

SCAR TISSUE

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CHARACTERS

JESSICA, female, late 20's, has Italian heritage, otherwise no specific ethnicity

SAM, female, late 20's

HANNAH, female, early to mid 30's, Sam's sister

JACK, male, late 20's to early 30's

LUKE, male, late 20's, probably a white dude

NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

TRANSITIONS: The transitions from scene to scene should happen in a different light than everything else. While some things are genuinely happening in the reality of the world, other things are the scars creeping in and blending with real life. Anything can happen in these transitions.

FLASHBACKS: There are many flashback scenes that happen simultaneously with present-time scenes. While Jessica and/or Sam may leave the present-time scene and head into the flashback, the voyeur of the scene will be able to interject and stop the scene. The characters specifically in the flashback do not see the voyeur on the outside and don't react to anything they may say or do.

TEXTING: There are multiple text conversations throughout the play. They can be portrayed in any way the director, cast, and designers see fit. Anything from the words being placed on a screen on stage, to a voice over, to the actors simply saying the lines, and anything in between.

RUN TIME/INTERMISSION: The play has a natural place for an act break if you'd like to have an intermission. If not, you can go straight through with no break- the run time is approximately 90 minutes.

ACT I

Scene 1

JESSICA and SAM's apartment in New York. It is filled with a mixture of IKEA furniture and hand-me-downs. It isn't exactly tidy, but it is clean. There are pairs of shoes scattered across the floor, coats and sweaters thrown over chairs and the arms of the couch, yoga mats rolled up by the door, etc.

We open to SAM, having moved furniture around, finishing up a session of yoga as a start to her day. Some sort of new-age music is playing in the background on her iPhone in a stereo dock on a side table. As she finishes her yoga flow, she sits in a meditative pose. She gets up, very relaxed and happy, and turns her music off. She then heads to JESSICA's bedroom door and proceeds to pound on it in quite the opposite manner of her previously relaxed attitude.

SAM

Jessica! Get your butt out here! If you don't get moving you won't have time to make me breakfast before you have to go to the bridal salon!

JESSICA

(shouting from offstage)

Give me a minute!

SAM starts to put the living room back together. JESSICA enters from her room, dressed in all black and very trendy. As the scene unfolds, they move very easily around each other. JESSICA looks for her purse, coat, etc to get ready for work, while SAM follows her around the apartment, finding the items for her, brushing lint off her clothes, and just generally taking care of JESSICA.

Dear Lord, Sam! You'd think all that yoga you do would calm and center you.

SAM

I am calm and centered. And I will remain that way as long as you make me breakfast.

JESSICA

I haven't had time to go grocery shopping.

SAM

Seriously? Fine. I made a pot of coffee.

JESSICA

You found the time to do an entire yoga sequence, and make a pot of coffee, and yet you cannot cook yourself breakfast?

SAM

I never said I can't. I just prefer when you cook.

JESSICA

You are hopeless.

SAM

And yet you never give up on me. I'm honored.

JESSICA

You should be. Please don't forget you promised me you would thoroughly clean the apartment today.

SAM

How can I forget when you won't let me? Why are you freaking out so much?

JESSICA

It's our six month anniversary!

SAM

You sound like you're still in middle school. Oh-Em-Gee, did he carry your books for you? You guys are TOTALLY getting married!

JESSICA

Just because you're cynical and hate the world doesn't mean I have to be. I want tonight to be special so I'd like to hide the fact that I am the Oscar to your Felix.

SAM

The who to my what?

JESSICA

Oscar and Felix. The Odd Couple? Are you serious?

SAM

Ok, Boomer.

JESSICA

Ugh, fine. The Rachel Green to your Monica Gellar. Happy now?

SAM

Yes. *(beat)* Wait! No! I'm not that uptight!

JESSICA

No, you are just that clean.

SAM

Well, after that, I don't know if I want to clean anymore!

JESSICA

Yeah, ok.

SAM

FINE. But I'm not doing it for you... I was gonna clean today anyway. Seriously though, he needs to learn about the real you. Takeout containers, messy room, and all. If he can't handle you at your worst, he doesn't deserve you at your best!

JESSICA

Inspirational facebook post?

SAM

Instagram.

JESSICA

Figured. Look, tonight is not that night. So, I would really appreciate it, dear Roomie, if when we got back here my flaws were hidden for a just a little while longer.

SAM

A roommate? Is that all I am to you? I am hurt, Jessica. Hurt. I tell every guy I date that you're my wife.

JESSICA

One, you actually tell men that?

SAM

Of course! They usually get excited until they find out it doesn't involve any sex.

JESSICA

And two, date? I don't think you can call what you do, dating.

SAM

Dating, using a man for the only thing he's good for. You know, potato, potahto.

JESSICA

Classy.

SAM

You know it, baby.

JESSICA

Bottom line, I want tonight to go well, so I'd appreciate a little help on your end.

SAM

Fine. But you realize guys don't care about all that extra bullshit. They care about one thing. *(She makes some sort of suggestion motion)* Speaking of, how's that going?

JESSICA

Why is that the only part you ever care about?

SAM

Because that's the only part that's fun about relationships.

JESSICA

It's... fine.

SAM

Just... fine? You were raving about the sex when you guys started dating. It can't be stale already.

JESSICA

It's not that... it's nothing. Nevermind.

SAM

No, Jess. What's up?

JESSICA

It... started happening again.

JACK appears at the side of the stage. JESSICA gets up and leaves SAM to enter the scene with JACK at his apartment, cuddling up next to him as they watch a movie. JESSICA pulls out her phone and starts to play.

JACK

You're kidding me! You're going to miss one of the best parts!

JESSICA

Jack, we've watched this movie a million times. I could probably quote it by now. In my sleep!

JACK

But it's a classic!

SAM

What movie?

JESSICA

Die Hard.

SAM

Hey! John McClane is an American hero. You give him the respect he deserves!

JESSICA

I'm not arguing with both of you about this. *(Turning back to JACK)* I thought you said Die Hard was a "Christmas Movie."

JACK

It is!

JESSICA

Ok, so if it's a Christmas movie, why are we watching it in March?

JACK struggles to find a cohesive argument.

JESSICA gloats and grabs the remote.

JESSICA

Uh, huh! Thought so! We're watching something else!

JACK

Wait!

JESSICA

Nope! It's all Bachelor Nation now, baby!

JACK

Oh hell no!

JACK steals the remote back. They playfully wrestle over the remote for a few moments. JESSICA makes an attempt to get it back, but JACK grabs her hands and holds them behind her back. They are face to face, both breathing heavily. JACK from lust. JESSICA from panic. JACK starts to kiss her. JESSICA rips away from him quickly.

JESSICA

Jack! Jack, stop! *(beat)* I... I'm sorry.

JACK

No, no. Don't be. I'm sorry.

JESSICA

It's fine. I'm fine.

JACK

No, you're not, Jess.

JESSICA

No, I'm good, really.

JACK

We can't keep avoiding this.

JESSICA

I'm... I'm gonna go get some water.

JESSICA starts to exit the flashback scene with JACK. He calls after her as she goes.

JACK

Jess! Jess... wait!

LIGHTS on JACK fade as JESSICA re-enters fully into the apartment with SAM.

SAM

When did it start up?

JESSICA

About a month ago. These last few weeks have been tense.

SAM

You're gonna have to find a way to get past this. Here, I'm going to text you a website that I think will really help.

SAM grabs her phone and sends JESSICA the website. JESSICA checks her phone.

JESSICA

An online sex toy store?

SAM

Hey, a good vibrator would solve all your problems. None of that pesky commitment crap. It's all about you, baby!

JESSICA

You're just so helpful. What are you up to tonight?

SAM

I teach class and then I'll be home.

JESSICA

Do you think that maybe you could...

SAM

... I could?

JESSICA

Find something to do *outside* the apartment tonight? Please, Sam?

SAM

You're kicking me out? So you can get laid?! I don't know whether to be pissed off or proud.

JESSICA

Come on, Sam, please? You could use this as an excuse to go out with everyone from the studio.

SAM

You know me. I don't do "group outings."

JESSICA

You don't do "outings" in general. You can't be a hermit all the time.

SAM

This is America, baby. If I choose to be a mole person and not surface during the daylight, that is my God-given right.

JESSICA

While I'm glad to see you have goals, I don't think it's that big of a deal to ask that I get some alone time in the apartment for once.

SAM

(Beat) Fine. But I'm not going to be happy about it.

JESSICA

I'm sure you'll power through it.

SAM helps JESSICA on with her coat. JESSICA feels in the pocket and finds the mail she was supposed to bring in from yesterday. She throws the rest of the mail on the couch. SAM immediately cleans up after her.

JESSICA

Oh, Sam! I forgot to tell you. We got a postcard from your parents. Where are they vacationing this time?

SAM

Some tropical place, I assume. As long as there are palm trees and drinks you can stick a little umbrella in, my mom is pretty much game for anything.

JESSICA

Well, she says hi and that you "really should call Hannah."

SAM

Yeah, sure, Diane. I'll get right on that.

JESSICA

Why is she telling you to call Hannah?

SAM

It's probably just her not-so-subtle hint that we should be good little daughters and plan a surprise for their 35th wedding anniversary.

JESSICA

Are you going to call her?

SAM

If hell freezes over, then I'll consider it.

JESSICA

Oh, shit! Now I'm really going to be late.

SAM

Just blame the trains. They can't really argue.

JESSICA

Right. And Sam, don't forget!

SAM

Monica Gellar or Felix-whatever clean. I won't. Have a great day filling those brides heads full of sappy bullshit and false dreams of a happily-ever-after!

JESSICA

I'll be sure to pass that motivational speech onto my bosses.

JESSICA rushes out the door. SAM gets up to start cleaning with the postcard still in hand. She goes over to her iPhone and picks it up. HANNAH appears on the side of the stage as SAM replays a message she left.

HANNAH is holding a postcard identical to SAM's.

HANNAH

Uh, hey, Sam. It's Hannah. I know it's been a while but I uh... I got a postcard from Mom. Seems like they are having fun. Well, anyway... call me, when you get a chance. If you can. Ok. Bye.

LIGHTS on HANNAH fade. SAM throws out the postcard, pops in some earbuds and begins to pick up the clothes and shoes. She's dancing and cleaning to music we can't hear. Eventually she stops and does the "CLAP, CLAP, CLAP, CLAP" from the 'FRIENDS' theme song.

