

# **TRUE LOVE LIES**

**A Play**

**By  
Brad Fraser**

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Represented by: Rena Zimmerman  
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**TRUE LOVE LIES  
A PLAY IN TWO ACTS  
BY BRAD FRASER**

THE CHARACTERS

DAVID 50

KANE 45

CAROLYN 44

MADISON 20

ROYCE 17

THE SETTING.

Various locales as specified. The set should not be naturalistic. Elements should be shared by all locations and all transitions should be made without blackouts.

PUNCTUATION NOTE

A period is used to indicate the end of vocalization, not necessarily the end of a thought, likewise with capital letters at the beginning of sentences. Commas and other punctuation have been intentionally omitted.

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For Jeff, Chad and Trevor.

ACT ONE

LIGHTS RISE ON THE SAWATSKY KITCHEN. CAROLYN IS FILLING THE DISHWASHER WITH ITEMS FROM THE SINK. MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Hey.

CAROLYN Back already?

MADISON I need to change my top.

CAROLYN Why?

MADISON The last place was uber casual. This one's a little more classic.

CAROLYN Who knew looking for a job was so complicated?

MADISON Adulthood involves way too many different outfits.

MADISON EXITS. KANE ENTERS.

KANE Hello.

CAROLYN You're early.

KANE We're celebrating.

CAROLYN What's the occasion?

THEY KISS QUICKLY. HE GIVES HER A SQUEEZE.

KANE The Liebowski's loved everything about our design and I was able to get a big fat cheque out of them. I think we can now replace the furnace.

CAROLYN I told you that design was brilliant.

KANE They loved the chenille. Perfect choice again.

THEY KISS AGAIN, MORE PASSIONATELY.

KANE When are the kids expected?

CAROLYN Maddie's upstairs right now.

KANE So no time for a quick bit of.

CAROLYN None.

KANE Damn.

CAROLYN Later.

KANE Promise.

THEY KISS AGAIN. MADISON ENTERS CHANGED.

MADISON Hey pop.

KANE How's the job hunting?

MADISON There's not a lot out there.

CAROLYN A job wouldn't be an issue if you were in university.

MADISON What's the point of paying for an education if you don't know what you want to do?

ROYCE ENTERS.

ROYCEHowdy.

KANE Hey Royce. Anything cool happen today?

ROYCEYeah. High school's just full of cool things that happen. When's dinner?

CAROLYN About an hour.

ROYCECall me.

ROYCE EXITS.

MADISON I need the car.

CAROLYN Why?

MADISON There's a new restaurant looking for servers and I'm already late.

CAROLYN Do you really think working in a restaurant is going to be that much more interesting than working in a store?

MADISON Are you kidding? Kara's working at The Poplars and you should see the money she's making. After five or six hours a night.

CAROLYN But those late night shifts.

MADISON Work for me.

KANE THROWS MADISON HIS KEYS.

KANE Here you go.

CAROLYN Don't speed.

MADISON Back in a flash.

MADISON EXITS.

CAROLYN Let's hope this one pans out.

KANE It's not easy getting a full-time job.

CAROLYN Sweetie- she's twenty one years old. She can't  
sell lip gloss at a kiosk three nights a week anymore.

KANE It's still very young.

CAROLYN Are you forgetting some of the things you'd done  
at that age?

KANE They're our babies.

CAROLYN TAKES HIM IN HER ARMS.

CAROLYN I like to think we didn't raise the kind of kids  
who live at home until they're thirty.

KANE Would that be so bad?

CAROLYN Yes it would.

A LIGHT ON DAVID AT THE RESTAURANT, SEATED AT ONE OF THE  
TABLES DOING PAPER WORK. MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Hi.

DAVIDHello.

MADISON You need waiters?

DAVIDYes.

ROYCEI'm Madison.

DAVIDHi Madison. David McMillan. Have we met before?

MADISON I don't think so.

DAVIDYou seem familiar.

MADISON HANDS HIM HER RESUME.

MADISON Okay. I brought my resume.

DAVID Do you have restaurant experience?

MADISON No but I've got a lot of retail. Part-time.

DAVID We're really looking for experienced waiters. I'd have to start you as a bus-person or on the coat check.

MADISON That's fine.

DAVID Sawatsky?

MADISON Yes.

DAVID You're not related to Kane Sawatsky are you?

MADISON He's my dad. You know him?

DAVID Not No a bit. A long time ago.

MADISON Cool. Should I say hi for you?

DAVID If you like. In all honesty Madison we are looking for people with experience in the business.

MADISON I'm a very quick learner.

DAVID I'm sure you are.

MADISON I'm happy to bus or whatever.

DAVID I'm afraid all the positions have been filled. Thanks for stopping by.

MADISON Okay. Bye. Thanks.

MADISON EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON THE SAWATSKY KITCHEN. ROYCE IS AT THE TABLE. KANE AND CAROLYN ARE MAKING DINNER.

KANE Did you look at those fabric samples I left on your desk?

CAROLYN The pumpkin's too garish and that tweed stuff is an interesting colour but too itchy looking.

KANE What about the aubergine?

CAROLYN Loved the aubergine.

KANE Whadaya wanna bet that Leibowski job leads to some big time referrals?

CAROLYN That's what we're hoping for.

ROYCE Are those the west end Leibowskis whose daughter joined that sperm cult?

KANE I have no idea.

CAROLYN Sperm cult?

ROYCE Self-explanatory ma.

MADISON ENTERS.

KANE Just in time.

MADISON I'm not hungry.

CAROLYN What's wrong?

KANE Did the interview go that badly?

MADISON I got stiffed because the guy knows you.

CAROLYN Really?

MADISON Yeah he seemed all interested until he found out you're my dad.

KANE What's his name?

MADISON McMillan.

CAROLYN David?

KANE David McMillan?

MADISON That's right. Good shape. Nice hair. A bit you know.

LONG PAUSE.

MADISON What?

CAROLYN Kane the sauce is burning.

KANE Shit sorry damn.

CAROLYN Everything's ready.

ROYCE Why are you acting weird?

KANE Madison sit.

CAROLYN Is the sauce?

KANE Yes. You?

CAROLYN Yes. Go.

KANE Hot stuff.

CAROLYN Careful.

KANE Sweet and sour pork chops.

CAROLYN Grilled okra.

MADISON Uh- guys.

KANE Just.

CAROLYN Eat.

MADISON Who is David McMillan?

KANE He was.

CAROLYN Just a.

KANE Friend.

CAROLYN Of your fathers.

KANE A long time ago.

ROYCEWhat kinda friend?

KANE Just you know a friend like you have.

CAROLYN When you have friends.

KANE Yeah.

MADISON So why'd he blow me off then?

KANE We- aren't close anymore.

MADISON Why not?

KANE We just.

CAROLYN Grew apart.

ROYCEWas he a good friend?

KANE At one time.

CAROLYN No more talking. Eat.

THEY EAT. PAUSE.

MADISON He seemed gay.

PAUSE.

MADISON Is he?

CAROLYN Yes.

ROYCE You had a gay friend?

KANE Yes.

MADISON So was he like your boyfriend or something? Is that why everyone's acting so weird?

LONG PAUSE.

MADISON Omigod.

ROYCE Get out.

CAROLYN It's ancient history.

MADISON Are you kidding?

ROYCE You're a fudgepacker?

KANE I'm not sure we should use the term fudgepacker.

MADISON Are you more comfortable with queer?

KANE I don't think this is.

CAROLYN Something we need to.

KANE Discuss.

CAROLYN Right now.

ROYCE You had a boyfriend?

KANE I he we had a relationship.

ROYCE Relationship?

MADISON Did you live with him?

KANE For two years.

MADISON Wow.

ROYCEAnd you're telling us now because?

KANE You asked.

LONG PAUSE.

KANE We can talk about it if you're.

MADISON I'm outa here.

CAROLYN You haven't eaten a thing.

MADISON I said I wasn't hungry.

KANE Anytime you want. We can talk.

MADISON Great. Thanks.

CAROLYN Where are you going?

MADISON Armand's.

CAROLYN Who's Armand?

MADISON My friend.

CAROLYN Are you sure you wouldn't rather?

MADISON What? Talk about the man dad used to live with?

KANE If you want.

MADISON Later.

MADISON EXITS.

CAROLYN We've all done things in our pasts that we're  
ashamed of.

KANE Young people are supposed to try different things.

ROYCELike packing fudge.

KANE Stop saying that. I just.

ROYCEWhat?

KANE It was a first time thing.

ROYCEIt isn't bad enough having a father who's artistic and  
tasteful- but he turns out to be gay too.

KANE One relationship with a man doesn't make me gay.

ROYCE What does it make you then?

CAROLYN Complicated. Being an adult's complicated.

ROYCE If you say so.

KANE We always taught you that life was about making choices. That there's nothing wrong with being different.

ROYCE And now I get why.

KANE Are you angry?

ROYCE No.

CAROLYN Where are you going?

ROYCE To a fag bar to meet a child molester.

ROYCE EXITS.

CAROLYN He's angry.

KANE Should we have lied?

CAROLYN They can always tell.

KANE And they would've heard it from someone else. Eventually.

CAROLYN I think we should've lied.

KANE I think you're right.

A LIGHT ON DAVID AT HIS DESK. HE'S REVIEWING RESUMES AS HE SPEAKS ON HIS CELL PHONE EARPIECE.

DAVID I didn't tell anyone I was selling my condo. I didn't want to be talked out of it. The fact that I've been gone for nearly five months and you just noticed should be explanation enough. Don't take it so personally. Yes. I promise Clive. Everything. I'll e-mail you.

LIGHTS RISE ON KANE, OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE, SMOKING AND PACING. MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Dad.

KANE Hey. How's Armand?

MADISON Controlled by television. Are you smoking?

HE STUBS THE CIGARETTE OUT QUICKLY.

KANE No yeah I'm just I'm not starting again.

MADISON Your life.

KANE Do you think less of me?

MADISON For smoking?

KANE For having had a boyfriend.

MADISON You loved him?

KANE I thought I did.

MADISON So are you a straight man who fell in love with a  
gay guy a gay guy who decided to have a family or a bi  
guy with a rare sense of commitment?

KANE I'm mostly straight.

MADISON What about the whole born straight or born gay  
thing?

KANE I don't think that applies to everyone.

MADISON Where does mom fit into this picture?

KANE LIGHTS ANOTHER CIGARETTE.

KANE She we met after the break up.

MADISON But she always knew.

KANE Of course. It wasn't a secret.

MADISON When did you see him last?

KANE The day I moved out.

MADISON You don't wanna talk about this.

KANE It doesn't matter anymore.

MADISON Then why are you smoking again?

KANE Because I'm scared my children hate me.

MADISON I don't hate you.

KANE Thanks.

MADISON It was just you know.

KANE I know.

THEY EMBRACE.

MADISON Now chuck those cigarettes before ma gets a whiff  
of you.

MADISON EXITS. A LIGHT RISES ON CAROLYN AT THE KITCHEN TABLE  
WORKING ON HER LAPTOP. ROYCE ENTERS.

CAROLYN It's twelve forty-nine.

ROYCE You should be in bed.

CAROLYN I have to finish this payroll.

ROYCE Is dad asleep?

CAROLYN Yeah. He's smoking again. Where were you?

ROYCE Sigfreid's.

CAROLYN Don't be angry at your father.

ROYCE I'd prefer not to know anything about your sex lives.

CAROLYN It was one short period of his life a long time  
ago.

ROYCE We checked that guy out on the net.

CAROLYN Why would he be on the net?

ROYCE Everyone's on the net. He's done porn.

CAROLYN No. Really?

ROYCE Totally. "Daddy Does Dallas" and "Wide Load in the  
Rear". I downloaded a few stills if you want to.

CAROLYN No thank you very much. I wish you'd stay away  
from that stuff.

ROYCE Right. It's everywhere.

CAROLYN I never would've thought- porn.

ROYCE Jeez you act like there's something wrong with it.

CAROLYN Isn't there?

ROYCE Only if you're like really old. He's had quite a few restaurants too. Some really swish place in New York. Did you know him?

CAROLYN Not really. Your father was in the process of breaking up with him when we met.

ROYCE Were you the other woman?

CAROLYN Don't be ridiculous. Go to bed. Now.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID IN THE RESTAURANT. HE'S TESTING FABRICS FOR TABLE CLOTHES AND NAPKINS AGAINST THE COLOURS OF THE ROOM, MUTTERING TO HIMSELF. MADISON ENTERS CARRYING A NEWSPAPER.

MADISON Hi.

DAVID Hello- Madison?

MADISON That's right.

DAVID What can I do for you?

MADISON I thought all the jobs were taken.

DAVID They are.

MADISON Then why are you still advertising for "waiter bus and bar staff"?

DAVID The ad runs for a preset period.

MADISON I think you're scared to hire me because you were my dad's boyfriend.

DAVID They told you?

MADISON Sure.

DAVID Then I'm sure you can understand why I can't give you a job.

MADISON Not really.

DAVID It would be- uncomfortable.

MADISON Because you're still in love with him?

DAVID No.

MADISON Then what's the problem?

DAVID You're parents wouldn't approve.

MADISON I'm a grown-up.

DAVID It's a bad idea.

MADISON They speak very highly of you.

DAVID They do?

MADISON Sounds like you were quite the influence.

DAVID That's one way of putting it.

MADISON How did you meet him?

DAVID We worked at a restaurant. He was my busboy.

MADISON Sounds romantic.

DAVID It was fun.

MADISON They were both delighted when I told them I'd met you.

DAVID No they weren't.

MADISON It was a long time ago. Everybody's over whatever happened by now right?

