

Cancelled/Cancel Me

By Jasmine Sharma

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Working Draft: 7/4/21

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CHARACTERS

LEENA	21, Female-identifying, South Asian.
ALLIE	21, Female-identifying, Black.
NIC	21, Female-identifying, East Asian.
ISAIAH	21, Cisgender Male, White.

COMMENTERS 1-4 and MADI can be prerecorded voices, or voiced by the existing ensemble of actors.

SETTING

A college town in America. 2020.

NOTES

"/" indicates overlap.

"-" indicates a quick cutoff.

"()" indicates whispering.

Bolded text requires emphasis.

There is musicality in "Oh, Hm, Wow, Ah, Um."

Every person who touches this play is to be treated with respect and care.
Dreaming for an equitable world can start with an equitable rehearsal room.

PLAYLIST

Mostly TikToks, but you know: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16dEnUQITf70QBBBKV23m0?si=786cdb963f2d45e3>

QUOTE

“There's nothing fucking worse than knowing that you're just like everybody else.” — Min Jin Lee, *Pachinko*

**Act I
Cancelled**

Scene 1

A few minutes before January 1, 2020.

The apartment lights glow festively.

Isaiah in his velvet blazer and striped pants decorates the living room, careful to straighten up any cheap champagne bottles or red solo cups.

A song like "bad guy" by Billie Eilish, underscores the scene instrumentally.

ISAIAH

LEENA!

Leena, come check!

Leena enters from the kitchen.

LEENA

Did you change?

ISAIAH

I had to! I splashed red wine all over myself-

LEENA

Wait when, at Hallie's?

ISAIAH

No, Gabi's-

LEENA

We didn't go to Gabi's apartment-

ISAIAH

Ugh, *you* didn't, but I had to pee at Daniel's but I didn't want to ask where the bathroom was (we are **not** close enough)-

LEENA

So you peed at Gabi's?

ISAIAH

She lives right below his place!

LEENA

Ohhh you mean Gabi **G** not Gabi **K**-

ISAIAH

Obviously not Gabi **K**.

I wouldn't be caught dead in Gabi **K**'s apartment. Not even for a wee.

LEENA

Be nice-

ISAIAH

I am loath to speak to that queen!

Every time I get stuck with her all she wants to do is talk talk talk about like, politics.

Like, is there no respite?

Okay, so-

My fit?

LEENA

I think this is even better-

ISAIAH

But does it look *too* gay?

LEENA

For who?

ISAIAH

Jamie. Or Brandon.

LEENA

Well are you tryna kiss Jamie or Brandon?

ISAIAH

Are they both coming over?!

LEENA

Isaiah, everyone from Matt's place is coming!

ISAIAH

Well I didn't know if we're filtering down! Oh my god we need the party lights on-
More lights!

LEENA

Hello!

ISAIAH

Hello what!

LEENA

Jamie or Brandon?

ISAIAH

Oh, both. If they'll have me.

Honestly, they're both great options, scores of clout dripping off the both of them.

LEENA

You have clout too!

ISAIAH

Not enough...or so they think! Who are you trying to kiss?

LEENA

Ugh, no one. I'm done with all these schoolboys in 2020-

ISAIAH

Except me-

LEENA

Except you. You're different.

ISAIAH

Thank you. But know that if I were a heterosexual man, I would want you to reject me.

LEENA

Thank you!

Why do only problematic white men go here?

ISAIAH

They're just the only ones we know because it's all the school accepts, not our fault-

But not me, right?

LEENA

Never.

Speaking of problematiqué, Madi isn't coming, is she?

ISAIAH

Probably not.

LEENA

I'm just like, unable to leave the apartment if she says something, you know-

ISAIAH

She may be a tone deaf cow, but I'm not.

If she's plastered and says anything to you or does anything messy-

LEENA

I don't want to get to that point though, not tonight.

Like, she doesn't always *need* to be *drunk* to say something wacky-

ISAIAH

Leena, I would *never* bring someone problematic into our home. **Never.**

But I'll keep an eye on her, and if she looks like she's getting tipsy, I'll ask her to leave!

LEENA

I just wanna be comfy. It's our place, and like-

ISAIAH

And you deserve to!

It's us against all of them, always.

They may have clout, but we have each other. And you know what they don't have?

Isaiah burps.

LEENA

You're already so gone, aren't you-

ISAIAH

Yes-

And! They don't have this blazer, I **do**.

Isaiah poses.

LEENA

And you look great in it.

ISAIAH

Do I look...**drippy**?

LEENA

Very drippy.

How about me?

Is this festive enough?

Does this say New Year, New Decade? Is it "Hello 2020!" or is it too **much**?

Isaiah examines Leena's velvet dress.

ISAIAH

Oh no.

LEENA

What!

ISAIAH

Now we **match**. A picture!

LEENA

But they're gonna be here so soon-

ISAIAH

We must! Now! I only have hot friends and they should be photographed with me!

Also, I might leave in an hour-

LEENA

You can't! / We're cohosting!

ISAIAH

If I manifested correctly, either Jamie or Brandon will be whisking me away, and I will not let one of our millions of co-hosted parties to come interfere with destiny. Plus! I don't follow the rules!

Plus! I'm not sorry about it!

Plus-!

Oh no, I have to vom-

LEENA

I told you those weren't regular gummies! Why do you doubt me!

Isaiah starts to exit.

ISAIAH (off)

Set up video we can screenshot off it, I'm too crossed to pose on a timer-

LEENA

Where's your phone?!

ISAIAH (off)

I lost it at Gabi G's-

LEENA

Gabi **K's**!

ISAIAH (off)

Whatever, neither of them are coming here! Probably!

Leena starts setting up her phone facing the living room. The silhouettes of guests can be made out in the hallway.

We hear the start sound of a video recording.

A knock at the door.

LEENA

They're here!

ISAIAH (off)

I'm indisposed!

Lena leaves the phone to answer the door, which is still recording. She opens the door.

Nic and Allie enter.

We hear the recording tick, indicating it is still going.

LEENA

Happy 2020!

ALLIE NIC

Happy New Year! Oh
fuck are we early-

NIC

I knew we should've
waited a little-

NIC

Is it okay that we're here early?

We can go back downstairs, wait a little / then come back up?

ALLIE

Nic, stop being a weirdo. Leena, this dress!

LEENA

Enough!

May I offer mystery punch?

NIC

Yes, god yes.

ALLIE
Lee, where's Isaiah?

Leena exits for the drinks. Tick.

LEENA (*off*)
Vomiting, he had the gummies.

NIC
(*So lame.*)

ALLIE
Be *nice*.

NIC
I don't have to like him.

ALLIE
But we're gonna try...because / now Leena lives with him.

NIC
"now Leena lives with him." Rawr rawr rawr.
Should've lived with us.

Leena reenters with three glasses on a tray. Tick.

ALLIE
Okay, hello hostess!

LEENA
Cheers to 2020?

NIC
May junior year pass by faster.

ALLIE
Fuckin' cheers!

Tick. Tick. Tick.
Isaiah reenters, clearly sloshed.
The weather of the room shifts.

ISAIAH
Mmm hello!

NIC
Isaiah.

ISAIAH
Nic. Allie.

LEENA
Um-

ISAIAH
Shots?

A shots ballet.
A Tiktok cut of a song like "Slumber Party" by
Ashnikko and Princess Nokia plays.
As the dance goes on, it becomes easier for these four
to be comfortable with one another. Tick.
Shadows illuminate the walls, indicating there are
more and more people arriving to the party.
Isaiah nearly falls, which Leena covers as a dip.
He spins her. They dance, enjoying the possibilities of
the year to come.
Tick, tick, tick.
A knock at the door.

ISAIAH
I got it-
Oh my god, Madi! Hi!

Blackout, sound out-
Tick, tick, tick.

Scene 2

February, 2020.

Enter Isaiah, as he and Leena enter iMessage world.

Ding.

ISAIAH

Hi.

Can we talk.

Ding.

LEENA

I miss you.

I've been trying to catch you around the apartment.

Ding.

ISAIAH

I miss you too.

I've been staying at Gabi's.

I've just been trying to give you space so you don't have to keep being disappointed in me.

Ding.

LEENA

It feels like a punishment?

Maybe we can go on a date next week and try to work this weird thing out?

