

Yland, a dark comedy

By Jake Alexander

CHARACTERS:

CARLIE, 22, female-identifying, a natural born leader and peace-keeper. Girlfriend of Beth

SARA, 22, female-identifying, party-animal, always down for a good time. Opinionated

ISABELLA, female-identifying, 19, more sheltered than the rest, conservative

GRETA, 21, female-identifying, Heidi's sister although not biologically, protective

HEIDI, 21, female-identifying, Greta's sister although not biologically, the mediator, close with Beth

BETH, 22, female-identifying, conflicted, tortured. Girlfriend of Carlie

GLORIA, an ageless female A.I.; a voice-over, is nested within the cabin and can power/control most functions, like Siri or Google but capable of so much more

(Act One. Lights up. The not-so-distant-future, the year 2171, in which biological Men are extinct. The “y” chromosome has disappeared from the gene-pool. While they have seen pictures of men, or “M”, in the history books and online, no one alive has ever seen one in person. The female sex is also going extinct, although the rate of which is unknown. As a result, the country is deeply divided over its future. The institution has passed the EXA (Endangered “X” Act), in an effort to combat a growing concern of extinction, saying that all women who are able must give birth by the age of 35. All women are required to register their intention to give with the institution by their 23rd birthday, known as “mandating”. Conversely, a small rebel group has adopted a way to avoid giving their bodies to the state, choosing to “upload”: a process that has existed for the last 50 years by which one’s mind and consciousness is uploaded into the Nexus and their biological form is disposed of. Setting: A cabin somewhere in the Ozarks on a private island. It’s small and should only sleep four. A picnic table off to the side, and a small fire pit somewhere downstage. It’s early morning. We hear shouts of people, bikes pedaling up, and the unloading of supplies. CARLIE enters from a path with a backpack and a sleeping bag. She stares at the cabin awhile, exhales.)

CARLIE
Just as it was.

(SARA enters behind her, panting and carrying a much heavier bag and a bag of groceries.)

SARA
FUCK. I always forget it’s uphill!

CARLIE *(laughing)*
Sorry, queen.

SARA
Why couldn’t the transport drop us off up here?

CARLIE
It’s a private island, Sara, you know the transports can’t fly over. We go over this, like, every year.

SARA
I’ll never stop complaining about it. Why the FUCK did we pack this much for one turnaround?

(ISABELLA and GRETA enter, both carrying backpacks, sleeping bags, a bag of food and a cooler.)

ISABELLA
There’s six of us, we needed this much food.

SARA

We could've had this delivered to us.

GRETA

Leave it to you to already have an issue.

SARA

It was like fourteen miles UPHILL. I always forget about it and then when we get to the bottom, I'm like "damnit". I would've paid for a private transport to drop us off right at this spot.

CARLIE

My Mom never would've okay-ed that. Plus it's fun! Roughing it!

SARA

My calves are fucking killing me.

GRETA

Do you even know how to ride a bike, Sara?

SARA (*biting back*)

Ask me again, Babe.

CARLIE (*easy*)

Are Heidi and Beth coming? Or did we lose them at the fork?

GRETA

They take forever, you know that.

ISABELLA

Remember Homecoming?

GRETA

Yeah, except this time they can't get their own transport. Hey, did Beth seem a little quiet?

CARLIE

What do you mean?

GRETA

She just like, didn't talk the entire ride here.

ISABELLA
Maybe that stuff Heidi said?

CARLIE
I'm sure she's fine.

GRETA
She's usually just a little more, socially-involved, you know?

SARA
Did anyone bring any alkali? My heartburn is taking me *out*.

ISABELLA (*rooting through her bag*)
I might have some.

SARA
Seriously, I need water. Unlock the door so I can get water.

CARLIE
Hold on, I have to check on the keynote, my Mom just changed it...

(CARLIE pulls out her phone and opens an app. She scans for the keynote.)

SARA (*sitting on the picnic table*)
I feel like I'm gonna pass out.

GRETA
Take a breath, you'll feel better.

ISABELLA
This is a really snatched cabin, Carlie. Is it totally outfitted and everything?

(We hear two other bikes come up and people unpacking. HEIDI and BETH enter, talking quietly to each other.)

HEIDI
I just don't think this turnaround is a good idea-

BETH
It's not that big of a deal.

HEIDI

Bethie, it's a huge deal. Why does it have to be now?

BETH

We talked about this already-!

CARLIE (*to HEIDI and BETH*)

Look who decided to show up!

BETH (*kissing CARLIE on the cheek*)

Sorry, we fell behind.

SARA (*chewing on like, five antacids*)

How are we NOT talking about how crazy that last hill was?

GRETA

We talk about it every year. Heidi, do you have my allergy stuff?

HEIDI

The spray or the tablets?

GRETA

Tablets, I can't breathe through my nose right now.

ISABELLA

I don't think you can pull alcohol on those.

GRETA (*receiving and taking a pill with some water*)

Whatever.

BETH

Can we get in yet?

CARLIE (*still scrolling on her phone*)

I'm looking for the keynote.

BETH

So! What do you think, Bella?

ISABELLA

I was asking before if it was outfitted or-?

BETH

Oh, yeah, you'll meet GLORIA. *(to CARLIE)* The keynote's not the same as last year, Carls?

CARLIE

No, my Mom just changed it after they were here last month.

ISABELLA *(looking at the cabin)*

Wow.

HEIDI

What?

ISABELLA

I'm just surprised they were able to outfit it. It's so, I don't know...

BETH

Rustic?

ISABELLA

Yeah.

BETH

It's pretty old, but Carls' family outfitted it well.

CARLIE

We've had it for-

CARLIE & BETH

/Generations./

CARLIE *(smiling at BETH)*

Yeah. Exactly.

SARA *(massaging her calves)*

I need some water, or something to pull.

HEIDI

NOT you sweating from riding a bike for fifteen minutes.

SARA

It definitely was NOT fifteen minutes. Easily a half hour.

GRETA

Babe, nooooo.

CARLIE

Okay, got it! Sorry it was just like, buried in my messages. Here-

(CARLIE puts her phone away. She speaks the next part aloud, as if calling someone.)

CARLIE

Hey, GLORIA? Keynote input: Atwood.

(A ding comes from the cabin. The inside lights turn on and we hear the power click. A gentle whirring from a generator. We hear the V.O. of GLORIA. Each time it is robotic, clipped, and disjointed, although definitely human.)

GLORIA (V.O)

Voice recognition: Hello, Car-lie. Welcome back. Did you say, "Puzzle Clues with the word "wood"?"

CARLIE

What? No. Hey, GLORIA? *(really articulating)* Key-note in-put: ATWOOD.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Keynote input: processing. Processing *(skipping, the group reacts)* proccessssiiiiinnng. Keynote input: accepted. Hello, Car-lie. Welcome back to the cabin. Do you have guests with you this year?

CARLIE *(to the other girls)*

Sorry, that was weird. We should input ourselves into the system. Can you all-?

ALL *(except ISABELLA)*

Hey/Hello!/Here.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: processing. Processing. Processing. Processsssssing. Voice recognition: Hello, Gre-ta, Heidi, Sa-ra, and Beth. You've all been added to the guest list and given full access to my automated system.

CARLIE *(realizing)*

Oh! Sorry, GLORIA there's one more with us. Bella, you have to say hi so she can log you into the system.

ISABELLA

Oh, right. Hello, GLORIA.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Processing. Processing. Processing. Voice recognition: Hello, IS-a-bella. Do I have that right?

ISABELLA

Yes, nice to meet you.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Identification verification: Please input Date of Birth and Social Identity Number, so that I can correctly identify the individual.

ISABELLA (*pulling out her phone*)

Oh, right, this part...

GLORIA (V.O.) (*repeating*)

Identification verification: Please input Date of Birth and Social Identity Number, so that I can correctly-/

ISABELLA (*shouting over GLORIA*)

/Wait, I'm trying to-/

CARLIE (*shouting over GLORIA*)

/Sorry, she's being weird./ GLORIA-!

(V.O.) (*repeating*)

Identification verification: Please input Date of Birth and Socia-

(ISABELLA, very flustered, finishes inputting the information, GLORIA pauses. The rest of the group looks annoyed.)

GLORIA (V.O.)

Identification verification: accepted. Wel-come IS-a-bella, on your FIRST trip to the cabin. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make your stay most comfortable. Carlie: shall I assign you all Hosting Capabilities?

CARLIE

That's fine, thank you GLORIA.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Hosting Capabilities assigned to: CARLIE. Did you bring perishables with you on this trip?

SARA

Yes, fuck, we did. GLORIA we carried it all the way here, you wouldn't believe it-

GRETA

Oh, stop with the hill already!

GLORIA (V.O.)

If you put the perishables in the re-fridgerator, I will compile a menu for your approval. Would you like that?

CARLIE

Yes.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Okay. Please put all perishables in re-fridgerator. Please put all perishables in re-fridge-/

CARLIE

/GLORIA, wait-/

GLORIA (V.O.)

/-erator. Please put all-/

CARLIE

GLORIA. Cabin command: Unlock front door.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Cabin command: Processing. *(The cabin door unlocks with a click)* Cabin Command: accepted.
Cabin door is unlocked.

SARA

And please make ice. I need a pull.

CARLIE

Oh! Speaking of pulling, little tradition-

(CARLIE reaches into her backpack and takes out a six pack of cheap beer.)

GRETA

Do we have to do this every year?

HEIDI

It's a tradition!/

GRETA

/It's a stupid tradition./

HEIDI

/Don't be a Babe-/

GRETA

/Don't be a dude!

CARLIE (*to ISABELLA, passing the cans around*)

This is a little thing my Mom and her sisters used to do. They always started a camping trip with a gravity pull.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Car-lie. Did you say "Full Screenplay for the movie 'Gravity'?"

CARLIE

What...no. GLORIA, we're good.

ISABELLA (*moving on*)

So we like, pull it?

GRETA

/Oh she needs a lesson!/

HEIDI

/She doesn't know how to gravity pull!/

CARLIE (*demonstrating*)

Kind of. What you do is-

(*CARLIE takes out a small knife and cuts a hole into the bottom of one of the cans, and positions it so that the can is upside down. ISABELLA watches carefully.*)

CARLIE

Then you tip it like this, so it doesn't spill everywhere. Here you take this one-

(*CARLIE hands the readied beer to ISABELLA, and passes the knife to the other girls who open their cans with ease.*)

ISABELLA
Then what?

SARA
Then you pop the tab and put your mouth on the hole.

HEIDI
So eloquent.

ISABELLA
Okay, okay I think I got it.

SARA
The trick is to tip your head back. Ewww....these are warm.

CARLIE
It's easier when it's warm. *(to ISABELLA, quietly)* And it's easier if you put your finger underneath the popper before we say 'go'.

ISABELLA *(sheepishly)*
I've never done this before.

BETH *(overhearing, wanting to be involved)*
You'll be fine.

ISABELLA
So, what? Do we say a toast or something?

SARA *(raising her beer)*
To the apocalypse!

GRETA
Stop it with that, you wouldn't shut up about it the entire ride.

CARLIE
Actually, there is one. It's kind of stupid, but here it goes: to this island, to GLORIA, and to sisterhood.
(A beat.)

ISABELLA

That's it?

CARLIE

That's it.

SARA (*finally*)

And now pull!

(They all shotgun their beers, to varying levels of success. ISABELLA stops first, and most of her beer spills. She obviously isn't a heavy drinker.)

GRETA (*finishing first*)

You have to pull it all!

HEIDI (*finishing second*)

Yeah c'mon, don't waste it!

