INT. TAXI. NIGHT.

JESSICA DAY, late twenties, sits in a taxi with a large winter coat on. She’s on the phone. It’s summer in New York.

JESS (INTO PHONE)
It’s a surprise for him. I’m going to walk in and just drop my coat on the ground. What do you think?

INT. CECE’S APARTMENT. CROSS CUT.

Jess’ model-beautiful best friend, CECE MEYERS, is putting on her shoes in front of the mirror.

CECE
Why don’t you hang it up?

JESS
No...
(speaking softly)
I’m not wearing anything underneath.

The DRIVER looks back at her through the rearview mirror.

CECE
What? I can’t hear you.

JESS
I’m... I’m naked under my coat.

CECE
Are you whispering something?

JESS
(louder)
I’m naked!

The sound of the cab swerving a little in traffic.

JESS (CONT’D)
(softer)
I think the cab driver knows.

CECE
It’s August, Jess. Anyone who’s wearing a winter coat is either naked or a hoarder.
(then)
This will be good for you guys. You got to keep it spicy.
(MORE)
CECE (CONT'D)
I don’t understand how you still
have sex at all after seven years.
I’d have to take Ambien and pretend
it’s all a dream.

JESS
He said he has this fantasy that
I’m a stripper with a heart of
gold. And he’s helping me put
myself through college-

CECE
He didn’t say the college part, did
he?

JESS
Nope.

CECE
What’s your stripper name?

JESS
I don’t know. Rachel Johnson.

CECE
Your stripper name is Rachel
Johnson?

JESS
Now, I’m nervous-

CECE
Jess. Remember in 6th grade when we
were freaks and no one would talk
to us? Did you ever think you’d
have a boyfriend?

JESS
No, I thought I’d be the crazy
woman living over your garage.

CECE
Now look at you. You’re naked in
the back of a cab. I’m so proud of
you.

Jess beams.

JESS (V.O.)
You know in horror movies, when the
girl hears the sound in the
basement...
EXT. NEW YORK STREET. MOMENTS LATER.

Jess gets out of the cab, and a soccer ball rolls over to her. She kicks it back to TWO BOYS playing...

    JESS (V.O.)
    And she’s like: “Oh my god, what’s that sound? I better go downstairs in the dark while only wearing my underwear…” And you’re like, “What is your problem? Call the police!”

The boys just stare. Her coat has fallen open. She doesn’t realize it—just smiles and waves. She runs up the steps of a brownstone.

INT. APARTMENT—CONTINUOUS.

Jess walks into a small cozy apartment for two.

    JESS (V.O.)
    That’s what my break-up was like. I should’ve just called the cops.

    JESS
    Heeey… I’m home...

Her boyfriend, SPENCER, walks out in his boxers, surprised. Jess drops her coat. We stay above the shoulders, of course...

    JESS (CONT’D)
    (sexy singing)
    Duh-duh-duh...

    SPENCER
    Jess-

Jess turns her back to Spencer and starts shaking her tush. She doesn’t see a HOT GIRL come out and stand there, staring.

    JESS
    (singing, oblivious)
    Duh-duh, sexy, naked, it’s all happening… Sexy, sexy, I’m doin’ sexy stuff to this plant...

The plant falls over.
JESS (CONT’D)
Oh, okay, I’ll pick it up later—
(singing)
Duh-duh— Who’s that girl?

She does a big jump and spins around.

JESS (CONT’D)
(singing)
That’s Jess!

Jess finally sees the girl. A moment of silence.

HOT GIRL
I like your bow.

A red stick-on bow falls on the floor. FREEZE FRAME.

JESS (V.O.)
So that’s what happened.

INT. A LOFT. DAY— A COUPLE WEEKS LATER.

Reveal the voice-over is coming from Jess in present day...

JESS
That’s why I need a new apartment.

She’s facing THREE GUYS, mid twenties: SCHMIDT, slick, button-up shirt, NICK, hoodie, and COACH, large and in sweat pants. If you squint, they look like the three stages of the evolution of man...

MAIN CREDITS

BACK TO THE LOFT:

NICK
Come on. You had no idea he was cheating on you?

JESS
No. We’d been dating forever. I thought I— I thought I knew him—

Jess starts crying a little. The guys glance at each other.

JESS (CONT’D)
It’s okay— I’m just emotional right now... You know how it is.

The guys stare at her blankly. They have no idea.
JESS (CONT’D)
It’s weird. When I saw your ad on
Craigslist, I thought you were
girls-

SCHMIDT
(very defensive)
What? Why? Why would you think
that? That’s crazy.