Ding.

ISAIAH

I don't know what would be constructive, though.

That morning after New Year's, our conversation was so fraught with tension.

LEENA

Well, I mean, you and Madi said some pretty intense stuff.

ISAIAH

I didn't know you would see that.

LEENA

I didn't know my phone was recording.

ISAIAH

And I mean, my feelings were hurt too. I didn't want to see Nic and Leena say they didn't like me?

LEENA

I wasn't the one they were talking to there. I would've said something, defended you-

ISAIAH

Look, I would love to go on a date and spend time with you but I'm honestly a little nervous about it.

Like, uncomfortable.

I don't like it when we talk like this over text, but I honestly cannot handle a conversation in person where we list the ways we've hurt each other.

LEENA

But I am hurt.

ISAIAH

Framing our relationship like I'm aggressing you and you don't have any power isn't fair though. Like, I know what was said was wrong, but what can I do about it now?

I feel completely powerless.

LEENA

Isaiah-

ISAIAH

Also like, I wasn't the one who called you a sensitive slumdog.

Madi said that, not me.

LEENA

...

ISAIAH

...

Hello?

LEENA

We can't just avoid this forever.

ISAIAH

I have never chosen to ignore someone before, and I wouldn't decide to pull that trick out of my bag on you of all people.

But if you see me as someone who hurts you now...if you see me the way you see Madi?

LEENA

Fuck Madi, it's about *you*-
You *laughed!*

ISAIAH

I was uncomfortable!

And now I have to remove myself from this situation before I can focus on being a good friend. On being your friend.

When I'm ready, I'll start making an active effort to be more open and less distant. Until then, I'll try not to assume we understand where each other is coming from.

LEENA

I stopped sharing my location with you at 12:15am.

ISAIAH

I stopped sharing my location with you at 1:03am.

A song like "Smoke from Fire" by Bas, The Hics.

Scene 3

March 12, 2020. A group chat.

NIC
I WANNA PLAY!

ALLIE
Aren't you home? Why are you texting?

NIC
I WAS CRYING AND I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE-
BUT NOW I'M OKAY-
AND I WANT TO PLAY!

ALLIE
You okay??

NIC
I'M GONNA GROUPCHAT WITH LEENA ONE SEC-

ALLIE
Nic, are you good?

NIC
GUYS!

LEENA
NIC!

ALLIE
Nic's on one right now-

NIC
I GOT FIRED-

LEENA
WHAT!?

NIC
ALL THE RESTAURANTS ARE CLOSED! BECAUSE OF THIS COW19 THING!

ALLIE
Oh my god Nic I'm so sorry-

An email alert.

NIC
YO SCHOOL CLOSED TOO, DID YOU JUST SEE THE EMAIL!

LEENA
WAIT, ARE FINALS CANCELLED THEN?

ALLIE
WAIT NO I JUST FINISHED MY ANTHRO FINAL WHAT!

LEENA
Narc-

NIC
WHO WANTS TO PLAY!
THERE IS OFFICIALLY NOTHING ELSE TO DO!
AT LEAST I HAVE NOTHING TO DO BECAUSE I AM- SAY IT WITH ME,
UNEMPLOYED!

LEENA
Wait if everything is closed is it safe?

NIC
DON'T CRUSH THE VIBE!

LEENA
But like, aren't we supposed to stay inside?

NIC
You're all alone in your tiny little apartment loser, come hang out! Wait you **are** alone, right?

LEENA

Yeah, Isaiah's parents picked him up this morning.

NIC

So lame.

Maybe nice though?

LEENA

Yeah, it's actually really good. We haven't really been speaking anyway, so.

ALLIE

Wait, why?

LEENA

We really still haven't been on good terms since New Years.

NIC

Tell Allie about the texts though-

LEENA

Ugh, too many to screenshot.

NIC

Come show us in person!

LEENA

Allie, you cool with that?

ALLIE

If Nic and I are the only ones who interact all day, I will be dead from being murdered before the rona gets me.

NIC

It's true! I have a very specific personality and it is meant to be taken in doses!

LEENA

But-

NIC

No butts! Only butts!

Let's moon the moon! Let's smoke on the roof and moon the moon!

ALLIE

Nic, we're out of stuff and Allan left town-

NIC

Where does Allan have to go?

ALLIE

He flew out this morning-

NIC

Well he can't bring weed on the plane, is his roommate home?

ALLIE

Dev's driving back to Jersey.

LEENA

I have stuff!

NIC

Thank god.

ALLIE

Okay, I think I love lockdown?

NIC

I WAS FIRED!

ALLIE

Fuck, sorry, I forgot-

NIC

Don't worry! I'm gonna learn how to bake bread and cook stuff myself and then open my own restaurant!

ALLIE

A literal breadwinner-

NIC

I'd support you for life, Allie.

LEENA

Wait but if Nic baked bread today...I'd munch.

ALLIE

We don't own flour, we own Kraft. Should I be bulk buying stuff right now?

LEENA

Trader Joe's is empty already, don't bother.

ALLIE

They'll probably restock in a few days, right?

LEENA

Yeah, how long could this shitstorm last?

NIC

Okay suddenly I am actually vibing with some time off. I was getting sick of the whites coming in giving me looks like I have it.

ALLIE

Roof in ten?

LEENA

Really? It's noon.

ALLIE

What you got class or something?

LEENA

You right. Let's ride!

NIC
I love lockdown :")

A song like "Streets" by Doja Cat.

Scene 4

April, 2020.

A social media waltz.

Tiktok. A sponsored post.

Harsh shift to an upbeat, electronic sound.

Maybe even a song like, "SugarCrash!" By ElyOtto.

A well shot, well clipped together collection of product and smiles as Isaiah narrates in this world.

ISIAH

I fucking hate lockdown.

I'm so bored, it reminds me of my first summer job-

I worked at a juicery.

When I would commute, I had to take the bus, obviously.

The only reason I was working at the smoothie swamp was to get a car-

A sleek, sick little Subaru, dark blue.

But right outside the drop spot, there was this bakery.

So I had to pass fresh croissant being rolled and buttered and whatever they do to croissant every morning, then go put on a starchy apron to blend carrot and kale with like, bee pollen for seven hours. And not like, a half apron-

A recycled cloth sack (Part of the earthy aesthetic of the place, v cute!)

So Monday to Friday, I'd be blending and sieving these like, bruise colored drinks, while the smells of the bakery just got fuller, and richer by the hour.

Chocolate and caramel and cinnamon, just two doors down.

And you know, Karen wants a mint and spinach smoothie.

Cue the sugar cookies and macadamia nut muffins-

But Susie wants pressed beets. Gabii with two "i"s wants to know if the juice is keto.

These beautiful, thin women passed by that bakery the same as me, and chose juice over-

All that stuff.

I didn't try a single thing from that bakery the whole summer. Not even after a bad shift.

I was like Karen and Susie and Gabii. Juice only.

That's the summer I developed willpower.

And so of course I was delighted when Juice and Co sent me this sampler box of their new line, because it just connects me to my lifelong purpose: sharing my willpower with others.

ISAIAH

If you're like me, you do NOT want to put on the quarantine fifteen.
Interact with this post or send it to someone who **needs** it!

Tumblr.

LEENA

Is anybody reading my poetry, or just not impressed enough to reblog it?
I don't want to care about reblogs, but I do.

I've been thinking about when I was 12, when my greatest fear was my
parents finding my tumblr account.

How now, fear is...everything else.

...

I've liked coming back here.

Like I lost a friend and found them again.

...

Twitter.

NIC

Retweet. Retweet.

Compose: Haven't lolled since 2019. Wondering if we're ever going to be
able to date again and I mean like, without apps. I want to go to a bar and
not have to use a fake ID to get in for the first time in my life and meet a girl
in person and feel cared about, truly alive. the kind of alive that comes in
meeting a stranger for the first time, just trying to figure out if this tension
between us is "new friend" tension or "I think something might be here, I'm
going to stay close to you until you tell me" tension.

Google Maps.

ALLIE

152 Chestnut street.

Zoom in.

Miss you.

Little house with the dark blue door, little shrubs, little old people inside.

Mom, dad.

Miss you.

Tumblr.

LEENA

I feel like if you hadn't fled, like-

If you had stayed in here, in it.

