

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Enough Said

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

*Written and Directed by
Nicole Holofcener*

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EXT. HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Eva, 45 and attractive, gets out of her old Prius, takes out a large massage table and proceeds to carry it to the apartment building. She's wearing sweatpants and sneakers, ready for work.

INT. HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT - DAY

A middle aged man, MARTIN, is enjoying his massage. Face up, gaping mouth and utterly relaxed, Eva works on his neck and shoulders from behind him.

MARTIN

Oh, yeah, right there, my neck. Perfect.

EVA

Take a deep breath and hold it a minute.

(he does)

Now, exhale.

He lets out a long exhale and Eva almost falls over from his BAD BREATH. She has to back up.

EVA (CONT'D)

Good...

MARTIN

Should I do it again?

EVA

No, no. One is good.

INT. BRENTWOOD HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY

Eva gives a massage to CYNTHIA, 35, who lies face down. Despite the soothing music, Cynthia talks loudly and constantly.

CYNTHIA

She brought cupcakes, I brought cake pops, and she goes "they're the same thing" but they're not the same thing because a cupcake is a cupcake, a cake pop is a cake with a stick in it. Anyway, the real issue is her daughter because she's not very smart whereas my daughter Anna...

Cynthia rolls over, continuing to talk. When she's on her back Eva closes Cynthia's eyes.

EXT. YOUNG MAN'S HOUSE - ANOTHER DAY

Eva lugs her large massage table up the stairs to an apartment. It's heavy and clumsy. The front door (at the top of the stairs) opens up and HAL, 30, greets her.

HAL

Hey Eva. Come on up!

He smiles and watches her struggle up the stairs, not helping.

EXT. EVA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A cute, well kept bungalow type place.

INT. EVA'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eva is at her mirror putting on lipstick. Her daughter ELLEN, 18 and cute, comes in returning a necklace to the dresser.

ELLEN

Hey mom. Where are you going?

EVA

To a party with Sarah and Will so they don't have to be alone.

(beat)

You want to come?

ELLEN

Why?

EVA

Because you're leaving soon and we should hang out.

ELLEN

I'm good.

She heads back into her own room.

INT. WILL'S NEW PRIUS - NIGHT

Will (42) drives. His wife Sarah (40) sits beside him putting on some makeup. Eva listens from the backseat as they explain something to her.

WILL

We can never find anything.

SARAH

She puts things in the weirdest places. Like, if I leave my bracelets on the kitchen counter she'll put them in a drawer in the kitchen.

(to Will)

Why can't you just do it?

WILL

I always do it. I fired the gardener. It's not fair.

SARAH

(to Eva)

We want to fire her but he won't do it.

(to Will)

It's not hard for you. Why does it have to be *fair*?

WILL

You should do it *because* it's hard for you.

SARAH

Oh, *please*.

WILL

Come on Sarah, grow up. You can fire a maid.

SARAH

Is that the definition of maturity? Being able to fire your friggin' maid?

EVA

(leaning forward, showing her lipstick)

Sarah, does this color look good on me?

SARAH

You look good. Pretty.

WILL

That's nice. Nice look.

EXT. PALISADES HOUSE - NIGHT

Will, Sarah and Eva scan the large party and the beautiful back yard.

EVA

So whose party is this?

WILL

Well, he's a big book agent and she's an interior designer. They know everyone.

SARAH

Maybe there's single men here. Oh shit, I see a patient.

EVA

What are you going to do?

SARAH

I don't know. Ignore her until I can't.

EVA

Show me. Introduce me!

SARAH

No way.

EVA

You're a wet blanket. Oh, I see someone from my gym.

Eva wanders off to say Hi to the gym woman, HILARY. She's standing with another very attractive and stylish woman, MARIANNE. Both are mid 40's.

HILARY

Eva - hi. This is Marianne. This is Eva. Eva's a fabulous masseuse.

MARIANNE

Oh! Nice to meet you.

HILARY

Oh, will you guys excuse me for a sec? I've got to find a bathroom.

She walks off leaving Marianne and Eva alone.

EVA

That was abrupt.

EVA (CONT'D)

Wow, I love what you're wearing. Your dress, and your shoes and your purse.

MARIANNE

Oh, thanks. Gee, I should bring you everywhere. I love your outfit. So, you're a masseuse. And you're good?

EVA

I am.

EVA (CONT'D)

What is it that you do?

MARIANNE

I'm a poet.

EVA

And I'm a dreamer.

MARIANNE

No. Really.

EVA

Oh. You - you're really a poet?

MARIANNE

I am.

EVA

And you make a living?

MARIANNE

I do!

EVA

You're a poet. Now I know it.

MARIANNE

Good one.

EVA

Feel free to steal it!

ANGLE ON

Will standing alone, drinking. Eva walks up.

EVA (CONT'D)

I think I just got a new client.

WILL

Where?

Eva points. They see Marianne being fawned over by a COUPLE OF GUESTS.

WILL (CONT'D)

She looks clean.

EVA

She's really nice. And funny. Great taste.

WILL

And extremely attractive.

EVA

You think every woman at this party is attractive.

WILL

Pretty much.

Eva looks around.

EVA

There is not one man here that I'm attracted to.

Just then TWO MEN approach Will. One is JASON, 50.

JASON

Will, didn't know you'd be here!

WILL

Hey Jason. This is my friend Eva.

JASON

Hi. This is Albert.

They all shake hands. ALBERT is 45 and has a bit of a belly.

EVA

Nice party, huh? Lots of white balls hanging down.

WILL

Eva was just telling me that there's not one man at this party that she's attracted to.

EVA

Okay! I don't know why you would make that announcement?

ALBERT

Is that unusual?

EVA

No, not unusual at all. And no offense.

ALBERT

(joking)

That's okay, I'm not attracted to anyone here, either.

EVA

Okay. Good. Yeah, it's kind of an ugly crowd.

WILL

(making conversation)

Jason, you've got a kid in college now, right?

JASON

Two.

ALBERT

I've got one leaving in the fall.

EVA

So do I.

ALBERT

It's all I have.

EVA

Me too!

JASON

Oh come on, you guys. You want your kids to go away! It's healthy!

EVA

Shut up.

ALBERT

Yeah, shut up.

Albert looks at Eva, clearly charmed.

INT. PRIUS - NIGHT

Sarah and Will drive home from the party, Eva is in the backseat.

WILL

Do all the guys get boners?

EVA

No.

SARAH

Haven't we been over this?

EVA

Yes.

WILL

Massages make me nervous. I spend the whole time afraid I'm gonna get a boner.

SARAH

You are?

WILL

So, do they hit on you?

EVA

You know you're starting to depress me. They don't get boners and they don't hit on me.

WILL

So, who do you massage? It must be so strange.

EVA

I've got a guy who's got like a hundred stairs to his house and he never helps me with my massage table.

WILL

Did you ever ask him to?

EVA AND SARAH

I/She shouldn't have to!

She gets out of the car.

EVA

Bye guys. Love you.

EXT. EVA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eva gets out of the car, walks up to the house and opens her front door.

INT. ELLEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ellen is asleep in her bed. Eva enters and stares at her child for a long, long time.

It's unfathomable how much she loves this person.

EXT. THE JOURNEY SCHOOL - MORNING

Eva's car pulls into the parking lot. Ellen and Chloe get out and immediately they trot off with THREE FRIENDS.

ELLEN

Bye mom!

EVA

(out the window)

Have a good day honey.

CHLOE

Bye Eva, thanks for the ride!

EVA

Oh, you're welcome Chloe.

Eva sees TWO OTHER GIRLS, MADDY and SAGE, dressed way too sexy, drop trash on the ground.

EVA (CONT'D)

Hey. Maddy Price! You littered.

Maddy turns and dead pans to Eva.

MADDY

(in English accent)

Excuse me, what did you say?

EVA

Pick up your trash. You're not British.

Maddy picks up her trash.

MADDY

What a bitch.

As Eva drives away -

EXT. MARIANNE'S SANTA MONICA HOUSE - DAY

Eva carries her massage table up to this beautiful Spanish house. It's not big, but it's special.

INT. MARIANNE'S HOUSE - DAY

Bringing the table into the house, Eva admires the beautiful place. It's eclectic, colorful, creative, personal, perfect. Fresh flowers everywhere, amazing art. Marianne wears a casual but chic outfit.

MARIANNE

Come on in. Would you mind removing your shoes?

EVA

No problem.

MARIANNE

And your socks too?

EVA

Sure.

MARIANNE

Would you like some ice tea?

Eva takes off her shoes and socks as Marianne slips into the kitchen. She then appears with a glass of iced tea.

EVA

Oh yeah, that sounds good. I'm so glad you called. So many people take my card just to be polite!

MARIANNE

Well, I'm not polite!

EVA

(looking around)
Wow, this is soooo pretty! Can I live here?

(sipping ice tea)
And this tea is kind of fabulous!

INT. MARIANNE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eva is working on Marianne while she lies on her back. Soothing music plays.

INT. MARIANNE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Eva is putting her table back together while Marianne wears casual clothes and sits on the couch. They're mid conversation.

MARIANNE

I'm dating this guy and he has no sense of humor.

EVA

Could be a deal breaker.

MARIANNE

Right? I don't know what to do because he's very sweet.

EVA

Sweet can be good. Find someone else to tell you jokes.

MARIANNE

Are you married?

EVA

Divorced. For ten years.

MARIANNE

Are you guys still friends?

EVA

Not really. We share a daughter. Other than that it's hard to believe I ever had a laugh with the guy, let alone create a child.

MARIANNE

I know what you mean about your ex. We have zero in common. I don't know how I ever had a real conversation with him.

EVA

Crazy, isn't it?

EXT. MARIANNE'S HOUSE - DAY

Eva is putting her massage table in her car while Marianne clips herbs in her front yard.

MARIANNE

I'll call you really soon. This left shoulder is still so tight.

EVA

You ought to ice it tonight. And drink lots of water. Stay hydrated.

MARIANNE

I will. Thank you again. I'm so glad I met you! Oh, want some chervil? I'm drowning in it.

She hands her some herbs.

INT. EVA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Eva sits in her kitchen eating lunch, VIDEO CHATTING WITH SARAH.

EVA

What the Hell is chervil? She said she was drowning in it.