NICK
Schmidt wrote the ad.

JESS
I guess because you described the
curtains as “beige-y”.

Schmidt takes off his t-shirt, revealing a rock hard six-
pack. He runs his hand up and down them.

SCHMIDT
What about these? Are these beige-
y?

JESS
This isn’t going to work, right? I
mean, you don’t want to live with a
girl. I’m going through a break-up
and I’m a teacher, so I’m going to
be bringing home like a lot of
popsicle sticks and stuff, and
sometimes when I’m sad I pretend to
be Carrie Bradshaw and I put on
weird bras and type on my computer.
Oh yeah, and I sing to myself. A
lot.

(sung)
A lot.

SCHMIDT
Are you going to shower naked?

JESS
I mean- yeah?

SCHMIDT
Then yes. Yes we want to live with
you.

COACH
No. She’ll tear us apart. She’ll
make me wear pants. I want to sit
on that couch and let my beans out.
Jess immediately stands up from the couch.

    JESS
    So I’m going to go-

    NICK
    Wait, sorry. We’re idiots. Give us a shot. Take a look at the apartment.

    SCHMIDT
    Nick. Come on. We’re not desperate. We’ve got a lot of options.

INT. GUYS’ LOFT. FLASHBACK.

    GUY
    One thing about me. I love soup.
            (a long, weird beat)
    I. Love. Soup.

INT. GUY’S LOFT. FLASHBACK.

A GUY IN HIS FIFTIES wearing LIPSTICK.

    GUY
    Weeeell. Full disclosure. I’m definitely a morning person.

BACK TO LOFT:

    NICK
    We’re desperate. Our buddy moved out three weeks ago.

    JESS
    I’m sorry, I don’t think-

    SCHMIDT
    Wait, you’re telling me you had no idea that guy was cheating on you?

    JESS
    No. I told you. And I don’t really want to talk about it-

    SCHMIDT
    Did he lose a lot of socks?

    JESS
    Yeah. So?
SCHMIDT
Where do you think those socks were?

JESS
I don’t... oh.

NICK
Did he take his phone into the bathroom?

JESS
He thought it was rude to talk at the table.

COACH
How many showers did he take a day?

JESS
Two. One after the... gym.

NICK
Whose idea was it to move in together?

JESS
Well, my lease was up, so...

They all stare at her.

NICK
(softly)
Keyser Soze!

JESS
Oh my god. You guys are geniuses.

NICK
No. We’re guys.

SCHMIDT
Come take a look at my room.
(then)
Wow. I’ve never said that to a girl and not meant sex.

As they’re walking away...

JESS
So, wait, my boyfriend took this class on Chinese Tea Ceremonies every Thursday....

As Nick shakes his head, cut to:
QUICK SHOTS:

Jess moves in her boxes, while crying uncontrollably.

JESS (V.O.)
In the words of Kanye West, break-ups are hard.

INT. THE LOFT. MORNING. ANOTHER DAY.

Jess wears a large flannel and jeggings. She is cutting up an apple at the table with Nick and Coach.

JESS (V.O.)
Just when you think you have everything under control, you don’t...

Nick watches with Coach. Nick hands her a banana.

NICK
Banana?

JESS
(breaking into sobs)

NICK
When she cries, it sort of sounds like Rihanna.

JESS
(crying, like Rihanna)
Eh! Eh! Eh!

INT. THE LOFT. ANOTHER DAY.

Jess is in front of the TV watching “Pretty Woman,” dipping Saltines in fried rice. She’s in a sort-of trance. Nick, Schmidt, and Coach watch from the table.

SCHMIDT
She’s watched that movie seven times. I know all the lines now. I don’t want to know the lines to “Pretty Woman.” What if I’m talking to a girl and all of a sudden I’m just like, “Ohh, I’m not wearing pantyhose!”
COACH
She ate all the food I have stashed
in the couch.

NICK
You have food stashed in the couch?

COACH
Yeah. Obvi.

INT. THE LOFT. ANOTHER NIGHT.

Schmidt comes home from a night out, making out with a HOT GIRL in the doorway. Suddenly, the girl stops making out with Schmidt and sees Jess watching “Pretty Woman” in the dark.

HOT GIRL
Oo, I love “Pretty Woman”!

The girl runs to the couch and sits next to Jess, leaving Schmidt standing there.

REVEAL Coach sitting on the couch next to them reciting all the lines, as if in a trance.

COACH
(doing voices)
I was in here yesterday, you
wouldn’t wait on me- Oh. - You
people work on commission, right? -

SCHMIDT
Nick!