Maybe then I wouldn't feel like pieces of myself are missing.

My dog is dead. I am no longer a dog owner. My aunt is dead. I am no longer a niece.

But what about this?

My friend is not dead, just dead to me.

I am no longer a friend?

My identities, my relationships-

When did they become sisters?

Maybe I've got too much time to think about the important...and unimportant. Anyways.

...

Tags: #deaddogs.

Google maps.

ALLIE

13 hours and 46 minutes away. 825 miles.

Tiktok.

ISAIAH

Do you ever think about how all jokes are just lies? HAHAHA-

Twitter.

NIC

Too many characters.

Compose: Haven't lolled since 2019. Send.

A Tiktok cut of a song like, "Body" by Megan Thee Stallion plays.

Scene 5

May, 2020.

Allie and Nic at one end of the hallway.

Leena sits across from them, right behind the doorframe of her apartment - exactly six feet away. They all have puzzles.

LEENA

This is so naughty.

NIC

I don't care.

ALLIE

We're a pod, it's fine.

NIC

This is safe enough and we don't go anywhere. It's fine.

ALLIE

It's fine!

LEENA

...

We won't tell anyone-

NIC

Obviously not-

ALLIE

Yeah, no way.

LEENA

We'd get cancelled.

ALLIE

You mean, held accountable?

LEENA

So you agree, this is pretty bad to be doing?

NIC

Well I'm pretty sure we aren't being racist or assaulting anyone, we're doing puzzles. Puzzles do not equal hate crime.

ALLIE

Plus, we have no platform.

LEENA

Not true-

NIC

You have 4 tumblr followers Lee, that isn't a platform.

LEENA

Okay, all I was trying to say is that I feel a little guilty right now for hanging out while people are dying.

ALLIE

Lee, do you remember when we went inside? It's May.

NIC

The other M month.

ALLIE

Thank you, Nic-

NIC

You're welcome, Allie.

ALLIE

No one can stew alone for this long, we're just not built this way. We're supposed to be in packs, we're pack animals.

NIC

I wanna be your bear if we're gonna be animals-

ALLIE

I am trying to say something serious!

Seriously!

Everyone is kinda losing it, it is normal to lose it. Everything is scary.

And Nic, you're literally back at the restaurant, aren't you fucking terrified all the time?

NIC

Um-

LEENA

Are they paying for rapid tests?

NIC

Uh-

LEENA

No.

NIC

I wear my mask the whole time though.

And usually customers do, sometimes. And they're tipping really well-

LEENA

Probably because they are feeling **really** guilty-

NIC

Okay, cancel me for needing a job to pay rent this month? I didn't get unemployment, so.

ALLIE

...

Sorry.

LEENA

Yeah, sorry, Nic.

NIC

It's fine, really.

Especially if I'm gonna start zoom producing online motivational speaking classes for an actual cult leader, I'll have big funds again soon.

Is everyone working there white and making me lead EDI? Yes.

But is there healthcare? No. But they're paying for wifi!

ALLIE

Do you wanna unpack that gig right now, or?

NIC

It's either the restaurant or the cult. One has racist customers and sexual harassment, the other is only racist.

LEENA

...

ALLIE

...

NIC

A job is a job right now.

...

But if you wanted to give me your stimmy checks, I'm here.

LEENA

You know, some people out there are actually vibing right now?

ALLIE

Literally who?

LEENA

Like, half the school.

They're in their second homes in the Maldives and Costa Rica and like, Florida.

NIC

This place is so freaky.

ALLIE

We should've gone state school.

LEENA

This is just vacation for them. With their perfect little families.

ALLIE

I missed my mom's birthday.

Because all the days blended together.

I put a reminder in my phone on Monday. I put in "Mom's BDAY!" for Friday, you know.

And I just missed it.

ALLIE

Friday came and went and then it was Monday again and I-
I felt so bad.

NIC

I'm sure she'll live.

ALLIE

Well, it's her first birthday since she's been in remission, so it was gonna be a big one.

Because she was in chemo for the Big 5-0? We were going to do this big thing for fifty one. I was going to fly back and everything.

LEENA

I didn't know your mom has cancer?

ALLIE

Had.

LEENA

Still.

God, is she so scared to get it?

ALLIE

Yeah, that's why my brother and I didn't even try to go home. Her immune system is high risk to begin with, so.

LEENA

That's shit, Allie, I'm so sorry.

ALLIE

I mean, everyone misses their mom, I'm not special.

NIC

I don't.

ALLIE

Well your mom is like, always calling, you don't have time to miss her.

LEENA

I don't really miss mine. And she never calls, wasn't in the contract.

ALLIE

Do we sign contracts when we become moms?

LEENA

Well, I signed. As the kid.

NIC

Wait what?

LEENA

Like, the one that promises I'll always love her and stuff.

And promise not to lie to her.

And that she's my favorite parent. And I'd never betray her or anything-

My parents were getting divorced at the time, you get it.

I guess it was a pretty one way contract that way.

She had it framed and everything so when my dad would walk me inside it was like-

Right there, in the foyer.

LEENA

I signed it with red pen. I wish I hadn't because it looks like a teacher signed it, you know, like the way they write scores on tests at the top?

It's probably still in the house. If I ever visit, I'll try and take a picture.

It's really funny.

NIC

I don't think that's a common mom thing.

LEENA

It's her kind of humor, I guess.

Isaiah's mom is the same.

ALLIE

My mom's sense of humor is more like...Masked Singer?

NIC

God, my mom FUCKS with Masked Singer, that is her BUSINESS.

ALLIE

Our moms should text each other. Yours can come to my mom's chemo-free birthday party.

LEENA

I really should've known that about your mom, Allie. I'm so sorry, really.

ALLIE

No worries, we weren't really close yet when the brunt of it hit.

NIC

You were still only friends with Isaiah then.

LEENA

Ah. Embarrassing.

NIC

The all white friend group wasn't the best look, won't lie.

ALLIE

But now you are friends with other actual POC, look at you. A hero.

LEENA

Okay, **that's** a bit much?

ALLIE

What, being a hero?

LEENA

I didn't have an all white friend group.

ALLIE

Oh.

NIC

Oh.

ALLIE

OH.

NIC

OHHHH.

LEENA

What's happening here-

ALLIE

OHHHHHHHHH YES YOU DID.

ALLIE

You mean your White Mafia-?

NIC

Caucacity city-?

ALLIE

Off-white officers? / (ACAB though)-

NIC
Melanin deficient monsters?

ALLIE
Yt yikes-?

NIC
The whole Cracker Barrel-?

LEENA
Is this hate speech?

ALLIE
Try to cancel me, our wifi is down anyway.

NIC
Not true! I sold out for a router, remember?
And personally, I am a fan of hate speech when it is accurate and edgy.

LEENA
So, commentary?

NIC
Yes.
And I comment that you had an all white friend group, because you did.
And no one is blaming you! We're just not shying away from the information.
Allie and I were the ones who had to wait that phase out.

ALLIE
We were there through every weird lunch, walked with y'all between classes,
suffered every joint pregame-

NIC
Dodging the weird "jokes" and the tasteless questions about Japan-

ALLIE
And Nigeria-

NIC
When neither of us are Japanese-

ALLIE
Or Nigerian.

NIC
But we saw you. Under your vineyard vines sweater from the outlet mall.
Well, Allie saw you, and I'd wait out anything for her.

ALLIE
Aw-

NIC
A confused brown girl who can hang, even though you're a little freak who
only ever had white friends.

ALLIE
To clarify, you were a freak because you didn't notice, not because you're not
white.

NIC
And so now, you may thank us for our grace and patience.

LEENA
I feel weird.

ALLIE
No, you feel *read*.

NIC
Totes.

LEENA
...

ALLIE
It's okay. We all take a little time to figure out stuff.

LEENA

I wasted so much time. Making excuses and room for-
I don't know.

Especially when you guys could see it? Like what's wrong with me, why
didn't I- I'm so sorry.

Like, so **deeply** sorry for not-

ALLIE

If you apologize one more time today, I'm gonna email your last poem to
your Nani.

NIC

Yo, too far dude.

LEENA

...

ALLIE

You're good. We're good.

LEENA

Thank you for your patience.

NIC

You're welcome.

