

# **BE THE GUY**

By Jessica Rotondi and Clare Kent

Jessica Rotondi  
917-442-4563  
jessroro@gmail.com

Clare Kent  
347-249-2476  
clarekent411@gmail.com

WGA Registered

FADE IN:

INT. MAN'S LUXURY BEDROOM - DAY

A couple is lying in bed, panting and grinning. They just climaxed. MR. EAGER is on top; GEMMA, a sexy, late-20s woman, is on the bottom. Mr. Eager rolls off and walks into the bathroom.

MR. EAGER (O.S.)

You're amazing!

Gemma tries to roll over and finds that she is trapped in 4 inches of Memory Foam... damn Tempur-Pedic! She tries to lunge out of her sinkhole a few times and finally heaves herself out. She looks back at the mattress and sees a giant sweat stain. Ick.

MR. EAGER (O.S.)

So we're on for Thursday, right?

He comes in and sees her putting on her jeans.

MR. EAGER (CONT'D)

(disappointed)

You're going?

Gemma smiles kindly and kisses him.

GEMMA

Babe, I think we broke your lunch break.

She heads for the door.

INT. GEMMA'S CLASSIC NEW YORK KITCHEN - DAY

A magnet on Gemma's fridge reads: Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games. - Babe Ruth

Gemma, wearing the same clothes, turns off her Blackberry and leaves it on the counter.

In the soft light from her kitchen window, she leans down to eye a row of jugs filled with clear liquid.

Each jug has a different ingredient inside: sweet potato, fennel, rock candy, calamari, and pinecone.

Gemma tastes each vodka infusion and they're all good, but after the rock candy one she does an übergoofy wiggle dance and pulls out a smaller bottle.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - WINTER - DAY

Gemma, holding the smaller bottle, turns her BlackBerry on and saunters through the Meatpacking District. Her phone erupts with text ringtones: "Bad Romance," Lady Gaga; "Shook Me," AC/DC; "Big Pimpin," Jay-Z. Gemma smiles at every text but never replies.

Applying lipstick without a mirror, she jaywalks across the street. Several MEN watch her as she goes.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - DAY

Gemma, dressed in black, preps the bar for service. She's chewing on an olive sword and singing "Man in the Mirror." CONNOR, a cute bar back, rushes in and starts unloading pint glasses.

CONNOR

Sorry I'm late, I was emailing -

GEMMA

Tongue Girl? How many paragraphs?

Connor breaks a pint glass.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

You've got to stop asking Penelope for advice.

PENELOPE, the bar owner, comes in and checks her very short dress in a mirror. AUDREY, an uptight redhead (early 20s) hustles after her, carrying a leather binder. Penelope grabs the binder, pulls out some post-it notes, and tosses them at Gemma.

PENELOPE

Gemma, tell your swain that the bar is not your answering service.

Audrey glances at Gemma disdainfully.

GEMMA

Guess what I perfected?

Gemma pulls out her rock candy vodka and pours a shot. Penelope tastes it and loves it, but plays it cool.

PENELOPE

Not bad. I think I'll keep you on weekends for a while.

Audrey frowns.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

Hey, you remember the son of my dad's lawyer? I know you told me not to but I texted him and he's coming here tonight! Hot dress, right?

AUDREY

Totally hot!

GEMMA

Maybe you should just do jeans -

PENELOPE

No, I googled him, he's really cute!

MR. PINSTripES walks in, sits down at Gemma's end of the bar, and begins his long night of longing for her. Gemma smiles kindly and pours his usual.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - DUSK INTO NIGHT

The bar gets crowded, especially near Gemma. Mr. Pinstripes struggles to keep his seat in a throng of ADMIRERS. Gemma makes every guy feel like she's flirting just with him, but she's spending the most time with TRENT, a hot guy with a midwinter tan.

A cow MOOS. Gemma glances at a bar game next to Buck Hunter. It's labeled "Redneck College" in a cheesy font, with pictures of cows, chickens, and alligators all over it. The CUSTOMERS love it. Another cow MOOS.

Gemma rolls her eyes and turns back to Trent.

GEMMA

That's what you do when you've given  
up on getting laid.

They giggle. Gemma gives him a flirty look, then moves  
down the bar. Trent turns to a MALE CUSTOMER nearby.

TRENT

She sees right through you but she  
likes you anyway.

Gemma stops by a line of SINGLE GIRLS sitting at the  
bar. Their silent phones are on the bar top and their  
eyes are on all of Gemma's men.

GEMMA

Ladies, another round?

SINGLE GIRL

How do you do it?

GEMMA

Just relax. Have fun. Let it happen.

She pours them some shots and walks away.

SINGLE GIRL

Oh, easy! I mean, our whole economy  
is based on people trying to relax.

Connor hovers hopefully. The Single Girls look at him,  
then look down and tap at their phones.

Gemma goes back to Trent. He has his phone out.

TRENT

So I've got this date, but I could  
call you after your shift -

GEMMA

Yeah, why not? 917-432-

Penelope, holding her binder, and Audrey are standing  
behind Trent and staring at him.

PENELOPE

Trent? How long have you been here?

TRENT

Penelope. Hi. Couple of minutes -

Penelope eyes his empties. An anxious Trent opens his phone and puts on his best "pissed" face.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Damn, I just found out my dogwalker can't make it tonight. I'll call you.

He pays and runs. Penelope gives Gemma the stink-eye, and Audrey is thrilled they caught her messing up.

GEMMA

I didn't know -

Penelope slams down her binder and turns to Audrey.

PENELOPE

Go home.

Audrey scampers away.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

Okay, Gemma. I want to do what you do to guys. How the hell do you do it?

GEMMA

I can't show you how to date.

PENELOPE

Gemma, I'm pretty, I've got money, I'm a catch.... And I'm still single.

GEMMA

It's just New York. Look around.

They survey the bar. The MALE CUSTOMERS are noticeably outnumbered by FEMALE CUSTOMERS.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

The ratio of women to men is 4 to 1. It's hard to get noticed. And -

Guys have clumped with each other, while girls have clumped together separately, like junior high.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

- everybody sticks with their friends because meeting new people feels like work. Plus the nice guys -

A clump of sweet-looking guys are looking around at all the girls. They seem gun-shy.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

- don't know how to meet girls, because they were never taught how to in a non-sleazy way. While the girls-

The Single Girls at the bar pretend to talk to each other, but they're scanning the room like raptors. Their hair, makeup, and outfits took hours to perfect.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Well, girls try too hard, which is the last thing guys want. But they'll take it for a one-night stand.

PENELOPE

So dating in New York sucks. Except for you, which is why I need you to tell me all about your little game.

GEMMA

I'm not a life coach, Penelope.

Penelope stares down Gemma, giving her one last chance. Then she apparently gives up.

PENELOPE

Fair enough.

She coldly opens her binder.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

So I'm just about done with the schedule. You're cool with Monday lunches, right?

They stare at each other. A cow MOOS.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - DAY

The lounge has lost magic in the daylight. Gemma pushes through the swinging kitchen door, holding some celery. She glances at the one man sitting at the bar.

This is OWEN, early 30s, hot in a successful artist way. He's working on his laptop, headphones on, absorbed. As Gemma walks by, she peeks at his computer and sees a rotating image of a tangle of wires.

She plods behind the bar and starts cutting up the celery. As she gets methodical, her mind wanders...

EXT. THE FRENCH RIVIERA - DAY

Gemma, now wearing a French striped shirt and a beret, stands at an easel, painting the beautiful landscape. She stands back and regards her painting. It's a picture of celery with a cartoon bubble saying "Moo."

She drops her brush. PASSERS-BY point and laugh.

GEMMA

This isn't my painting. This isn't MY PAINTING!

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - DAY

Gemma stares into space. The Single Girl from a few nights ago loudly plops her bag on the bar, waking Gemma up. As she sits she shoots Gemma a dirty look.

SINGLE GIRL

Are you that bartender from Friday night? You told me to relax, right?

Gemma munches on a piece of celery.

GEMMA

That's me.

SINGLE GIRL

Wow. I guess all your men don't do lunch, huh?



Before Gemma can deliver a comeback, the Single Girl, looking victorious, cuts her off.

SINGLE GIRL (CONT'D)

Caesar salad. Dressing on the side.

An annoyed Gemma puts in the order while the Single Girl, smirking, starts texting on her phone.

Two other people occupy a table: a couple. MAN 1 is leaning way back and studying a dessert menu. CASSIE is leaning so far forward, she's hunching.

CASSIE

We need to RSVP for the dinner. I'd really love to go with you.

Gemma comes over.

GEMMA

(flatly)

Dessert?

MAN 1

I don't think so.

CASSIE

I'd love some flan.

GEMMA

You might want to think about that.

CASSIE

That's OK, it sounds great.

GEMMA

No, really.

CASSIE

Uh, yes, really.

GEMMA

Can I show you why you don't want the flan?

CASSIE

Okay...

Cassie stands up. Man 1 is nonplussed.

GEMMA  
(smiles and whispers)  
We're really hands-on here.

KITCHEN

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
Lady, you need to take a fake phone  
call, tell him you have to go, and  
leave before I drop the check.

CASSIE  
You know I don't do things the way  
you do -

GEMMA  
He's bored, Cassie. You need to mix  
it up.

They spy on Man 1. He pours himself another drink.

CASSIE  
But we're still splitting checks. I  
can't just ditch him.

Gemma thrusts her through the door.

LOUNGE

Cassie pretends, badly, to get a text.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Uh, work drama. I have to go. I'm  
really sorry. Really.

She awkwardly leaves. Man 1 is confused. Cassie almost  
comes back in but Gemma waves her out and drops the  
check.

GEMMA  
Thanks, have a great day!

She walks away before Man 1 can speak. He leaves the lounge. Owen is gone, too, so the only person left is the smug Single Girl. Gemma clears Cassie's table.

MONTAGE

Gemma picks up the loose change Man 1 left for a tip. Wipes the plastic menus. Serves the Single Girl her salad. Stares at the tin ceiling. Does a shot. Starts returning texts, but stops herself. Walks over to Redneck College. The controls of the game are ten fingertip sensors. She puts them on...

And she's phenomenal. She blows right through the first level, tipping cows.

CUT TO:

Level 2. Gemma, feeling ridiculous, "air milks" an udder while a cow smiles and tilts its hips.

CUT TO:

Level 3: Wrestling 'gators. Gemma's really into it, widening her stance and gripping an imaginary jaw.

CUT TO:

By the time she's on Level 4, plucking live, panicking chickens, she's laughing out loud.

SINGLE GIRL  
Bartender, check!

Gemma wakes up out of the game. As she gazes at the naked video chickens, her smile disappears.

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

Gemma's handing the Single Girl her check when she gets a text: "I Saw the Sign," Ace of Bass. The text reads: *It worked! He texted me!*

Gemma smiles and texts back.

SINGLE GIRL

(on her phone)

Well yeah, it sucks, but at least I'm  
not a career bartender.

She barely glances at Gemma as she leaves.

Gemma is devastated. She pours a shot but instead of  
drinking it, she leans on the bar and cradles her  
forehead in her hands, looking out the window.

Then she tears a page off her check pad and scrawls:  
*P- I'll do it. Give me back my weekend shifts. - G*

She does the shot.

INT. UPPER EAST SIDE RESIDENTIAL HALLWAY - DAY

Gemma walks down a gorgeous hallway, talking on her  
phone while she chews on a plastic spoon.

GEMMA

I'm not a career bartender!

INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Cassie is on her phone and eating pink Fun Dip.

CASSIE

I know, but I can see why she would  
*think* you were -

INT. UPPER EAST SIDE RESIDENTIAL HALLWAY - DAY

GEMMA

Cassie!

INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

CASSIE

I'm sorry. I'm just having a stupid  
day. He's avoiding me again.

GEMMA (O.S.)  
He's an idiot.

CASSIE  
He's too cute for me anyway.

INT. UPPER EAST SIDE HALLWAY - DAY

Gemma nudges a partially opened door and walks in.

GEMMA  
Stop that, you're gorgeous. And don't  
decide he's out of your league just  
cuz you don't want to play the game.

CASSIE (O.S.)  
I don't think treating love as a game  
is healthy, you know?

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT/EXT. TERRACE - DAY

Gemma quietly walks toward some voices on the glass-  
enclosed terrace. She's shocked to see Penelope and  
Audrey with four other DATING-CHALLENGED WOMEN.

