

UBHP II

"Pilot"

Written by

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PROLOGUE

BLACK SCREEN:

YOUNG GIRL (V.O.)
Everyone's addicted to something,
right?

MUSIC UP and we're going with B.o.B.'s "Airplanes"...

CUT TO:

DAY ONE

1 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY 1

Four girls, MERCEDES, DYLAN, RAVEN and WENDY, wearing private school uniforms, walk down the steps from their school and toward the parking lot. They get into a BMW convertible, and they pull out into traffic.

2 INT. MERCEDES' CAR - DAY 2

The mp3 player is blasting. They're singing along loudly and don't miss a single word of the lyrics.

The girl in the passenger side, Wendy, pulls out an eco-friendly water bottle. The other girls smile as Wendy offers and they indicate no thanks, they have their own. So they're singing and they're dancing, and they're laughing, and they're drinking, and they're riding in the car...

I could use a dream or a genie or a wish, to go back to a place much simpler than this, cause after all the prayin' and the smashin' and crashin', and all the glitz and the glam and the fashion, and all the pandemonium and the madness, there comes a time when you fade to blackness...

3 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY 3

And they stop in front of a house, and Wendy gets out, and she's dancing, and she's singing, and she's laughing, as we follow her up the walk...

And when you're staring at the phone in your lap, and you hoping but them people never call you back, but that's just how the story unfolds, you get another hand soon after you fold, and when your plans unravel, and they sayin what would you wish for if had one chance

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 3

And as she's doing this little dance up her front walk, the two girls in the back seat, Dylan and Raven, have opened their recyclable containers and they're pouring in vodka and the generic clearable version of Red Bull. Mercedes, the driver, looks back and smiles, no thanks.

And Wendy waves back from the door and they toast and they continue on their ride...

4 INT. MERCEDES' CAR - DAY 4

They're dancing, and they're singing, and they're laughing, and they're drinking... and they're riding along in the car...

So airplane airplane sorry I'm late, I'm on my way, don't close that gate, if I don't make that then I'll switch my flight and I'll be right back at it at the end of the night...

5 INT. DYLAN'S HOUSE - DAY 5

They pull up in front of Dylan's house, and Dylan gets out.

6 INT. MERCEDES' CAR - DAY 6

And then they continue, Mercedes and Raven... singing and dancing and riding in the car... They're dancing, and they're dancing, and they're singing, and they're singing, and they're laughing, and they're laughing, and Raven's drinking and drinking...

Can we pretend that airplanes in the night sky, are like shooting stars? I could really use a wish right now, wish right now, wish right now, Can we pretend that airplanes in the night sky are like shooting stars, I could really use a wish right now, wish right now...

And then Mercedes drives up to Raven's house.

7 INT. RAVEN'S HOUSE - DAY 7

And Raven gets out of the car.

8 INT. MERCEDES' CAR - DAY 8

And it's only Mercedes singing and dancing.

Somebody take me back to the days before this was a job, before I got paid, before it ever mattered what I had in my bank, yeah back when I was tryin' to get into the subway, and back when I was rappin for the hell of it, but now a days we rappin to stay relevant, I'm guessing that if we can make some wishes outta airplanes, then maybe yo maybe I'll back to the days before the politics we call the rap game

She turns into her driveway...

9 EXT. MERCEDES' HOUSE - DAY

9

And back when ain't nobody listened to my mix tape, and back before I tried to cover up my slang, but this is for the Cada, what's up Bobby Ray...

Her dad, PETER, who was standing at the end of the driveway, walks over, joins in the dancing and the singing...

So can I get a wish to end the politics, and get back to the music that started this sh--, So here I stand and then again I say, I'm hopin' we can make some wishes outta airplanes...

And as Mercedes gets out of the car, he grabs her books and hands her what he's smoking, which is a hefty-size joint.

MERCEDES

Hi, Dad.

PETER

Mercedes.

Then they move and groove into the house...

10 INT. MERCEDES' KITCHEN - DAY

10

Can we pretend that airplanes in the night sky, are like shooting stars, I could use a wish right now, wish right now, wish right now, can we pretend that airplanes in the night sky, are like shooting stars...

And we see her mom, MELODY, at the stove cooking and she turns around, and we see that she is wearing a bandanna on her head because she has no hair, and she looks thin, like a cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy, which she is, and the three of them, all quite high sing...

Can I get a wish now, wish right now, wish right now...

Silence.

SNAP BACK TO BLACK.

Large letters read (TITLE) and then the letters crack like a mirror and fall away.

END OF PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

11 INT. MERCEDES' KITCHEN - NIGHT

11

Mercedes is cleaning up the kitchen, putting the recyclables in the recycling containers. Her dad, Peter, now in a suit, enters.

PETER

Mercedes? I'm leaving, your mom's resting, check on her, okay?

MERCEDES

Yeah, I'll check on her, Dad, but... she's having a good day, huh? A pretty good day, anyway. She ate a lot at dinner. I haven't seen her eat like that in a while.

He smiles.

PETER

Yeah, she did, and if we can keep her eating like that, she's going to be fine, couple more weeks of chemo and we're there.

MERCEDES

Yeah, she's definitely going to make it, Dad, definitely. You want me to drive you? Mom'll be okay if you want me to drive you.

PETER

No, no, I'm fine. Are you okay?

MERCEDES

Fine.

PETER

Alright, well... Call me if you need me.

MERCEDES

Okay. Hey, the new job is going great, huh?

PETER

Are you kidding? The guy is a genius who set this up, 24-hour investment services. It's almost like banking on Sundays.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

PETER (CONT'D)
 People really want it, it's
 convenient. It's going to do well.
 I'll be back on top in no time.

She gives him a hug.

MERCEDES
 I'll sleep in your room until you
 get home, alright?

He nods.

PETER
 Thanks, hon'. Goodnight.

MERCEDES
 Oh, um, Wendy's coming over to study.
 We want to compare our World History
 papers.

PETER
 Yeah, okay, that's fine, but... We
 have a deal, right?

MERCEDES
 I'm not going to do anything stupid,
 Dad.

Famous last words.

12 INT. WENDY'S ROOM - NIGHT

12

Wendy's dad, MICHAEL, a very large, very fit man, is in boxers
 and a t-shirt.