BETH (*finishing third*)

It's Lite, it's not like we are pulling expensive stuff.

CARLIE (*comforting ISABELLA*)

It's all right, I'm not great at it either.

SARA (*throwing CARLIE the knife*)

Okay, I can't stop now. Where's the rest of the Lite we brought?

HEIDI (*holding up one of the bags she brought*)

I got 'em!

ISABELLA

It's like...9 in the morning?

GRETA

We start early, and end late.

HEIDI

Don't be a dude. She's not used to it.

BETH

She's got a point though. We should slow down.

SARA (*pulling out a beer from one of the coolers and popping the tab*)

Suit yourselves. GLORIA, make room in the fridge for Duchess Lite!

CARLIE

It's a small fridge, Sara. We can use portables, too.

SARA (*looking at the cabin*)

This place is SO old. I always forget that.

GRETA

Super retro.

HEIDI (*poking fun*)

"Retro".

GRETA

Fuck you, you're sleeping on the floor.

HEIDI

I can't! My back!

GRETA

You had a pinched nerve like, two years ago.

HEIDI

It was last year, and it still hurts sometimes. Like when I do /Uni-Fit./

GRETA & SARA (*mocking*)

/Uni-fit./

HEIDI

Ya know what? I could take both of you out.

SARA

Sure you could.

GRETA

No doubt about it.

CARLIE

We will get the whole sleeping arrangement thing settled, let's bring this inside.

SARA (*whining*)
I CANNOT.

HEIDI
Stop whining, I'll get your backpack for you.

GRETA (*smacking her butt*)
Look at her deadlifting those bags! That's that Uni-Fit-booty working for you!

HEIDI (*shrieking*)
Ow!

ISABELLA (*aside*)
Oh, my...

BETH
Would you two stop?

CARLIE (*to BETH*)
You okay, Queen?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Reminder: all perishables should be placed in the re-fridgerator. The USDFAS recommends all foods be kept at an internal temperature of 4 degrees Celsius or 39 degrees Farenheidt to avoid-

CARLIE
Thank you, GLORIA. Well, let's get situated. We should eat something soon.

SARA
I'm really not that hungry.

GRETA
You just pulled a beer in thirty seconds!

SARA
Yeah, but that doesn't mean I'm hungry.

ISABELLA
GLORIA could make some eggs?

HEIDI (*gagging*)
Ew, eggs and Lite.

CARLIE

No that's a good idea. C'mon, let's go.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Reminder: all perishables should be placed in the re-fridge-

SARA (*hoisting her sleeping bag*)

UGH. We got it, GLORIA.

(All the girls exit into the cabin. ISABELLA hangs back to check in with CARLIE. BETH dallies, waiting until all the girls are out of earshot.)

ISABELLA

Hey, Carlie?

CARLIE

Hey! Sorry about all them, they can be a little-

ISABELLA

Yeah, that's- where should I put my sleeping pouch and stuff?

CARLIE

Oh! Just take the shelf above ours, GLORIA should have it marked by now.

ISABELLA

Okay. Sorry, I'm just a little-

CARLIE

Don't worry about it! We're right behind you.

(ISABELLA exits into the cabin, with CARLIE following close behind.)

BETH

Carls-

CARLIE (*stopping, turning to her*)

Hey, you alright?

BETH

Yeah, I'm fine.

CARLIE
You were quiet on the way up.

BETH
I need to talk to you.

(A beat.)

CARLIE
What's going on, Queen? Did your Mom text back?

BETH
No.

CARLIE
She will.

BETH
I don't care about that-

CARLIE
But you do.

(A beat. CARLIE takes BETH's hand and they stand in silence for a moment.)

BETH
I know.

CARLIE
Heidi told the group.

BETH
I told her not to.

CARLIE
She didn't say anything specific, just that you two were kind of going through it right now.

BETH
It's nothing-

CARLIE

You haven't spoken to her in two weeks, it's not nothing. And I don't even know what it's about, that's your business, but don't push it away just because it's-

BETH

Whatever. Listen, about what I wanted to tell you-

GLORIA (V.O.)

Reminder: all perishables should be placed in the re-fridgerator. The USDFAS recommends-

CARLIE (*looking inside the cabin*)

Thank you, GLORIA. I should take care of that. But grab me later on, we can talk? Is that okay?

BETH

Yeah! Yeah, dude totally fine-

(*A beat. CARLIE looks stricken.*)

BETH

Oh! I'm sorry, I didn't mean to-

CARLIE

You know I hate being called that/

BETH

/I know, I know, It just slipped out./

CARLIE

I know the other girls throw it around or whatever, but I hate it. How many times have I told you that?

BETH

I'm sorry! Okay, I'm sorry. It doesn't have to be a big deal, my Mom and I said it to each other all the time, just joking. It's like reclaiming it.

CARLIE

Well it is disgusting to me, Beth. I know some people don't see it that way, but the whole argument that it's taking back some power from it-/

BETH

/All right, I get it. Let's just, you know, let it go. I'll watch it, I promise.

CARLIE (*tense*)

It's alright. Later then?

BETH
Absolutely.

(A beat.)

GLORIA (V.O.)
Reminder: all perishables should be placed in the re-

CARLIE *(yelling into the cabin)*
She's not gonna stop until the food is put away!

(A beat. CARLIE exits towards the cabin. BETH calls after her.)

BETH *(stopping her again)*
Hey?

CARLIE
Yeah?

BETH
Should we be worried about Bella?

CARLIE
What do you mean?

BETH
She seems...I don't know. Uncomfortable?

CARLIE
No, she's fine! She's just nervous.

BETH
She knows about us?

CARLIE
Yeah I told her on the way up.

BETH
Oh. And she seemed okay? I know she's a little bit more, like-

CARLIE

I know, I know. But I really think she's not as weird as we think. Plus, you said you wanted to get to know her better.

BETH
I did.

CARLIE
What better chance than this trip?

BETH
Right.

CARLIE
I'm sorry I got mad, I know it was a slip-up.

BETH
I'm sorry I called you that.

CARLIE
This is going to be a fun turnaround.

(CARLIE smiles, exits into the cabin. BETH stands alone for a minute. She rubs her eyes. Lights down. Lights back up. Later in the day, mid-afternoon. The girls sit around the fire pit. Food has been cooked by GLORIA and eaten, and chairs have been set up around the pit. The picnic table holds some bags of chips as well as multiple bottles of alcohol. A few coolers sit next to the picnic table. Almost every girl, with the exception of ISABELLA, has a beer. They all swipe on their phones, in silence.)

GRETA
Did you all hand in your forms?

HEIDI (*worried*)
The mandate?

GRETA
Yeah.

HEIDI
They're not due until our birthday, why are you doing it now?

GRETA
Just getting it out of the way.

HEIDI (*upset*)
/I thought we said-/

SARA
/I'm over here scrolling on my Feed and you're on the institution website filing your intention to
have a daughter.

GRETA
I just want to get it done.

CARLIE (*looking at her phone*)
This is crazy!

BETH
What?

CARLIE (*showing her phone to BETH*)
GLORIA just shared a memory to my device, look at this, from last year-

BETH
From our trip? (*looking at the screen*) What am I wearing?

CARLIE (*kissing her cheek*)
I think you look nice. I like that sweater.

SARA (*moving to look*)
Is it from the day it rained? Remember we were trapped inside and the cabin was like, flooding?

CARLIE
It wasn't flooding.

GRETA (*moving to behind them*)
Lemme see.

(*A beat. They all look at the photo. ISABELLA sits awkwardly.*)

SARA
I'm just gonna say it. I look snatched.

GRETA
Babeeeeeeeee.

SARA
Don't judge!

CARLIE (*laughing along*)
She's just likes the way she looks!

SARA (*to CARLIE*)
Can you share that with me?

CARLIE (*tapping on her phone*)
Sure, hang on. Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Carlie. How can I help?

CARLIE
Please share this photo with all devices in range.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Okay. The photo from May 18th, 2170 has been shared to all devices in range.

HEIDI
Going to add it to your Feed profile?

SARA (*tapping on her phone*)
Of course. I look snatched and my followers deserve to see that.

HEIDI
I know how you feel, I feel the same way after doing /Uni-Fit./

SARA & GRETA (*mocking*)
/Uni-Fit./

GRETA
We know, you post about it constantly on *your* Feed profile.

HEIDI
Oh, but when Sara likes how *she* looks, everyone is all on board!

BETH (*still looking at the photo on CARLIE's phone*)
We are all very, very drunk in this photo. It's so obvious.

GRETA

Do you all remember that spring fling party? Last year?

BETH

The one with the window?

GRETA

I jumped! That's all that happened.

SARA

That is not *all!*

GRETA

What am I leaving out?

CARLIE

You were running from the building security, Greta.

ISABELLA

When did this happen?

GRETA

Last April, at the junior dorm.

ISABELLA

What floor did you live on?

GRETA

Only the second one!

CARLIE

“Only”? What she's leaving out is that she was very drunk, and that she was VERY loud.

SARA

You were singing at the top of your lungs! It's not like the party got broken up for no reason.

GRETA

I just remember having to run out the window.

ISABELLA

Wait, but you said junior year? Weren't you legal then?

GRETA

Oh, yeah. But, they were breaking up the party. So we were all running from them-/

SARA

/YOU were the only one running from anyone/.

GRETA

/-and I thought the second floor was much closer to the bottom than it was.

ISABELLA (*concerned*)

Were you hurt?

GRETA

I sprained my ankle

HEIDI

Ha!

GRETA (*incredulously*)

What?

ISABELLA

She didn't?

HEIDI

Babe, you BROKE your ankle.

GRETA

I was fine!

SARA

Why don't we get the x-ray and see for ourselves? Hey, GLORIA-

GRETA (*to ISABELLA*)

Stop it! We don't need to see the picture. I was fine.

CARLIE

How about you, Bella? Anything fun happen this year?

ISABELLA

I mean...not much has happened to me. Ever? I don't do that much.

SARA
We noticed.

CARLIE
Sara-

SARA
No, I'm just saying, with the gravity pull and everything.

ISABELLA
I mean it was so early...

BETH (*trying to be comforting*)
Sara is just giving you a hard time.

HEIDI
What're we doing this afternoon?

SARA
I wanna swim.

CARLIE
We can do that. It's going to be cold, though.

ISABELLA (*a little worried*)
Oh. I don't think I packed my swim suit.

BETH
You can just go in your underwear, we all do it.

ISABELLA
I mean-

SARA (*getting up to go to the cooler*)
I'm getting a pull, who wants?

GRETA
Grab me a cup. We brought whiskey, right?

CARLIE

Already?

HEIDI

She's on vacation.

BETH (*to ISABELLA*)

When did you turn 18? Recently?

ISABELLA

No, I'm 19.

SARA

And you still don't really pull?

GRETA

Seriously?

SARA

Does your Mom pull?

ISABELLA

Not really.

CARLIE

What's she like?

ISABELLA (*warmly*)

My Mom?

SARA (*sarcastically*)

No, your GLORIA. Yes, your Mom.

ISABELLA

Sweet. I mean, she's strict, I actually had to convince her to let me come this turnaround.

BETH

Wow.

ISABELLA

But she likes that I'm making friends.

CARLIE (*nicely*)
That's good.

(*A beat.*)

ISABELLA
Was that like, a totally lame thing to say?

BETH
/No!/

CARLIE
/Not at all!/

SARA
/Kind of./

ISABELLA
Anyways, it was just like, really nice of you all to invite me.