JESS (V.O.)
The problem was I didn’t know who I
was without him. I was like a
frozen computer. I tried to click
on stuff, but all I had was that
little spinning pinwheel thing. Or
something.

INT. LIVING ROOM. SAME TIME.

The kitchen is a mess with open jars and food products. Jess is sitting on the floor eating bread, on her ex-boyfriend’s Facebook page. She’s singing “My Favorite Things.”
JESS
(singing)
Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens— I hate you, I hate you, I hate you—
(takes a big mouth full of bread)
I miss you.

REVEAL Nick, Schmidt, and Coach are standing together and watching her on the floor.

SCHMIDT
We got to get her out of here.

Jess, startled, turns around. In a moment of panic, she throws the bread across the room.

JESS
It’s not mine!
(then)
Oh god. This is bad, right?

SCHMIDT
Yeah. It’s been a week. I can’t live like this. I brought a girl home the other night, and she thought I had a baby. I’m taking you out. I’m going to get you a rebound. Shower sex. Hopefully.

NICK
This is not going to work.

JESS
Can I wear this flannel?

SCHMIDT
Wait, let me see it for a second.

Jess takes it off and hands it to Schmidt. Schmidt immediately takes a pair of scissors, cuts it up into tiny pieces in the sink.

INT. GARFIELD ELEMENTARY. HALLWAY. LATER THAT DAY.

Jess is walking down the hallway, on the phone. As she walks, kids say hi to her and slap her high-five. She’s clearly one of the most popular teachers.

CECE (FROM PHONE)
So, good, they’re taking you out...
STUDENT
Hey, Ms. Day.

Jess slaps the student high-five.

JESS
Ceec, I feel great. Why have I never had guy friends before?

INT. SOUND STAGE. CROSS CUT.

Cece, in a bizarre deconstructed designer dress, sits in a director’s chair getting primped and poked by makeup and hair people. She talks on the phone.

CECE (INTO PHONE)
Yeah, that’s so weird...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM- FLASHBACK.

A TEENAGE JESS is sitting at the piano with her legs splayed. She sings “Silent All These Years” by Tori Amos with a lot of emotion.

ON TEENAGE CECE, watching in the crowd, her arm draped over a hot guy who looks like Jordan Catalano, shaking her head in shame.

JESS
(singing)
So you found a girl who thinks
really deep thoughts! What’s so
amazing about really deep thoughts?
Boy, you best hope that I bleed
real soon...

A GUY IN THE AUDIENCE runs out of the auditorium gagging.

BACK TO PRESENT:

JESS (CONT’D)
They’re going to help me pick up dudes. Like real ones. I gotta look hot.

Jess passes a group of OLDER WOMAN TEACHERS who wave enthusiastically and make “hang loose” hand gestures. Some 10 YEAR OLD students have started following her.

CECE (INTO PHONE)
Just don’t take anything from Lost and Found again- Jess? I’m serious.
JESS
Of course not. I gotta go.

CECE (INTO PHONE)
Jess-

Jess stops in front of a Lost and Found box. She holds up a striped sweater. She puts it on. It fits, but snug.

JESS
What do you think of this?

Jess turns around and talks to the nearby group of ADORING 10 YEAR OLDS. All of the girls “Oo and Aah.” One of the little boys in the group speaks up.

YOUNG BOY
(a la Rachel Zoe)

INT. SCHMIDT’S OFFICE. MEETING ROOM. SAME TIME.

A staff meeting at Schmidt’s suit-and-tie, high stress office filled with ball-busting WOMEN. MANDY, his douchiest co-worker bothers him as he tries to text.

MANDY
Victoria’s Secret party on Saturday. Are you on the list?

SCHMIDT
(covering his panic)
Yeah. Obviously. We go every year.

His FEMALE BOSS comes in.

FEMALE BOSS
Hey Schmidt, nice tie. Can I borrow a tampon?

All Schmidt’s female co-workers snicker and high-five.

SCHMIDT
You know what- I’m not a sex object. I’m just trying to do my work, do a good job...

More laughter. One of the women makes a cat noise.

INT. SCHMIDT’S OFFICE. BULLPEN. LATER.

Schmidt looks at the Victoria’s Secret website, on the phone.
SCHMIDT (INTO PHONE)
We need Caroline, Nick. She can get us in.

INT. THE LOFT. CROSS CUT.

Nick is sitting next to a pile of L-SAT books, but reading one of Jess’ copies of US Weekly.

NICK (FROM PHONE)
I’m not calling her.

