

SCENE ONE

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

JOSIE MILLER (23), light hair loose and down, light makeup as if trying to look like she's just always that naturally beautiful, and casually dressed sits across from ISAAC (27), scruffy and handsome.

She stirs her straw around in her iced tea, watching it make a mini whirlpool and avoiding eye contact.

The vibe is awkward.

ISAAC (O.C.)

What are you thinking about, Josie?

Josie continues to stir in silence, pondering how to answer.

She breaks a smile, shaking her head a little as if the question poses irony to her.

Josie looks up into Isaac's eyes for the first time, and the smile disappears. She hopes he didn't notice.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Don't saying nothing like you always do.

Josie rolls her eyes.

The scene FREEZES.

JOSIE (V.O.)

The way I always do? We haven't spoken in six months, I don't "always" do anything to you anymore. I could say I'm wondering why you asked me on this little lunch date. I could say I'm thinking about our past three break ups and wondering if you're hoping to start something back up that would lead to a fourth. I could tell you I'm sitting here wondering how to tell you that I'm leaving, even though I *think* you already know.

UNFREEZE.

Josie looks him straight in the eye.

JOSIE

Nothing. I'm not thinking about anything.

She smiled again, this time smugly.

They sit in silence again for a second.

ISAAC

So how are you? What's new?

Isaac taps his straw down through the ice.

Josie stares at his hands.

FLASHBACK

Josie stands close to Isaac, outside in the dark. That same big hand reaches out and holds her face before he comes in to kiss her.

BACK TO PRESENT

Josie shakes the image out of her mind.

JOSIE

I'm fine. Doing well. How've you been?

Isaac just shrugs.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

What's this all about, Isaac? Why did you want to get lunch out of the blue like this?

ISAAC

Well...you know, I just heard -

JOSIE

(interrupting)

Yes. It's true, okay.

ISAAC

(continuing)

That you're not seeing anybody.

Isaac laughs. Josie blushes, realizing her mistake.

JOSIE

Oh! Sorry. No. That's not what I meant. I...thought you were going to say something else.

Fuck.

ISAAC

What?

JOSIE

What *what*?

ISAAC

What did you think I was going to say?

JOSIE

I...uh, I guess I just thought you had heard.

Isaac looked expectantly and confused at her.

JENNY, the waitress, came over to fill their water glasses and make this exchange even more weird.

When she finally walked away -

ISAAC

What should I have heard?

JOSIE

I'm moving. To California.

ISAAC

California? Why? How come?

JOSIE

There are more opportunities for me out there...writing, or whatever it is I decide -

ISAAC

Why now?

The scene FREEZES again.

JOSIE (V.O.)

Why now? I want to scream in your face! Why not now? You left me to find yourself; you haven't talked to me in months. Why do you get to care if it's now or then or later or never or whenever?

Deep breath.

JOSIE (V.O.)

Whatever. Instead -

The scene UNFREEZES.

JOSIE

It's good timing. I don't have anything going on here, so -

ISAAC  
(interrupting)  
There's not much to leave.

More sitting in silence. Feels a little like sadness on both parts. Definitely things left unsaid.

ISAAC (CONT'D)  
Well...this could maybe be good.

JOSIE  
How do you mean?

ISAAC  
I mean...I miss you, Josie.

Josie looks down into her lap, shaking her head.

JOSIE  
You told me not to wait for you, Isaac.  
So I didn't.

ISAAC  
Hear me out. I do miss you. And yeah, I kind of asked you out today to see if maybe we could try things again. Maybe the timing is finally right this time. But -

JOSIE  
(interrupting)  
But it's not. I'm leaving.

ISAAC  
Right, but you're not leaving for a couple of months.

JOSIE  
Okay...

ISAAC  
And, let's face it, we haven't exactly been the most successful at the relationship thing. Really, the best things ever get is when we first start seeing each other again.

JOSIE  
When we're not together, but together.

Isaac nods, Josie starts seeing what he's seeing.

ISAAC  
So maybe it is finally perfect  
timing...us without the attachment.

Isaac looks cautiously at her, hoping he's not crossing any lines.

Josie stares for a moment.

ISAAC (CONT'D)  
Would you be into that?

She thinks about it. Rolls the idea around in her head.

Josie breathes deeply, knowing what the right answer is.

But then she looks at his cute, smiling, sheepish face.

JOSIE  
Maybe I could be into that.

His hand is stretched towards hers on the table, he rubs a finger with his own. She likes it.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
I could definitely be into that.

ISAAC  
So, here's to us...and to not getting  
attached.

Isaac and Josie raise their glasses and CLINK.

## SCENE TWO

Josie, MOLLY (23), and ELLIE (23) stand in front of a crowded bar, sipping gin & tonic's. They laugh and talk.

Molly's long hair in a ponytail. She's wrapped in a tight, cleavage-bearing dress.

Ellie's petite frame shown off in tight leggings and a crop top, her hair loose and flowing.

Josie wears tight jeans and a cute top.

ELLIE

I have a theory.

JOSIE

About?

ELLIE

You not just letting go of this Isaac nonsense and making all of our lives easier.

