

two of us on the run

by

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Cast of Characters

J: Teenage girl who wants to
change the world

C: Teenage girl who wants to see
the world

BRIAN: A bartender

Prologue

*J sings two lines of 'Two of Us on the Run' by
Lucius:*

J
And we'll one day tell our story
of how we made something of ourselves now

1

J
This is how it works

C
You kill your parents and hit the road

J
Well, no

C
You fake your death
steal someone's identity
and hit the road

J
Not really

C
You stick up a bank
leave the teller for dead...
and hit the road

J
No!

C
You listen to lots of Bruce Springsteen like my dad
does and somehow you just know what to do

J
Might work, but no

C
You watch Thelma and Louise

J
No

C
You watch Badlands

J
No

C
Natural Born Killers

J
No

C
True Romance

J
No

C
Bonnie and Clyde

J
No!

C
Then what do you watch?

J
You don't watch anything

C
But, but -

J
But what?

C
It's research!

J
Research for what?

C
Going on the run

J
No, that's research for dying

C Wait, dying?

J Yeah

C They don't make it?

J Nope

C Shit

Shit!

J What?

C Spoilers!

J You haven't seen them?

C Hmm?

J You haven't seen them have you

C No

J Then how do you know about them?

C Google

J Jesus Christ

C Well I watched a bit of Thelma and Louise

J A bit?

C I always fall asleep before the end

J
You don't know the ending?

C
No

J
Well that's

C
Wait, they die?

J
Let's just say they're not good role models

C
Are there any good role models for running away from home?

J
Not that I know of

C
Then how will we know what to do?

2

J alone.

J
So what do you wanna know?
You wanna know why we did it
or how we did it?

3

C's bedroom.

C
I'm so excited
This is going to be amazing
We're going to have so much fun
It's going to be an adventure
You and me
on the *open road*

C
and we won't have to play by the rules anymore
Fuck you mom!
Shit
Was that too loud?
Do you think she heard?

J
No

C
You know what I think?
Pause.

J
What do you think?

C
I think we'll make it up as we go along

J
I don't like the sound of that

C
Tough shit

J
Why tough shit?

C
Because

J
Huh?

C
Because

J
Because what?

C
Because because

J
You can't just

C
I *can* just
I *can*

J
What are you even

C
What are *you* even

J
Is it going to be like this the whole time?

C
What?

J
You know
Annoying
Stressful

C
Maybe

J
Maybe?

C
Probably

J
Probably?

C
Parrot

J
Cause if it is, I'm not sure I

C
Yes
you do

J
Huh?

C
You do still want to come

Pause.

J

Ok

I do

C

Yeah?

J

Ok

C

Ok

I'm sorry I'm just excited!

J

Ok

So what now?

4

C's bedroom.

J

I'm 16

C

I'm 16

J

I'm young

C

I'm young

J

I've got my whole life ahead of me

C

Whole life ahead of me

J

I've got joie de vivre

C

I've got...

That

C Ditto

J I'm not going to count the days

C I'm going to make the days count

J I'm here

C We're here

J I've got something to say

C So shut up and listen

J It's my time

C It's my turn

J You had yours

C So give it up

Pause.
You ok?

J Yeah

 I just

C What?

J Don't really believe it

C Why not?

J I don't have something to say

J I don't have anything to say

C Yes you do
Of course you do

J No
I don't

C But
you're the smart one

J Well
that's true

C Ok
Fuck you
but yes
it's true
so
You know

J Know what?

C I'm relying on you

5

C's bedroom.

C So
how
like

C
Feminist
do we want to be?

J
Um
pretty feminist
Yeah

C
Ok
so
do I
like
pack make-up?

J
Uh
yeah
If you want

C
Ok cool
Pause.
So
are you
like
packing make up?

J
Yeah probably

C
Ok cool
I just
didn't think
make up

was
all that
Feminist

J
Why do you keep saying it like that?

C
Like what?

J
Feminist. Fem-i-nist

C
I'm *stressing* it

J
Why are you stressing it?

C
Because it's *important*

J
Ok
anyway
make-up can be feminist

C
Really?

J
Yeah of course

C
Ok cool
like
how?

J
It just can

C
Yeah

I don't get it

J
Anything can be feminist

C
What?!

J
Yeah anything can be

C
Anything?

J
Well you're making me doubt myself now but yeah

C
Wow
so like
Anything?

J
Yeah

C
Like a dick?

J
What?

C
Like a penis
Can a penis
be feminist?

J
Um
Depends on how you use it I guess

C
Yeah
Yeah that's what I thought

J
Ok

C
Thanks
You know
it really helps when you
you know

J
Yeah

C
Help

J
Sure

C
You really

J
No problem

C
I really

J
Happy to help
Ok?

C
Ok
Thanks
Because like
eighth grade
Remember eighth grade?

J
Um

C
When you helped me with my math homework that time so I
wouldn't get in trouble with Miss Morgan even though we
weren't friends because you didn't really have any
friends and I didn't want to be friends with someone
who didn't have any friends because then no one would
be friends with me except you and I thought then that

C
one friend isn't enough so I hung out with Abigail
Friedman and Sarah Stein and Rebecca Herzog oh and
Cindy Dickman whose name was really starting to haunt
her by that point and I was mean to you about your
hand-me-down clothes and the awkward haircuts your mom
gave you and

And

And

J
Are you
Are you crying?

C
Yes

J
Why?

C
Because I'm starting to realize now that it wasn't very
feminist of me to do that!

J
I forgive you

C
You do?

J
Of course
Are you still crying?

C
Yes

J
Why?

C
Because you're being nice to me!

J
Oh come on

C
You've always been so nice to me

J
Hey
hey
Let's just focus on packing yeah

C
Ok
Are you
are you taking a jacket?

J
Yes I'm taking a jacket

C
Ok
I'll take a jacket too

J
Hey

C
Yeah?

J
We're going to be fine

C
Yeah?

J
We're going to be great feminists

C
Yeah?

J
We already are great feminists!

C
Yeah!

J
We're going to fuck some shit up!

C
Yeah!

J
We're going to make some noise!

C
Yeah!
I'm going to write 'cunt' on my forehead in lipstick!

J
Um why?

C
Feminism!

J
Um ok

C
Fuck Abigail Friedman!

J
Yeah!

C
Fuck Sarah Stein!

J
Yeah!