SCHMIDT (INTO PHONE)
Listen to me. Knowing, every year, that I will go to the Victoria’s Secret Wild West Charity Auction for Poverty reminds me that even though these women make fun of me and they slap my ass on the elevator, I’m still a man and I can still motorboat a girl dressed like a Native American.

INT. VICTORIA’S SECRET PARTY. FLASHBACK.

Schmidt, incredibly drunk, with his shirt off, is motorboating a girl dressed as Pocahontas. He looks up.

SCHMIDT
I’m never going to die!

General cheers.

BACK TO OFFICE/THE LOFT- CROSS CUT:

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
Just call her. You call her when you get drunk all the time.

NICK
I don’t know to what you are referring.

INT. THE LOFT. FLASHBACK.

Nick, drunk, speaking into his cell in a cockney accent.

NICK (INTO PHONE)
‘Ello Caroline... Caroline... No, it’s not Nick, it’s Tiny Tim...
BACK TO OFFICE/THE LOFT—CROSS CUT:

SCHMIDT
Nick. Call her.

NICK
Schmidt. I’m not calling her.

SCHMIDT
Perfect. Tell me. Why did you let the girl who does PR for Victoria’s Secret dump you?

NICK
She didn’t love me anymore.

SCHMIDT
You can work around that. Look at your parents.
(seeing something)
No. No.

ON a group of young guys, including BENJAMIN (we’ll meet him later), holding up cowboy hats to a group of women.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
The interns are going.
(then)
You have 24 hours.

Schmidt hangs up on him. Mandy pokes her head over.

MANDY
Ha, ha. You suck.

SCHMIDT
One day, Mandy, I will defeat you.

INT. SQUEEZE GYM. OFFICE. A LITTLE LATER.

Coach sits across from his boss, Bob, at the Squeeze Gym where he’s a trainer. They both wear Squeeze t-shirts. Coach is eating a power bar. Boss watches him warily.

BOSS
So... you’re eating that whole thing?
(Coach keeps chewing)
You know, Coach, people need to look at you and think: “I want to look like that.”
(Coach keeps chewing)
BOSS (CONT’D)
Okay. So. There have been five complaints just in the past week.

COACH
So I should stop teaching spin class and go back to weights, huh?

BOSS
I know you want to get back to the weights, but I need you teaching a spin class.

(then)
Did you pretend you had a gun in your pocket to make a woman spin faster?

INT. SQUEEZE GYM. FLASHBACK.
Squeeze Gym. Coach’s Spin Class. 3-4 SCARED WOMEN are spinning as Heavy Metal music plays. Coach yells, drill sergeant style. He pretends to have a gun in his pocket.

COACH
(in a woman’s face)
YOU’RE WEAK!

As the woman is about to scream:

BACK TO OFFICE.

COACH
She burned 800 calories. What do you want me to do...

(doing a silly voice)
Be friendly with them and talk to them-

BOSS
Yes. That’s exactly what I want.

INT. THE LOFT. LATER THAT DAY.
Coach sits in the living room. Jess, wearing the same tight striped sweater from Lost and Found, is trying to figure out how to use a hair straightener.

COACH
Hey.. How do you talk to women?
JESS
You’re doing it right now.

COACH
No, for real.

JESS
I’m a woman.

COACH
No, for real.

JESS
Well, you know what I tell my fourth graders-- if you don’t understand someone, try to put yourself in their shoes.

COACH
Yeah right. I’m not wearing girl stuff.
(them)
Why is your hair on fire?

Jess screams and runs into the bathroom...

INT. THE LOFT. BATHROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Jess takes her hair out of the straightener. It’s a half burnt, wavy mess. She looks down at the box where Kim Kardashian is smiling up at her and giving her a thumb’s up. She looks at herself in the mirror, about to cry.

JESS
You can do this.
(singing)
Your hair looks crazy, but you’re still on top! That’s Jess!

Jess high-fives herself in the mirror, leaves the bathroom and heads into her room. She opens the door to find...

INT. THE LOFT. JESS’ BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Coach wearing Jess’ jeggings in front of her mirror.

JESS
Aaaaah! My jeggings!

COACH
You told me to-- They look like jeans!

Jess shuts the door to her room. She sits outside. Schmidt walks by, looking amazing.
Okay, let’s do this. How long is it going to take you to get dressed?

I’m dressed.

Schmidt stares at her.

Right. Sort of Grandma-hot. I could go there with you. Listen, it wouldn’t be my first choice, but I could go there. Let’s do this.

(from inside the room)
I can’t get them off... they’re too tight...