END OF SCENE.

Scene 2

TRANSITION: SAM dances around cleaning the apartment. Once it is to her satisfaction, she exits. JESSICA and JACK enter laughing and clearly having a good time on their date. They enter the apartment.

JESSICA

I don't believe you!

JACK

It is one hundred percent true!

JESSICA

Yeah, right!

JACK

I'm telling you, this girl had her parents follow us to the restaurant and sit at the next table the whole night!

JESSICA

Did you have any idea?

JACK

None! I thought they were just rude people who couldn't stop staring. At the end of the meal, she invited them to join us for dessert!

JESSICA

Oh, no! What did you do?

JACK

I did what any sane person would do. I excused myself to use the bathroom and then I ran away.

JESSICA

You didn't.

JACK

Normally that's not something I would ever do, but I knew I wasn't leaving her stranded. She had a ride.

JESSICA

I still don't believe you.

JACK

You just don't want to admit that I win the bet.

JESSICA

You do not!

JACK

Call my roommate and ask!

JESSICA

Fine. For the sake of argument, you win the bad date of the century award.

JACK

Thank you! I hold that title with pride. Now, when do I get to cash in my prize?

JACK grabs JESSICA by the waist, pulls her to him and starts to kiss her. She playfully pulls away.

JESSICA

Considering you won under very suspicious circumstances, I think I'm still gonna make you wait for it.

JACK

That's cold.

JESSICA

My house, my rules.

JACK

Fine. I'm a patient man. Wow! I keep forgetting how nice your apartment is.

JESSICA

Yeah, well, you know me. Neat freak.

JACK

Why don't we come here more often?

JESSICA

Because I feel bad subjecting you to the craziness that is Sam.

JACK

She's not that bad. She's just... intimidating.

JESSICA

Yeah, she gets a little overprotective of me.

JACK

A little? The first words out of her mouth when I met her were, and I quote, “ I will cut your balls off if you hurt her.” I was so confused until you introduced her.

JESSICA

Ok, so she’s a lot protective.

JACK

She’s like a pitbull in yoga pants.

JESSICA

That’s a very accurate description.

JACK

Speaking of, where is she?

JESSICA

She has class til late and then she said she had plans for most of the night.

JACK

So... she’s not coming home?

JESSICA

Nope.

JACK

Great. I mean... not great... well... you know what I mean.

JESSICA

Yeah.

Beat.

JACK

Ah... the famous notebook!

JACK grabs JESSICA’s notebook off of the coffee table and starts to thumb through it. JESSICA quickly snatches it back.

JESSICA

Nope! Not a chance!

JACK

Come on. I know there's gotta be stuff about me in there.

JESSICA

Nope...

JACK

Liar.

JESSICA

So there may be an entry... or two... about you in it.

JACK

I get more than one? I feel special.

JESSICA

You should.

JACK

Did you write about how I swept you off your feet from date number one?

JESSICA

Oh, you mean our first date where you spilled wine on my favorite shirt?

JACK

Hey, if I can spill wine on a beautiful woman and still get a second date, I think that means I have some serious game.

JESSICA

Who said the second date wasn't out of pity?

JACK

Really. On our anniversary, you're gonna be like that?

JESSICA

Ok, ok. I'll be nice.

JACK

I was pretty surprised you were so cool about it.

JESSICA

Me too, actually. I guess you were too cute to get mad at.

JACK

I am pretty adorable.

JESSICA

And humble, too.

JACK

Are you kidding me? I'm the most humble guy I know!

JESSICA

(laughing)

Oh, I like you.

JACK leans in to kiss her. Things begin to get heated. We see a male figure appear on the outskirts of the scene, LUKE, in a semi-state of undress. JESSICA and JACK slide down on the couch with JACK on top. HE grabs JESSICA's hands and pins them by her head as he starts to kiss her neck. LUKE starts to close in on the pair. JESSICA begins to hyperventilate.

LUKE

You know, I've never really wanted to smoke. But sometimes after sex, you just crave one.

JACK

Jess, you ok?

JESSICA

(hyperventilating)

No.

JACK

Jess... how does this keep happening?

JESSICA

I'm-I'm... sorry...

JACK

I feel like you don't trust me.

JESSICA

I-I- think you s-should g-go...

JACK

You know I'm not going to hurt you.

LUKE

That cannot have been your first time.

JESSICA

I-I know... j-just please...

JACK

So I just leave and we pretend like this never happened and do the same damn thing over again?

JESSICA

No...

LUKE

I was talking to my roommate today, he's super frustrated...

JACK

I'm trying here, Jess, but I can't keep doing this.

LUKE

He hasn't slept with his girlfriend in a while...

JESSICA

P-please...

LUKE

He's doing it on purpose because he gets all this pent up energy then uses it on the field. I told him that's stupid but with how wiped out I am right now, I totally get it. Man, I'm gonna sleep like a baby tonight...

JACK

Can you at least talk to me? I'm in the dark here. I don't know what to do. We can't keep doing this every time we try to be together. Do you have any idea how it feels not to be able to touch my own girlfriend...

Beat.

JACK

Are you going to say anything?

LUKE

Hey, did you fall asleep?

JESSICA

It's not you... just please...

JACK

Ok... ok... I'll talk to you tomorrow.

LUKE

Goodnight, Jess.

JESSICA nods. JACK hesitantly leaves. JESSICA sits on the couch and puts her head between her knees to try and slow her breathing. She sits up and slowly begins to sob. END OF SCENE.

Scene 3

TRANSITION: On JACK's exit, he hesitates on going back to check on JESSICA. Ultimately, he decides against it and fully exits. JESSICA joins LUKE on the side of the stage. He goes in for a cheek kiss but she manages to avoid it. He hands her a Chinese Food Takeout container. He exits. She makes her way home and enters the apartment.

JESSICA

Sam? Sam? You home?

JESSICA puts the takeout container on the coffee table as she sits on the couch. She just stares at the container. Suddenly, she grabs it and marches to the kitchen. She throws it in the garbage can with more vigor than is necessary and kicks the garbage. She sits back down on the couch, pulls out her phone and dials. After a few moments, we assume the voicemail has picked up.

Hey, Jack... it's me. I just wanted to apologize again for the other night. Just call me... when you can. Ok... bye.

She hangs up and starts to break down. When she hears KEYS in the door, she quickly wipes under her eyes to remove any trace of running makeup. SAM enters like a hurricane into the apartment. She is carrying grocery bags and mail.

SAM

Oh, good! You're home! I'm mad at you.

JESSICA

That's a really strange way to ask me how my day was.

SAM

We meet up for lunch every Wednesday, like clockwork!

JESSICA

I know, but they called a last minute emergency meeting at the salon. What was I supposed to do?

SAM

What on earth could that emergency be? The world's lace supply is running dangerously low?

JESSICA

Hilarious.

SAM

Next time they pull this last minute meeting crap, I'm coming down there and dragging you out whether they like it or not.

JESSICA

Yeah, sure you are.

SAM

You doubt me?

SAM's phone vibrates with a call. She sees who it is, then hits ignore.

JESSICA

Last time you stepped foot in the front door, you nearly had a panic attack.

SAM

That store is my living hell, but I would brave it to save you.

Her phone vibrates again.

JESSICA

Who is it?

SAM

My sister.

JESSICA

Hannah? Hannah is calling you?

HANNAH's voicemails replay out loud.

HANNAH
(Voicemail)

Sam, please call me back... please.

SAM

Yeah. Probably just to make an excuse as to why she can't come to Mom and Dad's anniversary.

JESSICA

Maybe not. I mean, if she's actually putting in the effort.

HANNAH
(Voicemail)

Sam, stop ignoring my calls, it's important.

SAM

This is her M.O. She acts like she's going to come through and then she comes up with some lame excuse why she can't. I'm not wasting my energy on her bullshit.

JESSICA

Yeah... but if she's repeatedly calling...

HANNAH
(Voicemail)

Stop acting like a child and answer the phone!

SAM

No! Just drop it, please.

JESSICA

Ok, fine. I'm gonna go get changed.

JESSICA exits to her room.

HANNAH
(Voicemail)

Sam, I have to talk to you.

HANNAH appears on the side of the stage in a flashback. SAM enters the flashback, reflecting her roughly 14-15 year old self.

SAM

HANNAH! I have to show you this! You're gonna be so proud!

SAM awkwardly goes into tree pose, holds it for a moment, then clumsily comes out of it.

HANNAH

Sam! You've been practicing! That's awesome! So... I have something pretty exciting to tell you!

SAM

What is it?

HANNAH

I've started seeing this guy. His name is Josh! He's on the wrestling team. He is so smart and funny and just PERFECT!

SAM

Ugh, gross!

HANNAH

Oh, come on now!

SAM

Boys and dating and all that junk is just a waste of time.

HANNAH

You may think that now, but one day I promise you, you're gonna change your mind.

SAM

Yeah, right.

HANNAH

We'll see. Can't you just be excited for me? He really is amazing. I think this could be...

SAM

Could be what?

HANNAH

It.

SAM

If you're happy I'm happy... I guess.

HANNAH

There's that charm.

They laugh and hug each other. Then, HANNAH and SAM slowly move apart from each other while previous conversations play overhead.

HANNAH

(voice)

Sorry, I can't make it home for your birthday-

SAM

(voice)

- It feels like forever since I've seen you.

I promise, next time I will definitely come home-

- Yeah, sure, Hannah.

Josh has a lot on his plate right now. I know I've been asking too much of him-

- He called you some pretty bad names, Hannah. Are you sure you're ok?

Sam, I need your help-

- Of course, anything.

HANNAH and SAM stop physically drifting apart, but they don't move closer together as SAM relives another, more painful, memory with HANNAH.

SAM

So, I've already asked my roommate, you can totally crash with us for a few days until you figure out what the next steps are.

HANNAH

Sam...

SAM

I know it's gonna be hard to go from your huge house to my couch, but we can make it fun! It'll be like a sleepover.

HANNAH

Sam, wait-

SAM

Oh, my God! I have a great idea! You can guest teach a yoga class at my yoga studio! We can do it together!

HANNAH

Sam! Listen to me for a second. I can't leave right now.

SAM

Ok, so when can you leave?... I can't fucking believe this.

HANNAH

Josh is my husband. It's not that easy.

SAM

Oh, it's not? Because from where I'm standing it looks pretty fucking easy.