C
Fuck Rebecca Herzog!

J
Fuck those Hebrew bitches!

C
That's not feminist

J
What?

C
Um
That doesn't sound very feminist

J
Still
Fuck Cindy Dickman

C
Yeah
Yeah
Fuck that bitch

6

School.

C
Ok
so I have an idea

J
Yeah?

C
Yeah
I call your mom
You call my mom
so we *cover our tracks*

J
Good idea
C is pleased J thinks so.

C
Awesome
Ok let's do it
They take out their phones.

J
Ok I'm texting you her number

C
Me too
They look at each other.

C
1, 2, 3!
They hit call.

C It's ringing

J Ringing

C Hiiiiiii

J Mrs A

C Mrs P

J Hello

C It's

J It's

C You remember!

J Yes

C Well of course you

J Lovely to

C So silly of

J How's Mr A?

C Mrs P

J Lovely

Just

lovely

C

Oh

Angela

Angela!

Well

Angela...

J

I was wondering if your lovely daughter might be permitted to sleep over at mine tomorrow night?

C

Angela

J

Lovely!

I'll make sure she's well behaved!

C

Sorry Angela

I just can't stop saying it

I feel all grown up

getting to say your -

Why am I calling?

Oh

Sorry!

J

Ok then

you too

take care

Bye bye now

Bye

C

Sorry!

I never know when to shut -

Yes!

C laughs loudly. Too loudly.
Anyway, getting to the -

I've

um

been asked to

um

my parents

um

yes my parents

well my mom and my stepdad

are

going

um

camping?

Yes camping

and I wondered

um

yes?

Yes she can?

Oh

well

great

Thank you Mrs -

Angela

Yes

Ok

C

Bye

Thank -

Bye

J

Camping?

C

I can't lie!

J

Fucking camping?

C

I panicked!

J

How hard is it?

I lie

You lie

We get shit done

C

Sorry

J

I thought we were going on the run

Not on a fucking girl scout camping trip

C

I'm sorry!

J

The phone call was your idea

C

I'm

J

I thought you had a plan

C

I'm -

J
What? You're what?

C
I'm not good at this stuff

J
No
You're not

C
Why are you so upset with me?
Your mom is so nice
So I was nice back

J
You don't fucking know her

7

C
So how are we going to get there then?

J
Where?

C
Where we're going

J
And where's that?

C
Um
I dunno

J
Exactly

C
Um
I'm confused

J
Stop saying 'um'

C
Sorry

J
You always say 'um'

C
No I don't

J
Yes you do

C
Well
I'm sorry
that I'm not
um
Shit!
Like
you know
articulate

J
Ok

C
That's it?

J
Yeah
Why?

C
Ummmmm
Yeah
That's right
Um
You know you're not very nice sometimes

J
Wow
Okaaaay

C
Like stop saying *okaaay* like that
It's
Condescending

J
Big word

C
Whoa

J
Less so

C
Oh my god shut up!

J
Ok I'm sorry

C
We're supposed to be friends

J
We are friends

C
It's just that
sometimes you're not very
friendly
You make me feel dumb

J
I'm sorry

C
It's ok
I just
want us to feel like a team

J
We are

C
Like we're in this together

J
We are

C
Like you need me too

J
I do

C
Ok

J
Ok

C
We haven't even left yet and we're fighting

J
I know

C
We're fighting all the time

J
I know

C
We never fight

J
I know

C
You don't need to keep saying that to show how
understanding you are

J says nothing.

You don't need to be mute either

J
I
don't know what you want me to do

C
I just want you to listen to me and be my friend
like we were in the olden days

J
What like 5 minutes ago?

C
Yeah
Exactly
Are you like
stressed
or something?

J
Yeah

C
Oh

J
I'm super stressed

C
I didn't realize

J
It's ok

C
You always seem so...

J
Yeah

C
Because we're going away?

J
Yeah

C
Do you still want to go?

J
Of course
Of course I still want to go

There's no reason to stay

I'm just scared

C

I'm scared too

but we'll be ok

J

Will we?

They look at each other.

8

Starbucks. C drags two large suitcases. J has a small rucksack at her feet. She's on her laptop.

J

What the fuck

C

Do you

J

What the fuck

C

Do you

J

What the fuck is that?

C

Do you really think it was a good idea to meet at a Starbucks?

J

What's wrong with it?

They have free wifi

C

Don't you think we should have met somewhere a little more

I dunno

J

Independent?

C

No

J

Somewhere a little more *artisanal*

C

That's not what I

J

Somewhere with fairtrade beans and trustafarian
baristas

C

I don't mean that

J

Then what do you

C

We're drawing attention to ourselves!

J

Well now we are
with you shouting

C

You were shouting too

J

And with your entire bedroom on your back

C

I needed

J

No you didn't

C

My stuff

J

No you didn't

C

You know

Supplies

J

What are you talking about

J
What *supplies*?

C
We're not coming back

J
What could you possibly need

C
I need my stuff

J
We don't need anything!

C
We're never coming home

J
Exactly

C
So if I don't take my stuff
I'll
I'll never

J
That's the point!
This *stuff* is the past
The past is behind us

C
I'll never see it again

J
What
You going to cry?

C
Don't be mean

J
Don't be a little bitch

C
Fuck you

J
This is the time for letting go
This is the time to leave it all behind
All of it
Our parents
our brothers
fucking school and those Hebrew bitches

C
I still think that's a little

J
Teachers who don't know shit
This piece of shit town that time forgot
The well is fucking dry, you know?
The well is fucking dry
There's nothing left
There's nothing left for us
I mean
What do we have?
Apart from two suitcases filled with crap
teddy bears
I bet you've got teddy bears in there
don't you

C
Um
Yeah

J
Exactly
This is the time of growing up
This is the time of letting go

C

Yeah

J

Are you with me?

C

Yeah

J

I can't hear you

I said

Are you with me?

C

Yeah!

J

ARE YOU WITH ME?

C

YEAH!

Pause.

Ok now people are staring again

J

Fuck them

Yeah you heard me

Fuck you

Dried up, dusty, sad fucks

You're perfect for this town

You're made for each other

You think you're living in civilization because your shitty little town has an empty strip mall with *one fucking Starbucks?*

Your local friendly artisanal neighborhood mega corporation?

It's over!

This is a one horse town and the horse fucking left!

