

**GETTING BACK**

by  
Belinda King

37 Despointes Street  
Marrickville, NSW 2204  
Australia  
belindacking@me.com  
+ 61 402 676 418

FADE IN:

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A cosy Manhattan restaurant. Through the windows tables of loved-up couples can be seen.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

AMANDA, 30's, is immaculately groomed, tightly wound and prickly. She sits opposite PAUL, 30's, skinny and paunchy at the same time, wearing a worn Phantom of the Opera T-shirt. They fight.

AMANDA

You said you had it under control.

PAUL

I did have it under control.

AMANDA

Then why the hell don't I have Beyonce tickets?!

PAUL

The website crashed. You can't be mad at me for that.

AMANDA

I'm not mad at you. I'm mad at myself for thinking you wouldn't fuck this up.

PAUL

Dave said he might be able to get me a couple of tickets.

AMANDA

(sarcastic)

Oh, OK. Some low-level insurance accountant from Jersey's going to sort it out. Why was I worried?

PAUL

There's still a week before the concert.

A mousey WAITRESS approaches tentatively.

WAITRESS

Hi. Are you ready to order now?

PAUL

No.

Yes.

AMANDA

Amanda looks at her open menu.

AMANDA  
He'll have the steak -

PAUL  
I don't want steak.

AMANDA  
And I'll have the salmon.

PAUL  
Is there anything you recommend?

WAITRESS  
The quail is very popular.

PAUL  
I don't like quail.

AMANDA  
Why do you even ask? You don't like anything.

WAITRESS  
The truffle mousse is also nice.

AMANDA  
Don't waste your time it's like talking to a child.

WAITRESS  
I could come back if you need more time?

AMANDA  
I need another glass of wine.

PAUL  
I think you've had enough.

Amanda turns to him and speaks as if they're alone.

AMANDA  
What's that supposed to mean?

PAUL  
You really want to talk about it now?

AMANDA  
This is why I need a drink!

Paul smiles at the Waitress.

PAUL  
I'll just have the steak.

WAITRESS  
Anything else?

AMANDA  
Yes. Don't ever get married.

INT. AMANDA'S CAR - NIGHT

Amanda drives. Paul is in the passenger seat.

PAUL  
The steak was really good. You made  
an excellent choice. Thanks.

AMANDA  
The salmon was dry.

PAUL  
I'm sorry the card wouldn't go  
through.

Amanda doesn't respond.

PAUL  
There was a vintage engine on eBay.  
Excellent condition. I knew it  
would go fast so I just grabbed it  
and I forgot which account I -

AMANDA  
If you want to buy parts for your  
stupid train set, use your bonus  
money.

PAUL  
There is no bonus this year.

AMANDA  
What?! How do those creeps sleep at  
night?

PAUL  
I mean, there are bonuses, but I  
didn't reach my targets, so...

AMANDA  
Are you fucking kidding me, Paul?

PAUL  
It's hard to be motivated. I hate  
my job. I'm suffocating in there.

AMANDA  
How do you think it feels to be the  
one holding everything together?

They fall silent. Paul takes a loose piece of dental floss from his pocket and cleans his teeth. Amanda seethes.

INT. VIM MARKETING - DAY

Dressed in a tailored suit and expensive heels Amanda marches in to work. The space is open plan and all the EMPLOYEES are as stylish as the decor.

AMANDA

Are the plastics guys here?

Amanda hurries past her assistant, SKYE, 20's, a little dorky but smart and sweet.

SKYE

They're in the conference room.  
I'll get coffee.

AMANDA

And donuts. But nothing too fancy,  
these guys are old school.

SKYE

You think they'll go for the social  
media plan?

AMANDA

Give me half an hour. They'll do  
whatever I tell them.

Amanda continues down the hall.

INT. INSURANCE OFFICE - DAY

The office is dowdy and was last refurbished in the nineties.

INT. PAUL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Paul fires up his antiquated computer. DAVE, 30's, cute and jovial but also annoying, sneaks up behind him.

DAVE

There he is!

Dave grabs Paul who starts.

PAUL

Oh shit! Dave.

Dave sits on Paul's desk.

DAVE

You're kind of jumpy.

PAUL

I didn't get much sleep last night.

DAVE

Date night right? I know what it's like. You and the wife. You know...

Dave makes some confusing sex gestures.

DAVE

Well tell her to save some for me because look what I got. Boo-ya!

Dave proudly produces two Beyonce concert tickets.

PAUL

Alright, Dave! You've literally saved my life. Thank you!

DAVE

Just think of me when your wife's thanking you tonight.

INT. VIM MARKETING CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Amanda and the two silver-haired PLASTICS GUYS leave the meeting, smiles all round.

AMANDA

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

PLASTICS GUY

I'm excited dot com!

AMANDA

Good one! Hashtag look out for Easton Plastics!

The Plastic Guys smile. Skye approaches.

SKYE

Follow me, gentlemen. Your car is waiting out front.

Skye ushers them out. Amanda is joined by LOGAN, an ambitious young hotshot with a big mouth.

LOGAN

Did you just say 'hashtag'?

AMANDA

Shut it, Logan. We got them.

LOGAN

We? That's right, I was supposed to be in that meeting, too.

Amanda and Logan walk back into the conference room.

AMANDA

I just I just it would be best if I  
got in first.

LOGAN

You're such a control freak.

AMANDA

I'm not a control freak. I just  
like to have everything under  
control at all times.

LOGAN

You're right that's totally  
different.

AMANDA

We need to get to work on their  
campaign.

LOGAN

A plastics manufacturer isn't  
exactly sexy.

AMANDA

It can be. We just need to find an  
angle.

LOGAN

Well Mandy, I'd be happy to try  
some angles with you. Let's bang  
this out now.

There's a knock on the door. Skye pokes her head in.

SKYE

Sorry to interrupt but Paul's on  
the phone. He's been holding a  
while, says it's important.

AMANDA

I'll call back later.

INT. PAUL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Paul has the phone in one hand the Beyonce tickets in the  
other.

PAUL

(into phone)

OK. Could you let her know I got  
the tickets?

INT. SKYE'S DESK - DAY

Skye's pen is poised.

SKYE  
 (into phone)  
 Really? I thought they sold out?

INTERCUT CONVERSATION AS NEEDED:

PAUL  
 I know a guy who knows a guy.

SKYE  
 Are you in the mafia or something?

PAUL  
 If I told you then I'd have to put  
 a horse head in your bed.

SKYE  
 Good to know.

PAUL  
 And if you cross me, I'll kill you!

Skye is silent.

PAUL  
 I'm sorry, I was just kidding and  
 it kind of got away from me there.

Skye laughs.

SKYE  
 That's OK. I'll pass on the  
 message.

INT. AMANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Skye sticks a note on Amanda's computer screen: PAUL GOT THE  
 TICKETS!

EXT. PARK - DAY

Amanda walks with her best friend, DANNI, 30's, opinionated  
 with a dry manner.

AMANDA  
 We had another excruciating dinner  
 last night.

DANNI  
 That's right it was date night. Why  
 do you guys keep doing that?

AMANDA  
 At least I'm not lying awake  
 fantasizing about smothering him  
 with a pillow.

DANNI

You'd be surprised how much I hear that at work.

AMANDA

And what do you tell your patients?

DANNI

To decide if their relationship is worth saving.

AMANDA

And how do you do that?

DANNI

Make a pros and cons list.

AMANDA

Pro, we have a history.

DANNI

Con, you've both grown and changed.

AMANDA

I know. I've never been hotter and I'm killing it at work.

DANNI

And Paul is kind of a wet blanket.

AMANDA

Pro, he used to be so romantic and passionate.

DANNI

About accounting and train sets.

AMANDA

And he has a side that's very sweet and sensitive.

DANNI

Con, he cries a lot and subscribes to community theater.

AMANDA

He used to make me laugh.

DANNI

I think you were the only one.

AMANDA

Why are you making this so hard?

DANNI

I'm trying to help. You used to be happy but something's changed.

AMANDA

We don't love each other anymore.

Amanda stops walking.

AMANDA

Wow. Did I just say that?

DANNI

That my friend is what we in the business call a breakthrough.

AMANDA

I've known it for a long time, I've just never said it.

DANNI

Then I think you know what to do.

AMANDA

I have to end our marriage.

DANNI

Before you end up resenting each other even more.

AMANDA

We've had our last shitty date night ever. I'm going to go home tonight and tell Paul it's over.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Amongst the busy lunch crowd, Paul sits with his younger brother, RICK, who was a hot jock in his day but is now balding and directionless.

PAUL

I go out of my way to get the tickets, and she doesn't even return my calls.

RICK

Yeah, what can you do?

PAUL

You could be a little more supportive.

RICK

Paul, I love you like a brother -

PAUL

We are brothers.

RICK

But we've been having the same conversation for years. It's time, man.

Rick looks Paul right in the eye.

RICK

You need to ask for your balls back.

PAUL

Marriage is complicated.

RICK

It's simple! Your relationship is in the toilet. Everyone thinks so.

PAUL

Everyone?

RICK

Mom, dad, your friends, people you work with, random wait staff. Everyone agrees that you and Amanda make a terrible couple.

PAUL

We're going through a rough patch, that's all.

RICK

When was the last time you were happy? Five years ago?

Paul thinks.

RICK

Were you wearing Doc Martins?

PAUL

Maybe I should just ride it out?

RICK

Are you listening to yourself? You're not happy, she's not happy. You need to end your shitty marriage already!

PAUL

Really, *everyone* thinks we make a terrible couple?

RICK

Yes. And if you're honest with yourself, you do too.

PAUL  
I was just hoping things would get better.

RICK  
They haven't.

PAUL  
You're right. I need to end it.

RICK  
Like a band-aid, do it quick.

PAUL  
It's for Amanda just as much as me.  
I'd be doing her a favor.

RICK  
You're a good person, Paul.

Rick puts his hand on Paul's shoulder.

RICK  
You need to get the check. I left  
my wallet at home.

EXT. AMANDA AND PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Amanda pulls the car up in the drive.

INT. AMANDA AND PAUL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Paul checks the chicken in the oven. Amanda enters.

AMANDA  
I thought it was my night to cook.

PAUL  
I wanted to give you a break.

Paul hands her a glass of wine.

PAUL  
Take a seat. I'll bring it through.

Amanda leaves. Paul pours a large glass of wine and downs it in one gulp.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Paul and Amanda are in the middle of dinner. They're silent, preoccupied. It's tense.

AMANDA  
The chicken's good.

PAUL

It's organic.

Both Paul and Amanda reach for their wine.

AMANDA

Paul, we need to talk.

PAUL

Did you get my message about the tickets? You didn't call back.

AMANDA

I got busy.

PAUL

It would have been nice if you called back.

AMANDA

What did I just say?

Paul puts down his knife and fork.

PAUL

Are you happy, Amanda?

AMANDA

That's a weird question. I mean, who's really happy?

PAUL

We used to be.

AMANDA

Things change, Paul. We've changed.

PAUL

I think we should go our separate ways.

Amanda nearly chokes on her wine.

AMANDA

I'm sorry, what?!

PAUL

I think we should get a divorce.

AMANDA

Do you realize what you're saying?

PAUL

I know it's hard, but this isn't working and you know it.

AMANDA

Yeah I know it, but this is probably the best you can hope for!

PAUL

Why would you say that? That's very hurtful.

AMANDA

You're hurt? How do you think I feel?

PAUL

I was hoping we could be adults about this.

AMANDA

I'm sorry, but this has caught me a little off guard.

PAUL

Our marriage has been over a long time.

AMANDA

This isn't how I thought it would end. We're eating fucking roast chicken!

PAUL

I should go. Give you some space.

Paul pushes his chair out. Amanda rises.

