

BIANCA JAMES WON'T STOP STARING AT ME

by

Greg Gray

FADE IN:

INT. MAMMOTHMART - GLENDALE, CA - DAY

PAIGE (20's), an assistant manager, stands at the end of the express lane with a clipboard. She's beautiful with curves that seep through her otherwise generic uniform.

At the other end of the lane...

LUCAS LEARY (29) stands with a carton of milk. He's cute but dorky. Unassuming. Needs to get more sun. Has short, dark hair and perpetual five o'clock shadow. Wears New Balance running shoes and a white T-shirt for the band, "Whitest Boy Alive" that nearly blends in with his skin.

Suddenly, he catches Paige's eye. She seems caught off guard. Holds her gaze, mesmerized. Lucas becomes self conscious, but she won't stop STARING at him.

INT. MAMMOTHMART - NIGHT

Lucas stands in line with a shopping cart, finally moving up to checkout. Suddenly, he sees a very busy Paige behind the costumer service desk. She makes INTENSE GOO GOO EYES at him. Lucas smiles confidently.

INT. MAMMOTHMART - DAY

Lucas walks up to the express lane with a bottle of shampoo.

Paige is doing a key turn one register over. It's on an elastic key chain. She's wearing a pink "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" T-shirt. Lucas looks nervous as he hands the shampoo to the CASHIER. Grabs some breath mints.

LUCAS  
(to Cashier)  
Never know when you might need them...

Paige hears him. Reacts nervously. SMASHES into him. It's like a comically bad car accident. They bounce off each other. Somehow get tangled in the key chain. Start running into CUSTOMERS. Groceries fly everywhere.

INT. MAMMOTHMART - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas frees Paige and himself from the key chain. A BURLY SECURITY GUARD approaches him from behind.

LUCAS  
Sorry about that. Paige, right?

PAIGE  
Right.

LUCAS  
I'm Lucas and I was wondering...

PAIGE  
Yeah, I was wondering something too. When are you going to stop coming in here and staring at me with puppy dog eyes?

LUCAS  
Sorry?

PAIGE  
(viciously)  
You coming in here makes me uncomfortable, okay. So, let me be as clear as I can, weirdo: You have absolutely no shot, so stop stalking me!

Lucas is shocked. The Guard manhandles him out the door.

INT. CLUB ENVY - INGLEWOOD, CA - NIGHT

It's a nightclub with a mostly ethnic patronage.

COOP (30), African American, is about thirty pounds overweight. Wears glasses. Needs a better haircut. He checks out the ladies. After a moment, he spots...

BIANCA JAMES (28), African American - stunning, with perfect mocha skin and long black hair. She's wearing big earrings and a short, tight dress. Has legs for days. Projects warmth and innocence through her bohemian style makeup.

She's with her best friend, AVERY (28), African American. She's the proud independent type. Dressed a bit more modestly. They have a sisters-for-life vibe going.

Coop notices Bianca's purse. Approaches her nervously.

COOP  
Hey there. I'm Coop. Could you tell me where you got that handbag?

BIANCA  
Hey, Coop. I'm Bianca. You interested in one for yourself?

COOP

Yeah, you know. Sometimes I need a place to keep the necessities. My beard trimmer. Some cologne. Whatever.

Bianca laughs. It's looking pretty good for Coop.

COOP (CONT'D)

No, not really. A Christmas gift for my sister maybe. Does your sister like it?

BIANCA

Who, Avery? No, she's my best friend. People always make that mistake. And to answer your question, no, I don't remember where I got the handbag. Sorry.

She sets it aside. Moves away. Starts dancing with Avery. She's VERY ADEPT. Coop comes back for seconds.

COOP

I'm sorry. I was just trying to think of something to say so I could come talk to you. You're gorgeous. And, as funny as it might sound, it's like I just saw myself with you for an indefinite amount of time. It hit me like a ton of bricks.

BIANCA

That's so sweet. Look, I appreciate what you're doing here. I especially liked the way you bounced back after the handbag thing didn't quite work. But the night's still young and I'm not ready to pair up just yet. No offense.

Coop nods. Tries to pretend that didn't burn.

INT. CLUB ENVY - LATER

Another young black man, ALEC approaches Bianca. Lays it on thick. Avery looks on.

ALEC

Excuse me, I just wanted to tell you that out of all the women in here, you seem so different. Can you tell me why?

Bianca smiles. Flirts.

BIANCA

I don't know. I just know I'm me.

INT. CLUB ENVY - NIGHT

Bianca is now surrounded by MEN. One is DANTE (30's), the club manager. He's Latino.

Avery watches with a long face. Alec approaches her. She looks at him curiously.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

There's a mostly bare wall, except for a few random sketches. They hang over a draft table. There's an OLD BOLEX ANIMATION CAMERA. Some classic animation and anime memorabilia. Too much stuff. The room feels cramped.

Lucas is on the bed watching "Aladdin" nostalgically.

There's a knock at the door. It won't open all the way because boxes prevent it. BRANDON (28) walks in. He's a geek with glasses and hair that never seems to comb right. Holds a "Rushmore" Blu-Ray and an envelope.

A small dog, BINDI follows him in. Jumps on the bed, hungry for affection.

BRANDON

Look, your girlfriend's here! Wait, I meant the dog...

(with vindication)

I have a woman.

LUCAS

Whatever, Mr. Long Distance Relationship.

BRANDON

Hey, you can't choose who you fall for.

LUCAS

You can try.

BRANDON

Come on, man. I texted you over an hour ago. You're supposed to be ready. It's been a month since your Mammothmart fiasco. You're never going to meet anybody sitting in here watching movies by yourself. Now let's go check out Carson's new man sanctuary.

LUCAS

You know I still like girls, right?

Bindi starts licking his face.

BRANDON

Gross. How can you stand that? No, not the mouth. Nasty!

LUCAS

She just wants a little affection. Sure not getting it from her owner.

(sighs)

Let me get my shoes on...

He drops his feet off the side of the bed. Brandon sets the Blu-Ray and envelope down. Picks up the remote. Points it at the TV. Lucas grabs the envelope. Pulls out a letter.

BRANDON

Your mom told me to bring you that. Said it was important... So, you working on any character designs? I'm just about finished with the script. The contest is in January. That's just two months away...

LUCAS

Why? Cel animation is dead. Doing it would be as pointless as when I took dance lessons or when you owned a comb.

BRANDON

Whatever. You think you've got enough episodes of Conan on your DVR? That's a long time to be sweating it in the pool.

LUCAS

There you go trying to make up slang again.

He gets up with the letter. Puts on his hoodie. Comes around the bed. He's wearing flip flops.

BRANDON

Flip flops? I know this is Glendale, dude, but it's like 50 degrees. Freezing.

LUCAS

I'm fine in them.

Brandon smirks.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

What?

BRANDON

Dog mouth to mouth. Conan. Flip flops without socks in cold weather. Lucas, you've got to be the whitest guy on the planet. I mean, you make Ryan Seacrest look ethnic.

Lucas frowns. Looks down at the letter. His eyes widen.

INT. GRANDMA ROSE'S HOUSE - DAY

It's spacious and completely empty. Lucas frantically follows his aunt, SANDRA (50's) in, holding the letter.

LUCAS

Grandma left me her house in her will. So, why do I have to be married by the time I'm thirty to get it? Can't we bypass that part? I really need it.

SANDRA

Absolutely not, Lucas. Forget it. Those are mother's wishes and I'm gonna uphold them.

LUCAS

Come on! That's only five months away! Great, Grandma Rose. Smite me for being perpetually single even from the grave. Thank you!

He looks at Sandra, sulking.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Looks like it was decorated by a pro. Lots of designer furniture, art, etc. Bianca and Avery enter, exhausted.

Bianca adjusts some throw pillows, making them symmetrical. Plops down on the couch and turns on the TV. Finds "Basketball Wives" on the DVR but has trouble with the remote keys because of her long finger nails.

AVERY

So, Dante wants you to take some "pictures" for him, huh?

BIANCA

Don't say it like that. I can use the money even with my "fabulous" new job. Besides, he said "tasteful" pictures for posters and flyers. To promote the club.

AVERY

Yeah, flyers are real tasteful... You're not into him are you? Dante? 'Cause it kind of seems like...

BIANCA

No. I don't know. Why?

AVERY

'Cause I saw all those brothers flirting with you. Some of Inglewood's finest.

BIANCA

Why do you care? You've got One Line Alec Ryan... I was kind of beatin' them off with a stick though, wasn't I?

Avery sits down beside her.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

This TV stand is so boring. Why'd we buy it? Why're they always just rectangles or squares. That's no fun.

AVERY

Hey, Alec's a decent man. And at least I've got one. You're problem is you're too picky... and pushing thirty. There are more of us than there are them, ya know. Brothers, I mean.

BIANCA

You sure about that? Because everywhere I go, they're all around me... And I'm twenty-eight.

She looks at the TV stand, imagining.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

What if the boards were rearranged?

AVERY

Just as long as when you find a keeper, he's black. Right?

She gives Bianca a look.

BIANCA

Right.

She suddenly looks uncomfortable. Reaches back and unclips her HAIR EXTENSION. It takes about a foot off her length. She tosses it aside. Gets comfortable. Avery shakes her head.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

What?

AVERY

Mile long hair extensions and fingernails. Short Dresses, big earrings, and Basketball Wives. B, you're total sista, you know that?

She gets up. Walks toward her bedroom. Bianca shrugs.

INT. CLUB ENVY - BACK ROOM - DAY

Dante and a PHOTOGRAPHER have set it up like a photo studio; lights, a backdrop, the works. Bianca is in front of the camera. She's wearing a sexy dress. Eats the attention up, acting playful to the camera.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Lucas wraps his pillow around his head trying to drown out loud video game explosions coming from the living room. He groans.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - LOS ANGELES - DAY

IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

VANESSA HOLT (35), African American, is helping Lucas mount a TV to the wall, arms stretched. She's the store's manager. Beautiful with perfectly placed cheek bones and hair pulled back into a ponytail. Looks uncomfortable.

VANESSA

Why is it as soon as your hands are full, your nose itches?

LUCAS

One second...

Lucas shifts the weight of TV, long enough for her to free one hand and scratch her nose.

VANESSA

You're such a sweetie, Lucas. Girls around here don't know what they're missing out on.

Lucas blushes. Stabilizes the TV.

ON THE TV: An insurance commercial featuring a nice house and a HAPPY YOUNG COUPLE plays. Lucas stops what he's doing. Looks at it, LONGINGLY.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Looks like you wish you were there.

LUCAS

Just looking at the TV. LED ten-eighty p.  
Stunning... It's secure. You can let go.

Vanessa isn't buying it. Her eyes suddenly veer to...

VANESSA

Annette!

ANNETTE (20's) approaching her with a fancy white envelope. She's not the prettiest girl in the world, but she's all smiles and enthusiasm.

Vanessa lets go of the TV. Lucas didn't adequately secure it after all. Her end drops. BONKS him in the head. He groans, unnoticed. Tussles with the swinging TV.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I haven't seen you in months, girl. Keep meaning to send you a message...

ANNETTE

Then I guess you haven't been reading my wall? That's okay. I've got something for you...

She hands her the envelope. Vanessa starts opening it.

ANNETTE (CONT'D)

Pete proposed! Were getting married! In six weeks! Can you believe it?!

PETE (20's) waves at Vanessa from a distance. Slowly approaches.

VANESSA

See. What'd I tell you?

ANNETTE

Well, you told me to stop chasing him and let him chase me. So, I stopped texting and Facebooking him. I stopped dropping by his apartment uninvited. I stopped acting like the social director of our then non-relationship. I stopped asking him how he feels every ten minutes.

(MORE)

ANNETTE (CONT'D)

I just kind of backed off, and bam! He came to me!

Pete stops beside her. Puts his arm around her.

VANESSA

I'm so happy for you two.

Annette suddenly notices Lucas. Smirks.

ANNETTE

You still work here, Lucas?

Lucas shoots her a look. She and Pete walk off. Lucas comes off the ladder, rubbing his head. Looks at Vanessa, impressed.

LUCAS

You're a miracle worker. That is the neediest, most abrasive girl I've ever known in my life.

VANESSA

I do what I can. So, when are you getting married, Lucas? When do I get to see you walking down the aisle?

Lucas looks away, disheartened.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - SALES FLOOR - LATER

IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

Lucas walks up to the wall of TVs. There's CHEAP CG animation showing on them. He frowns. Looks away. Walks back toward the cash register island. Looks in the direction of...

THE BED AND BATH DEPARTMENT

Where...

Bianca - in an Exclamation Mart uniform - is folding towels. A moment passes, and she notices Lucas. Seems caught off guard.

They make eye contact. Bianca gives Lucas an INTENSE LOOK of attraction. Lucas looks away. This feels like familiar territory.

A beat, then he looks up at her again, abashed, but...

She won't stop STARING at him. Time seems to stand still.

IN THE FURNITURE DEPARTMENT

An elderly woman, MS. COLE, looks in a vague direction.

MS. COLE

Hello! Can I get some attention over here?! Old lady in need of help!

Lucas and Bianca both break from their dazes. Hurry toward Ms. Cole. Reach her at the same time, but don't see each other yet.

LUCAS AND BIANCA

Can I help you?

They give each other a look. Ms. Cole looks at them funny. Points to a display.

MS. COLE

Can one of you tell me if you have this microwave cart in a box?

Both Lucas and Bianca just stand there expecting the other to look. Now they look at each other. Both step forward at the same time. Start dancing around each other.

LUCAS AND BIANCA

Excuse me...

Ms. Cole rolls her eyes.

MS. COLE

Today would be nice...

Lucas steps toward the cart, onto Bianca's foot! She YELPS. Her hand flies back. SMACKS Ms. Cole right in the face! Bianca and Lucas look at each other with blame.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Vanessa sits at her desk, immersed in paper work. Bianca stands beside her, digging through her purse.

VANESSA

Your lucky Ms. Cole is a regular customer and not going after you. She can be vindictive.

BIANCA

Hey, it wasn't my fault! It was what's-his-face. But thanks for smoothing things over. I really need this job...

(MORE)

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Hey, you should come to the grand reopening of Club Envy tomorrow night. Maybe even get Charlie to come.

VANESSA

Maybe. If I could ever see him conscious... I mean, the holidays are coming and inventory prep...

She looks up at Bianca, who's gaze has shifted to a TV mounted by the desk. It's showing the happy insurance ad. Bianca watches, immersed. Hint of a goofy smile. Vanessa takes an interesting mental note.

Lucas enters with more paperwork. Sees Bianca. Gets nervous. Vanessa takes notice.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Bianca, I'd like to eat sometime today.

Bianca looks over and sees Lucas. Pretends to ignore him. They glance at each other and both their brains suddenly turn to goo. They lose their ability to think straight.