He retired to fucking Florida because he was so fucking bored of all of you

dried

up

old

CUNTS

Pause.

C

Whoa ok

I think we should go now

J

Ok one sec I just need to finish booking these bus tickets

9

The bus station.

J

Wait where are your bags?

C

I left them

J

Where?

C

Starbucks

J

What? Why?

C

You told me to

J

You just left them

C

Yeah

J

Oh my god

Why

C
I was living in the moment!

J
You didn't need to leave your bags in the middle of a
fucking Starbucks!

C
You basically told me to

J
Now everyone can identify you from your stuff lying
around like suspect packages in a fucking Starbucks!

The fucking *bomb squad* will identify your stuff

C
They might do like a

what's it called

controlled explosion

J
That's not the point

C
And anyway

you gave a big speech

and called everyone cunts

Remember?

And this is a pretty small town

So

I'm pretty sure everyone will be able to identify us

J
Ok ok

I want to say

I'm proud of you

C
You don't sound proud

J

No I am

It's just

what are you going to do about like your period and stuff

I mean

you ditched your toothbrush and your clothes and

C

I thought we didn't need stuff

J

We don't

I mean

this isn't about stuff

but you might need a tampon every now and then

C

Yeah I guess

So wait

you're saying I could have brought some stuff?

J

Well yeah

I have stuff

C

Like what

J

Like tampons

like essentials

you know

I just have the essentials

C

What are the essentials?

J
You know
stuff for
hygiene

C
We don't need that shit

J
Yes we do

C
I thought you were the one who said it's the time of
letting go

J
Yeah not of personal hygiene

C
Why not?
Huh?

J
Because it's gross

C
What about feminism?

J
What about it?

C
We shouldn't care about that stuff
It shouldn't be important
We shouldn't give a fuck about what we look like or
what people think of us or how bad we smell or whatever

J
Or whatever

C
Yeah
This is the time of LETTING GO
so
let go

you know?

J

Ok

C

Yeah

J

Ok

I'm letting go

She opens her rucksack, lets the contents spill out.

C

We're letting go!

J

I don't need this shit

C

We don't need this shit!

J

I don't need *stuff*

C

We don't need stuff!

J

I don't need my *phone*

J takes her phone, goes to throw it.

C

Wait!

J

What?

C

We need that

J

For what?

For Snapchat?

For Instagram?

J
For fucking *filters* and *stories* and selling the lie
that we're *connecting* with each other when really we've
never been so far apart and

C
The tickets

J
Huh?

C
You have the bus tickets on your phone

J
Oh
Right
Yeah

C
So maybe

J
Yeah maybe I'll hold on to it

C
And I'll hold on to mine
and some cash
if that's ok

J
Um
yeah
sure
yeah of course

C
Ok thanks

J
One thing though

C
Yeah?

J
Surveillance
like does your mom pay your phone bill
does she know how to track your iPhone?

C
I mean
of course she pays my phone bill

J
Mine doesn't

C
Oh
well yeah mine does but she totally doesn't get
technology
so it'll be fine
so don't worry

J
Hmm ok
well if the police get involved

C
Wait
Police?

J
Yeah we're going missing
Our moms are probably going to call the police at some
point
even my waste of space mother

C
Your mom is so nice

J
No she isn't you don't know her

C
Ok
Sorry

J
All I'm saying is
We might need to ditch the phones at some point
We might need to go off-grid
but we can get on the road first
and see how it goes
Ok?

C
Ok

J
Good

C sees the bus start to leave.

C
Um

I think our bus is leaving

J
Oh shit

Run!

They start to run. A teddy bear falls out of the back of C's jacket. She stops, grabs it, and runs off.

10

The bus.

J
I'm so glad you're here

I always get stuck next to some fat fuck who spills on
to my seat

and they always fall asleep on my shoulder and smell of
B.O.

C
Well if I smell of shit I don't care
I don't give a *fuck!*

J
That is awesome and I'm so with you
but for the record
you smell *amazing*

C
Aww thanks

J
Don't mention it

C
I'm so excited

J
Wait
where are we actually going?

J
It's a surprise

C
Can we see the Grand Canyon?

J
We're not tourists
This isn't a fucking vacation

C
So what's next?

J
Well
we're on our way

C
Yeah

J
And

C
And

J
And
That's a start

C
So
What's next?

J
You already asked that

C
You didn't answer it to my satisfaction

J
Well what do you want to hear?

C
I know this is like
loose
and that we're
kinda
What's the word
improvising

J
We're riffing

C
Yeah we're making it up as we go along

J
So you're saying it's like jazz?

C
Huh?

J
That our plan is like jazz

C
Um

J
We're trying things out
We're thinking outside the box

C
No

J
We're extemporizing

C
I don't know what that means

J
Basically you're saying I don't have a fucking clue
what I'm doing

Is that what you're saying?

Are you saying I'm clueless?

C
No

I'm just

I'm not *saying* anything

I'm just

asking where we're at

you know?

J
Do you trust me?

C
Of course

J
Then you shouldn't have to ask

C
Yeah but

J
You trust me right?

C
Yes I trust you

J
And you're with me?

C
Yes I'm with you

J
And you know I'm with you?

C
Yes

J
Then that's all you need to know

Pause.

I'm going to get some sleep

You should too

We're going to need our rest

She rolls to one side and closes her eyes. C pulls out her teddy bear and hugs it, staring out the window. The town disappears, becoming highways, then the desert.

11

C alone.

C
You ever robbed a bank?

No?

You?

Well, obviously you haven't

I'll bet you never stole anything in your life

Do you want to know how to do it?