GEMMA  
(whispers)  
Oh god. Penelope invited her friends.

INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

CASSIE  
Hey, Mumbles, what're you chewing on  
now? Is it something disgusting?

EXT. PENELOPE'S TERRACE - DAY

Gemma takes a deep breath and starts to walk onto the  
terrace. She notices MIRANTHA, an Indian woman in a  
power suit (late 20s), walking over to Penelope.

MIRANTHA  
(not impressed)  
You said this Gemma is a bartender?

Gemma panics and jumps behind a large plant. She pulls a leaf up to cover her face.

CASSIE (O.S.)

Hello? Fine, ignore me, I'll hold.

EXT. PENELOPE'S TERRACE - DAY

Gemma peeks through the leaves and notices that the women are holding brochures featuring candid photos of Gemma and a variety of men. Her mouth drops open.

There's a title over one page. Gemma leans closer to read it, loses her balance, and barely catches the plant before it tilts.

NICA, a cute Latina (early 30s), reads the brochure.

NICA

(incredulously)

"Love is life's greatest labyrinth"?

AUDREY

(proudly)

You never know what path will lead to your future husband. I'm Audrey, Penelope's personal assistant.

SUGAR PLUS, a hippie (mid-20s), puts a hand on her heart.

SUGAR PLUS

Audrey, I feel you.

A few women telegraph "Seriously?" to each other.

Gemma covers her mouth and starts to creep away, but Mirantha speaks up and Gemma stops to listen.

MIRANTHA

I have tried every path and every type of guy. Then one day I decided: no more nursing, mommy-ing, dommy-ing, psychoanalyzing, propping up egos, or supporting them financially. That's when they all stopped calling.

NICA

I've been trying to train them. Like not rewarding bad behavior? But I feel like such a bitch.

Behind the plant, Gemma is truly moved. These women aren't airheads; they're in genuine pain.

AUDREY

(blurts out)

Dating is making me want to die alone. Right?

Everybody looks at her like she's a freak.

A determined look dawns on Gemma's face. She chews on her spoon thoughtfully and sneaks back to the doorway.

CASSIE (O.S.)

Are you still there?

GEMMA

Yeah. I'm putting you on speaker.

CASSIE (O.S., ON SPEAKER)

I hate speaker!

Gemma strides out to the group, making a big entrance.

GEMMA

Hey guys. How is everyone?

The ladies look at each other, puzzled. A couple of them murmur responses. Gemma talks quickly, nervously.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I know most of you don't know me and I really have no idea what your dating life is like. Penelope asked me to do this and I think I can help. I didn't know you'd all be here. I'm no expert or anything...

She stares at the ladies, trying to hide her panic.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I'm not pretending to have all the answers,  
I just know what's worked for me the last  
few years.

The Students look doubtful.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Let's start at the beginning. Just  
like the old saying goes, if you  
can't beat 'em, join 'em. You're  
going to learn how to be just like  
them, how to Be The Guy!

They stare at Gemma, dumbfounded. She notices Audrey  
glaring at her chewed spoon. Gemma hands it to her.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Would you mind throwing this out?

Audrey is repulsed, but does it.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

So I guess the first principle -  
well, it's kind of become my  
philosophy on dating. The More You  
Like Him, The Less You Do.

AUDREY

Can you write that out?

Audrey refers to a white-erase board and markers.  
Gemma looks at the set-up, amused, and starts writing.

GEMMA

This probably goes against every  
instinct you have about dating, but  
believe me, it's not going to get you  
anywhere to be loving and  
nurturing... at least not at first.

PENELOPE

Such a rookie mistake.

GEMMA

Not just rookies. I think we need to  
give ourselves the freedom to not be  
so tunnel vision when it comes to



dating. Why is it women are so wonderful at multitasking, except when it comes to dating?

INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Cassie listens intently and nods to herself.

EXT. PENELOPE'S TERRACE - DAY

Audrey raises a hand, but Mirantha just speaks. Audrey, annoyed, keeps her hand up.

MIRANTHA  
(tentatively)  
By multitasking, do you mean  
bisexuality?

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
I mean multi-men. Though if that's -

MIRANTHA  
(waving her hands)  
No!

Audrey still has her hand up.

GEMMA  
No judgment! I just know men, so that's what I'm teaching. So... when you date a guy, if he ends up being a one-night stand, that's fine; and if he ends up being the love of your life, that's fine, too. Don't try to figure out what a guy is to you. Just enjoy getting to know him.

AUDREY  
(calls out, irritated)  
We are looking for more than one-night stands.

NICA  
Depends on how long you've been looking... Kidding!

AUDREY

I think we're all trying to get quality men. I'm really over being used for sex by some loser.

GEMMA

Maybe you need to stop assuming guys just want you for sex. Anyway -

AUDREY

And also, we don't multitask in dating because when we really like a guy, we want to give him everything. That's what romance is.

GEMMA

Audrey, which Woody Allen movies have you seen?

AUDREY

None of them. I'm waiting to see them with the right guy.

Gemma sighs and starts chewing on her marker.

GEMMA

Oh god. OK, brief summary of Woody Allen's career: Men don't want to be romantic. They want to be real. But deep down, they want to find out that being real *includes* being romantic. The finding out part is dating.

Audrey looks doubtful.

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - DAY

Gemma and the Students are eating tapas.

Audrey is struggling to set up the white-erase board again.

SUGAR PLUS

So we teach them how to be romantic?

GEMMA

No. They want to find out for themselves. Look, relationships are usually uneven, right? One person cares more, is more romantic, all that. If you want him to be that person, then you have to "Be the Guy" and NOT do all that stuff.

MIRANTHA

I'm confused.

GEMMA

Good. That means you're starting to think outside your box.

NICA

Do you not see how telling us to "Be the Guy" is completely anti-feminist?

GEMMA

Since when is it anti-feminist for women to do the thing that works?

Nica is about to fire back; Sugar Plus jumps in.

SUGAR PLUS

But won't we lose our special feminine essence?

Gemma starts to smile but hides it.

LIVING ROOM

The Students have moved onto couches. Audrey is setting up the board again, with major difficulty.

GEMMA

Look, I'm not suggesting you change who you are. But dating makes you so afraid that you start acting like control freaks. And that's not who you are, right?

The Students agree. Even Audrey considers it.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

So, make men earn your "feminine essence." And understand that not trying to control the situation and not doing something is actually doing something. Think Zen. Especially for your first assignment, which is to turn off your phones this weekend.

The Students gasp.

PENELOPE

For just calls or texts too?

GEMMA

For everything. Hey, I know it's scary, being out of touch, but going incommunicado is the best way to send a message, not only to these confusing boys, but to yourself. You don't want to do all the work and you have to admit that. So, next meeting I expect a full report!

AUDREY

(challenging her)

A written report, or is oral OK?

GEMMA

Your oral better be more than just OK.

Gemma laughs. Audrey is confused and annoyed.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Whichever you want, Audrey.

Gemma raises her Blackberry in the air and turns it off. All the Students, petrified, do the same. Mirantha's Blackberry SQUAWKS a death rattle.

EXT. UPPER EAST SIDE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING/STREET - DAY

The Students walk away from the class. As soon as Audrey's out of eyeshot, she turns on her phone again.

Gemma comes out of the building alone and walks down the street. As she thinks about the class, she breaks into the biggest smile she's had in a while.

SPLIT SCREEN: SIX-PART GRID - THE WEEKEND

Gemma tastes one of her vodka infusions while the Students try not to look at their phones - except Audrey, who's staring at a blank screen, and Mirantha, who's buying a new phone.

END SPLIT SCREEN

INT. PHONE STORE - DAY

A PHONE SALESMAN starts to turn on Mirantha's new Blackberry.

MIRANTHA

No! Don't turn it on!

He gives her a weird look.

SPLIT SCREEN: SIX-PART GRID

Four fingers turn on four phones. Audrey's phone shows the date: Monday - and no messages. Gemma's Blackberry stays off and untouched.

END SPLIT SCREEN

MONTAGE

INT. PENELOPE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Penelope's eyes light up as her iPhone starts ringing.

INT. NICA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Nica, swishing mouthwash, freezes as her phone buzzes. She hesitates, staring at it until her mouthwash burns. She spits, and starts to smile.

EXT. SUGAR PLUS'S FIRE ESCAPE - DAY

Sugar Plus is meditating with her phone in her hand. Her phone buzzes; she opens her eyes and smiles.

EXT. SUBWAY STATION STAIRS - DAY

Mirantha is halfway down the stairs. Her Blackberry rings and she runs jubilantly back up the steps.

INT. AUDREY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Audrey is running on her treadmill. She glares at her phone. The battery's low. She throws the phone across the room and runs harder.

INT. WEST VILLAGE - TEA AND SYMPATHY CAFÉ - DAY

Gemma is reading over a quiet lunch when she remembers to turn on her Blackberry. Her new text alerts vibrate the phone until it spins on the table. She laughs.

END MONTAGE

INT. ACE HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

All the Students are sitting in the Ace Hotel Bar. Gemma is chewing on a bar straw.

GEMMA

Yes, hotel bars *can* be convenient. But the real reason to hang out here, whatever your intention, is that hotel bars have fewer TVs so the guys will talk more. And they're sexy.

Gemma watches the light dawn on all the Students.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

All right, next topic: the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Think about it for a second.

(pause)

It's kind of arrogant, right?

Most of the Students look shocked.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I mean, other people are not you. And they have different ideas about how they want to be "done unto."

NICA

(wiggles her hips)

And that's what keeps it interesting.

GEMMA

Yes! We like men being different! So, a good example of this is jealousy. It feels like burning acid to women, but for most guys it's just a quick kick in the ass. So you have to Show Him How Much You're Wanted - Audrey, that's the title of the lesson - and we're here to practice that. Go find a guy to chat with but keep your eye on Penelope, she's the demo.

The Students move into the crowd, choose HOTEL BAR GUYS unobtrusively, and position themselves so they can bump into the men in some way.

As Gemma surveys her Students, she notices a man who is an epicenter of attention. A ring of WOMEN is ogling him while he whispers to two PRETY GIRLS. It's Owen from Monday lunch. Gemma is intrigued.

Gemma's Students notice him too, especially Audrey.

Owen checks his watch and hands a card to one of the pretty girls. Half a second later, his gorgeous DATE walks up to him, pissed. Owen quickly stands, puts a hand on her back, and steers her to a free couch.

While his Date settles her stuff, Owen glances apologetically at the two Pretty Girls. They glare at him. An INTENSE GIRL in the ring of women is glaring at him, too, and he's finding it hard to ignore her.

He catches Gemma's eye. Gemma fans her face: hot in here! He smiles, then focuses on his Date.

Gemma sees Connor walking through the bar, waving.

GEMMA

(to herself)

Penelope, I told you to bring a guy.

Owen sneaks a sweet, steamy smile to the Pretty Girls. They relent; one tucks his card into her cleavage and they leave.

Owen looks at Gemma. She holds up four fingers and bends down two. He's tickled she's keeping score.

Gemma notices Audrey watching Owen, too.

CONNOR

Hi!

GEMMA

Hi, Connor. OK. Go stand near Penelope, and when she starts to talk to you, be attentive, but also check her out a little bit.

CONNOR

Oh, I'm a really good listener! Is she going to talk about her problems?

Gemma looks at Connor being so bright-eyed and earnest; no way could he be a threat. To anyone.

GEMMA

Never mind. Just, go talk to a girl or something. I'll figure it out.

Connor, confused, moves into the crowd.

The Intense Girl who has been glaring at Owen taps him on the shoulder. He turns so that he's blocking his suspicious Date's view and gives Intense Girl the most mournful, lost-puppy look in Player History.

Gemma laughs out loud.



She turns away, feeling saintly. Owen puts an arm around his Date, then distracts her with a menu. He salutes Gemma: folding down four fingers. They grin.

Then Gemma cuts the connection, surveys her Students, and sees Penelope giving her an S.O.S. look. She's talking to a BORED GUY.

Gemma checks out the guys nearby. She focuses on ADAM'S APPLE MAN and taps him on the shoulder.

GEMMA

Excuse me, haven't we met before?

ADAM'S APPLE MAN

I don't think so.

GEMMA

Don't you think we should? I'm Gemma.  
And I know we just met, but could you  
do me a favor?

She whispers in his ear, while he checks her out.

CUT TO:

Gemma and the Students watch Penelope. Adam's Apple Man is now standing near her, and she turns away from Bored Guy to chat with him. Adam's Apple Man is staring at Gemma but Bored Guy still feels challenged, and puts a hand on Penelope's back.