Schmidt looks at her, weirded out. She shrugs.

INT. THE BAR. NIGHT.

Schmidt, Coach, and Jess sit on stools, as Nick tends bar. A girl walks by, flips off Schmidt.

Does she know you?

No, Jess. Not the real me.

(quietly to Jess)
They looked like jeans.

(softly to him)
It’s okay. I accept you.

Schmidt points at A HOT GUY at the end of the bar.

Okay. Him.

He looks like you.

You’re right. He’s out of your league.
Nick is one of the bartenders- he delivers drinks.

NICK
Beers. And... a Rosé.

JESS
Pink wine makes me slutty. One sip of pink wine and I’m like Fergie in the Black-Eyed Peas. I’m like the Incredible Slut.
(to a passing guy)
How you doin?

SCHMIDT
Now listen to me. I know at some point someone in your life told you that it was okay to be exactly who you are and that one day you’d find a man who loves the real you- a man who just lives to rub on your hairy, hairy legs.

(then)
That’s not going to be tonight. You’re going to take off that sweater, because it smells like apple sauce... And you’re going to go over there, and you’re going to hide your crazy. Because that guy broke your heart and the only way it’s going to stop hurting is if you go do some bad things with that man, right over there.

NICK
Listen to him. He’s like Mary Poppins for rebound sex.

SCHMIDT
Here’s what’s going to happen. You walk over there. You stand next to him. You smile.

Jess smiles a large, toothy smile.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
You don’t smile like that.

Jess smiles using her lips to cover her teeth.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
Nope.

Jess shows a little teeth- it looks weirder.
NICK
You look like a young Susan Boyle.

SCHMIDT
No smile. If he checks you out, make eye contact, but just for a second. Don’t speak unless he speaks to you. What did I just say?

JESS
I got this.

Jess takes a swig of her pink wine and walks over. She sidles up next to the guy. The GUY quickly checks her out. Jess waits. A beat. She can’t help herself.

JESS (CONT’D)
Hey Sailor...

Jess makes a weird half-toothy, half-toothless smile. He looks scared.

Over his shoulder, we see Nick laughing and Schmidt banging his head against the bar.

Benjamin, the intern, and Mandy walk up with another friend, PETER.

MANDY
Schmidt. This is Benjamin. He’s an intern. We’re boning. Can I get some shots up in this bitch?

SCHMIDT
(to Nick)
Check his ID.

MANDY
What are you— like a bartender?

NICK
Yup.

MANDY
Weird.

BENJAMIN
(to Schmidt)
I heard you’re not coming to the party Saturday. I heard you’re not on the list. Suuuucks bro.

Schmidt looks at Nick: “You’re going to let this happen?”
NICK
Oh, we’re going.

Schmidt smiles. Jess walks up behind them.

BENJAMIN
Whoa. You scared me.

PETER
What’s up, I’m Peter.

Jess just stares at them, trying to make her mouth into a sexy smile. Everyone waits for her to speak.

MANDY
Do you guys smell applesauce?

JESS
You’re mean.

Jess hits Mandy with a light girly smack.

MANDY
Oh my god!

Mandy lightly hits her back. Jess lightly hits her back.

SCHMIDT
Yes! Yes!

The guys break it up.

JUMP CUT- LATER:

Schmidt plays Big Buck Hunter with Coach.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
Wait. You put on her pants?

COACH

He lifts his shirt to reveal the jeggings.

COACH (CONT’D)
I couldn’t get them off.

AT THE BAR

Jess and Nick are at the bar. ANOTHER GUY walks up.

JESS
Hi.
GUY
I have a girlfriend.

JESS
Wow. I just said Hi. I can’t hide my crazy.

NICK
Where would you hide it? One more pink wine.

JESS
Maybe you should be my rebound. You know? Just get it over with. Get all that sexual tension off the table.

NICK
Okay, sure.

JESS
Wait, seriously?

NICK
Sure. But I mean, you’ll fall in love with me. And then you’ll realize I’m emotionally stunted and incapable of love, and I’ve been studying for the bar exam for three years and that’s not normal. And, in the morning, when you just want to eat your breakfast, I’ll be picturing you naked. And then one of us has to move. So, yeah, we should totally hook up.

JESS
(then)
You got dumped, didn’t you?

NICK
No.

JESS
It takes one to know one. What happened?

NICK
I don’t need to talk about it. I’m fine- I’m not the one crying on the floor.

JESS
Fine.
NICK

Fine.

Schmidt comes up to them, points to PETER, on the other end of the bar.