How to rob a bank for dummies

Bank robbing 101

It's easy

You make a plan

you stake it out

you watch the comings and goings

the regulars

the security

the deposits

the staff

the tellers

the cleaners

Laney the single mother of three

Veronica the college dropout

Sherry

Tanya

Rosita

Christina

Old Tom as old as money itself

and Pete

The manager

nice enough guy

looks after his employees

So what if he grabs an ass or two at the Christmas party

He's going through a divorce

he doesn't get to see his kids

he's hitting the bottle

he's vulnerable

So

you know what you're dealing with

you've done your research

you know the angles

you know the place back to front

you wear something on your face

C

A balaclava or a pair of tights or a dead president
mask

You bring guns and bags

you go in nice and early in the morning

you point your guns and say

GET ON THE FUCKING FLOOR

GIMME ALL THE FUCKING MONEY

DON'T YOU FUCKING THINK ABOUT PRESSING THAT SILENT
ALARM OR TRYING TO CALL THE FUCKING COPS OR I WILL BLOW
YOUR FUCKING HEAD OFF AND YOUR KIDS WILL GROW UP
WITHOUT A FUCKING MOTHER

NO SUDDEN MOVES

DO NOT REACH INTO YOUR POCKETS

DO NOT DO ANYTHING STUPID

DO WHAT I SAY

LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF MY VOICE

FOLLOW MY ORDERS

FOLLOW ME

HEAR ME

UNDERSTAND ME

LISTEN TO ME

FUCKING LISTEN TO ME

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY

AND I WANT TO BE HEARD

I DESERVE TO BE HEARD

SO SHUT UP AND LISTEN

THIS IS MY TIME

YOUR TIME IS OVER

C
YOU HAD YOUR SHOT
AND THIS IS ALL YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT
SO MOVE OVER AND LET ME HAVE MY TURN
I AM 16
I AM YOUNG
I AM THE FUTURE
AND I AM GOING TO GET SHIT DONE
I'VE GOT JOIE DE FUCKING VIVRE
DO WHAT I SAY
AND I WILL LET YOU LIVE MOTHERFUCKERS!
That's how you rob a bank

12

A diner.

C
This coffee is like off or something
J
It's not off
C
No I definitely think it's gone off
Coffee shouldn't taste like this
J
That's real coffee
That's real American coffee right there
C
It's got like a skin on top of it
J
We're not in Starbucks anymore, Toto
C
Like where are the beans from?
Are these even Colombian beans?

This doesn't taste like Colombia to me
this tastes like
Iowa

J
Ok what does Iowa taste like?

C
Brown
mud
like mud

J
It tastes brown?

C
You know some people can actually taste color?

J
What?

C
Yeah
It's called synesthesia
My cousin has it
Each day of the week is a color to her
and tastes and smells have colors too

*She takes a sip of her coffee, proud of herself
for knowing that.*
Ugh this is disgusting

J
Why are you still drinking it then?

C
Because it's what a grown up would do

J
What?

C
Like "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I
understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I
became a man, I put away childish things"

J
What's that?

C
That's the Bible, dummy

J
Oh
You're not a man

C
I know that
but the Bible was written by men
so they get to decide how to tell the story

J
That's not fair

C
Well

J
It isn't

C
But

J
No buts

C
That's how it was

J
That's how it still is
Men still get to tell the story

C
Well yeah

I guess

J
What are we going to do about it?

C
Huh?

J
What are we going to do about it?
Men have had their turn

C
Um
We'll tell the stories

J
That's right
it's our turn to tell the stories
History is written by the victors right?

C
Uh sure

J
So we're going to play them at their own game
We're going to win
and we're going to tell our story

C
I want you to know right now that I'm totally in and
this sounds really exciting and everything but I don't
really follow
Who are *they* and what's the game and how do we win it

J
I don't know yet
but we need a big gesture
we need to go down in history
and to do that
we need to do something they will never forget

C
Wait sorry to interrupt
This all sounds really exciting
It's just like a movie
but I don't get who *they* are

J

People

Politicians and housewives and schoolkids and actors
and rockstars and postal officers and police officers
and office staff

You name it

They'll know our names

C

Wait

J

Everyone will know who we are

C

Ok ok

J

Everyone will listen to us

C

So you're saying

J

Everyone will know our story

C

WE'RE GOING TO BE FAMOUS?!

13

J

You want to hear my side of the story?

Oh now you do?

You didn't seem so interested before

So what changed?

What made you change your mind?

What does it take for a woman's voice to be heard
today?

Because it shouldn't take that

It shouldn't have gone that far

People shouldn't have to die for you to listen

They didn't need to die

14

A library.

C

So what are we doing here?

J

I'm looking for a book

C

Yeah I get that but why here?

I didn't know these places still existed

J

Libraries?

C

Yeah I thought they only had them in schools now

I didn't know grown ups still used them

but then I guess old people aren't so good with
technology

so are libraries just Google for old people?

J

You know you're supposed to be quiet in libraries

C

No one's even looking at books

everyone's just on the computers

even the old people

that guy looks like a bum

half the people here are asleep

that lady there has a DVD!

Is this what happened to Blockbuster when they went
bust?

Did they give all their DVDs to libraries so they could
stay relevant?

But then, who even watches DVDs anymore?

I remember my dad used to drive us to Blockbuster every Friday night and he'd let us pick out whatever we wanted

popcorn and candy and movies

I wanted Beauty and the Beast

Like every week

And he'd be like

We watched this last week

and I'd be like

But I want it!

and he'd let me get it every week

He was never good around crying females

Maybe that's why my parents got divorced

Did you hear that?

That old bitch shushed me!

You shh!

J

Hey, I'm trying to keep a low profile here so do you mind not picking fights with the elderly?

C

Ohhhhh

Are we on a secret mission?

Is this part of the plan

J

Yes

I need you to stay very quiet while I look for this book

C

Can I help?

J

You can help by staying quiet

C

Ok

I can do that

I can't believe there's a new Beauty and the Beast

Makes me feel so old

Time is weird

J

Ok found it

C

Wait are you putting that in your jacket?

Don't you have to like

pay or something?

J

It's a library

you just take it

C

Oh

Ok

J

Oh shit she's looking over

Play it cool

C

Huh?

J

I lied about just taking it

C

You're stealing?

J

I think we're a little far along for you to judge me
about stealing an old book from a library

C

Can't you just google it or something or get it on
Kindle

J This isn't the kind of book you want to be seen with

C Is it dark magic stuff
like what do you call it
Wiccan
Are you a white witch?

J No

C So what is it?

J It's called *The Anarchist Cookbook*

C What like recipes and stuff?

J Yeah just like Rachael Ray
Shit she's coming over
Run!

C What?

J grabs C and runs.

15

J Do you know how hard it is to be a teenager in America
right now?

Young

dumb

and full of fear

Do you know how hard it is to be a teenage *girl* in
America right now?

Well that's a dumb question, isn't it?

