

SCRIPT TITLE

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1

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - DAY

1

TONY (30s caring, neurotic and a little chaotic, a Woody Allen character with a happier ending) is sitting at his desk drinking coffee and reading a book. An open notebook sits on his desk. Sentences started and crossed out and started again.

Throughout the room, scattered amongst many books we see artifacts of Tony's life. Like Ariel's grotto or Wall E's truck but make it 30 something and gay. A picture of him and his sister as kids. His parents wedding photo in Brooklyn next to two prayer cards. Concert tickets poking out of books. Playbills stacked on shelves. A map of middle earth pinned to the wall.

He checks his watch. It is 3pm.

TONY

Ah shit.

He rushes up, bookmarks his page, the coffee spills on his shirt. He changes into a tank top, grabs his car keys and runs out the door.

The door opens again, Tony runs in grabs a box of donuts and runs out.

2

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

2

DONNIE, (5, the smartest person in this story) is waiting outside school to be picked up. He checks his Spiderman watch. He notices a car coming up the road. It's his Uncle Tony pulling up to the curb. He gets out of the car.

TONY

Donnie boy! Sorry I'm late! I lost track of the time. Hope this makes up for it!

He hands him a donut and carries his backpack for him.

DONNIE

It's alright, gave me extra time in the library. Chocolate!

TONY

With rainbow sprinkles. Cause what's your favorite color?

DONNIE

(mouthful)
Rainbow. Thanks Uncle Tony.

Holds the T-Rex back pack up to his face.

TONY

You're welcome Donnie. Roar!

DONNIE

T-Rex can't roar they don't have larynx. They likely hissed similar to crocodiles.

Donnie opens the door and gets in. Tony closes the door still thinking about the dino fact.

3

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

3

Tony and Donnie walk into the kitchen of Daniela's house. Tony has the afternoon school routine down to a science.

TONY

Alright kiddo, start the math homework and then we will finish the diorama of ancient Egypt. I picked up the small sugar cubes and got the perfect shade of yellow.

He reads the paint tube.

TONY (CONT'D)

"Butter popcorn", It'll work. You want a snack?

DONNIE

Can I call my dad please? Have you heard from him?

TONY

Oh, oh. Of course bud. Let me get mom's ipad.

He pulls her ipad out of the kitchen drawer and hands it to Donnie. He hits the call button and runs off.

DONNIE (O.S.)

Hi Dad! Guess what? I got an A on my science test.

4

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

4

Tony and Donnie are sitting at the kitchen counter painting mini sugar cube pyramids. Tony wipes his forehead and accidentally gets paint on his face. His phone rings.

It's his editor MS. KLEIN (60s seasoned, sharp, she thinks she's nice) calling on Facetime. He picks it up.

TONY

Ms. Klein! Hi! I was just thinking about you. And the book.

MS. KLEIN (FACETIME)

Tony. Is there something on your face?

Tony sees his face in the phone. Wipes it. It gets worse.

TONY

Sorry give me a second.

He runs off screen and we hear the faucet running and Donnie giggling.

TONY (CONT'D)

Sorry, sorry. Small Egyptian mishap. Were pyramids yellow? Were they gold? Were they gray? I've never seen them in person but I think gold adds something for--

DONNIE

They were white limestone.

TONY

(more to himself than Donnie)

How do you know that?

MS. KLEIN (FACETIME)

Is this a bad time? I can try again later but we're getting close to my deadline.

TONY

No this is a totally fine time. I'm all ears.

MS. KLEIN (FACETIME)

Ok Tony. Look, I like the book. I like what you have so far and I really do believe in you but adult fantasy is hard to sell. We need a little romance in there. Something for the adult market. How about a little sex?

At the word sex Tony leaps out of the chair knocking over a paint cup.

TONY
Shit. Donnie. Earmuffs.

MS. KLEIN (FACETIME)
Do you have a son?

TONY
No my sister does. I'm the uncle.

Tony's phone dings. It's a text from his boyfriend Erik.

ERIK (TEXT)
"Gota cancel tn. Something came up.
Maybe this week idk. Will let u
know. Thx for understanding!"

MS. KLEIN
I see. Well maybe think less Paw
Patrol and more Brokeback Mountain.
Blame Sarah J. Maas. People want
their wizards bent over and their
fairies bisexual these days. What
are you twenty six?

TONY
Thirty three.

MS. KLEIN
Oh? Geez.

TONY
I doubt you want my personal
romantic life in there.

MS. KLEIN (FACETIME)
Regardless of what I want it's what
sells. You have til the end of the
summer to get those final chapters
to my inbox. HarperCollins wants
all of the spring releases no later
than Labor Day or else they'll end
up in "the bin". This is your
second book. Make it count. And for
God's sake get some sun.

TONY
Bisexual wizards. Labor Day. Sun.
Copy.

MS. KLEIN (FACETIME)
Tony, Vulture called you the next
Neil Gaiman. Their new critic's a
viper, she'll be waiting. Anyway
I'm off. Have a good day.

TONY
Have a good--

The phone goes dark and Tony looks at Donnie who's pyramid is in pristine. DANIELA (30s, Mona Lisa Vito in scrubs and pumps) enters the kitchen.

DONNIE
Mommy! I got an A on my test today!

DANIELA
Oh my big, strong, smart boy! I'm so proud of you!

She picks him up and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

DONNIE
Can I play video games for a little?

DANIELA
No, I'm about to make dinner and you clearly have a project to finish.

DONNIE
Come on, please, what's an A good for anyway?

He pokes Tony's arm under the counter.

TONY
Yeah c'mon mom, don't be such a hard ass.

DANIELA.
Tony don't say hard ass in front of Donnie ya dipshit.

Donnie giggles.

DANIELA
You didn't hear that. When do I get to be good cop?

DONNIE
How about now?
(Tony mimes a clapperboard)
Action.

DANIELA
Ugh fine. Alexa set a timer for 30 minutes.

DONNIE
 (whispers)
 Thanks.

TONY
 (whispers)
 Anytime.

Donnie runs off. Daniela begins taking things out of the refrigerator.

DANIELA
 Thanks for picking him up today. My new front desk boy's useless. Lost half my files.

TONY
 No sweat D.

DANIELA
 Want to stay for dinner?

TONY
 No I have to run. I got a bunch of work to avoid at home.

DANIELA
 "The genius of the author.."

TONY
 "The habits of a writer."

DANIELA
 Tone. Finish it.

TONY
 I am! I mean, I will. I have to. By Labor Day.

She stops with the food.

DANIELA
 Oh speaking of the end of the summer I want to talk about Donnie's birthday. I want it to be perfect for him. Robert will just getting back and this deployment's been so long. I also want it to be better than his friend Regan's. His mom--

DANIELA (CONT'D)
 The PTA bitch with the pretentious muffins.

TONY
 The PTA bitch with the pretentious muffins.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

Don't even. Saying my cookies had too much sugar. Please. I'm the doctor. Next time I'm just gonna hit her.

Tony laughs.

TONY

Easy there Brooklyn. These suburbanites can't handle the heat.

She throws her hands up in surrender. Tony goes to put his shoes on.

DANIELA

Anyway it'll be fun. Also, um, I dont know if I mentioned...
(she tries to say it quickly and quietly)
Robert's brother is moving here so we'll be seeing him a lot this summer.

TONY

Wait what? Robert's brother? Adam?

DANIELA

He's only got one brother.

TONY

No Daniela you didn't mention. Why is he coming here? Why didn't you tell me?

DANIELA

Cause I knew you'd get your little panties in a bunch Tony. Take a breath.

She starts putting the food away again.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

He's moving back from London. He wants to be around his family more.

TONY

He's a prick.

DANIELA

He's a doll and maybe this time you'll get along. My wedding was a million years ago.

TONY
Not long enough.

DANIELA
C'mon you're both gay. Can't you
make amends, have a wine night and
talk about Rupaul's and butt stuff?

TONY
I don't watch Drag Race.

DANIELA
But you do do butt stuff.

Off Tony rolling his eyes.

INT. WASHINGTON ST. BOOK STORE - DAY

Tony enters turns on the lights, drops his stuff behind the counter, turns on the coffee pot and goes into the back and brings out a big box. The door swings open and one of his best friends, TRISH, (20s, Gen Z Samantha Jones meets Odessa A'Zion) bursts through with a venti Starbucks, puffing a candy colored vape.

TONY
Nice of you to join.

TRISH
You're late.

...

TONY
So are you.

TRISH
I know but you're supposed to be on
time so I can be late.

TONY
Missed that memo.

TRISH
Too much Ketamine not enough sleep.

TONY
It's Tuesday.

TRISH
And Mondays are ladies night at
Mayhem Disco.

TONY

It's like there's a gay man trapped in there. I don't even know why you work here your aunt doesn't charge you for rent.

TRISH

Because I'm the last thing tying you to the outside world before you morph into one of those ugly arm chairs. Lu said there'd be a new delivery in the back.

Tony gestures to the box on the floor.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Don't be a smart ass.

He opens it. Pulls out a book.

TONY

Oh the big book of Broadway playbills. Lu listened. I'd have loved that as a kid. I love it now actually.

TRISH

That tracks.

TONY

Look.

TRISH

No.

She pours herself a cup of coffee and starts looking through drawers.

TRISH (CONT'D)

My backup vape, this one died. Ah just where I left it. Oh my god. Today was your meeting! How'd it go?

TONY

It was good! It was ok. It was bad. I kind of forgot it was happening til it happened.

TRISH

What? Oh my god Tony. What were you doing?

TONY

I was on Donnie duty.

Trish sits down in a chair while Tony puts away the new books and vinyls.

TRISH

Tony, the help you give your sister while Robert's away is sweet but you can't let it get in the way of your own life. You're not his dad.

TONY

I know that.

TRISH

Well. What did your editor say?

TONY

That I need to have the rest of the chapters to her by the end of the summer or the book will most likely get trashed. Oh she also wants me to pull from my sex life.

TRISH

So it's a Greek tragedy.

Tony throws the packing paper at her.

TRISH (CONT'D)

You'll find it. Just gotta tap a vein and let' er rip. Speaking of dicks with little dicks. How's that man?

TONY

I'm seeing Erik tomorrow night.

TRISH

Ew Tony. Really? I was hoping you'd say it was over. Hasn't he been dangling you around long enough?

TONY

I dont know. I have fun with him I think. He apologized for ghosting me last month. It's hard to meet people IRL as the kid's say.

TRISH

Don't say that.

(beat)

(MORE)

TRISH (CONT'D)

You deserve someone who's good to you. You've always wanted that white picket fence shit. Even if I don't see the point, you have a right to that life

TONY

Does anyone have a right to any sort of life? Maybe he'll change.

Tony brings the box back to the backroom.

TRISH

Or maybe you will.

6

INT. ERIK'S CAR - NIGHT

6

Tony and ERIK (30's handsome, selfish, would be Bravo's greatest villain) are in the back seat of Eriks car hooking up. Erik's phone is sitting in the console. It buzzes.

ERIK

This is Erik. No, stop. I told him that it was a clear cut case of libel. I'll deal with it tomorrow. Ugh, I have to go. Bye.

He hangs up.

TONY

I'm so full. I feel like you don't usually need that much cayenne pepper in cheesecake but Tik Tok can get you to try anything can't it?

Erik ignores him and goes back in for a kiss. Tony kisses him back and then breaks away.

TONY (CONT'D)

So I was thinking that, well, it's been 6 months now and my family keeps asking about you.

Erik stops listening and goes down on Tony. We hear his pants unzip.

TONY (CONT'D)

If you'd like to come to my sister's this weekend you could finally meet them for breakfast or something--

ERIK
Ha. That's funny.

Tony stays silent. Erik comes up, realizing it's not a joke.

ERIK (CONT'D)
I thought we were just having fun.
This isn't, like, a relationship.

TONY
What?

ERIK
We're just hanging out, hooking up.
We're not boyfriends.

TONY
You're breaking up with me?

ERIK
I don't know that you could call it
breaking up since we were never
really seeing each other. I work at
a law firm and you work at a
bookstore.

TONY
We've seen each other almost every
weekend for 6 months.

ERIK
It's nothing personal. I am two
maybe three months from starting my
own firm and if I'm going to do
that I need someone more serious.