The students return to their conversations, but scan for bystanders so they can try the same move. Connor leans in to talk to a girl and she walks away.

Gemma rejoins Adam's Apple Man as she gets a text: "Sexy M.F.," Prince.

ADAM'S APPLE MAN

How'd I do?

GEMMA

Perfect. Have you met Mirantha?

She pushes him toward Mirantha and leaves. Adam's Apple Man turns to Mirantha.

ADAM'S APPLE MAN  
Do you have Gemma's number?

MIRANTHA  
Yes. I mean no. I mean, you have  
beautiful eyes.

Mirantha can't believe she just said that corny line.  
But her guy is showing a lot more interest in her.

BAR ENTRANCE

Gemma meets MR. JAWLINE at the door, but Audrey walks  
up with Penelope in tow. They take Gemma aside.

PENELOPE  
I told her this isn't necessary -

AUDREY  
Does your method work on everybody?

GEMMA  
I think so, why?

Audrey sounds like she's rehearsed this to herself:

AUDREY  
I'd like a demonstration on a more  
challenging guy... like him.

She points at Owen.

Gemma glances at Owen. She also notices that all of  
her Students are watching. It looks like Audrey has  
been planning this and telling the Students about it.  
If Gemma backs down, they won't trust her.

She motions "5 minutes" to Mr. Jawline, heads over to  
Owen, whose Date just went to the bathroom, and sits.

GEMMA  
I'm Gemma.

OWEN  
Owen.

Gemma glances at Owen's cuff links, which are little Tetris playing fields. Then she looks him in the eye and raises an eyebrow.

GEMMA

So you're an artist.

Owen meets her gaze shamelessly.

OWEN

How do you mean?

GEMMA

Documentary filmmaker?

OWEN

(laughs)

Not even close.

Gemma studies him.

GEMMA

You like keeping secrets.

OWEN

No more than you.

GEMMA

What you see is what you get with me.

OWEN

Right. Darlin', we smell our own.

Owen gives Gemma a knowing look, but goes easy on her.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I invent games. I designed fingertip sensors for a bar game that just ca-

GEMMA

Redneck College? Yeah, I played it. It's soooooo hard.

Owen shows the tiniest trace of insecurity. His Date comes back from the bathroom, but Nica steps up to distract her, buying Gemma time. Owen notices and raises an eyebrow, but plays it cool.

OWEN

It's just the first step for the sensors. I'm working on another game.

GEMMA

One that's more artistically satisfying?

OWEN

It's hard to understand if you're not an artist. God, that sounds stupid.

Gemma reads his face, and he is genuinely vulnerable.

GEMMA

(gently)

I do understand. It's not stupid.

Owen looks at Gemma curiously. She looks down shyly.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

OK, I admit that plucking the chickens was fun. And the 'gators.

OWEN

I love the 'gators.

GEMMA

I thought there was some stickiness in the milking level, though, like you couldn't get up to full speed? And in the 'gators, if you move your hands too far away from the screen the image gets glitchy.

OWEN

Are you a gamer?!

GEMMA

No way. Just observant.

OWEN

Understatement. Thanks, that gets the gears in motion for my next game.

GEMMA

Is there a demo of your new one?

Owen tries to hide his excitement by playing coy.

OWEN

Maybe.

GEMMA

Well maybe I could take a look at it.

OWEN

Maybe you could.

Gemma smiles, surprised.

OWEN (CONT'D)

What's your email address? I'll send you a promo video.

GEMMA

(disappointed)

Oh... um -

OWEN

Actually it's probably better if you play it. Really dig your fingers in.

Gemma nods knowingly and they both smile.

CUT TO:

Gemma walks back to Audrey with a poker face.

Audrey looks triumphant; but Gemma smiles, revealing a napkin with Owen's phone number and address.

AUDREY

I want to see if the method can really work on anyone. I'm talking a *relationship*.

Gemma laughs at Audrey being so brazen.

GEMMA

No problem.

She heads for the door but glances at Owen, and he's looking at her. Smiling, she leaves with Mr. Jawline.

INT. MAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gemma is putting on her clothes. Mr. Jawline is naked in bed, watching, trying to hide his hurt feelings.

GEMMA

I'll text you.

MR. JAWLINE

(petulantly)

Only after I text you first.

GEMMA

(punctuating with kisses)

Oh baby. You never wait long enough for me to text you first.

She heads out the door.

MR. JAWLINE

Last time I waited two weeks!

He flops back in bed. Checks the smell of his breath. Checks the smell of his pits. Nothing's wrong... he's baffled. He casually enjoys another sniff of his pits.

INT. CASSIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gemma is scooping ice cream into two bowls.

GEMMA

You should have seen their faces when all their guys snapped to attention. Cassie, you have to join the class!

CASSIE

Gemma, do you really have feelings for all these guys you "date"?

GEMMA

I'm very fond of them.

Cassie starts to speak but Gemma pre-empts her.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Look, Be the Guy, the whole method...  
It's just walking a mile in someone  
else's shoes. You can do that, right?

CASSIE

And I can go back to my own shoes  
when I want to?

GEMMA

Yeah, you get to change your mind.  
Hasn't anyone told you that before?

By the look on Cassie's face, it's the first time she  
understands what it means.

MONTAGE

INT. BISTRO - DAY

Nica's date, TED (an attractive preppy guy, mid 30s),  
is texting. Nica puts a hand on their SERVER's bicep.  
Ted leans forward and tries to show Nica something on  
his phone. She notices his effort and smiles.

INT. LIVERY CAB - DAY

Mirantha is sitting next to VIPUL, a cute Indian man  
(late 20s). Intent on a business call, she turns in a  
way that nicely displays her ass. He notices, and she  
notices that. She smiles.

EXT. BEER GARDEN - EVENING

Sugar Plus leans down to rumple a dog's fur. She  
checks for an effect on a ROCKER GUY: nothing.

So she turns to ZIGGY, a granola-hipster mix (late  
20s), and rumples his hair. Rocker Guy leans his chin  
on her shoulder. She smiles, but keeps rumpiling  
Ziggy's hair.

INT. SPORTS BAR - DAY

Audrey sits silently between two SPORTY GUYS having a terrific conversation with each other. Above her head a flat screen TV blares Competitive Fishing.

EXT. SAILBOAT IN NYC HARBOR - DAY

Penelope is texting angrily. Trent is at the wheel, ignoring her. A cute CABIN BOY climbs out of a hatch, and Penelope's face lights up. Trent notices and offers to let Penelope steer. She smiles saucily.

END MONTAGE

INT. GEMMA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gemma pulls cocktail glasses out of a cupboard while Owen takes gaming equipment out of his bag and hooks wires up to Gemma's computer system.

OWEN

So I admit, I'm flattered. A beautiful woman begs to see my demo -

GEMMA

Begs?

OWEN

Asks emphatically.

They grin at each other.

OWEN (CONT'D)

(smoothly)

So who were all those ladies that night we met?

GEMMA

You don't remember their names? You should cut back, slick.

OWEN

Not my ladies. Your ladies. The ones who were so interested in how you and I were doing.

GEMMA



I keep a coven of jealous girlfriends. Don't you?

Owen puts on a show of fake laughter.

OWEN

Wow. Do they teach you jokes at bartending school, or are you naturally this funny?

GEMMA

Whatever, you love it.

They share a flirty smile.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

How do you know I'm a bartender?

OWEN

I ate lunch at your bar once.

They gaze at each other for a second. Gemma is touched that he remembers her from that Monday lunch, and Owen is shyly proud that he confessed it.

The last thing Owen pulls out of his bag is a set of fingertip sensors like the ones for Redneck College. He hooks them up and puts them on.

An image of tangled wires appears onscreen.

OWEN (CONT'D)

OK, so the game is called "Bomb Squad."

He moves his fingers and onscreen, one virtual hand feels out a wire while the other virtual hand moves a pair of wire clippers. Owen looks at Gemma and she is leaning forward, already entranced.

LATER

Empty cocktail glasses sit on the coffee table. Gemma is wearing the fingertip sensors, chewing on a plastic cocktail monkey, and staring at the screen. There are more wires in the game now, and they're much more tangled. She moves her fingers very gingerly.

Owen grins.

OWEN  
(suddenly)  
Cool, right?!

Gemma's virtual hand jerks onscreen and the clippers slip and cut the wrong wire. There's a huge explosion.

GEMMA  
Damn it!!

She goes to punch Owen on the shoulder, remembers not to damage the sensors - he laughs - and she kicks him in the shin instead. But she's laughing, too.

LATER

Owen is taking notes as Gemma talks.

GEMMA  
But then the level where the wires are glowing in the dark, the colors of the wires are still too obvious -

Owen checks his watch.

OWEN  
Crap, this is awesome, but I meant to do laundry tonight too. You a fan of laundromats?

GEMMA  
Uh, sure. So when the wires cross-

They get ready to go as she talks.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - NIGHT

Owen and Gemma are laughing over wine in two plastic Muppets mugs. Owen pauses for a moment, gazing at her. He leans in close.

OWEN  
(flirty, whispers)  
More.

GEMMA  
(flirty, whispers)  
More what?

MONTAGE

EXT. WEST VILLAGE - UPS BUILDING - DAY

Owen, holding a yellow slip, is standing in a long LINE OF PEOPLE. Gemma walks up the long line, peering at faces, and finally finds him. She does a horribly ugly Quasimoto impression. Owen fakes like he's grossed out, then starts dry-humping her like a dog until she's helpless with laughter. People in the line move away from them.

INT. CHELSEA - B & H TECH STORE - DAY

Owen is holding up gadgets and waxing poetic about them to Gemma. His passion and joyfulness are turning her on; she looks him in the eye and tongues a corner of her mouth. He stops mid-gesture, spellbound.

INT. MIDTOWN LIBRARY (THE UGLY ONE) - DAY

Gemma looks around and sighs. She finds Owen browsing through the New Fiction. He gives her an innocent smile. She can't stop herself from smiling back.

She walks up, stands next to him, and sneaks him a hip flask. He cracks up and sneaks a slug of liquor. They see a LIBRARIAN looking at them and run for the exit.

INT. OWEN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Owen's living room is half full of computer equipment. The other half is overrun with healthy plants in pots. Owen comes in and smiles to himself as he takes off his coat. He sits down near the plants and laughs a little bit, remembering Gemma.

Then he inspects the leaves of the plants and picks up a book off a nearby stack. It's *A Wrinkle in Time*, and he starts reading it out loud. To the plants.

END MONTAGE

INT. UPPER WEST SIDE - THE SHAKE SHACK - DAY

Gemma and the Students, including Cassie, are eating hot dogs and shakes. The Students are excited, showing off texts and telling each other about their dates, except Audrey, who is passing out pieces of paper.

AUDREY

Class contact sheets! Class contact sheets!

Connor is next to Penelope, trying to make eye contact with all the Students while seeming nonchalant. Gemma smiles at his attempt to have game.

Penelope decides she's going to be clever and test Gemma with a hard question.

PENELOPE

So when can we sleep with them?

The Students echo her question. Gemma chews her straw until they hush.

GEMMA

Well, before I answer that, I need to cover a related topic. Which is: Only blow him if you like him.

Some Students gasp; the others laugh.

AUDREY

Should I write that down?!

GEMMA

Definitely. Because sometimes a girl convinces herself that she likes a guy when the truth is, she's waiting to find out if *he* likes *her*. If she's desperate, she'll lie to herself.

Gemma notices Audrey looking uncomfortable, almost sad, but doesn't call her on it.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

So. When can you have sex? The answer is... Whenever you want.

STUDENTS

Really??

MIRANTHA

But they only care about the chase!

AUDREY

What about the three-month rule?

PENELOPE

That's why you date more than one guy, so you can sacrifice some of them to the Sex God while you're waiting for one of them to commit.

GEMMA

Oh god, don't treat guys like back-up plans. They're people. With souls.

CASSIE

I think you should wait until he really cares about you.

CONNOR

How can you tell if they really care?

CASSIE

When he tells you you're the only one and he's never felt like this.

CONNOR

Oh my god. I'm a girl.

GEMMA

OK, first of all, Connor, yes. Huge yes. Welcome to the class. Secondly, guys, it's fun to take the plunge! The not knowing, the not being sure, is what makes it hot. But then guys get distant after sex, right?

All the Students nod, and a few sigh.