Now can we smoke? I fucking hate sober puzzles.

A tiktok cut of a song like, "34+35" by Ariana Grande.

Scene 6

June, 2020. It's like no time has passed. Except now there's a bowl.

NIC

What month is it?

ALLIE

A warm one.

NIC

How long have I been working for the cult leader?

LEENA

A decade probably.

NIC

Is there a vaccine yet?

ALLIE

No.

NIC

Cool. So this isn't a problem.

Nic packs another bowl.

ALLIE

What? Day smoking?

No, it's self care.

We're high vibing not drunk driving.

LEENA

I used to be a D.A.R.E kid. In elementary school.

NIC

What's-

LEENA
Drug Abuse Resistance Education. DARE.

NIC
You were a tiny cop.

LEENA
ACAB, but yeah.

*Leena takes a hit.
Allie's phone dings.*

ALLIE
I'm sorry what the fuck am I looking / at-

NIC
Fuck, what / now.

LEENA
I told you to get off your phone.

ALLIE
The audacity of these / motherfucking-

NIC
I would fuck anything these / days.

LEENA
Whose audacious now-

ALLIE
Everyone, suddenly. And now add him. Look at this shit.

NIC
What the fuck-

LEENA
You're six feet / babe.

ALLIE
I'm dm-ing it right now-

Nic leans over.

LEENA
Allie, we're having pod time.
I don't wanna look at Isaiah today-

NIC
Oh, yes you do.

LEENA
Stop, I still miss him.

ALLIE
Get ready to stop.

*Leena's phone pings. She looks at her phone, before flipping it over.
Allie plays the sound on her phone.
Isaiah's Tiktok is dueted with a Tiktok song like,
"Godspeed" by James Blake.*

ISAIAH
"I just want to say-
That I stand with the African-American community-"

LEENA
What? No-

ISAIAH
"I mean, the Black community."

ALLIE
Okay self-correction!

ISAIAH

"...And also the brown ones! All POC!"

NIC

Aw, Leena, he stands with you!

LEENA

This is fake, right-

ISAIAH "Guys-

I mean, **y'all-**"

NIC

Sick allyship.

ISAIAH

"White supremacy is a *disease*."

ALLIE

But Covid be a hoax-

ISAIAH

"And I, a white, cis, queer man-"

NIC

Say it proud!

ISAIAH

"-Stand with my brothers and sisters of color."

Leena picks her phone up.

Isaiah enters, a hologram of the Instagram world.

ALLIE

Stay an only child, we don't want you at this picnic.

ISAIAH

"Even though I have been discriminated against for being gay-"

LEENA

I'm gonna scream-

ISAIAH

"I am still, in fact, privileged."

NIC

STOP!

You don't mean-

Isaiah has...privilege?! I thought he was a gay!

ISAIAH

"Therefore, I cannot imagine how much worse it is if you're BIPOC."

NIC

Imagine being both...POC *and* gay???

ALLIE

Not possible, I've never met one.

LEENA

Don't worry Nic, I see you, I hear you-

NIC

You taste me too?

LEENA

If that's anti-racism, I'll do it.

NIC

Sick.

ISAIAH

"And so like, in summation-

ISAIAH

Rest in power-"

ALLIE
Help-

ISAIAH
“-to all these innocent people. And also-
Capitalize the word Black.”

ALLIE
Oh, well thank god.
That’s really the takeaway, right?

ISAIAH
“Peace and love, we have to fight for each other.”

NIC
Sick email signature.

ISAIAH
“I’ll be downtown protesting, if you need a ride, dm me-“

LEENA
I don’t want to hear anymore.

ALLIE
I just find it amazing.

NIC
Isaiah’s anti-racist jerk-off sesh? That doesn’t tickle your pickle?

ALLIE
All of them.
Our whole class-
The admin, the everyone.
The backtracking, the absolute virtue signaling in every which way direction
and like-
How many times have we caught them saying shit?
To you Nic, to me.
Isaiah literally ignored Leena for how many months for calling him out?

LEENA

I called him in, thank you-

ALLIE

Fuck that, you should be allowed to call him *out*. Not to sound MAGA, but some of these snowflakes-

NIC

Oh?

ALLIE

The fragility is just really starting to get annoying.

NIC

We could cancel him.

ALLIE

With what?

NIC

Leena still has that video of him from New Years-

LEENA

Everyone knew about it, they didn't care-

NIC

Well did they see the video?

LEENA

No, but-

NIC

White people love video evidence.

ALLIE

Can't seem to believe anything without it.

LEENA

He's uncancellable.

He made that whole post about how he is against cancel culture-

ALLIE

You can't! Cancel! Someone! Without! A platform!

ALLIE

That's just called accountability!

NIC

But also like, even if it were a cancel-

LEENA

He'd deserve it.

NIC

Him and his "platform."

LEENA

I mean, 10k Tiktok Gen Z followers is a *real* platform, Nic-

ALLIE

Yeah, but not every white person needs to be talking on this like they know what they're saying.

Like they haven't said racist shit.

Laughed at it.

Not every voice has to be equal in this conversation, especially the white pseudo- influencers.

LEENA

I just want us to stop giving clout to the willfully ignorant-

NIC

The willfully fucked up.

ALLIE

Then let's do it.

NIC

Okay but do you mean it? Because I feel like you mean it.

ALLIE

I'm tired and so yeah, I really fucking mean it.

LEENA

What if...

It worked?

What if we cancelled him and it worked?

And I never had to see his stupid face speaking about racism on the right side of his mouth as he denies his own words on the left?

NIC

Ok, dramatic-

ALLIE

Seriously Lee, I know things are bleak but the second we get prolific in the park we're really in plague times, please.

NIC

Sick alliteration-

LEENA

But like-

What if?

A Tiktok cut of a song like, "Up" by Cardi B.

Scene 7

July, 2020.

Leena is in the apartment, close to the door, but not ready to open it.

On the other side of the door, in the hallway, Isaiah bangs.

ISAIAH

You posted it?

Come **on**, Leena.

I was drunk, Madi was drunk-

And she literally did not mean any of it-

And you put it out there?

LEENA

Go home, Isaiah.

ISAIAH

Well you won't answer my calls, my texts- Why are you doing this to me?

LEENA

Get away from my door.

ISAIAH

I live here too!

LEENA

Not right now, you don't.

ISAIAH

My name is on this lease!

LEENA

Have you even been tested? Are your parents quarantined?

ISAIAH

I don't have it, no one at home has it, please, just let me in.

LEENA

Whose in your pod?

ISAIAH

Okay, didn't want to pull this card, but we're literally both going to the protests- We have the same exposure!

LEENA

I wear my mask around everyone-

ISAIAH

You were my friend-

You're supposed to act like a friend- They're calling us the *R word*.

LEENA

Go home.

ISAIAH

Open the door!

They're calling *me* a *racist*, Leena-

LEENA

Oh, and does that really compromise your new tiktok image?

ISAIAH

What does my tiktok have to do with anything?! Are you jealous?

LEENA

Fuck off-

ISAIAH

This is my *reputation!* As a *person!*

I could care less about your opinion of Madi, hell, I agree with you, she shouldn't have said it, but like-

No I don't know what to do.

I'm like, being found guilty by association?

...Leena!

Leena, I'll call landlord Mike right now. I'll call the cops-

Leena thrusts open the door. She steps back three feet, as does Isaiah, instinctually.

ISAIAH

I didn't mean that-
About the cops, I-
ACAB-

...

Hi.

LEENA

...

ISAIAH

Um, I don't know what to say.

LEENA

Because now you have to look at me?

ISAIAH

I want to apologize-

LEENA

Why now?

ISAIAH

Huh?

LEENA

...Okay, go.

ISAIAH

Go where?

LEENA

Apologize.

ISAIAH
Oh, sorry-
I'm **so** sorry.

LEENA
...And?

ISAIAH
And I was hoping you could take the video down. And delete any texts.
Literally everyone in school already knows now-
I know Madi has been like, harassed over this-
But now strangers on twitter are attacking *me*?
I don't even really **use** twitter-
They're being so gross and unfair and like-
They're also coming for my little sister? For no reason, just-
Just for being associated with me-

LEENA
You want me to delete the video-

ISAIAH
YES!

LEENA
-Of what was said about me.

