

GOLD STAR  
PILOT

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INT - APARTMENT

BEN CHUA, 27 (Asian/Mixed, handsome, average body, no visible muscle. Think straight person skinny/gay person average) is sitting on his couch, reading *Song of Achilles* and openly weeping. He's wearing a shirt, tie, and trench coat, he looks like a secret agent.

His phone buzzes. We see a text from AVA.

TEXT MESSAGE

It's go time.

BEN sets down the book, wipes his eyes, composes himself, and grabs his things. We specifically see him grab a Vespa Helmet and a laser pointer.

CUT to EXT RESTAURANT

We see AVA (30, not above having stupid fun), closing the text message thread with BEN right as her date walks out of the bathroom near the exit of a restaurant. She puts her phone away as they begin to walk in the city.

Cut to Ben on his Vespa zipping through Manhattan. On the phone mounted on his scooter, we see a map with AVA's dot a around the corner. He pulls between two cars parked on the street, hidden between them. He peeks out with the laser pointer and he shines it on AVA's forehead as she rounds the corner with her date.

We cut back to AVA with the red dot on her head that looks like a sniper laser sight.

AVA'S DATE

Uh, there's something on your...

They point to AVA's head. Theatrically like a secret agent, AVA pulls them into a stoop, out of sight, pressing them against the wall, as if hiding from gunfire.

AVA'S DATE

What's happe--

Ava puts a finger to their lips, shushing.

Her phone rings, we hear BEN's voice

BEN (PHONE)

Hey, Ava. Remember your lines?

AVA

I'm with a civilian, ma'am.

We cut back to Ben, talking to her from the bluetooth in his helmet.

BEN

Wow. Commitment. (Mock serious)  
You've just been compromised,  
agent.

AVA (PHONE)

I've been compromised? What are my  
next steps?

Cut back to AVA's date looking understandably alarmed, Just then, BEN pulls up on his scooter and tosses her a helmet.

BEN

Agent, we have to leave. Should  
I...?

Ben makes a hand gesture about killing AVA's date.

AVA

No, no they're fine. (To her date)  
I'm sorry but we can never see each  
other again. (She kisses them  
passionately and jumps on the  
scooter).

They buzz off away from AVA's date.

THEME SONG.

Ava and Ben are still zipping through the city on Ben's scooter.

AVA

Do you think they bought it?

BEN

Trust me, this is the perfect plan  
because no sane person would ever  
fake being a secret agent to get  
out of dating someone.

AVA

But that's literally what we just  
did.

BEN

When you lie, you have to lie big.  
It was either this or fake farting  
on their lap but Eli--

AVA

(Finishing his sentence, rolling her eyes) --Eli lost your fart machine at the debate watch party. Get over it already.

BEN

You're the one who "couldn't bear to break their heart." Just enjoy being free to go be exclusive with Gwen.

AVA

--Who I really like so you have to be nice to her.

They whiz through the city. BEN parks around the corner from their final destination, HOMO HOUSE--(think high camp satire of Soho House)

They walk inside where BEN's boyfriend, ELI (30, Tom Hardy type, straight passing) is waiting in the lobby for them. He greets BEN with a kiss, AVA with a hug.

A butch lesbian woman is working as the concierge at the welcome desk in the lobby.

CONCIERGE

Do you three have the password?

AVA

Tig Notaro.

CONCIERGE

Thank you. The Woodworking and Karaoke Smackdown Brought to You With Limited Commercial Interruption by Subaru is on the third floor, and "Lilith Flair," our Sarah McLachlan tribute band is playing in the main bar.

AVA

I think we're just here for drinks...

CONCIERGE

Take the elevator all the way to the roof.

They all step into the elevator. After a moment of it going up, it shutters, the lights flicker and it pauses.

They look at each other nervously for a moment before the elevator resumes again.

BEN

Sorry, I had a big breakfast.

The elevator opens to reveal the rooftop of Homo House.

BEN (CONT'D)

You guys get us a table, I'll go grab drinks at the bar.

BEN begins to try to shove his way through a crowd of pornographically hot people in both regular clothes and swimwear at the outdoor bar. He is completely ignored.