J

She's naive
 she'll learn
 Don't you worry your pretty little head about it
 don't grow up too fast
 Well we have to grow up fast don't we?
 Just to survive
 and maybe that's too on the nose
 and it's not *subtle* and *measured* and *considered*
 but it's the fucking truth
 I wake up every morning terrified of what this day in
 America is going to bring
 which school today will be shot up
 which young black man today will the police kill
 which lie today will the media perpetrate
 which young woman today will be told she is not enough
 which blog today will write an article or a listicle or
 a meme about how things have to change
 and how we have to stand up for what is right
 and tell our truth
 and have our voices heard
 and which young person will share that article on their
 social media to be seen to be active
 but you can not be an activist if you are not active
 You can not be an activist if you do not take action

16

Outside a liquor store.

C

We're never going to get served

J
Have faith and we will

C
Faith in what?
In Jesus?
I don't think praying is going to help

J
Of course not praying

C
I don't think we can just ask Jesus to vouch for us and
say we're 21
and how do we even know 21 is the age in this state?
it might be 25
it might be 30
It's a slower pace of life
Maybe they grow up slower here

J
That doesn't make any sense
Just play it cool and smile at the guy

C
But he's old

J
Exactly

C
He's gross

J
Exactly
So it should be easy
Just smile and giggle at everything he says

C
He's hairy

J
 So he's no Nick Jonas
 deal with it
 If his body is a temple it's an ancient Greek ruin
 but we are young and hot and we can do whatever we want

C
 I prefer Joe actually
 and I don't feel very hot
 I feel gross
 and hairy
 I'm starting to regret throwing my bag away

J
 You're my friend and I love you
 but you need to shut up and trust me

C
 Ok
 I trust you
 I trust you

J
 Watch this

17

C is holding a bottle of vodka. C is drunk. C is laughing hysterically.

C
 And it's and it's and it's and it's and it's
C can't stop laughing. Then C starts to cry.

J
 Wait are you crying?

C
 I
 I

C
I don't know

J
Have you ever been drunk before?
C stops crying.

C
No

J
How is it?

C
It's
It's wonderful
I love you

J
I know

C
No I really love you
C burps.
I really do

J
Ok

C
I love you so much

J
Thank you

C
I mean
I'm not coming on to you
C retches a bit.
or anything
It's a plateau love

J
A what?

C
Plat - plateau
Am I saying that right?

J
Platonic

C
Yes yes yes

J
Ok

C
That means I don't want to go down on you or anything

J
I know

C
I'm not saying I'm not open to the idea
Of being with another woman
Or whoever
I just haven't really had strong feeling either way
You know?

J
Yeah

C
I mean it's cool that you're gay

J
You mean it's cool *if* I'm gay

C
No
no no
It's cool that you *are* gay

J
How - how did you know?

C
I just did

C I just do

J Oh

C Yeah

J Wait do you think I'm in love with you?

C No
Are you?

J No

C Why? What's wrong with me?

J Nothing I -

C I'm kidding I'm kidding
Are you in love with someone else?

J No

C Do you want to be?

J I mean
I suppose so

C Maybe you'll meet someone on this trip
Wait
wait wait wait
Is that why we're here?

J
Huh?

C
Are we here so you can meet someone?

J
In the *desert*?
I don't think lesbians have been invented yet here

C
They haven't in our town either

J
Not officially
but no
I'm not looking for love

C
What are you looking for?

J
We've talked about this
We wouldn't have left without talking about this

C
You said you wanted escape
and I said I wanted what you wanted

J
What do you mean by that?

C
I thought escaping might make you happy

J
So you just followed me?

C
I wanted to make you happy

J
That's fucking crazy

C
I don't think it is

J
You gave up your life to be a little bit nice to a
friend

C
Well I'd say it's quite a lot nice

J
So
wait hold on
you didn't even want to come?

C
Of course I did

J
Yeah but for me
you didn't want to escape
for yourself

C
Well maybe for a little while

J
I can't believe this

C
What can't you believe?

J
How can you be so selfish?

C
Selfish?
You just said I gave up my life for you!

J
This is just a game to you
You don't even want to be here

C
I do want to be here
I am here
I want you to be happy

C
I wanted to do something good
You're my best friend
You've always had my back
so I thought it was my turn

J
I don't get it

C
You needed help
I helped

J
Come on
We're going home

C
Don't be stupid

J
Don't fucking call me stupid
You're the one who followed me into the fucking desert

C
We can't just go home
We only just got here

J
I can't ruin your life

C
Of course you can!
I want you to

J
That's crazy

C
Maybe ruining is what my life needs
I need to fuck it up a bit
I'm sick of being mommy's little girl

C
worrying about grades and zits and boys
and I want you to be my bad influence

J
I dunno...

C
Oh come on!

J
I was hoping we could move on tonight
There's a bus at midnight

C
We're runaways!
We're not in any rush
Come on
Let's have some fun!
Let's go sightseeing!

J
There's
nothing to see

C
Let's soak up the local culture

J
There isn't any

C
Oh stop being such a negative nancy

J
Seriously?
A negative -

C
Let's go to a bar!
You're smiling
I see you smiling!

J
What if we get carded?

C
We won't!

I saw the way you worked your magic in that liquor store

J
Ugh fine

C
Yay!

18

*A bar. Springsteen on the jukebox. A young man, **Brian**, is polishing glasses.*

BRIAN
Hello

uh

ladies

Are you lost?

C
No

Are you?

J pinches her arm.
Ow!

J
Martinis
shaken
dry
dirty
up
with a twist

BRIAN
Well girls -

J
 Don't call us that

BRIAN
 Well *ladies* -

J
 Or that

BRIAN
 I'm gonna need to see some ID

J
 No

BRIAN
 Excuse me?

J
 You don't need to see any ID

BRIAN
 Uh, it's the law

J
 I don't see any lawmakers around here

BRIAN
 See that guy at the end of the bar?

J
 The fat guy?

BRIAN
 Yeah

J
 What about him?

BRIAN
 He's the sheriff

J
 He's passed out

BRIAN
 Uh yeah
 yeah he is

J
 So

J
those drinks?

They look at each other.

BRIAN
Coming up

J and C sit at the bar. Brian goes off to make the drinks.

C
Oh my god that was so badass

J
That was nothing

C
It was like you were in some old movie

Like you walked in the doors and you were like in slow motion and everyone turned their heads to look at you walk in and they couldn't keep their eyes off you

J
Come on play it cool

C
I mean

That confidence!