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
Easy fix. Don't spend the night.

Pause.

NICA  
But that means no morning sex.

GEMMA  
Yup.

STUDENTS  
Awwwwwwwww!

GEMMA  
Small price to pay. That way you're  
the one being distant and he's the  
one missing you.

AUDREY  
So ladies, and Connor, Lesson 3 is No  
Morning Sex, Ever.

GEMMA  
Well, it's more like, Leave Him  
Wanting More. If you have sex in the  
afternoon, leave after dinner. OK,  
everyone ready to go?

Everybody looks at Penelope, who is taking a gigantic,  
very uncouth bite of her hot dog.

INT. PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - DAY

Cassie is looking around anxiously.

Connor pops out of the kitchen, carrying a crate of  
beer.

CASSIE  
Hey, is Gemma here?

CONNOR  
Uh, no. Is there anything I can help  
you with?

CASSIE

Um, that's OK, just tell her I stopped by.

Cassie starts to walk away.

Connor takes a nervous step toward her.

CONNOR

Wait! I wanted to tell you, I liked your idea at the last meeting. You know, on a date, finding a way to say your names together in a sentence.

Cassie walks back to the bar, smiling.

CASSIE

Oh, that was just one thought.

CONNOR

Isn't it funny how both the names Connor and Cassie are classic names that have become more popular in the last few years?

Cassie giggles, touched by the effort. She sits down.

CASSIE

Yes, it is funny. Although Cassie is short for Cassandra.

CONNOR

Well both are awesome names. I don't mean Connor and Cassie, but Cassie and Cassandra. I mean Connor is a fine name, I get kind of sick of it sometimes. I feel like it's some old Irish man's name, sitting alone at a pub. Whoa, sorry, I'm just going off.

CASSIE

It's OK. Thank you for the compliment. And I like the name Connor, it's sweet.

CONNOR

Thanks.

They smile, feeling butterflies in their stomachs.

CASSIE

So um, hey, I have this date tonight with this guy I've had a crush on for a while and I'm trying to figure out what kind of restaurant to go to.

Connor tries to hide his disappointment.

CONNOR

You're picking the place?

CASSIE

Well yeah, isn't that what guys do?

CONNOR

I don't know, I do, although we've established I'm really the girl.

Cassie tries to hide her laughter. Connor regroups, stands up straight, and actually plays it cool.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

But on my dates lately I've been the guy and I pick the restaurants. But that's just me.

Cassie is not sure what to make of this.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

Italian is always a good safe bet, maybe Thai.

Connor shrugs and starts putting glasses away. Cassie gets up awkwardly.

CASSIE

All right, well, thanks.

CONNOR

No problemo.

MONTAGE



INT. NICA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Ted tries to kiss Nica but she's got mouthwash. He looks confused and turns away. She looks at his hot naked butt in the mirror and wilts, but lets him go.

INT. MIRANTHA'S LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - DUSK

Mirantha and Vipul are making out in bed.

INT. ZIGGY'S BATHROOM - SHOWER STALL - DAY

Ziggy joins Sugar Plus in the shower. She lays a deep, soulful kiss on him, then turns off the water. He looks befuddled as she steps out of the stall.

INT. MIRANTHA'S LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - DUSK

Mirantha sits bolt upright in bed. Vipul pulls her back down, and she has no resistance.

INT. TRENT'S MESSY APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Penelope kisses Trent and leaves. He shuts the door and stands at a loss, looking around his apartment. He tentatively picks up socks and mail from the floor.

INT. MIRANTHA'S LUXURIOUS BEDROOM - DUSK

Mirantha's alarm clock blares. She leaps out of bed before she weakens again. Vipul, totally confused, checks the time.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Audrey sits alone in bed, staring out the window. She tries to interest herself in a Room Service menu.

END MONTAGE

INT. 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET CITY POOL - DAY

Owen is standing in the shallow end of the pool. Middle-aged Chinese, Russian, and Jewish LADIES bob around in floaties... He's teaching them how to swim.

OWEN

Ladies, today I want to see you go to the end of the pool.

RUSSIAN LADY

And we want to see you date a good girl.

JEWISH LADY

The girls who meet you here, feh!

Owen rolls his eyes.

OWEN

Look, I get it. I understand women. I like them. I know what works for me and I know what works for them. I know what I'm capable of. I don't need to look for something different-

MRS. SU

Oh, you are looking for a girl who can still surprise you!

MRS. SU gooses him under the water. He yelps and the ladies giggle.

OWEN

Is your acupuncturist on vacation again, Mrs. Su?

Mrs. Su titters and the other ladies guffaw.

INT. QUEENS COUNTRY CLUB - LOBBY - NIGHT

Gemma walks in, wearing a striking red dress. She's searches the room, full of anticipation. She spots a smiling Owen, looking dapper in jeans and a suit jacket. They go to each other.

OWEN

You look incredible.

GEMMA

You're not so bad yourself.

OWEN

Well thank you.

GEMMA

So whose wedding is it?

Owen stares at her confused; then he gets it.

OWEN

Oh no, no, sorry. It's a reception for game developers. It's usually a great way to network with other companies. Most people bring a date.

GEMMA

Oh right, well, makes sense.

BALLROOM

They enter the ballroom and survey the CROWD.

OWEN

(low voice)

So do you mind trying to talk to a few guys I point out? You just need to flirt with them a little, then casually mention me.

GEMMA

This is why you invited me?

OWEN

Yeah, with your charm you could convince these guys of anything. The first one is right over there.

Owen refers to MAN 2, older, balding, at the bar. Gemma grins wickedly and walks over to Man 2. She's smiling and flirty; then she nods toward Owen.

Owen looks down, pretending not to notice them.

Gemma strides to the back entrance and exits. Owen watches, confused. Man 2 approaches him.

MAN 2

You don't have to be embarrassed. I think you're cute, too.

LOBBY

A furious Owen bursts out of the ballroom. Gemma is close to the front entrance and he runs to her.

OWEN

What the hell?

Gemma keeps walking.

GEMMA

I thought it might be better if you flirted with that one.

Owen grabs Gemma's arm and turns her around.

OWEN

Are you mad at me? Come on, it was just one favor.

Gemma shakes her arm loose and stomps out. A second later Owen follows her.

EXT. QUEENS COUNTRY CLUB - NIGHT

Gemma hurries down the walkway.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Gemma, don't you think you're overreacting?

Gemma turns around.

GEMMA

I'm just over Middle School dating, OK?

She gets in Owen's face.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

If you want to date me, date me. And if you don't, let's just cut our ties here.

Owen stares at her; he opens his mouth, trying to get words out. Gemma starts walking away.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Well, it's been... interesting.

Owen runs in front of Gemma, blocking her.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Look, I really can't -

Owen grabs her and gives her a magically intense kiss. In a daze, Gemma takes a moment to open her eyes. Owen's eyes open slowly too, and he smiles at Gemma like a bashful child. He looks down, embarrassed.

OWEN

At least give a guy a second to respond.

Gemma gently licks his ear. He smiles, excited.

INT. GEMMA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gemma and Owen move rhythmically together, grinding slowly on the bed. They kiss passionately as they wrap themselves around each other.

LATER

In their post-coital bliss, Owen spoons Gemma.

GEMMA

(affectionately)  
Gamer dork.

OWEN

Serving wench.

They lie in each other's arms, laughing.

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - DAWN

Owen, now holding a pillow, slowly wakes up. He notices the empty bed and looks around, confused.

He sees a pink post-it on the nightstand next to his Tetris cuff links. The note reads: "*Had to make my epic sangria for a party... don't worry, I'll let you try some.*"

Owen stares at the note, perplexed. He shakes his head, looks at the note again... did she really just pull that move?!

INT. EAST VILLAGE - THE ALPHABET LOUNGE - NIGHT

Nica, Mirantha, Sugar Plus, and Gemma are at a table.

Ted, Vipul, and Ziggy are at the bar ordering drinks and having a great time with each other.

The girls notice the boys having fun and they're thrilled. Gemma grins, seeing how happy they all are. Her method is working!

SUGAR PLUS

Gemma, didn't you want to bring anyone?

GEMMA

Nah, I'm bored with all of them.

MIRANTHA

(gently)

What about the challenge guy?

GEMMA

Owen? He's falling, just like I told Miss lovely Audrey he would. But I'm taking a little post-sex distance. He's too spoiled for the simple no-morning-sex treatment.

She's bluffing a bit, but none of the girls notice.

NICA

God you're disciplined. You know that's true of every career bartender

I've ever met? They're the most  
efficient, organized people...

Nica keeps talking but Gemma just stares into space.

INT. SHOE REPAIR SHOP - DAY

Cassie is waiting for the SHOP OWNER to find her  
shoes. She's on her phone, trying not to be anxious.

CASSIE  
(being a girl)  
So, would you like, maybe we, I mean,  
(being a guy)  
hey. Do you wanna hang out tomorrow?  
Or not, whatever.

She hears the response and dances a little bit.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
(being a girl)  
Oh yay! I mean...

Her eyes pass over a framed photo of a Puerto Rican  
grandfather on the wall.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
(being a guy)  
Cool. Uh, text me. Cool. Uh,  
(fake Nuyorican accent)  
Fantastico!

She hangs up and mouths "fantastico," baffled as to  
why she tried to be a Puerto Rican grandfather.

INT. GEMMA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gemma adds red liquid to yellow in a blender. She  
looks at her phone: no new messages. That's a first.

She slams her finger down on a button and the blender  
ROARS. After a moment she hits Stop and takes a sip  
out of the blender. She nods in approval.

Her phone plays "Just a Gigolo," Louis Armstrong.  
Gemma slams the blender down and runs to her phone.

She looks at the new text: *"Nice post-it. U could make me an alcoholic. U could make me a lot of things."*

Gemma shakes her head and smiles at the irony.

GEMMA

No he didn't.

She starts texting back. Then she looks at her text and deletes it. She begins typing quickly again, stares at her message, and rolls her eyes.

She throws her phone onto her couch with a frustrated groan.

MONTAGE

EXT. 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE. - BREEZE THAI RESTAURANT - DUSK

Cassie waves madly at Connor, who's sitting at a table inside. He waves back with a big grin.

INT. 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE. - BREEZE THAI RESTAURANT - DUSK

Connor stands up, but now both of them are Being Guys and they're not sure how to greet each other. Eventually they fist pound each other, badly.

They sit down and both of them lean in over the table. But that's uncool, so they lean back like teenagers.

Then Connor knocks over his water glass and reverts to his nervous, sweet self. Cassie knocks over her glass, too, accidentally on purpose. They grin at each other.

THAI SERVERS look at the mess and shake their heads.

LATER

Connor and Cassie share plates and chat nonstop.

LATER

A Thai Server drops the check and Connor, smiling, whips it off the table before Cassie can touch it.



EXT. TIMES SQUARE STREET - NIGHT

Cassie and Connor are back to Being Guys, striding down the street in silence, elbows held in tight.

Cassie stops walking. Connor looks up at a marquee and sees *Mary Poppins*. He's surprised, and so excited that he does a Dick Van Dyke move. Then he tries to recover his cool machismo.

Cassie grabs his jacket and kisses him.

And he kisses her back so slowly, so focused, suddenly he's Cary Grant....

END MONTAGE

EXT. PENELOPE'S TERRACE - DAY

Gemma is writing on the white-erase board.

GEMMA

Things are moving along for most of you so I thought it might be good -

MIRANTHA

Um, Gemma?

Mirantha has puffy eyes and looks a mess.

GEMMA

Yeah? You OK?

Mirantha bursts into tears.

MIRANTHA

He got weird on me, believe me, I know when a guy is getting weird, I just didn't think Vipul would. It was going so well.

SUGAR PLUS

Same here. I hate to put this out there, but Zig is sending me some strange vibes.

NICA

Yeah, Ted is taking forever to reply to texts, that's never a good sign.

GEMMA

No, it's not.

She thinks for a moment.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

You're all at a turning point with these guys, and they know it. Any hint of smothering them and they run.

She starts writing on the board again.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

You know what you need?

Gemma backs up. The board reads: *THE PERFECT MIXED MESSAGE.*

GEMMA (CONT'D)

This might sound juvenile, but if used at just the right time...

LATER

Gemma stands alone, pensive, staring at the sky.

GEMMA (O.S.)

It can work wonders. You just have to come up with the perfect combination of aloofness and interest. It isn't always easy but it can result in just the right amount of intrigue.

