

Helping Yourself

by

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EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM (MAY) - DAY

It is a beautiful afternoon. COLLEGE SENIORS sit anxiously in caps and gowns. They are moved by the gray-haired, well-intentioned UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

And finally, I present to you with great pride, great enthusiasm, and endless wishes of success, the class of 2009!

The seniors pop up from their seats and throw their caps and diplomas into the air, screaming their hearts out. They all continue jumping and screaming for an obnoxiously long period of time.

Then JANE, both intelligent and stunning with a certain gleam in her eye, catches sight of a plane flying overhead. Her whole body fills with excitement.

She suddenly turns around and scans the stands.

Jane's sorority sisters, MARGARET, MARINA, MIA and MARCY, a diverse looking bunch but equally flaky at heart, watch Jane fail to find that person.

MARGARET

Aw, she's looking for Dan.

MARINA

I bet he's not here.

MARCY

Remember when she wanted to introduce us to him at freshman formal and he never showed? I felt so bad for her.

MIA

Let's go talk to her. Now is when she really needs her Lamdas.

They approach her.

MIA (CONT'D)

Hey Jane.

JANE

Oh, hey.

MARCY

No Dan?

JANE

(embarrassed)

Guess he was busy with finals.

MARINA

Totally.

MARGARET

Finals are rough.

MIA

I bet he really wanted to be here
for you.

JANE

Yeah, in all our e-mails, he said
he would do his best to make it.

MARCY

Finals suck. Thank God we don't
have anymore!

They all scream except Jane, who just gawks at these girls.

MARGARET

Did I tell you guys? My dad talked
to the CEO of this awesome public
relations company in New York, and
I'm going to assist an executive!

The Lamdas jump and scream together.

MARINA

I can't wait to start med school at
Harvard!

They scream.

MARCY

Law school at Yale!

They scream.

MIA

Teach for America!

MARGARET, MARINA, AND MARCY

Awww.

MARGARET

What are you doing after school,
Jane?

MARCY

Miss international relations major,
you're going abroad, aren't you?

JANE

The first stop on our world trip is
Ghana!

They pretend to nod enthusiastically, but they don't believe her.

MARINA

Well, since Dan doesn't graduate
'til December, what are you doing
'til then?

JANE

Umm...I don't know...I think I'm
going to live with my parents.

Silence. The girls nod.

MARGARET

Cool.

Jane looks at these girls, then at all the people shouting and planning their futures. Suddenly, her future seems bleak.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jane's father, ROB, 50s, reading "Model Railroader" magazine and wearing a conductor's cap, throws cherry tomatoes in the air and catches them in his mouth.

Jane's health-nut, business-like mother, LINDA, 50s, reads Oprah's book club's latest through bifocals.

Rob and Linda eat their plain salads contentedly, as Jane, dressed in an Argentinian inspired outfit, snarls at the dry green leaves sitting next to her apple juice.

JANE

Is there dressing?

Rob looks at Linda to see what she thought of this outburst.

LINDA
It doesn't need dressing.

Jane stands and pokes her head in the refrigerator. She picks up what looks like a science experiment in a glass bottle.

JANE
Low-carb Fiesta Oil and Vinegar.

LINDA
It's good, you'll like it.

JANE
How old is this?

LINDA
Shake it, it's fine.

JANE
No thank you.

LINDA
Did you come here just so you could pick on our lifestyle?

Jane slams the fridge door.

LINDA
If you want another salad dressing you can go out and buy it.

ROB
Buy more gingersnaps while you're at it.

Rob throws another tomato into his mouth.

JANE
Mai chai kon chai!

SUPERIMPOSE: **Thai:** I'm not your maid!

LINDA
What did you say?

JANE
I said: sure, no problem.

LINDA
Good. I'm glad you're ready to show some appreciation since we're letting you stay here until you find a job.

Jane sits, defeated. Linda shoves more lettuce into her mouth.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Oh, and I can't be of service to you in the afternoons because I have my walking club at four, aaaand at age fifty-five, we decided it was time to turn up the volume - so the ladies and I joined a kickboxing class!

Linda stands, and with all her might, she demonstrates a jerky, middle-aged round house kick.

LINDA

Kee-ya!

ROB

Woo!

LINDA

It's a partner class, so I may need you to come with me sometimes.

Jane looks as if someone has asked her to remove something from the toilet.

ROB

Well, she won't be here too often because she'll have a job, right Jane?

JANE

What if instead, you support me until I start backpacking with Dan in December?

Linda and Rob exchange a look.

LINDA

No. Working is a good feeling. There's nothing like earning your own money and seeing the fruits of your labors. After being a consumer package goods consultant for twenty three years, I have money to travel at my leisure.

ROB

And after twenty four years at Salomon Smith Barney, I can run my trains whenever the mood strikes.

LINDA

I'll print out my network list for you.

ROB

And don't forget: you'll want an easy commute, a 401K retirement plan, and, most importantly, a good benefits package with vision and dental.

LINDA

You've always been a good student, so I'm sure we'll find you something. You can't just be a vagabond with your childhood friend forever.

JANE

Just because you're not, doesn't mean I can't be.

Linda sighs.

LINDA

Well, to start your international quest, how about some Columbian coffee?

JANE

Eww. That smell.

LINDA

You should really start liking coffee - I don't know any adults who can survive without it.

ROB

It's my beverage of choice.

JANE

I'll stick with apple juice.

She downs her glass. Linda shakes her head.

LINDA

Empty calories.

Rob eats a tomato.

DEIDRE, 29, sporting Rainbow Brite pajamas that are clearly too small for her, dumps a bunch of cloth scraps into the garbage. She picks at Rob's lettuce.

LINDA
Pajamas at seven p.m?!

DEIDRE
They're comfortable.

LINDA
Getting dressed for dinner is too much for her. Why can't you be ready to see the world in a moment's notice like Jane? Instead you're doing some arts and crafts project like a ten-year-old.

Deidre sighs. Jane wins her over with a smile.

JANE
What are you doing here?

DEIDRE
It's temporary. My apartment is getting renovated, and I've been trusted to work from home.

ROB
Four years in marketing has given her a nice little seed of a retirement package. Slow and steady wins the race.

Deidre gleams with pride.

DEIDRE
How was graduation? Did Dan show up?

ROB
Come to think of it, I didn't see him there.

DEIDRE
Of course not.

She looks at Jane sympathetically.

JANE
He had finals.

Deidre gives her parents a look. Jane drinks more apple juice.

INT. JANE'S ROOM

Filled with international objects from Buddhas to Mexican donkey statues to Irish shot glasses, a library of Conde Nast Traveler magazines and National Geographic, we find Jane in an oversized France t-shirt.

Jane signs onto Gmail and finds no new messages. She wrinkles her brow.

JANE
No new messages?

She clicks on an e-mail further down the list from April 2, entitled UMBRELLA SUNDAYS from DanElephant.

She then sits on something on top of her bed, making herself comfortable as she reads the e-mail. She relaxes.

DAN (V.O.)
Hey Jane, I hope your last month at Michigan is fulfilling in the way you want it to be.

Jane glows.

BEGIN FANTASY

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

Jane wears a sundress. She and DAN, 21, a hipster with dark hair and green eyes, stroll in the rain under a blue umbrella eating ice cream cones - hers strawberry, his chocolate.

DAN (V.O.)
I can't believe you're about to graduate from college. What does that feel like? Are you going to get a job?

EXT. COUNTRY TOWN SIDEWALK - DAY

Under a sunny sky and in a classic ice cream truck, Dan and Jane serve ice cream cones with rainbow sprinkles to a long line of CHILDREN from all over the world.

DAN (V.O.)

If you don't, maybe you should buy your own ice cream truck and drive it across the country. I miss you so much. And I love you so much.

Rain begins to fall, and the children pop open their rainbow of umbrellas.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK

The top of the truck opens to reveal Jane and Dan looking into each others' eyes as they become increasingly wet from the sun shower.

EXT. COUNTRY TOWN SIDEWALK

A rainbow arcs over the children, Jane, Dan and the ice cream truck.

DAN (V.O.)

When it rains in Paris, people simply blink and umbrellas come out of their heads, Dan.

END FANTASY

INT. JANE'S ROOM

It turns out Jane is sitting on a VIBRATING cone, pleasuring herself to Dan's e-mail.

Deidre suddenly barges in. Jane jumps off the cone, and slides under the covers.

DEIDRE

Eww.

JANE

(in Swahili)
Don't you knock?

SUPERIMPOSE: **Swahili:** Don't you knock?

DEIDRE

What'd you say?

JANE

I said: Welcome, sister.

DEIDRE
 (motioning to the cone)
 Oh. Thanks. What is that?

JANE
 The Lamdas got it for me for my
 birthday. Can you get out?

DEIDRE
 This is my room now.

JANE
 No, it isn't.

DEIDRE
 Yes, it is. They turned my room
 into a gym.

Jane doesn't believe her.

CUT TO:

DEIDRE'S ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Her floral wall-papered room has been invaded by heavy black gym equipment. A stuffed unicorn sits forgotten next to the dumb bells.

JANE
 (painfully)
 Ooh. Fine I'll share my bed with
 you.

DEIDRE
 How kind you are not to make me
 spend the night with the
 elliptical.

They walk back into--

JANE'S ROOM

Jane puts her vibrating cone under the bed. Deidre is still disgusted.

Jane arranges her three pillows so it's two on her side and one on Deidre's side. Deidre reaches over and steals one of the pillows from Jane. Jane steals it back. They keep grabbing the pillow until finally:

DEIDRE

Stop!

Deidre places the third pillow right in between them.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

Okay?

Jane gives up and pulls her laptop onto the bed. Deidre strolls into--

JANE'S ROOM

--which is joined to Jane's room and also decorated with international souvenirs. Both sisters are visible.

JANE'S ROOM

Jane steals the pillow back to her side and leans on it.

JANE

It's been over a month and he still hasn't e-mailed me back.

DEIDRE

No, not flaky Dan?

JANE

He didn't even tell me why he missed graduation.

DEIDRE

(brushing her teeth)
I thought it was finals.

Jane is quiet.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

Oh, *you* thought it was finals.

Jane closes her laptop and puts it back on her desk, plugging it in for the night. She enters the--

BATHROOM

--where Deidre is now flossing. Jane washes her face.

DEIDRE

Forget about him already. He's always disappointing you.

JANE

You just want me to forget about him because you've never had a boyfriend.

DEIDRE

I've had boyfriends.

Jane dries her face.

JANE

Michael Fingerman putting his arm around you during sleep-away camp does not count as having a boyfriend. You haven't even tried to date anyone since Michael Fingerman.

DEIDRE

You're right. And I wanted to talk to you about that.

Deidre pulls out a brochure from her pajama pants. It reads "Jewel Singles Cruise." Jane looks at it. Deidre washes her face.

JANE

A singles cruise?

DEIDRE

Yes, it's a long weekend around the coast of Florida, all inclusive, open bar, a pool with a water slide, and, best of all, plenty of single men.

JANE

Wow, a long weekend in Florida.

She hands the brochure back to Deidre and brushes her teeth.

DEIDRE

I know it's not the Bahamas or anything, but this is what the parents agreed to pay for.

Deidre dries her face. She cleans her ears with a Q-tip.

JANE

Mom and Dad are paying for this? God, they'll give you anything, won't they?

DEIDRE

Me? Didn't you hear Mom say I should travel like you? They think you're perfect.

JANE

They think you're perfect - Miss Working from Home, Miss Remodeling, Miss Retirement Package.

Jane spits and puts her toothbrush away. She flosses.

DEIDRE

That's not the point. The point is they want me to meet men and so do I. And you need to come with me.

JANE

Can't you find someone else? Singles Cruise. Bleh. Just the sound of it. Singles Cruise. Bleh.