DAVID You'd think so.

MADISON They'd like to see you.

DAVID Yeah right.

MADISON I could probably get them to invite you for dinner.

DAVID But you couldn't get me to come.

MADISON You could meet my brother. See the whole family together. Then you'll be able to see there's no lingering whatevernesses and you can give me a job. Whadaya say?

DAVID No. Now please go away and never bother me again.

PAUSE.

MADISON Now I see why he left you.

DAVIDIs that what he told you?

MADISON Bye.

MADISON EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON THE KITCHEN. ROYCE WORKS WITH HIS LAPTOP AT THE TABLE. KANE AND CAROLYN ARE PREPARING TO GO OUT.

ROYCEDid you know that we lost thirty percent of the polar ice cap last year?

CAROLYN I'm not surprised.

KANE It's so disturbing.

ROYCEPolar bears are practically extinct.

KANE Not to mention the suicide rate among the Inuit.

CAROLYN Whose idea of after-dinner conversation is this?

ROYCEI'm doing a report.

KANE I watched a TV show.

MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Sorry I'm late.

CAROLYN You're supposed to call.

MADISON My cell ran outa juice. Who died?

CAROLYN For the opera.

MADISON Ew.

ROYCEWhere were you?

MADISON I went back to McMillan's restaurant.

KANE Why?

MADISON I need a job.

KANE He already turned you down.

ROYCEShe was checking him out.

MADISON I was so.

KANE Madison.

MADISON He won't give me the job because he thinks it would be a problem for you guys.

CAROLYN It would be a problem for us guys.

MADISON Why?

KANE Because we don't want him back in our lives.

MADISON Why would you think my working for him would bring him back into your lives?

KANE Because he's David McMillan.

MADISON I thought it might be nice if you guys asked him to dinner. Just to prove that- you know- everything's cool.

KANE Forget it. You're not to go back there again. Ever. This subject is closed.

MADISON Dad.

KANE Closed.

VERY LONG PAUSE.

ROYCEHe's got like a really fat dick.

KANE Goddamnit Royce.

A LIGHT RISES ON DAVID IN THE RESTAURANT. HE IS CLEANING THE BAR AND TALKING ON HIS CELL PHONE EARPIECE.

DAVIDI dreamed about him last night. It's strange. She doesn't really look like him but some of the things she says. The way she moves. I haven't dreamed about him in years. It was just short. We were in bed and he curled his back against my body the way he used to and I let my arm fall across his chest. I could feel him breathing. Then I woke up. Boring. Now tell me what's happening with you.

LIGHTS RISE ON KANE AND CAROLYN WALKING TO THEIR CAR.

CAROLYN He practically winked at you.

KANE Stop.

CAROLYN He did. He said I hear David's back in town and then he all but winked at you. And the way Sylvia was smiling. Creepy.

KANE If Maddie hadn't.

CAROLYN But she did.

KANE Why did he come back?

CAROLYN I don't know but everyone in town's aware of it.

KANE You're exaggerating.

CAROLYN I know when people are talking about us. We have to do something.

KANE What?

CAROLYN Take Madison's suggestion to heart and invite him to dinner.

KANE Seriously?

CAROLYN Now that the cat's out of the bag we have no choice.

KANE Sweetie it's a very bad idea.

CAROLYN Would you rather wait to bump into him somewhere where we don't expect it? When we're both looking terrible?

KANE Christ no.

CAROLYN It's just dinner.

KANE Right.

LIGHTS RISE ON MADISON WORKING ON HER LAPTOP AT THE KITCHEN TABLE. ROYCE ENTERS AND GETS SOMETHING TO EAT FROM THE FRIDGE.

ROYCEWhat're you doing?

MADISON Family research.

ROYCEWhat for?

MADISON To see if there's anything else they're keeping from us.

ROYCEAnd?

MADISON And they are. You know those paternal grandparents we never met?

ROYCE Died before we were born.

MADISON Wrong. They didn't die until we were in school.

ROYCE Why didn't dad tell us about them?

MADISON They seem to have completely disowned him.

ROYCE Harsh.

MADISON They were stinkin' rich.

ROYCE Seriously?

MADISON His dad was big in prescription drug development. Left his entire fortune to a Christian family values institution. You should see all the entries about our grandfather.

ROYCE Seriously?

MADISON I bet if dad hadn't been a faggot we'd be living like millionaires right now.

ROYCE Damn.

MADISON He musta really loved that guy.

ROYCE To give up your family like that.

MADISON Doesn't seem like dad.

ROYCE You ever get the feeling they're really nothing like we think they are?

MADISON Yeah. Creepy.

ROYCE Yeah.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID REVIEWING A MENU PROOF AT A RESTAURANT TABLE. KANE AND CAROLYN ENTER.

KANE Hi.

SHORT PAUSE.

DAVID Kane.

CAROLYN Hello David.

DAVIDCarolyn. Surprising to see you both. And so nicely turned out.

KANE We were at the opera.

CAROLYN Cosi Fan Tutti. Boring.

KANE Hate opera.

CAROLYN But a lot of our clients go.

DAVIDThis is such a surprise.

KANE We're here to apologize if Madison caused you any inconvenience.

DAVIDNo problem. I probably would've hired her if she hadn't been your daughter.

KANE We're grateful you didn't.

CAROLYN This is a stunning room.

DAVIDI'll take that as a great compliment since I know you guys have one of the most successful interior design firms in town.

CAROLYN Don't you love googling?

DAVIDSo much easier than small talk.

KANE You designed this place yourself.

DAVIDYou can tell?

KANE Of course.

CAROLYN Why's it called Mary's?

DAVIDMy silent partner Mary Riley put up most of the money so she got naming rights.

CAROLYN So you came back to- open a restaurant?

DAVIDI was looking for something to do.

CAROLYN What happened to that fabulously successful place you had in New York?

DAVIDEverything goes out of style eventually. I've opened three other restaurants since then and now I'm right back where I started.

KANE At least you're not a waiter.

DAVIDReally.

KANE It's good to see you.

CAROLYN Yes.

DAVIDOddly- it's good to see you guys too.

KANE Of course we wouldn't have come by if Maddie hadn't come in.

DAVIDWe probably would've run into each other sooner or later.

KANE Small world.

DAVIDAnd dying.

CAROLYN Fate.

DAVIDYou're well?

KANE Yes.

DAVIDAre you happy?

KANE What?

CAROLYN Of course.

KANE Yes.

CAROLYN We're a happy family.

DAVIDGood.

CAROLYN Are you single these days?

DAVIDYes.

KANE I'm surprised.

CAROLYN You're such a catch.

DAVIDStill sampling the worms.

CAROLYN We'd like to have you over for dinner.

DAVIDReally?

KANE Yes.

CAROLYN What better way could there be to say the past is behind us and we're all moving on to a new future? Come on. For old time's sake.

DAVIDAre you sure?

KANE Of course.

CAROLYN Say yes.

DAVIDOkay.

LIGHTS RISE ON MADISON AND ROYCE IN THE KITCHEN. SHE'S PACKING UP HER LAPTOP. HE'S GETTING MORE FOOD FROM THE FRIDGE.

ROYCEGot any weed?

MADISON Just a real long roach in my bag.

ROYCEI could really use a toke.

MADISON Why don't you have any?

ROYCE RUBS HIS FINGERS AT HER INDICATING NO MONEY.

MADISON I'll see what I can do.

KANE AND CAROLYN ENTER.

MADISON Hey

ROYCEWhat's happening?

KANE Your mother just invited David McMillan to dinner.

MADISON Really?

CAROLYN Yes. Tomorrow.

MADISON Why the change?

CAROLYN Because you're absolutely right. What your father and David had has no bearing on our lives now. This dinner will prove that to everyone.

MADISON Works for me.

ROYCENight.

KANE Night kids.

MADISON AND ROYCE EXIT.

CAROLYN Does he still make your little heart go pitter pat?

KANE He seemed.

CAROLYN I know.

KANE Not as.

CAROLYN Intimidating.

KANE Angry.

CAROLYN But still.

KANE Yes.

CAROLYN He looked awfully good for fifty.

KANE Tonight we should go for that quick bit of.

CAROLYN Oh yeah.

A LIGHT RISES ON DAVID ON HIS CELL PHONE.

DAVID He looked so- middle-aged. I warned him when we broke up time works differently in the straight world. And I hate to say it but she's held it together better than he has. Come on. That's a long time to hold a grudge and- honestly- now that I've seen them I think I got the better deal.

LIGHTS RISE ON THE KITCHEN. MADISON IS THERE, CHECKING THE POTS ON THE STOVE. ROYCE ENTERS.

MADISON There's pate in the fridge and some rice crackers over there.

ROYCE Pate?

MADISON The pinky gray stuff that looks like ass barf from a sick dog.

ROYCE I love that stuff. Where are they?

MADISON Changing. Again.

ROYCE Did you hear them last night?

MADISON The fucking neighbors heard them.

ROYCE Why are you dressed like a slut?

MADISON Because I'm a slut.

ROYCE I can see the tops of your aureoleos. (or-ee-ole-eos.)

MADISON Then look elsewhere pervert.

KANE ENTERS.

KANE Well?

ROYCE What?

MADISON Better.

ROYCE Did you get your hair dyed?

KANE Just covered the gray and got some highlights.

CAROLYN ENTERS.

CAROLYN Ta da.

ROYCE Christ.

MADISON Okay I'm just like whoa.

CAROLYN I got a mini make-over. I couldn't help it.

ROYCE This is weird.

MADISON Really.

KANE Maddy that shirt is not appropriate.

CAROLYN A little cleavage is fine but.

KANE I know you have a lot of other nice tops.

CAROLYN That don't make you look like you're lactating.  
Change it.

MADISON I have a right to express myself.

KANE Listen to your mother.

MADISON Style Nazis.

MADISON EXITS.

ROYCE Is this alright?

KANE            You combed your hair.

ROYCEThinking about taking a shower too.

KANE            Don't get crazy.

CAROLYN        We can start moving the serving dishes to the  
                 table.

ROYCEWhat is this?

CAROLYN        Thai Moroccan fusion.

ROYCEConcept food.

CAROLYN        Be nice. I spent all day.

THE DOORBELL RINGS.

KANE            I'll get it. I'll. Got it.

KANE EXITS.

ROYCEWhat's with him?

CAROLYN        Nerves.

KANE            (OFF.) Hey come in.

DAVID(OFF.) Thanks. How are you?

KANE (OFF.) Great. Thanks. Right through here.

DAVID(OFF.) Lovely place.

DAVID AND KANE ENTER.

KANE            I'll give you a tour later.

DAVIDHi.

CAROLYN        Welcome. You look wonderful.

DAVIDSo do you.

DAVID AND CAROLYN DOUBLE CHEEK KISS STIFFLY.

CAROLYN        This is our son Royce.

DAVIDHello Royce.

ROYCEHey.

DAVID Fabulous kitchen. Very smart. The dining room is a thing of the past.

ROYCE That's exactly what dad said.

CAROLYN Drink?

DAVID What are you offering?

ROYCE Jim Beame. They bought it special.

CAROLYN Ice?

KANE Lots just a splash of water.

DAVID He mixed about two million of them when- back in the day.

CAROLYN Kane?

KANE Beer.

ROYCE Me too.

CAROLYN I don't.

KANE A beer's fine.

DAVID Where's Madison?

CAROLYN She's changing.

ROYCE Into someone less slutty.

DAVID Why?

ROYCE I saw you on the net.

DAVID Ah.

CAROLYN Royce mentioned you'd done some- movies.

DAVID Nothing worth discussing really.

ROYCE Porn's completely legit. Don't be hung up.

DAVID I'm not.

KANE Royce.

DAVID Carolyn let me give you a hand with those drinks.

CAROLYN Here you go.

DAVID TAKES TWO BEERS AND HANDS THEM TO KANE AND ROYCE.

DAVIDGentlemen.

KANE Thank you.

CAROLYN And this is for you.

DAVIDAren't you having anything?

CAROLYN I made myself a Singapore Sling.

ROYCEThere's a time vortex in our fridge.

DAVIDRoyce tell me all about yourself.

ROYCEWhat nothing no.

DAVIDWhat high school stereotype do you fall into?

ROYCEAngry outsider with a gift in cyber.

DAVIDComputers?

ROYCEAre my bitch.

DAVIDI guess there's no point in asking if you've got a girlfriend.

KANE Royce's shy with the girls.

ROYCEThey don't like me.

DAVIDThere must be nerd girls that fancy you.

ROYCEA couple. They're not very hot though.

DAVIDA satisfying sexual life is all about sliding standards. Just wear a condom. And if they're really unattractive take drugs.

CAROLYN We're generally not quite so candid with our children.

DAVIDHe conducts himself as an adult. I assumed you spoke to him like one.

CAROLYN Not in that particular fashion.

ROYCEMy friend Sigfreid's dad has a twenty two. We used it to go shoot some seagulls once. Have you ever hunted?

DAVID Once or twice. Not really my thing.

ROYCE It's kinda old school but I like the shooting.

MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Don't start without me.

CAROLYN Madison.

KANE That wasn't much of a change.

MADISON MOVES TO THE COUNTER TO POUR HERSELF A DRINK.

MADISON Best I could do.

KANE You remember David.

MADISON Of course.

DAVID I think you all look wonderful.

CAROLYN Really?

DAVID A very handsome family.

CAROLYN Everyone just help yourselves. So how is being  
back?

DAVID Alright.

KANE A lot of your old gang still around?

DAVID No.

KANE Why not?

DAVID Between substance abuse and AIDS they're all pretty  
much drunk crazy or dead.