SCHMIDT
Hey. The intern’s little friend wants to talk to you.

JESS

SCHMIDT
I laid some ground work. Go.

JESS
Yes! Okay.

Jess bends at the waist, flipping her hair over. She fluffs it with her fingers, shaking it out. Peter sees her doing it.

SCHMIDT
Stop. Stop whatever you’re doing right now.

Jess shakes her hair back and forth violently, hitting Schmidt in the face. Then Jess walks over to the guy.

NICK
What did you do?

Schmidt shrugs. He takes a swig of a beer.

SCHMIDT
Why do we never have friends that are girls?

NICK
Yeah, Schmidt, I have no idea.

INT. THE LOFT. LIVING ROOM. FLASHBACK.

Schmidt sits on a couch next to a NICE GIRL.

SCHMIDT
Let’s just be friends.

NICE GIRL
Totally.

A beat. And then Schmidt and the Girl start making out.
BACK TO BAR:

SCHMIDT
You know, I don’t even really think
of her as a girl. I think of her as
a chubby little alien who is
learning the ways of the human.
(alien voice)
A. Fork. Can. I. Eat. It?

Jess suddenly comes back, angry. She slaps a twenty down.

JESS
You paid him to talk to me?

NICK
Wow. Only twenty dollars?

JESS
You know what? You’re just-

Peter walks by.

PETER
See you tomorrow... Sailor.

JESS
Can’t wait. Should I call or- cool!

Peter’s gone. Nick and Schmidt stare, surprised.

NICK
What? What’s happening tomorrow?

JESS
Dinner. With food.

She “raises the roof.”

JESS (CONT’D)
(singing)
Who’s that girl? It’s Jess! She’s
on fiiiiire!

NICK
What is that- did you make up a
theme song for yourself?

JESS
You know, some guys like that I
don’t limit myself to the
conventional ideas of what’s sexy.
Some guys like my hairy legs- Maybe
not Spencer, but...
NICK
Oh god. Are you going to cry?

JESS

NICK
Okay, but when you were imitating me, your voice actually went higher-

JESS
“I’m Nick, and I have a low voice.”
(to Schmidt)
And you— you are just wrong. I’m not going to have another relationship based on lies— I want to be with a guy who doesn’t want to play games, who likes honesty-

SCHMIDT
How’d you get him to go out with you?

JESS
I said I needed rebound sex.

Jess “raises the roof.”

NICK
You should be careful with that roof. We wouldn’t want it to fall down-

JESS
I’m going out with that guy tomorrow. And we may or may not get to third or fourth base. It is on!

She does a strange hip-thrusting dance and walks away. As she turns around, REVEAL that her skirt is tucked into the back of her LARGE GRANNY PANTIES.

NICK
Should we tell her?

SCHMIDT
I think we let her have her moment.
ON JESS:

JESS
(singing to herself)
She got a date in a bar with a real
dude- She’s on fiiiiire!
(stops, realizing)
Wait, where am I going? I didn’t
actually have to go anywhere...

INT. COFFEE SHOP. THE NEXT DAY.

Nick sits across from CAROLINE, his ex-girlfriend.

CAROLINE
Nick.

NICK
Caroline. Just so you know- I am
totally over you.

CAROLINE
Good. Does that mean you’re going
to stop prank calling me?

NICK
What? That’s crazy.

CAROLINE
(cockney)
‘Ello Caroline- Oi still love you.
(then)
So what is this about? The party?

NICK
No... But if you could get us in-

CAROLINE
No.

NICK
Okay. Fine. I should probably...
(this hurts to say)
Why did you dump me?

CAROLINE
Nick. Are you actually having a
feeling that you’re not making a
joke about?

NICK
Can you just- just tell me.
CAROLINE
Because. When I met you, you wanted to change the world. And you were crazy and fun and trying to figure it out. And then your parents told you to go to law school. And you just gave up. You stopped caring about everything. Including me.

NICK
(after a beat)
Oh. That’s it? That’s not bad. I thought you were sleeping with someone else.

CAROLINE
Nick. I’m glad you called.

NICK
(cockney)
‘Oim glad, ‘oney.

CAROLINE
(smiling)
Fine. You’re on the list.

Suddenly REVEAL Schmidt at the next table who had been hiding behind a Village Voice. He stands up, pumping his fists.

CAROLINE (CONT’D)
Has he been there the whole time? Of course he has.

SCHMIDT
Caroline. I’ve missed hearing you guys have sex. It was like hearing dolphins playing with a ball.

INT. SQUEEZE GYM. SPIN CLASS. SAME TIME.