After a hot shirtless guy shoves up next to him and is instantly served, he sighs, rolls his eyes and makes his way back out of the crowd.

He approaches the table where ELI and AVA are sitting

BEN (CONT'D)

I went, I saw, but I did not conquer. Eli, can you help me with this? I'm invisible here.

ELI smiles, nods, and stands to leave but before he can, Ben rushes over and pulls ELI's shirt off, revealing a very well sculpted body.

BEN (CONT'D)

I swear it's the only way to get noticed around here.

Right before he can leave. GWEN (24, omg hot in a TikTok way) walks up to their table.

AVA

Oh, hey! You made it! Ben, Eli, this is Gwen. We've been hanging out.

ELI

Nice to meet you, what are you drinking?

GWEN

Ohh, a margarita, please.

Eli goes to get drinks

BEN

And I'm Ben.

GWEN

It's nice to put a face to a name.  
I've heard so much.

BEN

Vicious lies and murderous slander.

GWEN

All good!

BEN

Same answer.

GWEN

And Eli is your partner?

They look over where Eli can be seen getting through the crowd  
and served to with no issues.

BEN

Yep, there he is, the sire of my  
brood.

GWEN

He looks strong and sexy, like a  
male Sigourney Weaver.

AVA

Or a female Gwendoline Christie.

BEN

I know! It's crazy. We started  
dating before he looked like that  
so I feel like I'm kind of  
grandfathered in at this point.  
Otherwise I'd have no chance.

AVA

Don't sell yourself short. You were  
the one with abs when you guys met.

BEN

(He sighs both sarcastically and  
wistfully) My twink years. We were  
all so beautiful and young then.

ELI returns with drinks for the table. Everyone grabs one.

ELI

As they say in France, *Sauté!* (they  
all toast)

The group starts toasting and "cheers"-ing each other while speaking random french words and making random French noises/laughs.

AVA  
So, meet anyone exciting at the bar?

ELI  
Nah, same crowd as usual.

BEN  
It's *always* the same crowd at the Homo House. There's the rich lesbians who run this place,--

Camera whooshes over to show a bunch super hot butch ladies lounging by the pool.

The camera whooshes back to BEN.

BEN (CONT'D)  
--Daddies looking to devour the young--

The camera whooshes over to the bar where a bunch of old gays are talking to (literal 15 year old) twinkles.

The camera whooshes back to Eli and the table.

ELI  
And the young boys trying to sort out their daddy issues. It goes both ways.

BEN  
Fair. Then there's the brunch gays over there--

The camera whooshes to a group of gays having a loud brunch, taking selfies, drinking mimosas. The camera whooshes back.

GWEN  
But it's like 7pm?

BEN  
I know, they never stop. And finally, groups like us at the surrounding tables pretending to be above it all but still actively participating in this nonsense.

AVA  
Ah, the dream.

BEN

(To Gwen) So what brought you to the City?

GWEN

It's either here or LA and I don't want to be surrounded by influencers all the time.

BEN

Oh shit, sorry we brought you here then. It's just "under-30s" get half off before 5 pm.

ELI

Because we're what?

BEN AND ELI (SINGING IN UNISON)

Poor!

ELI

It's easier to fake being "someone" when drinks are half off.

AVA

She's also a musician....

GWEN

Stop! Yes, I play music sometimes.

AVA

Her *record label* is doing an EP Launch party in a few weeks. It's with the same label that represents Kesha.

BEN

Wait, you mean the label that she switched to after...you know...

GWEN

After her SAT scores leaked and everyone stopped listening to her music because they found out she was smart?

AVA

So heartbreaking! You can never let men know you're smart.

She grabs GWEN

AVA (CONT'D)

Promise me, Gwen! Keep it a secret!



GWEN  
(Solemnly) I promise.

AVA pulls GWEN into a dramatic hug.

BEN  
Wow, so you're like the real deal.

ELI  
Ben was totally just being polite earlier but now he's actually interested in your music.

BEN smacks ELI on the arm.

BEN  
Rude! I'm always interested in queer art.

AVA  
Yeah, like the time you left at intermission during my community theatre debut?

BEN  
You were *Fantine*, Ava. She's dead in the first 15 minutes and (whispering, embarrassed) I was still dealing with that curse the fortune teller on Ave A gave me.