TONY
Serious?

ERIK
I need more of a Jackie than a
Marilyn.

TONY
Are you quoting Legally Blonde?

ERIK
Look Tony, the person I end up with
has to have a real job with a real
income. You say you're an author
but where are your other books? You
spend all your time babysitting.

TONY

I'm not babysitting. I'm his uncle.

They don't know what to say.

ERIK

Same thing. You should go.

Tony gets out of the car.

ERIK (CONT'D)

Wait.

Tony turns around.

ERIK (CONT'D)

Did you maybe want to put it in your mouth one last time? Would that be weird? You're right it's weird. Unless you wanna...No? K. Bye.

Erik drives off leaving Tony in the middle of the parking lot.

8

INT. WASHINGTON ST. BOOKSTORE - DAY

8

Tony's at work at the bookstore. He sells a book to a customer and they leave. Tony's boss and mentor LU (70's, tough, she could kick your ass but would also ice the wound after) walks in holding a replica of the lamp from A Christmas Story.

LU

Morning Tone. Look at what I picked up downtown. Isn't she somethin'.

TONY

She's somethin' alright.

Lu places the lamp on one of the display tables.

LU

Like a glove. Gimme a sales report skipper.

TONY

Well we sold three and had one return so, two. But we have done a bunch of coffee so that's exciting!

LU

The kindle will be the final nail in my coffin. Anyway how was the weekend? Did he meet your sister?

TONY

Oh. No he broke up with me a few days ago. He said I was too Marilyn. Not Jackie enough.

LU

What? Tony. Jackie had a horse face. Screw him. I never liked him anyway. Not good enough for you.

TONY

Thank you. I'm alright.

LU

The right one is out there Tony.

TONY

Yeah I dont know.

LU

Oh I'm sorry I can't find the book where the 70 year old black lesbian feels bad for the pretty little white boy for having too many Tinder matches. Where'd you put it?

She smirks.

TONY

I know. Still hate it.

LU

Well my sweet Debbie was worth it. 35 years we owned this store. I saw her when I walked through that door for the first time and I swear the rest of the world went fuzzy. It was like seeing an angel and time froze.

Tony smiles. He does love Lu.

TONY

Want some tea? I just made it.

Tony hands Lu a mug and they sit.

LU

Been 5 years since she died. No one had more fight than my girl but even she lost in the end.

Tony squeezes Lu's hand.

LU (CONT'D)

Anyway, tell me about your book? Can't wait to put my signed copy in the window next to your first.

TONY

The book is fine. Almost done. Just have to add a little love or sex or something to the book. I don't know.

Tony stands up and busies himself at a shelf.

LU

I believe in you. Get it done baby. You'll always have a home with me but I don't want you wasting your whole life here. What's that quote from A Bronx Tale? The saddest thing in life is-

TONY

Wasted talent.

LU

Anyone ever tell you you look just like --

TONY

Yes. Constantly.

Tony playfully rolls his eyes and walks to another shelf.

TONY (CONT'D)

I'll find the time. I've just been busy here and being at Daniela's.

LU

I know Tony. But that's her life, not yours. Don't let one get in the way of the other.

Tony walks into his room and puts his stuff down. He sits at his desk and opens his notebook labeled **MANUSCRIPT 2**.

His phone lights up.

CHRISTOPHER (TEXT)
Trish getting here at 6 for game
night. Don't be late. No excuses
Anthony. I made quiche.

Tony stares between his phone and his notebook for a moment.

10

INT. CHRISTOPHERS'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

10

Tony and Trish are sitting at a table with chips and beer playing a board game. CHRISTOPHER (30s, one of the Stranger Things kids grown up) enters with beers.

CHRISTOPHER
No, will you two pay attention
please. Each turn starts with a
dice roll for resource production,
followed by trading and building
phases. You get one point per
settlement and two points per city.

TRISH
And how many points for gouging my
eye out with a fork?

Tony laughs.

CHRISTOPHER.
Patricia don't be rude I tried GHB
for you last month. I nearly
fainted when I got back home.
(to Tony)
And don't you laugh. You love
Catan. We spent half of covid
between this and Villainous.

TONY
I know babe, I'm sorry I'm just
distracted.

TRISH
I'm just kidding Chrissy I want to
play the game. How come this one
has no capes. I miss my cape.

TONY
That's Dungeons and Dragons.

CHRISTOPHER

Your suspended from D&D nights till you replace Marshall's light up staff. He's been in a mood ever since.

TRISH

Oh I'm sorry. I didn't mean to screw up your sex life.

CHRISTOPHER

It's fine. There hasn't been much of one these days anyway. Bit of a dry spell, 6 months. Things get stale after 12 years of marriage?

TONY

Oh I'm sorry.

CHRISTOPHER

It's normal I guess.

TONY

It definitely is.

TRISH

As long as it doesn't turn into the Sahara Desert. Come over next week I just got a new whip off Adam and Eve. You can borrow it.

CHRISTOPHER

Anyway. Anthony you were saying before I got the refills.

TONY

Umm, I forget.

TRISH

That little twat left you on the side of the road with blue balls and no coat.

TONY

Right. Thank you.

CHRISTOPHER

Really though babe, you don't exactly pick winners.

TRISH

Maybe it's time we find you a sugar daddy. Get you kept.

TONY

I don't think I'm the sugar baby type.

CHRISTOPHER

Unfortunately, for all of us, you're not.

TRISH

There's nothing wrong with giving a refined gentleman companionship for security. Ya get fucked for free might as well get paid for it eh?

TONY

Ya got me there babe.

TRISH

Loosen up, I'm kidding, you just need a dating profile. I have three. Look at that mug. So many men in this city would be happy to pin it down.

TONY

Yeah, yeah.

TRISH

You used to be such the little lover boy. Your favorite movie is The Little Mermaid!

CHRISTOPHER

"Daddy I love him!"

TONY

It's a good movie.

TRISH

This is all beside the point. You want love, it's out there. You just gotta fall in love with you first. No one will realize you're amazing til you do.

CHRISTOPHER

Wow Trish.

TRISH

I've been watching a lot of Couples Therapy on Starz. Should we do something fun? Should we go dancing?

CHRISTOPHER

Not tonight. Marshall wants me done by nine for Dancing With The Stars.

TONY

Wow. Anyway, I can't. I'm going to Daniela's tomorrow. Her brother-in-law Adam is coming. She's throwing a little welcome brunch for him.

TRISH

No! The one that made fun of you for half of his best man speech at the wedding? You were mortified!

CHRISTOPHER

With the great abs, tight ass and killer smile?

Tony shoots him a sarcastic smile.

TRISH

He's moving back? You want me to fight him?

TONY

Yes.

CHRISTOPHER

The drama. The intrigue.

Tony throws a Catan piece at Christopher.

TRISH

On that note. Party favors?

She pulls out a dime bag.

CHRISTOPHER

Fucking Gen Z.

11 INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

11

Tony wakes up at 11am with a gnarly hangover and checks his phone. He sees a few missed calls and a text from his sister. "Come at 10. Pick up ice? Freezer broke."

Shit. He rips open the curtain. Ow, the light. Sunglasses. Keys. Advil bottle. Door.

12

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

12

Daniela is in the kitchen with VIVIAN (40s, Victoria Beckham without the David), Adam's best friend from London and JESS (30s, bubbly, has applied to Love Is Blind 4 times) Daniela's bestie. They all have mimosas.

JESS

Have you heard from him at all?
He's usually pretty timely isn't he?

DANIELA

Yeah he is. I'm sure he's on his way.

Vivian eyes a bag of groceries on the floor.

VIVIAN

What's going on here? Food Drive?

DANIELA

Oh no. Another party for the kids at school. I'm in competition with another one of the moms, Karen. That's her actual name. Younger me would've just shoved my foot up her ass but..

JESS

Oh what are you baking?

DANIELA

Nothing, theres a box of Entenmanns in there. Just gonna replate 'em. Watch the bitch squirm. To be honest Robert's the better baker.

Jess puts her hand on Daniela's shoulder.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

It's ok, don't make me cry. At least I got Tony here to help. He's really a blessing.

She pours them all more prosecco.

JESS

He'd make such a great dad.

DANIELA

If only he could find a man now. He picks such fuck boys. It's like me in high school.

JESS
And college.

They cheers.

JESS (CONT'D)
And that summer when you were in
medical school when we went to Cabo
and met those three Brazilian swim
instructors with the giant-

DANIELA
Alright Jess, that's enough we've
just met Vivian.

VIVIAN
Oh no do go on. I had a similar
summer in Capri.

They all cheers.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
Well I hope some of this family
life rubs off on Adam. He's ready
to settle down. Well, I am ready
for him to settle down.

JESS
How'd you meet Adam again?

VIVIAN
I'm his work wife, love. And his
supervisor which makes it extra
scandalous!

JESS
Oh love that.

DANIELA
What are the gays like in London?
Adam find alotta success?

VIVIAN
No, he *is* the fuck boy. The minute
a guy takes initiative or asks for
a third date, boop, he runs like a
thief in the night.

DANIELA
Men.

JESS
Is he still napping?

VIVIAN

Jet lag takes him out. Not me, four shots of espresso and an adderall does the trick.

JESS

Oh adderall. The only thing that passed me through Spanish 4.

DANIELA

You got a D.

JESS

But I *passed*.

The doorbell rings. Tony enters the kitchen carrying two bags of ice.

TONY

Hello family.

Daniela rushes over to him.

DANIELA

Tony! You're here. I was starting to get worried.

TONY

Look at you, turning into mom. She'd be so proud. Ice.

He hands over the bags.

TONY (CONT'D)

Where's little man?

DANIELA

Oh thanks.

(she makes the sign of the cross)

He's in the playroom with this new Nintendo thing Adam got him.

Tony tenses.

VIVIAN

Hi darling, I'm Vivian. Adam's friend. I'm here for a bit to help smooth his transition.

TONY

Nice to meet you.

VIVIAN

Have yourself a bit of a night last night?

TONY

A bit.

JESS

Hi T.

TONY

Hey Jess.

JESS

What's on your shirt?

DANIELA

What happened to you? Go change. Do you have anything clean to wear?

TONY

It's been a bit of a morning. Can I take one of Robert's shirts? Or I must've left something here at some point--

A cat catches Tony's tongue. He is stopped mid sentence seeing ADAM (30s, as if Ken walked out of the box and into the kitchen) enter the kitchen.

ADAM

Tony? Wow it's been so long. How are you? All grown up. Got a little something on your shirt there man.

TONY

Hi Adam.

Daniela stands in between them. Uncomfortable.

Donnie enters from outside.

TONY (CONT'D)

Donnie boy!

DONNIE

Uncle Tony! Look Mario Kart 8. I already unlocked Mirror Mode!

Tony forgets he's jealous of Adam for a minute.

TONY

Mirror mode! No way let me see.

DONNIE
Uncle Adam you gotta see this.

ADAM
Happy you like it buddy.

DONNIE
Will you come vers me?

ADAM
How about after we eat?

Donnie heads back outside.

DANIELA
Let's get you a shirt.

ADAM
Seems like a good idea.

TONY
Ya know what? Never mind, this
looks fine.

Tony stalks off. Adam watches Tony go.

13

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

13

They've finished eating. The table is littered with a bunch of food and drinks. Vivian's holding court. Donnie hangs on Adam's arm.

VIVIAN
Afterward I told her to stop asking
me about it. I was like "Julia no.
He will not audition to play Guy
Ritchie in Madonna's biopic."

ADAM
I was understudy for one of the
roles in Les Miserables. Didn't
work out like I planned.

VIVIAN
A loss.

ADAM
Eh, its ok. Will always be a fan of
theatre. Robert used to make fun of
the way I preserved all of my
playbills.

Jess laughs almost too loudly.

DANIELA

Tony acted for a bit too.

VIVIAN

Did you now?

TONY

I was a theatre major for a year in college before I switched to the creative writing program.

DANIELA

But he was so cute in The Wizard of Oz his senior year of high school. He played the yellow brick road!

ADAM

Wow bud. How does one play the yellow brick road?