(*CARLIE gets a message on her phone and reads it. BETH looks around, think this might be a good Moment. She stands and approaches the cabin.*)

BETH
Hey, Carls? Can we take a-

CARLIE
Hold on, hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Carlie, how can I help?

CARLIE
When was your last update?

BETH (*quietly, to CARLIE*)
What're you doing?

CARLIE (*to GRETA*)
My Mom just messaged me back, she said GLORIA hasn't been updated in a while, hence all the you know-

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Carrrrrrrrrrrrlie, how can I help?

CARLIE (*repeating, slowly*)
When was your last update?

(*A beat. Everyone is silent.*)

SARA
Did she hear you?/

GLORIA (V.O.)
/My last update was January 1st, 2160.

GRETA
Whoaaaaaaaaa.

HEIDI
You gotta update her, that's why she's so glitchy.

CARLIE
It's going to take forever, with how long it's been. And we won't have access to her all
turnaround if we do.

BETH
2160, that's crazy.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Beth. Did you say "Crazy Animal Videos?"

BETH
Oh, no-

HEIDI
Oh, she's losing it. Hey, GLORIA-

GLORIA (V.O.)
System override. Voicccccccce Recognition: Hei-di. Did you say, "Loser of the Sing-Off this
year?"

HEIDI
Hey, GLORIA, do you have all standard functions online?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Accessing. Accessing. Accessing-

SARA
Accessing what?

BETH
It's going to take her forever. We should restart her.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recogggggnitionnn: Beth. Okay, showing recipes for Sourdough Starters.

BETH
No, GLORIA, cancel last command.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice Recognition: Gre-ta-

GRETA
I didn't say anything!

GLORIA (V.O.)
Okay, here's the plot of the movie "Say Anything"...

GRETA
Not even close to what anyone said.

CARLIE
I think there's a new update this year, we should-

GLORIA (V.O.)
Accessed: photo album for New Year's Eve, 2018.

SARA
Holy shit!

CARLIE
I can't believe she has that saved. Someone in my family must've archived it.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Command accepted: Sharing album from January 1st, 2018 now, with all devices in range.

CARLIE

Wait, we didn't give a command-

HEIDI

Wait, I want to see it. Go ahead, GLORIA.

(A beat. All the girls' devices ding with a notification. They receive the shared album. They start scrolling through the photos individually, with the exception of ISABELLA.)

GRETA

This shit is ollllldddd.

SARA

"Retro".

ISABELLA

Anything interesting?

HEIDI *(landing on an image on her phone)*

Actually...did you get to it yet?

CARLIE *(swiping on her phone)*

What is it?

SARA *(reacting to an image on her phone)*

Whoa! Is that-?

GRETA *(reacting to the same image)*

Whoa!

CARLIE

Fuck.

(A beat. The group is shocked.)

SARA

I mean you must be, like, related to-

CARLIE

I guess so.

BETH

You don't know who it is?

CARLIE

No, I mean, it's on the cabin's GLORIA, I guess it must've been *someone* from my family-

ISABELLA (*taking out her device and swiping through*)

What is it?

(*She looks at the picture and drops her phone, shrieking.*)

ISABELLA

Sorry! I just didn't expect-

GRETA

Don't drop your device like that!

CARLIE

It's alright!

ISABELLA

I'm sorry I've just never seen one-

SARA

What, a picture of a naked "M"?

(*A beat.*)

ISABELLA

No. Never.

BETH

Really?

ISABELLA

Not an actual one. Like one in person.

CARLIE

Not even in school?

HEIDI

Yeah, like biology class?

ISABELLA

I went to a pretty conservative school, we didn't learn about their biology.

GRETA (*going back to her phone*)

It's like looking at a picture of a dinosaur.

SARA

Why is it, you know, naked?

HEIDI

Are you going tell us you haven't seen a phallus either?

SARA

No I have! I'm just wondering why there's photographic evidence of a naked "M" preserved in this album.

CARLIE

Must've meant something to someone

SARA

Someone saved a picture of a phallus?

CARLIE

I don't know why it's saved. Maybe GLORIA has some malfunction or-

GRETA

Bella, I'm surprised you've never seen one before.

ISABELLA

Maybe once?

GRETA

I wonder why your high school wouldn't show you that.

HEIDI

Ancient history. It's not something everyone wants to teach. Particularly around here.

BETH (*looking at the album*)

Hey, Carlie?

CARLIE

Yeah?

BETH

He, the “M”, I mean- looks like you.

SARA (*looking over her shoulder*)

Yeah, he does.

HEIDI

Same nose.

GRETA (*pointing to another photo*)

Who’s that?

CARLIE (*hesitant*)

Her? I’m not sure. She looks like my Mom though. Maybe like a great-grandMom or something?

SARA

No way. Older than that.

CARLIE

How do you mean?

SARA

If there’s a picture of a phallus in here, this woman is wayyyy older.

(*A beat.*)

SARA

Seriously though, why is it naked?

CARLIE

They probably went skinny-dipping.

HEIDI

Ewww, an “M” skippy-dipping?

CARLIE

What? It’s not weird.

HEIDI (*to CARLIE*)

You keep looking at the photo of the phallus. You're related to it.

CARLIE

It's an "M", can we just call it that?

ISABELLA (*queasy*)

I think I need to sit down.

GRETA

Alright let's delete it. Hey, GLORIA-

HEIDI

You can't delete it!

GRETA

Who would want to save it?

BETH

Don't delete it! That's Carlie's call.

CARLIE

It's fine. Just like, delete it from my device. Please, GLORIA.

GRETA/ HEIDI/ ISABELLA

And mine/ Mine too, please/ etc.

(A beat. All look at SARA. She notices.)

SARA

I mean. If everyone else is going to.

GLORIA (V.O.)

I will delete the shared album from January 1st, 2018 from all requested devices.

ISABELLA

I could use a pull now.

SARA

Snatched! What do you want?

ISABELLA

Hey, GLORIA? Is there any wine inside?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Is-a-Bella. Did you say “Baby Whining Sounds”?

ISABELLA

No. GLORIA: is there ANY WINE?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Question processing. *(a long beat while they wait for an answer)* Yes. There is one bottle inside.
It is a 2100 Coute de’Rhone. Shall I have it prepared?

GRETA

I’ll get it. I don’t trust her.

SARA

Grab some more cups as well, please.

GRETA

Sure thing.

(GRETA exits into the cabin. CARLIE sits and stares at the fire.)

BETH *(to CARLIE)*

Hey? You okay?

CARLIE

Yeah, just feels...weird, I think?

HEIDI

Weird how?

CARLIE

To not know who that is. I feel like I should.

SARA

Why should you?

CARLIE

Don’t you think you should know your ancestors? Or like...understand them?

SARA

Times have changed. No one knows “M”’s they were related to anymore.

HEIDI

They should still teach people what an “M” looks like, though. That’s just history.

BETH

You think?

HEIDI

Why not?

SARA

I don’t think it matters.

HEIDI

Preserving history?

SARA

Well-

HEIDI (*tense*)

That’s what it is. Preserving our history. Like learning about fossils and evolution. You can’t just leave that out. It’s this, like, defining Moment in our collective consciousness. And we should know about them.

SARA (*firm*)

Well I think that’s stupid.

HEIDI

You think it’s stupid to learn about how a whole biological group got wiped out?

SARA

No. I think it’s stupid to learn about things that don’t matter anymore.

(*A beat.*)

CARLIE

I need a pull. Sara, could you-

SARA

Sure thing.

ISABELLA
Where is that wine?

SARA (*tight*)
I'm sure it's coming.

HEIDI
Do you have a problem?

SARA
No. Nope.

(GRETA enters from the cabin with the bottle of wine.)

GRETA (*placing bottle and stack of cups on table*)
Here.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Gre-Ta. Preparing wine now.

GRETA
Babe, I brought it out already. Carlie, this robot is going insane.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Playing: Go Crazy by Prince.

CARLIE
GLORIA! Command override.

SARA
Here's your pull, Carlie.

CARLIE
Thank you.

(BETH moves to the cooler and opens a beer. ISABELLA pours herself a drink, and adds a little bit to it.)

HEIDI
We *should* play some music.

SARA

I got it. I don't trust her to play regular music.

(SARA takes out a phone and opens a music app. She selects a song (maybe Doja Cat's "Say So") and puts the phone in a cup to amplify the sound.)

HEIDI *(playing)*

"Retro".

SARA

This is how they used to do it at parties!

GRETA *(scrunching her face)*

This song is "regular" music?

SARA

What's wrong with it?

GRETA

It's soooo old.

ISABELLA

I don't even know this song.

GRETA

Wasn't there a dance to this song?

HEIDI

Back then they used to just, like, make up dances to songs.

BETH

Crazy.

CARLIE

I like it.

BETH *(smiling at her)*

I like it, too.

SARA *(to BETH)*

Remember what your Mom said on your birthday? About this song changing the course of history?

BETH (*uncomfortable*)
Oh. Right -

SARA
That was snatched.

BETH
I don't really want to talk about my Mom right now.

(*A beat.*)

SARA
Oh. I'm sorry, Heidi said -

HEIDI
Sara!

SARA
What? She knows we know. Not like, details, but that like, something is going on.

BETH
Carlie mentioned earlier. That Heidi had said something.

ISABELLA
We were just. Worried.

BETH
Listen, everything's okay. Let's just leave it alone.

(*A beat.*)

HEIDI (*changing the subject*)
We should go swimming!

SARA
Fuck yeah!

GRETA
Good idea. The regular spot?

CARLIE

Yeah!

ISABELLA

You know, I think I just would be more comfortable staying behind. I actually have kind of a headache, so I think I'm going to go lay down. Hey, GLORIA?

CARLIE

Are you sure?

ISABELLA

Yeah, I just feel a little- (*a beat. She's on the verge of tears*) I'm sorry...I just, you know, grew up differently. I think I'm still a little shaken up about the picture and everything, and you all have been so nice and invited me and that was really great but I think I'm just overwhelmed. With all the pulling and the "fucks" and the "Babes" and everything and I just think it's best if I-

SARA

No, hey, it's fine!

GRETA

We get it.

ISABELLA

It's just my Mom. She's always nervous and so I'm always nervous.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Is-a-Bella. How can I help?

ISABELLA

Can you get some relief for me?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Cabin Command: accepted. Relief and water have been placed by your shelf.

ISABELLA (*to the others*)

Sorry.

CARLIE

That's alright. Really.

(*A beat. ISABELLA exits into the cabin.*)

HEIDI
Well. That was weird.

CARLIE
It's fine. Let's just give her some space.

GRETA
Can we walk there?

CARLIE
Yeah it's just down that path. We don't need the bikes.

BETH
You know, I think I'll stay behind with Bella. Just to check up on her.

CARLIE (*taking her hand*)
You sure?

BETH
Yeah, I don't want her to feel like anything is wrong.

GRETA
Suit yourself.

SARA
Lesss go!

HEIDI
You all go ahead, I'll meet you.

(SARA and GRETA go running off down the path. CARLIE starts to exit behind them.)

CARLIE (*kissing her cheek*)
We won't be long. Do something fun.

BETH
Sure.

(CARLIE exits down the path. BETH stands off the side of the fire. She and HEIDI are silent for awhile.)

HEIDI

You can't tell her. Not now.

BETH

I need to. Things are moving really quick and she's already talking about mandating and everything.

HEIDI

Then tell her after this turnaround! This is serious, Bethie.

BETH

No one knows that better than me. But. I'll still be here.

HEIDI

But it won't be the same, not after you go-

BETH

So, what? I just never tell her? Just one day I go and she never knows why or where?

HEIDI

I just want you to wait. Especially now that Isabella is being all weird.