MICHAEL
 You can't, Wendy. You just can't,
 alright? I don't care if she comes
 over here, you can't go over there.

WENDY
 Why not?

He looks at her.

MICHAEL
 You know why not.

WENDY
 Her mom has to have that stuff,
 Dad, it's saving her life.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Well... it might be, but I don't want you around that stuff.

WENDY

It's pot, it's just pot. It's not that big a deal. It's a natural substance.

MICHAEL

You're very naive, you know that?

WENDY

They give it to sick people, how bad can it be?

MICHAEL

Well, they don't give it to well people, do they?

WENDY

I don't see what the big deal is.

MICHAEL

The big deal is that it's illegal, for you or your friend, or her father, it's illegal. And in case you've forgotten, I'm in law enforcement.

Has she forgotten? She looks at him, rolls her eyes.

WENDY

Is that possible? Would you ever let me forget, ever? For even one moment? This is why I don't have any friends, because you're in law enforcement.

MICHAEL

And what, all your friends are doing something illegal? Maybe you ought to think about getting some new friends. And while you're at it, get a new boyfriend.

WENDY

Why would I get a new boyfriend?

Wendy's mother, SARAH, enters, looking totally put together in sweats.

SARAH

Hey, what's going on?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Nothing. She wants to go out. It's a school night, I want her to do her homework here, and that's how it's going to be.

And he walks out. Sarah looks at Wendy.

SARAH

I take it you want to go over to Mercedes'?

WENDY

And Dad won't let me. Mom, she can't help it if her mother smokes pot. It's legal. It's medical marijuana. She has a prescription for it.

Sarah nods.

SARAH

He's really not concerned about her mother smoking pot, he's concerned about you and Mercedes smoking with her. Her parents have always been quite the free spirits.

WENDY

We're not going to smoke pot. That's... crazy. Mercedes' dad would never let her do that, or me. You know how he is.

SARAH

No, I don't know how he is. But the other thing you have to remember, Wendy, Mercedes' mom is sick, she's really sick. I can't imagine she wants you or any of Mercedes' other friends around.

WENDY

Mercedes says her mother likes us around, it makes her happy.

SARAH

So does the pot, I imagine. You don't need to be over there.

WENDY

Mom.

SARAH

I'm going for a run, you want to go?

(CONTINUED)

- 12 CONTINUED: (3) 12
- WENDY
I want to go over to Mercedes'.
- SARAH
And I want to be a billionaire.
Sometimes we don't get what we want,
Wendy. That's life.
- And she exits.
- WENDY
(mutters)
Yeah, your life maybe.
- She picks up her phone and texts...
- "Hostage"
- 13 INT. MERCEDES' ROOM - NIGHT 13
- She's rolling a joint, looks at her phone, puts the joint in her mouth, texts...
- "High"
- She waits, lights up and takes a drag, and this is what comes back...
- "Bitch"
- She smiles, replies...
- "LOL"
- And then Mercedes texts again, but to someone else...
- "Hostage alert"
- 14 INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT 14
- Dylan looks at the message. She's sitting on her bed, books all around, she smiles, texts...
- "N 5"
- She starts gathering her things, grabs a book, exits.
- 15 INT. DYLAN'S KITCHEN - DAY 15
- Just as she gets to the door, she hears her mom, CECILIA.
- CECILIA
Dylan? Are you going to just leave
the house without telling me where
you're going?

(CONTINUED)

DYLAN

Oh. There you are. I was looking for you.

CECILIA

Were you?

DYLAN

I said I was.

CECILIA

Yeah, lack of evidence on that and the rule is...?

DYLAN

To let you know when I'm leaving the house. I'm leaving the house.

Cecilia waits.

DYLAN

(concocting one lie after another)

Mercedes left her biology book in her locker. I'm loaning her mine. She's really unfocused, you know, with everything going on with her mom. So I finished my biology, and I'm dropping off the book, and I'll be right back.

CECILIA

Completely understandable that she'd be unfocused right now, and that's very sweet of you Dylan, to drop off your book to her. Why don't you take the car?

DYLAN

No. I don't want to take the car. Green up, Mom. It's like three blocks, it's a waste of fuel, and it's healthier to walk.

CECILIA

Alright, but I really hope you won't stay too long.

DYLAN

I know I have school tomorrow, you don't have to remind me.

CECILIA

You look tired.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CECILIA (CONT'D)

You looked tired when you got home today. You need to get some rest. Sleep is very important at your age.

DYLAN

Sleep is impossible at my age. I have a paper due tomorrow in World History, so would you just let me go, please so I can get back? I'll just drop this off, say hi to her mother, and that's it. I swear.

Cecilia looks at her.

CECILIA

Okay, well... here, let me send something over, take the rest of that Italian cream cake I made for dessert tonight.

Dylan thinks about that a beat.

DYLAN

Yeah. Good idea. Thanks.

She picks up the cake which is in a container on the counter.

DYLAN

I'll be right back.

CECILIA

Call me when you leave their house.

DYLAN

Could you just put down the cookbooks and learn to text?

Cecilia smiles.

CECILIA

I don't like to text, I like to hear your voice. Tell Mercedes hello and she's welcome here any time she needs to get away or needs someone to talk to or-

Dylan exits. Her dad, JACK, an overweight guy, kind of like her mom, enters.

JACK

You know they all go over there to smoke pot, don't you?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

CECILIA

No, I don't know that, and you don't know that, and if she did do that, I'm sure she'd tell us, we have very open communication in this house, we can talk about anything.

He looks at her.

JACK

Did we tell our parents we smoked pot?

CECILIA

Nope. But they weren't us.

16 INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

16

Raven answers her phone.

RAVEN

What's going on?

DYLAN

Meet me in front of your house, we're going to Mercedes'.

Raven smiles.

RAVEN

For what? I thought Wendy was going over there.

DYLAN

Nope. Hostage.

RAVEN

I'm on my way.

She jumps up and starts putting on her clothes, when we notice that a guy is in her bed, FORD.

RAVEN

Hey, I'm going over to Mercedes', we're done here.

FORD

Nice.

RAVEN

You mind? You have to leave?

FORD

No, I don't have to. What time is your mom home?