J
Ok ok he's coming

Brian brings the drinks over.

BRIAN
Alright here we go
You sure you're ready for these?

C
Oh we were born ready

J glares at her.

BRIAN
Uh ok
enjoy

C
You can stay if you like
and chat to us

BRIAN
Oh ok
sure
not much else going on

J
So we see

BRIAN
So what brings you to the desert?

C
We're running away

BRIAN
Whoa

J
From our responsibilities

BRIAN
Oh

J
Needed to clear our heads a little

C
We're on an adventure

BRIAN
Right right
Cool

C
No one knows we're here
J kicks her.
Ow!

BRIAN
Alright
that's cool
I'm thinking of setting out myself

C

Yeah?

BRIAN

Oh yeah

see a little more of the world

open my eyes you know

C

That's what we're doing

BRIAN

This was the wrong place to come for that

C

Oh we're just getting started

BRIAN

Where you headed to next?

C

Oh we haven't really -

J

The mountains

C

The mountains?

J

Yeah the mountains next -

C

Well that's the first I've heard -

J

Then the ocean

C

Oh ok then

J

What?

C

I just

doesn't matter

J

No

What's on your mind?

C

I kinda hoped we'd go to a city

J

Oh we'll go to a city

C

Oh cool

I just worried when you said mountains
and oceans

I get altitude sickness
and seasickness

So...

BRIAN

Well

sounds like you guys have a lot lined up

I wish I was so organized at your age

J

What do you mean at *our* age?

BRIAN

Well you're clearly not old enough to drink in here

J

I fucking hate when men tell me I'm not old enough

BRIAN

Whoa no need to get feisty

J

Don't fucking dare say *feisty*, man

that's some bullshit there

C

I don't think he meant

J
I don't need you to

C
I'm just saying

J
Well don't

BRIAN
Ok ok

cool

Maybe I should give you guys some space

C
No!

don't

It's fine

You should stay

if you like...

BRIAN
Alright cool

I just don't want any trouble!

I apologize if I offended

and we should probably keep our voices down so we don't
wake the sheriff

J
Apology accepted

BRIAN
So

where were we?

C
If I can just butt in one sec I think it's hilarious
that there's a sheriff in the bar

it's just like a movie

isn't that hilarious

BRIAN

Uh yeah
like an old western

C

Right
totally
just like that

A silence.

Brian *puts on a cowboy voice.*

BRIAN

So what brought you two gunslingers round these here parts?!

C

I'm sorry?

J

What?

BRIAN

Oh I was

I

C

Oh *right* you were trying to be funny

BRIAN

Trying yeah
maybe not succeeding

C

I think you're funny

BRIAN

Oh thanks
you haven't touched your drink

C

Oh yeah
I don't really know
what it is

J
Yes you do

C
No I've never had one before

J
Yes you have

C
No I had my first drink today

BRIAN
Wow

J
She's kidding
she's just *trying to be funny* too

C
No I'm -

BRIAN
It's cool
you don't need to pretend
I know you two aren't *of age*
J looks at him.
but I don't want to start an argument!
So let's just glaze over that one

C
How old do you think I am?

BRIAN
Well that's uh...
isn't that impolite?

J
Only if *you* ask

BRIAN
Uh well
21?

J
You know we're not 21

BRIAN
Yes but for the purposes of -

J
How old?
Really

BRIAN
18?

J
That'll do

C
But

J
That'll do

BRIAN
Alright well 18 it is

C
How old are you?

BRIAN
28

C
You don't look it

BRIAN
Um thanks

C
How'd you end up working at a bar?

BRIAN
It's my uncle's place
I'm saving up
you know
for my trip

C
Where you going?

BRIAN

I don't know

South I guess?

Mexico

then work my way down

C

Wow

J

Got a passport?

BRIAN

No

uh

not yet

J

Us neither

C

I do

J

You do?

C

Yeah

J

You have it with you?

C

Of course

we're on a trip of course I brought my passport

J

I didn't know you'd been out the country

C

Oh yeah

before my parents divorced they took me all sorts of places

I was too young to remember most

C
but my mom told me we went to Mexico
Bahamas
the Caribbean
we even went to Europe
which must have been cool
I don't remember though

J
I didn't know
or maybe I didn't remember

C
It's cool
Feels like a different lifetime
My mom doesn't like to travel anymore

BRIAN
Since the divorce?
Sorry

C
No it's cool
Yeah since the divorce she doesn't like to do too much
of anything
I have a stepdad now
But he doesn't like to do much either
Except complain

BRIAN
That sucks
Divorce sucks
My parents are divorced too
Is everyone's parents divorced these days?

J
Seems like it

BRIAN
What about yours?

J
Never had a dad

BRIAN
Oh I'm sorry

J
It's cool

BRIAN
You girls
sorry not girls
women
seem tough

J
We are

C
Yeah
we are

BRIAN
Why don't you show me how tough you are and drink those drinks?

J
Easy

J downs her martini.

BRIAN
Whoa I didn't mean in one go! That's a lot of booze

J
I can handle it
Now you

C
I...

She sniffs her martini.

C
Oh Jesus

BRIAN
You don't have to -

J
Yes she does

C
I don't know if I -

J
You can
You can do it
Just hold your nose and chug it

C
Ok ok ok

I can do this

She starts to down the martini, struggles.

J
Don't think about it don't think about it

BRIAN
You got this

You have so got this!

*She gets it all down. Retches a bit. Head down,
she raises her fists in the air. The others cheer.*

C
Never again
never again
That was disgusting

J
That was amazing

BRIAN
That was fucking awesome
So awesome we've woken the sheriff
Let me go take care of that

Brian goes off.

J

That was amazing

We are amazing

C

I think I'm going to be sick

J

No you're not

C

No I really am

J

Mind over matter

You got this

The cute bartender said so

C

He is cute isn't he?

J

If you're into that kind of thing

C

I am

I think

Yeah I think I am

J

Well he's coming back over so get it together

C

Oh shit

Ok ok

I've got this

J

Yes you do

I'm proud of you

C

You are?

Brian is back.

BRIAN

Alright so the sheriff is gone for the night

Another drink?

J

Sure

C

I'm ok

J

She'll have one

C

Oh god

J

Something a little fruity maybe this time?

BRIAN

You got it

Hey I'll need to see some ID

J

Are you fucking kidding me?

BRIAN

Only to find out your names!

