

A high-speed photograph of a glass of water with a lemon slice. The water is splashing upwards and outwards, creating a dynamic, crystalline shape. The glass is clear and cylindrical, with a thick base. The lemon slice is bright yellow and partially submerged. The background is solid black, making the water and glass stand out. The glass is reflected on a dark surface below it.

how i
learned
to die

by
aniello
fontano

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e | aniellofontano@gmail.com

First Public Presentation|

Linnell Festival of New Works. The University of New Mexico.
Albuquerque, New Mexico. April 2018.

Second Public Presentation|

Church of the New Play. Prop Theater.
Chicago, Illinois. September 2018.

Third Public Presentation|

The Pendulum Space.
Chicago, Illinois. January 2019.

Fourth Public Presentation|

The Experimental Theater. The University of New Mexico.
Albuquerque, New Mexico. May 2019.

*For **Little Joe**,
the neighborhood,
and the destroyer of worlds.*

EVERYBODY |

JOEY | Female / Femme | 25 - 29

All heart. Spent her early twenties in a cancer center but it never broke her. She's everyone's little sister but is finally ready to break free from the role. She doesn't know it, but she's the glue holding everything together. Cause she's the only one strong enough to do so.

MICKY | Male / Masc | 25 - 30

Joey's older cousin. An openly gay, devout Catholic. If it doesn't make sense to you, go fuck yourself. Mickey got made fun of for a week when he came out, but after breaking a few noses people stopped and listened. He takes care of Joey like she's his daughter. He takes care of everyone like they're his kids.

WINDY | Female / Femme | 20 - 25

Kick your ass tough. And she will kick your ass. And then make you apologize for whatever you did. If Mickey is Dad, she's Mom. And Mom is always right. The rest of the group rants and raves but what Windy says is law. Always has been, always will be.

COOK | Male / Masc | 25 - 30

Wherever Cook is right now, he's drunk. Not because he's an alcoholic, but because he was a heroin addict. They're different things - he swears. He tries to drown his massive heart in alcohol, but it doesn't work. He feels everything deeply, but puts on a strong face. He's the funniest person you know -- until he's not.

DANIELLE | Female / Femme | 25-30

A stranger. She ran away from home to start a new life and failed. Or thinks she failed. It's subjective. But she finds herself here, in this filthy dive, trying to muster up the courage to swallow her pride. Or at the very least swallow a boatload of alcohol. Can you measure alcohol in boatloads? Who knows. Google it.

ON CHARACTER |

*These characters are from a small, close knit neighborhood, in a crevice of a big city . They are urban. They are working class. They aren't from nuclear families. Their ethnic background, sexuality, and gender identity varies. The cast **must** reflect this.*

These characters are not pasty ass, culturally whitewashed suburbanites.

WHERE AND WHEN |

CHICAGO.

A rainy April night.

10pm.

Wednesday.

ARTHUR'S

A shitty neighborhood dive bar.

A crackling neon sign reads "Arthur's".

Booze soaked wood countertops, broken stools, stained floors.

The Christmas lights stay up all year - because Mickey is too busy to take them down.

Bottles are either brand new or ancient and dust covered.

Water drips from the AC duct above the counter.

A small puddle forms under the drip.

It gets worse with every passing moment throughout the show.

We can see the bathroom.

A toilet, dirty sink, and cracked mirror.

Someone wrote "ART IS GOD" above the bathroom door with a marker.

RHYTHM |

- | a line is interrupted.

. ! ? | a full stop before a response.

No punctuation | *fast, rhythmic, immediate response*

Beats | marked by blank space on the page.

Silences | marked by the word.

IN BLACK -

We hear rain crash against cement.

The sounds of a city at night creep in.

A bus drives by. A mother yells at her kids to come inside.

Cars splash through pothole puddles.

A driver yells "God damn it!" as his axel hits the pavement.

Maybe light jazz pours out of a window above.

A group of drunk 20 somethings passes.

AN ORANGE STREETLIGHT FLICKERS ON -

revealing the exterior of "ARTHUR'S".

JOEY paces outside the bar.

She inhales a menthol as rain rolls off her too-short buzzcut.

Something's wrong.

She wipes her eyes and looks toward the door to Arthur's -

but won't go in.

DANIELLE enters and storms toward the door to the bar.

Before she can get inside, her phone rings.

She check it, but decides not to answer.

She stuffs her phone in her bag and heads inside Arthur's.

As Danielle enters the bar

*the shitty lights **INSIDE COME UP.***

*and **THE STREETLIGHTS GO DOWN.***

Once inside, Danielle sees the bars occupants are too deep in argument to notice her. She's glad.

MICKEY behind the bar, **COOK** on a busted bar stool.

Mickey fills a beer and serves it to Cook.

Cook sports a thick black eye and bandaged right hand.

The idiots argue.

Danielle watches.

COOK

I don't understand -

MICKEY

What's there to not understand?

COOK

Santa Clause comes down the chimney -

MICKEY

Fuck you don't start -

COOK

The Easter Bunny hides eggs, Christopher Columbus committed genocide, the Hanukkah person does...

Hanukkah shit -

MICKEY

There is no "Hanukkah person" -

COOK

Jesus is the Hanukkah person -

MICKEY

Jewish people don't believe Jesus was the son of God

COOK

And neither do I

MICKEY

He performed miracles -

COOK

Allegedly

MICKEY

He performed countless miracles

COOK

Countless because *they didn't fuckin' happen*

MICKEY

You do this all the fucking time and it never makes any sense. You're trying to poke holes in one of the longest standing belief systems in the entire world -

COOK

Shutdafuckup.

Cook stares at his beer as if willing it to move or change.

MICKY

You're sitting there trying to equate the Son of God to
make believe characters used to celebrate holidays -

COOK

Shutda fuckup.

Cook continues to stare.

MICKY

And you're only doing it because you know it pisses me off
and I know I shouldn't even fuckin' engage with you and
what are you doing?

COOK

I swear to Bea Arthur I'll slap the fuck out of you.

Silence.

Cook stares a bit longer, then gives up.

MICKY

What the fuck was that?

COOK

It's still water.

MICKY

You're kidding, right?

COOK

Ay man, I wanted it to be wine -

MICKY

Oh my god -

COOK

And it's not wine

MICKEY

You're not Jesus

COOK

How the fuck do you know?

MICKEY

Because you're not -

COOK

You just gotta have faith Mick -

MICKEY

Saying you're the Son of God is a sin -

COOK

Jesus said he was the son of god all the time!!

MICKEY

Because he *actually* was

COOK

But he was saying it before he knew he was! So at that point he's just some fucking guy with long hair walking around saying he's the son of god, he himself taking god's name in vain -

MICKEY

But it ended up being true -

COOK

But it was a lie when he said it -

MICKEY

The Lord God understood the situation His Son was in, and forgave me for the indiscretion -

COOK

I swear to god I can hear you capitalizing the words -

MICKEY

GOOD.

COOK

It's not! It's not. You should not be able to hear a person
capitalize words. That's a visual thing!

MICKEY

Because the Lord god -

COOK

Can suck my fuckin dick -

MICKEY

COOK.

COOK

You mean to tell me that because he's the son of god Jesus
gets to do whatever the fuck he wants, whenever he wants,
and it doesn't matter because his daddy is gonna forgive
him -

MICKEY

***His* Daddy is God -**

COOK

Don't say Daddy -

MICKEY

You *just* did

COOK

It sounds different when you say it

MICKEY

Daddy

COOK

Stop

MICKEY

Ok Daddy

COOK

And they're the *same* person

MICKEY

Who Daddy?

COOK

God and Jesus, they're the same person right?

MICKY

They're part of the Trinity Daddy

COOK

Say Daddy one more fuckin time god damn it -

MICKY

Now I *know* you're going to Hell Daddy

COOK

You're gay, doesn't the catholic church have some kinda problem with having a dick and sucking a dick? Like two dicks don't cancel each other out or somethin'?

I remember being 12 and Father Don talking about two naked guys touching dicks or sucking dicks or puttin' their dicks into each other - and now that I say it out loud, in retrospect, the man said dick a lot to be talkin to a bunch of middle schoolers Mickey - but I remember that bigoted mother fucker sayin' that's a sin and you'd go to hell if you were gay, so the entire fucking church would have a problem with you and your Catholic immorality -

MICKY

Haven't you been a part of like five orgies?

COOK

One, we're not talking about me, ok? Nobody said anything about me. And two, I've never sucked a dick. Would I if I wanted to? Absolutely.

MICKY

What's stopping you?

COOK

Gag reflex. I can't even eat a hot dog, man. No hot dogs, no popsicles, Little League games are a fuckin' nightmare for me

MICKY

I feel like you'd try hard though, like the effort would be there, and that counts for something

COOK

But I wouldn't be any good at it and I'd be sad

MICKEY

It's a damn shame

COOK

Just sad with a dick in my mouth. Like you can't even share how sad you are -

MICKEY

Cause of the dick in your mouth -

COOK

Exactly.

They cheers and drink.

They finish the beers.

Mickey pours two more.

COOK

Also. Also. How the fuck do they know Jesus was a *him*?

MICKEY

Traditionally he was -

COOK

What's traditionally?

MICKEY

In the Catholic Bible it's a He or Him or -

COOK

Ok so "traditionally", in every fucking picture of the guy I've ever seen in the catholic bible or church, he's fucking white.

He wasn't white. There's no way he was white.

Geographically. They called the man the Galilean Jew.

Which means that mother fucker looked like a Jewish guy from Galilee. So he probably looked like a middle eastern guy or some shit. You know what I mean. I don't know maps.

But in every “traditional” drawing or painting or whatever,
even those stupid ass glass drawing things on the windows
in Our Lady of Pompeii -

MICKEY

Stained glass -

COOK

- he’s as white as a fucking Christmas tree -

MICKEY

TREES ARE GREEN IDIOT

COOK

YOU’RE A GREEN IDIOT

MICKEY

HE’S THE SAVIOR OF AN ENTIRE RELIGION

COOK

HE’S SANTA CLAUSE WITH BETTER ABS.

MICKEY

I swear to God -

COOK

All I’m saying is if they’re actively and passionately wrong
about the race of the person who was allegedly the son of
god, maybe they got where that person lands on the gender
spectrum wrong too -

MICKEY

I gotta stop teaching you stuff -

COOK

It just seems like a lot of people are basing their entire lives
off ghost stories and tall tales -

MICKEY

“Tall tales”?

COOK

“Miracles”

MICKEY

A miracle is not a tall tale

COOK

It's a short story

MICKEY

There's countless stories about people who prayed -

COOK

There's countless stories about George Washington where he's some kind of hero -

MICKEY

So?

COOK

So I thought we were talking about shit *that doesn't fucking matter and isn't fucking true* -

MICKEY

COUNTLESS STORIES OF -

COOK

MY DIIIIIIIIICK

MICKEY

I hate you

COOK

And also, fuck Martha Washington too. I read books about you Martha. I know what you did.

MICKEY

What are you talking about?

Danielle reads off her phone.

DANIELLE

So actually, they found a tomb in Jerusalem that they believe holds the remains of the person commonly referred to as Jesus Christ of Nazareth in 2016. "Researchers discovered a tomb located in the spot where it is traditionally believed Jesus Christ was buried.

The tomb itself survived centuries of damage, destruction, as well as the ongoing reconstruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City."

....

COOK

Get the fuck out of here -

MICKEY

TOLD YOU

COOK

(To Danielle) Who the hell are you -

MICKEY

Why don't you try being a little nicer -

COOK

They did not find Jesus Christ in a hole in the desert -

MICKEY

Jerusalem isn't the desert -

COOK

(To Danielle) You mean to tell me, you believe that god's son was not only buried in this tomb, but his remains somehow lasted all this time and now they're gonna be able to do research on them to say he's god's son

DANIELLE

No

COOK

(To Mickey) HA!

MICKEY

What do you mean?

DANIELLE

It's an article on the internet

MICKEY

It's faith

DANIELLE

I mean, sure, but also it reads like religious baiting don't you think?

MICKEY

?

COOK

?

DANIELLE

Religious baiting. It's when people use religion as a way to get individuals to buy something or do something or read something.

MICKEY

"Individuals"

DANIELLE

People

MICKEY

Why not just say people?

COOK

Cause she wanted to say individuals.

Introductions.

Cook.

DANIELLE

Danielle.

MICKEY

Mickey.

COOK

Like the rat.

MICKEY

He's a mouse

COOK

He's a capitalist rat

MICKEY

You don't even know what that means

COOK

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS

MICKEY

I have a headache

COOK

I'll give you a headache

MICKEY

It's nice to meet you

DANIELLE

You too

COOK

So you're not religious?

DANIELLE

That's kind of a personal question

COOK

It's definitely a personal question

WINDY

Not necessarily

COOK

It's not necessarily personal, or you're not necessarily religious?

DANIELLE

The second one

MICKEY

Good to know

COOK

He's just being a bitchy queen

MICKEY

You can't say that

COOK

Why?

MICKEY

You're don't identify as queer

COOK

You don't identify as a bitchy queen, but you're being one

MICKEY

Would you like a drink?

COOK

Five hours later

MICKEY

Shut up

COOK

It's a bar, what'd she come in to stare at you? You look like a foot -

MICKEY

What can I get you?