MADISON That's sad.

DAVID It's all just exposition now.

KANE When's the restaurant opening?

DAVID Two weeks. And we might actually be ready.

MADISON Got all the staff you need?

CAROLYN Now.

MADISON Kidding.

DAVIDI told you.

MADISON Why would they possibly object to you giving me a job?

CAROLYN It's an- unhealthy lifestyle.

DAVIDUnhealthy lifestyle?

KANE How is it?

DAVIDDelicious. Sort of Thai Moroccan.

CAROLYN You're very good.

MADISON Have you been single since you and my dad broke up?

DAVIDI've had- a few relationships.

CAROLYN Anything that lasted?

DAVIDSix years is my record. One was a very well known movie star but I can't tell you his name or we'll all be killed.

CAROLYN Everyone's so surprised that you're back. Someone at the opera said they thought you'd retired somewhere warm a very rich man.

DAVIDI wish. My restaurants all did well. For a while. And I was rich. For a while.

ROYCEWhat happened to all your money?

DAVIDI spent it on my cat.

KANE Mr Nippers?

DAVIDYes.

CAROLYN You know this cat?

KANE I bought him for David when we moved in together.

MADISON A little gay cat child. How touching.

DAVIDSweet Mr Nippers had a kidney infection thyroid condition and bowel disfunction that cost me thousands of dollars the last ten years he was alive. Trying to

keep a floundering restaurant afloat while medicating your cat eight times a day is no picnic.

CAROLYN Much easier than children.

DAVID And thankfully cats die at the same age most kids really start to resent their parents.

MADISON LAUGHS.

MADISON Too true.

DAVID And what are your long term goals Madison?

MADISON To never wear earrings that are too big for my face.

KANE Maddy's good at so many things she always has trouble deciding.

CAROLYN We think university might help her.

MADISON Mother stop.

KANE You've outdone yourself on dinner dear.

ROYCE Not bad.

MADISON She doesn't do this for just anyone.

ROYCE Let alone the guy who usta do my dad.

KANE Royce.

CAROLYN Maddy have a bit more to eat.

MADISON I'm not hungry.

ROYCE She hardly ever eats.

MADISON It's discipline not anorexia as the fat people are implying.

DAVID I got that.

MADISON It's quite inspiring the mature way you've all handled this reunion.

KANE How else could we react?

DAVID Times are different now.

MADISON I bet a lot of people were freaked out about it at the time though.

KANE You could say that.

MADISON Is that why your parents disowned you?

PAUSE.

KANE Yes.

DAVIDThose people with the nice paintings disowned you?

KANE Pretty much.

ROYCEWhy'd you tell us they were dead?

KANE It was.

MADISON Easier?

KANE Yes.

CAROLYN Unfortunately we never got the chance to repair that rift.

KANE There was no repairing that rift.

CAROLYN They would've forgiven you.

KANE Never.

CAROLYN In time. If they'd met the children.

KANE You didn't know them.

MADISON They sound like horrid people.

KANE They were.

DAVIDKane I'm sorry.

CAROLYN I could've made them understand.

ROYCEUnderstand what?

CAROLYN That Kane's whole thing with David wasn't real.

PAUSE.

DAVIDReal?

CAROLYN Did I say that?

DAVIDYes.

CAROLYN I didn't mean real-

DAVIDGood.

CAROLYN It just wasn't- you know- like with a man and woman. It was different. That's what I meant. Different. Isn't that right?

KANE What?

CAROLYN It was different.

KANE Everything's different.

CAROLYN Kane wasn't really gay. Not that that invalidates your relationship in any way. But he has a family now so I guess that proves something right?

KANE Carolyn.

CAROLYN This isn't coming out the way it's supposed to.

MADISON Then why don't you stop?

LONG PAUSE.

KANE Who wants seconds?

DAVIDI should go.

CAROLYN I didn't mean to offend you.

DAVIDI'm not offended. I still have work to do tonight.

KANE Okay.

DAVIDThank you so much for dinner.

CAROLYN It's what we'd do for any old friend.

SHORT PAUSE.

DAVIDYou know Madison is right. If we're such good old friends there's absolutely no reason I shouldn't hire her at the restaurant.

MADISON You serious?

DAVIDShow up for training at two tomorrow.

MADISON Thank you.

DAVID You're welcome. Thanks again for the terrific dinner.

DAVID EXITS.

ROYCE What just happened?

MADISON I got the job.

CAROLYN I will not allow it.

KANE It's a bad idea.

MADISON LAUGHS AND CLEARS THE TABLE.

MADISON I got the job. I got the job.

A LIGHT RISES ON DAVID AT THE RESTAURANT ON HIS CELL.

DAVID How old are you? Perfect. I'm- forty. You like older guys. Good. What's your name? I'm Ted. Are you alone Jacob? Good. What are you wearing? Great. So tell me what you like Jacob. No. We don't have to have phone sex. I guess I'm cool to just talk if that's what you want. Sure.

LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN, DRESSED FOR BED. SHE'S BRUSHING HER HAIR IN THE MIRROR. KANE IS CHANGING INTO HIS PAJAMAS AS THEY SPEAK.

CAROLYN Talk her out of it.

KANE You know how that works with her.

CAROLYN Nothing good will come of it.

KANE Well if you hadn't been so.

CAROLYN What?

KANE Outspoken.

CAROLYN I didn't mean for that to come out like that. I just- he was the one with all the excitement and glamour.

KANE It wasn't that exciting or glamorous. You don't know what it's like playing second fiddle to someone all the time.

CAROLYN Is that why you married me?

KANE Honey please.

CAROLYN There's a look in your eye. A place you go sometimes when you think no one's looking. I know you're thinking about him. I've always known.

KANE You've got to let this go.

CAROLYN It's not something I ever understood. It doesn't seem like you. To do that. With a man. It just doesn't seem real.

KANE We made a mistake. Inviting him here. Let's admit that and get on with it. We don't have to see him again. Madison might even hate the job.

KANE KISSES CAROLYN.

CAROLYN You're absolutely right. I'm sorry.

KANE MOVES CLOSER TO HER.

KANE I have an idea for how you can make it up to me.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID AT THE RESTAURANT GOING THROUGH THE RESERVATION BOOK. MADISON ENTERS IN WAITER GEAR.

MADISON You wanted to see me?

DAVIDI hear your training's going quite well.

MADISON Who knew you had to know so much to be a waiter?

DAVIDThis job hasn't created a rift at home has it?

MADISON Everyone seems to be getting over it.

DAVIDGood. We're opening tomorrow night and I just- I want you to know that you'll be judged like any other waiter.

MADISON You mean you're not going to cut me any slack just because you gave me the job to piss my mother off?

DAVIDI wouldn't have put it quite that way- but sure.

MADISON I'm going to be very good.

DAVIDYou'd better be.

MADISON Just watch.

MADISON EXITS. LIGHT RISE ON THE KITCHEN. KANE, CAROLYN AND ROYCE SETTING FOOD ON THE DINNER TABLE.

CAROLYN Dinner.

THEY SIT AND EAT IN SILENCE FOR A LONGISH MOMENT.

ROYCE Sigfreid rimmed me last night.

KANE Son please don't say rimmed at the dinner table.

CAROLYN Thank you Kane.

ROYCE I thought personal sexual revelations over dinner are what we're all about.

KANE Royce.

CAROLYN I liked it so much better when you were obsessed with "Warmonger".

ROYCE That was before my childhood had been shattered. At least now I understand why I'm so weird.

CAROLYN Somewhere there are a whole bunch of girls just waiting for a boy like you.

ROYCE Never invite me to that party.

CAROLYN You've got to stop putting yourself down.

ROYCE I'm just beating everyone else to it.

KANE It won't always be like this.

ROYCE Right. I'm still the ugly geek they all laugh at.

CAROLYN Who laughs at you?

ROYCE Forget it.

KANE Is it really that bad?

ROYCE No.

KANE If there's a serious problem you need to tell us.

ROYCE No serious problems. Everything's fine.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN Have some more carrots. I made way too many carrots.

ROYCENo.

ROYCE EXITS. PAUSE.

CAROLYN Carrots?

KANE No.

THEY EAT IN SILENCE. A LIGHT RISES ON DAVID AT THE RESTAURANT EATING. MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Eating alone's a drag.

DAVIDI'm used to it.

MADISON Good night.

DAVIDThings look promising but we won't really know how we're doing for a few months. Where have all the waiters gone?

MADISON "Comfort" for last call.

DAVIDNot joining them?

MADISON The bar's fun once in a while but I don't like to make it a habit.

DAVIDYou're too young to be so responsible.

MADISON What do you do when you leave here?

DAVIDMeet with Mary. Think about what needs to be done tomorrow. Watch the news.

MADISON You don't go to the bars?

DAVIDI used to. Every night for twenty-five years. All over the world. It was wonderful. But these last few years. Over forty and you're invisible.

MADISON Don't you even like drive around and pick up men on the street or cruise the parks or bathrooms or whatever?

DAVIDThat's not really my scene.

MADISON So you just watch the news?

DAVIDYou sound disappointed.

MADISON We could go meet the other waiters for a drink.

DAVIDI'm bushed.

MADISON You sure?

DAVIDPositive. Thanks for asking.

MADISON Good night.

MADISON CLEARS THE TABLE QUICKLY AND EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON ROYCE IN HIS BEDROOM, ON HIS COMPUTER. THERE'S A KNOCK.

ROYCEWhat?

KANE ENTERS.

KANE Turn the computer off.

ROYCEDad I'm.

KANE Off.

ROYCE TURNS THE COMPUTER OFF.

KANE You have every right to be confused.

ROYCEI'm not confused. You're the popular guy who gets to have sex with everyone.

KANE It wasn't all about sex.

ROYCEOh right. You loved him.

KANE Does that bother you?

ROYCEWhy would I care?

KANE Because I'm not the man you thought I was.

ROYCEI got over that when I was thirteen.

KANE I don't understand why you're so cynical. We've tried to understand. Helped where we could.

ROYCEI know.

KANE But lately it's like you have to ridicule everything I say. Fudgepacker this and buttboy that and he rimmed me. It's getting old.

ROYCEI'm just kidding around.

KANE It's not funny.

ROYCEI don't get it okay. I just don't.

KANE It's not as simple as they make it sound Royce. Not for everyone. Some people respond to members of the same sex some respond to members of the opposite sex and.

ROYCESome are bi. I know the score. Jeez dad.

KANE Even saying bi is a simplification. It's not about labels it's about individuals. Does that make any sense?

ROYCENo.

KANE Sometimes people meet and whatever they share goes beyond sexuality.

ROYCESounds romantic.

KANE I'm not going to go around acting like I'm ashamed if that's what you want. Love sex all of that. It's not so easy. You'll see someday.

ROYCEDoubtful. Does mom have any deep dark secrets we don't know about?

KANE No.

MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Party?

KANE I was just heading to bed.

MADISON Everything okay?

KANE Fine. Night.

KANE EXITS.

MADISON What's with him?

ROYCEHe's still worried we hate him.

MADISON Do you?

ROYCEHe's dad.

MADISON Doesn't mean it's easy to get used to.

ROYCEWhatever how was work?

MADISON FLASHES ROYCE A WAD OF BILLS.

MADISON I'd say pretty fucking good.

ROYCE Nice. Man do I need a job. Or a life. Or a shot to the head or something.

PAUSE.

MADISON What's the baby brother bummed about?

ROYCE Fuck off.

MADISON Royce.

ROYCE I keep having dreams about finding my family hanging in the basement with their throats slit and their intestines pulled through wounds in their bellies. And sometimes when I'm watching TV by myself I start crying and I don't know why. And the show's not even sad or whatever.

PAUSE.

MADISON Are you trying to come out to me?

ROYCE No.

MADISON It's alright if you are.

ROYCE I'm not. Now get out.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID RESTOCKING THE BAR, ON THE CELLPHONE.

DAVID Marcelle I need another two cases of the zinfandel you sold me last week. Yeah I sold out. If you ate here once in a while you'd know why. Next time you're in talk to me and we'll book something for you- on the house. Great. Two cases.

ROYCE ENTERS.

DAVID Hey.

ROYCE Madison done yet?

DAVID She might be a while.

ROYCE Thought I'd give her a ride home.

DAVID On a Friday night?

ROYCEYeah.

DAVIDThat's tragic.

ROYCEYeah what's up with you?

DAVIDThis is my life.

PAUSE.

DAVIDDo you want a coffee or something?

ROYCEI'm fine.

DAVIDI have to finish restocking the bar.

ROYCECan I give you a hand?

DAVIDThanks. It's okay.

PAUSE AS ROYCE WATCHES DAVID WORK.

ROYCEWhy'd you do that shit on the net?

DAVIDThe porn?

ROYCEYeah.

DAVIDI was- proving something.

ROYCEWhat?

DAVIDThat AIDS didn't have the power to ruin my sex life.

ROYCEWho were you proving it to?

DAVIDMyself. Everyone. I don't know. It was a pretty messed up time. Honestly I needed the money.

ROYCEThey pay you a lot?

DAVIDI don't think your mother would approve of this conversation.

ROYCEThat's why I'm having it with you.

DAVIDYou're the computer dude. You've seen worse.

ROYCEOh yeah. Chicks with dicks Guys with pies Pop on Top K-9 Brown-eye. Everything.

DAVIDI guess finding out about me is nothing compared to- whatever it was you just said.

ROYCEI dunno. Like some stuff makes sense now.

DAVIDSuch as?

ROYCEHe was never like other dad's.

DAVIDNo?