DEIDRE

Exactly. If you go, we won't have to tell anyone. It can be our little secret how we met our husbands.

JANE

That is not how I'm meeting my husband. Plus, when would we go? I'm going to be abroad with Dan starting in December.

DEIDRE

How could you go abroad with him if he won't even answer your e-mail?

Jane thinks.

JANE

Singles Cruise. Bleh.

DEIDRE

Jane...

JANE

I'll think about it.

DEIDRE

Thank you.

Deidre is excited. She puts the brochure back in her pajama pants and heads back to--

JANE'S ROOM

She gets into bed and steals the pillow back without Jane noticing.

BATHROOM

Jane cleans her ears with a Q-tip.

DEIDRE

Oh, and tomorrow I want to show you what I've been working on.

JANE

(not excited)
Can't wait.

Jane turns off the bathroom light.

JANE'S ROOM

Jane gets into bed with Deidre and steals the pillow back. Deidre puts it back in the middle.

DEIDRE

Good night.

JANE

Night.

Jane turns to sleep and closes her eyes. O.S., MIDDLE-AGED MOANING causes her eyes to pop open.

JANE

What is that?

DEIDRE

It's the parents.

JANE

Eww.

DEIDRE

Welcome home.

Jane puts the third pillow over her ears and closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY (UPSTATE NEW YORK) - DAY

Jane, with many suitcases at her feet, hugs Dan in front of her house. He hugs her back with tears in his eyes. Finally he releases her.

DAN

Hey, I have something for you.

He hands her a beautiful portrait he drew of her.

DAN (CONT'D)

It's of my best friend.

Jane loves it.

JANE

Thank you! I'm going to take it with me to Michigan!

DAN

I wish you could take *me* with you.

He leans in to kiss her. It's a soft, perfect kiss.

END FLASHBACK

JANE'S ROOM

Jane smiles her way into sleep.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jane, dressed in a Liberian inspired outfit, shovels Fruit Loops into her mouth while reading a magazine opened to a gorgeous picture of Machu Picchu.

Suddenly, a bible-sized document titled "Network List" lands on her magazine.

JANE

Jesus.

Linda stands over her in speed-walking attire: leggings, a fanny pack, sneakers.

LINDA

Jesus is right. You're lucky I'm sharing my hard work with you. You can make your first phone call now.

Jane leafs through the document, incredulous of how many pages there are.

JANE

I have to go to the bathroom.

Jane abandons Linda and the Fruit Loops.

INT. HALLWAY/EXT. BATHROOM

Rob is peeing with the door open.

JANE

(walking in, startled)
Uhh! Close the door!

She quickly turns her back and fumes down the hallway.

ROB (O.S.)

What honey? Hey, did you find a job yet?

JANE

Where's my wallet?

JANE'S ROOM

Jane peeks her head in and scans the room. No wallet.

DEIDRE'S ROOM/GYM

Deidre maneuvers a naked dummy with such deep concentration it's creepy.

JANE (O.S.)

Deidre, is my wallet in your room?

HALLWAY

Jane pulls the door open to Deidre's room but Deidre, panicked, quickly pushes the door closed on Jane's finger.

Jane screams.

JANE
 (in German)
 My family is the worst!

SUPERIMPOSE: **German:** My family is the worst!

DEIDRE
 What'd you say?

JANE
 You killed my finger!

DEIDRE
 Sorry! It's not ready, just wait a
 sec!

JANE
 Forget it! I can't live here
 anymore!

Jane, even more annoyed, marches to the--

DINING ROOM

--and picks up the network bible. Linda smiles, but Jane does not smile back. She sees her Brazilian wallet on the table, picks it up, and stomps to the front door.

EXT. JANE'S HOME

Jane SLAM the door closed behind her.

GLADYS (O.S.)
 Look who's back!

Two old ladies, GLADYS and EDITH, clearly sisters with the same plaid house dresses, the same old lady sandals, and the same hairdo, sit on their porch playing Bridge. They wave to Jane ecstatically.

EDITH
 Welcome home, Jane!

JANE
 Hi, Gladys. Hi, Edith. I'm going
 to go find a job.

EDITH
 Good luck!

GLADYS

She doesn't need it - you'd have to
be crazy not to hire a bright girl
like Jane.

Jane tries to be polite and waves.

GLADYS AND EDITH

Bye, Jane!

They smile and continue playing Bridge. Jane leaves her
driveway, determined.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY (MIDTOWN) - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The city gleams with potential.

INT. SWEEP AWAY TRAVEL AGENCY - DAY

In an elegant office with pictures of beautiful vacation
opportunities, Jane sits across from a TRAVEL AGENT with
perfectly coiffed hair.

JANE

And how often would you say I could
travel until I leave in December?

TRAVEL AGENT

Oh, well to start, you'd just be
doing office duties involving
travel-- booking trips, printing
itineraries...

JANE

No traveling?

TRAVEL AGENT

No, but you--

Jane stands and shakes the woman's hand.

JANE

Thanks for your time, but this
won't work.

Jane leaves. The travel agent is confused

INT. GETAWAYS MAGAZINE OFFICE - DAY

In a sleek office with framed issues of Getaways Magazine, Jane sits across from a PRETENTIOUS ARTSY MAN in his 50s. There is a sleek empty cubicle next to him.

JANE

Why is the position called
International Travel Researcher if
there's no international travel?

PRETENTIOUS ARTSY MAN

The International Travel Researcher
researches travel.

JANE

(indicating the empty
cubicle)
And stays in that chair?

PRETENTIOUS ARTSY MAN

Well, yes.

Jane stands and extends her hand.

JANE

Thanks, but no thanks.

Jane leaves. The pretentious artsy man is baffled.

INT. TRAVELWONDERS.COM OFFICE - DAY

In a modern geometric office, Jane sits across from a hip but LISPING COMPUTER GUY.

JANE

So, no travel?

Lispig Computer Guy looks down at his paper.

LISPING COMPUTER GUY

Specifically, you can travel within
the Tri-State area, exploring our
regional divisions to best
investigate the most appropriate
investors but--

When he looks up, Jane is long gone, the door swinging behind her.

EXT. SIDEWALK (RED HOOK) - DAY

Jane parks her car and slams the door, annoyed. She chugs apple juice. Her cell phone rings - a classical Korean tune.

JANE

Hello?

INT. TRENDY MANHATTAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Marina, Margaret, Marcy, and Mia sit around a fancy lunch table indulging in desserts as they pass the phone around.

MARGARET

Hey Jane! It's Margaret, Marina, Marcy and Mia.

SORORITY SISTERS

Mmmm.

They're so happy with themselves.

INTERCUT RESTAURANT/SIDEWALK AS DESIRED

JANE

Oh...hey.

MARGARET

We're lunching in the city, and we totally miss you.

JANE

Oh, I was just there. I could have met you.

MARGARET

Oh, you were? Bad timing, I guess. Speaking of guess...Guess what?

JANE

What?

MARGARET

I just got this amazing apartment overlooking Central Park.

JANE

Wow.

Marcy grabs the phone.

MARCY
I'm paralegalling and my boss is
hot!

Marina grabs the phone.

JANE
Is paralegalling a word?

MARINA
Josh wants to stay together even
though he'll be at Microsoft in
Seattle!

Mia grabs the phone.

MIA
I just started my training at Teach
for America and I feel so
fulfilled!

JANE
(faking it)
Oh, no, we're breaking up. Mia?

Jane hangs up.

EXT. SIDEWALK

JANE
Here we go, job.

Jane walks down the street.

JANE (CONT'D)
Job. Job. Come to me, job.

A CONSTRUCTION WORKER on scaffolding above overhears her.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
You want a job? I got a job for
you, sweetheart!

He points both hands to his dick and all the other
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS laugh their heads off. Jane walks away,
disgusted.

A beacon of hope appears.

EXT. BOOKSTORE

A banner reads: "Red Hook Book's Grand Opening!"

INSERT: SMALLER SIGN

"Help Wanted."

EXT. SIDEWALK

Jane heads towards the store.

INT. RED HOOK'S BOOKS

Jane enters the sparkling new bookstore, packed with customers.

Her attention immediately turns to NALI, black, curvy, late 20s, who is chastising a PIMPLY TEENAGED CUSTOMER. She wears a "Manager" pin and points to a SIGN above.

NALI

Read the sign. "Every 15 minutes spent in the store equals the purchase of one book." This isn't lounging coffee time at Starbucks.

PIMPLY TEENAGED CUSTOMER

You can't make me buy a book.

NALI

Of course I can't. But I could send you to an inferior bookstore in the neighborhood. Oh, that's right, there aren't any other bookstores in the neighborhood. That book is also well-priced, in excellent condition, and a personal favorite.

PIMPLY TEENAGED CUSTOMER

Really?

NALI

Yes. May I also recommend R.L. Stine's "The Secret Bedroom" and "Ski Weekend?"

PIMPLY TEENAGED CUSTOMER

Cool, thanks.

The Pimplly Teenaged Customer takes his three books and joins the line. Nali returns to the register where at least TWENTY PEOPLE wait with their many books to purchase.

Jane manages to catch Nali's eye. Nali looks her up and down in her Liberian outfit.

JANE

Hi, I'm here for a job. I know you probably won't--

NALI

Can you read?

JANE

Yeah.

NALI

Can you alphabetize?

JANE

Yeah.

NALI

Can you start now?

JANE

Uh, yeah.

NALI

You're hired.

Nali slaps a sticker on Jane's shirt that reads, "How May I Help You?" and pulls Jane behind the counter with her.

NALI

Half of you go to her, now!

A HORDE OF PEOPLE line up in front of Jane. Jane takes a breath then gets to work - relieved to finally have a job.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jane, exhausted, walks into her house still wearing the "How May I Help You?" sticker. She heads to the--

KITCHEN

--and pours herself a glass of apple juice. She then passes--

DEIDRE'S ROOM/THE GYM

--and stands in the doorway. Linda is doing something weird with a BOSU BALL.

LINDA
(reading)
"How May I Help You?" Why are you wearing that?

JANE
I'm working at the new bookstore.

LINDA
At a bookstore? Jane, I gave you my entire network list. You can't do better than a bookstore?

JANE
Nope.

JANE'S ROOM

Deidre lies in bed in Jetsons pajamas studying the Jewel Singles Cruise brochure.

Jane throws herself on the bed, exhausted.

DEIDRE
Ready to look at my project?

JANE
I'm way too tired to do anything.

DEIDRE
I've been working really hard on it.

JANE
Then just tell me what it is.

DEIDRE
No I want you to see it.

JANE
Another time.

Deidre buries her face in the brochure again. Jane pulls the laptop onto her lap. She hungrily signs onto Gmail.

There is one bold new message.

Jane opens an e-mail from DanElephant with the subject line: "Shamefully and Not Fashionably Late."

Jane bursts with happiness.

JANE
He wrote back!

DEIDRE
Yeah, after way too long.

Jane ignores her sister. She reads Dan's e-mail.

DAN (V.O.)
Hey Jane, I've missed you so much,
entirely out of my own faults.

BEGIN FANTASY

EXT. RAINFOREST

Jane lies on Dan's lap below a gigantic magical tree. They watch the sun set. Dan draws pictures on her back with his finger.

DAN (V.O.)
I'm sorry. Especially for myself
for not being able to hear from you
for so long.

INSERT: JANE (REALITY)

She melts like butter.

BACK TO FANTASY

EXT. BEACH (HAITI)

Dan and Jane lounge next to each other on the sand as Dan drags a flower along her shoulders, at last placing it behind her ear.

DAN (V.O.)
Some things I would like to report:
I recently ate at a delicious
Haitian Cafe where they had
gorgeous flowers at every table.
(MORE)

DAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
You'd look good with one behind
your ear.

EXT. BEACH (JAMAICA)

Dan and Jane stand up to their thighs in the ocean, both scantily clad in rags. Dan spears a fish for Jane and offers it to her. She adores his masculinity.