Gemma types a message and rereads it, satisfied. The message is: a smiley face. That's it.

EXT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Gemma walks out of the building and her phone suddenly rings: a real ring, not a song. This is the first time we've heard Gemma's phone ring. Even she's surprised.

GEMMA

Wow, Owen LaPointe! An actual phone conversation?

OWEN (O.S.)

I know, crazy, huh? Work has been nuts. How's your rock candy vodka?

GEMMA

It's due for a tasting. But yeah, I've been up to my eyeballs, too -

Gemma beams as she chats, walking down the street.

INT. SOHO - YOUNG DESIGNERS' MARKET - DAY

Cassie and Gemma browse through tables. Gemma is focusing on her phone; she's smiling over a text. Cassie is a little distant, too.

CASSIE

So how are you doing with the player?

GEMMA

Oh, fine. Head over heels. How's your co-worker?

CASSIE

Fine. I'm not paying too much attention to him.

GEMMA

Good job.

CASSIE

Yeah. Actually, I kind of wanted to ask you... No, never mind.

Pause.

There's a coolness between them now; they're both keeping secrets, and they both know it.

GEMMA

(a little aggressively)

I'm not going to bartend forever, you know that, right? I mean, I'm not a "career bartender." It's not my life.

CASSIE

Um, that was weeks ago.

GEMMA

I just want to make sure you know.

CASSIE

OK. I know.

Silence. The coolness gets colder.

GEMMA

Oh hey, you want to have brunch tomorrow? I could use some girl time.

CASSIE

Uh no, sorry, I have to buy new underwear.

Cassie turns away quickly. Gemma doesn't push her but she feels shut out.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Gemma is behind the bar, rocking a shaker, not smiling: all business. She pours the drink for a SUAVE MAN who gazes at her... but she's oblivious.

She wipes down the bar. A crowd of REGULARS watch her every move but she's a million miles away. She picks up a pen cap and starts chewing on it.

After a moment she spits it out, disgusted. She wipes her tongue with a napkin, which turns black with ink.

GEMMA

Ewww, seriously?

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

Owen passes a group of HOT CHICKS, mid-20s, wearing dresses that barely cover them.

HOT CHICK

Owen! Hey! Long time no see!

OWEN

Oh hey! How you doing?

HOT CHICK

I'm awesome, I booked a tampon commercial. You want to hang with us? We're doing Jäger bombs to celebrate.

She plasters her body against his. For a second Owen fully appreciates that.

OWEN

Oh you know I love those. But um, I actually have to go.

The Hot Chick is confused. Owen detaches from her.

HOT CHICK

Well, call me!

OWEN

Good seeing you.

He walks away.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Gemma is trying to wipe ink off her shirt and getting frustrated. She looks up and sees Owen coming in. Their eyes meet and they both let smiles slip out.

A cow MOOS from Redneck College.

Owen starts to sit but Gemma moves him down the bar away from her regulars, who are giving him looks of death. She pours him a drink and leans over the bar.

GEMMA

What, are you doing errands in my neighborhood now?

OWEN

Wait a second, is your tongue *black*?  
Oh, that is hot. Gimme some of that!

He tries to grab her and she beats him off, laughing.  
They're in their own little world.

INT. OWEN'S LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Owen is reading *Much Ado About Nothing* to his plants, acting out all the parts and cracking himself up. He glances at his watch and is shocked at the time. He flings down the book and sprints from the room.

MONTAGE

INT. CEREMONY HALL - BAR - NIGHT

In a GEN-X CROWD of power brokers, Gemma and Owen are waiting for drinks and talking nonstop.

Gemma is wearing a beautiful, delicate dress. She's softer and sweeter than usual... almost girly. Owen's wearing a suit and has one arm around Gemma's waist.

GAME ROOM

A bunch of games have been rigged around an elegant side room. Gemma is sitting on Owen's lap while they share the steering wheel of a car chase game. They're far more interested in how close they are to each other, and the virtual car is moving really slowly.

DINING ROOM TABLE

Gemma and Owen canoodle at a table that seats eight. Gemma sexily unties a palm frond napkin ring while Owen whispers to her. The other Gen-X Guests at the table can't take their eyes off them.

END MONTAGE

STAGE

Owen joins a PRESENTER up on a little stage.

PRESENTER

We have a new award this year: The  
Best Idea I Can't Talk About Yet.

The audience laughs as he holds up a silver egg.

PRESENTER (CONT'D)

No, really. I can't tell you *why* Owen  
LaPointe is getting this -

DINING ROOM TABLE

Owen is back at the table with the silver egg in front  
of him. He and Gemma are making the whole table laugh;  
other tables are looking over jealously. GIRL 1,  
tattooed and rockabilly, leans in to Gemma.

GIRL 1

You guys are such a Power Couple!  
What do you do?

Gemma has never been embarrassed in her life... but  
she is now.

GEMMA

Uh, I'm in sales -

OWEN

She's the wind beneath my wings.

He smiles evilly; she smiles back and shakes her head.

The conversation changes. When no one's looking,  
Gemma's smile vanishes. She looks at everyone having a  
good time and feels lost, even as Owen puts his arm  
around her. He notices her mood change and takes his  
arm away.

Gemma starts chewing on her palm frond but stops  
herself.

INT. GEMMA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Owen spoons Gemma in bed. Gemma's eyes pop open. She  
looks at the alarm clock, which says 4:12.

A sleeping Owen lets go of Gemma and turns over. Gemma anxiously looks over her shoulder to see Owen as far on the other side of the bed as possible. Gemma sits up and lets out a weighty breath.

INT. GEMMA'S ROOM - MORNING

A groggy Gemma wakes up to see that the other side of the bed is empty. Owen is putting on his pants.

GEMMA  
What's going on?

OWEN  
I've got an emergency conference call for work.

He leans over and pecks her on the cheek.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
We'll um... we'll speak soon.

Gemma fakes a small smile.

GEMMA  
Yeah.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Gemma counts money next to the register.

The door opens and she looks over hopefully, but it's only an OLDER COUPLE coming in. She's disappointed.

INT. CORPORATE BUILDING LOBBY - DAY

Gemma and Owen sit at a table, eating sandwiches.

Owen is texting while Gemma watches him.

OWEN  
Thanks for the lunch surprise.

GEMMA



No problem, I mean, I was in the area.

OWEN

It was awesome of you. Wish I didn't have to go back to work so soon.

Owen puts down his phone, but is still distracted.

GEMMA

Yeah. So did you still want to go to the movies this week?

OWEN

Oh yeah, I just have to check what my week's like.

GEMMA

OK, cool, just let me know.

INT. GEMMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gemma paces while she's on the phone. She takes a sip of the beer she's holding. She quickly pulls the bottle away from her lips and swallows her beer.

GEMMA

Hey, it's me, I just wanted to make sure you got my text. I was supposed to work tonight but got out of it. So anyway, I was just seeing if you were at your friend's party, I know you had thought it might be cool if I came. Anyway, just call or text me when you can.

Gemma hangs up her phone and takes a swig of her beer.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING BATHROOM - NIGHT

Gemma is on her phone, staring at the mirror.

GEMMA

Hey, me again. Sorry to be a pain, I just wasn't sure what time you were going to come by. I'm off now -

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Owen sits at his computer. He pushes Play on his phone and listens to the end of Gemma's message.

GEMMA (O.S.)

- so just let me know when you can meet up.... I was going to have a drink anyway. Just let me know.

Owen hangs up and rubs his hands in his hair. He stares out a window. Then he inspects some of his plants. Then he turns back to his computer.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Gemma is drowning in CUSTOMERS. Chomping on a straw, she studies order slips, trying to remember if she filled them. She puts the straw on the counter and curses under her breath. Still unsure about the slips, she starts mixing drinks and breaks a glass.

GEMMA

Shit!

She steps around the broken glass to put the drinks on a tray, adds straws, and hands it all to Connor.

CONNOR

Um, Gemma?

He holds up a straw he pulled out of a drink. It's the straw she was chewing on.

Gemma closes her eyes for a second, overwhelmed.

LATER

Mirantha, Nica, and Sugar Plus sit at a table, drinking and laughing. Their phones are absent.

Gemma sits down and puts a glass of whiskey and her phone in front of her.

SUGAR PLUS

Aren't you off now?

GEMMA

Yeah, but I thought I'd hang out a little while.

Gemma compulsively checks her phone. The other girls exchange looks, but play it cool to Gemma's face.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - ICE SKATING RINK - DAY

Cassie and Connor ice skate next to each other.

CONNOR

See, if you bend your knees and lean a little forward, it balances you.

CASSIE

Oh my little skating coach.

Cassie kisses Connor. They hold hands as they skate.

CONNOR

What time did you say the meeting was starting?

CASSIE

At three, why?

Cassie follows Connor's gaze: Gemma is walking in.

CASSIE

Oh crap. Um, OK. I'll go, you keep skating. We never saw each other.

Cassie skates away quickly, slipping a bit.

LATER

Cassie and Gemma are at the least populated curve of the rink. Gemma is closer to the middle while Cassie faces out, protecting Gemma from being seen.

There is still a coolness in their friendship.

GEMMA

What's your co-worker's name?

CASSIE

Don't use his! Use your guy. It'll  
make Audrey mad.

Gemma starts carving Owen's name into the ice with her  
skate. Cassie turns and sees her downcast face.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I miss you.

Gemma looks up out of her dejection.

GEMMA

I miss you too.

They smile at each other, then Gemma keeps carving.  
Cassie turns around to watch for guards again.

CASSIE

Is everything OK with Owen?

GEMMA

I hate him.

Cassie almost turns around, but stops herself. She  
thinks carefully before she speaks.

CASSIE

Do you hate him, or do you hate how  
much you like him?

Gemma is too floored by that question to lie or front.

GEMMA

I've been so needy, Cassie. I mean, I  
can see myself getting clingy but I  
can't stop it. I'm losing it.

Cassie doesn't turn, giving Gemma some privacy.

CASSIE

Maybe your losing it has nothing to  
do with Owen. What's really bothering  
you?

Cassie gives Gemma a knowing look. Gemma turns away and glides to a stop at the end of Owen's name.

GEMMA

(scared)

I need to quit my job before it turns into a career, don't I?

Cassie can hear Gemma's fear, but she keeps everything light and easy.

CASSIE

No harm in seeing what's out there, right? You're always good at trying new things. Multitasking, you know?

GEMMA

(laughs)

By multitasking, do you mean bisexuality?

Cassie laughs too, and Gemma, smiling, starts carving an exclamation point after Owen's name.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Yeah. I can do that. I can do this!

She puts the point on the exclamation point.

LATER

The Students stand outside the rink; Connor just inside it. Cassie and Gemma stand by the carved name.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

OK, Lesson Five is big. So big that -

PENELOPE

Gemma, we've been comparing notes -

NICA

All our guys are disappearing!

MIRANTHA

The mixed message worked but after -

PENELOPE

Fix this.

They are all petrified, too scared even for tears.

GEMMA

Things heated up again after the mixed messages?

STUDENTS

Yeah!

GEMMA

Did you try to keep that heat going?

STUDENTS

Yeah! Of course!

GEMMA

Aw, guys. What was the first lesson? Audrey.

AUDREY

The More You Like Him, The Less You Do.

GEMMA

You started Being the Girl again, guys. Just go back and do the method again.

MIRANTHA

Back to square one?! On different guys?

GEMMA

No! Same guy, same tools, different phase.

She checks their faces. They're hopeful... and cold.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

And that's all you need right now. Go find some coffee!

The Students talk excitedly as they disperse. Cassie wants to skate after Connor but Gemma takes her by the elbow. She makes sure Penelope is far away.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

So I need a strategy for that multitasking, you know what I mean?

CASSIE

Well, start with who you know.

INT. EAST VILLAGE - THE SIDEWALK CAFÉ - NIGHT

Sugar Plus and Gemma sit by the bar.

SUGAR PLUS

So after a show when I'm vibing with my fans, Zig just gets so negative.

GEMMA

Easy. Bring a girlfriend to your show, introduce him, and then he has a friend to talk to while you work.

SUGAR PLUS

Gemma, you are a gift from our Ancient Animal Ancestors. Hey, I'm on, can you stay?

Gemma nods and Sugar Plus walks onto a stage area. But in Gemma's mind, Gemma herself takes the stage, dressed like Sugar Plus, holding a guitar, turning on the mike. She starts to sing over minor chords, as slow and sweet and white as Joni Mitchell: Outkast.