We've had a drink together and I don't even know your names

J

You didn't drink

BRIAN

Well I'd best get started huh

C

What's your name?

BRIAN

Brian

And you?

C takes out her passport, hands it to him. He can clearly see she is 16.

BRIAN

Catherine huh?

C

Yeah

BRIAN

Or do you prefer Cat?

Kitty cat?

C giggles.

C

You can call me anything you like

J

Oh Jesus

BRIAN

I have an idea

There's no one else here

How about I lock up and we have ourselves a little party?

J

I really think we should be going

BRIAN

Whoa whoa

C

Such a negative nancy

BRIAN

A minute ago you were the life and soul of the party!

J

Yeah it's just we have a bus to catch

BRIAN

The mountains can wait another day can't they?

C

They've been there for years Jen

BRIAN

Jen is it?

Hey Jen

J

Don't call me that

C

It's your name Jen

Drink with us

Come on

I gave up my life for you

so give me this one night

J

Fuck it

BRIAN

It's a yes?

C

She said yes!

J

Fine

Yes

BRIAN

Alright alright!

I like this story!

Who wants a drink?

19

*Later. Drunker. They're all bouncing around to
'Dancing in the Dark'.*

C

My dad loves this song!

J

I love this song!

BRIAN

I love this fucking song!

C

I love this fucking song!

C and Brian start to dance together, leaving J doing an awkward solo dance. She's self-conscious for a while, dancing like Courtney Cox in the video, then stops caring and starts dancing like Springsteen does in the video.

C and Brian are now slow dancing, arms wrapped around one another. As the song comes to a close, Brian kisses her.

The song ends and Dylan's 'I Was Young When I Left Home' comes on.

J

I love this song too!

She turns, sees them making out, thinks about breaking it up, doesn't. She leans over the bar and pours herself another drink. She sings along to the song. She downs her drink. She reaches over the bar again. Her hand comes back holding a gun. She's fascinated by it. She slips it into her clothes. She walks out the bar. The others are too wrapped up in each other to notice.

20

J alone outside. She aims the gun at the audience.

J

If this was the 60s, you wouldn't give a shit

You'd maybe ask how old we were, hear 16 and say 16?
You're an adult!

You're on your own!

but because we're millennials you're all up in arms

Girls go missing

They run away from home

Spoilt little bitches

Or were they kidnapped

J

Kidnapped white girls get the biggest ransoms

So which is it?

Did they jump or were they pushed?

Hysteria in the media

Pedophiles roam the streets in packs

Children snatched from their beds under cover of night

Your child could be next!

or

They'll be back before you know it

They left a trail of evidence

They packed bags

They planned it out

but they weren't very smart

Stupid little bitches

Naive

attention-seeking

no respect

That's the problem with *millennials*

No respect for their elders

no respect for their parents who put a roof over their heads and let the planet go to shit

no respect for America

the once great America that must be made great again at all costs

These white girls at Coachella dressed as Native Americans

These white girls having Mexican-themed parties in their sorority houses

J

Hazing each other

bullying each other

slut-shaming each other

fat-shaming each other

Selfish little white girls

Terrified to go to the gym because they might get judged by the skinny green juice rich yoga pilates brunching bitches in their yoga pants and skinny black jeans ripped at the knee and leather jackets and aviator shades and eyebrows on fleek and make up on point

Terrified to go out for a run because they might get raped and murdered in the woods

Terrified to go to work because they might get sexually harassed

Terrified to go to a bar because they might get date raped

Terrified to go to college because they might get raped

Terrified to go to court because no one cares

Terrified to speak out

Terrified to speak up

Terrified to speak

Terrified

Pause.

It's a good thing that bar was so shitty it didn't have a TV

It's a good thing that bartender was only interested in getting his dick wet

It's a good thing that sheriff was a drunk

otherwise they'd have seen the news

girls missing one state over

statewide manhunt ongoing

And what would have happened then?

Would the story have ended differently?

21

J is walking away. C bursts out of the bar, clothes torn and giggling.

C

Jen!

Where are you going?

J

I thought you wanted to stop worrying about boys

C

That was until I actually met one
and besides he's a man

J

Barely

C

Close enough and he looks like Joe Jonas

J

Not really

C

If you squint a little he does

Hey so

we're leaving

going back to his place

J

I'm not sure that's

C

Don't tell me it's not a good idea

I'm a grown up and I'm making a grown up decision

I'm going to have sex with that boy

Man

Pause.

J
Well be careful

C
I will
He lives nearby

J
Where?

C
In a trailer not far from here

J
A trailer?

C
Don't judge
It's the real America

J
What would you know about the real America?

C
What would you know about the real America?
Pause.

J
Well what about me?

C
Huh?

J
What happens to *me*?

22

*J is walking away. C bursts out of the bar,
clothes torn and giggling.*

C
Jen!

J
What is it?

C
Where you going?

J
I'm leaving

C
Wait what

J
I'm catching that bus

C
Without me?

J
Guess so

C
But

J
I don't want to hear it Cat

C
Whoa where is this coming from?

J
I think we need to go our separate ways

C
What are you *talking* about?

J
Maybe this is where you need to be
and I need to be
somewhere else

C
But where are you going
and why can't I go with you?

J
You're just going to hold me back

C
Hold you back from what?
We're in this together

J
Remember the book I stole?

C
Yeah

J
I found a recipe

23

*J is walking away. C bursts out of the bar,
clothes torn and giggling.*

C
Jen!
Hey Jen!
Where you going?
Jen wait up
Where you going?

J
I'm going to find the real America

24

*J is walking away. C bursts out of the bar,
clothes torn and crying.*

C
Jen!

J
What - what is it?
Cat calm down
What did he do?
Tell me what he did

C
Help me

***Brian** comes running out the bar.*

BRIAN
Hey!

*J shoots him in the chest.
He falls to the ground.*

There's a long silence as the life fades out of him.

25

Night. Dark but for a glowing fire. Silence for a while.

J
Where did you learn to build a fire?

C
Girl scouts

J
Oh

Pause.
Are you ok?

Pause.

C
Are you?

Pause.

A buzz.

J
What was that?

C
What?

J
That buzz

C
A fly
mosquito or something

J
Was that your phone?

C
No I left everything remember?
You're the one who brought a phone

J
Show me your phone

C
No

J
Show me your fucking phone *Catherine*

C
Don't call me that

J
Show me the fucking phone
J grabs at her.