DAN (V.O.)
And yesterday I learned how to make
jerk Tilapia from an outstanding
Jamaican cookbook. I'll have to
cook it up for you sometime.

Dan stands behind Jane at a tropical grill, holding her as he watches the fish cook.

DAN (V.O.)
I haven't had these adventures
alone, however. In fact, I owe my e-
mailing tardiness to my co-
adventurer, Isabella, my beautiful
and deeply cool girlfriend.

The fish goes up in flames.

INSERT: JANE (REALITY)

She is horrified.

BACK TO FANTASY

EXT. SPANISH VILLA

We cannot see ISABELLA'S face, but her long, silky black hair and tan, toned body in a revealing dress tell us that she is the sexiest woman in the universe.

As the sun sets, Dan, in his usual t-shirt and jeans, expertly tangos with Isabella.

DAN (V.O.)
She is the granddaughter of Jose
Greco, the famed Spanish dancer.
So, as you would expect from her
lineage, she is a great dancer. I
am lucky to be spending a lot of
time with her.

Dan and Isabella tango to the edge of a GLISTENING POOL, where Jane stands looking on. She is in her reality clothes and still wears the "How May I Help You?" sticker.

DAN (V.O.)
I so admire and adore you, but I
don't really have as much time as
before to e-mail you.

Dan and Isabella dance right into Jane, and she falls into the pool.

INT. JANE'S ROOM - NIGHT - REALITY

Jane stares at her laptop screen. She punches the laptop off of the bed. It topples over and breaks on the wood floor.

Deidre shoots up from bed and sees the broken laptop. Jane throws herself into her pillow, facing the ceiling.

DEIDRE
I told you so.

JANE
(painfully)
Book the singles cruise.

Deidre is excited, but Jane is miserable.

CUT TO:

INT. RED HOOK'S BOOKS - DAY

Jane alphabetizes books in the romance section with a vengeance. Nali rings up a PERKY CUSTOMER at the counter and notices Jane mindlessly shoving books around the shelves.

As soon as the Perky Customer leaves, Nali approaches Jane.

NALI
Hey, you said you could
alphabetize, right?

JANE
Yeah.

NALI
Then what is William S. Burroughs
doing next to Anne Tyler?

JANE

Sorry.

NALI

Don't be sorry, just do it right.

JANE

The romance section is just such a waste of time.

Nali reads Jane's mood and helps her re-shelf.

NALI

I assume someone you like did something wrong?

Jane stops shelving and turns to Nali.

JANE

He's been my best friend since fourth grade, and we e-mailed every day. Now he has a girlfriend and says he doesn't have time for me anymore.

NALI

Ouch.

JANE

But you know what? No one just has time. People make time for what they want.

NALI

Uh huh.

JANE

He has the time, but he's choosing to spend it with Isabella.

They round the corner into the self-help section and alphabetize there.

NALI

I know the feeling. Last week when I wanted to have dinner with my boyfriend, Roy, he said, "I'm studying, I don't have time Nali." So I said, "Make time bitch!"

Jane puts her last book into the shelf then looks at the titles in front of her: "How to Get Rich in 24 Hours," "How to Lose Weight and Keep It Off," and "How to Make Everyone Love You."

JANE

Oh my God.

NALI

I know, I shouldn't say bitch in the bookstore.

JANE

No, it's not that. I have to go.

NALI

Why?

Jane is out the door.

EXT. RED HOOK'S BOOKS

Nali yells into the street.

NALI

You can't just leave work! Or should I make time to fire you!

Jane runs down the sidewalk.

JANE

I quit!

Jane rips her "How May I Help You?" sticker off and throws it in the garbage.

Nali is pissed.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Jane, surrounded by pictures of her parents at their wedding and on blissful vacations, types away on the family computer.

JANE (V.O.)

MAKE TIME is a self-help book that will show you how to make time for all the things in life that should be important to you.

TITLE: CHAPTER 1: EATING WELL

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jane waits by the oven in a Polish-inspired outfit.

JANE (V.O.)
If you eat healthily, it's less
likely you'll have a heart attack
or break out.

She retrieves fresh CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES from the OVEN.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Jane and Dan stand over a tray of freshly baked cookies, each decorated with a different country's flag.

DAN
I have to have one of those
immediately.

He picks one up and takes a bite. The chocolate chips ooze all over his lips.

DAN
Hot hot hot!

He does his best to hold the burning cookie in his mouth. Jane laughs. She wipes chocolate off his lip and licks her finger playfully. Dan likes this.

END FLASHBACK

INT. KITCHEN

Jane licks her finger remembering. Deidre enters in astronaut pajamas.

DEIDRE
Jane, come see my project.

JANE
Hold on.

DEIDRE
It'll just be a minute.

JANE
I'll do it later. I'm busy right now.

DEIDRE
You don't look busy to me.

JANE
You don't look that busy either, Sir Loungealot.

Deidre walks away hurt.

TITLE: CHAPTER 2: GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The TV clock reads 3:57 am. Jane sits on the couch in her France nightshirt watching "Borat" and laughing at every joke.

JANE (V.O.)
If you get seven to eight hours of sleep a night, you won't have to waste money on coffee which will make you spend more money getting your teeth whitened.

Suddenly, her smile disappears.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Jane and Dan stand in front of a Halloween decorated home. They wear full body white robes and gingham head dresses. An OLD WHOLESOME WOMAN opens the door.

JANE AND DAN
Trick or treat!

OLD WHOLESOME WOMAN
And what are you supposed to be?

JANE
We're Arabs!

Old Wholesome Woman slams the door on them.

DAN
It's like, if you're not Harry
Potter or a Disney Princess, you're
a nobody.

Jane nods and they walk down the steps.

END FLASHBACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jane turns off "Borat," too sad to continue watching it.

TITLE: CHAPTER 3: EXERCISE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jane, in a Tibetan yoga outfit, lies on a yoga mat, eyes closed.

JANE (V.O.)
Exercise is another great way to
prevent a heart attack, and if you
work hard enough, you could become
extremely attractive.

She then turns on her side for a more comfortable sleeping position.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. KARATE CLASS

An ASIAN FEMALE KARATE TEACHER watches Jane and Dan spar in their gees and white belts. After a struggle, Dan pulls Jane into a neck hold against his chest.

ASIAN FEMALE KARATE TEACHER
Very good!

Jane is happy to surrender to him. Asian Female Karate Teacher sees this and gives her a dirty look.

END FLASHBACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jane tries to put herself in a neck hold, but fails.

TITLE: CHAPTER 4: WORK

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Jane, exhausted in an Israeli-inspired outfit, types away on the family computer, trying to avoid the happy gazes of her parents in their photos.

JANE (V.O.)

To avoid ending up a hobo, it is
best to earn money.

She chugs apple juice, then stops, wistful.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Jane and Dan sit in front of Jane's house operating a lemonade stand. A sign above them says, "Buy Lemonade and Help UNICEF!"

Jane stands to thank a BEARDED MAN and his YOUNG SON. They walk away with lemonade.

Dan quickly puts a lemon on Jane's seat. Jane doesn't notice, but then she sits down unevenly on the lemon. She stands up and looks at the lemon stuck to her butt.

JANE

Eww!

DAN

I told you once I told you twice,
that's not how you make lemonade.

Jane throws the lemon at his head. He chases her with the lemon, she screams and runs away. This is the most fun.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Jane tries to find the last drop of apple juice with her tongue, but gives up. Back to work.

TITLE: CHAPTER 5: SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jane's family sits around the table, eating and reading. Rob reads "Trains" magazine, Linda reads "Health" magazine, Deidre reads a Victoria's Secret catalog, and Jane, dressed in an Indian-inspired outfit, reads "National Geographic."

JANE (V.O.)

When parents decide to bring you into this world, they expect you to hang out with them. Doing so may result in good birthday and holiday gifts.

JANE

Mom, can you pass the rice?

Linda passes a bowl of whole grain rice down the table.

LINDA

Don't serve yourself more than the size of your fist.

Jane dumps five fists worth of rice on her plate, then grins at her mom.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dan joins Jane's family at dinner. He mixes the brown rice around his plate.

DEIDRE

Are you playing with your food?

DAN

No, I made a map of China.

INSERT: DAN'S PLATE

It is a brown rice map of China

BACK TO SCENE

LINDA

Wow, Dan!

ROB

An exact replica! You should put
that in a museum.

Jane smiles proudly at her friend.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Linda looks at Jane's rice-filled plate.

LINDA

At least make all that rice into
something interesting.

Jane shoots her a look. Linda sips her coffee then offers it to Jane. Jane is disgusted. She drinks her apple juice. Linda shakes her head.

TITLE: CHAPTER 6: HAVE FUN

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Jane, in a Puerto Rican outfit, dances in a circle with her sorority sisters, doing her best to imitate their sexy dance moves.

JANE (V.O.)

If you don't find a way to amuse
yourself, you will be bored.

A gelled-haired body builder type, ZANE, taps her on the shoulder. She turns around and he grinds with her. She awkwardly smiles up at him as he jerks her from knee to knee.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Jane crouches in a Malaysian inspired dress looking into Dan's eyes. He wears a funky tux.

JANE

Ready?

DAN

Ready.

Pull back to reveal Jane and Dan holding long Filipino sticks on the dance floor. They start clapping the sticks together.

BETSY, an innocent 10th grader, tries to dance over the sticks. She can't do it.

RODNEY, a dorky 9th grader tries, but also fails.

JANE

Hey, you guys hold these and let us try, k?

Rodney and Betsy take the sticks and clap them together as Dan and Jane rhythmically jump and dance between the sticks.

Betsy and Rodney are in awe.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DANCE CLUB NIGHT

Zane lifts Jane up, making her straddle him. Her friends think this is hot, but Jane is nauseous.

TITLE: CHAPTER 7: FIND ROMANCE

INT. HALLWAY / EXT. DEIDRE'S ROOM/GYM - NIGHT

Jane, ready for a night on the town in a Russian inspired dress, knocks on Deidre's door.

JANE (V.O.)

Finding a romantic partner is the final piece of the puzzle. Once you do, it is imperative to make time for that person or else you will fail in life.

Deidre pokes her head out, still in pajamas.

DEIDRE

Ooh. Where are you going?

JANE

Speed dating. Wanna come? We'll practice meeting men for the singles cruise.

DEIDRE

Okay! What time does it start?

JANE

Half hour.

DEIDRE

Half hour? I have to speed dress for speed dating!

Jane rolls her eyes.

Deidre smiles then accidentally slams the door on Jane's finger. Again.

Jane pulls back in pain.

JANE

Swedish: Ow!

SUPERIMPOSE: **Swedish:** Ow!

DEIDRE (O.S.)

What'd you say?

JANE

Stop friggin slamming the door on my finger!

DEIDRE (O.S.)

Oh. It sounded much shorter than that.

Jane rolls her eyes.

INT. SPEED DATING EXPO - NIGHT

In a dingy restaurant, men and women talk with each other over candlelight and drinks until SHARON THE TIMER, 30s, fit and cheesy, rings the bell.

HOWARD, late 20s, nerdy, talks to Jane.

HOWARD

And after the trombone, I played the bass clarinet, which is really not so different from saxophone, and then I went back to cello, dabbled in viola again and-

Bing! Jane is saved by the bell.

SHARON THE TIMER

Switch!

Jane and Howard stand.

HOWARD

I'll play for you sometime.

JANE

Great.

Jane flees to another table.

Deidre's date is SIMON, early 20s: a pipsqueak in a Rangers hat and Buffalo Bills jersey.

SIMON

Before I get to know a lady, I gotta ask her one question.

DEIDRE

What's that?

SIMON

Dodgers or Giants?

DEIDRE

Wait, what?