HANNAH

You want me to just throw away everything we've built together like it's nothing?

SAM

You're right. I should just expect that you're going to lie and back out. That's what you do.

HANNAH

You know, sometimes I really envy you, Sam. Everything is just black and white. But one day, when you're an adult and you have to join the real world, you'll see that things are not that simple.

SAM

No, it is that simple. Staying with a monster, that is wrong. Lying to your sister *again*, that is wrong.

HANNAH

When have I lied to you?

SAM

You missed my high school graduation. You missed my college graduation. When I was in the hospital with my appendix, I didn't get so much as a card from you, let alone a goddamn phone call. You constantly choose that asshole over your own family and make excuses for it. So please, tell me what I am missing here.

HANNAH

Just because you don't like him doesn't mean-

SAM

Don't like him? Are you fucking kidding me? You still believe him over me don't you? *(Beat)* I guess that's my answer.

HANNAH

Sam...

SAM

I'm done, Hannah. Next time you need a shoulder to cry on and tell you that every mistake you've ever made is fucking valid, find someone else.

HANNAH

Sam... Sam! Sam!

SAM storms out of the flashback. LIGHTS on HANNAH fade. SAM tries to collect herself while JESSICA re-enters. JESSICA's phone dings with a text message.

SAM

Who's that? Jack?

JESSICA

Nope. I think I officially screwed that one up.

SAM

Yeah, probably.

JESSICA

Thank you. That's so comforting.

SAM

What? You know me. I don't sugar coat.

JESSICA

No, you definitely don't. I'm going to start dinner. What did you bring home?

SAM

I got the stuff to make your grandmother's pasta sauce, but I got quinoa pasta to eat it with this time.

JESSICA

You know my grandmother will haunt me for the rest of my life if her sauce comes anywhere near that crap.

SAM

Your grandma's not dead.

JESSICA

I know, but she's Italian. For something this disgraceful she'll get a head start.

SAM starts going through the mail. She separates the important mail from the junk and goes to the garbage. When she opens it, she sees JESSICA's takeout container.

SAM

So, Jess. Speaking of Italian blasphemy, at your lunch meeting today, did they feed you from that crappy Italian place across the street?

JESSICA

Uh, yeah. My grandmother should haunt them for masquerading their food as Italian cuisine.

SAM

Right. Well, if the food is so bad, why do you have a takeout container? *(Beat)* You blew me off!

JESSICA

No, I just... I didn't want to eat rabbit food again.

SAM

That is the lamest excuse. I don't care that we didn't have lunch. I care that you're obviously not telling me the truth.

JESSICA

You wouldn't get it.

SAM

If you legitimately think I won't get whatever it is, then you are completely misjudging our friendship slash domestic partnership.

JESSICA

Fine! Yesterday, on my way home from work, I ran into someone I haven't seen in a while and they wanted to get lunch today to catch up, so we did. End of story.

SAM

Oh, really? And lunch with this person was more important than lunch with me?

JESSICA

Well he only had today free.

SAM

He? You blew me off for a he?! The plot thickens. And who is this mystery man?

JESSICA

It was just someone from a long time ago. College.

SAM

College? Who was it? *(Beat)* Jess...

JESSICA

It was Luke.

SAM

You have to be fucking kidding me!

JESSICA

See, I told you that you wouldn't understand.

SAM

What's to understand? You blew off plans with your best friend to have lunch with that asshole. Makes total sense.

JESSICA

You don't even know what happened at lunch!

LUKE appears on the side of the stage at a table. JESSICA leaves the couch with SAM and enters the flashback with LUKE, picking up their lunch date.

LUKE

Hey, Jess! You look great!

He tries to peck her on the cheek like they're old friends. JESSICA manages to avoid it and awkwardly pats him on the arm in a rather masculine fashion.

SAM

Did he seriously just try to kiss you?

JESSICA

It's just a greeting.

LUKE

So, you've been working at a bridal shop, huh? Which one?

JESSICA

It's one of the bigger ones downtown, I doubt you've heard of it.

LUKE

Is it one of the shops they film for TV? There's like 50 wedding dress shows that Amanda started watching since we got engaged, I can't keep track.

SAM

HOLD THE FUCKING PHONE. Amanda? The one this asshole left you for... that Amanda?

JESSICA

Who else? *(turning back to LUKE)* Oh! Congratulations. When is the wedding?

LUKE

Thanks. This coming May.

JESSICA

Wow. That's coming up fast. So, besides the wedding, anything else exciting going on?

LUKE

Yeah, we just put a down payment on a house in West Chester. It's a little smaller than we wanted but we can always size up when we start a family.

SAM

That fucker wants to procreate? There should be laws against that.

JESSICA

West Chester. You guys must be doing extremely well. I'm lucky I can afford a shoebox apartment in Harlem.

LUKE

Harlem, huh? You living by yourself or are you with roommates?

JESSICA

Just one roommate. You remember Sam?

LUKE

Yeah, I remember Sam. Tell her I said hi.

JESSICA turns to SAM who just flips him the bird.

JESSICA

I will.

LUKE

So, tell me about what's been going on with you? Seeing anyone these days?

JESSICA

Yeah, his name is Jack.

LUKE

How'd you guys meet?

JESSICA

I swiped right.

LUKE

Really? I feel like I'd be too freaked out by not really knowing who is on the other side to use one of those apps.

JESSICA

You get used to it.

LUKE

Used to it, huh? You used it alot?

JESSICA

A fair amount. Dating outside of the college bubble is an entirely different experience.

LUKE

Not many guys willing to take you out to an all-you-can-eat Chinese Buffet?

JESSICA

No! Most guys look at me and assume I can't handle it!

LUKE

I still remember the time we got banned from that Chinese place because we went every day for a week! *(Beat)* Hey, I don't know if it's wedding nerves or what, but when I saw you yesterday, I started thinking... what happened with us?

JESSICA

What do you mean?

LUKE

Well, when we dated, I thought we were great together.

JESSICA

I think you're conveniently forgetting how much we fought with each other.

LUKE

Yeah, but that only started happening at the end. Things changed in what felt like a day. We went from happy, to fighting, to you avoiding me.

JESSICA

Well, I was really young. I mean we both were. I guess it was just... timing.

SAM

What in the actual hell, Jessica! Timing?! It was not fucking timing and you know it!

LIGHTS on LUKE fade as JESSICA exits the flashback

JESSICA

I just couldn't say it. I've dreamed about that moment for years. But I... I just couldn't do it.

SAM

I'll fucking tell him! This is not ok. You couldn't bring yourself to do anything back then. But you had a second chance! Most women never get that.

JESSICA

You are oversimplifying it like you have always done.

SAM

You cannot be serious right now. So, you didn't tell him. Why?

JESSICA

I just didn't want him to... I don't know.

SAM

Him? You're worried about him?! I can't believe you! How can you be worrying about what his own actions would do to him?

JESSICA

I don't know...

SAM

Because it would make *him* think less of himself? Make *him* see what a piece of shit he actually is? Were you trying to protect him at the expense of yourself? What?

JESSICA

I don't know, Sam! Maybe I was trying to protect him. Maybe I was trying to protect Amanda. Maybe I was trying to protect myself from reliving the damn thing over and over and over again. I just don't want to hate him anymore. I don't want to be upset that he is engaged and moving on with his life. Meanwhile, I've scared away the only guy I've managed to have some semblance of a relationship with, I'm not doing anything remotely related to my degree, and I am 28 and still living with my college roommate. I'm so fucking mad that he is getting all the great things life has to offer while I'm falling apart and all I can do is worry about what this would do to him if he knew the truth! He is just fine while I can't even have a normal relationship because of this damn scar the whole thing has left behind and I can't look at myself without seeing that fucking scar. I just don't want to be anything at him anymore. I don't want to care anymore, I don't want to cry anymore, I just want to be nothing about it. Why can't I do that? What can't I just fucking do that?

SAM

Wow... that is more than I have ever heard you say about it.

JESSICA

Yeah, well...

SAM

So... I'm thinking we need wine.

JESSICA

We don't have any. You purged the house when you went on your last juice cleanse.

SAM

Oh ye of little faith

SAM goes behind the couch and pulls out two bottles of wine that were taped underneath.

For emergencies only.

JESSICA

How on earth did I not know those were there?

SAM

Because I am the wife that cleans. You most definitely are not, so I knew you would never look there unless you couldn't find a shoe. Come on, let's get drunk.

SAM opens a bottle and hands it to JESSICA. She opens one for herself. They cheers and start to down the bottles. END OF SCENE.

Scene 4

TRANSITION: LUKE and HANNAH enter and hand off more bottles to JESSICA and SAM. They cheers and down the extra bottles becoming fairly trashed in the process. HANNAH hits play on their stereo and a song of female empowerment starts to blast. JESSICA and SAM start dancing around and blowing in the empty bottles as if to play along. HANNAH and LUKE watch them with amusement for a moment, then exit. We hear a loud BANGING on the floor below them. JESSICA quickly turns the music down.

JESSICA

Sorry, Mrs. Levitz!

SAM

Don't apologize to that old bat downstairs! She's just jealous she can't come up and join in the festivities with us! We cannot be contained by these apartment walls! We will shout it from the rooftops of Harlem!

JESSICA

Right!... Shout what from the rooftops?

SAM

I don't know. How about, "We are women! Fuck all the men!"

JESSICA

But what if people think we're saying we are women who *want* to fuck all the men?

SAM

That will depend on the men that answer the call. We can separate them into categories. If they're cute, they go into the 'fuck all the men' category A. If they're not so much, they go into the 'fuck all the men' category B.

JESSICA

That seems like a mean and sexist thing guys would do to women.

SAM

Damn right! Give 'em a taste of their own medicine! That would show 'em!

JESSICA

Can we hold off on fucking all the men until I'm done with my period? Which reminds me, I am totally blaming you for my running into Luke.

SAM

How the hell did you get from your period to blaming me for that asshole reappearing in your life?

JESSICA

If you hadn't synced up your cycle to mine, we wouldn't have run out of tampons last month. Ergo, I would not have been in that drug store, on that specific Tuesday, where Luke also happened to be.

SAM

There is no way that is my fault.

JESSICA

And running into him when I had the value pack of jumbo tampons- icing on the shit cake that is this week.

SAM

If I synced up to you, it's because your cycle bullied mine into submission.

JESSICA

How?

