

THE COMPETITION

Written by

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EXT. VARIOUS PORTLAND LANDSCAPES - MORNING

As opening credits role the camera sweeps over the beautiful Portland landscape on a late August morning. We see the city scape, the river, the iconic bridges.

We see various inserts, the Portlandia statue, Multnomah Falls, a busy downtown Portland street, the Portlnad waterfront.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAUREN'S SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

As credits continue to role, we see the clean sidewalks and neatly trimmed grass of Lauren Mauldin's neighborhood. It's the kind of place professionals and families like to call home. Our view comes up the street and up the drive of Lauren's comfortable home, toward her front door.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUREN'S HOME OFFICE - MORNING

As opening credits role we see a pretty YOUNG WOMAN moving confidently around her home office, a roguish streak of pink in her hair. This is LAUREN MAULDIN, early 30s. She wears sports leggings, a sports top and sneakers. A white lab coat is thrown over the back of her chair.

Her office walls are covered with letters of thanks and photographs of smiling people, mostly women, but some men too. They are all shapes, color, and sizes. On one letter we see in bold print "THE PIG THEORY WORKS!! THANK YOU!!" In the center of it all is a large white page with a formula written in bold black Sharpie that reads:

$B (E - C) - F + O = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Lauren moves to her computer where we see a bright pink blog titled, "The PIG Theory." In the upper right corner a ticker reads, "FOLLOWERS: 1,967,843" and continues to tick upwards.

Lauren sits to finish her blog post, and our focus is on her face. She is half-smiling, brimming with self-confidence. Her furry SHIH TZU DOG, RIPLEY, watches her with interest.

We see a flash of a prior blog post which includes a photo of a smiling handsome MAN, this is BRAD KLEIN, late 30s. Lauren kisses her finger tips and touches the photo on the screen fondly.

Lauren reaches for sky diving goggles hanging on a family photo in silver frame on her desk.

CLOSE UP on photo of a happy family, clothes dated by 15 years, proud FATHER, late 60s, arms wrapped tightly around a beaming Lauren, a faded but still beautiful MOTHER, mid 40s, and a smiling blond SISTER. Lauren and her sister appear to be in their early teens.

Lauren glances at the wall calendar open to the month of August and displaying a scenic photo of Portland, Oregon. Nearly all the days are X'd off in black sharpie. Lauren leans in and with a red sharpie marks a large RED X through the current day. She smiles and leaves.

END OPENING CREDITS.

CUT TO EXTREME CLOSE UP - LAUREN AND MAN NOSE TO NOSE

Lauren is sweetly rubbing noses with the handsome man pictured on her last blog post, Brad Klein. He looks at her nervously and she smiles with reassurance. Pull back to reveal:

1

INT. SKYDIVING AIRPLANE - DAY

1

Lauren and Brad are both wearing sky diving suits, but only Brad is strapped awkwardly to the chest of a MALE TANDEM INSTRUCTOR, mid-20s. When the instructor moves, Brad moves. Brad and the instructor straddle the bench closest to the jump window, obviously going first. Lauren straddles the bench across from them, wearing her own parachute pack.

BRAD

(to Lauren)

I had no idea you had this kind of wild side, honey! Are you sure you know what you're doing?

LAUREN

Absolutely! You're going to be great at this.

Lauren smiles reassuringly. Brad tries to smile back but appears to throw up a bit in his mouth.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Ooooo. Here you go.

She hands Brad a barf bag. Brad tries to get his bearings. He glances nervously out the window, WIND BLOWING in his face.

BRAD

W-why aren't you strapped to an instructor?

LAUREN

I'm certified, silly! I'll jump solo.

BRAD

Yeah?

Lauren leans in and turns on the GoPro camera on the tandem instructor's wrist.

GOPRO CAMERA REVEAL: Lauren's smiling face, reassuring him.

LAUREN

I'm right behind you. LOVE this.
So exciting.

Lauren puts on her professional sky diving helmet and gives Brad the thumbs up.

BACK TO MAIN CAMERA:

Lauren motions to the instructor who slides along the bench with the strapped-on Brad in tow.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Okay! Time to fly!

BRAD

But - I'm not ready!

The instructor looks back at Lauren, waiting for her cue. They've done this before and he enjoys it every time. Lauren flips up the visor on her helmet.

LAUREN

Oh! Brad, honey, we need to talk.

BRAD

What?? Now??

LAUREN

This relationship isn't working.
I'm breaking up with you.

BRAD

WHAT?

LAUREN

It's not you, it's me.

She smiles brightly and finger-waves goodbye.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
 There's an Uber waiting for you
 when you land. Bye!

She nods at the instructor and he jumps with Brad YELLING IN PROTEST, his SCREAMS FADING as he falls.

GOPRO CAMERA: The plane falling away from them, the sky and flashes of color from their diving suits. Brad is SCREAMING IN TERROR.

BACK TO MAIN CAMERA:

Lauren removes her helmet and listens for a moment, smiling. She sighs casually and sits back, getting comfortable in the co-pilot seat next to her regular pilot.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
 (to herself)
 I liked that one.

PILOT
 Yeah, he seemed nice.

She reaches for an old-fashioned lunch box, POPPING the latches. She SHAKES THE MILK CONTAINER like a martini shaker and pulls out a martini glass, pouring herself a vodka martini.

PILOT (CONT'D)
 Are you sure you don't want to
 jump? There's another landing
 field just up ahead.

The plane hits turbulence and lurches, and Lauren GASPS, grabbing her seat with her free hand.

LAUREN
 Are you crazy? I could die!

She tosses her head and tries to regain her composure, sipping her drink and looking out the window nervously.

2

INT. LAW OFFICES/CALVIN'S OFFICE - EVENING

2

In a small modern law office sits CALVIN CHESNEY, mid-30s, athletic, clean cut and handsome. On his shelves are awards for trial advocacy, on his walls are certificates from women's rights groups. There is a picture of Calvin wearing his law school graduation robe and cap, his beaming MOTHER at his side.

On his desk is an open legal file with pleadings and notes. Calvin plays with a portrait of a petite brunette held lovingly in the arms of a much larger man. Calvin is on the phone, patient and respectful.

CALVIN
I'll be there six o'clock sharp,
like always.

He listens for a moment.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Because there's never anyone I want
you to meet, Mom!

In walks JACOB HATCHER, mid-30s, Calvin's best friend. He is tall, lean, and geeky-cool. He wears jeans, a blazer and a t-shirt that reads "Tech Sex is Best." His hair is a mess, as usual. Jacob acts like he owns the place, sitting in the chair across from Calvin and taking the picture from him.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
(responding to Mom)
They're still swimming. Last I
checked. Yep. OK. See you
Sunday.

He hangs up.

JACOB
Dinner Sunday at Mom's?

CALVIN
Yep.

Jacob opens his palms and gives him a look that says, "And?"

CALVIN (CONT'D)
(conceding)
You want to come to dinner, Jake?

JACOB
Thanks man, I'd love to.

Calvin takes the picture back from Jacob.

CALVIN
So what seismic earth shift got
your ass off of the couch and into
my office?

JACOB
Basketball! With the guys.

CALVIN
(he forgot)
Ah, I can't tonight. I have work.

JACOB
Hoops, Bro!

CALVIN
Can't do it.

Jacob points at the file.

JACOB
(morbid curiosity)
Is it that little brunette and the
fat guy? What'd they do? Did he
kill her?

Calvin wants to get rid of Jacob and get back to work.

CALVIN
Assault.

JACOB
He beat her up?

CALVIN
No. She kicked his ass actually.

JACOB
Yeah?

CALVIN
She found out he was screwing the
neighbor and there was... an
altercation. He's suing her for
damages and she wants me to make it
all go away. She still loves him.

JACOB
She wants him back after he screwed
the neighbor?

CALVIN
Our sexual impulses are strong, but
sometimes, love is stronger.

A frazzled, middle aged WOMAN, mid 40s, steps in. This is SHARON GOTLEIB, an associate attorney who thought she could have it all.

She carries legal files and a breast pump hangs around her neck with a newly-filled nursing bottle still attached. The bottle SLOSHES as she talks, and Jacob watches it warily.

Jacob sees that the cap is not screwed tightly, and some breast milk is leaking out the side. Sharon gestures to Calvin's desk.

SHARON
Is that the Haworth file?

CALVIN
Yep.

SHARON
Thank God. So you're preparing for the arbitration?

CALVIN
Yeah, I got it Sharon. Go home to your kids.

Sharon's CELL PHONE RINGS. She shifts her files to her hip and fishes out her phone, the nursing bottle SLOSHING dangerously close to Jacob's head. He dodges. One drop flies off the end of the bottle and lands on him. He WIPES FURIOUSLY at his shoulder to remove the offending liquid.

SHARON
Hi honey! No, the Adderall is in the green bottle. It's organic now.

She shifts the files to her other hip. This time the bottle dislodges entirely and the BREAST MILK DUMPS directly on Jacob's head. He is a stunned, dripping mess.

SHARON (CONT'D)
Next to the -
(seeing the spilt milk)
Oh crap! That's liquid gold!

She picks up the bottle and tries scraping the milk back into the container, running it up Jacob's chest, his face.

SHARON (CONT'D)
Nope. That's a goner. Shoot.

JACOB
(horrified)
Oh my God it's still warm.

SHARON
(to husband on phone)
Honey you're going to have to take some milk out of the freezer, I lost the afternoon load.

She mouths "Sorry" to Jacob as she departs.

SHARON (CONT'D)
 (shrieking on phone)
 It was an accident!!

As Sharon leaves, GENA MAULDIN, mid-30s, gorgeous, powerful and all woman, steps in to Calvin's office. Gena is the same SISTER in the photo on Lauren's desk, only 15 years older. She wears an expensive suit and exudes sex and confidence. She glances at Jacob. He opens his mouth to explain, and she holds a hand up to stop him.

GENA
 (to Jacob)
 I don't care.
 (to Calvin, sweetly)
 Calvin, I need you in my office.

Gena walks on without waiting. Calvin tosses a box of tissues to Jacob and follows her out. Jacob pulls a single tissue and looks at its wispy uselessness.

3

INT. LAW OFFICES/GENA'S CORNER OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

3

Gena is a partner and has a beautiful corner office. Gena has the same framed photograph of the Mauldin family from 15 years ago on her desk. As Calvin enters, she pulls out two tumblers and a bottle of expensive whiskey. She pours the drinks.

GENA
 Close the door behind you.

Calvin closes the door and comes to sit across from her, taking the drink she offers him. They TOAST GLASSES.

GENA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 You like it here, don't you Calvin?
 Your work has been outstanding.
 The partners have noticed.

CALVIN
 Yeah. I'm surprised, but you actually can do good work in an oversized law firm with hourly rates higher than God's.

GENA
 Surely not higher than God's.

CALVIN
 It's a close call.

GENA

How are the women's rights cases going?

CALVIN

Good.

GENA

Still winning?

CALVIN

Undefeated. But you knew that.

GENA

Hmm. That's good. That's really good.

They consider each other a dramatic moment until it gets a bit weird.

CALVIN

Gena, why am I here?

GENA

I have a situation that needs handling, and I think you're just the guy for the job.

CALVIN

Is it a client?

GENA

No. It's a blogger.
(pause, considering)
It's my sister.

CALVIN

Ah, the mysterious sister you never speak of.

Calvin grabs the family photo from her desk. Gena twinges, a defensive impulse rising in her. But she lets him have it.

GENA

That's Lauren and me. And our parents, before Dad died.

Calvin senses her sadness and hands over the photo. Gena looks at it tenderly.

GENA (CONT'D)

She was only 15. Just a kid really. It broke her heart. And then I took off to law school.

These memories clearly aren't happy ones. Calvin tries to comfort her.

CALVIN
I'm sure she's fine.

GENA
She might look fine, from the outside. She's a successful scientist now, right here in Portland. She creates formulas for Fortune 500 companies.

Gena scrolls on her phone and pulls up a modern photo of a fresh and smiling Lauren. She shows it to Calvin, who likes what he sees.

CALVIN
What kind of formulas?

GENA
Various things. Did you know there's a formula for happiness?

CALVIN
Yeah. It's called whiskey.

Gena smiles and they tilt glasses toward each other.

GENA
Anyway, it's all a facade. The real Lauren is a different person altogether. Take a look at this.

Gena pulls up Lauren's blog on her phone and hands it to Calvin. It's bright pink and cheerful and titled "The PIG Theory." It's anonymous so there's no photo of Lauren.

CALVIN
(reading)
"The PIG Theory. If you follow my formula, you will never be hurt or cheated on again."

Calvin continues reading quietly to himself, intrigued.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
(reading)
"The Point of Infidelity and Guilt"
- This is kind of awesome!

Gena snatches the phone back.

GENA

It's not awesome! It's insane!
Can you imagine the impact she's
having on other people? Let alone
her own mental well being? These
people are empowering her!

Calvin considers this, still thinking it's kind of awesome.

GENA (CONT'D)

She's been offered a book deal. A
very lucrative book deal. I'm
concerned that if she writes that
book the girl I grew up with will
be gone forever.

Gena stands and comes round to the front of the desk. She
leans against it, crossing her legs and looking down at Cal.

GENA (CONT'D)

I need you to get her to stop. The
blog, the book, all of it.

CALVIN

How exactly am I going to do that?

GENA

I don't care how you do it. Use
your power of persuasion. You're
undefeated, right? And women love
you.

CALVIN

I'm sorry, Gena, but it just
doesn't feel right. You want me to
mess with this poor girl's head.

GENA

Just meet her. Take her out for a
drink. Show her there are good
guys out there. Guys like you.

Calvin considers it. He likes a good challenge, and he likes
Lauren's picture. But it feels wrong.

CALVIN

I'm sorry. I can't do it.

Gena is through with pleading. She straightens and shifts
her tone, returning to her seat.

GENA

I thought you might hesitate. So I
have an offer for you.

(MORE)

GENA (CONT'D)

Do this, and I'll recommend you for partner to the board.

Calvin sits back and looks at her, suddenly serious.

CALVIN

That's cold. You know I deserve to make partner.

GENA

You do. And this way it's guaranteed. Tucker, Aaronson, Mauldin & Chesney. Has a nice ring, doesn't it?

Now she has him over a barrel. He wants that partnership.

CALVIN

Fine. I'll talk to her.

There is a cool silence between them. Gena doesn't break eye contact. It is clear that he hasn't said enough.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

I'll get her to shut it down.

Gena breaks out in a radiant smile. She is all power and sex at that desk.

GENA

I knew you'd see things my way.