ELI  
Look at those two.

ELI nods towards a hot couple chatting over drinks. They are super in love.

ELI (CONT'D)  
So what do you think they are saying?

BEN and ELI begin to dub the conversation between the guy and the girl. We see the couple's mouths moving but ELI and BEN are doing their voices.

Weirdly, the couple's mouths (and acting) actually match what BEN and ELI are saying. The couple's acting is suddenly high camp, over exaggerated soap opera style.

ELI (ANGELICA) (CONT'D)  
(In a high pitched, girl next door southern drawl) I just can't listen to your lies any more, Steven--if that even is your name.

BEN (STEVEN)  
 (In a mock deep man voice) Babe,  
 you know I can't talk about my life  
 before... (voice breaking) my life  
 before... I can't say it.

ELI (ANGELICA)  
 Say it Steven.

BEN (STEVEN)  
 You're a cruel woman, Angelica.

ELI (ANGELICA)  
 Say it! Or are you actually the  
 little bitch your father thinks you  
 are?

BEN (STEVEN)  
 (Campy sobbing) Angelica, what are  
 you saying?

A server approaches the couple that is being dubbed. AVA cuts  
 in to dub the server.

AVA (SERVER 1)  
 (In a fake posh voice) Excuse me  
 sir and ma'am but people are  
 complaining about the smell coming  
 from your purse.

ELI (ANGELICA)  
 Are you talking about my selection  
 of soft cheeses?

Just then, a puppet that looks like a talking wheel of Brie  
 cheese pops out of ANGELICA's purse. GWEN starts to dub its  
 voice.

GWEN (CHEESE PUPPET)  
 Hey lady, if you keep talking to  
 your man like this, he'll leave you  
 and you'll be alone without a  
 Mozzer-fella!

The camera whooshes back to the table where BEN, ELI, AVA,  
 and GWEN are doing the dubbing. They briefly break character.

BEN  
 A talking cheese?

GWEN just shrugs.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 Ava, never, ever leave this woman.

GWEN

My family is actually Swiss so this  
is easy for me.

Ben is very happy Gwen made this joke. It is very funny to  
him.

BEN

Gwen, if you keep this up I'm gonna  
have to ask you to leave--it's  
important to me that *I'm* the funny  
one in this group.

The camera whooshes back to the couple. They are back to  
looking like a normal, super in love duo.

A server cuts in, breaking the fantasy.

SERVER

Can I get you all anything else?

BEN

(In "STEVEN'S" joke deep voice) I  
think--(he coughs and goes back to  
his normal voice) I think we're  
good for the moment, thank you so  
much.

We see Eli catching a woman's eye and smiling. She gives him  
a look back.

BEN (CONT'D)

And now my boyfriend is going to  
ditch us to go have fun with  
someone else.

ELI

Want me to stay?

BEN

Nah, you're good. Go have fun, keep  
me posted.

They kiss.

ELI

I love you.

BEN

I love you more.

ELI leaves and walks over towards the girl. They begin a  
conversation. GWEN gives AVA a confused look

BEN (CONT'D)

We have an open relationship where we're both allowed to fuck girls. He's bi and misses the poontang sometimes.

Ben makes a rude gesture, like he's spanking a woman.

AVA

Gross, Ben. And women aren't defined by having a pussy.

BEN

Sorry, sorry. He's allowed to fuck women regardless of their downstairs.

Ben does the same gesture from before. AVA isn't amused.

BEN (CONT'D)

No men, and they/thems are case by case but I totally trust him.

GWEN

Wow, that seems really progressive. I take it you stick to the boys?

BEN

(Tossing imaginary hair) What makes you say that? You think a femmy gay with bottom vibes can't pick up a lady?

GWEN

You said it, not me.

BEN

Girl, here's the thing: I've been a limp wrist, loud homo my whole life. Before I even knew what sex was, people were calling me gay so I never really even had the chance to "come out." I've always just been "gay." And women have treated me accordingly.

AVA

Gold Star, baby!

BEN

Whoop! Whoop!

GWEN

Gold Star?

BEN

"Gold Star Gay" means you've never been with a woman, which is me. "Platinum Star" means you were born via C section so you've never even touched a vag before.