AMANDA

No! I'm not going to sit here like some asshole who just got dumped. You stay here, I'm going out!

EXT. DANNI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

An overnight bag in her hand, Amanda knocks on the door. Danni answers in her pajamas.

DANNI

I got ice cream. Come on in.

INT. DANNI'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda and Danni eat from a tub of ice cream.

AMANDA

I didn't think I'd end up here.

DANNI

Welcome to the spinsterhood.

AMANDA

You and Emma broke up? I thought she was nice.

DANNI

She's also a fruitarian.

AMANDA

There were so many things that annoyed me about Paul. I never thought he'd be the one to call it.

Bombshell.

DANNI

Wait, what? Paul ended it?

AMANDA

Over dinner.

DANNI

Are you fucking kidding me?! On the night you were going to tell him it's over? This is crazy!

AMANDA

Can you take it down a notch? I already feel bad enough.

DANNI

This changes everything. We shouldn't be eating ice cream. We should be out getting you laid.

AMANDA

I don't feel like going out.

DANNI

There's nothing like meaningless sex with a hot stranger to boost your self esteem.

AMANDA

You're not a very good therapist are you?

DANNI

I'm saying this as a friend, not a shrink. Take your ring off, put on something slutty, and let's go out!

Amanda takes off her engagement and wedding rings, and places them on the coffee table.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Paul and Rick sit at the bar, beers in front of them.

RICK  
Why are you being such a pussy? You should be celebrating.

PAUL  
I don't know how I'm going to break it to mom and dad.

RICK  
I'll be there if you need, bro.

PAUL  
Thanks. How about tomorrow?

RICK  
Meatloaf night. Perfect. I always eat with them on meatloaf night.

PAUL  
Don't you eat with them every night?

RICK  
What kind of a loser do you think I am?

PAUL  
You live in their basement.

RICK  
Free rent. It'd be stupid not to live there. Hang on, what's your roommate situation now?

PAUL  
Not a chance.

Rick stands, draining his beer.

RICK  
Same again. I gotta take a slash.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Danni and Amanda sit at the bar. Amanda is quite drunk. She shows a MIDDLE AGED GUY pictures on her phone.

AMANDA  
He's never going to do better than me. Look at his weasely face and look at me. What would you say, I'm about an eight?

MIDDLE AGED GUY  
You're very attractive.

AMANDA

We didn't have sex for three months! Not that I didn't try.

DANNI

God, this is depressing.

AMANDA

You wouldn't turn me down would you?

MIDDLE AGED GUY

I'm married.

AMANDA

Marriage is for assholes!

Danni pulls Amanda away from the Middle Aged Guy.

DANNI

We should get back to the ice cream. You're not ready for this.

AMANDA

I need another drink.

The bearded BARTENDER leans over to Amanda.

BARTENDER

You should listen to your friend.

AMANDA

You can't tell me what to do. We're not married.

BARTENDER

No, but I'm in charge of the bar.

AMANDA

He'll regret letting me go. I'm the best thing that ever happened to him. I'm hot, I'm smart, I'm -

Amanda throws up on the bar.

INT. DANNI'S KITCHEN - DAY

Amanda squints in pain. She's dressed for work but looks as rough as she feels.

AMANDA

Why is it so bright?

DANNI

Are you sure it's a good idea to go in today?

AMANDA  
I'm not going to let this divorce  
affect my life.

DANNI  
While you're not letting it affect  
you, remember to hydrate.

Danni hands her a some water and a bottle of Ibuprofen.

EXT. VIM MARKETING - DAY

Amanda carries a giant coffee in one hand and a bunch of  
files under her arm. She stumbles as her heel gives way.

AMANDA  
Shit!

Amanda gathers the papers littering the sidewalk. She takes  
off her now useless shoe.

AMANDA  
Great.

Amanda hobbles into the office.

INT. VIM MARKETING - DAY

Amanda hands both of her shoes to Skye.

AMANDA  
I need your shoes.

SKYE  
I think I'm a size smaller than  
you.

AMANDA  
I can't go into the meeting  
barefoot. Give them to me!

Skye obediently hands over her shoes.

INT. PAUL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Bleary eyed, Paul starts his computer. Dave approaches.

DAVE  
Who's the man!

Dave gives him an enthusiastic jolt. Paul jumps.

DAVE  
I get you every time!

PAUL  
I don't know why.

DAVE

What's the low down? You get some when you showed Amanda the tickets?

Dave does more confusing sex gestures.

PAUL

We split up.

DAVE

God! I knew it. I asked him, I said 'Rob, what does partially obstructed view mean?' He said there might be a pylon in the way. I said 'Rob, why do you bother selling these?' -

PAUL

It has nothing to do with the tickets. We had a lot of problems.

DAVE

Oh. I'm sorry to hear that. So you can still use the tickets? Rob charges a nine dollar booking fee.

PAUL

He does?

DAVE

Yeah, I said 'Rob, why' -

PAUL

OK. I'll get the cash at lunch.

DAVE

No, no, no. No rush. You know what, forget the booking fee. I'll tell Rob your wife left you.

PAUL

She didn't leave me.

DAVE

You left her? Really? No offence, buddy, but are you sure another train like that is coming?

INT. VIM MARKETING - DAY

Amanda limps down the hall. She is joined by Logan.

LOGAN

What's going on here? You seem... different.

AMANDA  
I'm wearing Skye's shoes.

LOGAN  
That's not it.

AMANDA  
I'm getting a divorce.

LOGAN  
Alright! Up top for finally kicking  
old what's-his-name to the kerb!

AMANDA  
Divorce isn't something to  
celebrate, Logan.

LOGAN  
Oh shit! You got dumped.

AMANDA  
I got out of a shitty marriage. Who  
cares how it ended?

LOGAN  
Everyone. Fuck me, we're going to  
lose this account.

AMANDA  
No we're not. Let's just go to this  
meeting.

LOGAN  
You shouldn't come in. People can  
smell 'loser' a mile away. And  
they'd do anything to avoid it.

AMANDA  
You're being ridiculous.

Amanda pushes past Logan. Her binder catches on the door  
handle and papers spill everywhere.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Amanda picks up the scattered papers. Logan walks past her  
and sits with the two Plastics Guys.

LOGAN  
Hi boys. Ready to enter the cyber-  
age?

PLASTICS GUY  
We have a few reservations.

LOGAN

You won't believe the effectiveness  
of a well run twitter account.

AMANDA

Fuck it!

Amanda is shuffling her papers.

LOGAN

Amanda?

AMANDA

I've lost the page with the  
projections. It must be on the  
street.

LOGAN

I hope you're joking.  
(to Plastics Guys)  
She's just joking.

PLASTICS GUY

That's OK. We're not sure we're  
sold on this whole twitter thing  
anyway.

AMANDA

But it's pivotal to the social  
media campaign!

PLASTICS GUY

Our clients are a little more  
traditional. We're not sure they'd  
go for this 'social media'.

AMANDA

Why are you putting air quotes  
around it? It exists you know!

PLASTICS GUY

It's just not right for us.

AMANDA

What was our meeting yesterday? If  
you had no intention of following  
through, why waste our time?

PLASTICS GUY

Excuse me?

LOGAN

What Amanda's trying to say is we  
should discuss this further. We  
have the research to back up our  
numbers.

Amanda sifts through the papers.

PLASTICS GUY  
With all due respect, it doesn't  
seem like you do.

AMANDA  
God damn prick-teases!

LOGAN  
Amanda! Just get the numbers!

AMANDA  
Why? This is a fucking joke!

Amanda limps out of the room.

PLASTICS GUY  
What the hell is going on here?

LOGAN  
I'm sorry for her behavior,  
gentlemen. But she just got dumped.

PLASTICS GUY  
(knowing)  
That makes sense.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Amanda pours coffee. A FEMALE COLLEAGUE works at her laptop.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
I heard you really screwed the  
pooch on the plastics account.

AMANDA  
Those plastics douchebags were  
never going to sign with us.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
Is it your time of the month?

AMANDA  
Seriously? I'm a senior marketing  
associate, not a walking menstrual  
cycle. They were time wasters.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
So it's about a guy then?

AMANDA  
That's very insulting. I know how  
to keep my personal and  
professional life separate.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
Did you get dumped?

AMANDA  
I did not get dumped!

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
It seems like you got dumped. I was just checking my online matches, I can make you a profile if you like?

AMANDA  
No thanks.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
(typing)  
Brown hair, slim build -  
(to Amanda)  
What's your cup size?

AMANDA  
I will throw your fucking laptop out the window -

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
(typing)  
Strong with a feisty attitude -

AMANDA  
Stop typing right now!

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
(typing)  
Likes to take charge -

AMANDA  
It has been the shittiest day and I'm seriously on the edge.

FEMALE COLLEAGUE  
(typing)  
Works hard but also likes to play -

Amanda throws the laptop at the window. It cracks the pane and falls to the ground. The Female Colleague stares in stunned silence. Logan enters. He coolly surveys the mess.

LOGAN  
Cathy wants to see you.

AMANDA  
This day keeps getting better.

INT. CATHY'S OFFICE - DAY

CATHY, 50's, is high energy and has a great body she shows off in exercise gear that's inappropriate for the office.

CATHY  
Logan told me about your situation.

AMANDA  
I'd rather not talk about it.

CATHY  
Neither would I. But here we are.

AMANDA  
I can explain about the plastics  
guys -

CATHY  
That's not what this is about.

AMANDA  
I can pay for the laptop.

CATHY  
You will, but it's not that either.  
You're on indefinite leave.

AMANDA  
You're firing me?!

CATHY  
You've been a great asset to this  
team, Amanda. You're a hard worker,  
my number one ball-breaker and I've  
never had to worry about you doing  
anything stupid like having  
children.

AMANDA  
So why are you doing this to me?

CATHY  
This is marketing. We sell  
aspirations. I built my company on  
winners and you've lost your  
winning edge.

AMANDA  
It's temporary. I can get it back!

CATHY  
If you do, your job will be waiting  
for you.

AMANDA  
This is bullshit! You'll be hearing  
from my lawyer.

CATHY  
And your name will be dragged  
through the mud.

If you leave quietly, maybe you can get work with a small advertising company.

AMANDA

I can't believe this is happening.

CATHY

A fresh start will invigorate you.

AMANDA

I've never been unemployed. I have no idea what to do.

CATHY

I can't help you there. Please close the door on your way out.

INT. VIM MARKETING - DAY

Amanda carries a box of her stuff. Skye walks beside her.

SKYE

I got you a book of positive affirmations. It's important you remember to love yourself.

Logan joins them.

LOGAN

She'll be loving herself pretty hard now she's unemployed and divorced.

AMANDA

I'm not going to miss you.

LOGAN

How about I let you give me a hand job in the elevator?

AMANDA

Goodbye, Logan.

LOGAN

At least offer a bit of relief after bending me over with the plastics guys.

AMANDA

Not my problem anymore.

The elevator doors open. Amanda steps inside.

SKYE

What should I do with the Beyonce tickets?

AMANDA

Burn them.

SKYE

If there's anything else you need -

The doors close.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Barefoot, Amanda clutches her belongings. She catches her warped reflection in the polished metal walls. She looks tired and sad.

INT. PAUL'S PARENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Paul sits opposite Rick. His father, GUS, 60's, heavysset, silent and domineering, watches the TV. Paul's mother, LYNNE, 60's, warm and still rocking her 1980's perm, clears plates.

LYNNE

It's so nice to have our boys  
together for dinner isn't it, Gus?

Gus doesn't respond.

LYNNE

I don't remember the last time both  
of you were here on meatloaf night.

PAUL

The meatloaf was delicious, mom.

LYNNE

Oh you're a good boy. He's a good  
boy isn't he, Gus?

Gus doesn't respond.