SARAH

An herb.

(in American accent)

An herb. How long have you known me?

EVA

I can't understand a goddamned thing you ever say.

EVA (CONT'D)

The furniture was gorgeous. I wanted everything in there.

INT. SARAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Sarah sits at her desk (in her therapy office) VIDEO CHATTING.

EVA

She has no cellulite.

SARAH
How can that be?

EVA
I don't know! There's nothing!

SARAH
Anyway, Will said that some guy you met
at the party wants your number! Jason's
friend I think.

Eva smiles, in spite of herself.

EVA
But we both admitted we weren't attracted
to each other.
(beat)
What should I do? He's kind of fat.

SARAH
He is?

EVA
He's got this big belly.

SARAH
Oh, come on. You have nothing to lose.

EVA
No, but he does. Ha Ha Ha.

Sarah just stares at her. Suddenly Eva notices the little
light on the wall go on behind Sarah.

EVA (CONT'D)
Your patient just arrived.
(beat)
What if you never went out there. Would
they just - (motions to shoot herself)?
Oh, was that inappropriate?

EXT. TRAGICALLY HIP RESTAURANT - NIGHT

TWELVE PEOPLE wait for a table outside a nondescript, store-
front restaurant. Loud music blasts out onto the street from
inside. Albert and Eva stand in front with the others, making
conversation. Everyone around them is YOUNG.

ALBERT

I'm sorry about this. I swear I made a dinner reservation.

EVA

Oh. That's okay.

(beat)

What about you? What do you do?

ALBERT

I work at The American Library of Cultural History.

EVA

The what?

ALBERT

Exactly. It's basically a television library.

EVA

(concerned)

You watch a lot of TV.

ALBERT

(smiles)

No, no. Television history. What's on now? I have no clue. I tried to watch a Housewives of Idiot Town and I wanted to jump off a building.

EVA

I watched one of those shows with my daughter once and I couldn't believe it. They had no brains. And they all had fake cheekbones. And fake boobs.

(beat)

You like fake boobs?

ALBERT

I like real boobs.

EVA

I got real boobs.

ALBERT

(awkward pause)

Well, that's working out for us then.

INT. TRAGICALLY HIP RESTAURANT - LATER

They're mid meal and haven't run out of things to say. They have to shout to be heard.

EVA

How long have you been divorced?

ALBERT

About four years.

EVA

And was it mutual?

ALBERT

(embarrassed)

Not really, no.

EVA

Uh uh.

(beat)

And can I get her number?

ALBERT

Of course.

EVA

Imagine the time it would save.

ALBERT

Sometimes I think we should all just wear signs around our necks. Get it all out there.

EVA

What would yours say?

ALBERT

I don't know. I'm a slob? I have ear hair?

EVA

You know there's ways to get rid of ear hair.

ALBERT

Fully aware. Taken care of.

EVA

A slob, huh?

ALBERT

Not the dirty, hoarder kind, just the normal kind.

EVA

Does your daughter live with you?

ALBERT

Half the time.

EVA

Does she mind your normal kind of mess?

ALBERT

I'm not that bad. But both she and her mother are very neat. They love that store - Christ - the empty box store?

EVA

The Container Store?

ALBERT

A whole store that sells crap to put your crap in so you can buy more crap.

EVA

I love that store. I love crap!

ALBERT

So did my ex wife. And she put it in very flowery and overpriced boxes.

EVA

They sell those in some manly designs, you know.

ALBERT

Manly designs?

EVA

Yeah, browns. Little cowboys.

ALBERT

Little cowboys? Well, if they did, my wife would have bought them for me because she tried very hard to domesticate me.

EVA

Living with someone else is *not* easy. Peoples habits.

ALBERT

Listen to this -

(beat)

I don't like onions in my guacamole, right? So I would take a chip and kind of swirl it around until the onions were all on one side and then I could eat it. It drove her bananas.

EVA

Seems kind of harmless.

ALBERT

Completely. But by the end of our marriage it made her gag.

EVA

Well, that's not nice.

He notices her hands.

ALBERT

You have - um - lovely hands.

EVA

Oh. Thank you.

ALBERT

I would have thought - since you're a masseuse that you would have big, manly hands but they're actually very lovely.

EVA

(awkward)

You have nice hands too.

ALBERT

(embarrassed)

Thank you.

EVA

They're kind of like paddles.

(beat)

Did they just turn the music louder?

ALBERT

No, I think you just got older.

Eva flags down a WAITER.

EVA

Excuse me, could you turn the music down a little bit? I'm old.

WAITER

No, I'm sorry.

EVA

Are you sorry that I'm old, or that you won't turn the music down?

WAITER

We can't change the volume.

The waiter walks away.

EVA

He's nice.

ALBERT

I find I don't like younger people.

EVA

(with her hand to her ear)

Eh?

ALBERT

I'm sorry. I picked the wrong restaurant.

EVA

Oh I'm having a great time. The food is delicious. I mean I can't hear anything you're saying...

ALBERT

That's probably why you are having a great time.

INT. MENCHIES YOGURT PLACE - NIGHT

Albert and Eva put toppings on their yogurts at the self serve bar. Albert lifts a spoonful of something red.

ALBERT

What is this, tomatoes?

EVA

That's watermelon! There's some croutons next to it.

He chuckles and dumps some candy in his bowl.

EVA (CONT'D)

Doesn't that sort of defeat the purpose?

ALBERT

What, it's non fat yogurt. You can put a little stuff on it...

She watches him dump more crap on and she smiles, amused.

He looks at a COUPLE OF WOMEN looking very serious as they stand there tasting flavors out of little cups.

EVA

What? The people tasting?

ALBERT

You know, just put some in your bowl. You're not buying a house!

EVA

It's free.

ALBERT

Yes, it's free. They're happy!

EVA

(laughing)

They have to taste. There's many variations. Cake Batter, Red Velvet.

(reading a sign)

I have no idea what that is.

Albert pays for their cups and takes out a photo of his daughter.

ALBERT

This is my daughter.

CLOSE UP ON A PHOTO OF A BEAUTIFUL 18 YEAR OLD GIRL.

EVA

Yowee. She's gorgeous.

ALBERT

Looks like her mom, thank god.

Eva turns on her phone and shows him a picture of Ellen.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

She's beautiful.

(beat)

You got any money?

Flustered, Eva goes for her wallet.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
Just kidding.

She laughs, relieved, as Albert takes out a twenty.

INT. ALBERT'S AUDI - NIGHT

Albert pulls his car up to Eva's house.

EVA
Well, I had a really nice time.

ALBERT
Me, too.

Albert leans in for a kiss but Eva leans back.

EVA
I'm not sure.

ALBERT
Got it.

EVA
I mean, maybe.

ALBERT
I understand.

EVA
It's just that I'm not sure.

ALBERT
(playful)
It's okay. I'm not deaf.
(beat)
Maybe a little deaf.

She offers a hand and they shake.

EVA
I like your paddles.

She moves to get out.

ALBERT
I like your ass.

Flattered and embarrassed, Eva beams.

EVA
Well, thank you.

Albert can't believe he just said that as she gets out of the car, waving.

INT. EVA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She drops her purse and flops down on the couch next to Ellen and Chloe. They are in a discussion, flipping through magazines and eating snacks.

ELLEN
How was it?

EVA
Nice!

CHLOE
But what if he immediately hooks up with someone else? I'll die.

ELLEN
So don't do it.

EVA
What?

ELLEN
Nothing.

CHLOE
I can't decide if I should sleep with Chris or not. We're going to separate colleges and I don't want to do it if I'm gonna regret it later.

EVA
You're a virgin, right?

ELLEN
Don't answer that.

CHLOE
(at same time)
Yes.

EVA
You can't live in fear of making a mistake. If you want to do it, you should do it.

ELLEN
Stay out of it.

EVA
She asked me!

ELLEN
She did?

EVA
Didn't you Chloe?

Chloe shrugs, stuck in the middle.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Eva sits on a couch outside the dressing rooms, knitting a blanket. The girls are in a dressing room together.

CHLOE (O.S.)
That looks so cute!

ELLEN (O.S.)
You think?

EVA
(shouting to them)
Show me! Come out!

ELLEN (O.S.)
I don't like it. I'm gonna try this one.

EVA
Hey. I forgot to ask you. What happened to Maddy Price? She was such a bitch the other day.

CHLOE (O.S.)
She had a threesome with Sage Berger and Brendan Weiss and now she thinks she's Taylor Momson.

ELLEN (O.S.)
Chloe! Don't tell my mom that!

CHLOE (O.S.)
Your mom's cool.

ELLEN (O.S.)
No, she's not.

EVA
She can tell me stuff. You never do!
(stunned)
They had a threesome?

ELLEN (O.S.)
Forget it mom!

EVA
What is *happening*?
(beat)
Have you guys done that?

ELLEN (O.S.)
Mom? Shut up.

CHLOE (O.S.)
That's such a pretty color. You look
good.

ELLEN (O.S.)
Really? I think I like it.

EVA
Show me!

They still ignore Eva.

EVA (CONT'D)
Hello? I'm the one buying it.

Ellen comes out and shows her.

EVA (CONT'D)
You look beautiful!

Chloe comes out wearing a tight short thing. Then her PRETTY MOTHER DEBBIE comes out of her own dressing room some distance away, wearing the same thing.

EVA (CONT'D)
(surprised)
Look at you guys.

CHLOE
No way.

DEBBIE
What?

CHLOE
We're not buying the same dress, mom.

DEBBIE

I won't wear it at the same time as you.

CHLOE

Come on. You look stupid.

DEBBIE

I think I look good.

CHLOE

You're so lumpy.

Debbie looks at Eva for support.

EVA

If I could wear that dress I would.

DEBBIE

Thank you.

CHLOE

You would not. Mom you look crazy.

Disgusted, Chloe heads back into the dressing room.

DEBBIE

You're not the only attractive girl in our family, Chloe.

CHLOE (O.S.)

Oh please!

(beat)

Why can't you just dress like Ellen's mom? She looks normal!

Debbie glances at Eva's attire and rolls her eyes as she goes into the dressing room. Eva sits there in JEANS, SNEAKERS, BAGGY SWEATER. Knitting. Oh well.