Lucas stares at the filing system, dazed. Bianca seems to have forgotten why she's fishing through someone else's purse. Vanessa watches them for a moment. Reaches into her purse. Pulls out a twenty. Hands it to Bianca.

Bianca steals another look at Lucas as she exits. Vanessa and Lucas watch her outside the office. She stops. Can't remember which way to go. Picks one. Vanessa looks at Lucas mischievously.

LUCAS

What?

VANESSA

It's like there was a double brain aneurysm in here. Should I call the paramedics? I felt like a third wheel in my own office.

LUCAS

You know her?

VANESSA

She's my cousin. I hired her to replace Mattie... You mean to tell me you didn't see her making goo goo eyes at you just now?

Lucas knows where this is going.

LUCAS

I'm told I'm extremely Caucasian. And she's... not.

They look out the door window again. Bianca has realized she went the wrong way. Corrects herself. Bumps into someone, still in a daze. Vanessa looks at Lucas, making her point.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Bianca now holds her drawing up for Vanessa.

BIANCA

It's a TV stand. Shaped like a Z. I thought it might be something different from the norm.

VANESSA

Oh, yeah?

Bianca suddenly makes an awkward face.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

There something else, Bianca?

BIANCA

(trying to play it casual)  
So, what's up with Lucas? How come he's not married?

VANESSA

How do you know he's not?

BIANCA

(becoming flustered)  
I didn't see a ring... Not that I was looking... Uh... Just seems strange a guy like him is still single that's all.

VANESSA

You're right.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - BREAK ROOM - LATER

Vanessa chugs an energy drink, looking down at Lucas' drawing on the table. It looks like a robot boy. He angrily lowers his phone from his ear.

LUCAS

Uh! My aunt won't budge on the house thing!

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

She's gotta still be mad about that debacle involving her beloved dachshund. I'll never be married by thirty! I mean a monk living on an ice glacier would get more action than me. Doesn't look like you're going to see me walk down that aisle any time soon.

He sees Vanessa's interest in his drawing.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

It's nothing. Just something for a short, Brandon keeps rambling about. Thought I'd do some designs just for the heck of it.

Vanessa makes another mental note. Her matchmaking wheels are really starting to turn.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - SALES FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

Lucas is building an endcap. Brandon, who also works here, hovers over him, pitching.

BRANDON

So, it's about four-hundred years in the future. A war between men and synthetic humans has taken place. They manage to wipe all the synth out, or so they thought. Then a group of monks discovers one hidden. So, not knowing what to do with him, they teach him to be one of them.

LUCAS

Yeah, you told me. But nobody makes cel movies anymore.

BRANDON

I didn't say it had to be cel. What, you want to work here for the rest of your life? It's been what, nine years?

LUCAS

You know how I feel about computer animation! It's all but killed...

BRANDON

Drawn cinema. Yes, I know. Look, Lucas, you need to learn to adapt to the times. You haven't stopped going to the movies because they've adopted digital effects.

LUCAS

I'm not necessarily opposed to digital effects. Just not digital main characters. I want them to look drawn. It'd be like replacing Harrison Ford... And you just keep quitting here and coming back so what's the difference?

IN THE BED AND BATH DEPARTMENT

Bianca puts artificial flowers into a wooden pole with holes. She keeps looking over at Lucas.

IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

Brandon notices her stare.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Is it so wrong that I long for the days of "Aladdin" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"? And I know what you're thinking. And yes I still refuse to watch "The Incredibles" and "Ratatouille." So don't even ask!

BRANDON

You're impossible, you know that?!

LUCAS

What're you looking at?!

He turns around. Catches Bianca leering. She abruptly looks away.

BRANDON

She's been staring at you this whole time.

LUCAS

What? Again?..

Bianca sees them talking about her. Starts to walk off.

BRANDON

Again, huh? The coco bean yearns for the vanilla extraction.

Lucas gives him a look. Then his eyes shift to...

THE FURNITURE DEPARTMENT

Where Bianca is looking over a lamp, distracted. Avery walks up.

AVERY

What's up, B? Where do you keep the flat irons? I'm starting to get a little too natural here.

BIANCA

This is so Sheila Bridges.

AVERY

Who?

BIANCA

She's an interior designer. Not afraid to shave her head.

AVERY

Well, she's braver than me.

Bianca looks at the lamp. She's trying not to look at Lucas. Sees something interesting on the label.

BIANCA

Wait, this lamp was designed by an Exclamation Mart employee?.. Um, what happened to the flat iron?

AVERY

For one thing, it caught my hair on fire. I had to stop, drop, and roll. See. I'm going to have to start wearing it in a comb over. Maybe this Shelia Brooks person has the right idea. Why are we cursed with such difficult hair? At least we don't get dandruff.

BIANCA

"The Golden Girls" lied. Vanessa's mom gets dandruff.

Avery rolls her eyes. Bianca's gaze shifts again.

IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

Brandon sees to whom.

BRANDON

Dude, she's looking at you again. I think she digs you...

Lucas subtly looks over at Bianca once more.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

And that sista is fine! You should go for it.

IN THE FURNITURE DEPARTMENT

Avery sees Bianca's apparent interest.

AVERY

What, do you like that Opie?!

BIANCA

No!

Avery looks at her closely, not convinced.

AVERY

Good. The hair conversation alone is enough to stay away, right? Add to that he probably just wants to conquer the exotic black woman.

Bianca nods.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - BREAK ROOM - LATER

Bianca gets a water out of the vending machine. Lucas enters to see her putting more money in it. She turns to see him. They briefly gaze at each other.

Bianca eyes drop. She sits at a table. Buries her nose in her phone. Lucas goes to his locker. Pulls out his phone. Looks over. Bianca is now ogling him...again. Caught, she looks away...again.

GABE (37), a New Zealander, blows in. He's an assistant manager. Has a dollar for the drink machine. But to his surprise, his soda has already been paid for. He grins.

GABE

Free fizzy drink. Cheers.

He leaves. Bianca smiles to herself. Lucas looks at her, realizing what she did. He looks at his phone again, Pretends to check for missed calls. Finally gets up the nerve and approaches her. Bianca looks up awkwardly.

LUCAS

Hey. Bianca, right?

BIANCA

Yes.

LUCAS

(nervously blurting)  
So, I know you like me.

BIANCA

What?!

Lucas frantically tries to rebound.

LUCAS

Yeah. Today. You were staring, smiling, flirting. The jig is up.

BIANCA

(embarrassed)

I wasn't doing any of that!

LUCAS

About an hour ago on the sales floor. And in Vanessa's office. Right?

Bianca seems uncomfortable. Gets up.

BIANCA

Sorry. I'm not interested.

Lucas gives her a look.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

I don't like you!

She starts to leave. Lucas is confused. Looks at her. Bianca sees. Comes back, flustered.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

I don't even know you!

LUCAS

So you're denying it then? Typical!

BIANCA

(confused)

What're you talking about?

LUCAS

You stare. You ogle. You lie to yourself about it. Typical!

BIANCA

(defensive)

How would you know what's typical for me? You don't even know me!

LUCAS

Fine. Look me in the eye and tell me that you don't like me. I dare you!

Bianca looks anywhere but. Rolls about defensively.

BIANCA

Oh, you want me to look you in the eye, huh?!

LUCAS

Sorry, do I make you nervous?

BIANCA

No, you don't make me nervous. And I don't need to look you in the eye to prove anything. And I haven't imagined myself natural in your embrace!

Oops. Now she's flustered times ten. Lucas' eyes widen.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Leave me alone. You're not my type. Stop looking at me like that. It's never going to happen!

She storms out. Lucas looks very confused.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Lucas puts some more paperwork on Vanessa's desk. Looks upset.

VANESSA

(a hint of glee)

So'd you put the moves on Bianca?

LUCAS

(still processing)

Yes. No!.. She went completely berserk on me...

VANESSA

What?

LUCAS

You know. Nuts. Bonkers. I felt like I owed her an apology, but I couldn't figure out what I did wrong. It was a really confusing scenario. She on any medication? A combination of Paxil and Klonopin perhaps?

VANESSA

(laughs)

No. Exactly what did you say?

LUCAS

I don't know. Nothing unusual. I just dared her to look me in the eye and deny her attraction.

VANESSA

You didn't?! Let me guess, that's when she went berserk?

LUCAS

Yeah. I mean, what's her deal? Simple yes or no would've sufficed.

Vanessa laughs silently.

VANESSA

Lucas, don't you get it? You hit a nerve. That's why she went all crazy on you. That's kind of how girls are when they like a guy. Especially guys they're not supposed to like.

LUCAS

Not quite sure I follow.

VANESSA

This is my fault. I should've warned you. Bianca's a beautiful, highly eligible young black woman. Dating outside her race can still be frowned upon because of said hotness and because she cares too much about what other people think. She's kind of immature.

LUCAS

So, it's not the anti-female pheromones I seem to be emitting?

VANESSA

What do you mean?

LUCAS

(reluctant)

Girls never admit when they like me. They sometimes stare at me. Smile a lot. Go gaga and all. But they never come out and admit that they're attracted to me...

Suddenly, a BUZZ comes from her phone on Lucas' side of the desk. It's Gabe.

GABE (O.S.)

Vanessa, the shipment of poinsettias just got here. You want them outside, right?

VANESSA

No, Gabe. It's too cold. Bring them inside.

GABE (O.S.)

Yeah, that's what I said. Outside.

Vanessa stands up. Leans over the desk, speaking into the phone. Her top shirt button has come open. Some cleavage spills out right in front of Lucas. He becomes anxious.

VANESSA

No, inside. The temp drops too much at night.

Her breasts jiggle a little as she moves. Lucas squirms nervously.

GABE (O.S.)

Right. I thought spreading them across the sidewalk maybe?

Vanessa leans in closer to the phone. And Lucas. Her breasts are almost touching his face. He gulps.

VANESSA

No, Gabe. Put them inside. Inside, in front of the windows. If they freeze, they will die. Put them inside! Got it?!

GABE (O.S.)

Oh, inside. Got it.

Click. He's gone. Vanessa shakes her head. Her eyes shift to Lucas. Looks like he's about to die from anxiety. She looks down at her bosom. Gasps. Straightens up.

VANESSA

Sorry...

Lucas is sweating. Breathes shallow. It suddenly dawns on Vanessa.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Well, challenges can be good.

LUCAS

Huh?

VANESSA

I think I can help you with our girl.

LUCAS

How? You mean with matchmaking?

VANESSA

You said it yourself. I'm a miracle worker. Not to brag, but I've got a perfect track record so far.

LUCAS

Okay. But since I've been going for full disclosure here, and since I've already spilled my guts about how inept with women I am, I may as well tell you the rest. I'm sort of accident prone. And I get kind of embarrassed... around exposed women's... lady parts.

He looks away from her.

Vanessa looks down. Realizes she's still displaying significant cleavage. Buttons up, blushing. That quickly changes to determination.

VANESSA

Don't worry, Lucas. I'm going to help you with Bianca. But you might have to get out of your comfort zone a little.

Lucas looks back at her, questioning.

INT. CLUB ENVY - NIGHT

Vanessa drags Lucas in by the hand. He looks around at the abundant amount of people and social activity.

LUCAS

You said a little bit out of my comfort zone!

VANESSA

Come on, Lucas. You can do this. I believe in you. Stop squirming, I'm serious. Look at me. In the eye. You've got to focus. Be confident.

Lucas looks around. He appears to be the only Caucasian here. He nods to Vanessa, unconvincingly.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

All right. Let's dance. You know how to dance, right?

LUCAS

Well, certain kinds. My mom made me take dance lessons when I was sixteen to try and get me out of my shell.

VANESSA

Like what kinds?

He looks at her, inhibited.

AT THE BAR

Bianca sees a SEXY POSTER of herself from the photo shoot hanging up. Shrugs. Grabs a couple of drinks. Checks her money. Looks embarrassed. Smiles at the BARTENDER.

BIANCA

I'm a little short here.

JASON (20's) JUMPS eagerly out of the crowd.

JASON

It's okay! I got this!

BIANCA

Thanks...

JASON

Jason. Mind if I...

Before he finishes, CARA (20's), his date, pops out from the same place. Shoves him, offended. Bianca shakes her head. Walks off with the drinks.

INT. CLUB ENVY - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca approaches Avery, who's on a couch.

BIANCA

You didn't give me enough money for your booze, Avery...

She suddenly notices that Avery is crying into the couch's arm.

AVERY

Alec dumped me...

BIANCA

In the five minutes it took me to get these drinks?!

AVERY

What can I say? He's an ass!

Bianca sits beside her. Avery sits up. Her eyes are red. Mascara running. Bianca rubs her shoulder.

BIANCA

Aw, Avery. You gonna be okay?

AVERY

No. I'm never gonna find anyone else like him.

Bianca puts her arm around her.

BIANCA

That's probably a good thing, honey.

AVERY

(sobbing)

He said he didn't want to be tied down. That there were so many other women out there. He said I was like an anchor to him.

BIANCA

It's all right. Let it out... Listen, if he wasn't satisfied with you, then he's all wrong. You want someone who'll make me you feel special, right? Like a princess. When you find the right guy, you'll just know it.

AVERY

But we're outnumbered, remember? Not enough to go around.

BIANCA

Yeah, you keep saying that, but it doesn't matter. Your problem is you're just looking for guys with money. Look, you know how when you get nervous around a guy? You get butterflies in your stomach? Your heart races? That's nature's way of telling you that you've found someone special. It starts with something you see in his DNA. You know, when you think a guy is really hot. You want to make babies with him. You have a lot in common with him.

(MORE)

BIANCA (CONT'D)

You can't stop thinking about him. Or  
looking at him... That's how you'll know.

She wipes the tears from Avery's eyes, who manages a  
slight smile. Avery downs her drink in a single gulp.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Come on. Who needs guys tonight? Let's  
get our boogie on.

She leads Avery to the dance floor.

INT. CLUB ENVY - MOMENTS LATER

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Bianca and Avery dance together, CLUB STYLE. The floor is  
full with others, dancing similarly. Avery starts  
enjoying herself. This makes Bianca smile. Suddenly she  
looks surprised though, when she looks over and sees...

Lucas and Vanessa WALTZING from one side of the floor to  
the next. Bianca does a double take.

Lucas and Vanessa weave through the other DANCERS,  
collecting stares. Both play it off with poise. He spins  
her. Avery stares. Bianca looks antagonized as Lucas and  
Vanessa make their way over to her.

BIANCA

(to Vanessa)

What's he doing here?!

VANESSA

Well, Charlie's company business is very  
important. So, I invited Lucas. He needs  
to get out more.

BIANCA

Wait, you two aren't...

VANESSA

No, Bianca.