PAUL

There's something I need to tell  
you. Perhaps you should sit down.

LYNNE

Why would I want to sit down?

RICK

Just sit down, ma.

LYNNE

The plates won't clear themselves.

RICK

Just tell her.

LYNNE

Tell me what?

PAUL

Amanda and I are getting a divorce.

LYNNE

A divorce?! Oh my poor baby!

Lynne wraps Paul in a smothering hug.

LYNNE

How could she do this to you?

PAUL

I was the one who ended it.

LYNNE

You? Really?

Lynne looks at Rick who nods. She squeezes Paul tight for a long time.

LYNNE

You know if you get divorced,  
you're going straight to hell.

She releases him and takes the dishes into the kitchen. Gus turns from the TV.

GUS

Try being married for forty years.  
Now that's hell.

INT. DANNI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Danni and Amanda drink wine. Amanda is worked up.

AMANDA

People pity me. My assistant gave  
me a book of positive affirmations!

DANNI

That's pretty bleak.

AMANDA

This isn't me, I'm not a loser. I  
should've been the one to dump  
Paul.

A bolt of inspiration strikes Amanda.

AMANDA

Wait. I *should* dump him!

DANNI

It's a bit late for that.

AMANDA

What if I could get him back? Then I could break up with him and turn this whole thing around!

DANNI

That's not the way it works. Who broke up with who is irrelevant.

AMANDA

Danni, you're so stupid! Who broke up with who means everything! And I'm going to prove it to you.

DANNI

I don't want you to prove it. It's a terrible idea.

AMANDA

Or is it genius?

DANNI

No, it's terrible. Not to mention unethical. I'd be worried if I thought you could actually get him back.

AMANDA

Paul and I were married for eleven years. I know what he likes, what he doesn't like and how to turn him on. This will be a cake walk.

INT. AMANDA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Amanda adjusts her push up bra. Cleavage spills over her low cut top. She applies more lipstick. For the finishing touch she puts on a Phantom of the Opera cap.

INT. AMANDA AND PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Amanda hands Paul a wrapped gift.

PAUL

What's this?

AMANDA

Open it.

Paul unwraps the gift. It's a vintage model train station.

AMANDA

The guy in the store said it was rare to get one in such good condition.

There is an awkward pause. Amanda tries to keep things light.

AMANDA

He also said he has a bunker in preparation for the alien war in twenty-seventeen, so who knows.

PAUL

Why did you get this?

AMANDA

I hope we can be friends.

PAUL

I don't see that happening.

AMANDA

But I thought -

PAUL

A vintage train station would fix everything?

She kind of did.

AMANDA

Did you notice my Phantom of the Opera cap?

PAUL

Isn't that mine?

AMANDA

You can have it back if you want it.

She hands the cap to him.

AMANDA

It was a gesture. I want us to be able to communicate.

PAUL

I need the ring back.

AMANDA

Excuse me?

PAUL

You can keep the engagement ring. I need my Grandmother's wedding ring. It'll kill my mother if it's not in the family.

Amanda is hurt, but tries not to show it.

AMANDA

I don't have it here.

PAUL  
You took it off already?

Paul self consciously touches the wedding band on his finger.

AMANDA  
I'll bring it to you later. When  
can I pick my stuff up?

PAUL  
Are you sure you want to move out?  
I should be the one to find a new  
place seeing as -

AMANDA  
I need a change of scenery. And I'm  
not a charity case.

PAUL  
I've started separating everything  
so it'll be easy to move.

AMANDA  
Thanks. You're a real... help.

INT. DANNI'S OFFICE - DAY

Amanda barges into the room.

AMANDA  
What an asshole!

DANNI  
What are you doing here? I'm  
working!

A young, well groomed MAN and WOMAN sit on the couch opposite  
Danni.

AMANDA  
He asked for my ring back!  
(to the Man and Woman)  
I mean you can't do that, right?

MAN  
I don't know.  
(to Danni)  
Can you?

WOMAN  
Of course you can't!

AMANDA  
He's really going to get it now.

DANNI  
Can we please do this another time?

AMANDA

I need a plan. What advice do you give to people who want to fix their marriages?

(to the Man and Woman)

What's she told you?

WOMAN

We have a five point plan.

DANNI

Don't tell her the plan!

WOMAN

But it really works. It helped us so much.

MAN

The five elements of a successful relationship are communication, reconnection, conflict resolution, sex and trust.

AMANDA

Communication attempt was a fail.

WOMAN

One attempt isn't enough. It's a process.

AMANDA

Interesting. So I need to work up a strategy?

DANNI

OK, get out!

Danni pushes Amanda out the door. She looks to the Man and Woman.

DANNI

So sorry, won't be a second.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Danni hisses at Amanda.

DANNI

Are you out of your fucking mind?

AMANDA

They're nice. I think they're going to make it.

DANNI

You should try the five point plan for self fulfillment. Home, career, hobbies, social life and family.

AMANDA

You mean be one of those weirdos who makes cat pillows?

DANNI

That's not a thing. You need to focus on your own development.

AMANDA

That's what I'm doing. But first this was just about getting my life together. Now I'm going to get Paul back with interest.

DANNI

You need to leave now.

AMANDA

Will you help me move this weekend?

DANNI

Are you serious?

AMANDA

Do you want me out of your office?

EXT. AMANDA AND PAUL'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Danni pulls a truck into the drive. She beeps the horn as Amanda carries a box out.

AMANDA

You look right at home there.

DANNI

I love driving this truck.

AMANDA

Must be a lesbian thing.

DANNI

Like rugby and denim overalls? Don't be so reductive! It just makes me feel tall.

AMANDA

Why are you so sensitive?

DANNI

You need to be nice to me today. Moving is the worst favor a friend can ask.

AMANDA

There are plenty more boxes inside.

DANNI

Is Paul in there? Is it awkward?

AMANDA

It's fine. But make sure you grab the heaviest stuff. I've got weak arms.

INT. AMANDA AND PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul sorts through books. He has a stack of yearbooks and theater programs. He opens one and sees an old picture of Amanda. It is signed: YOU ARE MY STAR, LOVE PAUL.

When he hears footsteps he assumes they are Amanda's.

PAUL

I remember when you were in this production. I couldn't believe you agreed to go out with me.

DANNI (O.S.)

Bang the writer, get a good role. Even if your audition sucked.

Paul looks up, surprised to see Danni.

PAUL

I thought she was pretty good.

DANNI

I sat through a lot of all-female versions of classic plays. And I did not go for the acting.

Paul smiles.

PAUL

Can you give these to her? I'm going to get out of the way.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Amanda carries the last box into her new apartment. She looks at the crowded, unorganized mess.

INT. AMANDA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Amanda opens a bottle of wine. She rummages through a box and finds a jar.

INT. AMANDA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda drinks wine from the jar. She opens a box and begins to unpack.

INT. AMANDA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Amanda arranges a bunch of flowers in a vase.

AMANDA

Thank you, they're gorgeous.

DANNI

I brought coffee because I didn't think you'd be so organized.

AMANDA

I stayed up all night.

INT. AMANDA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The room is arranged like she's been there for months. The yearbooks and theater programs are on the coffee table along with several photo albums.

DANNI

Feeling sentimental?

AMANDA

It's research. To win Paul back.

DANNI

You're still thinking of doing that?

AMANDA

It's happening. Check this out.

Amanda shows Danni her laptop.

DANNI

You made a spreadsheet for your revenge plan?

AMANDA

And a PowerPoint presentation. It's based on your five elements to a successful relationship.

DANNI

As a therapist I never considered my work might be used for evil.

AMANDA

Want to see it?

DANNI

Do I have a choice?

Amanda hits the lights. The laptop screen lights up and a PowerPoint presentation begins.

AMANDA

Getting Back.

DANNI

Oh boy.

On the screen is a pie chart. There are five pieces of pie, each with a title: COMMUNICATION, RECONNECTION, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, SEX, TRUST.

AMANDA

The first step is establishing -

The COMMUNICATION segment of the pie lights up and enlarges.

AMANDA

Communication. This is tricky because he's being a little bitch. But I intend to disarm and engage by casually running in to the target -

DANNI

Romantic.

AMANDA

By riding around his favorite coffee shop.

On the screen is a picture of Paul in full lycra on his bike.

AMANDA

Once communication is established I can move on to reconnection.

The RECONNECTION segment of the pie enlarges.

AMANDA

Building common interests.

Pictures of a model train set, amateur productions of musicals.

AMANDA

But as there are no common interests, this means faking it.

Pictures of a happy couple with a dog, line dancing, apple picking.

AMANDA

Next is conflict resolution.

The CONFLICT RESOLUTION segment of the pie enlarges.

AMANDA

This is where I create conflict in Paul's life, then get closer to him by helping to resolve the conflict.

DANNI

Not what conflict resolution means.

AMANDA

Whose presentation is this?

(resuming)

Whether it's a work related problem, domestic or romantic, I provide a shoulder to cry on.

A picture of a house on fire.

DANNI

That's horrifying.

AMANDA

An extreme case. I was thinking of setting him up on a terrible date, then saving him.

DANNI

Kind of clever. Still horrifying.

AMANDA

Thank you. And that brings us to -

The SEX segment of the pie enlarges.

AMANDA

Sex. We go to the model train museum, or somewhere else he gets horny and then I pounce.

A 'sexy' studio picture of Paul.

DANNI

Oh my god. Spin on!

AMANDA

And finally there's trust. I open up about my troubles or some crap, and boom! He wants me back.

A picture of Amanda and Paul on their wedding day.

AMANDA

I suggest a party to celebrate our reconciliation. But instead of celebrating, I crush him in a very public and humiliating way.

The whole pie chart crushes a picture of Paul's head which caves in violently.

AMANDA

Paul is the loser and I'm the winner again.

An old photo of Amanda in school holding a medal.

AMANDA

I'll get my job back and return to my normal life.

A mocked up picture of a grave stone with Paul's face and name on it. It fades out and the screen returns to blue.

AMANDA

What do you think?

Danni is disturbed.

DANNI

I think it's totally insane.

Amanda smiles proudly.

AMANDA

Then let the insanity begin!

INT. PAUL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Skye passes Paul the Beyonce tickets.

PAUL

You didn't have to come all the way down here.

SKYE

It's sold out, you can't let them go to waste.

PAUL

All I can offer in return is a crappy coffee from the kitchen.

SKYE

Tempting, but I should get to work. Though it's a little quieter with Amanda on indefinite leave.

PAUL  
Was she fired?

SKYE  
Shit! I shouldn't have said that.  
Please don't tell Amanda.

PAUL  
I owe you one, remember. In fact, I  
owe you two. One for each ticket. I  
won't say anything.

SKYE  
Thanks. Maybe a rain check on the  
crappy coffee?

Skye leaves. Dave sidles up behind Paul.

DAVE  
Are you hitting that?

Paul is startled.

PAUL  
What? No! She's my wife's  
assistant.

DAVE  
You mean ex wife.

PAUL  
And ex assistant, actually.

DAVE  
I'm hearing a lot of ex and no sex.  
If you don't use it you lose it.  
Trust me, I'm speaking from  
experience.

Paul looks at the Beyonce tickets in his hand.

INT. AMANDA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Skye places a tower of plastic containers on the bench.

SKYE  
If there's anything else I can do  
you'll let me know, right?

AMANDA  
I have enough casserole to last me  
'til menopause.

SKYE  
There's also some stroganoff.

AMANDA

It just gets better and better.

SKYE

Everyone misses you at work.

AMANDA

I doubt it.

SKYE

Well, I miss you.

Skye looks sad. Amanda feels sorry for her.

AMANDA

Skye, you were a great assistant,  
but it's not a betrayal if you move  
on with your life.

Skye gives Amanda a spontaneous hug.