(CONTINUED)

RAVEN

Just after midnight. I'll be back before then, alright?

FORD

Yeah, alright.

RAVEN

You'll watch JoeJoe?

FORD

I'll watch JoeJoe. Or more likely JoeJoe will watch me.

She exits. He gets up, puts on his jeans, plops back down on the bed.

A beat, JOEJOE, a ten-year-old kid with a faux hawk enters.

JOEJOE

Hi. Want to play a game with me? I got a new game. It's really good, and I don't have anyone to play with, and I'm not allowed to play online 'cause my mom doesn't let me.

FORD

Dude, your mom's not home, there's no "let you."

JOEJOE

No, she'd know, she'd find out, someone would tell her. Sometimes I even tell her because I don't like doing stuff that I'm not suppose to be doing and then not telling her because then it seems like I have something inside that wants to get out so I just let it out because-

FORD

JoeJoe, I know this stuff, okay? You can't keep a secret, even about yourself.

JOEJOE

I won't bug you, I swear. I won't say anything, anything at all, while we're playing, I promise.

FORD

It's okay, I'll play the game with you, you don't bug me.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

JOEJOE

Where'd Raven go? Flew away again?

This is a standard joke between the two of them. Ford smiles.

FORD

Yep. Flew away. She's always flying away.

JOEJOE

I like you. I like you a lot. I hope nothing ever happens to you and Raven. I hope she never kicks you out of here like my mom kicked out my dad. Why do you come over here to sleep anyway? You're not married. Are you having sex?

FORD

(not lying)

Look, it's very loud over at my house, I can't sleep at my house so I sleep over here.

JOEJOE

How come you never sleep here when my mom's here?

FORD

'Cause when your mom's here, she won't let me. But your mom's not here. It's just us two guys here. You need some kibbles and bits kid, you're wearing me out.

JoeJoe smiles.

JOEJOE

I can't take my meds at night. If I take 'em at night, I can't sleep.

Ford looks at him.

FORD

Yeah. I've heard.

17 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

17

Raven and Dylan are walking.

DYLAN

She told me to take the cake. She's clueless.

(CONTINUED)

RAVEN

I hope so. I haven't had dinner, my mom left us some ground beef concoction, a meat loaf made with brown rice. Revolting.

DYLAN

At least you don't have to eat dinner with your mother.

RAVEN

Come on, your mom's great. I love your mom. She lets you do anything.

DYLAN

You pretty much do whatever you want.

RAVEN

Only between four and midnight when she's at work.

DYLAN

Ford's with your brother?

RAVEN

Yeah, they'll be fine. JoeJoe likes him more than I do.

DYLAN

Why do you keep doing it with him, if you don't even like him.

RAVEN

I like him. And because he does stuff like stay with my brother.

DYLAN

He's a nice guy, you know, and he has feelings, Raven.

RAVEN

Yeah, but not anywhere near his heart.

Dylan looks at her.

RAVEN

He's never once said anything about his feelings anywhere else.

DYLAN

Guys don't talk about their feelings.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

RAVEN

And you would know this how?

DYLAN

I'm going to get a boyfriend, okay?
I just got my teeth straightened,
and my skin just cleared up.

RAVEN

Guys don't care about teeth and
skin, they care about boobs.

They've arrived at the back door.

18 INT. MERCEDES' KITCHEN - NIGHT

18

They KNOCK at the back door then enter.

RAVEN

Mercedes?

They hear:

MERCEDES (O.S.)

Back here...

They cross through...

19 INT. MERCEDES' ROOM - NIGHT

19

Mercedes' at her computer. She's totally wasted. Raven and
Dylan enter. She hands them the joint and a lighter.

MERCEDES

Fire her up. She's all yours. Hey,
Rave.

DYLAN

Same stuff we smoked last time?

RAVEN

What are you, quality control?

They laugh.

RAVEN

It's pot. What do you care if it's
the same pot?

Mercedes shrugs.

MERCEDES

I think it's the same, I don't know,
it's pretty...

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

She starts laughing.

MERCEDES

Pretty.

Mercedes' mom, Melody, appears at the door.

MELODY

Hi, girls.

MERCEDES

Oh. Hi, Mom. Are you okay? Did you need something?

MELODY

I'm fine, but... Don't get me in trouble.

MUSIC: "Alright" by Supergrass

*We are young, we run green, keep our teeth, nice and clean,
see our friends, see the sights, feel alright...*

The girls light up, drink up, and Melody takes a hit on the pot, and as the smoke clears, she comes to life, Mercedes imagining her as she was before she lost her hair, before she was sick, dancing and laughing and singing.

*We are young, we get by, can't go mad, ain't got time, sleep
around if we like, but we're alright... got some cash, bought
some wheels, took it out, 'cross the fields, lost control,
hit a wall, but we're alright...*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

DAY TWO

20 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

20

Mercedes is sitting in her car, reading, "The Role of California Women in World War II," when JAKE walks over, smoking a cigarette. She doesn't look up.

JAKE

Want to go out Saturday?

MERCEDES

No.

(she looks up)

You're smoking now? You're smoking cigarettes?

He looks at her.

MERCEDES

Why are you doing that? You look totally ass.

JAKE

Thanks.

MERCEDES

It wasn't a compliment.

JAKE

You have something else to do Saturday night?

MERCEDES

I might.

JAKE

Are you going out with someone?

MERCEDES

No, I'm not going out with anyone. Are you going out with someone?

JAKE

No. I was dating someone, but she dumped me.

She looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

JAKE

I don't know what happened, alright.
I want to go out with you again.

MERCEDES

I don't know, Jake.

JAKE

What don't you know?

MERCEDES

If I want to go out with you or
anyone else. I'm kind of... busy.

JAKE

How is she?

MERCEDES

I don't talk about that at school.

JAKE

Alright.

(a beat)

So where are your little friends?

She smiles, shrugs.

JAKE

I heard you girls are partying.

She looks at him.

MERCEDES

Well we're not.

He leans down to her.

JAKE

Tell me you're not doing anything.

MERCEDES

I'm not! Geez. You believe everything
you hear?

JAKE

I don't want to believe it.

She looks at him.

MERCEDES

I miss you.

He looks at her.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

JAKE

Maybe we should just ditch and take a day at the beach, relax a little, get away, just the two of us, take some of the stress off, you know.