Coach’s spin class has transformed. Soft acoustic guitar music plays. Coach is wearing jeggings and trying to be nice.

COACH
Would you like to go a little faster?

WOMAN ON BIKE
I can’t...
COACH
What about now? Would you like to
go any faster now? I would really
like you to go faster.

The woman, creeped out, leaves. Another woman leaves. That
only leaves a CHUBBY 11 year old GIRL.

COACH (CONT’D)
Hey, aren’t you going to go too?

CHUBBY GIRL
My mom said if I don’t exercise,
she’s taking my phone. I like your
jeggings. I didn’t think guys wore
those. They make fun of them at
school.

COACH
Jeggings are awesome.

CHUBBY GIRL
You’re awesome. Look. I made jorts.

Chubby girl shows him her cut-off jeggings. Chubby Girl’s MOM
runs into the room and grabs Chubby Girl out of the class.

MOM
Was the man in tights making you
feel uncomfortable?

INT. THE LOFT. LATER THAT NIGHT.

Cece, looking gorgeous as per usual, sits on the couch
waiting for Jess. Nick and Schmidt sit opposite her, staring.

CECE
Does the dress fit, Jess?

JESS (FROM OFF)
Ummm...

The sounds of things falling.

SCHMIDT
Cece, Are you warm? I’m a little...
warm.

NICK
No, Schmidt-

Schmidt takes off his shirt. His abs are oiled up.
CECE
All that oil- can’t be good for the couch.

SCHMIDT
Cecilia.
(Italian accent)
Che-cilia. What are your hopes and dreams? Tell me everything.

COACH (FROM OFF)
What’s up, jerks?

Coach walks into the room, then stops in his tracks when he sees Cece.

CECE
Hi, I’m Cece, Jess’ friend from growing up-

COACH
What- are you a model or something?

CECE
Yes. Yeah. Mostly print right now- I’m saving money so I can go to an engineering program. I’m really interested in video game design.

A wordless moment from all of the guys.

COACH
That’s cool. I know what it’s like to have people judge you on your looks. I’m a trainer.

CECE
Oh, really, don’t you have to be...

NICK
Not fat?

COACH
Can a fat man do this?

Coach tries to pick up the couch that Cece where Cece sits. He falls back down immediately, screaming:

COACH (CONT’D)
(high pitched)
Oh god, oh god.
CECE
I think you look great. I like those pants.

Coach just stares at her, his mouth open a little.

NICK
So you hung out with Jess in high school. Was that like God watching the Titanic?

CECE
We just found each other. I was kind of freakishly tall and she was just... freakish.

Jess comes out in Cece’s high-fashion, super tight dress, high heels, and a shiny beaded scarf.

JESS
Check it out.
(beat-boxing)
Um-ch-um-ch-um-ch...

She takes one step, and immediately falls.

CECE
Maybe no heels?

JESS
(getting back up)
I can’t breathe... I haven’t eaten bread in twelve hours.

NICK
How many of those hours were you asleep?

JESS
Do you like this scarf with it? I got it on a bus. For free.

CECE
I love it. He’s going to love you.

SCHMIDT
No! No! That scarf is horrible. Don’t take advice from a hot girl. Cece telling you to wear that scarf is like Mozart saying, “You can play the piano! It’s easy!” No. You can’t. You can play, like, maybe a plastic harmonica. Maybe.
CECE
What are you saying? Jess isn’t hot?

SCHMIDT
No. I’m...

Schmidt suddenly runs out of the room.

SCHMIDT (FROM OFF) (CONT’D)
It’s a trap!

JESS
(texting)
I’ll just tell him I’m ready...

NICK
Don’t text him- he didn’t text you.
(off her look)
Oh god, how many times today?

JESS
No, no- Nick. I really need this.

NICK
(then, genuine)
Don’t worry. You’re doing everything right. You’re the one who knows who you are. If he doesn’t like that, he’s crazy. I mean seriously, why would you listen to us?

Coach tries to lift the couch again.

COACH
Ow. Ow. Ow.

Jess looks at all of them, nervous but excited.

INT. RESTAURANT. LATER.

A HOT HOSTESS leads Jess to her table.

HOT HOSTESS
I love that scarf.

JESS
Thank you!

Jess suddenly looks at how hot the hostess is and gets suspicious. She takes off the scarf.
EXT. OUTSIDE THE VICTORIA’S SECRET PARTY. SAME TIME.