SKYE

Thank you, Amanda. You're so brave!

AMANDA

Don't worry about me. It's a tough  
world out there. You need to look  
out for yourself.

INT. BIKE SHOP - DAY

Amanda browses the racks of bikes. An athletic SALESMAN  
approaches.

SALESMAN

Can I help you with anything?

AMANDA

I need a bike.

SALESMAN

You've come to the right place.  
What kind of bike are you after?  
Mountain, road, racing?

AMANDA

Just your basic kind. Nothing with  
tassels though. I want to look  
serious.

SALESMAN

OK. And you know how to ride?

AMANDA

Of course. It's the one thing you  
never forget, right?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Amanda straddles her brand new bike. She attempts to take off. She falters.

AMANDA

Shit!

She tries again. Amanda shakily peddles up the street.

AMANDA

Whoa!

And OLD MAN walks towards her. She panics.

AMANDA

Get out of the way!

The Old Man moves aside but Amanda wavers across the path.

AMANDA

Out of the way you idiot!

The Old Man moves off the path. Amanda loses control and crashes into a tree.

AMANDA

Nice one, jerkweed!

The Old Man, who had nothing to do with her fall, walks around her.

AMANDA

Never forget my ass.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Dressed for the Tour de France, Amanda wheels her bike past Paul's regular coffee shop. She looks around. No Paul.

She does another lap past the front entrance.

Paul rides towards her. Amanda pretends she's chaining up her bike.

Paul spots Amanda and quickly turns around. Amanda calls out -

AMANDA

Paul!

Paul contemplates not turning around.

AMANDA

Paul!

Paul stops. Amanda wheels her bike to him.

PAUL  
Oh hi, Amanda.

Amanda feigns surprise.

AMANDA  
Oh hey. I didn't see you there!

PAUL  
You called out to me.

AMANDA  
Were you getting a coffee?

Paul opens his mouth to make an excuse. Nothing comes out.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Amanda and Paul wait in line for their coffees.

AMANDA  
Faster than a car, most of the  
time. And environmentally friendly.

PAUL  
I know.

AMANDA  
Do you still ride to work?

PAUL  
Yep.

AMANDA  
It's a great work out. Hey, maybe  
we could go for a ride sometime?

PAUL  
I don't know...

AMANDA  
Well I'll be around. Maybe we'll  
just run into each other?

PAUL  
Maybe. Look -

The upbeat CASHIER calls out interrupting his thought.

CASHIER  
Saul! Double strength espresso!

AMANDA  
(jokey)  
Oh, I see you changed your name.  
Interesting choice. Sounds like  
someone who whittles wood.

Paul smiles. This is an old, familiar game.

PAUL  
Or farms turnips.

CASHIER  
Miranda! Chai latte.

AMANDA  
Oh, that's me. I also changed my name.

PAUL  
And now you wear slippers all day and knit handkerchiefs.

AMANDA  
Can you knit handkerchiefs?

PAUL  
You tell me, Miranda.

They laugh and grab their coffees from the counter.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Amanda walks towards her bike. There is a large dog chained next to it.

AMANDA  
This isn't a dog rack! Who would put this thing here?

PAUL  
He's a good fella. Aren't you? Look at that face.

Paul pats the dog. The dog loves it.

AMANDA  
Yep. That's a face.

Amanda leans forward to pat the dog. The dog lunges towards her. She freaks out and jumps back.

AMANDA  
Stupid dog!

WOMAN (O.S.)  
Hey, watch it!

Amanda just misses hitting an angry WOMAN and her heavily pregnant friend, JANICE.

WOMAN  
Look where you're going! You could have knocked Janice over!

AMANDA

I'm sorry.

WOMAN

Don't be sorry, just look where  
you're going, jackass!

JANICE

Oh my god. I think my water just  
broke.

Water sprays out from under Janice's skirt. The Woman accuses  
Amanda.

WOMAN

Now look what you've done!

PAUL

I really have to get back to the  
office.

AMANDA

Maybe I'll ride with you?

WOMAN

No, you need to get Janice to  
hospital. Stat!

PAUL

Looks like you're busy.

AMANDA

No, I can -

WOMAN

Get us a cab!

Amanda turns to the angry Woman. Paul leaves.

WOMAN

I'll call Janice's *lawyer* husband  
to tell him the original birthing  
plan's out. You'd better pray  
nothing goes wrong.

Amanda spots a cab and whistles.

AMANDA

Taxi!

INT. PAUL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Paul clicks onto a website for the local theater group. There  
is a section calling for PLAY SUBMISSIONS. He clicks on it.

Paul's phone rings. He minimizes the website and answers.

PAUL  
 (into phone)  
 Paul Anderson speaking.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Amanda is in the waiting room.

AMANDA  
 (into phone)  
 Hey, it's me. I'm just calling from  
 the hospital.

PAUL  
 Why are you in the hospital? Is  
 everything OK?

AMANDA  
 I'm here with the pregnant woman  
 from the street.

PAUL  
 Oh. Is she alright?

AMANDA  
 Yeah, yeah, I'm sure she's fine. I  
 was just calling because we never  
 teed up that riding date.

PAUL  
 Ah, I thought we said that wasn't a  
 good idea.

AMANDA  
 I don't think we did.

PAUL  
 OK, I'm saying that now.

The Woman approaches Amanda.

WOMAN  
 She had a beautiful baby girl!

AMANDA  
 (into phone)  
 I'll have to call you back.

PAUL (V.O.)  
 There's really no need -

Amanda hangs up.

WOMAN  
 She's eight pounds, strong and  
 healthy.

AMANDA

Looks like I'm off the hook.

WOMAN

Would you like to see her?

AMANDA

Why would I want to do that?

Amanda walks off leaving the Woman stunned.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Amanda and Danni get out of Amanda's car.

AMANDA

Nothing else has worked! He's totally impenetrable.

DANNI

This is a big commitment you know.

AMANDA

I don't know what else to do.

DANNI

It's not the kind of thing people usually do out of spite.

AMANDA

It's not purely out of spite. There's justice and a return of equilibrium in the world.

DANNI

I think that's a bit of an exaggeration.

AMANDA

Maybe. But I'm doing it. So are you going to help me, or not?

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

Amanda and Danni size up two dogs. ROXY, a white, fluffy poodle and WARREN, a brownish, scruffy mutt.

AMANDA

I like the pretty one.

DANNI

What about the sad one?

AMANDA

I'm done with pity cases.

The ANIMAL SHELTER WORKER approaches.

ANIMAL SHELTER WORKER  
Roxy's had a lot of interest.  
There's a family coming back for  
her tomorrow.

AMANDA  
Did they pay a deposit? I can take  
her now.

ANIMAL SHELTER WORKER  
Perhaps you'll reconsider Warren.  
He doesn't have a high chance of  
being rescued before... You know.

AMANDA  
No prizes for guessing why.

DANNI  
If you're going to do this, you may  
as well do it right. You could save  
Warren's life.

AMANDA  
But he's ugly.

DANNI  
Come on. That's not what this is  
about.

AMANDA  
You're right. This is about getting  
to Paul. He wanted a dog so bad. I  
can't wait to shove it in his face.

ANIMAL SHELTER WORKER  
I'm sorry, what was that?

DANNI  
She'll take the ugly one.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is a mess. Amanda wrestles a sock from Warren.

AMANDA  
Give it back you little bastard!

DANNI  
I've set up his bed in the laundry  
room.

AMANDA  
Look at this! He won't give my sock  
back.

DANNI  
You can't yank it like that. He  
thinks it's a game.

AMANDA  
What is he, an idiot?

DANNI  
He's a dog. Just relax. You need to  
be calm and give firm commands.

Danni demonstrates.

DANNI  
Warren, sit.

Warren obediently lets go of the sock and sits.

AMANDA  
Holy shit! You're like the dog  
whisperer or something.

DANNI  
It's not rocket science. You just  
need to be clear with him. He's a  
smart little guy. Aren't you?

Danni scratches him under the chin.

AMANDA  
Maybe he should stay with you  
tonight?

DANNI  
No way. You wanted this, now you've  
got it.

AMANDA  
But I don't know what I'm doing.

DANNI  
For once you have to take care of  
someone other than yourself. I  
think this will be good for you.

AMANDA  
Do dogs eat casserole?

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Amanda and Paul's house now looks more sparse and masculine.  
Rick is watching TV. Paul scribbles in a note pad.

RICK  
Get us another beer will you?

PAUL  
I'm busy. Why don't you get it?

RICK  
I'm tired. I went for a job  
interview today.

PAUL  
Hey, that's great!

RICK  
I didn't get it.

PAUL  
Did you wear sweatpants again?

RICK  
If I wanted a lecture I would've  
stayed home with mom. At least she  
does table service.

Rick gets up and goes to the kitchen.

PAUL  
(calling out)  
And get the chips!

Paul's phone rings. He answers it.

PAUL  
(into phone)  
Hello... Um, yep I know the one...  
Now's not a good time... Well, I'll  
leave it out the front then.

Paul hangs up. Rick hands him a beer.

RICK  
Who was that?

PAUL  
Amanda. She wants to pick up a  
painting she left.

RICK  
I thought you'd stopped talking.

PAUL  
She's been contacting me a lot  
recently. Says she wants to be  
friends.

RICK  
Vetoed! You need to stay away from  
her, she's bad news.

PAUL  
That's a little dramatic. We're not  
married anymore so what's the worst  
she could do?

EXT. PAUL'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Amanda pulls up the car. Warren is in the front seat.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Amanda holds Warren in her arms. The painting is by the door.  
Peering in the window, she sees movement in the house.

AMANDA  
How do we get his attention?

She puts Warren down.

AMANDA  
Speak!

Warren looks at her.

AMANDA  
Come on you stupid dog. Speak!

Warren scratches his chin with his back leg.

AMANDA  
Idiot!

Amanda grabs the painting, raises it high and smashes it  
against the ground. Glass and wood scatter everywhere.

She bends down to clean up. As intended, Paul comes out to  
see what's going on. Warren jumps on him. Amanda holds part  
of the broken frame in her hand.

PAUL  
Are you beating this dog?!

AMANDA  
Of course not! This is my dog.

PAUL  
But... You're allergic to dogs.

AMANDA  
That's cats.

PAUL  
I wanted a dog for years.

AMANDA

I'd recommend getting one. Warren's great. He's really helped me get through this transition.

Paul bends down and pats Warren.

PAUL

What a good boy!

AMANDA

He likes you.

PAUL

He's great. If you ever need a dog sitter...

AMANDA

You want to look after Warren?

PAUL

Sorry, that's probably a dumb idea. He's just so cute, I got a bit -

AMANDA

No, that would be great.

PAUL

I didn't mean - I mean, if it's awkward...

AMANDA

I don't like leaving him alone so maybe, if you don't mind...

PAUL

I'd be happy to. Just let me know.

AMANDA

Perfect!

Amanda scoops Warren up.

AMANDA

I guess the painting's a write off.

PAUL

Yeah, sorry. I thought it would be fine out here.

AMANDA

It was just a stupid accident. Do you have a broom?

PAUL

Don't worry, I'll clean it up. You just get this little guy home.

Paul gives Warren a pat. Warren laps up the attention.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Amanda and Danni sift through the bargain table.

AMANDA

Worked like a charm. You should have seen it. We had a real moment!

DANNI

You mean a fake real moment?

AMANDA

Now we've established a connection, I can move on.

DANNI

Thank god.

AMANDA

To the next phase of the plan.

DANNI

Oh.

AMANDA

Conflict resolution.

DANNI

That's where you do something terrible to him?

AMANDA

And then swoop in to save the day.

DANNI

Swoop?

AMANDA

Swan, whatever. And in the process he'll also realize that he could do a lot worse than me.

DANNI

Are you sure that he could?