DANIELLE

Wine is good

COOK

You don't wanna do that

DANIELLE

?

COOK

He has one bottle of white, that at this point has turned red -

MICKEY

Asshole

COOK

Oh my god.

MICKEY

What?

COOK

Maybe *you're* Jesus

MICKEY

That doesn't even make sense -

COOK

Neither does *not* teaching kids about taxes in high school
but I'm pretty sure I've never paid them

DANIELLE

Gin and tonic?

MICKEY

Can do

DANIELLE

Thanks

Mickey makes the drink.

Danielle's phone rings again, she ignores it.

DANIELLE

So what do you do?

MICKEY

Sit around talking about religion

COOK

Or politics

MICKEY

Or sexual preferences

COOK

The fact that a high percentage of serial killers are straight
white dudes

MICKEY

My dog's been sick recently

COOK

I got this real weird pain in my back. It's like a ghost pain.
It's like the Jesus of pains -

DANIELLE

I assume you're from around here?

COOK

Is it my charming personality?

MICKEY

Or colorful vocabulary

COOK

Your's is just as bad

MICKEY

Suck my dick

COOK

I can't

MICKEY & COOK

Gag reflex.

MICKEY

I live a block west

COOK

The street's actually named after Mickey's family

DANIELLE

Really?

MICKEY

Yeah

COOK

You?

DANIELLE

I'm originally from Iowa. I just moved here a month ago

MICKEY

What brings you here?

DANIELLE

This bar or the city?

MICKEY

Both

DANIELLE

I wanna be a poet

COOK

And you don't even know it

MICKEY

And you can't do that in Iowa?

DANIELLE

I guess you could, it's just the art community here is bigger

COOK

Tell me a poem

MICKEY

You can't just tell an artist to perform on the spot

COOK

Like you would know?

MICKEY

I'm artistic

COOK

You're gay, that doesn't mean you're artistic

MICKEY

I was in musicals

COOK

In high school

DANIELLE

You sing?

COOK

Here we go -

MICKEY

Shut up. Yes, I sing.

COOK

And I tap dance

DANIELLE

Really?

COOK

No

MICKEY

Fuck off

COOK

Wait wait wait wait wait? I don't look like I could tap dance?

MICKEY

So what brings you here *tonight*?

DANIELLE

I just needed a night out

COOK

These thighs don't lie

MICKEY

Vague and mysterious

DANIELLE

You could say that

COOK

My thighs and Shakira's hips

MICKEY

You picked a good night

DANIELLE

Why's that?

MICKEY

It's my cousins birthday

DANIELLE

(to Cook) Happy Birthday

MICKEY

No no no no, not him. Thank God.

COOK

And Jesus.

MICKEY

My cousin Joey

DANIELLE

I see. And where is he?

MICKEY

She

COOK

Actually that's a good fuckin' point. Where is Joey?

MICKEY

Running late

DANIELLE

She's not the girl pacing outside is she?

Mickey looks out the window and sees Joey.

MICKEY

(yelling to Joey outside) WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JOEY (OUTSIDE)

HOLD ON

MICKEY

What the fuck is she doing?

COOK

Pacing

MICKEY

She knows it's raining right?

COOK

I mean, it's rain so -

MICKEY

Don't be a smart ass

Joey enters like a ray of fake cardboard sunshine.

COOK

Happy birthday

JOEY

Thank you

MICKEY

Favorite cousin

JOEY

Grandpa

MICKEY

What are you doing outside it's fucking raining -

JOEY

You need to be outside to get inside

MICKEY

So you're both gonna be like this all night then?

COOK

Maybe

JOEY

Seems like something we would do

MICKEY

This is Danielle

JOEY

Hey

DANIELLE

Hello

JOEY

Which one of these idiots got you here tonight?

DANIELLE
Neither

MICKEY
She's a new friend

JOEY
Welcome

DANIELLE
Thank you

JOEY
Would you like a shot?

DANIELLE
Sure

MICKEY
Already?

COOK
You heard the girl, line up the shots

MICKEY
Cook -

COOK
What?

MICKEY
Slow down

COOK
(To Danielle) I have a tiny problem with substances.
Buying them. Selling them. Using them -

MICKEY
You're in recovery

COOK
- and I'm very open about it

JOEY
Come onnnnn

MICKEY

He's in recovery

COOK

For pills, powders, and needles, not alcohol

JOEY

Good point

MICKEY

That is not a "good point"

JOEY

Technically -

MICKEY

He's on the way to a second relapse -

COOK

Shootin' for a bakers dozen -

JOEY

It's been?

COOK

Fifteen months

DANIELLE

Congratulations

COOK

Thank you

MICKEY

Relapse and I'll -

COOK

I used to do enough coke to kill a small horse, *if I relapse, I die*, so don't worry about it -

MICKEY

Just cause your dead doesn't mean I can't hurt you

JOEY

That's weird, that's a weird thing to say

MICKEY

I'll beat your corpse

COOK

Beat off my corpse

JOEY

Didn't they catch a guy doing that last year?

DANIELLE

Pleasuring a corpse?

JOEY

Can you call it pleasuring if it was dead?

COOK

You can definitely call it beating off

JOEY

Up north right?

COOK

Fuckin' North siders

JOEY

Take in a Cubs game

COOK

Jerk off a dead guy

JOEY

You hate to see it

COOK

I dunno, I'd pay seven fifty

JOEY

Depends on the dead guy

COOK

Dude last year got caught by a meter maid

DANIELLE

That's terrifying

COOK

There's worse things

MICKEY

Like what?

COOK

Having the corpse beat you off

JOEY

How is that worse?

MICKEY

Why are we talking about this?

JOEY

Cause he said it'd be worse

COOK

You just gotta work the arm

Cook demonstrates.

MICKEY

Why are we comparing the two!?

JOEY

Because he's wrong

COOK

One you're beating off a corpse

JOEY

The other you're *forcing* the corpse to beat you off

COOK

Which is so much worse

JOEY

How?

COOK

Cause forcing the corpse to beat you off is *so* much worse

JOEY

Repeating “so much worse” isn’t proving a point

COOK

The corpse can’t give consent

JOEY

You gotta stop teaching him stuff

MICKEY

I know, I know.

COOK

What if it's up in heaven having dinner with it's grandparents or something, like having this really sweet dinner, then it looks down to check on it's body and you're laying in the grass next to the tombstone working it's arm like a thirteen year old who discovered his first boner with the biggest smile on your face -

JOEY

Why do you keep referring to it as a “it”?

MICKEY

Why are we still talking about this?

JOEY

Cause he called it an it -

COOK

I'm not gonna assume it's gender -

JOEY

Mickey -

MICKEY

I know, stop teaching him stuff.

COOK

It’s just looking down on you using its arm like one of them old car windows

He demonstrates rolling down an old car window.

JOEY

Will you stop saying "it"

COOK

It's rude to assume somebody's gender when you don't know

JOEY

It's rude to jerk off a dead body!

COOK

WHAT IF IT WANTS TO BE JERKED OFF!?

JOEY

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW!?

MICKEY

So we're settling on necrophelia then?

COOK

What the fuck is that?

DANIELLE

It's when a person gets pleasure from sexual activity with a dead body

COOK

Whoa whoa whoa..... Like having sex with dead people?

MICKEY

Yes

JOEY

You're sick Mickey

MICKEY

YOU WERE JUST -

COOK

You're sick, you're a sick guy

JOEY

You got some serious fuckin problems

MICKY

ARE YOU KIDDING ME, YOU -

COOK

We have a guest here and you're making a terrible first impression

JOEY

You should see a doctor

COOK

Just pour the shots, I can't look at you

JOEY

"Having sex with dead guys"

MICKY

THE TWO OF YOU -

COOK

Pour the shots, you disgust me

JOEY

Pervert

COOK

(to Danielle)

I apologize for him

JOEY

(to Danielle)

He hasn't been the same since that stick got stuck up his ass

COOK

(to Danielle)

And he put it up there

JOEY

(to Danielle)

Willingly.

Mickey mumbles under his breathe and a takes bottle off the bottom shelf.

COOK

What're you doing?

MICKEY

?

COOK

First you wanna fuck a dead guy, now you're gonna give us shitty liquor

JOEY

I'm terrified and disappointed

COOK

And you're supposed to be his favorite cousin

JOEY

I know, I'm hurt

COOK

AND we have a guest

MICKEY

You're really gonna start this shit?

COOK

The favorite cousin should get that nice bottle from Arthur's office

MICKEY

We're not going over this again -

COOK

Come onnnnnn

MICKEY

No

JOEY

Please

MICKEY

No

JOEY

It's so old and fancy

COOK

Like every British person

MICKY

You know how expensive that is?

JOEY

It's my birthdayyyyyy

COOK

Like anybody that comes in here has the money to buy it?

JOEY

He makes a good point

MICKY

Arthur's gonna be pissed -

COOK

We'll drink half then refill it with water

JOEY

I've always wanted to try it

COOK

Please

JOEY

Pleaseeee

COOK

Pleaseeeeeeee

JOEY

Tell him it was for me

*They beg Mickey with their eyes.
Mickey grins.*

MICKEY

I expect a big tip

COOK

I'll bet you do

MICKEY

I'm not a size-ist

JOEY

What's that?

COOK

Don't play in traffic

MICKEY

Like where you only bang a dude if his dick is big enough

COOK

Don't masturbate with motor oil

JOEY

What's "big enough"?

MICKEY

Depends

COOK

Always make non-breaking eye contact while eating dick shaped foods

DANIELLE

Penis shaped food?

COOK

Dick

JOEY

On what?

MICKEY

Everyone is different

DANIELLE

Like what?

COOK

Bananas, cucumbers, hot dogs, sausage, baby carrots -

JOEY

Shit's confusing

COOK

I'm sobering up

JOEY

Me too

MICKEY

You're not drunk

JOEY

That's what I'm saying

MICKEY

Relax.

To Danielle.

MICKEY

You gonna be ok with them?

DANIELLE

I'll manage

Mickey flips Cook off and exits to the office.

JOEY

So you're not from here, but ended up here

DANIELLE

Just needed a night out

JOEY

The patriarchy?

DANIELLE

So you just say words you've heard him say, huh?

COOK

Yes.

DANIELLE

What gave me away?

JOEY

The clothes mostly

DANIELLE

“Business professional”

JOEY

You have that, “I go to protests but only with a frappuccino” look

DANIELLE

Should I be offended?

JOEY

Never

COOK

I can’t spell frappuccino

DANIELLE

I was at work

JOEY

Where do you work?

DANIELLE

I got a job managing a coffee shop downtown

COOK

So what do I look like?

JOEY

Homeless chic

COOK

Jokes on you that’s a person

JOEY

What?

COOK

Sheik, it's a person, like the Pope or Bishop or Knight -

*Danielle's phone rings again.
She stares at it for a while.*

COOK

You know, if you push that button, there's somebody on the other end -

DANIELLE

I don't wanna be rude to you all

JOEY

Does that *really* seem like a concern here?

Danielle smiles and fakes picking up her phone, fake answers -

DANIELLE

Hello?

*and walks outside.
Outside and out of the view of Cook and Joey
Danielle stuffs her phone back in her bag and sinks into herself.*

*Once they're alone, a tone shift in Cook.
Persona gone, he pleads.*

COOK

Joe I don't think I can do this

JOEY

You're fine

COOK

I'm half a second from breaking down already -

JOEY

We talked about this -

COOK

I won't be able to get through the whole night -

JOEY

You have to keep it together

COOK

I can't keep it together -

JOEY

Yes, you can -

COOK

It's not right -

JOEY

I'm telling you it is -

COOK

You wanna sit here and pretend everything is ok -

JOEY

I wanna have fun

COOK

“FUN”?!

JOEY

I'll tell them

COOK

You have to tell them *now*, you can't sit here lying to them.

JOEY

I'm not lying.

COOK

You're not telling the truth *and we're running out of time*.

Danielle enters. Cook doesn't see her. Joey does.

Joey continues despite her presence.

JOEY

I just want tonight to be fun, please, I need this, I just wanna laugh and bullshit and have things be ok -

COOK

Things aren't ok -

JOEY

Stop.

COOK

You want me to have fun with all this shit happening? You want me to lie to them? This isn't gonna go away. This is it. And I can't keep your secrets anymore. I can't. And I can't let you -

MICKEY (FROM THE OFFICE)

This bottle is disgusting!

JOEY

(to Mickey) So are the bags under your eyes you old bitch!

MICKEY (FROM THE OFFICE)

Say somethin' again I dare you!

JOEY

Please Cook. Don't say anything. Just for a little while longer.

COOK

I can't do this anymore. Joey, please.

Silence.

Mickey reenters with a full, fancy ass bottle of expensive something. It's dusty and brown cause no one's ever used it.

MICKEY

Talk about my eyes again, I dare you.

*Danielle, purposely seen now,
sits down at the bar again.
She begins to text on her phone.*

JOEY

That looks disgusting but I want it inside me

MICKEY

I have that tattooed on my back

JOEY

The bottle's older than most of the people in this room

MICKEY

Alright, alright

JOEY

Your eyes are what happens when you see your parents
fuck doggystyle

MICKEY

There we go

JOEY

Your eyes are like every sleeping bag when you first unroll
it

MICKEY

Go ahead, keep em coming.

Joey looks at Cook.