MERCEDES

I can't.

He looks at her.

JAKE

Do you want to?

MERCEDES

Doesn't matter. I can't.

21 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

21

Wendy is walking along with an exceptionally handsome guy, NICK. We notice a couple of girls look at him, then we notice a couple of guys look at him. He's not looking back at either.

WENDY

Did you see those guys?

NICK

No, didn't see them.

WENDY

Maybe we should make out somewhere where everyone can see us. I mean, couldn't we just make out? Just a little.

They stop at her locker.

NICK

We could make out, we have made out, but what's the point?

WENDY

The point is, maybe you aren't what you think you are.

He smiles at her.

NICK

I am what I think I am, and you're the one who wanted a boyfriend.

WENDY

And you're the one who wanted a girlfriend.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

NICK

So what's the problem? The benefits
of this relationship are mutual.
You look cool, and I look straight.

She looks at him. She's not sure about this now.

NICK

You seem off this morning. What's
up?

WENDY

I don't know. I'm just feeling kind
of... left out.

NICK

Left out of what?

WENDY

I don't know. I think something is
going on with Mercedes and Dylan
and Raven.

NICK

Sometimes it's good to get left
out.

He smiles, gives her a quick kiss and walks away, revealing...

RON, a less than good looking guy who has a locker just a
couple of lockers away.

RON

What's with the gay boyfriend?

She gives him a look.

WENDY

He's not gay.

Ron smiles.

RON

Maybe he just puts off a gay vibe.

WENDY

Maybe.

RON

Come on. How long you think people
are going to buy that you two are a
couple?

WENDY

We are a couple.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

RON

You're only a couple because you think you can't get a real guy, a straight guy, a guy like me.

WENDY

Nick is totally straight.

RON

Not totally.

She doesn't say anything.

RON

Are you totally straight? Maybe you're not totally straight, maybe you like girls.

She looks at him.

RON

You're always hanging out with your girlfriends. Maybe you're gay. Are you gay?

WENDY

No! And do not get that rumor started okay, I do not need a rumor like that going around school. I'm not gay.

RON

Oh, I think thou doth protest too much.

WENDY

Look, Shakespeare, just because I'm not attracted to you, does not mean I'm gay. If that were a valid test for being gay, every girl in this school would be gay.

RON

I got news for you. I get laid on a regular basis. And they've all been girls from this school.

He walks away. Now she's concerned. Especially when she realizes a GIRL a couple of lockers down was listening. And is looking at her. And it makes her uncomfortable.

22 INT. CLASSROOM/EXT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

22

Dylan is at the door as others walk in, turning over their papers to the teacher, MR. MONTAGUE, a tall, serious, distinguished man.

DYLAN

I'm going to be honest, I just don't have it. I didn't finish it.

Mr. Montague looks at her.

MR. MONTAGUE

You want to offer up some excuse? Ask for an extension?

DYLAN

Can I have an extension?

MR. MONTAGUE

Depends on the excuse.

DYLAN

Oh. Okay. Well, I had to go over to Mercedes' house last night. We do our homework together. She's my best friend.

Mr. Montague looks at her.

DYLAN

Her mother had a malignant brain tumor. You know that, right? They took out half her brain, and then she had chemotherapy. She has no hair, she's got dark circles under her eyes, she's like pencil thin, she's weak. She can't be left alone. Mercedes has to take care of her. Her dad works at night.

MR. MONTAGUE

I wasn't aware.

DYLAN

Yeah, so her dad's not there, and someone has to help them. Last night it was me. I just... stayed and helped too much.

MR. MONTAGUE

Have you started the paper? You should have started the paper weeks ago. I hope you didn't leave it all till the last minute. Again.

(CONTINUED)

DYLAN

It's almost finished. I just need a few more hours. I could have it to you on Monday.

MR. MONTAGUE

Or you could work through lunch and your study hall and give it to me before the end of the day. I'll look at it, and then I'll decide if you can have the extension.

She looks at him, nothing to say. He looks at her, yeah. Dylan crosses to her desk. She sits down, what to do, what to do. The guy next to her, ANTHONY, nods.

ANTHONY

Hey.

DYLAN

Yeah, hey.

ANTHONY

My condolences. I heard.

DYLAN

Heard what?

He points to his teeth.

DYLAN

What?

ANTHONY

You know.

DYLAN

No, I don't know.

He smiles.

ANTHONY

My dad told me you're getting your braces back on.

DYLAN

No, I'm not.

He shrugs. She realizes.

DYLAN

What?!

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

ANTHONY

Sorry. I guess you should have heard it from your parents before you heard it from me before I heard it from my dad and your orthodontist. See ya' around the office. Again.

Dylan reacts, this can't be happening.

ANTHONY

That's why they tell you to wear the retainer.

DYLAN

Shut up.

23 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

23

Wendy and Raven walk down the hallway.

WENDY

Do I look gay?

RAVEN

Yeah, I guess.

WENDY

What?!

Raven smiles.

RAVEN

I don't know. What does gay look like?

WENDY

Not like this!

24 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

24

They enter and put their papers on top of the others. The bell RINGS, just as Mercedes enters and follows them to their cluster of desks. Mercedes looks at Dylan.

MERCEDES

What's up?

DYLAN

Nothing.

WENDY

Here.

She puts a paper in front of Dylan, "MCDONALD DOUGLAS TAKES FLIGHT IN CALIFORNIA" Dylan reacts, looks at Wendy.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

WENDY

I had nothing else to do, and I
knew you wouldn't finish, so...
there you go. It was my first topic
then I changed, but I'd already
done a lot of work on it, so it
wasn't that hard to finish it.

DYLAN

I can't believe you did this. Wendy!
Why would you break the rules for
me? You never break the rules.

As the class goes quiet:

WENDY

(too loudly)
Because I love you.

Mr. Montague looks at them, as does the rest of the class.
Then the lecture begins, as Mr. Montague points to a map of
California and suddenly lip syncs to Snoop Dogg...

"Greetings loved ones, let's take a journey..."

Focus is on Mercedes, as she stares out the window and WE
SEE:

25 EXT. CALIFORNIA BEACH - DAY

25

Mercedes and her ex-boyfriend Jake on a California beach,
and we hear Katy Perry sing "California Girls"...