EXT. MARIANNE'S PATIO - DAY

Eva is setting up her massage stuff as Marianne lies on her back. She places a bolster under her knees.

EVA

(beat)

So, what happened with your not-funny guy?

MARIANNE

Over. It's fine. What about you? Do you have a boyfriend?

EVA

I had a good first date over the weekend.

MARIANNE

How nice. What's he like?

EVA

(putting a pillow under
Marianne's neck)

Funny, and very sweet. We never stopped talking. It felt like we were old friends already.

MARIANNE

In a good way? 'Cause that can sort of kill the chemistry.

EVA

No, it was good. Flirtatious. I wasn't sure if I wanted to kiss him though, but I think I do. When I first met him he didn't seem attractive to me. He's not typically handsome. But now I think he's kind of sexy.

INT. EVA'S CAR - DAY

Eva looks at Albert's house as she drives up and parks.

EXT. ALBERT'S WESTWOOD HOUSE - DAY

A 1930's somewhat neglected one story house. The lawn is dead and the paint is peeling. The curtains are drawn inside.

Holding a bottle of cheap champagne, Eva exits her car and walks up to the house. After a beat, Albert comes to the door wearing a sweatshirt and pajama bottoms.

EVA

Oh my god, did I get the day wrong?

ALBERT

No. Why?

EVA

You're wearing pajamas.

ALBERT

I'm not.

EVA

Oh.

ALBERT

I just like to be comfortable. You know, it's brunch, it's Sunday.

EVA

Oh, good!

INT. ALBERT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It's dark everywhere, all of the windows are shaded with curtains or blinds. He takes the champagne.

ALBERT

Thank you for this. I'll make mimosas.

Despite the dark, cave-like quality, it's nice. Newish furniture, lots of books, an enormous flat screen TV. There are PHOTOS of TESS everywhere.

Eva picks up a Chanel purse sitting on the table.

EVA

You carry a purse?

ALBERT

That's my daughter's. Outrageously expensive but it was her 18th birthday.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bagels and coffee are ready and waiting on the counter. Albert makes drinks.

EVA

Bagels! I love bread! So, tell me about her - your daughter, I mean.

ALBERT

Well, she's very sophisticated - as you can tell from the pocketbook.

She's smart, lovely and funny - and she's moving to New York. Very far away. Going to Parsons school of design. I'm very proud of her.

EVA

I bet.

ALBERT

But part of me thinks I shouldn't let her go. You know? She's 18 and this is a great opportunity for her but what if something happens to her while she's in New York. I'll never be able to forgive myself.

EVA

The whole going away to college thing. We send them off? We don't know where they are all the time? And aside from that, what's my life going to look like when she's gone? Lonely and pointless!

(beat)

Do you know that she doesn't even want her father or me to take her there? She wants to say good-bye at the airport. Here. Not even fly with her.

ALBERT

That's horrible.

EVA

Heartbreaking, that's the word for it. I guess we better develop hobbies.

ALBERT

Yeah. I guess so.

EVA

I suppose I already have one. I knit. I'll just knit for the rest of my life. That's *my* plan. What about you?

ALBERT

That's funny, because I weave.

EVA

(taken aback)

Like baskets?

ALBERT

Yeah, I do it in the garage.

EVA
Really?

ALBERT
(beat)
No.

She cracks up.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
What would make you think that I would
weave?

EVA
I don't know! I'm actually kind of glad
you don't weave.

ALBERT
Me, too.

Then she looks down at Albert's crotch and quickly looks
away.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
You know, I try to picture her not being
here. I don't see her all the time
anyway, but it will completely different.

EVA
Look, I can see your penis.

ALBERT
What?

EVA
(looking away)
I saw your penis. Your pajama thing is
kind of open.

Albert instantly drops his hand to cover himself. He's
mortified. After a minute, he jokes.

ALBERT
Whaddya think?

EVA
I think you're very... healthy.

ALBERT
Thank you.

EVA
Go change your pants, okay?

ALBERT

Be right back.

EXT. ALBERT'S BACKYARD - A BIT LATER

Albert (in jeans) and Eva are drinking champagne. Albert sits in an old chair and Eva is on the ground pulling up weeds.

EVA

So, what happened? I don't mean the details, just the general.

ALBERT

I don't think she liked me very much. We never had sex - not my choice, she just had no interest in it whatsoever. I'm pretty sure she cheated on me. That was awful. So obviously she liked sex but just not with me. She thought my job was stupid. I didn't understand her. We parented very differently. Fought about it, always.

(beat)

Why are you wrecking my back yard?

EVA

You have a lot of weeds.

ALBERT

I do? Where?

EVA

These are all weeds.

ALBERT

I thought all that was good.

He gets down on the grass and helps her.

EVA

(beat)

We never had sex either - not his choice. We were pretty out of synch in that way.

(beat)

We were out of synch with Ellen too. A lot of fighting over how to parent.

(looking over)

That's all good grass you're pulling up.

ALBERT

I'll put it back.

He tries to replant it. Eva kicks off her shoes and rubs one of her blistered feet.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

(beat)

Got some kind of blister thing going there?

EVA

I guess.

ALBERT

Yup.

EVA

You're grossed out.

ALBERT

No, no.

EVA

You are. You're freaked by my feet.

ALBERT

I have a little problem with feet. I think it has to do with my mother.

EVA

Oh, she had feet.

ALBERT

Let's just say they were overly colorful, like a rainbow. Yellow, blue - veins and blisters...

She stares at him, then moves to put her shoe back on.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

You don't have to do that.

EVA

I think I should.

(beat)

I've never even had a pedicure. I know everyone has but I just never saw the point, until this actual moment. Plus I'm really ticklish.

ALBERT

Want me to get you a band-aid?

EVA

Please. And maybe a bag for my foot.

ALBERT

Stop it.

EVA

Make it two bags. Two bags for the old bag!

ALBERT

I knew I shouldn't have told you!

He goes into the house and Eva examines her foot.

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Eva is putting a couple of band aids on her foot. They're mid conversation.

ALBERT

They're naked, right?

EVA

Yeah.

ALBERT

Are you ever attracted to them?

EVA

(here we go)
No. Never.

ALBERT

Well, I'm sure they're attracted to you.

EVA

I don't know. They're getting massaged.

ALBERT

They must hit on you all the time.

EVA

(lying)
Sometimes. Yeah.
(beat)
I'll give you a massage sometime, if you like.

ALBERT

I would like that. I would definitely hit on you.

EVA

I think that might be okay.

ALBERT

Really.

(beat)

Want to kiss?

They look at one another for a bit.

EVA

Sure.

And they do.

INT. ALBERT'S BEDROOM - THAT DAY

Eva and Albert lie under the covers, having just had sex. Albert's bedroom is very sparse and lacks night stands. All of his stuff - books, tissues, clock - lays on the floor beside the bed. Eva reaches down for a glass of water.

ALBERT

You didn't actually open your eyes at any point, did you?

EVA

No, no worries. I figured if I kept *my* eyes closed you wouldn't see *me*.

ALBERT

I saw you.

He pulls her to him.

EVA

I'm tired of being funny.

ALBERT

Me too.

They lie there for a minute not talking.

EVA

But you're not funny.

He smiles.

INT. SARAH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sarah and Eva are pushing a heavy piece of furniture across the room. They're getting help from Sarah's son BRANDON (8), and her daughter GRACE, (6), as well.

SARAH

I'm so excited for you! He sounds great.

EVA

He kind of is.
(whispering)
We had such good sex.

SARAH

How fun! I can't even imagine.

Sarah stands back and looks at the furniture's new spot.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What do you think?

EVA

I liked it where it was. You're going to get a hernia.

SARAH

(to her kids)
You guys can be done.

Brandon and Grace walk into the other room.

SARAH (CONT'D)

No Cleveland Show.

BRANDON

(without turning around)
Please.

GRACE

Please.

SARAH

Okay.

EVA

Jeez, you really put your foot down.

SARAH

Too tired to be a good parent.

EVA

Maybe stop moving furniture around.

Sarah flops down on the couch, picking up a decorating magazine.

Sarah's maid CATHY, 30 and Hispanic, walks by straightening up.

EVA (CONT'D)

What's she doing here?

SARAH

(talking quietly)

You have no idea. Will refused to fire her so I let it go for a while hoping she'd just get better, but she got worse. She even seemed like she wanted to be fired cuz she was doing such stupid things.

EVA

Well, good.

SARAH

So I fired her and she started crying. And then I started crying and then we were hugging and then I hired her back.

EVA

You're nice.

SARAH

Right? Some people might think that I'm compassionate or soft hearted or whatever, but Will just thinks I'm a baby. He wants me to fire her again as a learning experience.

EVA

Jesus.

SARAH

That's our relationship, right there.

EVA

Oh come on, it's so much more than that.

SARAH

Whatever. He's an jerk. He was a middle child and never got enough fried chicken at the dinner table and thinks everything has to be fair.

Cathy appears.

CATHY

Mrs. Sarah. Where do you want me to put this? It was in the bathroom.

She holds up a ping pong paddle.

SARAH

Outside? With the ping pong table.

CATHY

Okay, no problem.

She goes off and the two share a smile.

EXT. EVA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Albert's car is parked behind Eva's in the driveway.

INT. EVA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Albert and Eva, only half awake, are sitting up in bed. Eva's mouth is wide open and Albert is looking inside it.

ALBERT

I've never actually seen wisdom teeth. I didn't think anyone had them. You have a lot of fillings.

EVA

Do they look like the mercury kind?

ALBERT

No. Just normal fillings and a couple of crowns.

Eva closes her mouth.

EVA

Okay, your turn.

ALBERT

No.

EVA

Come on.
(seductive)
Open your mouth.

ALBERT

Make me.

She kisses him and he immediately opens up.

EVA

You're missing a tooth!

ALBERT

I am.

EVA

It's way back there. You can't see it.

ALBERT

I've got to get some kind of hideous bone graft and it costs a fortune and I've been putting it off.

EVA

Yeah, my grandma Dee Dee had that.

ALBERT

Exactly. Grandma Dee Dee. Thank you for that.

They kiss when suddenly they hear footsteps.

EVA

Huh?

Chloe is standing at the bedroom door.

CHLOE

Oh my god I'm so sorry.