LUCAS

Why, you jealous? Kooky lunatic girl.

BIANCA

Nobody's talking to you!

Lucas and Vanessa stop dancing. Vanessa grabs Avery by  
the arm.

VANESSA

Come on, Avery. Let's get some drinks.

They start that way. Bianca looks at Vanessa suspiciously. Follows her.

OFF THE DANCE FLOOR

BIANCA

Are you trying to match make us, Vanessa?

VANESSA

Wouldn't think of it.

She smiles. Pulls Avery toward the bar.

Lucas and Bianca watch Vanessa walk off. Act nervous about being left alone with each other. Bianca seems conflicted. Looks away. Lucas tries his best to conceal the nervous crack in his voice.

LUCAS

What makes you think I want to be set up with you after the way you yelled at me?

BIANCA

I wasn't yelling. I was getting my point across.

LUCAS

Well, you got it across in a very behemothic way.

BIANCA

What, you mean like a dinosaur or in a hag, backbiter sort of way?

LUCAS

I mean you emphatically denied giving me looks of infatuation or, more likely, extreme adoration. Is that clear enough?

BIANCA

No. Why don't you draw a picture for me?

A WAITRESS brings them drinks.

WAITRESS

They're from a Vanessa.

They take the drinks. Both realize people are starting to stare at them being together. Especially the men.

Jason pops up, trying to play the hero.

JASON  
This guy bothering you?

BIANCA  
(annoyed)  
Don't you have a date to hover over?!

She gives him a dirty look and moves away. Sees Cara watching them, irked. Sees Lucas sitting at a table, drawing on a napkin.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
What're you doing?

Lucas stands up. Hands her the napkin.

LUCAS  
You said draw you a picture.

Bianca looks at the drawing. It's an exaggeration of her looking at Lucas with extreme googly eyes. Initially, she's impressed by his art. Quickly hides it. Tosses the drawing, fuming. It gets SUCKED UP into a SUCTION VENT.

Jason pops up behind Cara wearing a goofy smirk.

LUCAS (CONT'D)  
(to Cara)  
Wow, he's like the frog that crossed the road, jumped in a puddle, and crossed the road again. A dirty double-crosser.

Cara laughs. Bianca tries not to. Lucas sips his drink nervously. Bianca looks at him, skeptical.

BIANCA  
What're you doing here? I mean really?

LUCAS  
Well, at the moment I'm sipping on club soda and being verbally badgered by you.

BIANCA  
I think I know what this is about. The exotic black woman, right?

LUCAS  
Come again?

BIANCA  
I know all about it. You want to date me in order to conquer the sexual, exotic black woman.

LUCAS

How do you mean "conquer" exactly?

BIANCA

I'm not looking to be a notch on your bedpost so you can get some "jungle booty," okay? You're not getting me out of my dress.

LUCAS

I think you're getting the wrong idea here. Not to mention you've got a pretty high opinion of yourself. Maybe I'm not as attracted to you as you think. Maybe I just came here to dance.

BIANCA

Whatever. You were dancing like a sixty year old.

LUCAS

I was just getting warmed up. Maybe I can out dance you!

BIANCA

Oh, yeah?!

She sets her drink down. Moves away defiantly.

INT. CLUB ENVY - MOMENTS LATER

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Bianca moves her hips with amazing fluidity. Dances tastefully with an invisible partner. It's very inviting, as plenty of guys are watching her. Jason runs up and joins her, but she quickly pushes him away.

Lucas rightfully takes her actions as a dare. Looks moderately embarrassed. Thinks. Moves closer to her. But not too close. A new song starts to play, as if by cue. Everyone around looks to see what he's about to do...

Lucas starts pulling a John Travolta. Dances 70's disco style. Big, animated gestures. Strutting in place. Plenty of funky moves.

Bianca looks surprised by them. They oddly compliment hers. Lucas moves up and down the dance floor... cutting loose!

Vanessa and Avery return. Both see them. Vanessa smiles. BEHIND THEM, the DJ starts cutting up. The crowd, in general, cheers them on, surprisingly enthusiastic.

Avery panics. Shoves a MAN, making it look accidental.

AVERY

Oops, my bad!

The man runs into Lucas who consequently SMACKS a passing WAITRESS across the head.

A DOMINO EFFECT ENSUES -- the Waitress lunges forward. Smashes into an ONLOOKER. He smashes into a PASSERBY, who loses her balance.

She runs into the DJ, who's coming down from his stand. The DJ falls forward hard. He instinctively grabs for whatever. RIPS OFF Bianca's dress. Exposes her bra and panties. Lucas covers his eyes.

The DJ is still going. He SMASHES into Cara. She BUMPS into Bianca, who lunges forward. Reaches out to a blind Lucas to save her. Falls face first onto the floor. THUD!

Vanessa winces. Lucas uncovers his eyes. Gulps.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Lucas, looking disheveled and defeated, heads for his apartment. He hears voices. Looks over and sees...

ARNOLD (30's), the complex's slacker "maintenance man." He has a wanton eye for...

KASEY MONROE (27). She's slender and toned. Long hair with bangs. Pale skin and the beauty of a model. Dresses trendy. She's holding a cardboard moving box. Keeps trying to side step Arnold to get into her apartment.

ARNOLD

So, this new band, Foam Of Anxiety is playing at the The Yelp tomorrow...

KASEY

Not really my thing. Not much of a club girl... Now what'd I do with my key?

Arnold looks down at her butt. Sees the key sticking out of her back pocket. Grabs a handful. Kasey's eyes WIDEN.

ARNOLD

Here it is...

KASEY

What, really?! Somebody get this idiot off me!

Lucas hurries over.

LUCAS

Arnold, get your hand off her posterior!

ARNOLD

What?! No. I'm just... helping her find her keys. Go away, Leary. Can't you see I'm working here?

He gestures next door where there's some scaffolding, plastic drop cloth, etc.

LUCAS

Looked like sexual harassment to me, Arnold. What do you even do around here? I don't think groping tenants counts as work, buddy! You better start doing what you're supposed to or I'm going to report you!

He moves between Kasey and Arnold. Puts his finger in Arnold's face. Arnold starts backing away. Kasey looks amazed.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

My dishwasher has been broken for a month. And it's not just my apartment! Poor Mrs. Marshall's stove has been broken for three weeks! And the McCormick's hot water heater for, what, about two months?! Do something around here and do it now!

SWASH! He glances down. Realizes he's stepped in a large bucket of glue near the scaffolding.

ARNOLD

Okay. Relax. I'll go get my stuff and be over in a few.

Arnold hurries off. Kasey is VERY IMPRESSED. Lucas now gets a good look at her. Realizes she's stunning. Looks down at his foot again. Panics.

KASEY

So, wow! You swooped in here like a superhero and saved the day!.. I'm Kasey Monroe. Just moved in. Well, still moving in, actually...

LUCAS  
I'm stuck... Lucas...

Kasey moves closer to him. Sees his foot is stuck in the bucket. He tries to play it off, looking around.

KASEY  
Oh, stuck. Let me give you a hand. Let's pull at the same time...

She grabs Lucas' leg. He resists his instinct to put his hands on her to brace himself. Just kind of waves them around in the air instead. Kasey notices. Smiles.

KASEY (CONT'D)  
Ready? Pull!

They free his foot. He sighs with relief.

LUCAS  
Thank you.

KASEY  
Thank you for keeping your hands to yourself. And for saving me back there. Cute and a gentleman. Where they been hiding you?

LUCAS  
I don't know. I've been here.

He points to his apartment across the courtyard. Kasey laughs again. Flirts. Looks at him like she's found the puppy in the pet store she just has to have.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bianca and Avery enter. Bianca holds an ice pack to her forehead. Keeps her coat on. Walks across the room where she's put together an out of box TV stand in the shape of a Z. Avery follows.

AVERY  
Why were you dancing with him?

BIANCA  
(defensive)  
I don't know. It was nothing.

AVERY  
Looked like foreplay to me.

BIANCA

Yeah, you got me, Avery. There's nothing that gets me going like having a guy knock me face first onto the floor. You make it sound like I was playing footsie with him. Running my foot up his calf. Tickling his ankle with my toes. Putting my bare feet in his lap!

AVERY

Well, it sure sounds like you've been thinking about it!

BIANCA

No, I haven't.

Avery doesn't look convinced.

AVERY

You know white guys are less endowed, right?

Bianca suddenly looks unnerved.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - SALES FLOOR - THE NEXT DAY

IN THE BED AND BATH DEPARTMENT

MRS. KRANK (70's) spills the contents of her purse all over the floor. She tries to bend down, but can't. Bianca bends down and starts picking it up for her. Mrs. Krank smiles warmly at her. Bianca smiles back.

BIANCA

A purse can be a curse sometimes, huh?

IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

Lucas looks up at her captivated, from the Mumford & Sons CD he's stocking. Brandon and Gabe are with him.

BRANDON

So, she went all crazy on you, huh? After all those googly eyes? Tease! Contessa!

GABE

Funny, she's always so nice to me. And those cookies she leaves in the break room are primo.

Lucas looks at him surprised as he pulls a big macadamia nut cookie out of his pocket. Takes a big, tasty bite.

BRANDON

Forget about her, would you, Lucas?  
Statistically speaking, black women are  
far less likely to date outside their  
race than anyone else.

LUCAS

You're the one who said I should go for  
it, remember?!

Suddenly, Avery is standing beside them. All three look  
surprised.

AVERY

So, looking for a little light chocolate  
are we? How sweet. Hmm, Mumford & Sons,  
huh? Seriously, you make Casper look  
sunburned. And my girl ,B, is no vanilla  
dipper.

She turns her nose up. Walks toward...

THE BED AND BATH DEPARTMENT

Where Bianca has charmed two young male employees -  
TERRENCE and CHRIS. They eagerly carry GIANT rolled up  
rugs from the stockroom. Bianca sees Lucas watching her.  
Gives him a dirty look. He gives her one back.

IN THE MIDDLE AISLE

Vanessa sees. Starts planning again.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Lucas sits before Vanessa again. He's very upset.  
Defeated.

VANESSA

Don't worry. It was an accident. A minor  
setback.

LUCAS

A disaster was more like it! I caused a  
chain reaction that reduced her to her  
skivvies. I mean, how does that even  
happen?! Add to that she accused me of  
wanting nothing more from her than a  
piece of her well rounded behind. Which I  
find very offensive!

VANESSA

She listens to Avery too much.

LUCAS

Well, she'll probably never speak to me again. And the way she's been acting, maybe I don't care... Besides, she's just too...

VANESSA

Too what?

LUCAS

Intimidatingly beautiful. I told you, I'm just no good with the budding hotties.

VANESSA

So, what happened? Before, I mean. What's destroyed your confidence with women? Come on, you can tell me. We're friends, right?

LUCAS

(reluctant)

About a month ago, this girl who worked at the Mammothmart started making goolgy eyes at me. I'd seen her in there before. Thought she was really pretty... So, once she started staring at me, I thought I was in. Then we sort of had an accident... It was a catastrophe. Then she turned around and acted like she wasn't giving me googly eyes...

VANESSA

And?

LUCAS

And this wasn't the first time... Years ago, before you came here, there was someone else. Sabrina Abbott...

INT. LUCAS' OLD APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

SABRINA (20's) a beautiful girl-next-door blonde, STARES fondly at Lucas as they sit on the couch watching "Pocahontas."

LUCAS (V.O.)

We used to hang out a lot.

Lucas catches her. Sabrina acts coy.

VANESSA (V.O.)

You were in love with her?

LUCAS (V.O.)  
 Maybe. But I was never sure if she felt  
 the same. Until one night...

INT. LUCAS' OLD APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Sabrina is in her underwear. Sets a beer bottle down,  
 giggling. She aggressively kisses Lucas. Trips and her  
 cleavage squashes into his face. Lucas backs away.

LUCAS (V.O.)  
 There was something sleazy about it. I  
 didn't know how to handle it.

Sabrina seductively unhooks her bra.

SABRINA  
 Say hello to B1 and B2...

LUCAS  
 What?! I don't know what that means!

Sabrina tosses her bra aside.

Lucas suddenly looks overwhelmed.

His eyes roll back in his head.

His body goes limp.

He falls, SMASHING his head on the night stand. Sabrina  
 looks confused and disappointed.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - BACK TO PRESENT

Vanessa looks at Lucas with sympathy.

LUCAS  
 ...And that's why I have so much anxiety  
 about women... and their parts. And, of  
 course, she never spoke to me again...

VANESSA  
 I'm so sorry, Lucas.

She thinks for a moment.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
 I know Bianca puts up a shield that can  
 come off as snooty. And she knows she can  
 get guys to do things for her because  
 she's so pretty... and somewhat juvenile.  
 (MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

But you're psyching yourself out.  
Thinking beautiful women are out of your  
league is just plain untrue. You know,  
I'm told I'm not too bad looking  
myself...

LUCAS

No, you're a vision.

VANESSA

But you're talking to me without much of  
a problem. The only time you freaked was  
when I accidentally gave you a peek of my  
girls.

LUCAS

That's because you're married. Off the  
market. And I know you.

VANESSA

You've got to be more confident, honey.  
Confidence is key with women. We're gonna  
beat this, I promise. And I guess if the  
problem is getting to know her better...

Vanessa thinks for a long moment.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Does Brandon like cooking Italian by any  
chance?

Lucas raises an eyebrow.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY

Lucas walks up to the bathroom door, talking on his  
phone.

LUCAS

(into phone)

I don't know what "there's not enough  
yogurt in a water buffalo" means,  
Brandon. But judging by your tone, I take  
it to mean no.

He tries to turn the door knob. Occupied.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - DAY

A DELIVERY COURIER puts a package on Lucas' door step.  
Knocks once. Hurries back to his truck past...

Kasey, who's walking past with a basket of laundry.

She curiously looks over at the package. Debates a moment. Walks over and looks at it. Smiles at what she sees. Debates a moment. Looks down at her laundry basket.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

TROY (20's), Lucas' shaggy room mate rouses in bed. Lucas enters, sidestepping junk on the floor. He stops, becoming more annoyed with Brandon.

LUCAS  
(into phone)  
...Yes, I've been trying to work on them all morning... Well, where else am I going to find a partner?...I don't want to ask one of them...

He looks up and see Troy get out of bed and go into the bathroom. Cringes... The doorbell rings.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas opens the front door with Bindi at his feet to find Kasey on the other side of it. Her laundry basket is gone. She's now holding his package.

KASEY  
I think this is yours. It got delivered to my apartment by mistake.

Lucas takes the box. Kasey picks up Bindi. She starts licking her.

KASEY (CONT'D)  
Such a cutie... So, Newton's Art Supplies, huh? You draw?

LUCAS  
Yep... And animate.