TONY

Well Adam, *one* plays the Yellow Brick Road by singing "We're Off To See The Wizard" next to Dorothy and her friends for a good portion of the play. *One* might say it's pretty integral to the show.

ADAM

One might say the Ruby Slippers are pretty integral too. Did someone play those?

Everyone laughs but Tony.

DANIELA

So Adam, what part of town are you looking at?

ADAM

I found the perfect 3 bedroom on 3rd. Closing on it soon actually.

JESS

Oh fancy. Those are hard to find.

ADAM

All about planning and execution.

He winks, Jess blushes, Tony cringes.

VIVIAN

Is that near you, Tony?

TONY
I'm on the east side.

VIVIAN
So no?

TONY
No.

JESS
Vivian, how long are you in town
for?

VIVIAN
I'll be here through September.

Donnie runs over.

DONNIE
Uncle Adam will you come play
kickball with me?

ADAM
Kickball? Of course, I'm basically
a pro. Where's the field?

DANIELA
Tony usually sets it up. The bases
are in his sports bin.

TONY
I'll set it up. I'll come play with
you too. How's that?

ADAM
That sounds like fun.

DONNIE
I'm always at bat!

He pulls Adam up and out into the yard. Tony winces.

14 EXT. DANIELA'S BACKYARD - DAY

14

Tony has set up a typical kickball game that he plays with
Donnie. Except this time Adam's playing.

DONNIE
I'm on both teams. Uncle Adam
you're team Spiderman and Uncle
Tony you're team Green Goblin.

TONY
Really?

DONNIE
Yeah.

ADAM
No arguing with the king.

TONY
Batter up.

15 EXT. DANIELA'S BACKYARD - DAY

15

Tony pitches to Donnie first and he makes it to first base. Next up is Adam, Tony rolls the ball and Adam kicks it full strength to his chest. Not expecting it he gets knocked to the ground with the kickball. Donnie runs home.

DONNIE
Uncle Tony get up he's going to score!

Tony gets up off the ground and feebly tries to throw Adam, out as he's rounding home base. He misses, they score. It's on.

16 EXT. DANIELA'S BACKYARD - DAY

16

Adam takes the pitchers mound and Donnie is up first. Adam rolls him a gentle pitch and Donnie kicks it into left field. He gets to second base.

DONNIE
C'mon Uncle Tony get me home!

Tony goes up to bat.

ADAM
Don't hurt yourself now.

TONY
Pitch the ball.

Adam pitches the ball to Tony. Tony takes a running start and roundhouses the ball right back into Adams nose. Donnie makes it home. Tony winks and runs toward the plate.

MONTAGE

-Tony pitches too hard

-Adam pegs too hard
 -Tony kicks into his chest
 -Adam hits him in the head
 -Adam and Tony switch off pegging each other too hard
 -Adam dives to make it home safe

END MONTAGE

17 INT. DANIELA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

17

Daniela, Jess and Vivian are watching the game from the window.

DANIELA
 Who's your money on?

JESS
 Adam.

VIVIAN
 Should we be concerned?

DANIELA
 I'm going to go outside.

JESS
 Oh my god look they're wrestling.

Jess opens the window.

JESS (CONT'D)
 Take your shirts off!

DANIELA
 Ew.

JESS

Daniela exits.

JESS (CONT'D)
 Wouldn't mind being in the middle
 of that, am I right?

18 EXT. DANIELA'S BACKYARD - DAY

18

The men are still grappling on the grass. Donnie stands beside them. Daniela runs over and breaks it up.

DANIELA

Alright boys. Boy's that's enough!
Your nephew is watching. And so is
Jess who's about to need a change
of pants.

They stop and fall over on the grass, both winded.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

My god, you're almost middle aged
men.

Donnie, clueless, celebrates his kickball win.

DONNIE

I knew Spiderman would win!

ADAM

Was all you little man.

They fist bump.

DONNIE

Statistically the odds stay in my
favor when I play on both teams.
(to no one in particular)
I'm going to ride my bike!

He runs off to the bike.

ADAM

Good game. I should change out of
these clothes. Excuse me Daniela,
I'm going to use your loo.

Tony stares.

TONY

It's a bathroom ya tool.

DANIELA

Tony! What has gotten into you?

TONY

He started it.

DANIELA

Real mature.

Adam walks off towards Donnie who cheers him on. Tony glares.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

Tony, don't be silly. You're still his favorite.

TONY

Yeah yeah.

19 INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - EVENING 19

Daniela is cleaning up the kitchen after everyone has gone home. She stops and pulls out her ipad, calls Robert.

20 INT. DANIELA'S LIVING ROOM/AIR FORCE BASE GERMANY -NIGHT 20

ROBERT (40s, kind, caring father and husband) is on Facetime in his Air Force uniform.

DANIELA

Ah hi baby! You look so handsome in your uniform.

ROBERT (FACETIME)

Hi beautiful. How's everything over there? Did Adam get in ok?

DANIELA

He did. Adam and Tony left a while ago.

ROBERT (FACETIME)

Oh. How was that?

DANIELA

Adam and Tony? Um fine. They'll be pals in no time. Or they'll kill each other, who knows.

They laugh.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

I miss you so much. How's it going over there? I can't wait to have you back.

ROBERT (FACETIME)

I miss you more. It's good, very long days but we're getting closer.

DANIELA

Closer? You're coming home next week.

ROBERT (FACETIME)

Not exactly. It looks like it may be a little longer sweetie. I'm sorry. Orders from the top.

DANIELA

No. That's awful news. I need you. Donnie needs you.

ROBERT (FACETIME)

I know. I'm sorry.

DANIELA

As long as you're here for his birthday.

ROBERT (FACETIME)

I will be.

21 INT. DANIELAS HOUSE - DAY

21

Daniela is packing her bag for work. She takes out her phone and sends a text to the group labeled "Uncle Chat."

DANIELA (TEXT)

Hi boys, would one of you mind picking up Donnie today from school? I have a late appointment at work. Thanks! Xx.

Two texts immediately respond back.

ADAM (TEXT)

Will be there.

TONY (TEXT)

Of course.

22 EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

22

Donnie is coming out of school waiting on the corner to be picked up holding his science project. Two cars pull up, Tony and Adam.

They're both holding a bag of donuts. It's a stand-off.

Donnie runs to Tony.

DONNIE
Uncle Tony! We got an A on Egypt!

TONY
Yeah buddy! Nice work!

Donnie gets into Tony's car. Tony gives Adam a wave. Adam shoots back a sarcastic smile.

23

EXT. DANIELA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

23

TONY
What is the problem?

ADAM
I can't do this. You're coming on too strong.

TONY
Well I can't help it that's how I feel.

ADAM
Well back off a little.

TONY
No.

ADAM
Well this is stupid.

TONY
Oh ok well tell him that.

Donnie stands in the corner of the room on a make shift stage dressed as a wolf.

Adam softens.

ADAM
Why do I have to be Little Red Riding Hood. Let me be the hunter.

TONY
I'm sorry Adam, I didn't cast this. You're the professional aren't you Marius?

Tony walks back to Donnie.

ADAM
(to himself)
It was Enjolras.

Adam joins the other two.

DONNIE
Ok guys, from the top, and with
feeling this time.

Tony gives Adam a "go ahead" look.

ADAM
Why Granny what big teeth you have.

DONNIE
The better to eat you with my dear!

Adam gives his best little girl scream.

DONNIE (CONT'D)
Brilliant work. Let's move onto the
next scene.

Donnie walks over to his script.

Tonys laughing with his phone in his hand.

ADAM
You better not have filmed that.

TONY
I feel like we could submit for a
Tony.

ADAM
Give me the phone.

Adam goes to grab the phone and Tony moves his hand.

TONY
Oop. Too slow.

Adam reaches for it again. Tony backs away. Adam chases Tony
out of the living room into the backyard.

Donnie walks over to the window.

DONNIE
(sighs)
Actors.

24

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

24

Adam is unpacking some boxes and setting up his apartment that doesn't have much in it. There's a knock at the door.

VIVIAN

I know you said tender greens. Blah
blah abs and speedos. I got us
Wendy's. God bless American fast
food.

ADAM

This is borderline sabotage.

He lets Vivian in. She hands him the bags and makes herself at home.

ADAM (CONT'D)

What do you want to drink? Seltzer,
water, iced tea?

VIVIAN

You have any gin?

ADAM

It's noon.

VIVIAN

It's five o' clock somewhere babes.

He cracks two beers.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

That'll do.

ADAM

Robert called me a few days ago.
He's got to stay in Europe longer.
It's been a couple years now.

VIVIAN

I'm sorry mate. That is the worst.
Daniela must be a wreck.

ADAM

She is.

VIVIAN

At least you have each other. So
how's it been so far?

ADAM

It's nice being around. Seeing my
nephew.

VIVIAN
He is a cutie.

ADAM
He is.

She smiles at him.

ADAM (CONT'D)
What?

VIVIAN
Looks like someone's biological
clock just went off.

ADAM
Nah, I'm good. Too much
responsibility.

VIVIAN
You seriously don't see yourself
settling down some day?

ADAM
You know me better than that. I
don't need anyone. I'm not one of
those co-dependent homebody types.
I'm good at being alone.

VIVIAN
Oh babe. Isn't it time you let down
that guard a little?

ADAM
I don't have a guard. I have a good
life.

VIVIAN
Adam it's me you're talking to. The
girl who's watched you cry during
Fievel Goes West.

ADAM
They really put that little mouse
through it!

VIVIAN
Wouldn't it be nice to have someone
to share all of this with? I mean
you moved all the way back here to
be with family. To start a family I
daresay.

ADAM

Hi pot, it's me kettle. You're black.

VIVIAN

Hey, a divorce after 10 years of marriage earns me at least five years of fun. Besides I was always going to adopt one at fifty. And be done.

ADAM

A hookup once in a while is fun. I cum, I go. See what I did there?

VIVIAN

Don't quit your day job.

ADAM

What's that saying? If it ain't broke don't fix it.

VIVIAN

A broken clock is right twice a day.

ADAM

Curiosity killed the cat. Are we done?

Vivian throws her hands up in surrender.

VIVIAN

You're so cute when you get mad.

Adam smiles. Opens his bag.

ADAM

Why in God's name did you order 40 nuggets?

VIVIAN

Sorry. I got excited.

25

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

25

Daniela walks in with grocery bags full of food. She's on the phone with her front desk boy.

DANIELA

Billy, Billy stop talking please. Thank you.

(MORE)

DANIELA (CONT'D)

I told you Ms. Bansbach has been on an auto renew prescription for the last year. If her blood pressure goes any higher her head will pop off. Ok.

(then)

What? No I told you that's my son's birthday weekend I will be out that Friday at noon. Noon!

She flips of the phone and silent screams.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

(real sweet)

Thank you Billy. Bye bye.

The grocery bag rips and bottoms out.

26 INT. DANIELA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

26

Daniela is sitting in her living room watching tv with under eye patches on. She gets a text and reads it. She puts down her phone and she picks it back up and calls Tony.

DANIELA

Hi Tone.

27 INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

27

TONY

(singing)

Hellooooo Dolly!

INTERCUT DANIELA/TONY

DANIELA

How are you?

TONY

I'm fine, just sitting here.

He is poorly executing a Rubik's cube and ignoring the notebook in front of him.

DANIELA

You pay all that rent to live in the city and you're "just sitting there." Get out, ya nut. Go do something.

TONY

I am doing something. I'm sitting here.

DANIELA

You will do anything to be difficult. Can I enlist the help of everyone's favorite uncle to babysit tomorrow night?

TONY

If I still hold the title.

DANIELA

Don't be a baby. Jess booked a room at a hotel downtown for a girls night and I'd really love to go.

TONY

I'm kidding. Yes of course I will.

DANIELA

Oh I love you. Ok great. I booked that pizza lady from the town over. She was at one of Donnie's friends birthdays. That should be fun. Have a good night, go back to sitting or whatever it was you were doing.

They hang up. Stay on Tony's room.

TONY

Pizza lady?

He opens his notebook, crosses out a line and writes a few new sentences.

Tony gets a text notification on his phone. He checks it.

ERIK (TEXT)

U up?

TONY (TEXT)

Yeah what's up?

His text is marked "read" but no response. He goes back to writing.