Nick and Schmidt wear cool versions of Western gear waiting in line to go to the party. Mandy (with a band-aid on her face) and the girls from Schmidt’s work walk by, laughing and pointing at Coach, who wears his JORTS, NO SHIRT, AND A FEATHER IN HIS BASEBALL HAT.

GIRL
Creepy Indian!

COACH
Yeah!

The girls high-five him.

COACH (CONT’D)
Can I tell you guys something?

NICK/SCHMIDT
No/Please don’t.

COACH
My balls feel amazing. It’s like the end of “Pretty Woman”. It’s like my balls are living the fairy tale.

SCHMIDT
Take off the pants, Coach. You look like you just walked out of an Asian YouTube Video.

COACH
No. This is me, Schmidt. I’m fat. I use calamine lotion for weird stuff. I wear jeggings. And when you make fun of me, it makes me feel bad.

SCHMIDT
Oh god, are we all talking about our feelings now? Because I’m not.

Suddenly, Benjamin, the intern walks up with his friend Peter-Jess’ Date.

BENJAMIN
Hey, guys. What’s up?
(to Coach)
Are those spanx?

COACH
Jorts.
NICK
Wait, where’s Jess?

PETER
(shrugs)
Not happening. She texted me seven times today.

SCHMIDT
What?

PETER
Yeah. Like long ones. I just want to hook up.

NICK
Wait, so she’s just waiting for you to show up? Did you call her?

PETER
Uhhh.

Nick looks at Schmidt, pointedly.

SCHMIDT
No. No. I’m not going. Coach and I are staying-

COACH
I’m going with Nick.

SCHMIDT
Fine-

NICK
Fine.

Nick ducks under the rope. Coach follows, and starts running down the street.

COACH
Jess! We’re coming, Jess!

JUMP CUT:

Coach and Nick are still running down the street.

COACH (CONT’D)
(high-pitched)
Why are we running?

NICK
I have no idea.
A yellow cab pulls up. Schmidt’s in the back.

SCHMIDT
Get in. I don’t want to talk about it.

COACH
Oh god, thank you. Thank you.

Nick nods at Schmidt as they all pile into the cab.

INT. RESTAURANT. LATER.

Jess’ table is now covered in bread-crumbs, half eaten rolls. She’s in the pits. The hot hostess walks up.

JESS
Do you have anything more that’s free that also has bread in it?

HOSTESS
I’m sorry, we’re going to have to ask you to give up the table-

NICK (O.S.)
We’re here.

Reveal Nick, Schmidt, and Coach behind the hostess.

COACH
We’re here for the date.

JESS
What?

HOSTESS
You’re all on a date?

NICK
(announcing it)
Yes. We’re all her boyfriends. We’re like Reverse Mormons. One man just isn’t enough for her.

JESS
I can’t believe you guys came-

NICK
You can cry if you want. We’re good with it.
JESS
(crying)
I’m not crying... I’m not...

People in the restaurant look over. Coach steps forward.

COACH
(singing softly)
Raindrops on roses and kittens...
on kittens. Brown paper, white
paper, blue fish with strings.

Nick joins in.

NICK AND COACH
These things are the things that
are my favorite things-

SCHMIDT
No. Not doing it, sorry.

Coach hits him on the shoulder hard.

SCHMIDT (CONT’D)
When the bears come-

NICK
And the aliens land-

COACH
And put an alien pod inside you
that makes you an alien feeding
device-

COACH, NICK, AND SCHMIDT
(a big jumbled mess)
Something, something, something, My
favorite things/These are my
favorite things/Feels so sad.

ON a table with an OLD COUPLE.

OLD WOMAN
What’s happening over there?

OLD MAN
They’re doing some kind of show.

OLD WOMAN
(looking at Coach)
Look. It’s Peter Pan.

BACK TO JESS’ TABLE:
HOSTESS
You have to leave. Now. All of you.

They start to head out.

JESS (V.O.)
When you get your heart broken, you can call up a girl and spend an hour talking about how men suck. That’s fine. But sometimes what you need is just a guy to look at you, shrug, and say...

SCHMIDT
I’d still do you.

COACH
Yup.

NICK
Yeah.

JESS
Aww, you guys.
(then)
That’s never going to happen.

INT. THE LOFT. LATER THAT NIGHT.

The guys are sitting on the couch wearing jeggings. Jess sits on the floor with a bottle of pink wine. They are all watching “Pretty Woman,” reciting lines.

COACH
How much for the entire night?

SCHMIDT
You couldn’t afford me.

COACH
Try me.

SCHMIDT
300.

COACH
Done.

NICK
I just have to say. My balls feel incredibly supported right now.

END OF SHOW