ROYCEToo creative and smart. And he's into antiques and  
shit. Fabrics. He loves fabrics. But he's not femmy.  
Most guys like that are femmy.

DAVIDIs he a good father?

ROYCEIn a boring good father way. Can I have a job?

PAUSE.

DAVIDIt would be- awkward with Madison here.

ROYCEWhy?

DAVIDI can't have outside- family- issues creeping into  
work.

ROYCESure.

DAVIDBesides.

ROYCEWhat?

DAVIDYou're too bright. Bright busboys are always a pain in  
the ass because they know how much their job sucks. Why  
don't I go see what's keeping your sister?

ROYCE Okay great thanks.

DAVID EXITS. A LIGHT RISES ON MADISON IN THE KITCHEN MAKING  
PANCAKES. CAROLYN IS AT THE TABLE DRINKING COFFEE AND  
READING THE PAPER.

MADISON Two or four?

CAROLYN Two. Your father will want four and Royce will  
have six but only eat five. I can't believe you're  
doing this after getting in at three thirty seven.

MADISON I thought it would be nice.

CAROLYN What do you do after closing?

MADISON Hang out for drinks and talk.

CAROLYN With who?

MADISON The other waiters staff whoever.

CAROLYN David?

MADISON Once in a while.

CAROLYN Dad's assistant quit.

KANE ENTERS.

KANE She's going on some reality show and they need to rehearse for two months.

MADISON Reality's not what it used to be.

KANE Interested in the position?

MADISON Not an iota.

MADISON SERVES THEM PANCAKES.

KANE What time did Royce get in?

CAROLYN Twelve thirteen.

MADISON Do you ever sleep?

CAROLYN An hour here and there.

MADISON Bacon?

KANE I can't.

MADISON It's turkey bacon.

KANE I really can't.

CAROLYN I will.

ROYCE ENTERS.

ROYCE Could everyone please talk louder.

CAROLYN Good morning.

MADISON I made pancakes.

ROYCE Yippee.

MADISON With a raspberry compote.

ROYCECompote?

KANE With a splash of Grand Marnier?

MADISON Yeah.

CAROLYN David taught you how to make that.

MADISON How did you know?

CAROLYN Your father made it for me once. On our honeymoon.  
I later found out it was David's favourite.

KANE Nobody doesn't like raspberry compote.

MADISON He did suggest it.

CAROLYN Of course.

THEY ALL EAT.

ROYCEWow.

KANE That's very good.

CAROLYN I prefer good old-fashioned maple syrup myself.

ROYCEIs this fucking turkey bacon?

CAROLYN After breakfast we're going to see Grandpa Carver.

KANE Are we?

MADISON Why?

ROYCEHe keeps calling me Ronnie.

CAROLYN That was.

ROYCEHis brother. Yeah.

MADISON I hate the smell of that place.

ROYCEHe always cries when he sees us.

CAROLYN Because he loves us so much.

MADISON Because he knows we put him in there.

CAROLYN He likes to see us as a family.

MADISON He doesn't know who we are.

KANE           Your mother's right. We should do more together.  
          The drive will be nice.

ROYCEOur visits mean nothing to him.

CAROLYN       But they mean a lot to me.

MADISON'S CELL PHONE RINGS.

MADISON       Hi David. Really. Well. Okay. No problem. Great.

CAROLYN       What?

MADISON       The coke addict called in sick again.

KANE           You have to work.

CAROLYN       What will we tell Grandpa?

MADISON       Anything you want. He won't remember. I've gotta  
          get some z's.

CAROLYN       Who's cleaning up?

MADISON       Anyone who didn't cook. And I'm taking your car.

MADISON EXITS.

KANE           I'll get the dishes.

CAROLYN       Aren't you going to come up with some excuse too?

ROYCEYou kidding? Grandpa Carver's the only person who can  
          make me feel alright about my social life.

KANE           You can drive.

ROYCEGreat.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID GOING THROUGH THE RESERVATION BOOK.  
MADISON IS THERE.

DAVIDYou saved the day.

MADISON       You saved me from a trip to see Grandpa Carver.

DAVIDWe won't be seeing Max again.

MADISON       He was stealing from the bar.

DAVIDDrug addicts always are.

MADISON I was going to tell you.

DAVIDThat's not your responsibility.

MADISON So.

PAUSE.

DAVIDGo ahead.

MADISON When I was driving here. It just kinda hit me. I mean I'd never really considered it before and I was just kinda- I don't know.

DAVIDWhat are you talking about?

MADISON You fucked my father.

PAUSE.

DAVIDWhy would you think about that?

MADISON Uh- you were lovers.

DAVIDJesus Madison.

MADISON Well?

DAVIDLet's just say people with really nice bums usually get them for a reason.

MADISON LAUGHS.

DAVIDThat's not quite the reaction I expected.

MADISON Please. Ass is the new vagina.

DAVIDCharming.

MADISON How do you think all those uptight girls manage to stay "virgins" until they get married. And I've never dated a guy who didn't eventually try to get me to insert something- anything really- into his bung hole.

DAVIDStraight people always stealing our best ideas.

MADISON Was he always the bottom?

DAVIDQuit asking so many questions about your father and get to work.

MADISON Yes sir.

MADISON SALUTES AND EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON ROYCE, CAROLYN AND KANE EITHER WALKING TO THE CAR OR IN THE CAR.

CAROLYN I wish he'd die.

KANE Honey.

CAROLYN If he knew what he was doing he'd want to.

ROYCE That was so majorly disgusting.

KANE It's a terrible disease.

CAROLYN He lectured on Chaucer and gave tony cocktail parties for visiting writers.

ROYCE Seriously?

CAROLYN I know he'd rather be dead.

ROYCE We should kill him.

KANE Stop.

ROYCE It's what he'd want.

KANE We don't know what he wants.

ROYCE So you're saying if you ever become a drooling idiot who pulls his dick out and cranks it whenever your family comes to visit you don't want us to kill you?

PAUSE.

KANE Shut up.

ROYCE But really.

CAROLYN I wish he'd die.

KANE I'd want you to kill me.

LIGHTS RISE ON THE RESTAURANT. DAVID IS CLOSING UP THE BAR. MADISON ENTERS WITH TWO PLATES OF FOOD.

MADISON Sorry about the salmon controversy.

DAVID Everyone makes mistakes.

MADISON Not me.

DAVID Even you.

MADISON And you?

DAVIDI've made many mistakes.

MADISON Like dad?

DAVIDYou're supposed to stop asking about him.

MADISON Sorry but parents are so strange.

DAVIDThey're just people.

MADISON What about yours?

DAVIDI'm the illegitimate offspring of Wonder Woman and the  
Empire State Building.

MADISON But really.

DAVIDHaven't seen them in years.

MADISON Why not?

DAVIDNot really my kind of people.

MADISON It's got to be hard to give up a family. Even a  
bad one.

DAVIDIt's how fags escape from the trailer parks and small  
towns of their white trash boyhoods.

MADISON They're your family. You're supposed to love each  
other forever.

DAVIDThere are very few relationships that are meant to last  
forever. And if they do it's never without major  
renovation.

MADISON Everyone I know's terrified of their relationship  
failing.

DAVIDJust because a relationship's over doesn't mean it's  
failed.

MADISON I hope to have a relationship someday.

DAVIDYou will.

MADISON With someone bright and well hung?

DAVIDIt's not impossible but relatively rare.

CAROLYN You want to come to "Comfort"?

DAVID It's not good form for management to party with the staff.

MADISON Fuck good form. It'll let everyone know you're not as uptight as you seem.

DAVID Uptight?

MADISON A coupla drinks.

DAVID Who's going?

MADISON Marvin Willett Debra everyone.

ROYCE ENTERS.

DAVID Hi Royce.

MADISON I told you to call before you came by.

ROYCE I was in the hood.

MADISON I'm going out.

ROYCE Oh okay sorry. You need a ride?

DAVID I'm fine thanks.

SHORT PAUSE.

ROYCE Alright.

ROYCE EXITS.

DAVID You could've invited him.

MADISON No way. You coming?

DAVID Yeah sure.

LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN IN BED, READING. KANE ENTERS FROM THE BATHROOM WEARING HIS PAJAMA BOTTOMS.

KANE This belly's getting out of control.

CAROLYN You've still got a nice ass.

KANE You're the one who kept her body.

CAROLYN Except for my saggy tits.

KANE            You'll always be that same hot girl Attila introduced me to at The Drink Exchange.

CAROLYN        That girl and her perky tits are gone.

KANE STOPS IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR TO PLUCK SOME SHOULDER HAIRS.

KANE            Not in my eyes.

CAROLYN        Any sign of the kids?

KANE            No.

CAROLYN        Royce has the car?

KANE            Gets him outa the fucking house for a change.

CAROLYN        What do you think he does?

KANE            Drives around listening to music and thinking about himself.

CAROLYN        And Madison?

KANE            She's making a million new friends and trying a million new things. Let's just leave it at that. Check my back for hairs.

CAROLYN INSPECTS KANE'S BACK.

CAROLYN        It's all just so.

KANE            What are we going to do?

CAROLYN        Do?

KANE            When they're gone.

CAROLYN        I don't know.

KANE            It'll be strange.

CAROLYN        Like starting over again.

CAROLYN PULLS A HAIR OUT.

KANE            Ow. Yeah.

CAROLYN        It's really.

KANE            I know.

CAROLYN I mean really.

KANE I know.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID AND MADISON ON THE STREET. THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR A CAB, BOTH A BIT DRUNK.

DAVIDI'll hail you a cab.

MADISON I have them on speed dial.

MADISON SPEED DIALS HER CELL PHONE.

MADISON I need a cab at "Comfort". Great.

DAVIDHow long?

MADISON Pretty quick. We're downtown.

DAVIDI'll wait with you.

MADISON It's okay.

DAVIDAt this time of night? I'll wait.

MADISON You should head off to some corn-holing festival.

DAVIDNo thanks.

MADISON You're alone too much.

DAVIDI'm fine.

MADISON I worry about you.

DAVIDDon't.

MADISON When was the last time you saw dad?

DAVIDMontreal.

MADISON Really?

DAVIDA year or so after we'd broken up. I was opening a swank room while learning French and he was buying antiques or something. We ran into each other on St Catherine.

MADISON Big coincidence?

DAVIDMy life's like that.

MADISON Did you talk?

DAVID Briefly. Here comes your cab.

MADISON I had fun.

DAVID Me too.

MADISON GIVES DAVID A SUDDEN KISS. IT LINGERS FOR A MOMENT BEFORE DAVID STEPS OUT OF THE KISS.

DAVID Your cab.

MADISON Yeah. Over here.

DAVID Good night.

MADISON Night.

LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN IN THE KITCHEN MAKING COCAO. MADISON ENTERS.

CAROLYN Two forty three.

MADISON Mom I think Royce is like really depressed or something.

CAROLYN What makes you say that?

MADISON Aren't you aware of how much time he spends alone? He has no friends.

CAROLYN He has friends on the net.

MADISON Net friends aren't real.

CAROLYN What about Sigfried?

MADISON He hardly sees him anymore.

CAROLYN What do you want me to do?

MADISON Someone needs to talk to him.

CAROLYN I've tried to get him to open up. So has your father.

MADISON He keeps coming by work at inappropriate times. I think he's trying to reach out or something.

CAROLYN Are you that concerned?

MADISON He's having nightmares and crying jags. Don't you hear him at night?

CAROLYN I thought he was- masturbating.

MADISON Mother.

CAROLYN I'll talk to your father.

MADISON As soon as possible.

CAROLYN Okay.

MADISON Go to bed.

CAROLYN I'll never get to sleep now.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID WALKING TO HIS APARTMENT BUILDING.  
ROYCE IS SITTING ON THE STEPS.

DAVIDRoyce?

ROYCEHey.

DAVIDThis is a surprise.

ROYCEI didn't have anywhere else to go.

PAUSE.

DAVIDHave you followed me here before?

ROYCEYou went out with my sister.

DAVIDWe met some people for drinks.

ROYCEYou like her?

DAVIDYes.

ROYCEEeveryone likes her.

DAVIDShe's very personable.

ROYCEWhy am I a loser?

DAVIDThe losers in school are the ones who prove themselves  
in adulthood.

ROYCEWere you a loser in high school?

DAVIDNo.

ROYCEThey laugh at me.

DAVIDWho?

ROYCEAll of them. They always have. They call me names. Push me into my locker. Knock my books out of my hands. Punch me in the face after they have fight with their girlfriends. Shove my head in the toilet if they catch me in the can.

DAVIDYou need to stand up to them.

ROYCELike I could ever do that and live.

DAVIDTransfer schools.

ROYCEI've done that. I still end up being the geek everyone picks on. It started in the first grade and never really stopped.

DAVIDWhat do you plan to do when you're finished school?

ROYCEBe one of those guys who lives in their parent's basement until they're forty.

DAVIDThat's your plan?

ROYCEIt's more like a destiny.

DAVIDWhat do you really enjoy?

ROYCEI don't- computer games I guess.

DAVIDOkay. Good. So concentrate on computer games. Design them. Change them.

ROYCEI suck at creative shit.

PAUSE.

DAVIDI don't know what else to say.

ROYCEThere's something wrong with me.

DAVIDWrong how?

ROYCEI'm like beyond average. Super-average or something.

DAVIDAdulthood is different. You can move somewhere else and completely reinvent yourself. A number of times if you have to. Find someone else to emulate. Adopt traits you find attractive in others. It can be done. Trust me.

ROYCE People shouldn't tell ordinary kids they're special. It fucks them up when they get older and realize they're not special.

PAUSE.

DAVID Royce it's very late.

ROYCE Do you want me to come up?