BETH

It's different for you all. You've all decided and I'm running out of time. I've been holding this in and I don't think I can anymore.

HEIDI

First off, I haven't decided. And second off, you aren't running out of time-

BETH

Just fucking go swim, Heidi.

HEIDI

Don't be like that.

BETH

I told you because I thought you'd understand. Of all people.

HEIDI

I do understand. But I don't agree. If you're going to end it-

BETH

It is not like that, you know that. It's not-

HEIDI

I don't know that. When my Moms-

BETH (*frustrated*)

All right, just stop. You're right, okay. I won't say anything this turnaround. Even though-

HEIDI

I know.

(*A beat.*)

BETH

You have stop telling people that something's going on with my Mom.

HEIDI

I just wanted to be there for you.

BETH

Just go swim, Heidi.

HEIDI

Look-

BETH

Go, I'm fine.

HEIDI

You're sure?

BETH

Yeah. Go.

(*A beat. HEIDI exits down the path. BETH walks to the coolers, takes out another beer, and opens it. She drinks half, quickly. Lights down. Lights back up. Later on in the night. The group has been drinking heavily since they got back from swimming. Towels and underwear are hung up in various places. Empty alcohol bottles and cans sit around. The fire is roaring. Music continues to play, the house lights bump with the beat. ISABELLA and CARLIE dance on the picnic table, clearly drunk. HEIDI, GRETA, and BETH sit in the chairs, passing a joint around. SARA lays on the ground looking up at the stars.*)

SARA (*high as a kite*)
I dunno...I'm not sure if I'm feeling it.

HEIDI
I think you are.

GRETA
Yeah, you just laid on the ground.

SARA (*baffled*)
No I didn't!

GRETA
You're literally on the ground right now.

SARA
No! I'm sitting right here.

BETH
This is (*laughs*) this is (*can't get it out*) this is fucking wild.

ISABELLA (*drunk*)
I think you're right! I think I LOVE wine!

CARLIE
You're like, a really good dancer.

ISABELLA
So are you!

SARA
I hurt my stomach doing that dive.

HEIDI
You hit the water sooooo hard. It wasn't a dive at all.

GRETA
We thought you were dead.

SARA
My stomach is on fire.

HEIDI
Did you get sunburnt?

(SARA doubles over in uncontrollable laughter)

SARA
That is the funniest thing you've ever said.

GRETA
...asking if you got sunburnt?

BETH
Oh! Oh! I totally get it.

SARA
Sun....burnt. *(repeating)* BUUUUUURRRRRRN-T. Do you hear that?

HEIDI
Babe, what?

SARA
No, no, no, no, like LISTEN to it.

BETH
Like HEAR it.

GRETA *(emphasizing it)*
I "hear" it?

BETH
No, no, no-/

SARA
No, no, no, no. *(rolling it out)* Buuuuuuurrrrrrrn-ed.

BETH *(agreeing)*
Sun. Burned.

SARA *(sitting up)*
EXACTLY. Whoa. Whoa. Dizzy.

HEIDI

Come sit next to us.

CARLIE (*to ISABELLA*)

Did you grow up dancing?

ISABELLA

Yeah! Why do you ask?

CARLIE

You just have like, really good rhythm. I'm totally mesmerized. That's a word right?

Messsssmerized? /

ISABELLA

/Totally. About earlier-I think I was just a little overwhelmed.

CARLIE

You seemed a little nervous.

ISABELLA

I just don't do this! I don't have a lot of friends.

CARLIE

What about your roommate?

ISABELLA

She's never around.

CARLIE

Why don't you do it at school?

ISABELLA

Do what?

CARLIE

Dance!

ISABELLA

I just didn't want to try out against other people.

CARLIE

Sara, isn't your roommate on the dance team?

SARA

She is SNAAAAATCHED. (*She stands, sways*) She does this like (*demonstrating*) locking thing, this vogue-ing thing, where she likes (*demonstrates again*) flails her arms around and like it's crazy to watch.

HEIDI (*taking out her phone*)

A demonstration! Wait hold on I wanna get a video of it. Hey GLORIA, can you record this-

GRETA

I'm dying!

SARA

If you fuckin' film me I'm going to take you out.

CARLIE (*to ISABELLA*)

Well, you should try out anyways. You're really snatched.

ISABELLA (*sheepishly*)

Thanks.

SARA (*high, lost in thought*)

Can I ask a question?

HEIDI

To who?

SARA

What's it like?

GRETA

What's what like?

SARA

Having two Moms.

(*A beat.*)

HEIDI

How do you mean?

SARA

Like, both your birth Moms, like just decided to make a family?

GRETA
I mean. Yeah?

SARA
But you each have a Mom that's like, not your Mom? Like not biologically?

GRETA
I mean, technically-

HEIDI
We don't think of it that way.

SARA
I'm not judging, I'm just wondering-

GRETA
It's kind of sounds like you're judging.

HEIDI (*humoring SARA*)
I know you're just asking because you're curious, but the tone-

SARA
Well, I wasn't trying to offend or anything. Just wondering.

HEIDI
Well, I love it. I think it's snatched to have two parents, it's not something a lot of girls have.

SARA
Well if the institution has anything to say about it...

HEIDI
Right! I think about it sometimes and I'm like: why wouldn't you want a two-parent household?
And I don't even think of my birth-Mom that way, like she's not like, more important than my
other Mom. She just chose to go through it NOT alone. Who wouldn't want that, you know?

SARA
Right. Can I ask another question?

HEIDI

So many questions! Is this the weed talking or are you actually interested?

SARA

I'm totally interested! We never talk about this stuff. I feel like we got a good vibe going right now, let's get into this!

GRETA (*a little annoyed*)

All right. What's your question?

SARA

Is the EXA the reason they uploaded?

HEIDI

Well. Yeah.

GRETA

They opposed it.

HEIDI

Oppose it. They still do.

SARA

A lot of people do. But not everyone uploads because of it.

HEIDI

They don't think the institution should be in the business of telling anyone what to do with their bodies.

SARA

Why didn't you go with them?

(*A beat.*)

GRETA

We decided-

HEIDI

Well, you decided-

GRETA

No, that's not true. It was both of us.

HEIDI

I mean it was mostly you.

GRETA

Okay whatever, I'm just gonna speak for myself: I decided I wanted to finish school here and I didn't want to leave you all. So I'd stay and then make a decision.

HEIDI

Which apparently you did.

GRETA

You said you were going to mandate, too!

HEIDI

I don't know yet.

GRETA

So you're going to upload? In protest?

HEIDI

I really don't know yet.

SARA (*moving on*)

Seems a little extreme. Doing, you know, that. Because of one law.

HEIDI

It's...kind of a big law.

GRETA (*to HEIDI*)

That was the first time I really thought of you like a sister. When they went.

(A beat. CARLIE and ISABELLA move to the fire pit. BETH gets a drink.)

HEIDI

Really? When the EXA
passed?

GRETA

Yeah.

HEIDI

What do you mean? We had been together for like, a decade, when that happened.

GRETA

I remember that night. When we were watching the streaming of the senate session. It was late, like 10pm. And that woman stood up, I can't remember her name, she was white I remember that, and she said "ay". Just like that, dry and raspy and like she didn't care. And of course, she didn't. It didn't affect her at all. It wasn't like, a factor in her life. She already had daughters and I'm sure they were going to give birth regardless. Her privilege made it so that she didn't have to worry. And Bridget, Heidi's birth Mom, Mama, kept saying "we're fine. We're fine. We're fine. We are fine." She just kept repeating it like, she could change their minds from there. And then, I will never forget this, our GLORIA came over and was like "Due to recently passed legislation, those in this household under the age of 35 should plan to reproduce by then, and to announce their intention to reproduce by their 23rd year." She said it like that, and she's technology, I get it, but to hear that was so, I don't know, dystopian. Like any minute it would all be over. And I just remember my Mom losing it. Like they suddenly had control over us, over our lives, and we didn't have a chance to change their minds. *(A beat.)* I didn't even know it was an option. I hadn't heard of it before. Uploading? Like putting something online, sure. And when the chaos of that night started, it hits me: I could lose this. And I didn't even know I had it. We had been together, what, since we were four? And I just thought of you both as like, permanent roommates? Like people that lived with us. Fuck. That sounds horrible, like absolutely horrible. But I did. You weren't family. Until then. Until I saw what I could lose. And I wish it hadn't taken as long to get there, you know? Because by then, when GLORIA spoke up, everything moved so quickly. Remember when they sat us down? Like a week later? They told us, and I was just thinking, "they won't be companions anymore, that's what they're doing." Of course, that wasn't true, they said they'd be together forever. That we all would. They promised. But. *(Pause)* I just remember her saying "don't be scared, we'll still be here". But it's not them. But I don't resent them or anything...they knew that we would be okay. And we... or, okay I guess *I* had, at that point, decided to stay and live with grandma to finish school and then make my decision. I can't remember their voices, you know? And I wish I could. But that's not how that goes, I guess.

(A beat.)

HEIDI

You can still talk to them, I talked to them just last week. You could-

GRETA

Yeah, but not really. *(Pause)* It's fine. It's really fine. We are fine.

SARA

Do you wanna stop talking about it?

GRETA (*getting up and moving to refill her drink*)
Yes. Please. Yes.

BETH (*changing the subject*)
We should play a game!

CARLIE
Yeah! A game sounds fun.

ISABELLA
What does your GLORIA have?

BETH
No, I mean like card game or something. What about “There’s No Shame”?

CARLIE
Ooh, I love that one. Do we want to start with three fingers, see how that goes?

HEIDI
Yeah let’s start slow.

(All the girls put up three fingers ala “Never Have I Ever”.)

BETH (*thinking it over*)
Okay. I’ll go first. There’s no shame in belly-flopped while trying to do a dive.

SARA (*takes a pull and puts down a finger*)
You weren’t even there! There’s no shame in jumping out of a second floor window to escape security.

GRETA (*takes a drink and puts down a finger*)
Fuck you. There’s no shame in being caught having sex.

(HEIDI, SARA, and CARLIE all drink and put down fingers with various complaints of “c’mon”, “who hasn’t?”, etc. After a Moment, ISABELLA cautiously takes a drink and puts down a finger. Everyone shouts in surprise.)

ALL except ISABELLA
Are you kidding/when?/who caught you?/etc.

ISABELLA

It was only once! My roommate walked in on me. It's actually been kind of awkward since...

SARA

Wait, I thought you were like...?

ISABELLA (*playing back*)

Sexually-frustrated? I mean- I was just...using my hand.

GRETA

Old school.

HEIDI

"Retro".

ISABELLA

Okay so my turn?

CARLIE

Yeah, come up with something kind of out there.

ISABELLA

Okay. Okay here's one! There's no shame in smoking pot!

(GRETA, HEIDI, BETH, and SARA all drink and put down fingers. SARA is out.)

SARA

That's not "out there"! Okay, I'm out. I'd like to make a toast. Lemme pour short pulls.

HEIDI

Didn't we do this already?

SARA

It's vacation! We should be toasting every second of it.

GRETA

I'll do one.

SARA

Who else? Bella?

ISABELLA

No, no, I definitely shouldn't.

SARA

Beth, get over here.

BETH (*reluctantly*)

Is this a good idea?

SARA

Come on!

(SARA pours shots from one of the liquor bottles on the picnic table and begins distributing them. She raises hers up.)

SARA

To the end of world!

ALL

Come on/Don't say that/ It's not going to happen!

SARA

It's the end! Everyone make peace with your saviors and kiss your loved ones goodbye. And if you can: fuck, pull, smoke, and have a party on your way out.