GWEN

I'm so glad I'm not a gay man.

BEN

Tell me about it. I have to pee, are you joining or do you guys want a moment to talk about moving in together since it's already been like two weeks?

AVA

Go, go, go. We'll be here.

BEN gets up and heads towards the elevator to where the bathrooms are. He walks into the co-ed bathroom while looking at various hot people primping, doing coke, and making out.

ELI walks out of one of the bathroom stalls, notices BEN and washes his hands at the sink next to him.

BEN

Where's your hot girl?

ELI

Eh, her perfume smelled weird.

BEN

So now what?

ELI grins seductively at BEN and nods his head towards one of the stalls. Ben rolls his eyes and sighs like he's thinking "Again?" but then his face cracks into a smile, too. The two of them go into the stall together. From the outside of the door we hear the unzipping of pants and we hear BEN thunk against the wall as ELI gets down on his knees.

Cut to EXT. Rooftop where AVA and GWEN are sitting together.

They are both sitting in a comfortable silence, grooving to the music, enjoying their drinks, looking around.

After a moment, two obnoxious pretty girls walk by, one of them lets out an annoying laugh which causes her to accidentally bump AVA and GWEN's table and drop her clutch onto the ground. The girl does not notice or care that she also knocked over like two of the empty glasses on AVA and GWEN's table.

As she bends down to pick it up, AVA makes a fart noise with her mouth so it sounds like the girl who is bending down farted.

GWEN snorts with laughter while the obnoxious girl's friend looks grossed out.

FRIEND

Oh my gosh, did you actually just fart?

You can hear the girl protesting/denying it as they walk out of frame and their audio fades.

Cut back to INT. Unisex Homo House Bathroom. It's empty now. BEN and ELI walk out of the stall looking happy. ELI wipes his mouth in a hot way before pulling ELI into one more kiss.

BEN

Ava will not be subtle if we arrive back at the same time. You go first. I also actually have to pee.

ELI

Do your thing. I'll meet you up there.

BEN goes back into a stall. A powerful and dominant WOMAN (41) walks into the bathroom and stares at herself in the mirror. Think Laura Dern. She's the type of woman who oozes sex appeal in an extremely powerful way. She makes the moves, she calls the shots, and she does it all with an irresistible allure. After touching up her already perfect makeup and hair, she addresses herself in the mirror:

WOMAN

Take what's yours.

Right as she is speaking, Ben comes out of the stall. She notices him and smiles, unfazed.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I thought I was alone.

BEN

Don't let me get in the way.

He begins to wash his hands. She's putting away her lipstick and about to leave.

BEN (CONT'D)

So is that your mantra?

WOMAN

What do you mean?

BEN

You just said, "Take what's yours."  
Honestly, I believed it.

WOMAN

I know what I want and I'm not  
afraid to take it.

BEN

That's hot.

He finishes washing his hands right as she is walking out as well. He opens the door for her. They walk to the elevator, she pushes the button.

WOMAN

Going up too? This realtor is  
trying to screw me but she has the  
upper hand because I'm determined  
to get this apartment.

BEN

I've always wondered what it would  
be like to buy an apartment in the  
City.

WOMAN

It's fucking expensive, that's what  
it is.

The elevator arrives, the two of them step in. The doors close, after a few moments, there is a shudder and the elevator stops.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding me.

BEN

Omg is this actually happening?

Beat. They look at each other.

The woman starts pushing the intercom button

WOMAN

Hey! The Elevator stopped!

There's no response. BEN pulls out his phone.

BEN

Should we call 911? I have service.

WOMAN

I guess so? Why aren't they answering?

She pushes the button again.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Hello?

Finally, the intercom buzzes to life.

INTERCOM

Hi, hello, sorry for the delay. We couldn't figure out how to talk back to you on our end.

WOMAN

Are you gonna open the doors?

INTERCOM

Um. Standby.

The intercom buzzes off.

WOMAN

Standby? Did they really just hang up on us?

BEN

Well it's not like we're going anywhere.

He takes a seat. The woman looks at him then pushes the intercom again.

WOMAN

Hey! I have a meeting in 5 minutes I can't miss. What's the deal here?