DAVID Come up?

ROYCE To your apartment.

DAVID For what?

ROYCE Talking whatever.

DAVID You should go home.

PAUSE.

ROYCE If I was a hot guy you would've hired me.

DAVID And if I was a beautiful woman I'd be a movie star.  
What's your point?

ROYCE Nothing night thanks.

DAVID Take it easy.

ROYCE EXITS. DAVID WATCHES HIM LEAVE. A LIGHT RISES ON KANE WAITING IN THE KITCHEN, DRINKING A BEER AND SMOKING A CIGARETTE IN FRONT OF THE OPEN WINDOW. ROYCE ENTERS. KANE TOSSES THE CIGARETTE OUT THE WINDOW.

ROYCE Aren't you afraid giving all of us cancer?

KANE Your mother is upstairs trying to convince herself you haven't been killed in an accident.

ROYCE Lost track.

KANE Where did you go?

ROYCE Nowhere.

KANE You know you're not supposed to have the car out this late.

ROYCE I buy gas.

KANE I think you should- talk to a professional.

ROYCE Professional what?

KANE Councilor or therapist.

ROYCE You think I'm crazy.

KANE I think you might need some.

ROYCE I don't.

KANE We're your family.

ROYCE I'm nothing like you people.

KANE You're part of us.

ROYCE You're pissed.

KANE I've had three beers.

ROYCE I'm fine.

KANE What's the harm in talking to someone?

ROYCE I don't want to.

KANE I know you've been having a rough time.

ROYCE You don't know anything.

KANE There are issues.

ROYCE There are no fucking issues.

KANE Things we should.

ROYCE I'm not discussing anything with anyone.

KANE What do you want me to do?

ROYCE Make me not ugly. Teach me to understand how people  
work.

KANE You're not ugly.

ROYCE Quit lying to me.

CAROLYN ENTERS.

CAROLYN Everything okay?

ROYCE Dad's acting creepy.

KANE Stop it.

CAROLYN You can't use the car anymore.

ROYCE Like I care.

ROYCE EXITS.

CAROLYN I can tell that went well.

KANE He's got a terrible attitude.

CAROLYN You know confrontation doesn't work with him.

KANE I did my best.

KANE MOVES TO EXIT.

CAROLYN Where are you going?

KANE Outside for a cigarette.

CAROLYN Fine.

LIGHTS RISE ON MADISON SETTING TABLES AT THE RESTAURANT.  
DAVID IS SETTING PLATES OF FOOD AND A CARAFE OF WINE ON  
ANOTHER TABLE.

DAVID Shrimp sautéed in garlic and olive oil over penne. And  
wine.

MADISON Sounds great.

DAVID It was the least I could do after you picked up those  
extra tables.

MADISON JOINS DAVID.

MADISON Who knew Alena would have a meltdown?

DAVID She's pregnant poor thing.

MADISON Bummer. Delicious. Wow.

DAVID Don't let it go to your head but I think you do an  
amazing job on the floor Maddy.

MADISON Blame it on the fascist who runs the dump.

DAVID Quality counts.

MADISON You ever had sex with a woman?

DAVID You have no internal censor at all do you?

MADISON No so?

DAVID A few. Not in a very long time.

MADISON I've had sex with a couple women.

DAVID Good for you.

MADISON I guess that's why I didn't freak out when I found out about dad and you. I know what it's like to want to try different things.

DAVID Your father's daughter.

MADISON Gay is so over. The word doesn't really mean anything anymore. Like Negro or Jewess. It's all just sex. I could probably have a relationship with a girl. If she had a cock. I really like cock.

DAVID Who doesn't?

MADISON When I was fifteen I got this crush on this client of my dad's. He was this divorced guy in his mid-thirties.

DAVID An older man.

MADISON We used to meet at this hotel once a week and fuck like pigs. He told the staff I was his niece. I told my folks I was tutoring retards for extra karma. He moved to San Diego and married some fucking telephone exec bitch his own age my graduating year. I was like functionally depressed for eight months. Really.

DAVID Why don't you go out with boys your own age?

MADISON They're really bad sex.

DAVID You have to teach them what to do.

MADISON Get a hooker. I think I'm a fag. In a woman's body. I understand you guys too well. I get it. Well not some of those old singers but the sex and everything else. I get it.

DAVID Why are you telling me all this?

MADISON Because I really want to fuck you.

PAUSE.

DAVIDI'm- management.

MADISON David.

DAVIDI'm gay.

MADISON Doesn't mean anything.

MADISON BEGINS TO MOVE TOWARD DAVID.

DAVIDI don't even know if.

MADISON You've done porn.

DAVIDStay back.

MADISON PUTS HER ARMS AROUND DAVID'S NECK.

MADISON I have condoms.

DAVIDYou're only doing this because of my connection to your  
father.

MADISON I prefer men who are nothing like my father.

PAUSE.

DAVIDThis isn't real.

MADISON What is?

THEY KISS SUDDENLY AND PASSIONATELY. THEY BEGIN TO UNDO ONE  
ANOTHER'S CLOTHES. FADE TO BLACK.

ACT TWO

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID AND MADISON SPRAWLED ACROSS A TABLE SWEATY AND DISHEVELED, BREATHING HEAVILY, PARTAILLY DRESSED. DAVID GETS OFF OF HER. THEY STRAIGHTEN THEIR CLOTHING, CLOSE ZIPPERS, LOCATE PANTIES, DISPOSE OF THE CONDOM ETC. NEITHER SPEAKS. FINALLY.

DAVIDSo.

MADISON Yeah.

PAUSE.

DAVIDHow was I?

MADISON Not bad. For a fag.

DAVIDYou seem.

MADISON It's alright.

DAVIDReally?

MADISON Really.

PAUSE.

DAVIDI should.

MADISON Yes.

DAVIDGood.

MADISON Okay.

DAVIDEverything's?

MADISON Fine fine.

KANE ENTERS.

KANE Madison.

MADISON Daddy?

DAVIDKane.

KANE Do you have any idea what time it is?

MADISON No.

DAVIDWe got.

MADISON Talking.

KANE Your mother's very.

MADISON I can't believe you'd come here like this.

KANE There was no answer on your cell.

MADISON I turn it off at work.

KANE We should.

MADISON I've got mom's car.

KANE Go ahead.

MADISON EXITS.

KANE You okay?

DAVID Yeah fine why?

KANE I dunno. You look kinda- funny.

DAVID I'm just tired.

KANE That night at dinner. I hope you didn't take what Carolyn said the wrong way. She didn't mean to hurt your feelings or anything like that.

DAVID I know.

KANE Everyone puts their foot in their mouth once in a while right?

DAVID Right. Kane- how is your relationship with your kids?

KANE Good. Why?

DAVID They just seem to.

KANE What?

DAVID They like to talk.

KANE To you?

DAVID Yeah.

KANE I want to talk to them. I try. But they just don't seem interested. Royce gets farther away all the time.

DAVID It's a challenge.

KANE Has he told you something he hasn't told me that might make everything alright?

DAVID Nope.

KANE Damn.

PAUSE.

KANE David please fire Madison. Please.

DAVID I can't.

KANE Something- this is really messing up my family. Ever since she started working here.

DAVID I can't fire someone because their parents are uncomfortable. There are laws against that kind of thing now.

KANE Can't you find some excuse?

DAVID Unfortunately she's an excellent waiter.

KANE Shit.

DAVID We're stuck for the time being.

KANE She shouldn't be working here.

DAVID I've come to agree.

KANE And there's nothing you can do?

DAVID I wish there were.

KANE You had no business coming back here.

DAVID I didn't have a lot of other options.

KANE I know how interesting things get when you show up. I don't want things to get interesting.

DAVID I didn't want to see you any more than you wanted to see me.

KANE Okay. Good. Great.

DAVID And I promise if I can find a way to let Madison go I'll do it.

KANE I'd appreciate it.

DAVID And our paths will never intersect again.

KANE Great.

KANE EXITS. DAVID SITS AT THE TABLE AND POURS HIMSELF A LARGE GLASS OF WINE. LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN CLEANING THE SINK IN THE KITCHEN. MADISON ENTERS.

CAROLYN There are only two reasons anyone stays out until this time of the morning and they are sex and drugs.

MADISON I have a right to my own life.

CAROLYN You don't have the right to keep us up all night.

MADISON Okay. True. It's time I.

CAROLYN Move out?

MADISON I'm making enough money to get my own place.

CAROLYN If you get your own place you'll never go back to school.

MADISON People do it all the time.

CAROLYN It's very hard.

MADISON Mom you've been hinting for me to move out of here for a year. Why are you changing that now?

CAROLYN I'm not.

MADISON Are you in menopause or something?

CAROLYN THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME.

LONG PAUSE.

MADISON Sit down.

CAROLYN I'm.

MADISON Sit.

CAROLYN SITS.

CAROLYN Sorry I didn't sorry.

MADISON You were totally unhinged for a second there.

CAROLYN I'm just over-tired. Really.

MADISON What's going on?

CAROLYN Don't listen to me. Move out. Get your own place.  
Have a life. It's important.

MADISON I'll make some tea.

CAROLYN Don't bother sweetie. I'm okay.

MADISON What's with you?

CAROLYN I don't know. I can't sleep- can't shake this  
feeling there's something I'm supposed to be doing-  
something that I keep missing.

MADISON What is it?

CAROLYN I was raised to get married as soon as I finished  
school. It's what my mother did. It's what her mother  
did. I never even questioned it.

MADISON Are you now?

CAROLYN I'm not sure what I'm supposed to do next.

MADISON Everything you put off when you got married.

CAROLYN But I didn't put anything off. Marriage was all I  
wanted. I assumed everything would be like my mother  
and father.

MADISON Was their marriage that great?

CAROLYN Probably not but the fact that she died so young  
added a certain mythical quality to it. I mean no one  
got to find out how she would've reacted when her kids  
grew up and she had nothing to focus on.

MADISON Have you talked to dad about this?

CAROLYN He sees us going to Florida a lot and playing  
golf.

MADISON Golf?

CAROLYN Apparently after a certain age everyone's supposed  
to like it. It's like exercise without any effort.

MADISON That's horrifying.

CAROLYN I know. Madison I don't want to be one of those crazy middle-aged women with a mannish hair cut and a sensible car. I don't.

KANE ENTERS.

KANE Hi.

CAROLYN What took you?

KANE I wanted to have a word with David.

KANE GETS A BEER FROM THE FRIDGE.

CAROLYN About what?

MADISON Me.

KANE I want you to leave the restaurant.

MADISON Forget it.

ROYCE ENTERS.

KANE There are so many other places you could work.

MADISON This isn't about me.

KANE We need you to do this.

MADISON It's about him.

CAROLYN It's not.

MADISON Why do you keep lying? You lie about when you left him- you lie about being the other woman- he lies and pretends it doesn't matter.

KANE Everyone remembers things differently.

MADISON Like the last time you saw him in Montreal?

CAROLYN Montreal?

MADISON You were there on a buying trip or something.

CAROLYN That trip you took when I was pregnant with her?

MADISON You ran into him.

CAROLYN You never told me this.

KANE It was just a coincidence.

MADISON He never told you?

KANE I didn't want.

CAROLYN To make me mad?

KANE Why are we discussing this anyway?

MADISON Because you're all fucking liars.

ROYCEI bet she fucked him.

CAROLYN Royce.

ROYCEShe fucks everyone.

KANE Don't talk about your sister like that.

ROYCEShe gets you guys crazy to cover up whatever she's got going on. Haven't you figured it out yet?

MADISON Someone's jealous.

ROYCEDid you fuck him?

KANE Your sister would never do anything like that.

ROYCERight.

MADISON Freak.

KANE Would you?

MADISON What?

KANE Sleep with David.

MADISON Of course not. Jeez dad.

MADISON EXITS.

KANE What is your problem?

ROYCEI got no problems.

KANE You had no reason to attack Madison like that.

ROYCEI didn't attack her.

KANE And quit being such a fucking smart-ass.

ROYCEMake me.

KANE Stop it!

CAROLYN Kane.

ROYCE Nice. Gonna hit me?

PAUSE.

KANE Go to bed.

ROYCE EXITS.

CAROLYN You slept with him.

KANE No.

CAROLYN That's why you never told me.

KANE Nothing happened.

CAROLYN Really?

KANE Really.

CAROLYN I'm going to sleep in the den tonight.

KANE Why?

CAROLYN I just- feel like sleeping alone.

KANE What the fuck is going on here?

LIGHTS RISE ON THE RESTAURANT. DAVID'S DOING BAR INVENTORY.  
MADISON IS SETTING HER CASH ENVELOPE ETC ON THE BAR.

MADISON I'm outa here.

DAVID No dinner?

MADISON Some of the waiters are going to.

DAVID Should we talk about the other night?

MADISON Why are you like in love with me now or something?

DAVID Of course not but you've been so.

MADISON You said my father's name in my ear when you came.

DAVID What?

MADISON Father's name. My ear. You came.

PAUSE.

DAVID Maybe I was having a stroke.

MADISON It wasn't a fucking stroke.

DAVID Is that why are you're so angry at me?

MADISON No I love it when the person I'm screwing thinks I'm someone else. Like my dad.

DAVID I'm sorry. I guess you- remind me of him.

MADISON Almost as good as the real thing?

DAVID Don't go there.

MADISON Why not?

DAVID Because what happened with us has nothing to do with Kane.

MADISON Royce knows we did it.

DAVID What?

MADISON He can tell. I don't know how.

DAVID Did you admit to anything?

MADISON Of course not.

DAVID No one can find out.

MADISON Why didn't you stop me?