ISAIAH
Yeah...

LEENA
Why?

ISAIAH
Because it's unflattering?

LEENA
What you believe is unflattering?

ISAIAH

I didn't say it-

LEENA

But you laughed. Implying you found it funny.

ISAIAH

Like, responses are one things, my **actions** are another-
And my actions have always been fine!

LEENA

Is that right?

ISAIAH

Can we stop focusing on morality for one fucking second-!

Leena, please.

You know who I am.

More than that, I'm like-

I was your biggest fan. Best friend!

Maybe one night - *one* - I wasn't the best I could be.

But one night out of all the rest of the time we've known each other? Come **on**.

You have to admit I'm really respectful, like-

I even moved out at the start of quarantine to give you space-

LEENA

Your parents just wanted you close to them.

ISAIAH

Yeah, but *also* it was something I did out of respect to you. You of all people know what my mom is like-

And right there!

Like, that night was months ago! And you're still holding a grudge, like- Why post them **now**?

LEENA

You were supposed to treat me like a friend.

LEENA

And take responsibility.

And not make a racially charged incident my issue to figure out, and-

ISAIAH

I literally said sorry!

Lena closes the door.

ISAIAH

Leena-

Leena, NO-

LEENA!

Are you going to take them down? Hello?

You've all made mistakes too!

Not just me!

It's not just me Leena! LEENA!

A song like, "Cancel Me" by Dominic Fike.

Scene 8

August, 2020.

Isaiah, alone, with his phone.

We hear the sounds of scrolling-

10 seconds of a Tiktok song here, 5 seconds of another Tiktok song right after, conducted by Isaiah's index finger.

Isaiah opens his latest Tiktok and watches it back.

ISIAIAH

Do you ever just think "I am so good at jokes?" Why don't I have friends? Like sometimes I crack an egg, and it's just straight yolk-

Some meme song sound plays, Isaiah rolls his eyes at himself.

He goes to delete it, but instead reads the comments. There are no faces to these commenters, but Isaiah hears them in Leena, Nic and Allie's voices.

COMMENTER 1

This is exactly what I needed today.

COMMENTER 2

LOL SO FKN FUNNY.

COMMENTER 3

How do I make friends when even this guy is lonely? LOL quarantine probz.

Isaiah feels better about this post. Continues to the next.

ISIAIAH

Why is no one talking about incels? They need to be outed. But then they'd be outcels.

Isaiah tightens, then opens the comments.

COMMENTER 2

Why is this the funniest thing I have ever seen.

Isaiah smiles. Next post.

ISAIAH

I need to add some of my toxic friends back into my life because no one around me will tell me when I'm putting on a little extra weight anymore.

COMMENTER 1

This is so gay.

*Isaiah deletes the post entirely.
He leaves the room, then returns with a bag of shredded cheese. He picks at it and continues to look through his own content.*

ISAIAH

Intersectionality is being gay and a brunette.

Isaiah laughs out loud at his own tiktok.

COMMENTER 3

Wasn't this guy cancelled?

Isaiah shoves his hand in the bag of cheese. He swallows.

COMMENTER 1

Yeah he's hella racist. Bye brand deals!

COMMENTER 2

No way. Link proof?

*Isaiah eats more cheese.
Deletes the video.
More cheese. Scrolls.*

ISAIAH

This summer? Pink wines matter.

COMMENTER 3

Lol his personality be like a Reductress article. Cringe.

Isaiah goes to respond to the comment-

ISAIAH

Was this a problematic post? I'm so sorry if I offended-

COMMENTER 3

Racists are like bugs. They're probably more afraid of us than we are of them. Unfollowed!

ISAIAH

I-

COMMENTER 4

Well, I liked this post.

Commenter 4's voice is unrecognizable. Almost autotuned to sound deeper, lower.

ISAIAH

You did?

COMMENTER 4

It's literally comedy. Lols only.

ISAIAH

Yeah. Yeah!

Isaiah does not eat from the bag.

COMMENTER 4

People are so touchy. You can't say anything anymore-

ISAIAH
Exactly!

Isaiah DMs Commenter 4.

ISAIAH
Thank you so much for your support! My audience means the world right now-

COMMENTER 4
We can't be afraid of getting cancelled. We need to be great again-

*Isaiah eats.
And eats.*

ISAIAH
What?
I don't know what you mean?

iMessage.

ALLIE
LEENA!
NIC!
HELLO?

Tiktok.

COMMENTER 4
You and I, we're the same.

*Isaiah eats nervously.
iMessage.*

ALLIE
We have a fucking problem.
HELLO?

Tiktok.

COMMENTER 4

*We gotta lift each other up before they all tear us down.
Trump 2020.*

*Isaiah blocks Commenter 4, and eats, and cries.
And eats.
The bag is empty. Isaiah stares at it.
The focus shifts away from Tiktok.
iMessage.*

ALLIE

HELLO?

NIC

At work one sec-

LEENA

What going on?

ALLIE

We should've never posted.

LEENA

What? The Isaiah vids?

ALLIE

We have to take them down. HELLO?

LEENA

I'm just confused, why?

NIC

Hi, I'm here. Emphasize to what Lee just said?

ALLIE

Check your inboxes.

All of them-

Instagram, twitter, Tumblr, fucking all of it.

I checked for one second, and it's just thousands and thousands of messages from Isaiah's fanbase-

NIC

Holy shit-

LEENA

They hate us-

ALLIE

I don't know what to do, someone found my address?

LEENA

They've never met us?

ALLIE

They found my parent's house-

NIC

Wait what the hell, someone reported my whole account?

ALLIE

Literally HOW did they find us?

LEENA

We posted from our own accounts, Allie, it's not hard-

ALLIE

NOT ON THE INTERNET, I'M TALKING ABOUT REAL LIFE.

LEENA

OKAY WELL I DON'T KNOW YOU HAVE MORE INFORMATION THAN ME RIGHT NOW.

NIC
EVERYONE TAKE A HIT WHEREVER YOU ARE. CALM DOWN.

ALLIE
WHAT DO WE DO?

NIC
It'll pass, right?
Like when he started getting cancelled, it only lasted like, what? A week?
Cancel culture is just 15 minutes of infamy, it never lasts long enough. It never brings real accountability. And accountability be my love language.

ALLIE
Okay, but then why are people in my DMs telling me to-

COMMENTER 4
Kill yourself.

LEENA
Do you think he gets messages like this?

NIC
Leena, what?

LEENA
Just like-

COMMENTER 4
"Kill yourself"-
"You fat whore"-
"You jealous bitch"-

LEENA
They've never met me. They've never met him.
But I've met him. I've been his friend, and then his not friend. And I still wouldn't say stuff like this.

ALLIE

Okay, not to be that guy, but like, you remember he's a cis white guy, right?

LEENA

Yeah.

ALLIE

Whose sending you those messages?

Because it's all white men in my DMs. Chads and Brads and Codys and Kens.

NIC

I got a Brayden in my inbox calling me three different slurs in one email.

ALLIE

He is not getting the same hate we're getting. And he's the hateful one. It's not fair. It's literally not right.

LEENA

I'm gonna delete my accounts I guess?

ALLIE

HE SHOULD DELETE HIS ACCOUNT!

NIC

Yo he's up to a million followers on Titkok now?

That's a lot of people following someone whose been deplatformed.

LEENA

Okay, thank you Nic, we get it. It didn't work, he wasn't cancelled. He just got more popular.

NIC

I'm just saying-

LEENA

But maybe what you're saying isn't helpful right now, okay?

ALLIE
Don't lash out at her, I'm shaking-

LEENA
I'm not lashing out!

NIC
I'm the only one not panicking right now-

ALLIE
I'm not!

NIC
Then why are you shaking?

ALLIE
...
...
EVERYTHING CAN'T
BE OUT OF OUR
CONTROL.
THERE HAS TO BE
CONSEQUENCES.
THERE HAS TO BE.
THE SAME PEOPLE
CANNOT ALWAYS BE
HURTING.
IT CAN'T ALWAYS
BACKFIRE TRYING TO
TELL THE TRUTH.
IT'S JUST THE TRUTH.
IT'S JUST THE TRUTH.