MICKEY

Keep em' coming. Go ahead.

Cook's still in his head.

MICKEY

Cook, you don't have anything -

COOK

Your eyes look like a very sad roast beef sandwich -

MICKEY

There we go

COOK

Cause of the bags

MICKEY

I get it

COOK

You look like old luggage

JOEY

Plan on opening it today?

MICKEY

Stop breaking my balls and I might

COOK

You look like a handbag and also balls

*Mickey fights to open the bottle.
He tries several ways.*

MICKEY

Fuckkkk this thing!

Cook settles back into his persona.

COOK

Just open it and put it in my mouth

JOEY

Who are you asking?

COOK

I'll close my eyes just pour it in

JOEY

There's a dick joke in there someone

MICKEY

Cook's dick is the joke

COOK

Like clown shoes

MICKEY

What?

JOEY

He's saying it's big

MICKEY

And squeaks

COOK

Only when you squeeze it

JOEY

You should see a doctor about that

COOK

There's a cream

MICKEY

Prescription or?

COOK

Over the counter

Mickey's still struggling with the bottle.

Joey snatches it from him, and tries (and fails) herself.

MICKEY

See?

JOEY

I'll get it

COOK

You're gonna pop a blood vessel and die

Cook snatches it from Joey and tries himself, but fails.

Mickey laughs.

MICKEY

We have an opener somewhere

Mickey and Cook search for an opener.

COOK

This is a bar. How do you not know where the wine opener is?

MICKEY

Who gets wine here? Seriously.

An aside between Joey and Danielle.

JOEY

So how was your phone call?

DANIELLE

Alright.

JOEY

Look, what you heard with me and Cook -

DANIELLE

It's ok. It's not my business.

JOEY

There's some stuff going on. It's not a big deal. I just
wanna keep it quiet for a while

DANIELLE

I understand. Sometimes you just need to have a good time
and not think about stuff.

JOEY

Exactly.

DANIELLE

Make sure and tell me though, if you guys need space -

JOEY

We don't ever need space. If anything we're too open.

DANIELLE

I can see that.

Cook and Mickey return to the conversation.

COOK

Fuck this, bourbon instead?

JOEY

Sounds good

MICKEY

(to Danielle) That work for you? On the house.

DANIELLE

Sure

Mickey pours and distributes shots.

*Cook gives up and tosses the old bottle over his shoulder,
Mickey lunges, catches it, and
puts it down on the bar top again.*

MICKEY

God damn it, Cook. Arthur will kill us if this thing breaks.

JOEY

And also I'm not leaving until I get some soooooo -

Cook gives a toast

(a full performance, he relishes it)

COOK (*TOASTING*)

Here's to being shit
 But not being the worst
 To being unlucky
 But not being cursed

To the people we love
 Who don't love us back
 To stumbling proud
 When it's balance we lack

To our only friend
 Who will always be there
 Not a table not a stool
 Not a wall not a chair-

To the floor who holds us
 When no one has the nerve
 May we get what we want
 But never what we deserve!

They shoot.

**The groups first shot together.*

*Mickey and Joey are taken aback,
 it's like water to Cook.*

Joey tries (and fails) to open the fancy bottle.

The water drip from the ceiling increases.

MICKEY

(to Cook)

Take it easy, you know the shit hits you all at once

COOK

Blow me

JOEY

(re. the leak)

What's with that?

COOK

Been leaking a while

MICKEY

Not that long

COOK

Hah. Long enough.

JOEY

So fix it

MICKEY

With what?

COOK

Hopes and dreams?

JOEY

Cardboard and duck tape

MICKEY

Duck tape?

JOEY

The silver tape

COOK

DUCT tape.

JOEY

That's what I said

MICKEY

Did you really think it was called duck tape this whole time?

COOK

Like the animal?

JOEY

Duck

MICKEY

Duct

JOEY

Duck

COOK

Duct

JOEY

I don't give a fuck what kinda tape, stick some tape on it
before we drown in the bar

MICKEY

That's dramatic

COOK

And physically impossible, there's little places for the
water to leak out everywhere

Joey wipes water off her head.

MICKEY

Hair looks good though

JOEY

Thanks

MICKEY

(to Danielle) She was sick, and now she isn't

COOK

What if you end up losing your hair anyway?

MICKEY

What the fuck -

COOK

I'm just sayin, if years from now you somehow go bald
anyway, your hair growing back now'll be pointless

JOEY

Thanks Cook

COOK

Fuck cancer

MICKEY

That cured it

JOEY

This whole time and that's all we needed to do

COOK

If it makes you feel any better, Imma be like four hundred pounds by the time I'm forty -

MICKEY

And dead by fifty

DANIELLE

Why's that?

COOK

Genetics

JOEY

Definitely not the alcohol or lack of physical activity

COOK

I jog

JOEY

You walk to the liquor store

COOK

That'll help me get to thirty five

MICKEY

There's still five years unaccounted for

COOK

Nope.

MICKEY

You said you'd like til forty, but we're only at 35

COOK

I can count

MICKEY

Ok, so?

COOK

I figure by 35 I'll decide I wanna die and in comfortable desperation I'll willingly relapse, steal an el camino stock it full of cocaine and tequila like high quality cocaine and tequila you know like that good good shit that real shit shit where you can't pronounce the name shit then hit up a gas station and buy some of those shitty yellow tinted sunglasses some fuckin wraps and fuzzy dice maybe like a bean burrito or somethin you know just for the trip and make my way down to Mexico until I find a town where I'm both the dirtiest and richest person there and become a local celebrity, then spend the last 5 years in Mexico fucking beautiful prostitutes and doing blow just pounds and pounds of blow a mountain of blow until I od in my own juices and go out with a raging hard on leaving everything I have to those amazing working women who had sex with a four hundred pound man allowing him to die just the way he wanted to.

Silence.

DANIELLE

That was... graphic

COOK

He asked

JOEY

Wait, why do you still have a raging hard on?

MICKEY

Nobody asked that

COOK

You said, "what're you gonna do with the last five years"

JOEY

No I mean if you're dead wouldn't the hard on be gone?

DANIELLE

Technically no, blood can stay in the penis for some time after the heart stops beating -

COOK

You know some weird shit -

MICKEY

I said you hadn't accounted for the years, I didn't ask if you wanted to fuck sex workers for five years, then overdose in your own jizz and regret -

JOEY

Why do you know that?

DANIELLE

I read a lot

JOEY

You're weird. I like you.

Danielle types on her phone searching for something.

COOK

- That shit's gonna be a party

MICKEY

What?

COOK

A fuckin "I'm killing myself party" and everyone's invited -

JOEY

What?

COOK

I'm gonna throw a "I'm killing myself party"

JOEY

You're sick

COOK

I'd go to yours

MICKEY

That's morbid

COOK

Life ends

MICKY

Obviously

COOK

Might as well celebrate it

JOEY

(to Mickey) He's been on a death kick lately

COOK

I wanna go to an "I'm dying" party now

MICKY

(to Joey) I can see that

COOK

Do we know anyone who's dying?

JOEY

(to Mickey)

Our collective morality

COOK

Let's go to the hospital and get dying people all fucked up

MICKY

(to Joey)

That's deep

COOK

I bet it is

MICKY

(to Cook)

You don't really need anyone else do you?

COOK

I talk to my plants sometimes

JOEY

That's normal

COOK

My pathos is a cunt

MICKEY

It's your charm that gets me

COOK

Jealousy is an awful color on you. Also purple.

JOEY

Really?

COOK

Yes. He's got a great ass and purple hides it. I'm a supportive friend. And also, just cause he fucks dudes don't mean he can't be jealous

MICKEY

I spent last Sunday with Jory fucking and watching the Bears lose while you masturbated covered in wing sauce, ranch dressing, and screaming at the tv -

COOK

First of all it was french dressing -

JOEY

Jesus Christ

COOK

No, but close

MICKEY

You're going straight to hell

COOK

Second of all they're two different colors

MICKEY

What?

COOK

Ranch dressing is white, French is orange

JOEY

That's what you got out of that?

COOK

Third, if you're gonna watch from the window just cum inside

MICKEY

You're insane you know that?

COOK

Or outside

MICKEY

What?

COOK

Don't care where you cum, just clean it up afterward, I don't like when shit gets sticky

Danielle reads slowly off her phone

DANIELLE

“A ‘death erection’, also known as angel lust or a terminal erection - is a post mortem erection, technically a priapism, observed in the corpses of men who have been executed, particularly by hanging”

.....

They stare.

.....

They smile at Danielle.

JOEY

Are you ok?

MICKEY

Is everything alright at home?

COOK

Blink twice if you need help

MICKEY

What a pervert

COOK

Tell you who's goin' to hell, Danielle

MICKEY

Dan-hell

DANIELLE

SHE ASKED

MICKEY

Mhmmmmm

COOK

We need a better vetting process for who we let in here

MICKEY

Spell vetting.

COOK

V e d i n g.

MICKEY

You know what? Sure

DANIELLE

I didn't mean to --

JOEY

It's fine

COOK

Fuck you dude, I know words

MICKEY

Oh, you "know words"

COOK

Abominable, illuminati, assimilation -

MICKEY

You're just listing words

JOEY

(to Danielle)

Don't take it personally, it means they like you

COOK

HOW DARE YOU?

JOEY

What?

COOK

I AM FLACCID

MICKEY

What the fuck does that have to do with anything!?

COOK

When I like people I get hard -

JOEY

Were you hard at some point?

COOK

Maybe

JOEY

No, no, I need to know this. Were you hard at some point?

COOK

Mickey's here so

JOEY

So what? That wasn't even a full sentence

COOK

He knows what I mean, *wink*

JOEY

Did you just say "wink" out loud

MICKEY

I know what he means, *wink*. Another beer?

COOK
Yeah, *wink*

MICKEY
You, *wink*?

JOEY
Sure, *wink*

COOK
No no no no

JOEY
What?

MICKEY
It's not funny when you do it

JOEY
Why not?

MICKEY
We're related

JOEY
So?

COOK
(to Danielle)
How about you Iowa?

DANIELLE
I'm not really done with this one

MICKEY
(to Cook)
You know how creepy it is you're just like, "heyyyyy drink some more"

COOK
It's friendly

MICKEY
And creepy

DANIELLE

Only a tiny bit creepy

COOK

Well color me offended

DANIELLE

I'm sorry, I didn't mean it to offend

MICKEY

It's ok, no need to apologize, we're not easily offended

JOEY

In case you couldn't tell

COOK

I am but a coloring book in the forgotten desk drawer of life

DANIELLE

What?

COOK

I am a leaf, blowing through a porno store

MICKEY

Does he have an off switch?

COOK

I am a vhs tape, unwinding on the side of the road

JOEY

Are you sure you're not using again?

Mickey distributes, they raise the glasses

COOK

To all of us, it's gonna be -

MICKEY

And?

COOK

And what?

MICKEY

You know

COOK

FINE. To all of us, and I guess whatever sure *Windy* too-

DANIELLE

Windy?

MICKEY

She'll be here soon

JOEY

She's amazing

COOK

She's "fine"

DANIELLE

Just fine?

MICKEY

They used to date

COOK

And then I broke up with her

JOEY

One hundred percent certain that's not true

COOK

We're losing focus here.

To the group, our new friend Danielle, and to Joey's
Birthday -

MICKEY

and her recovery -

COOK

It's her *birthday* party -

MICKEY

But she also recovered so it's also a recovery party

COOK

She's been in remission for a year and a half idiot and she's healthy as shit now -

JOEY

"Healthy as shit" ?

Danielle's phone rings.

MICKY

Is shit healthy?

DANIELLE

How much fiber are you eating?

JOEY

I need new friends

COOK

I'm just saying we can't be celebrating her being healthy when she has been for -

Danielle sends the call to voicemail.

MICKY

So you don't wanna celebrate our friend being cancer free?

COOK

I swear to God -

MICKY

So you don't wanna celebrate your friend being healthy?

COOK

I will jump over this counter and slap the shit out of you right now -

MICKY

I mean if you really don't care about her

Joey and Cook share a look.

They shoot.

****The groups second shot together.**

*Mickey looks to Joey for permission.
Joey smiles.*

JOEY
(to Mickey)
Go ahead

*Cook lunges over the bar and slaps Mickey,
a sibling-like fight takes place.*

DANIELLE
(to Joey)
This happens a lot I'm assuming?

JOEY
I'm a glorified babysitter

*Cook and Mickey are still fighting.
Probably a "stop hitting yourself" moment.
Or it's real but they get in fights so often it's just a normal
day to them and they can laugh it off after.*

JOEY
Just a night out huh?

DANIELLE
Yeah, just a lot going on I guess

JOEY
Come straight from work?

DANIELLE
No

JOEY
Didn't have time to go home and change?

DANIELLE
Yeah. No. I ended up running around after work ya know?
So I saw the lights on and came in

*The water drips steadier and harder from the leak.
The door opens.
WINDY enters, she sees Cook and Mickey fighting.*

WINDY
Already?

JOEY
WINDYYYYYYYY

WINDY
Relax

JOEY
I'm excited

WINDY
I just saw you yesterday

JOEY
So I can't be excited?

WINDY
(to Cook)
Are you ever not fighting with somebody?