KASEY  
Cool. A fellow artiste. I'm a graphic designer myself. Don't suppose you have an extra X-Acto knife I could borrow? I seem to have misplaced mine. I'm always losing things. Important things like that, you know?

LUCAS  
I might have one. Have to check.

Kasey follows him toward his bedroom. DEXTER (20's), his rotund room mate, comes out of the bathroom. She notices him gaping, excitedly.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Lucas enters with Kasey close behind. He seems nervous. Pauses, thinking.

LUCAS

I assume you want one with a number two blade?

He turns to her, not realizing how close she is. They're face to face. Close enough for him to feel her breath.

KASEY

A number two blade is fine. Whatever you've got.

She smiles big. Lucas walks over to his drafting table. Starts fishing through a cup.

Kasey follows. Starts looking around, taking mental notes. Sees the "Rushmore" Blu-Ray. His DVR list on the TV. Conan galore. His memorabilia. She does a quick, sneaky Google search on her phone.

Lucas turns to her. She starts looking at his drawings.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Wow, these are really good. What're they for?

LUCAS

Me and my friend, Brandon are trying to do a short film for a...

Kasey is licking her lips. Listens attentively.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

...contest.

She starts playing with her hair.

KASEY

Nice. You know they kind of look like something Chuck Jones would do. Or maybe Don Bluth? I mean, I can see the influences.

LUCAS  
 (surprised)  
 Um... yeah. I call it the Chuck Bluth.

Kasey starts laughing. A little too hard maybe. She reaches out and touches his hand. Lucas looks around. Seems very confused. Kasey turns back to the drawings.

KASEY  
 So, this guy is what? Part machine, human right?

LUCAS  
 No, he's completely synthetic. Nobody seems to get that...

KASEY  
 Oh, wait. I kind of see it.

Lucas shakes his head. Kasey makes eye contact, but Lucas' gaze quickly shifts bashfully away. Kasey's eyes veer over to his laptop. On the screen she sees --

KASEY (CONT'D)  
 Registration for Italian cooking?

LUCAS  
 For tomorrow night. But it doesn't look like I'm going. I need somebody to be my partner.

KASEY  
 I'll be your partner.

LUCAS  
 You will?

Kasey stares at him doe-eyed. Nods.

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - COOKING CLASS - NIGHT

The INSTRUCTOR walks around the class giving detailed directions on how to make the perfect pasta sauce. Each pair of students has a stock pot that's filled with tomato sauce. They stir additional ingredients in.

Lucas and Kasey are directly across from Bianca and Vanessa. Bianca chops parsley. Grinds her teeth. Vanessa notices.

BIANCA  
 He's in our cooking class? I mean, what're the odds?  
 (MORE)

BIANCA (CONT'D)

You're positive you're not trying to set us up? 'Cause if you are...

VANESSA

I don't set people up, Bianca. I let nature take its course. These things can't be forced.

Kasey bends down to get some spices out of a compartment in her table. Her heart shaped butt arcs.

There are two guys behind her at separate tables. RYAN (30's) and TIM (30's), take real notice. They're both with DATES.

TIM

(to Ryan)

Maybe this class wasn't such a bad idea after all. We hit the jackpot at this table. Yummy. Like two ripe plums.

Kasey hears him. Turns around, offended. Tim's date is irked.

RYAN

Yeah. Bet those lips are good at...

Lucas gives them a stern look.

LUCAS

Not cool, guys. How about showing a little respect? She's a human being.

Kasey smiles at his gallantry. Bianca sees what's going on.

BIANCA

Who's that Britney with him anyway?!

She loses her grip on the knife. It FLIES BACKWARDS...

Stabs into the table behind her, a fraction of an inch from the finger of DANA (30's). She's with her boyfriend KEITH (30's). Both become angry.

Bianca turns around with an apologetic look. Keith beholds her beauty. His outrage quickly fades. Bianca approaches. He can't hide his attraction.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

(to Dana)

I am so sorry.

KEITH

That's okay. Accidents happen. You have a good night.

Dana elbows him in the ribs. Bianca smiles, kittenish. Returns to her table. Sees that Lucas was watching. He looks away, envious. Kasey, cutting up mushrooms, notices.

LUCAS

(to Dana)

How do men define a "fifty/fifty" relationship? "They cook-we eat; they clean-we dirty; they iron-we wrinkle."

Dana laughs. So do Kasey and Vanessa. Bianca defiantly presses her lips together.

KASEY

Who's that with your boss?

LUCAS

(with discontent)

Bianca James.

Kasey puts two and two together. Looks jealous. Thinks for a moment. Dips her spoon back into the sauce. Gently turns Lucas' head in her direction.

KASEY

Here, try some of this...

Lucas tastes it. Nods. Kasey discreetly checks to see if Bianca is watching.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Good, right? Help me with the mushrooms...

She cups her hand with his. They bring the mushrooms over to the pot. Smile at each other. She subtly rubs her hip against his. It eats away at Bianca.

BIANCA

Ugh, what's her deal? She's so obvious.

She pretends to swat at a fly.

Kasey wipes bit of sauce from Lucas' chin.

Bianca bends down. Pretends to check the table's sturdiness.

Lucas puts some carrots in a food processer. Forgets to put the top on. Carrot fragments fly forward onto the floor. He looks embarrassed.

The Instructor is on the other side of the room. Hovers over JOSH and HANNAH. They're the ideal young couple.

INSTRUCTOR

Everyone come see Josh and Hannah's sauce! This is how you make sauce!

Everyone heads over to them. Except Bianca and Lucas. She isn't really paying attention. Suddenly notices Vanessa's not beside her. Stands back up. Sees where everybody is.

Hold on. What's that she just saw? She looks down in the table compartment. There's some salt, pepper, vinegar, baking soda. Wait, those last two.

Lucas comes around, picking up carrots. Startles Bianca.

BIANCA

So, what, you came here to finish me off?

LUCAS

No. To learn how to make authentic Italian cuisine... For,uh, the holidays?

Bianca suspects he's full of it.

BIANCA

You know how they say persistence pays off? Well, it doesn't with me. So if you think you're wearing me down...

LUCAS

I'm sorry. You're not the only attractive woman in the world. My neighbor, Kasey, is quite beauteous herself.

BIANCA

Beauteous? Use regular words, would you, Shakespeare? So, what, you two are together?

LUCAS

We're still getting to know each other's character, if you will. But unlike you, she doesn't accuse me of wanting nothing more than to dip in her honeypot.

BIANCA

That's probably because her honeypot is used to your smaller wood dipper!

Lucas glances down at his crotch, offended.

LUCAS

Whatever. At least she doesn't use her looks to get guys at work to do her heavy lifting. Or bat her eyelashes to get away with near dismemberment. So maybe I'd be better off with her.

Bianca scowls. Kasey comes back. Takes Lucas by the arm.

KASEY

Come on. You're missing it.

She pulls a tense Lucas by the wrist over to the rest of the class. Bianca mockingly mouths what she said. Finds herself STEAMING MAD. Looks back down under the table.

INT. COOKING CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone returns to their stations. Kasey notices that the lid is now on her stock pot. And it's BOILING HARD underneath it. Now Lucas notices. Kasey turns off the heat. But it's too late. Two looks of panic.

LUCAS

It's gonna blow!

He grabs it without pot holders. HOWLS. Tries to lean it in the safest possible direction. The top pops off like a manhole cover with too much steam under it.

Sauce comes GUSHING out of it like a fire hose. Lucas struggles in vain to keep it under control. Cooking students scramble to get out of the way as it paints the wall orangish red.

Bianca smiles with satisfaction. Vanessa sees.

So does Kasey.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brandon flips through Lucas' new character designs. Looks confused.

LUCAS

So, there's this company in Culver City that still works in cel. And I don't mean The Computer Animation Production System either. Might be worth a shot...

BRANDON

These all look the same as yesterday!

LUCAS

I was at a cooking class today, remember?  
With Vanessa and Bianca.

BRANDON

How much black poontang are you getting?!

LUCAS

That's very offensive.

BRANDON

Sorry. African American poontang...  
You're trying too hard with that girl.  
(bragging)  
I can get bliss with Nat over the phone.

LUCAS

Really? The same kind you get from those  
mid week over fifty honeys?

BRANDON

Speaking of your mom, she told me your  
aunt is having your grandma's will  
amended so she can sell the house.

LUCAS

What?! She can't do that! That house is  
my only escape from this walk-in closet!

Dexter sticks his head in the door.

DEXTER

Hey, could you guys keep your voices  
down? Let's try and be considerate of the  
other people living here, okay?

Lucas looks at him like he's insane.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bianca is wound up. She now has plywood sitting in the  
middle of the room that she's configuring like a Z, using  
wood glue. Avery listens to her, deftly.

BIANCA

I know what he was trying to do, but it  
didn't work!

She puts a heaping glob of glue between two boards.  
Presses them together, HARD.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

He was just trying make me jealous with his totty neighbor girl. Sure she has perfect porcelain skin and the most immaculate hair I've ever seen. But it didn't get to me!

More glue where one board joins with a third.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Him and his stupid big words and his dorky T-shirts. I can't stand the dweeb!

Avery looks really concerned.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

It has a locker room feel to it. A bunch of GUYS sit around a huge flat screen absorbed in a college football game. They're dressed casually.

Bianca and Avery enter. Bianca gives Avery a look.

BIANCA

I thought you said this was a party?

AVERY

Um, did I say party? I meant... gathering.

BIANCA

I should've known there wouldn't be any kind of decent kick back this time of day.

Suddenly, getting up from the couch, they see...

DAMON (30), African American. Well groomed. Man pretty.

Two stunned looks from Bianca and Avery.

AVERY

My ovaries hurt...

Bianca nods in agreement. Damon starts to leave the room. Glances in their direction. Smiles. But at which one? Bianca and Avery look at each other. Smirk.

DAMON

Ladies?

Bianca walks toward him. Gestures for Avery to follow. She subtly shakes her head. Bianca looks around the room.

BIANCA

Hi, I'm Bianca. This is your place? Ever think about giving it a makeover?..

DAMON

Damon. A makeover, huh? Pretty straight forward for somebody who just got here.

BIANCA

Sorry. Don't mean to insult your abode. Kind of has a frat house feel to it, though. Doesn't seem to fit you. I get a feeling for this sort thing. It's a talent of mine. You're a TV producer, right?

DAMON

Right. "I Got You" on BET.

BIANCA

Really? I love that show! But see, your place doesn't reflect your profession. I keep expecting a guy dressed in a bed sheet to run in here and try to steal my panties.

Damon laughs. Bianca holds up her phone.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

I can give this place a good spruce up. Take a look at some of my work...

DAMON

Believe it or not, I do know something about makeovers. This is pretty impressive.

BIANCA

Glad you think so. Why don't you give it some thought?

Damon nods. Bianca approaches the couch. All the guys look at her.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Got room for one more on there?

They all smash into each other, scrambling. Everybody wants her to sit by them. Bianca smiles. Slides in on the end.

Damon walks up to Avery.

DAMON

Hi, I'm Damon.

AVERY

Avery.

Her spine stiffens. She can hardly breathe.

DAMON

Your friend's nice. She have a boyfriend?

Avery's face drops. Then reality sets in. And a possible solution.

AVERY

No, she doesn't.

Damon smiles with implication. Avery walks over to Bianca.

BIANCA

You're in. He likes you.

Bianca gasps.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Vanessa and Lucas are here again.

VANESSA

You got to her. Bringing Kasey was genius.

LUCAS

It was?

VANESSA

Yes. I saw the look on her face. She was, well, jealous is such an ugly word... But you gotta talk to her more.

LUCAS

Um, don't know if I can do that.

VANESSA

Right. You two need more alone time...

Her wheels starts turning on coupling again.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Black Friday is this week, right? I think we're going to need another cashier in electronics.

She smiles at him, rascally.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT - MORNING

Black Friday. Chaos. Customers grabbing sale items. Fighting each other over them. Bianca stands behind a register. Looks overwhelmed. There's a mile long line and CUSTOMERS coming at her left and right.

FIRST CUSTOMER

Where are the Sony laptops on sale?

BIANCA

Over there, I think?

SECOND CUSTOMER

What kind of cable do I need for an HDMI connection?

BIANCA

(rattled)

I'm not sure. I'm new in this department.

THIRD CUSTOMER

What's the difference between seven-twenty p and ten-eighty p?

BIANCA

I don't know...

THIRD CUSTOMER

Can we get somebody over here who knows something?!

Bianca looks like she's about to have a breakdown. Suddenly, as if a knight on a white horse...

Lucas walks up beside her. Points to an endcap.

LUCAS

The Sony laptops are on the end cap right over there. You need an HDMI cable for an HDMI connection. They're over there by the TV remotes. And ten-eighty p refers to the lines of resolution on the TV.

Everyone hurries away, satisfied. Except First Customer.

FIRST CUSTOMER

Now where are those laptops?

Bianca steps away from the cash register, toward the endcap. Points DRAMATICALLY at the laptops.

BIANCA

They're over here, sir. The Sony laptops that are on sale are right here!

A stampede of CRAZY SHOPPERS suddenly charge toward them with Bianca in their path! She panics. But Lucas rushes to her aid, shielding her from the lunatics.

Suddenly Bianca looks at Lucas like he's her hero. It's like time freezes for a moment. She tries desperately to hide her smile.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT - LATER

Two different EMPLOYEES now run the registers. Bianca is with Lucas over by a Smart TV. It sits on a TV stand in front of a couch. Kind of looks like a living room.

Lucas checks the connection in back. Bianca watches the screen. "Ratatouille" suddenly pops up. She lights up.

BIANCA

Ooh, I love this movie...

Lucas sticks his head around. Frowns.

LUCAS

You like "Ratatouille"?

BIANCA

Yes. "It taste lighteningy". You mean to tell me you don't? I thought drawing was your thing?

LUCAS

I'm not sure I'd call this drawing.

BIANCA

What's the difference between drawing it on paper and on a computer?

LUCAS

What's the difference?! For one thing, the sheer tactile drawing involved. Yes, they use digital coloring now. Yes, they scan the cels these days. But it all starts with somebody doing a drawing. When you watch it, you can almost feel the effort. The CG just doesn't have the same feeling. I would never have CG main characters. Call me old fashioned.

BIANCA

Come on. I've seen how they do it on computers. Like say with Buzz Lightyear. They use a skeletal model to animate him. They use key frames or whatever you call it. Then eventually they put the spacesuit and his face and all that on. It's like getting to the same place using a different method.

LUCAS

Think so, do you?

Bianca nods. Lucas takes a closer look at "Ratatouille."

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Look at 'em. The people. The hair looks so real. Kind of like a doll's.

BIANCA

Design is design. It changes over the years, but creation is always what drives it.