AMANDA

You obviously haven't been on OkCupid.

INT. AMANDA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Warren is in the bath. Amanda hoses the last bubbles off him.

AMANDA

You smell much better now.

Amanda wraps him in a fluffy towel.

INT. AMANDA'S LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda tucks Warren into bed.

AMANDA

Night.

She turns out the light.

INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Laptop open, Amanda works in bed. She hears whimpering. Warren is at the door.

AMANDA

Didn't we say goodnight?

Warren looks at her.

AMANDA

You can't be hungry, you ate a whole stroganoff.

Warren jumps up on the bed.

AMANDA

No, Warren!

Warren walks over to her.

AMANDA

Get down!

Warren snuggles up beside her and rests his head on her lap.

AMANDA

I'm working. I have to find the worst possible date for Paul.

He stares up at her with his big brown eyes.

AMANDA

Do you need some blanket?

Amanda tucks him in and continues working.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rick drinks a beer on the couch.

RICK

Where should we go tonight? I need to blow off some steam.

PAUL (O.S.)

What steam?

Paul enters. He is dressed in trendy, slim-fitting gear.

RICK

It's been a stressful week. Mom made me her handyman.

PAUL

Sorry you actually had to earn your keep, but I can't go out. I have a date.

RICK

With a man? Because that would explain the blouse.

PAUL

The salesgirl said it looked good.

RICK

There must be a reason you're trying so hard. Is she young?

PAUL

Not that young.

RICK

Is she hot?

PAUL

She's very attractive.

RICK

What, like an eight?

PAUL

I'm not going to score her, Rick. She's nice.

RICK

So like a six? Who is she?

PAUL

No one you'd know. We've just started seeing each other and I want to keep it quiet.

RICK

Because she's a five?

PAUL

Because of the divorce. I want to take things slow.

RICK  
Smart. Especially if she's a four.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

People bustle around Paul's regular coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Amanda sits with a good looking but terrible person, MERRILL.

AMANDA  
So you went to Harvard?

MERRILL  
I got in by pretending I was raped.

AMANDA  
Wow.

MERRILL  
I'm not ethnic so I can't play the race card.

AMANDA  
I didn't know that was a card.

MERRILL  
Yeah. But it's amazing what you can get if people think you were sexually assaulted.

AMANDA  
Oh my god.

MERRILL  
What? Is he here?

Merrill looks around.

AMANDA  
Not yet. I was just thinking you're perfect for him.

MERRILL  
I hope so. I just want to lock something down. Dating's a bitch.

Amanda spots Paul lining up for coffee.

AMANDA  
Oh, here he is.  
(calling out)  
Paul!

MERRILL  
Which one? Not that paunchy guy?

Paul sees Amanda. He takes his two coffees and leaves.

AMANDA  
(to Merrill)  
Excuse me a moment, will you?

Amanda chases Paul out of the coffee shop.

AMANDA  
Paul!

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Paul unfastens his bike lock. Amanda catches up to him.

AMANDA  
You're not running away are you?

PAUL  
I'm just in a hurry.

AMANDA  
I wanted you to meet my friend,  
Merrill.

PAUL  
I should really go.

AMANDA  
That's a shame. She's great. Just  
your type.

PAUL  
What do you mean, 'my type'?

AMANDA  
Paul, I want us to move on. We  
should be able to date.

PAUL  
Seriously?

Amanda looks into Paul's eyes.

AMANDA  
Seriously.

PAUL  
Well, I am.

Amanda is shocked.

AMANDA  
You are?

Skye rounds the corner, walking her bike. She notices Amanda and looks a little worried.

SKYE

Ah, hi.

AMANDA

Hey. What are you doing here?!

SKYE

I was... um...

Skye looks at Paul for help.

PAUL

Meeting me for coffee.

AMANDA

Why? That's weird.

PAUL

We're seeing each other.

Amanda feels like she has had the wind knocked out of her. She overcompensates to cover her surprise.

AMANDA

Wow! That's great. You two. Dating. Great!

SKYE

We sort of hit it off when we went to the Beyonce concert.

Amanda is pale.

AMANDA

You went to the... Well, who would have thought?

SKYE

I'm just so glad it's out in the open now!

AMANDA

Me too. Wow. I'm so... happy for you.

SKYE

Do you want to maybe join us for a coffee?

AMANDA

No, I have to get back. To my friend.

PAUL

See you.

AMANDA  
Definitely. Good luck with, you  
know, everything.

Paul and Skye leave Amanda alone.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Amanda and Danni sit on a bench. Warren plays nearby.

AMANDA  
Skye! He's fucking Skye!

DANNI  
She is hot.

AMANDA  
Well, this is what my plan looks  
like now.

Amanda takes out her iPad. Her PowerPoint presentation explodes.

DANNI  
Seriously? You not only made that  
but you brought it to show me?

AMANDA  
It helps demonstrate the  
seriousness of this situation.

DANNI  
You're right. I'm deeply concerned  
about you.

AMANDA  
How dare he start seeing someone so  
soon?!

DANNI  
You were trying to set him up!

AMANDA  
With a sociopath. Not someone like  
Skye. They could have a real shot!

DANNI  
Are you jealous?

AMANDA  
Of course I'm not!

DANNI  
You know what you need to do? Start  
dating.

AMANDA

You're right! That would make him crazy. Men are pathetic with their pride.

DANNI

That's not what I meant.

AMANDA

But it's a great idea.

DANNI

You should channel your energy into something positive. Like getting back to work.

AMANDA

Perhaps I could kill two birds with one stone?

INT. PAUL'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paul reads the paper. Skye enters wearing only his shirt. She hands him a cup of coffee.

SKYE

And you'd stay on this tropical island forever?

PAUL

I'd need some company.

SKYE

I could help you with that.

Skye kisses him and curls up next to him on the couch.

PAUL

I do have a real dream. But maybe it's just stupid.

SKYE

Didn't Einstein say that if an idea doesn't sound stupid at first it's probably not a good idea?

PAUL

I don't think so.

SKYE

He definitely said something like that. So, spill your stupid idea.

PAUL

I want to be a writer.

SKYE

That's cool! What kind of writer?

PAUL

Plays and stuff.

SKYE

A playwright? How romantic. You should do it.

PAUL

Well, I submitted a play to the local theater group.

SKYE

Good for you!

PAUL

And they're going to produce it.

SKYE

That's fantastic! Congratulations. Look at you. A secret play writing genius!

PAUL

Hardly. It's an amateur production.

SKYE

Everyone has to start somewhere.

PAUL

You don't think I'm just an old loser having a mid life crisis?

SKYE

Maybe.

PAUL

Hey!

SKYE

But you'll never know unless you give it a try.

She rests her head against his chest.

INT. PAUL'S PARENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Paul eats at the table with Rick and Lynn. Gus is fixated on the TV.

LYNNE

I didn't know knitting could get so competitive. So I left the group.

RICK  
What's with this meatloaf, mom?

LYNNE  
You don't like it?

RICK  
It tastes weird.

LYNNE  
I added oregano.

RICK  
Why the hell did you do that?

LYNNE  
I wanted to try something  
different.

RICK  
Well, you ruined it!

PAUL  
It's delicious, mom.

LYNNE  
Oh Pauly, you've always been my  
good boy. Isn't he a good boy, Gus?

Gus doesn't respond.

PAUL  
I actually have some news I want to  
share with you guys.

Lynne looks panicked.

LYNNE  
News? Like last time? I need to get  
the sherry.

PAUL  
No, this is good news.

Lynne clears away the plates.

RICK  
Ma! I was still eating.

LYNNE  
I'll get dessert.

PAUL  
Mom, can you stop? I'm thinking of  
changing jobs.

LYNNE

You mean working at another insurance company?

PAUL

I mean working for myself.

LYNNE

Like a business man? Did you hear that, Gus? Oh you're a good boy, Paul. So clever. I'll get the sherry to celebrate.

PAUL

Not exactly a business. I want to be a writer.

LYNNE

What are you talking about?

RICK

He's coming out, ma.

PAUL

Don't be an idiot.

(to Lynne)

The local theater is producing a play I wrote.

LYNNE

What do you know about writing?

PAUL

I've been doing a lot of research -

RICK

By sleeping with dudes?

LYNNE

Why can't you start a real business? Hardware like your father? Talk to him, Gus!

PAUL

This is what I want to do. I know it may be a surprise, but I was hoping for a bit of support.

Gus looks over from the TV.

GUS

If you want support, get a bra. If writing's your thing, then do it because no one will do it for you.

INT. VIM MARKETING - NIGHT

Amanda sits opposite Logan. The room is very dark.

AMANDA

I want to win my husband back and I need your help to make him jealous.

LOGAN

You're a physically attractive woman, but I can't help you. You're a mess. And hanging on to your ex is pathetic.

AMANDA

I want to dump him. Get revenge for what he did to me.

LOGAN

Then I wish you the best of luck.

AMANDA

You can do more than that.

LOGAN

I'm in a relationship. With Cathy.

AMANDA

You're dating Cathy?

LOGAN

I'm doing Cathy. It's a career thing. You get it. People like us will do anything to get ahead.

AMANDA

I'm not like you!

LOGAN

Really? Then why can't you let your loser ex be happy banging Skye and writing plays.

AMANDA

Paul hasn't written a play for years.

LOGAN

Apparently he's having one performed by the local theater group.

AMANDA

Are you serious?

LOGAN

Some sadsack love story. There's your revenge right there. It's going to be terrible.

INT. PAUL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Paul's head is down, working. Dave approaches but this time Paul is ready for him.

PAUL

Dave! Just the man I wanted to see.

Dave is startled.

DAVE

Shit! You scared me.

PAUL

I wanted to talk to you about something personal.

DAVE

Hit me.

PAUL

Can you look at my finances?

DAVE

When you said personal, I thought you meant a sex thing.

PAUL

What? No. I want to start a new career. As a writer.

DAVE

Is that a good idea in this climate?

PAUL

I don't know. That's why I asked my best numbers guy.

DAVE

What did he say?  
(realizing)  
Wait, you mean me!

PAUL

I need to know how long my money will last if I quit my job. It's strictly confidential, of course.

DAVE

As your best friend, you have my word I'll keep quiet.

PAUL  
Thanks. But you know you're not my  
best friend, right?

DAVE  
I thought we were close.

PAUL  
We have a good work relationship.

Dave is a little dejected.

PAUL  
But I respect you more than any  
other accountant I know.

DAVE  
And we have great banter. I'll take  
a look and get back to you asap.

INT. THEATER - DAY

A group of people hit a ball around a circle. The director,  
EVAN, 30's, charmingly earnest, chases the wayward ball. He  
notices Amanda enter.

EVAN  
Amanda? Come join us, we're just  
warming up.

He jumps back on stage. Amanda joins the group.

EVAN  
You good with balls?

AMANDA  
What?

Evan hits the ball to BROOKE, mid 20's, spunky and tattooed.  
She hits it to Amanda who misses it.

BROOKE  
Nice one, ponytail. No one's failed  
an audition that fast.

AMANDA  
Is that it? I'm out?

A huge grin spreads across Brooke's face.

BROOKE  
Ha! Just messing with you!

TODD, 40's, trim and refined, grabs the ball.

TODD  
Ignore her. She's the group joker.

BROOKE

And Todd's the group homo.

TODD

At least I'm good at what I do.

BROOKE

Fuck you.

TODD

Nice come back, Jerry Seinfeld.

BROOKE

Real current reference. What is he,  
like a hundred?

JILLIAN, 50's, with a wiry wall of hair and a bright home-knitted sweater, steps forward.

JILLIAN

Ignore them, Amanda. Just try your  
best. Then you're a winner either  
way.

AMANDA

I really want this part. But I  
haven't acted in a long time.

EVAN

Did you prepare a monologue?