SIMON

Those Dodgers' free throws are unbeatable.

DEIDRE

I think you're confused.

SIMON

(suddenly defensive)

No, you're confused! Hopefully the next girl will appreciate a sports fan when she meets one.

Bing! Deidre couldn't be happier to leave this guy.

SHARON THE TIMER

Switch!

Jane sits across from RAUL, late 20s, with terrible acne.

RAUL

I grew up in Brooklyn.

JANE

Oh. My mom's from Queens.

RAUL

Huh. I got some friends in Queens.

Raul scratches a PIMPLE on his forehead, and it begins to bleed. Jane stares.

RAUL

Did you go to college?

JANE

I'm going to get more water.

Jane stands and, watching RAUL carefully, puts her glass of water on someone else's table mid-date, grabs Deidre's hand, and they both flee the Dating Expo.

EXT. THE DATING EXPO - NIGHT

Deidre and Jane literally run away, down a sidewalk in the middle of nowhere, NY.

JANE

You didn't want to stay, did you?

DEIDRE

Are you kidding?

JANE

I hope there are better ones on the singles cruise.

DEIDRE

God willing.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Jane, still all dolled up from the Dating Expo, is once again devastated by what she reads on the computer screen.

DAN (V.O.)

I so admire and adore you, but I
don't really have as much time as
before to e-mail you.

Jane stands, ready to punch the computer, but she punches the computer chair instead, with her on it. It topples over with a BANG.

INT. BASEMENT (CONTINUOUS)

Rob runs his model trains but looks upstairs curiously when he hears the BANG. He decides it's nothing and toots a train whistle.

INT. DEN (CONTINUOUS)

Jane spills out of the broken chair like Humpty Dumpty, gets up, and looks at it, panicked.

Jane does her best to get comfortable in the broken chair. She goes back to writing her book, but it's late and she falls asleep...

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

In the same Spanish Swimming Pool from an earlier fantasy, Dan and Jane lie on a float made of yellow flower petals.

They both wear bathing suits made of leaves and gaze into each others' eyes. Dan strokes Jane's skin.

DAN

This is time.

JANE

Me, too.

They lean in to kiss when Isabella, still only identifiable by her hair and skin, appears on the float and maneuvers herself into Dan's arms. Dan embraces her.

DAN

This is time.

Isabella kisses him. Isabella speaks nonsense Spanish.

ISABELLA

Hola mi amigo punta dejenero tapas
ostas ostas ki usto mi amore.

JANE
Time, Dan!

DAN
Isabella.

ISABELLA
Huevos rancheros comestas kayata te
buko.

JANE
I know time.

DAN
I don't want to.

He fully embraces Isabella and kicks Jane into the water.

Jane, beneath the water's surface, sees Dan and Isabella embracing each other on the float.

She tries to surface.

INT. DEN - DAY

Jane wakes up disoriented. She looks at the computer.

JANE
I'm done!

She thinks. She types:

INSERT: COMPUTER SCREEN

Dedicated to Dan, for whom I would make endless amounts of time.

BACK TO SCENE

Now she's really done and presses "print." She opens the door to the den, pleased with herself.

INT. HALL / EXT. JANE'S ROOM

Jane opens the door from her room into the hallway. She's wearing a Scottish-inspired bathing suit and matching towel.

Deidre comes out of her room holding more scraps.

DEIDRE
Come look at my project!

JANE
I'm going for a celebratory swim.

DEIDRE
Just look.

JANE
Why don't you swim with me?

DEIDRE
Then will you look at my project?

JANE
Yes.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Jane and Deidre, in a dowdy bathing suit, jump into the pool at the same time.

They race to the noodle floating in the water and fight over it. Finally, Jane gets it. She sits on it and relaxes. Deidre splashes her. Jane hits Deidre with the noodle.

DEIDRE
Ow!

JANE
Ha!

Deidre backs off and does some laps.

DEIDRE
So why is this a celebratory swim,
huh?

JANE
I finished my book.

DEIDRE
You wrote a book?

JANE
Yeah. That's why we went speed
dating.

Deidre's hurt.

DEIDRE

What's the book about?

JANE

About making time for things and people of importance.

DEIDRE

You mean about Dan making time for you?

JANE

Maybe.

DEIDRE

You think he's going to read it and change his mind? That is, if it gets published?

JANE

Why do you have to be so negative?

DEIDRE

I'm trying to help you. He just told you he doesn't want to e-mail you anymore. Do you really think he's going to read your book and decide to travel with you? Travel by yourself. Or teach in Japan, or get a grant or something. Stop relying on him. He never comes through!

Gladys and Edith peek over the fence.

GLADYS

Hi girls!

DEIDRE AND JANE

Hi.

EDITH

Jane, you're writing a book? How exciting!

GLADYS

We want an autographed copy!

JANE

Of course.

EDITH

And my nephew, Nathan Lindauer,
writes book reviews for a
newspaper. I bet he'd be happy to
review something my wonderful
neighbor wrote!

JANE

(not believing her)
Great, thanks!

EDITH

Remember our swimming days, Gladys?
(to Jane and Deidre)
We placed first in our country
club's synchronized swimming
contest!

GLADYS

We keep the trophy in the kitchen
so we can admire it while we make
mahndel bread.

EDITH

Speaking of which, we're off to the
market. Have fun girls!

The neighbors leave.

JANE

See? Gladys supports Edith.

DEIDRE

And Edith supports Gladys.

Jane thinks.

DEIDRE

Don't you remember when he ditched
you on that teen tour?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LOCKERS - DAY

11th grade Jane rushes up to 11th grade Dan.

JANE

Hey, did you send your deposit in
for the France trip?

DAN
Uh, actually, no.

JANE
Why not? It's due today. Maybe you should call them and tell them you forgot so they can save a spot for you. Or else it'll just be me and the Jappy girls.

DAN
Um, I'm not going.

JANE
What?

DAN
My mom found this pencil drawing class in Rhinebeck. It's less expensive and I'm getting really into drawing, so...

JANE
You draw with a pencil all year! How could you miss France? You promised since 4th grade we would travel together!

DAN
I know. I'm sorry. We'll travel some other time.

JANE
When?

DAN
How 'bout after college? Then we'll have more time, and we can see the whole world together.

Jane looks at him to see if he means it.

JANE
You promise? You won't do art instead?

DAN
I promise.

Jane smiles.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. POOL - DAY

Deidre steals the noodle from under Jane.

DEIDRE

And since you already booked the trip, I had to go alone with the parents to visit mean Aunty Selma in the Catskills. I'm not letting you ditch me again for Dan. You're going on that singles cruise!

JANE

It's in my calendar - last weekend in September. I told you I'm going.

DEIDRE

You better.

JANE

You think the book will actually make him want to travel with me?

INT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Jane, in a Netherlands-inspired outfit, heaves half a dozen manila envelopes filled with her manuscript onto the clerk's counter. All of them are addressed to various publishing houses, the only one visible is addressed to Wright Publishing.

An overweight female CLERK weighs them and is about to take all the packages when--

JANE

Wait.

She touches each of the packages and closes her eyes.

JANE

Portuguese: Good luck my packages.

SUPERIMPOSE: **Portugese:** Good luck my packages.

CLERK

Excuse me, what did you say?

JANE

I was just wishing my packages good luck in Portugese.

The Clerk raises her eyebrow. Jane walks away hopeful.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Jane sips apple juice and soaks up the sun while reading "The Adventures of Tin Tin."

Linda and her speed-walking women, JANET, CECILE, JOY, FRAN, SUSAN and NANCY, round the corner. All wear leggings, sneakers, and fanny packs.

JANET
Isn't that Jane?

LINDA
That's my daughter, reading comic books in the middle of the day.

The women approach Jane.

LINDA
Jane.

JANE
Oh, hi, Mom. Janet. Cecile. Susan.
Joy. Fran. Nancy.

WOMEN
Hi.

FRAN
You know, I haven't read that one yet. Is it good?

JANE
I'm always touched by Tin Tin and Snowy's symbiotic relationship amid their sleuthing.

CECILE
Oh! You are so eloquent Jane.

LINDA
We're training for Avon's Walk for the Cure. What are you doing?

JANE
Enjoying this beautiful afternoon.

LINDA

Well, we are too, except we've all earned enough money to retire and be out in the middle of the day. Aren't you supposed to be working at the bookstore?

JANE

I quit. I don't need to work there anymore because I've done something far more worthwhile.

LINDA

What's that?

JANE

I wrote a self-help book.

JOY

Wow.

LINDA

You wrote a self-help book?

JANE

Yes.

LINDA

But you're only twenty-two.

JANE

So?

LINDA

So you have no life experience!

JANE

Yes I do. I've lived twenty-two years.

LINDA

What are you helping people with?

JANE

How to spend their time wisely.

NANCY

Incredible.

The other women nod, wishing their children were more like Jane.

LINDA

It's a good idea, but I think you should wait about twenty more years to write it.

JANE

Too late. It's off to publishers.

LINDA

Just in case your book isn't a best-seller, you need to go back to work. Growing up is about learning how to support yourself.

SUSAN

Maybe if a lot of people like her book, she won't need to work.

Jane smirks at her mother.

LINDA

Let's go ladies, or we'll be late for kickboxing.

The women wave sympathetically at Jane. Jane returns to her reading.

TITLE: SEPTEMBER

INT. WRIGHT PUBLISHING - DAY

TAD, 40s, handsome and gay, sits with a manuscript in front of him. He stares longingly at a picture frame, the contents of which are obscured.

CLAUDIA, his mousy secretary, pokes her head in. Tad is startled.

TAD

Please don't enter in a such a jolting manner, Claudia.

CLAUDIA

Sorry, Mr. Wright. Jane Freed is here.

TAD

Let her in.

Tad fixes his hair and tie. Jane enters in a Haitian inspired outfit.

TAD

Take a seat, Jane. Tell me the truth. This book was written for someone, wasn't it?

JANE

Well, it's--

TAD

I know who it was written for.

JANE

You do?

TAD

You used to be close, he used to appreciate you and ask you about your life, include you in all his imagined adventures, and you seriously thought about leaving your quotidian lives to travel the world together.

How does he know all this? Jane stares at him.

TAD (CONT'D)

I know this man. I know him well. His name is Ethan Finkelstein, and he broke up with me last September.

Tad turns the picture frame toward Jane. She is relieved not to see Dan's face.

TAD (CONT'D)

I moved from the delectable whipped cream to the discarded marachino cherry stem of his sundae. From number one to number six hundred on his priority list. Suddenly, he had someone else he cared about more, someone new with whom to adventure. I'd call, text, e-mail, and fax, but I would wait long hours and eventually months for a response. I felt like I was being placated, and, most importantly, I felt forgotten. Ethan wasn't making time for me anymore. I had all the time in the world for him, but he didn't bother to make one millisecond for me.

(MORE)

TAD (CONT'D)

I felt like the life was drained from me, and I had no energy, no optimism - just a beating heart and blinking eyes. A walk to work, a check of the e-mail, sleep. And then I read your book, Jane. In just the past few days, I've been eating better, talking to my Uncle Lou more often, and I have become a regular at Bally Total Fitness. My arms used to be jelly. Now they're at least as firm as cantaloupe.

He places an elbow in the middle of his desk and flexes. On his prompting, she awkwardly feels his biceps.

TAD (CONT'D)

I am not blinking my way through life anymore, Jane. Not after I read your book. Your version of Ethan has inspired this soulful, truthful, useful piece of wisdom, and I couldn't be more grateful, Jane. I want to publish the guts out of this thing.

Jane is beside herself. Tad stands. Jane stands.

TAD (CONT'D)

Claudia! Let's get started on Jane's contract!

Tad shakes her hand, grateful for her presence.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family can barely eat.

DEIDRE

You're being published?

Jane eats happily.

JANE

Yup.

ROB

I can't believe it!