Beat. Ben sits while she stands in silence. The woman pushes the button over and over. Finally after a moment:

INTERCOM

Hey! Sorry again. We were talking to the fire department. Good news is that they are on their way.

WOMAN

I swear if you're about to give us bad ne--

INTERCOM

--but it's gonna take about two hours.



WOMAN

Are you fucking kidding me?

INTERCOM

There's a parade ma'am.

WOMAN

What? For what?!

BEN

First Annual Uyghur Independence day. Paris Hilton's charity freed them all from Michael Kors sweatshops last week.

WOMAN

(beat) Oh. Well shit.

She sits on the floor across from Ben.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry this is rude but I have to make a quick call.

She pulls out her phone and dials someone. When they answer she begins to speak.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Hey Jen, I think I'm gonna be like two hours late to the meeting. I'm literally stuck in an elevator.....no like actually. I'm stuck in the elevator at Homo House right below you...What do you mean you have another offer? Are you fucking with me? Do you know what? Fine. I'll give you 14.5, cash mother fucker. Take that to your board and if they say no you can shove it up your ass.

She hangs up. There's a beat of silence.

BEN

Congratulations? You're a homeowner!

She looks at him seriously before bursting out laughing.

WOMAN

Damn it, I always get mad and overspend. Well, at least I got what I wanted. My art budget just shrunk a bit.

BEN  
You took what's yours.

WOMAN  
Hell yeah.

Beat.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
So we're stuck here for a few  
hours, aren't we?

BEN  
Looks like it.

We see Ben texting ELI. His screen says: Stuck in an elevator. I'll be out in like two hours, meet you at home don't stress.

As he's texting, the WOMAN opens up her bag and pulls out a beautiful, artisan pipe and a bag of weed.

WOMAN  
Want some?

Ben smiles.

Cut to EXT. ROOFTOP where ELI, AVA, and GWEN are sitting.

AVA  
What's taking Ben so long? I want  
to go get a slice.

ELI's phone buzzes.

ELI  
Oh shit, he's stuck in an elevator.

AVA  
Wait, what?

ELI  
He says he's stuck in an elevator.

GWEN  
Oh that sucks. It happened to my  
sister once. All you can do is  
wait. Nothing bad will happen or  
anything.

AVA grabs what was once BEN's cocktail and downs it in one.

AVA

He said you're good to go, right?  
Let's go get a slice! There's no  
use in *all* of us waiting for him.

She pulls out her phone. We see her texting him: LOL. HAVE FUN, WE'RE GETTING PIZZA. TEXT WHEN YOU'RE FREE. We see him text back: "FUCK YOU GUYS."

AVA (CONT'D)

Okay, we're in the clear. Let's go  
get pizza!

They all walk away from their table chanting "Pizza! Pizza! Pizza!"

Cut back to INT ELEVATOR. BEN and the WOMAN have are passing the pipe back and forth as they begin to hot box the elevator. It's a hazy, musical montage. We see them laughing, being weird, sitting with their backs on the floor and legs going up the wall, etc). There's totally a romantic vibe. It ends on a scene of BEN sitting with the WOMAN's head in his lap. He's stroking her hair gently.

WOMAN

You know, when I first moved here,  
the bathroom in my studio apartment  
was literally the size of this  
elevator.

BEN

And now your new bathroom is  
probably the size of my living  
room.

WOMAN

Wow. You must have a huge living  
room.

They both snort with laughter. After a moment, when he's smiling at her she slowly reaches up towards his mouth. Romantic music starts.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

You have such nice teeth.

BEN

(Subconsciously placing his hand  
over hers) Thank you, I had nine  
more installments on my retainers,  
but then the company, Toothy, got  
bought by that other one  
MouthBetter?

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Then MouthBetter got cancelled for using plastic made from secretly fracking in an abandoned subway station so I didn't have to finish paying.

WOMAN

Oh yeah, one of my friends had invested in them. She lost so much money she had to sell her entire collection of erotic porcelain back to Ina Garten.

BEN

Aw man, all of it?

They both start to laugh before slowly settling into an intimate, romantic, lingering gaze. Romantic music starts.

BEN (CONT'D)

Your eyes remind me of Sailor Moon.

