodwill/With
 laughter and fun...*

Isaac unwraps his present. It's a MUG that reads: WORLD'S GREATEST DAD.

ISAAC
 Wow. Awesome!
 (beat)
 You really think I'll be the
 World's Greatest Dad?

ETHAN
 Yeah, man. I really do.

ISAAC
 That is an honor.

VOICE (O.S.)
*With babies and fathers/With
 mothers and sons...*

107

INT. CHRIS' MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

107

Chris sits across from his mom, in front of a BIG CHRISTMAS FEAST. She looks at him:

CHRIS'S MOM
 I'm proud of you.

CHRIS
 You are?

CHRIS'S MOM
 Well, it couldn't have been easy
 for you to tell me.

CHRIS
 But I'm not who you thought I was.

CHRIS'S MOM
 You're not the young man who did
 that stuff. You're the young man
 who told me the truth.

CHRIS
 I mean, I'm kinda both those
 people, I think. Wait, can you
 repeat what you just said? Which
 person am I again?

CHRIS'S MOM

You're my son. That's enough for me.

(beat)

When did you say the league's going to announce your suspension?

CHRIS

Next week.

CHRIS'S MOM

That gives us one week to get as many free meals as we can.

CHRIS

I'll get a Sharpie.

VOICE (O.S.)

A time of beginnings/And a time of ends...

108 **INT. CHRIS'S APARTMENT - LATER**

108

Chris signs headshot after headshot. His mom stands next to him, beaming.

VOICE (O.S.)

A time for your family...

109 **EXT. CEMETARY - DAY**

109

Ethan, Chris, and Isaac pour 40's on Ethan's father's grave.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DUSK

Ethan gets out of a cab, walks up the stairs to a nondescript suburban home. He knocks on the door. An OLDER MAN opens it:

OLDER MAN

Hello?

ETHAN

Hello. Are you Mr. Wells?

OLDER MAN

Yes...

Ethan extends his hand:

ETHAN

I'm Ethan. It's a pleasure to meet you, sir. Is your daughter here?

OLDER MAN

Who are you?

ETHAN

I'm either someone she'll be really psyched to see or I'm completely misreading the situation and I'm a stalker.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey.

The Older Man turns, revealing Diana.

ETHAN

Hey.

DIANA

I'll be right back, Dad.

The Older Man nods, walks away.

DIANA (CONT'D)

You could've called first.

ETHAN

I'm a fan of the grand romantic gesture.

DIANA

I am aware.

They look at each other.

ETHAN

So should I come in?

DIANA

We were about to watch every *Harry Potter* movie in a row.

(beat)

And my grandmother's racist and my dad's kinda fucked up--

ETHAN

That's OK. I like fucked up people.

DIANA

The total running time of those Harry Potter movies is 6 days.

ETHAN
I've got time.

She extends her hand. He takes it. And we go

BLACK.

Supertitle: One Year Later

110 **INT. ISAAC'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

110

Our guys sit with Betsy's family, Chris' Mom, Ethan and Diana. All around a Christmas feast. They're talking, catching up. It's remarkably civilized. Now, Betsy enters the room.

BETSY
She won't sleep.

ETHAN
We got it.

BETSY
You sure?

CHRIS
Of course.

111 **INT. NURSURY - NIGHT**

111

The guys look down, see a LITTLE BEAUTIFUL BABY screaming in it's crib.

ETHAN
OK, guys. 1... 2... 3...

And they proceed to sing a soft, harmonic version of Beyonce's "Halo" to the baby. It cries still.

The guys sing. The baby's still crying. And now...

It stops. Silence.

The guys look at each other, smile, as we go

BLACK.