LINDA

You're actually going to have a career.

JANE

Yup. They're throwing me a party on Tuesday.

LINDA

A party? Fantastic! Who are your dates?

Deidre and Jane exchange concerned looks.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jane's parents host a cocktail party. Jane stands with Howard and Deidre stands with Simon, who's wearing a Mets hat and Jets jersey. They all drink wine.

SIMON

Nice party. I bet the Broncos partied like this when they won the world series.

Deidre and Jane exchange a look.

HOWARD

This wine is quite tasty. Once, after a reception for my chamber group, I accidentally spilled wine on my flute. But a couple weeks later, I was playing the French horn anyway, so it didn't matter.

Howard performs a French horn solo on his wine glass. Linda sidles up to the happy couples.

LINDA

How is everybody doing here?

JANE AND DEIDRE

Great.

LINDA

Jane, come up front for Tad's toast.

She escorts Jane to the front of the room.

Tad, beyond tipsy, steps onto a small platform amidst hundreds of wine drinking readers, business associates, and friends and family of Jane's.

TAD

Well, Ms. Jane, you are about to
save the world.

Mystified chatter among the guests.

TAD (CONT'D)

You are the rhyme and reason, the
superwoman, and the Ghandi of the
self-help industry. May you write a
million more books and mend a
million more souls. To Jane!

He holds his glass up. Everyone toasts. Huge applause. Linda
holds Jane's arm up like a boxing champ. Deidre rolls her
eyes. Jane lets out a small smile.

TAD (CONT'D)

Party like it's 1999!

More applause and drinking. Tad steps down and gives her a
big sloppy kiss on the cheek, gulps more wine, then moves on
to other guests.

ROB (O.S.)

I am so proud of you.

Jane turns around to see her dad.

JANE

Thanks, Daddy.

He gives her a kiss on the head.

LINDA

Remember this moment, Jane. This is
what success feels like.

She and Rob get more cheese.

Howard puts his hand on Jane's bare back and clumsily pats
it.

HOWARD

Congratulations, Jane!

Jane starts to smile but her face suddenly drops. She reaches
around her shoulder and wipes off brie.

Deirdre bumps Jane with her hip.

JANE

Howard just wiped brie on me.

DEIDRE

Eww.

She wipes her little sister off with a napkin.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

At least those guys are keeping mom quiet.

Deidre looks around the room.

DEIDRE

Look how many people showed up to this thing. You're on top of the world, aren't you?

JANE

Yeah.

DEIRDRE

Yeah? What else could you want?

Marina, Marcy, Mia, and Margaret run up to Jane.

MARINA

Jane!

MARCY

Aaaah, we're so happy for you!

MIA

Hey, have you met Nihal?

NIHAL, Indian, handsome, and grungy, gives a stoned thumbs up.

MARGARET

This is Chase.

CHASE, slick and muscled, flashes her a bleached smile and shakes her hand too hard.

MARINA

You remember Josh.

JOSH, in a suit, gives Jane a nod and his card.

MARCY

Brian.

BRIAN, in a shirt and tie, looks up from his iPhone for a second.

JANE

Great to meet your men. You remember my sister, Deidre.

MARINA

Totes! How's it going D?

DEIDRE

Terrif.

MARGARET

Well, big congrats Jane! We're so proud of you.

MARCY

Yeah, we knew you could do it.

MIA

And hey, if you need anything, we're all in the city, so yeah!

JANE

Definitely.

They walk off snuggling their boyfriends. Jane and Deidre watch them with envy.

DEIDRE

I need a drink.

Nali swings Jane around by the arm. Next to Nali is her Jewish wannabe ghetto boyfriend, ROY, 20s. Nali's name is shaved into the back of his head.

JANE

Hey! I can't believe you came!

NALI

Especially after you quit on your second day? But if it weren't for me and my bookstore, you wouldn't have a book, right?

(smiling - joking)

So I'm really just here to say you're welcome.

JANE

Thanks.

NALI

This is Roy.

ROY
Hey. Sweet book party.

JANE
Thanks.

NALI
Is he here?

JANE
Who?

NALI
The guy who wouldn't make time for
you.

JANE
Oh, no.

NALI
Too bad. At least he's going to
make you rich and famous though,
right?

JANE
Right.

NALI
But the book's not the end with you
two, is it?

JANE
What do you mean?

NALI
Are you just going to let him
choose that bimbo over you?

JANE
Well--

NALI
And hope that one day he'll see the
light?

JANE
Well--

NALI
He needs you to show him the light.
Don't just hope. Make it happen.

Jane considers this.

NALI (CONT'D)
Well congratulations.

ROY
We're gonna get more booze.

Jane watches Roy and Nali walk off in love.

Jane looks at the only quiet corner in the room where TWENTY-TWO YEAR OLD MAN is stroking TWENTY-TWO YEAR OLD WOMAN'S hair. Twenty-Two Year Old Woman looks into Twenty-Two Year Old Man's eyes as they talk about romantic things Jane can't hear.

DEIDRE
Hello?

Jane snaps to.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)
What are you thinking about?

JANE
I don't want to be a self-help book writer.

DEIDRE
But you're getting published.

JANE
Yeah, but now that I have some money, I can do what I really want.

DEIDRE
What's that?

JANE
Be with Dan.

DEIDRE
Jane! Dan is across the country, doesn't want to correspond with you, and has a girlfriend.

JANE
I know. But we have to plan our trip.

DEIDRE
You can't go now. The singles cruise is in two weeks.

JANE
I'm sorry, but I have to.

DEIDRE
Don't do this to me again.

JANE
You can find someone else.

DEIDRE
No, I can't!

JANE
Okay, fine. I'll be back for the
cruise, but I have to go get him.
Now.

Jane hands Deidre the wine glass and flies out of the party.

Deidre, abandoned, then chugs the wine. Rob, Linda, Nali, Roy
and Tad run up to Deidre.

LINDA
Where is she going?

DEIDRE
To get Dan.

Nali smiles.

LINDA
What?!

TAD
(in total awe)
How brave.

LINDA
Brave? Won't she miss taking care
of all the details before the book
is published? Her bio, her note of
dedication, her--

TAD
Of course not. She would never do
that to me.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Jane runs down the street away from her house with newfound
energy. A plane flies overhead. She spots it and runs faster.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Rob runs his trains with Deidre, wearing Batman pajamas. Both looking bummed. Linda runs down the basement stairs and sees them.

LINDA

Are we just going to let her run away like this?

INT. DORM CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jane, in a Moroccan inspired outfit, holds an overnight bag. She fixes her hair in a hallway mirror, then approaches Room 202.

The door is covered in drawings of international flags. Jane traces her fingers over them like they're sex objects.

The MUSIC of an international hipster band BLASTS from inside. She knocks at the door, but no answer. She knocks again, no answer.

JANE

Dan! Dan, it's Jane!

No answer. Finally she jiggles the knob, and the door opens.

INT. DAN'S ROOM

Jane steps in to see Dan, half-naked in Japanese character boxer shorts, licking Isabella's butt cheek tattoo that reads "hola." Isabella is as exotic and dazzling as Jane's worst fears.

Jane jumps back. Dan pulls away from Isabella's butt.

DAN

Jane?

Jane walks right out the door.

ISABELLA

Jane is here?

Dan runs out of the room.

INT. DORM CORRIDOR

Jane is slumped against the wall.

DAN

Hi!

She stands awkwardly.

JANE

Hey, I'm sorry I barged in, the music was really loud and I--

DAN

What are you doing here?

JANE

I came to tell you that--

Isabella, in Dan's oversized clothes, joins them.

ISABELLA

Hey, you're Dan's best friend?

JANE

Yeah.

ISABELLA

What's your name?

DAN

You know her name.

JANE

Jane.

ISABELLA

Guess he just hasn't mentioned you in a while.

Jane looks at Dan.

DAN

How come you didn't tell me you were coming?

JANE

I wanted to surprise you.

ISABELLA

Well, you certainly did that.

DAN

We were about to go to a party. Do you want to come?

Jane is nervous, Dan is hopeful, and Isabella is ready for her competition.

INT. COLLEGE PARTY - NIGHT

Everybody drinks beer from red plastic cups. They stand in a circle watching something completely amazing.

Isabella break dances.

Dan stands next to Jane, her mouth wide open. He looks around the room and sketches people, not interested in Isabella's moves.

JANE

Wow.

PARTY GOERS

(chanting)

Is-a-bell-a, Is-a-bell-a.

DAN

They always do this.

JANE

And you love it?

DAN

Everyone loves it.

The chant changes.

PARTY GOERS

Is-a-bell-a is a hott-ie, Is-a-bell-a is a hott-ie.

JANE

Yes they do.

DRUNK GUY stumbles up to Dan.

DRUNK GUY

Hey, draw me with my beer!

He poses, holding the beer in a ridiculous position. Dan quickly sketches.

Drunk Guy looks at the sketch.

DRUNK GUY

Awesome.

He stumbles away.

JANE

Still drawing, I see.

DAN

Yeah. I'm really into international art. Especially Spanish stuff.

Jane watches Isabella dancing and gets it. She couldn't feel farther from Dan's heart.

JANE

I wrote a book.

DAN

Whoa. That's amazing.

JANE

It's getting published.

DAN

What's it about?

JANE

It's about the need to make time for important people in your life.

Dan digests this. They share a look.

DAN

Congratulations.

JANE

Thanks.

DAN

I'll read it.

JANE

Really?

DAN

I promise.

Jane is weary of this promise and looks away. Dan watches Isabella dance; he is unimpressed.

DAN
I'm surprised people don't get
tired of it.

JANE
You never dance with her?

DAN
Are you kidding? I can't do that.

JANE
But you can Filipino stick dance.

Dan remembers.

Jane finds a broom and a mop in a nearby closet. She lays them on the floor and squats. Dan hesitates, then joins her and they bang their sticks on the floor to the beat.

People start looking their way. Dan motions for two FRESHMAN to take over.

Dan and Jane dance in the middle jumping and spinning to the rhythm, just like they did in high school. All eyes watch them and forget about Isabella.

Isabella stops dancing and sees what all the fuss is about. She's furious, but Dan and Jane couldn't be happier.

EXT. DORM BATHROOM / INT. DORM CORRIDOR

Jane exits the bathroom fresh from washing up. She takes a deep breath, excited to return to Dan.

Her phone RINGS. The screen says "Tad."

JANE
Hey, Tad.

INT. TAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Tad sits under his desk, grasping his rolling office chair.

INTERCUT JANE/TAD AS DESIRED

TAD
Jane, thank God you're there. I
need your author bio ASAP.

JANE

Okay. I'll send it over. Talk to you later.

TAD

Wait! Something terrible happened.

JANE

With my book?

TAD

No. I was looking at some photos of me and Ethan, you know, to take a stroll down memory lane? But I think I went too far.

JANE

What do you mean?

TAD

I made a collage.

Tad's entire office floor is covered with thousands of pictures of him and Ethan Finkelstein glued to a dozen poster boards. This is the work of a stalker, not an artist.

TAD (CONT'D)

Do you think I should give it to him? Would he love me again if he saw my craftsmanship? Advise me!

JANE

Uh...

Jane sees a Fortune cookie fortune pinned to someone's bulletin board on the door and reads from it.

JANE (CONT'D)

You are gifted in many ways.

Tad thinks. Jane is nervous about his reaction.

TAD

Yes! I don't have to win him back with my artistry! I am a handsome and accomplished publisher, and if he can't see that, then he can go to hell!

JANE

Exactly. You're all set, so--

TAD

Oh, no! The picture of us at the aquarium. We were looking at the belugas and he kept checking his watch--

Jane sighs. She can't get off the phone.

INT. DAN'S ROOM

Dan and Isabella fight as they get ready for bed.

ISABELLA

Doesn't she get that she's not wanted here?