Donnie is reading at the counter next to Adam as Daniela is double checking her bags. Tony enters.

DANIELA
Oh good you're here.

TONY
I am. Who invited Draco Malfoy?

DANIELA
Tony. He just showed up 30 minutes ago and asked if he could hang with Donnie. I'd have canceled you but you were already halfway here. He needs friends Tony. Like anyone else. Play nice.

Daniela goes to grab her bags.

TONY
I will if he will.

ADAM
Hey.

TONY
Hey.

Tony walks over to Donnie.

TONY (CONT'D)
Hey Don.

DONNIE
Hi Uncle Tony. Did you know that the male clownfish can change its gender if the large female dies.

TONY
I did not.

DONNIE
Makes you think about Finding Nemo.

TONY
It does.

Daniela gathers up her final things and heads for the door.

DANIELA
Ok call if you need anything at all. I'll be home tomorrow early morning. There's a hot stone massage calling my name.

She leaves.

TONY
So what should we do til the pizza
lady gets here?

DONNIE
I got Jenga from my school
Christmas fair!

TONY
The council has spoken. Tis Jenga.

He runs off to grab jenga in the other room. The men stand awkwardly in the kitchen avoiding eye contact.

29

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

29

The game of Jenga has been going on for some time. Donnie is giddy with excitement. The uncles are locked in.

DONNIE
Your turn Uncle Tony.

TONY
Ok Donnie boy. Let me show you how
it's done.

Tony goes to extract a jenga piece from the tower. He succeeds and removing one and begins to place it on top.

ADAM
Careful there. Looking a little
shaky.

Tony successfully places the piece.

TONY
You're up.

ADAM
Easy.

Adam takes a jenga piece out successfully and carefully goes to place it on top of the puzzle.

Everyone is laser focused on the piece as PAULINE (40's think Karen Walker without the wealth) enters through the front door dressed in a knock off Super Mario costume.

PAULINE
Yoohoo! It's me Pauline from Pizza
Party Plus ready for a party!

Her letting herself in threw off Adam's placement and the puzzle comes tumbling down.

Donnie runs over toward the queen.

TONY
I believe I won ole chap.

ADAM
That doesn't count! She threw off my cool.

TONY
Not sure you had much to begin with.

ADAM
Rematch as soon as she leaves.

They both go to clean up the same pieces and accidentally touch each other's hands. They lock eyes.

TONY	ADAM (CONT'D)
These are fine where they are.	We can just leave these here for now.

They walk toward the front door.

30

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

30

Pauline is finishing setting up two pizza stations on Daniela's counter.

PAULINE
Well as I was saying, I am Pauline from Pizza Party Plus filling in for my new boss and you must be..
(she checks her phone)
the Anderson family!

DONNIE
Why are you dressed up as Mario?

PAULINE
(like she notices it for the first time.)
Oh would you look at that.
(to the men)
And these must be your daddies.

TONY
Oh no, no. We're his uncles.

PAULINE

How sweet.

ADAM

And we're not married.

TONY

You can't smoke in here.

Pauline gives a "really? Ugh fine" look before putting her cigarette back in the box.

PAULINE

Ok everyone please take a seat around the table while I explain our safety rules.

(checks her phone)

Because there is no pizza without the word safety in it.

She waits for a laugh. No one gets the joke. Because she read it wrong.

PAULINE (CONT'D)

Alright, I will get you all set up on our stations. The soon-to-be birthday boy will have his own and dads will share.

ADAM

We're not his parents.

Tony notices Adam's bicep.

PAULINE

Well then you should stop looking at eachother so much.

(she shoots Adam a look)

You all got 4 pieces of dough and toppings to choose from.

The "uncles" will take care of getting the pizzas in the oven.

I've never used one.

Adam notices Tony's lips.

PAULINE (CONT'D)

Um what else. Oh the hair nets.

ADAM

That feels unnecessary.

PAULINE

Scared to mess up your pretty hair?

They put on the hair nets. Donnie giggles.

Adam and Tony eye each other. She walks over to them out of Donnie's ear shot.

PAULINE (CONT'D)

You boys got any whiskey? Make this a real party?

ADAM

No.

PAULINE

(muttering)

Touchy gays.

Donnie goes to the pizza station and the uncles set up at the bigger counter.

DONNIE

Ready. Set. Go!

31 INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

31

MONTAGE

- The men notice there's only one of everything.
- Tony quickly tries to shape his dough.
- Adam begins swiftly needing out the dough.
- Seasoning the sauce in the bowl.
- Pauline is tuned into the action while sneaking a cigarette out the window.
- Adam's sorting his toppings in small piles.
- Donnie rolling his dough into misshapen balls.
- Pauline pulls a flask from her boot and eats pepperoni slices like popcorn.
- Tony rips open a bag of cheese and it flies everywhere.
- They both head toward the middle of the island avoiding the cheese and collide, grabbing each other around the waist.

END MONTAGE

Donnie looks up from his pizza creation.

DONNIE
Look, they're dancing!

The two men separate quickly and get back to business.

PAULINE
Not married my ass.
(to Donnie)
Hey kid, how ya feel about sports
bets? Got a piggy bank?

DONNIE
Uh no.

Pauline shrugs.

Tony's phone rings and he goes to grab it. Then puts his and Donnie's pizzas in the oven and leaves.

32

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

32

Adam, Donnie and Pauline are in the kitchen. Tony walks back in from the phone call.

PAULINE
All that to say, my mother moved me
and my sisters back to Tampa Bay
after the arrest. Turns out
Mormonism wasn't for us.

Adam pulls Donnie in close to him.

TONY
Sorry, my boss Lu had a little
scare but I think she's alright now-

Tony smells something burning.

TONY (CONT'D)
Ah shit! Why didn't either of you
turn off the oven?

Tony opens the door. Donnie looks up at him eagerly to see their creations.

TONY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Don. The pizzas burned in
the oven. I don't think we'll be
able to eat any of these.

DONNIE

No! This is the worst thing that could ever happen in the whole entire world.

ADAM

Don't worry. Mine went in after yours and, well, would you look at that?

He reveals the perfect pepperoni pizza.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Not too bad. Who wants a slice?

Pauline raises her hand.

DONNIE

I do. I want the biggest one cause I'm the biggest.

He hands him a slice.

DONNIE (CONT'D)

Thank you! I love you!

He gives him a hug and digs in happily around the table. Adam hands one to Tony.

ADAM

Go on. Don't let it go to waste.

TONY

I'm good. This one is just fine.

Tony takes a bite of his pizza and coughs.

PAULINE

Why don't one of ya just bend the other over and be done with it already?

TONY

You can go. Thank you.

PAULINE

(whispers)
Touchy gays.

She goes to leave.

33

INT. DANIELA'S GUEST BATHROOM - NIGHT

33

Adam turns off the shower. He arm reaches out from the curtain and grabs the towel. He opens the curtain wrapped in it.

He steps out of the shower checks his phone, pops in an airpod and presses play. He looks at himself in the mirror to start his night routine. Notices the vanity lighting and goes to turn it on.

He turns the wrong one on. He touches the switch again and shuts off all the lights. He accidentally knocks his phone off the counter onto the floor.

ADAM

Shit.

He goes to find it on the floor.

INT. DANIELA'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tony comes out of Donnie's bedroom and turns off the light. He walks down the hall to the bathroom, notices the lights are off, it's safe to use.

INT. DANIELA'S GUEST BATHROOM - NIGHT

Adam finds his phone. Sighs, pops his airpod back in and presses play. He stands back up by the mirror. The airpod falls out. He goes to pick it up. Crack. The door hits him in the head and he falls over again.

Tony turns the light on.

ADAM

Jesus!

TONY

Oh my god, I'm so sorry.

ADAM

What the hell man?

TONY

I'm sorry, I didn't know you were in here. Why were the lights off?

ADAM

Because this bathroom has more switches than a spaceship.

Tony grabs Adam's arms and helps him up. The towel falls.

TONY
Sorry.

ADAM
Uh.

He bends down to grab the towel. Adam's still standing. Tony gets the towel and looks up.

TONY
Whoa.

Tony blushes. Adam blushes. Tony covers his eyes, hands him the towel and stands up.

TONY (CONT'D)
Sorry. Again.

ADAM
It's fine.

TONY
No bulge.

ADAM
What?

TONY
Bump. No bump. On your head.

Adam looks in the mirror.

ADAM
Looks like I'll survive. You can brush your teeth, it's ok. I know how to share. Despite earlier events.

He puts toothpaste on his brush. Notices the inhaler in his toiletry bag. Hands it to Adam.

TONY
Ok, thanks. Asthma?

ADAM
Yeah sports induced when I was a kid. Now it just comes and goes.

Tony brushes his teeth.

TONY
What'd you play?

ADAM
Soccer. You?

Adam puts toothpaste on his brush and does the same.

TONY
Piano for a year. My dad said
recitals were for girls. So I
stopped.

ADAM
Dad's can mess a lot up can't they?

TONY
Yeah.

ADAM
Do you know how to turn on the
mirror light?

TONY
Yeah it's under here.

He clicks on a light under the mirror.

ADAM
Noted. Thanks.

They spit and finish.

TONY
You got something right there.

ADAM
Where?

TONY
Near your lip.

ADAM
Where?

TONY
Look in the mirror.

ADAM
Just get it.

Tony wipes the toothpaste from Adam's lips. They look at each other. It's too awkward.

TONY
Well I'll let you get to bed.

ADAM

Goodnight.

TONY

Goodnight.

He leaves the bathroom with his stuff and heads downstairs for the couch.

34 INT. DANIELA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

34

Tony throws the pillows in a sleeping formation and puts a blanket on the couch. He opens his phone to scroll a bit on Instagram and sees a friend request from Adam. He accepts, follows back and looks at the ceiling.

His phone lights up again. It's a text.

ERIK (TEXT)

I miss u.

TONY (TEXT)

How've you been?

The text is marked "read."

Tony clicks his phone off.

He hears Donnie yell and rushes upstairs.

35 INT. DONNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

35

Donnie is sitting up in bed and Tony comes in.

DONNIE

I had another bad dream.

TONY

It's ok buddy. You're safe.

They hug.

TONY (CONT'D)

Want me to tell you the story about The Cat in the Hat again?

DONNIE

I miss my daddy.

TONY

I know, he'll be home soon. Pick out a book and I'll read it to you.

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

I'll stay here til you fall asleep
and shoo away the bad dreams.

36 INT. DANIELA'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

36

Adam woke up and was watching all of this transpire through the open door. The other two don't notice him. He watches the scene for a moment then quietly goes back to bed.

37 INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

37

Tony is making breakfast while Adam is sitting at the table playing some game with Donnie. Daniela comes in.

DONNIE

Mommy! I missed you!

He runs to his mom and jumps into her arms.

DANIELA

Hello my angel. I missed you so much.

(noticing the kitchen)

Well this is quite a nice picture.
Everyone seems to be getting along.
Thanks again boys, I needed that.

TONY

It's nothin'.

ADAM

I was happy to. Did you have fun?

DANIELA

We had so much fun. Champagne, hot tubs, girl talk, massages. I am reborn.

ADAM

Okay well on that note, now that you're here, I should get back.

TONY

Same.

DANIELA

Bye guys. Oh! Tone do you still talk to that friend of yours that does the character parties? Any chance we can get a Spidey or Bluey or Moana or something for Don's party?

TONY

Um no not in a while but I'll try
and reach out.

DANIELA

An angel. Oh boys, before you leave
would you mind putting a few of the
heavier boxes in the garage back on
the shelf. I went a little ham on
amazon last week, don't tell your
brother. But new nails..

She flashes a fresh set of barbie pink nails.

ADAM

You bet.

They exit.

38

INT. DANIELA'S GARAGE - DAY

38

Tony and Adam walk with their stuff into Daniela's garage to
many boxes needing to be back on the shelves. There are 15-20
packages on the floor.

ADAM

Oh damn. She doesn't play around.

TONY

D never met a sale she didn't like.

They start picking up the boxes one by one.

ADAM

What is that?

TONY

What is what?

ADAM

Your keychain.

Adam points to the Lego Dumbledore keychain on Tony's bag.

TONY

Dumbledore. Well, Lego Dumbledore.