SAM

It is a well known fact that the alpha of the group forces all other females to sync up to her cycle.

JESSICA

Nu-uh.

SAM

That's science, baby.

JESSICA

Are you calling me the alpha of our relationship?

SAM

You are alpha in menstrual cycle only. *(Beat)* So... do you wanna talk about it?

JESSICA

I don't know, honestly. I didn't think it still made me that upset. I mean, it's been so long.

SAM

Can I ask you something?

JESSICA

Sure.

SAM

Why do you care that he's getting married and you're not? Or that he has a 'house in the 'burbs'? Why does that stuff bother you?

JESSICA

I don't know. It's just... I didn't picture my life would be like this.

SAM

Meaning?

JESSICA

It's hard to explain. I just feel like everything I've ever said I'd do or not do, I've gone back on.

SAM

Like what?

JESSICA

Like... no drinking before I was 21. Or having kids by the time I was 28. Or waiting until I was married to have sex.

SAM

Didn't you also promise yourself you would be in a backwards Mormon marriage with every member of the Backstreet Boys by now too?

JESSICA

It was *NSYNC, get it right. Lance was always my favorite.

SAM

But seriously, you realize you grow and change, right? Why are you so hung up on this stupid cycle that society tries to trap us in?

JESSICA

And here we go...

SAM

What? We are force fed this bullshit from the time we burst from the placenta!

JESSICA

Gross.

SAM

You *have* to go to college. You *have* to get married. You *have* to have kids so they can start the whole cycle over again. Marriage doesn't solve anyone's problems. It just traps you in a box and makes you feel like you can't get out.

JESSICA

No it doesn't.

SAM

Oh, really? That's why you've had just so many successful relationships?

JESSICA

Wow. Real nice. Sometimes things just don't work out. You'd know that if you ever actually ventured out into the real world and mingled with people.

SAM

Well, tell me I'm wrong. What happened with the guy before Jack? What was his name... Tyler?

JESSICA

He stopped responding to any of my messages so I figured he just wasn't interested.

SAM

That's funny. Because about a month after you guys ended, I ran into him at my gym.

JESSICA

Oh?

SAM

Yeah. He seemed really upset that *you* stopped answering his calls or texts.

JESSICA

I'm assuming you're trying to make a point here and not just dragging up my sad dating history.

SAM

You self sabotage every relationship that has any potential. To be honest, Jack's lucky he's made it this far.

JESSICA

I do not.

SAM

And now you're back to lying.

JESSICA

Back to lying? What the fuck is your problem?

SAM

You are constantly lying! You lied about lunch, you lied about why you stopped dating Tyler.

JESSICA

So sorry I don't share every minute detail of my life with you.

SAM

I'm not the only one you've lied to.

JESSICA

What the hell are you talking about?

SAM

Jack. You lied to him about being a clean freak.

JESSICA

You didn't give a shit about him before, why are you all of a sudden on his side?

SAM

I'm not on his side. I just wanna know why you keep lying! I bet you didn't tell him about lunch with Luke, did you?

JESSICA

What does it matter if I did or didn't? Lunch didn't mean anything.

LUKE appears on the side of the stage.

SAM

Oh, so you don't mind if I tell Jack then, right?

SAM grabs JESSICA's phone. JESSICA chases after her while SAM holds the phone out of reach.

JESSICA

No, Sam! Don't.

SAM

But I thought it didn't mean anything!

JESSICA

It didn't! But you are going to make an already tense situation so much worse!

SAM

Seriously, Jess. What are you doing?

JESSICA

I'm not doing anything. Just give me back my phone!

SAM

No. If you're not going to be honest with anyone, then I think Jack deserves to know what he's getting himself into.

JESSICA

If you didn't notice, he isn't really speaking to me right now.

SAM

Can you blame him? You pushed him away!

JESSICA

Look who's talking?!

SAM

Meaning what?

JESSICA

Meaning you shut everyone out and then hover over my life and my choices like a lioness protecting her cub!

SAM

Well, forgive me for protecting my best friend. What a horrible person I am!

HANNAH appears on the outskirts of the scene.

JESSICA

I have a life outside of you. Sorry you don't have one outside of me! You don't try to have a deep relationship with any other friends, your sister has been trying to call you but God forbid you let anyone else be human and make mistakes!

SAM

Wow. That is completely unfair. You have no idea... you know what? Forget it.

JESSICA

No, Sam. Go ahead! Why don't you be real for five seconds.

SAM

Go fuck yourself, Jess. How's that for being real?

*SAM grabs her keys and storms out of the apartment.
JESSICA sits on the couch and downs the rest of the
wine. END OF SCENE.*

Scene 5

TRANSITION: JESSICA/LUKE and SAM/HANNAH destroy the apartment. It is an absolute mess. Takeout containers, clothes, shoes, and magazines are covering every possible surface. Once their job is done, HANNAH exits. LUKE hands JESSICA her notebook. She sits down to write. LUKE and SAM are joined back JACK on the sides of the stage.

JACK

Again, Jess?

SAM

You've got to be fucking kidding me.

LUKE

Can't you stay a little longer?

JACK

I feel like you don't trust me.

SAM

What's to understand?

LUKE

You know, you really look beautiful.

JACK

Can you at least tell me what I'm doing wrong here?

SAM

You blew off your best friend for a piece of shit.

LUKE

Come on, we can hang out by the fire pit.

JACK

So, we just pretend like nothing ever happened?

SAM

Forgive me for protecting my best friend.

LUKE
No one else is here...

JACK
I'm trying...

SAM
Seriously, Jess. What are you doing?

LIGHTS on SAM fade.

LUKE
It's just us.

JACK
But I'm in the dark here.

LIGHTS on JACK fade.

LUKE
Stay.

JESSICA gets up and joins LUKE in a flashback.

LUKE
I don't think I've ever seen flames that high.

JESSICA
I thought I was putting water on the fire!

LUKE
You're at a frat house. 99% of the liquid here is alcohol.

JESSICA
Lesson learned.

LUKE
It's actually much better without the fire going.

JESSICA
Are you just saying that to make me feel better?

LUKE
No! I swear! I mean, now that the smoke has cleared...

JESSICA

Shut up! Ugh, I'm going to smell like a campfire for a week.

LUKE

I like it. Reminds me of barbecue.

JESSICA

Does everything come back to food with you?

LUKE

Just about. But if anyone says anything, I'll beat them up.

JESSICA

Thank you.

LUKE

I mean it! Just text me. Even if you're in class, I will run in, punch whoever it is, kiss you, and run out.

JESSICA

I may test that just for fun.

LUKE

Hey, now. You have to be responsible with this new power you have over me.

JESSICA

Oh, really? I have power over you?

LUKE

You know you do.

They look at each other for a moment. He holds her face and leans in to kiss her. As they kiss, they both become more passionate. JACK appears on the side of the stage in real time. He pulls out his phone and calls JESSICA. She looks at her phone. JESSICA immediately pulls out of LUKE's arms and steps back into reality to answer. LUKE remains on the side of the stage, a constant presence throughout her call with JACK.

JESSICA

Hello?

JACK

Hey, Jess.

JESSICA

Jack. I'm so glad you called.

JACK

Am I catching you in the middle of something?

JESSICA

Uh, no. Not at all.

JACK

I'm sorry I haven't been very responsive. I just... needed some time to think things through.

JESSICA

I can understand that.

JACK

I don't think this is going to work.

JESSICA

I know I come with a lot of baggage...

JACK

Everyone has their own baggage. But you don't let me in to help with any of it.

JESSICA

It's not something anyone can help with.

JACK

Maybe not, but how would I know?

JESSICA

I'm sorry.

JACK

I like you, Jess. A lot. I feel like I even...

JESSICA

Yes?

JACK

I think we should take a step back. At least for a little bit.

JESSICA

Oh... I mean... if that's what you really want.

JACK

Honestly, it's not. But I think it's what we both need.

JESSICA

Ok. I'm- I'm gonna go.

JACK

Right. Bye, Jess.

*JACK hangs up. JESSICA exits to the kitchen
LIGHTS on LUKE fade. KEYS are heard at the door.
SAM comes in with her usual amount of gym bags,
etc. She looks around at the mess in disgust. SAM
heads to the couch muttering curses and complaints
under her breath. Finally, she plops down
unknowingly on top of a takeout container.*

SAM

No fucking way!

*SAM starts to have a childish meltdown, throwing
things left and right, all the while screaming garbled
curse words. In the midst of this, JESSICA enters
and watches the scene unfold.*

JESSICA

So... rough day?

SAM

Nope. I just love wading through your festering pile of crap to get to the couch every day. Some may find it disgusting, but not me. No, no... I find it a fun challenge. Hey... you ok?

JESSICA

It's nothing. I'm fine. Did we get any mail?

SAM

Just junk and another postcard from my mom.

JESSICA

She bug you about calling Hannah again?

SAM

You know, it really doesn't matter.

JESSICA

Ok, fine. I won't take an interest in your life. Happy?

SAM

Ecstatic.

JESSICA exits. HANNAH appears at the side of the stage. She pulls out her phone and dials a number. SAM's phone vibrates. She sees it's HANNAH and his decline. HANNAH, realizing she's rejected the call, dials again. This repeats two or three times, with each sister getting more frustrated with the other. Finally, SAM gives in and answers.

SAM

What, Hannah?

HANNAH

Charming. Is this how you answer the phone all the time?

SAM

I reserve it only for a special few. What do you want? I'm busy.

HANNAH

I'm coming to the city for work and I need a place to crash.

SAM

Can't your job put you up in a hotel?

HANNAH

It's not in the budget.

SAM

Now is really not the best time.

HANNAH

I'll be gone in meetings and things most of the day anyway. Please, Sam.

SAM

Fine. But you get the couch.

HANNAH

Thank you. It'll be fun. We can make it like a sleepover, like the old days.

SAM

Just call me when you get in.

SAM hangs up.

HANNAH

Bye to you too, Sam.

LIGHTS on HANNAH fade.

SAM

JESS! My sister is coming into town for work and she's crashing here.

JESSICA enters.

JESSICA

Seriously? Is that why she's been calling you so much?

SAM

I guess. She'll be here tomorrow, so if you're gonna clean this place up by the time she gets here, you'd better start now.

JESSICA

Oh, really? I'm just fine.

SAM

I haven't seen my sister in years. I don't want her first impression of my apartment to be dirty laundry and the smell of old takeout fermenting.