(Everyone stares at SARA, depressed. She quickly takes her shot, the others do so apprehensively. HEIDI gags, runs behind the cabin and is heard throwing up.)

GRETA (*yelling after her*)

Light-weight!

BETH

You really think it'll be over soon?

SARA

Oh yeah. Didn't you read the review?

GRETA

We aren't going anywhere, we have so much time. That was one article.

CARLIE

Which said we're going extinct in our lifetime.

SARA (*to GRETA*)
Then why did you mandate?

GRETA
I just wanted to get it done.

SARA
You're not going to have to worry about it. This is the end.

BETH
Stop it, you don't actually think that. So many officials refuted the review after the fact.

SARA
Babe, I do. This is it. I've accepted our fate.

BETH
You're not kidding. You really think women are going extinct.

SARA (*absolutely serious*)
I'm dead serious.

(A beat. All the others stare at her.)

SARA
I'm fucking kidding! Relax!

(They all let out sounds of relief.)

CARLIE
Really? You swear you're just kidding?

SARA
You people can't take a joke.

ISABELLA
It's not a joke. The institution was concerned enough to pass a law, we shouldn't joke about it.

(A beat. The group shifts uncomfortably.)

GRETA
Should we play another round?

CARLIE
I need a break from pulling.

SARA (*to GRETA*)
You really filled out your
mandate?

GRETA
Yeah.

SARA
Your Moms opposed it.

GRETA
Yeah, well, they had their own reasons. And I have mine.

SARA
What're those reasons?

GRETA
I just said I wanted to get it done-

SARA
I think that's just a thing people say. Why? Really.

GRETA (*blurting it out*)
I care about what it stands for. Like, there are laws they passed to stop climate change that were
kind of fucked up, but the ends justified the means.

SARA
Okay but would you ever tell your Moms that?

GRETA
I won't have to.

SARA
Why?

GRETA
It's not them. Anymore.

SARA

Heidi says it's them. She said she talked to them last week. *(Pause)* Okay just playing out the scenario here: you tell them. They uploaded because they oppose this law. And they say what?

GRETA

You know, Sara, I really don't need you to play Devil's Advocate. What's done is done.

(A beat.)

SARA *(turning away from GRETA)*

So what are we naming our institutionally-mandated daughters, then?

CARLIE

I always like Samantha.

GRETA

Penelope. It was my grandma's name.

ISABELLA

I want an "M".

(A beat. All the girls stare at ISABELLA in shock.)

CARLIE

An "M"?

ISABELLA

Yeah. I want to name him Adam.

GRETA

Wait- you're not kidding?

ISABELLA

No.

GRETA

Well that's impossible.

ISABELLA

Not necessarily.

SARA

Well, she could. I mean, there are transgender men.

ISABELLA

No I want an “M”.

SARA

You want a biological boy? But. You can’t give birth to an “M”, anymore.

ISABELLA

It would be a miracle, then.

GRETA

No, it would never happen.

CARLIE

Bella, no. That coding, it doesn’t exist anymore.

SARA (*taking another shot*)

Yeah. Bye “M”!

ISABELLA

I think it could happen. I think it will, for me. There are pastors who talk about it.

SARA

Yeah, and those women are crazy.

GRETA

And you are too if you think that you could give birth to a child that’s labelled “M” on their birth certificate.

ISABELLA

You don’t think about it? How we just don’t have the “M” anymore?

GRETA

This is just, how it is. And always will be.

ISABELLA

I dream about it sometimes. About what it might be like to know an “M”, to see one every day. I actually heard the name Adam in a dream. Isn’t that crazy? There’s no one named Adam anymore. Not at birth. I had never heard that name before. But I heard it in a dream, and I saw

this, like figure. Strong, tall. And then I heard that name, like almost whispered to me: “Adam”. I didn’t even know it was a name! It was just like a foreign word. Like hearing something in French or like Portuguese for the first time. I had to have GLORIA look it up. And there it was. An “M”’s name. And I think that’s why I like it, because it was like a vision. This “M”, and he somehow knew me and I somehow knew him, but it wasn’t like surprising. I remembered earlier, when we were talking, I was remembering that I had seen an “M” in like diagrams, so it was like this amalgam of the pictures and drawings I’d seen. These diagrams were like sketches, some computer renderings, I guess parts of my imagination. There’s no reason why I would remember them, why my brain would put them together. But he was mine. I made him up. And I think that’s why I could give birth to one. Because I had already made one.

(A beat. The others girls stare at her.)

SARA
Babe. You are. So. Drunk.

ISABELLA
I definitely am.

(HEIDI re-emerges from behind the cabin, wiping her mouth.)

HEIDI
I need water. And I need my shelf.

GRETA
Yeah, let’s get you inside. Hey GLORIA, can you get us relief?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Gre-Ta. Cabin command: accepted. Water and reliefs have been placed next to all guests’ shelves.

SARA *(to HEIDI)*
Good thing you didn’t pass out back there. We’d have let you sleep in the grass.

CARLIE
I’ll put out the fire. Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Carlisle. How can I help?

CARLIE
Cabin command: night-mode.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Cabin command: processing. Processing. Processing. Accepted. Night-mode activated.

(The cabin lights dim, the whirring slows to lower speed. The stage darkens. GRETA helps a stumbling HEIDI into the cabin. ISABELLA and SARA grab the coolers and leftover food and bring them into the cabin. BETH hangs back. CARLIE grabs a bucket of water placed next to the picnic table and starts dousing the fire.)

BETH *(to CARLIE)*

Hey, let me help-

CARLIE

Thanks. *(CARLIE passes the bucket of water to BETH who douses the fire)* You tired?

BETH

Not yet. Crazy night, huh?

CARLIE

Yeah, that was- seemed like Greta and Sara were about to get into it.

BETH

Yeah. Hey, about before -

CARLIE

Oh, you wanted to talk to me earlier! Sorry, Queen, it totally slipped my mind.

BETH

Yeah.

CARLIE

What's up?

BETH *(nervously)*

Well, you asked earlier how things were with my Mom, and I wanted to tell you- Well, I just- I wanted to tell you....I've been feeling a little, and and and I thought you should know. I mean, you deserve to-

CARLIE

Beth?

BETH *(blurting it out)*

I like the name Samantha.

CARLIE

What does that have to do with your Mom?

BETH

Oh, I mean, nothing. It's just. I like it.

(A beat.)

CARLIE

Bethie. What's going on with your Mom?

BETH

What do you mean?

CARLIE

I can tell that it's bothering you. You two have barely spoken.

BETH

It's just-

(A beat.)

BETH

I'm going.

CARLIE

Going to bed?

BETH

No I mean-

CARLIE

Tonight? Going home?

BETH

No, like going-going.

CARLIE

What are you talking about?

BETH

I don't want to scare you, I just have been feeling this way for a while and I wanted to tell you at the right time but I'm a little drunk.

CARLIE
Where are you going?

BETH
I'm going to upload.

(A beat.)

CARLIE
You don't know what you're saying.

BETH
I do. I've decided.

CARLIE
Without having talked to me about it?

BETH
It was my decision to make.

CARLIE
And how am I supposed to feel about that?

BETH
I know this comes as a surprise.

CARLIE
Ha! A surprise would've been announcing companionship or that you like, got a new device!
This isn't a surprise. It's a blindside.

BETH
I wasn't going to say anything, but you deserve to know.

CARLIE
Oh I deserve this, huh?

BETH
I'm the one who's going, not you!

CARLIE

Are you....are you breaking up with me?

BETH

No! I don't want to. I want you to come with me.

(A beat. CARLIE glares at her.)

CARLIE

Well. I can't.

BETH

Can't or won't?

CARLIE

Both.

BETH

I don't think I want to be a mother-

CARLIE

/We talked about this? I thought?- /

BETH

/Carlie, I can't do that, just for you. And I think you should come with me.

CARLIE

Beth-

BETH

I don't want to live in a country that determines my worth by my ability to procreate.

CARLIE

No, you don't want to live at all. You're uploading. That's fucking suicide, Beth.

(A beat.)

BETH

It's not. It'll still be me, just not in this version of me. I'll still have my mind, I can still stay with you. I can even become your GLORIA! Then we could stay together-

CARLIE

I don't want you as my fucking GLORIA, Beth! I want you as my girlfriend. My human-girlfriend!

BETH

Well I don't want this! I don't want to fucking procreate just because of some bullshit law, some fucked-up relic of the "M". So I'm going into the Nexus.

CARLIE

And then what? You're just some voice, some profile picture like you're on my Feed? Some stranger who occasionally updates but doesn't feel?

BETH

This process has been around for forever, you know that, it'll still be me-

CARLIE

And your body?

BETH

What about it?

CARLIE

What do they do with it? When they've IV'ed-out your mind?

BETH

They...it, well- you know it's not-

CARLIE

They burn it, Beth. They incinerate it. After they take your mind out of you, they dispose of you.

(A beat. BETH doesn't know what to say.)

CARLIE

That's not you, Beth. It won't be you. You've made up your mind? *(Pause)* Well, I want to stay. I'm not going to leave my mother, my whole family just because of a law. And also...because I do want a daughter. And I believe it's right. Look: I don't want you to go, but I also want to stay. And if you can't, then...

BETH

That what?

CARLIE

Then this isn't going to work out.

BETH

Maybe we should talk about this another time.

CARLIE

It's a little late for that. You've already decided. (*barrelling on*) It's not that big of a deal. We weren't together very long.

BETH

I think it's a big deal- /

CARLIE

/And we can just tell people later, after this turnaround- /

BETH

/Carlie, I love you.

(*A beat.*)

CARLIE

You picked this moment, right now, to tell me that for the first time? That's so much pressure, Beth. After telling me you'll be fucking dead soon?

BETH

I'm being uploaded, Carls, it's not death!-

CARLIE

I can't do this right. Now. I have to- I have to- I need to sleep. You should take your own shelf tonight.

BETH

Okay.

CARLIE

You want to be like those people in the album we saw this afternoon? Just lost? Memories?

(*A beat. BETH looks away.*)

BETH

Carlie-

CARLIE

Forget it. GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Carlie. How can I help?

CARLIE

Turn off the lights. *(to BETH)* Lock the door when you come in.

(CARLIE exits into the cabin. The lights go out inside. BETH stares into the smoke. After a beat, she gags and throws up. Lights down. End of Act One.)

(Act Two. Lights up. GLORIA suddenly turns on, the lights click on in the cabin to full brightness, and we hear a loud whirring of the generator. The fire still smokes from the night before. BETH's vomit is noticeable at the edge of the fire pit. After a moment, SARA enters from the cabin, slamming the door open. She rubs her temples, breathes slow. She is definitely hungover.)

SARA
Oh, fuck you GLORIA.

(She takes a few stumbling steps onto the ground and groans. She walks over to the still smoking fire, sees where BETH threw up. She sniffs, gags, almost throws up, but doesn't.)

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Sa-Ra. Good morning. The current time is 7:54AM, the high for the day will be 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

SARA
Whatever.

(SARA walks over to the table of empties. She finds a water bottle and takes a swig, realizes it is vodka, spits it out. She gags again. She sits at the table and rests her head on it. GRETA and HEIDI emerge from the cabin. HEIDI wears sunglasses.)

GRETA
It's like a drummer is banging on my head.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Gre-Ta. Good Morning. Did you say "Play the Little Drummer Boy?"

GRETA
Absolutely not.

HEIDI
What was the noise before?

SARA *(not raising her head)*
I thought it was water but it was vodka.

GRETA *(seeing BETH's vomit)*
Did you throw up?