He picks it up and shows it to him.

ADAM

Oh. Wow.

TONY

Yeah.

Adam chuckles.

TONY (CONT'D)

You gonna stuff me in a locker or something?

ADAM

I am not that bad.

He hands him the backpack back. They continue with the boxes.

TONY

No you're not. Anymore, at least.

ADAM

Yeah, well if I was a bit of an ass back then. I'm sorry.

TONY

If?

ADAM

I wasn't out at the time. I was probably too nervous to be nice to you. Ok, no. I was too nervous to be nice to you. And you were so, I don't know, quiet.

TONY

Yeah. I had just come out to my parents. Daniela convinced me. Made the wedding awkward.

ADAM

I was there.

TONY

Right, but you came out not too long after that didn't you? I remember because Daniela bought Robert an "I love my gay brother" t-shirt to match the one she had.

ADAM

Oh thanks for reminding me I meant to get that from his closet and burn it. But yes, two or three months after their wedding actually. Most of my friends didn't care.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

Robert was great about it too. As you'd imagine. It was a relief.

TONY

How were your parents? I know your dad left when you guys were in high school.

Adam pauses.

TONY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have asked that. It's none of my business.

Adam places the last of the boxes and sits down. Takes a water bottle from the case on the shelf.

ADAM

No it's ok. My mom was pretty cool about it. She's always been a little bit of a hippie. My dad, um, I don't know how he would take it. Probably not great. He caught me and a friend in my room in 10th grade and told me if he ever saw it again he'd "beat it" out of me. Pretty stand up guy.

TONY

I'm sorry.

ADAM

Don't be.

(beat)

Now you know why I am the way that I am. No one knows about that by the way. Not even Robert. I don't know why I just told you.

They stare at each other. Tony breaks the silence.

TONY

I'm pretty good with secrets.

ADAM

For some reason I believe that.

TONY

Daniela accidentally shit herself before her senior prom at our cousins house and I never told anyone. Until now. I guess. Oops.

ADAM
Now you gotta give me one.

TONY
Give you one what?

ADAM
A secret. It's only fair.

TONY
Oh. Hmmm. I used to collect--

ADAM
No, no. No nerdy kid stuff a real
one.

Tony sits back.

TONY
Fine. Umm. Ok well in middle school
I used to have to say the rosary
after everytime jerked off.

ADAM
Jesus.

TONY
Literally.

Adam laughs.

TONY (CONT'D)
Catholic guilt. Fire and Brimstone
will get you every time.

Tony sees a plastic container full of old things on a shelf.

TONY (CONT'D)
Oh my god! That's where my Never-
Ending Story VHS went! I knew she
had it. Thief.

ADAM
Pour one out for Artax.

Adam spills a tiny bit of his water on the garage floor.

TONY
You're a fan?

ADAM
Of course I am. What do I look
like?

TONY

Geez, I literally used to sleep with this tape in my bed. It's what made me fall in love with fantasy stories. It's what made me start writing them, actually.

ADAM

Right. A writer. Impressive. What's your current book about?

Tony hesitates.

TONY

Well...

He gestures with the VHS.

TONY (CONT'D)

A fantasy. A knight destined to save his kingdom. I think it's good but I'm stuck at the moment. My editor wants romance. The knight is in love with this cursed princess he is traveling with. It's clear to my editor and to every other beta-reader I've had. I think it's even clear to him. But I can't seem to work it out on the page. Sorry, I ramble.

ADAM

Don't be sorry. Sounds interesting. In a nerd type of way. Maybe he needs to just come out and say it.

TONY

Who?

ADAM

The knight. Maybe he should just touch her cheek and say "I think I like you."

They stand up.

ADAM (CONT'D)

What are you up to today?

TONY

I do a little reading hour once a month for the locals.

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

It's silly but its something for the kids who like books and I'll do anything to help Lu stay in business. She's been like a sort of parent to me.

ADAM

Can I come?

TONY

To the reading? Aren't you busy?

ADAM

No. I actually have too much free time right now. When they transferred me they gave me two months off for the move. We're changing softwares, takes a while to switch everything over.

TONY

Oh. I'm sure you wouldn't like it that much. Really it's very corny.

ADAM

Let me drive you back. That's my price for the ride.

TONY

You can't make fun of the costume.

ADAM

Costume?!

39

INT. WASHINGTON ST. BOOK STORE - DAY

39

Tony is sitting on the bench surrounded by a group of kids and their parents. He is dressed as Robin Hood or Peter Pan.

TONY

"The man had not had even one happy hour since he had left the children in the woods. However, the woman had died. Gretel shook out her apron, scattering pearls and precious stones around the room, and Hansel added to them by throwing one handful after the other from his pockets. Now all their cares were at an end, and they lived happily together."

The audience claps and begins to gather their things.

Tony is talking to one of the parents. Adam stands near Lu by the cashier.

LU
Those tights were his.

ADAM
That makes sense.

Lu smirks.

LU
Do you like to read Adam? Or do you keep to the self help and financial planning section?

ADAM
Am I that easy to read?

LU
I been at this a long time.

Tony walks over.

TONY
How's it been today Lu? Trish make it in this morning?

LU
She stumbled in an hour late but did make a few sales on them records. Gotta give it to her the vinyls were a good idea. I don't know if it'll save us but those beatnicks seem to like em.

TONY
They're called hipsters now Lu.

LU
Whatever they're called they could invest in some deodorant.

(then)
This one was just saying how much he wants to start reading. Just doesn't know where to start?

ADAM
I did?

Lu shoots him a look.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I did.

TONY

Oh really? Well then.

Tony walks over to a shelf and pulls down a book.

TONY (CONT'D)

Here. A great place to start.

ADAM

"Around the world in 80 days."

TONY

A classic. A little adventure,
little danger. On me.

LU

Better be on someone.

ADAM

Thank you.

LU

Well if you two will excuse me now.
I'm going to go home. If this place
is closing down I have community
home brochures I need to be
flippin' through. Tony, close up.

TONY

Have a good night. See you
tomorrow.

ADAM

Nice to meet you Lu.

LU

Nice to meet you too Adam.

ADAM

So what are you up to now?

TONY

I suppose I will do the inventory
and ordering. Clean the coffee
area. She always makes a mess of
it.

ADAM

Oh, nice. Well see ya.

TONY

See ya.

They stare at each other.

TONY (CONT'D)

Would you want to get dinner?
There's a great taco spot around
here with and an arcade bar nearby.

ADAM

I love tacos and arcades.

TONY

Perfect.

ADAM

Sounds like a plan, Peter Pan.

TONY

You filmed that didn't you.

ADAM

I sure did.

40 INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

40

Tony walks in from the day and puts his stuff down. He eyes his notebook. He sits at his desk and opens it.

TONY

Alright Sir Kit. Let's see if you
can tell the princess you love her.

He begins writing.

He gets a text notification on his phone and checks it.

ERIK (TEXT)

Hi, sry just saw this. I'm good. in
bed, thnkn of u. what u doing?

He considers it then deletes the text thread, opens his notebook and begins writing excitedly.

41 INT. WASHINGTON ST. BOOK STORE - MORNING

41

Trish enters the bookstore, on the phone.

TRISH

No Chris. I picked the lock. Just look for the damn key when you have a minute.

She grabs the mail off the floor. Thumbs through it.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Anyway back to what you were saying about Marshall. Why don't you come to my pole dancing class this weekend? We do the greatest routine with stilettos.

She opens an envelope. It's an overdue rent notice.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Chris I'm sorry babe. I'm going to have to call you back.

She hangs up.

42

EXT. PARK - DAY

42

Adam and Tony are hanging out at a park on a picnic blanket with beers.

ADAM

Doctor Strange would not beat Scarlet Witch.

TONY

Agree to disagree.

ADAM

Agree to agree that I'm right.

TONY

He has access to mirror dimensions. He could warp her sense of reality.

ADAM

Yes but she can literally change reality. She could rewrite the entire operating system.

Tony lays back.

TONY

Peter Parker or Clark Kent?

ADAM

Clark.

TONY

Wrong.

Adam throws the brown paper bag at Tony's head.

MONTAGE

- They are walking down a side street playfully shoving each other and laughing.
- They are at a taco truck.
- They sit to eat.
- Adam lays his sauces out in a perfect line, napkin in collar.
- Tony douses his taco in 5 sauces at once and dives in like a caveman.
- They are sitting on the curb eating ice cream.
- They are playing arcade basketball.
- Adam is hitting basket after basket.
- He hits a high score.
- Adam erupts into a Rocky-egsue celebration before hugging Tony.
- They are exiting an arcade.
- They are looking at the downtown skyline from a lookout point.

END MONTAGE

43

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - NIGHT

43

TONY

So now you've had the best tacos in the city.

He finishes his cone and tosses out the paper.

ADAM

I have. And I Haven't played Ms Pac Man in years. Oh this is for you.

Adam hands Tony a mini wizard figure.

TONY
A little wizard. Thank you.

ADAM
Spent all my tickets. Reminded me
of you. I also got this for Donnie.

It's a Spider Man baseball.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Couldn't help myself.

TONY
He'll love it.

ADAM
I'm learning. You're really good
with him.

TONY
He's a great kid.

ADAM
He is. Do you want one?

TONY
A Spiderman baseball?

ADAM
A kid.

Tony is caught off guard. He's about to answer and Adam's
phone buzzes.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Ah shit I've completely lost track
of time. It's already 7. I've got
this thing I have to get to.

TONY
All good, is it something I can
help with?

ADAM
No. I'm...well I'm actually meeting
someone later. So..yeah.

TONY
Oh cool.

ADAM
But I had a great time. Thanks
again Tony.

TONY

For sure.

They stare at each other.

TONY (CONT'D)

Would you be interested in having
dinner at my place on Sunday?

ADAM

Sunday? Um yeah let me check my
schedule.

(checks his bare wrist)

Open on Sunday.

They laugh.

TONY

Great, see you on Sunday.

ADAM

See you Sunday.

Tony leaves.

Adam picks up his phone and makes a call.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Hi, Yes. I can stop by right now if
that works.

44

INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

44

Tony is sitting at his desk writing. His phone rings and he
picks it up.

TRISH (O.S.)

Where are you?

TONY

What do you mean?

TRISH (O.S.)

What do you mean what do I mean?
We're waiting for you at Art Bar.

TONY

Oh that's tonight?

TRISH (O.S.)

Yes it is tonight, you better get
here in the next 30.

TONY

Oh um ok, I'll be there soon!

He throws on a jacket and leaves.

45

INT. ART BAR - NIGHT

45

Tony and his friends are standing in a semi popular bar. It's loud. It's gay. It's fun.

CHRISTOPHER

No Tony, Frodo is able to make it across in the horse that has been lent to him despite having been hit from the Ringwraith's dagger in his shoulder. He makes it across the river injured and says "Go back to whence you came, and never follow me again!" But Jackson has Frodo incapacitated to the point he's entirely dependent on Arwyn!

TRISH

Babe Shakespeare is killing all of the surrounding boners.

TONY

You do work in a bookstore, you know that right?

TRISH

Yeah but only to bother you and get away from my uncle.

CHRISTOPHER

J.R.R. Tolkien I apologize on behalf of my friend.

TRISH

Alright no more wizard talk. We're here to get Tony a dick to play with. And if I happen to find one for myself along the way so be it.

CHRISTOPHER

Tony.

TONY

What?

TRISH

You didn't even laugh at my joke.

TONY

Oh sorry.

He laughs.

CHRISTOPHER

Where's your head at? What did you do today?

TONY

No one, nothing. Just did my normal day thing.

TRISH

I know that look. You had sex!

CHRISTOPHER

Why are you blushing?

TRISH

Oh my god you are blushing.

She claps.

TONY

I'm not blushing! I had a normal day. I wrote this morning. I didn't have sex. I got lunch. With Adam. That's all.

TRISH

Sleeping with the enemy. The plot thickens. Tony you are a mystery.

TONY

No one slept with anyone. He's seeing someone I think. And he's not the enemy. We're friend..ly. For our siblings, I'm sure. Maybe it'll make things less awkward.

CHRISTOPHER

Mhm.

Trish gets the bartender's attention.