JESSICA

I'm not going to get involved in a pissing contest between you two. If you want this place clean, you are more than welcome to do it yourself.

SAM

Great. That's just great. Thank you so much, bestie.

SAM flips JESSICA off as she exits. JESSICA sits on the couch, exhausted from the drama of the day. Her phone vibrates. LUKE appears on the side of the stage, texting JESSICA.

LUKE
(text)

It was really good seeing you the other day.

JESSICA
(text)

Yeah, it was good to see you, too.

LUKE
(text)

I'm in the city again, tomorrow. Let's grab coffee. You free?

Beat.

JESSICA
(text)

Yes.

END OF SCENE.

Scene 6

TRANSITION: LUKE steps off stage to grab two to-go coffees. JESSICA grabs her coat and meets him. He kisses her on the cheek and hands her the coffee. They stay and talk to each other through most of the following scene. When they say goodbye, they hug, and JESSICA exits. LUKE watches her, debates with himself for a minute, then pulls out his phone and follows her off stage. SAM sits on the couch, anxiously thumbing through a fitness magazine. HANNAH enters with her overnight bag. She checks her phone to make sure her directions are correct. She finally makes it to the building and buzzes the intercom.

SAM

Hello?

HANNAH

It's me, Sam.

SAM

Me, who?

HANNAH

It's been a really long trip, will you just let me up?

SAM

Not until you say the magic words.

HANNAH

You are the absolute worst.

SAM

I'm sorry, those aren't the words we're looking for.

HANNAH

Fine. Pretty please.

SAM buzzes HANNAH in. She gloats to herself for a minute, then looks around at the mess and becomes deflated. KNOCK. SAM opens the door.

HANNAH

Hi.

SAM

Hi... well come on in.

HANNAH

Your place is...

SAM

A dumpster fire?

HANNAH

Well, I wasn't going to go that far.

SAM

I don't think it's far enough.

HANNAH

I'm safe in assuming this isn't your handiwork, then?

SAM

I know we haven't seen each other in years, but no one changes that much. This is my roommate Jess's doing.

HANNAH

She's the one in all your pictures online, right?

SAM

Yeah.

HANNAH

Didn't you put down 'in a relationship' with her on facebook when you were in college?

SAM

Yeah. I thought it was hilarious. Mom and Dad less so.

HANNAH

I still remember that panicked phone call from Mom. "Why didn't she come to us? Does she think we're not ok with gay people?"

SAM

I'm pretty sure Mom still thinks I'm closeted. When she asks about my love life, she's very careful not to mention a gender.

HANNAH

Gotta give Diane credit for trying.

SAM

Yeah, right.

HANNAH's phone vibrates. She checks it, then ignores it.

HANNAH

So, when do I get to meet the famous Jess?

SAM

She's usually home from work by now. Probably just the trains.

HANNAH

You said I can crash on the couch... do you actually have a couch?

SAM shoves the contents of the couch to the floor.

SAM

Better?

HANNAH

I guess... It's bothering you even more now that all the stuff is on the floor, isn't it?

SAM

Yes. Stop enjoying my discomfort so much.

HANNAH

Can't help it.

Awkward pause. HANNAH and SAM don't know how to be with each other. HANNAH's phone vibrates again. She checks it, and ignores it.

SAM

So...

HANNAH

The girls are good. Sasha reminds me a lot of you.

SAM

Does she?

HANNAH

Yeah. She's quick and sarcastic. She definitely didn't get that from me or Josh.

SAM

Yeah.

HANNAH

They're both getting so big.

SAM

I wouldn't know.

HANNAH

What do you mean?

SAM

Having never met my nieces, I can't really judge how large or small they are in comparison to anything else.

HANNAH

You could have come to visit whenever you wanted.

SAM

Thanks, but I think I'd rather have my fingernails ripped off than spend any time with Josh.

HANNAH

That was... vivid.

SAM

And I was going for subtlety.

HANNAH

You don't have to be so harsh about everything.

SAM

Gee, thanks, Diane.

HANNAH

Don't you dare. I am not at all like Mom.

SAM

You know what, you can just-

KEYS are heard at the door. JESSICA comes in with a to-go coffee.

JESSICA

Oh, hi! You must be Hannah. It's so nice to finally meet you.

HANNAH

Likewise. I've been seeing your pictures on Sam's facebook for years now.

SAM

What took you so long?

JESSICA

Hi, Sam. Why yes, my day was just fantastic. Thanks for asking.

HANNAH

She's still as sweet as ever, I see.

JESSICA

And this is nicer than she's been to me all week.

SAM

I am standing right here.

JESSICA

Are you staying in Sam's room?

SAM

No. She gets the couch.

JESSICA

You're making her sleep here?

HANNAH

It's fine, really. I have kids, so I'm used to disaster zones. I mean... not to insinuate that your place isn't nice... I'm sorry.

JESSICA

It's totally fine. I'll clean up a little bit after I make dinner.

SAM

I told you to clean yesterday!

JESSICA

And I just love doing everything you tell me to. Hannah, anything in particular you'd like for dinner?

HANNAH's phone vibrates again.

HANNAH

Actually that's... work calling... probably just checking I'm here and good to go for tomorrow. I'm gonna step outside and call them back. Is there a spare set of keys?

JESSICA

Yeah, hanging by the door. Well if you want, I can wait to start cooking until you-

HANNAH

Yeah, ok, thanks!

She rushes out of the door, accidentally slamming it.

JESSICA

-get back. So... that's Hannah. She seems... nice.

SAM

You like her so much, you can have her.

JESSICA

Someone is cranky.

SAM

I'm cranky because I asked you to clean and you refused, but the moment Hannah is here you're suddenly Suzie Homemaker.

JESSICA's phone vibrates. She texts back as she argues with SAM.

JESSICA

I didn't know you were gonna make her sleep in this.

SAM

You were just fawning all over her. ‘Oh, Hannah! Let me clean for you! Oh, Hannah! Let me cook for you! Oh, Hannah!’

JESSICA’s phone vibrates again. She texts back.

JESSICA

Marcia, Marcia, Marcia! Will you act like an adult, please? Just because you don’t get along with her doesn’t mean I can’t.

SAM

Will *you* act like an adult and put your stupid phone away while I’m yelling at you?!

JESSICA

Hmmm... no. Let me know when Hannah gets back and I’ll start cooking.

JESSICA exits to her room. SAM fumes on the couch.
KNOCK.

SAM

There’s a magical thing called keys, Hannah. That’s what we use to open doors with!

LUKE

Hi, sorry, I may have the wrong apartment. Is Jessica Romano here?

SAM

This is her roommate, Sam. Who’s there?

LUKE

Oh, hey Sam. This is Luke... from college?

SAM

Yeah. I remember.

LUKE

Ah. Ok. Um, are you going to let me in?

SAM hesitates, but then opens the door. LUKE saunters right into the apartment.

LUKE

Thanks. It’s good to see you. You look great!

Yeah. SAM

So... LUKE

How did you get into the building? SAM

Oh, someone was leaving when I got here. LUKE

A woman, rushing out on the phone? SAM

Yeah, it was! LUKE

Goddamnit, Hannah. SAM

What? LUKE

Nothing. SAM

Ok... is Jess available? LUKE

Not at the moment. SAM

Oh. Well I was just texting her. She said she was home. LUKE

I didn't say she wasn't home. I said she wasn't available. You can leave a message with me. SAM

No, that's ok. I'd rather talk to Jess. LUKE

Don't trust me to get a message to her? SAM

LUKE
No, Sam. It's not that. It's just private.

SAM
I see.

LUKE
Yeah, so...

SAM
How's Amanda?

LUKE
Oh, she's great.

SAM
I'm sure. What did she say about you and Jess having lunch?

LUKE
What?

SAM
Well, I assume you told your fiancé about having lunch with an ex.

LUKE
Look, I don't wanna be rude, but none of this is really your business. Is Jess even here?

SAM
If Jess wants to talk to you she'll call you. You don't have to come over uninvited.

LUKE
You know, Sam, you've never seemed to like me and I honestly have no idea what I did to make you this hostile towards me. If you have an issue with me why don't you come out and say it.

SAM
I don't think there is a word strong enough to reflect my feelings towards you.

LUKE
What is your problem?

SAM
You know exactly what my problem is.

LUKE

If Jess has an issue with me, she can tell me herself.

SAM

I don't know what kind of game you're playing, but stay the hell away from Jess. She doesn't need you fucking up her life.

LUKE

I'm not fucking anything up. We can be friends. That's what mature adults do, Sam. We had lunch last week and the world didn't end. We even met for coffee today and nothing happened.

SAM

You what?

LUKE

Oh, she didn't tell you?

SAM

Just back off, Luke. I meant it.

LUKE and SAM stare each other down. JESSICA enters.

JESSICA

Sam, is Hannah back... uh, Luke. What are you doing here?

SAM

Oh, he just popped in. Said he something private to share with you. Isn't that sweet?

LUKE

Give it a rest, Sam.

SAM

This is my apartment. I don't have to do anything I don't want to do.

JESSICA

Sam... could you give us a minute? Please?

SAM

Excuse me?

JESSICA

It's fine. Please?

SAM

Fine. I'll be in my room.

SAM storms out and slams her bedroom door.

LUKE

So, I see Sam hasn't changed much.

JESSICA

Yeah, still the same old Sam. Sorry, the place is such a mess...

LUKE

Oh, no worries. Used to live in a frat house, remember? I've seen worse.

JESSICA

Right. So... what are you doing here?

LUKE

I just... I had to see you. I didn't like the way we left things.

JESSICA

What are you talking about?

LUKE

It felt like when you said goodbye today that it was kind of permanent. Like we weren't going to see each other anymore.

JESSICA

We haven't seen each other in 10 years. Besides, I can't imagine Amanda would be too thrilled if we kept seeing each other.

LUKE

I just... I... uh... ok. Here goes. I'm not happy with Amanda. I haven't been for a long time.

JESSICA

It's probably just cold feet.

LUKE

This doesn't feel like cold feet. Look, I haven't been able to stop thinking about you since we met up for lunch. I don't think I can go through with this wedding. So...

JESSICA

So...

LUKE

If you would be willing to give us another shot, I would be willing to call off my wedding. So... yeah. There it is. *(Beat)* Well? Are you going to say anything?

JESSICA

Um... I don't... uh... I think you should go.