SARA
No, that was out here when I woke up.

HEIDI

I'm gonna die. I think I'm gonna die.

(ISABELLA emerges from the cabin with a water bottle, taking tiny sips.)

ISABELLA

Is there coffee?

SARA *(waving to the cabin)*

Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Sa-Ra. How can I help?

SARA

Please make coffee.

GLORIA (V.O.)

Cabin command: accepted.

SARA

What happened out here last night?

(CARLIE enters from the cabin.)

CARLIE

Is she making coffee?

GRETA

Yeah, she has it going.

SARA *(to CARLIE)*

Did you throw up after we went in?

CARLIE

When?

SARA

When you were putting out the fire.

CARLIE

No, why?

(SARA points to the vomit next to the fire.)

CARLIE (*seeing it*)

Oh.

HEIDI

Is there water out here?

SARA (*pointing to the water bottle she sipped from*)

That is not water. Because that is vodka.

HEIDI

Okay.

CARLIE

Let's make some breakfast. Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: /Carlie-/

CARLIE

/Loud. Too loud. Turn volume down-/

(GLORIA's volume lowers.)

GLORIA (V.O.) (*at lower volume*)

/How can I help?/

CARLIE

Please make eggs.

GLORIA (V.O.) (*the group groans throughout the following*)

How would you like those eggs: scrambled? Fried? If fried: how would you like them prepared?

Over hard? Over medium? Over easy? Sunny-side up? Shall I make sandwiches? Poached? If

poached, would you like the yolks runny or hard? Would you like cheese? If so, what kind of
cheese-

CARLIE

Please, shut up, scrambled is fine.

(BETH enters from the cabin. She stands in the doorway.)

BETH
Morning.

GRETA
Good morning. Needed your own shelf last night, huh? Was Carlie going to snore?

BETH *(covering)*
Oh. I went in after her and just didn't want to wake her.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Beth. Good morning. I am making eggs and coffee.

BETH
Got it. Thanks.

HEIDI
Hiya, sleep well?

BETH
Oh, yeah. How about everyone else?

SARA
NOOOPE.

BETH
How about you, Carls?

CARLIE *(not looking at her)*
Fine.

SARA *(to BETH)*
So it was you then, huh?

BETH
What was?

SARA
The puke, over by the fire.

BETH
Oh. Yeah.

SARA
Ewww.

HEIDI
Gross.

BETH
It wasn't a great night.

CARLIE
That's for sure.

BETH (*ignoring her*)
I was thinking after breakfast of maybe taking a hike.

SARA
That sounds worse than the biking. Why do you people all want to do so much moving around?

BETH
It wouldn't be that bad. There's that small loop down the path.

ISABELLA
Sounds nice, actually. I'll go.

BETH
Well, if anyone else wants to join us. Carlie?

CARLIE (*deliberately*)
I'm going to stay behind.

BETH
Yeah?

CARLIE
Yeah.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Cabin Update: coffee has been prepared.

SARA
Thank FUCK.

ISABELLA (*heading into cabin*)
I'll bring it out.

BETH
How was the floor, Greta?

HEIDI (*hugging GRETA*)
Isn't she a great sister?

GRETA
I didn't have a whole lot of choice, you were passed out before I even got my contacts out.

SARA
Did anyone else get, like, attacked by mosquitos last night?

HEIDI
There were so many!

SARA
It's incredible that a ROBOT just made us coffee but we can't find a way to eradicate the most annoying bug on the planet.

ISABELLA (*re-entering with a tray of coffee cups*)
Here.

SARA (*taking a cup*)
Thank you. (*cheersing*) To
Science!

GRETA
You're quiet, Carlie.

CARLIE
Am I?

HEIDI
You okay?

CARLIE
Just, you know crooked.

GRETA

Is this worse or better than after
homecoming?

CARLIE

It's really hard to compare.

HEIDI (*to GRETA*)

Don't pester her!

GRETA

I just thought "we had a good vibe going", you
know?

SARA (*sarcastic*)

Oh, I get it. Because of what I said last night.

GRETA

I'm just messing around.

SARA

If you have a problem with what I said last night,
you should just tell me.

GRETA

I'm not the one with the problem.

HEIDI

Greta, stop it.

GRETA

What, am I ruining the vibe?

CARLIE

Last night was just. You know. Heavy.

SARA

And here I was, hoping to talk more about "Adam".

ISABELLA

Is **that** a joke?

SARA

No, I just thought if I really tried hard enough, I could dream about him.

ISABELLA

If your problem is with Greta, don't take it out on me.

SARA

I don't have a problem with anyone.

ISABELLA

Clearly you do.

SARA

No, I'm totally fine.

ISABELLA

So then what?

SARA

I just think it's ridiculous you want an "M".

ISABELLA

What's ridiculous about it?

SARA

Well for starters, it's pretty stupid-

BETH

Sara, you're crooked.

CARLIE

It's too early for this.

ISABELLA

No, let her finish. I want to know why it's so "stupid".

SARA

Think about all the things that the "M"s, historically, fucked up. And think about where we are now. Climate change has been reversed. A woman did that. The end of global wars, domestic terrorism: a woman did that. You think that's a coincidence? The whole "era of the patriarchy" did more damage to this world than any other time. They're extinct because they had their chance, and the universe told them to fuck off. And frankly, I don't need them. (*to HEIDI*)

You asked why I thought we shouldn't study them? And I said because the "M" didn't matter? Well I didn't make that choice, they did. They determined their own value, and, excuse me, our value for wayyyyy too long. And their value decreased because the cosmos didn't need them anymore. Do you know how fucking long it took to undo all the shit they did? Hey, GLORIA-?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Sa-Ra. How can I help?

SARA

What did the 19th amendment accomplish?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Processing question. Processing question. Okay, here's what I found: the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote. Related articles: "How women changed the world" and "Waiting for permission: the story of the 19th amendment".

SARA

And when did that amendment get passed?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Processing question. Here's what I found: The 19th amendment was ratified in 1920. Approximately 2640 years ago. Related articles: "Historical Accomplishments of the Early 20th century".

SARA

See! 1920! We had been a country for like, 200 years before women were even allowed to vote.

ISABELLA

Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Is-a-bella. How can I help?

ISABELLA

Did the 19th amendment grant *every* woman the right to vote? Or were some left out?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Question processing. Question processing. Here's what I found: No. Not All women were granted the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th amendment. There was still large voter disenfranchisement due to racism and classism. Related article: "The problem with the 19th amendment" and "Still waiting: Voter Disenfranchisement in the Modern Age".

ISABELLA

And when did all women receive the right to vote?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Processing question. Here's what I found: the 29th amendment, the Modern Voting Rights Act. The act prevents voter disenfranchisement, gerry-mandering of districts, or automatic purges from voter registration databases. All women are now granted the right to vote on their 16th birthday automatically through their GLORIA and corresponding household. See related articles: "The Problem with White Feminism" and "Where Progress Stopped Cold".

ISABELLA

Did you hear her say, "The Problem with White Feminism"?

SARA

Whatever, I'm just saying. You don't to have to fight with a dude to get what you want now.

CARLIE

Sara!

ISABELLA

You're saying the patriarchy is over because the "M" have gone extinct?

SARA

Yes.

ISABELLA

Well that's wrong. I know, I may come off as uninformed or repressed or whatever stuff you all have said behind my back, but what you're saying, Sara, is, pardon me, fucking wrong. The patriarchy isn't indicative of the "M", it has continued without them! It's all still going on. Financial disparity, educational inequity, classism: That all didn't go away with the "M" becoming extinct.

SARA

So suddenly you're rebelling against the institution?

ISABELLA

Look: I'm realistic. I was raised conservatively, but I'm not an idiot.

SARA

Then what do you have to say about the EXA? Huh? Where's your bleeding heart for equality when the institution is forcing people to reproduce?

ISABELLA (*fighting back*)
Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Is-a-bella. How can I help?

ISABELLA
What is in the EXA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Question processing. Question processing. Okay, here's what I found: US Code 34763, the EXA, or the Endangered "X" Act, mandated that all eligible women must reproduce by the age of 35, and make their intentions known to the institution body by the age of 23. While making the argument in favor the bill, the Representative from Mississippi said this: "in an effort to prevent the hastening extinction of all biological women from the earth, and combat the increasing choices by women to live lives that challenge our ability to procreate, the EXA treats us like the Endangered Species we are and sustains us and our daughters for generations to come." The bill was drafted based on the article "Biological deterioration: "X" chromosome is the next to go", which stated that due to newfound diseases and genetic deterioration, the "x" chromosome is rapidly disappearing at a similar or faster rate than the "y" chromosome. See related articles: "How can the "X" survive?" and "Liberal Groups speak out against the EXA".

SARA
You're such a fucking hypocrite.

ISABELLA
How am I?

SARA
You make this argument for equality, but then defend a bill that openly strips people of their rights.

ISABELLA
The EXA is about survival. That's what I care about.

SARA
Ha! You care about survival but you want a fucking "M" to come back into this world?

ISABELLA
See I don't think your fear is that the "M"s would ruin everything, I think your fear is that they wouldn't. I believe that "M"s had a biological value. Think how difficult it is to get pregnant

now? Right? It's fucking hard. And that wasn't the case back then. The "M"s contributed to that process.

SARA (*to the group*)

And yesterday she was scared of a picture of a phallus.

ISABELLA

You make these jokes about everyone dying and how it's the end of the world, but then turn around and criticize an act that's trying to prevent that. You're the one being hypocritical.

SARA

You want an "M" and you agree with the EXA? You're just an "any way that works" kind of girl, aren't you?

(*A beat.*)

HEIDI

This conversation is VERY intense for this early in the morning.

ISABELLA

Look: My point is, it's great to have a choice, but it's better to survive. That's what I was taught. And the "M", and the reason I want one, just gives us one more way to survive. If everyone chooses not to have kids, we could one day evolve to not be *able* to have kids. That's what our institution is trying to prevent. That scientific review laid it out: extinct, in **our lifetime**. And yeah, it's just one review, and yeah it's been refuted by a **few** people, but I trust our institution. I trust that they're doing what's necessary. At least if we're going down, we're going down fighting. I don't mind sacrificing some rights for that.

SARA

So you'd rather go back to a period of time, however many years ago, when we couldn't do anything about it? When we were powerless?

ISABELLA

We would never go back to all that.

SARA

Ha! Say that now. It's a slippery slope between "they would never do that to us" and "I didn't see that coming".

ISABELLA

You said so last night-

SARA

I was joking! No one can take a joke anymore! But fine: Go have an “M”. See what fucking happens next. In the meantime let’s not let people like you be put in charge.

ISABELLA

People like me are already in charge. You think they’re wrong?

SARA

I think *that* way of thinking should’ve gone extinct with the “M”.

ISABELLA

Well it didn’t. And it won’t. There are thousands of women who believe this way.

SARA

And they’re idiots!

CARLIE

Alright! Enough!

(A beat.)

CARLIE

Let’s let it go.

(The group sits there. Lights down. Lights up, a few hours later. Breakfast is over, BETH and ISABELLA are away on their hike. CARLIE, HEIDI and GRETA sit around the fire. HEIDI reads a book, while GRETA plays with her hair. CARLIE stares straight ahead.)

HEIDI

My split ends are horrible.

GRETA

I told you to stop coloring your hair so much.

HEIDI

What’s wrong with the color?

GRETA

I don’t know that it suits you.

HEIDI

Fuck you, I like it. (*A beat.*) I like your cut, Carls.

CARLIE (*not paying attention*)
What's that?

GRETA
Hey, you okay?