TRISH

Handsome, can I get three fireball shots please?

CHRISTOPHER

My god Patricia. Fireball, are you serious? My heartburn.

TRISH

Lighten up.

He returns with the shots and they take them.

TONY

Oof that was bad. Anyone want a regular drink?

TRISH

Yes!

CHRISTOPHER

Oh I suppose.

He gets the bartenders attention again.

TONY

Three tequila sodas please.

TRISH

Slay. So, see any magic wands you want to play with tonight my little nerds?

TONY

You should write children's books.

The bartender gives them three drinks and Tony pays.

CHRISTOPHER

Speaking of books what is going on with yours? How long does it take to write another fantasy novel?

TONY

Longer than you'd think smart ass.

CHRISTOPHER

Well have you finished?

TONY

No I haven't. It's getting closer though. I have til the end of summer.

TRISH

What is the hold up? Your first book was great but it's been years. The internet moves fast babe.

TONY

My wallet and I are aware of that. And I write books not social media.

TRISH

I know but it's the internet's response that matters. C'mon you know how to do this.

CHRISTOPHER

How incredibly sad but true.

TONY

Let's talk about something else.

CHRISTOPHER

Anthony it's us.

TONY

Trying to pull from my own romantic life feels more like Stephen King than Nicholas Sparks to be honest. Did I tell you Erik's been texting me? What do you think it means?

TRISH

Absolutely nothing. Pretend it didn't happen.

CHRISTOPHER

Agree.

TONY

He said he misses me.

She grabs his chin.

TRISH

He's a sociopath.

TONY

Hmm.

TRISH

Now hold this, cargo pants over theres been eye-fucking me all night.

Trish goes to flirt with a man at the end of the bar.

CHRISTOPHER

She always manages to find the cute straight ones.

TONY

Makes it seem easy.

They laugh.

CHRISTOPHER

He's out there for you. Dating is like a Jenga game. You just need to pull the right piece of wood.

He playfully nudges him.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

If you know what I mean.

TONY

I do.

CHRISTOPHER

Like Marshall. Even though, well, do you think he doesn't like find me attrac--

Trish returns from chatting with the guy.

TRISH

Alright, alright kids. I didn't come out tonight to watch two daisies wilt in the pasture. Bottoms up bottoms!

The two of them raise their shots to Trish.

TONY/CHRISTOPHER

To our top!

46

INT. ART BAR - NIGHT

46

The friends are dancing and drunk. Tony spots Erik across the room leaving the bar. He heads for the door.

TONY

It's Erik. I want to go talk to him.

CHRISTOPHER

Don't you dare.

TONY

No, no I won't do anything bad. I just want to see what he wants.

TRISH

Are you out of your mind? Don't be stupid. Screw that guy do not go after him like that. You're not that desperate.

She stands in his way.

TONY

Trish. Move. What are you doing?
Stop!

CHRISTOPHER

Really, are you trying to hurt your
own feelings or what? He doesn't
like you. He made a fool of you for
six months.

TONY

Real nice.

TRISH

You're being insane.
(she takes his phone)
This is for your own good. That man
does not respect you. You have to
start choosing yourself, this is
beneath you.

TONY

Guys, stop. Give that back!

TRISH

Tony enough. It's time for you to
grow up!

TONY

What do you mean grow up? I am just
going to talk.

TRISH

He doesn't want to talk! News
flash, he doesn't like you. He
never did! People don't treat
people they like, like absolute
garbage. You can't doormat yourself
into convincing someone to marry
you.

TONY

Fuck you Trish.

TRISH

Oh really?

CHRISTOPHER

Hey!

TONY

What? Who the hell are you two?

CHRISTOPHER

What did I do?

TONY

Who are you to judge me? How long ya gonna cry over a husband who won't fuck you? It's over and you're the last to see that.

TRISH

Hey!

(she shoves him)

Don't you dare talk to him like that. We're trying to help.

He tries to grab the phone from her hand. She moves it.

TONY

Stop being such a bitch and go to a straight bar instead of projecting all your slutty fantasies on me.

He grabs it. She's stung.

TRISH

Fuck you.

Trish hands him the phone.

47

EXT. ALLEY NEXT TO BAR - NIGHT

47

Tony exits the club too drunk and sees Erik walking down the street with a friend, INSTA GAY (exactly what you're picturing).

TONY

Erik! Wait!

Erik hears him and turns around. Tony catches up to them.

INSTA-GAY

Who is this?

ERIK

The one with the book thing.

INSTA-GAY

Oh my god this is too embarrassing.

TONY

Erik, hi. How's it been? I've been getting your texts. I thought we could just talk in person.

ERIK

Really, Tony. Now is not the time.
I've moved on.

TONY

Oh well I just thought you'd like
to know I am writing again. I
figured maybe that's why you keep
reaching out. I feel like.. I feel
like I am..

Erik and Insta-gay lean in to hear what he's going to say.

ERIK

You feel like you're what?

TONY

I'm going to vomit.

Tony vomits on Insta gays shoes.

INSTA GAY

These are Ferragamos you freak!

ERIK

Ew oh my god. I cannot handle this.
I'm not..Tony go home.

Erik and Insta-gay walk away.

48

INT. WASHINGTON ST. BOOK STORE - DAY

48

Tony is hungover and holding it together at the book store.
Nursing a cup of coffee he sits at the register. Lu comes in
through the front.

LU

(like Maria in West Side
Story)
Tony, Tony.

Tony perks up slightly.

TONY

Morning. How are you today?

LU

Oh I'm good. Just got back from the
doctor's office.

TONY

Oh. Everything ok?

WALTER

It's all good. Some advice. Don't
age. Make a girl a cup of tea?

TONY

Sure thing.

Tony makes Lu a tea and hands it over. He walks back to the
counter. Lu studies Tony.

LU

So how are you? Lookin a little
tired. Were you with your family?

TONY

Last night? I went out.

WALTER

Oh that's good, a young buck like
you should be out on the town.

TONY

I don't feel so young.

WALTER

Stop it Eeyore. You are young. So
much life ahead of you. I don't
wanna hear it.

TONY

Yeah I suppose.

WALTER

Were you out with the handsome
young man who came to the store?

TONY

No, no not him.

WALTER

Oh well maybe you should be. You
two were all goo goo eyed the other
day.

TONY

With Adam? Yeah well he's
practically perfect. He's really
successful and beautiful and when
he laughs he gets this little
wrinkle near his eye that...

Tony cuts himself off.

LU

Right right, nothing there at all.

TONY

Really, we're just learning to
co...uncle?

LU

Sure. But, again my dear boy, that
is your sister's life. Not yours,
not his. You have to be the lead of
your own story.

TONY

How is everything else with you?
Good?

LY

Yes. Yesterday would have been
Debbie's birthday. Or I suppose it
was Debbie's birthday. So I went to
her favorite diner and had her
favorite pancakes.

TONY

Yesterday was Debbie's birthday. I
am so sorry I forgot.

WALTER

It's ok sometimes it's nice to just
be there alone. Ya know when we
first met she said she knew right
away. I evaded her for weeks. Our
mutual friend Robin sat me down one
day and told me not to look past
what was right in front of me.
Sometimes it's right there, what
we're asking for, and we're just
distracted-looking lookin at..

(she gestures off)

At something that isn't good for
us.

Tony is lost in thought.

LU

Tony.

TONY

What?

LU

Listen when people speak.

She walks off.

49 INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - DAY 49

Tony is at his desk writing and he catches sight of a picture of him, Trish and Christopher. Puts his pen down and texts a group chat "The Dream Team".

TONY (TEXT)

Can we please talk? I barely remember what happened. I'm sorry.

50 INT. CHRISTOPHER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 50

Christopher reads the text.

He clicks his phone off and throws it down. He looks at himself in the mirror and stares at his reflection sizing himself up. He sees a magazine cover of a shirtless actor on his coffee table. He kicks it off and walks away.

51 INT. DANIELA'S BEDROOM - DAY 51

Daniela is in her bedroom sitting at a vanity in a silk robe touching up her makeup. She gets a Facetime call.

52 INT. AIR FORCE BASE GERMANY - DAY 52

INTERCUT

ROBERT (FACETIME)

Hi baby, how is my favorite girl?

DANIELA

Hi my love. Your favorite girl is stressed. Just a lot going on at work and here and I want our boy to have a great birthday.

ROBERT (FACETIME)

Ah I'm sorry babe. Can't your brother help? Or mine?

DANIELA

I don't want to bother Adam.

ROBERT (FACETIME)
What about Tony?

DANIELA
He's been a little MIA the past few days. I feel like his deadline is stressing him out too.

ROBERT (FACETIME)
Yeah but he can still help you.

DANIELA
He does. It's fine. It'll all be ok when you're here. And to show you a little preview of what you have to look forward to.

Daniela steps away from the camera and drops the robe. She's in a sexy little lingerie set.

DANIELA (CONT'D)
Mommy's got quite the little treat ready for you.

She strikes a playful pose.

ROBERT (FACETIME)
My god.

DANIELA
She's still got it.

Robert tenses.

DANIELA (CONT'D)
What?

ROBERT
About that.

Daniela's demeanor changes. She picks up the robe and puts it back on.

DANIELA
Robert Anderson. If you're going to say what I think you're going to say you better shut your damn mouth before it even opens.

ROBERT (FACETIME)
There's been an emergency here. Two of the doctors had to go early. I have no choice. I have to stay through the year.

A gut punch for her.

DANIELA

No. No.

ROBERT

Baby please.

DANIELA

Enough!

(she slams her fists on
the vanity)

They have had enough of you! You've
done more than your time.

ROBERT

They need me.

DANIELA

I need you! This is your son's 6th
birthday! Do you know how hard this
has all been?

ROBERT

I am so sorry. I tried everything.

DANIELA

Well you didn't try hard enough.

ROBERT

Honey wait. It's not my choice.

She hangs up and throws her phone across the room.

53

INT. ADAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

53

Adam is sitting on his couch Facetiming Vivian.

VIVIAN (FACETIME)

So just the office folks really and
then why don't you invite Daniela
and Tony too. Everyone is so
curious about the new boss coming
to town it'll be nice to meet in a
casual setting. Did you get the
files on everyone?

ADAM

Yeah I did. Sounds great.

VIVIAN (FACETIME)

What's going on? Everything ok?
Something's up. I can tell.

(MORE)

VIVIAN (FACETIME) (CONT'D)
 Were you watching those dog shelter videos on Tik Tok again. I told you not to do that.

ADAM
 No, Robert just called he won't be back in time for Donnie's birthday.

VIVIAN (FACETIME)
 Oh love, I am sorry to hear that. That is such a shame.

A beat.

ADAM
 And my dad called my mother today. I just got off the phone with her. He wants to see her. Us.

VIVIAN
 Oh honey, I had no idea.

ADAM
 He does it once a decade. Most likely wants money. Doesn't matter he's getting nothing from us. We've all moved on from him years ago. It's fine just shakes me up a little is all.

VIVIAN
 Do you want some company? I'll cancel my plans.

ADAM
 No I'm actually running late. I probably shouldn't even go now.

VIVIAN
 It's probably best to get your mind off things.

ADAM
 Yeah. Ok. I'll call you tomorrow. Bye Viv.

He hangs up the phone.

Tony is fussing around his apartment making everything look as good as he can. He checks the oven to make sure his food is still warm. There is a knock at the door.

Adam stands in the doorway holding a bottle of wine.

ADAM

Hey. This is for you. Hope you like merlot.

TONY

I'm used to the trader joes stuff so I'm sure this is perfect. Come in, how's it going?

ADAM

It's good. Sorry I am late I was talking with Vivian. She wants to throw a little office party slash welcome me to the city thing next week. She's inviting everyone we work with as a "get-to-know-you" type thing. She invited Daniela and Jess. You should come, if you want.

TONY

Oh ok yeah I would love to.

ADAM

Smells great. What is that?

They walk into the kitchen.

TONY

It's spaghetti with garlic and oil and meatballs. Secret ingredient, anchovies. Thank you mom.

ADAM

Wow. Amazing. What you lack in pizza you make up for in pasta.

TONY

I'm going to have to redo pizza, she threw off my vibe.

ADAM

Well you definitely set a vibe.