AMANDA

Um, not exactly. But I brought my  
portfolio. I work in marketing and  
I'd be happy to use my skills to  
increase your audience base and -

EVAN

You're in.

AMANDA

Really?

TODD

Audiences have been shrinking.

AMANDA

I can help with that. But are you  
sure that's all it takes to pass  
the audition?

BROOKE

Todd only got this gig because he  
owns a sewing machine.

TODD

I went to a very prestigious dance  
and acting school.

BROOKE

In Arkansas.

JILLIAN

We're all here for the pure love of  
it.

EVAN

So, are you game?

AMANDA

Absolutely.

EVAN

Then welcome to the asylum.

Todd throws the ball to Amanda. The game resumes.

INT. INSURANCE OFFICE - DAY

Dave slides a file across the table to Paul.

DAVE

If you sell the house, you've got  
about a year.

PAUL

That should be enough time to start  
making money.

DAVE

Do you make money from writing?

PAUL

If you're good. And I've got a year  
to find out if that's the case.

DAVE

Look, buddy. I say this as your...  
second best friend?

PAUL

Well...

DAVE

I must be top five at least?

PAUL

Sure.

DAVE

You've got a good job here. Decent  
benefits. Why risk it?

PAUL

For years I've been trapped in a loveless marriage and a job I hate. I need to give this a shot. To see if I can find that thing that's missing. I want to be happy again.

DAVE

That's beautiful, man.

PAUL

You know, I'll miss you, Dave.

DAVE

Really? Then maybe we should hug?

PAUL

Let's not push it.

INT. THEATER - DAY

Amanda and Todd are on stage in the middle of a scene.

AMANDA

I'm so tired. But I don't want to go to sleep.

TODD

I don't think you have much choice.

Todd tucks a blanket around her.

AMANDA

Can you sit with me?

TODD

I'm not going anywhere.

AMANDA

Just while I rest my eyes...

There are tears streaming down Todd's face.

TODD

Goodnight.

Todd kisses her forehead. Applause erupts. Evan returns to the stage.

EVAN

Guys, that was great! Todd, you were really connected.

AMANDA

I know. I got chills.

TODD

Me too, Amanda. I really felt like you were dying.

EVAN

We definitely found something. And I want to bring this energy into the hospital scene.

TODD

Yes! I know what you mean.

Amanda notices Paul standing in the entrance.

AMANDA

Um, can you excuse me a moment?

EVAN

Sure. I think now is a good time to take five.

INT. THEATER HOUSE - DAY

Amanda approaches Paul. Now her real acting challenge begins.

AMANDA

Paul? What are you doing here?

PAUL

What are *you* doing here?

AMANDA

I'm in the play.

PAUL

I wrote the play.

Now Amanda's acting challenge really begins.

AMANDA

Oh my god! Are you serious? This is really crazy.

PAUL

Yeah. I just wanted to -

AMANDA

Reconnect with old dreams?

PAUL

Drop by and see rehearsals.

AMANDA

Oh, right. I mean, wow. This is so random.

PAUL

Is it?

Amanda laughs a little too loud.

AMANDA

Yeah. I'm taking a break from work so I was looking for something to do. It's not too weird is it? You and I both involved in the play?

PAUL

I don't know.

AMANDA

Because I'm really loving it. The script is amazing.

PAUL

When we were married you thought my writing was stupid.

AMANDA

I guess I was wrong.

Paul looks sad.

PAUL

Maybe.

AMANDA

Well, all these guys love it. And so do I. It's like being in college again.

PAUL

You looked like you were having a good time up there.

AMANDA

I was. I mean, I am.

Amanda looks at the others on the stage. She realizes this is true.

AMANDA

I really am.

INT. DANNI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Amanda and Danni are drinking wine.

DANNI

So what's your plan? To take him down by butchering his material?

AMANDA  
I'm not that bad. Evan said I was  
really getting it.

DANNI  
Is he good looking?

AMANDA  
Yes. But he's too earnest and nice.

DANNI  
And that's a bad thing?

Amanda's phone rings. The caller ID says: EVAN.

AMANDA  
Oh my god! It's him!

DANNI  
Him who?

AMANDA  
Evan! I wonder what he could want?

DANNI  
Traditionally the way to find out  
is to answer.

Amanda answers.

AMANDA  
(into phone)  
Hello. Amanda speaking.

INT. EVAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Evan sits on an oversized lounge chair, a cat on his lap.

EVAN  
(into phone)  
Hi Amanda. I was wondering if we  
could meet tomorrow?

INTERCUT CONVERSATION AS NEEDED:

AMANDA  
We arranged a group meeting.

EVAN  
I thought maybe we could grab a  
bite afterwards. Just you and me.

AMANDA  
Oh. OK.

EVAN  
Unless you're busy?

AMANDA

No, I'm free. That sounds... fine.

EVAN

Great.

AMANDA

Great.

Amanda hangs up.

AMANDA

I think he just asked me on a date.

DANNI

Good for you. You should definitely go.

AMANDA

To make Paul jealous.

DANNI

No.

Amanda stands.

AMANDA

You need to help me decide what to wear.

DANNI

You're not going now, are you?

AMANDA

I have to make the most of this opportunity.

DANNI

To have sex?

AMANDA

To get to Paul. Are you following at all? Or do I need to get the PowerPoint presentation out again?

INT. BOX OFFICE - DAY

Evan, Paul and Todd are gathered. Amanda lays out her marketing plans.

AMANDA

You have to target your audience more effectively. The key demographics are seniors and nerds.

EVAN

You make it sound so glamorous.

AMANDA

Todd, I want you to head up the twitter account.

TODD

Warning, my camp cannot be contained.

AMANDA

Perfect. Really go to town.

Todd takes a photo of the group on his phone.

TODD

First tweet, the brain trust at work.

PAUL

I was blinking!

TODD

(looking at phone)

No, you were winking. Did you know you blink one eye at a time?

PAUL

Please don't post that photo.

TODD

Too late!

AMANDA

And we need to do matinee specials to get the seniors in.

EVAN

Our senior subscriber base has been steadily declining.

TODD

Because they're literally dying.

AMANDA

No. Because even seniors need a little sex. That's why Evan will be the face of our print campaign.

TODD

If he's also going to be the body, he may need to hit the gym. No offence, boss.

EVAN

He's right. I'm probably not the best person for the job.

AMANDA

Take it from me, you're an attractive man. And we have to use what we've got.

PAUL

You've got the part, there's no need to hit the casting couch now.

AMANDA

(offended)

I beg your pardon?

PAUL

It was just a joke.

AMANDA

Not a very good one.

TODD

I thought it was OK.

EVAN

This is all a little embarrassing.

AMANDA

That's marketing. And I'm the expert, remember.

EVAN

You're right.

AMANDA

We've all worked hard. I want people to come and see our play. And trust me. I know how to get people to do what I want.

EXT. THEATER - NIGHT

Amanda exits. Evan locks the door behind them.

EVAN

So the plan is to start an outreach project for at-risk youth.

AMANDA

That's very noble of you.

EVAN

All this is fun, but I want to give back.

AMANDA

So, where are we going for dinner?

EVAN

Do you like Turkish food?

Amanda sees Paul on the street, looking at her and Evan. She kisses Evan.

EVAN

I guess that's a yes.

Amanda kisses him again. Paul leaves. Evan pulls away.

EVAN

Um, this is a little... fast.

AMANDA

I like you.

EVAN

I like you, too. But it's just - I mean I'm - it's complicated. With the play and everything.

AMANDA

You're playing the professional card with me?

EVAN

I guess I am.

AMANDA

This is amateur theater.

EVAN

I can't - um, this was a mistake.

AMANDA

You asked me out, remember?

EVAN

I'm sorry. I should go.

Evan walks away. Amanda is left rejected.

AMANDA

Are you fucking kidding me?

EXT. PARK - DAY

Warren trots beside Amanda and Danni as they walk.

DANNI

You don't even really like him.

AMANDA

He's a nice guy. He wants to help at-risk youth!

DANNI

So you do like him?

AMANDA

What does it matter? I kissed him  
and I got 'um, ah, I should go'.

DANNI

Wasn't it just for Paul's benefit?

AMANDA

He doesn't know that!

DANNI

Perhaps he's a gentleman?

AMANDA

No one's a gentleman when it comes  
to sex. I'm just unfuckable.

DANNI

Don't be stupid. You're totally  
fuckable.

AMANDA

Why do I feel like a sexual leper?

Amanda and Danni are close to a MOM and DAD with CHILDREN.

DAD

Hey! Do you mind?

AMANDA

Excuse me, we're having a private  
conversation here.

DAD

Then why don't you take it  
elsewhere?

AMANDA

Do you think I'm fuckable?

DAD

I think you've got a mouth like a  
sailor. And my wife and kids  
shouldn't have to listen to it!

AMANDA

(to Danni)

This is exactly what I'm talking  
about. A fucking leper.

Amanda and Danni walk away from the offended family.

DANNI

But Paul saw you kissing Evan.  
How did he respond?

AMANDA

Who knows. In the meeting he was a  
little weird when I said Evan was  
attractive.

DANNI

He was jealous?

AMANDA

Maybe. Or his IBS was acting up.

DANNI

He's a complex man.

AMANDA

If only I could know what's going  
on in his head.

INT. PAUL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Paul cooks. Skye picks at the food, drinking wine.

SKYE

So, it's all going well?

PAUL

I think Amanda's seeing the  
director.

SKYE

That's great! Good for her.

PAUL

Yeah. But I don't think he knows we  
were married.

SKYE

Does he need to?

PAUL

Isn't it deceptive that no one in  
the play knows about us?

SKYE

They don't know everything about  
your personal history do they?

PAUL

No.

SKYE

Then why does it matter?

PAUL  
I think I should talk to Amanda.

SKYE  
And I think we should stop talking  
about Amanda.

She kisses him. All other thoughts are forgotten.

INT. THEATER - DAY

Todd is being fitted for his costume. Amanda watches.

TODD  
Is the cravat too gay?

AMANDA  
I think Rachel would like a man in  
a cravat.

TODD  
A woman after my own heart!

Amanda laughs. Evan approaches.

TODD  
What do you think, boss?

EVAN  
Looking good.

Amanda and Evan eye each other awkwardly. Todd is oblivious.

TODD  
You might want to try a cravat. It  
could be a good look for you.

EVAN  
Or perhaps a beret?

TODD  
Change up your look and you might  
actually get laid. How long has it  
been, three years now?

EVAN  
Two.

TODD  
Ouch. You need to get back in the  
game before you forget what to do.

Evan looks at Amanda.

EVAN  
I'm afraid that may have already  
happened.

TODD

What are you waiting for?

Evan looks uncomfortable. Amanda rescues him.

AMANDA

Maybe he's a romantic.

TODD

That won't get his pipes cleaned.

Paul approaches.

PAUL

Amanda, can I have a word? About marketing.

AMANDA

Sure.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Amanda and Paul sit facing the mirrors.

PAUL

I feel weird that no one knows about us.

AMANDA

And what is there to know?

PAUL

That we were married!

AMANDA

Emphasis on were. Why is it important they know?

PAUL

I feel...

He looks at Amanda.

PAUL

Are you and Evan dating?

AMANDA

What?

PAUL

I saw you outside the theater last night.

AMANDA

Is that a problem?

PAUL  
Of course not.

Paul takes a breath.

PAUL  
I know it's none of my business but  
- I felt a little - it was weird  
seeing you together.

AMANDA  
We can tell him if it's really that  
important to you.

PAUL  
No, I mean, I know I'm with Skye so  
I have no right, but I...

Paul looks at Amanda.

PAUL  
I've noticed these past couple of  
weeks that you're... blossoming.

AMANDA  
Blossoming?