GEMMA

"Ain't nobody dope as me, I'm just so fresh, so clean"

AUDIENCE

Go home!

An AUDIENCE GUY throws an empty can of PBR.

INT. CORPORATE OFFICE - DAY

Gemma peers through a window into a boardroom where Mirantha, standing at the head of a conference table,

is motioning "five minutes" to her. Gemma scans the groomed and tailored EXECUTIVES inside...

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

And now Gemma is leading the meeting, wearing a smart suit, sorting documents, and chewing the hell out of a giant binder clip. She looks up to see repulsed faces.

GEMMA

What?

INT. WHOLESALE FLORIST'S WAREHOUSE - DAY

Gemma and Nica, in an apron, lean on a table. Gemma's chewing on a plastic floral pick for holding cards.

NICA

I think Ted's getting serious -

GEMMA

That's fantastic!

NICA

And I'm terrified! What is wrong with me? I thought I was crazy about him -

GEMMA

You are! You're just so used to things *not* going well! Having your dreams come true is totally unfamiliar and scary.

Nica suddenly jogs across the room to an EMPLOYEE.

NICA

NO! Not that one, the lilac!

Gemma looks around the warehouse...

And sees herself in an apron, holding pruning shears. She regards her work, a topiary: a naked man, poorly trimmed. She purses her lips and tilts her head. What she's looking at should not be hanging at that angle.



Coming out of the dream, Gemma shakes her head and grins. Nica rejoins her.

NICA

Wow. OK. So what do I do to be less... scared?

GEMMA

(smiles)

Bite down on something hard.

She hands Nica a floral pick and Nica smiles back.

INT. PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - OFFICE - DAY

Gemma is sitting in a chair next to Audrey, who is frantically typing emails and filing papers.

AUDREY

I'm not sure why you want to watch what I do. Unless you're thinking about changing jobs.

She laughs sarcastically.

Penelope's voice blares through an iPhone on the desk.

PENELOPE (O.S.)

Audrey. Audrey! Audrey!

AUDREY

(jumpy)

Yes?

PENELOPE (O.S.)

Do you see this?

The screen on the phone is a whirlwind of movement as it shows a roomful of tables in a restaurant.

AUDREY

Oh my God.

PENELOPE

They gave my favorite table to some little French model. You need to call Gus's private line because Trent is

coming back from the bathroom and I don't have time for this. Also make sure my facial is scheduled for five. Don't fuck that up too.

She hangs up and Audrey puts her phone down.

AUDREY

You want to call the spa?

Gemma stands up.

GEMMA

Nope, I think I'm done.

AUDREY

(viciously)

Got a date with the player?

GEMMA

Something like that.

INT. 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET CITY POOL - LOBBY - DAY

Gemma is so nervous, she's chewing on her hair as she listens to her phone. She scans the lobby, then peers at the pool and the swimmers.

GEMMA

(timidly)

I can do whatever I want, right? It doesn't matter what he's doing. Or not doing. If he likes me he'll deal.

She notices Owen standing at the shallow end with his ladies. He's demonstrating breaststroke arms.

Gemma grins, and puts a hand over her smile.

LATER

Owen walks out of the locker room. Gemma's phone is gone and she's anxious again, chewing on a rolled-up brochure. Owen is not smiling as he approaches.

OWEN

Hey. What are you doing here?

GEMMA

Sorry I just showed up, I probably should've called. I knew your pool was in Chelsea and this is the only one...I'm not stalking you or anything, I just thought we should... I mean, I just wanted to say hi.

OWEN

I'm just a little... I've had a lot on my mind. Work stuff.

GEMMA

Oh, OK.

Owen takes the brochure out of her mouth and kisses her like he was starving for it.

OWEN

I'm glad you came by.

The Ladies walk by, giggling. He tries to ignore them.

MRS. SU

(to Gemma)

He likes *you*!

JEWISH LADY

The other girls, he just pats on the tuckus!

RUSSIAN LADY

(to Owen)

Now you are being a man.

As they leave, every lady pats Owen on his tuckus. Gemma doubles over laughing.

EXT. 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET - DAY

Gemma and Owen are walking away from the pool.

GEMMA

I can't bartend anymore, I'm so done, but I don't know what else to do!

OWEN

What about your vodka infusions?  
Could you sell them?

GEMMA

No...

OWEN

Why not? They're great! You can -

GEMMA

(firmly)

No, I mean, of course I could. I just  
don't want to.

OWEN

You're making excuses -

Gemma is suddenly calm, back to being normal Gemma.

GEMMA

No I'm not. I'm just really not into  
pounding the pavement, drumming up  
business for something I enjoy doing  
for fun. I mean, if you want me to  
overanalyze it and make up  
justifications for my feelings and be  
all girly about it -

OWEN

Only if you want to.

GEMMA

I don't.

They smile, and kiss.

As they walk on, a CUTE GIRL passes by and Owen  
notices her. Gemma loses her smile, but as soon Owen  
looks at her, she fakes one.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Gemma sits alone on a bench. She covers her eyes with  
her hands and takes a deep breath.

THE SCREEN DISSOLVES

INT. PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Gemma is happily mixing drinks for a crowd of laughing CUSTOMERS. GIRL 2 stands up like she's at a talk show. Connor holds a microphone for her.

GIRL 2

All this time I've been pushing men away and didn't even know it. Gemma, you're a genius. How do you do it?

Gemma is now holding a microphone.

GEMMA

I just love helping people, I can't help it.

CUSTOMERS

Gem-ma! Gem-ma! Gem-ma!

GEMMA

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Audrey shoves the customers aside.

AUDREY

It's all a lie! She's a lie!

GEMMA

Audrey never listened to me, she didn't want to be helped!

Penelope is now standing next to Audrey.

PENELOPE

Ask her about her relationship!

The customers' smiles fade.

AUDREY

Miss Relationship Expert is nothing more than an insecure girl.

The customers back away from Gemma.

GEMMA

No! Wait! I'm more than that. I'm the  
guy, I'm not the girl, I'm the guy!

The customers leave while Audrey and Penelope laugh.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Gemma's eyes pop open and her head snaps up. She rubs  
her eyes and exhales, then walks away in a daze.

INT. GEMMA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gemma, depressed, is nibbling on the edge of a beer  
can and checking her email. Her silent phone is next  
to her. She sees an email from Owen and is pleasantly  
surprised, but all he sent was a link.

She clicks the link and it's an animated video made  
through the XtraNormal website, featuring two big-  
eyed, bobbing robots: a Gemma Bot holding a bottle of  
booze and an Owen Bot holding a joystick.

OWEN BOT

Would you like to go out on a date?

GEMMA BOT

You used the word "date."

OWEN BOT

Yes. Please do not run screaming.

Gemma grins.

INT. LOW-KEY, ELEGANT RESTAURANT - DUSK

Owen and Gemma have dressed up for each other... but  
right now Owen looks embarrassed and apologetic.

OWEN

OK, I have to confess. I fell off the  
grid for a while and... I liked your  
voicemails. I liked that you thought  
about me when I wasn't there.

Gemma stares, then punches him in the arm, hard.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I know I should have called you back.

GEMMA

Yeah, you should have.

OWEN

And I like being able to help you.  
With the whole career thing. Not that  
you need help, you don't, but you  
know, it's nice.

They smile at each other.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I still think it has to be something  
you're already doing.

GEMMA

Well... OK. There *is* this thing I do.  
I, uh, well, I kind of teach some  
girls how to date. Not really teach,  
just give them pointers, really. Just  
fun stuff, nothing big.

Owen laughs his ass off.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

It's not that funny.

OWEN

Yeah, but you're not normal. Like a  
normal girl. I mean, in a good way.

GEMMA

Yeah, in a freaking fantastic way.  
That's why I'm teaching them.

OWEN

So when we met, all those girls were  
students? Was I part of the lesson?

GEMMA

No! Not really. I mean, a very tiny  
bit. I was showing them how easy it  
is to strike up a conversation.

OWEN

So I was bait. But that was the last time, right?

Owen is serious. Gemma is scared but hides it.

GEMMA

Of course.

OWEN

Good.

He kisses her on the cheek.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Why don't you take your classes to a larger audience?

GEMMA

Eh. Too much of a spotlight... You know what the girls needed more than anything else? They needed to learn how to have a light touch. Like when you're playing Bomb Squad. Bomb Squad for lovers!

She moves her fingers like she's playing the game.

OWEN

That's not a bad idea.

GEMMA

Oh come on. You couldn't sell that.

OWEN

If you tweaked it, though...

Their eyes light up as they look at each other.

INT. LOW-KEY, ELEGANT RESTAURANT - THE BAR - NIGHT

Gemma and Owen sit at the bar by an aquarium full of fish. The bar is covered with empty glasses and a mess of napkins, coasters, straws, lemons, cherries, etc.



Gemma struggles to pick up a cherry with her fingertips without moving a napkin that's covering it.

GEMMA

OK. Two-player game called "Trust."  
You use the fingertip sensors to pull buried treasure out of a shipwreck, but you can't move *anything* else, like Pick-up Sticks.

Owen leans over Gemma to hold the napkin steady.

OWEN

But the other person can help you...

Gemma pulls out the cherry.

GEMMA

Right, working together to get the biggest jewels with the most points. Or you can race each other to get the other treasure.

Gemma pushes Owen off his stool, jumps to his side of the bar, and steals a cocktail umbrella. Owen sits up and glares at her with a small grin.

OWEN

Or you can steal each other's jewels. Or, you can fake working together and then, sabotage!

Owen kisses Gemma on the neck. As she's enjoying that he tweaks her breast and grabs the umbrella back.

GEMMA

You're evil.

OWEN

And there are 'gators attacking.

He nibbles on Gemma's ear and she giggles.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Cuz I love the 'gators.

GEMMA

But ultimately, you get the most points if you work together and luck out.

Gemma pulls a rock candy stick from the mess, grabs the umbrella, and places them in a cocktail glass.

OWEN

Sounds like true love.

Gemma hides her smile as Owen cleans up the bar.

OWEN (CONT'D)

So when are we getting together to plan the home version?

GEMMA

We don't need to schedule, whenever you have a minute -

OWEN

What about Thursday evening?

Gemma kisses him, and he kisses her back.

EXT. PENELOPE'S TERRACE - DAY

The Students are gathered and Gemma's at the front.

GEMMA

OK, I wanted to be at the skating rink but it's too damned cold. What I was going to show you there was an example of a Grand Gesture. The kind of move you make to let your guy know, Hey, it's Us now. Capital U.

NICA

"Us" as in we get to have morning sex again?

GEMMA

Yes! Exactly!

Everybody cheers.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

So a Grand Gesture could be like,  
carving his name into an ice rink.  
You take him skating, say something  
romantic, then show him his name.

CASSIE

I love that.

Gemma smiles.

Connor stands up, and he's nervous as hell.

CONNOR

How do you know when it's time to  
make the Grand Gesture?

Cassie pretends to take notes in her notebook.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

Because I think I'm in love -

He glances at Cassie. She's hiding in her notebook.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

And I want to tell her but I know the  
time has to be right for her too -

GEMMA

Connor, do what you're doing right  
now, that's a perfect Grand Gesture -

Connor's nervousness turns to sadness. He sits down.

CONNOR

Maybe I've just been fooling myself.  
Maybe I'm just a crazy Irish kid  
sitting in a bar drinking and  
thinking too much -

Cassie walks over to him and kisses him.

CASSIE

You're not. I'm in love with you too.

Connor leaps to his feet, knocking over his chair. He  
and Cassie embrace and the class cheers. Gemma cheers  
the loudest. Audrey looks close to tears.

MONTAGE

INT. THE SIDEWALK CAFÉ - DAY

Sugar Plus and a BARTENDER are building a big pyramid out of 40s bottles and thin pieces of cardboard.

SUGAR PLUS

Cuz our first date, we sat on a stoop  
and drank forties, isn't that cute?

The Bartender stops himself from rolling his eyes.

BARTENDER

He must be a great conversationalist.

INT. INDIAN RESTAURANT - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Mirantha is negotiating with a MANAGER as they gaze at a table that seats twenty.

EXT./INT. LIMO - DAY

Nica is filling a limo with flowers, making the back seat into a beautiful bower.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - DAY

Audrey is sitting at the bar, drinking alone - no Penelope, no Gemma, not even Connor.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Penelope is talking to a BAKERY OWNER in a shop full of wedding cakes. Penelope holds up her hand, indicating someone taller than she is.