Noting the candles.

TONY

Sorry. Overkill.

He puts out the flames.

ADAM

So should we open that?

TONY

Yes sir.

55 INT. TONY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

55

Tony brings over to more glasses of wine to the couch where Adam is sitting after they've eaten. A game of jenga is halfway through being played.

ADAM

I may have to take off my belt.
That second helping was not been
the move. Was so good.

TONY

I'll send compliments to the chef.

He high fives himself.

TONY (CONT'D)

(whispers)
Good job.

ADAM

It's your turn by the way.

TONY

You were not playing around about
the rematch.

Tony places his piece on top.

TONY (CONT'D)

I should've been an architect.

ADAM

Alright. Time for my redemption.

Adam grabs his jenga piece.

TONY

Boo.

ADAM

Watch it.

Adam goes to place the piece on the top of the puzzle and it collapses.

TONY

He wins again.

Adam playfully jabs Tonys arm. Tony grabs his hand. Then places his own hand on Adam's face.

Tony kisses Adam. Adam kisses him back. They lay down on the couch. Things start to get heavy and then Tony pulls away.

TONY (CONT'D)

I think I like you.

Adam goes back in for a kiss. They're about to start hooking up and then Adam stops. Stares at Tony. Something clicks. He gets up.

ADAM

I'm sorry. I can't. I have to go.

TONY

What? Why? Is everything ok? I'm sorry I shouldn't have assumed..

ADAM

No no don't be sorry. Really it's ok. I um, I just have work in the morning, and its probably better if I leave.

TONY

No Adam wait. I misread. It's my fault.

Adam goes and grabs his jacket and heads for the door.

ADAM

I'll see you next week though right? For Vivian's party? It would mean a lot to her if you came. She likes you.

TONY

Yeah, I mean, ok.

ADAM

Well alright I am going to head out. Thanks for dinner.

They stare at each other for a moment. Adam in escape mode. Tony in bewilderment. Adam leaves.

TONY

Shit.

56 INT. WASHINGTON ST. BOOKSTORE - DAY

56

Trish enters the bookstore and finds Lu just about to wrap up.

TRISH

Hi Lu. Just came to get my
paycheck.

LU

Oh baby, let me get it.

TRISH

Is he here?

LU

He who? Tony? Went home a bit ago.

TRISH

Good.

LU

What's that about?

TRISH

I don't want to involve you.

LU

Well ya just did.

TRISH

He's just an asshole.

LU

What'd he do?

TRISH

He's just an asshole.

LU

You tryna make me knock it outta
you? What. Did. He. Do?

TRISH

He was cruel and selfish when his
best friends were only trying to
help.

She rubs her temples. These are her surrogate kids.

LU

He's lost baby. He has knack for
sabotaging his own life.

TRISH

Yeah.

LU

And it ain't your responsibility to clean it up. If he wants to burn down his world let him. You can't fix people who don't want to be fixed.

She hands Trish her check.

LU (CONT'D)

There's your hour and a half of pay. The therapy session was complimentary.

She smirks.

TRISH

Thanks. I know I'm not the best worker but I do love this place. It feels like home.

LU

It is a home. But you should know, it's closing.

TRISH

I know.

LU

What? How?

TRISH

I opened your mail.

LU

That's why it was sealed with a Hello Kitty sticker.

TRISH

It's all I had. But why?

LU

I can't afford to keep it open. Amazon and the like is killing me. Time I call it and finally retire.

TRISH

Lu, no. That sucks. Can't we do anything?

LU

We could set up a stripper pole in the middle of this room and open up after hours. That might work.

Trish laughs.

LU (CONT'D)

Don't tell Tony.

TRISH

I won't. Although who cares what he thinks.

LU

The boys all over the place and his own worst enemy. But I love him. Without him, this place would've closed five years ago. He picked me up out of a very dark spot. I won't ever forget it. I'll tell him when I am ready.

57

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

57

Tony is having lunch with Daniela and Jess.

JESS

And she ended the podcast by saying if you know, you know and to go for the gold so I DM'ed him. Fingers crossed!

DANIELA

And I'm sure Bad Bunny will see it.

JESS

I'm not crazed Daniela. I am passionate.

DANIELA

What are you wearing to Vivian's party?

JESS

This.

DANIELA

Jess you can't show your nipples we don't know these people.

JESS

Why not?

Daniela throws her hands up. She walks to the cabinet.

JESS (CONT'D)

How's the birthday plans coming along? Did you ever get in touch with my cousin? She does the best little at home pizza party things.

DANIELA

Oh yeah I actually had her here last weekend. Tony and Adam were there. You guys like it? Oh and did you ever get in touch with those party character people? I really want Spidey and Moana.

(beat, annoyed)

Tony!

TONY

Yeah sorry.

DANIELA

You're coming to Vivian's right? I don't want to do it alone and I could use a little emotional support.

JESS

I'll be there.

TONY

Uh yeah, I'll be there. Where is it again?

DANIELA

Adam's hosting it now. Vivian's airbnb was double booked she's at The Hilton for the rest of her trip. Was sweet of Adam.

JESS

That man is too fine to be single. You think he does girls when he drinks?

DANIELA

Girl, do I gotta hose you down?

Tony is at the store helping close out a customer.

CUSTOMER

I'm just not sure I mean my kids already have the first two books in the series...hmm this one does have a bent cover is there a discount for that?

TONY

Ma'am are you going to buy them or not?

CUSTOMER

Not with that attitude. I'll go to Barnes and Noble.

She leaves. Lu enters with her bags and sits herself down on the stool.

LU

Hello. Did we just make a sale?

TONY

Not exactly.

LU

Not very busy today huh?

TONY

It's never busy.

LU

Everything alright? You seem a little distracted.

TONY

I'm fine.

LU

I see we're in a mood. Whatever happened Tony it will pass. Strong friendships make it over a lot of rocky situations.

TONY

What? What do you know?

LU

I know when pain turns to bitterness it's time to reassess our actions.

TONY

Not now Lu.

LU

Yes now Tony. What is wrong with you huh? You have been sulking around this place the past few days looking like a human raincloud. What? You're stressed cause your second book needs to be better than the first? Then finish it. You're sad cause you made some stupid ass comments to your friends and they got hurt? Take accountability.

TONY

I said not now Lu.

LU

Not now ok. Then when, Tony, hm? I'm sorry that things aren't as easy as you thought they'd be but no one promised you they would be. Love isn't easy Tony and it's almost never how it is in these damn books. But you *can* have it. It is out there. Look at me and Deb. All through her divorce and losing her custody cause of that man and then battling that damn disease and only being able to see her babies at the very end. And that whole time she fought, she never gave up. You saw it. Where is your fight? This is not the boy I love.

TONY

I know, I know you and Debbie, you and Debbie. The same damn point over and over again. Me and Adam aren't you and Debbie, Lu. Adam would never choose me in the end.

LU

Enough feeling bad for yourself!

TONY

I tried! Ok? I tried and made a fool of myself. Is that what you wanted to hear? Woe is me I fucking know.

LU

Tony.

TONY
Your love story ended, I can't
bring it back for you!

A customer enters.

CUSTOMER
Excuse me?

TONY
What!

LU
Get out.

TONY
Lu, wait, lets just..

LU
I said get out!

TONY
But.

LU
Now!

Tony storms away.

59 INT. TONY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 59

Tony walks in defeated and ashamed. He falls on his bed and
cries into the pillow. Alone.

60 INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 60

Adam comes in the door from a hookup. He throws his coat down
and takes his shoes off. His phone rings.

ADAM
Hey, yeah I just got in. Yeah
tonight was fun. Tomorrow? Already?
Um I don't know I'm not really
feeling a rave. Why don't you go?
Right. Listen dude, I enjoyed
hanging with you but to be honest I
have some stuff going on and I
don't know if I can date seriously
at the moment. I know, I'm sorry.
Maybe we can reconnect in the
future. Ok. I'm going to head to
bed.

Adam hangs up and opens his contacts. He pulls up Tony's number. Considers calling. Decides not to. He walks into his bedroom.

61 INT. DANIELA'S BATHROOM - DAY 61

Daniela is getting ready for the party. Donnie comes in the bathroom.

DONNIE
Mommy Bad Breath Bonnie just got here.

DANIELA
Honey you can't say that when she's here, I'll be right down.

DONNIE
Can I call daddy before you go?

DANIELA
Um tell Bonnie to get my ipad. You can do it right when I leave. I am in a rush.

She picks up her phone.

DANIELA (TEXT) (CONT'D)
Don't pussy out on me tonight! I need you. I think I messed up with Robert. What's going on why haven't you been stopping over at all?

62 TONY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 62

Tony is getting ready for Vivian's party. Putting himself together as best as he can. He's drinking beer alone. By the looks of it he's had six. He sees the tiny wizard figurine on his desk. He throws it in a drawer turns off the light and leaves.

63 INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 63

Inside Adam's beautifully decorated apartment the party is in full swing. There's a handful of people there from Adam and Vivian's office.

VIVIAN
This is so fun. Thanks for doing this. I was so embarrassed to cancel. Adam?

He snaps out of it.

ADAM
Uh yeah of course.

VIVIAN
Terry's nice isn't she? Just gotta watch her at the office. Sometimes she comes in too stoned to know her own name.

There's a knock at the door. One of the three hired staff answers. It's Tony. Adam walks over.

ADAM
Tony. You came.

TONY
Hey. Nice spread.

Tony hands him the poorly wrapped wine bottle

ADAM
Thanks. Are you ok?

TONY
Mhm.

ADAM
Can we chat later?

Tony walks away before he finishes his sentence. Jess approaches Tony.

JESS
Tony babe, you made it. You look ...nice.
(she kisses him on the cheek)
You reek of beer. Were you at the bar before this?

TONY
Nope.

He walks across the room to the table of finger food and begins shoving it in his mouth. Daniela walks over to him.

DANIELA
Hey. Thanks for coming. God I needed a night out. Everything has been so nuts. You should've seen me the other day. My temper.
(MORE)

DANIELA (CONT'D)

Oh you never got back to me about the actors by the way. I could use the help to be honest.

(she clocks him)

What's wrong with you? You're in a mood. Come with me to Adams's room we'll talk about it.

TONY

Lay off Daniela, I'm fine. I'm not your kid. Why don't you go enjoy the fancy party?

DANIELA

What's gotten into you?

TONY

Nothing.

DANIELA

Alright, I'm not doing this right now. We'll talk about it later.

Tony walks over to the bar and pours himself a drink. Vivian is at the center of the room.

VIVIAN

If everyone can take their seats. Dinner is served.

Everyone moves about the room to find their seats as the hired help start to pour waters and set salads on the table.

64

INT. ADAM'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

64

Dinner has just about ended. Everyone is done eating and making jokes around the table. Tony is still eating and ignoring everyone. Jess is trying to show him her phone.

JESS

But it's supposed to be bumble *friends* not dating. I thought we were having a great time but at the end she told me she was Lebanese and well I don't know. Now I'm like was this accidentally a date? Maybe I hit the wrong button. Which is so fine but not for me. Me and Daniela tried it once in college but it was all just too wet for me.

He ignores her.

JESS (CONT'D)

But then again she was very pretty.
And I've always had a thing for
Jameela Jamil.

Vivian dings her glass.

VIVIAN

Alright how's about we play a
little game of 20 questions?

JESS

Or spin the bottle.

DANIELA

Jessica, heel. 21 questions sounds
fun.

VIVIAN

Everyone takes a post it and writes
a famous name on it, then you pass
it to someone else and they place
it on their forehead. Then you have
20 questions to guess who you are.

Everyone murmurs in agreement.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Adam, pen and paper please.

Adam doesn't hear her as he's focused in on Tony who is in
his own little drunken world.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Adam.

ADAM

Oh right. Let me see.

He goes to the counter and gets the paper and pens.

VIVIAN

Ok everyone take one.

They each take a post it and pen and write a name on it.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Now pass each one down two seats.

They pass them down. Tony gets his and half reads it.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

No don't look at it!

He puts it on his cheek and swigs the beer.

DANIELA

(whispers)

Really what is going on? I have never seen you like this. You are embarrassing yourself and me. Should we leave?