DAN

She's just visiting.

ISABELLA

I told you to stop writing her those e-mails. You don't need a pen pal when you have a girlfriend.

She takes out her contacts.

DAN

Yeah, a girlfriend who needs to show off every five seconds.

ISABELLA

What does that mean?

She puts on extremely thick glasses.

DAN

You always have to break dance for people.

ISABELLA

I am not apologizing for being a good dancer.

She puts on a head brace retainer.

DAN

And I am not apologizing for having a friend visit. You can't control my life.

ISABELLA

(whining)

I'm nooooooooooot. Let's not fight,
k? Lick me.

She pulls up her shirt and puffs out her stomach, exposing her "Si!" tattoo.

INT. DORM CORRIDOR / EXT. DAN'S ROOM

TAD (O.S.)

...he just left me at the viewing
tank, just me and the beluga,
floating in despair.

JANE

I'm sorry, Tad. But I really have
to go. I flew all the way to
Berkeley, and--

TAD (O.S.)

Yes. You go. Be our hero. Godspeed!

Jane hangs up.

INT. TAD'S OFFICE

Tad hangs up. He rips apart his whole collage and collapses with exhaustion in the middle of his office floor.

INT. DORM CORRIDOR / EXT. DAN'S ROOM

Jane takes a deep breath and enters--

DAN'S ROOM

Unwillingly, Dan is about to lick Isabella's stomach when Jane enters and saves him.

JANE

Oh!

ISABELLA

We're busy here. Do you mind
waiting in the hall?

DAN

No. Come in.

Isabella sighs and brushes her hair in a huff.

DAN
Ready for bed?

Dan pulls down the covers and steps in. Both Isabella and Jane enter from either side then stop.

JANE
I'll take the floor.

ISABELLA
Don't worry. It's really comfy.
Just watch out for the rat poison.

Dan shakes his head then lays down some blankets and a pillow for Jane. Isabella climbs in bed with Dan and wraps herself around him.

DAN
(to Jane)
Are you comfortable?

JANE
Yeah, thanks.

ISABELLA
I'm not, my Daniel Maniel.

JANE
Do you think we could talk
somewhere privately?

ISABELLA
Dan doesn't keep secrets from me,
right, my brilliant sex pot?

JANE
I'd really rather talk alone with
you.

ISABELLA
I want to hear it. You said you'd
always be honest with me.

JANE
Please, Dan. It's really important.

DAN
Jane, I'm sorry. Maybe you should
wait until--

JANE

I can't wait any longer! I've been waiting four months already! I haven't stopped thinking about you since graduation, and I wrote that stupid book because of you. I miss your e-mails and your voice and looking at you. I've always loved you as my friend, but now it's--

She looks at Isabella.

JANE (CONT'D)

I know you have this girlfriend who's hotter, and a better dancer, but I just want you to know that seeing the world with you is the only thing I'm sure I want to do with my life.

Isabella looks at Dan for his answer. He doesn't know what to say.

DAN

Um. I'm with Isabella. But thank you, Jane.

Isabella's won. Jane looks at Dan, then Isabella, then Dan. She's crushed.

Isabella grins and rolls on top of him. Dan turns out the lights. He turns to Isabella, spoons her and rubs her belly for a few seconds.

ISABELLA

Mmmm.

Isabella goes fast asleep. She SNORES.

Dan joins Jane on the floor. He grabs her hands and looks at her. She can't believe he's right next to her. He whispers.

DAN

I've really missed you, too. Let's get out of here. I'll go anywhere with you.

Jane smiles. He gets up, reaches for her hand to help her up, and they run ecstatically out the door.

EXT. VAST DESERT - DAY

Jane and Dan ride on a camel among hills of sand. They couldn't be happier together.

A broader view reveals that they are at a zoo, riding the camel amongst many parents and children.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Jane and Dan feed each other sushi among gorgeous natural greenery as classical Japanese MUSIC plays. They're blissful together.

A broader view reveals they are in a fast-food sushi joint in a mall food court. The greenery is part of the wallpaper.

EXT. A BEAUTIFUL BLUE SKY

There it is, the Eiffel Tower. Jane and Dan point at it from a distance, excited.

A broader view reveals that they're pointing at a mini-golf Eiffel Tower at Hole 7.

Dan's orange golf ball rolls under it and disappears in the hole. Jane and Dan rejoice over his mini-golf skills.

Jane's phone RINGS. It's Tad. She ignores it and continues rejoicing.

INT. TAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Partial view of Tad, sweating. Shirtless, he stands in the middle of his office, waiting for Jane to pick up.

TAD

Jane, where are you? You haven't sent me your author bio, and I need your approval on jacket design. We can't get this thing published without your consent. Also...this Ethan thing has really blown up in my face. Call me!

Full view of Tad in only briefs and socks. He embraces a blow-up doll with Ethan's face on it.

Tad squeezes the Doll and moans, then holds it at arms' length.

TAD
No! No I can't do this! Goodbye,
Ethan.

Tad pokes the blow-up doll with a pin and the air SQUEALS out. The Ethan doll deflates. Tad watches sadly for a moment, then:

TAD
Noooooooooo!

He blows frantically into the suction hole, trying to save the doll.

EXT. GRASSY FIELDS - NIGHT

Jane and Dan make out passionately on a Honduras towel under the stars. They can't get enough of each other.

Jane notices something a weird: a dolphin like saliva swapping SOUND. They keep kissing over:

JANE
What is that?

DAN
What?

JANE
That sound.

DAN
Isn't that you?

JANE
No, I thought it was you.

DAN
It's not me. I've never had that
with anyone else.

JANE
Me neither.

DAN
Well then it's our unique make out
sound.

Jane considers this then jumps back on top of him. They keep kissing, enjoying it even more than before, dolphin sound and all.

TITLE: 2 WEEKS LATER

EXT. GRASSY FIELDS - NIGHT

Under the setting sun, Jane and Dan make out, just as noisily as before.

Jane's phone RINGS. It's Deidre.

JANE
Ooh, I should take this.

DAN
K.

He squeezes her butt then lies down, gazing at the stars and playing with her hair.

JANE
Hey!

INT. DEIDRE'S ROOM/GYM - NIGHT

Deidre is surrounded by cloth scraps and dummies lying in the shadows. Not a sane picture.

INTERCUT DEIDRE/JANE

DEIDRE
Hey yourself. You better come home and pack. The singles cruise is next weekend!

JANE
Good thanks, and you?

DEIDRE
You're still in Berkeley, aren't you?

JANE
Yeah, so?

Dan wraps his legs around Jane.

DEIDRE

So you went to "go get him" and travel the world together, not hang out at a college you didn't even get into.

Deidre hits a nerve.

JANE

(to Dan)

She's in a bad mood. Would you mind?

DAN

Oh, yeah, sure.

He goes into the woods and pees.

DEIDRE

So why aren't you in Guatemala or wherever?

JANE

We can't go anywhere til he's done in December.

DEIDRE

Then why are you there?

JANE

So we can start planning our trip. He left Isabella!

DEIDRE

Well has it even come up?

JANE

We're just enjoying each others' company right now.

DEIDRE

You mean you haven't had the courage to ask him yet.

Silence.

JANE

I'm going to ask him.

DEIDRE

Fine, but come home when he says no.

JANE
Why are you being such a bitch?

DEIDRE
Because I've told you a thousand times he's not good enough for you. You need someone who will actually stay true to his word and see the world with you.

Jane looks at Dan's backside in the woods, hopeful.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)
So have a nice last day together. I'll see you soon, okay?

JANE
I'm not going on the singles cruise.

DEIDRE
What?

JANE
I'm staying with Dan.

DEIDRE
But I already booked it! I can't go alone.

JANE
Find someone else.

DEIDRE
There is no one else! Jane this is so dumb. He's not going to--

JANE
I'm staying with Dan!

DEIDRE
Fine! I'll be alone the rest of my life!

DEIDRE'S ROOM/GYM

Deidre stomps to the calendar on her wall and with a black marker crosses out the weekend in September marked "Cruise with Jane."

GRASSY FIELDS

Jane sits alone, reconsidering. Dan jogs back to her and bites her neck.

JANE
So what would you think about
leaving California tomorrow?

DAN
Oh, yeah!

JANE
Yeah?

DAN
We could go to Oregon!

JANE
Oregon?

DAN
Yeah, it's pretty far but, it's
supposed to rock.

Jane half smiles. Oregon isn't far enough. Dan sketches her.

INT. HALL/ EXT. DEIDRE'S ROOM/GYM

Rob and Linda have their ears to the door. They pull away.

LINDA
If Jane's not going, who is Deidre
supposed to cruise with?

ROB
(without thinking)
I'll go.

LINDA
Rob.

LINDA
I don't know why Jane is being such
a fool. Can't she wait until Dan
graduates?

ROB
She's in love with him.

LINDA

We need to go talk some sense into her. She's too smart for this bullshit.

Linda storms down the hall.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Linda joins her lady friends in the front yard. All of them walk in a horizontal line, trying to catch up with Linda's furious pace.

LINDA

Now she's missing the singles cruise for him!

The women gasp and listen as they keep walking, taking up the width of the sidewalk.

EXT. LAKE (OREGON) - DAY

Jane, in a Belgian bathing suit, and Dan in trunks, sleep on a yellow float resembling the one from an earlier dream.

A fishing hook catches the edge and reels them toward shore.

Jane gasps. She wakes Dan up. He looks at the hook. They look at the shore.

This hook belongs to Linda; Rob stands at her side. SUNBATHERS shoot odd looks at them.

LINDA

(yelling from the shore)
Gotcha!

JANE

Jump off!

DAN

Your parents are so funny.

JANE

Jump off!

Dan and Jane jump off the float and tread water. Rob laughs.

ROB
(also yelling from the
shore)
Clever!

LINDA
You can't tread water forever Jane.

JANE
Leave us alone!

The sunbathers watch this scene like it's a tennis match.

LINDA
It's been three weeks! Time to come
home and stop dillydallying.

ROB
If you want to get married later,
that's great. We like your parents,
you'll get good tax breaks and
unbeatable stability. But you're
too young. Dan you need to finish
college if you want any sort of job
outside of the fast food chains,
and Jane, you need to get a job,
period. You also got a postcard
from the dentist - it's time for a
cleaning.

LINDA
You better hope that book is
successful because you've done
nothing chase a boy since
graduating. Is that something
you're proud of? We expected so
much more from you.

This hurts, but Jane keeps treading water.

JANE
I'm staying here.

LINDA
Why, so you can watch Dan do his
homework?

DAN
I haven't done homework in weeks!

Jane gives him a look. That comment did not help her cause.

LINDA

Jane, if you don't come home this weekend and go on that singles cruise with Deidre, then you can find yourself another place to live. Understand?

JANE

Good. I don't want to live there anymore.

LINDA

Good!

DAN

Hey, why does she have to get a job? She just graduated a couple months ago. Can't she just be free for a while? We'll have to work the rest of our lives. Now is the time to live it up. I'll take good care of her.

Jane is touched.

ROB

She needs to learn to take care of herself.

Neither Jane nor Dan know how to respond to this.

ROB (CONT'D)

You're a bright girl Jane. We know you'll make the right decision. Let's go Linda.

They walk away.

LINDA

Are you at least wearing sunscreen?

No response. Jane and Dan swim back to the float. Jane watches her parents leave her.

INT. DAN'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Jane, sandy and sunburned, and Dan, in a vibrant mood, drive down a highway. Jane futzes with the stereo.

DAN

Yeah, sorry. It doesn't work anymore.

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)
 You remember this shitbox from the
 80s. But I can sing for you mi
 amor.

He sings "La Cucaracha."

Jane keeps trying to make the stereo work.

Dan sings "La Bamba."

Jane gets more desperate with the stereo.

Jane's phone RINGS. It's Tad; she ignores the call.