PAUL  
With the play and everything. You  
seem, I don't know, lighter.  
Happier. Like when we first met.  
You seem to have it all worked out.

Amanda looks into Paul's eyes. She is suddenly vulnerable.

AMANDA  
I don't.

PAUL  
You sure seem like you do.

AMANDA  
Trust me. I don't.

PAUL  
Are you nervous about the play?  
Because I have a secret remedy.

Paul takes a flask out of his pocket. Amanda laughs.

AMANDA  
Come on. I know somewhere quiet.

She takes his hand.

INT. CATWALK - DAY

Amanda and Paul sit above the stage and drink.

AMANDA

Deciding to be a writer is a brave move.

PAUL

Or stupid. But I can't stay in that insurance office another year.

AMANDA

You're getting your life back. You've changed. You're... happy.

PAUL

I'm getting there.

Amanda is overcome with sadness.

AMANDA

I'm sorry we couldn't be happy together.

PAUL

We were.

AMANDA

Once.

PAUL

Marrying you was the happiest day of my life.

Amanda looks at Paul. Paul looks at Amanda. They lean in. Before their lips meet, Amanda stops.

AMANDA

Paul, I want to tell you something.

PAUL

I want to tell you something, too.

They move closer. They are interrupted by Paul's phone ringing.

AMANDA

Is it Skye?

Paul looks at the caller ID. He nods.

AMANDA

You should take it.

PAUL

Amanda, I want to -

AMANDA  
We can talk later.

Paul leaves. Amanda takes a breath, absorbing what just happened.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Amanda is hemming her costume. Warren sits on Danni's lap.

DANNI  
Does this mean you've finally grown  
a conscience?

AMANDA  
I hope not. What's happening to me?

DANNI  
You like him.

AMANDA  
I hate him. He drives me fucking  
crazy.

DANNI  
Because you still have feelings for  
him.

AMANDA  
It doesn't mean I don't want him to  
suffer for what he has done to me!

DANNI  
The sooner you realize he hasn't  
done anything to you, the better.  
Throw out your stupid plan and  
follow your heart!

Amanda looks pensive for a moment.

AMANDA  
I can't believe you just said that.

DANNI  
As I was saying it, I thought it  
was a little cheesy.

AMANDA  
I'm glad I'm not paying for this.  
Do your patients ever complain?

DANNI  
It's good advice. Your heart knows  
what it wants.

INT. VIM MARKETING - DAY

Skye hands Logan a cup of coffee.

LOGAN  
Thanks, Kitten.

SKYE  
No.

LOGAN  
I need to keep you late tonight.

SKYE  
I don't work for you, Logan.

LOGAN  
But you're on this account. I need  
some extra hands.

SKYE  
You'll have to use your own hands.  
It's Paul's opening night.

LOGAN  
That crappy play's still on? It  
hasn't blown up between Amanda and  
your boyfriend yet?

SKYE  
They've moved on.

LOGAN  
I doubt that. It's not like Amanda  
to abandon a plan.

SKYE  
What plan?

LOGAN  
To win Paul back. She's only in the  
play because she wants to get back  
together so she can break up with  
him as revenge. It's kind of  
poetic. Shakespearian or something.

SKYE  
You're an asshole.

LOGAN  
Don't shoot the messenger. What are  
you doing with Amanda's ex anyway?

SKYE  
I love him.

LOGAN  
Sure you do.

Skye leaves. He calls out after her.

LOGAN  
We're all playing games. Some of us  
are just a little more honest about  
it!

EXT. THEATER - NIGHT

There's a long line at will call. Skye approaches the door,  
cell to her ear.

SKYE  
(into phone)  
Hey Paul. It's me. For like the  
hundreth time. I really want to  
talk to you so call me back.

An UPTIGHT GUY at the front of the line sees Skye pushing in.

UPTIGHT GUY  
Hey! Get to the back of the line!

SKYE  
I have a comp ticket.

UPTIGHT GUY  
Good for you. I'm four years sober  
but you don't hear me bragging  
about it. Get to the back!

Skye trudges to the back of the line.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda, Jillian and Brooke put the finishing touches on their  
makeup. Evan sticks his head in the door.

EVAN  
Break a leg, ladies.

JILLIAN  
Thanks. Is there a big crowd?

EVAN  
We're sold out, thanks to Amanda.

AMANDA  
I shouldn't have tried so hard to  
get people here. I feel sick.

EVAN  
You'll be great. I'll see you all  
after the show.

BROOKE  
Thanks, boss.

Evan leaves. The STAGE MANAGER puts a big bunch of flowers next to Amanda.

JILLIAN  
They're gorgeous.

BROOKE  
No chocolates?

JILLIAN  
Are they from Evan?

AMANDA  
Evan?

JILLIAN  
I've seen the way he looks at you.

AMANDA  
He doesn't look at me. What are you talking about?

Brooke looks at the card.

BROOKE  
They're from Paul.

JILLIAN  
How many do you have after you?

INT. THEATER - NIGHT

Skye finds a seat in the packed theater. She looks around but can't see Paul anywhere.

EXT. THEATER - NIGHT

Paul paces. He takes a swig of whiskey. A HOMELESS MAN sidles up to him.

HOMELESS MAN  
Can I get some of that, man?

PAUL  
Ah, yeah. It's all yours.

Paul passes him the bottle and enters the theater.

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

The play is in its final moments. Amanda and Todd act their hearts out.

AMANDA  
Can you sit with me?

TODD  
I'm not going anywhere.

AMANDA  
Just while I rest my eyes...

Tears stream down Todd's face.

TODD  
Goodnight.

He kisses Amanda.

The lights go out. A huge applause.

The lights come back on and the cast take their bows. Evan and Paul join them on stage.

INT. AUDIENCE - NIGHT

Skye applauds. Behind her, Logan and Cathy whisper to one another.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

A crowd of admirers swarm around Amanda. Logan approaches with Cathy on his arm. She's wearing a rather dramatic cape.

CATHY  
Amanda! We've discovered your hidden talent!

AMANDA  
Oh my goodness, Cathy! I didn't expect you to be here.

CATHY  
Logan insisted I come.

LOGAN  
There's quite a crowd here.

AMANDA  
I did all the marketing. In fact, I'd love to show you my strategy.

CATHY  
I need a drink.

Cathy leaves. Amanda turns to Logan.

AMANDA  
Maybe you could get me a meeting? I can come in anytime.

LOGAN

Do you really think she's impressed by this? It's amateur hour.

AMANDA

The model works for any small company. People are sick of big business and are looking back to their communities for produce, textiles and entertainment.

LOGAN

I don't want to hear your pitch. We only came out of morbid curiosity.

AMANDA

But I thought if you just saw -

LOGAN

Please don't beg, Mandy. It's just sad.

Logan stalks off leaving Amanda alone and dejected.

INT. THEATER BAR - NIGHT

On the other side of the throng, Paul gets a drink. Skye makes her way to him.

PAUL

So sorry I missed your calls, but you made it!

He kisses her.

PAUL

Can you believe this crowd? And I think the show went really well. Don't you think?

SKYE

I have to talk to you. Can we go somewhere quiet?

PAUL

I just want to thank the cast. They all did such a great job. Amanda was on fire tonight!

SKYE

Yes, she's quite an actress. She definitely fooled me.

PAUL

What are you talking about?

Skye takes a breath.

SKYE

Amanda's been trying to win you back. But only so she could break up with you.

PAUL

That's ridiculous. Why would she do that?

SKYE

To humiliate you. As revenge for ending your marriage.

Paul's face drops.

PAUL

Did she tell you that?

SKYE

Logan did. She went to him for help.

PAUL

But we were getting along so well...

SKYE

That was her plan. To suck you in.

Paul looks like he's about to explode.

SKYE

She joined the theater group to get to you. Everything she's done has been to get back at you. I just wanted you to know before it got out of control.

PAUL

It's too late for that.

Paul sees Amanda across the room. He makes a beeline for her.

SKYE

Paul!

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

Shaking with rage, Paul approaches Amanda.

PAUL

Amanda!

Amanda smiles.

AMANDA

Paul! Congratulations. Everyone's been raving about your play.

PAUL

We need to talk.

Not noticing Paul, Evan takes Amanda's arm.

EVAN

Amanda, there's someone I want you to meet.

AMANDA

OK, hang on a moment.  
(to Paul)  
Can we talk later?

PAUL

No, now!

Paul yanks her away from Evan.

EVAN

What do you think you're doing?

PAUL

This is between me and my wife.

EVAN

You're married?

AMANDA

We're divorced.

Todd has caught wind of the drama.

EVAN

I had no idea. Why didn't you say?

TODD

I'm definitely live tweeting this!

PAUL

Amanda has a nasty habit of lying. Or withholding all the facts. Am I right, sweetheart?

AMANDA

Let's do this somewhere else.

PAUL

No, let's do this here. We may as well get it out in the open. I'm sure everyone here would like to know what's really going on.

Amanda looks around, mortified.

AMANDA

I had this plan, but it changed -

PAUL

You're a real piece of work,  
Amanda.

AMANDA

Let me explain -

PAUL

You were using everyone here  
because you wanted revenge on me.

AMANDA

It might have started that way, but  
it's not like that now!

PAUL

I thought I'd seen the true depths  
of your viciousness but this is a  
whole new level.

Tears stream down Amanda's face.

AMANDA

I'm sorry.

PAUL

I'm done, Amanda. Good luck with  
the rest of your miserable life.

Paul pushes through the crowd. Amanda wants to crawl into a  
hole. Her life is over.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Amanda flops on the couch. Warren jumps on her and she pushes  
him away. Danni dumps Amanda's bags on the floor.

DANNI

Can I get you anything?

Amanda shakes her head.

DANNI

Try to sleep. It'll do you good.

Danni leaves. Amanda opens her laptop and begins to work.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Paul and Skye undress for bed.

PAUL  
I'm just saying your timing sucked.

SKYE  
You can't blame this on me!

PAUL  
Why didn't you tell me before?

SKYE  
I couldn't get hold of you!

PAUL  
I made a total fool of myself.

SKYE  
No, you made a fool of Amanda.

PAUL  
I handled it badly.

SKYE  
Amanda got everything she deserved.  
She was manipulating you. She  
wanted to see you humiliated!

PAUL  
I don't believe she would have gone  
through with it. I mean, she had a  
chance to get close, but...

SKYE  
What does that mean?

PAUL  
Nothing.

SKYE  
Did something happen between you  
two?

PAUL  
No.

SKYE  
But you wanted it to?

PAUL  
I don't know.

SKYE  
Wrong answer.

Skye pulls her sweater back on and collects her things.

PAUL

Skye, come on. You know what I mean. It's complicated.

SKYE

No, it's simple. And if you finally figure that out, give me a call.

Skye storms out. The front door slams.

INT. AMANDA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Amanda is in the same position on the couch, her laptop open. Warren paws at her leg. She looks at him.

AMANDA

I wish you had opposable thumbs.

She puts her laptop aside.

INT. AMANDA'S BACK DOOR - DAY

Amanda opens the door leading to a small courtyard. She dumps Warren outside and closes the door.

INT. AMANDA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Amanda opens her laptop again. The front door opens and Danni enters. She is surprised to see Amanda up.

DANNI

Hey. I thought you'd still be sleeping it off. Have you slept?

AMANDA

I had to get to work.

DANNI

What are you working on?

AMANDA

A new revenge plan. To get Skye back for ruining my life.

DANNI

Skye didn't ruin your life!

AMANDA

I've got it all worked out. A five point plan. First I'm going to get her fired, then -

Danni slams the laptop shut.

DANNI

Enough!

Amanda is taken aback by her forcefulness.

DANNI

Jesus, Amanda! How many people do you have to hurt before you get a fucking grip?

AMANDA

I can't stop until I win.