MICKEY
Hey, Win

COOK
When I'm fucking

WINDY
You can't fight in twenty seconds

COOK
You didn't complain

MICKEY
She stopped fucking guys altogether

WINDY
Can you call it fucking if it takes four and a half minutes
and only half the people involved cum?

COOK
Fifty percent is pretty good

MICKEY

I think that's just masturbation

COOK

Also my personal best

WINDY

(to Danielle)

I am so sorry, Windy

DANIELLE

I'm already used to it, Danielle

WINDY

Have you known them long?

DANIELLE

Just met tonight actually

WINDY

So long enough

COOK

You *would* know "long enough"

WINDY

Only since I dumped you

Ooooo's ring out.

DANIELLE

I thought you dumped her?

COOK

I used to like you -

WINDY

Oh really?

COOK

I said it was *mutual*

WINDY

Really?

COOK

Yeah, I mutually broke up with you like a little bit

WINDY

See *there's* the problem, this whole time you don't understand what the word *mutual* means, that's when two people do something together - like - cum. That's a mutual act. *Hypothetically* of course. Now if we're gonna say if both people cum it's *mutual*, then that means if one person cums and the other counts the holes in the ceiling panels - that's not mutual.

Just like one person dumping another isn't mutual.

COOK

...So how many holes were in the ceiling?

JOEY

Apparently not enough

MICKEY

You're lucky she doesn't skin you alive

WINDY

Life's too short to be pissed off

MICKEY

You're too nice

WINDY

That's what they tell me

COOK

Who's they?

WINDY

People, "they"

COOK

Who the fuck has ever told you you're too nice?

WINDY

Mickey

COOK

Besides Mickey

JOEY

Who told you ten seconds ago

WINDY

It's an expression

COOK

Of what?

WINDY

Like, "I understand what you mean, I know that about myself too"

COOK

So why not just say that

WINDY

I'm gonna slap you

COOK

You gotta catch me first

WINDY

Where are you gonna run?

JOEY

What do you mean?

WINDY

He's never *been* anywhere

MICKEY

Never been anywhere?

COOK

I don't leave Taylor Street

MICKEY

What?

COOK

I don't leave Taylor Street

JOEY

Ever?

COOK

Fuuuuuuck no

JOEY

How is that possible?

COOK

Pretty easy actually

JOEY

So there's nothing outside the neighborhood you wanna see?

COOK

HELL NO Fuckin crazy pasty white people out there always shooting people people putting food coloring in bread makin rainbow bagels everywhere has free gluten and I don't even know what the shit is fucking bongos are all sorts of shapes now I go in to see my little cousin on easter kid's thirteen years old I go into his room to surprise him and he's ripping this bong that's shaped all fucking weird and is five inches taller than he is, he rips this thing and immediately falls backwards like a cartoon character or something flat as a board just dead it looked like he died *not to mention* they're putting pineapples and all sorts of weird shit on pizza now pineapple is a fucking fruit you don't put fruit on pizza it's a fucking pizza it makes no God damn sense -

MICKEY

Watch it -

COOK

And three priests from our high school got arrested for diddling kids

DANIELLE

Really?

COOK

Fucking parents put their kids in the schools cause they want them to have some sense of religion or faith or whatever and these pieces of shit take full advantage and then this fuck still goes to the damn church every weekend -

MICKEY

Completely different situations

COOK

No. It's like trash reality tv or big companies being pricks. You're money and attention are the only reasons they get away with the shit. If nobody was watching those spray tanned, ass injected fucks, the show wouldn't be on. "I watch it cause it's *so bad*" isn't an excuse. Hold fuckin people accountable.

JOEY

Relax -

COOK

I'm just saying everything outside of this four blocks is fucked and I see no reason to run into the fire. I'm not a fireman. Shit looks exhausting. Those backpacks they carry are like sixty pounds or something.

JOEY

You can't stay here the rest of your life

COOK

Why not? My Dad has

WINDY

Your Dad's an alcoholic who can't leave his living room

MICKEY

He physically cannot leave his living room

COOK

And he's doing just fine

MICKEY

He's four hundred pounds

COOK

Of sexy

DANIELLE

You've never been to the suburbs?

COOK

Only on deliveries

JOEY

You gotta be kidding

COOK

I went to that French furniture store Ikea once, the one giant one right off the highway, but I don't speak French so the shit was confusing

WINDY

It's dutch idiot

COOK

You're a dutch idiot

DANIELLE

It's actually Swiss, they're from Sweden

WINDY

We need you around more

JOEY

What were you doin in an Ikea?

COOK

Eatin lunch

WINDY

Wait, hold on, you delivered into the suburbs and went to Ikea for lunch?

COOK

No I delivered to Ikea and went to Ikea for lunch

JOEY

What'd you get?

COOK

Iono, like a pretzel, but with cheese. a fancy ass cheesy pretzel, I saw this old lady get it and she hadda be over a hundred so I figure they're keeping her alive. Besides, I have everything I need here why would I go anywhere else -

JOEY

To get away from here

COOK

What's the difference between a priest and a zit?

DANIELLE

What? -

JOEY, MICKEY & WINDY

DON'T!

COOK

A zit will wait til you're twelve before it cums on your face -

WINDY

What the fuck

MICKEY

I'm tellin Father Don Sunday -

WINDY

Cause anyone in that place talks to you -

MICKEY

I'm well respected in the Catholic Church thank you

COOK

What do you call that useless piece of skin on a dick?

MICKEY

Cook -

COOK AND DANIELLE

THE MAN.

COOK

Oooooohh shiitttttt and what do woman and a bar have in common?

JOEY

don't say it -

COOK AND DANIELLE

Liquor in the front, poker in the back

A look between Cook and Danielle.

WINDY

Wish you'd've known that sooner

JOEY

I've never been in a bar with poker

MICKEY

(to Cook) How much of your material is dick jokes?

JOEY

Too much

WINDY

Too little

COOK

Just right

DANIELLE

You're the goldilocks of dick jokes

COOK

Ahhhh with the three bears

DANIELLE

Yes

JOEY

I really like her

DANIELLE

You rarely get a chance to discuss what amount of dick jokes is appropriate

COOK

What is “appropriate” though anyway

WINDY

Less than too many

COOK

No need to measure, I'm not size-ist

WINDY

What?

COOK

That's when you only fuck people with a certain size dick

WINDY

Like specifically a certain size?

COOK

I learned that today

WINDY

(to Mickey)

We can go ahead and assume that was you right?

MICKEY

First of all, biiiitch

COOK

Can you be anything-ist? Like can you be hair color-ist? Or eyebrow-ist? Or freckle-ist?

DANIELLE

Did you eat paint chips growing up?

COOK

Why?

WINDY

So how long have you been dealing with them?

DANIELLE

Long enough

WINDY

And they haven't scared you off yet?

DANIELLE

I've made worse decisions

WINDY

Like what?

DANIELLE

I had really obnoxious bangs most of high school and moved to Chicago to be a poet

COOK

And she didn't even know it

MICKEY

It wasn't funny the first time

JOEY

Chase your dreams

DANIELLE

It's easier to say than to do

COOK

Worst thing that happens is you screw up and head home

WINDY

Home isn't always a thing people attach themselves to

DANIELLE

I gotta take her side on this one

MICKEY

It can't be that bad

DANIELLE

Six hundred residents and most of them are cows

COOK

I like cows, they're like horses you can pet

MICKEY

You can pet horses, Cook

COOK

Gohead and try and pet a horse, watch it fuck you up

DANIELLE

It's that thing where ninety percent of the town stays in the town *forever*. Most of my friends from high school got pregnant or married before twenty. Which I guess is fine if that's what you want -

WINDY

But if you don't it's a nightmare

DANIELLE

Exactly

COOK

Well here's to you, best of luck, Iowa

Cook downs his beer, pours himself another.

JOEY

So why poetry?

DANIELLE

Just one of those things I was always into, and I made it my major at school so I'm committed to being broke forever now I think

COOK

They didn't had poetry in our school

MICKEY

You dropped out of high school, they have it in college

COOK

I was asked politely to leave

JOEY

I'm pretty sure they physically kicked you out

COOK

No, no, Principal Lasalle asked me to leave and escorted me out

WINDY

With two security guards

COOK

Rent-a-cops

WINDY

Remember when you and Mickey tried to see who's face could get redder at the lunch table -

COOK

And he started shaking and yelling so much he eventually broke the leg on the chair and fell and Principal Lasalle suspended both of us for two days -

WINDY

He's got that vein in his forehead that sometimes bulges when he's angry -

COOK

But only sometimes which is fucking weird -

MICKEY

I'm standing right here -

JOEY

Uncle Arthur used to take us to that bench over on Racine, where you can see the skyline really good. And you'd tell us about how you wanted to live in one of the buildings downtown when you grew up cause you thought they looked like castles. But you'd get so intense that vein would puff out and take up most of your head -

WINDY

and he had a huge fucking head when we were little -

MICKEY

I did not!

JOEY

And me and Unc would laugh cause you were such an angry, determined little fuck and once you thought something we couldn't talk you out of it

WINDY

Good thing he grew out of that

MICKEY

Well fuck me for caring

COOK

Not drunk enough yet

MICKEY

You guys are lucky you have me, I'm the brother you never had

COOK

Or wanted

MICKEY

Yeah yeah

JOEY

Well, I love you. Who know's where I'd be without you

COOK

Prison

WINDY

No way -

COOK

Me not her

MICKEY

It's not just one way, I woulda lost my mind a long time ago without you

WINDY

Cause she practically forced you out of the closet

MICKEY

I took minimal coaxing

WINDY

Really?

MICKEY

Maybe a little more

WINDY

Just a bit

JOEY

He helped me too

COOK

Ehhhhhhh

JOEY

Remember the Red ball?

Mickey does.

No one else does.

WINDY

What's that?

JOEY

The Red ball

They really don't know.

JOEY1

Do you really not know this?

Nope.

JOEY

It was right after my parents died. I didn't want anyone to see me cause I was always crying and you know I look terrible when I cry. My eyes were always a real bad deep red puffy mess and I couldn't breath right cause I was always on the verge of tears. I wouldn't leave the house.

So Mickey took that little red rubber ball he used to play hockey with and cut a slit in it, and would stick it on his nose like a clown nose. And he wore it all the time. That was the whole thing.

He didn't do or say anything specific, he just went about his day with a red clown nose on. And it didn't matter if I was crying or sad or a mess, cause people would always stare at that him and that clown nose.

He looked like an asshole.

I dunno.

I wanted to be invisible, and he made me invisible.

I love you cousin

Joey readies for a hug

MICKEY
Don't do it

JOEY
I love you

MICKEY
I swear to God

Cook gets ready

MICKEY
Don't you dare

They all group hug Mickey, Cook pulls Danielle into the hug as well. Danielle's phone rings. No one notices.

MICKEY
Now I need a hepatitis shot

COOK
Haven't you always

....

MICKEY
That's weird

?

MICKEY

I just got déjà vu

COOK

What?

Danielle jumps back on her phone to look it up.

MICKEY

It's weird, it's like. Hmm. Ok. So....

DANIELLE

“The term déjà vu is French and means, literally, "already seen." Those who have experienced the feeling describe it as an overwhelming sense of familiarity with something that shouldn't be familiar at all. Say, for example, you are traveling to England for the first time. You are touring a cathedral, and suddenly it seems as if you have been in that very spot before. Or maybe you are having dinner with a group of friends, discussing some current political topic, and you have the feeling that you've already experienced this very thing -- same friends, same dinner, same topic.”

...Cook and Joey snap into a replaying of an earlier moment

COOK

That shit's gonna be a party

MICKEY

What?

COOK

A fuckin “I'm killing myself party” and everyone's invited -

JOEY

Relax -

COOK

Joe you don't wanna come to my “I'm killing myself party”?

JOEY

You're a sick fuck

COOK

I'd go to yours

MICKEY

Alright, fuck you guys

COOK

Life ends

WINDY

What's happening?

MICKEY

We were talking about this earlier

COOK

Might as well celebrate it

MICKEY

I get it, I get it

COOK

I wanna go to an "I'm dying" party now

WINDY

What the fuck were you guys doing earlier?

COOK

Do we know anyone who's dying?

JOEY

(to Mickey) Our collective morality

COOK

Let's go to the hospital and get dying people all fucked up

WINDY

What the hell is happening?

MICKEY

I said déjà vu and they ran with it

WINDY

Got it

MICKEY

It does feel like we do the same thing every Wednesday

WINDY

That's because we do the same thing every Wednesday

JOEY

Nah

WINDY

Whatdoyoumean "nah"?

JOEY

Some of the same stuff happens but all of them are different

COOK

Like when I lit those fireworks off by accident

WINDY

Still trying to say that was an accident?

JOEY

Besides, this one's gonna be different

WINDY

That's ominous

MICKEY

How do you figure?

COOK

Danielle is here

WINDY

And you're old as fuck

JOEY

We're the same age

WINDY

I look better

MICKEY

True

JOEY

I had cancer

MICKEY

Still true

JOEY

Can you even see me over those bags?

MICKEY

I'll give you a dollar if you hit her

COOK

I'm a lover not a fighter

WINDY

You have a black eye right now

COOK

I fell

MICKEY

You fell

COOK

Into a guys fist

JOEY

At some point we may not get to do this as often. So we should try and have fun while we can.