They slowly lean towards each other for a kiss. The music swells. Just as their lips touch the elevator shudders and the doors open. We see the huge cloud of smoke puff out of the elevator into the faces of two fireman and the Homo House manager.

We see BEN and the WOMAN still in a romantic tangle, looking up at them.

CUT to EXT BEN and ELI'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Cut to INT, BEN and ELI'S APARTMENT. BEN is on his couch playing video games.

He's just wrapping up a game, you see him finish a kill and do kind of a dorky but cute celebration to himself. He turns off the mute on his mic:

BEN (CONT'D)

Hey, good game guys.

Though his gaming headset we hear the voice of what is clearly a 12 year old boy.

VOICE THROUGH HIS HEADSET

Hey guys, sounds like we had a faggot on our team! Suck a dick! Blehhh!! (snotty laughter, etc).

BEN snorts with laughter to himself and takes a skittle out of a bowl on the coffee table in front of him and sets it on what is revealed to be a laminated bingo card.

The bingo card reads "TOXIC GAMING BINGO" and it has squares that say things like "a white person says the n word," "witness a girl gamer get sexually harassed," and "receive DM promising/threatening to fuck my mom."

He places the skittle on the "Get called a faggot by a 12 year old" square.

BEN

That's Bingo, baby.

He eats the skittles in celebration.

As he's eating his skittles, his phone buzzes. It's a text message from ELI:

TEXT MESSAGE FROM ELI:

Come to bed, babe. It's getting late.

BEN turns off the TV and walks into the bedroom. As soon as he opens the door, he sees ELI waiting for him on the bed, ass up, ready to get fucked.

BEN's face lights up as he tugs off his shirt and bounds towards the bed.

Cut to EXT. KARAOKE BAR.

INT KARAOKE BAR. AVA and GWEN are having a late night drink together. The next song starts and the bartender hands AVA the mic.

The song is "BREAKING FREE" from HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL. AVA looks excited while GWEN shakes her head no, embarrassed (but still smiling).

AVA begins to sing the first part of the duet.

AVA

*We're soarin', flyin' --Come on  
Gwen!-- There's not a star --Gwen!  
I know you know this--heaven that  
we can't reach.*

She holds the other mic out to GWEN who rolls her eyes. The bar cheers her on. She picks up the second part.

They have a high camp, but very cute and romantic duet (remember, AVA was Fantine and GWEN has a record deal so they should be totally killing this performance).

Their performance is intercut with footage of ELI and BEN having sex. The song concludes, the bar applauds, people's phones are out recording the moment. AVA and GWEN kiss.

CUT to INT BEN and ELI'S APARTMENT. NIGHT

BEN and ELI are asleep in bed. Harp music plays, the screen distorts, and we are taken into BEN's dreams.

Music plays as dreamworld unfolds around us. Think 1960s Star Trek does Garden of Earthly Delights by Hieronymus Bosch (the heaven panel). It's high camp, very stupid, and very fun.

In the center of everything sits the WOMAN from the elevator. She's radiant. Dressed as an angel, in addition to the fact that she is genuinely gorgeous, she has the appearance and vibe of a campy, sexy Sci-Fi woman from the 1960s mixed with the fantasy intensity of Cate Blanchett as Lady Galadriel when she goes all glowing and crazy in Lord of the Rings.

BEN walks towards her. She smiles and opens her arms to him in a sweeping gesture. Her voice sounds like the voice of a goddess, layered with many other voices and booming (but kind).

WOMAN

Ben, it's nice to see you again.

BEN

(High drama, high camp, his hair blowing in the wind she causes)  
It's you, I can't believe it's you again!

WOMAN

It is fate that brought us together, Ben. It is fate that leads you on your journey.

BEN

I can't stop thinking about what happened in the elevator. I've never felt like that--

The WOMAN swoops towards BEN and shushes him with a finger to his lips.

WOMAN

You know that our chance encounter has awakened something new in you, Ben. Something you've never felt before.

BEN

(Suddenly out of the high camp moment, deadpan) Hold on, I swear-- if you're about to say that (he does air quotes and a sarcastic voice) "I'm about to finally meet the right girl" let me tell you something. I've been down this road before--

WOMAN

What? No, stupid. It's 2021. Are you really so rigid you can't accept any fluidity?