LEENA
I'm worried that Isaiah
gets these messages
from other white guys.
Straight white guys.
I am not making any
excuses for him,
honestly I'm annoyed
you're saying that
especially when you
know-
We did! We literally
damaged his
reputation! That's
cancelling!
I'M JUST SAYING! I'M
JUST SAYING!

NIC
...
You're just making
excuses for him again.
Well I'm annoyed
you're focusing on him
and his feelings when
literally all three of us,
three women of color
who did not damage
his reputation with
anything other than his
own words-
I SAID WITH HIS
OWN WORDS!
I LITERALLY SAID
THAT!

NIC
I'm sorry, WHAT?
Okay, I'm still at work, but when I get out, we need to actually talk about this.
Hello?

ALLIE

I left the groupchat.

LEENA

I left the groupchat.

*A Tiktok cut of a song like "Best Friend" by Saweetie
and Doja Cat.*

Act II
Cancel me

Scene 1

March 12, 2020. Leena and Isaiah's apartment.

A song like, MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name) by Lil Nas X plays.

Suddenly, Isaiah enters the apartment. He has several Costco bags.

He hauls them into the kitchen. As we hear the sounds of unloading, a small kitten crosses the stage.

Maybe it pees, you can't control an animal actor, I guess.

LEENA (off)

Mushroom? Mushroom where are you?

Leena enters, clearly just waking up.

LEENA

Mushroom!

You know you are supposed to stay in my bed Mr. Porcini.

Very naughty little mushroom. No treats today. Come-

Isaiah enters for the last Costco bag.

LEENA

Hey.

ISAIAH

You got a cat?

LEENA

Are you parents picking you up?

ISAIAH

My mom said it's better if I stay here.

LEENA

Oh.

ISAIAH

Did you ask the landlord?

LEENA

Mushroom is a foster. He'll only be here as long as this lasts. You know, with the shelters closing and stuff.

ISAIAH

But the shelter would know that the building doesn't allow-

LEENA

Nic impersonated him. Landlord Mike. I'll tell him it's for emotional support if he asks.

ISAIAH

...If we don't get the deposit back-

LEENA

Then I'll take care of it.

ISAIAH

You should've asked.

LEENA

Who? You?

ISAIAH

Yeah, what if I was allergic?

LEENA

I know you're not. We like, know each other. Remember?

ISAIAH

...

I'm gonna-

LEENA
Sure.

Isaiah brings his last Costco bag to the kitchen.

LEENA
Come here, little guy-

Isaiah reenters, still holding the bag.

ISAIAH
Is his name mushroom?

LEENA
Mister Porcini.

ISAIAH
Okay.

LEENA
Look at us. Talking.

ISAIAH
Is it okay if I stay here?

LEENA
You pay rent, so-

ISAIAH
I just-
I know we're weird right now.

LEENA
Maybe we'll work through it?

ISAIAH
Okay.

LEENA
What'd you get?

ISAIAH
Oh, mostly cheese.
Let me, um-

Isaiah exits with his bag again. Then returns.

ISAIAH
So we should talk about, like, how many people we're seeing, if we're both gonna stay here.

LEENA
Right.
No one.

ISAIAH
Wait, but-

LEENA
No one.
I'm even gonna just stick to FaceTiming Nic and Allie.

ISAIAH
They live together, so I'd be really fine if you wanted to see them.

LEENA
I can FaceTime them for the month this lasts-

ISAIAH
It's just-
I don't think this is just gonna be a month.

LEENA
Science is like, really advanced.

ISAIAH

Not to pull out my global health major, but like-
This is not being handled well. Government-wise. So.

LEENA

So?

ISAIAH

So if I'm only seeing you for the whole spring, like-
I'm gonna go crazy.

LEENA

You're not exactly my first pick either, okay-

ISAIAH

Come on. You know we have issues-

LEENA

Well who do you lack issues with that you'd like to see, huh?

ISAIAH

Brandon lives alone. I'd like to see him.
What if we each got two?

LEENA

...

Who else would you want to see?

ISAIAH

Gabi K?

LEENA

Who lives with 10 people? Not down for that.

ISAIAH

But she's not even friends with all of them-

LEENA

But she lives with them, which means when even one of them goes to party, it's like they all got exposed to that party, so no.

ISAIAH

Fine, then I'd like to make Madi my second person.

LEENA

...

ISAIAH

She shows up for me.

LEENA

Come on Mr. Porcini.

Leena exits with the cat in hand to her room. Isaiah stands uncomfortably alone.

ISAIAH

So can she be my second person?

...

Is that a no?

LEENA (off)

Sorry to be a sensitive slumdog about it!

A Tiktok cut of a song like, "Buss It" by Erica Banks.

Scene 2

March 19, 2020.

Isaiah creeps out into the living room.

ISAIAH

Mr. Porcini!

Mushroom!

Here pussy pussy puss-

Isaiah finds Mushroom the cat.

ISAIAH

Oh hello smol guy!

Is your mommy on her government mandated hour of outside walking with her mean friends? Yes she is-

Are they probably talking shit about lil old Isaiah? Huh, Mr. Porcini?

Do you need some cuddles until she comes home? Here, here.

Isaiah snuggles the cat.

ISAIAH

You are very cute, Mushroom.

You could literally be Tiktok famous.

Do you think I could be Tiktok famous, Mr, Porcini? Hm?

Maybe if I didn't share a wall with Leena, I'd try.

But no one wants to see a global health major do comedy during the pandemic, now do they?

Mr. Porcini, have you been on CatTok though?

Here, look-

Isaiah shows. Mushroom the cat a Tiktok on his phone. Obviously, a CatTok song like, "death bed (coffee for your head)" plays. Isaiah "awws" Another, then another, when suddenly, the phone dies.

ISAIAH

Come, Mushroom. We need a charger.

*Isaiah exits with Mushroom.
Tumblr.*

LEENA

I didn't want to be a cat lady.

I always thought I'd like dogs, you know.

But maybe I'm fine being a cat lady. Maybe I don't need anybody at all.

Don't need a single Poodle, Pug, or pup of any kind. Not even an effing Corgi.

Because Corgi's tell you they'll be your best friend forever-

But they eat their own shit, don't they?

And they're really everyman's best friend, not just yours.

Corgi's can't tell the difference between me and a bitch.

...

Unless I'm the bitch.

Am I the bitch?

Is it bitchy to require an apology?

I'm not gonna beg though. Because bitches beg.

...

I'm so lonely.

*Nic and Allie's apartment.
Nic scrolls through twitter.*

NIC

Allie!

Allie are you awake yet?

Twitter's crazy today, come here-

Rona cases passed half a million.

HALF a MILLION!

Allie enters, clearly groggy.

ALLIE

That's fake news.

NIC

No it's not-

ALLIE

There can't be half a million cases in the states yet-

NIC

Not the States, the world.

ALLIE

Ohhh well that probably adds up, right?

Like Italy alone must be half those.

NIC

Not half, otherwise it'd be pretty rude to be singing on balconies, right?

ALLIE

I mean, equally as useless as clapping for the NHS every night, but even England feels helpless and scared. And they're like, the original colonizers.

NIC

True.

What if we did a million, though.

ALLIE

Did what?

NIC

Pass a million cases. In the states.

ALLIE

I don't think that's possible.

Have you cleaned your room yet?

NIC

Don't change the subject-

ALLIE

At least put away your laundry, it's been sitting on the bed, don't think I can't see-

NIC
Okay, mom-

ALLIE
Really. Atlantic says keeping our spaces clean makes us feel clean and if we feel clean we won't get placebo sick.

NIC
But-

ALLIE
Plus it'll keep you off twitter for an hour. It's not good for you.
You're going crazy.

NIC
Impossible.

ALLIE
It's impossible to drive from New York to California on one tank of gas.
And impossible to get from here to Pennsylvania without driving through at least two tolls.
And the distance from here to the nearest Culvers is at least an hour in any direction, no exceptions.

NIC
What the fuck?

ALLIE
I've been google mapping a lot today.

NIC
Why?

ALLIE
I dunno, I like it.

NIC
Why?

ALLIE

Well why are you on Twitter?

NIC

I like to know what's going on.

ALLIE

Well you look really sad.

Google Maps isn't stressful.

Hyper-colorful and boundless just like Twitter, but not stressful.

And updates are happening all the time.