SARA (*entering from the cabin with a toothbrush in her mouth, muffled*)
Does anyone want a puuuuulllllll?

GRETA
We can't understand you, Babe.

SARA (*taking toothbrush out of her mouth*)
Does anyone want a pull?

HEIDI
How are you NOT still crooked?

SARA
I'm on vacation! How about you, Carls?

CARLIE (*not listening*)
Hmm? Yeah, sure whatever you all want.

HEIDI
Carlie: what is up with you?

SARA
Did you have some bad eggs or something?

CARLIE (*dismissively*)
I'm really fine.

GRETA (*to SARA*)
Are you going to pick another fight?

SARA
I didn't pick a fight. I just disagreed. You don't think she was being ignorant?

CARLIE

Bella's young. She hasn't even **begun** to think about mandating.

SARA

Well she's clearly going to.

GRETA

She grew up, you know, sheltered.

SARA

You mean repressed.

HEIDI (*agreeing*)

She is.

GRETA

You think so?

HEIDI

You don't think she treats *us* differently?

SARA

Exactly my point.

GRETA

What're you talking about? How does she treat us differently?

HEIDI

She supports the EXA, Greta. And she judges our Moms for uploading.

GRETA

She never said that. And even if she did, she wouldn't be the only one to feel that way.

HEIDI

You do this all the time! You always defend these people.

GRETA

What people?

HEIDI

People who think that uploading is a crime.

GRETA
It is a crime.

HEIDI
So our Moms are criminals?

(A beat.)

CARLIE
She's right.

GRETA
Who is?

CARLIE
They are criminals.

SARA
I didn't know you agreed with Bella, Carls.

CARLIE
I don't, but-

HEIDI
Why do you care, Sara? You were the one making jokes about the end of the world.

SARA
I'm so tired of this. It was a fucking joke. *(A beat. She dives right back in.)* Why should we be so focused on the past? We have a future to worry about.

HEIDI
That was her point! Bella was concerned about the future, too.

SARA
Whatever.

CARLIE
You know what, fuck you, Sara.

SARA
What's that for?

CARLIE

You always dismiss it! Like you can't be challenged. You just like, bat it away.

SARA

I don't like confrontation.

CARLIE

Ha! Okay, Babe. You like confrontation when you're fighting against someone weaker than you. But when you're directly challenged, you can't handle it. It's pathetic.

SARA

Well, fuck you too, Carls.

GRETA (*to CARLIE*)

What is going on with you??

CARLIE

I'm just tired.

HEIDI

Are you sure?

CARLIE (*barely holding it together*)

Yeah, I just- I...

SARA

Carlie?

(A beat. CARLIE stands up and moves away from the fire.)

CARLIE

Okay, but like, you have to swear you won't say anything.

HEIDI (*aside*)

Oh no...

GRETA

What? What's "oh no"?

CARLIE

Wait. Did she tell you?

SARA
Did who tell what?

HEIDI
I tried to talk her out of it.

CARLIE
I can't believe you knew before me!

HEIDI
What did she say?

CARLIE
She told me her plans and then she told me she loves me. How fucked up is that?

HEIDI
She told you she loves you?

GRETA
Beth?

SARA
I literally have no fucking clue what is going on.

HEIDI
When did this happen?

CARLIE
Last night.

HEIDI
Last night when??

SARA
Someone better fucking tell me what's going on like, right now.

CARLIE (*trying to find the words*)
Okay. Okay. Beth told me she's- well. She's not going to mandate.

GRETA
Wait. Is she-

SARA

Then what's she going to do?

GRETA (*to HEIDI*)
Is she going to upload?

HEIDI
I told her that she shouldn't.

SARA
That's-

CARLIE
And I think we kind of, I don't know, broke up.

HEIDI
You did?

CARLIE
Because I won't go with her. What else was there to do?

GRETA
So. You're going to mandate?

CARLIE
Because I won't leave my Mom! And I **want** to stay here.

HEIDI
It doesn't have to change anything. I mean. Beth and you can still be friends. It'll be different,
but-

SARA
Can they?

GRETA
You don't think so?

SARA
I don't know! I'm just like...I mean- this changes things.

GRETA
You just gave us a whole lecture about looking towards the future, about moving on.

SARA

But it won't be her! Beth won't be Beth. She'll be some, I don't even know what you'd call it-

CARLIE

A voice?

SARA

An idea. And, Carlie. If she's not willing to make it work-

HEIDI

That's ridiculous, Beth and Carlie have known each other for years. And they do have, you know, love for each other.

(A beat.)

HEIDI

Don't
you?

CARLIE

I don't know. I don't know how I feel.

GRETA *(to HEIDI)*

I can't believe YOU didn't say anything to me.

HEIDI

It wasn't my thing to share, Greta.

GRETA

What, did you think that I wouldn't understand?

HEIDI

Honestly, yes. You told that whole story last night about not thinking of me as a sister until our Moms uploaded. And yesterday you mandated and I thought we were going to do it together, if at all, which apparently wasn't important to you. So answer the fucking question.

GRETA

Which question?

HEIDI

Do you think our Moms are criminals for uploading? For going into the Nexus?

(A beat. GRETA looks away from HEIDI.)

HEIDI

Yeah, that's what I thought. So I didn't tell you about Beth. I didn't want Beth to bring it up this turnaround, anyways.

(A beat.)

SARA

I can't believe she's going.

HEIDI

Well we aren't supposed to know, so we can't say anything!

SARA

So we just wait until she tells us? How long is that going to take?

CARLIE *(exasperated)*

Was it this complicated before?

(A beat. We hear voices coming up the path. BETH and ISABELLA enter. Both carry water bottles.)

BETH *(to ISABELLA, mid-conversation)*

I just think if you tried out, you'd definitely make the team.

ISABELLA

It's my confidence thing.

BETH

I know, but we all believe in you. And like Carlie said, you're talented!

SARA

Hey.

ISABELLA

Hey!

SARA

How was your hike?

BETH
It was good!

SARA
Good.

BETH
What're you all up to?

GRETA
We were just. You know, talking.

ISABELLA
You should've seen it, we saw this eagle. It was crazy, just like floating above us on the path-

SARA
Really, an eagle?

BETH
Yeah it like flew right over us, and landed on a branch ahead. Just watched us for a while.

GRETA
That's...snatched.

BETH (*sensing*)
Is everything okay?

SARA
Fine. No tension here.

CARLIE
Beth, maybe we should-

HEIDI
Okay I can't do this. Beth, they all know.

SARA
They've been back like ten seconds!

BETH
Uhm- know what?

HEIDI

That you're going.

BETH

Heidi! Why did you tell them?

HEIDI

Hey, I didn't!

CARLIE

I told them. I told them we broke up.

(A beat.)

BETH

I wish you had just kept that between us.

CARLIE

It was making me uncomfortable, so I talked to my friends about it.

BETH

Why'd you say it like that? Aren't I your friend?

CARLIE

I don't know. You don't want to stay, so...

ISABELLA

Wait. You're leaving?

GRETA

She's uploading.

ISABELLA

Why would you do that?

BETH

I'm making a choice about my body, a choice I'm legally allowed to make for myself.

ISABELLA

No. It's illegal.

BETH
Listen, Bella-

ISABELLA
You're going to kill yourself.

BETH
I'm not. This process has been around, it's humane! I don't get shot, I don't get injected with anything. They just take me out and put me somewhere else.

ISABELLA
But it's been co-opted by a group who don't want to be alive anymore. Are you doing this because of the EXA?

BETH
I'm doing it because my body shouldn't-

ISABELLA
It's illegal, Beth! It's not sanctioned by the institution -

BETH
I'm not going to get dragged into an argument with you.
(*turning to CARLIE*) So now I'm not your "friend"? Because of this?

CARLIE
It's just that clearly you feel differently than I do-

BETH
Yeah I fucking love you. And apparently you don't feel the same way.

CARLIE
That's not what I said, but even so. I don't know if that's a good idea. For us to be friends. I think it'll hurt too much.

HEIDI
Why don't we, you know? Until after the turnaround is over-

GRETA (*angry*)
Stop getting in the middle, Heidi. Let them deal with it.

CARLIE

I don't think it's smart for us to stay friends. I don't want to be friends with some, I don't even know what you'll be, some AI, or whatever. I don't want to hurt you, but it's for the best-

BETH

You know, for someone who wanted to keep it a secret, this sure is a public break-up.

CARLIE

Maybe we should head home-

HEIDI

Beth: tell them what happened with your Mom.

BETH

I said I didn't want to talk about it-

HEIDI

Bethie...

(A beat.)

BETH

Okay, fine. My Mom and I aren't like. I don't know. She doesn't want a relationship with me anymore.

GRETA

Because of this?

BETH

Yes.

(A beat.)

BETH

She was totally, like, caught off guard and we haven't been speaking. For... two weeks. Fifteen days, to be exact. Since I said anything to her. I didn't tell her it was because of the EXA, or whatever, but she knew. But she's always been there for me, and totally open and always so understanding. She even said she hated the EXA, and I thought maybe she was telling me it was okay to be myself. To tell her I didn't want to be here anymore. And so I thought- I've feeling it for so long. We'd be at a restaurant or the store of whatever and there'd be a baby in a Net and I would feel, like, nothing. I wouldn't care. I found myself just, totally ambivalent. Staring at this baby cooing and giggling in it's Net. And I just pushed it away until I realized that's exactly what I've been doing for forever! And I can't do it anymore! And I was like, not eating and stressing and failing all my classes and my Mom just came to school, out of the blue, to check on

me and I thought “this is a sign. This is it.” And so I told her how I’d been feeling, how I had made a plan and she just stood there. She didn’t say anything for awhile, and we were on the sidewalk right outside the dining hall and she just sort of. Put her hands into her pockets. And she said “okay”. And that was it. She said she had to go, had something to get back to. And we haven’t talked since. I always thought she was...open to the idea. We could keep having a relationship, we could still be us. She always raised me not to judge, not to be scared of who I was or what I believed. But she stood there with her hands in her pockets and stared at me. Like she didn’t know me. Like she was afraid of me. She wouldn’t take her fucking hands out of her pockets. She wouldn’t touch me. She just. Retreated. And we. You know. Haven’t spoken since.

(A beat. The girls don’t look at each other.)

HEIDI

You won’t...lose us.

GRETA

Heidi. Stop

HEIDI

What?

GRETA

She will! She’s going.

HEIDI

We can still talk to her. She’ll still be here.

GRETA

She won’t.

CARLIE

I’m sorry. I am, about your Mom and everything. But we can only make this work if you’re willing to stay. So. This is over.

BETH

Please...

CARLIE

We should go home. Now.

HEIDI

Carls, we don’t have to do that-

CARLIE

Well then we just have to forget this ever happened! But that seems pretty unlikely.

BETH

But-

CARLIE

You say you love me but you won't stay with me?

BETH

Why're you acting like this?!

SARA

Why can't we all just like, have a pull and chill?

CARLIE

Shut UP, Sara./

BETH

/You don't have to be such a "dude" about it, Carlie.

CARLIE

Fuck you!

(A beat.)

BETH

No FUCK YOU. I can't believe it's come to this. This is absolutely not how I saw any of this going, but like, I guess that's just the way it is. You know that album that you all deleted? Those people aren't uploaded. They are gone. Memories. I won't be that. I'll be here, I'll be able to say hi and ask about your day and tell you how much I love you. And that's not good enough for you? You need me like this? In a body the institution can tell me what to do with? Do you know what I think your problem is, Carlie, honestly? I think you're terrified. I think you are so scared of what's coming, of what Sara said last night, of losing everything, and you're making a decision based on that fear. You're a fucking coward. I'm standing up for something. And you know what? I'm so ashamed, so mad at myself. I'm so mad that I'm in love with you.