Look inside yourself--I thought your generation was better...I know you can feel it in your bones, something new has awakened inside of you.

BEN

You're...You're right. I can feel it. A stirring, like butterflies. A pull...An attraction.

WOMAN

A tickle in your pickle!

BEN

I know what I need to do.

The camera swings out and triumphant music swells as he begins a giant, dramatic proclamation:

BEN (CONT'D)

I want to--!

The camera swings out to an even wider shot. BEN's voice echos, the music gets even more grand.

BEN (CONT'D)

I want to--!

CUT to INT BEN and ELI'S BEDROOM.

BEN sits bolt upright in bed from where he was sleeping, woken from his dream.

BEN (CONT'D)

(A revelation) I want to sleep with a woman.

ELI, previously asleep next to BEN in bed, stirs.

ELI  
(sleepily) Me too, babe. Me too.

ELI pulls BEN back into a sleeping position.

(BLACK)

INT BEN and ELI'S KITCHEN/DININGROOM

It's morning. BEN is eating a bowl of cereal while ELI bustles around the kitchen making a yogurt parfait.

BEN  
So I had a weird dream last night.

ELI  
I heard. Something about fucking a woman?

BEN  
I saw the Woman from the elevator in my dream.

ELI  
You mean the sexy lady you made out with in the elevator?

BEN  
(Rolling his eyes) Yes, Eli, the sexy lady who I made out with in the elevator.

ELI  
Did you, you know, (he makes a face and a funny, incorrect, hand gesture for sex)

BEN  
No she was like a beautiful angel goddess. It's like...It's like she awakened something in me.

ELI  
Did you do 'shrooms with her too yesterday?

BEN  
Shut up, no. But I think I want to try to have sex with a woman.

ELI  
Hot. I've been saying it for years. You're missing out, dude.



BEN

(In a mocking straight guy voice)  
Oh yeah dude? Like gettin' that  
pussy?

ELI walks over and pulls BEN into a kiss.

ELI

Hell yeah.

He ruffles BEN's hair affectionately.

ELI (CONT'D)

Just let me know when and where.  
I'd love to join.

BEN

We'll see, horndog. I might want to  
try the first one on my own.

ELI

(Genuinely nonchalant) I feel that.  
Just keep me posted. I can also  
give you some tips.

ELI sways his hips and pantomimes sex things.

BEN

Shut up. I'll be fine. I'm not a 19  
year old twink anymore. I'm a man  
now.

ELI wraps BEN in a hug.

ELI

Yep. My big strong man boyfriend.

BEN halfheartedly tries to wriggle out of ELI's grip.

BEN

You're an asshole.

ELI

I was being serious!

BEN

Fuck you.

ELI

I love you too.

They kiss again.

EXT MEXICAN RESTAURANT in MANHATTAN

INT MEXICAN RESTAURANT - AVA, BEN, and ELI are sitting at a table set for four, waiting for GWEN to show up.

AVA  
A woman?

BEN  
Why do you sound so surprised?

AVA  
Are you serious?

BEN  
Shut up, you know what I mean. It's 2021! Everything is fluid now.

Romantic orchestra music begins to swell. A spotlight appears on BEN as a breeze from nowhere tousles his hair.

BEN (CONT'D)  
I feel it inside me. *She* made me feel something different. She awakened something new--

The music, light and wind abruptly stop.

AVA  
The woman from the elevator?

BEN  
Yep.

AVA  
Huh.

GWEN walks up to the table and takes the last seat, apologizing.

GWEN  
Hi! Sorry, they found a mannequin full of ecstasy at my subway station so I had to walk an extra few blocks.

BEN  
Oh shit that's so gross.

GWEN  
Yeah, totally, look at my shoes. Apparently the body was so full of drugs that the rats that started eating it all got crazy high and started going totally nutso in the station.

BEN

I hope the rats are all on  
PrEP...If PETA suddenly starts  
caring about AIDS we'll never get  
anyone to take it seriously again.

AVA

Speaking of AIDS, Ben just told me  
he's going to finally try to have  
sex with a woman!