JANE
 Can we find a bathroom?

DAN
 Si senora.

JANE
 I'm not Isabella, you can speak to
 me in English.

DAN
 I know. I was just playin'.

Jane is not a playful mood.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Dan's station wagon pulls into the gas station. A Mini Cooper
 pulls in next to them.

INT. DAN'S STATION WAGON

Dan turns the ignition off.

DAN
 Do you want anything from the
 store? I'm gonna get some Ding
 Dongs.

A KNOCK at the window. Dan and Jane jump. A MYSTERIOUS MAN
 leans his face against the glass. It's Tad.

TAD
 I found you! Is that him? The one
 who wouldn't make time?

Dan is confused. Jane is embarrassed.

TAD

Well isn't that nice, united at last. Congratulations! But you know what? I'm not endorsing your book.

JANE

What?

TAD

You're done sweetheart. I'm endorsing another author deserving of my support. I am a major publisher. You think you're so big now, you can just let the calls go? No. Have fun with Ethan - he's all you have. You're a nothing with a nobody.

JANE

Dan.

Tad shoves himself into the Mini Cooper. There's a picture of Ethan on the steering wheel. He starts the engine and gives Jane and Dan the double finger.

Tad, in a huff, loses control of the wheel, then manages to drive away.

DAN

Whoa, what a jerk!

Jane is broken. Dan puts his arm around her.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. At least we still have each other, right?

He kisses her. She kisses him back, needing comfort. They make the saliva dolphin noise.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jane, with many suitcases at her feet, holds the portrait Dan just gave her.

JANE

Thank you! I'm going to take it with me to Michigan.

DAN

I wish you could take *me* with you.

He leans in to kiss her. It's a soft, perfect kiss. But then it becomes a noisy and awkward kiss. Jane is turned off by the dolphin sound.

She pulls away, waves, and turns to her car. Dan remains in dreamland, but Jane is over it.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DAN'S STATION WAGON - NIGHT

Jane pulls away from him, reminded of how disgusted she is by their kissing sound.

She opens the car door.

DAN

Where are you going?

JANE

Bathroom.

EXT. GAS STATION

Jane runs to the port-a-potty next to the gas station.

DAN

(calling after her)

So, nothing from the store? No
Twinkies, Snowballs, Zebra Cakes?

JANE

No.

Dan gets out of the car and heads into the convenience store. Jane locks herself in the port-a-potty.

INT. PORT-A-POTTY

Jane faces the liquid hole filled with others' used toilet paper and beer cans.

She puts the lid down and sits.

A strip of fly tape covered in fly corpses dangles in front of her face. She looks away in disgust and notices a drawing on the wall.

INSERT: DRAWING

The state of California with a toilet in the north. The toilet sits below an arrow that reads: "Ain't it great in California?"

EXT. LAKE (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA) - DAY

Dan and Jane in life vests paddle a paddle boat not too far from shore. Jane's clearly in a bad mood.

After some silence, Dan tries to cheer her up.

DAN

This is probably one of the slower ways to get anywhere. Riding on a slug can also be pretty slow. And I've heard hitching a ride on a sloth's back won't get you anywhere fast, either.

Jane laughs. Dan grabs her hand. A moment passes.

JANE

So Dan...

DAN

So Jane...

Jane musters up her courage.

JANE

I know you don't graduate until December, but I think it's time we start planning our trip around the world.

She's nervous and excited.

DAN

Um, yeah. I remember you mentioning that.

JANE

I've been waiting for this since high school. I've been fantasizing about Ghana and--

DAN

I don't know what I said in high school, but I was actually thinking that after I graduated, I would move to New York.

JANE

Well, yeah, you'll move your stuff into your parents house, but then after a week or something we'll start traveling.

DAN

I mean I was thinking that I wanted to move to the city and work in an art museum.

Jane's face drops. She stops paddling. Dan paddles for both of them.

DAN (CONT'D)

Traveling around the world is just kind of a big to do.

JANE

That's the point.

DAN

I think it might be fun to take like a weekend in Prague one day, but all that time abroad? I don't really want to do that.

JANE

You promised we would go when we graduated from college.

DAN

I promised?

JANE

Yes.

DAN

Well, do you want to do a weekend in Prague?

JANE

No, I want to spend at least a year seeing every continent and every country and speaking every language with everyone we can possibly meet. And I want to go with you.

(MORE)

JANE (cont'd)

I came here because you promised we would go after you ditched me for that fucking pencil class.

Dan stops paddling. They begin to float back into shore.

JANE (CONT'D)

Seeing the world is too big of an adventure for you and your little sketch pad.

DAN

I guess I'm not as brave as you are.

Jane's tries to hold it together.

JANE

But really it's because you stopped loving me, right?

Dan doesn't know what to say.

JANE (CONT'D)

You wish you still did since you're sick of Isabella.

DAN

If you loved me, you would stay in New York; you'd want to be with me wherever I was.

JANE

I don't want to be in New York.

DAN

Then you wish you still loved me, too. You just want a travel buddy.

Jane brews.

JANE

I guess I have to find another one.

Dan is surprised by Jane's dismissal. The paddle boat pulls into the sand. Jane tears off her life vest, revealing her bathing suit with a map of Africa.

She runs into the--

FOREST

--with Dan running after her.

Jane leans against a tree and slides down to the base of it, sullen. Dan finds her and stares down at her.

JANE

What do you want?

Dan gasps as Jane gets sprayed by a skunk. She screams.

Dan scrunches up his nose. Jane scrunches up her nose. It starts to pour.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM BATHROOM

Many showers run.

Jane, in her African map bathing suit, pulls open one shower curtain.

INT. SHOWER STALL

Water pours down on Isabella. She is being licked by three different GUYS, one each on her "hola" butt tattoo, her "Si!" stomach tattoo, and a "como estas?" ankle tattoo.

Isabella sees Jane. She sniffs.

ISABELLA

Eww, Jane. I don't know if Dan's gonna want to see the world with a skunk.

The guys licking her laugh, then get back to it. Jane runs out, humiliated.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO INTL AIRPORT - DAY

Jane stands with her bag at the gate, about to board. Everyone on the line plugs their noses.

Dan holds her arms.

DAN

Please stay. We'll eat more ethnic food.

Jane shoots him a look and starts to walk away. Dan thinks.

DAN (CONT'D)

Wait.

He whips out his sketchbook and draws a picture of the two of them leaping from continent to continent.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'll travel with you. After I graduate, I'll go wherever you want. Really.

Jane thinks. Is he serious? Is he about to give her everything she's always wanted?

Jane takes his pencil, and on the same picture, she draws a tiny map of New York far off in the distance, with a tiny Dan and a heart over his tiny sketchbook. She crosses out the Dan who is leaping with her all over the world.

JANE

No.

She looks at Dan one last time. He looks after her as she boards the plane.

INT. AIRPLANE

As Jane boards the plane, people glare at her and pull their noses under their shirts or hold pillows over their noses.

She takes her seat near the back. As soon as her CHUBBY SEAT NEIGHBOR smells her, he rings the call button above him.

A FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT arrives, and Chubby Seat Neighbor whispers to her.

The Flight Attendant escorts him out of the seat. A BUSINESS MAN on the other side of Jane also manages to escape.

The Flight Attendant escorts them to the front of the plane. Jane is left alone in her row.

All at once, PASSENGERS from a few rows in back, in front, and to the sides of her get out of their seats and scramble forward into any available seats they can find. Some are even let into First Class. Jane is pissed.

The FLIGHT ATTENDANTS open bags of coffee and pour them all over the seats surrounding Jane.

JANE

Please, no!

FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT

I think this will be better for everyone.

Now Jane puts her nose under her shirt at the coffee smell.

She searches her bag for apple juice, but the bottle is empty. Alone and smelly in the back of the plane, on a plane home, not to see the world with Dan, and surrounded by the smell she most hates, Jane is in hell.

INT. HOUSE/FOYER - DAY

Jane enters her parents' home, exhausted and smelly. She SLAMS the door behind her with her foot.

At the sound of the SLAM--

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

--Linda looks up from her book.

BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

--Rob looks up from his trains.

DEIDRE'S BEDROOM/GYM - CONTINUOUS

--Deidre looks up from the dummy on her lap.

FOYER

Linda, Rob, and Deidre approach Jane.

ROB

Jane!

LINDA

Oh, you stink!

ROB

Were you skunked?

LINDA

Uhh! You need a tomato juice bath.

Meanwhile, Deidre just stares at her blankly.

DEIDRE

I never went on the singles cruise.

Jane feeling the guilt, doesn't respond.

INT. BATHROOM

Linda scrubs Jane in a tomato juice bath. Jane feels like a stupid little girl.

INT. HALLWAY

Jane, clean, de-skunked, and wrapped in a white towel, heads to her room.

INT. JANE'S ROOM

Jane GASPS in the doorway. The room is stripped of its international flair. All that remains is her bed surrounded by tons of boxes.

LINDA

(from behind her)

We were serious.

JANE

Well, since I'm here now, can you unpack all my stuff?

LINDA

No, but Joy is taking her turtle to the vet tomorrow, so you can be my kickboxing partner.

INT. KICKBOXING STUDIO - DAY

Linda and Jane, both gloved, jog in place. An extremely muscular instructor, FRANZ, yells at them and Linda's friends.

FRANZ

Very good! Let's step it up and start our partner punches.

Each pair takes turns punching the air in front of their partners' chests. Jane and Linda exchange punches as they talk.

LINDA

I'm sorry your trip with Dan didn't work out.

JANE

Thank you.

LINDA

But I'm also happy it didn't, so you can move forward and get a career started.

Jane punches.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Tad told me he's not endorsing your book, so I don't think we can fall back on your self-help success.

Jane punches.

LINDA (CONT'D)

So what are you thinking? You could be a travel agent, or an editor at a travel magazine. What about international finance?

JANE

I'm not going to work right now. I have my own money from my book and I still want to travel.

LINDA

Okay. But you can't travel on your advance money forever.

FRANZ

Sidekicks!

The class starts kicking. Linda and Jane go back and forth.

JANE

I'll figure it out.

Jane kicks.

LINDA

Let's figure it out now! I don't want you just sitting at home twiddling your thumbs.

JANE

I won't be twiddling my thumbs. I need to spend some time with Deidre.

LINDA

You should have gone on that singles cruise with her.

Linda kicks.

JANE

And Dan should have traveled with me. But people don't always do what we want them to.

Jane kicks.

LINDA

Oh you're right about that. Just wait until you have children.

Linda kicks.

LINDA

It'll be good for you to be with Deidre. Help her meet men. But I don't want you ending up on a prolonged sick day like her.

JANE

What do you mean?

Jane kicks.

LINDA

Oh nothing.

Linda kicks.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Just keep going forward Jane. Don't let pathetic people like Deidre hold you back.

Jane kicks Linda in the nose. Everyone, including Jane, is shocked.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Linda lies in bed in a nose cast. Her eyes are slightly blackened. She seems okay.

Rob, Deidre, and Jane stand around her.

ROB

Jeez, Jane. If you didn't want to go kickboxing, you should have just said no.

Deidre laughs. Jane tries to meet her eyes, but Deidre looks away.

DEIDRE

Do you have to get a nose job?

LINDA

The doctor said it should look okay in a few weeks. Until then, I'm staying at home with you Deidre.

Deidre smiles.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I like your outfit. You look nice out of your pajamas.

DEIDRE

Maybe I'll let you borrow a pair.

Linda grabs her hand. Rob looks on, pleased. Jane is completely out of the loop.

LINDA

Can Jane and I have a moment alone? We need to settle up on my medical bills.

Rob kisses Linda's head then leaves with Deidre. Jane tries one more time to catch Deidre's glance, but Deidre won't give her the time of day.

It's just Linda and Jane.