(A beat. CARLIE stares, furious.)

CARLIE

You want to be fucking alone, Beth? You don't want to be with a coward? Well, congratulations. You're fucking alone now. And you always will be. *(Pause)* Hey, GLORIA-?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Carlie. How can I help?

CARLIE

Cabin command: lock the cabin door behind me.

(CARLIE storms inside the cabin, slams the door behind her. The door locks with a 'click'. A beat.)

ISABELLA

Are you...okay? Beth?

BETH

Stay the fuck away from me, Bella.

ISABELLA

But-

BETH *(angry)*

Get back, Bella!

(BETH storms to cabin door and tries it. She can't get through the lock. She shouts in anger. She goes to the cooler, grabs a can of beer and exits down the path. The rest of the girls stand around in silence. Lights down. Lights back up. Later that night. It's not the party it was the night before. HEIDI, GRETA, and ISABELLA sit at the picnic table playing a card game. CARLIE sits at the fire, which is on its last embers. SARA leans against the cabin looking up at the stars. After a moment, we hear footsteps on the path. BETH enters. The beer can is empty. She throws it onto the fire, everyone looks to her. A beat. They look back to what they were doing. BETH goes to the fire.)

BETH

Can I sit here?

CARLIE *(unsure)*

Okay.

BETH

I shouldn't have called you a coward. I'm sorry.

CARLIE

I'm sorry I said what I said.

BETH

I knew you could be a babe, but that was-

CARLIE

Yeah.

BETH

Yeah.

(A beat.)

CARLIE

I am sorry.

BETH

Me too.

CARLIE

I'm scared for you, Beth.

BETH

I know. But you don't have to be. I'll be. Fine. And you will too. I mean, I love-

CARLIE

I know.

(A beat.)

CARLIE

Can I ask a question though?

BETH

Sure.

CARLIE

What happens?

BETH

With the uploading?

CARLIE (*wincing*)

Yeah.

BETH

I know I make an appointment with the clinic, and they hook me up and...then I'm in there.
You then you can decide if you want me to-

CARLIE

Right. And you're okay doing that alone? Going through that alone?

BETH

I need to be.

CARLIE

Maybe you don't. Maybe you shouldn't be.

BETH

I don't want what they tell me I should want.

(BETH gets up and goes to the cooler and opens a beer.)

HEIDI (*to BETH*)

Hey?

BETH

Hey.

HEIDI

You okay?

BETH

Yeah. I'm okay.

HEIDI

I'm sorry. For saying anything.

(GRETA gets up in a huff, throwing her cards down.)

HEIDI (*to GRETA*)

What's your problem?

GRETA

Nothing!

HEIDI

Greta, come on-

GRETA

You're supposed to tell me everything.

HEIDI

You keep secrets from me, too.

GRETA

Not like this! I don't tell you if I still have a sweater I stole from you!

HEIDI

I fucking knew you had my green cardigan.

GRETA

I just feel like I'm losing you. With me mandating, and with them- and then you not telling me about Beth, it was just all. Too much.

HEIDI

Greta. You're not losing me. Are you really hurt by this?

GRETA

Yes, because I can't even think about that. Not even in a hypothetical situation. I can't. You're my sister. I've lost them already. I can't lose you.

(A beat.)

HEIDI

Greta-

GRETA

I just...need you to stay.

BETH

It's my fault. Greta. I told her not to tell anyone. I put that distance between you.

GRETA

Well. She should know better.

HEIDI

I should. That's why I mandated this afternoon.

GRETA

You did?

HEIDI

You're not going to lose me.

(A beat.)

SARA

Hey, Bella?

ISABELLA

Yeah?

SARA

I mean, while we're all, you know...for the record, I like the name Adam.

ISABELLA

You do?

SARA

Yeah. That doesn't mean I want an "M" to like, walk up to me or anything, but you. May have been right.

(A beat. ISABELLA looks like she could cry.)

SARA

Okay. I need a short pull.

BETH

I CANNOT do short pulls tonight.

GRETA

Who here hasn't thrown up this turnaround yet?

(GRETA, CARLIE and ISABELLA raise their hands. They all look at SARA.)

GRETA
You?

CARLIE
When did you throw up??

SARA
On the bike ride up...

HEIDI
Are you kidding!

SARA
I had to pull over, it was like in my hair and stuff. If we had taken a transport like I asked-

CARLIE
Not with the transport, again.

GRETA (*pulling out her device*)
I'm posting that on my Feed profile.

SARA
Oh. You're going to die.

CARLIE (*lost in thought*)
Who do you think she was before?

HEIDI
Who?

CARLIE
GLORIA?

BETH
You think she was someone who...you mean, she maybe uploaded?

CARLIE
We never asked.

GRETA

Maybe it's better now knowing.

SARA

Maybe. She's serving her purpose now, you know? Maybe that's what she wanted. I mean, if she was someone before.

CARLIE

I just feel like. I want to understand, you know. I don't want her to be just a glitchy AI. I want her to be. Something more.

GRETA

You can find out.

CARLIE

You can? How?

GRETA

You can ask her.

SARA

Really?

CARLIE

Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Carlie. Good evening, how can I help?

CARLIE

Who were you before? Were you someone who uploaded?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Question Processing. *(A long pause.)* Okay, the information you requested has been sent to all devices in range.

(A beat. The girls' phones ding with a notification. They all take them out and look at the answer GLORIA has given.)

BETH

Huh.

CARLIE

Yeah.

SARA

Well. That's that.

(A beat. They all put their devices away.)

ISABELLA

I know what I want to do. I want to go swimming.

CARLIE

Now?

ISABELLA

Absolutely. You all coming?

(ISABELLA strips off her shirt and starts to unbutton her pants, running down the path to the coast. The rest watch her run.)

BETH

Wait is she-?

GRETA

Holy shit.

HEIDI

Git it.

CARLIE

She's....skinny-dipping.

SARA

Well. When we are on the island we do as our ancestors did.

(The rest of the group starts to undress. BETH hangs back.)

HEIDI

You coming?

BETH

You know, I just don't really want to get wet-

GRETA
Come on!

BETH
I should really stay behind-

CARLIE
You should come, Bethie.

BETH
You all should probably get used to me not being around.

(A beat.)

CARLIE *(as an answer)*
Come on. Let's go swimming.

BETH
All right.

(The girls run down the path, clothes flying behind them. BETH starts to undress and follows them. We hear shouts of joy and laughs. Lights down. Lights back up, the next morning. The cabin has been cleaned up overnight, and a little this morning. Suddenly, GLORIA kicks on the power and the whirring begins, loud and unsettlingly. The cabin door opens and SARA emerges. She is rubbing her stomach and holding a backpack and sleeping bag.)

SARA *(mid-conversation)*
I'm starting to think I never learned HOW to dive. I belly-flopped like, four more times last night.

HEIDI *(entering behind her with a backpack and sleeping bag)*
We saw.

GRETA *(following them with a backpack and tote bag)*
And every time we told you to stop trying to do a dive.

HEIDI
It was painful to watch.

SARA
I wish I could see.

GRETA
Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Gre-Ta. Good morning. The time is 8:15AM and the high for the day is 62 degrees Fahrenheit.

GRETA
Can you share the last recorded video to Sara's device?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Command processing. Command processing. Command processing. Okay: the most recent video from Gre-Ta's device has been shared with Sa-Ra's device.

SARA (*taking out her phone*)
Oh no...

*(SARA taps on her device and video starts. We hear shouts and suddenly SARA (on video) shouting "here I go" followed by a deafening *slap* into the water. SARA winces at the device. We hear the rest of the group reacting with "oh Babeii" and "that hurt" and "did she die? Is she dead?". SARA pauses the video and puts the phone away.)*

SARA
Okay yeah, I definitely can't dive. Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice recognition: Sa-Ra. Good morning. How can I help?

SARA
Please delete the video I just watched from all devices in range.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Did you ask about "depleting ice caps"?

SARA
No, no. Please DE-LETE the LAST VID-E-O.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Request processsssssssing. (*A long beat of silence*) Okay, all videos on your device have been deleted.

SARA
No, fuck- oh, who cares.

CARLIE (*entering behind them carrying a backpack and cooler*)
Do we have everything?

SARA
Okay I'm going to appeal one more time-

CARLIE (*joking*)
Sara, we gotta take the bikes back. There's no avoiding that.

SARA
But I can call the transport!

CARLIE (*sympathetic*)
Babe, we can't leave the bikes here.

SARA
Alright, then I'm walking mine down to the dock then.

ISABELLA
I'll walk with you.

CARLIE (*laughing at her*)
Then you better get started now because we're all riding and we aren't waiting for you.

HEIDI
Did you pack your contact case?

GRETA
Yes. And you have my allergy meds?

HEIDI
Yes.

GRETA
What would I do without you?

HEIDI
Who knows.

SARA

Okay I'm leaving. Byeeeeeeeeeee cabin! See you next year!

GRETA

Try not to throw up this time down the hill.

SARA

Fuck you.

HEIDI & GRETA & ISABELLA

Fuck you too.

(GRETA, HEIDI, SARA and ISABELLA exit down the path with their bags and luggage. BETH enters from the cabin with her backpack and another cooler.)

CARLIE

Got everything?

BETH

I think so.

CARLIE *(pointing to the cooler)*

You don't mind carrying that?

BETH

Not at all, I'll be fine.

CARLIE

Hey, did you...did you message her?

BETH

Yeah. No response yet.

(A beat.)

CARLIE *(looking at the cabin)*

Okay. Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)

Voice recognition: Carlie. Good morning. Did you enjoy your trip?

CARLIE

We did, thank you. Cabin command: disable hosting capabilities.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Cabin command processing. Cabin command processing.

(GLORIA suddenly goes silent. CARLIE and BETH look at each other.)

BETH
Did she do it?/

GLORIA (V.O.)
Cabin command processing. Cabin command: accepted. Shall I turn off all power and reset the keynote?

CARLIE
Yes, please.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Okay: what should I change the next keynote to?

CARLIE *(to BETH)*
Change keynote to I LOVE YOU TOO.

(BETH smiles, begins to exit down the path, CARLIE starts to follow then stops herself.)

GLORIA (V.O.)
Cabin command: accepted. Keynote has been changed. Anything else I can do before logging all guests out?

CARLIE *(realizing, stopping herself)*
Oh!

BETH *(turning back)*
What?

CARLIE
Hang on! GLORIA, please send the album from January 1st, 2018 to my device.

GLORIA (V.O.)
Okay. Sharing now.

(CARLIE's phone buzzes with a notification. She pulls it out and looks at the album on her screen.)

CARLIE
I just wanted to-

BETH
You're gonna keep that?

CARLIE
Yeah! I want to understand. A little more. They can't just be memories.

BETH
Alright.

(BETH starts to exit again. CARLIE stops her.)

CARLIE
Bethie?

BETH *(turning back)*
Yeah?

CARLIE
You're not scared?

BETH
I'm not sure.

CARLIE
I could. You know...

BETH
Okay.

(BETH exits down the path with her luggage. CARLIE flips through the album on her screen, lands on a picture. She looks back at the cabin, exhales.)

CARLIE
Just as it was. Hey, GLORIA?

GLORIA (V.O.)
Voice Recognition: Carlie. How can I help?

CARLIE

Update system diagnostics.

GLORIA (V.O.)
System updating.

(CARLIE grabs her items and exits down the path. The power turns off and the whirring stops. Silence. Lights down. End of play.)