DAVID You were rubbing your cooch all over me.

MADISON Dad actually asked me if I slept with you. I couldn't tell him. He would have been so hurt.

DAVID Yes.

MADISON And mom.

DAVID Oh yeah.

MADISON I'm going to have to lie about it for the rest of my life or break their hearts.

DAVID That's true love.

MADISON Fuck you.

MADISON EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN SCRUBBING THE KITCHEN FLOOR. ROYCE ENTERS. HE HAS A BLACK EYE.

ROYCE Don't we have a machine that does that?

CAROLYN The floor's filthy. Jesus Royce. What happened to your eye?

ROYCE Nothing.

CAROLYN Were you in a fight?

CAROLYN GETS A WASHCLOTH AND RUNS IT UNDER COLD WATER.

ROYCE I'm okay.

CAROLYN Who did this?

ROYCE No one.

CAROLYN Hold this over it. Tell me what happened.

ROYCE You guys are always telling me to stand up for myself.

CAROLYN If you're being bullied we need to report it.

ROYCE Some guy called me a fag and I hit him okay. He hit me back. Some other guys jumped in. Nothing major.

CAROLYN Do you want to change schools again?

ROYCE No.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN I have some good painkillers in my bathroom.

ROYCE Mom?

CAROLYN Yeah?

ROYCE Why did you marry dad if you knew he was gay?

CAROLYN He isn't gay.

ROYCE What is he then?

CAROLYN Your dad.

ROYCE You still love him though right? Nothing's changed.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN I'll get those painkillers.

CAROLYN EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE.  
MADISON IS SMOKING A JOINT. KANE ENTERS. SHE MOVES TO PUT IT  
OUT.

MADISON Shit dad quit sneaking around.

KANE Don't.

MADISON Really?

KANE I need a toke.

MADISON Everyone else asleep?

KANE I think so.

MADISON You see Royce's eye?

KANE I don't know whether to be worried or proud.

MADISON Two hoots then you pass.

KANE Sorry.

MADISON Why did you leave David?

KANE It was too hard.

MADISON Being gay?

KANE My family disowned me. My straight friends acted  
like I'd betrayed them. No one called. It was okay for  
a while. Good even. But- a party every night with the  
world's most interesting man can get very tiring.

MADISON You must miss him sometimes.

KANE He made me feel special.

MADISON Yeah.

KANE It's easy to get seduced.

MADISON Yeah.

KANE To do things you might not normally do.

MADISON Yeah.

KANE           He was the best friend I'd ever had. If I hadn't met him. Who knows what I'd be now? Not a decorator. Probably not a father.

MADISON       Really?

KANE           The time I spent with David made me realize how important kids were to me.

MADISON       So we're here because of him?

KANE           That's not what I'm saying.

PAUSE.

MADISON       Do you still love him?

LONG PAUSE.

MADISON       You're supposed to say no now.

KANE           It's a- different kind of love. I don't know if it ever goes away. For sure you never forget it.

MADISON       Real?

KANE           Who knows?

MADISON       Why mom?

KANE           She was so down to earth and- uncomplicated.

MADISON       Shut up.

KANE           Really. Sweet and innocent and so funny. Everything we said made us laugh.

MADISON       Really?

KANE           Kids only want to see their parents one way. There's a lot more to us you know.

MADISON       We prefer to think about ourselves.

ROYCE ENTERS.

ROYCEIs that a joint?

MADISON       Yeah.

ROYCEGimme. Are you smoking dad?

KANE           I had a hit or two. How's your eye?

ROYCE Fine.

KANE I want the names of the guys who did this.

ROYCE Let it go.

KANE Royce.

ROYCE Interfere and it'll just get worse.

MADISON Smoke.

KANE I can't remember the last time I got high out here. I think Royce was a toddler.

MADISON With mom?

THEY ALL LAUGH TOO LOUD.

KANE Sssh.

ROYCE Don't wanna wake her up.

MADISON Did she ever?

KANE Are you kidding? I used to sneak out here once in a blue moon when you were kids but- let's just say going back into the house high wasn't that much fun.

THEY ALL LAUGH AGAIN.

KANE Stop.

ROYCE She said she was gonna take a pill.

MADISON Hope it was a chill pill.

ROYCE Double dose.

MADISON And a shot of heroin.

THEY LAUGH.

ROYCE Don't. It hurts.

CAROLYN ENTERS.

CAROLYN Tell me you're not smoking marijuana with our children.

KANE They're not really children.

MADISON It's practically legal.

CAROLYN Whatever happened to setting an example?

KANE This is no different than having a drink with them. Anyway it's Madison's dope.

CAROLYN Kane.

MADISON Have a hoot ma.

CAROLYN Oh stop.

MADISON It might help you get over yourself.

ROYCEAnd you'll sleep like a baby.

CAROLYN Not a chance.

KANE We're all high anyway.

CAROLYN I couldn't.

MADISON HOLDS THE JOINT OUT TO HER.

MADISON Betting you could.

CAROLYN I have no idea what it's like.

ROYCEIt's nice.

CAROLYN TAKES THE JOINT FROM MADISON AND SMOKES IT CLUMSILY, WITH PLENTY OF COUGHING.

MADISON Take little puffs.

CAROLYN So what happens?

ROYCEYou get high.

CAROLYN How will I know?

MADISON Things will be- slightly different.

ROYCEAnd you'll want cookies.

CAROLYN TAKES ANOTHER HOOT AND PASSES THE JOINT ON.

CAROLYN I won't think I'm Superman and try to fly off a building or anything will I?

MADISON That Superman pot's too expensive.

ROYCE This stuff just makes you forget the baby in the microwave.

CAROLYN LAUGHS.

KANE I think that story's true.

ROYCE Yeah. Like the one about the guy with the hook.

CAROLYN Or the lady who adopted a Chihuahua that was really a rat.

MADISON Or the hotel robber with the toothbrush in his ass on the camera.

THEY ARE ALL LAUGHING.

ROYCE Or the one where the girl gets caught with the dog and the peanut butter.

CAROLYN Or the one about the girl who meets her perfect prince and marries him and has two perfect children and they achieve if not perfection at least a normal life.

THEIR LAUGHTER GROWS.

CAROLYN That's hysterical. The nuclear family. One day it just blows up. Ka-boom! There's a giant explosion and bingo- no more family. Everyone's become body parts in a mushroom cloud. The only thing that holds them together anymore is the fallout.

ALL BUT CAROLYN GRADUALLY STOP LAUGHING.

KANE Carolyn?

ROYCE Stop.

CAROLYN STOPS LAUGHING. PAUSE.

CAROLYN What's wrong?

MADISON I'm going to bed.

CAROLYN Aren't we having fun?

ROYCE Total buzzkill mom.

ROYCE AND MADISON EXIT.

CAROLYN What did I do?

KANE Have you got something on your mind?

CAROLYN No. Wait yes. If anything happened in Montreal everything we've had since has been a lie.

KANE That's ridiculous.

CAROLYN The idea of you being with him while I was pregnant. It just.

KANE You've got to let this go.

CAROLYN Did you marry me because you didn't want to be gay?

KANE I married you because I wanted to spend the rest of my life with you.

PAUSE.

KANE Let's go to bed.

CAROLYN I'm gonna stay out here and stare at the stars and think about my life. Later I might bake brownies.

KANE Sweetie.

CAROLYN Don't wait up.

KANE But.

CAROLYN I'll probably sleep in the den again.

KANE Right.

KANE EXITS.

CAROLYN The rest of my life.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID AT THE RESTAURANT ON HIS CELL PHONE.

DAVID I saw the bombing on the news. Just wanted to make sure you're okay. You're probably at work or something and I'm being silly. Call me when you get in. Really.

DAVID HANGS UP. MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON Get hold of him?

DAVID Eleven people were killed in a city of eight million. I doubt Jefferson was one of them.

MADISON But still. New York.

DAVIDI know.

AS SHE SPEAKS MADISON TAKES OFF HER APRON AND TURNS IN HER BILLS AND BILLFOLD.

MADISON My section's clear.

DAVIDStill mad at me?

MADISON Just fucked up.

DAVIDMe too.

MADISON They're falling apart.

DAVIDMom and dad?

MADISON They just seem so.

DAVIDHuman?

MADISON How do two people stay together that long?

DAVIDInsecurity co-dependency and fear are often the most important ingredients in a long term relationship.

MADISON You're too cynical. Good luck getting hold of your friend.

DAVID Madison I'm sorry- about what happened. I should've stopped it. I know better. It's just- been so long and you're so- great.

MADISON Like you said- I'm a grown up now.

MADISON EXITS. DAVID TAKES HER CASH ENVELOPE AND BEGINS TO EXIT. CAROLYN ENTERS.

CAROLYN David.

DAVIDMadison just left.

CAROLYN Good.

DAVIDYou're not here to pick her up?

CAROLYN What happened in Montreal?

DAVIDMontreal?

CAROLYN Kane never mentioned running into you.

DAVIDNothing important happened.

CAROLYN I don't believe you.

DAVIDI don't care.

CAROLYN You gave Madison a job so you can stay connected to Kane.

DAVIDI did it to piss you off Carolyn. Because you don't know anything about what Kane and I had and you have no right to qualify it.

CAROLYN He didn't have an identity with you.

DAVIDAnd he does with you?

CAROLYN Marriage takes work.

DAVIDSo does denial.

CAROLYN I know you fucked my husband in Montreal.

DAVIDYou didn't think twice about fucking him when he was with me.

CAROLYN I didn't know.

DAVIDYou knew.

CAROLYN Not for the first while. He never mentioned you and neither did anyone else. By the time he told me everything it was too late. I loved him. Trust me- I've felt guilty about it ever since.

DAVIDGood.

CAROLYN So I'm sorry. If I took him away from you and broke your heart or ruined your life or whatever I'm sorry.

DAVIDYou didn't take him away from me. It was already over. I knew how uncomfortable Kane was in our relationship. Never- completely there. I tried telling myself we could make it work but it took so much effort. Eventually I wanted out. I wanted to go away. I wanted to be gay. Really gay not pretend straight. I was always secretly grateful that you were there to make it easier for him.

CAROLYN Oh please.

DAVIDBelieve what you want.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN When you were with him. Did he ever go away sometimes? In his head. Like he was dreaming about being somewhere else- with someone else?

DAVIDHe does that with you too?

CAROLYN Yes. I always assumed he was thinking about you.

DAVIDI assumed he was thinking about women.

CAROLYN You didn't fuck him in Montreal?

DAVIDNo.

CAROLYN Truly?

DAVIDWhatever happened all those years ago- it doesn't matter now. I have no designs on your husband so why don't you quit pissing around and deal with whatever the real problem is.

CAROLYN Excuse me?

DAVIDYou started this whole thing.

CAROLYN I did not. Madison.

DAVIDIt was you that invited me to dinner Carolyn. It was you that made those ignorant gay comments that were bound to piss me off. It's you who keeps digging up the past. You.

CAROLYN People were talking.

DAVIDIf you'd just left well enough alone it would have died down when nothing happened.

CAROLYN What are you suggesting?

DAVIDThat you're using me to create drama to cover up some other inadequacy in your marriage.

CAROLYN Oh for God's sake.

DAVID CELL PHONE RINGS.

DAVIDMaybe you're trying to use me as an excuse for something you're afraid to do yourself.

THE CELL PHONE RINGS AGAIN.

CAROLYN Like what?

THE CELL PHONE RINGS AGAIN.

DAVIDI'm sorry your hour is up. Please pay the receptionist  
on your way out.

CAROLYN Good-bye.

DAVIDBye.

CAROLYN EXITS. DAVID ANSWERS HIS PHONE.

DAVIDHi. Of course you're alright. Still I worry. Is it  
chaos? No doubt. Has anyone claimed responsibility?  
Terrorists are the only ones who do anymore.

LIGHTS RISE ON THE KITCHEN. KANE, ROYCE AND MADISON ARE AT  
THE TABLE DRINKING COFFEE AND LOOKING VERY TIRED.

MADISON It's two nineteen.

KANE I'm starting to get really worried.

ROYCEWhere would she go?

KANE Maybe we should call the cops.

MADISON She hasn't been gone long enough to call the cops.

ROYCEMaybe she's skipped town.

MADISON She's been strange lately.

ROYCELately?

KANE Your mother deals with a lot of different  
pressures. You have to give her a break once in a  
while.

MADISON You're right.

CAROLYN ENTERS.

MADISON Where the fuck have you been?

CAROLYN Out. Driving. Thinking about a new car. I went by  
the old neighbourhood. Did you know the Safeway's gone?

KANE You couldn't call?

CAROLYN No.

KANE Was your cell dead?

CAROLYN No.

KANE What's wrong?

CAROLYN I needed some. Time. Alone.

ROYCE Alone?

CAROLYN To think.

PAUSE.

KANE Did you go anywhere else?

CAROLYN Yes.

KANE Where?

PAUSE.

KANE To his restaurant?

CAROLYN Yes.

MADISON You saw David?

CAROLYN Yes.

MADISON Why?

CAROLYN To talk.

MADISON About what?

PAUSE.

KANE He told you didn't he?

PAUSE.

KANE Did he tell you?

PAUSE.

KANE He fucking told you. That prick.

MADISON What did he tell you?

PAUSE.

KANE Everything. He told you everything didn't he?

PAUSE.

KANE           Okay we had sex. At his hotel. We did.

MADISON       I knew it.

ROYCE Duh.

PAUSE.

KANE           But the other thing. It was- it wasn't real. I was  
                  just- nervous. Scared. I thought I could go back.

MADISON       Back?