Like today, they finally added street view for my hometown look-

Allie opens Google Maps.

ALLIE

152 Chestnut street.

That's my house.

NIC

I've never been to your house.

ALLIE

Now you have.

NIC

I've never met your parents.

ALLIE

Well, they're in there.

NIC

I hope I get to meet them. After this.

ALLIE

...

Why would you say that.

NIC
You haven't talked about it at all.

ALLIE
I just woke up, I don't want to right now.

NIC
Okay.
We can talk about it this afternoon then.

ALLIE
Nic-

NIC
You're gonna have to talk about it sometime.
Not just when you're drunk at a party.
When you're sober. With me.
You're allowed to be upset.

ALLIE
She's high risk.

NIC
Yeah, and you're her kid.
Your mental health and her physical health can be acknowledged at the same time.

ALLIE
Oh really?

NIC
Yeah?

ALLIE
Well, I think mental health matters too.
And talking. And talking about it.

NIC
Everyone's depressed-

ALLIE
Nic.

NIC
What.

ALLIE
When's the last time you went outside.

NIC
...

ALLIE
Come on a government mandated walk with me.

NIC
No.

ALLIE
It wasn't a question.

NIC
Not now-

ALLIE
Twitter will still be there in an hour, okay?

NIC
Fuck off.

ALLIE
Excuse me?

NIC
Sorry, sorry. I'm sorry.

ALLIE

What's going on with you dude.

NIC

I just haven't been sleeping well.

And I still don't have a job since the restaurant closed. And I don't have anything going on really. And I don't care about my classes.

And I don't have the hustle. I don't know where it went.

I don't like going outside. I keep thinking of that 80 year old Chinese grandma getting whacked.

I don't want to answer texts.

I smoke at noon, look at Twitter until 5, drink until midnight, and then wait until it's time to wake up.

...

Lol.

ALLIE

Not lol, Nic.

...

I'm gonna make some coffee. And then we're going to find you a therapist-

NIC

Expensive-

ALLIE

Not through the school.

And then we're going through SnagAJob, Glassdoor and LinkedIn together.

Wanna talk on your bed or mine?

NIC

I can't find my comforter under my pile.

ALLIE

Okay, mine.

But then we're going on a government mandated walk.

After you shower, because you smell like Landlord Mike.

Nic laughs.

*Allie laughs. They laugh.
Nic's laugh starts to sound like a cry.
Allie holds her.
A Tiktok cut of a song like, "Levitating" by Dua Lipa.*

Scene 3

March 26, 2020.

Allie and Nic at one end of the roof.

Leena sits across from them, exactly six feet away.

They are all masked and all have puzzles.

LEENA

This is so naughty.

NIC

I don't care.

ALLIE

We're a pod, it's fine.

NIC

This is safe enough and we don't go anywhere. It's fine.

ALLIE

It's fine!

LEENA

...

We won't tell anyone-

NIC

Obviously not-

ALLIE

Yeah, no way.

LEENA

We'd get cancelled.

ALLIE

You mean, held accountable?

LEENA

I don't know.

I don't know how cancelling works. I know what the goal is, you know.

Justice, accountability.

But like, on a smaller scale, I don't know.

Like who really gets hurt if I don't wear my mask at Trader Joe's?

It might be me, but more likely it'll be someone else. Someone I may never meet.

And it'll still be my fault.

And I'll never be able to apologize.

And I think that's all anyone really wants, right?

ALLIE

Well, I wouldn't generalize.

Sometimes an apology isn't enough for say, murder.

NIC

Restorative justice though-

ALLIE

Please, not today.

NIC

You're right.

LEENA

I mean, I'm projecting, it's true.

An apology is what I want, I guess. From Isaiah.

ALLIE

And you should get one.

But like, not everything is on the same scale.

LEENA

Yeah...yeah.

ALLIE

What I want, right now? More than anything?

NIC

Name it, baby-

(Therapist Annie G says naming your needs is sexy.)

ALLIE

A party.

Thrown by underclassmen.

And I don't know any of them.

And they're all trying to impress me.

And I know it.

I don't even want to talk to anyone there. I just want to see a crowd, and observe.

I haven't like, *watched* in awhile, you know?

Like, I've been engaging, pushing, zoom-communicating.

But I haven't been allowed to watch in a minute.

NIC

We used to people watch.

LEENA

In class, at bars-

NIC

Restaurants.

LEENA

How is the restaurant?

NIC

I'm not going back. Allie's gonna help me out with rent for a few months until I can find a remote job.

LEENA

That's really cool of you, Al.

ALLIE

Some families show their affection with housing, others with money.

You'd both do the same for me.

NIC

I got an interview with this creepy cult leader doing zoom producing for the online classes, so hopefully that takes.

LEENA

Cult leader?

NIC

I'll dip if it gets to be too much, but ever since watching Tiger King I'm like, "If I got involved in this, I could really fuck some shit up."

LEENA

You watched Tiger King?

ALLIE

Even *I* watched Tiger King.

NIC

Starting therapy and taking a month to rest has me feeling like Carol Baskin in a poncho.

LEENA

You're in therapy?

NIC

Who isn't in therapy.

ALLIE

It's true, name me one person.

LEENA

I'm not?

ALLIE

I'll hit you up with the plan we're doing through the university- Not the free one, but like, it's worth shelling out for the sliding scale option.

NIC

I get talk therapy through the school and Zoloft through a website.

LEENA

Like, the dark web?

ALLIE

My brother gets his Lexapro through the same one, it's legit.

LEENA

Woah.

Like, I love talking to you guys, it makes me feel more normal-

ALLIE

Sure, but also what the fuck do we know-

LEENA

Exactly.

NIC

I got no expertise when it comes to your roommate situation. If I couldn't rely on Allie, I'd be spiraling right now.

ALLIE

That's not true, you'd hustle til you burned out.

NIC

I just gave you a compliment, could you not roast me?

LEENA

She's right though.

NIC

Excuse me, we were talking about your trauma, not mine?

LEENA

Isaiah isn't my trauma-

ALLIE

You got a cat. You got trauma.

LEENA

Mushroom is my homie, okay.

But yeah, Isaiah and I-

We just kinda coast by each other politely, not talking about it.

NIC

That's gonna build up man. You either got to get even or get it out there.

ALLIE

So, what would getting even be?

NIC

Posting receipts? I don't know.

LEENA

Why, so we can resent each other more?

So he can hurt like I'm hurting?

ALLIE

Listen, I don't like him, like, I *really* don't like him.

But I don't think anyone has the energy to go cancelling right now.

Just talk to him.

LEENA

Okay.

ALLIE

But *really* talk. With like, intention.

NIC

She learned that therapy term from me.

A Tiktok cut of a song like, "WAP" by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion.

Scene 4

*April 2, 2020. Leena and Isaiah's apartment.
Isaiah plays with Mushroom on the couch.
When Leena enters, Isaiah looks embarrassed,
caught.*

LEENA

You don't have to stop playing with
him-
...He's-
Yeah? I-

ISAIAH

Sorry, I wasn't-
Oh, okay.
He's really cute.
Sorry, what?

LEENA

There's a million cases of Covid. In the world.

ISAIAH

Fuck.

LEENA

Yeah.

ISAIAH

I haven't seen anyone.

LEENA

I've seen Nic and Allie. Outside and masked, but I can not see them again
until-
Until we know more about how it gets passed, I guess?

ISAIAH

Thank you.

LEENA

For sure.

...

Um-

ISAIAH
Yeah?

LEENA
I need you.
I need you as my friend. To rely on. To be relied like, upon.
Not to be like, “now more than ever” about it, but-
Especially now.

ISAIAH
Yeah.

LEENA
We need to talk about it. In person, not over text.

ISAIAH
I know.

LEENA
I still have it. The video.
I don't watch it or anything, it's really painful to think about-
But I would want to watch it together, I think. And talk about it.

ISAIAH
Okay.

LEENA
Okay.

*Leena joins Isaiah on the couch.
She looks through her videos for a second, then
props her phone between the both of them.
For a second, it's Isaiah, Mushroom, and Leena sitting
slightly too far apart from each other on this worn,
slightly too small sofa. They look like a family.
They feel like family.
Leena presses play on the video. Leena and Isaiah
watch it silently together, as we hear the audio.*

*Underscoring the audio is the faint sound of
"Slumber Party" from the shots ballet playing.*

LEENA
Happy 2020!