4

EXT. WATERFRONT PARK ACROSS FROM OFFICE BUILDING - DAY 4

Lauren is exiting the building which houses the offices of her research laboratory. Her white lab coat is draped over her arm and she carries a manila file folder filled with papers. Calvin knows the path to the parking garage is at the end of the waterfront boardwalk. He has been waiting for her. He watches as she crosses the street to the boardwalk, and he falls in step with her as she walks, casually keeping his gaze straight ahead. Lauren soon takes note of this handsome stranger walking so closely alongside her. He talks into his cell phone.

CALVIN

Well you tell them that I insist. I WILL make that donation to Popular Science in the full amount, and I don't want any recognition for it. The people need their science man!

Lauren wants to be annoyed but can't seem to look away from his profile. He is ridiculously good looking. Then BAM! - she walks straight into a light post and falls flat on her back. [ALTERNATIVE: HER GLANCE AT HIM CAUSES HER TO WANDER OFF THE PATH, SHE TRIPS IN THE GRASS AND FALLS DOWN]. She drops her folder and RESEARCH PAPERS FLY EVERYWHERE. Calvin comes to her rescue, helping her up and scrambling to collect her papers before they fly away.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
(to Lauren)
Are you OK?

Lauren sees that Calvin has most of the papers gathered. She sits on the grass, rubbing her head (or ankle), embarrassed. Calvin comes over and hands her the papers, taking a seat next to her.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
That was quite a knock on the head.
Can I take a look?

He gently takes her head (or ankle) in his hands, looking at the bump. She looks up at the handsome stranger who is now only inches away from her face. He looks down and their eyes meet. BAM. Their attraction is instant. Lauren says the first thing that comes to mind.

LAUREN
Popular Science is a shit magazine.

Calvin smiles. She's awesome.

CALVIN
Is it?

LAUREN
Yes. Can I have my face (or ankle)
back?

CALVIN
Oh yeah, sure.

She gathers herself, straightening her clothes, regaining her composure. But she doesn't get up.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
That's a nasty bump. Why don't you
let me buy you a cup of coffee and
I'll get you some ice.

Lauren is flattered but uncertain.

LAUREN
 Why would I get coffee with you? I
 don't even know you.

Calvin smiles, all charm. He's irresistible.

CALVIN
 I'm Calvin.

Lauren can't help it, she LAUGHS. Who is this guy?

LAUREN
 All right. One cup. You're
 buying.

He helps her up and they begin to walk together.

5 EXT. - OUTDOOR CAFE IN PORTLAND - A SHORT TIME LATER 5

Lauren is seated at an outdoor cafe, two cups of coffee
 already on the table. Calvin emerges from the cafe with a
 bag of ice. She takes it thankfully and presses it to her
 head (or ankle).

LAUREN
 Thank you.

CALVIN
 No problem.

Calvin sits across from her. Lauren feels awkward and
 unprepared. Calvin is all cool confidence.

LAUREN
 I'm Lauren.

CALVIN
 Nice to meet you.

Some of the papers that blew out of Lauren's file folder sit
 on the table between them. Calvin glances down at them.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
 So what's all this?

LAUREN
 My work. It's a report on a
 formula I developed.

CALVIN
 Sounds serious.

LAUREN

Not really. It's a formula on how to make the perfect pizza.

CALVIN

Cheese. Crust. Beer.

LAUREN

(laughing)

That's basically it. There might be a few more factors in play.

CALVIN

Such as?

LAUREN

More than you want to know.

Calvin gives her a lame look.

LAUREN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Ok. Our major findings were that the size of a pizza's crust is proportional to the thickness of the pizza. A larger pizza has less chance of a soggy crust. So factoring in the volume of dough, the constant volume of toppings, and the ratio between base to topping, you can factor the optimum mouthful.

Calvin is now looking at her in a way she can't decipher.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Our client used our formula to add 15 grams of dough to its recipe. Now they have the perfect pizza.

Calvin has been listening intently, amused and fascinated. She is weird. But awesome.

CALVIN

You know what this means don't you?

LAUREN

No...

CALVIN

You are taking me to this place and we are eating this perfect pizza.

Lauren begins to protest, looking at her work, her briefcase.

LAUREN

I don't know, I have to finish this report and...

But Calvin is hearing none of it. He gathers her papers and pushes them at her, linking an arm through hers and making her rise. She quickly grabs her papers and folder as they march off together.

CALVIN

The perfect pizza cannot wait!

6 FALLING IN LOVE MONTAGE - VARIOUS SCENES THROUGH PORTLAND 6

1) EXT. - PIZZA RESTAURANT - LATER THAT NIGHT

They are seated at a table eating pizza, string lights glowing above them. A waiter comes by to pour them more wine. Lauren is alive with the story she is telling, hands gesturing wildly. Calvin smiles, bemused and entranced. He likes her.

1) (A) - LAUREN'S HOUSE - LATER THAT SAME NIGHT

Calvin brings Lauren to her front door. They have thoroughly enjoyed the evening together. She pauses and smirks at him. There's no way she's letting him in.

LAUREN

Good night. Thanks for the ice.

CALVIN

Can I see you again?

LAUREN

Maybe.

2) INT. - LAUREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lauren is sitting in front of her computer with her blog pulled up on the screen. Her fingers hover over the keyboard, the prompter flashing on a blank new post. Ripley watches her closely. She chews her lip and reconsiders, petting Ripley's head. She logs off without typing anything.

3) EXT. - WATERFRONT PARK - THE NEXT DAY

Calvin and Lauren rent tandem bicycles and ride along the waterfront. Calvin runs the bike through the Salmon Street Fountain and gets Lauren wet. She SQUEALS IN DELIGHT.

4) EXT. - LAUREN'S FRONT DOOR - THE FOLLOWING MORNING

Responding to the DOORBELL, Lauren opens her front door in her pajamas, a cup of coffee in her hand. She is surprised to see Calvin, smiling and happy to see her again. He brought Voodoo Donuts.

5) EXT. - BOAT DOCK - MORNING

Calvin and Lauren are hanging down at the boat dock, sitting in white Adirondack chairs, and pretending to fish. They are making each other laugh, looking into each other's eyes, feeling a real connection.

7

INT. LAUREN'S HOUSE/FOYER - THE NEXT EVENING

7

Calvin and Lauren arrive at Lauren's home on their 6th consecutive day of courtship, happy and flirtatious with each other. She opens the door and walks in, and Calvin follows her into her foyer. The sexual chemistry between them is teeming. Calvin steps forward and brushes the hair from her face, then does something he hasn't done before. He gently unclasps what is revealed to be clip-in pink hair. He can't know this, but Lauren has worn this since starting her blog. She takes it from him. Calvin smooths her real hair over.

CALVIN

There. That's more you, I think.

Lauren fingers the hair thoughtfully before looking at him.

LAUREN

You don't have to leave right away.
You could stay awhile, if you want.

This is the first time she's asked this, and Calvin wants to.

CALVIN

I'd like to. But I can't.

Lauren is confused and pulls back. She's misread all the signals.

LAUREN

I don't understand. All the dates... I thought we were -

CALVIN

- We are. I just - I don't want to take this to the next level until we've been completely honest with each other.

LAUREN

I thought we had been.

It's confession time.

CALVIN
Lauren, I know about your blog.
The PIG Theory. The whole thing.

She is stunned. No man she has dated has ever discovered her blog. And her Pigslayer persona is anonymous. She stalls.

LAUREN
What blog? I don't -

CALVIN
- Gena told me. She's my boss.

Lauren disengages entirely from him and steps back.

LAUREN
My sister put you up to this?

CALVIN
She didn't put me up to anything.
I saw your picture on her desk and
I asked about you. She told me
about the blog. I was intrigued.

LAUREN
So that grand display of donating
money to Popular Science in front
of my building?

CALVIN
It was just an excuse to meet you.
I didn't know you'd walk into a
lamp post (twist your ankle).

Lauren doesn't know what to make of this. She feels naked and exposed.

LAUREN
Why would you want to meet me when
you've read my blog?

CALVIN
I told you. You intrigue me. Show
me more, Lauren. I want to
understand.

She's exasperated. Why would he want to know more about her even after knowing about her blog?

LAUREN
You really want to see more?

CALVIN

I do.

He's nuts. But she's going to call his bluff.

LAUREN

Fine then. Come on.

Lauren walks up the stairs. Calvin follows.

9

INT. LAUREN'S HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

9

Lauren walks into her office and Calvin follows. She goes to her computer and pulls up her blog without bothering to sit. Calvin enters the room and sees the hundreds of letters and pictures from Lauren's followers all over her walls. Ripley is sitting in his bed and perks up at the new stranger. Calvin is impressed by all the letters. Lauren gestures to the chair at her desk.

LAUREN

Have a seat.

Calvin sits at the desk and looks at Lauren's blog. He scratches Ripley's head.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

That's Ripley.

CALVIN

Hey buddy.

Calvin puts the dog in his lap, casual and in control. He turns his attention back to the blog.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

It's a good blog. I've read it.

But this -

(he gestures around at the
letters)

This is extraordinary.

LAUREN

Yeah. These are my followers. I have nearly 2 million of them, from all over the world. I've changed their lives. Look at this,

(reading from a letter)

"I believe in your blog and know this must be the only way to stay happy. Thanks for showing me the way."

She looks at Calvin, proud and triumphant.

CALVIN
Impressive. But you know what
really impresses me?

LAUREN
What?

CALVIN
The fact that you haven't written
anything since we met. You've had
a full week, and not one blog post.

Lauren opens her mouth to protest, but has nothing to say.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
That makes me wonder. Maybe you're
tired of all this. Maybe you're
ready to shut all this down. And
just... I don't know, be with me?

Lauren is flattered, she likes him. But her defensive
impulses kick in.

LAUREN
These people need me! They rely on
me to show them how to live life
without fear of heartache. I can't
just "shut it down."

CALVIN
Sure you can.

LAUREN
No, I can't!

Ripley senses tension. He jumps down and leaves the room.

CALVIN
OK.

Calvin changes the subject. Lauren is standing in front of,
a formula. It reads:

$B (E - C) - F + O = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Negative Numbers to 10 = Still Safe

10 to 20 = Might Cheat

20 or Higher = Will Cheat Soon!

CALVIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 So explain it to me. What does
 that chart mean?

LAUREN
 (defensive, unsure)
 It's my infidelity formula.

CALVIN
 How does it work?

Lauren walks over to the chart, uncertain. She has never had a man in this room before. It feels strange. But she can't help herself. She loves this chart, the control and safety it represents.

LAUREN
 You assign all of these a rating of 1 to 10, 10 being the highest. You multiply Boredom by the difference between the Excitement of Someone New and the Comfort of the Familiar, then you subtract from that the Fear of Conflict and add the Opportunity to Cheat. People rated 20 or higher will always cheat.

They exchange looks, each wondering what the other is thinking.

LAUREN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 As a fail safe, you break up after six months of dating, no matter what. Statistically speaking, it's not safe to date longer than that.

CALVIN
 Does it work?

LAUREN
 (gesturing to the letters)
 All of these people say that it does.

CALVIN
 Hmm.

Calvin considers this. He is gathering information, measuring his best argument. Lauren takes his nonverbal musing as judgment of her. She decides to dismiss him.

LAUREN

Look, it's late. I've got to feed Ripley and go to bed. You can show yourself out.

She leaves the room, walking toward her bedroom. Calvin isn't phased. She's not getting away that easily.

CALVIN

Hang on a sec. We're not done here.

He follows her into her bedroom.

9-A INT. - LAUREN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lauren walks into her bedroom and proceeds to fill Ripley's dog dish with food. Calvin strolls in behind her and takes a seat in her zebra chair.

CALVIN

This theory of yours, how can you be so sure about it? I mean, you're essentially breaking up with these people BEFORE they cheat.

LAUREN

Before they have a chance to cheat.

CALVIN

But what if they never would have at all?

LAUREN

They would have. All any of them need is the opportunity to do it without getting caught. 20 or above and they'll do it.

CALVIN

That's your *theory*.

LAUREN

Based on a pretty kick-ass formula, yeah. That's my theory.

CALVIN

And you won't be convinced otherwise, this is just how it is, and how it's going to be. Forever.

LAUREN
(less certain)
Yep.

Calvin is thinking fast now, summing up all the information, calculating the smartest move. He is Atticus Finch. He is undefeated.

CALVIN
What if I could offer a way to
prove your theory wrong?

LAUREN
Impossible.

CALVIN
Now wait! You're the scientist. A
theory is nothing if it hasn't been
proven. Right? Have you ever
tested this theory?

LAUREN
How would I test it?

CALVIN
Well you said yourself that
everyone scores above 20 after six
months of dating, is that right?

LAUREN
Correct.

CALVIN
So to test your theory, we could
simply take a group of people
involved in a relationship for
longer than six months and give
them a chance to cheat without
getting caught. Right?

Lauren considers this.

LAUREN
I suppose, but -

CALVIN
- Now to keep a close watch on our
subjects, they should be people
we're close to. My friends. Your
friends.

LAUREN
I don't understand what you're
proposing.

CALVIN
Let's make it a competition.

LAUREN
A competition. How?

Calvin is excited now. This will be fun. He stands and slowly approaches Lauren as he presents his idea.

CALVIN
I'll pick five of my friends who have been involved in a relationship for longer than six months, and you'll pick the enchantress to be their downfall. Tempt them, challenge them, do your worst! You design the perfect situation where you think someone will cheat, and we'll see if they take the bait. Best three out of five wins.

Lauren is warming to the idea and starts walking slowly toward Calvin.

LAUREN
If three out of five cheat you admit defeat and...
(idea strikes)
You write a letter to my blog AND a froward to my book explaining how the whole thing went down, and admitting that my theory works. Portland's famous women's advocate lawyer supporting my theory? It's gold!

Calvin hates the idea of a publicly admitting defeat. He recovers and takes another step toward her.

CALVIN
And if three out of five resist temptation, YOU have to write a blog post saying that you were wrong, you shut down your blog...

Lauren thinks this is too much. Calvin comes closer.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
(with sincerity)
...And you agree to be with me. Like normal people, no expiration date.

They are now face to face. He takes her hand.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
What do you say?

Lauren's soul is on fire. She really wants him.

LAUREN
If I win, I get my six months with you.

CALVIN
What?

LAUREN
You still write the letter, still admit defeat, but I get my six months. Then, nothing. We end it. Agreed?

These are strange terms. Calvin can see that she wants him, but only on her terms. He'll need to win this thing in order to throw those terms out the window.

CALVIN
Agreed.

She is looking at his lips, he can see that she wants to be kissed.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
(softly)
Good night, Lauren.

He leaves. Her eyes flutter open and she looks around, embarrassed.