LUKE

Look, I know I'm throwing a lot at you right now.

JESSICA

You could have said something earlier today!

LUKE

I didn't realize I was feeling this way until you left and it seemed like we weren't going to see each other again.

JESSICA

What do you want from me?

LUKE

You can't honestly tell me you don't wonder what would have happened if we never broke up.

JESSICA

You're about to get married!

LUKE

I know. And I know you're seeing someone.

JESSICA

Well...

LUKE

You're not?

JESSICA

No, it's just... complicated. And this isn't helping!

LUKE

I know that. But this feels right. You can't tell me you don't feel it too.

LUKE moves closer to JESSICA. They stare at each other for a moment. He puts his forehead against hers and places his hands on her shoulders. He slides his hands down her arms and holds her hands. JESSICA begins to panic. LUKE mistakes her heavy breathing for lust and goes to kiss her. JESSICA rips herself away from him.

JESSICA

No! This is too much right now. You need to leave.

LUKE

If you really want me to go, I'll go. Just promise me you'll think about it.

JESSICA

Ok. I'll think about it. Just, please, go.

LUKE

Ok. I'll call you.

LUKE exits. JESSICA sits on the couch to gather herself. She starts to laugh. She laughs so hard she cries. JESSICA reaches under the couch and pulls out an emergency bottle of wine. She takes a big swig then exits to the kitchen taking the bottle with her. SAM re-enters and sits on the couch. JESSICA's phone vibrates on the coffee table. SAM hesitates for a moment, then goes through her phone. LUKE appears on the side of the stage, texting JESSICA.

LUKE

(text)

I meant what I said. Think about it, Jess.

SAM

Sorry, Luke. Time to block you.

END OF ACT.

ACT II

Scene 1

The apartment, a few days later. Still a mess.

HANNAH enters, dressed in yoga clothes with a zip-up hoodie on and carrying a yoga mat. She takes off the hoodie to reveal a large bruise on her upper arm. She starts to do a yoga sequence but her arm is bothering her too much. She loses her balance and falls on her bad arm. She starts to have a meltdown, crying and hitting the yoga mat. As she starts to calm down, we hear KEYS at the door. HANNAH wipes under her eyes and quickly throws the hoodie back on. JESSICA enters the apartment.

JESSICA

Oh, Hannah! I thought you had more meetings today?

HANNAH

They let us go early. So I figured I would come back here and do some yoga to unwind.

JESSICA

You should have gone to Sam's gym. She teaches yoga all day, she could have gotten you in for free.

HANNAH

Knowing Sam, she probably would have charged me double.

JESSICA

True. But still, it's probably better than trying to stretch out in this mess. So, do I have you to blame for Sam's fitness obsession?

HANNAH

Probably. I introduced her to yoga when she was in high school

JESSICA

Don't get me wrong. I'm glad she likes it. I just didn't realize by living with her I was going to be forced into it, too.

HANNAH

That's Sam for you. It's her way or the highway.

JESSICA

Believe me, I know. I was going to cook dinner if you want. Something really fatty and disgusting to annoy Sam, but I'm open to whatever you're in the mood for.

HANNAH

Fatty and disgusting sounds perfect.

JESSICA exits to the kitchen. HANNAH's phone starts to ring.

HANNAH

Hi, honey... Sorry I didn't answer before... we were in a meeting... I couldn't. I'm sorry there was nothing I could do... I just... Yeah, we're on a break now...

JESSICA enters.

JESSICA

Hannah, do you-

HANNAH waves furiously at JESSICA to shut her up.

HANNAH

Oh, that was just the supervisor. Yeah, we're gonna get called back in a minute... Yeah... Ok, I'll call you tonight when I get back to the hotel... I love you, too... Bye... Sorry about that.

JESSICA

You don't have to apologize for anything. So... your husband thinks you're at a hotel?

HANNAH

Yeah. He and Sam don't really...

JESSICA

I know.

HANNAH

Oh.

JESSICA

Sam isn't exactly shy about her feelings towards him.

HANNAH

Yeah, well... Josh is... a complicated person. I figured he wouldn't really like it if I stayed here.

JESSICA

So, then why are you?

HANNAH

You know what, can we talk about something else? What were you going to ask me before?

JESSICA

Yeah, do you want wine?

HANNAH

Maybe in a little bit. I'm just gonna go get changed.

HANNAH gathers her yoga mat and exits to SAM's room. After a moment, KEYS are heard. SAM enters.

SAM

Every time I open this door, I pray it might reveal a clean apartment.

JESSICA

Learn to live with disappointment.

SAM

Is Hannah here?

JESSICA

Yes.

SAM

She's never around when you want her, and when you don't she won't fucking leave.

JESSICA

I think you should talk to her.

SAM

She and I have nothing to talk about.

JESSICA

Did you know that her husband-

SAM

He's an asshole. That's all you need to know about him.

JESSICA

I know that. He thinks she's staying at a hotel.

SAM

How do you know?

JESSICA

He called her while I was here.

SAM

So, she's lying to Josh. Who gives a shit. She lies all the time. What does it matter to me?

JESSICA

Still, I really think-

SAM

Just drop it, Jess! You don't know what you're talking about so just stay the fuck out of it!

JESSICA

Fine.

JESSICA exits. SAM debates following her, but decides not to and heads to the kitchen. HANNAH enters with her overnight bag and on the phone. While she talks she digs in the bag pulling out her things until she gets to the paperwork she needs. HANNAH is unaware SAM is within earshot.

HANNAH

Yes. I've got all the paperwork... How long is this going to take?... I can't keep lying to Josh or to my sister. They're not stupid, they're gonna figure out that I'm not here for a conference... I have to be home tomorrow... I can't leave the girls there without me... I've got them packed and ready to go... I don't know... Ok, I should be able to get to you in about 25 minutes... Ok, bye.

HANNAH grabs her coat and the spare keys and exits. SAM comes out of the kitchen trying to decipher what she just heard. END OF SCENE.

Scene 2

TRANSITION: HANNAH rushes to her meeting, whatever that might be. We see her waiting for lights to change, checking her phone, etc. until she finally exits. SAM paces the apartment debating what to do. She grabs HANNAH's bag and starts angrily throwing things in it until it is packed. Then she sits on the couch, waiting. JESSICA enters.

JESSICA

Are you just going to sit there all night, waiting?

SAM

Yes.

JESSICA

She's a big girl, Sam. She can take care of herself.

SAM

You don't know her like I do. Where the hell is she?

JESSICA

You could just call her.

SAM

She'd just lie to me. You know what that's like.

JESSICA

Maybe, just maybe, if you act like a decent human being, she might open up to you. Food for thought.

SAM

Gee, thanks.

JESSICA

My pleasure.

JESSICA exits to her room. SAM sits on the couch. Waiting. She reaches under the couch looking for an emergency bottle of wine. She pulls one out, but it's empty. She mutters some expletive under her breath. KEYS. HANNAH enters.

HANNAH

Oh, hey, Sam. When did you get home?

SAM

I've been home for a while.

HANNAH

Sorry, my meeting ran late.

SAM

Dressed a little casual for a work meeting.

HANNAH

We don't really have a strict dress code.

SAM

Sure. So, when do you leave again?

HANNAH

Tomorrow.

SAM

Right. Want to make sure you get home in a believable amount of time.

HANNAH

What are you talking about?

SAM

I heard your phone call before you rushed out of here.

HANNAH

Sam, you don't understand.

SAM

Enlighten me, then.

HANNAH

I'm not in the mood for this right now. I need to pack.

SAM

No need.

SAM holds up HANNAH's bag.

HANNAH

You don't get it, Sam. So, just drop it!

HANNAH starts to exit.

SAM

Would you just-

SAM grabs HANNAH's bad arm.

HANNAH

Ow!

SAM

What? I barely touched you... Hannah... are you ok?

HANNAH

I just... I hurt my arm.

SAM

You hurt your arm.

HANNAH

Yeah.

SAM

You hurt it... Or he hurt it?... What did I say? All those years ago I fucking told you! Let me see it!

HANNAH

Sam...

SAM

Show it to me!

HANNAH takes off her zip up and reveals her arm to SAM.

I tried to warn you about him and you wouldn't listen!

HANNAH

Sam! Just shut up for two seconds. I'm thinking about leaving Josh.

SAM

Yeah, I saw that pig fly, too.

HANNAH

I'm not lying to you. I mean it.

SAM

How many times did you call me in tears saying you couldn't do it anymore?

HANNAH

Sam-

SAM

And every goddamn time, I, like an idiot, believed you.

HANNAH

I can't do this alone. I still need you, Sam.

SAM

Oh, you need me, huh? And where were you when I needed you?

HANNAH

I made a mistake. That's what people do!

SAM

And my mistake was trusting you.

HANNAH

You didn't have to give up so fast.

SAM

You have got to be fucking kidding me.

HANNAH

You know what Josh is like. You think I can just pick up and walk away from my entire life just like that? Just because I didn't do it when you wanted me to, doesn't mean that you give up on your sister and walk away!

SAM

I told you what kind of person he was when you two got engaged. You chose to go on with your distorted version of happily ever after and erase me like I never existed. So don't you dare tell me that I gave up when you're the one who didn't give me a chance.

HANNAH

You can yell at me all you like and say I shut you out but you're doing the exact same thing to me now!

SAM

And how on earth am I supposed to trust you?

HANNAH

Fine. I'm not here for a conference.

SAM

Oh, no, Hannah. You lied to me? Oh, say it isn't so!

HANNAH

My neighbor's sister is a lawyer here. She put me in contact with her to discuss my... options.

SAM

Options?

HANNAH

For leaving him.

SAM

You're actually meeting with a lawyer?

HANNAH

Yes.

SAM

Wow.

HANNAH

Yeah.

SAM

Why?

HANNAH

What?

SAM

Why now? Why didn't you do it before? Why didn't you do it when I told you what he did to me? *(Beat)* Why wasn't it enough before? Why wasn't I enough? *(Beat)* I can't do it, Hannah. I can't pretend the last 12 years didn't happen.

SAM hands HANNAH her bag and holds open the door of the apartment for her.

HANNAH

I'm not trying to pretend they didn't happen! What do I have to do to convince you? I don't have anyone else I can turn to. I'm sorry. For all of it. For us drifting apart. For never introducing you to your nieces. For not believing you. I'm so sorry I didn't believe you. Please, Sam.