COOK

“Fun”

JOEY

Yeah fun, three letters, usually involves you ending up
naked and making a fool of yourself

*A familiar tone change in Cook.
The liquor is continuing to get to him.*

MICKEY

(to Cook)

You've got nothin' for that?

COOK

Sometimes it's hard to have fun...

WINDY

Jesus, way to kill the mood

JOEY

I'm not saying it'll be soon.

But, we don't know what's gonna happen.

What if I never got better?

I'm not saying it needs to be a big dramatic thing, but we
should try and have fun, we don't know when -

Cook jolts up

MICKEY

What's wrong with you?

Helloooooo -

Cook snaps back into himself

COOK

You look like a ball sack and a punching bag had a baby.

MICKEY

And I hate you again

COOK

I'm gonna go smoke, anybody?

Collective "no"s

During the following portion of the conversation -

Cook walks to the bathroom

After he shuts the door behind him he reaches into his pocket to pull out cigarettes, but as he removes the pack a plastic bag filled with pills falls out of his pocket. Way, way too many pills.

He stares at the bag for a while before picking it up and stuffing it back into his pocket. Maybe he smokes a quick cigarette, maybe he just stares at himself in the mirror.

WINDY

He's an acquired taste

DANIELLE

I've noticed

DANIELLE

How long has this place been here?

MICKEY

Sixty years or so

JOEY

Our Uncle opened it, but he can't really do much anymore

MICKEY

Dementia

DANIELLE

I'm sorry to hear that

MICKEY

It happens.

So how do you like Chicago?

DANIELLE

Compared to Iowa?

JOEY

Yeah

DANIELLE

It's loud. Fast.

WINDY

So why move here now?

DANIELLE

Finished college a year ago, looking for something new, probably just to get away a little bit too

JOEY

Family?

DANIELLE

Over-protective Mom, small town, kind of saw myself growing old in the same house surrounded by the same people

MICKEY

Well, we're glad you got out

DANIELLE

Thanks

WINDY

So, poetry?

DANIELLE

Yeah.

WINDY

Did Mickey try and sing for you yet?

MICKEY

No, I did not

WINDY

You're lucky

MICKEY

Biiiiiiitch

DANIELLE

What do you do?

WINDY

I work at a neighborhood place

DANIELLE

Which one?

WINDY

"Red's Deli"

DANIELLE

Around the corner?

WINDY

Yeah

DANIELLE

I love that place, I've only been a couple times but it's great

WINDY

Thanks

DANIELLE

I've never seen you in there?

WINDY

I work in the back. Red's convinced if he sticks me next to the oven I'll hate it so much it'll push me to leave the neighborhood for good. Find a place with grass. But to do that I gotta make money, and to make money I'm gonna need more than on job, and to work more than one job I'm gonna need to save money, but to save money -

MICKEY

I keep saying you can move in with me and Uncle Arthur -

WINDY

That place is small enough with the two of you, but thanks. Really. This is on me. I'll get out when I can.

JOEY

So what's your favorite thing about the city?

DANIELLE

Probably the d.i.y spaces

JOEY

D.i.y?

DANIELLE

Do it yourself. Like small places where artists go to perform and stuff. Sharpen skills. It's more of a supportive environment than a "professional" or "judgmental" one, if that makes sense

WINDY

That's where you needa go Mickey

MICKEY

Yeah, with all the time I have free

JOEY

You can take a night off

MICKEY

Sure, and you'll run the bar?

JOEY

Never mind

MICKEY

Exactly

WINDY

So your family's from Iowa too?

DANIELLE

My Grandpa grew up here and moved to Iowa to be with my Grandma

MICKEY

Where did he grow up?

DANIELLE

South side.

WINDY

After my own heart.

DANIELLE

You too?

WINDY

My Dad yeah, but he moved me and my brother to the neighborhood when we were little though.

DANIELLE

He used to tell me stories about growing up in the city. But I think I needed to see it for myself you know? It's hard to imagine some of the things he said while you're surrounded by farms.

WINDY

It's not like when your Grandpa grew up though I'm sure. Most of the city is gentrified now and the parts that aren't are on the way. Big corporations have even started buying up the buildings here. For a while the old timers said no, but half of them are dead or on the way out and a lot of our parents and friends moved out. There's probably, five or six of the original families here. Everybody else that owned buildings or businesses sold and moved out. Even when we were kids you knew all your neighbors, now I have a frat house on one side of me and a hot dog chain on the other.

DANIELLE

What was there when you moved here?

JOEY

My family, until my parents died, then I moved in with Mickey and Uncle Arthur. We lost the building a little bit after that. Now I moved into an apartment up the street on my own.

We still got the bar though.

MICKEY

And Arthur.

DANIELLE

(to Mickey)

So he's your Dad?

MICKEY

No, my Dad skipped town when I was little and I moved in with our great Uncle. That's Uncle Arthur.

Who owns this bar and lives with me. So. All the original families from the neighborhood that moved here from Italy or Ireland or Mexico or even just from the South Side are very close. Everyone is an Uncle or cousin or Aunt -

JOEY

Uncle Arthur

MICKEY

But no one is actually a blood Uncle or cousin or Aunt -

JOEY

Except me and Mickey, we're actually cousins, our Dads were brothers

WINDY

It's all very Greek

MICKEY

Or like a really shitty comedy

WINDY

How is Arthur?

MICKEY

Getting worse

WINDY

That sucks

MICKEY

Every day he forgets more

WINDY

I saw him sitting in that lawn chair in front the other day

JOEY

He's always out there

WINDY

In the winter he was out front in the snow in a t-shirt and shorts, I had to help him back in once I convinced him I wasn't trying to rob him

MICKEY

Remember when he'd have us all sitting up in the
apartment after school when we were in middle school, and
he'd take his dentures out and scare the shit out of us

WINDY

He'd eat soup and it would fall out of his mouth

MICKEY

Til Cook would freak out and run to the living room

JOEY

And he'd cry laughing

WINDY

Arthur's a sick bastard

JOEY

Was

DANIELLE

So he lives above the bar?

MICKEY

Has since he was born. Won't be much longer now though.
Half the time he doesn't know where he is, and the other
half he screams about wanting to die -

WINDY

Withering away like that is tough

MICKEY

I dunno how to feel about it. On one hand you wish he'd
smile and make you laugh like when we were kids, and on
the other you kinda wanna smother him in his sleep.

JOEY

He doesn't wanna be here anymore, you can't blame him if
he thinks that's what's best -

WINDY

I wish my grandpa would die

MICKEY

What the fuck

WINDY

Listen, it's not like Arthur. My grandpa is an old racist bastard who won't let us hire a nurse cause there's something wrong with everybody, and he's a mean son of a bitch. We spend weeks interviewing nurses for him and the one time we got a nurse he wouldn't kick out she fucking quit cause he called her a wop

MICKEY

That's the one that came to Christmas last year?

WINDY

Yeah

MICKEY

She wasn't Italian

WINDY

So?

DANIELLE

The term wop is a derogatory term towards Italians

MICKEY

Exactly

WINDY

But not just Italians right?

DANIELLE

Technically it means "with out papers"

JOEY

So anybody without papers would be a wop

MICKEY

But it was a term used mostly for Italians

DANIELLE

And the Irish

WINDY

Anything can insult anyone if you want it to

MICKEY

How?

WINDY

It's not what you say it's how you say it

JOEY

It's not how you say it, but how they take it

MICKEY

What's that mean?

JOEY

It's true, remember that stupid duster coat you wore all senior year?

MICKEY

I remember my fucking awesome duster I wore senior year

JOEY

Remember how me and Windy always told you how good it looked

WINDY

But everyone always laughed when we did

JOEY

Except you

Wait....

MICKEY

Fuck you guys!

Cook returns.

COOK

We talkin' about that shitty coat Mickey wore all senior year?

MICKEY

What the fuck?!

COOK

It's about time we told her

JOEY

It was a pretty bad coat

DANIELLE

I'm gathering that

COOK

You looked like a flasher that couldn't pull the trigger

MICKEY

My father gave me that coat

COOK

No, your Father died and you started wearing it

WINDY

Big difference

MICKEY

He left me that coat

COOK

Where?

WINDY

On the coat rack

MICKEY

You guys are dicks

WINDY

Back bedroom?

COOK

Did he also leave you his shoes?

WINDY

You're bow legged anyway

JOEY

His toothbrush?

MICKEY

Keep talkin' shit

WINDY

Some socks?

JOEY

Those white high tops

JOEY

I bet they were in a drawer

COOK

Dental floss?

WINDY

He doesn't even use it

MICKEY

Wait til your parents die

JOEY

Mine died when I was four dick

MICKEY

We know

WINDY

Lemme break out the tiny violin

MICKEY

And what did your folks leave you?

DANIELLE

Alone.

*They take in the joke - beats -
and all burst out laughing.*

*Beer spews out of Cooks mouth as he gut laughs, it gets all over
Windy. Mickey throws her towel, she wipes herself off.*

COOK

That was fucking amazing

WINDY
GOD DAMN IT

MICKEY
Now you and Joey match

COOK
That's a fuckin' great joke!

WINDY
We shoulda smothered him when we were kids

COOK
But you'd miss out on so many good times

WINDY
Good times?

JOEY
Like when you got drunk and threw up in my car last
Saturday

MICKEY
Or tried to fight those eight guys in Greek town and
dragged me into it

WINDY
Threw a glass bottle at Principle Lasalle and let me take the
fall

WINDY
Threw up on me at prom

JOEY
Threw up on me at prom

MICKEY
Threw up on me at prom

COOK
I also threw up on myself at prom not that any of you care

MICKEY
Literally no one does

COOK
SHOTS!

WINDY
Do you have to yell?

JOEY
Really?

WINDY
I'm in

COOK
Danielleeeee?

DANIELLE
Sure

COOK
You two have no choice.

*Mickey lines up shot glasses
Cook grabs the still unopened bottle of liquor and tries again.
The group grins at his struggle.
Until he gives up, throws it again (it's caught by someone) and he
snatches another bottle from behind the bar, and pours.
After all the shots are poured,
Cook performs again -*

COOK (*TOASTING*)

May the road rise up to meet you
with a soft pillow for your head
may you be forty days in heaven
before the Devil knows you're dead

and if indeed he know you're there
be you not a bit afraid
for the rest of your days you may be hot
but know that you'll get laid

To keep me out of hell each night
I lay down and say I prayer
but when I arrive at the gates of hell
I'll see my friends are there

We're not good not great
not right not wrong
not special in any way

But as long as we stay good and drunk
WE'LL FUCKIN BE OK

They shoot

****The groups third shot together.**

MICKY

I give him two more before he loses his shit

DANIELLE

Do you have a book with these written down somewhere?

COOK

All in my head

WINDY

That's why there's no room for anything else

COOK

Toasts, list of favorite porn stars alphabetically, spotty
memories of the tenth grade, a deep-honest-appreciative-
never ceasing love for Betty White, a filthy-disgusting, red
hot- blood boiling- never ending lust for Betty White, and
the lyrics to the entire George Michael discography -

WINDY
I fuckin' love Betty White

COOK
(sings)
“and I'm never gonna dance again” -

MICKEY
God damn national treasure

COOK
(sings)
“guilty feet have got no rhythm” -

WINDY
Fuck, I'm not drunk enough for this -

COOK
(sings)
“Though it's easy to pretend”

DANIELLE
He's not bad though

COOK
Thank you

WINDY
Don't encourage him -

COOK
(sings)
“I know you're not a fool”

WINDY
“Not bad” and “good” are two different -

COOK
(sings over everyone)
SHOULDA knowN BETTER THAN TO CheAT a
FRIEND, WASTED CHANCE that I BEEN GIVEN, and
I'm NEVER GONNA DANCE AGAIN, the WAY I
DANCED with youUUUU

WINDY
Are you -

COOK
OOOOO OOOOOOOOOO

WINDY
Cook -

COOK
(sings)
WHOA WHOAAAAAAA

WINDY
I'm gonna kill him

COOK
Lock the door, close the blinds, and let's do this

MICKEY
Why you gotta make it sound so weird?

COOK
Whatdoyoumean?

JOEY
"Lock the door"

MICKEY
"Close the blinds"

COOK
It's a private party

WINDY
But not an orgy

COOK
Not yet anyway

MICKEY
As if we needed to scare her more

DANIELLE
No worries, I'm committed now

COOK
ANOTHER BOTTLE SIR

MICKEY
Nope

COOK
What!?

MICKEY
I'm not gonna lose tips cause you assholes wanna get drunk

COOK
It's Wednesday

MICKEY
So?

COOK
Who the fuck is coming to drink here on a Wednesday?

WINDY
That's true

MICKEY
That was a question, not a statement, and I need to make money tonight -

WINDY
You're not gonna make money tonight

MICKEY
Better chance of it with the doors open than with just you guys in here -

COOK
Fuck it

Cook pulls out a huge wad of cash and slams it in front of Mickey.

The tone changes.

MICKEY
Where'd you get this kind of money?

COOK
Work

MICKEY

You make minimum wage

COOK

I got a raise

MICKEY

And you forgot to mention that?

COOK

You don't need to know everything about my life, I work hard

MICKEY

My ass

COOK

I do

MICKEY

Don't give me dirty money Cook

COOK

I'm not!

MICKEY

I mean it

COOK

I'm not

MICKEY

Windy?