Lucas suddenly looks at her differently. But can't hold eye contact. They shift to the silent TV.

LUCAS

No sound...

He and Bianca go to turn up the volume at the same time.

And their HANDS TOUCH.

The stomach butterflies can be seen in their eyes as a tingle of excitement rushes up their spines. Endorphins are generated. Dopamine is released. It's a chemical detonation.

They smile at each other with emotion.

IN THE TOY DEPARTMENT

Vanessa sees. She's wedged between two feuding CUSTOMERS. Hair disheveled. Suddenly looks thrilled.

WITHIN THE CROWD

Kasey sees too. She's with her friend, JULIE (20's). Pushes a shopping cart. Looks upset. TWO MEN behind her check her out simultaneously. SLAM into each other.

Avery sees them also. Folds her arms. Shakes her head. Starts looking around.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - FURNITURE DEPARTMENT - LATER

Lucas finds Brandon holding on to a curio cabinet for dear life.

BRANDON

Help me get this to the back, would you?  
I promised Aunt Josephine I'd save her  
one. They put these things in the ad,  
then never send enough!

Suddenly Kasey pops up with her shopping cart. She's wearing a T-shirt with a big green circle that has "That Hits The Spot" on it... and TIGHT JEANS. She Looks at Lucas with adoring eyes. Lucas looks down at the shirt.

KASEY

Hey. Oh, my friend Patrick just started  
up an all vegetarian catering truck. I'm  
helping him promote it. Don't suppose  
you'd consider wearing a button?

LUCAS

Um... okay.

Kasey pulls out a green button. Pins it to his collar.  
Brandon watches them interact.

KASEY

My friend Julie has been dragging me all  
over town for sales. I've been up since  
three. Finally made it here. Just about  
waited too late. The pickings are kind of  
slim.

She puts her hand between a contact grill and a pair of  
lacy underwear.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Managed to get my dad's Christmas gift,  
though...

Lucas looks confused. Kasey looks down. Laughs nervously.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Oh, the contact grill. Not the panties!  
Those would be mine. But then I'm sure  
you know I wear underwear. Except when  
I'm in the shower. Or in bed. That was  
too much information, wasn't it?

She skittishly picks up a small tube of lotion from her  
cart.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Oh, look. They were giving away free  
lotion samples at the makeup counter...

She squirts too much out. Eyes Lucas' bare arm.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Here...

She rubs lotion on it in a sensual manner. Lucas' eyes  
widen. So does Brandon's.

LUCAS

Wait, that's for...

KASEY

Feels pretty good, huh?

IN THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

Avery sees. Smiles with satisfaction. Turns to Bianca,  
but she's carrying a stack of stereos that obscure her  
view. Avery quickly grabs the one on top.

AVERY

Looks like somebody's getting a little  
action right in the middle of all the  
Black Friday insanity...

Bianca's face suddenly convulses.

IN THE FURNITURE DEPARTMENT

Brandon's jaw drops as Kasey massages Lucas' arm.

KASEY

Just the thing for that dry, wintery  
skin, huh?

Suddenly Bianca puts herself between them.

BIANCA

It's not winter. It's autumn.  
(to Lucas)  
I need you in electronics.

She pulls him in that direction. Kasey follows.

AT THE COSMETICS COUNTER

Kasey grabs Lucas' other arm, forcing them to stop.

KASEY

Can't you see he's busy?

BIANCA

Looked like you were the one who was busy to me.

KASEY

I'm sorry. I thought helping customers came first.

BIANCA

You're right...

She grabs a tube of lotion off the counter. Looks at Kasey's T-shirt.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Here's some more of that lotion you like so much. This will really hit the spot...

She squirts a tube all over Kasey's shirt.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry. Completely missed your dried up skin!

Lucas is aghast. Brandon does a double take. Avery looks uneasy. Kasey grabs some lips gloss.

KASEY

Looks like somebody's been neglecting her lips!

She quickly paints sloppy clown lips on Bianca's face. Bianca grimaces. Grabs a jar of concealer. Opens it.

BIANCA

Looks like you've got a nasty zit coming in on your nose. Better cover that up!

She squashes it onto Kasey's nose. Lucas looks utterly confused. A dozen MALE EMPLOYEES have stopped in the middle of what they're doing, turned on.

Lucas forces himself between Bianca and Kasey.

LUCAS

Ladies, please! What're you doing, Bianca? She's a customer. You've covered her face in goop.

Behind him, Bianca sees a SODA SIPHON on display.

BIANCA

You're right. Better clean her up...

She grabs the siphon. Sprays soda water in Kasey's face.  
Kasey SCREAMS.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - BREAK ROOM - LATER

It's crowded with EMPLOYEES eating pizza, french fries, and other junk food. Bianca enters, cleaned up. Grabs a slice of meat lovers. Sees an empty chair by Lucas. He's drawing with a slice of veggie lovers beside him.

Bianca becomes nervous. Smooths down her hair. Takes a breath and sits down beside him. Lucas looks at her funny. Moves the mustard and ketchup dispensers sitting on the table out of her reach.

BIANCA

You like vegetarian pizza?

LUCAS

I just grabbed from the first box I saw.  
What, there's meat lovers?

Bianca starts staring at him again. He catches her and she plays it off. Starts playing with her necklace.

BIANCA

(fake annoyance)

What're you drawing there?

LUCAS

I'm trying to improve character designs  
for a short I'm trying to get done.

Bianca flips it around. Looks impressed.

BIANCA

So, why aren't you doing this for a  
living? Is this about your anti-CG  
sentiments? Does male pattern baldness  
run in your family?

Lucas touches his hairline, confused.

LUCAS

No! What's with the twenty questions?

BIANCA

Sorry... So, this guy is what? Part  
machine, part human? Wait, no. He's  
completely synthetic, right?

LUCAS  
(surprised)  
How'd you know that?! Everybody thinks  
he's part man, part machine.

BIANCA  
It's his face. His eyes. I can see how  
you made them not quite human. Almost,  
but not quite.

LUCAS  
Right.

He looks at her funny. Gabe walks up, just missing the  
subject matter. He looks exhausted. Aims his camera at  
Lucas.

GABE  
For my scrapbook. It's my first American  
Black Friday. I'm totally pooping right  
now.

BIANCA  
Sweetie, I think you mean pooped.

Her attention quickly turns back to Lucas... and what  
he's eating.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
Chocolate and fries with pizza? Lucas,  
you eat like a five year old. Eat all the  
veggies on that pizza. Seriously.

LUCAS  
(to Gabe)  
Studies show if a woman wants a man to  
eat his vegetables, she should make them  
look pretty. Guess that means putting  
them in tight jeans, huh?

Gabe laughs. Bianca tries to hold it in, but smiles big.  
Silently chuckles.

GABE  
How about that picture, Lucas?

LUCAS  
Sure, man. But your fondness of the  
holidays baffles me, seriously.

He makes a goofy face. Bianca slides closer to him,  
making one too. Gabe takes a picture of them. Bianca  
suddenly notices the green button on Lucas's collar. She  
pulls away. Suddenly looks VERY CROSS with him.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - STOCK ROOM - DAY

Bianca opens a box. Pulls out decorative pillow. Looks it over. Pulls out another. She looks up. Sees Lucas. She's still crabby.

LUCAS

Now why'd you open that box? You don't work in bed and bath anymore.

BIANCA

What's it to you?

Vanessa enters. Hears them. Ducks behind an overstock rack.

LUCAS

It's like you want to decorate homes or something. Like a home decorator.

BIANCA

Interior designer.

LUCAS

Well, if you want to be an "interior designer," why are you working here?

BIANCA

If you want to make cartoons, why do you work here?

LUCAS

It's animator. I want to be an animator.

BIANCA

So, what're you doing about it? Really?

LUCAS

Um... huh? Making lots of... progress my short, "Impetus".

BIANCA

Impeta what?

LUCAS

It means driving force.

BIANCA

Something you lack. I bet I get out of here before you.

Lucas is utterly confused. Looks away from her, mentally sorting.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

What's the matter? Oh, I get it. You're thinking about that Kasey girl...

LUCAS

What, no! What's it to you? I thought you weren't interested!

BIANCA

I didn't I say I was.

LUCAS

Then why'd you give Kasey that barbarous makeover? What, you thought I was gonna just forget about that pink elephant?

BIANCA

I thought you were too busy thinking about how good her ripe tomato butt cheeks look in those tight jeans!

LUCAS

Well, apparently you only date black guys anyway so what if I was? But guess what: there's far less of them than there are of you. Not enough to go around!

BIANCA

That's funny, because they're crawling all over me everywhere I go!

LUCAS

Oh, I bet you like being crawled all over!

BIANCA

Well, I can assure you, you'll never get the chance to "crawl" on me! And as of this minute, I'll do whatever it takes to become an interior designer just so I can get out of this store!

LUCAS

Oh, yeah, well I'll hone my craft and get out of here for the exact same reason!

They both storm out in different directions.

Vanessa's head pops from around the rack. Looks like she just witnessed an execution.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Lucas has filled up the wall over his draft table with drawings. He's on the phone. Suddenly looks shocked.

LUCAS  
 (into phone)  
 You're switching to CG and outsourcing to Korea?! Sell out!

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Bianca paces on the phone. Uses a girlish tone.

BIANCA  
 (into phone)  
 ... Yeah, you remember me, Damon?..  
 Bianca... Right, that dress. So, I was  
 wondering if you were ready for a life  
 changing experience?.. No! I mean a  
 design makeover for your home! I'm  
 available now. Is that good for you?

She smiles at his reply.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kasey takes down a piece of framed art hanging over her couch. Hangs a framed "Team Coco" poster on her wall.

She puts some DVDs in her entertainment center.

Sets a picture frame on the coffee table.

INT. LUCAS' APARTMENT - BEDROOM - EVENING

Lucas screws the stand on his fresh out of the box 40 inch HDTV. Brandon holds more drawings, puzzled.

BRANDON  
 Who's this chick with no face? Mother's  
 meatloaf is much heavier than the pan!

LUCAS  
 I don't know maybe it's for something  
 else. And if you're going to try and  
 invent slang, you might want to tell  
 someone besides me because I'm never  
 going to repeat it.

He picks up the TV. Tries to put it where his old one was. But it's too big. He tries to get it in at an angle. Not happening.

BRANDON

It's too big for this room. We've got one that size in the living room. Should've gotten a smaller one for in here.

LUCAS

But... it's a Samsung... LED.

Brandon sits on the bed. Realizes it's been rearranged so that it's length runs against the wall. Like a couch. Lucas sets the TV on the floor.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

What I need is a living room... And a bride.

He gazes out the window and sees Kasey wrestling with a Christmas tree she's trying to get into her apartment.

BRANDON

That's her! What, she lives here?!

Kasey spots Lucas. Smiles. Gestures at the tree with her eyes. An obvious plea for help. Or invitation.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bianca is trying to hang framed art straight. Avery is spotting her. Damon steps in, unnoticed.

BIANCA

How about now?

AVERY

Perfect... So, your share of the rent is coming from this job, right?

BIANCA

Right. And hopefully the lights too. Trust me, I know how to find a bargain.

She comes off the step ladder. Sees Damon. Starts smoothing down her hair. Leans into Avery.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

How's my hair? Quick fix my hair!

AVERY

It's fine.

DAMON

Looks like it's coming along.

BIANCA

Fine. Thank you. I mean, thank you. It is.

Avery pops out her phone. Checks her inbox. Nothing.

AVERY

Hey, B, my mom lost her tulip card again. You know how she gets. Gonna give her a call.

Bianca nods. Avery starts to exit. Abruptly stops when she gets to Damon.

AVERY (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I talked to her for you. She likes you. She told me so. There's a reason I'm leaving and it's not a tulip card.

Damon looks surprised. Avery gives him a playful nudge.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Make a move, stud.

She smiles. Makes a quick exit. Damon looks over at Bianca. Grins confidently. Approaches her.

BIANCA

(spilling her guts)

So, I got this shelf just from some junk store. Can you believe that? I stained it though and it looks good as new, huh?

DAMON

It looks great. But you didn't have to go to a junk store. I could've bought something brand new.

BIANCA

(giddy)

How fiscally convenient.

There's an awkward moment of silence and smiles.

DAMON

So, you wanna see the rest of the house?

Bianca smiles. Nods.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kasey stretches to put the star topper on her Christmas tree. Glitter from it rains down onto her face. She closes her eyes. Lucas becomes alarmed.

LUCAS

Are you okay?! Do you require an eye flushing?!

Kasey walks over to a mirror with a tawdry metal frame.

KASEY

No. Thank you. So sweet... This stuff is the worst to try and get off.

She pushes her fingers through her hair.

KASEY (CONT'D)

Got some in my bangs.

She notices Lucas eyeing the frame oddly.

KASEY (CONT'D)

It's a Neoclassical Tin Mirror. Got it antiquing. I could spend every Saturday doing that. Just love it to death!

Lucas looks over at the framed Team Coco poster.

LUCAS

Conan fan?

KASEY

I'm still pissed at NBC. And no year 2000 or 3000 on TBS. Come on!

Lucas' eyes move over to the TV. To her DVD collection.

LUCAS

Wes Anderson fan, I see.

She picks up one of them.

KASEY

Don't think I could live without "Rushmore." His movies, his style. Hits me where I live, dude.

She gazes into Lucas' eyes. He shyly shifts them away toward the coffee table. The picture is of her dressed like an ANIME CHARACTER. A male fantasy version of a nurse with a sci-fi twist.

LUCAS

Wait, are you dressed as Jiyuu Mizuku?

KASEY

Yeah. My college drama class did a play. Well, more like a sketch. One of my classmates was a real fan of the series. So am I. But he talked me into wearing the costume.

LUCAS

You act?

KASEY

I used to... You know, years ago. Out of practice now. Yep.

Lucas looks at her funny.

LUCAS

I'm a big fan of Jiyuu myself.

She sees him glance at the photo again. A hint of stimulation.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

(cracked voice)

For the story mostly...

KASEY

You know I think I still have that costume somewhere. Wonder if it still fits? Want to find out?

She walks into her bedroom. Lucas' eyes widen comically.

LUCAS

No, that's not necessary!

Too late. She's shut the door.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - POOL ROOM - NIGHT

Damon and Bianca enter. She observes the grand architecture surrounding the indoor pool.

DAMON

So, this is the pool. Never use it. Feel free to take a dip if you want sometime.

He turns right back around. Bianca lingers a moment, captivated. Makes a gradual exit.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca enters with Damon. He's noticeably relaxed in his speech and stance. Makes eye contact. Has a pleasant facial expression.

DAMON

... And here's the kitchen and the modern, high tech stove that I never use.

Bianca gives him a look.