SAM stands with her back to HANNAH, not saying anything.

Are you going to say anything? My train doesn't leave until tomorrow. I'll have my phone with me... if you change your mind.

HANNAH exits. SAM flops down on the couch. JESSICA enters cautiously from her room.

SAM

I'm assuming you heard.

JESSICA

Couldn't help it. Are you ok?

SAM

I'm fine.

JESSICA

You're clearly not fine, and neither is Hannah.

SAM

I said I'm fine. Let it go.

JESSICA

Why are you kicking her out? She obviously needs you!

SAM

She made it perfectly clear years ago that she can get along just fine without me.

JESSICA

I can't believe you would be that cold.

SAM

I guess you don't know me as well as you thought you did.

JESSICA

Apparently not.

JESSICA's phone vibrates with a notification. She checks it.

SAM

Well, you learn something new every day.

JESSICA

Sam, I just got an interesting email from Luke.

SAM

I'm sure whatever that dipshit has to say is anything but interesting.

JESSICA

He said he's been texting me, and when he tried to call me, it said my number is disconnected... you went through me phone?

LUKE appears on the outskirts of the scene.

LUKE

Yeah, so?

SAM

What's your point, Jess?

JESSICA

There's this thing called privacy. You'd think you could respect that.

SAM

Are you trying to hide things from me?

LUKE

You've barely spoken to me for a week now! How do you expect me to react?

JESSICA

There's a difference between hiding things from you and not telling you something because it is private and has nothing to do with you.

SAM

I am trying to keep you from ruining your life.

HANNAH appears on the outskirts of the scene.

HANNAH

You don't understand. You're just a kid.

LUKE

So, that's it? You just ignore me, ignore whatever the fuck is wrong here?

JESSICA

Are you even listening to me? None of this is your goddamn business.

SAM

It is my business.

LUKE

When it starts affecting us, affecting me, I think that makes it my business.

HANNAH

When you're an adult, then you can give me advice.

JESSICA

You need to get your own life.

SAM

You're the one who said you don't want to be 'anything' towards Luke anymore, and yet here we are. He calls and you go running.

JESSICA

I am fully aware of what happened in *my* life.

HANNAH

But it is just that, my life.

LUKE

Oh yeah, you're handling things really great right now!

SAM

Fine. Then go ahead and say it.

JESSICA

Say what?

SAM

You've never actually said the words out loud. So go ahead. Say the words.

JESSICA

You sound crazy right now, you do realize that, don't you?

SAM

Say it. Say exactly what that son of a bitch did to you and then tell me he is worth keeping around.

LUKE

If you're not gonna tell me what's going on then why am I wasting my time on you?!

JESSICA & HANNAH

This isn't the same situation!

SAM

No! It is exactly the same. He wants to have you as a convenient contingency plan, to use you one more time if he gets the urge to. Say. The. Words.

JESSICA

We're not doing this. We're done.

SAM

He raped you. He fucking raped you. Now look me in the eye and tell me that you are seriously considering keeping that monster in your life.

LIGHTS on HANNAH and LUKE fade.

JESSICA

You are not my bodyguard, you're not my caretaker, you're not my parent! I'm not even sure you're my friend!

SAM

You can't honestly mean that!

JESSICA

What gives you the right to make that decision for me?

SAM

I think I've earned that right. He's going to hurt you! I'm not going to let you do this to yourself, Hannah!

JESSICA

Hannah? Sam...

SAM

I... I have to go.

*SAM grabs her coat and rushes for the door as
JESSICA calls after her.*

JESSICA

Sam! Sam, wait!

END OF SCENE.

Scene 3

TRANSITION: SAM gets outside and debates going back to the apartment. After fighting with herself she storms off stage. Meanwhile, JESSICA paces through the mess of the apartment, deciding what to do. She sees her notebook and without thinking, grabs it with her coat and keys and heads out of the building. JESSICA ends up outside JACK's door. She rings the buzzer and waits. She rings the buzzer again. Nothing. She pulls out her phone and dials. It goes to voicemail.

JESSICA

Hey, it's me. I was hoping you were home. I uh- I have something for you. I'm sorry. For everything. I want to open up to you. To let you in. That's if you still want me to. At least... let me know if you got my present. It's outside your door. Ok... bye.

JESSICA hangs up, looks at her notebook for a minute, and leans it against the door. She exits. JACK opens the door with his phone to his ear, listening to her voicemail. He picks up the notebook, and starts reading through it. We hear JESSICA's voice reading the words. JESSICA and LUKE appear on the outskirts of the scene. LUKE stands behind JESSICA holding her hands in front of her. JESSICA struggles to get out of his grip, but she can't

JESSICA

(voice)

There are a lot of blurry parts. Things that are fuzzy. And then there are things that are so crystal clear. Like my hands. He grabbed them and held them the entire time. I tried to get them free, but I couldn't. So now, when someone holds them, all I can see is... that. I can hear the one 'no' I was able to get out. His grunting in my ear. I can feel his hands gripping on mine. His breathing on my neck. I can smell it. The sweat. The smell of the laundry detergent on his bedding. Everything. I thought it would go away over time, but if anything it's getting worse. Especially as I start to fall more for Jack. He must think I'm crazy.

JACK keeps reading and thumbing through the notebook. END OF SCENE.

Scene 4

TRANSITION: LUKE lets go of JESSICA, he holds out his hand to her, she reluctantly takes it and he leads her offstage as JACK exits reading the book. SAM comes stumbling in, carrying bags of wine and drinking one straight out. SAM busts into the apartment and flops down among the mess with her bag full of replacements for her emergency wine stash next to her. She continues to drink as voices start to play, flashbacks from her history with HANNAH. They overlap with each other. HANNAH appears on the outskirts of the scene.

SAM

(voice)

Hey, Hannah. It's me, again. Call me back. I miss you!... Hannah, it's been a while. I guess you're just busy. Get back to me when you have a minute.

HANNAH

(voice)

Sorry, I've been crazed lately! Big news, I'm bringing Josh home with me for a few weeks over the summer!

SAM

(voice)

Hey Hannah, I still have heard from you if you're going to make it to my graduation. Call me, please.

HANNAH

(voice)

Sorry I can't make it. Josh still has finals. I'll make it up to you when Josh and I get into town, I promise!

SAM

(voice)

Hannah, are you ok?

HANNAH

(voice)

Yeah, I just got into this stupid fight with Josh.

SAM

(voice)

I heard. I don't think he should be talking to you like that.

HANNAH

(voice)

You don't get it, you're just a kid. When you are in a serious adult relationship, then you can give me advice.

SAM

(voice)

Don't talk to me like I'm a child, Hannah.

HANNAH

(voice)

Josh is trying so hard to get along with you.

SAM

(voice)

He's got a funny way of showing it.

SAM exits reality and enters a flashback with HANNAH.

HANNAH

Sam, I know you aren't Josh's biggest fan, but that doesn't mean you can treat him that way.

SAM

Treat him what way?

HANNAH

He told me some of the things you said to him. That's so uncalled for. He has been nothing but nice to you. He's gone out of his way to try to connect with you.

SAM

Connect with me? What, by buying me cheap gifts and letting me win at board games? Yeah, he really knows the way to my heart.

HANNAH

I don't need your sarcastic bullshit right now, Sam.

SAM

And I don't need you coming at me like I'm the one who did anything wrong.

HANNAH

He's important to me. I love him. Don't you think that as my sister you should at least try?

SAM

I am done trying with that asshole.

HANNAH

Sam... Josh proposed to me last night.

SAM

What?

HANNAH

He proposed. And I would like it if you could at least try to get along.

SAM

You can't marry him.

HANNAH

Why not?

SAM

He hit me.

HANNAH

Excuse me?

SAM

He slapped me across the face.

HANNAH

Josh would never do that.

SAM

He did! He asked me why I didn't like him and I guess he didn't appreciate my honesty.

HANNAH

Stop lying!

SAM

Why would I lie about this?

HANNAH

Enough! You are going way too far.

SAM

I'm not! I'm telling you the truth.

HANNAH

I know when he gets angry he can be... a lot to deal with. But even if he was mad he would never cross that line!

SAM

I'm not bullshitting you. How long before he starts hitting you?

HANNAH

Josh told me you would do this. I cannot believe you would stoop so low.

SAM

Hannah, please. I'm worried about you. I'm not making this up. You know me.

HANNAH

No, I don't. You're not the person I thought you were.

SAM

Yeah... neither are you.

HANNAH exits. SAM stands there for a moment, trying to gather herself. She then exits the scene and sits back down with her wine collection. KEYS are heard. JESSICA enters.

JESSICA

Sam! I'm glad you're home. Where did you go?

SAM

Earlier I noticed you finished off our emergency stash. So I went to get some more. Join me?

JESSICA sits with SAM on the floor in the mess. SAM hands her a bottle. She opens it and they cheers. They take a big drink and both grimace.

JESSICA

This wine is complete crap, you know. I can practically taste the hangover.

SAM

Rule number one when it comes to buying emergency wine, don't buy the good stuff. You'll be ten times more likely to drink it when it's not an emergency.

JESSICA

Smart.

SAM

And may I ask where you were?

JESSICA

After our blow out, I went to get some air to clear my head. And I had to take care of something that's been nagging me.

SAM

Fair enough.

JESSICA

Hey... I'm sorry about earlier...

SAM

No, Jess. You were right about a lot of what you said, you're an adult. If you want to make stupid decisions I shouldn't stand in the way.

JESSICA

Is that the best I'm gonna get?

SAM

No... I'm sorry, too. I shouldn't have pushed you like that. I just... I've watched this whole thing haunt you for ten years. I couldn't take it anymore.

JESSICA

You were an asshole about it, but I know you meant well. What are you gonna do about Hannah?

SAM

To be honest, I don't know. I want to believe her. But I don't know if I can go through that again. I tried to protect her, and I failed. I can't watch her do this to herself over and over.

JESSICA

I know. But you can't blame yourself for her choices. Just like you can't blame yourself for me.

SAM

I get it. Thank you, Dr. Phil.

JESSICA

Dr. Phil? Can you at least call me Oprah?

SAM

Not until you surprise the whole building with a new car.

JESSICA

I'll work on that one. You ok?

SAM

I will be. You?

JESSICA

Same. Come on, let's clean this place.

SAM

THANK GOD.

SAM and JESSICA get up and start to clean up the apartment. END OF SCENE.