LINDA

Jane--

JANE

I'm sorry. I don't know what happened.

LINDA

It was your subconscious. Your subconscious is a very good sister.

Jane sits on the bed.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I don't think she's pathetic. I think you're both wonderful, and that's why I want to see you both succeed.

JANE

Succeeding isn't necessarily having a huge career.

LINDA

I know. I just want you both to leave the nest, have some sort of income, meet men who will go on your dream vacations with you, and then eventually have my grandchildren. Is that so much to ask?

JANE

(smiling)

No.

LINDA

But I'll stop pushing now.
(pointing to her nose)
Clearly that was a mistake.

JANE

I'm sorry.

LINDA

Me, too. I'm going to let you do what you do from now on. But really do it, okay?

Jane nods.

INT. JANE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jane looks in each and every box, but can't find what she's looking for. She climbs to the highest box way up on her book shelf and opens it.

Her eyes light up. She pulls her cone vibrator out of the box. But there's a post-it on it.

INSERT: POST-IT

What's this? Love Mom.

BACK TO SCENE

Laughing, Jane jumps down with the cone and gets into bed.

She looks at the pillow next to her and her mood turns. She puts the cone under her bed just goes to sleep.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jane, in Chinese character pajamas, sees Deidre in Smurf pajamas on the couch reading a Nick & Nora catalogue.

Jane takes a deep breath and sits on the couch with her. Deidre looks at her a second then looks away. They sit in silence, then:

DEIDRE
(operatically)
I TOLD YOU SOOOOOOOOOOOOO! I knew
he wouldn't travel with you.

JANE
I know you did.

DEIDRE
And you still ditched me for him.
Again.

JANE
I'm sorry. I should have gone on
the cruise with you.

DEIDRE
Well, I'm sorry you had to learn
the truth for yourself, but I love
that you got skunked.

Jane glares at her.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)
You smell better now. And we all
know that the first step to success
is not smelling bad.

JANE
Yeah.
(beat)
I see why you like hanging out in
your pajamas. They're really
comfortable.

DEIDRE
Aren't they?

Jane and Deidre stare ahead.

JANE
So how's working from home?

Deidre becomes uncomfortable.

DEIDRE
Fine.

JANE
I never see you doing any work,
just your craft project.

DEIDRE
I work. You've been gone for a
while.

JANE
How's your house coming along?

DEIDRE
Okay. It's not done yet.

JANE
It's been almost five months - are
you duplexing or something?

Deidre's lip starts to quiver.

JANE
What's wrong?

DEIDRE
They had to stop the renovations.

JANE
Why? What happened?

DEIDRE
I ran out of money.

JANE
You ran out of money?

DEIDRE
Because I'm not working anymore.

She cries.

JANE

What?

DEIDRE

I quit in May.

Jane gasps.

JANE

Do the parents know?

DEIDRE

No.

Deidre cries harder.

JANE

Why'd you quit?

DEIDRE

Well...I was always the most efficient junior marketing rep and they always gave me the most work to do, and I always did it, but...but...right before you graduated, I signed up for another-singles cruise.

JANE

What?

DEIDRE

As a surprise graduation present - so I could meet someone and you could finally forget Dan, and I paid with my own money. But then May rolled around and they just kept giving me more and more work and I...couldn't say that I had to leave for a singles cruise.

She cries harder.

DEIDRE

So...I told them that Great Aunt Selma died.

JANE

But Aunt Selma died five years ago.

DEIDRE

That was all I could think of. So I told my boss I needed to go to her funeral and then I left that Wednesday and I never went back.

(blubbering)

So I've just been here. Not working.

She cries.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

And then you went to get Dan instead of going on the other singles cruise. So now I'm unemployed and still have never been on a singles cruise.

She cries.

JANE

I'm sorry.

DEIDRE

I shouldn't have forced you to sail around and find men with me.

JANE

So are you ever going back?

DEIDRE

No. They found a replacement.

JANE

Are you going to get another job?

DEIDRE

I don't know. Definitely not in marketing. I shouldn't have rushed into some fancy job Mom wanted for me.

JANE

Is there something else you want to do?

DEIDRE

Yeah. I've been trying to show you for a long time.

Deidre goes into the--

HALLWAY

Jane follows. Deidre opens the door to--

DEIDRE'S ROOM/GYM

Deidre opens the big closet door. Rows of dummies model sexy, funky pajamas, all with a "D" insignia on the sleeve.

Jane gasps.

JANE

Is this your arts and crafts project?!

DEIDRE

(nervously)
Yeah...

JANE

These are so awesome!

DEIDRE

Really?

JANE

Yes! I thought you were always wearing your pajamas because you were too lazy to get dressed.

DEIDRE

Well, that, too.

JANE

But you're a designer!

DEIDRE

Not really.

JANE

You are! These are so good! Has anyone else seen them?

Deidre shakes her head. Jane gets an idea.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The living room boasts a catwalk down the center. A rockin' sexy song blasts as MODELS strut Deidre's best work.

The FASHION PROFESSIONALS in the audience are very impressed and whisper among themselves.

All the models come out. Then comes Deidre - looking much hotter than we knew she was capable of.

Huge APPLAUSE from the audience. Jane cheers extra loud, sitting next to a very proud Rob and Linda. Deidre smiles at her. She mouths "Thank you" to Jane and returns backstage.

LIVING ROOM (LATER)

The Fashion Professionals are chatting up Deidre. She can't believe the attention she's getting.

Then a rough but handsome CONTRACTOR, under-dressed in painted jeans, watches her. Deidre catches his eye for a second. The Fashion Pros clear away and he approaches her.

CONTRACTOR

Hey, I'm Calvin. I was one of the contractors on your renovation.

Deidre is woozy just looking at him. He likes looking at her, too. Jane looks on, excited.

CONTRACTOR (CONT'D)

I really like your designs. I'd love a pair, if you have extras.

DEIDRE

Sure.

CONTRACTOR

And uh...we're sorry we had to stop renovations on your house. But your kitchen's looking great and I'd really like to do your cabinets.

DEIDRE

I'd love for you to do my cabinets.

This is no longer just about cabinets. He hands her his card.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

Thanks. And I'll get you in my pajamas soon.

CONTRACTOR

Can't wait.

He walks away, eyes still on her. Deidre runs up to Jane.

DEIDRE
Did you see that?

JANE
I did!

DEIDRE
This has been the best day! How did you put all this together?

JANE
Mom's network bible has everything. It even has high class hookers.

DEIDRE
Ew!

JANE
Oh, and here.

Jane hands her an envelope. Deidre opens it.

A brochure reads: "Club Med Thailand."

DEIDRE
Whoa!

JANE
I thought we could have more fun there than on a singles cruise around Florida. We can go whenever you want. And I'll really go this time.

Deidre hugs her.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Deidre, a picture?

Jane lets her go and Deidre is whisked away. The Lamdas run up to Jane.

MARGARET
Jane!

MARINA
Oh my God, we missed you so much!

MARCY
We heard through Facebook that you and Dan didn't work out.

MIA
Are you okay?

JANE
Yeah.

MARCY
Well, anyway, we wanted to tell you
about this awesome book idea we
had.

MARGARET
Your publisher is really going to
like it.

MIA
It's about these college friends
who really care about each other -

JANE
Actually I'm too busy for this.

MARINA
For what?

Jane gestures to all of them.

JANE
For this. But good luck with
everything!

Jane walks away.

MARGARET
Eww.

MARCY
No wonder she only has two hundred
and sixty four friends.

Just then a PHOTOGRAPHER backs into a WAITER who smashes a
chocolate cake all over the Lamdas.

They all yell at each other. Howard and Simon, in a Yankees
hat and Knicks jersey, look on.

SIMON
Ooh.

HOWARD

Those poor girls! I once had a harp teacher smash her brownie into my oboe - the reed tasted like chocolate for weeks. I couldn't take it anymore so I finally switched to the bassoon.

SIMON

Cool. Maybe we should make like the 69ers and help clean those girls off.

Howard and Simon slowly approach the Lamdas.

Nali looks at them and laughs. She taps Jane. Jane is happy to see her and Roy.

JANE

Hey!

NALI

What happened with your man?

JANE

No small talk, huh?

ROY

No. What happened?

JANE

Instead of globe trotting, he wants to be an artist in New York.

NALI

Boring.

Jane laughs.

NALI (CONT'D)

So globe trotting...

ROY

You can't go with someone else?

JANE

I don't know who.

NALI

Lady, you're a 22-year-old cutie. You don't think you'll find someone on the trip?

JANE
You mean go alone?

NALI
Yeah. It's the travel that matters,
right?

JANE
Well, yeah...

NALI
So when are you going?

JANE
I don't know. I haven't--

NALI
Started planning? Get to it. Or
else I'm gonna make you work in the
bookstore again. And don't let me
find you writing another book about
some janky artist type.

Nali pats her arm, and she and Roy walk away. Jane thinks.

INT. TAD'S OFFICE - DAY

Tad prepares to stick a pin into the groin of a voodoo doll
with Ethan's photograph on it. Jane appears at the door, and
shoves the doll in a drawer.

TAD
Dumped?

JANE
Hi, Tad.

Tad looks behind him to see if there's someone there.

TAD
Oh, you're talking to me?

JANE
I'm going around the world, and I'm
writing another book on a
shoestring. I'll have the
manuscript for you in a year. I
just wanted to give you a heads up.

TAD
Jane...

JANE

If you want to talk to me, here's
my international cell phone number.
And I'll answer.

She hands him a card with her contact info. He looks at it.

TAD

What's the book about?

JANE

About what happens after Ethan
Finkelstein.

Tad's heart sinks.

TAD

I'd read that.

She smiles and leaves his office.

Tad throws the voodoo doll in the garbage. He sighs,
relieved.

He swivels in his chair, then googles GAY SINGLES.

TAD

Ooh, a singles cruise.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rob and Linda, looking almost completely healed, sit in bed
reading. Both wear Deidre's "D" insignia pajamas.

LINDA

You know what I just realized?

ROB

What?

LINDA

Now that Deidre's back in her
apartment and Jane's leaving
tomorrow, we're going to have the
house all to ourselves again!

Rob and Linda drop their books and jump on the bed like hyper
kids at a sleep over, screaming for joy. Rob does a flip.

LINDA

Woo!

They keep jumping.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Jane finds her row towards the front of the plane. The middle-aged WINDOW SEAT WOMAN reads "Make Time." Jane can't believe it.

JANE

Excuse me, how did you hear about that book?

WINDOW SEAT WOMAN

Nathan Lindauer wrote it up in the Times.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. POOL

Gladys and Edith stand over Jane and Deidre swimming.

GLADYS

My nephew Nathan Lindauer reviews books for a newspaper.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PLANE

Jane smiles to herself. She puts her bag in the overhead bin. She looks to the back of the plane to see many men and women of all ages reading her book.

Jane sits in the middle seat, shocked.

A cute SCRUFFY GUY about Jane's age stops at her row. He wears a t-shirt that says " I love Ghana."

He throws his backpack into the overhead compartment and takes the aisle seat next to Jane.

JANE

You've been there before?

SCRUFFY GUY

Oh, yeah. I've been there a bunch, and I'm finally moving there to teach.

His eyes are overwhelming.

JANE

Cool. This is my first time. And I stupidly forgot to buy a guidebook.

SCRUFFY GUY

Well I'd love to show you around, but with teaching and all, I probably won't have any time.

Jane rolls her eyes to herself and then turns to the window.

JANE

(to herself)

Mandarin: Of course not.

SUPERIMPOSE: Mandarin: Of course not.

This guy is an example of why Jane will never find a boyfriend, never find happiness, never find--

The guy looks at Window Seat Woman's book. He looks at Jane.

SCRUFFY GUY

But I could make time.

Jane looks at him in disbelief. He smiles back at her.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY

Jane's plane takes off.

THE END