EVA

Hi honey.

CHLOE

I didn't know...

EVA

This is Chloe, Ellen's best friend. This is Albert.

ALBERT

Hi.

CHLOE

Ellen didn't answer my texts so I thought she was sleeping.

EVA

She's at her dad's. You okay?

CHLOE

Yeah, I just wanted to go out to breakfast.

EVA

(turning to Albert)

You hungry?

INT. KITCHEN - A BIT LATER

Albert, Eva and Chloe are eating breakfast.

CHLOE

So if I tell you a day and a year you'll know what was on?

ALBERT

Shoot.

CHLOE

That's crazy! No way.

(beat)

1975, channel 4.

ALBERT

What time?

EVA

Oh, come on.

CHLOE

Saturday morning.

ALBERT

Woody Woodpecker, then Pink Panther then McDuff The Talking Dog - I didn't like it but watched it anyway, Monster Squad - Land of the Lost and then Big John, Little John, which was like "Big" only weirder.

CHLOE

And I thought *I* watched a lot of TV.

ALBERT

I really looked forward to the line up.

EVA

What, were you rejected as a child?

ALBERT

Well, I was kind of raised like a veal. I was put in a dark room and fed and told not to move.

They crack up.

INT. HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT - DAY

Eva is giving the guy with bad breath, Martin, a massage. She mouth breaths as he lies on his back, mouth gaping.

INT. BRENTWOOD HOUSE - DAY

The chatterbox is lying on her back as Eva works on her leg.

CYNTHIA

So I said 'I guess that means you don't like it' and she says 'no, I just might want another size' but it was definitely her size because she's petite and big on the top but the thing is I bought it at Nordstrom Rack but I put it in a Neiman Marcus box...

EXT. YOUNG MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

At the house where the guy doesn't help her - Eva is pulling her massage table up the stairs.

EVA

(to herself)

That's right, don't open the door. Pretend you don't know I'm here...

INT. AMERICAN LIBRARY OF CULTURAL HISTORY - DAY

They walk among the stacks of scripts and audio/video stuff.

ALBERT

We have the most comprehensive collection of television shows from 1947 to the present. I make sure things are transferred properly, logged properly. I write blurbs for them, try to make them sound relevant and exciting in case someone younger than fifty wants to put down their phone and see something original and brilliant.

EVA

Like what?

ALBERT

Like Jack Benny. Or Sid Caesar. Or Dinah Shore. You wouldn't believe the guests she had on - Betty Grable, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald.

EVA

So cool.

ALBERT

It is. I kind of love it. And if it's a slow day I get to go downstairs watch a couple episodes of 'What's Happening?'

She laughs and they have a kiss.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

They approach an open office door.

ALBERT

This is my office. That's Bob.

Bob looks up from his desk.

BOB

Hey.

EVA

Hey.

BOB

Hey.

INT. LIBRARY/VIEWING ROOM - DAY

They walk into the room where people are watching things of video monitors. Eva admires some memorabilia that is placed behind glass.

EVA

Oh, remember Flipper? I always wanted a dolphin as a child.

ALBERT

That's a lot of work.

Suddenly they hear what sounds like a PERSON quietly crying.

EVA

(whispering)
What is that?

ALBERT

I think it's somebody watching something.
It happens sometimes.

Albert Peeks around to see what THE CRYING GUY is looking at.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

Taxi.

EVA

Really?

ALBERT

It's probably the one where Alex's dog died.

(beat)
You hungry?

EXT. THE BRICK HOUSE - LATER

Eva and Albert stand out front of a burger joint.

ALBERT

And here she is, right on time.

TESS, 18 and lovely, approaches from across the street.

TESS

Hi Dad!

ALBERT
(they hug)
Tess, this is Eva. Eva, Tess.

EVA
It's so nice to meet you.

TESS
You, too!

ALBERT
So...

He gestures that they should enter the restaurant.

TESS
(disgusted)
Seriously.

ALBERT
They have great chili.

EVA
I love chili.

TESS
Have you ever been to Lily's? It's like,
around the corner.

ALBERT
(beat)
Lily's it is.

INT. LILY'S - DAY

The three eat lunch in the upscale restaurant. Albert eats a steak while Tess and Eva have salads.

TESS
I'll be studying fashion design.

EVA
Well, obviously you have great taste.

TESS
Thank you.

ALBERT
(to Tess)
Eva has a daughter just starting college too.

EVA

She's going to Sarah Lawrence. English and History. She loves History. But I think she wants to be a writer.

TESS

God, Sarah Lawrence is not what it used to be.

(beat)

I mean, I'm sure it's still good, it's just gone downhill a lot in the last few years. Some of my - let's just say - *not so smart friends* - just got in. I was shocked.

EVA

Uh huh.

ALBERT

I'm sure some very smart people go there.

TESS

I know. I'm just saying.

ALBERT

(joking)

And I'm just saying you should stay home and go to school around here.

She glares at him.

TESS

At least you're honest about it. Mom acts like she's so excited to be on her own again but I don't buy it.

ALBERT

Okay, let's lighten up on Mom. She's all right. And don't judge until you have kids.

TESS

Except that I'm not having any.

ALBERT

(upset)

What? How can you know that?

TESS

I want a career. Anyway, I hate kids.

Eva looks at Albert, who looks destroyed.

ALBERT

Well, right about now we have that in
common!

EXT. LILY'S - DAY

They come out of the restaurant. Tess walks ahead.

EVA

(trying to comfort him)
She doesn't know what she's talking
about. She's too young to know what she
wants.

Tess sees THREE FRIENDS coming down the street.

TESS

Cory! Hey you guys!

They all stop and chat. Each friend is chic and adult-
looking.

TESS (CONT'D)

(turning to Albert)
Dad, I'm going to get a coffee, okay?

She kisses him and shakes Eva's hand.

TESS (CONT'D)

So nice to meet you.

EVA

Yeah, you too!

ALBERT

Be careful.

Tess walks off.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

She has lots of friends.

EVA

Do you think they have threesomes?

ALBERT

What?! Why would you say that?

EVA

It's what the kids are doing these days.

ALBERT

Oh my god.

EVA

Right?

(contemplating)

I'm afraid *that* window has closed.

ALBERT

There was a window?

INT. EVA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ellen is climbing into Eva's bed. They snuggle.

ELLEN

Hey. How was the daughter?

EVA

Kind of awful. A real snob.

ELLEN

That's too bad.

EVA

I wonder what your roommate's gonna be like. Want me to call her parents?

ELLEN

No.

EVA

You hungry?

ELLEN

Not really.

EVA

What did you eat yesterday?

ELLEN

I don't know.

EVA

Think. Tell me everything you ate.

ELLEN

Cereal. A banana.

EVA

Where'd you get the banana?

ELLEN
 (getting up)
 You're crazy.

EVA
 What did you have for lunch?

ELLEN
 Bye!

EXT. MARIANNE'S BACKYARD - DAY

Eva is giving Marianne a massage on the patio.

EXT. MARIANNE'S BACKYARD - LATER

Post massage, they sit on lounge chairs and sip iced tea.

EVA
 He's kind of flabby and middle aged but I don't care. *I'm* flabby and middle aged.

MARIANNE
 No.

EVA
 It's funny, our middle aged-ness is comforting *and* sexy to me. Isn't that so incredibly sad? But sort of good, too?

MARIANNE
 I think that's what my ex always wanted from me. To accept his belly and all of his quirks. But in the end I was totally repulsed by him sexually. He was kind of terrible in bed. Very clumsy.

EVA
 Oh no! That's awful!

MARIANNE
 Oh, just a sec.

Marianne runs in the house and returns with her book of poetry. She hands it to Eva.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)
 It's my last copy, but I want you to have it.

EVA
(examining it)
Wow. You sure?

MARIANNE
Absolutely.

EVA
I'm a little intimidated, I'm not real good with poetry.

MARIANNE
Just let them wash over you. Don't try and understand them.

EVA
Believe me, I won't.

MARIANNE
You know, I love being with you. Would it be weird if we hung out, as friends?

EVA
I would love that.

MARIANNE
Me, too.
(beat)
Please, have some salsa. These tomatoes are amazing.

Marianne pushes the bowl to Eva.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)
But watch out. I put in a ton of onions, one of many upsides to my divorce.

EVA
What do you mean?

MARIANNE
My ex-husband hated onions so he'd take a chip and swirl it *around and around and around* until all the onions were on one side -

Marianne shows her, scraping and swirling with disgusted exaggeration.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)
It kind of made me sick.

Eva looks at her, alarmed.

TESS (O.S.)
Mom?

MARIANNE
(quietly to Eva)
My daughter's not feeling well. I'll be
right back.

Marianne gets up and Tess, in her pajamas, meets her in the dining room.

Eva looks up and sees them talking quietly. IT'S TESS!
ALBERT'S TESS!

Eva's stunned, freaked. She hides behind a bush. Marianne brings Tess outside.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)
I want you to meet my friend. Eva!?
Weird, where'd she go?

TESS
I want to go back to bed.

Tess gives her little kiss.

MARIANNE
You have bad breath.

TESS
I'm *sick!*

Tess goes off. Eva comes out of the bushes.

EVA
I'm just admiring all of your plantings!
This one is so big!

MARIANNE
I wanted you to meet Tess...

EVA
Oh...

MARIANNE
Anyway, I better get going.

EVA
Oh, sure.

EXT. MARIANNE'S HOUSE - DAY

Eva rushes out of Marianne's house lugging her massage table. Marianne stands at the front door.

MARIANNE

So, should we do something? Next week?

EVA

Absolutely. Yes!

Marianne gives her a long, affectionate hug.

INT. EVA'S PRIUS - DAY

Eva drives away from Marianne's, her mind racing. She stops at a stop sign, taking deep breaths.

INT. EVA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Eva is VIDEO CHATTING WITH SARAH.

EVA

Remember that new client of mine that I think is perfect? Marianne?

INT. SARAH'S THERAPY OFFICE - SAME TIME

Sarah is at her desk.

EVA'S VOICE

It turns out she's *Albert's ex-wife!* Can you believe this? I am *not* shitting you.

SARAH

That's an unbelievable coincidence. What are you going to do?

The light behind Sarah's desk goes on.