*California girls we're unforgettable, daisy dukes, bikinis
on top, sun kissed skin so hot we'll melt your popsicle...
ooooooh oh oooooooh... California girls we're undeniable,
fine, fresh, fierce, we got it on lock, Westcoast represent
now put your hands up, ooooooh oh oooooooh....*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

MUSIC: "California Girls" continues underneath.

26 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

26

Students are filing out, as the MUSIC FADES. Mr. Montague stops Mercedes on the way out.

MR. MONTAGUE

Hey, could I have a word with you?

Mercedes steps back as her friends go past him. Dylan pauses and shakes her head no, indicating not to say anything.

The classroom is empty now. Mercedes looks at him, yeah?

MR. MONTAGUE

So how are you doing?

She looks at him, what?

MR. MONTAGUE

Is everything okay at home?

MERCEDES

Yeah. Why?

MR. MONTAGUE

Everything okay with your mom?

MERCEDES

Yeah.

MR. MONTAGUE

And your dad?

MERCEDES

Dad's okay, too.

MR. MONTAGUE

Alright... well, you're doing a really good job in this class, I'm looking forward to reading your paper.

She looks at him.

MERCEDES

Yeah, alright.

He nods. She's thinking.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

MR. MONTAGUE
Wendy's in love with Dylan?

Huh? He smiles.

MR. MONTAGUE
What was that about?

Mercedes eases up.

MERCEDES
I... don't know. But Wendy has a
boyfriend and... Dylan likes guys.
Of course so does Wendy's boyfriend.

He nods.

MR. MONTAGUE
None of my business, just trying to
lighten up the conversation.

MERCEDES
So can I go now?

MR. MONTAGUE
Sure.

And she exits.

27 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

27

Mercedes walks past Raven who is in deep conversation with
Ford, who has a black eye.

RAVEN
He hit you?

FORD
He didn't mean to.

RAVEN
His meds must be off again.

He shrugs.

FORD
I don't know.

RAVEN
No, I'll tell my mom, she'll adjust
them or take him to the doctor and
get something else.

(CONTINUED)

FORD

Yeah, something is off with the meds, but I also think he's just an angry little guy.

RAVEN

Yeah, well I'm sure "Death Combat Two" isn't helping. You're going to have to quit playing that and find something else to play with him.

He looks at her.

RAVEN

What? You are.

FORD

Raven, I'm playing with him because the kid doesn't have anyone to play with, he doesn't have any friends and he's awake like twenty-three hours a day. He's angry, or he's lonely, or he's angry and lonely.

RAVEN

Yeah, well, who isn't? He has friends.

FORD

No. He doesn't.

RAVEN

No. He has that guy. Danny. Danny's his best friend.

FORD

Danny was his best friend. He doesn't have a best friend anymore. And I can't be his best friend.

RAVEN

Yeah, you can.

FORD

No, I can't, and I can't be your best friend either.

She's a little confused.

RAVEN

Why not?

FORD

Because I don't want to be your best friend.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

RAVEN

But you are my best friend, that's why I let you have sex with me.

He shakes his head.

FORD

I don't want that to be the reason you let me have sex with you. I'm not coming over there tonight, alright?

She looks at him.

RAVEN

No, come over, we'll hang out, we'll talk about it.

FORD

I don't want to talk about it.

And he walks away.

28 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - ANOTHER ANGLE - DAY

28

Ron catches up with Wendy.

RON

So apparently you just proclaimed your love for some woman in public. Awesome. And that by the way, that does not preclude our ever getting together. The two of us, or the three of us.

WENDY

You're ridiculous, you know that?

Wendy speeds up, passes by Dylan, who is on her phone.

WENDY

Hey! Thanks a lot. No good deed goes unpunished.

DYLAN

(into her phone)
No! I'm not doing it.

INTERCUT:

29 INT. DYLAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

29

Cecilia is on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CECILIA

Honey, your father and I were going to discuss it with you last night, but you got home so late we were already in bed.

DYLAN

My teeth are straight. They're perfectly straight. You can't even see they've moved.

CECILIA

He says it'll be six months, tops.

DYLAN

No, there has to be some alternative.

CECILIA

Crooked teeth?

No answer.

CECILIA

Are you smiling?

No answer.

CECILIA

I want to keep that smile looking just like it is.

DYLAN

Mom, no. I can't do the braces again. I can't.

CECILIA

Don't make me feel like I'm doing something bad to you when I'm just looking out for you. And by the way, your grandmother has something to do at her church tomorrow night so she said you could come over there around ten. Your dad and I discussed it and we agree that that's okay, if you stay at home until then.

DYLAN

What? What are you talking about?

CECILIA

Did you forget your father and I are going to our high school reunion?

(CONTINUED)

DYLAN

Did I know that?

CECILIA

Yes, you knew that. For months. We talked about it at several family meetings, and it's been posted on the family calendar for months.

The bell RINGS. People are disappearing into classrooms.

CECILIA

We're leaving tomorrow at noon, and we'll be back Sunday by noon. Maybe you can go to church with your grandmother, huh? She'd love that.

Dylan hangs up as a plan is overwhelming her brain. Mercedes walks up to her.

MERCEDES

Did you use me as an excuse not to turn in your paper?

DYLAN

No.

(then, quickly)

My mother and dad are going out of town and leaving the house to me tomorrow from noon until ten at night at which time I have to go to my grandmother's.

MERCEDES

So?

Dylan smiles.

DYLAN

So?

MERCEDES

No, no, we are not going to do anything so cliché as having a party while your parents are out of town.

DYLAN

Yeah, let's do. Let's do something cliché. I want to. I want to have a party.

MERCEDES

We have to keep our parties to ourselves.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (3)

29

DYLAN

I don't think we do. We need a party.
We all need a party. You. Wendy.
Raven. Me. We need a party.

Mercedes walks away.

MERCEDES

That is a really, really bad idea.

Empty hallway....

We hear Tupac's "California Love"... as Dylan starts to dance
and a few others join her...