10

INT. HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER - DAY

10

Lauren and Gena are laying down on reclining spa chairs, having just received spa treatments. They are in white cotton robes, towels wrapped on their heads, cucumber slices over their eyes, and mud masks soaking on their faces.

GENA
You're upset.

LAUREN
I'm not upset.

GENA
You are. Your voice rises three octaves when you're upset.

LAUREN
(dropping her voice)
I'm not upset.

GENA
And now you're transgender.

Lauren removes the cucumber slices and glares at Gena. Her real feelings start pouring out. She's so upset she can't finish her sentences.

LAUREN
(jumping from thought to thought)
How could you embarrass me like that, huh? Send me some guy who - And without - I KNOW how to find a guy!

Gena removes her own cucumber slices and faces Lauren.

GENA
Finding them has not been your problem, sweetie.

LAUREN
I don't have any problems!

Gena just looks at her. Her sister who she left behind when she went off to law school. The one who so clearly felt abandoned, and still does.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
I thought he liked me.

GENA
He does, you idiot! So much so he's willing to go through this... what is it, a competition?

Lauren recovers herself. Gena always makes her feel off her game, but this competition idea is good. She is going to win.

LAUREN
That's right. Best 3 out of 5 wins. I'm going to kick his ass!

GENA
How exactly is that going to work?

LAUREN

He gave me a list of challengers.
They've all been in relationships
for longer than six months. It's
my job to challenge them.

Lauren pulls a crumpled list from her robe pocket.

GENA

Oh my God, there's a list. What do
you know about these people?

LAUREN

I know everything I need to know.
First up, preppy bartender, Simon
Walker.

11 INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR - EVENING

11

SIMON WALKER, mid-30s, handsome and preppy, stands behind a
bar serving drinks to thirsty patrons at the classy Tucci
Wine Bar. One pretty YOUNG GIRL hands him her telephone
number, which he receives with a look of surprise and
embarrassment.

GENA (V.O.)

The bartender at Tucci's?

LAUREN (V.O.)

He's one of Cal's best friends.
He's been engaged for two years and
Cal says he'd never cheat.

12 INT. HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER - SAME TIME OF DAY

12

GENA

(considering)
Long engagement.

LAUREN

And he's a *bartender*. The thought
has definitely crossed his mind.

GENA

Hmmm. Who else?

LAUREN

Edward Hockett.

13 INT. YOGA ROOM - DAY

13

Calvin and Lauren are in a yoga class with EDWARD and KIMBERLY HOCKETT, an attractive black couple in their mid-30s. The guys spot the girls in a complicated yoga pose. Lauren struggles, while Kimberly executes the move with ease. Lauren glares.

GENA (V.O.)

Who?

LAUREN (V.O.)

Another friend. We took a yoga class with him and his wife. They've been together since high school.

14 INT. HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER - SAME TIME OF DAY

14

LAUREN

I almost hate to do this to her.
(she doesn't)
But if Cal's right and I'm wrong,
then I've done nothing wrong.
Right?

GENA

Right. Wait. You're not actually going to arrange for these people to have sex are you?

LAUREN

No. We argued about that. Cal said a person can always change their mind at the last minute, and I said once the pants come off it's a done deal. So that's what we agreed on. Underwear, as proof.

GENA

You're going to steal their underwear?

LAUREN

Well, I'm not. CORINNA and her friends are.

GENA

Who's CORINNA?

15 EXT. FRONT YARD OF NICE SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

15

CORINNA CARLSON, a gorgeous, busty YOUNG WOMAN in her late 30s is weeding her garden in a low cut tank top and tight cut off shorts. She's on her knees working the earth, her sweat covered chest glistening in the sun.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Suburban dads on every corner finding excuses to get the mail, tend to their yard, walk their dog, all so they can stare at and drool over CORINNA. She glances up and notices them. Her eyes look around and take them all in. They are pathetic, these men. She wipes her brow and continues working.

LAUREN (V.O.)

She's a major follower on the blog.
She has some interesting things to
say about men. We became friends.

16 INT. HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER - SAME TIME OF DAY

16

A spa attendant brings them two glasses of champagne and a bowl of strawberries.

LAUREN

She's an exotic dancer.

GENA

A stripper.

LAUREN

Don't be so judgy. She's a person,
like you and me. I told her she
can write on the victory post when
we win.

GENA

"When" you win?

LAUREN

I'm telling you Gena, I know human
nature. I can't lose.

GENA

Yeah but what if you do?

Lauren gets serious and really thinks about it.

LAUREN

I'd have to shut down my blog.
Lose all my followers. And I'd
have to postpone the book. I mean
no blog, no book. Right?

GENA

Lots to consider. You must really like him to risk so much.

LAUREN

I'm going to win. And to have the top women's advocate lawyer write on my blog about the competition and what it PROVES? My book will be worth a mint.

Even Gena can't deny that would be pretty good for the book. She takes the list from Lauren and begins reading over it.

GENA

(referring to the list)

Sharon Gotlieb works in our office. She's happily married and just had a baby. CORINNA isn't her type.

LAUREN

Oh, I know. He slipped that one in. It's fine. The PIG Theory applies to men and women. We can all be pigs. I mean, you and mom were a major inspiration.

It's not a compliment.

GENA

Gee, thanks.

LAUREN

There's a dancer at CORINNA's club who's ready to play. He's HOT. Sharon doesn't stand a chance.

GENA

Who are the last two challengers?

17

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

17

GARRETT STUCKEY, mid-30s, is squatting with heavy weight on the bar. He grunts and sweats and the veins in his forehead and neck look like they are about to burst.

LAUREN (V.O.)

Garrett Stuckey, Cal's personal trainer. Thick neck, lots of veins. He's been living with the aerobics instructor for two years.

GENA

Sounds like an easy one.

LAUREN

Well, I think so. But Cal insists he's a "man of integrity and honor."

There is a pause, then both women CRACK UP HYSTERICALLY.

GENA

He doesn't talk like that!

LAUREN

He does! I swear. This competition has brought out a whole new THING. Very Prince Charming.

GENA

That's precious.

LAUREN

(a thought occurs)

Gena, I've been meaning to ask you... Cal told me that you guys went to law school together and you've been friends for years. And you're, well, you know, YOU.

(beat)

You guys never slept together did you?

GENA

Of course not.

LAUREN

Because that would be gross.

GENA

Yes it would. Now who's the last challenger?

LAUREN

His minister. Married guy.

GENA

Minister! That hardly seems fair.

LAUREN

That's what I thought at first.
But he's a Presbyterian minister
and they no longer take oaths of
celibacy. And I do say my theory
applies to everyone.

GENA

Seems like a long shot.

LAUREN

But does it? Really?

The both think about all the news about priests and ministers
doing dirty things.

GENA/LAUREN

(together)

Nah!

GENA

So how do you know he's not going
to warn his friends about this just
so he can win?

LAUREN

(deadpan)

Gena, he'd never do that. He's a
man of integrity and honor.

The both BURST OUT LAUGHING, leaning in to each other,
sisters again.

19

INT. LAUREN'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

19

Lauren is pacing in front of her computer, nervous and
uncertain. Ripley looks up at her from the chair, wagging
and anxious.

LAUREN

(to Ripley)

It's just a temporary shut down.
I'll say it's for maintenance. I
can't be writing on the blog in the
middle of the competition. It's
supposed to be a secret. Right?

RIPLEY

YAP!

Lauren looks around the room at all the letters, all the
followers. They have been a part of her for so long.

LAUREN

They need me.

It's her who needs them. She hasn't been "just Lauren" in years. She's scared. She picks up the strand of pink hair that she wore for so long. An IMAGE OF CALVIN FLASHES IN HER MIND, he's brushing her hair away from her face, smiling at her. It's all such a huge risk.

She straightens her shoulders and places the hair down. She takes a bold step to her computer and hits a button. On the screen we see a digital frowny face and the words, "This site is temporarily down due to maintenance." She blinks, surprised at herself. Then she nods. She is ready.

20

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

20

Calvin's living room is sparsely decorated in a hip retro-60s style. Calvin and his buddies are casually dressed, enjoying a late Sunday afternoon poker game. A Voodoo Donuts box is half-filled with remaining donuts. Some guys are drinking beer. At the table are Calvin, Jacob, Ed, Simon, Garrett and KWAN MYUNG, a KOREAN MAN in his mid-30s with the wiry build of a greyhound. They play Texas Hold 'Em. Only Simon and Edward are left in the hand.

SIMON

And raise you two dollars.

KWAN

You are so bluffing.

SIMON

Kwan, you're not even in the hand.

KWAN

It's an old Taekwondo trick. I can read your body, and therefore your mind.

SIMON

You took Taekwondo in the third grade.

KWAN

It never leaves you.

(beat)

Hey man, my people have suffered alot. Did you know in some places you're only allowed to have one kid?

GARRETT

Yeah, but you're hungry again an hour later.

On the table are a 9 spade, Queen club, 10 spade, 7 spade, 2 clubs. Edward calls the bet and flips his cards showing an Jack and King heart, a high straight.

EDWARD/ED

Booyah! Now, don't feel too bad, I got the brains, but you got the - nah, I got the looks too.

Simon calmly turns his cards over showing a Jack and 4 spade, a flush.

ED (CONT'D)

No!

SIMON

Didn't even see the flush.

Ed is deflated. He shoots Simon a double bird.

ED

My doctor says take two of these and call him in the morning.

Jacob is separating all of his favorite green and yellow Mike n' Ikes and putting them in a little dish beside him.

JACOB

So Cal, tell the boys about your new girlfriend. The hikes, the long walks in the park.

The guys make approving HOOTS AND NOISES. Cal smiles.

CALVIN

She's pretty great.

GARRETT

(serious)

Does she work out? You want to start early to keep that ass high and tight.

Garrett wears a tight T-shirt that reads "FITNESS IS YOU!"

JACOB

She looks like she works out.

Calvin gathers the cards and starts shuffling.

SIMON
So what's this girl like?

CALVIN
Smart. Kinda Quirky. Hidden
layers of evil.

GARRETT
The crazy ones are always the best
in the sack. Is she a red head?

Calvin just gives Garrett a look.

ED
(on the subject of sex)
Man, Kimberly's been coming to bed
lately in *flannel*. That's a clear
message. Black women do not wear
flannel. I'm still being punished
for the last time we went fishing.

SIMON
You should rub her feet.

ED
What?

SIMON
I'm telling you, Jenny loves it
when I rub her feet. Then I rub
her calves, and her knees...

The guys all GROAN, as in please stop there. They all know
Jenny too well to hear the dirty details.

JACOB
We get it.
(back to Calvin)
So how evil are we talking?

SIMON
Yeah, is she Tilda Swinton? Or
Angelina Jolie?

GARRETT
Who the hell is Tilda Swinton?

CALVIN
I think she's more of a Tilda.
There's something in there, under
the surface. I'm gonna crack it.

JACOB
Well I like her. So play nice.

CALVIN

I plan to.

GARRETT

Who the hell is Tilda Swinton?

21

EXT. GENA'S BACK DECK - DAY

21

A table is set for lunch on Gena's deck overlooking the lake. Lauren stands at the railing enjoying the view, smiling, thinking of Calvin. Gena emerges from the house with a bottle of wine and her cell phone in hand.

GENA

(excited)

Just got off the phone with Mom.
She's pulling up now.

LAUREN

I don't see what the big deal is.
She's been dating since dad died.

GENA

Oh come on. You're not a little
curious? Maybe he's the one.

Gena hears the front door and turns back to the house.

LAUREN

(to herself)

She already met the one.

CLEMIE MAULDIN, now early 60s, emerges from the house. She is the mother from the Mauldin family photo, but she has been transformed to a gorgeous older woman, her hair richly colored, her clothing well made and sexy.

CLEMIE

Hello my darlings I'm so sorry to
keep you waiting! Alejandro is
parking the car.

Clemie is positively glowing with excitement. She embraces Gena. She gives Lauren a wary look and decides not to engage her.

A HANDSOME LATINO MAN, mid-40s, black hair slicked back with intended elegance, emerges from the house. He is wearing a dark suit with a bright pink shirt. This is ALEJANDRO BARAZZA, Clemie's younger lover. His walk oozes sex, his laser focus is on Clemie.

LAUREN
 (quietly to Gena)
 It's Mario Lopez.

GENA
 (whispering back)
 Javier Bardem.

Alejandro takes Clemie by the hand and twirls her toward him in an elegant dance movement, then dips her deep and low. They hold the dip, lost in each other's eyes.

CLEMIE
 (breathless, in love)
 Guys, this is Alejandro Barazza.

Alejandro lifts her gracefully and sets her on her feet. He turns to look at Lauren and Gena for the first time. He CLUTCHES HIS HEART, clearly moved.

ALEJANDRO
 (thick accent)
 Ah! Like dulcet dew drops dripped
 from a diamond. I LOVE IT!

Alejandro takes Gena's shoulders with passion and KISSES EACH CHEEK in a warm greeting. He turns to Lauren to do the same and she SNEEZES LOUDLY all over him. It's unclear if she fakes it.

LAUREN
 Oh! I'm so sorry! I'm just a
 drippy, drippy dew drop.

Alejandro removes a kerchief from his pocket and wipes his face, his sleeve, his jacket, looking at her with uncertainty.

ALEJANDRO
 It's OK.

He wraps his arm around Clemie's waist.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)
 Let's eat!

Lauren, Gena, Alejandro and Clemie are sitting together around the table/firepit in the cabana. Lunch and wine have been served and they've been eating, talking and drinking for awhile. Clemie is mid story about how she and Alejandro met.

CLEMIE

They tell you in class that you have to switch partners every week, so we can experience different types of dancers.

(sweetly, remembering)

But Alejandro refused to switch.

Alejandro and Clemie hold hands and gaze at each other fondly. Lauren interrupts the moment.

LAUREN

What's a guy your age doing taking a senior ballroom dance class?

Alejandro looks at Lauren and sees everything she is not saying.

ALEJANDRO

Well, I'll tell you. I work like a dog in my shop -

CLEMIE

(proud)

- He's a designer, he makes men's suits, he has his own label!

ALEJANDRO

And I was thinking to myself, I said "Alejandro, you are a great dancer. You heart, it is only half full. This is no way to live. You must live with your heart FULL, always!"

LAUREN

(whispering to Gena)
Ricky Martin.

GENA

(whispering to Lauren)
Benjamin Bratt.
(raising a glass)
Here, here!

ALEJANDRO

So I walked into the class ready to shake my culo and share my love of dance, and there she was. Like a beautiful ball of sunshine burning my eyes.