DAMON (CONT'D)

What can I say, I'm the biggest fan of my momma's cooking.

BIANCA

Really?

DAMON

Momma is so proud of me for being a TV producer. She's always believed in me. Still gives me the best advice. Still does my taxes...

Red flag. Bianca looks a little worried.

DAMON (CONT'D)

Well, I'm her baby. What, is letting her do my laundry, buy my groceries, having long conversations about my personal life, and sitting beside her at Christmas dinner, a crime?

He laughs. Bianca is now apprehensive. Looks around.

BIANCA

Uh... Does she live here?

DAMON

No. Relax, I'm exaggerating. Got you. She lives in Georgia. I guess I just feel a little guilty 'cause I haven't called her in over a month. Haven't seen her in six months. What can I say? It was time to cut the umbilical cord.

A text chimes on his phone. He looks down at it. Bianca's anxiety fades to relief. Then to joy. She does a little dance like her uterus is jubilant. Damon catches her. Laughs.

Bianca looks embarrassed. But changes it quickly to alluring. Damon smiles.

They're seen THROUGH THE DOORWAY moving closer together by...

Avery, who peeks in. Sees how they're looking at each other. Smiles devilishly with accomplishment.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kasey comes back in dressed as Jiyuu. It looks like she's wearing a child's costume. Bare midriff. Ample cleavage. A skirt is so short it barely conceals her underwear. She strikes a pose.

Lucas tenses up.

KASEY  
I think it shrank a little.

LUCAS  
I can see that...

He tries not to look at her. She smiles, bewitchingly.

Her cell rings. She answers it in reflex.

KASEY  
(into phone)  
Hey, Julie. No, kind of busy. Shouldn't you have crashed by now?... Okay. Let me check... No, I can check real quick...

She goes over to the coffee table. BENDS OVER, exposing panties. She searches through the mess, her butt waving erotically in the air.

LUCAS  
Sweet cushiony whoopie cakes!

KASEY  
Sorry?  
(into phone)  
No, you didn't leave it here... I don't know. Try Janeane's... Okay. Later.

She hangs up. Turns around. Lucas shifts his eyes away to her Team Coco poster again.

LUCAS  
Can't believe you like Conan, and "Rushmore," and... Jiyuu...

KASEY

Looks like we have a lot in common.  
Pretty cool, huh?

LUCAS

It's not bad...

KASEY

I think maybe we should do something  
about it. What about you?

She takes a step toward him. Lucas nervously steps back. TRIPS over a large box of Christmas decorations. Falls over it, backwards.

Accidentally KICKS Kasey in the jaw. She yowls. He ughs. Two THUDS on the floor.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE

Vanessa opens a large manila envelope. Pulls out a CERTIFICATE. Looks it over. Looks glum.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - STOCK ROOM

Lucas and Vanessa enter. She glances down at a TEXT on her phone. He's pushing a buggy full of laptops. Acts exasperated.

LUCAS

I appreciate what you've tried to do for me, Vanessa, but she's impossible to deal with! Crazy even. And let's face it, I'm just plain terrible with women! I mean, there's something seriously wrong with me when it comes to them.

VANESSA

I'm not giving up on you.

LUCAS

You're kidding yourself if you think otherwise. It's time to accept the truth.

VANESSA

Don't say that.

She starts looking over some boxes on a pallet of bed and bath. Thinks for a moment. Quickly devices a plan. Starts working it out as she's talking.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. We'll talk later, okay?...  
I've got a meeting all afternoon... In  
fact, I better get going...

She starts to leave. Pretends to stop like she's suddenly remembering something. Looks down at her phone again.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

What're you doing when you get off?

LUCAS

I'm going to go home and watch "A Charlie  
Brown Christmas."

VANESSA

Maybe you could record it instead?

LUCAS

Why?

Vanessa puts her hand on a rug.

VANESSA

Bianca really needs me to bring her this  
rug. She's giving somebody's house a  
makeover. Needs it by as soon as  
possible... You'd be doing me a huge  
favor. I'll pay for the gas.

Lucas gives her a suspicious look.

EXT. DAMON'S HOUSE - EVENING

Bianca opens the door to find Lucas. She sneers.

BIANCA

What're you doing here? Where's Vanessa?

LUCAS

She had to go to a meeting. Asked me to  
bring you this humongous, heavy rug. So I  
did. As a favor. For Vanessa.

BIANCA

Fine, you brought it. So, now you can  
leave it.

He drops it right there on the doorstep. Starts walking back to his car. Bianca starts trying to pick it up. But it's cumbersome.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
Um... Hold on. Lucas!

Lucas stops. Turns around.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
Could you help me?

Lucas stands there looking at her.

LUCAS  
You just told me to leave. Now that you need me, you want me to come back. You think because you're so symmetrical, that guys will do whatever you ask.

BIANCA  
No, I don't.

LUCAS  
Keep telling yourself that fiction.

Bianca gives him a look. He tries to look away.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas and Bianca bring the rug in. Bianca, peeved, JERKS it around, toward the couch. Lucas nearly loses his balance. Retaliates by shoving the rug forward.

Incensed, Bianca shoves it back into Lucas' stomach. He tries to do the same to her, but she deflects. So does he. They push and shove, making circles around the couch. Finally, their arms give out. They both drop it.

BIANCA  
So, you think I'm a whore, huh?!

Lucas glances over. Sees a flyer from Club Envy hanging out of her purse. It's from her sexy photo shoot. He walks over and grabs it. Holds it up.

LUCAS  
Of course not. I bet you wear this little number to church every Sunday.

BIANCA  
I'm just having fun while I'm still young.

LUCAS  
You're using your looks to get by in a cheap way. And you're pushing thirty.

Bianca shoots him a look.

BIANCA

Look, I've got work to do. In case you haven't noticed, I'm making a lot of progress. Looks like you'll still be rotting at the Excretion Mart when I'm long gone. How's your little cartoon coming anyway?

Lucas is about to boil over. He makes weird faces, but no words come out. Bianca smiles with satisfaction. Lucas, seemingly defeated, starts leaving. Watches Bianca walk over to a TV in the box. And a wall mount.

LUCAS

Over the fireplace, huh? Typical.

BIANCA

Well, what's wrong with that?

Lucas goes over to the couch. Sits. Cranes his neck, looking over the fireplace. He mimics the pain of a neck spasm.

LUCAS

Here's what's wrong. Oh, look. I wanna watch TV. But I'm gonna get whiplash. Sorry, you carry on with your little "makeover."

Bianca looks at him like she wants to draw blood.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Lucas and Bianca set the HDTV on a new stand. He tries to hide his vindication. She looks like she's about to bubble over.

BIANCA

Wipe that smirk of your face.

LUCAS

You used your looks on the guy at the store. I thought he was gonna give you a kidney. And what's with all those boxes of food in your backseat? Cooking class?

BIANCA

Food banks, actually. Just trying to help out. I can get it from the people in my building... Men mostly...

Lucas looks at her, surprised. Then looks around the room for a moment. Tries to hide being impressed. Bianca looks at him, seeing it. He abruptly turns on the TV. Bianca suddenly slips out of battle mode. Looks delighted.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

"The Incredibles"!

LUCAS

So, you like Brad Bird? He did "The Incredibles" and "Ratatouille."

BIANCA

Wait, you mean to tell me my two favorite movies are by the same guy? All this time, I had no idea...

LUCAS

Dynamite. Enjoy the fabricated concoction.

BIANCA

You know, seems like you like HDTVs because they're better technology. It's really an unhealthy obsession, trust me. And yet when it comes to your art you don't feel the same. You're letting something newer - CG animation - something that's not from your childhood keep you from accomplishing your dream. I don't know. It just seems silly.

Lucas winces. She has a point. Bianca checks the time.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Ow, if I'm going swimming, I'd better hurry.

LUCAS

What're you, a member of the polar bear club? It's forty degrees out. I didn't think your kind could swim anyway.

(off her look)

What? I meant club-hopper socialites who stay away from pools in fear of supposed urine/chlorine skin toxin.

Bianca tries to hold it in. Laughs HYSTERICALLY.

INT. "I GOT YOU" SOUNDSTAGE - NIGHT

Damon stands by a video monitor watching his CAST preform the show before an enthusiastic audience.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - POOL ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas peeks nervously around the entrance. Looks down.

BIANCA (O.S.)

What're you doing? Will you come in here?  
Come on. It's not safe to swim alone.

LUCAS

No, I think I'm gonna just go. I can't  
swim with you. Don't have a bathing suit.

BIANCA (O.S.)

You don't have to swim. Just hang out or  
something. Just for half an hour... Come  
on, don't tell me you're afraid of water?

LUCAS

As a matter of fact I was on my high  
school swim team and I excelled.

BIANCA (O.S.)

What, then. You afraid of girls?

LUCAS

No!

He steps into the room. Cautiously looks up. Sees...

Bianca - in a bikini - standing in front of a large  
window. The moonlight accents her form. She looks  
incredibly sexy.

Lucas looks at her longer than usual. His anxiety finally  
eases slightly.

BIANCA

Well, you don't have to stare...

Lucas looks away. Tries to be sneaky and get another  
peek. Makes a funny face when he sees...

Bianca tucking her hair under a ridiculous looking swim  
cap. It looks like a round bouquet sitting on her head.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

What? I don't want to get my hair wet.  
It's a black chick thing. You wouldn't  
understand.

She makes sure her hair is tucked in nice and tight.  
Jumps in the pool. Starts pulling a Michael Phelps. Swift  
like a tadpole.

She nearly makes it to the other end. Suddenly stops. Starts struggling to keep her head above water.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Cramp!

LUCAS

What?!

BIANCA

Got a leg cramp! Seriously! Need help!

She starts trying to make it to the side, but can't. Lucas starts to freak out.

LUCAS

Oh, this is just great!

He quickly and heroically pulls his shoes off. Jumps into the pool. Bianca's head bobs under. Lucas swims over to her masterfully.

Bianca puts her arms around his neck. Her grasp tightens. Her body presses against Lucas'. The pain eventually eases. They look deep into each others eyes. Have an intense moment. Bianca breaks suddenly from her trance.

BIANCA

It's cool. I'm good.

They swim the rest of the way to the side. Bianca starts to get out. Lucas' watchband has hooked to her bikini top's clasp. She drags him along. He's taken off guard. Becomes quietly hysterical. Animated in his distress.

Bianca takes off the swimming cap. Realizes Lucas is right behind her. Freaks out. Turns. He goes with her. She realizes he's stuck to her. They turn around in circles trying to get him loose. Laugh.

They look at each other differently than before.

Slowly. Instinctively. Their mouths gradually move closer into a...

KISS.

It quickly picks up momentum. You can practically see the fireworks behind them. It lasts a long moment.

Suddenly, the housekeeper, ROSETTA (60's), enters. Clears her throat. Lucas and Bianca separate like two teenager's caught in the act. Suddenly, they act coy.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Lucas walks to his apartment in lala land. Kasey comes out of her apartment. Has a bruise on her chin. Acts cheerful.

KASEY

Hey, Lucas. So, don't worry yourself about what happened. No harm, no foul.

Lucas barely looks at her.

LUCAS

Good... Thanks...

Kasey knows why. Shows a glimpse of insane jealousy.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Bianca looks surprised to see Kasey. She hands her some video games. Bianca starts ringing them up.

KASEY

They're for my nephews... So, why do you like Lucas?

BIANCA

(defensive)

And why is that any of your business?

KASEY

Oh, I get it. You just hate yourself. You just don't want to be black. What else could it be?

Bianca looks at her, deeply offended.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Bianca sits at the desk, preoccupied. Confused. Vanessa enters with her nose buried in paperwork. Doesn't notice. Bianca abruptly surfaces from musing. Leaps to her feet.

Vanessa looks at her funny. Bianca fakes composure.

VANESSA

What's this?

BIANCA

So, you know that an Exclamation Mart employee in Arizona designed a lamp? Then he showed it to his boss.

(MORE)

BIANCA (CONT'D)

And his boss showed it to somebody important in Corporate who liked it. And now you can buy that lamp at every Exclamation Mart.

VANESSA

Yes?

Bianca steps aside so Vanessa can see what's behind her...

Her TV stand. Painted black.

BIANCA

Well, I was wondering if you arrange for me to talk to the guy who hooked him up?

Vanessa's face lights up. She moves toward it.

VANESSA

Bianca, you made this?!

BIANCA

Careful. The glue's still drying.

As if by cue, one of the component shelves falls off. Bianca bends down behind the desk to pick it up.

Lucas enters, excited.

LUCAS

Vanessa, it worked! You were right!

Vanessa smiles nervously. Gestures behind at the desk in warning. Lucas is oblivious.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

She...We kissed.

VANESSA

You did?!

LUCAS

Yes. But then the housekeeper came in. Anyway, I think if I can get alone sometime today, she'll admit she likes me. You're a really good matchmaker!

Bianca pops up, furious. Lays eyes on Lucas periodically throughout.

BIANCA

(to Vanessa)

You said you weren't trying to set us up!

VANESSA

Come on, Bianca. When two people of the opposite sex argue this much, there's gotta be something underneath.

BIANCA

I told you no matchmaking! No manipulating! And what would you know about it anyway?!

She grabs the CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE buried on her desk.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

I know all about your divorce! Your mom and my mom talk!

Vanessa looks hurt. Lucas observes her.

LUCAS

What was I thinking, Vanessa? She's never going to admit it. She's just too proud in her ethnicity. And not secure enough in her heart!

BIANCA

You don't know anything about me!

She grabs her TV stand. Exits in a frenzy. Lucas follows.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - SALES FLOOR - DAY

The store is crowded. Bianca rolls her creation toward the exit. Lucas catches up with her. Bianca stops. Lucas lands on the opposite side of the TV stand.

LUCAS

You can't do that to me! You keep sending out your pheromones out then trying take them back. Then you act jealous because maybe Kasey likes me. It's like you can't make up your mind so you pull me back and forth. You're so nice to everybody but me! You kissed me! In case you haven't noticed, I'm a a real person with real feelings! The difference between you and me is I'm mature enough to admit them!

People are starting to stare.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You can't show me that you're interested with salacious stares then retract out of fear... or shame!

He SMASHES his hands down on the stand. It COLLAPSES.  
Bianca is enraged.

BIANCA

I don't stare at you! I don't like you at all! Not in any type of way! Whatever you think has been happening between us, any kind of chemistry or whatever you think it was, it's not! So stop lying to yourself! I do not like you! I'm not interested in you, okay?! Leave it alone!

Lucas looks around. It's like the whole store is staring at him.

Bianca takes her name tag off. Throws it. STORMS OUT.

Lucas looks at Vanessa.

LUCAS

I told you no woman would ever admit to liking me. I told you I was going to die alone.