KANE           There's no way I would've gone through with it. I  
                  was relieved when he said no.

ROYCE You wanted him to take you back?

KANE           I was getting married. Going to be a father.  
                  Carolyn I was so fucking scared. I never would have  
                  went back to him for real. Never.

LONG PAUSE.

CAROLYN       He told me nothing happened. He looked me right in  
                  the eye and I bought it.

LONGER PAUSE.

KANE           Fuck.

CAROLYN       I think we should- re-evaluate our living  
                  situation.

MADISON       What does that mean?

CAROLYN       I'd like to live elsewhere for a while.

ROYCE You can't leave. You're the mom.

CAROLYN       The mom can leave. If the kids are grown up.

ROYCE I'm not fucking grown up.

ROYCE EXITS.

MADISON       Wow.

KANE           It's the past.

CAROLYN I should've just trusted my feelings.

KANE It doesn't matter anymore

CAROLYN You're right. Good night.

KANE Where are you sleeping?

CAROLYN Guess.

CAROLYN EXITS.

KANE I just- I can't explain it.

PAUSE.

MADISON I understand.

MADISON GIVES KANE A KISS AND EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID OPENING A BAG OF CLEAN LINENS AND SORTING THEM INTO PILES. HE HUMS TO HIMSELF AS HE WORKS. ROYCE ENTERS HOLDING A RIFLE AIMED DIRECTLY AT DAVID'S HEAD.

DAVID You don't want to do this.

ROYCE Wanna bet.

DAVID It'll make everything worse.

ROYCE Won't matter if I'm dead.

DAVID It'll matter to your parents and sister. A lot.

ROYCE I'm gonna kill you and then I'm going to go to the school to kill a few people there.

DAVID It's three a.m.

ROYCE I mean in the morning. Right after classes start. Then we'll see who's fucking laughing.

DAVID You have a single shot 22 dude. Someone'll bring you down before you reload.

ROYCE I'll have all night to practice on your dead body.

DAVID Someone's gonna hear the shot and call the cops.

ROYCE I can deal with it.

DAVID Think about your future Royce.

ROYCE I don't have a fucking future.

DAVIDYes you do and it'll be better.

ROYCELike standing up for myself was supposed to be better?

DAVIDSure.

ROYCE PULLS HIS SHIRT UP WITH ONE HAND, REVEALING DARK PAINFUL BRUISES.

ROYCEThis is what standing up for myself got me.

DAVIDJesus.

ROYCEThere were six of them. They wouldn't stop kicking me when I was down. This teacher finally broke it up but I could tell from the way he looked at me he didn't want to. Like I deserved it for being ugly or something.

DAVIDPut the gun down so we can talk properly.

ROYCENo.

DAVIDRoyce.

ROYCEI'll shoot you. I mean it.

PAUSE.

DAVIDI can give you a job.

ROYCEToo late.

DAVIDDo you want me to fuck you?

ROYCESex is gross.

DAVIDEveryone has sexual feelings.

ROYCEI don't. I've been looking at porn since I was eight years old and it's the most repulsive thing I've ever seen.

DAVIDThen why are you looking at it?

ROYCEHoping something'll kick in. Everyone's fucking hooked on it. Guys at school have hardcore porn on their ipods- their cell phones. I know girls in the tenth grade who run their own fuck sites out of their bedrooms. Sigfreid's got this sick shit you wouldn't believe. I had to threaten to tell his parents about it to get the gun.

DAVIDReal sex isn't like porn.

ROYCEI know. That weird fucking sound my dad makes. And her.  
You'd never hear that in a movie.

DAVIDSex makes people do stupid things.

ROYCEY'think?

DAVIDLook at your parents. At me. But you don't have this  
stupid weakness. You won't make those same mistakes.  
You're actually lucky.

ROYCEDon't try getting all confidential with me like you  
understand Mr Perfect Teeth Mr Wonderful hair.

DAVIDIt's a weave.

ROYCEWhat?

DAVIDEverything above my ears is a careful fake attached to  
my own thinning hair by invisible micro-fibers.

ROYCEGet out.

DAVIDCheck for yourself.

ROYCEYou'll just try to grab the gun.

DAVIDNo look. I'll put my hands behind my back. Just feel.

ROYCE TOUCHES THE TOP OF DAVID'S HEAD.

DAVIDSee.

ROYCEWeird. Like Astroturf.

DAVIDMy smile?

ROYCEYeah.

DAVIDForty thousand dollars.

ROYCEShut up.

DAVIDNot a single filling. Who do you know that doesn't have  
a single filling? And this waistline.

ROYCEYeah?

DAVIDThree inches removed with liposuction. Five grand.

ROYCENo way.

DAVID If you look just at the bottom of my eyebrows you can see very faint scars from the eyelift. Seven large. I also spend four days a week at the gym working out for at least two hours. I eat plain chicken breast raw vegetables and rice cakes for most of the week and I just fucking hate it.

ROYCE Then why do you do it?

DAVID Because I don't want to be discarded. I don't want to be not sexy. Not viable. Not yet. See. It makes us all do crazy things and you're blessed if you seriously aren't interested.

ROYCE Quit talking.

DAVID Am I making too much sense?

ROYCE You're pissing me off.

DAVID Royce if you were going to shoot me you would have done it by now.

PAUSE.

DAVID Put the gun down. We can talk.

PAUSE.

ROYCE Are you going to call the cops?

DAVID Not if you give me the rifle.

ROYCE You can't tell my parents.

DAVID We'll work something out.

ROYCE Work something out?

DAVID Give me the gun.

ROYCE HANDS DAVID THE RIFLE.

ROYCE Mom's leaving.

DAVID Why?

ROYCE Because of Montreal. I don't.

DAVID SUDDENLY HITS ROYCE WITH THE BUTT OF THE GUN, VERY HARD ON THE BRUISED AREA. ROYCE SCREAMS IN PAIN.

ROYCEOw! Fuck! What did you do that for?

DAVIDThat's the first bullet hitting a Mormon girl you don't even know.

ROYCEWhat?! Shit.

DAVID HITS ROYCE AGAIN IN THE BRUISED AREA. ROYCE SCEAMS.

DAVIDThat's the second bullet hitting a Chinese kid from your English class.

ROYCEOkay! I get it!

DAVIDThis isn't a fucking game. People get hurt. Really hurt. And it's never the bullies who get it.

DAVID HITS ROYCE.

ROYCEDon't hurt me anymore!

DAVIDGet up.

ROYCEDon't hurt me. Please don't hurt me anymore. Please don't. Please.

DAVID SETS THE RIFLE ON THE TABLE AND KNEELS DOWN TO HELP ROYCE UP. ROYCE THROWS HIS ARMS AROUND DAVID AND SOBS. DAVID HOLDS ROYCE AND SOOTHES HIM. LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN IN THE PASSING THROUGH THE KITCHEN WITH EXTRA LINEN. KANE IS OPENING A BEER.

KANE Marriages go through phases.

CAROLYN This isn't a phase.

KANE It is. It's part of marriage. Right now we don't like each other very much.

CAROLYN You don't like me?

KANE Of course I do. I love you. But when you're acting like this. Look we knew when we decided to commit that there were going to be bad times. But we swore we weren't going to be like other parents and throw in the towel or establish a bloodless partnership for the sake of appearances. Sure there have been occasional times when I've hated you or was repulsed by the thought of touching you- and I know you've felt the same way about me. But we're a team Carolyn. We built this house as a team we run our business as a team we raised our kids as a team.

CAROLYN I know.

KANE That's a pretty big accomplishment to toss away.

CAROLYN I'm not tossing it away. I'm just- thinking about moving on to some other accomplishment.

KANE Please don't say that.

CAROLYN What if David had said yes? Taken you back.

KANE He didn't.

CAROLYN You'd be living with him and I'd be raising Madison on my own.

KANE MOVES TO CAROLYN AND PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HER.

KANE I get drunk on the way you smell. My dick gets chubby at the sound of your voice. I can't imagine sleeping without your body next to mine. I've never loved anyone the way I love you.

CAROLYN HAS GOTTEN TURNED ON. SHE TRIES TO GET AWAY FROM HIM.

CAROLYN Kane please

KANE What?

CAROLYN Don't you see.

KANE You can't walk away from the business.

CAROLYN The way this all happened. Madison moving out. Royce finishing high school. David coming back. The timing is right.

KANE The timing couldn't be worse.

CAROLYN BREAKS AWAY FROM KANE.

CAROLYN I meant it's right for me.

KANE Carolyn don't leave I can't I don't I have a belly. I'm old and I have a belly.

CAROLYN Kane.

CAROLYN MOVES TO KANE AND KISSES HIM SOFTLY.

KANE Don't stop loving me.

CAROLYN I never will.

KANE Please.

CAROLYN But I've never had another lover. Or been through a break-up or lived on my own.

THEY'RE KISSING ONE ANOTHER SOFTLY. BOTH ARE CRYING.

KANE It's not as good as you think.

CAROLYN Woke up alone. Called a girlfriend up for coffee.

KANE It's not worth losing your family over.

THEIR HANDS BEGIN TO MOVE OVER EACH OTHER'S BODIES SENSUALLY.

CAROLYN I'm just renegotiating the terms of engagement.

KANE I can't wake up without you.

CAROLYN We shouldn't.

KANE It's always so good.

CAROLYN Yeah but.

THEY HAVE STARTED TO FUCK.

KANE Please don't leave me.

CAROLYN I have to.

KANE I love you so much.

CAROLYN I love you.

THEY FUCK. LIGHTS RISE ON THE EMPTY KITCHEN. THE DOOR OPENS VERY CAREFULLY. DAVID AND ROYCE ENTER. DAVID IS CARRYING THE RIFLE AND SUPPORTING ROYCE WITH THE OTHER ARM.

ROYCESSsh.

DAVID DEPOSITS ROYCE IN A CHAIR.

DAVID Here's the deal. I take the rifle back to Sigfreid's and no one knows what happened. But if you renege on what we talked about I wake your parents up right now and tell them everything.

ROYCE Don't make me.

DAVIDNo negotiation.

ROYCEThey'll hate me.

DAVIDDo it or I will.

PAUSE.

DAVIDRoyce.

ROYCEOkay shut up.

DAVIDRemember you keep my secrets and I keep yours.

ROYCEMom! Dad! I need to talk to you right now!

DAVID OPENS THE DOOR.

DAVIDAgain.

ROYCEI need to talk to you!

KANE (OFF.) Hello?

CAROLYN (OFF.) Royce?

KANE AND CAROLYN ARE HEARD APPROACHING OFFSTAGE. DAVID WINKS AT ROYCE.

DAVIDTell them.

ROYCEAlright.

DAVID EXITS, CLOSING THE DOOR QUIETLY BEHIND HIM. CAROLYN ENTERS PULLING HER ROBE ON.

CAROLYN Royce?

KANE ENTERS DOING UP HIS PANTS AND PULLING HIS UNDERSHIRT ON.

KANE Son?

PAUSE.

ROYCEI need help.

CAROLYN What?

ROYCEPlease.

KANE What can we do?

ROYCE Please help me. Please someone help me. I'm really really sad all the time and I need someone to help me. Please. Help me.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID AT THE RESTAURANT. HE'S CHECKING THE GLASSWARE FOR SPOTS. MADISON ENTERS.

DAVID Everything okay?

MADISON Sure. Where am I?

DAVID Six. And there's only one busboy for the entire house tonight.

MADISON That blows.

DAVID Labor and food costs are too high and reservations are too low. How are things at home?

PAUSE.

DAVID Madison?

MADISON Royce had some kind of - breakdown. They're doing tests in the hospital. He's like totally bi-polar or something. He's- so sad.

DAVID The doctor's will help him be less sad.

MADISON That's not the same as happy.

DAVID It's a start.

MADISON Mom's moving out- but not til the Royce thing's resolved.

DAVID What's your dad doing through all this?

MADISON Drinking a lot of beer smoking like a chimney and living at the office.

DAVID Great.

MADISON I want to tell them. What we did.

DAVID Absolutely not.

MADISON The truth makes things better.

DAVID This isn't about the truth. This is about getting back at your parents and making them responsible for our bad decision.

MADISON Why would I want to hurt them?

DAVIDIt takes the spotlight off of Royce and puts it back on you.

MADISON Fuck you.

DAVIDTime to grow up.

MADISON I still think I should.

DAVIDDon't do it Madison. I mean it.

MADISON Are you threatening me?

DAVIDYes.

MADISON But I feel so guilty.

DAVIDThat's how we adults remember our mistakes. Now get set up. We open in fifteen minutes.

MADISON You're an asshole.

DAVIDI know. Now do your fucking job.

LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN IN A HOSPITAL ROOM WITH ROYCE.

CAROLYN The doctor says you're doing quite well.

ROYCEYeah.

CAROLYN The talks with the therapist?

ROYCEOkay.

CAROLYN The pills?

ROYCEHelping.

CAROLYN You're not having compulsive suicidal thoughts are you? We're supposed to watch for that.

ROYCENo.

CAROLYN They said something about possible- sexual side effects.

ROYCEI'm asexual mom.

CAROLYN Is that- official now?

ROYCEYes.

CAROLYN We accept you for who you are.

ROYCEThe doctor suggested some websites and support groups.

CAROLYN I'm sure you'll find them very helpful.

ROYCEThey're for you and dad.

CAROLYN Right of course. Do you feel like you might want to come home soon?

ROYCEAre you still sleeping in the den?

CAROLYN It doesn't matter where I'm sleeping as long as we're all together.

ROYCEI miss those horrible sounds you guys made when you got it on.

CAROLYN Stop.

ROYCECan't you?