Alejandro's bad alliterations are heartfelt. Overcome, he pulls Clemie close and nuzzles her neck, covering it with kisses. Clemie dissolves into GIGGLES. Gena smiles and looks away. Lauren glares.

LAUREN
(under her breath)
Act your age.

But Clemie hears her and takes notice. She's tired of this.

CLEMIE
And what is that supposed to look like? Acting my age? Am I supposed to be sitting at home knitting sweaters? Hmm? Is Gena acting her age?

Gena perks up, why is she being brought into this?

CLEMIE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
What about you? You're 30 years old Lauren. You should be married by now and giving me grandbabies. I don't see that happening.

LAUREN
I have a very busy life! I have my work, my blog, my book.

CLEMIE
Well we can't all be Pigslayers, Lauren. And when is that going to stop anyway? How long has it been?

GENA
(defending her sister)
I'm sure it's just a phase.

CLEMIE
Well, at some point the phase becomes reality, and the long ago sanity becomes the phase. I mean, really. None of us Mauldin women are exactly traditionalists, but you've taken things too far.

LAUREN
I'm standing up for what I believe in.

CLEMIE

You're not standing for anything!
You're running. Not letting anyone
in.

GENA

Actually, she's met someone.

Lauren glares at Gena to shut up.

CLEMIE

Really?

GENA

(playing tattle tell)
His name is Calvin Chesney, he's a
lawyer in my office. They like
each other a lot.

CLEMIE

Well thank God for that! When can
I meet him?

LAUREN

You can't.

CLEMIE

Well why not?

GENA

Yeah, Lauren it might be fun to
have Calvin meet the family. Maybe
you and Mom can double date.

ALEJANDRO

Yes! You should always be living
with a heart that is full of -

Lauren suddenly acts like she has to sneeze again, a really
big one. Alejandro recoils. It passes.

LAUREN

Must be allergies. Look at the
time! I'm actually supposed to be
meeting him right now, so I gotta
run.

She stands to leave, leaning over to hug Gena.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Thanks for lunch.

GENA
 (whispering to Lauren)
 Laz Alonso.

LAUREN
 (whispering to Gena)
 Ricardo Montalban.

Lauren leaves before Gena can respond.

23 EXT. CALVIN'S HOUSE FRONT DRIVEWAY - LATER THAT DAY 23

Lauren drives up in a Ferrari F430, the MOTOR RUMBLING LOUDLY. Calvin emerges from the house to see what the noise is all about. He's expecting her, but not this car.

CALVIN
 What's all this?

LAUREN
 Is it me?

CALVIN
 (laughs)
 No. Not at all.

Lauren laughs with him.

LAUREN
 Get in. It's Gena's. She loaned it to me for the day. Thought you might enjoy a ride.

Calvin's eyes narrow as he considers the implications and any hidden messages Gena is sending him.

CAVLIN
 Did she now.

Lauren REVS THE ENGINE.

LAUREN
 Come on! Let's drive this puppy!

Calvin throws caution to the wind and climbs in.

CALVIN
 Alright but I'm driving back!

They speed off together for an afternoon of fun.

24 EXT. PORTLAND WEST HILLS - LATER THAT DAY 24

Calvin is now in the driver's seat and he is ZOOMING the Ferrari around the West Hills of Portland. Lauren's hair is streaming out behind her and she's loving every minute of it.

25 INT. CALVIN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT 25

Lauren and Calvin are enjoying themselves around the fireplace in Calvin's living room. They are drinking champagne and playing chess.

Calvin is examining the board carefully. Lauren sits comfortably, shoes off, feet up, watching him.

CALVIN
I'm about to capture your queen.

LAUREN
What? Wait! Let me replay that.

She leans forward to block him but he moves too quickly for her and takes her queen, holding it over his head so that she leans in and falls on his chest. They gaze at each other happily in the firelight.

LAUREN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Damn.

She reaches out and makes a deft move Calvin did not see, the queen merely a ruse to trap him all along.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Check mate.

He takes her in his arms with rough playfulness, and kisses her fully on the mouth. She enjoys every last bit of it, relishing the kiss as well as her victory.

At that moment Jacob walks by wearing a robe and boxers, eating cold pizza. Danielle is walking alongside him wearing bizarre cat pajamas. Her hair is in pig tails and she wears glasses.

JACOB
Whoa! Sorry to interrupt!

DANIELLE
That's just gross.

Jacob spins and begins to moonwalk awkwardly as he exits. Winking and pointing at Lauren.

JACOB
But then again, kinda not sorry.

DANIELLE
Why are they using their tongues
like that?

They disappear into Jacob's bedroom.

LAUREN
He's so weird.

CALVIN
He's harmless.

LAUREN
Why does he live here? I mean, you
could afford this place on your
own.

CALVIN
Ya think? Nah, I know I could.
We've been pals since grade school.
Jake has always had my back. In
basketball, I was point guard, he
was my right wing. In law school,
he was there to quiz me for exams,
and take me out for beers
afterward. Even if I had to buy.

LAUREN
Of course you did.

CALVIN
It just seems natural to have him
around. At least until I find
someone else to share this place
with.

Lauren looks down but doesn't pull away.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
What about you? Do you like living
alone?

LAUREN
I'm not alone. I have Ripley. And
my followers.

CALVIN
Where do they all sleep?

Lauren LAUGHS, nuzzling closer.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
I'm glad we've been honest with
each other about everything.

LAUREN
Me too. No more secrets.

CALVIN
No more secrets.

They are both saying the same thing. Maybe now is the time
to finally give in to this chemistry. They kiss deeply.

26

INT. CALVIN'S MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

26

The sun is up and Lauren and Calvin are both awake,
snuggling. Calvin is basking in the glow. Lauren kisses him
and gets up to get dressed.

LAUREN
I've got to get to work.

CALVIN
The people need their science.

LAUREN
They do.

Calvin watches her dress. She is beautiful.

CALVIN
So when do we begin?

LAUREN
The competition?

CALVIN
Yeah.

LAUREN
Now.

CALVIN
Like right now?

LAUREN
Right now. It can happen at any
time to anyone on your list.

CALVIN
It's not fair. You know who my
friends are but I have no idea who
you're challenging them with.

LAUREN

Oh don't worry. You'll know.

Lauren leans over, kisses him and leaves. Calvin waits until she's gone, then grabs his cell phone to make a call.

Gena's voice picks up on the other end.

GENA (V.O.)

Hello?

CALVIN

Nice car.

GENA (V.O.)

You liked that did you? It's one of the perks of becoming partner.

CALVIN

Yeah, about that. I've been thinking and... I can't take the partnership position if it has anything to do with Lauren.

GENA (V.O.)

Really?

CALVIN

I mean it. It wouldn't be right. I mean, I want to make partner. And I really liked driving that car. But... I don't want you suggesting me to the board for any other reason than because I'm a great lawyer.

He listens for a moment. Gena is silent, thinking.

GENA (V.O.)

Let's just see how things play out. From what I can see, everything is going according to plan.

He's not sure how to take that.

CALVIN

OK, but, so we're clear. I'm not doing this to gain partnership. I just want her to shut it down so we can date like normal people.

GENA (V.O.)

Bye, Calvin.

Gena CLICKS OFF on the other end. Calvin is perplexed.

27

INT. GYMNASIUM/WORKOUT ROOM - DAY

27

This is a large athletic club at night. A few PEOPLE are busy working out. Calvin is working at the bench press. Garrett is spotting him.

CALVIN

Put on another five.

Garrett adds the weight while Calvin rests between sets. Garrett glances at the nearby spinning cycle room. He watches a pretty petite WOMAN, TREASURE, late 20s, as she dismounts and comes to the window. She sees him looking and breaks out in a bright smile, waiving enthusiastically.

CALVIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

So how long have you and Treasure been together anyway?

GARRETT

Oh, about two years I guess. Something like that.

Calvin resumes lifting.

CALVIN

You think you'll marry her?

GARRETT

I dunno. Work is good. People pay an assload of money to get in shape. We could probably afford it now.

CALVIN

Well, you love her, right? I mean, you want to marry her, don't you?

GARRETT

I dunno. I suppose I have to if I want to keep her around. Isn't that how it works?

Calvin stops and sits up. Garrett doubles the weight, then they switch positions.

GARRETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Why the third degree? Did Treasure put you up to this?

CALVIN

No. No, I was just curious. You guys seem happy, that's all.

GARRETT

Don't be a douche.

The stunning CORINNA Carlson suddenly comes into view. She walks across the gym wearing workout clothes like she's doing them a favor. They barely contain her curves. She smiles and walks directly toward Garrett.

CALVIN

(quietly to himself)
It begins.

CORINNA

Hi.

GARRETT

Hello.

CORINNA

Are you Garrett?

GARRETT

I am. What can I do for you?

CORINNA

I'm looking for a trainer. The lady at the desk referred me to you.

GARRETT

What kind of hours are you looking for?

CORINNA

Oh not here. I actually bought this expensive home equipment, and I don't know how to use it. Sounds pretty dumb, huh?

GARRETT

(serious, professional)
Not at all. In fact, most people in the gym aren't getting the full benefit of their workout because they're not using the equipment properly. They're also in danger of injuring themselves. Or others.

CORINNA

Really?

GARRETT

That's a fact. Why don't you sit down here and show me how you bench?

CORINNA steps over to the bench. She bends over to adjust the weight, giving Garrett and Calvin an eyeful. She reclines on the bench and takes the bar.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Straight back. Chest out.

CORINNA adjusts her position so that her chest is prominently puffed out. The bar comes down across her chest in pounding, pulsing thrusts. The scent of sweat and sex fills the air.

GARRETT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

That's it.

Calvin looks around the room like, REALLY? Treasure is right over there! Garrett is letting him down.

28

INT. GYMNASIUM/MEN'S LOCKER ROOM - LATER

28

Calvin and Garrett are showered and getting dressed.

CALVIN

She wants you to go to her place to show her how to use gym equipment? You're not seriously buying that?

Garrett is indignant. He slips clean boxers on. They are yellow and covered with smiley faces.

GARRETT

Look. I'm a professional. I'm just doing my job, here. It's what I do. You really need to get your head out of the gutter.

29

EXT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - MORNING

29

Calvin opens his front door to reveal a DELIVERY MAN holding a box. Calvin is in his bathrobe. He signs for the package, then opens the box. Inside are Garrett's smiley faced boxers wrapped neatly in tissue. Calvin sighs in disappointment and glares at the delivery guy. He shuts the door.

30

INT. LAW OFFICES/GENA'S OFFICE - DAY

30

Gena sits her desk. Across from her are Calvin and Sharon Gotlieb. Sharon's suit is well made but stained with baby puke. Her hair is pulled back in its usual sloppy bun. She is taking notes on a legal pad.

Calvin is discreetly texting on his cell phone with Lauren.

LAUREN (TEXT)

WINNING.

CALVIN (TEXT)

You do know who you're quoting, right?

LAUREN (TEXT)

Still winning.

CALVIN (TEXT)

Don't gloat.

Gena SNAPS HER FINGERS at him and he shuts his phone off.

GENA

Now, the other side will have a whole gaggle of attorneys there. It's a big case and they don't want to screw it up. So be ready for a big presence.

CALVIN

Do you really think "gaggle" is the best collective term for attorneys? I'd think it would be something more sinister. Like "murder."

SHARON

The crows have that one.

CALVIN

Do they? Crows?

SHARON

What about "onslaught?"

CALVIN

An "onslaught of attorneys." Ooo, that's good. I like that.

GENA

Kids. Focus. I'm putting you up at the Seattle Westin. You arrive Thursday night, depos in the a.m.

SHARON

(looking at her phone)
When do we get back? Paul's got plenty of milk, but Maddie's got a soccer game this weekend and she'll lose her mind if I'm not there.

GENA

Not a problem. You'll be back Friday night. Now I want you to be prepared, but don't overwork. Take some personal time Thursday night, grab a drink and unwind.

SHARON

(all business)
Well, I can't imagine we'll have much time for that sort of thing. But dinner might be nice.

CALVIN

(to Gena, suspicious)
Night on the town with Sharon, huh?

Gena just smiles.

31

INT. GEMINI LOUNGE - NIGHT

31

Calvin and Sharon are sitting at a table in the bar next to their hotel, dinner long gone. An empty wine bottle sits between them and Calvin is now nursing a beer. Sharon is wearing reading glasses and calculating the tab. Calvin looks around the room, not sure what to expect. He suspects Sharon's challenger will be here tonight. But the idea of someone seducing Sharon is patently ridiculous.

SHARON

So that's \$32.50 each, plus \$6.25 for your beer. And we can split the tip. Six each?

CALVIN

Sure. Thanks Sharon. Very precise, as always.

She slides the glasses on her head and sits back, EXHALING. Her fingers wrap around her wine glass and for a moment she relaxes. She's a little tipsy.

SHARON

I never thought I'd say it but I actually look forward to these business trips now.

(MORE)

SHARON (CONT'D)

Crappy bar food, cheap wine and
this - SILENCE.

She smiles dreamily. Calvin isn't buying it.

CALVIN

Oh come on! You have the perfect
life! You've got two great kids
and a husband who adores you. I
wish I had that.

SHARON

No you don't.

CALVIN

What are you saying? You and Paul
always look like you're having a
great time.

SHARON

That's Facebook! It's not real.
My children are monsters.

Calvin is truly surprised to hear this. Sharon rubs her neck
and unbuttons her blouse a few buttons. Calvin watches this
change in her demeanor warily.

CALVIN

Oh.

SHARON

We used to have fun though. Back
when we had sex. We had GREAT sex.
But you can't have sex with a baby
on your tit.

CALVIN

No. I imagine you can't.

SHARON

I mean physically, it's nearly
impossible. It gets in the way.
Unless you hold it off to the side.
Which you can practically do
because your boobs get really long!

CALVIN

And there's the turn.

Calvin looks around to see if anyone is listening,
embarrassed. She takes it back, warming to her theme.

SHARON

And your vagina is never the same!
When they say you can push a
bowling ball through there, they
aren't kidding. It gets gi-
normous. And stuff is flying out
of there, stuff you've never seen
before. Some people keep it. Some
people EAT it.

Calvin COUGHS. He really wants to change the subject.

CALVIN

Should we order coffee?

SHARON

Kegals! Please! I can hardly hold
my pee in! My vagina is dead. I
have a dead vagina.

CALVIN

This is alot of talk about your
vagina.

SHARON

Oh ease up Calvin! Your mother's
vagina went through the same thing.

CALVIN

(cringing)
And again, not something I want to
discuss.

Sharon suddenly GROANS. She reaches up and gives her breasts
a squeeze.