TONY

I'm fine Daniela. Look I'll go first.

VIVIAN

Oh ok.

Tony sticks his paper on his head. It's the wrong way. It falls off onto the floor.

He laughs at himself. Goes to get it. No one knows what to do.

Adam gets a phone call from Erik, confused, he clicks it off.

The doorbell rings. Everyone stops.

ADAM

Oh no.

Adam jumps up to answer the door. Erik walks in.

ERIK

Wait don't close the door. I know it was just a hookup but when you said you didn't want to date me I feel like you weren't realizing what you had in front of you. I mean look at me. I saw you watched my story today and I know what that means--

ADAM

How did you find me?

ERIK

Your location is still open in the app and your name is on the buzzer.

Tony stands up.

TONY

HIM?!

Daniela clocks what is happening.

DANIELA
Tony don't.

ADAM
This is not what it looks
like.

TONY
You're dating HIM?!?

ADAM
You know each other?

ERIK
We hung out for a little a few
months ago and he thinks we dated.

TONY
We dated for six damn months you
absolute tool box! Of course you're
dating him. And I thought..oh I am
a fool.

Daniela pulls him aside.

DANIELA
Tony stop. You don't want to do
this here.

TONY
Did you know about this?

DANIELA
No.

TONY
Get off me.

DANIELA
Hey! Don't speak to me like that!

TONY
Shut up.

DANIELA
Get the hell out of this house
before I make you.

TONY
You're just mad because your
perfect family isn't having a
perfect time for the first time
ever. And I didn't have the time to
fix it for you like I always do.

She slaps him.

DANIELA

Don't blame me for you not getting
the life you want. I don't "need"
you. And neither does my son. Get
out.

She's kind of scary. Tony gets up and heads toward the front
door. Slurring a bit.

TONY

I guess that's my cue.

Daniela slams the door in his face.

DANIELA

Everyone I am so sorry. He's not
normally like that. He has never
been like that.

Jess clocks Erik.

JESS

Who are you?

ERIK

No one.

JESS

Well this is awkward.

65 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 65

Tony calls an uber on his phone. It comes. He gets in.

66 EXT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT 66

Tony arrives and walks to the front door. We can hear
laughter and Andy Cohens voice on the other side. He bangs on
the door. The sound pauses. Footsteps are heard and a chain
link unlocks.

CHRISTOPHER

Oh it's you.

TONY

I'm sorry Chris, I messed up.

He tears up.

CHRISTOPHER

Come in.

Tony walks in.

67

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - MORNING

67

Tony is sleeping on the couch. He's woken up by Christopher holding a cup of coffee and a bagel.

TONY

Oh. Ow. Thanks.

CHRISTOPHER

Don't thank me, thank Marshall. He picked these up before he went to his softball game. He said he owed you one for interrupting Watch What Happens Live. He doesn't appreciate Bravo.

TONY

Thank him for me.

CHRISTOPHER

I will.

They stare at each other for a moment.

TONY

I'm really sorry Chris. You didn't deserve that. You're an incredible person and a even better friend and I treated you like shit. I don't deserve you.

CHRISTOPHER

Yes you did and no you don't.

Christopher sighs.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

Oh it's alright. I sort of lived for the drama anyway. I don't get out much.

They laugh.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

Based on the little I got out of you between sobs last night, sounds like you made a bit of a scene yesterday.

TONY

Yeah that was bad. I was bad. I've been bad. I have quite the apology tour to go on don't I?

CHRISTOPHER

Oh you do.

The door swings open.

TRISH

I'd start on your knees. And not in the fun kind of way.

TONY

Trish.

TRISH

You were an asshole Tony. And you don't deserve our forgiveness.

TONY

I know.

TRISH

And you're the bitch. Not me.

TONY

I know.

TRISH

And if you ever do that again I will drug you and cut off your balls.

He nods. She goes in for a hug. She snaps and waves over Christopher. They group hug for a second and then come out of it. Trish punches Tony in the arm.

TRISH (CONT'D)

That too.

CHRISTOPHER

Now you will apologize to Daniela, Vivian and to Adam. You know it was him who reached out to me last night to make sure you were somewhere safe?

TONY

Adam?

TRISH

Mhm. Prince Charming himself.
What's going on with you two Tony?
The truth.

TONY

I don't know. We started hanging
out. Like really hanging out and it
..felt.. good. It felt like the
stuff you read about in books. He's
perfect. He's too perfect. He'd get
over me in a second. I totally
misread the situation.

CHRISTOPHER

You do not see yourself the way the
rest of the world sees you. You
deserve to be loved with or without
a book deal or a fancy car. Cause
all that stupid stuff means nothing
at the end of the day. You deserve
to be loved because you love to
love. And you're worthy of it. If I
can't vouch for that enough maybe
that little garden gnome you
prattle on about will do it for me.

He grabs Tonys hand.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

Now you're going to get your shit
together. You're going to go to
your saint of a sister's house and
beg for forgiveness. Then you will
write.

Tony goes to interrupt.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

No. Tony that was not a suggestion.
That was an order. You are going to
be done wallowing and feeling sorry
for yourself and you will take
responsibility for your life.

TONY

Thank you Chris. Thank you for
everything.

They hug.

CHRISTOPHER

Of course. Now go shower. You smell like a frat house and not in the good way.

Tony gets up to go to the bathroom.

TONY

By the way. I'd give up everything to have someone love me even half as much as Marshall loves you. You two are lucky.

68 INT. TONY'S APARTMENT -DAY

68

Tony gets in from his apology session with his friends. He still feels like shit but feels a small weight is lifted from having his friends back. He sits at his desk. He opens the drawer and pulls out the tiny wizard ornament. Smiles.

MONTAGE

-We see Tony in his room writing and reading.

-He's in his notebook. The manuscript is finally finished.

-He begins typing it out onto his laptop.

-He sends an email to Ms. Klein with the manuscript attached.

-He prints out a copy and heads out the door.

69 INT. WASHINGTON ST. BOOK STORE - DAY

69

Lu and Tony are in an embrace. They hold it for a second and back up from each other. Lu wipes a tear from Tony's eye and sits down on his chair again.

TONY

You've been like a second mother to me. I shouldn't take that for granted.

Tony hands him the signed manuscript. Lu opens to the first page and sees the dedication. "For Debbie. The lover and the fighter."

LU

Oh sweetheart, you finished it. I'm so proud of you.

TONY

Thank you for always believing in me.

LU

I will put this proudly in my window.

TONY

I know we're closing Lu. Trish told me. You could have told me sooner. We could have done something to help. For Deb.

LU

We're not closing baby.

TONY

What?

LU

We got a new lease.

TONY

How?

LU

Well just so happens we got a new landlord. Adam convinced a friend of his to invest and buy the building, we got a few months to pay it back no interest. He's a good man. Don't ruin this story, or your part in it. I guess there's still a lot to learn about him

TONY

It is ruined Lu. That part at least. Not only did I humiliate myself in front of room full of his colleagues. I made a fool of myself in front of him. He wanted to be friends and I messed that up.

LU

Well the least you could do is go apologize in person then. And thank him for all of this. For me.

Adam is sitting on the couch watching tv and scrolling. Eating leftovers. The doorbell rings.

He looks through the key hole. He runs into his room and throws on jeans and a nicer shirt. Answers the door.

TONY

Hi.

ADAM

Hello. What can I do for you?

TONY

Can I come in? Just for a minute?

He motions him inside.

TONY (CONT'D)

Adam I'm sorry for ruining your party. I am sorry for ruining everything.

ADAM

You really know how to make a scene.

TONY

I was spiraling out. I had cracked. I'm not proud of it.

ADAM

What the hell was wrong with you?

TONY

You. You were wrong with me. You swooped back in from out of nowhere and made me look like shit by comparison. Or at least I thought. But it wasn't your fault. It was mine. I felt the only way I could feel good in this family is by competing with you. But then I realized how much I liked being around you.

ADAM

I may have laid it on thick with the gifts and stuff. I just wanted them to like me. Why does it have to be a competition?

TONY

It doesn't. But I messed it up the other night at my apartment and I'm sorry. If we can somehow start over I'd love to be buddies.

Adam contemplates him.

TONY (CONT'D)

Alright well that's all I came to say. I'll leave you alone now.

He turns to go open the door

ADAM

I don't want you to leave me alone.

Tony stops and turns toward Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Tony I think I fell in love with you the moment I saw you. And since I came back I haven't thought of anything but you. When you kissed me I swear I felt the world stop. I got scared and I panicked. I didn't know if I could handle it. I still don't but I want to try. With you. I regret not saying anything sooner. I just didn't wanna mess up your life here with my--

Tony stands staring at Adam. Then Tony kisses him hard. He pulls back. He kisses him again. Harder. They move down the hall way towards Adam's bedroom taking off each other's shirts.

They head to the bedroom.

71

EXT. DANIELA'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

71

It's Donnie's birthday morning. Daniela is hanging out with her mother-in-law GRACE (60's). Tony rings the door bell holding a bag of presents and flowers. Daniela answers the door.

DANIELA

What?

TONY

I don't know where to start besides that I was a stupid little piece of shit. My life was spiraling and I decided to mistreat my best friend. And I will never forgive myself. I am so sorry.

DANIELA

Well it's not the first party you ruined. My 5th grade Mulan birthday ended in tears if you can remember.

TONY

I'm so sorry D. Really. You deserve better than that. I did not bring honor to the family.

Daniela stares at him. Then breaks laughing.

DANIELA

You dumbass, God I hate you. Come in.

She lets Tony inside.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

And for what its worth I do need you. And so does Donnie. If I am being honest, I've leaned on you a lot lately with Robert gone and I shouldn't take that for granted. So I'm sorry too.

72

INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY CONT.

72

Donnie is playing in the living room with Adam's mom GRACE (70s) waiting for his birthday party to start. Daniela and Tony are in the kitchen.

DANIELA

It'll give Jessica something to talk about for weeks.

TONY

Now about this party.

DANIELA

Oh it's fine. Some of his class mates are coming over soon and I have a cake defrosting. They'll play in the yard. It'll be fine.

TONY

Well I have four bags of decorations in my car and Trish is currently checking out her Moana costume as we speak.

DANIELA

Aw Tone really?

Tony smirks.

73 INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

73

MONTAGE

- Daniela and Tony setting up for Donnie's birthday.
- Fun decorations everywhere.
- Donnie opening gifts from Tony.
- Daniela pouring setting out Spiderman cupcakes.
- Daniela opens the door to Trish dressed up as Moana.

END MONTAGE

74 INT. DANIELA'S KITCHEN - DAY

74

Daniela and Tony are in the kitchen, you can here the sounds of a kids birthday party happening outside the door.

DANIELA

We did it. He looks so happy. Thank you Tony. If only Robert were here to see it. And you finished your book in time. You never said how?

TONY

Let's just say a prince and a fairy godmother gave me the final push.

DANIELA

A prince?! Do I know this man?

TONY

You do. Quite well and it seems like he just got to the front door and with a special delivery.

Comes running into the kitchen and opens the front door.

DONNIE

Daddy!

Robert comes running in holding Donnie.

DANIELA

Oh my god! Oh my God! You made it back! Robert I am so happy!

ROBERT

Hello my love.

She runs over and Robert, Daniela and Donnie hug each other tightly. After a moment she releases them. She stares into Robert's eyes to lean in for a kiss then stops.

DANIELA

Wait, wait. So who's the prince?

Adam walks in holding a Spiderman costume over to Tony and kisses his cheek.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

Oh my god, you two? Together?

ADAM

Us two. Together.

DANIELA

I knew it. You owe me 50 bucks.

ROBERT

Deals a deal. Now speaking of presents...

DANIELA

Later.

She smirks. Robert picks up Donnie.

ROBERT

Now who's ready to party?

They rush out.

DANIELA

Spiderman and Moana. Karen is going to die.

She claps and heads out.

Tony and Adam walk over to the window and watch the party happening.

ADAM

This is great.

TONY
It is.

ADAM
You never answered my question.

TONY
About?

ADAM
Wanting a kid.

TONY
Oh. Yeah I do.

ADAM
Should we make one?

TONY
I don't think that's how it works.

ADAM
Well we can try.

Tony laughs. They kiss.