EVA

Damn it your light just went on. Call me later?

They shut off.

INT. EVA'S KITCHEN - LATER

She makes dinner as Ellen and Chloe come in.

ELLEN

Hi Ma.

EVA

Did you take off your shoes?

ELLEN

No. Since when do I have to?

EVA

I want to start doing that. It's cleaner.

Both Chloe and Ellen kick off their shoes.

EVA (CONT'D)

Socks too.

They roll their eyes.

EVA (CONT'D)

Listen to this. Turns out I've been giving massages to Albert's ex-wife.

ELLEN

How weird.

CHLOE

So weird.

EVA

I've been listening to this woman say the worst things about the one guy that I'm starting to really like. I pictured her ex like this fat, irritating slob, and it's Albert.

(realizing)

Fat Albert.

ELLEN

Who?

EVA

Oh, it's just a cartoon. A *cartoon!*

CHLOE

But he's so not like that.

ELLEN

How do you know?

CHLOE

We all had breakfast the other day. He's really sweet and funny.

EVA

You liked him?

CHLOE

Totally.

ELLEN

What?

EVA

You weren't home, honey, so we had breakfast. That's all.

ELLEN

But I haven't even met him.

EVA

You will.

ELLEN

What does this woman say about him?

EVA

Ugh. Terrible things. She thought he was disgusting. A wimp with his daughter. Useless in bed.

ELLEN

(grossed out)

Mom!

EXT. PALISADES BLUFF - DAY

Eva, dressed for hiking, and Marianne dressed for hiking/cocktails, walk up the hill. MANY OTHER WALKERS pass them.

MARIANNE

I date sometimes, but it's so hard to meet people. I'm not attracted to anybody.

EVA

And you weren't attracted to your husband? That must have been difficult.

MARIANNE

I tried really hard. He'd go on so many diets and cheat all the time and act shocked when he got fatter. It was so irritating. It almost wasn't the weight that bugged me, it was his *behavior* about the weight.

Just then TWO FEMALE HIKERS (30's), who are going in the opposite direction, give Marianne a double-take.

FEMALE HIKER

Excuse me, are you Marianne Hope?

MARIANNE

Yes.

FEMALE HIKER

Oh my god.

OTHER FEMALE HIKER

You are our idol. We were just talking about you!

FEMALE HIKER

We admire you so much. I can't believe we're meeting you!

Marianne shakes both of their hands.

MARIANNE

Hello, so nice. Thank you so much.

FEMALE HIKER

You have no idea how much this means to us. She gave me Beautiful Fruit when my mom died and it literally saved me.

MARIANNE

How wonderful. I'm so sorry.
(ending it)
Blessings.

The hikers go down the hill, changed women. Marianne and Eva continue hiking up.

EVA

Blessings!
(beat)
It's so cool you saved her!

Marianne just smiles. Eva brings the conversation around.

EVA (CONT'D)

But he never got *obese*, right?

MARIANNE

It depends on your definition of *obese*.

EVA

Oh. Otherwise you liked him, more or less?

MARIANNE

Unfortunately, less. He did so many things that got on my nerves.

EVA

Like what?

MARIANNE

(beat)

I'm sorry I'm being so negative. But I don't really have anyone else I can bitch to about this kind of thing.

EVA

You can completely bitch to me.

MARIANNE

Thank you. I trust you.

EVA

(beat)

Oh good.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Sarah's living room has been partially rearranged. She's moving decorative pillows around, trying to find the right spot. Eva helps her.

SARAH

What's wrong with you? She can find another masseuse.

EVA

I feel bad. She doesn't have close friends and I'm like, it.

(beat)

I feel so pulled in. She's like a human Trip Advisor.

SARAH

Albert's not a hotel.

EVA

No, but if you could avoid staying in a bad one, wouldn't you?

SARAH

Oh my god.

EVA

She's said so many bad things about him. She knows what she's talking about. She's very smart.

SARAH

So are you. And she's not perfect.

EVA

But maybe she's ultimately *right*.

SARAH

Are you ultimately right about Peter? Just because you didn't want him, does that make him unlovable?

EVA

By anyone normal.

Sarah gives up.

SARAH

You didn't say anything about my new furniture arrangement.

EVA

(looking around)
I don't remember how it was.

SARAH

Better or worse?

Will comes in the front door and looks around the room.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Do you like it?

WILL

Honey. Why do you keep doing this?

EVA

She's filling a hole.

WILL
I'll fill your hole.

SARAH
Different hole.

Will shrugs and walks away.

WILL
Missing out. Fun times...

EXT. EVA'S HOUSE - DAY

Eva comes outside and walks up to a FORD FIESTA parked at the curb. She leans down to get in, seeing Albert in the driver's seat.

EVA
Who's car is this?

ALBERT
Oh, Tess is getting hers fixed, so this is a rental.

EVA
So why do you have it?

ALBERT
I'm letting her drive mine. She likes it better.

Eva gets inside, tense.

EVA
(under her breath)
I bet she does.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Eva and Albert are in their seats but the movie hasn't started yet. He's shaking his large bucket of popcorn.

EVA
Why are you shaking that?

ALBERT
It spreads the butter around.

EVA
You put more butter on it?

ALBERT

Just the butter. I didn't *more* butter.

Self conscious, he eats his popcorn.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - LATER

The movie is playing.

ALBERT

(talking about the movie)

I saw that actor once. He was about three feet tall.

Eva shrugs, not wanting to talk.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

Do you like this movie?

Eva nods.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

What is she wearing? It looks like her grandmother crocheted something and she put it on her -

A GUY in another row shushes him.

EVA

You should whisper.

ALBERT

I am whispering.

Eva clenches her teeth and tries to watch the film.

EVA

That's not a whisper.

INT. EVA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Albert and Eva have just finished making love.

ALBERT

I'm going to ask you something and I really want you to be honest.

EVA

(worried)

Okay.

ALBERT

Can you breathe when I'm on top of you?

EVA

Of course.

ALBERT

I'm planning on losing some weight, by the way. I know I need to.

EVA

(beat)

Oh?

(beat)

Was it ever an issue with your wife?

ALBERT

Sometimes I ate just to drive her nuts.

They lie there quietly for a bit. His breathing is loud.

EVA

You have a cold?

ALBERT

No. I broke my nose a couple of times. My doctor says that at this point my nose is purely ornamental.

EVA

(laughing)

You gonna get it fixed?

ALBERT

Yeah, right after my missing tooth.

(beat)

By the way, I think Tess really liked you.

EVA

Yeah?

ALBERT

Yeah. I could tell.

EVA

(not liking Tess)

She seems neat.

ALBERT

I know she can be a little obnoxious, but she's figuring it all out. She's got a good heart.

He pulls her to him.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
I kind of adore you already.

INT. EVA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eva's toes, as Chloe carefully and slowly paints them a pale blue. She tries to keep her feet still but it's hard.

EVA
What happened with you and Chris?

Chloe blushes.

EVA (CONT'D)
What? You can tell me.

CHLOE
We did it.

EVA
Oh my god, how was it?!

CHLOE
(beat)
Nice. I think. It was good.

EVA
Awww. Congratulations. I'm so glad it was nice.

CHLOE
Even if we don't stay together, I'm glad I got it over with, you know? I'm really glad I took your advice to -

Just then Ellen comes home and is surprised to see Chloe.

ELLEN
When did you get here?

EVA
A few minutes ago.
(beat)
I told her to wait.

ELLEN

I've been wanting to paint your toes for ten years. I thought you were too ticklish.

CHLOE

She's in love.

ELLEN

So that makes you not ticklish?

EVA

You weren't here. Sweetie. Be with us.

Ellen leaves. Eva and Chloe exchange an "oops" look.

EVA (CONT'D)

Ellen! Come back!

But there's no response.

INT. MARIANNE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Marianne sits up, having just been massaged. Eva is straightening up.

MARIANNE

Crazy morning. I got a wonderful call from Joni Mitchell. She read the galleys for my new collection and loved it.

EVA

You're friends with Joni Mitchell?

MARIANNE

Yeah, we've been for a while. And I met a nice guy, We went out last night. He's in great shape, he really takes care of himself. He's vegan. He actually read my work before he knew me. Isn't that cool?

EVA

A poetry reading vegan? Oh my god.

Marianne heads to the kitchen and keeps talking.

MARIANNE

We're going out again tomorrow. I hope it goes well. I tend to get my hopes up too early. With Albert, it always felt like a bait and switch.

When we first started dating, I thought,
'He's mature! He can buy a house?'

EVA

This house?

MARIANNE

Yes! And he cooked! He made me this dish,
spaghetti with eggplant and mozzarella.

EVA

That sounds delicious!

MARIANNE

But it turned out it was the only thing
he knew how to cook.

EVA

Uh huh.

MARIANNE

And he has no friends. Neither do I -

EVA

Me and Joni.

MARIANNE

That's true!

EXT. ALBERT'S HOUSE - EVENING

Eva knocks on Albert's door. He opens it and beams when he
sees her.

ALBERT

Hi!

(beat)

Hungry?

INT. ALBERT'S KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - EVENING

Albert presents Eva with a plate of food.

ALBERT

I hope you like spaghetti with eggplant
and mozzarella!

He sets it before her and she looks sick. After a moment, she
eats.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
Is everything okay?

EVA
This is actually pretty damn amazing.

He sits with her.

ALBERT
How was work today?

EVA
It was good. I had two massages.

ALBERT
Tell me. Non stop talking? Barnacles?
Erections?

EVA
It was a nice woman in Santa Monica.
(beat)
She talks a lot about her ex husband.

Long pause. Eva is about to tell him the truth.

EVA (CONT'D)
Albert -

ALBERT
Let's hope it wasn't my ex wife!

She coughs, miserable. Stuck.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
(beat)
I have a little present for you.

EVA
You do?

She's nervous. He places a small box in front of her.

ALBERT
Now, it's just a little present.

Eva opens the box and lifts up a pretty, simple necklace.

EVA
Oh my god.

ALBERT
I just saw it and thought of you.

He caresses her neck.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
This beautiful, wonderful part.

He gets up and puts it on her, kisses her. He can tell something is wrong.

EVA
You like it on me? Thank you soooo much.

ALBERT
Maybe I shouldn't have. Is it too soon?