Vanessa gives him a sympathetic look.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - EVENING

Lucas walks to his apartment, heartbroken. Kasey comes out of her apartment at just the right time. She's dressed for running. Sees the despair on his face.

KASEY

Hey, Lucas. Is everything okay?

LUCAS

I don't know.

KASEY

Honey, what's wrong?

LUCAS

I'm a terrible person.

His eyes drop. Kasey moves in closer. Raises his chin.

KASEY

No, you're not. I think you're a great guy. Sweet... special.

She looks him in the eye, reassuringly. Hugs him tightly. Smiles wickedly over his shoulder.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Bianca paces in front of Avery, wound up.

BIANCA

Vanessa said unless I apologize to him, she wouldn't get me that meeting! Can you believe that crap?!

AVERY

She's a butt-in. Lives vicariously through you. You know that, right?  
(a hint of vocal deception)  
Relationships between black women and white men never last. I mean their marriages have the highest divorce rate. Everybody knows that.

BIANCA

What Damon's gonna pay me will keep me afloat for awhile. But once I'm done...

AVERY

You should go to his house tonight convince him he needs you indefinitely. You know your effect on the lesser sex... It's time to move in for the kill. Time to forget the three date rule and skip straight to the "Field Of Dreams."

BIANCA

Huh?

AVERY

You know. Go the distance.

Bianca looks anxious.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

On the couch, Kasey jumps Lucas. Gives him a passionate kiss. Things quickly heat up. Lucas jumps up, flustered.

KASEY

What's wrong?

LUCAS

I think I should go...

He almost runs into a fake banana plant.

KASEY

Did I do something wrong?

LUCAS

No, it's me. Can't right now. Gotta go...

Kasey displays a sympathetic expression. Lucas makes a hasty exit. Kasey's expression turns to aggravation. Her crazy starts to show.

KASEY

(to herself)

I nearly had him... What more can I do?

Wait. What's that he left on the bar in his haste? Kasey walks over to it. Picks up Lucas' phone. Thinks for a moment.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Bianca is putting lights on a live Christmas tree. Acts tense. She's wearing a short skirt. Rosetta takes note of it. Bianca pretends not to notice as she descends the step ladder. She plugs the lights in.

BIANCA

Rosetta, right? Would you mind putting some water in the stand bowl? Don't want the tree to get too dry.

She walks over to pick up a box of lights. Preoccupied, she picks up the Christmas tree skirt instead. Rosetta smirks.

ROSETTA

Maybe you should put that one on instead.

She heads for the kitchen. Bianca looks down at the tree skirt. Hears a car and goes over to look out a window. Looks down at what she's holding again. Absent mindedly walks over to the tree and puts it over the stand.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

IN THE LIVING ROOM

There's a knock at the front door. Lucas sticks his head in.

IN THE BEDROOM

Kasey is wearing only a towel. Peeks through a crack in the door. Sees Lucas enter the living room. She quickly backs away from the door... Drops the towel.

IN THE KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM

LUCAS

Hello?.. Kasey?.. I left my phone here...

He goes to the bar. Finds his phone. Picks it up. Knocks some graphic design stuff onto the floor. Sighs. He kneels down to pick them up. Across the room...

Kasey comes out of her bedroom, NAKED.

She rubs her eyes, pretending to be half asleep. Walks over to the kitchen, passing Lucas. But he doesn't see her.

Kasey starts going through the motions of making coffee. Peeks to see what Lucas is doing while trying to keep her act up. He's taking forever...

Lucas' hands come up, putting the designs back on the bar. Finally.

Kasey sees. Turns.

Lucas pops up. Sees Kasey au naturel. His eyes SAUCER. Kasey stretches, playing it up. She walks back to her room. A beat, then...

He smiles, exhilarated. Takes a deep breath as it sinks in. He thinks for an instant. Tears for the exit.

He dodges the banana plant, but knocks off a bowl of marbles. Scrambles across the room with them. Finally nestles them on another table, relieved. That was close.

Abruptly, Kasey opens her bedroom door RIGHT BEHIND HIM, now wearing a T-shirt and boy shorts skivvies. Pretends to be half asleep. Lucas jumps, startled. SHRIEKS.

KASEY

Lucas! What're you doing here?!

LUCAS

Sorry, I knocked... I left my phone here...

(confessing)

And I saw you... making coffee. It was an accident, I swear.

KASEY

I see...

She fakes awkwardness.

KASEY (CONT'D)  
No, it's fine. I mean, it was an  
accident, right?... It's fine... Kind of  
cuts to the chase, doesn't it?..

A beat. She suddenly smiles with a hint of naughtiness.

KASEY (CONT'D)  
So... you want to see it again?

Lucas looks at her, shocked.

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bianca is doing her thing in here. Suddenly hears music playing. Turns to see Damon pushing buttons on his ipod docked in the stereo. Bianca tenses up.

DAMON  
Well, I see you know how to make magic in  
the bedroom... Wait, that didn't sound  
right...

Bianca becomes flushed. Fidgety. Moves toward him. Tries to figure out what to do. Starts dancing.

BIANCA  
Want to dance with me?

Damon moves closer. Starts dancing with her. He's terrible at it. It's awkward. They both stop.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
Never mind. Let's do something else.

Bianca turns on her charm. Sits on the bed. Crosses her legs. Damon seems confused.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
Why don't you come sit down beside me?  
I've got something to ask you.

Damon sits on the bed. Struggles to look in her eyes, not at her thighs. Bianca acts unintentionally mock sexy.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
I'm glad you're satisfied with my  
stuff... work.

DAMON  
Yeah. Can't wait to see what else you can  
do with those hands... decoratively.

BIANCA  
(very nervous)  
Okay, this is kind of blunt. What can I do to get you let me be your interior decorator permanently?

She uncrosses her legs.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kasey pulls off Lucas' hoodie. Tosses it playfully. It lands, covering her shoes. She starts kissing him passionately. He gently pushes her back.

LUCAS  
Wait, this isn't the way... I just want to sleep with you because I saw you naked.

KASEY  
Congratulations, you're a man. It'll be fun, I promise.

She starts getting rough. They land against the wall. A GLASS VASE on the shelf above them SHAKES. Kasey sees it. Moves Lucas and herself away.

KASEY (CONT'D)  
No offense, sweetie, but you're kind of accident prone...

She nudges him back toward the bed. Steps on the hoodie covered shoes. TWISTS her ankle. Falls forward, butting heads with Lucas. He falls back onto the bed.

Kasey wobbles backwards in a stunned daze. SMASHES into wall under the shelf. Knocks off the vase. It lands on her noggin with a CRACK. Her eyes roll back in her head. She wobbles. Collapses to the floor with a THUNK!

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bianca and Damon are kissing passionately on the bed. She leans clumsily. Loses her balance. Falls off the bed. Bounces back up like her butt is made of rubber without missing a beat. Suddenly, Damon turns his head.

DAMON  
You smell something burning?

INT. DAMON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca and Damon race down the stairs to find Rosetta putting out the Christmas tree with a fire extinguisher.

BIANCA

What happened, Rosetta?! I thought you put water in the stand.

ROSETTA

I thought she did, Mr. Cooper. She put the skirt on. It's her fault!

Damon looks at the skirt Bianca's wearing, confused.

DAMON

All right. This has gone far enough! I was gonna nail you just for the satisfaction of it. But it's not worth having my house burned down...

BIANCA

What're you talking about?

DAMON

What, you don't remember me? We met at Club Envy about two months ago. I introduced myself as Coop. It's my nickname... I was thirty pounds heavier. Had glasses and a mini-fro.

BIANCA

Huh? Oh, You're the guy who asked me where I got my purse!

DAMON

It was an icebreaker. I picked it up online. But you wouldn't give the time of day because I was too chunky! Then, what do you know, you show up at my house after I've lost the weight and gotten into shape. So, now you think I'm good enough for you. Well, guess what? You're not good enough for me. You're just another pretty girl who's ugly on the inside.

Bianca is taken aback.

BIANCA

No, I wasn't blowing you off because you were... overweight...

DAMON

I don't want to hear it. The way I see it what damage you've done in here should more or less cost what I was gonna pay you. That makes us about even, I'd say. So, get your things and take your tiny skirt wearing behind out of my house!

Bianca is stunned.

INT. KASEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lucas sets Kasey on the couch, half in a daze. She holds her head. Moans. Lucas hurries to the kitchen.

LUCAS

I'll get you some ice...

He grabs a dish towel. Gets ice from the freezer. Closes the door. Notices the pictures on it: Kasey and Julie in the living room. But where's the Conan poster? There's framed art instead. Odd.

Lucas goes back into the living room. Hands Kasey the ice. Looks behind the couch. Pulls the exact same framed art from behind it.

He checks. No Wes Anderson movies by the TV either. Strange. Now that he thinks about, the mirror is gone too. He looks at Kasey for an explanation.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

What happened to the Conan poster and Wes Anderson movies? The mirror?

KASEY

It's not what it looks like!

LUCAS

It looks like some sort of seduction act. Are you pretending to like things I do so I'll like you?

KASEY

Please don't be mad, Lucas. I only go at antiquing with Julie. I only watch Conan sometimes. The Wes Anderson movies weren't really mine. The anime costume was a rental and I photoshoped the picture. I was just trying to seal the deal. I mean, you're so timid. And the only way to wear less clothing than that costume was to wear nothing at all.

LUCAS

So, that whole coffee making thing was a put on?

KASEY

Do you have any idea how many men want to sleep with me? How many would like to see what you saw? You think I don't know how hot I am?!

LUCAS

Why me?!

KASEY

Because you didn't stare at me. Or paw at me. You defended me heroically. You make me laugh. But yeah, all of this was an act.

LUCAS

I thought it suspicious that you didn't have an x-acto knife!

KASEY

I was doing it for us. But I just can't compete when it comes to that Bianca! It's like when you walk in the room, she lights up. Like the sun and moon rise and set at your command for her. She can't breathe. She's totally in love with you.

LUCAS

She is?

KASEY

Duh! Ironic since she's black and you're as white as the driven snow!

LUCAS

Oh, yeah? Well, you're out of your mind crazy. And your boobs are uneven, so there!

He walks out, encouraged. Kasey looks down at her breast selfconsciously.

INT. CLUB ENVY - BACK ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

They're set up here for another photo shoot. The photographer hands Bianca a garment bag. She seems down.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Thanks for coming in again, Bianca.

BIANCA

It's cool. Believe me, I can use the money.

Bianca opens the bag. Pulls out scanty lingerie.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. I don't think so. I'd be practically naked.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Come on, Bianca. You're last shoot was really hot. Real popular with the guys. I'm just taking it the next step.

BIANCA

So, that's all I am to everybody? Just a pretty face and a hot body?

PHOTOGRAPHER

That's what people like about you.

Bianca looks really hurt. A beat, then she rushes out.

INT. CLUB ENVY - FLOOR - DAY

Bianca quickly stops in her tracks. Sees...

Avery and Dante MAKING OUT. She clears her throat. Avery looks up. Knows she's busted. Bianca quickly heads for the exit. Avery catches up.

AVERY

B, wait!

BIANCA

That's quite a brother you're tonguing there, Avery!

AVERY

Well, after all these years I guess I got tired of being second to you, Cinderella. I'm not your ugly sister. We're not sisters at all, beauty queen!

Bianca stops right in front of the bar. Avery looks up at the poster.

AVERY (CONT'D)

I mean look at you. You've been getting by on you looks since you grew breasts. And I've been living in your shadow! Dante likes me for a change!

BIANCA

Great except he's a different race and that's not how you roll! You're a sista of pride, remember? A hypocrite is more like it! I can't believe I listened to you and almost gave the cookie up to Damon!

AVERY

I went out of my way to set up with Damon. He's rich and fine! And he's gotta be better endowed than that puny white guy you've been gaping at! I'm just as pretty as you and I saw him first. That's what friendship is supposed to be. But like always, with us, it's one sided!

A beat, as Bianca takes a moment to process it all.

BIANCA

Well, you don't have to worry about that anymore. We're done!

AVERY

Just gonna keep relying on your looks, huh?!

Bianca reaches up. Rips down the poster. Hurries toward the exit. Suddenly something catches her eye. A napkin in the suction fan with a drawing on it. She stands on a chair to reach it. It's picture Lucas drew of her.

She's staring at him. It triggers a memory...

BIANCA (V.O.)

Look, you know how when you get nervous around a guy? You get butterflies in your stomach? Your heart races? That's nature's way of telling you that you've found someone special. It starts with something you see in his DNA. You know, when you think a guy is really hot. You want to make babies with him. You have a lot in common with him. You can't stop thinking about him. Or looking at him... That's how you'll know.

Bianca looks down at the drawing in realization. Makes a run for the exit.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Lucas and Vanessa sit together. He fidgets with a inventory scanning gun.

LUCAS

Sorry about your marriage. You're an excellent lady. You deserve a man that doesn't cheat.

VANESSA

Thanks, sweetie. But now I've got to go to a stupid court settlement. Maybe Bianca's right. Maybe I shouldn't be matchmaking. But I saw the sparks flying between you two... I don't think she meant the things she said.

LUCAS

Maybe she said them because... she doesn't know how to handle the sparks.

His phone vibrates. He takes it out. Checks the number. Sets it on the desk. Looks at the scan gun again.

VANESSA

Just out of curiosity, what would it take for you to, you know?..

Lucas takes a moment to consider.

LUCAS

If she stood on a rooftop, apologized, and professed her undying love for me or something like that... This scanner didn't communicate...

He gets up and puts it in the charging dock behind the desk. With his back turned, Vanessa picks up his phone. Puts Bianca's name and number in his contacts.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - LATER

Vanessa sits a garment bag on her desk.

A MOMENT LATER

The door abruptly opens. Lucas comes back in and--

LUCAS

Before I leave, I need that scan...

--STARTLES Vanessa, who's standing there in her bra and panties. And that 35 year old body is smokin'.

Lucas abruptly averts his eyes. Vanessa blushes.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Sorry!

VANESSA

It's okay...

Lucas eyes the scan gun like he really needs it. Surprisingly walks over to her desk. Right up to Vanessa. Reaches behind her. Grabs the gun. Looks her in the eye.

LUCAS

This may be inappropriate for me to say, but your ex-husband was a fool to let you go. You got it going on. I mean, shesh!

He looks away. Exits. Vanessa smiles.

INT. GRAMA ROSE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Lucas stands in the living room with Sandra.

LUCAS

Why're you putting on the market now?! It's three months 'til I turn thirty!

SANDRA

Be realistic, Lucas. You'll never be married in four months. This house is going on the market next week.

INT. CUPPA INK - EVENING

It's a comic store/coffee house. Lucas sits with Brandon.

LUCAS

Another Friday evening and here I am with you...