CAROLYN I don't think I can.

ROYCEWhy not?

CAROLYN My feelings have- changed.

ROYCELove can't just go away.

CAROLYN No but it does become- other things. Other kinds of love.

ROYCEAnd this is all because of the Montreal thing?

CAROLYN No.

ROYCEDoes every marriage fail?

CAROLYN No but a lot of them expire.

ROYCEThen why get married?

CAROLYN When you fall in love with someone you have to believe it's forever. It's not real otherwise.

ROYCEAre you on medication?

CAROLYN Just half a lorazepam before I came in. My doctor prescribed them. They help a lot. Anyway love- you know- that one word doesn't really do the job of

describing how mixed-up those feelings really are. My feelings for your father have changed. I don't love him the way I used to but I do still love him.

ROYCE But not enough to stay.

CAROLYN Right.

ROYCE Thanks.

CAROLYN For what?

ROYCE Not lying to me.

CAROLYN Come home Royce. You're ready

ROYCE Okay.

KANE ENTERS.

KANE Things at the school took longer than expected.

CAROLYN And?

KANE And I've got all of your assignments for the rest of the term so you never have to go back there again.

ROYCE Thanks pop.

CAROLYN Royce is ready to come home.

KANE You're sure?

ROYCE Yeah. This place is boring.

KANE Alright.

ROYCE They want me to come in every other day for a while- I start group therapy next week- and I have to stay on the meds.

CAROLYN Of course.

ROYCE They want me to do some sessions with you guys too.

KANE Of course. Royce. We.

ROYCE Yeah.

KANE We love you.

CAROLYN More than anything in life.

ROYCE Even if I'm crazy.

KANE You're not crazy.

ROYCE But I'm.

CAROLYN Recovering. You're recovering.

KANE Let's go.

LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID AT THE RESTAURANT CHECKING CASH ENVELOPES. MADISON ENTERS WITH HER ENVELOPE.

MADISON One of the chairs is off kilter at five c.

DAVID I'll get it fixed. How's Royce?

MADISON He's started talking to me again. For real. He told me about the gun thing. Thank you.

DAVID It was a cry for help.

MADISON But pretty fucked up.

DAVID He's getting what he needs now.

MADISON You were right about telling my parents too. It would have made everything worse. I just- secrets have a way of getting out.

DAVID Not when it's shared by only two people. A secret's not the same as a lie. There's cassoulet left over. Are you hungry?

MADISON Yeah but well no I told some of the guys I'd meet them in a few minutes.

DAVID Is Willett going?

MADISON He'll probably be there.

DAVID He makes you laugh.

MADISON Yeah.

DAVID Not too hard on the eyes either.

MADISON Okay now you're starting to sound jealous.

DAVID I'd gotten used to- having someone to eat with.

MADISON We'll eat again.

DAVID But not like we used to.

MADISON No and that's totally my fault. I just have this thing where I have to fuck every guy I meet. I need to work on it and I will really. But right now I gotta.

DAVID Don't worry. Good night.

MADISON EXITS. DAVID GOES TO THE KITCHEN BRIEFLY AND RETURNS WITH A BOWL OF FOOD, A GLASS AND A CARAFE OF WINE. HE POURS HIMSELF A LARGE GLASS OF WINE AND SITS DOWN TO EAT ALONE. LIGHTS RISE ON THE KITCHEN OF THE SAWATSKY HOUSE, EMPTY. MADISON ENTERS DRESSED ENTIRELY IN BLACK. SHE MOVES TO A COUNTER, PULLS OUT A BOTTLE OF VODKA AND POURS A SLUG INTO A GLASS. SHE DOWNS THE SHOT AND POURS MORE. ROYCE ENTERS, ALSO IN BLACK. HE SHARES A LOOK WITH MADISON, REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND TAKES OUT A PILL BOTTLE. HE TAKES A PILL USING WHAT'S LEFT OF MADISON'S VODKA TO WASH IT DOWN.

MADISON Those help?

ROYCE It's like being wrapped in something cloudy.

MADISON But you don't feel as down.

ROYCE I don't feel as anything.

MADISON Great.

KANE ENTERS DRESSED ENTIRELY IN BLACK.

MADISON Shot?

KANE Set me up.

MADISON POURS A SHOT INTO A GLASS AND HANDS IT TO KANE. KANE DOWNS THE SHOT AND HOLDS THE GLASS OUT TO MADISON. SHE POURS ANOTHER SHOT INTO IT.

MADISON Funerals are vile traditions.

KANE They help with closure.

CAROLYN ENTERS DRESSED IN BLACK.

CAROLYN Closure's over-rated.

MADISON WAVES THE BOTTLE AT HER MOTHER.

MADISON Takes the edge off.

CAROLYN Okay.

MADISON POURS HER MOTHER A SHOT. KANE RAISES HIS GLASS.

KANE To Herbert Carver.

CAROLYN It was nice of so many of his former students to show up.

MADISON They were so old.

CAROLYN He loved to read. It was like a religion to him. He picked a book for each year of my childhood and read it to me until I was old enough to read myself. Then he gave me a book for every birthday until he- got sick. It was how we communicated.

MADISON Who besides me needs another drink?

ROYCEThere's something I should probably tell you guys.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN Well?

ROYCEI've met someone. Special.

KANE Someone?

CAROLYN Special? But I thought you were.

ROYCEI am.

KANE And is she he?

ROYCEShe. Her uncle raped her repeatedly between the ages of two and seven so she hates sex. She's the sister of this guy I know from group. Her name's Tasha. She's not very pretty but she's really smart. And funny.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN Good for you.

ROYCEWe share feelings of inadequacy and internalized self-hatred.

KANE It's important to have things in common.

ROYCEAnd our med cycles are simpatico.

MADISON Great.

ROYCEThe doctor says it's a sign of progress.

MADISON I have an announcement of my own.

CAROLYN What's that?

MADISON Willett and I are going to try monogamy.

PAUSE.

KANE Who the hell's Willett?

MADISON My boyfriend.

CAROLYN Boyfriend?

MADISON I've been seeing him for nearly two months.

CAROLYN Is he- nice?

MADISON He thinks he's far smarter and better looking than he actually is but I really kinda like him.

ROYCEAnd he's a waiter?

MADISON Just part time while he goes to university.

CAROLYN Great. What's he taking?

MADISON Political science don't even get me started. If the relationship lasts another two months I'll introduce you.

CAROLYN I found an apartment.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN It's just a few blocks away. Walking distance.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN I also found a job. I'm going to be doing the books for a trucking company.

MADISON Trucking company?

ROYCEWhoa.

CAROLYN I liked the women in their book keeping office.

MADISON POURS KANE A SHOT. HE DOWNS IT.

ROYCEI guess if it'll make you happier.

MADISON Right.

CAROLYN There are two extra bedrooms. You kids can stay whenever you want.

ROYCE Great.

MADISON I wouldn't be very comfortable sleeping there.

CAROLYN You'll get used to it eventually.

MADISON I hate it when you say things like that.

CAROLYN That's why I say them.

MADISON I know.

KANE Well okay then now.

PAUSE.

MADISON I'm meeting Willett.

KANE Don't be too late.

MADISON KISSES KANE.

MADISON Don't wait up.

CAROLYN Please don't hate me forever.

MADISON Working on it.

MADISON EXITS.

ROYCE I'm tired and my mouth is really dry.

CAROLYN Good night sweetie. We'll talk tomorrow.

ROYCE EXITS.

KANE It's not going to be as great as you think.

CAROLYN Whatever it was we were meant to do together- it's done. It is. You know it too. It's all just habit now. Fear of the unknown.

KANE But I love you.

CAROLYN I know.

PAUSE.

CAROLYN Don't forget to replace the furnace.

KANE Right.

CAROLYN EXITS. KANE GOES TO THE FRIDGE AND GETS HIMSELF A BEER. HE SITS AT THE TABLE AND SIPS THE BEER. LIGHTS RISE ON DAVID IN THE RESTAURANT. HE'S LOOKING AT THE RESERVATION BOOK AND SHAKING HIS HEAD. MADISON ENTERS.

MADISON What's going on?

DAVIDWhat?

MADISON You haven't looked me in the eye for the last two days.

DAVIDLet's talk after your shift.

MADISON I'd rather talk now.

DAVIDAfter your shift is better. Really.

MADISON You're going to fire me.

DAVIDYes.

MADISON Why?

DAVIDMy costs are through the roof and with this downswing.

MADISON Why me?

DAVIDLast hired first fired.

MADISON That's me and Willett.

DAVIDAnd three of the kitchen staff and one dishwasher.

MADISON This is about him isn't it?

DAVIDNo.

MADISON I see you watching us all the time.

DAVIDI watch you and Willett because I can see you falling in love and it's such a wonderful thing I can't not look.

MADISON Seriously?

DAVIDI don't think Willett's the sharpest knife in the drawer and thankfully I doubt he's going to be your one great love but I know you're enjoying it and that makes me feel- surprisingly good.

MADISON But you still have to fire me.

DAVIDYes. You won't have any trouble finding another job.  
You should be someplace where you can make real money  
anyway.

MADISON True. Think Mary'll close the place?

DAVIDHopefully not- if we can get our budgets in line. I'll  
probably pick up some floor shifts.

MADISON Waitering? Really?

DAVID NODS.

MADISON That's sad.

DAVIDAnything necessary to survive. You don't have to work  
your shift if.

MADISON Don't worry. I'll do it.

DAVIDYou're sure?

MADISON MOVES TO DAVID AND GIVES HIM A QUICK KISS.

MADISON Thank you.

DAVID KISSES HER AGAIN.

DAVIDNo thank you.

THEY HUG.

DAVIDDinner later?

SHORT PAUSE.

MADISON You know it.

MADISON EXITS.LIGHTS RISE ON CAROLYN AT HER NEW PLACE. SHE'S  
GETTING READY TO GO OUT. THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR AND  
ROYCE ENTERS USING HIS KEY.

CAROLYN Hey handsome.

ROYCEThat your new car in the lot?

CAROLYN Like it?

ROYCEIt's kinda showy.

CAROLYN That's the point.

ROYCEI like it. Tasha and I are on our way to the cat show.  
You wanna come?

CAROLYN That's so sweet. Where is Tasha?

ROYCEDidn't want to come in because she saw one of her dead  
guys sitting on your steps.

CAROLYN Thanks but I already have plans.

ROYCELike a date?

CAROLYN Like drinks with some of the girls from work.

ROYCESounds fun.

CAROLYN Thanks beats sitting alone in front of the TV for  
another night. How's Kane?

ROYCEDon't ask.

CAROLYN Try to get him out of the house.

ROYCEWe're working on it. Have fun.

CAROLYN You too.

ROYCE BLOWS CAROLYN A KISS THEN EXITS. LIGHTS RISE ON THE  
RESTAURANT. DAVID IS CARRYING TWO PLATES OF FOOD TO A TABLE.  
KANE ENTERS.

DAVIDShe's just finishing up. This is her last night.

KANE You finally fired her?

DAVIDBusiness is shit.

KANE Sorry to hear that.

DAVIDBut not sorry to see her go.

KANE It doesn't really matter anymore.

DAVIDShe won't have a problem finding another job. She's  
very good. Hold on. I'll get her.

DAVID GESTURES FOR KANE TO SIT AT THE TABLE AND EXITS. KANE  
IS TEMPTED BY THE WONDERFUL SMELL OF THE PASTA. HE DIPS HIS  
FINGER INTO THE SAUCE ON ONE PLATE AND TASTES IT. IT'S  
AMAZING. DAVID ENTERS WITH MADISON'S APRON, BILLFOLD, CASH  
ENVELOPE ETC.

DAVID Apparently she finished her section early and slipped out the back door.

KANE She phoned me for a ride half an hour ago.

DAVID Debra saw her drive away with Willet.

KANE Then why would she need a ride?

DAVID She knew I was making a final dinner.

SHORT PAUSE.

DAVID Oh.

KANE Oh.

DAVID Yes.

KANE Set up and everything.

DAVID She mentioned you weren't getting out much.

KANE She says you never go anywhere.

DAVID She's wrong. I go to lots of places. Just no place fun.

KANE What is this?

DAVID Three cheese tortellini in an aromatic tomato vodka sauce.

KANE Smells amazing.

DAVID Hungry?

KANE I've been eating out of the microwave for months.

DAVID Would you like to join me?

KANE You wouldn't mind?

SHORT PAUSE.

DAVID No.

KANE Okay.

DAVID Wine?

KANE Please.

DAVID POURS WINE FOR THEM BOTH.

DAVID How you doing?

KANE My family's fallen apart. You?

DAVID My restaurant's failing and I have no life or friends.

PAUSE.

KANE I am such a total failure.

DAVID No.

KANE My wife- my kids are-

DAVID Fucked up. Who isn't? They're essentially good people-  
and interesting. That's more than a lot of parents  
accomplish.

KANE Since Carolyn left me. I can't. It's. Just.

PAUSE.

DAVID Have some wine.

KANE Thanks. Sorry. Can I smoke in here?

DAVID No.

KANE I've been very- emotional lately.

DAVID Perfectly understandable.

KANE I bet you feel like you know my family almost as  
well as I do.

DAVID Almost.

PAUSE.

KANE I still don't understand any of this.

DAVID Shit happens. We never really know why.

KANE It's been a long time.

DAVID Doesn't seem like it.

KANE I guess there's a lot we can catch up on.

DAVID Yeah. And we will. Later.

KANE           You're sure? That might be kinda weird after  
                  everything.

DAVIDKane.

KANE           What?

DAVIDEat.

THEY EAT AS THE LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE TO BLACK.