*California knows how to party, California knows how to party,
in the citaaay of LA, in the citaaaay of good ol Watts, in
the citaaay, the city of Compton, we keep in rockin' we keep
it rockin'!*

*Shake it shake it baby, shake it shake it mama, shake it
Cali, shake it shake it baby, shake it shake it shake it...*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

DAY THREE

30 EXT. DYLAN'S HOUSE - DAY 30

JACK (V.O.)
 No boys. No beer. And it goes without
 saying, no pot.

31 INT. DYLAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 31

It's Dylan's parents giving instructions.

CECILIA
 I don't mind if your girlfriends
 come over, but-

JACK
 But no boys, no beer, no pot.

DYLAN
 You covered that.

JACK
 Repeat it back to me.

DYLAN
 No sex, booze, or weed.

JACK
 In this house or on the property.

DYLAN
 What about over at Grandma's?

Cecilia smiles.

CECILIA
 Funny. Funny girl. Ten o'clock.
 Don't be late.

JACK
 And don't be drunk or stoned or
 high when you go over there.

CECILIA
 We trust you.

DYLAN
 I know that. And I'm going to make
 sure you keep trusting me.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

JACK

Then make sure nothing goes wrong here because this is the first time we've ever left our home in your care, and if you blow this, we'll never trust you again.

She nods to acknowledge. They wait.

DYLAN

I'm not going to blow it.

The parents nod. They look at each other, throw up their hands, hug her, hug her again, and then exit.

CECILIA

See you tomorrow. Love you.

JACK

Love you and trust you. Bye.

The door shuts, and Dylan bounces up and down with excitement. Her dad opens the door, points a warning finger.

JACK

Don't blow it!

And he exits. She bounces up and down again.

SMASH CUT TO:

32 INT. DYLAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

32

MUSIC THROUGHOUT

Pearl Jam, "The Fixer"

She's still bouncing. At least 75 kids are there, dancing, drinking, smoking pot. Braces, pimples, fat, thin, geeky, handsome, ugly, pretty - it's all in the mix.

Raven and Mercedes enter from the kitchen to see Wendy dancing like they've never seen her dance before, with her same boyfriend, Nick.

Someone passes Mercedes a joint. She takes it, takes a hit, passes it over to Raven. She takes a hit, and is about to pass it on when she realizes that it's Mercedes' ex, Jake, and she takes another hit, and then quickly passes the joint back to Mercedes and dances away.

Jake is drinking a beer. Jake and Mercedes look at each other. She smiles. He looks at her as she takes a hit.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

JAKE

So... you girls aren't partying?

MERCEDES

Maybe just tonight.

She offers him the joint. He shakes his head no. She shrugs, hands it to someone else passing by. He takes her by the hand and leads her over to the couch.

JAKE

Talk to me. How are you? With your mom and all that.

MERCEDES

Pretty good.

He looks at her.

MERCEDES

Not that good.

He waits.

MERCEDES

It's killing all of us. I can't take it anymore. I can't. It's really awful to watch. She doesn't look anything like she did. She doesn't look like my mother at all. Not that that matters. It's just... She's in so much pain, I can't bear it. I can bear to see her in so much pain.

He nods.

MERCEDES

And she's so weak from the chemo. It was supposed to be over and then they added more to it. My dad and I cried.

He just keeps listening. She keeps talking.

MERCEDES

My mom smiled and said thank you. Because that's how she is, of course. She's smiled through it, and she pretends that it's all okay just so I'll be okay and so my dad will be okay.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

JAKE

Yeah, I saw him last night at the surplus store.

She looks at him.

MERCEDES

My dad? Really? He must have stopped by there on his way to work. What, was he buying a truck load of toilet paper or something? He loves buying in bulk. Saves money.

JAKE

I... I thought he was working there.

She laughs.

MERCEDES

My dad?

JAKE

Yeah.

She looks at him, what?

JAKE

He's the cashier at the gas station there. Isn't he?

MERCEDES

No, he's not. He's working at... a new job, like the job he had. He's an investor...

(realizes)

Or... that's what he told me.

He sees the look on her face.

MERCEDES

Get me something to drink, will you?

He nods. She's left in tears as the music blasts away.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

Wendy is dancing with her boyfriend, Nick.

WENDY

Hey! Hey, everyone! I have na nouncement to make... I... am not... gay!

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (3)

32

NICK

And I too have an announcement to
make! I am gay!

And a CHEER goes up from the crowd.

WENDY

No! No! You're not gay!

NICK

I am gay!

Another CHEER.

WENDY

He's not gay!

NICK

I am gay!

And another CHEER. Wendy stops dancing and walks over to
Raven.

WENDY

Did you hear him? I don't know what
happened.

RAVEN

What do you mean what happened? The
guy's gay. You knew he was gay.
Everyone knew he was gay.

WENDY

Yeah, but... He's still my boyfriend.

RAVEN

He was never really your boyfriend,
Wendy.

WENDY

What am I going to do now? I want a
boyfriend. I have to have a
boyfriend.

Ron walks over.

RON

I have an idea. Actually a few ideas.

He passes a joint to Wendy. Raven smiles, waiting to see
what she'll do with it. Wendy takes a hit. Raven reacts,
well well. Wendy hands the joint to Raven, who takes a hit
and watches Wendy, hands it back to her.

33 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

33

Dylan is in the kitchen assembling a cheese tray. Badly. The kitchen is a complete disaster. There is trash and food and beer cans and bottles all over the place. Dylan does not seem that concerned, a possible drug and alcohol influence.

She puts down the cheese and pours some gin and juice into the blender but forgets to put the lid on, which then sprays everywhere. She smiles.

DYLAN

Uh-oh.

Ford enters.

FORD

Whoa! What the-

DYLAN

What?

He starts laughing.

DYLAN

Don't worry. I'll clean it up. I'll clean it all up. I'm a very neat person. I have great respect for property, our property and the property of others. That's why my parents trust me so much. Because I respect property. And I respect them. And they respect me.

FORD

Alright, well... I just wanted to say, thanks for the party. I'm leaving.

DYLAN

So soon?

FORD

Yeah. It's kind of uncomfortable for me, you know, since Raven and I broke up.

She looks at him.

DYLAN

Here. Try this.

She hands him a joint. He lights it, takes a hit and hands it back to her. She takes a big drag on it. He watches.

(CONTINUED)

DYLAN

What about now? Are you comfortable now?