GWEN

Oh wow! Congrats! Welcome to the  
dark side. Let me know any non-  
sexual way I can help you on your  
journey.

BEN

I might just need you guys to be my  
wing-girls tonight.

Eli clears his throat.

BEN (CONT'D)

Sorry, wing-women.

ELI

Thank you.

A waiter comes by and drops off a margarita for each of them.  
They hold them up for a cheers.

AVA

(Loudly) To Ben having sex!

They all clink glasses as other patrons look confused at AVA.

CUT TO EXT. A NIGHTCLUB, MANHATTAN.

CUT TO INT. OF NIGHT CLUB.

The party throbs around ELI, BEN, AVA, and GWEN.

ELI is dancing and having a good time. AVA and GWEN are  
pumping BEN up.

It's a slow motion, almost hazy scene. You can feel the  
adrenaline in the shot.

AVA (CONT'D)

Okay, dude. This is it.

We hear the pump of a heartbeat. It cuts to an intense head  
on shot of BEN. He's pumped. He's masculine. He's Ready.

GWEN

She was totally checking you out!

We hear another pump of a heartbeat. This is BEN's moment.

We see another intense head on shot of BEN. He nods to himself, he psyches himself up.

We hear another pump of a heartbeat.

BEN is walking over. It's still heavily exaggerated, hyper real, hyper sensitive slow motion.

Heartbeat.

She looks up and notices him. Her face breaks into a demure smile.

Heartbeat. The anticipation builds.

BEN grins back. Suave.

Heartbeat

BEN finally makes it to the girl. He slides up to her.

BEN

'Sup.

GIRL

Omg I'm so glad you came over here, girl.

The high stakes, adrenaline-filled moment shatters.

GIRL (CONT'D)

(rapid fire) Two things. First, I really need your opinion on some boyfriend problems I've been having because--and this leads me to my second thing--my friend here doesn't agree with me but more importantly, I also think you two should maybe meet or something... I'm glad you caught my signals, babe.

She shifts and her gay friend comes into view. He's extremely handsome but very high glam, high fem looking. They are clearly both bottoms. He gives BEN and apologetic look.

BOY

I'm so sorry, she has awful top-or-bottom-dar and she's had a few drinks and I got distracted and didn't see she was calling you over. (to the GIRL) Babe, I don't think he and I are a match.

BEN

(mock affronted) Are you just assuming I'm a bottom? Girl, I'm vers.

The BOY gives BEN a look.

BEN (CONT'D)

Fine, vers-bottom but still.

BOY

That your boyfriend over there?

ELI catches their eye and smiles at both of them.

BEN

Yep.

BOY

You guys open?

BEN

Not for boys.

BOY

Damn. I guess I'll fuck my second choice.

He pulls out his phone and taps it once. A shockingly hot, beefy man suddenly steps up next to them. He nods hello to the group.

BOY (CONT'D)

Bye, babe.

They walk off together.

BEN sighs, then turns to the girl, totally engaged and totally happy to be the gay best friend for her in that moment.

BEN

So, what's the tea? Who's the boyfriend and what did he do this time?

PAN OUT, FADE TO BLACK.

Ominous music plays.

Fade in INT STALKER'S APT 2AM

It's dark. Scary, suspenseful music plays as the camera walks through an obsessively orderly and cute suburban home. Think "Kate Spade designs a whole house."

HORROR MUSIC BUILDS

Suspense builds as the camera goes through the bedroom, the bathroom, and finally, into a dark corner, deep within the color coded, perfectly organized walk in closet.

We hear the STALKER softly panting

Lit only by candles, there is a creepy stalker's shrine to BEN. Cut out pictures from high school, a VERY generic message written to her in a yearbook, social media print outs, etc.

We can't see who the stalker is, but as the camera pans around we see her silhouette lit by the glow of her phone.

The STALKER's panting intensifies.

We look over her shoulder and see what she's looking at on her phone. It's a photo of two random people at the same club BEN was at in the last scene.

The STALKER zooms in to the tiny corner of the picture. There, barely legible in the background Ben and GIRL are locking eyes in an emotionally charged moment. It's clear they have sexual chemistry.

The STALKER gasps.

BLACK.

(OUT)