C
Get the fuck off me!

J
You fucking traitor
You talked to them
You sold us down the fucking river

C
I didn't talk to anyone
You're being crazy

J
You lied to me

C
I've never lied

J
I thought you wanted to help me

C
What the hell is wrong with you *Jennifer*?

J
Don't fucking -

C
What
Don't want to be reminded?

J
Fuck you

C
We've been gone two days Jen
you're acting as if it's years

J
I haven't

C
Did you honestly think this was going to last forever?
We're 16 Jen
16 year olds don't change the world

J
Oh my god I should never have trusted you

C
You think I'm naive don't you?

J
Of course I fucking do

C
Well I'm not as naive as you think

J
Are you kidding me?
If I looked up naive in Merriam fucking Webster it'd
just be a picture of you
probably a fucking selfie

C
You think you're so superior
but you're just another bitch

J
Earlier you told me you loved me

C
I did

J
Was it just the drink talking?

C

Oh fuck you

it was my first drink

you make me sound like an alcoholic

I do Jen

I do love you

I fucking love you like a sister and you're breaking my
fucking heart

J

I never had a sister

I never had a real family

I don't need one now

A long silence.

C

What did you think was going to happen Jen?

I really want to know

J

I was going to make a difference

I am going to make a difference

and fuck you for thinking 16 year olds can't change the
world

Joan of Arc was a teenager

C

Yeah they killed her Jen

they burned her alive

J

But she made a difference

C

Not in her lifetime

J

Doesn't matter

She's remembered

She is loved

She means something

C

You mean something

J

Don't

please

C

I will sound like a Hallmark card fucking Lifetime
movie I don't care

You mean something Jen

and you're young

you have so much time

J

But what have I got to offer?

C

We don't have to know that now

we don't even know our SAT results

J

No

I'm tired of waiting around

stewing in small town America

C

Everyone wants to leave home Jen

J

No they don't

Look at the people around us Cat

The people in our town

The people here

They'll live and die in these towns

The only place they want to move on to is heaven

J
That's not good enough for me

C
Heaven isn't good enough for you?

J
Heaven is here on earth
Hell too
I'm going to find my patch of heaven
I don't know where it is
but it certainly isn't here
and it isn't in Buttfuck, America
population who-gives-a-fuck
There's a place out there for me

C
Everyone wants to belong somewhere Jen
That doesn't mean stealing books from libraries and
making bombs
unless your heaven involves 72 virgins

J
That's racist

C
White girls like us leave our shitty towns and go to
college
That's where we belong
That's where we fit in

J
What makes you think I'm going to fit in at college?
I didn't fit in at junior fucking high

C
Then move to New York!

J
What?

C
That's what people do when they don't fit in anywhere
else
Just don't do anything stupid

J
Really?
You're saying that to me?
You didn't even know what to pack to run away from home
you needed my help with everything
you don't know when to keep your mouth shut
and you don't even want to be here
you want to be at home with your mommy
I don't know why I even invited you

C
Invited?
Really?

J
Yeah *invited*
As if you'd come up with this idea all by yourself

C
What idea?
You needed to get away
we got away
That's as much of an idea as you had
We're both just scared little girls
and that's ok
We don't know what we're doing
and that's ok
We're making it up as we go along
and that's ok too

J

It's not ok!

There was supposed to be a plan

We were supposed to get shit done

C

We did get shit done

and we've got so much time

J

No

I don't accept that

People our age die every day

rare blood diseases

car accidents

cars crashing into crowds of people

shot by cops

shot by our classmates in the school cafeteria

We don't know how much time we have

we just don't know

we just don't know

This could be the end of the story

and it was just getting started

A silence. C begins to softly sing 'Two of Us on the Run' by Lucius. During the following speech to the audience, J opens her bag, pulls out the gun and loads it with bullets. Once she's done that, she pulls out a suicide bomb vest and puts it on.

There's another version of this story

I don't see Cat's phone and we continue our murderous spree across the American heartland like a modern day Thelma and Louise

Does me saying 'modern day' make Thelma and Louise sound like ancient history?

J

Does it make you feel old?

In another version I don't shoot Brian

I stab him with a broken bottle and he bleeds out slowly

or he gets away and Cat lives her life as a victim of abuse

her pain uncared for by the government and the people in her life who *just don't get it*

Or he doesn't rape her

They have consensual sex

her first time

and it's messy and painful and awkward but special and she'll always remember the crazy story of how she lost her virginity

maybe she'll tell it at dinner parties

Or lying in bed with the man she's going to marry when they have that awkward conversation couples end up having about previous sexual partners and if you say you don't care about that sort of stuff you're a liar

Or maybe they run away together

and leave me behind

and they fall in love

and die of old age in the same bed

Or maybe we never go into the bar

or the liquor store

or the library

or the diner

or the bus

or the bus station

Or the Starbucks

J

Maybe we went on a vacation
maybe we went camping
maybe we robbed a bank
maybe we killed a guy
maybe we formed a suicide pact
maybe we drive a 1966 Ford Thunderbird convertible into
the Grand Canyon
maybe we watched too many movies
maybe we never left home
maybe I made this all up
maybe we're popular at school
maybe our lives are as glamorous and fabulous as our
Instagrams and Snapchats would have you believe
maybe they're playing our song
and we dance like no one's watching
But
maybe it's not that easy
and we've gone too far to turn back
and we should just go out with a bang
and there's nothing else for it
and it's too late for us
but maybe it won't be for the others
if only they would listen
if only they could *hear*
and make sure they never forget us and make sure our
voices are heard and make sure that we will never be
underestimated again and that maybe this isn't the
answer but if it isn't the answer then what is the
answer because I just don't know anymore if I ever did
if I ever will can someone tell me someone help me

J

understand what it is exactly I should and how to be
how to be good how to be young how to be me how to be
honest how to be useful how to be how to be how to be
how to be how to be how to be how to be how to be how
to be how to be how to be how to be

*C goes to her, holds her for a long time. We hear
'Two of Us on the Run'. They dance slowly. Stars
come out of the darkness. They fill the sky.
J drops the gun. C takes the vest off her.*

C

Look. Stars.

*They look up. For a long time. J is brimming with
emotion.*

Breathe.

J breathes in.

Blackout.

END OF PLAY