DANNI

You're never going to win! There are no winners in divorce or marriage.

AMANDA

That's what a loser would say.

DANNI

I thought you'd hit rock bottom last night and today you'd realize you were wrong. But you haven't learned anything!

AMANDA

You don't understand what it's like.

DANNI

To be heartbroken? Of course I do!

AMANDA

That's right. I supported you through every one of your stupid breakups. Like a good friend!

DANNI

I'm being a good friend by calling intervention on this crazy shit! I can't sit around anymore and watch you self destruct and take everyone in your path down with you.

AMANDA

Get out of my house!

DANNI

You can try to push me away but you know that I'm right!

They are interrupted by the doorbell.

DANNI

Jesus! What now?!

INT. AMANDA'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Amanda answers the door. It's Evan.

EVAN  
I hope I'm not interrupting  
anything, I heard yelling.

AMANDA  
I'm just fighting with my best  
friend, Danni.

EVAN  
Maybe I'll come back later.

Amanda notices that the courtyard gate is open.

AMANDA  
Shit!

EVAN  
Is everything OK?

AMANDA  
Warren!

Amanda runs to the open gate.

EXT. AMANDA'S COURTYARD - DAY

Amanda looks around for Warren.

AMANDA  
Warren?! Warren!

Warren is nowhere to be seen.

INT. AMANDA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Amanda is flustered.

AMANDA  
Warren got out the side gate!

EXT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Amanda runs onto the street.

AMANDA  
Warren! Warren!

Evan and Danni join her.

AMANDA  
He's not here!

DANNI

How long has he been missing?

AMANDA

I don't know, I was too busy working on - oh my god! What if something's happened to him?

DANNI

He can't have gone far.

AMANDA

Maybe he went to the park. I should check the park!

Amanda runs to her car.

EVAN

Is there anything I can do to help?

DANNI

Wait here in case he comes back.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Amanda jumps out of the car without closing the door.

AMANDA

Warren! Warren!

She scans the park. There are couples, families, children, numerous dogs, but no Warren.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Amanda sits. For the first time since the break up, she lets go and cries.

INT. DANNI'S CAR - DAY

Danni slows as she sees a crowd of people ahead on the road. There is a car pulled over with hazard lights on.

DANNI

Oh no.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Amanda's phone rings. She answers.

AMANDA

(into phone)

Where is he?

INT. VETERINARIAN - DAY

Amanda speaks to a kind NURSE.

NURSE

The doctor took him right into surgery. He's in there now.

AMANDA

Will he be OK?

EXT. VETERINARIAN - DAY

Amanda joins Danni and Evan waiting outside. Her face is tear-stained.

AMANDA

He's going to lose a leg.

DANNI

Oh my god, I'm so sorry!

AMANDA

I'm the one who's sorry! I've been such a fuckwit!

DANNI

Yeah, you kind of have.

AMANDA

I'm so sorry. Can you forgive me?  
Are we still friends?

Danni reaches out and hugs Amanda.

DANNI

You really are an idiot.

AMANDA

I know. What did I do to deserve you?

DANNI

I'll figure out a way you can make it up to me.

AMANDA

I wish I could take it all back.

EVAN

If everything's OK, I should probably get going.

AMANDA

I'll walk you to your car.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Evan stands by his car, the open door between him and Amanda.

AMANDA

I didn't mean for you to get caught up in all this.

EVAN

I'm just glad the little guy's OK.

AMANDA

No, I mean, you're such a nice guy and I've really loved being in the show and -

EVAN

You're not getting out of it that easy.

AMANDA

You still want me in the show?

EVAN

We can't find a replacement with this short notice.

AMANDA

Facing everyone is going to be humiliating.

EVAN

They'll understand. We've all done stupid things we regret.

AMANDA

I bet you haven't.

EVAN

I should have kissed you back.

AMANDA

What?

EVAN

Maybe you were just using me to get back at Paul -

AMANDA

No, that was stupid. I really like you.

EVAN

It doesn't matter. I wanted to kiss you but I was afraid.

He gets into the car.

EVAN

*That was stupid.*

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Amanda nurses Warren who is bandaged and groggy. Danni tucks a blanket around them.

AMANDA  
I wish I could do everything differently. I don't want to be that bitter, angry person anymore.

DANNI  
Then don't be.

Tears well in Amanda's eyes.

AMANDA  
That's it?

DANNI  
Yep. No five point plan, no PowerPoint presentations, just let it go. You'll be fine.

INT. PAUL'S PARENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Paul and Rick are watching basketball. Gus also watches, but ignores his sons. Lynne enters with beers and snacks.

RICK  
Ruffles? You know I hate Ruffles.

LYNNE  
They're not Ruffles.

RICK  
They taste like Ruffles.

PAUL  
They're great, mom. Thanks.

LYNNE  
If you boys need anything else, I'll be in the kitchen.

Lynne leaves.

RICK  
(to TV)  
Bullshit! That was a foul! Did you see that? This ref's a fucken joke!

Gus doesn't respond. Rick looks at Paul.

RICK  
What's your problem? You're quieter than dad.

PAUL  
I've got a lot on my mind.

RICK  
Like that chick you're banging?

PAUL  
Who, Skye?

RICK  
You wouldn't tell me her name. But  
you did mention she was a four.

PAUL  
It's over.

RICK  
(at TV)  
Get on defence you useless sack of  
shit!

PAUL  
And she was a nine.

RICK  
How do you manage it, bro? Do you  
play the struggling writer pity  
card or something?

PAUL  
Not any more. I'm giving up on  
writing.

RICK  
How come? I've got two tickets to  
your play tonight. Mom wants to  
come but I'm still hoping I can  
find a date.

PAUL  
Don't bother. I was never any good,  
Amanda was just setting me up to  
fail.

RICK  
Amanda? Man, she may be an eight,  
but she schemes like a three.  
(at TV)  
Are you serious?! Come on ref!  
(to Paul)  
Don't give up on yourself because  
of her.

PAUL  
It's OK. She helped me see the  
truth. I have a stable job.

There's no point risking everything  
on a stupid dream.

Gus looks over from the TV at Paul.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Amanda dresses Warren's wound. The doorbell rings.

EXT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Amanda opens the door. It's Gus.

AMANDA

Gus. What are you doing here?

INT. AMANDA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Amanda and Gus sit at the table.

GUS

He wants to give up writing.

AMANDA

That would be a mistake.

GUS

The reason he's giving up has  
something to do with you. I don't  
know what's going on between you  
two, and I don't want to, but you  
need to fix this.

AMANDA

He won't listen to me.

GUS

If you ever cared for my son,  
you'll find a way to make him.

INT. INSURANCE OFFICE - DAY

Nervous, Amanda walks towards Paul's cubicle.

INT. PAUL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Paul is on the phone. He sees Amanda approach.

PAUL

(into phone)

Um, can I call you back?

He hangs up.

PAUL

I have to be in a meeting -

AMANDA  
I'd apologize, but I know it's  
futile.

PAUL  
So you came to tell me you're not  
going to apologize?

AMANDA  
Please, take this.

Amanda hands him a card.

AMANDA  
This is a literary agent I did a  
job for once. She's smart, no  
nonsense and she loved your script.

PAUL  
You gave her my script?

AMANDA  
Yes and she's coming to the show  
tonight.

PAUL  
Are you still screwing with me?

AMANDA  
I'm trying to make things right. I  
don't expect you to forgive me, but  
please just meet with her.

PAUL  
Why? To alleviate your guilt?

AMANDA  
Not doing this will hurt me because  
I believe in you. But it will hurt  
you more.

PAUL  
This won't change anything between  
us.

AMANDA  
I know.

Amanda hands him a ring box. He opens it. Inside is his  
Grandmother's wedding ring.

AMANDA  
Hopefully we can both be happy  
again.

Amanda leaves. Dave puts his arm around Paul.

DAVE

Is it too soon, or can I get her number?

Paul looks at Dave.

DAVE

You're right. Too soon.

Fade to black.

TITLE: ONE YEAR LATER

EXT. THEATER - DAY

The theater has been given a makeover. It's been repainted and is covered in bright, appealing posters for upcoming productions.

INT. BOX OFFICE - DAY

Amanda works. Danni sits beside her.

DANNI

You ready yet?

AMANDA

I just have to finish one thing.

DANNI

Are we going to have time to do everything?

AMANDA

It's all under control.

DANNI

God. Why aren't you more nervous?

AMANDA

The event's going to be perfect and you're going to be great. Everyone coming is there to kiss your ass.

DANNI

What if people hate the book?

AMANDA

How could they? It's based on me and I'm very likeable.

DANNI

Not true and it's not based on you. I used you as inspiration for what *not* to do in a breakup.

AMANDA  
Still a valuable contribution.  
There, I'm done.

She closes her laptop.

AMANDA  
You ready, Warren?

Warren is fully recovered but now only has three legs.

DANNI  
He's ready, I'm ready, let's go!

AMANDA  
Alright, alright!

Danni rushes out the door. Amanda follows with Warren skipping beside her.

INT. STAGE - DAY

Evan and a bunch of TEENAGERS play a ball game.

EVAN  
Oh! So close to the record. And you guys really look like a group who can handle their balls.

The Teenagers groan. Amanda enters.

AMANDA  
He's not telling balls jokes is he?

TEENAGE BOY  
I wouldn't call them jokes exactly.

AMANDA  
I'm just going to drop the flyer to the printers.

DANNI  
Do we have time for that?

AMANDA  
I'll drop you first, don't worry.

TEENAGE GIRL  
Are people really going to come watch us perform?

EVAN  
Yes. And you're going to be amazing.

AMANDA

(to Evan)

I'll see you at the book store at seven. You should wear your black shirt. You look cute in that.

EVAN

Good tip.

They kiss. The class 'woo'. Amanda smiles.

EVAN

Alright, let's get back to work.

EXT. DRY CLEANERS - DAY

Amanda races out of the store, a dress over her arm and Warren walking beside her.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Amanda marches down the street on a mission.

SKYE (O.S.)

Amanda?

Amanda stops. Skye is outside Paul's regular coffee shop.

AMANDA

Oh my god! Skye!

Skye stands to give Amanda a hug. Amanda can't help but notice her pregnant stomach.

AMANDA

Wow. Look at you!

SKYE

Oh yeah. Six months pregnant.

AMANDA

Congratulations.

SKYE

Thank you. What are you up to? You look great.

AMANDA

Oh no, I don't. Danni's running me all over the place. Her head's huge these days.

SKYE

Well it should be. I heard about the book.

AMANDA  
It's the launch tonight. Just  
around the corner.

SKYE  
Cool. You're doing her marketing?

AMANDA  
Lucky I have successful friends or  
I wouldn't have any clients.

SKYE  
You were always great at your job.  
I'm sure Danni knows how lucky she  
is to have you in her corner.

Paul exits the coffee shop with two coffees in his hands.

PAUL  
Hi.

Amanda smiles.

AMANDA  
Hi.

SKYE  
Can you believe we just ran in to  
each other?

Paul smiles.

PAUL  
It's been a while.

AMANDA  
At least six months apparently.  
Congratulations.

PAUL  
Thank you.

AMANDA  
I'm just on my way to Danni's book  
launch.

PAUL  
Cool. I heard about her success.  
And yours. That's great.

AMANDA  
Yeah. Well, you look really happy.

PAUL  
I am.

AMANDA

Good.

PAUL

And you?

AMANDA

Am I happy? Yeah. I am.

Amanda looks at Paul and smiles. He smiles back.

SKYE

I suppose we should let you get to  
your launch.

AMANDA

It was good to run in to you both.

PAUL

Yeah. Bye.

AMANDA

Bye. Come on, Warren. Let's go.

Amanda leaves. Warren trots beside her.

FADE OUT.