SHARON

Oh God, these are gonna burst.

She goes to take a peek and a milk stream SQUIRTS from her
shirt. Calvin dodges it, and it hits the neighboring patron.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Whoops! Sorry! That one got away
from me. I'd better pump and dump.

She grabs her breast pump and heads to the bathroom.

Calvin EXHALES. This is nuts. Then again, there's no way
Sharon is going to get seduced by anyone in this state, so he
can relax. He drinks his beer.

Moments later Sharon reemerges from the bathroom and bumps
into a VERY ATTRACTIVE YOUNG MAN, late 20s.

This is BRANDON COXX. He is dressed in a business suit, but his body is a little too tight, his hair is just a little too slick. Calvin perks up. This must be the guy. The man points to Sharon's breast pump and they talk for a moment. Then Sharon points over to the table and they walk over.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Calvin, you'll never guess who I bumped into. This is Brandon -

She looks to him for guidance.

BRANDON

(deep voice)

- Coxx. Dr. Coxx.

Sharon SNORTS in surprise. They both take a seat at the table.

SHARON

Oh! Well, Dr. Coxx noticed my breast pump and we got talking. He's a specialist who helps women recover after multiple births.

CALVIN

How convenient. So, what are you, a plastic surgeon?

BRANDON

Nothing quite so drastic. I work with the body and the mind. I help women rediscover their inner selves, so they can get in tune with their bodies, and reawaken their sexual being.

He directs this last bit to Sharon, who listens intently. She is eager for more.

SHARON

So how does it work? Can you do me? Can you fix me?

BRANDON

It's a series of meditation to relax the mind, and intimate massage techniques to relax the body. Gets the blood flowing again. In all the right places.

SHARON

Brings everything back to life.

Brandon nods and gazes at her a moment too long.

CALVIN

So, Brandon, you seem a little young to be a doctor. How old are you?

BRANDON

It's true, I'm young. I graduated from college at 16 and completed my medical training overseas. Europe is where it's at! Sex is celebrated there, at every age. We Americans have it all wrong. I'm trying to change that.

SHARON

A savior of sorts.

Brandon nods and continues gazing at her.

BRANDON

I'm sorry, I'm staring. But you have the most beautiful eyes.

SHARON

I do?

BRANDON

It's just...

Brandon reaches over and removes the reading glasses from the perch on her head.

BRANDON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Do you mind?

She shakes her head no. He removes the clip from her hair and lets it fall. He's pleased with his work.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Yes. There she is. There's definitely a vibrant sexual being in there. I could help you bring her back.

Sharon hasn't had a compliment in eons and she has never had a man give her this kind of attention. She's eating it up with a spoon.

CALVIN

Great. Let's get your card. Then we really need to get to bed. Early day tomorrow.

SHARON

Oh Cal!

(clarifying to Brandon)

We're work colleagues.

(to both)

Why don't we order some drinks and talk about this some more? It's fascinating!

32 INT. GEMINI LOUNGE - LATER THAT NIGHT

32

Calvin, Sharon and Brandon have had their had drinks. Brandon has his arm over the back of Sharon's chair and he's describing his intimate massage techniques, motioning in the air on an imaginary vagina. Of course he's a stripper, so he's totally making it up.

BRANDON

The mistake people make with their lovers is forcefulness. You have to approach these areas tenderly. You gently coax, and then coax some more, so the body reaches for it, desires the touch.

SHARON

(full of desire)

That makes so much sense.

Calvin can't take any more of this.

CALVIN

Wow. 11:00! We really should go.

SHARON

Yes, we should.

BRANDON

(to Sharon)

Can I walk you?

Sharon is thrilled that he's asked.

CALVIN

No that's OK, I'll walk her. Is this your key card?

Calvin grabs Sharon's hotel key card from the table. Sharon shoots Calvin a death glare and grabs it back.

SHARON

Actually a walk would be nice. Thank you Dr. Coxx.

Sharon and Brandon stand and he helps her with her coat.
Calvin stands and snatches the key card back.

CALVIN

But we have such an early meeting
tomorrow. Surely there's no time
for a "walk."

SHARON

Calvin!

(snatches key back)

I am a full grown woman! I know
when I need a "walk!"

Brandon is politely looking away, not wanting to acknowledge
the communication taking place. Sharon turns back to him and
smiles with the wattage of a thousand suns.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Shall we?

BRANDON

Of course.

CALVIN

Sharon -

SHARON

- Good night Cal!

Sharon shoots laser beams from her eyes over her shoulder.
Calvin glares back. She glares back harder. She's gone.
Calvin is stunned. He is defeated, again.

33

INT. LAW OFFICES/FRONT DESK - DAY

33

A RECEPTIONIST, a healthy-sized forever office worker, mid-
40s, sits at the front desk answering phones and sorting
mail.

RECEPTIONIST

(to the phone)

Tucker, Aronson & Mauldin, may I
help you?

Calvin approaches for his mail. The receptionist crooks the
phone with her shoulder and hands him a large yellow envelope
with his name on it. He opens it and tilts it. A pair of
white panties slides out. The receptionist takes notice.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

(to the phone)

Let me transfer you.

She transfers the call. Unaware of his surroundings, Calvin holds up the panties. They are huge.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Wow! Those are some huge panties!

Calvin tries to play it cool and puts the panties back in the envelope.

CALVIN

It's a case we're working on. The Case of the, uh, the Terrible Granny Panties.

RECEPTIONIST

Must be a big case.

The receptionist SNORTS, amused with herself. Calvin slinks off toward his office, defeated.

CALVIN

Hold all my calls.

34

INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR - DAY

34

Calvin and Lauren sit at a table at Tucci's. The smiley faced boxers and granny panties sit on the table between them. Lauren sips her wine, trying not to smile too much. Cal's beer is untouched. He hates losing.

CALVIN

I was NOT expecting that. Sharon Gottleib? You may as well have told me that size really DOESN'T matter and the female orgasm is made of rainbows. That would have actually been easier to believe.

Lauren LAUGHS, happy Calvin is making a joke.

LAUREN

I'm sorry she surprised you. But I'm not surprised. She probably hasn't had a guy look at her like that in years. We gave her a golden opportunity.

(shrugs)

It's life.

Calvin takes this in. He doesn't agree.

CALVIN

No. I refuse to believe that. Sharon's clearly a sad woman with a blown out vagina that needs tending. I did not know that. But that's not everyone. It's not even the majority.

LAUREN

It is. That's what I've been trying to tell you.

CALVIN

You're wrong about people. It's not that simple.

LAUREN

I wish it weren't.

CALVIN

You know what the tragic thing is?

LAUREN

That a 220-pound man wears smiley faced boxers?

Calvin glares at her and she composes herself.

LAUREN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Sorry. What's the tragic thing?

CALVIN

If you win this, the blog lives on, you write your book, and you and I don't get to be together. Six months is nothing compared to a lifetime.

These words touch her deeply. She wants time with Calvin, more than she has ever wanted it with anyone. She opens her mouth to respond but Simon picks that moment to ask if they need more drinks.

SIMON

Hey kids. How are we doing?

Calvin thinks for a moment. He suddenly brightens, forcing cheerfulness. He's ready to face this head on.

CALVIN

Simon, my man, I have great news.

SIMON

That loan for your penis extension
finally came through?

Calvin takes Lauren's hand and kisses it. She is confused,
but doesn't pull away.

CALVIN

Lauren and I are getting married.

SIMON

(believing him)

Wow! I mean, wow! That was quick!

Simon's eyes dart to Lauren's stomach.

LAUREN

I'm not pregnant.

SIMON

Well then, your drinks on the
house! Congrats!

CALVIN

Thanks.

(to Simon)

Hey, we want to have the bachelor
party right here at Tucci's. Is
the back room available this
Saturday night?

It begins sinking in for Lauren that Calvin is setting up the
next challenge. She relaxes and allows him to continue.

SIMON

Yeah, I'll make the reservation.

CALVIN

Thanks man. We'll head back to my
house after for some shenanigans.

Simon nods with enthusiasm and retreats, leaving them alone.

LAUREN

Bachelor party?

CALVIN

Come on, can you think of a better
opportunity to cheat? It's
practically in the handbook.

LAUREN

I always knew there was a handbook.

CALVIN

Two of my challengers will be there. All you need is one and the competition is over. We can finish it this weekend.

LAUREN

Finish it?

CALVIN

Yeah. That's what you want, right? Your name in lights? The glory of the big win?

Lauren is unsure if that is what she wants.

LAUREN

Fine. A bachelor party this Saturday. We'll finish it.

CALVIN

(sarcastic)

Oh and, sweetie, I'd like some strippers. You think CORINNA knows any of those?

LAUREN

I'm sure she does.

CALVIN

Thought so. Resourceful lady, that one.

Calvin gives Lauren an emphatic kiss on the cheek and walks out. Lauren is unsure how to react to his sudden change in mood. This was supposed to be fun.

35

INT. CALVIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

35

Calvin is folding laundry while Jacob sits on the couch in his robe, an open laptop in his lap. He's working intently on something, but talking to Calvin at the same time.

JACOB

So are you doing this just for the gifts? Because we could use a new Keurig.

CALVIN

No, no gifts.

JACOB

Then why? Women are happy to stay engaged for like EVER. It's a get out of jail free card.

CALVIN

Does Danielle know this?

JACOB

She doesn't not know it.

CALVIN

Jacob, you are an island.

Jacob doesn't get it. He changes the subject.

JACOB

So check this out! The prototype for my cell phone app: Mars Calling Venus! A guy can ask Venus anything he wants to know, and she'll tell him the truth about what women are really thinking.

Calvin walks around to the back of the couch and looks down at the computer.

JACOB (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

So say for example, "sexual partners."

Jacob TYPES it in. There is a MUSICAL CHIME and a SEXY WOMAN'S VOICE is heard as the screen lights up and Calvin and Jacob both watch what must be a very sexy female avatar.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

The average woman has had 8 lovers. But when polled, 76% said they'd lie and answer 4 or less. Naughty, naughty Venus.

Calvin is amused but not impressed.

CALVIN

Is that it?

JACOB

Well, she gets naked. And she's loaded with car and sports trivia.

Calvin nods as if this makes perfect sense.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Ed got me a meeting with some suits
on Monday. I'm going to be RICH!

CALVIN

Why does she look like Lauren?

JACOB

What?

CALVIN

Yeah. She even has - is that a
mole on her left shoulder?

Jacob slams the computer shut and stands.

JACOB

You have lost your mind! This
woman has crawled up inside your
brain and made you go all wonky.

Jacob heads toward his bedroom with the computer.

JACOB (CONT'D)

So. Party tonight at Tucci's!
I'll wear a suit!

CALVIN

You don't own a suit.

36

INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR/BACK ROOM - SATURDAY NIGHT

36

In a large back room of the wine bar, the guys are celebrating Calvin's engagement. Everyone has been drinking, but Calvin is taking it slow. ROCK MUSIC plays in the background. Our focus is on Calvin, Edward, Simon, and Kwan who are seated around a table strewn with half empty beer glasses. In the background, Garrett is standing on the stage holding a karaoke mic, giving a cheesy wedding speech to Calvin. Jacob (wearing jeans and blazer), watches Garrett. At one point Jacob takes the mic. The guys improv bad wedding toasts in the background throughout the scene.

SIMON

I can't believe you're getting
married! Do you know how long
Jenny's been pressuring me to pull
the trigger? She wants four kids.

ED

Dang, that's alot of kids.

SIMON
That is alot of kids.

KWAN
In Korea we have large families of many generations, and we all live together under one roof.

SIMON
You grew up in Napa Valley.

KWAN
But my people -

SIMON
- own a winery! In Napa.

ED
(to Calvin)
So what flipped the switch?

Calvin is relaxed with his pals, but he knows that Lauren is sending women their way this very night to challenge them. He wants to impart words of wisdom. But he wants to be truthful.

CALVIN
I love her.

This is Cal's first admission to himself and to them. The guys CHEER and CLINK GLASSES.

ED
I hope so!

Calvin knows it's time to work on defense.

CALVIN
So do you love Kimberly?

Ed looks at him like he is crazy.

ED
Um, let me see, I married the girl when we were 18 years old, so yeah. I think I love her.

CALVIN
That's time. I'm talking about love. Do you still love her? Would you walk through fire for her? Kill for her? Die for her?

Ed can't help himself but this emotes some passion.

ED

Well, yeah. She's my girl.

CALVIN

She is your girl, isn't she? She's a good one.

Ed smiles thinking of Kimberly.

ED

Things have been pretty good since I started rubbing her feet.

Simon and Ed fist bump without looking at each other.

ED (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Sometimes she'll put on her old cheerleader outfit and wear it for me.

SIMON

Jenny thinks outfits are "silly."

ED

Yeah, well they're not. My girl looks pretty amazing in that outfit.

CALVIN

Well it sounds like you love her. Does she still love you?

Ed looks like he's going to pop him.

ED

Damn right she loves me. What kind of question is that to ask a man?

KWAN

It's just a question.

SIMON

Why so defensive?

ED

You boys better get your heads in check. That woman loves me.

(beat)

She calls me her Eddie Pie.

The guys all REACT at once.

SIMON

What was that?

KWAN

Is that like an edible pie? Like a
tasty pastry?

CALVIN

"Eddie Pie." Yeah. Well it sounds
to me like you are that woman's
white knight. You are IT for her.

ED

Black Knight. I'm her Black
Knight. Yeah.

Garrett appears out of nowhere, slinking up to the table like
Marilyn Monroe.

GARRETT

(singing softly)

Happy Birthday, Mr. President.
Happy Birthday to YOU.

He touches Calvin's face with mock passion before returning
to the stage where Jacob is spastically dancing by himself to
the rock music. Garrett drops the mic and starts dancing
with him.

Calvin wipes his face with a napkin and returns to Ed.

CALVIN

You sound like a lucky guy to me.
That sense of truly belonging to
another person? That's pretty
rare.

ED

Yeah. I'm going to call her.

Ed gets up to leave. Simon has been listening too and he's
moved, thinking of Jenny.

SIMON

Maybe four kids isn't so much.

Ed is leaving but calls back.

ED

Nah, that's a butt load of kids.

37

EXT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR/PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

37

Ed is finishing up his phone call in the empty parking lot.
He stands near the trash dumpster. Empty trash bags are piled
around it.

ED

(to Kimberley on phone)

I love you too, baby. Maybe when I get home, you wear that little outfit for me. You know which one. Alright. Bye bye baby.

He hangs up, smiling to himself, tottering on drunken feet. CORINNA approaches from the bar, wearing a sexy tight dress and jean jacket. She smiles, friendly, approachable.