END MONTAGE

INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gemma is on the phone. She's never been so anxious, and she's staring at Cassie like she's a lifeline.

GEMMA  
(into phone)  
Would you like to, I mean, how about  
if we -

Cassie nods encouragingly. Gemma squats on the floor.

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
(rushes it)  
Do you want to go on a double date  
with me and my friend Cassie?

She closes her eyes.

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
(fake cheerfulness)  
Oh great! She's looking forward to  
meeting you. Friday night. OK 'bye.

She hangs up. Cassie cheers.

Gemma sprawls on the floor and stares at the ceiling.

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
Oh. My. God. What am I doing?

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Gemma, Owen, Cassie, and Connor are sitting at a table  
full of desserts and wine, busting a gut laughing.

GEMMA  
So then Audrey says, white with  
shock, "Should I write that down?"

Everybody falls about laughing.

OWEN  
I have to see this. Can't I come  
disguised as a woman?

CONNOR  
I did!

They all laugh.

Connor gives Cassie a big kiss. She catches Gemma's eye and mouths, "Thank you."

Then Owen kisses Gemma's hand and he and Gemma disappear into each other's eyes for a minute.

Cassie notices.

CASSIE

I think I'm going to go to the bathroom.

GEMMA

OK.

Cassie gets up, hoping Gemma will get the hint.

CASSIE

Gemma, can you come with me?

GEMMA

(stands up)

Sure.

CONNOR, OWEN

Ooooooooooooooh...

... like Gemma's going to the principal's office.

BATHROOM HALL

CASSIE

Gemma, he really cares about you. You have to tell him.

GEMMA

The hell I do.

CASSIE

If you don't, your relationship will be based on a lie.

GEMMA

You get into one relationship and you're the expert now?

CASSIE

What if you actually made honesty your Grand Gesture?! I mean, how can you hide something so big from the man you're in love with?

GEMMA

I'm not in love with him! I mean, what about me reminds you of the slobbering mess that you're being?

There's a deadly pause.

CASSIE

If you're too scared to make your Grand Gesture, then you're a hypocrite.

Cassie goes back into the restaurant.

RESTAURANT

Cassie sits and tucks herself into Connor's arm. She doesn't say anything. The boys know something's up.

Gemma comes back to the table.

OWEN

Are you OK?

Gemma nods. She avoids his eyes and glances at Cassie instead. Cassie sees that Gemma's been crying.

Owen raises his eyebrows at Connor, who's baffled.

Gemma tries to be light and funny...

GEMMA

So how cool is Owen?

... but they see how serious she is. She needs them to like each other. She needs this little family to work.

CASSIE

Very cool, that's why you should be saying something else now.

GEMMA

Shut up, Cassie.

CASSIE  
Give it a real chance!

OWEN  
What's going on?

GEMMA  
Nothing.

CASSIE  
Owen, Gemma wasn't completely honest  
with you about when you started  
dating.

GEMMA  
Cassie!

OWEN  
(to Gemma)  
What does she mean?

Gemma is paralyzed.

CASSIE  
It has to do with the class, she -

OWEN  
She told me, she showed them how to  
break the ice with her cute little  
conversation.

Cassie starts to speak but Gemma stops her.

GEMMA  
Cassie! Owen, the thing is, my  
students... I met you for my class. I  
mean, not just to start a  
conversation. It was stupid, really,  
they wanted to know that I could,  
that I knew how to, you know, get  
anyone. I mean date anyone. Since  
you're...you know, you.

Owen looks at Gemma for a long time.



OWEN

So you've been showing off?

GEMMA

No -

OWEN

Are we impressing everybody so far?  
Should I do a few backflips? Slap a  
pie on my face?

Gemma is scared to look at him. She won't let herself  
cry so her face is fiercely cold.

CASSIE

She's been afraid to tell you because  
she cares about you, Owen.

OWEN

I find it funny that you're the one  
saying that.

(to Gemma)

Do you have anything else to say?

GEMMA

You weren't just some challenge.

OWEN

I wasn't a challenge at all. You got  
me in no time. I guess you are an  
expert.

Owen puts a few twenties on the table and leaves.

GEMMA

Owen!

Gemma starts to cry.

Cassie touches her shoulder and Gemma pulls away.  
Cassie and Connor quietly put on their coats to leave.

MONTAGE

INT. THE SIDEWALK CAFÉ - NIGHT

Sugar Plus is excited as Ziggy, weirded out but being polite, takes the top 40 off the pyramid of bottles. A piece of cardboard at the bottom bends... and the pyramid collapses. Sugar Plus panics.

INT. INDIAN RESTAURANT - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Mirantha ushers Vipul into the private room, where 18 of her RELATIVES boisterously greet him. Terror crosses Vipul's face, and Mirantha starts to worry.

EXT. LIMO - NIGHT

A chauffeur opens the limo door for Ted as Nica watches happily. Ted eyes the profusion of flowers.

TED

Looks like a hearse.

Nica is crushed.

INT. THE PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Audrey is at the bar, drinking alone again. Mr. Pinstripes sits down a few stools away. She doesn't notice him. She gets up to play Redneck College.

END MONTAGE

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Penelope is hosting dinner for Trent with a PRIVATE CHEF. Two CATERING SERVERS roll in a giant cake.

Penelope wriggles with glee; Trent looks doubtful.

The top of the cake opens and BILL MURRAY pops out.

Trent is shocked.

BILL MURRAY

Trent! You're Trent, right? Trent, you see that woman sitting next to you? She's in love with you! And she's paying me a lot of money to

tell you that, which means she must really love you, pal!

TRENT

Uh...

BILL MURRAY

What are you doing! Kiss her! Kiss that woman! KISS HER!

Trent leans away from Penelope, totally creeped out.

PENELOPE

Oh my god! OH MY GOD!

BILL MURRAY

Great. Lady, I bet you never stopped to wonder if I might be a little fragile. If Bill Murray can handle rejection. I am not coming out of this cake.

Bill Murray crouches down inside the cake. Then he pops his head back out.

BILL MURRAY (CONT'D)

No one will ever believe that this happened.

INT. GEMMA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Gemma huddles in bed, her eyes red from crying. She's clutching her phone. It buzzes and she desperately fumbles it open without looking. But she can't speak.

NICA (O.S.)

Gemma? It's Nica. Ted's done. I made my Grand Gesture and he fucking hated it. He said he needs time off to think. What the hell am I supposed to do now? Gemma? What the fuck!

Nica hangs up. Gemma huddles deeper, and the phone buzzes again. She looks at it, then answers.

GEMMA

Hi.

All she hears is Sugar Plus crying.

Gemma listens to the tears, trying to figure out what to say. But she just hangs up and starts to cry too.

The phone buzzes again. Gemma looks at it and doesn't answer. It rings again, and again. She picks up.

GEMMA

Penelope, I can't talk right now -

PENELOPE

You're fired.

Penelope hangs up. Gemma crawls under her blankets down to the foot of her bed and curls up fetal.

INT. GEMMA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gemma paces as she punches numbers into her phone. Her phone rings with "I Saw the Sign" and Cassie's picture appears. Gemma hits Ignore and continues typing.

"Mr. Boombastic," Shaggy, rings; she smiles. Then "Superfreak," Rick James, rings and she giggles.

Cassie's picture appears again.

GEMMA

Take a hint, Cass.

Gemma hits Ignore and searches her phone contacts. She clicks on Mr. Jawline, flops on the couch, and dials.

MR. JAWLINE (O.S.)

Yeah?

GEMMA

Well hello there, stranger.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

Gemma laughs an exaggerated laughter.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I'm the one who makes infusions, OK,  
buddy?! But as long as you don't  
steal my recipes, I guess it's fine.

Gemma's fake laughter flies out of her mouth again.

Her phone rings. Cassie appears again. Gemma sighs.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Babe, I should take this call, it's  
my mom. See you Thursday!

Annoyed, Gemma clicks over.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Cassie, seriously, what the fuck? I  
don't want to talk to you.

CASSIE (O.S.)

Just please hear me out.

EXT. MADISON SQUARE PARK - DAY

The park is at the ugly stage of early spring. Cassie  
and Gemma sit on a bench, drinking coffee. Gemma's  
eyes are fixed on her cup.

CASSIE

Can you at least look at me?

Gemma gives her a cold glare.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

God, you never let anything go, do  
you? I'm sorry, I know I didn't  
exactly help things. But don't you  
think he would've found out  
eventually?

Gemma tries to stay stubborn, but she thinks about it,  
and she knows Cassie's right.

GEMMA

What's wrong with me, Cass?

CASSIE

Nothing. You just don't always have all the answers. But how boring would it be if you did?

GEMMA

Hey, when did you get so wise?

CASSIE

Ouch.

Cassie playfully punches Gemma's arm.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I've always been wise. It's just hard for you to hear me when you do most of the talking.

GEMMA

I know.

Gemma hugs Cassie a long, needed hug.

CASSIE

I really am sorry I messed things up with Owen. Maybe you just need to give him a chance to make his own Grand Gesture.

GEMMA

Why would he ever do that?

CASSIE

Why would he care that you lied to him? He's in love with you, Gemma. He's just more scared than you are... if that's possible.

Gemma drops her head on Cassie's shoulder. Cassie rubs her hair.

GEMMA

It's all so hard. Maybe I just need to date Mr. Jawline, he was fun.

Gemma picks her head up with a naughty grin.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Maybe I just need a good lay.

Cassie rolls her eyes.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Gemma is standing around the corner from the Penny Darling Lounge, holding a couple of large, heavy bags.

Connor hurries over to meet her and they hug. He hands her cash and she hands him the bags, which CLINK.

GEMMA

Oh, don't be afraid of the pinecone infusion, just try it.

CONNOR

Gemma, I'm terrified of your pinecone infusion. I gotta go, see you soon!

Connor hurries away toward the lounge and Gemma, smiling, turns to walk away; but Audrey is approaching. There's no time to hide.

AUDREY

You're not getting your job back, are you?

GEMMA

No. And thanks so much for asking.

AUDREY

Well, you've probably blown through all the regulars -

GEMMA

(sighs)

Audrey, you can be such an annoying bitch, but I'm sorry.

Audrey is taken aback.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I knew you were struggling with the class but I didn't try to help you out. I didn't want to spend the extra time selling you on the method.

AUDREY  
(slowly)  
Well, I was pretty angry. That I had  
to take a class.

GEMMA  
In something that should be natural?

Audrey nods.

GEMMA (CONT'D)  
I do believe in the method, I just -

AUDREY  
Because you got that guy.

GEMMA  
No. I lost him. But I lost him  
because I was being a girl.

Audrey sees how vulnerable Gemma is.

AUDREY  
(kindly)  
Maybe you lost him because deep down,  
you don't want to use a method to get  
the right guy.

Gemma takes a big breath and lets it out. They smile  
at each other.

INT. PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - EVENING

Audrey is still smiling as she sits down alone at the  
bar. Mr. Pinstripes comes in and sits nearby.

INT. SIDEWALK CAFÉ - NIGHT

Sugar Plus is onstage with her guitar, singing with  
her eyes shut.

Gemma walks in and makes her way through the AUDIENCE.



Sugar Plus's eyes open as she finishes and she notices Gemma, who gives her a timid smile. Sugar Plus looks at her guitar, then addresses the Audience.

SUGAR PLUS

I'm going to take a little break now.  
Be back soon.

Sugar Plus disappears into a back room. Gemma hesitates, then leaves the café.

INT. MIRANTHA'S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Gemma smiles politely at a RECEPTIONIST.

GEMMA

I'm a friend... I just had to speak  
to her about something important.

RECEPTIONIST

One moment, please.

She pushes a few buttons and speaks into her headset.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Your friend Gemma is here. - OK, I'll  
let her know.

(to Gemma)

Mirantha is in a meeting.

She turns away and starts typing.

GEMMA

Could you just tell her that I wanted  
to talk to her and I miss her and -

RECEPTIONIST

She didn't say to leave a message.

She turns again, clearly dismissing Gemma.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Gemma stands outside, sneaking looks into the lobby. She suddenly backs up, hiding by the side of the doorway. Nica marches to the street and hails a cab.

GEMMA

Hey.

NICA

Are you stalking me?!

GEMMA

No, I just know you go to yoga  
Saturday mornings.

NICA

Yeah, and I need it more than ever  
now, thanks to your stupid method.

Nica jumps into the cab and slams the door. Gemma  
walks away, defeated.

INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cassie and Connor are hosting a party. The Students  
are there, downing shots, but a couple of them are  
also checking out Connor's GUY FRIENDS.

Penelope and FRANK, an older man with a lopsided grin,  
are standing by the front door. Gemma enters quietly.

PENELOPE

Gemma!

GEMMA

Hi.

PENELOPE

Hi. You came.

There's an awkward pause. But Penelope rises above it.

PENELOPE

(proudly)

Gemma, this is Frank. Bill Murray  
introduced us.

FRANK

Nice to meet you. I heard about your  
method.

GEMMA

Uh, yeah...

FRANK

Penny says she's used three of your suggestions on me but she won't tell me which ones.

PENELOPE

(whispers)

I'm still a little needy, though!

FRANK

(whispers)

Not as bad as I am!

They laugh. Gemma smiles as she walks away. She tries to be unobtrusive as she heads for Cassie, but Mirantha glares at her and the other Students see her, too. They're all pissed, even Sugar Plus, who does a weird yoga breath to release. Only Audrey is calm.

GEMMA

Hi, guys.

NICA

Bullshit.

The whole room quiets down to watch.

NICA (CONT'D)

Everything you said was bullshit.

GEMMA

Look, I don't want to ruin Connor's promotion. Can I talk to you guys in private?

MIRANTHA

I don't think so.

AUDREY

Hey. Think about what your winter would have been like without Gemma's class.

The Students glance at each other, confused.

BEDROOM

Cassie's room is so small that Gemma and the Students can barely stand around the bed.

GEMMA

OK, I know I misdirected you. I've been thinking about this a lot. The Grand Gesture - it's a romantic move. Which means it had to come from the heart. But the way I presented it, it sounded like the Gesture was about winning your guys over, impressing them. So you got caught up in the idea of how things *should look* - I mean, I did too. I sort of skipped out on reality.

CONNOR

(jokes)

Just like a girl!

Nobody laughs, except Cassie gives a token chuckle.

MIRANTHA

Well, it's a little late now.

GEMMA

It's not, though! You could call him, I mean a brief phone call, and apologize for pushing it. You can even tell him about me. Or you can joke about it. Or do anything heartfelt. Just, when you make your move, be sincere, use a light touch, then leave him some space to decide how he feels. If it's meant to be, he'll respond when the time is right.

SUGAR PLUS

What about The More You Like Him, The Less You Do?

GEMMA

I'm just saying, two people caring about each other is rare... I mean,

nobody ever told me how rare it is.  
It's worth trying to save, if you  
have a chance. And you do. You do.

Penelope, Audrey, Cassie, and Connor look around at  
the other students.

Gemma's phone gets a text: "Sexy M.F.," Prince.

Nica leaves. Everyone follows except Penelope, Audrey,  
Cassie, and Connor. Cassie puts an arm around Gemma.

PENELOPE

You know, Gemma, your method actually  
proved that Trent was an asshole. I'd  
like to thank you for that.

GEMMA

(makes an effort)  
That's good. That's really good.

But she's still depressed.

INT. UPSCALE HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Gemma and Mr. Jawline are drunk and laughing too hard.  
Mr. Jawline stands and slings her purse over his arm.

Gemma tries to sober up. She laughs, very fake.  
Standing up, she teeters and takes Mr. Jawline's arm.

GEMMA

OK, but I'll still respect you in the  
morning. I mean, I won't, I won't  
respect you!

Mr. Jawline laughs and knots his fingers in her hair.  
The bar's playlist changes to the first notes of "Just  
a Gigolo." Gemma stops still, confused. She goes to  
check her purse for her phone but Mr. Jawline has it.

Then as Louis Armstrong starts singing, Gemma  
remembers... This was her ringtone for Owen. She lets  
go of Mr. Jawline's arm.

EXT. HOTEL BAR/STREET - NIGHT

Gemma, with her purse, walks away from the bar alone.

MR. JAWLINE

(yells)

Crazy tease!

Gemma keeps walking, proud - then terrified - then deeply sad.

INT. GEMMA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gemma doesn't know what to do. She paces, drunk.

KITCHEN

She glances at her vodka infusions. Then she sits on the floor and squeezes herself into a corner. She starts to chew on a thumbnail but stops.

GEMMA

More you like him, the less you do.

She just sits. She doesn't start chewing again.

MONTAGE

INT. MIRANTHA'S ROOFTOP - DAY

Mirantha is on the phone, leaving a message.

MIRANTHA

... my god, my family terrifies even me, I don't know what I was thinking. So Vipul, I am just calling to say, I am so very sorry. OK. Good-bye.

She hangs up and sits back. Penelope hands her a drink. She hands one to Frank, too, who passes it to Bill Murray, who sips it.

BILL MURRAY

This martini tastes like fish. In a good way. A really good way.

MIRANTHA

Yeah, Gemma's kind of a genius.

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ted opens an envelope and finds a handwritten note that starts: "*Dear Ted - You were right about the hearse. I'd like to tell you why...*"

He notices something behind the note. It's the brochure from Gemma's first class.

INT. UNION SQUARE GREENMARKET - DAY

Ziggy listens to Sugar Plus singing on his voicemail.

SUGAR PLUS (O.S.)

Oh Ziggy/ I got wiggy/ with all those  
forties/ like Biggie/ Smalls -

Ziggy rolls his eyes but chuckles in spite of himself.

END MONTAGE

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gemma sits forward on her couch looking at her coffee table, which has several papers lined up on it. She's on the phone, speaking professionally.

GEMMA

It's just too good an opportunity to waste. So I thought, either I take it and shop it around and you get a percentage, or you take it and I get a percentage.

She nervously checks one of the papers on the table.

INT. OWEN'S KITCHEN - DAY

OWEN

Sounds fine. Do you have a preference?

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

GEMMA  
No, no. Do you?

INT. OWEN'S KITCHEN - DAY

OWEN  
Well, since I make games, why don't I  
take "Trust" and give you - well,  
would forty percent work?

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

GEMMA  
Wow, that's really high!

INT. OWEN'S KITCHEN - DAY

OWEN  
Seems fair to me. If you're good with  
that I'll send you a contract.

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

GEMMA  
Um, yeah.

OWEN (O.S.)  
OK.

Gemma wants to say something but doesn't know what.

OWEN (CONT'D) (O.S.)  
OK. I have to go. 'Bye.

GEMMA  
'Bye.

He hangs up. Gemma puts the phone down sadly.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Gemma and Cassie are drinking and playing Jenga.



CASSIE

Did you apologize?

GEMMA

No. He was so cold, Cassie. I stayed focused on the game in case he hung up on me.

CASSIE

He just has no idea what to say. You need to bring that contract to his apartment with a bottle of wine and a pot of stew, and tell him how sorry you are.

Cassie pulls a block and the Jenga column collapses.

GEMMA

Oh yeah? Like the freaking '50s? You want me to get it on grandma-style?

They laugh. But then Gemma looks thoughtful...

EXT. UNION SQUARE SUBWAY STATION - DAY

Gemma runs up to Owen, who's texting.

GEMMA

(nervously)

I couldn't find you, we didn't say which entrance to meet at and I was like, "Crap, which entrance did he mean?" Then I remembered when we met last time it was this one.

Owen gives a half-smile. Gemma hands him an envelope.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

So um, here's a signed copy. Thanks again for giving me such a generous deal.

OWEN

No problem. I'll send you an email when I have an update.

GEMMA

Oh OK, cool.

She isn't OK or cool. She's trying to find words...

OWEN

Take care, Gemma.

GEMMA

You too.

He starts to walk away. She watches, frozen, then calls out.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Um, I really feel like -

Owen turns around.

OWEN

What?

GEMMA

I feel like I owe you an apology for lying to you.

OWEN

You don't owe me anything.

GEMMA

Well, whether I owe it or not, I want to apologize for lying.

She nervously grabs Owen's hands. Owen lets her but feels weird about it.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I just couldn't let my students know how much I was falling for you and still get them to believe I was "Being the Guy."

OWEN

You were falling for me?

GEMMA

Of course I was... I did.

Owen's face is still impassive.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

I've never fallen harder. I'm sorry,  
Owen, I'm so sorry.

OWEN

Well, thank you for saying that. I  
mean, I want us to be able to...

Gemma is hopeful...

OWEN (CONT'D)

Share a drink at the launch party,  
you know?

Gemma tries to hide her disappointment.

GEMMA

Of course.

OWEN

I gotta get back to work. Take care.

Owen walks away. Gemma turns around and quietly cries  
as she walks down the street.

INT. PENNY DARLING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Audrey grins as she wrestles Redneck College 'gators.

Mr. Pinstripes, sitting at the bar, notices her  
enjoying herself.

INT. 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET POOL - DAY

Owen's Ladies are practicing breathing, preparing to  
learn the crawl. Mrs. Su and Owen are arguing.

OWEN

If you don't put your face in, when  
you bring your arm back you'll get a  
mouth full of water instead of air!

MRS. SU

But why do I have to put my face in?!

OWEN

Because that's swimming! If your face isn't in the water, it's not swimming!

MRS. SU

But *why*?

Owen takes a moment to breathe.

OWEN

(calmer)

Mrs. Su, when you put your face in the water, are your eyes shut?

MRS. SU

Yes! I don't like the water!

OWEN

OK, I'm going to do it with you. But keep your eyes open this time!

MRS. SU

I don't know.

OWEN

It's always scarier in your head than in reality. Just take it one breath at a time.

They inhale and put their faces in the water. Mrs. Su keeps her eyes open and they look at the flow, the shades of blue, the SWIMMERS. She grins. They surface.

MRS. SU

OK! That's OK! Not that scary.

Owen nods and laughs. Mrs. Su starts to practice what she learned. Owen gazes tenderly at his students, then he looks thoughtful, and a little sad....

EXT. OWEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Owen is texting; he hits Send.

Gemma walks up as her phone rings: "Just a Gigolo."

OWEN

Hey, change my ringtone already!

Gemma grins. She hits buttons on her phone and it plays a cow, MOOING. They laugh. Gemma reads his text.

GEMMA

So what's this secret you speak of?

She refers to her phone.

OWEN

You'd never know it, but I'm kind of just a big dork...

Owen nervously goes to Gemma. He leans in as if he's about to kiss her and whispers.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Especially now that my heart is involved.

Gemma smiles giddily, she can't hide her happiness.

GEMMA

I can't tell *anyone*? Not even Cassie?

OWEN

Not even Cassie. Well, maybe someday you can tell Cassie.

GEMMA

Don't worry. Cassie, along with most people, already knows you're a dork.

Owen shakes his head, then surprises Gemma with a nipple tweaking. Gemma giggles. They start to go inside.

EXT. OWEN'S ROOF - DAY

Spring is in bloom; Owen moved his plants outside.

GEMMA

Wow, this is gorgeous... Great place to read!

She's looking at a stack of books.

OWEN

Actually I, uh, read to the plants.  
It makes them grow better.

GEMMA

Oh my god, you're a girl!

They laugh and Owen swoops her up for a big kiss.

OWEN

Gemma Keyes, I love you.

GEMMA

OK, I can't believe I'm saying  
this... I love you too.

OWEN

Do you want to read to my plants?

GEMMA

Of course I do.

They sit down with books and start reading quietly to  
separate plants.

After a second, they hold hands.

FADE OUT.

BEGIN POST-CREDITS SCENE

INT. APARTMENT IN QUEENS - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Nica and Ted, arms around each other, gaze at a  
classic view of Manhattan at sunset.

The other Students and their guys - Audrey with Mr.  
Pinstripes - file out of the kitchen with fresh vodka  
cocktails. They pause to smile at Nica and Ted, then  
sip their drinks.

They all start flipping out about how good the drinks  
are, except Connor, who winces.

CONNOR  
(calls)  
Damn, Gemma!

KITCHEN

Gemma and Owen are mid-embrace.

GEMMA  
(calls)  
Take it like a man, Connor!

She hears laughter from the living room and grins at Owen.

GEMMA  
So, what have we learned here?  
There's someone for everyone? Talk to  
strangers as much as you can? Games  
are necessary and important?

OWEN  
How about, we spend our formative  
years in school and then spend the  
rest of our lives searching for  
lessons.

GEMMA  
Oh, so you're saying I'm like, school  
for you.

OWEN  
(whispers)  
You're recess.

They kiss... while they both sneak ice cubes off the  
counter and drop them down each other's shirts.

END POST-CREDITS SCENE.