BRANDON

Love you too, buddy... So, the way I see it, if we work our butts off, between now and the end of January, we might have a short finished. We'll have to get Carson and the guys to help. Of course it would save hours upon hours of time if we could do it in Flash. CG. On the computer. Just saying...

Gabe joins them just in time to miss the topic. His glasses are fogged up and he looks rattled. An attractive waitress, MACKENZIE comes over to the table.

GABE

I know I shouldn't have stuck my head there. I bet you put your face in places it doesn't belong as well, don't you?!

MACKENZIE

I have no idea what you're talking about... ever.

GABE

I can't stand you. Don't know why I keep coming in here. It's a long time to be sweating in a pool.

Lucas looks at them funny. Brandon smiles with satisfaction. Mackenzie smiles at them warmly.

MACKENZIE

Can I get you guys anything else?

LUCAS

Wait. You're mean to him but nice to us.

A cute geekish girl, NAT (20's) comes out of the restroom. Sits beside Brandon. She wipes her hands on Brandon's shirt, extendedly. He treats it like foreplay.

NAT

There's no paper towels in the ladies room. Wait. What'd I miss?

BRANDON

Gabe used one of my catch phrases.

NAT

See, Brand. I told you.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - EVENING

Bianca enters, flustered. Vanessa looks at her oddly.

BIANCA

Okay, there's a reason why you were trying to match Lucas and me up despite our... background differences. Because we both like to cut up on the dance floor. We both love design and animation. We can both swim like guppies. And he's cute.

(MORE)

BIANCA (CONT'D)

He respects women and he's the only guy who's ever called me on getting by on my looks. And he's really funny... I could go on.

VANESSA

No, I get it. I know.

BIANCA

And maybe he wasn't just trying to conquer the exotic black woman. Maybe I can like him without hating myself and being content with my blackness. Maybe he'll understand about my hair. Maybe it can last.

Vanessa's face lights up. She goes to her desk.

VANESSA

Finally! Now all we have to do is get you two in the same space together and we can have resolution. Here's his phone number.

INT. CUPPA INK - EVENING

Lucas' ring tone. He picks up his phone. Sees: Bianca 301-555-1138.

Odd. He looks sceptical. Puts the phone down.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE

Bianca looks at Vanessa.

BIANCA

He won't pick up. It went to voice mail!

VANESSA

Why didn't you leave a message?

BIANCA

I don't know!

INT. CUPPA INK - EVENING

Lucas' phone chimes. He picks it up again.

INSERT - A TEXT

"It's Bianca. Need to talk. Please. I'm in Vanessa's office."

Lucas looks suspicious.

There's a TV mounted on the wall in front of him.  
"Ratatouille" plays on it. A memory is triggered...

BIANCA (V.O.)

Design is design. It changes over the  
years, but creation is always what drives  
it.

Lucas' gaze shifts from the TV to Brandon and Nat.  
They're drinking from the same straw. They're oddly  
adorable together. He looks at them for a long moment.

LUCAS

Maybe your right, Brandon. About using  
Flash. Maybe living in the past is  
holding me back... Let's try it your way.

Brandon looks at Lucas for one long, baffled, confounded  
moment.

GABE

Wait, you want to be an animator, Lucas?  
So, that's what all those drawings are  
for. All this time, I just thought you  
liked to doodle. Maybe I can help you  
out. Sometimes I hang out with this guy,  
Zack. He's a pretty big deal at Defiant  
Animation. He owes me a favor for  
rescuing him from that hobo under that  
bridge. Maybe I could get you a meeting.

Brandon's mind is completely blown. Lucas smiles. Looks  
down at his phone again. Considers a moment. Heads for  
the door. The others look confused.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE

Bianca looks up from her phone again. Looks to Vanessa  
for answers.

BIANCA

Why doesn't he reply?!

VANESSA

I don't know, Bianca. Maybe because you  
were so mean to him.

BIANCA

Yes, I'm horrible! Do you have his  
address?

Vanessa starts looking it up on her computer.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - SALES FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Bianca hurries out of the manager's office. Hurries down  
THE MAIN AISLE

Drops her phone. The back pops off and the battery comes out. She bends down to pick it up behind a cardboard display.

Lucas comes up. Stops on the other side of the display. Can't get past an ELDERLY COUPLE. Bianca puts the battery back in her phone, UPSIDE DOWN.

Lucas slides past the elders half a second before Bianca stands back up. She heads in the other direction.

INT. EXCLAMATION MART - MANAGER'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas enters, flush. Only sees Vanessa.

VANESSA

Lucas!

LUCAS

She's not here. She's messing with me again!

VANESSA

No, you just missed her. She's headed to your apartment!

Lucas looks surprised.

EXT. EXCLAMATION MART - EVENING

Bianca's car pulls quickly out of the parking lot, into the street.

A MOMENT LATER

Lucas comes running out of the store. Heads for his car.

INT. LUCAS' CAR - EVENING

Lucas stops at a red light. Picks up his phone. Starts texting.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - EVENING

Bianca stands on one side of Lucas' front door. Dexter is on the other.

DEXTER

Don't know where he is. Sorry.

Bianca nods. Dexter looks her over, impressed. She turns away, about to check her phone. Suddenly sees across the courtyard...

Kasey.

She has a bag of groceries. Notes where Bianca is. Abruptly becomes infuriated. Begrudging. Bianca tries to dodge her as she's leaving. Kasey steps in front of her.

KASEY

Well, look who it is. Just have to rub it in, don't you?

BIANCA

(uneasy)

I'm in a hurry...

She tries to sidestep her again.

KASEY

You won. You don't have to gloat.

BIANCA

Excuse me?

KASEY

I suppose I should show more poise, but I'm not used to losing when it comes to men. Especially to a swamp donkey, crockadillapig.

BIANCA

(appalled)

Seek professional help, you... aviation blonde, bunny boiler, sorostitute!

She shoves Kasey out of the way, causing her to drop her groceries. Dashes off.

KASEY

Two o'clock beauty queen!

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - PARKING LOT - EVENING

Bianca hurries to her car. Gets in. As she looks down and away at her phone...

Lucas pulls up one row behind her. Gets out in a hurry. Runs right past without seeing her.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - EVENING

Bianca suddenly notices her phone isn't working. Takes the battery out and flips it. Snaps the cover back on as it reboots. Starts her engine.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - EVENING

Lucas rushes toward his apartment. Sees Kasey picking up her food. Tries to ignore her. Goes into his residence.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - EVENING

Bianca pulls into the street. With her phone working, a text chimes.

INSERT - A TEXT

"It's Lucas. What do you want?"

Bianca looks surprised.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - COURTYARD - EVENING

Lucas comes running out of his apartment with an answer. Another text chimes on his phone. He looks down to read it when...

Kasey SNATCHES his phone.

KASEY

Where you going, you Melvin? To live happily ever after with your troglodyte?

LUCAS

Give me my phone, Kasey!

He grabs for it. Kasey pulls it away.

KASEY

Stop harassing me! I'm gonna file a complaint with the police.

(MORE)

KASEY (CONT'D)

You came into my apartment uninvited and spied on me when I was naked and vulnerable!

LUCAS

You're unbalanced!

Kasey backs away in zig zag formation. Lucas follows.

KASEY

Don't lecture me, Benedict Arnold. Judas! You have vanilla right at your front door and yet you go out into the world looking for chocolate...

LUCAS

... And apparently racist. I thought I was too white for you anyway.

He gets hold of his phone. Tries to wrestle it away from Kasey. But her grip is tight.

KASEY

Oh, yeah. You've got to be the whitest person on the planet. You make Michael Buble look ethnic! But what can I say? I just don't like being sloppy seconds to a ho bagel!

LUCAS

Don't talk about her like that! And guess what, missy, I like who I am. I might be the most pigmentally challenged, ethnicless, albino-looking, Mumford and Sons listening to, non soul brother, alabaster, bleached, bloodless, chalky, cracker on the face of the earth! But at least I'm honest! And I don't treat women like sex objects because I respect them! Maybe if I groped them and made derogatory comments about their privates, I'd get more play, but that's just not who I am!

Lucas pulls harder. Wrangles his phone from her grasp. Kasey falls backwards. Smashes into the scaffolding. Knocks off several cans of WHITE HOUSE PAINT. They smash onto the pavement. Spill all over her. Kasey lets out an angry shriek. Lucas shakes his head.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Hmm. It looks like maybe I'm not the whitest person on earth after all.

Kasey looks at him, defeated. Lucas looks at his phone.

INSERT - A TEXT

"Need to talk to u. Very important."

INT. LUCAS' CAR - EVENING

Lucas starts pulling out of his apartment's parking lot.  
Sends a text.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - EVENING

It's rush hour. Bianca talks to Vanessa on her phone.

BIANCA  
(into phone)  
Whata you mean he's heading for his  
apartment? I was just there! See if you  
can call him back... Thanks. Bye.

She hangs up. A text chimes.

INSERT - A TEXT

"Talk about what?"

EXT. STREET - EVENING

A CAR pulls out of a gas station, cutting off the one in  
front of Bianca. SMASH! A fender bender. She's stuck  
behind it. Starts trying to get around. Traffic is  
backing up fast. Everybody has the same idea as her.

INT. LUCAS' CAR - EVENING

The traffic comes to a standstill. Lucas groans. Another  
text chimes.

INSERT - A TEXT

"Need to say it in person. Where r u?"

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - EVENING

Bianca anxiously looks at her phone again.

INSERT - A TEXT

"Stuck in an accident on Sonora Ave."

INT. LUCAS' CAR - EVENING

INSERT - A TEXT

"I'm there too. In front of a 76 gas station."

Lucas looks amazed.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - EVENING

INSERT - A TEXT

"I'm about half a mile behind u."

Bianca reads it. Smiles.

INT. LUCAS' CAR - EVENING

Lucas thinks. Pulls out of the street, into a parking lot.

INT. BIANCA'S CAR - EVENING

Bianca struggles to back up just enough to pull into the 76 gas station parking lot. She sits there waiting.

INT. LUCAS' CAR - EVENING

Lucas puts his car into park. Looks out at the immobile traffic. Waits... and waits... and waits...

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Lucas gets out of his car. Makes his way down the middle space between the other vehicles. Tries to text while running, but can't.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Bianca gets out of her car. Quickly crosses to the other side of the road. Hurries in Lucas' direction. Finds herself unable to text simultaneously.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

With Bianca on the far side and Lucas in the middle, they intersect. Bianca sees Lucas, but he keeps going. Fast. Bianca cuts across the middle.

BIANCA

Lucas!

Lucas turns his head slightly like he thinks he heard something. With the vehicles all trying to get into the moving lane, Bianca's path to him is blocked. She looks around, trying to figure out what to do. Decides to...

JUMP onto the hood of a car. The driver, FRANK, grumbles.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Lucas!

Lucas turns around. Sees her and stops.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Lucas, I'm sorry!

LUCAS

What?!

He moves closer, but the row of interlacing vehicles will only let him go so far. Another driver, GLENDA, is about halfway in between them. Starts paying attention to what's going on.

Frank sticks his head out the window at Bianca.

FRANK

Hey, off my hood, girly!

Bianca jumps off his hood, onto the next car's trunk. Then onto it's ROOF. Finds Lucas again.

BIANCA

I said I'm sorry for the way I treated you! I feel terrible!

LUCAS

I... I can't understand!..

GLENDA

Sounded like she said she felt terrible about how she treated you.

LUCAS

Really?

GLEENDA

What're you kids doing running around in the middle of this?

BIANCA

I was an idiot before! I wasn't being honest with myself!..

Most of the DRIVERS in earshot are watching now.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

... I want to be with you!

Glenda looks at a flabbergasted Lucas.

GLEENDA

Well, I guess you heard that?

Lucas grins from ear to ear. His instinct is to run toward her. But there's a sea of metal in front of him. He looks reluctant to jump onto any of them.

BIANCA

(joyfully)

I think I'm in love with you!

Lucas can contain his glee no longer. But what to do? He looks up at Bianca again. Gets a burst of courage.

LEAPS onto the car in front of him. Runs toward Bianca.

The drivers try to swat him away from landing on their vehicles. He effectively dodges them. Stumbles a little.

Bianca meets him half way. They embrace. Lean their foreheads on each other's. Look into each other's eyes and... KISS.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EXCLAMATION MART COOPERATE OFFICE - DAY

Bianca is dressed modestly. Businesslike. Stands with Vanessa in front of WILSON DAVIS (50's). He comes from around his desk, intrigued. Moves closer to them and what they've brought. They stand back to reveal...

A refined version of the Z-shaped TV stand. This one's painted red. Bianca puts a TV top of it. Vanessa puts components on the shelves.

Wilson examines the design for a moment. Smiles at Bianca.

INT. DEFIANT ANIMATION STUDIO - VP OFFICE - DAY

Lucas and Brandon sit in front of ZACK BURTON (30). He's in jeans and a T-shirt. Laid back, literally. His feet are propped up on the desk. He has their short film paused on the TV behind them.

He's holding Lucas' female character drawing. She now has the face of Bianca. Zack smiles at it.

ZACK

Guys, here's what I'm gonna do. I'm going to give you a development deal. And you might want to move closer to Culver City cause things are going to get intense.

Brandon looks at Lucas. His lower lip quivers.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Lucas stands at the altar in a tux. Looks nervously in the direction of Vanessa, the maid of honor. She winks at him, reassuringly. Brandon, the best man, pats him on the shoulder. They all look up as...

Bianca is led up to Lucas by her DAD. She looks more stunning in her wedding dress than she's ever looked before. She and Lucas join hands in front of the PASTOR.

INT. LUCAS AND BIANCA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grandma's house no more. Lucas stands here in his boxers. In front of him...

Bianca stands in her bra and panties. She smiles at him seductively. Reaches back and unhooks her bra. Tosses it aside. Lucas holds his gaze.

She pulls her panties down, just past her hips.

They drop to the floor.

Correction. Now she looks her most stunning.

Lucas takes the beauty of her naked body in. Reacts with appropriate enticement.

INT. LUCAS AND BIANCA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas and Bianca sprawled out in bed. Cooling down after lovemaking. Bianca looks mind blown. She's a completely satisfied customer.

BIANCA

Wow... So, that whole being less endowed thing... Total crock... Completely untrue...

LUCAS

Thank you.

BIANCA

No, thank you.

They look at each other, ready for round two.

INT. LUCAS AND BIANCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

It's now decorated in style and fully furnished. Lucas' animated short plays on the flat screen, which sits on Bianca's TV stand.

Bianca and Lucas sit on the couch. She looks at him playfully with amorous eyes.

LUCAS

What're you doing?

BIANCA

I guess you were right all along. I can't stop staring at you.

She rest her head on his shoulder. They watch the TV blissfully.

FADE TO BLACK.