CORINNA

Noisy in there, isn't it? Are you with all those crazy guys?

Ed glances at her.

ED

Uh. Yeah.

CORINNA stretches, removing her jean jacket, arching her back nonchalantly. She smiles at him again.

CORINNA

Hot in there too. Hi, I'm CORINNA.

Ed just stares, unsure what to do. This girl is FINE. And she is definitely coming on to him. CORINNA steps closer, holding a cigarette to her lips.

CORINNA (CONT'D)

You have a light?

ED

I don't smoke.

CORINNA looks at him flirtatiously.

CORINNA

Could have fooled me.

Then she LAUGHS at her own dumb joke. Ed LAUGHS too.

ED

Ok. Ok. What'chu doin'?

CORINNA

What you mean what am I doing? I'm talking to you.

ED

Yeah, you're doin' more than that.

CORINNA LAUGHS again, very close and flirtatious.

CORINNA
Maybe I am. You have a name?

ED
Yeah, I got a name. I just don't
know I want you to have it.

CORINNA enjoys his playfulness.

CORINNA
Is that so?

Ed stops smiling and looks at her. For whatever reason, he is pretty sure this woman would get with him if he just made the move. It's been a long while since he's been with anyone else. But Kimberly is warm in his mind. It's not worth it.

ED
My name is Eddie Pie. I am a Black
Knight.

Ed steps away from her, and gives her a courtly bow.

ED (CONT'D)
Good night, fair lady.

He smiles, then turns and walks away. CORINNA is surprised at the rejection. Things were going so well.

CORINNA
Good for him.

A MALE VOICE from behind the trash bin comes forward.

MALE VOICE
Fair maiden, I am your lost knight.

CORINNA looks around, confused, where is that coming from? Kwan steps from the shadows. He is 135 pounds at best, and easily 3 inches shorter than she is. He throws his wiry shoulders back and approaches.

KWAN
I spied you in this dark... parking
area. And I believe you are in
distress. In need of rescue.

He walks toward her, arms extended, ready for an embrace.

KWAN (CONT'D)
Lady of Darkness. Take me instead.

CORINNA rolls her eyes and pushes him away by his face. He falls into the trash bags. She walks off toward her car.

KWAN (CONT'D)
 (from the trash pile)
 I'm OK!

38 INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

38

The bachelor party is in full swing back at Calvin's place. Garrett is sucking a body shot off of a scantily clad STRIPPER, mid-20s. The stripper is ASHLEY, a friend of CORINNA's. A second stripper, MANDY, also mid-20s, stands nearby. Simon, Jacob, Ed and Kwan are CHEERING. Kwan volunteers to be the next man to take the body shot.

ASHLEY
 Well, now, I don't know. I think that we should be paying more attention to the guest of honor, don't you, Mandy?

MANDY
 Absolutely. After all, this is his last weekend to get nasty outside the bonds of holy matrimony.

Ashley sashays over to where Calvin has retreated against a wall. She gently pulls him forward into the circle.

ASHLEY
 You wanna do a body shot, handsome?

CALVIN
 I'm trying to quit.

Mandy sneaks behind Calvin and pushes a chair into the back of his legs, forcing him to sit down.

MANDY
 Have a seat!

Without missing a beat Ashley straddles him. She rubs herself into him.

ASHLEY
 Mmmmm. That's better. Now tell me where you want it.

KWAN
 I know where I want it!!

JACOB
 Wait your turn.

KWAN

It's never my turn.

Mandy steps quietly away. In the background she slides up to Simon, pressing against him suggestively. He turns to look, surprised, then pleased with the attention. Mandy whispers to him and he smiles. Meanwhile, Ashley is working on Calvin and entertaining the boys.

CALVIN

Really, I'm good.

ASHLEY

You don't want a shot?

CALVIN

No.

ASHLEY

Okay then. You don't mind if I have one, do you?

CALVIN

Uh...no.

Suddenly Garrett is behind Calvin, pulling his arms back so that he cannot resist. Ashley slides down and kneels between Calvin's legs. She opens his shirt and undoes his pants. In one swift motion she slides them down to his ankles, leaving him sitting in the chair in his briefs. She pushes herself between his legs. Jacob steps forward and hands her a shot glass and a fifth of tequila. Ashley pours the shot slowly, looking into Calvin's eyes.

ASHLEY

Where do you want it?

CALVIN

I don't!

ASHLEY

(as if Calvin has given directions)

You dirty boy! In the crotch, huh? That just happens to be my favorite place to take it.

The men CHEER. Ashley places the full shot glass very carefully in the band of Calvin's briefs. Some tequila spills and drips down his stomach.

ASHLEY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Oh, sweetie, you must be very, very careful.

(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

If you move, you'll spill. And let me be clear about one thing: I'm taking that shot. Every. Last. Drop.

Jacob hands Ashley a lime and a salt shaker. Ashley holds the lime over Calvin's stomach and squeezes. Then she shakes some salt onto his stomach as well.

Ashley's hands travel up Calvin's thighs. She bends in slowly toward the drink. Her fingertips reach the leg bands of Calvin's briefs and he involuntarily jumps, spilling the tequila all down his stomach and into his briefs.

The boys are SILENCED by the spill and watch eagerly to see what Ashley will do next.

ASHLEY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

So naughty! Now I'm going to have to clean you up. With my tongue.

Ashley's head dives down and we are left with Calvin's look of sudden shock.

39

INT. CALVIN'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

39

Ashley sits on a stool, touching her bruised lip. Calvin brings her ice with a dejected, apologetic look.

CALVIN

I'm really sorry. It must have been a reflex or something.

Ashley glares at Calvin.

ASHLEY

You could make yourself useful and get my purse. I'm leaving.

CALVIN

Right. I'll be right back.

40

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

40

Calvin crosses back through the living room. Garrett is drinking a beer, Edward is leaning back on the couch, eyes closed, and Jacob is tossing poker cards frisbee style one at a time at Ed's head. Kwan is in a fetal position in a nearby chair, asleep.

JACOB

(to Calvin)

Boy you really screwed that one up, buddy. I can understand how you'd be worried about showing everyone Mr. Floppy, but did you have to knee the poor girl in the face?

CALVIN

It was a reflex!

Calvin looks around and notices Mandy and Simon are gone.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Where's Simon? And Mandy?

ED

They went for a walk.

CALVIN

You let him leave?

Calvin moves quickly to the sliding door and looks out into the pitch black night. Simon has gone off alone with a stripper. Calvin knows what this means. Ashley has been a distraction while Mandy made her move. He should have seen it. His shoulders sag and he rests his head on the glass. It's over. He has lost the competition. It's over.

41

EXT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/LOWER PATIO - THE NEXT MORNING

41

Simon approaches from the street. His shoes are off, his shirt unbuttoned, his pants rolled up. Calvin has not slept, he's been waiting for Simon's return. Calvin is tired and frazzled. He steps out onto the deck to meet Simon.

SIMON

(tired)

Hey.

CALVIN

How could you do it, man?

SIMON

Do what?

CALVIN

You know what. Where've you been? Huh? Out all night with Mandy?

SIMON

Whatever, man. You don't know what you're talking about.

CALVIN

I thought you were better than that.

Simon stands there, contemplating Calvin. This feels like a confrontation. Suddenly Calvin moves forward, grabs Simon, struggles with him and grabs the back of his pants, looking inside to see if he is wearing his underwear.

SIMON

What the - ! Stop it! Get off of me!

Calvin sees Simon still has his underwear on. He releases him and looks at him, confused.

CALVIN

You're still wearing your underwear.

SIMON

Yeah? So? What the hell Cal!

CALVIN

What happened out there? Did you sleep with her or not?

SIMON

Yes! I slept with her. But...

Simon glances over his shoulder and lowers his voice.

SIMON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Look, we went down to the lake. We talked, and after awhile she made a move but...I didn't want to. I mean, I wanted to. But I couldn't. I've never cheated on Jenny.

Simon is embarrassed by this whole thing. He feels like a dork, like he's not cool enough to jump on an opportunity.

SIMON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

We slept on the dock. That's it.

Calvin suddenly takes Simon in his arms.

CALVIN

YES! That is so great! Oh, man. That is just so great!

SIMON

Okay. Easy there, buddy. Jeez.

They disentangle and Simon shakes his head, walking into the house. Calvin wipes his face, exhausted. He smiles.

CALVIN

(to himself)

That's two. Now we're getting somewhere. Come on! Let's do this.

42 INT. LAUREN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

42

Lauren is taking a last look at herself in the mirror before heading out to meet Calvin. She's happy, eager to see Calvin. Ripley lays on the bed, watching.

Lauren's CELL PHONE RINGS.

LAUREN

Hello?

We hear a FEMALE VOICE on the other side of the line. The camera stays on Lauren. Lauren scratches Ripley, listening.

LAWYER

Hello Lauren? It's Heather Decker. I have the update on your book offer. They like the blog and your story idea around that, but they caught wind of "The Competition." They think that's a better angle.

LAUREN

"Caught wind" of it?

LAWYER

(sighs)

Your sister made a call to the publisher. Apparently she's not a fan of your blog? She's pushing this new angle, and they like it. A lot.

Lauren is frustrated. Gena is always inserting herself into her life!

LAUREN

(to herself)

Damnit Gena! Stay out of my life!

LAWYER

Did you hear me Lauren? They are very interested. They're offering \$2 million for it.

Lauren is stunned.

LAUREN
Did you say \$2 million dollars?

LAWYER
Yes. But you have to win.
Otherwise, no deal.

Lauren thinks about this a long moment.

LAUREN
Are you still there? They want to
talk to you on Monday. They want
to get started right away.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
I'm here. Its... an incredible
offer. I'm just not sure it's the
book I want to write. Let me think
about it. Thanks Heather.

Lauren hangs up and considers this new development, the
competition, what it will take to win.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
(to herself)
I have to win.

43

EXT. CALVIN'S BACK PATIO POOLSIDE - AFTERNOON

43

Calvin and Lauren sit by the pool, sipping coffee and
enjoying the view. They are mid-conversation.

LAUREN
I believe you. I mean we'll never
know exactly what went on out
there, but Mandy didn't get his
underwear. It didn't happen.
She's quite smitten with Simon,
actually. Wants me to tell her if
he's ever single.

CALVIN
She's not his type.

LAUREN
She said he's the first guy who has
ever turned her down. *Ever.*

Lauren touches Calvin's arm to emphasis this last point.
Calvin ignores the jab and takes Lauren's hand, kissing it.

CALVIN

When this is all over, do you know where I want to take you?

LAUREN

It's not over yet.

CALVIN

Paris. Just you and me. We'll get ourselves some striped shirts and a couple of berets, and we'll live the secret life of mimes. Really horny mimes.

Lauren LAUGHS.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

I know it's going to be hard to shut down the blog, but I was thinking, maybe you don't have to. Maybe we could just change it to something more positive.

LAUREN

There's still one challenger left, Cal. It could go either way.

CALVIN

Yes. And we saved the best for last. The good Minister Dooley. I'm afraid he's a ringer for the home team, babe. He's legit. No way you're going to get him to cheat on his wife.

Lauren stares out at the lake, thinking.

LAUREN

Yeah, well, people can surprise you.

CALVIN

True! If there's one thing this competition has taught me, it's that.

LAUREN

We're doing it tomorrow night at CORINNA's. I'll text you the address. Send the good minister over around 7, tell him you have a friend in need.

(smiles devilishly)

We're running a conversion con.

CALVIN

"Conversion con?" Listen to you!
You're turning into a regular
gangster. Good thing this is
almost over.

He pulls her closer to him, happy that it's almost over. He
kisses her head.

LAUREN

The publishers want to meet with me
on Monday to go over the book
proposal and discuss terms.

CALVIN

Yeah? Well, either way you're
going to have something interesting
to report.

LAUREN

But will it be the story they want?
Will it be the story that I want to
tell?

Lauren is lost in thought, thinking of all the money and fame
that will be hers if she can just win this last challenge.

CALVIN

Hey. You want to have dinner
together tomorrow night while this
is all going down? We can
celebrate, either way. Like a
couple of good sports.

LAUREN

Await the outcome together. Yeah,
I like that.

She rests her head on his chest, looking out over the water,
not knowing how she wants it to all turn out.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Big night ahead.

44

INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR - NIGHT

44

Calvin and Lauren are seated at a table. Dinner has been
served and they are sharing a bottle of wine. But their
attention is on the last challenge. Both of their cell
phones rest face up on the table.

CALVIN

Should be happening as we speak. I talked to Dooley this afternoon and he was all for bringing in another lost sheep. The last challenge has begun.

He raises a glass.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

May the best man win.

LAUREN

Or woman.

The CLINK glasses. Calvin's cell phone RINGS and he answers casually, still smiling at Lauren. As he listens, his face falls.

CALVIN

Oh no. Well thanks for calling to let me know, sir.

LAUREN

What is it?

CALVIN

It's Minister Dooley. He's in the hospital.

LAUREN

What?

CALVIN

He fell off a ladder and broke his leg! He won't be out for at least a week.

Calvin and Lauren both look at each other, concerned and a bit panicked. What will this mean for the competition?

LAUREN

Poor Minister Dooley.

(beat)

So what are we going to do? I'm supposed to meet the publisher on Monday! I can't put them off another week!

Calvin can see her look of distress, and he's upset himself. He was looking forward to getting this over with. He doesn't want it to drag on.

CALVIN

This can't go on another week.
I'll just send another challenger.
(an idea strikes)
I'll send Jacob!

LAUREN

Jacob?

Calvin begins texting Jacob as he talks.

CALVIN

He's in the dark about all this,
like we agreed. He's been engaged
to Danielle for over a year, so he
fits the bill, right? I'll tell
him a friend needs help with her
computer.

Calvin hits send.

LAUREN

But Jacob is so weird.

CALVIN

It's a fair challenge. We send him
over, we end this tonight.

Calvin's phone CHIMES. He reads Jacob's response.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

He's free. I'll text him the
address.

Calvin copies the address over from his message chain with
Minister Dooley and sends it to Jacob.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Done. There. We're back on.

Lauren's mind is reeling with the implications of sending
Jacob over to CORINNA's. She felt like she stood a chance
with Minister Dooley, but Jacob is another matter.

LAUREN

He has such... unique tastes.

Calvin sits back and sips his wine, satisfied.

CALVIN

What are you talking about? He
thinks YOU are amazing, so his
taste can't be that bad.

(MORE)

CALVIN (CONT'D)

But he doesn't go for easy women,
that's true. You scared? Sensing
another W for team Calvin? Huh?