EVA
No, it's lovely. Thank you.

EXT/INT. ALBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eva and Albert are making love in the dark. He accidentally jabs her.

EVA
Ouch!

ALBERT
I'm so sorry.

EVA
No worries.

He does it again.

EVA (CONT'D)
Shit. Ouch.

ALBERT
What am I doing?

EVA
It's just - your elbow - that's better,
oh.

ALBERT
Good.

Eva giggles.

EVA
Your beard - it's so ticklish.

ALBERT

Oh, sorry.

EVA

That's okay.

They kiss some more. He climbs on top.

EVA (CONT'D)

Ow! My hair! My hair!

Albert stops and reaches for the light, which he flips on.

ALBERT

(upset)

Okay. I don't know what I'm doing, but this is not going well. Why don't we just stop.

He looks at her as she sighs deeply.

INT. ALBERT'S BATHROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eva is standing in Albert's messy bathroom. She looks at his grimy sink. He has about SIX toothbrushes in his cup.

She bends down to the cabinet and opens it. Cob webs, dust. Ancient things. About FOUR bottles of mouthwash with varying degrees left. She stares at them, disturbed.

INT. ALBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eva comes out of the bathroom and sits on the bed.

ALBERT

You look cute in my robe. Everything all right?

EVA

You have four hundred mouthwashes.

ALBERT

Uh, yeah. I buy them, I forget to use them, I buy more...

EVA

Why do you have so many toothbrushes?

ALBERT

I don't know. I only use one.

EVA

So why don't you throw the others out?

ALBERT

(beat)

They're my friends?

Eva lies next to him and he snuggles in.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

Should we give it another shot?

EVA

Oh, I'm just so tired. Is that okay?

ALBERT

Yeah. It's okay.

He goes to kiss her but she's turning over, away from him.

INT. FAMILY ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

PETER AND FRAN (Eva's ex and his new wife), Ellen, Chloe, Sarah and Will. The food has not yet been served.

PETER

So proud of you, honey.

Everyone toasts to Ellen.

FRAN

We are. Here's some graduation money.

She hands her an envelope.

ELLEN

Thanks so much you guys.

PETER

(joking)

It's in fives.

CHLOE

Thanks for including me tonight.

EVA

You had a fight with your mom?

CHLOE

Huge.

EVA

Where's your dad?

CHLOE

He lives in San Diego but you'd think it was across the Pacific. He never comes up. I don't care. He remarried a really weird woman. She never talks.

SARAH

(maybe a little drunk)

Hear, hear for second marriages.

Will gives his wife a strange look.

FRAN

It's kind of true, though. It's good when everyone is a little older and wiser.

SARAH

Maybe second marriages work because people have figured out how to compromise.

EVA

Or behave, perhaps.

PETER

Thanks everyone!

EVA

No one is talking about you.

SARAH

Not you personally. In general. If I got married again I'd be on the lookout for what was going to be our inevitable problems.

WILL

Odd conversation.

SARAH

It's true. *Everyone* is crazy.

WILL

So, maybe *don't* get married again.

PETER

Said the first husband.

SARAH
I'm not saying I will. I'm just saying.

EVA
(to Fran)
What was your first husband like?

FRAN
He was actually a lovely man. Just not
for me.

EVA
Oh. Very grown up!

FRAN
He passed away. Two years ago.

Peter attracts a WAITER.

PETER
Excuse me, could we have more bread?

WAITER
Of course.

EVA
Oh no, not more bread.

PETER
Why not?

EVA
I don't want to eat it.

PETER
So don't.
(to waiter)
More bread, please?

The waiter leaves.

EVA
Are you even going to eat it?

PETER
I don't know. But the others might.

FRAN
I probably will.

WILL
Me, too.

PETER

Bread eater, another bread eater...

EVA

Okay, sorry.

EVA (CONT'D)

(like an interview)

So, Fran. You eat bread.

FRAN

It's true.

EVA

(to Peter)

Does that mean you can keep cookies in the house?

PETER

I can.

CHLOE

What are you guys talking about?

EVA

I have a little trouble controlling myself when it comes to sweets or bread, so when Peter brought something like cookies or chocolate or good bread home I would eat all of it and then hate myself.

PETER

And me, for buying it in the first place.

CHLOE

So, did you stop buying it?

PETER

I did.

EVA

But he was angry.

PETER

I was not.

EVA

Well, just a little.

WILL

(to Peter)

You should be angry.

Why should you be deprived because she can't control herself?

SARAH

Because she's his wife and he's trying to help her?

WILL

But is that really helping her?

SARAH AND EVA

Yes!

WILL

Not if we want her to learn how to control herself.

EVA

We??!

SARAH

(rolling her eyes)
Oh my god, here it comes.

WILL

It's not fair to him.

SARAH

Why does everything have to be fair?!
What are you, six!?

WILL

Come on, let's keep it nice.

FRAN

(shrugging)
I just forget the cookies are there.

EVA

That's why you're married to Peter and I'm not.

The WAITER COMES BY and puts the bread on the table. Eva takes some.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Everyone exits the restaurant.

EVA
(to Peter)
Nobody ate the bread, by the way.

PETER
You did.

EVA
Exactly.

She starts to walk away but stops herself.

EVA (CONT'D)
What do you say to people when they asked
why we got divorced?

PETER
I usually just say we probably shouldn't
have been together.

EVA
But Fran knows everything. I mean, you've
talked about me.

He looks at her as if to say "duh."

EVA (CONT'D)
Of course. She's your wife.

Eva and Peter join the others. While they all chat and laugh,
Eva stares at her ex husband, growing pensive and lonely.

INT. EVA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eva sits on the couch knitting a blanket. She's also poring
over her and Peter's WEDDING ALBUM. They look so happy and
young. Ellen and Chloe come through wearing pajamas.

EVA
Do you know I started this blanket when
you were five. Somehow I liked this
color. But I'm going to finish it so you
can take it with you.

ELLEN
Maybe I should buy another, just in case.

The girls glance at the wedding album.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Why are you looking at this?

EVA

I don't know. I pulled it out.

(staring hard at a picture)

I'm trying to remember what I knew. Did I already know those things about your dad, the things that we would fight about?

ELLEN

Probably not.

EVA

I think I did. I think I always knew them. Or felt them.

(beat)

I didn't pay attention.

Eva snaps out of her reverie and kisses Ellen.

EVA (CONT'D)

But look what I got.

She kisses Ellen.

ELLEN

'Night Mom.

Eva holds onto her.

EVA

Stay up with me. Let's cuddle.

ELLEN

I'm tired.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Come on, Chloe.

CHLOE

(re: knitting)

Is that hard?

EVA

Not at all. Want to learn?

(more to Ellen)

I've been wanting to teach Ellen for the longest time...

Ellen goes out of the room and Chloe sits next to Eva. Eva's cell phone rings on the coffee table and Chloe leans over to look at it.

CHLOE

Albert.

After a beat, Eva shakes her head "no," as in - don't pick up.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

You're still seeing his wife?

EVA

(defensive)

She has a bad shoulder. And no friends.

Chloe looks at her, disapproving.

EVA (CONT'D)

Don't look at me like that. I'm screwed up.

INT. MARIANNE'S HOUSE - DAY

Marianne, with her phone in her hand, and looking slightly unhinged, lets Eva in.

MARIANNE

Sorry. In the middle of some bullshit.
Come in.

Eva takes off her shoes and sets up the massage table while Marianne shouts into the phone.

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

How many times do we have to discuss this? You *did* agree. Albert, I was there, I remember. It's all worked out...Fine. Good bye. Ughhhhh!!! I can't wait til I don't have to talk to him anymore!!

EVA

What happened?

MARIANNE

(pouring wine)

He thinks he should take her to school, not me. We already agreed it would be me. Tess wants it to be me. She told me.

EVA

Could you both take her?

MARIANNE

I don't think so. He's a wreck about her leaving and she doesn't need that kind of energy.

They sit across from one another at the table.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

He focuses so much on her and she can feel it.

EVA

Isn't that kind of nice, though? That he focuses?

MARIANNE

Maybe if he had a girlfriend, or something like that, it would balance it out. But I can't see that happening. Nope.

EVA

Why not?

MARIANNE

He's just - a loser, you know? I hate to use that word, but it fits.

Eva nods, her heart sinking.

EVA

How so?

MARIANNE

He just never got his life together. Okay, for instance - and this is just typical Albert. When I met him he had nothing next to his bed, like a table or something. Nothing. He'd put everything on the floor. And I thought, this is cute, kind of bohemian or whatever. But when we got married I got us night tables, you know, like normal people. Then I was in his house, I don't know, a year ago. And I saw all his stuff on the floor again. I mean, I took the night tables, granted, but you'd think he'd get some new ones. Metaphorically speaking, he's not building a life for himself. You know what I mean?

The phone rings and she looks at it.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Ugh. That's him again. I'm not picking up.

ALBERT ON PHONE MACHINE

Please pick up the phone, Marianne. We've not resolved anything....

MARIANNE

I'm sorry you have to hear this. This is so embarrassing.

ALBERT ON PHONE MACHINE

I know you're there. Fine. Don't deal.

He hangs up. Eva is cringing, wishing she wasn't hearing this.

MARIANNE

(sad)

You know, these are all little things. Ultimately, I think I just never felt understood by him. He didn't understand my poetry. He just never got me.

(beat)

Have you ever felt like someone got you?

Eva thinks and breaks into a bittersweet smile, realizing how much Albert *does* get her.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

What about the flabby guy?

EVA

Yeah. Maybe.

INT. EVA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Eva is video chatting with Sarah, who is in her office. (WE INTERCUT)

EVA

I need you to meet him.

SARAH

I mean, I'd love to meet him. But not so you can decide what you think of him.

EVA

Please? I feel like I'm losing all perspective.

SARAH

Exactly. You don't need someone else's. I don't want to get in the middle of this -

EVA

Please?

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Albert, Eva, Sarah and Will sit around the living room drinking wine. They help themselves to a cheese plate, and chips and guacamole.

WILL

No flowers, no little dots.

SARAH

I once bought sheets that had stars on them and he -

WILL

(in baby voice)

Little stars and moons and suns -

ALBERT

Oh no.