JOSIE

(sipping)

Mmmm.

She nods in faux agreement.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Right, right.

MOLLY

Go on.

Josie sits on an open stool, propping her chin in her hands, waiting to be awed.

ELLIE

Good Luck Chuck.

JOSIE

Scuse me?

ELLIE

That movie.

Josie and Molly stare blankly back at her.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

We're in our twenties now. The guys we date are all at least mid-twenties.

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

That is the time when typically people meet their future spouse. Like in the movie, Dane Cook can't sleep with Jessica Alba because he likes her so much and everyone he sleeps with marries the next guy they date.

More blank staring. Molly drinks her drink.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

(rolling her eyes,  
frustrated)

Okay, that movie was obviously just fake stupid magic or whatever. I'm not sure. I don't really remember it. I think I was having sex with Nick Masters while I was watching it. Anyways. In real life, we're at the age where anyone we break up with could potentially meet the person they'll spend the rest of their life with. And soon. Like Isaac is what, twenty-six? If you were to let him go...move on, he moves on, blah blah...it's not super unlikely that the next girl he's with could become his wife. Guys find 'the one' when they're ready to settle down. It could be anyone. And the late twenties are settle down city.

She drinks, feeling accomplished. Pleased with herself and waiting for the praise to roll in.

Instead, Molly lightly shoves her.

MOLLY

Really? That's supposed to...what, make her feel better? Shit, it doesn't even make me feel better, and I never want to get married.

Josie smiles, downing the last of her drink before waving the bartender over and pointing down - another one.

JOSIE

Are we done talking about this? Good friends would just let me be a slut in peace. Which, I have done for you both. Many times.

Ellie and Molly look at one another, shrugging. That's true.

## SCENE THREE

Josie and CARTER (27) sit on a couch, close but not too close.

Carter is dressed casually, but effortlessly handsome. Sandy hair shaggy but groomed. He holds a guitar over his lap, a note pad in front of him and a pen in hand.

They have beer.

CARTER

(pondering)

Okay, so...a song about what it's like to like someone as a kid...and what it's like now.

JOSIE

Puppy love to grown up love.

He taps the pen on his knee, thinking.

Josie sips her beer, thinking.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Okay, well...when you're a kid on the playground and the boys are chasing you, your mom tells you it's because they like you. When you're older, boys don't chase you but they expect you to know they like you, but we're already conditioned to think we need to be chased to know for sure.

CARTER

Good one.

He drinks his beer. Josie smiles, pleased with herself, sipping more.

CARTER (CONT'D)

So, what turns you on?

Josie chokes, sputtering on her drink.

JOSIE

(coughing)

Sorry...what?

CARTER

For research.

He waves the pen and paper in the air, smiling. He knows he's flirting.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Once we can pinpoint the sexy parts of liking someone as an adult, we find the puppy equivalent.

JOSIE

Oh. Yeah, of course.

They sit in silence.

Josie blushes, nervous to speak again.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Hair pulling?

Carter looks at her, nodding in a teasing way.

CARTER

Really. Interesting.

Josie watches his face closely as he looks down to write. The curve of his lips, his strong jaw. His hands. As she zones out on his features, his voice calls back to her from her fog.

CARTER (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Josie? Hello?

Josie blinks, shaking herself into the moment.

CARTER (CONT'D)

How does that translate into being a kid?

JOSIE

Ah. Um...boys pulling your hair on the playground. Duh.

CARTER

Huh?

JOSIE

You never pulled a girls' hair to bother her when you thought she was cute?

CARTER

No. I wasn't into assaulting the girls I had a crush on.

He wrote it down anyway.

JOSIE

It could be something like, 'playground crying when he'd pull hair out of my head/now I love it when he pulls my hair in bed?

He nods.

CARTER

That's really good. Something you have a lot of experience with?

He jokingly nudges Josie's knee with his, knocking them together then letting it rest closer.

JOSIE

Oh please.

Carter strums on his guitar, humming back the words she'd just proposed.

CARTER

This is good shit, Josie. I have a really good feeling about this.

He puts his guitar down to write in the notepad.

He sits back in the couch, leaning a little closer to where Josie rests.

JOSIE

What about staying up all night? Like...you don't want to sleep for a second because you just want to be awake and see each other and touch each other. And then when you're younger, you're getting no sleep because you can't stop thinking about what it might be like to be his girlfriend.

CARTER

Or her boyfriend.

He inches closer to her.

JOSIE

Which turns into getting no sleep because you're, ironically, sleeping with someone.

Carter's hand moves closer to Josie's thigh.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Um...how about...Sleepless nights  
thinking of being yours/became sleepless  
nights of sheets getting torn.

Carter's hand rests on Josie's knee.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

(breathless)

Yeah, I think that'll work, right? Let's  
try it again.

She leans over to pick his guitar up by the neck.

Josie turns to him, guitar in hand.

Carter's there. He kisses her.

She pulls back.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Sorry. Sorry, I...you just took me by  
surprise.

Carter smiles, brushing his fingers on her face before  
resting his hand on her cheek.

CARTER

Well, let's try it again.

They kiss.