LAUREN

Don't refer to yourself in the
third person.

Calvin leans in close.

CALVIN

Don't be a sore loser. I'll be
right back.

Calvin gets up and heads to the bathroom. Lauren's cell
phone CHIMES with an incoming message.

GENA

(text message to Lauren)
Publishers sensed your hesitation.
Raised offer to \$3 million!!!!

LAUREN

(to herself)
Holy mother of dragons. You've got
to be kidding.

Lauren starts freaking out. It's happening right now. She's
going to lose \$3 million because Jacob is NEVER going to go
for a girl like CORINNA. She's breathing heavy, sweating,
looking around the bar. What can she do?

Her eyes fall on Calvin's cell phone, still resting on the
table. An idea takes shape. Does she dare? She glances
toward the bathroom then snatches the phone, typing a text
message furiously.

LAUREN AS CALVIN

(text message to Jacob)
Sorry dude, wrong address. It's
1523 SW Anchor Road. And I forgot
to mention, it's Lauren who needs
help. Thanks.

She hits send and stares at the phone wide-eyed. She can't
believe what she's just done. She goes to sent messages and
deletes the evidence of her message before replacing the
phone on the table. Then she grabs her coat to leave.

She sees Simon at the bar.

LAUREN

Tell Calvin I'm not feeling well
and I had to go home.

(MORE)

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Tell him NOT to come over. I'm really sick. I'll call him in a little while! Thanks!

Lauren leaves in a frazzled hurry.

45

INT. LAUREN'S HOUSE/FOYER - A SHORT TIME LATER

45

Lauren has rushed home to beat Jacob. She throws her purse and her coat aside in a rush to be prepared for his visit.

45 A EXT. CALVIN AND JACOB'S HOUSE - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

As Jacob leaves the house, he pulls his cell phone out to respond to the recent text message that he thinks was from Calvin, about helping Lauren with her computer. He is dressed surprisingly well for Jacob.

JACOB

(text message to Calvin)
N woriez. I got yr girl.

Jacob smooths his hair out and hops in his car, PEELING OUT to Lauren's house a little too over-eagerly.

45 B INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

Calvin returns from the bathroom and sees that Lauren is gone. He approaches Simon at the bar to see where she went.

CALVIN

Hey, did you see where Lauren went?

SIMON

Yeah, she said she wasn't feeling well and she was going home.

CALVIN

She just left? Did she look sick?

SIMON

She did look kind of pale.

45 C INT. LAUREN'S HOUSE/FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Lauren's DOORBELL RINGS and she knows it's Jacob. She opens the door and Jacob steps into the foyer. His look takes her by surprise. His hair is combed neatly back and he is wearing slacks and a black button up shirt. This is the cleanest and most nicely dressed that he has ever been.

LAUREN
(breathless)
Jacob. Hi!

JACOB
Hey. Tech geek to the rescue.

LAUREN
You're not a geek, Jacob. At least
not to me.

Jacob likes the sound of that. Lauren looks lovely tonight,
as usual.

JACOB
OK.

LAUREN
Come in. My computer's in my
bedroom upstairs.

JACOB
OK.

45 D INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Calvin pulls his phone out and discovers the new text from
Jacob. All prior texts in the message chain have been
deleted by a careful Lauren. Calvin reads quietly to
himself.

JACOB
(text message to Calvin)
N woriez. I got yr girl.

Calvin is concerned, but he doesn't quite put it all together
just yet.

46

INT. LAUREN'S STAIRWAY - MOMENTS LATER

46

Lauren and Jacob climb the stairs to Lauren's bedroom. Jacob
looks around, taking it all in.

JACOB
Where's Cal?

LAUREN
Oh. He didn't tell you? We broke
up. It was all just happening way
too fast. We're still friends
though.

This is the best news Jacob has ever heard.

JACOB

Really?

PRIOR SCENE 47 IS NOW SCENE 45 D.

*

48

INT. LAUREN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

48

*

Jacob and Lauren enter the bedroom. By contrast to Lauren's office, her bedroom is devoid of photos or letters. It's a blank canvas, as Lauren keeps her true self locked away in her office. Lauren sits on the bench at the end of her bed and flips open an old laptop.

LAUREN

This is the one that's giving me trouble.

Jacob hesitates, surprised to be in Lauren's bedroom. He sits awkwardly on the bench next to Lauren. He CLEARS HIS THROAT and tries to be cool.

JACOB

Is it running slowly? Or not at all?

LAUREN

Slowly. But it keeps freezing up and I have to shut the whole thing down and start over. It's infuriating.

JACOB

Sounds like you just need to clean up your hard drive. Maybe run the defrag.

Jacob starts typing away at the computer. Lauren watches him work a moment, the scoots closer. He notices but keeps working.

JACOB (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Let me just clean some stuff up here and we'll see if that fixes the problem.

LAUREN

Thank God I know a bona fide computer genius.

Lauren wraps her arms around Jacob's neck and kisses his cheek, letting the kiss linger just a moment too long. Jacob is surprised by the attention, but can't help enjoying it.

JACOB
 (blushing)
 Yeah... that's me.

Lauren absentmindedly begins rubbing Jacob's shoulders. Jacob tries to keep working.

LAUREN
 Wow.

JACOB
 What?

LAUREN
 Your shoulders are really tight. When was the last time you had a massage?

JACOB
 (awkward, blushing)
 Oh, I don't know. Never?

LAUREN
 Doesn't Danielle give you shoulder rubs?

JACOB
 No.

LAUREN
 Here, unbutton this. Let me get in there.

Jacob looks up at her and unbuttons his shirt a few buttons. Lauren smiles at him and turns him away from her so she can begin massaging his neck, skin to skin. Her motions are slow, sensuous. Jacob closes his eyes.

JACOB
 God, that feels good.

A waive of guilt crashes over her and Lauren suddenly removes her hands, turning away. What is she DOING?

49 INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

49

Calvin decides to type a quick message to Jacob to clarify what's going on. He has a bad feeling, but knows he must be wrong.

CALVIN
(text message to Jacob)
Thanks man. Where are you exactly?

He waits, shaking his head to himself, knowing he's being foolish.

50 INT. LAUREN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT.

50

Jacob's eyes flutter open and his cell phone BUZZES QUIETLY in his pocket. He fishes it out and reads Calvin's text. He responds. *

JACOB
(text message to Calvin)
W/ Lauren. Sry u guys broke up.
Sux.

Jacob hits send, then turns his cell phone completely off so he won't be disturbed again. He turns to face Lauren who is startled to be face to face and so close to him.

JACOB (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
The defrag just needs to run for a bit. Takes awhile.

LAUREN
Thanks.

JACOB
So you and Calvin are definitely over, huh?

Lauren is so confused, her head is swimming. She wants to win, but she doesn't want to do this. She answers thinking about the competition, not Jacob's question.

LAUREN
I want it all to be over. I'm so confused about everything. It's too much. I can't think straight.

51 INT. WINE AND JAZZ BAR - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

51

Calvin is reading Jacob's text message. He sees the words.

CLOSE UP ON WORDS:

"W/ Lauren"

"broke up"

Calvin puts it all together. He grabs his jacket and tears out of there.

52 INT. LAUREN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

52

Lauren drops her head in her hands and begins to CRY. Jacob moves to the bed beside her and takes her in his arms.

JACOB

Hey. It's OK. Everything's OK.
I'm here.

He strokes her hair. Lauren allows him to comfort her. She opens her eyes, considering. She knows Jacob likes her, always has. If she looks up at him, she knows she can have him. A few moments of unpleasantness, and she'll win.

LAUREN

You are here aren't you?

JACOB

Yeah. I'm here.

She looks up at him with tears in her eyes. They are very close. Jacob's heart is caught, he can't look away.

LAUREN

You've always been a good friend to me Jacob.

JACOB

Yeah? I think I understand you pretty well.

LAUREN

Yeah. I think so too.
(hating to say it)
I've always really liked you.

Jacob licks his lips like a love-sick puppy. Suddenly, he makes the decision, closes his eyes, and dives in for a kiss. Lauren changes her mind at the very last minute and dives out of the way, onto the bed, arms wrapped over her head.

Jacob is confused to come up with air. He opens his eyes to see Lauren holding her head, MOANING. She's stalling now, trying to turn the tide.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Oh my God, my head hurts! I need
an aspirin!

Jacob is oblivious to anything else and decides that now is
the time to confess his feelings.

JACOB

You're the perfect woman, Lauren!

LAUREN

What?

JACOB

You're the perfect woman! I
created an app that I sold for a
ton of money this week and it's all
about you. The perfect woman. I'm
going to be rich. And now that
Calvin's out of the way, I can take
care of you, like you deserve.

LAUREN

Jacob, I'm not the perfect woman.
I'm a mess. You have no idea how
messed up I am.

JACOB

I'm messed up too! So maybe we're
perfect for each other.

Jacob moves in to kiss her, but she dodges him.

LAUREN

Did you hear that?

JACOB

What?

LAUREN

My phone! Is it ringing?

Lauren puts the unringing cell phone to her ear.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Hello? Mom, is that you?

52 A EXT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

Calvin pulls up in his Audi A-7 into Lauren's driveway. He
gets out of the car and rushes into the house.

52 B INT. LAUREN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

Jacob takes the phone from Lauren and tosses it aside. He has worked himself into a lather. He practically crawls on top of her as he confesses the depth of his feelings.

JACOB

Lauren, don't tease me anymore.
I'm crazy about you. I always knew
we'd be together. I just knew it.

Jacob is oblivious to her protests and her body language. He begins kissing her neck as she turns her head and tries to free herself. At that moment, Calvin walks in.

CALVIN

WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

Jacob and Lauren both freeze and look up at him, shocked to be caught like this. Lauren slides out from Jacob's grasp and stands, smoothing out her hair and clothing.

LAUREN

Calvin, I'm so sorry. It was
the... competition. I was trying
to win. I'm so sorry.

Calvin looks at her incredulously. She drops her eyes, ashamed. Jacob isn't sure what's going on or what he should say. He begins to stand.

JACOB

Isn't LIFE really a competition? I
mean -

Calvin POPS HIM ON THE CHIN. Jacob flies back on the bed and Lauren covers her mouth, shocked. Jacob sits up, holding his face.

JACOB (CONT'D)

OUCH!! You guys broke up!!

Calvin is truly pissed. His friend has betrayed him in the worst way possible.

CALVIN

YOU are a pig! I want you to get
your crap and get out of my house!
Tonight! GET OUT!!

Jacob looks at him, hurt and growing upset.

JACOB

Oh. So I'm the pig, huh? Is that
how we're gonna play it? What
about you?

Calvin tries to assess his meaning.

CALVIN

What about me?

JACOB

Perfect freaking undefeated Calvin
Chesney never does anything wrong
does he? Or does he? Should we
ask Gena what she thinks?

Calvin can see Jacob is going off on a tangent, and he thinks
he knows where he's going.

CALVIN

Jacob, wait.

LAUREN

(her worst fear)
Gena? What is he talking about?

Jacob and Calvin size each other up, each of them weighing
whether Jacob will actually say it.

CALVIN

Jake -

JACOB

(blurting it out)
- Calvin slept with your sister
back in law school!

Lauren is stunned. Calvin looks as stunned as she is, he
wasn't expecting Jacob to say THAT. It's all wrong. There's
been a real misunderstanding.

LAUREN

WHAT?

Calvin is caught off guard, stumbling over his words. He
doesn't talk fast enough because Lauren is out the door in
flash. Calvin starts to follow but Jacob stands in his way.

CALVIN

Wait, Lauren! No, it wasn't like
that!
(to Jacob)
Get out of my way!

Calvin hears the front door open and SLAM SHUT. Calvin glares at Jacob.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
 Why'd you do that, man? What's wrong with you?

Jacob is defensive.

JACOB
 You should have told her.

CALVIN
 I DIDN'T SLEEP WITH GENA!

Jacob is genuinely stunned to hear this.

JACOB
 You didn't?

CALVIN
 No!

JACOB
 That one summer? But you guys were so flirty and stuff. You acted like you did!

CALVIN
 No! We went out a few times, yes, but it never went to that level. It was casual.

Jacob EXHALES feeling really sheepish.

JACOB
 Oh. Sorry about that dude. My bad. Really.

Calvin glares at him.

53	INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT	53
	Gena is sitting in her front room, fire lit, JAZZ PLAYING on her turntable. She's got a glass of wine and a legal file in her lap. Her DOORBELL RINGS.	
54	INT. GENA'S FRONT DOOR - SAME TIME OF NIGHT	54
	Gena opens her door to reveal a miserable and angry Lauren.	

GENA
What happened? Are you OK?

Lauren steps in.

55 INT. GENA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 55

Lauren steps into the room and turns to face her sister.

LAUREN
Why didn't you tell me the truth?

Gena takes a guess at what Lauren is talking about.

GENA
Oh that. Listen, he told me right after he met you that he didn't want the partnership for getting you to shut the blog down.

Lauren is stunned AGAIN.

LAUREN
WHAT?

Gena realizes this is not what Lauren came to talk about.

GENA
Huh? Oh - nothing. That's not even a thing. Let's talk about your thing.

LAUREN
Why did you sleep with Calvin?

GENA
I didn't sleep with Calvin.

LAUREN
You didn't?

GENA
No.
(confessing the truth)
We did go out a few times, back in law school.

LAUREN
You did? Why didn't you tell me?

GENA

I didn't think you needed to know.
It was a long time ago. It was
nothing.

LAUREN

It's something to me! You knew it
would be!

GENA

Maybe that's why I didn't tell you.

LAUREN

You are such a slut!

GENA

Excuse me?

LAUREN

You always have been! Running
around, screwing whoever you want,
like it doesn't mean anything.
Like NOBODY means anything! It's
disgusting!

Gena is indignant. She can see Lauren is upset, so she lets
it slide.

GENA

I enjoy my life just as it is. I
don't need to explain myself to
you. And I didn't sleep with him.

LAUREN

(breaking down)

How could you send him to me when
you knew how wonderful he was?
When you knew I would fall in love
with him. Were you trying to hurt
me? Show me there's nothing I have
that you can't take away?

Hurting Lauren is the last thing Gena wants to do.

GENA

I'm sorry. I knew that he was
wonderful. I knew that you would
fall in love.

LAUREN

Then why?

GENA

I was trying to help you.

Lauren EXHALES her pain. She is deflated. She sits. All of the horrible memories of the night wash over her. After a long pause she confesses her shame.

LAUREN

Your instincts are as stupid as mine are.

(beat)

I came on to Jacob tonight.

Gena sits beside her, surprised.

GENA

What? Why?