WILL

Right? Why do women like things that look like they belong to children?

EVA

I love doll house furniture. I would eat it if I could.

SARAH

Sometimes I think I'd like to be single just so I can have girly sheets.

WILL

You *would* like that, wouldn't you?

SARAH

I'm kidding.

WILL

I hope so.

EVA

(pouring herself more wine)

I have flowered sheets and they're not all they're cracked up to be.

ALBERT

I like your flowered sheets.

WILL

Don't sell me out, man.

ALBERT

We're new. At this point I'd probably like her sheets if they had little Mussolini's on them.

EVA

Hey, get some night tables and we'll talk.

(beat)

He's got normal sheets but no night tables.

ALBERT

So, I have no night tables.

EVA

Well, maybe it's a metaphor. Or maybe it's not!

Albert flinches a bit - that hurt. He reaches for the guacamole and starts to swirl the onions to the side. Eva watches, wondering if this bothers her or not.

WILL

You know, I make a million compromises. Not having flowery sheets is not a big deal.

SARAH

(taken aback)

I know. I know you make compromises.

WILL

You do? What do you think they are?

SARAH

Will, this isn't the time.

WILL

Sometimes I wish I was with someone who was more interested in History.

SARAH

(beat, confused)

What?

WILL
History.

SARAH
Okay...

WILL
I'm just saying.

Very uncomfortable. Cathy, the maid, comes into the living room and takes the empty guacamole bowl.

CATHY
More guacamole?

EVA
Not for me.

SARAH
Or me.

ALBERT
I'd love some, thank you.

Cathy goes into the kitchen.

EVA
You know how many calories are in guacamole?

ALBERT
Ten?

WILL
(mortified)
Leave the guy alone. He likes his guacamole.

ALBERT
(to Cathy, in the kitchen)
Never mind the guac! I'll just stick with the cheese!

EVA
(drinking MORE wine)
You know what I'm going to get you for a present? I'm going to get you a calorie book.

ALBERT
Please don't.

SARAH
Yeah, a calorie book as a gift isn't so good.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Mid dinner, lots of wine.

ALBERT
Eva tells me you're a therapist.

EVA
Tell us about your weirdest patient.

SARAH
What? You know I can't.

WILL
She can't.

EVA
She can. You don't have to name names, mate!

SARAH
No.

EVA
(to Albert)
She's so uptight about confidentiality.

ALBERT
Shouldn't she be?

SARAH
(beat)
I have this one patient who picks his nose and eats it.

ALBERT
In front of you!?

EVA
Is he a child?

WILL
Are you making this up?

Sarah looks at him like he's crazy.

SARAH

It's so gross and distracting. He does it
in this way that he thinks I can't see,
but of course I can.

Everyone is grossed out.

SARAH (CONT'D)

And I'm not going to tell you who it is,
but he's famous.

They shriek.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Really famous.

EVA

Tell us!

WILL

I bet I know who it is.

SARAH

You don't.

EVA

You have to tell us!

WILL

I can't tell you either.

EVA

Not fair!

SARAH

(guilty)
Okay no more. Show's over.

Eva pours more wine for herself.

EVA

I like being drunk. I think it's highly
overrated. I mean underrated!

SARAH

You're shouting.

EVA

I am?

ALBERT

You are, a little.

SARAH

I just don't want you to wake the little people.

EVA

Oh sorry. Yeah. You want to know something funny? Albert doesn't know how to whisper.

ALBERT

What?

EVA

Go ahead, show them.

ALBERT

What are you talking about?

EVA

Please? It's funny.

ALBERT

(trying)

This is whispering.

WILL

That's a whisper.

EVA

No, it wasn't.

SARAH

(whispering)

Can I?

EVA

Yes.

WILL

(whispering)

What about me?

EVA

Yes.

Everyone turns to Albert. It looks like he's going to have to try to whisper again.

ALBERT

(not whispering)

This is whispering.

Eva cracks up, thinking this is hilarious.

EVA
Not at all. That is not a whisper!

SARAH
You're picking on him.

EVA
I am not!

WILL
You are.

ALBERT
You kind of are.

EVA
(beat)
I'm sorry. I just never met anybody who
couldn't whisper.

INT. SARAH AND WILL'S KITCHEN - LATER

Everyone's in the kitchen, pitching in to clean with Cathy. Cathy puts some stuff in the dishwasher and then goes back into the dining room, leaving everyone alone for a second. Sarah glares at Cathy's back and Will notices.

WILL
(quietly)
You're not allowed to complain about her
anymore.

Sarah is holding up a softball.

SARAH
Why is this in the kitchen drawer? Is
someone playing ball in the kitchen?

Just then Cathy comes back in. Everyone smiles. Sarah takes a beat and then holds up the ball.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Cathy?

CATHY
Yes?

SARAH
Did you put this ball in the drawer?

Eva and Albert instantly look away and act busy.

CATHY

Maybe one of the kids put it there?

WILL

(taking the ball)

Of course they did. Sarah, give Cathy a break.

SARAH

But I think you put it there. I find weird stuff in these drawers all the time.

CATHY

I clean up the best I can.

SARAH

I just don't understand the thought process.

CATHY

You want the counter to be clean.

SARAH

Yes, but not by shoving shit in the wrong drawers. I mean, why would the ball belong in the kitchen? How is that helpful to me?

WILL

That's enough.

He pulls on Sarah's shoulders.

CATHY

You know what Missus Sarah - I find your crap everywhere and you think I know where to put it?

SARAH

(scared)

No?

CATHY

You leave your things all over the house, you leave food out overnight, you let your children write on the walls! You floss your teeth and you leave it! You clean your own house.

She finds her purse and jacket.

CATHY (CONT'D)

You people disgust me. But you're nice,
Mr. Will.

WILL

Thanks Cathy!

She walks past Eva and Albert and slams the door behind her.

SARAH

Oh my god!

WILL

It would have been kinder to fire her.

EVA

Um, my timing might be a little off,
but... I think I put the ball in the
drawer.

INT. AUDI - NIGHT

Albert drives.

EVA

That wasn't a very fun evening, was it?
I'm sorry.

Albert doesn't respond.

EVA (CONT'D)

Quite a finale, though!

ALBERT

(pissed)
Why do you care if I can't whisper?

EVA

What?

ALBERT

What was all that? That was so
embarrassing.

EVA

I was just kidding around.

ALBERT

(beat)
A calorie book? You want to buy me a
calorie book?

EVA

(beat)

I wasn't really going to buy you a calorie book.

ALBERT

I thought you actually liked me.

EVA

(confused)

I do like you.

ALBERT

Why do I feel like I just spent the evening with my ex-wife.

Eva looks at the street.

EVA

Wait. Are you driving me home?

ALBERT

Yeah.

EVA

Are you staying over?

ALBERT

No. Not tonight.

EVA

Oh.

EXT. EVA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Eva gets out of the car and Albert drives off.

INT. EVA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eva comes in and dumps her purse. She's startled to see Chloe lying down in the living room. But kind of relieved.

CHLOE

(sitting up)

Hi. Ellen went out with friends but I don't want to go home. Is it okay?

EVA

I'm actually glad you're here.

They curl up together.

CHLOE

I feel so much more comfortable at your house.

EVA

You know, you're welcome to stay in Ellen's room when she's gone. You'd have to talk to your mom but it's just gonna be empty.

CHLOE

Really?

EVA

Sure.

CHLOE

That would be awesome. Thank you.

INT. EVA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The TV is on and Eva and Chloe are asleep among their knitting. Ellen comes in the front door and stands over them.

ELLEN

(to Chloe)

Excuse me, Chloe, but could I have my mom back?

They sit up, groggy.

EVA

We were watching something and I guess we just passed out.

Ellen goes to her room, angry.

ELLEN

For all I know you'll be asking her to move into my room when I'm gone!

She leaves the room and they hear THE BEDROOM DOOR SLAM SHUT.

CHLOE

I'm sorry.

EVA

Not your fault, sweetie.

CHLOE
I better go home.

INT. ELLEN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Ellen is packing things into boxes. Eva comes in and sits on the bed.

EVA
Honey. Chloe is needy.

ELLEN
Who's needy?
(beat)
I'm guess I'm trying to feel a little separate, you know, to sort of prepare. But instead I just feel lonely and anxious and Chloe's always here!

EVA
I'm so sorry.

Eva holds out her arms.

EVA (CONT'D)
Honey. You know you're my baby.

Ellen ignores her and continues to put things in piles.

EVA (CONT'D)
Please let me hug you. Let mama hug you.

More ignoring. Eva sighs.

EVA (CONT'D)
(beat)
Can I see what Dad and Fran got you?

Ellen points to a new blanket.

EVA (CONT'D)
I'm going to finish *my* blanket. What else did they get you?

Ellen holds up some nice hangers.

EVA (CONT'D)
Oh, those are good. They don't take up a lot of room.

Ellen continues putting clothes in boxes and Eva sits there, not knowing what else to say.

EXT. MARIANNE'S BACK PATIO - DAY

Eva is setting her up massage table in the patio. Marianne is fooling with a plant in her garden.

MARIANNE

Did you get a chance to look at my book?

EVA

I did. Your poems are beautiful. Not that I understand them, but I like them.

MARIANNE

Thanks. I'm sure you understand them.

Eva mouths "No, I don't" but Marianne doesn't see. The front door slams.

TESS (O.S.)

Mom?

MARIANNE

Out here honey.

Eva freezes, looking down and away. Tess doesn't notice her at first.

TESS

Hi. Dad's waiting in the car. I forgot my phone.

MARIANNE

Honey, I want you to meet -

TESS

(sees her)

Eva. Hi.

EVA

(feigning surprise)

Tess?

MARIANNE

You guys know each other?

TESS

Yes, we know each other. She's dating
Dad.

Marianne turns and looks at Eva. Eva pretends she's shocked.

EVA

What?

MARIANNE

You date *Albert*?

EVA

Huh? I'm not sure what's happening - I
think, wait a minute -

Just then the front door slams.

ALBERT (O.S.)

Hello?

TESS

We're out here, Dad.

After a moment Albert walks to the patio.

ALBERT

Oh, hey. Sorry to interrupt.
(turning to Eva)
Hi, I'm -

He looks at Eva.

EVA

Hi?