WINDY

what?

MICKEY

He tells you everything

WINDY

So? I'm not his babysitter

MICKEY

Has he mentioned anything?

A stare down.

MICKEY

Cook. Don't lie to me.

COOK

I'm not.

MICKEY

You promise?

COOK

Yeah.

...

MICKEY

Ok.

Back to your scheduled programming.

COOK

So you got your money, now lock it up

MICKEY

Still creepy as fuck

COOK

ANOTHER SHOT

MICKEY

Jesus Christ Cook

COOK

Don't take Jesus' name in vain

JOEY
I'm in

WINDY
Really?

JOEY
Why not right?

COOK
Danielle?

DANIELLE
Yes.

COOK
Mickeyyyyyyyyyyyyyy -

MICKEY
Fineeeee

COOK
There we go

JOEY
Glad to have you on board

Mickey tries the sealed bottle again.

WINDY
What the fuck was that?

JOEY
What?

WINDY
“Glad to have you on board?”

COOK
You're a pirate now?

WINDY
Captain Remission

COOK

Reporting for booty

WINDY

(to Mickey)

Having trouble over there?

MICKEY

This bottle is ridiculous

WINDY

Let me try.

She does.

And struggles.

And fails.

MICKEY

We'll wait.

WINDY

Fuck off.

Cook begins pouring shots from another bottle.

MICKEY

Can we maybe not do this one all together?

COOK

Why not?

MICKEY

I'd like to remember some of the night

JOEY

Take it with us

MICKEY

I think I'll sit this one out

COOK

Fuckin' Judas

JOEY

Pleaseeeeeee, lets collapse together later

COOK

I'll even let you do the toast

MICKEY

Fineeeeeee

They grab their shots

Mickey thinks, but can't come up with anything

COOK

Not as easy as it looks, is it fuck nugget?

Fine. Then Mickey's going with -

MICKEY

"As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - "

COOK

God damn it

MICKEY

"I shall fear no evil, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"

JOEY

Jesus Christ

MICKEY

"You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies - "

COOK

Never again

MICKEY

"You anoint my head with oil, my cup runneth over - "

With a grin, everyone shoots mid prayer except Mickey - who stands awkwardly with his shot in the air.

MICKEY

- It's cool. Mock my faith dicks. Thank you. Jesus hates all of you. You're all going to Hell. Fucking heathens.

He toasts the group, and shoots.

*****The groups fourth shot.**

*(You know they're feeling it right now. **Cook begins a quick decline in composure.** Everyone else declines at their own pace.)*

They laugh.

At this point the small leak in the ceiling has grown to a heavy, steady stream.

WINDY

At some point you're gonna fix that right?

MICKEY

When I can

WINDY

Just get some duct tape

COOK

DUCK TAPE

WINDY

Like the animal?

MICKEY

If you're gonna fix it, fix it right

WINDY

So fix it right

MICKEY

It takes money to fix it

WINDY

If you're not gonna be able to fix it right at the moment,
why not at least do something so your customers aren't
getting soaked the whole night

MICKEY

It's only this bad when it rains

WINDY

What would Uncle Arthur say?

JOEY

He'd say to fix it as best we can

MICKEY

Well he isn't here is he?

JOEY

No

MICKEY

So we'll wait til I can do it right, then do it

JOEY

A temporary fix is still a fix

MICKEY

Sometimes it's better to wait

JOEY

That makes no sense

MICKEY

You wanna make decisions, come and work here then.
Come and work here then go upstairs and take care of
Arthur after work. You start putting in some hours here and
you can make all the decisions you want -

JOEY

All we're saying is -

WINDY

THE BATHROOM

?

WINDY

**The bathroom is above the bar. The water's coming
from your Uncle's bathroom.**

They look at one another for a beat.

Then, Joey and Cook tear out of the bar.

(Cook probably falls on the way out.)

Mickey shakes out of frustration.

MICKEY

FUCK

Mickey throws a glass at the wall and storms to the office.

It shatters.

Silence.

We hear commotion upstairs momentarily.

Everyone on pins and needles.

It dies down.

*Danielle's phone rings again.
She thinks about answering, but doesn't.
It stops.*

WINDY
Who keeps calling you?

DANIELLE
Someone I don't wanna talk to.

It's a long story.

WINDY
Sometimes those are the people we have to talk to, right?

*A moment.
Mickey comes back.*

MICKEY
If anything happened to him -

WINDY

It'll be fine-

MICKEY

If he fell asleep in the tub -

WINDY

He didn't. It'll be ok. Mickey, look at me.

Mickey does.

WINDY

It'll be ok.

The water slows.

Drip, drip drip.

Joey and Cook return.

*Cook immediately grabs a bottle and pours his *******fifth shot***
he shoots it, then pours one for whoever else would like.

JOEY

He started filling the bathtub and forgot

MICKEY

He wasn't in there?

JOEY

Nah

COOK

He answered the door in his underwear

WINDY

He's ok?

JOEY

Yeah

COOK

And hung like a horse

MICKEY

Cook -

COOK

I'm just sayin, he's got a big dick

WINDY

But he's fine?

JOEY

Yeah.

Tension.

Silence.

COOK

Who wants to fuck?

JOEY

Anddddd he's cut off

WINDY

No one

COOK

Quickie in the bathroom?

MICKEY

No thanks Cook

COOK

Come on, I'll be real gentle

A smile.

MICKEY

You think you're a top?

COOK

Obviously

MICKEY

How do you figure that?

COOK

Cause I don't have it in me to take a dick up the ass, I am no where near brave enough for that I'm tellin you. I don't have it in me to take a dick up the ass. I don't know what it's like, so I'm not gonna speak facts on it, but I imagine every dick's gotta take a little bit out of you

MICKEY

Not how it works

WINDY

At all

JOEY

You've put thought into this

COOK

You gotta give respect where respect is due

MICKEY

I'm too classy for the bathroom anyway

WINDY

Rude

MICKEY

Why?

COOK

I've fucked in there before

MICKEY

What?

COOK

I've fucked in there *lots* of times

MICKEY

What?

COOK

All of us have, not her, this is her first time here, but us? Shit. Raise your hand if you fucked in the bathroom!!!

*Cooks hands shoots up. The rest of the group smile at one another.
Windy slowly raises her hand. Joey follows suit.*

MICKEY

You're kidding right? You're fucking kidding me right? Am
I the only person who hasn't had sex in the bathroom?

COOK

Yes

MICKEY

Windy!?

Windy smiles.

MICKEY

You're supposed to be the normal one!!!

WINDY

I think you cleaned it too

MICKEY

I'm gonna throw up

WINDY

Aim at Cook

MICKEY

I'm the only person that hasn't been fucking in the
bathroom

WINDY

Yes

MICKEY

When? When can you even do that?

COOK

Couple weeks ago

JOEY

Last year around Christmas

COOK

Saturday

WINDY

Friday

MICKEY

You are the worst fucking people

COOK

You're Mama's the worst people

MICKEY

I hate you all

WINDY

We love you

MICKEY

I know

Silence for a while.

They take in the space, and each other.

As happens, the lull prompts the liquor to take effect a bit.

(Nostalgia does that.)

That same familiar tone switch in Cook.

He stares blankly at the wall, willing it to collapse.

It doesn't.

MICKEY

This place is falling apart

JOEY
Everything does

MICKEY
I'm sorry

JOEY
For what?

MICKEY
I dunno

WINDY
Don't say sorry then

MICKEY
Maybe I coulda did more

WINDY
It's still standing. You did enough.

JOEY
We've got plenty more time to fuck it up, *(to Cook)* right?

Right?

COOK
Yeah.

JOEY

We had a lot of good times in here.

WINDY

Yeah we did.

DANIELLE

And it still looks good.

JOEY

This place is older than Arthur and still looks better than most of us.

WINDY

Mickey excluded.

Mickey flips them off.

JOEY

You're gonna be eighty and still burning this place to the ground every weekend.

MICKEY

That sounds miserable.

WINDY

Sure, but we can hit on college kids well into being old. We'll be sexy as fuck silver foxes -

JOEY

With huge bags under your eyes -

WINDY

Still out partying kids half our age.

MICKEY

And that's a good thing?

WINDY

You wanna be sitting on the porch screaming about kids on your lawn?

MICKEY

No but who wants to be in the same place forever

DANIELLE

It's a nightmare

MICKEY

She gets it

WINDY

Things only change if you want them too

JOEY

Sometimes you don't control that

WINDY

But you can take steps toward what you want

JOEY

That doesn't always work -

COOK

Nothing lasts forever

Smiles from everyone at Cook's obvious intoxication.

Right?

That's what you mean right?

JOEY

Right

A stare down between Joey and Cook.

Cook gets up, grabs a bottle from behind the bar, and starts drinking out of it.

DANIELLE

It's late -

JOEY

Don't you leave on us

DANIELLE

I have to get homeeeee -

WINDY

You're practically family now

COOK

NO LEAVING

DANIELLE

I just -

COOK

Nobody can leave. We gotta keep the party goin -

MICKEY

She may have an early morning

WINDY

Do you have an early morning?

DANIELLE

Not necessarily -

COOK

STAYyYYYYYyyYYyYYY

DANIELLE

I don't wanna overstay my welcome -

JOEY

I refuse to have another birthday unless you're there

COOK

Yeah, no more birthdays for Joey without you

MICKEY

Exactly

COOK

No MORE BIRTHDAYS FOR JOEWAYYYyYYY

JOEY

I wanna dance

COOK

DANCEEEEEeE

WINDY

You gotta stay for one dance

JOEY

Pleaseeeeeee

Windy offers a hand to Danielle, she takes it.

Mickey grabs Cook and yanks him to dance.

Joey heads to the juke box and searches through songs.

MICKEY

How you feelin there bud?

COOK

How *you* feelin, fuckin **bud**?

WINDY

We're not getting any younger

JOEY

It's gotta be perfect

COOK

Perfect perfect perfect perfect

MICKEY

Just pick something

WINDY

We're standing here like idiots

Joey settles on something like "Dancing in the Moonlight" by King Harvest. One of those songs that's intimate but Universal. Something with soul.

They dance.

For a time, it's perfect.

A perfect moment, frozen in their memories.

Then, maybe something snaps, maybe that last shot catches up with him -

COOK

Joe

Joe joe joe joe joe -

JOEY

What

COOK

Turn it up

JOEY

It's loud enough -

COOK

We gotta party

MICKEY

You're gonna wake up Arthur

COOK

Get his old big ass dick down here

WINDY

Cook -

COOK

Fuck you Windy, it's fuckin birthday time

Cook runs to the jukebox and cranks it as loud as it goes.

MICKEY

I told you this was gonna happen

Mickey heads to Cook and turns down the music.

A brotherly battle ensues over the volume.

MICKEY

Cookie, we gotta turn it down

COOK

YOU gotta turn it down and I hate that fucking name

WINDY

Nows when he gets a lot less creative

COOK

Stupid fucking name

JOEY

The volume is fine

COOK

I don't even like cookies. Sugar and shit fuckin teeth falling out -

Windy pours a glass of water for Cook.

DANIELLE

Is he gonna be ok?

WINDY

He always is

COOK

We gotta have fun, right Joe?

JOEY

.....

COOK

Have a good fuckin time, right Joe?

MICKEY

We are -

COOK

Cause this is the last one -

MICKEY

We have plenty more -

COOK

Nope

JOEY

Cook

COOK

Nope nope nope **noooooooooooo**

WINDY

Cook have some water -

COOK

Fuck water. I'm going to Hell anyway, right Mickey? We're all going to Hell cause we're terrible people? Cause god says you can't do shit and if you do it then you go to hell so I'm goin' to Hell?

Joey tries to coax Cook to the bar.

MICKEY

You know I didn't mean that Cook -

COOK

Going to fuckin Hell when we die right? Today, tomorrow, next week, when we're eighty, straight to Hell -

JOEY

Cook -

COOK
**WE'RE GOIN TO HELL SO WE GOTTA FUCKIN
PARTY**

MICKEY
I'm sorry, I didn't -

COOK
FUCKIN PAR TAYYYYYYYYYYYYY

JOEY
Calm down

COOK
You know how many "Y"'s were in that? Par
tayyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy. Like seventeen fucking Y's.
Tayyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy

Windy goes to Cook as well.

WINDY
Cook -

COOK
Windy

WINDY
You need to have some water

COOK
It was the shots. THE SHOTS DID ME IN -

MICKEY
They always do

COOK
Joe joe joe joe joe

JOEY
Cook -

COOK
We're going to Hell Joey -

JOEY
Stop -

COOK
You're going to Hell Joey -

*They try to get a more solid grip on him, he fights back.
Danielle is a bit skittish.*

WINDY
Relax

JOEY
Cook, please -

COOK
THE BOOK SAYS YOU'RE GOING TO HELL. WE'RE
ALL GOING TO HELL.

Cook gets more restless, they try to calm him down.
TELL EM JOE -

What?

Tell em how you're going to Hell.

He thrashes away from their grip and throws a bottle at the wall, it shatters.

*During the struggle, the bag of pills we saw in Cook's pocket earlier has falls out of **Joey's** pocket and lands on the floor.*

It's almost empty now.

I imagine it was hard to see it happen.

No one knows where it came from - but they can guess.

They stare at it.

Cook laughs through pressing tears.