LAUREN

It was the last challenge. I knew he had a crush on me and I wanted to win. I knew that he would go for it. And Calvin, he was so hurt! I hurt him so bad!

Lauren SOBS and Gena takes her in her arms, soothing her.

56 EXT. CALVIN'S BACK PATIO POOLSIDE - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 56

Calvin is standing by the lit pool, the light reflecting off his face as he gazes forlornly into the water. He is holding a fifth of Jack Daniels. It has been a long, confusing month. He's never been so happy, so challenged, so hurt. This girl has gotten under his skin. But how could she do that with Jacob? He looks down at the water below, trying to think his way out of it. He tosses back the whiskey.

57 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 57

Lauren is sniffing with a tissue in her hand, calmer now. Gena is sipping her wine, thinking. The DOORBELL RINGS again.

58 INT. GENA'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER 58

Gena opens her door to reveal Clemie and Alejandro looking rosy cheeked and festive. Clemie holds up a bottle of champagne.

CLEMIE

Guess who got hitched!

59

INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

59

They come into the living room, excited and talking over each other. Clemie is dressed in a white bridal suit, Alejandro wears a black suit.

CLEMIE/ALEJANDRO
(talking over each other)

CLEMIE
- We wanted to call you.

ALEJANDRO
- My heart could not wait!

CLEMIE
- But then Alejandro insisted!

ALEJANDRO
- It was filled with a crescendo of
cries for my beloved Clemie!

They are a whirlwind of joy that comes to rest in the center of Gena's living room. Clemie holds up her ring finger and shows off a lovely diamond.

CLEMIE
So we got married!

Gena GASPS and looks at the ring. Gena is so happy for them. The sound of Lauren SNIFFLING on the couch draws their attention over to her for the first time. Clemie's shoulders droop. She doesn't want to deal with this.

CLEMIE (CONT'D)
Oh no.

Alejandro is immediately more concerned. He goes to her, but stops abruptly when she looks up at him, uncertain she will accept his help. He extends his kerchief to her, an offering. She takes it gratefully and wipes her tears. He sits beside her.

ALEJANDRO
What happened?

LAUREN
Gena. And Calvin.

It's all implied.

CLEMIE
Gena! How could you?

LAUREN

No. It was a long time ago. They just... they didn't tell me.

CLEMIE

Really, Gena, do you have to sleep with every man in Portland?

Gena is exasperated.

GENA

I didn't sleep with him!

Lauren talks to Alejandro, suddenly in earnest to talk to someone who might understand how she feels.

LAUREN

The thing is, I love him. I really do. My heart is so FULL, it hurts.

ALEJANDRO

It takes time to adjust to the fullness.

Lauren smiles, but then a wave of pain passes over her again.

LAUREN

I hurt him. Really bad.

ALEJANDRO

Did you intend to hurt him?

LAUREN

No!

ALEJANDRO

Would you do it again?

LAUREN

No! Never!

ALEJANDRO

Then he will forgive you. That is the beautiful thing about love.

LAUREN

But how can I trust him?

This has always been the real issue with Lauren. Alejandro has no answers for her. Gena is watching, thinking.

GENA

I have an idea.

Gena takes out her cell phone and sends a discreet text message to Calvin.

GENA (CONT'D)
(text message to Calvin)
I need you to come over right away.
It's important. Come now.

She looks up at everyone and they are watching her, curious but unaware who she just texted.

GENA (CONT'D)
But Lauren, you need to trust me.

LAUREN
Why should I trust you?

GENA
Because you just should, OK?

Lauren doesn't like that. She watches as Gena gathers with Clemie and Alejandro on the opposite side of the room, occasionally glancing over at Lauren. Clemie is in shock and obviously doesn't like what she is hearing. Alejandro is pensive. What on earth are they planning?

Then, everyone moves at once, following Gena's orders.

GENA (CONT'D)
OK, I need all this mess cleaned up. Alejandro, move the cars out front so they can't be seen. Mom, help me draw these curtains closed. Lauren, all I need you to do is move into the dining room and stay quiet.

LAUREN
What are you up to Gena?

GENA
I started all this. Give me a chance to make it right. Please?

Lauren reluctantly goes to the dining room. The others begin to join her there. Gena pulls the elegant curtain that separates the rooms nearly closed, so there is just a slit between the curtains for the group to peek through.

60 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

60

Lauren, Clemie and Alejandro have been sequestered into the adjoining dining room. Gena holds the curtains back to speak to the group.

GENA

Alright, I need absolute silence in here.

(to Clemie and Alejandro)

You guys know what to expect. So just, be cool.

(to Lauren)

Lauren, you need to *stay quiet*, and trust me. This should fix everything.

LAUREN

Should?

GENA

(not sure)

It should.

Gena shuts the curtains. She looks around the room. The lights are dim, the fire is crackling, her legal file sits on the coffee table next to her wine glass. The stage is set. The DOORBELL RINGS.

61 INT. GENA'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

61

Gena opens the door to reveal Calvin. He looks exhausted and drunk. He still has the whiskey bottle only now it's half empty. Gena can see this is going to make her job easy. Maybe too easy.

GENA

Wow. Tell me you didn't drive over here like that.

CALVIN

I took an Uber.

GENA

Good boy. Get in here.

62 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

62

Calvin walks into the living room. He sees that Gena has been working.

CALVIN
Is that what this is? A work call?

GENA
Yeah. I thought we could go over
the husband's testimony again. See
if there's anything we missed.

Calvin flops on the couch, holding tight to the whiskey
bottle. He's drunk.

63 INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 63

A thin slice of light falls on Lauren's face. She can see
everything through a crack in the curtains. She is shocked
to see Calvin, and in such a state. The others calm her down
and urge her to remain quiet.

64 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 64

CALVIN
I don't much feel like working
tonight, Gena.

GENA
I can see that.

CALVIN
But I'm glad you called. I need a
place to sleep. Things are messed
up at my place.

Gena sits next to him on the couch. She picks up her wine
glass.

GENA
Of course. You know I'm always
here for you. Want to tell me what
happened?

Calvin takes a drink from his whiskey bottle. Gena smiles
and takes the bottle away from him, setting it on the coffee
table. She moves closer to him in the process.

CALVIN
(drunk, friendly)
You're pretty.

GENA
You're drunk. Tell me what
happened.

Calvin's face darkens.

CALVIN

The last challenge happened. Your sister thought it would be a kick to challenge my best friend, using herself as bait.

65 INT. GENA'S DINING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

65

Everyone is crowded around the crack in the curtain, heads stacked on top of heads, spying on Gena and Calvin.

LAUREN

(whispering)

It was his idea to use Jacob, not mine.

CLEMIE

Shhh.

66 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT

66

GENA

Ouch. That must have stung.

CALVIN

Yeah.

Calvin shakes his head, remembering.

GENA

So, did he go for it?

CALVIN

Oh yeah. He went for it. Maybe Lauren's right about people. Maybe I was wrong all along.

Gena elects to ignore this.

GENA

Did she get his underwear?

CALVIN

What?

GENA

Wasn't that a rule?

CALVIN

Yeah, but... No, she didn't get his underwear. I interrupted them.

GENA

So technically the competition isn't over, right?

CALVIN

It's over.

Calvin picks up the whiskey bottle and takes another drink.

GENA

Well. Cheers to it being over.

She CLINKS her wine glass against the whiskey bottle. Gena removes her hoodie, revealing a low cut tank top. She inches closer, oozing into the couch next to him.

They look at each other, warm and friendly. Calvin likes Gena. And he's tired of fighting.

CALVIN

You think all men are pigs?

GENA

I think all men can be. But so can all women. It's a choice we make. Every day.

She casually reaches for his jacket.

GENA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

You want to take this off?

He leans forward and lets her slide his jacket off. He sits back, getting comfortable, enjoying their talk.

CALVIN

So what about me? Am I a pig?

Gena smiles devilishly.

GENA

I think you can be, if you choose.

CALVIN

If I choose.

GENA

Exactly.

67 INT. GENA'S DINING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 67

Lauren is not breathing. She is watching this flirtation as if her life hangs in the balance. To her, it does.

68 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 68

Gena takes Cal's hand in hers. She sees it is swollen.

GENA
You're hurt.

CALVIN
I'm okay.

Gena runs her thumb over his injury, then slowly brings it to her mouth, brushing her lips over his hand. She looks up at him. Calvin takes in the situation and takes his hand away. He stands and moves to her wet bar.

CALVIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
You got a glass for this? I hate
drinking from the bottle.

He turns around and is surprised to see Gena has followed him and standing right there.

GENA
Boo.

CALVIN
Whoa. Hey, you.

He takes a step back but hits the wall. She moves in slowly, stalking her prey with pleasure.

GENA
You know, Cal, there's a reason you
were so willing to come here
tonight.

CALVIN
There is?

GENA
Yes, and you know it, if you think
about it. And you're honest with
yourself.

She runs her fingers up his chest.

69 INT. GENA'S DINING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 69

Lauren is struggling to burst through the curtain. Alejandro has his arms wrapped around her waist, and Clemie has her hands over her mouth. They struggle to restrain her.

70 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 70

GENA (CONT'D)

You and I are the same people, Cal. Some people, like Lauren, they have strict rules that control their whole lives. They need those rules to feel safe.

CALVIN

And people like us?

GENA

People like us have no rules. We listen to our wants and our desires, and we follow them. No right. No wrong. Just instinct.

Cal is lost for a moment, staring into her eyes. Gena is a force to be reckoned with.

71 INT. GENA'S DINING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 71

Lauren struggles to remove her mother's hands from her mouth.

LAUREN

(muffled)

I'll kill her.

72 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 72

CALVIN

What was that? Did you hear something?

Calvin has turned his head, and Gena uses her fingertips to turn him back to her.

GENA

The TV's on upstairs. Do you remember that summer we were together?

CALVIN

Hmm? Yeah.

GENA

Do you remember how good that felt?
No strings, just... instinct.

Gena is now very close to a kiss.

CALVIN

Gena -

GENA

Don't worry. No one has to know.

Gena leans in for a soft, sensual kiss. For one intense moment, it looks as if the kiss may happen - then Gena's lips are stopped by Calvin's index finger.

CALVIN

Stop.

Gena stops, lips squished, waiting. Calvin taps her lips.

CALVIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

This isn't happening.

Gena arches an eyebrow. She really likes Cal and though she suspected his rejection, she is still a bit surprised by his self control.

73 INT. GENA'S DINING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 73

Lauren covers her own mouth, relieved and tearful. Clemie and Alejandro relax their grip, exhausted.

74 INT. GENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME OF NIGHT 74

Gena smiles a knowing smile in Lauren's direction.

GENA

What's not happening?

Calvin stands up, frustrated from the night's crazy events, impassioned by his feelings for Lauren.

CALVIN

This! Me and you. You're wrong. I don't believe any of that stuff you just said. I believe that we DO have control over our instincts. I believe that even if no one else knows when you do a bad thing, it's still a bad thing, because I WOULD KNOW. And that's bad enough.

Calvin walks to the bar and puts his glass down. He's done with drinking and his passion sobers him up. He turns back to Gena.

CALVIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 I believe in love. In romance. In the soulful chemistry between two people that just can't be explained. I believe in Bourbon. In getting 8 hours of sleep a night, in strong black coffee brewed in the pour over method, and in doing at least one thing to better yourself every day. I believe that the practice of law is fundamentally flawed, but we do the best that we can and sometimes we do good.

Calvin is on a roll, there is no stopping him now.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
 I believe that "hook up" websites prey on people's fears of inadequacy, that novels are always better than movies, and that absolutely no formula, scientific or otherwise can be used to determine with absolute certainty if someone is going to cheat or not.

Calvin nods, growing bolder. He throws out a declaration to the world, smiling, feeling unleashed.

CALVIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 I believe that what you just did was really messed up because (a) you're my boss now, and as weirdly hot as that is it's also illegal; (b) if anything was ever going to happen with us it would have happened a long time ago; and (c) your stupid little scheme led me to meet the girl of my dreams.

Gena is smiling openly now. She was not expecting this much from Calvin. It's more than she could have hoped for.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
 I'm in love with Lauren, OK? She's everything I want in a partner. She's beautiful. She's quirky.
 (MORE)

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Yes, she's stubborn, but that's because she knows what she wants, at least she thinks she does, and I think that's adorable. Her interests are just different enough from mine that we'll always be able to show each other new things. She loves hiking, and pizza, and sleeping in on Sunday. I get butterflies when I see her. I know she's not perfect, but... she's perfect for me. I love her, Gena. And I don't care how long it takes or what I have to do, but I'm going to prove it to her.

GENA

You just did.

The curtains slowly open and Calvin is shocked to see Lauren emerge, Alejandro and Clemie right behind her.

CALVIN

Lauren!

GENA

Congratulations Cal. You were the last challenger. You had to be. And you won.

Calvin is shocked. He looks to Gena, then back to Lauren, uncertain what to say, how to proceed.

CALVIN

Lauren, I...

LAUREN

...love me?

She steps forward, raw and vulnerable before him, her eyes searching his face.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

You love me?

CALVIN

With everything I got.

She's crying tears of relief and joy.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

So what do you say we put all this behind us and start again? No expiration date.

LAUREN
I can if you can. No expiration
date.

And they kiss.

POP! Everyone jumps at the noise as Alejandro pops a bottle
of champagne. Clemie passes around the bubbling glasses.

ALEJANDRO
To love! Yes!

ALL
To love!

We close in on Calvin holding Lauren sweetly in his arms.

CALVIN
(quietly to Lauren)
To love.

LAUREN
To trust.

75

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

75

Lauren is sitting at a book signing table, with a long line
of HAPPY FANS leading out of the room and around the block.
There is a huge poster promoting her new book, "LOVE IS
STRONGER," with a picture of a parachute pack on the cover.

CORINNA is turning over a new leaf, assisting Lauren with the
book signing in a dress she tries to make look professional.
Her body denies what the dress is saying.

Lauren goes to sign the first fan's book.

FAN #1
I just love the new direction of
the blog! It's so inspirational!
And the book is awesome! Life may
be tough, but love is stronger!
Amen!

FAN #2
It's so great. I love your new
vision. And I love being a White
Knight!

LAUREN
I'm glad you like the changes.

77

INT. SKYDIVING AIRPLANE - DAY

77

Calvin and Lauren are aboard a light cargo aircraft, decked out in skydiving gear. Calvin has a GoPro attached to his head. Calvin smiles and looks at Lauren.

CALVIN

Are you ready?

Lauren looks down at the ground far below, then back at Calvin.

LAUREN

Let's do this thing.

They smile, hold hands, and jump.

FADE OUT.