ALBERT

I don't understand. What are you doing
here?

MARIANNE

She gives me massages. We're friends.
(looking at Eva, hurt)
I thought.

Albert looks at them and takes it all in.

ALBERT

What?

(beat)

You're friends with Marianne?

EVA

I met her at a party and she took my card.

MARIANNE

I think you were at the same party.

ALBERT

And you met us both?

(beat)

So, what? You're her masseuse?

EVA

Yeah!

ALBERT

For how long?

MARIANNE

Right after we met.

EVA

I had no idea who she was or who you were.

ALBERT

But you must have figured it out. At some point.

EVA

No!

ALBERT

No?

EVA

Well, yeah, at some point.

ALBERT

When?

EVA

What?

ALBERT

When did you figure it out?

Eva stalls, not knowing what to say.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

(beat)

Come on Tess. You got your phone?

TESS
Yeah. Um. Okay.

Albert walks out and Tess follows. Eva's devastated. She gets her stuff as Marianne, sits, shocked and hurt.

EVA
I'm so sorry.

And Eva leaves.

EXT. EVA'S HOUSE - SOON AFTER

Eva walks up to her house and sees Chloe sitting on the front steps waiting for her.

EVA
Hi.

CHLOE
(concerned)
You all right? Is it okay I'm here?

EVA
Probably not.

Eva sits down next to her.

EVA (CONT'D)
I screwed up big time.

CHLOE
What happened?

EVA
(head in her hands)
Oh my god oh my god...

Just then Chloe's mother Debbie drives up and gets out of the car.

DEBBIE
Chloe.

CHLOE
Hi Mom.

DEBBIE
(to Eva)
Excuse me, do you have a daughter?

EVA

What?

Debbie gets in her face.

DEBBIE

'cause this ones mine. Who do you think you are, telling her she should have sex with her boyfriend?

EVA

I - I didn't.

CHLOE

Mom!

Debbie pulls Chloe up.

DEBBIE

You stay away from my daughter. And keep your opinions to yourself.

EVA

But - she needs to talk about what's important to her and -

Debbie stops her.

DEBBIE

Shut. It.
(beat)
Dyke.

The last remark is so random Eva laughs. And then doesn't.

EXT. YOUNG MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Eva climbs the stairs without help, miserably trying to get on with her day.

INT. HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT - DAY

The man with the bad breath is getting a massage. Luckily for Eva, his mouth is closed. She massages slowly and automatically, lost in thought.

INT. BRENTWOOD HOUSE - DAY

Eva massages Cynthia as she blabs on about her butcher block and travertine tiles. Eva shuts her eyes, trying to tune her out.

EXT. ALBERT'S STREET - ANOTHER DAY

Eva's prius drives toward Albert's house. She gets out of the car just as Tess is coming outside with a big box of Cinnabons.

EXT. ALBERT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

EVA
Hi.

TESS
Hi.

EVA
Is he here?

TESS
He went to the market.

EVA
I'm sorry to just come over but he won't call me back.

TESS
I'll tell him you came by.

But Eva just stands there, not going anywhere.

EVA
What are you going to do with that?

TESS
You want one?

Tess sits and Eva sits beside her, taking a Cinnabon. Just then Albert drives up.

He gets out of his car with a couple of grocery bags. Eva rises, nervous, holding the Cinnabon.

EVA
Hi.

ALBERT

(cold)

You know how many calories are in that?

He goes inside. Eva follows him.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Eva comes in as he's putting away the food.

EVA

I just want to talk.

He gives her a look as if to say "so talk."

EVA (CONT'D)

It really was a coincidence and then I wanted to stop but she needed massages and we sort of became friends and I didn't know what to do.

ALBERT

You knew exactly what to do. You just didn't do it.

EVA

I was very torn.

ALBERT

And while you were being torn she was poisoning our relationship? Poisoning your perception of me?

EVA

Yes.

ALBERT

And why would you want that?

EVA

I don't know! I guess I was trying to protect myself. You know, we've both been married before, and we know how things can turn out.

ALBERT

And what about us? You didn't protect us.

EVA

I didn't protect us. But it's not poisoned Albert, I still really want us to keep seeing each other.

ALBERT
I wouldn't know how.

EVA
I'm so, so sorry.

ALBERT
This might sound corny, but you broke my heart. And I'm too old for that shit. And the worst part, the worst part is that you made me look like an idiot in front of my daughter.

EVA
I'm the idiot. I'm the idiot!

He looks at her, not sure what to say.

ALBERT
I've got a lot to do. Tess and school -

EVA
When is she leaving?

ALBERT
In a week. School starts early.

EVA
That's when Ellen leaves.
(trying to be light)
Guess we're gonna need to get those hobbies going, huh?

ALBERT
Guess so.

He goes to put away the groceries, his back to her. Torn up, Eva walks out.

EXT. ALBERT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Eva goes to the front door when she sees Tess in the doorway.

EVA
Bye.

TESS
He just really, really liked you.

Eva turns.

EVA

I just really liked him.

And she leaves Albert's house.

INT. EVA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Eva lies in bed and sighs deeply, staring at the ceiling.

INT. ELLEN'S ROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Eva enters Ellen's room with the finished, hand knitted blanket. She places it in a suitcase on the floor. She looks around at what's left of her daughter's whole life, and sits on the bed. The closet has been stripped mostly bare. The walls are blank. The bedding is gone.

Ellen stands in the doorway and then sits beside her on the bed. Eva takes her hand.

They glance at one another - the kind of glance that acknowledges the bittersweet nature of life, and that no matter how hard we try, it will always win.

INT. LOS ANGELES AIRPORT - SAME DAY

Eva, Peter and Ellen stand before the security line.

EVA

How will you know which room is yours?

ELLEN

It's all written down. And we saw everything on our visit.

EVA

(anxious)

I don't remember anything.

ELLEN

I do.

PETER

She's gonna be great.

EVA

(weakly)

You'll be fine!

ELLEN

I love you guys.

Ellen hugs and kisses them both and after a beat, lets go of them. They stand there.

Reluctantly they all turn around and head toward the security area. It's takes an agonizing long time as Ellen gets her ticket checked, and she leaves them, going to the escalator. Eva tries to her best not to cry too much, Peter is doing the same. As Ellen ascends, she turns, seeing her parents grow smaller and smaller. And her parents, at last, see her disappear in the crowd.

They turn, walking away. Eva breathes deeply and Peter puts his arm around her.

PETER

We made a fine person.

Eva puts her arm around him as well and they walk out of the airport.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. YOUNG MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Eva pulls her massage table out of her car and begrudgingly starts up the steps to the house. After a moment, Hal comes out and smiles.

HAL

Hi Eva!

He watches her struggle, smiling. Half way up she suddenly turns up to him.

EVA

Do you think you could help me?

Hal rushes down the stairs.

HAL

Of course. Oh my god, I'm such an idiot!

He takes the table out of her hands and hustles it up the stairs.

HAL (CONT'D)

God, this is heavy!

Eva walks up behind him, surprised and confused.

INT. BRENTWOOD HOUSE - DAY

Eva is massaging Cynthia's neck.

CYNTHIA

Well, we always go to my parents for thanksgiving and we always get into a fight. My sister is a middle child so she's got those issues - hey, what are you going to be doing?

EVA

Huh?

CYNTHIA

For the holiday?

EVA

Oh, just going to a friends house. It's going to be small.

CYNTHIA

That sounds nice.

EVA

Oh yeah. It will be.

EXT. SARAH AND WILL'S HOUSE - DAY

Eva, in a sweater, gets out of her car with some groceries, walks up to the front door and opens it.

INT. SARAH AND WILL'S HOUSE - MORNING

She walks into the kitchen and puts the groceries on the counter. Sarah, wearing a robe, is preparing some food.

EVA

Hi.

SARAH

Hi honey. Thank you so much.

EVA

No problem.

SARAH

(unloading groceries)
Are you excited?

EVA
Beyond.

SARAH
Do you think she's going to look
different?

EVA
Maybe she grew a beard. You know how it
is at Sarah Lawrence. She looks the same.
I skyped with her yesterday. Actually, I
think she gained a little weight.

SARAH
What time you getting her?

EVA
Not til two.

SARAH
We're eating at five. You should come
straight here from the airport.

Cathy walks into the kitchen and takes down a bunch of
plates.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Oh, let's use the fancy plates instead.

CATHY
You said you don't like them.

SARAH
Yeah, but it's Thanksgiving. You're
supposed to use ugly plates.

EVA
I'm gonna get going.

Sarah opens the silverware drawer and sees a hair brush where
She rolls her eyes and looks at Eva, who smiles.

EVA (CONT'D)
I'll see ya.

CATHY
Bye Eva.

EVA
Bye Cathy.

Eva leaves.

INT. EVA'S CAR - DAY

She sits in her car and doesn't drive. After a moment, she checks her appearance in the mirror.

EXT. ALBERT'S HOUSE - DAY

Eva drives up and parks across the street. She stares at the house and can see the living room. After a moment, Albert is there. And he sees her.

She freezes. She doesn't know what to do, so she gives a stupid little wave. He walks away from the window.

Her heart sinks.

EVA

Okay.

She's about to drive away when he comes out of the house and stands on the front steps. She takes this as her cue and gets out and goes over.

EVA (CONT'D)

I don't often park in front of your house.

(beat)

Usually I just drive by.

ALBERT

I've driven by your house, too.

EVA

(thrilled)

You have?

He nods. He sits and she sits beside him.

EVA (CONT'D)

You look good.

ALBERT

So do you.

EVA

Is Tess coming home?

ALBERT

Already here. She's at her mom's. I'm going over there soon. Wanna come?

Eva laughs, the ice breaking.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
And Ellen?

EVA
This afternoon. She's coming home this
afternoon.

ALBERT
So, you've been okay, without her?

EVA
Oh yeah. But she's not going back because
I've built a cage.

ALBERT
What a good idea.

EVA
I've missed you.

He looks at her, his face softening.

ALBERT
I've missed you too.

They smile at one another.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
(beat)
Oh, I thought you should know. I bought
some night tables.

EVA
(surprised)
You did?

ALBERT
No.

Eva laughs.

EVA
Okay. That's good.

And she looks at Albert, feeling gratitude and possibly love.

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