Mickey turns red and goes for Cook's throat.

Cook continues to laugh as he tears up.

Joey and Windy try to pull Mickey off Cook, but can't.

Danielle stands terrified.

*Windy and Joey pry Mickey from Cook,
Joey forces herself between them.*

MICKEY

**Mother fucker. I knew it. I fucking knew it. Every time.
Every god damn time with you!**

JOEY

Mickey it's -

WINDY

You need to breathe -

MICKEY

**YOU PIECE OF SHIT. EVERY FUCKING TIME WE
GIVE YOU A CHANCE -**

Cook continues to laugh.

WINDY

You need to calm down -

MICKEY

He's gonna fucking die and it's gonna be on you guys!
Every time we give him a chance he brings this shit around
and gets all fucked up again. I'm done giving him God
damn chances -

COOK

(hysterical)

Don't take God's name in vein -

*Mickey lunges at Cook again. A struggle to get to him.
He spots the terrified Danielle, lets go of Cook, and tries to
compose himself.*

MICKEY

I'm done. *(to Danielle)* I'm sorry, I'm so sorry. I'm done.
You guys wanna let him kill himself go ahead. I don't want
any part of it.

Mickey storms toward the door.

Just as he reaches it -

JOEY
I'm dying.

Freeze.

Cook laughs hysterically through tears and crumbles to the floor.

Silence.

MICKEY
What?

JOEY
Please don't leave -

MICKEY
What did you just say -

JOEY
Don't go.

MICKEY
What did you just say.

JOEY
The cancer's back, it's terminal and they don't -

MICKEY
Don't say that. Don't you dare say that -

JOEY

It's true

MICKEY

Don't fucking say that

JOEY

The pills are mine -

MICKEY

SHUT UP

WINDY

Joe -

JOEY

I'm sorry, I didn't know how to tell you.

WINDY

You're serious.

WINDY
It's true?

JOEY
Yeah

WINDY
What're the pills for?

MICKEY
You're lying

JOEY
Mickey -

MICKEY
You're fucking lying

WINDY
What are the pills for, Joey?

JOEY
They told me -

MICKEY
Don't lie to me

JOEY
I'm not

MICKEY
This isn't a joke

JOEY
I know

MICKEY
I swear to God, Joey -

JOEY
Please don't leave. I need you here.

Mickey and Windy are frozen.

Cook cries on the floor.

*Danielle has to decide -
she thinks
looks at Joey
(who is ok with it)
and heads toward Cook.*

She sits down on the floor next to him.

*Joey makes her way over to Cook,
and kneels down next to him as well.*

DANIELLE

Breathe.

Cook chokes on air.

JOEY

Breathe.

JOEY

It's ok.

COOK

I'm so sorry

JOEY

I know.

COOK

You can't do this

MICKEY

Do what?

JOEY

I don't have a choice

COOK

Yes you do

JOEY

Cook I'm gonna die.

COOK

Please

MICKEY

What're you gonna do?

JOEY

I don't have a choice.

COOK

Please

JOEY

I'm sorry.

COOK

Please don't do this

JOEY

Look at me.

No.

Cook, look at me.

He does.

I'm gonna die. There's no way around it. It's happening. I'm gonna get thin, my hairs gonna fall out again, I look like shit bald, everything's gonna happen all over again, and then -

Cook's trying to speak through an ugly cry, but can't.

I am gonna die. I know it. You know it. I can't go out like that -

COOK

Please -

JOEY

I'm not gonna die like that. I won't. I won't die hooked up to a machine -

COOK

I can't -

*Cook, delirious, blubbers and throws his arms around Joey.
Windy picks up the almost empty bag of pills.*

WINDY

What were these for Joe?

WINDY

What were they for?

JOEY
They're sleeping pills

WINDY
Why do you have sleeping pills?

Joe. Why do you have sleeping pills?

*They figure it out.
Tears swell. Faces turn red.*

MICKEY
You're kidding me right?

Cook, overwhelmed with emotion and alcohol.

COOK
It's a fun night, we're having a lot of fun -

MICKEY
YOU'RE FUCKING KIDDING ME, RIGHT?

Some words are chosen carefully, some explode out as if they've been buried forever.

None of this is familiar.

MICKEY

Answer me

JOEY

You're not stupid. Don't pretend to be.

MICKEY

How long have you known?

JOEY

Long enough

WINDY

And you didn't tell us?

JOEY

I didn't know how

MICKEY

How do you know it's terminal?

JOEY

Cause they tell you, it's a doctor -

MICKEY
How many?

JOEY
?

MICKEY
How many have you seen?

JOEY
Enough

WINDY
What's enough?

JOEY
A few

MICKEY
"A few" is enough?

JOEY
Yes

MICKEY
There's always a chance if you start up chemo again -

JOEY
That's not how it works

MICKEY
I don't give a fuck

JOEY
It's terminal Mickey -

MICKEY
You're not a doctor

JOEY
Neither are you

MICKEY
IT'S FUCKING SUICIDE

JOEY
IT'S MY DECISION

COOK
Please stop

MICKY
YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS

COOK
Please stop yelling

MICKY
YOU'RE MY SISTER AND YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS

JOEY
I'M SICK AND IT'S MY LIFE AND I'M GONNA *DO*
WHATEVER I WANT

COOK
Please

MICKY
YOU HAVE NO IDEA

COOK
Please stop yelling

MICKY
ALL THE THINGS I'VE -

Cook grabs the sealed old fancy ass bottle off the bar top
and throws it at the wall.

It shatters like a blood splatter.

*Cook roars at the world,
storms into the bathroom,
shatters the mirror with a left hook,
and collapses.*

*Danielle and Joey go to him -
But Mickey stops Joey along the way.*

MICKEY

It's a sin

WINDY

Really?

MICKEY

It's a fucking sin -

WINDY

That's not the right argument

MICKEY

There is no argument, it's not happening

JOEY

You don't control me -

MICKEY

I'm your family

WINDY

We all need to relax

MICKEY

There is no "relax"

WINDY

We need to talk

JOEY

There's nothing to talk about

WINDY

Yes, there is, this isn't *just* about you -

JOEY

It's my life -

WINDY

I understand that. But we're a part of it -

MICKEY

What would your Dad say?

JOEY

Don't -

MICKEY

He'd be embarrassed. He'd be embarrassed of you. He'd give anything to be here right now and you're gonna give up. He's dead Joe and he didn't get to decide when. He fucking died. Him and your Mom. They're dead. And you're gonna leave like none of this matters -

WINDY

How could you say that?

Look at me.

How could you say that to her?

MICKEY

I raised her -

WINDY

We raised each other -

MICKEY

We were there for each other, but I raised her. I gave up everything to be there

JOEY

I raised myself, you raised yourself, we helped each other. That's what family does

MICKEY

I didn't have a life. **My life was you.**

JOEY

I didn't ask for that.

MICKEY

You didn't have to.

JOEY

You could've done whatever you wanted

MICKY

And I did. I *wanted* to be there for you. I *wanted* to make sure you were ok. I *wanted* to learn how to put fucking makeup on and what size clothes you needed and music you liked and what made you happy and all that shit. I wanted to be there when people were assholes and treated you bad. I wanted to be there. And I was there. When that asshole cheated on you what did I do -

JOEY

Mick, I know -

MICKY

Broke two knuckles on his jaw for you. Right across his fucking face. Cause he hurt you.

I learned how to braid hair. I picked out your clothes and walked you to school and worked two jobs to put you through private Catholic High School Junior and Senior year so you'd have a better chance at a future -

JOEY

I know

MICKY

This is our family. *We* are our family. All of us. And we can't let you do this.

I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you.

When I -

I needed someone, you were there.

I wouldn't be here if you hadn't - and now -

They all told me there was something wrong with me.

I need you. I *need* you. You're the only person I've ever had. I don't have anyone else.

You're my everything.

JOEY

It's like having boiling water flow in your veins. They pump you full of poison in the hopes that it'll kill the poison already there, and the whole time everyone smiles at you like it's gonna be ok, but it's not. It never is. They pump you full of it and you feel sick, you wish you could scoop every part of your insides out and be empty. No matter how painful it would be, it won't be worse than how you feel in that chair. And the whole time you just keep hoping that slim chance of living will be the end result.

There's usually a chance. But this time, there isn't.

This time, there's nothing they can do -

MICKEY

You're not thinking straight, we've all been drinking -

WINDY

I know you're upset

MICKEY

Then why aren't you doing anything

WINDY

I don't know if it's my place

MICKEY

Of course it's your place

WINDY

It's not me

MICKEY

Of course it's -

WINDY

I understand. You're right. We're all we have. But -

MICKEY

But nothing -

WINDY

It's not *us*. It's not *me*. I was in the room, I cried, I couldn't sleep, I kept thinking about what life would be like without her. But, I'm not her. I knew going to sleep that there was a good chance I'd wake up the next morning, a far better chance than she had. She stood awake all night in fucking pain while we went home and thought about how much pain she was in, but it wasn't us. I don't know what that's like to be in that bed.

And until I do, it's not my place -

MICKEY

And you don't think you're letting her down?

WINDY

How?

MICKEY

We rely on each other, that's what we do. What we have done and will do. What if she regrets it? What if it's not what she wants and all she needed is you saying something to stop her

WINDY

That's unfair

MICKEY

What part of this is fair?

WINDY

If she wants to know what I think I'll tell her, if she doesn't than that's not my place -

MICKEY

And how would you feel if you woke up tomorrow and she wasn't here and it was your fault?

WINDY

It's no one's "fault", it's her *decision*

MICKEY

That we're a part of

WINDY

We need to let her make a choice for herself cause she's an adult and it's her life -

MICKEY

And when we put her in the ground you're gonna be ok watching right? Carrying the casket? Who else do you think is gonna do it we know like four fucking people all the people we know are in this room -

WINDY

We'll do what we have to

MICKEY

And who does it fall on? For the rest of our lives who does it fall on? You? Me? Her? Who's gonna be here to miss her and think about whether or not it's the right decision?

JOEY

I just want control. For the first time in forever I can control something, and I want that.

MICKEY

And what if you regret it? What if you take those and ten minutes later you regret it -

WINDY

Then she throws them up and -

JOEY

I'm not gonna regret it. I don't have much time left. You're gonna blink, and I'm gonna be gone. I don't have years. No matter how hard I fight it, I don't have time. I don't.

I been coughing up blood for weeks. It got so bad my body can't even do it anymore. The muscles don't work. The blood just goes into my mouth and I swallow it down. It's....

This is what I want.

I try and beat it and lose, it'll destroy my heart.

And I *will* lose.

MICKEY

You're not this weak

JOEY

This isn't weakness

MICKEY
It's stupidity

JOEY
I need this

MICKEY
You need to think

JOEY
Please, I need you to tell me it's ok

MICKEY
No

JOEY
I'm begging you

MICKEY
No

IN THE BATHROOM

Danielle hands Cook tissues.

DANIELLE
You ok?

happy to have company -

COOK
First time?

DANIELLE
This is a new one for me

COOK

Don't you give a speech now or something?

DANIELLE

I don't know what you mean

COOK

You tell me your puppy died or something

DANIELLE

My Dad, actually

Cook laughs lightly

COOK

Did you kill him? Did he hate your poems.

DANIELLE

He killed himself when I was little.

COOK

Come on now. What the fuckkkkk -

DANIELLE

It was me and my mom most of my life. And a handful of friends and neighbors. But, I never had...anyone.

You've got friends. A family. They love you -

COOK

They tolerate me

DANIELLE

They **love** you

COOK

I'm funny.

That's what I am.

I'm funny. And loud.

But no one gives a fuck. When things go sideways, it's my fault. It's always my fault. Nobody asks. Nobody cares. It's my fault.

I don't want Joey to die.

I don't. But she doesn't listen because I'm funny and she needed drugs and that's all I do. I don't want this.

I'm not even a person.

I'm this thing.

This thing people laugh at and only want around for that. I'm tissue paper.

No one cares.

You're a person. You have dreams and shit you wanna do. I wake up every day and look in the mirror and tell myself, "just don't get high today. That's all you have to do. Don't get high".

That's my life.

Forever.

That's all it is.

Not sinking back into that place.

And the worlds crumbles around me and I can't do anything to numb it anymore. Alcohol doesn't numb anything... It just makes it louder. I want it quiet. But I know I can't do that.

Because I feel more now.

And I like it.

The fucking room is spinning.

Why won't you answer your phone?

It was ringing. And then it rang a bunch more.
Why won't you answer?

DANIELLE
I got evicted last week

COOK
That's not -

DANIELLE
And fired today.

Cook laughs.

DANIELLE
Don't laugh -

COOK
It *is* funny though.

DANIELLE

I can't tell my Mom

COOK

That's dumb

DANIELLE

You don't understand

COOK

What else is new?

DANIELLE

I can't go back there. I hate it. I don't have a family like you. I don't fit in. I don't have brothers or sisters or anyone but my Mom. And she always told me to get out. To be bigger than Whatever. Bigger. She believed in me. I'm all she has. She never went anywhere, did anything. She gave up everything so I could have a life. A future. That's why she's always so worried about me. She thinks I'm the only thing she's ever done.

And when I left she was proud.

She cried.