Scene 5

TRANSITION: JESSICA and SAM start to clean the apartment while around the edges of the scene, LUKE and HANNAH appear, watching. At some point, JESSICA hands an old take out container to LUKE which he takes and exits. SAM puts a zip up hoodie on HANNAH and she exits. Once the apartment is clean, SAM and JESSICA hug each other. SAM exits. JESSICA grabs her purse, jacket etc. to leave. She opens the door and JACK is standing there, notebook in hand.

JESSICA

Oh! Jack!

JACK

Hey! Sorry! I should have called...

JESSICA

No, no, no! It's fine... please, come in.

JACK enters the apartment and stands there awkwardly. LUKE appears on the outskirts of the scene, waiting.

JESSICA

You can sit, you know.

LUKE pulls out his phone and texts. JESSICA'S phone buzzes. She checks it.

JACK

I'm sorry, I can go if you were on your way out...

JESSICA

No, really. It can wait. Can I get you something to drink? Water? Coffee?

JACK

No, I'm ok.

JESSICA

Something more fun? Wine? Beer?

JACK

No, I gotta work later so I shouldn't.

JESSICA

Probably for the best. The only alcohol I'd be able to offer you is taped under the couch.

JACK

What?

JESSICA

Nothing. Roommate thing. So...

JACK

I just stopped by to return this.

JESSICA

Oh.

JACK

Thank you for letting me read it.

JESSICA

Yeah, of course. Any thoughts?

JACK

What?

JESSICA

You've been bugging me to read that thing since you first saw it. Just curious, is there an actual reaction here?

JACK

I liked my first entry.

JESSICA

Right, our first date.

JACK flips to the specific entry in the notebook.

JACK

I'm glad to know... I have "an ass you could bounce a quarter off of" and is this a little sketch of you doing that?

JESSICA

Yeah. That's our laundry jar I'm holding.

JACK

You hid your drawing talent from me.

JESSICA

Not purposely. You didn't put that on your dating profile- "Must share all hidden talents with me."

JACK

Fair point.

LUKE, growing impatient, texts again. JESSICA'S phone vibrates.

JACK

You were heading out, and I have to get to work so...

JESSICA

So, that's it?

JACK

What's it?

JESSICA

It's still over?

JACK

Yeah.

JESSICA

Why?

JACK

You know why, Jess.

JESSICA

No, I don't. We're really good together. I'm not going to hide anything from you anymore. I promise. I laid it all out on the table, what else can I do?

JACK

It's not that... damnit. This is why I just wanted to drop this off and leave. I don't know how to explain what I'm feeling without sounding like an asshole.

JESSICA

It's fine. Just say it.

JACK

I am so, so sorry for what you went through. No one should ever have to go through that. And I'm not going to pretend to know or understand what you're dealing with, but I'm not the one who did it and I deserve a little respect here, Jess! I assumed when all the panic attacks started that it was something like this, but I wanted to give you space, respect your privacy. We were such a great fit, I figured if I gave you time you would open up to me. But you didn't. I don't know how to be with you. I feel like I'm going to cross a line that I don't know is there and I'm going to hurt you. I mean, I already did that! Multiple times! And then to find out that you're still seeing this guy? I mean, of course you couldn't open up to me, he's still here! He's all over your notebook, he's in your head, I didn't stand a chance. No one does. I feel like I'm the one getting pushed out and punished for what that asshole did and I can't do it anymore, Jess. *(Beat)* Ok, on a scale of 1 to raging asshole, how bad was that?

JESSICA

About a 4.5.

JACK

Wow, I thought I'd rank higher than that.

JESSICA

You would have scored higher points if what you were saying wasn't so accurate.

JACK

Why didn't you tell me about this in the first place? Did I give you some indication that I wouldn't understand? That I would be a dick about it?

JESSICA

No! No, I just... I have a hard enough time admitting any of this to myself. It's easier to ignore it, pretend it didn't happen. Saying it out loud makes it... real.

JACK

But it is real, Jess.

JESSICA

I know. I never meant to hurt you or punish you because of what Luke did.

JACK

I get that it wasn't your intention, but that's still how I feel.

JESSICA

I can't just erase it-

JACK

I'm not asking you to. *(Beat)* What changed?

JESSICA

What do you mean?

JACK

This didn't happen when we first started dating.

JESSICA

I started to like you... a lot.

JACK

That's an odd way to show it.

JESSICA

It's hard to explain. The more I fall for you... the more it reminds me of Luke.

JACK

Gotta say, that is not the greatest compliment I've ever gotten.

JESSICA

Not that you remind me of him... more like... I don't know what I'm trying to say. I haven't really felt this way about anyone since he and I were together.

JACK

Did you love him? *(JESSICA nods)* Do you still? *(Beat)* I don't get you, Jess. I mean, what do you even want? You say you want to be with me, but you can't let him go. Do you want to be with him?

JESSICA

No! I don't know...

JACK

If you don't want to be with him, why are you still talking to him? What are you getting out of it?

LUKE tries to call JESSICA. She sees who it is and sends it to voicemail.

JACK

That's him, isn't it? *(Beat)* I'm going to get going.

JESSICA

But...

JACK

You need to do what's best for you, Jess. I honestly have no idea what I would do if I were in your shoes. I just... need to do what's best for me, too. Does that make sense?

JESSICA nods. JACK gets up to leave. JESSICA follows him to the door. He turns back and leans in as if to kiss her, waiting for permission. She lifts her face and kisses him, then JACK exits.

END OF SCENE.

Scene 6

TRANSITION: JESSICA texts LUKE. When he receives the text, he smiles and heads over to her apartment. LUKE AND JACK pass each other. JESSICA waits nervously. KNOCK.

LUKE

Hey, Jess! You look great!

LUKE goes in for a kiss. JESSICA stops him.

JESSICA

No, Luke.

LUKE

Ok... I'm a little confused. Why did you ask me to come over?

JESSICA

Here, why don't we sit.

LUKE

If you were gonna turn me down, you could have done it over the phone.

JESSICA

No, it's... do you remember at lunch when we first met up, you asked me what happened with us?

LUKE

Yeah.

JESSICA

I want to know, what do you think happened?

LUKE

I mean... we were great, I thought. Then you got... weird. You started avoiding me out of nowhere. You weren't answering my texts or calls. I just figured, maybe you weren't into it anymore?

JESSICA

It wasn't out of nowhere.

LUKE

Ok... so what am I missing here?

JESSICA

Things changed after the night we had sex.

LUKE

What are you talking about?

JESSICA

I said no. I didn't want it.

LUKE

Jess, what are you saying?

JESSICA

You... it was rape, Luke.

LUKE

Excuse me? This isn't... this is a really bad joke.

JESSICA

I'm not joking.

LUKE

How on earth do you think that night was... that?

JESSICA

Because I said no.

LUKE

When? If you said no, I think I would have heard you.

JESSICA

I said it.

LUKE

Well, I definitely don't remember that.

JESSICA

I did! I said it when it started.

LUKE

How many times did you say it?

JESSICA

I said it once.

LUKE

Come on, Jess. You said it one time. If you really didn't want anything to happen, you would have said no more than once.

JESSICA

I froze! I didn't know what to do!

LUKE

Why are you trying to change what happened? We had a great night together.

JESSICA

It wasn't a great night for me.

LUKE

Could have fooled me.

JESSICA

What?

LUKE

I didn't hear you say no, but I heard you.

JESSICA

Heard me what?

LUKE

I heard you fucking moaning.

JESSICA

Wait- that's not... I couldn't help it.

LUKE

So you're telling me you froze, but you were able to moan?

JESSICA

I had no control over what noises I was making at that point.

LUKE

That doesn't make any sense! There were a million and one things you could have done to tell me you weren't ok with what was happening before it got that far!

JESSICA

You knew I was a virgin! Did you think for even a second that maybe we should talk about it first?

LUKE

This is bullshit! Why are you twisting what happened between us ten years ago?

JESSICA

I'm not twisting anything! Why do you think I avoided you after that night?

LUKE

I didn't know! Why didn't you say anything to me? I didn't want to end things with you. I broke up with you because you stopped speaking to me.

JESSICA

Wait, what?

LUKE

You should have talked to me. That is not what that night was. I loved you, Jess.

JESSICA

But you broke up with me and immediately got back together with Amanda.

LUKE

My girlfriend stopped speaking to me completely, and when we did talk, all we did was fight! I thought you didn't want to be with me! If you had just talked to me we could have avoided all of this.

JESSICA

I was trying to process what the hell happened!

LUKE

You're making me out to be some sort of monster. Bottom line, I didn't do anything wrong. I would never do that to anyone.

JESSICA

But you did. You raped me.

LUKE

And what did you do?

JESSICA

Meaning what?

LUKE

You invited me over. You made the first move that night.

JESSICA

Making out with you doesn't mean I'm giving you the green light for everything else!

LUKE

What do you expect me to say? You're coming at me with this out of nowhere ten years too late! If you thought anything that happened that night was wrong, you should have done something back then. You can't prove anything now.

JESSICA

I don't have to prove anything. I've lived with it for 10 years. I know what happened.

LUKE

Do you have any idea what the accusation alone could do? I could lose my job, I could lose Amanda.

JESSICA

A minute ago you were ready to leave her for me.

LUKE

Yeah well, you're not who I thought you were- and I don't associate with liars.

JESSICA

I'm not lying, and you know it.

LUKE

What's the point of even telling me this? I mean, what do you want from me?

JESSICA

I don't want anything from you. I just need you to know. You need to know.

LUKE

This is not what I thought this conversation was going to be. Have you told anyone about this?

JESSICA

Sam.

LUKE

Are you going to tell anyone else?

JESSICA

Like, Amanda? No. She's got enough to deal with. And so do you. You have a lot more to think about before your weddings.

LUKE's phone vibrates with a call.

LUKE

It's Amanda. Uh, hey baby... Yeah, I got stuck in the city... No, I should make it before the cake tasting... Ok... Love you, too. Bye. I've gotta go.

JESSICA

Yeah.

LUKE

Bye, Jess.

LUKE exits. JESSICA exhales as if she was holding her breath the whole time and starts to tear up. She sits on the couch taking in the enormity of what just happened.

LIGHTS UP on SAM on the side of the stage, holding a new postcard from her Mom. She hesitates, then pulls out her phone and calls.

SAM

Hey. It's me.

END OF PLAY.