ALLIE NIC
*Happy New Year! Oh
fuck are we early-*

NIC
*I knew we should've
waited a little-*

NIC
*Is it okay that we're here early?
We can go back downstairs, wait a little / then come back up?*

ALLIE
Nic, stop being a weirdo. Leena, this dress!

LEENA
*Enough!
May I offer mystery punch?*

NIC
Yes, god yes.

ALLIE
Lee, where's Isaiah?

LEENA (off)
Vomiting, he had the gummies.

NIC
(So lame.)

ALLIE
Be nice.

ISAIAH
This hurt my feelings.

LEENA
I know.

NIC

Should've lived with us.

ISAIAH

Do you wish you had lived with them?

LEENA

Sometimes.

LEENA

Cheers to 2020?

NIC

May junior year pass by faster.

ALLIE

Fuckin' cheers!

ISAIAH

Mmm hello!

NIC

Isaiah.

ISAIAH

Nic. Allie.

LEENA

Um-

ISAIAH

Shots?

ISAIAH

It's about to get bad.

LEENA
I know.

ISAIAH
I got it-
Oh my god, Madi! Hi!

MADI
Bitch I thought you said you were going to wait for me to leave Gabi's!

ISAIAH
I lost my phone!

MADI
I feel like throwing hands tonight, don't make me fight first with you-

ISAIAH
No no no, no fighting tonight, immaculate vibes only-

MADI
Don't silence me, white man-

ISAIAH
Bitch!

MADI
Bitch!

ISAIAH
Seriously though, Leena is like, already stressed about hosting tonight so like, be chill-

MADI
I don't like her-

ISAIAH
Mads-

MADI

Or that you're living with her! Sue me-

ISAIAH

Shh-

MADI

Don't shush me! What, is sensitive slumdog gonna kick me out if she hears me yelling? It's a party, have a popper, relax-

ISAIAH

...

MADI

What?

Isaiah starts to laugh.

ISAIAH

Oh my god, you're crazy-

MADI

Ahhh! My BITCH-

*They laugh together. The laughing goes on too long.
Isaiah turns off the phone.
Isaiah and Leena and Mushroom sit in silence on the
couch.*

ISAIAH

In the moment, I didn't realize what she said.

LEENA

You paused.

Sometimes, I feel like you don't choose to hear it.

ISAIAH

Sometimes...I feel like you're mad at me for being white.

ISAIAH

It makes me wish I wasn't-
And I know what that sounds like, but like-
There is so much I don't know and I don't know how to know it-
Because I don't want to ask you? Because that's labor-
But like, I don't know what to google until something happens and then by
the time it happens it's too late?

LEENA

...

ISAIAH

What are you thinking?

LEENA

...

I want to be mad at you.
Because I deserve to be upset.
But you're supposed to be my person.
You're supposed to be the friend I talk to about this, except you're the-
The this.

ISAIAH

I like that we're talking about it now-?

LEENA

But what "it" is is race.
We've never talked about race, really. You and me.
We talk about everything else, but when it comes to racism-
We don't.
Like, we shit on straight white boys, but we don't-
Don't go deeper.
Do you know what it's like for me to go here?
I mean, there's no historically Asian college I guess, so what other choice was
I gonna have.

ISAIAH

I'm so glad you came here though, otherwise we would have never met-

LEENA

And I've loved meeting you.

Because with you, it felt like we had this thing in common, feeling left out.

Feeling a little off.

And so we stick together. So that we know we're always included, because it's us two against all of them.

That's how I felt, anyway.

ISAIAH

It is, it is us against all of them-

LEENA

No, because it's also you and Madi against me when I'm not there.

I just, don't think our friendship needs to be based on being against anyone else.

ISAIAH

Yeah.

LEENA

I don't know if we would have become friends if we didn't go here at the same time, with these same people, in these given circumstances. And that makes me very sad.

Focus shift to Allie and Nic's apartment.

Allie is asleep on the couch.

Nic lays a blanket over her and takes off her crocs.

NIC

I haven't felt this beautiful in a long time.

Maybe it's because I'm going nowhere and seeing no one. Being "perceived". "Performing".

Therapist Annie G gave me those words. She doesn't like when I call her Annie G. But I don't love going to therapy, so we both have room to grow.

...

I've been raggedy sad for so long I didn't realize I could be still.

Content.

NIC

I don't have to make jokes to be heard.

I love living with you.

I love life with you.

It's not a joke. I'm not joking.

I want to be able to take care of you the way you took care of me.

Thank you for showing me how to care when the world ended.

Shift focus to Leena and Isaiah.

ISAIAH

So what do you want me to do?

Text Madi? Tell her she's out of my life?

Do you want me to apologize again?

What's the protocol?

How can I fix this?

What do you want, Leena?

LEENA

I wanna see who you care about.

ISAIAH

How?

*Nic puts Allie's crocs away.
She sets slippers in their place.*

LEENA

How do you care for me when no one is watching?

Nic sets an alarm for Allie.

ISAIAH

I'm sorry, how many times do you want me to say it?

Allie turns in her sleep.

NIC

Hey sleepy, can you hear me?

Allie grumbles, then snores.

LEENA

This was closure, now comes proof. I got to see it.

This kind of thing will happen again, I we stay friends. This kind of thing repeats themselves. I hope you can do better when it does.

ISAIAH

Okay.

LEENA

Okay.

Nic cleans up around Allie.

ISAIAH

So are we good?

Nic brings Allie a glass of water, then turns out the light.

Blackout.

LEENA

I don't know.

I think these things take time.

We have as long as this thing lasts to figure it out.

A song like, "bad guy" by Billie Eilish plays.

Scene 5

*April 9, 2020. Leena and Isaiah's apartment.
Isaiah cradles Mushroom. He looks nervous.
A song like "bad guy" by Billie Eilish, underscores the
scene instrumentally.*

ISAIAH

LEENA!

Leena, come check!

Leena enters from the kitchen.

LEENA

Did you change?

ISAIAH

I had to! Mushroom shat on me-

LEENA

Aw someone is nervous, isn't he?

Leena takes Mushroom from Isaiah and snuggles him.

ISAIAH

I'm not that nervous-

LEENA

I meant Mushroom.

ISAIAH

Right.

LEENA

Just be nice-

ISAIAH

What if we talk about politics?

LEENA

Then speak with care and be kind.
Is Brandon coming?

ISAIAH

Yes, he's very excited to spend more time with people besides me.

LEENA

He knows there's no sides or anything, right?
We're here to like, have pod time.

ISAIAH

Yes yes. Us for all of us, not us against us.
Also-

LEENA

Yeah?

*Isaiah looks up and down Leena's matching
loungewear.*

ISAIAH

I really like that set.
Very drippy.

LEENA

Thanks.

A knock at the door.

LEENA

Are you ready to cohost?

*Isaiah opens the door.
Nic and Allie, masked, enter.*

LEENA
...
Hi y'all-
...

ALLIE
Hi hi!
...
Nic!

NIC
Oh my god the
deja vu I am
getting is wack-

ISAIAH
Hey!
Oh-
Totally.

NIC
I'm just saying!

ALLIE
Nic, stop being a weirdo. Leena, this set!

LEENA
Enough!
I can't wear anything else.

ISAIAH
We've been eating a lot of cheese.

ALLIE
That's really good to hear.

NIC
I brought bread, let me know if y'all want a sourdough starter.

LEENA
I'll grab jam!

Leena passes Mushroom to Isaiah and exits for the jam.

ISAIAH
Hey.

ALLIE
Hi.

ISAIAH
I just wanted to, um-

NIC
Be normal?

ISAIAH
Yes. I want to be normal.

ALLIE
Cool.

A moment.

ISAIAH
Oh, this is Mushroom.
Mr. Porcini, when he's being a bad boy.

NIC
Oh hello little man-

ALLIE
I wanna hold him-

*Leena enters with jam.
They all sit and pass bread and jam and Mushroom
around.
It becomes easier for these four (plus the cat) to be
comfortable with one another.
A knock at the door.*

ISAIAH
I got it-
Oh my god, Brandon! Hi!

*Blackout, sound out-
Tick, tick, tick.
End of play.*