And I failed. I can't even pay a months rent.
Not a single month. I go to these little shows and read a poem and then sink into the thousands of people here trying to do this for a living and I can't even hold down a day job.

My Mom has no money. None. She can't take care of herself let alone me. She calls everyday just to hear what I'm doing and I know when she hangs up she cries cause she's proud. Cause she did something "right".

I don't wanna answer and have to tell her I failed.

Cause either it'll break her heart, or she'll send me everything she has left.

I can't live with that.

I failed.

I have no where to live and no way to make money.

And I deserve it.

I was late. Fucked up orders. People talk so fast and -
it's not even a hard job.

I just didn't try hard enough.

And what you guys are going through -
My problems don't even matter.

COOK

They do -

DANIELLE

You don't have to humor me, this is bigger than anything
I've had to deal with.

COOK

You can't measure problems. That's not how it works. We
all have our own shit.

DANIELLE

I can't handle letting her down -

COOK

It's one job -

DANIELLE

You don't understand

COOK

No. I don't. I been fired seven times and all seven I deserved it. But none of us have parents to give a shit. You should feel the way you feel, feel however you want, but fuck feeling like you're gonna let your mom down. I let people down all the time. Most of them leave me because I'm a fuck up. But not those three. Never them.

That's what matters.

Real people won't leave.

Give your Mom more credit.

People who care won't leave.

Except Joey who's gonna kill herself but -

Cook laughs.

He pulls a set of keys out of his pocket and gives them to Danielle

DANIELLE

What're you doing

COOK

Shut up

DANIELLE

This is weird -

COOK

Not if you don't fucking say so out loud -

DANIELLE

It is!

COOK

I sleep in the bar or by Windy most nights.

by Windy?

COOK

We're not fuckin'.

I just don't like to be alone.

I have nightmares.

Plus, she watches a lot of lesbian porn.

I live three buildings over on the top floor. My place is clean and pretty much empty. I'm never there. I work all day and I'm never there at night so there's no one to bug you.

You can't stay there forever,
but at least stay until you stop whining.

I know I don't know much about you.

But maybe you should talk to your Mom, you know?

You're great

She probably loves you

DANIELLE

You knew for a while didn't you? About Joey.

Silence.

COOK

Yeah

DANIELLE

Maybe you should tell her how you feel

COOK

I try -

DANIELLE

Really try. You just said how much they love you and now when they actually need you you're gonna sit alone and cry in the bathroom? Tell her how you feel.

You might not get another chance.

COOK

I won't.

DANIELLE

There's still time

*Danielle stares at Cook.
He wants to speak, but doesn't.*

COOK

Don't wanna ruin the surprise.

DANIELLE

It's funny

COOK

What?

DANIELLE

I dunno. Sometimes hearing things from other people is better than thinking them yourself.

COOK

Well. I don't *think* often so.

A moment.

IN THE BAR

JOEY

If I don't do this. If I don't do what *I* want to do. It's on you. Whatever happens to me from here on out is on you. If I wake up months from now skin and bones and hate you with every part of me you'll need to live knowing that. That I died hating you.

I can feel it inside me. Like adrenaline. Poison. I can feel it. If I sit around it's gonna kill me slowly, painfully, and I'm gonna die in a hospital forty pounds soaking wet. Soon. And it's gonna be on you.

MICKY

Joe -

JOEY

I told you what I want -

MICKY

And what if it doesn't kill you -

JOEY

And what if it does?

JOEY

You want me to consider you, I will. But you need to consider me. I'm telling you this is what's best. If you wanna sit here and tell me how much it's gonna kill you and how wrong I am to talk me out of it, that's fine. But *you're talking me out of it*. Out of the decision I made a long time ago not to let this thing kill me. If you wanna do that, go right ahead.

But you live with that.

This is for me, this is the decision I've made for myself.

I'm going out on my own terms.

MICKEY

This is wrong

JOEY

All of it's wrong

MICKEY

You know there's no coming back from this

JOEY

That's how it works

MICKEY

Doing it. There's no coming back from that. You know that, right? Everything we've been told. Everything we believe -

JOEY

We don't believe anything. You believe. I stopped.

MICKEY

Fine. But you know that I won't be able to let this go right? I can't. I know you guys don't get it. But just like you saved me, so did the Church. It's what I believe. It's what I *have* to believe. It makes sense.

Just like you believe this is right.

JOEY

Yeah.

MICKEY

I would never go against you, and I won't now. But I can't not tell you how I feel. Everything I feel.

I love you.

More than anyone else.

And I believe you'll get better if you try
and I believe this is wrong.

I believe it's wrong and -

I need to go

JOEY

I need you.

MICKY

You want me to consider you, then you need to consider
me. You can't live to see yourself die slowly and I can't sit
here and believe you're going to rush the process. I know
you won't. I know you won't do this.

JOEY

Tell me it's ok. Please.

MICKEY
No.

*Cook and Danielle exit the bathroom.
Danielle stops and looks at Joey.*

JOEY
Hell of a party

DANIELLE
Yeah. See you at the next one.

JOEY
No, you won't.

*They smile at one another.
Danielle exits.
When she gets outside, she calls her Mom,
and disappears into the night.*

Mickey gets hot again.

MICKEY
You got her the pills huh?

COOK
I'm sorry -

MICKEY
What the fuck is wrong with you?

COOK
She needed someone -

MICKEY
We could've talked to her together, gotten her help earlier -

WINDY
Mickey relax

COOK

She asked for help and I helped

Mickey goes after Cook, Windy steps between them.

WINDY

You need to calm down

MICKEY

Are you kidding me?

WINDY

I'm not

MICKEY

How can you be calm?

WINDY

How can you talk to them like this?

MICKEY

I know what's right and wrong and -

WINDY

For you. You know what's right and wrong for you. Not anybody else. That's the problem here Mickey, you think that what's right for one of us is right for all of us and it's not. We're not the fucking same. We're not. And we never will be. We help each other but at some point we have to start living for ourselves, even if we still spend every minute together -

MICKEY

You don't give a shit -

WINDY

You need to stop attacking people and listen

MICKEY

You're a therapist now?

WINDY

I'm not an asshole

MICKEY

You don't get to be mom when it's convenient -

COOK

If anyone's mom, you're Mom

WINDY

I'm Dad -

COOK

The male identifying parent -

MICKEY

SHUT THE FUCK UP COOK.

JOEY

He understands -

MICKEY

Understands what? What it's like to overdose? To give up?
He can give you fuckin' pointers. How to ruin your life
time and time again like no one cares. The fucking guy is a
joke and you -

COOK

***- To feel like not being here might be better than waking
up in the morning.***

Feeling like a burden to the people you love. A failure.
Weak.

Finding some kind of strength in making *any* decision for
yourself. To be at the bottom of a hole, look up and see
the light, and know you'll never get to touch it.

That every day will be a fight. It'll never stop. I wish I had
a needle in my arm. I wish I could swallow every pill in
that bag.....the three she left me... but I can't.

I never can again. I can't even take a pain killer if I have a
headache. I sit there with a throbbing migraine and
know I can't take one pain killer cause it'll lead to ten.

And that shit's forever.

For the rest of my life.

I did this to myself and I know how much it hurts me every day. But I know I can still get out. And I will.

I don't wanna imagine what it's like to know you can't.

MICKEY

So that's it then? A bunch of stupid fucking speeches that do nothing except tell somebody we love to kill herself?

Silence.

JOEY

...

MICKEY

You're not doing this.

JOEY

....

MICKEY

I know you're not.

Joey and Mickey lock eyes

Mickey starts to leave.

Almost out the door -

JOEY

If you leave, I dunno if you'll see me again.

One last look, and Mickey leaves.

Cook goes after him -

JOEY

Let him go.

Cook pours everyone another drink.

JOEY

My head hurts.

COOK

That happens. Drink water.

JOEY

What do you think?

WINDY

You thought about this?

JOEY

Yeah.

WINDY

You swear? On my life, on Cook's, on Mickey's?

JOEY

Windy. I promise you. I've thought about this every day since my first diagnosis years ago. If there was the slightest chance I'd make it, I'd fight. I promise.

I'm not gonna die like that.

I don't want to.

WINDY

What do you need from me?

JOEY

Just be here. Tell me what you think and be here.

WINDY

I think I'm gonna miss you. But I've lost people before, and it'll happen again. I don't want you to be one of them, but I also don't want you to suffer.

COOK

It was hot

WINDY

You stuck your ass in it

COOK

Cause it was hot.

Fuckin Mickey.

They wait for a rebuttal from Mickey - but he's gone.

WINDY

Do you remember the first time we came in here?

It was for someone's birthday and Uncle Arthur let us all in
even though we were underaged

JOEY

The college kids kept trying to fuck you

COOK

And me

WINDY

Nobody wants that

JOEY

And we'd had all been drinking for a while but still didn't
know how to drink

COOK

Mickey was still drinking long islands

WINDY

He drinks long islands now

JOEY

Uncle Arthur was still behind the bar

WINDY

With his one lazy eye looking at the front door

COOK

and that big, dumb smile on his face

JOEY

That was back when we still let him control the radio

WINDY

That was back when we *had* a radio and we were underaged in Arthur's for the very first time, all together -

COOK

It was Mickey's birthday

COOK

It was Mickey's birthday, that's why we were here. He wanted to go somewhere else. But I told him no, cause Arthur's was tradition. And after that, it became *his* place.

Silence.

JOEY

Are you ok?

JOEY

I mean it. Are you ok?

COOK

I don't know how to say what I wanna say.

I'm gonna miss you.

And this hurts.

A moment.

WINDY

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

They think.

WINDY

Rome.

JOEY

That bench where my Dad used to take us. Sitting and watching the sunrise. When the air off the lake is just barely cold enough to make you half shiver. When a hoodie is just enough and not enough at the same time.

With my parents.

More than anything.

I wanna be with my parents.

COOK

Ikea.

That fucking pretzel man, I'm telling you

Joey, now noticeably sluggish, makes her way to the jukebox and begins cycling through songs

WINDY

Remember when that bathroom was nice?

COOK

No

WINDY

When just clean people went in it

COOK

That's sexist

WINDY

I said clean people not women

COOK

I know what you meant

WINDY

Only cause *you* destroyed it

*Joey puts on the same song from earlier.
This time, they'll get their dance.*

WINDY

This shit again?

COOK

Second time's the charm

WINDY

That doesn't mean it's good

COOK

You know you love it

*Cook offers a hand Joey, she smiles, but declines,
Windy grabs his hand, and they dance.
Joey turns down the lights, leaving the neon "ARTHUR'S" sign on*

COOK

Mood lighting

WINDY

Don't get any ideas

COOK

I've got a P where you want a V

WINDY

Poetic

COOK

I should call Danielle and give her that one

WINDY

Did you remember to get her number?

Nope.

COOK

Fuck

*Windy laughs.
Joey, noticeably sluggish,
goes to the bathroom and shuts the door.
Windy and Cook dance.*

COOK

This is nice.

WINDY

Oh yeah. Thrilling -

COOK

You know what I mean.

WINDY

What do you think happens now?

COOK

I dunno. Cry alot.

WINDY

Yeah

COOK

Tell stories.

WINDY

When we were all together for the first time -

COOK

First grade

WINDY

Ms. Madsen's class

COOK

We all sat in the back of the room

WINDY

Except Joey

COOK

Cause she's a fuckin nerd

WINDY

And wanted to suck up *from day one*

COOK

I probably should have sucked up a bit too

WINDY

First grade is hard

COOK

Right?

WINDY

Colors

COOK

It's hard

WINDY

Colors are hard

COOK

Second time was easier

WINDY

Don't tell too many people that

WINDY

Do you think there's a God?

COOK

I think God is a kid with a magnifying glass.

WINDY

I believe in people.

COOK

Whatdoyoumean?

WINDY

God, no God. Western. Eastern. It's all the same shit.
It's all believing in an idea. I don't think I can believe in an
idea.

But I believe in people.

WINDY

What was the name of that kid that Joey had a crush on
from up the street?

COOK

The one that moved away?

WINDY

Yeah

COOK

With the goofy ass bowl cut!?

WINDY

YES

COOK

Fuck

WINDY

Tony?

Tim COOK

WINDY
It was longer than Tim

Terry COOK

WINDY
No that was the kid that always wore the Bears jersey

John COOK

WINDY
That doesn't begin with a T

COOK
I'm spitballing

Tony WINDY

Tom COOK

Trace WINDY

Tom COOK

Trevor WINDY

Tom COOK

WINDY
Joey, what was the name of that kid you liked in third grade?!

COOK
With the goofy ass real life bowl cut!

Joe?!
WINDY

Joey?
WINDY

Windy walks over to the bathroom and knocks on the door.

Joey?
WINDY

*She pulls and twists the handle, but it doesn't turn.
She looks back at Cook, who's eyes fill with tears.*

Joe...?
WINDY

*Through beet red eyes, Cook forces a crooked smile.
Windy continues trying to open the door.
The song plays.
The neon sign pops and crackles.
Outside, we hear rain crash against cement.
The sounds of a city at night creep in.
A bus drives by.
Cars splash through pothole puddles.
Maybe the song leaks out from the bar and into the world.
A group of drunk 20 somethings passes.*

***THE ORANGE STREETLIGHT OUTSIDE FLICKERS OFF -
the neon sign never does.***

BLACKOUT.

END OF PLAY.