FORD

Not that much. No, didn't really help.

DYLAN

I didn't know you broke up. Raven didn't tell me that you broke up. Probably because she knows I like you.

He looks at her, huh?

DYLAN

I think you're really nice.

FORD

And... I think you're really nice, too.

And then she kisses him, which totally takes him by surprise.

DYLAN

Do you like my boobs?

He looks at her.

DYLAN

Raven says boys like boobs.

He smiles.

FORD

She would be correct. But of course we like more than that. Much more than that.

Raven has walked in. They don't see her. She just watches. We don't know if she cares or not. She finally holds up a phone toward Dylan.

RAVEN

Hey. Dylan. Your grandmother's calling you.

DYLAN

What?

The phone quits ringing.

RAVEN

Your grandmother? It's ten o'clock.

(CONTINUED)

DYLAN

Oh. Okay.

RAVEN

You're supposed to be at her house at ten o'clock.

DYLAN

Oh right. I have to go. If I don't go, she'll come and get me. So... I have to go. You and Wendy and Mercedes, you get everyone out of here, okay? And then lock the door.

She exits. Raven looks at Ford.

RAVEN

So Dylan likes you.

FORD

Do you really care if she likes me or not?

She tries to hold strong but gets teary eyed.

RAVEN

What difference does it make? When did caring ever matter? I cared about my dad, and my dad cared about us, and he still left.

He looks at her, huh?

FORD

He didn't leave. Your mom kicked him out.

RAVEN

No, she didn't. He left. He left and he never came back.

FORD

No, Raven, no, he didn't. Your mom kicked him out.

RAVEN

Where'd you hear that?

FORD

JoeJoe.

(adds)

Your dad's in rehab. Prescription drugs. He was selling JoeJoe's meds. To pay for other stuff. That's what JoeJoe said.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

She looks at him. She can't comprehend.

FORD

He made me promise not to tell you.

She looks at him.

FORD

(offering an excuse)

I'm his best friend.

She looks at him.

RAVEN

Well, you're not my best friend.

And she crosses to exit. He grabs her and pulls her back, and he kisses her, and they kiss and kiss, and then they break.

RAVEN

I hate you.

FORD

At least you feel something for a change.

And as they kiss some more, the MUSIC transitions to Pink's "Glitter in the Air"...

34 INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

34

More kissing going on, on the bed, Wendy and Ron.

RON

(whispers)

You kiss like a guy.

She looks at him, terrified. He smiles.

RON

How would I know what a guy kisses like? I'm joking. You're a great kisser. I could kiss you all night..

She smiles.

WENDY

We could do more than kiss.

He looks at her, wow.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

RON
 (then, questioning)
 No, no, I'm the guy, I'll decide
 when we have sex. You want to have
 sex?

She looks at him. He looks at her. It's a maybe.

35 INT. DYLAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

35

More kissing going on, Mercedes and Jake, still on the couch,
 only now flat out on the couch making out as if no one else
 is there. Only all around people are dancing and drinking
 and smoking.

36 INT. ANOTHER BEDROOM - NIGHT

36

Dylan is passed out in a bed, food in her hair. And as the
 MUSIC FADES OUT, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

DAY FOUR

37 INT. THE SAME BEDROOM - MORNING

37

Dylan opens her eyes, screams.

DYLAN
 Agggghhhhhh!

We reveal her POV of her GRANDMA who is looking at her. She
 looks at her watch and screams again.

DYLAN
 Agggghhhhhh!!!!

And we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

38 INT. DYLAN'S KITCHEN - DAY 38

Dylan, who has not cleaned up, opens the door and... it's a miracle! The kitchen is spotlessly clean. She exits to the living room.

39 INT. DYLAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 39

Another miracle! The living room is spotlessly clean. What is this?

DYLAN
(calling out)
Hello! Hello! Is someone here?

She exits back to the kitchen.

40 INT. DYLAN'S KITCHEN - DAY 40

Mercedes, Dylan and Wendy enter from one direction as Dylan comes in from the other. She sees them, they're carrying paper towels, trash bags, cleaning supplies.

DYLAN
Did you...?

They nod yes.

DYLAN
Oh my God! I love you guys! I love you! I love you!

Mercedes takes a piece of lettuce out of Dylan's hair.

MERCEDES
We dumped the trash at the Samuels' house. They're out of town.

WENDY
Which is a real stroke of luck because they probably would have called the cops if they'd been next door.

RAVEN
Say something. Not something. Say thank you.

DYLAN
Thank you, thank you, thank you.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

RAVEN

And say you're sorry for hitting on Ford.

DYLAN

I'm sorry, Raven, it's just that...
(hears something)
Aaagggghhh! That's my parents pulling up!

They exit with the trash.

MERCEDES

Bye!

RAVEN

Good luck.

WENDY

See ya!

MERCEDES

Let us know.

A beat and the parents enter.

DYLAN

Hey! You're back. Have a good time?

Jack and Cecilia look around.

JACK

Yeah. We had a great time. Did you have a good time?

CECILIA

Did you go over to your grandmother's?

DYLAN

Didn't I say I would?

Cecilia looks at her.

DYLAN

Of course I did.

CECILIA

I ask because you have on the same clothes you had on yesterday afternoon and you look as if you might have been up all night.

JACK

You go over to Mercedes'?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

DYLAN

No. And wow. Thanks for all the questions. You walk in, I'm trying to make everything nice so you can just go take a nap or something because I'm sure you two were up half the night, and then you just come in and practically accuse me of... doing something. And just what are you accusing me of?

CECILIA

You know what, you're right. And I would like to take a nap so I'm going to make myself a nice cup of green tea and do just that.

And she walks over to the stove. Jack sits down at the table. Dylan notices that behind him, above him, along the cornice board of the kitchen window, is a little something the girls missed - a row of empty bottles, one of each kind of liquor that was served. She sits down across from him.

DYLAN

So? Um... How was it? Did you dance? Was there a band?

Jack smiles.

JACK

Of course there was a band, and I got news for you, no one dances like your mother and me. We still got it.

She smiles, great.

41 INT. RAVEN'S ROOM - DAY

41

Raven is changing clothes when her mom, CHLOE, steps in.

CHLOE

Hey, when did you get home?

RAVEN

Few minutes ago.

CHLOE

So Dylan made it through the night?

RAVEN

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

CHLOE

I think she's old enough to stay home alone at sixteen without needing her friends to babysit, but that's just me. You want some breakfast?

RAVEN

No.

JoeJoe appears at the door.

JOEJOE

I'm making breakfast. We got a new waffle maker. I'm making waffles. You want a waffle? I can put anything in them you want. Chocolate chips, pecans, bacon bits, fruit, like blueberries or strawberries or-

RAVEN

Why isn't his medicine working? Why isn't the medicine calming him down?

CHLOE

Raven!

JoeJoe disappears.

RAVEN

Why didn't you tell me Dad's in rehab?

CHLOE

Because I didn't want you to know. Because he didn't want you to know. Because it's none of your business.

Raven reacts.

RAVEN

None of my business that my own father has a drug problem? I shouldn't know that?

CHLOE

How do you know that?

RAVEN

JoeJoe told Ford.

Chloe nods.

RAVEN

You're not surprised?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

CHLOE
That kid tells everything.

RAVEN
Not to me and how did he know and
not me?

CHLOE
Your father was selling his son's
medication. That's how desperate he
was for money. He was selling
JoeJoe's meds, that's how he knows.

RAVEN
And who's selling it now?

Chloe looks at her, huh?

RAVEN
He's not on any medication. He's
not like that on medication.

Chloe nods.

CHLOE
I'll take care of JoeJoe. Here.

She hands her the eco-bottle.

CHLOE
I washed this out for you. It smelled
like Red Bull and vodka.

Raven looks at her.

CHLOE
This is not how you relieve stress.
With alcohol. Or drugs. Are you
drinking, Raven?

RAVEN
No.

Chloe looks at her.

CHLOE
Smoking pot?

RAVEN
So what if I am? You have a medicine
cabinet full of prescription drugs.

CHLOE
Prescription being the key word.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (3) 41
Raven looks at her.

42 INT. DYLAN'S KITCHEN - DAY 42
Cecilia has exited. Dylan is still talking to her dad.

DYLAN
So was the food good?

JACK
Eh, could have been better. We're spoiled here, you know. No one cooks better than your mother.

He leans his chair against the wall.

JACK
So... come on. Enough with the questions. What'd you do last night?

DYLAN
Nothing really.

She glances up at the bottles, then keeps talking.

DYLAN
Hung out. My friends came over for a while, but just for a while.

JACK
How's Mercedes' mom doing?

DYLAN
I guess okay.

He nods.

JACK
She's actually smoking medical marijuana?

Dylan looks at him.

JACK
Your mom knows, you know. Wendy's mom told her.

Dylan nods, darn.

43 INT. WENDY'S ROOM - NIGHT 43
Wendy is out of the shower. She has on a robe. Her dad, Michael, knocks, sticks his head in.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

MICHAEL
Hey, how was the party?

She freezes.

MICHAEL
Come on, you think I didn't have
someone ride by there? What were
there, fifty, sixty people?

WENDY
Um... I don't know, I guess.

MICHAEL
Lot of drinking, lot of pot smoking,
I imagine.

WENDY
I don't do that.

MICHAEL
Never tried it?

WENDY
No.

MICHAEL
Well, I hope you never do but you
probably will. You have a drink or
two?

WENDY
I... had a drink. Yes.

He looks at her.

WENDY
I didn't get drunk.

MICHAEL
You realize if you get caught
drinking or smoking pot, I'm not
going to help you out, you're on
your own, toots.

WENDY
Okay.

MICHAEL
Okay? What kind of answer is that?

WENDY
Oh come on, Dad. Didn't you drink
and smoke pot in high school?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

MICHAEL
We're not talking about me, we're
talking about you.

WENDY
I had one drink.

He nods. Looks at her. She's staying with that.

MICHAEL
One drink.

She nods.

WENDY
(a beat, then)
Oh, Nick and I broke up.

He smiles.

MICHAEL
Good. Why, did he meet another guy?

She looks at him. He looks at her. He crosses, sits next to her.

MICHAEL
Best to tell the truth, always.

She doesn't say anything.

MICHAEL
So just the one drink?

She nods yes. He knows she's lying. And she knows he knows she's lying. He gets up.

MICHAEL
Alright, guess one drink never hurt
anyone.

And he exits. Whew.

44 INT. DYLAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

44

Dylan is still talking.

DYLAN
Yeah, sometimes she's there when
her mom smokes, but she would never
do that. I swear, never. And neither
would I. I mean for one thing, we'd
be taking medicine that her mother
needs to survive. I'm not that
desperate to try pot.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

Jack gets up.

JACK

Well, I got to trust you when you say that 'cause until you blow it, I trust you. And apparently, you didn't blow it last night. Think I'll join your mother for that nap.

And he exits. She breathes a sigh of relief, but ah, too soon. He turns back.

JACK

I have a confession to make before I go. I have to admit... I had my... I had my...

He starts to sneeze, ah- ahhhh- ahhhhhhhhchooooo! And with that, one lone empty beer can falls off and hits the floor with an eerie metal on tile bounce, bounce, bounce and roll. His eyes catch the line of drinks, and he does a double take.

JACK

I had my doubts.

He looks at Dylan. He's angry. He points at the bottles.

JACK

What the hell is that?

She tells the truth for once.

DYLAN

I had a party?

He reacts.

DYLAN

I didn't know so many people would come. I'm not that popular.
(shrugs)
It kind of got out of hand.

He stares at her.

45 INT. MERCEDES' KITCHEN - DAY

45

Mercedes comes in, the shades are down in the kitchen, it's dark. Her dad, Peter, is sitting at the table, no coffee, no paper, just sitting there. She walks over to him.

MERCEDES

Hey.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

He looks up. As soon as she sees the look, she knows, and then he confirms.

PETER

When I woke up this morning, she
was gone.

And he stands up, just in time to catch her collapsing into tears.

MUSIC begins, it's the "Airplanes" song...

PULL BACK TO:

46 EXT. MERCEDES' HOUSE - DAY

46

An ambulance and a cop car pull up, as does happen, when someone leaves the party permanently...

I could use a wish right now, wish right now, wish right now.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW