

Young People

by
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EXT. DUNSTER ROAD - NIGHT

It's late spring on an American suburban street. Walking casually among the blooming trees and buzzing insects are high school juniors KEVIN STANLEY-- average joe, slightly geeky and LELAND HARVEY-- rebel hearthrob. They're locked in a minor battle of wills...

LELAND

What's the problem?

KEVIN

There's no problem. I just, I wasn't invited. It's kind of rude.

LELAND

It's a house party, not a wedding. It's Denise Holloway, the friendliest girl in the state. You're making excuses.

KEVIN

I'm not making excuses. Excuses for what?

LELAND

To keep from taking the plunge. It's time to stop pining and be a man. Stop sweating her and start bedding her.

KEVIN

You're being an ass.

LELAND

No. You're being a little Mary. You're coming. I'm not gonna let you pull another Valerie Billings.

Kevin is shut down...

LELAND (CONT'D)

God, that was pathetic. It was like watching some bad, extra, more simpering than usual version of My So Called fucking Life--

KEVIN

Man, shut up. It's not the same for you. You're like charming and shit. I have no game.

LELAND

You don't need game if she likes you.

KEVIN

No I need game. I get around a girl I like and it's...

LELAND

What? It's what? What's the worst thing that can happen?

(beat)

Dude, you're not gonna die.

KEVIN

Thanks. That's helpful. I'm not gonna die. You don't think there's maybe a few degrees of severity before that? Like sheer panic? Like, I could throw up on her? I could shit myself in front of her? That's a second date guarantee--

LELAND

Really? You're really worried about that?

KEVIN

I'm just saying--

LELAND

Will you relax? If she likes you she will put up with all your awkward, dopey shit. She'll even find it cute. She'll probably be too worried about her own awkward, dopey shit to even notice yours.

KEVIN

(cracking a smile)

I don't know.

LELAND

Yes you do. This will be a hoot.

Kevin takes out his cellphone and dials...

KEVIN

Did Denise say something?

LELAND

What do you mean?

Kevin listens impatiently to a dial tone...

KEVIN

Norm, you colossal pain in the
ass...

(to Leland)

How does Emma know she likes me?

LELAND

Are you daft? How does Emma know?
How is it you *don't* know? She's
like wearing a sign whenever she's
around you.

Kevin hangs up...

LELAND (CONT'D)

And yes, she did say something.
Happy?

KEVIN

She did?

Kevin looks more nervous than happy. They approach an 80's
style yuppie suburban home. The name of Ramos is on the
mailbox. There is not a light on anywhere inside or outside.

LELAND

Maybe he really isn't home.

KEVIN

With no outside lights on? That's
not like Norm.

LELAND

Why doesn't he pick up his phone
anymore?

KEVIN

Anymore? What do you mean? It's one
day.

LELAND

No, he's been doing this for
several weeks now.

KEVIN

I haven't noticed.

They approach the door.

LELAND

Guess it's just me, then.

KEVIN

I'm sure it's not personal. He's just...Norm.

LELAND

He in one his funks again? Not he'd tell us.

Kevin dismisses the question. They look in the narrow windows on either side of the door. It's dark inside.

LELAND (CONT'D)

Maybe he blew a breaker.

KEVIN

Doing something deviant?

LELAND

Yeah! With electricity! He's doing something deviant. I can't fathom how your mind works, sometimes.

Leland rings the doorbell.

KEVIN

We're gonna find his blackened, round, naked body on the floor with his charred dick in his hand--

LELAND

Alright, dude!

(beat)

Aren't you gonna feel stupid if you're right.

KEVIN

Stupid? How about traumatized? You can't unsee shit like that.

Through the windows surrounding the door, a FLASHLIGHT BEAM comes towards them. The door opens and awkward, doughy NORM RAMOS stands before them in a black hoodie...

NORM

What are you guys doing here?

He starts looking around outside, nervously...

KEVIN

What do you mean? We came to see what's going on with you. You're not answering your phone.

NORM
You shouldn't be here.

LELAND
What are you taking about? Is everything alright?

NORM
Why wouldn't it be?

KEVIN
Because you have all the lights off and you're not answering your phone.

LELAND
(re: lack of lights)
Yeah. Trying to go green?

NORM
What?

LELAND
Saving electricity--
(off Norm's blankness)
Nevermind.

NORM
I just forgot to turn them on. Come inside. It's not safe out here.

He hits the outside lights and ushers Kevin and Leland in...

INT. NORM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Norm then ushers them quickly down the hall...

LELAND
Norm, what is wrong with you?

KEVIN
And what's so important that it warranted skipping school?

LELAND
Is that rhetorical?

KEVIN
This is called freaking out the neighbors, Norm.

Norm throws a weary glance toward the living room on the right as they zip by...

LELAND
And your friends.

KEVIN
You know who else walks around the house with the lights off? Buffalo Bill.

NORM
The war hero--

KEVIN
No! The skin suit wearing--

NORM
Yeah, I get the reference, asshole.

LELAND
Norm! What is going on?!

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kevin flips the lights on as they come in--

NORM
No. Wait!

He immediately shuts them off again.

KEVIN
Norm, what is your--

NORM
Shut up for a second. Alright?

Norm composes himself...

NORM (CONT'D)
I think I saw my neighbor kill someone earlier. Actually, I'm sure I saw him kill someone. In fact I'm one-hundred percent on that.

Kevin slowly reaches for the light switch again, Norm swats his hand away.

NORM (CONT'D)
Stop it!

KEVIN
I'm just trying to see if you're serious.

Leland goes to the dining area picture window...

ANGLE THROUGH PICTURE WINDOW: a perfect view of the currently darkened house belonging to Gus Grant, just thirty feet away...

LELAND

What do you mean you saw him kill someone?

KEVIN

This is the crazy, Jack Bauer neighbor, right?

NORM

Yeah. I just didn't know how Jack-- I mean I knew he worked for the government. I think I've seen him cleaning guns...

KEVIN

Dude, you had me worried sick. I thought like your parents split up or something.

NORM

And this is better?

KEVIN

That's not what I meant.

(beat)

I mean come on. Are you sure? You really saw this? You haven't been smoking that bad shit that Dick Torgins sold us--

NORM

This is why I didn't take your calls.

LELAND

Norm, it's alright. Just start from the beginning. Tell us exactly what you saw.

NORM

(deep breath)

I was sitting here, at the kitchen table, studying for the SAT's.

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON/FLASHBACK

Norm sits at the kitchen table, diligently studying for the SAT's. The TWHAK of a silenced gun and the sound of glass breaking gets his attention. Intensity consuming his face. He darts to the picture window...

WHIP ZOOM: through the picture window, across the yard, into GUS GRANT'S OFFICE WINDOW-- GUS GRANT, early 40's, short cropped hair, sleek and dangerous, is wrestling a silenced gun out of an INTRUDER'S hand. Gus twists the man's wrist as the gun goes THWAK! THWAK! THWAK! into the ceiling and through the window--

Norm ducks. Slowly he peeks over...

Through the window, the two men trade quick and furious blows. Gus kicks at him below our view. The Intruder drops to his knees. Gus moves in, as the Intruder swipes at him with a BIG KNIFE. The Intruder struggles to his feet and lunges. Gus grabs a nearby plant and launches it. The Intruder blocks with his arms. Dirt and pot fragments rain down everywhere as the fight continues out of our view...

Norm watches with shocked wide eyes, breathing heavy, waiting...

After a few moments, Gus comes into view. He takes a few minutes to catch his breath, wiping a bloodied sleeve across his face.

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - NIGHT/PRESENT

Kevin's face is drenched in horror...

KEVIN

You were studying for the SAT's?
Are we supposed to be studying for
the SAT's?

Leland is studying Gus's house with binoculars...

LELAND

(deadpan)
There's a bullet hole in the
window.

He turns a concerned look in Norm's direction...

KEVIN

We're supposed to be studying for
the SAT's?

LELAND

If you want any kind of future,
yeah.

KEVIN

No one said anything about studying
for them!

LELAND

Everyone said-- Don't worry about
it!

(to Norm)

Where were the cops in all of this?

Norm fidgets...

LELAND (CONT'D)

You called the cops, right?

NORM

It's not that simple.

LELAND

If you saw him kill someone, that's
pretty simple--

NORM

He saw me.

Two sets of eyes bore into him...

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING/FLASHBACK

Norm has all the lights off. The evening is turning into night. He has the house phone in his still trembling hand. His thumb hits 9, then 1, then 1 again-- RAP! RAP! RAP! He whips around to see Gus staring at him, distraught. Bloody smudges dot the window where he tapped...

GUS

(outside)

Hang up the phone.

A GLOCK is raised into view. Norm hangs up the phone.

GUS (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'm not going to hurt
you.

Norm starts dialing again. Gus points the Glock at him...

GUS (CONT'D)
Unless you make me. It's very
important you don't make that call.

Norm slowly brings it down.

GUS (CONT'D)
I need you to let me in.

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - NIGHT/PRESENT

Leland kneels down before the bloody smudges on the window pane. Kevin, now on board...

KEVIN
That's fucked up! That's really his
blood?

NORM
Yes.

KEVIN
Why didn't you wipe that off?

NORM
Because it's outside.

KEVIN
I don't know how you can stand
that. That's like Tell Tale Heart
shit, right there.

NORM
I just don't look at it.

LELAND
What happened when you let him in?

Norm is agonizing in his head. His eyes dart back and forth between them, then they simply roll as he takes a long sigh...

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Norm stands behind gaping mouthed Leland and Kevin, looking down at the couch...

On the couch is Gus Grant, unconscious, feet propped up on pillows and covered in a comforter.

LELAND
He just collapsed?

NORM
Right after he told me to leave.

KEVIN
And you didn't listen?

NORM
He was bleeding!

Leland leans in and pulls back the comforter, revealing a blood soaked cloth bandaged to his side with an Ace bandage.

LELAND
Well he needs an ambulance.

NORM
Then the cops will get involved.

LELAND
Then they get involved. This man is gonna die on your couch.

KEVIN
Your mother almost banned me for life for spilling Coke on it.

Norm shifts uncomfortably...

NORM
It's not that simple.
(beat)
He made me swear not to say anything about this...

LELAND
(beat)
About what?

INT. NORM'S BEDROOM CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

Pitch black gives way as the closet door opens. Norm, with Leland and Kevin right behind him, rifles through a pile of dirty clothes and uncovers an ATTACHE CASE. He grabs the handle and pulls it out...

KEVIN
Did he leave you a bomb?

INT. NORM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Norm throws the case on the bed. Kevin flinches--

KEVIN

Jesus!

It's a polished, stainless steel case with a HANDCUFF attached to it by a long chain...

NORM

Do you know what this is?

LELAND

No. What is it?

NORM

I don't know. I was legitimately asking.

Kevin inspects it further. Etched in the steel and detailed with paint is the PRESIDENTIAL SEAL...

KEVIN

Holy shit!

LELAND

What?

NORM

What?

KEVIN

Is this what I think it is?

LELAND

Spit it out!

KEVIN

Is this the fucking football? Did he leave the football with you?!

Kevin looks at Norm with a mix of terror and anger.

NORM

Football?

KEVIN

The fucking-- football. The thing--

LELAND

With all the launch codes!? Holy shit! Really?!

NORM

How do you know?!

LELAND
You didn't notice the big
Presidential Seal?

NORM
I didn't really look.

KEVIN
We've got to get this to someone.

NORM
Okay, who?

KEVIN
What?! Call the cops! Let them deal
with it!

NORM
No. No, he was very clear about
that. He thinks the police are
involved.

LELAND
In what?

NORM
I don't know. I didn't ask.

KEVIN
Why the fuck not!

NORM
I don't--stop yelling me!

LELAND
Yeah, why don't you chill the fuck
out?

KEVIN
A bloody guy with a gun and the key
to fucking Armageddon raps on my
window, I might have some--

NORM
Okay! Well I'm not as cool as you!
You know, no one invited you guys
here--

LELAND
No, no, no. You don't try and
handle something like this alone.
We're your boys.

NORM

Which is why I wanted to keep you out of this.

(beat)

Okay. What do I do?

KEVIN

Call the FBI.

LELAND

Okay, what's the number?

KEVIN

I don't know. How would you get in touch with the FBI?

NORM

You call the police and they put you through. We can't do that.

The three think for a moment...

KEVIN

Got any family in the FBI?

LELAND

I bet Emma's dad knows someone.

KEVIN

Yeah, yeah he must have a contact, right?

LELAND

We can ask her. She'll be here any second.

Norm turns a little sickly...

NORM

Emma's coming here?

LELAND

Well, we came by to see if you were up for a party. But...

KEVIN

Sounds like it would have been a good time, too.

LELAND

More exciting than this?

KEVIN
Look, you have a girlfriend,
alright?

LELAND
I know. Sorry.
(to Norm)
Denise Holloway's house.

NORM
Oh. Yeah, from AP Calculus? She's
really cute.

KEVIN
Not that anything was going to
happen anyway.

LELAND
With that attitude...

KEVIN
No, I mean R rated. I just thought
I'd maybe...get to make out with
her.

LELAND
Maybe finger blast her?

KEVIN
Yeah-- Wait, what?

NORM
I'm sorry, man. If you want to go,
I totally understand. I won't hold
it against--

LELAND
Stop it. We're staying.
(to Kevin)
Look, there'll be plenty of other
opportunities to finger blast
Denise.

KEVIN
Stop saying that.

NORM
I'm kind of friendly with Serena
Watts. They're like best friends--

KEVIN
I'm-- Serena's my lab partner.

LELAND

Wait, that's right-- Wait, so you've had an in this whole time?!

Kevin ignores Leland with a huff...

KEVIN

(to Norm)

I appreciate the thought. I'm staying. I don't have a ride anymore, anyway.

Norm dumps the case back in the closet and covers it with clothes. He rubs his face and tries to relax.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hey, Norm. Hungry?

NORM

Is that your way of asking if you can have some food? Mom left a bunch of stuff in the fridge.

They make their way to the door...

LELAND

Just you? No Jess?

Norm shuts the light...

NORM

Classes ended yesterday. She said she was going to take the scenic route home. I don't know where she is.

KEVIN

Kind of turned out to be a blessing, no?

INT. NORM'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin and Leland stuff their faces with plates piled high with leftovers while Norm checks the bandage on Gus...

LELAND

Where did you learn to bandage someone up like that?

NORM

Uh...health class? The first aid part?

KEVIN

I don't remember the "treating gunshot wounds" portion of that class.

NORM

I think he was stabbed. And I might have actually picked it up from something I saw on the Discovery Channel.

KEVIN

What do you think it looks like? Inside the case?

LELAND

I don't know?

KEVIN

Is it just a notebook or something? With all the launch codes written down?

NORM

It would likely be a computer of some sort. I would imagine there's some heavy encryption involved. Even if you could get the case opened, I don't imagine it would be easy to access the codes.

KEVIN

Maybe you need to interface with another computer to get them to work?

LELAND

If there was ever a time to find out it would be now, right? We've got the damn thing.

NORM

There's no way to open it. I looked.

KEVIN

You think it alerts the FBI or the CIA when you open it?

LELAND

Or the NSA?

KEVIN

We still don't know for sure what it is.

NORM

I know. But whatever. That thing's locked with a ten digit combination and a thumb print. We ain't getting in there.

LELAND

Norm, how can you be so unhappy in this house when your mom cooks this good?

KEVIN

This is good-ass food. You should eat some.

NORM

I'm good.

LELAND

Shit, my Mom makes a mean batch of Ramen noodles. That's about it.

KEVIN

This is kind of exciting, right? We haven't done any of this Goonies type stuff in a while.

LELAND

We used to do Goonies type stuff?

The lights go out. In the darkness, each of them exchanges a look of "oh shit"...

LELAND (CONT'D)

Naawwww...

KEVIN

Um, did we blow a fuse?

LELAND

(incredulous)
From what?

Norm peeks through the drapes of the large picture window...

NORM

No, the street lights are out too.

LELAND

See? It's probably nothing.

KEVIN
Or they took out the whole grid.

Leland shoots him a look...

KEVIN (CONT'D)
What?

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Norm is distributing five flashlights of different sizes and variety...

NORM
There's candles and shit around. We
can light some. I trust you not to
burn my house down.

Cathy Dennis' "Touch Me (All Night Long)" starts coming from
Leland's pocket. He fishes out his phone...

LELAND
(into phone)
Hey, darling.

While he excuses himself to the other room, Norm distracts
himself with watching Kevin lighting a series of tall glass
tubes full of candle adorned with images of Jesus on the
kitchen table.

NORM
Kevin, go easy on Mom's Jesus
candles.

KEVIN
This is what they're for.

NORM
No they're not. She collects those.
Don't light another one.

KEVIN
They're five damn dollars at Mobil
Mart! I'll replace them!

NORM
Are you gonna replace them like
now? Tonight?

KEVIN
Alright! I won't light another.
What does she expect you to do in a
blackout?

NORM

She doesn't care as long as I don't touch her stuff.

Leland comes back in, hanging up his phone.

LELAND

She's almost here. I almost told her not to come.

NORM

Why didn't you?

LELAND

How long have we known Emma? She'll ask why, and she'll keep asking until you tell her and then she'll come over anyway.

They sit quietly...

KEVIN

Sorry about the candles.

NORM

I don't mean to be a dick--

KEVIN

It's all good, man.

There's a knock at the door. Everyone jumps into alert mode.

LELAND

It's just Emma.

The knocking comes again...

KEVIN

Are you gonna get it?

Norm looks flushed...

NORM

I'd...You can get it. Should I get it?

Leland is already up and on his way...

KEVIN

What's wrong with you? It's your house. Answer the door.

INT. NORM'S HOUSE/FRONT HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Leland opens the door. EMMA KAMENSKY, high school junior with a Gwen Stefani vibe, waits, looking beautiful...

EMMA

Hey, sexy.

LELAND

Hey, beautiful.

She goes to hug and kiss him...

LELAND (CONT'D)

We shouldn't be outside.

He pulls her inside. She watches him with a dead pan as he nervously surveys the yard. He shuts the door and turns to her waiting with a sarcastic smile...

EMMA

What's going on?

He leads her to the living room entryway, making sure her back is to it...

LELAND

Okay. There's something in the living room, I just want you to be prepared--

EMMA

What are you talking about?

She tries to look, thinking it's a joke--

LELAND

Don't freak out. There's a guy on the couch. He's been stabbed.

He lets her see and her smile disappears. Kevin and Norm join them. She looks to them for answers, trying to formulate a question...

KEVIN

Are *you* actually *speechless*?

INT. NORM'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Football is resting on the bed. Norm stands by the window, while the rest of them surround the football with flashlights.

EMMA

It certainly looks real.

KEVIN

Compared to the dozens of times
you've seen this sort of thing--

EMMA

No, I mean it looks very authentic.

NORM

(annoyed)

My bloodied neighbor on my couch
looks authentic, too.

EMMA

Norm, that's not what I'm-- I'm not
doubting you.

LELAND

Who even knows what the football
looks like.

EMMA

Exactly.

KEVIN

Or if it even exists.

Norm joins them by the bed...

NORM

I didn't say it was the Football.
YOU guys said it was the Football.

KEVIN

Whatever. It's our MacGuffin. We
still have to do something about
it.

EMMA

And we can't go to the police.
So...

LELAND

That leaves David.

EMMA

(smiling)

Did he tell you to call him that?

LELAND

He did indeed.

EMMA

Wow! That's awesome. He must really like you.

KEVIN

Can he do anything? Contacts or what not?

LELAND

We were thinking FBI?

EMMA

Um...He's not a, like, spy or whatever. He's a TV reporter.

LELAND

Which would mean he knows people? Say he had to talk to someone in the FBI?

EMMA

This is what you've come up with? My Dad?

NORM

(snarky)

If you've got better ideas, I'd love to hear them.

Emma looks at Norm with a furrowed brow.

KEVIN

Can you call him?

Suicidal Tendancies' "I Saw Your Mommy" comes from Norm's pocket. He pulls his cell phone out, silences it and tosses it on the bed.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I really hope she never hears that.

NORM

Whatever.

LELAND

You just gonna ignore that?

NORM

It's their Vegas weekend. She's just checking in so she can feel like she's done her motherly duties for the evening. Now she and Dad can freely engage in their debauched lives.

He gets up and slunks to the door...

NORM (CONT'D)

Can you call your Dad, Emma?

EMMA

He's on assignment somewhere. I wasn't expecting him back until tomorrow. But yeah, I'll see what's what. Where are you going?

NORM

Check on Gus.

The others follow him out.

EMMA

The guy's name is *Gus*?

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Norm checks Gus' dressing...

NORM

Looks like the bleeding has stopped.

EMMA

Looks like someone paid attention in Health Class.

KEVIN

When did they teach this stuff in Health Class?!

LELAND

Baby, you probably want to call Denise and tell her we can't make it.

KEVIN

Probably meaning, definitely.

EMMA

Are you kidding? This is way more exciting than a house party.

(to Norm)

Exciting stuff happens around you, huh?

NORM

That supposed to be funny, Emma.

Emma's smile drifts away.

EMMA

I wasn't trying to be funny--

RIIINNNGGGG!!!! RIIINNNGGGG!!!!!!-- jolts everyone into a panic. Gus's phone is going off. Norm searches through Gus' pockets, chasing the sound. He pulls out Gus's cellphone...

NORM

Should I answer it?

KEVIN

No.

LELAND

No, you definitely should.

He looks at the caller ID-- "Claire"...

NORM

It's Claire.

LELAND

Who's Claire?

NORM

I don't know!

EMMA

Are you gonna answer it?

He hits the answer prompt...

NORM

(into phone)
Hello?

CLAIRE (IN PHONE)

(beat, huffy)
The United States government does not negotiate with terrorists, so if your planning to trade our man for the device--

NORM

No, wait. I'm not a terrorist.

CLAIRE

Who are you?

NORM

Norman.

CLAIRE

(sighing)

Norman what?

NORM

Norman Ramos.

CLAIRE

Last four digits of your social security.

NORM

(to the others)

She wants my social security.

CLAIRE

No I want the last four digits. How about listening?

KEVIN

Is Gus involved in credit scams?

NORM

(into phone)

Five, seven, two, six.

Claire is silent, just the sounds of typing...

CLAIRE

(beat, typing)

You gotta be kidding. How did you get this phone? Where is the owner of this phone?

NORM

(beat)

Which one should I start with--

CLAIRE

The owner of this phone!

NORM

He's on my couch. He's hurt.

CLAIRE

How badly?

KEVIN

Who are you talking to?

Norm shrugs.

NORM

Um, pulse is weak, but he's breathing. He's got an abdominal wound.

CLAIRE

Guess someone paid attention in health class.

EMMA

What's she saying?

Norm looks at the phone.

NORM

I don't know how to put this on speaker.

CLAIRE

Who's there with you?

NORM

Just my friends.

CLAIRE

Names?

NORM

Their names?

CLAIRE

What do you call these people?!

NORM

Um... Leland Harvey, Kevin Stanley, Emma Kamensky.

KEVIN

You just gave her our names.

LELAND

Norm, who does she work for?

NORM

Yeah, who do you work for?

KEVIN

We work for Homeland Security. Relax. I'm simply confirming what I already know.

(typing sounds, huffy)

Are there really no adults around?

NORM

No.

CLAIRE

Okay. Fine. The device is on the premises--

NORM

Device. Yeah, what is it?

CLAIRE

I need you to not do a damn thing until my team gets there. I want things to stay exactly as they are right now. Don't move anything, don't talk to anyone. You don't have to do a thing. Can I trust you not to screw that up? I've got a team on the way to extract the device and our agent. Sit tight for about thirty-five minutes.

The DOORBELL goes off--

NORM

Any chance they could be early?

CLAIRE

No. What did I just say? Wait, why?

INT. NORM'S HOUSE/FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Emma is at the peephole...

EMMA'S POV: FISH-EYED THROUGH PEEPHOLE: JENNIFER JORDAN, 13ish, pretty. She holds a dog leash with no dog. She looks to be on the verge of tears...

EMMA

A friend of yours, Norm?

She knocks. Leland takes a look...

LELAND

She selling girl scout cookies?
What the fuck?

CLAIRE

Are you already screwing this up?!
Did you tell anyone about this?

NORM

No!

CLAIRE

Let me make this clear if I haven't already. This is a matter of national security. I suggest you start taking this seriously unless federal penitentiary sounds pleasing. Tell no one about this. Not even the police. The Police force has been compromised.

NORM

Alright. We wait for the team.

CLAIRE

Very good. That's literally all you have to do.

Kevin checks the peephole...

KEVIN

Dude, she's crying.

Norm realizes Claire has hung up...

NORM

Uhh, she's sending a team? Thirty-five minutes out.

KEVIN

Okay. And now this?

Norm goes to the peephole, looks...

NORM

I don't recognize her.

LELAND

See what she wants and get her out of here.

EMMA

She looks really upset.

Emma opens the door. Jennifer wipes a tear away.

JENNIFER

Hi. I'm so sorry to bother you. I'm lost.

NORM

You're lost?

JENNIFER

I know. I'm an idiot. We just moved here last week. I went out after my dog. You haven't seen him, have you? Little beagle? Answers to Charlie?

LELAND

We haven't. No.

JENNIFER

Are they strict about this sort of thing? He's just a baby.

(crying)

He's not trained yet. You haven't seen animal control have you?

LELAND

Nope. Not yet anyway. I'm sure he's okay.

EMMA

Dogs are good at finding their way home. Don't worry.

NORM

Where do you live?

JENNIFER

Hopkins. I was in such a hurry to find Charlie that I left my cell phone at the house. I hate to be a bother but could I maybe use your phone so I can call my parents? I'll give you some money for the call.

KEVIN

Don't be silly, you can use my phone.

He hands it to her.

JENNIFER

If I could use your rest room too--

Norm shoots a wide eyed look at everyone...

NORM

Our bathroom is out of order.

They look at him sideways...

NORM (CONT'D)
Plumbing burst. Toilet overflows
into the tub.

LELAND
(beat)
Yup. Awful.

JENNIFER
That's terrible.
(re: power)
On top of this. Where do you go?

KEVIN
We don't really.

He gets a look...

KEVIN (CONT'D)
We're fasting for-- Ramadan, so not
really drinking--

NORM
We just kind of go out in the yard
for now.

Jennifer raises an eyebrow and looks at Emma.

EMMA
Oh, I don't live here.

Jennifer's confusion gives way to bawling loudly on the front
steps...

JENNIFER
I'm so sorry. It's just been such a
bad night. Bad week. Is everyone in
this town so mean?

Emma turns to Leland with sad puppy eyes while Jennifer
collapses on the stairs, head in her hands. They huddle up...

NORM
She's gonna notice Gus. Or one of
the myriad of other things we won't
be able to explain.

EMMA
It's pitch black in here. She won't
notice anything.

NORM

I just got an earful from Claire about federal penitentiary if this gets screwed up. Letting her in here can screw this up in a heartbeat.

KEVIN

(beat)

Then I guess we move up to felony kidnapping.

He gets yet another look...

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Until the team gets here, at least. You got any other ideas, please--

EMMA

It will be fine. We're making this a bigger deal than it is. Right now, she's kind of making a scene. Neighbors are gonna start wondering why there's a crying tween on your steps.

LELAND

Right. Fine. Just get her in, let her do her thing, and get her out.

Norm grimaces, they brake huddle...

NORM

(to Jennifer)

Alright. Come in. Use the bathroom.

JENNIFER

I thought--

NORM

Yeah, bad joke.

Jennifer comes in, sniffing, clutching Kevin's phone and the leash like security blankets...

JENNIFER

Oh, you guys are so nice. I promise I won't be long. My name's Jennifer Jordan. My friends call me J.J.

They start guiding her down the dark hall, blocking her view of the darkened living room...

EMMA

I'm Emma. That's Leland, Kevin and the skulking guy over there is Norm. Did you just move here?

JENNIFER

Two weeks ago. I thought things were going so well I met this boy Brian he's so cute and so nice and I thought he really liked me. But he was just making his girlfriend jealous with me.

EMMA

Oh, that's terrible.

They guide Jennifer into the kitchen...

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JENNIFER

She's friends with like everyone, everyone in the whole class and school and now everyone hates me. I didn't even do anything.

KEVIN

(impatient)

Man, that sucks. So, you need to call your parents?

JENNIFER

Huh? Oh, yeah.

(re: cell phone)

Thank you. Oooh, I love those candles.

Norm watches her closely, making a note of everything she does, everywhere she looks...

NORM

Bathroom's right up this hall on your left when you're ready.

JENNIFER

Thank you. So much. You guys are being so good to me you're so nice.

EMMA

Can I get you something to drink?

She finishes dialing.

JENNIFER
No. I'm fine. Thank you.

Kevin tries to angle himself in front of the blood prints on the window pane, just in case they can be seen in the candle light...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hi, Mom...I know, I left it on the table. I'm sorry...I haven't seen him.
(welling up)
I have no idea where I am. This nice boy is letting me use his phone...

Kevin looks across the way-- the moonlight is seemingly shining a spotlight on the broken window next door. He fidgets nervously...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
I'm in their house. Him and his two nice friends and his girl friend ...could you come...okay...
(to the others)
What's the address, here?

Jennifer turns quickly, causing her jacket to ride up, Norm glances...

NORM'S SLO-MO POV of a big "tramp stamp" on Jennifer's lower back...

Norm eyes it quizzically...

EMMA
28 Dunster.

JENNIFER
(into phone)
28 Dunster...okay...okay I'll see you soon. Love you.

Kevin gets his phone back with a gracious nod from J.J.

NORM
So what grade are you in, Jennifer?

JENNIFER
Seventh.

NORM
Really...

LELAND
Can I take your coat?

JENNIFER
No, that's okay.

Norm starts watching her closer, something comes over him...

NORM
That reminds me. Kevin, you still
want to borrow that movie?

KEVIN
What movie?

NORM
Uh...Twilight?

KEVIN
No!

NORM
Don't be silly.

He starts for the hallway, drawing puzzled looks from
everyone...

JENNIFER
So what grades are you in--

Her train of thought is broken as she homes in on the window.
Kevin does the same and tenses right up. Like a chain
reaction they all turn to see a flashlight beam bouncing
around in Grant's house...

EMMA
Holy shit.

JENNIFER
What's wrong?

EMMA
Just...the neighbors...

KEVIN
We thought they weren't home.

JENNIFER
Oh? They're on vacation?

The three exchange alarmed looks.

LELAND
Something like that. Yeah.

Kevin starts blowing out candles, as inconspicuously as possible.

JENNIFER
Is someone breaking in?

LELAND
No. They're probably home early.

She watches Kevin blow out another candle...

JENNIFER
What's going on? You guys are scaring me.

She moves closer to the window for a better look.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Is everything alright?

Her eyes drift down to the blood dots on the window pane. Her eyes go wide. Emma notices...

EMMA
Um,...it's not what you think.

Jennifer suddenly ages about ten years, the tween demeanor giving way to a grown woman (SPOILER ALERT) Alison Lohman/Matchstick Men style (END SPOILERS)...

JENNIFER
You guys have it. He left it here.

Jennifer slowly pulls out a silenced GLOCK. Everyone freezes.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Did he leave it here?

KEVIN
What?

JENNIFER
Let's not play this game. If you hand it over, no one will get hurt.

KEVIN
Who are you?

JENNIFER
Listen, those people next door are with me. And I have a team en route here as we speak. All we want is the case. This can be painless.

EMMA

You bitch. We were trying to help you.

JENNIFER

Give us some credit, honey. We were going to take this house whether you let me in or not. This way is preferred. Less messy. And if we can forego the whole hostages and waiting game, we'll be in great shape. You can just go about your lives. Just hand it over.

No one says a word or even moves.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

The next phase of this is I kneecap one of you. Someone starts talking now.

The three of them jolt as if struck by lightning when they look past Jennifer. Behind her, in the shadows is Norm-- Football now cuffed firmly to his wrist, GUN pointed at Jennifer, every ounce of concentration devoted to keeping his hand from shaking...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Think this through, kid. You're not a killer.

NORM

I don't need to kill you. I hear a bullet in the stomach is very unpleasant--

JENNIFER

Which one of your friends wants to find out?

NORM

Why haven't you done that already, then?

KEVIN

(quietly)

What the fuck, Norm.

JENNIFER

My boss would prefer that I not murder babies. But I'll do what's necessary.

She reaches in her sleeve and pulls up a cable with a universal connector. She keeps her eyes on Norm...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
You don't hold any cards here.
(to Kevin)
Kevin, is it?

KEVIN
What is that?

She opens her coat, revealing some sort of SIM CARD READER.

JENNIFER
I've stolen your cell phone information. If I have to, I can redirect my team to visit each and every contact on this list.

Horror drenches over Kevin...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
(to Norm)
All we need now is you, since you were dumb enough to attach yourself to the item.

EMMA
Norm, don't!

JENNIFER
You have my word you won't be harmed, Norman. We'll just take the case. Think about your friends' safety. Don't be stupid.

NORM
(beat)
Everyone, come to me.

JENNIFER
They're not going anywhere.

KEVIN
Norm, just give it to her!

LELAND
It's attached to him!

EMMA
Norm, don't do it.

Norm's eyes dart back and forth, panicked. Jennifer's eyes lock on Norm's gun, as the light from candle's flame bounces across it...

JENNIFER

Is that a pellet--

Without thinking, Norm extends his arm, pulls the trigger-- POP! Jennifer screams and grabs her eye...

NORM

Come on!

Kevin grabs a Jesus Candle and smashes it against her skull, showering hot wax all over. She stumbles over onto her back, unconscious, as everyone runs for the door...

NORM (CONT'D)

Wait! We can't leave him here!

LELAND

Norm we gotta go!

NORM

Leland...They'll kill him.

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Emma is gingerly tying Jennifer's hands on the floor with a power cord. Behind her, Norm carries Gus' shoulders, Kevin his feet and Leland supports his back. The Football rests on Gus' chest.

LELAND

There's gotta be any easier way to carry him.

KEVIN

Says the guy supporting the least amount of weight.

Emma jumps up to grab the door for them...

EXT. NORM'S HOUSE/BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The boys quickly get Gus out the back door onto a wooden deck. Emma doubles back quickly to gently close the door, TWACK!, a pane of glass shatters, raining glass bits on her. The boys freeze. Just as the door opens and Jennifer shows her face-- CRACK! Emma winds up with everything she has and knocks out a few teeth.

Jennifer drops like a ton of bricks, a little WALTHER PPK in her hand. Emma grabs her hand, wincing in pain.

EMMA

Ahhaha! I think I broke something!

The boys stop, slack jawed. Jennifer is out cold...

LELAND

Um, Emma's car?

KEVIN

Right.

They adjust the weight as they start around the house-- LIGHTS brush past-- headlights on a car that just pulled up out front...

NORM

Over the fence.

They lumber with Gus over to the backyard fence and try to lift him over but their muscles are spent. Emma joins them, her hand beginning to swell up. Norm looks over at Grant's office window, a SHADOW is lurking about in the darkness...

NORM (CONT'D)

Guys?

Panic and adrenaline take hold and all four of them push with all their might. Gus rolls over the top of the fence and lands with a sickening thud.

NORM (CONT'D)

Shit.

KEVIN

We're worried about *them* killing him?

LELAND

Alright, just go.

They boost Emma up over the fence first, then Kevin then Leland. Norm leaps hard, grabs the top of the fence and struggles to pull himself up. The Football falls over the other side and yanks his wrist. He bites hard on his cry of pain...

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - SAME TIME

Leland jumps up, grabs the fence, grabs Norm. Kevin gets under Leland to support his feet.

EXT. NORM'S HOUSE/BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Norm's feet kick at the fence, trying to get some sort of foothold. Leland snatches at Norm's clothes, getting ahold of his belt-- the SOUNDS OF CAR DOORS being shut echo from the front of the house. Norm looks back, wild eyed. Leland pulls Norm's belt, the top of the fence digging into both of them, and yanks him hard. They tumble over...

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - SAME TIME

Kevin and Emma do the best they can to catch them and end up part of the pile. They lay for a second, exhausted and out of breath. The Neighborhood for as far as we can see is dark. Norm crawls over and checks Gus...

LELAND

(to Kevin)

I'll grab his shoulders this time.

Norm grabs Gus' feet, Emma gets beside him to help...

NORM

(short)

I got it.

Leland gets his arms under Gus' shoulders. They make their way across the neighbor's yard...

EXT. THE STREET - CONTINUOUS

...into the street-- the front door of the house whose yard they just crossed opens. They immediately duck behind a parked car on the opposite side of the street. They place Gus down for a breather. Kevin stares in horror at his phone...

KEVIN

Shit...Norm, we could have just given it to her.

EMMA

It's not ours to give her.

LELAND

Calm down, Kev. You've got that friends and family thing, right? That's what, us and the family?

KEVIN

(indignant)

And work.

Leland gives him a dismissive stare...

LELAND
Is everyone alright?

Everyone nods in the affirmative...

LELAND (CONT'D)
Okay. Kevin, just call your parents
and get them out of the house.
(to the rest)
How's it looking?

A quick check and the coast appears to be clear...

NORM
I think we're good.

Leland and Norm heft Gus onto their shoulders and drag him up the street, Emma on look out, Kevin dialing his phone, doing his best to block the light with his hands...

KEVIN
Yeah, man. Just call them. It's so simple. Tell MY crazy Mom that she needs to leave the house?

EMMA
If we don't want to involve the police we probably shouldn't be running around in the dark with a body.

NORM
We can't just leave him.

EMMA
Well what exactly is the plan, here?

Kevin winces, as his call is connected...

INT. STANLEY'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Kevin's father, MARTIN STANLEY, 40's, soccer dad, picks up the house phone...

MARTIN
Hello?

KEVIN (IN PHONE)
(hushed)
Hi, Dad. How is everything?

MARTIN

(beat)
It's going okay. Why are you
whispering?

KEVIN

Okay. I need you to listen to me.
It's going to sound crazy. Don't
freak out.

MARTIN

Kevin?

EXT. THE STREET - CONTINUED

KEVIN

(into phone)
You need to get Mom and Zelda out
of the house. Like now...

Kevin's phone conversation trails off...Norm and Leland are
gassed and sweaty...

LELAND

Norm...

NORM

I know.
(beat)
The Sullivans are away. We can
leave him in their yard. He
shouldn't be bothered. Right?

EMMA

As in Todd Sullivan? Can you guys
make it?

NORM

It's not that far. I've been
feeding their cats.

EMMA

Norm? How did you know about
Jennifer?

NORM

Um, she had a tramp stamp? In the
seventh grade?

EMMA

(beat, smiling)
That was badass, Normie.

Norm responds with a brief sideways glare.

LELAND

Sheila Davis had a tramp stamp in the seventh grade.

EMMA

And a kid in the eleventh. What's your point?

Kevin's phone call get's heated...

KEVIN

(into phone)

No Dad. I'm telling you. Do not call the police.

INT. STANLEY'S KITCHEN - CONTINUED

MARTIN

Well then tell me where you are. Those are the only options on the table here.

KEVIN (IN PHONE)

You don't believe me?

MARTIN

Kevin, you call me up to tell me you just got attacked by terrorists trying to get the Presidential Football--

KEVIN

I know. I know. I told you it's crazy.

MARTIN

It's a lot to process, don't you think? I don't know what's going on here but if you're in trouble, this is what we're going to do. I really think I'm being well beyond reasonable here, Kevin.

EXT. THE STREET - CONTINUED

MARTIN (IN PHONE)

Where are you going to be?

Kevin turns to the others.

KEVIN
Guys, where are we going?

LELAND
We're going to leave Gus in the
Sullivan's yard.

KEVIN
My Dad wants to meet us somewhere.
He can't meet us there.

EMMA
He's meeting us?

Kevin stares incredulously at them, waiting...waiting...

KEVIN
(sighing, into phone)
Denise Holloway's.

MARTIN (IN PHONE)
Denise? That girl you were talking
about?

KEVIN
(beat)
Yeah.

LELAND
Alright let's just go. Todd
Sullivan's then Denise's.

NORM
It's quicker if we cut through.

EXT. UNKNOWN NEIGHBOR'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

They carry Gus up the front yard as quietly as possible. They make it to the back yard without issue. As they near the back yard fence, Kevin hangs up his phone and joins the fun.

EMMA
Can she get the GPS from your
phone? Track us?

NORM
Probably.

KEVIN
Shut up, Emma.

EMMA
You shut up.

The fence is mercifully shorter. Leland and Emma hop first, Norm and Kevin gently pass Gus over and follow...

EXT. NEXT YARD (BEYOND THE FENCE) - CONTINUOUS

As they quickly make their way through the adjoining yard, the sounds of an engine grows louder...

KEVIN

Car!

Looking frantically for cover in the yard, they find none. Just a wooded area across the street...

NORM

The woods! The woods!

Working on sheer adrenaline, they hoist Gus up high and sprint...

EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

...into the woods across the street and drop like bricks, just as the headlights of the approaching vehicle light up the area. Through the trees and shrubs they watch the car, a POLICE SQUAD CAR, as it rolls past.

EMMA

Are they looking for us?

NORM

No spotlight. That's a good sign.

I/E. SQUAD CAR - SAME TIME

Behind the wheel is OFFICER HILL, alpha male type who became a cop to legally bully. Beside him is OFFICER CHURCHILL, a young woman with an icy stare. They seem to be up to no good...

EXT. THE SULLIVAN'S - MOMENTS LATER

A cutesy "The Sullivan Family" sign by the front door can be seen in the dim light. The exhausted kids are making their way into the front yard.

EXT. SULLIVAN'S BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

They stop in front of a swing set in the middle of the lawn and place Gus down. All four of them collapse...

KEVIN

That mutherfucker's heavy.

LELAND

(sarcasm drenched)

Denise's house? Good call, by the way.

KEVIN

Right, because you guys were all about thinking on your toes right then. I figured it would be safer to go where there's a lot of people.

LELAND

(indignant)

Yeah, safer in that there's more people to shoot at.

EMMA

(to Norm)

Can you call Claire again?

KEVIN

Yeah, call Claire. Wait, how do we know Claire didn't send Jennifer?

NORM

I-- I don't think so.

KEVIN

Based on what?

Norm is to spent to argue. He takes a look at the swing set before them. A ladder leads up to a platform with a canvas "treehouse". They band together and hoist Gus up and into it. His legs dangle over the opposite side at the knees. Norm and Emma climb up to check on him...

NORM

I got this.

EMMA

Calm down, I'm just checking his vitals.

NORM
You know how to check vitals, now?
Cause they do it on Grey's Anatomy?

She smiles at the joke, until she sees he's not smiling. Emma tries to shrug it off, but it's starting to wear. Norm takes Gus' phone, hits the screen...

NORM (CONT'D)
(re: phone)
Crap...

CLOSE ON PHONE: a password prompt is displayed...

EMMA
What's wrong?

NORM
It's locked. We need the password.

Kevin pops in.

KEVIN
What's the hold up? We just had
another cop car pass by.

Norm shoots a perplexed look at Emma.

NORM
Four digits. Ten choices put
digit...

EMMA
(sighing)
That's a lot of choices. Take it
anyway. She'll be calling us on
that phone, right? If she even
calls?

He nods. They start to climb down. He stops and leaves his personal phone with Gus.

KEVIN
In case he wants to get together
sometime?

NORM
I can't leave him without a phone.

They climb out and make their way back to the front yard...

EXT. SULLIVAN'S - CONTINUOUS

KEVIN

Wait. Norm did you put it on
vibrate--shit!

Everyone flattens against the side of the house as a cruiser
passes by-- spotlight just missing them...

LELAND

That's a bad sign, right? The
spotlight?

EMMA

We should get to Denise's

NORM

And yes, Kevin. I put it on vibrate-

-

A FLASHLIGHT hits them-- They all jump a mile. The flashlight
drops. Behind it is MR. BEATTY, 50's, shlubby Carl Winslow
type.

EMMA

Mr. Beatty?

BEATTY

Who is that? Is that you Kamensky?

EMMA

It's Emma. Yes.

He shines the light around at everyone.

BEATTY

And we've got Harvey, Stanley and
Ramos. What are you doing out here
at this ungodly hour?

LELAND

Ungodly hour? It's nine.

BEATTY

People are asleep at this hour, Mr.
Harvey.

LELAND

On a Friday?

Beatty gives him an intimidating teacher look.

EMMA

Sorry. We're just going to our friend's house.

BEATTY

Well use the street like the rest of civilised society. What is this drudging through back yards?

NORM

I was feeding the cats. Come on guys. We're going to be late.

Norm starts to walk away. Beatty looks closely at their disheveled, sweaty appearances, then at Emma's bloody, swollen hand...

BEATTY

What happened to you, Emma?

Everyone stops...

BEATTY (CONT'D)

Are you the reason we have all these police buzzing around?

EMMA

It's nothing. I got mad and I punched the wall.

BEATTY

What?

NORM

Guys? We don't have time for this.

BEATTY

Now hold on, Ramos. In some places you'd get shot for trespassing in the wrong yards.

NORM

(barely contained)

Are you serious? In what-- I was feeding...the Sullivan's...cats.

Norm starts walking...

BEATTY

Now wait just a minute, Ramos. I'm not done with you--

Norm pivots and beelines at Beatty, beginning to lose it. The others go into emergency mode...

NORM

This isn't even your yard, Mr. Beatty. You have no business with us.

BEATTY

You're trespassing.

NORM

You know I've been feeding their cats! You've seen me do it twice in the past three days!

BEATTY

Have you been drinking, Ramos?

NORM

My name is Norman or Norm! And whether or not I've been drinking it really none of our damn business is it?!

EMMA

Norm...

She pulls at him, but the stress has gotten to him...

NORM

No. Why don't you back the fuck off, Beatty?! This is my neighborhood! I live here! The Sullivan's are fine with me! Everyone is except you!

KEVIN

Norm, calm down.
(to Beatty)
We're leaving. It's all--

BEATTY

Who do think you're talking to?!

NORM

We're not in class! We're not even on school grounds! We're out of your jurisdiction!

Emma starts pushing Norm along...

LELAND

Mr. Beatty, it's been a rough night-

-

BEATTY

This is MY neighborhood! I own property! That makes it my jurisdiction, you little shit!

NORM

Oh, go back in your house, tough guy, before you do something else you'll regret.

EMMA

Norm!

BEATTY

You're a little punk, Ramos! Always have been! What do you say we get the cops down here!

LELAND

That's not necessary, Mr. Beatty.

Emma springs into action, turning on the feminine wiles as Leland begins forcefully pushing Norm away...

EMMA

Sorry, Mr. Beatty. We're not trying to cause trouble. We're just gonna go to our friend's and chill out. We could all use it after today.

BEATTY

What are you talking about?

LELAND AND NORM - SAME TIME

Leland gives Norm a shove...

LELAND

What the hell are you doing?! Do you WANT him to call the cops?

Kevin gets in between them. Norm is welling up...

NORM

That fucker's always had it in for me! What's his fucking problem?! I've never done a thing to him! I hope he fucking dies! I was just waiting for him to find a way into this--

KEVIN

Not a good time to do this, man!

LELAND

Do you need to be reminded what's at stake here? Look at your fucking wrist.

(beat)

I get it. Mr. Beatty is a fucking prick. Everyone in the school knows that. But, yeah, this is the wrong night to get into it with him.

Leland grabs him by the neck and pulls him in...

LELAND (CONT'D)

Come on. Calm down. We need you having a clear head here.

EMMA AND BEATTY - SAME TIME

BEATTY

They always seemed so happy.

EMMA

I know. I have seen some things over the years, though...Outward appearances are deceiving, I guess. The last thing Norm needs is a night in jail. Please? For me?

Beatty smiles...

BEATTY

Okay. Just get to where you're going and stop causing trouble.

EMMA

Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Beatty.

EXT. SUPERMARKET REAR - MOMENTS LATER

The young people walk along the rear loading docks and dumpsters of a Trader Joes type supermarket, the mood tense. Norm, wiping away tears that got away, stops and gets in Emma's face...

NORM

Where do you get off telling him, of all people, about my family?

EMMA

You put us all in a position-- I had to say something--

NORM

It's no one else's business, Emma!
"No one" includes you!

She noticeably flinches at those words...

EMMA

(beat)

Norm, you're out of line. You made
the situation worse. I had to fix
it.

Norm walks away.

NORM

Whatever, Emma.

Emma stops for a minute, thinking it through...

EMMA

Norm? I'm sorry.

Norm walks on up ahead, saying nothing...

EMMA (CONT'D)

What is his problem?

LELAND

He and Beatty have a history. I
still remember lunch in the seventh
grade where he gave Norm a sneaky
little back hand to the head.
Denied the whole thing of course.

EMMA

Everyone knows Beatty's a prick.
I'm talking about with me. Why's he
being so bitchy with me?

Kevin runs up.

KEVIN

Emma, can you try your dad again?

EMMA

I can give it a shot.

Emma pulls out her phone, dials...

EMMA (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Dad, it's Emma. Call me as soon as
you get this. It's an emergency.

She hangs up.

KEVIN

We should probably also call Denise
and warn her what's coming.

I/E. DENISE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Pretty DENISE HOLLOWAY, in a fun party dress, opens the door.
Party SOUNDS, and merriment surround her...

DENISE

Okay, so what's-- Holy shit! What
happened to you?!

She ushers everyone inside, absent-mindedly reaching for
Emma's hand...

DENISE (CONT'D)

That looks like it really hurts--

EMMA

Ahh! What are you doing?!

DENISE

Okay! Sorry! Let's get upstairs. My
room.

Emma begins the charge upstairs. Kevin is the last one in.
Denise gets rigid and giggly...

DENISE (CONT'D)

Kevin! Hey! I'm glad you could make
it.

KEVIN

Me too.

They awkwardly climb the stairs, accidentally touching.

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON: PRESIDENTIAL SEAL as Norm places a smiley face
sticker over it. It's only big enough to cover the "eagle"
leaving the "Seal of the President..." part exposed.

NORM

Uh...It kind of works.

Denise is busy wrapping Emma's hand in an Ace bandage.

DENISE
Are you using my smiley faces? I
need those for day care.

Leland takes a look at the Seal...

LELAND
Do you have any bigger ones?

DENISE
No, I need those.

NORM
Do you have any old gym bags or
anything?

DENISE
There might be some in the closet.
Go nuts.

Norm goes to the closet, pulls out a BRATZ gymbag.

DENISE (CONT'D)
What are you doing with it?

NORM
Just going to disguise the case. So
no one gets curious.

KEVIN
Actually, you walking around with a
Bratz gymbag might make--

DENISE
What do you mean, walking around?

EMMA
I figured we'd go party, blend in.

DENISE
Emma...

EMMA
What's the big deal?

DENISE
I'm responsible if something
happens here. And Denny will shoot
me.

EMMA
Your brother's friends are more
dangerous than any terrorist.

Denise finishes wrapping Emma's hand, puts the clips on...

DENISE

There.

KEVIN

Well, that looks downright professional.

DENISE

Oh! Thank you. Left over from playing Nellie Forbush I guess.

KEVIN

Wait, Nellie-- Oh, yeah! Sixth grade, South Pacific! I still remember that. You were great!

DENISE

(blushing slightly)

Thank you!

She touches his arm as she says it, both notice...

LELAND

By the way, Babe? When you knocked out that deadly, trained assassin with one punch? Hot.

He and Emma kiss. Kevin watches as Norm looks away, trying to ignore it.

KEVIN

Hey, I softened her up with the Jesus candle. And Norm, with the crack shot...

EMMA

No shit. How did you get so good with that thing?

NORM

I'm not. It was a lucky shot.

EMMA

One in a million.

She winks at him, he looks away with a barely hidden wince. Kevin grabs a picture off of Denise's dresser...

CLOSE ON PICTURE: a fourth grade class trip photo at a zoo. LITTLE DENISE is standing next to her MOM, both having a great time. In the back row is YOUNG KEVIN with long blonde hair, wearing a smart-ass, mocking expression on his face.

KEVIN
I remember this trip! Wow!

DENISE
Yeah. I love that picture. Mom and I are cute, aren't we?

KEVIN
Well...The daughter certainly is.

LELAND
Oh my God, dude! She's like ten!

Kevin's eyes nearly bug out in Leland's direction...

DENISE
I know! You perv!

KEVIN
No! That's-- that's not what I-- meant. I mean now.

Emma's phone rings, she takes it into the bathroom. Kevin is beat red, even though Denise is beaming in his direction...

DENISE
I'm kidding, Kev. That was very sweet. Try it again.

KEVIN
What do you mean?

DENISE
It was sweet. Say it again.

KEVIN
Um,...The daughter is cute--

DENISE
You perv!

Leland bursts out laughing. Denise gives Kevin a playful shoulder shove.

KEVIN
That's entrapment. Dirty!

She takes the picture, drawing him closer...

DENISE
My favorite thing about this picture is the flowing mane on you.

KEVIN
My metal faze.

DENISE
Yeah. You had that little boom box
on the bus. Aldo Nova.

KEVIN
Yeah! That sounds about right. How
did you remember that?

DENISE
I got the CD that weekend.

Goey smiles are exchanged between them. Emma emerges from
the bathroom...

EMMA
Okay. My dad is on his way here.
And yes, he actually has an FBI
contact. Who knew. He'll get back
to me.

DENISE
Your dad is coming here?

EMMA
Yeah. What's the problem?--

DENISE
What's the problem? I'm trying to
throw a party here--

EMMA
The sooner we work this out, the
sooner we can get this thing out of
here.

KEVIN
Um, Denise?
(wincing)
My Dad's coming here too.

Denise's shoulders drop.

DENISE
Oh, come on.

KEVIN
He's not gonna care. He's cool
about these things. I promise.

LELAND

You called him a ball-breaking
asshead, earlier.

Kevin turns his way, violently. Leland raises his hands in a playfully conceding fashion.

DENISE

This will be the last time my
brother lets me go in on a party
with him. So enjoy it, Emma.
Nothing says adolescent fun like
parents and terrorists--

EMMA

Honey, I can't tell you how much I
appreciate this. I'll owe you.

DENISE

Yes you will.

KEVIN

We just need a place to be out of
sight until the FBI comes and gets
this. And it's a crowded place. I
don't think they'll try anything--

DENISE

Who?!

Kevin starts to answer, a look from Leland stop him cold...

EMMA

Hypothetical "they". This will all
be over before you even know it.
(re: her hand)
This really does look good, Denise.

DENISE

Whatever.

LELAND

Does it hurt.

EMMA

Yes.
(to Norm)
See what I'll go through for you
Norm?

Norm looks at her briefly, then realizes he's damn near squeezing the life out of the briefcase handle. He gets up and abruptly leaves, muttering...

EMMA (CONT'D)

What was that?

LELAND

He's just stressed out--

EMMA

No. He's been a complete dick to me all night. What is going on? Why is he so pissed at me?

KEVIN

Okay. You guys need to talk. I'm not even involved and I'm at my wits end.

LELAND

Who?

KEVIN

The three of you. You need to work this shit out.

EMMA

What shit?

KEVIN

You're kidding me, right? Do you really not know? I thought girls were supposed to be perceptive about this stuff--

EMMA

What? What do you mean--

KEVIN

What do I mean? How can I make that any simpler? He's madly in love with you, Emma.

Those words have the effect of a record scratch on the room...

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

A game of quarters is being played on the kitchen table, presided over by Denise's U.S. Marine Corp. older brother DENNY. His mook friend GUY is showing some of the other MOOKS a picture on his IPHONE...

GUY

Isn't that sweet? Nine millimeter Beretta 92. Same gun as Martin Riggs. Looks good on me, eh?

DENNY

That ain't gonna stop some tweaker, come to rob ya. Should've gone 45, like I said. That will stop just about anything.

GUY

A lot of tweakers trying to break in here, Denny?

Norm makes his way slowly towards the back porch, Football hidden in the Bratz gymbag...

DENNY

No. But there's a lot of douche bags getting lippy.
(noticing Norm)
What the fuck? Hey nice bag. Who are you?

Norm turns to face them, gritting his teeth...

NORM

I'm friends with Denise.

SERENA WATTS, geeky, quirky cute, comes to his rescue.

SERENA

He's with me.

DENNY

He's with you?
(to the Mooks)
He's alright, he's alright.

Norm starts towards the door, stopped by a firm grip on his shoulder...

GUY

Hey man.

Guy puts his arm around him and brings him in close...

GUY (CONT'D)

You gonna tap that?

Norm looks confused and uncomfortable.

GUY (CONT'D)

I'm not her father, man. Be honest.
I know no one else is. Be the
first. I've seen her in a bikini.
You wouldn't think it but, damn!
And I bet she's an animal. The
geeky ones always--

Serena comes back and grabs Norm.

SERENA

Guy, leave him alone.

DENNY

Guy, quit being a twat, get back
here and drink up.

She sneers at Guy as he walks away pointing at Norm with both
fingers-- belittling gestures and remarks coming from the
Mooks.

EXT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Blushing and heated, Norm grabs a beer out of the cooler and
tries to twist the top off...

SERENA

You gotta...hold on...

She takes the bottle from him, places it on the rail of the
porch and bangs the top. But it doesn't work.

SERENA (CONT'D)

Well, it's kind of like that, I'm
just not doing it--

NORM

It's okay, Serena. I don't really
need it.

He goes to the corner by himself and leans on the railing
facing away from everyone, fighting tears. Serena approaches
with the now open bottle. Just the two of them and a few
SMOKERS are present.

SERENA

Got it!

The smiles leaves her face...

SERENA (CONT'D)

Norm? You alright?

NORM

It's nothing. I'm alright.

She gets in right next to him, searching for the words...

SERENA

(beat)

Norm, it makes me sad to see such a nice guy always looking so sad.

NORM

I always look sad?

SERENA

Not always...But enough...

NORM

I don't mean to.

SERENA

I know...I just notice it.

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

KEVIN

Emma, I think it's seriously been as long as he's known you. You were the first girl who'd ever actually talked to him. Once you two became official--

LELAND

(frustrated)

Why doesn't he ever speak up?

KEVIN

Because he's Norm, Leland. "What girl in her right mind would like me?" "Why stir the pot?" You know how he thinks.

EMMA

That's crazy.

LELAND

How long was he gonna sit on this?

KEVIN

Until he can't. Until he pops and has a meltdown. We've all seen it. He'll try to keep everything in.

LELAND
And he sucks at it.

Leland stands up...

LELAND (CONT'D)
As if the night wasn't awkward
enough.

KEVIN
What?!-- Don't talk to him now! Are
you baked!?

LELAND
Well then when?--

EMMA
I'll talk to him.

KEVIN
No! He's stressed out enough!

EMMA
Then why did you say anything!?

KEVIN
I don't know anymore!
(beat)
Just leave it until tomorrow or
whatever.

DENISE
Okay! Why don't we all go down and
join the party. We can keep an eye
on things together?

She starts trying to herd them out the door...

LELAND
You had to wait until now?

KEVIN
Because this is the biggest thing
on your plate tonight?! Really?!

Alone, Denise pulls Emma aside...

DENISE
Hey, Emma?

Denise is looking over her outfit...

DENISE (CONT'D)

(hushed)

Do I look too...slutty?...For meeting his Dad?--

EMMA

What? Don't be silly. You look really cute.

Emma starts to leave, Denise follows.

DENISE

Are you sure?

EMMA

(shorter)

You look fine, Denise.

INT. DENISE'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM/MANTLE - SAME TIME

Norm-- a little lighter now, and Serena stand before the fire place. On the mantle are family photos, school photos, pictures of Denise in various plays and a framed photo of Denny in his Marine Dress Blues in the center. Serena holds a framed photo in her hands...

CLOSE ON: a grade school girls soccer team photo-- YOUNG DENISE AND YOUNG SERENA in the back row, arms around each other, Serena with a very boyish hairstyle and glasses...

SERENA (O.C.)

I can't believe my parents used to let me out of the house looking like this.

Norm takes it as she moves on to other photos...

SERENA (CONT'D)

I'll never forget when I ran on the field with my sweat shirt still on and one of the parents yelled, "Hey! This boy still has his sweatshirt on!" Thanks for the emotional scars.

NORM

It doesn't look that bad.

SERENA

You can level. I've got thick skin.

NORM

It really doesn't. Seriously. I was the fat kid in all my soccer pictures. I got accused of hoarding the orange slices once.

Norm senses something and glances to his left--

A PREPPIE GUY on the couch, looking like he's dressed for his first party ever, quickly averts his gaze. Norm averts too. When he looks back, Preppie Guy is gone. Norm searches for him and finds him chatting up a perplexed looking GIRL-- Kevin comes over and blocks his view...

SERENA

Hey, Mr. still-hasn't-copied-his long-suffering-lab-partner's-notes so-she-can-have-them-for--"

KEVIN

I got 'em. They're done. You'll get them back on Monday. I promise.

NORM

Have you ever seen that guy?

Both look. The Girl is busy ragging on the now absent Preppie Guy with her FRIEND...

SERENA

What guy?

NORM

Um...preppy guy? I don't see him right now, but he's been watching me. I think.

KEVIN

There's a lot of people I've never seen here tonight.

SERENA

And there are a lot of preppy guys here tonight.

NORM

This guy just looked...off.

KEVIN

I'm sure it's fine.

He leans in to Norm...

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 Does she know what's going on here?

Norm shakes his head "no"-- as Denise swoops in...

DENISE
 Serena, dear? Can I talk to you for
 a second?

Kevin and Norm start to walk away. Norm steps back and leans
 in to Serena...

NORM
 Thank you. You know, for
 listening...

SERENA
 Oh, no. Anytime. Really.

Norm smiles awkwardly.

SERENA (CONT'D)
 I mean it. Anytime...

She opens her mouth to say more, but doesn't.

NORM
 I'll see you.

SERENA
 Okay.

The boys walk away. Denise smiles at Serena who responds with
 a happy shrug.

INT. DENISE'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM/FOYER - SAME TIME

Martin Stanley is standing in front of the door. A SLOPPY KID
 dressed in a metal shirt walks past. Martin flags him down,
 stumbling over a bunch of field hockey gear by the door...

MARTIN
 Hey, I'm looking for Denise
 Holloway?

SLOPPY
 Nah, man. Don't know her.

MARTIN
 Isn't this her house?

SLOPPY
(walking away)
What?

Norm and Kevin swoop in...

KEVIN
Dad!

SLOPPY (O.C.)
(in distance)
Did someone invite their fucking
father?

MARTIN
Okay. Now what is going on?

Norm lifts his arm and shows him...

MARTIN (CONT'D)
And what is that?

Denise comes over at such a velocity that she stumbles over
them...

DENISE
Hi, Mr. Stanley. I'm Denise. I'm so
sorry about all of this.

MARTIN
Hi, Denise. Nice to finally meet
you.

Kevin nearly face palms. Martin quickly recovers, before
Denise can process it...

MARTIN (CONT'D)
I'm hopefully not staying for long.
Just to get this--

A STONER KID coughs up a lung as he walks by with a joint. He
stops and offers some to Denise, who reacts with horror and
calmly pushes him away...

STONER
(choked)
Ohhhh, fuck, dude. Is that dude a
cop?--

KEVIN
Is there somewhere we can--

DENISE
Yeah let's go upstairs.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Emma and Leland stand in the corner, tension visible...

LELAND

I just wish he had told me. Why would he think he couldn't tell me something like that?

Emma's face hardens...

EMMA

You're acting like it would've changed things. Is that what you're saying?

LELAND

(annoyed)

What? No, that's not what I'm saying.

EMMA

Be honest with me. If Norm had come to you, before you asked me out and said that he liked me, would you still have asked me out?

LELAND

I don't know.

EMMA

You don't know?

LELAND

What are you doing? Why are you turning this around on you?

EMMA

Well, it kind of is about me. It's kind of me who's stuck right in the middle of this.

LELAND

(pausing)

I know. That came out wrong. Look, the last thing we need tonight is to be fighting.

Emma is not satisfied...

LELAND (CONT'D)

Okay, we always tell each other the truth, right?

EMMA

I don't know anymore.

LELAND

Stop it.

EMMA

Don't tell me to stop it. You're basically telling me that this, you and me, the most important thing in my life, wouldn't even be if Norm had told you he liked me. Am I right? Is that what you're saying?

LELAND

Being completely honest? Yeah. I don't think I would have asked you out. It's like a code. Norm is like a brother to me.

EMMA

I guess I'm just wondering what *I* am to you.

LELAND

Are you serious? Babe, come on. I DID ask you out. You and me ARE together. None of that actually happened. You're getting upset over nothing.

EMMA

You know, Leland. I've been in love with YOU since the day we met. When you finally asked me out it was one of the happiest days of my life. It sucks to know it almost didn't happen. But I guess that's just getting upset over nothing.

LELAND

That's not what I said...I don't even know what I said anymore.

She storms off.

EMMA

And fuck your stupid code!

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Norm sits on the bed with the uncovered Football, Denise, Kevin and Martin around him...

KEVIN
You believe me now?

MARTIN
I didn't not believe you, Kevin.

KEVIN
Oh really? So Mom and Zelda? You got them out?

MARTIN
(beat)
Not yet. I gotta call.

KEVIN
See?! I told you it wasn't safe--

MARTIN
And I wasn't going to get your mother all crazy if I didn't have to! Kevin, give me a break. This isn't an everyday thing here.
(to Norm)
This woman who called?

NORM
Hasn't called back.

MARTIN
Emma's dad was going to call the FBI?

DENISE
Yeah. She said he was coming here, too.

MARTIN
I better talk to him.

He dials his phone, puts it to his ear...

MARTIN (CONT'D)
And where are your parents, Norm?

NORM
Vegas.

MARTIN
Well, I think we should call them and let them know what's going on.

NORM
They won't be answering at this point. Drunk, fighting or in jail.

MARTIN
I think they have a right to know--
(into phone)
Hello, David?

INT. DAVID KAMEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Emma's dad, DAVID KAMEN, news anchor handsome, is behind the wheel, on speaker phone...

DAVID
Yes. Martin?

MARTIN (IN PHONE)
Yes. I'm here with the kids.

DAVID
(relieved)
Okay. Fantastic. I'm still a little ways out.

CROSSCUT

MARTIN
Okay. I'm still a little in the dark on what's going on here. They tell me you were in touch with someone in the FBI?

DAVID
Yeah. I have a contact in the bureau. He's en route to Denise's house, but he'll likely get there before me. Would it be possible for you stay with the kids until he gets there?

MARTIN
Way ahead of you.

DAVID
Thank you.

MARTIN
This sounds serious.

DAVID
Well, my contact wouldn't give me any details. But his tone said enough. As soon as we can get the kids out of this, the sooner I'll be able to breathe.

MARTIN

I couldn't agree more. What's the agent's name?

DAVID

Agent Terrance Yardley.

MARTIN

Agent Yardley. Got it.

DAVID

It sounded like he was sending the cavalry.

MARTIN

Fantastic. We'll sit tight until then.

DAVID

Anything changes, I'll be in touch. Martin, thanks again.

MARTIN

Anytime.

He hangs up, looks across the room to see Kevin on his phone, heated conversation in progress...

KEVIN

(into phone)

Mom! Will you stop shouting?!...No, you're shouting! I can't make out anything--

Martin grabs the phone from him.

MARTIN

I said I'd call.

He puts it to his ear and quickly pulls it away, wincing...

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(accusatory)

What did you say to her? I told you not to--

(into phone)

Honey...Honey, listen to me. Listen to me....

KEVIN

(to Denise)

Hey, shouldn't we tell your brother what's going on?

DENISE
He's just gonna give me grief.

KEVIN
He'll probably give you a beating
when the FBI shows up unannounced.

Norm sinks, fatigue starting to set in...

NORM
I'm gonna get some air.

Martin hangs up.

MARTIN
She and Zelda are going to your
aunt's for the night. Okay?

KEVIN
Okay.

MARTIN
Okay. Denise, do you mind having us
for a little while longer?

DENISE
Not at all. You guys can stay as
long as you need. By the way, this
is my brother's party. That really
inappropriate guy downstairs was
one of his friends. I would never--

MARTIN
No need to explain. I was...once
your age.

KEVIN
Thank you for being so cool about
this, Denise.

She smiles at him. Kevin realizes his Dad is in the room.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Why don't we see what everyone is
up to.

DENISE
Okay.

The two get up, Martin follows, suddenly feeling like a fifth
wheel.

EXT. DENISE'S HOUSE/BACKPORCH - SAME TIME

A few SMOKERS hang outside on the porch. Norm, Football in disguise, stands against the railing.

SMOKER

Nice bag.

Norm ignores him.

SMOKER (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's cool. I'm not a person. Asshole.

Emma comes out, looking severe...

EMMA

Can I talk to you?

NORM

About what?

EMMA

About what? How about this attitude you have with me? How long is this going to go on?

Norm turns away.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Norm, look at me.

NORM

I don't want to.

EMMA

Don't be a rude fuck.

NORM

I'm not being a rude fuck!

EMMA

Look at me when I'm talking to you.

He chokes up...

NORM

It hurts to look at you, okay?

The words put her off balance, as much as she thought she was prepared...

EMMA

What do you mean it hurts?

NORM
Just, nevermind, okay?

EMMA
So Kevin was right? You have
feelings for me?

The tears start coming.

NORM
What does that even mean? Yeah, I
have *feelings* for you.

EMMA
How long were you just gonna keep
this to yourself?

NORM
(beat)
I just need some time to deal with
it and get over it.

She goes over to comfort him, but thinks twice about touching
him.

EMMA
Norm...How long have you felt this
way?

NORM
Just leave it alone. Let me deal
with it. You and Leland can be
happy and things won't be all
fucked up between everyone.

EMMA
Norm? How does that help anyone?

NORM
It helps you guys.

EMMA
No it doesn't. I end up sitting
around thinking my friend hates me.

Emma moves in closer.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Why didn't you tell me how you
felt?

NORM

Because I look in the mirror. I know friendship is the only thing I'll get from a girl like you. But now that's fucked up and ruined.

EMMA

How?

NORM

Emma? Just leave it alone. Why tonight, of all nights?

EMMA

Because I didn't know how you felt before.

NORM

And it's not going to change anything.

Norm starts inside...

EMMA

(gentle)

Hey, Norm.

NORM

Please. Just leave it alone.

He disappears inside. She watches him go with a pained expression, alone now. The party SOUNDS give way to the sound of speaking...Emma follows her ears, looking for it's direction. In the yard off to the side, an awkwardly dressed FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT is on his cell having a very lively conversation in Russian. Emma leans in, expression growing more and more alarmed...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Leland and Kevin stand by the mantle, beers in hand...

KEVIN

I told you not to deal with this tonight.

LELAND

Why'd you have to bring it up at all?

KEVIN
 Oh, this is not my fault, buttface!
 (beat)
 You love her, right?

LELAND
 Of course I do!

KEVIN
 Well fucking tell her that.

Martin comes over and grabs the beer from Kevin.

MARTIN
 Don't be an ass.

KEVIN
 It's a party!

MARTIN
 You're seventeen!

Leland laughs. Martin yanks his beer away too.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
 Ha, Ha. Last I checked you were
 underage too.

Denise arrives with a beer in her hand. She sees Martin holding two...

KEVIN
 Look at this! My crazy drunk Dad's
 two fisting! He's out of control!

LELAND
 You gonna take hers away? She's
 underage.

DENISE
 I brought this for him. But it
 looks like you're fine.

INT. LIVING ROOM - ELSEWHERE

Preppie Guy is looking around, spots Norm in the hallway waiting in line for the bathroom. MEL and KATHY, two twenty something townies, watch from the sidelines...

MEL
 Did he look in a mirror? He dresses
 like a Mormon.

KATHY
He's probably foreign.

MEL
Or retarded.

A DRUNK DUDE slams into Preppie Guy spilling beer all over him. The girls burst out laughing. Drunk Dude starts grabbing at and wiping off Preppie Guy's coat. It rides up in the back...

CLOSE ON a quick glimpse of a GUN HOLSTER in the small of Preppie Guy's back...

Mel's eyes go wide.

MEL (CONT'D)
Did you see that?

KATHY
What?

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Denny finishes slamming a beer, crushes the can and tosses it at Guy as he struggles with his. The same TOWNIE MOOKS spectate loudly.

DENNY
There's nothing you can do that I can't do better. Just admit you want to be me. Admit it and we'll call it even.

Mel and Kathy burst in...

MEL
Hey, Denny?

INT. HALLWAY, OUTSIDE BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Norm knocks on the door, bladder getting fuller by the minute...

PARTY GOER (IN BATHROOM)
Be right out, dude!-- 'the fuck?!

Emma comes barreling over...

EMMA
Norm!

She gets in close...

EMMA (CONT'D)

Okay. There was a guy outside, he was on the phone. Speaking Russian.

NORM

It's probably Boris. He's foreign exchange.

EMMA

I don't think so. My Russian is rusty but I could of sworn I heard stuff about the quote unquote package, he was saying "it's here". Repeatedly--

JIMMY (O.C.)

Norm! Norm Garrett?!

JIMMY DUGGIN, high school age, Jersey Shore slickster type, comes up behind Emma, inebriation setting in...

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Jimmy Duggin! We were in the third grade together! Mrs. Laravee?

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Preppie Guy is patting his coat down with a napkin, moved to a new vantage point where he can still see into the hallway. Mel, Denny and the others are scoping him out...

DENNY

Really? That guy?

MEL

I saw it.

GUY

I got my 12-Guage in the car.

DENNY

I see that thing in my house, I'll shove it up your ass and pull the trigger.

Denny puts on a somehow intimidating smile and approaches.

DENNY (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey, man!

Preppie Guy tenses up...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Kevin sees Preppie Guy in the dining room...

KEVIN

Hey, Leland? That guy look preppy to you?

Leland nearly laughs when he sees him.

LELAND

You think? He makes Mitt Romney look like trailer trash. Why?

KEVIN

Norm said there was a preppy guy watching him...

They watch as Denny and his boys surround him...

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Oh, shit. Denise? Your brother's about to start some shit.

Denise takes a look, alarm bells going off...

INT. HALLWAY, OUTSIDE BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Emma is finding it harder to hide her impatience...

JIMMY

Emma Kamensky? Really?

Norm's face furrows, confused...

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Jimmy Duggin! I used to go to school here!

EMMA

Yeah, awesome! I have no idea who you are!

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Preppie Guy is now surrounded, but strangely calm...

DENNY

So let's have a look at it.

PREPPIE

Excuse me?

DENNY

The piece. Come on, we're all
second amendment fans here. Let's
see it.

PREPPIE

I don't know what you're talking
about.

Denise joins the fray.

DENISE

Denny, what are you doing?

MEL

This guy brought a gun.

DENISE

(alarmed)
What?

DENNY

We got it under control, sis. Just
stand back. I don't want you
getting hurt.

DENISE

Denny, I need to speak to you!
Right now!

Preppie Guy is completely focused on the hallway ahead...

PREPPIE GUY'S POV: Norm standing by the bathroom door with
Emma, talking to an unseen person...

Preppie Guy's gaze narrows...

INT. HALLWAY, OUTSIDE BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Norm thinks real hard for a moment...

NORM

Emma didn't move here until the
fifth grade.

Jimmy hangs his head, Emma gasps, eyes wide, face rigid...

EMMA

Oh my God! Is that a--

CLICK!, Jimmy cocks the glock he has against her spine...

JIMMY
I'll be taking back our item.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Kevin, Leland and Martin join the fray. Preppie Guy concentrates hard on Norm, completely aloof to Denny's antics.

DENNY
Hey! How about you just leave quietly. No one wants any trouble.

Preppie Guy's hand starts to drift around to his back...

DENISE
Denny! Right now! Come here!

Denise grabs Denny's arm and pulls him aside...

INT. HALLWAY, OUTSIDE BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Jimmy is putting up his best party smile as he talks, keeping up the charade.

JIMMY
Everyone just remain calm. We're having a good time. It's a party. It's in everyone's best interest to get the item out of here undamaged.

EMMA
We know what it is. I can't, in good conscience let you--

JIMMY
You're welcome to try. You might be faster than me. Or I might just miss your spine and take out a kidney. I assume you've still got both. Sepsis is a horrible way to go. I've seen it. Let's walk casually and quietly out the back door.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

PREPPIE GUY'S POV: Jimmy pops into view as he and the hostages start to move out...

Preppie Guy's eyes go wide with recognition. As he takes a step, Guy gets in his way. Preppie goes into his coat, Guy lunges--

DENNY
 (to Martin)
 He brought what to our house?

Preppie Guy twists Guy's arm around behind him and sweeps his leg, knocking him on his ass. Martin grabs the kids and pulls them away, reaching back again to yank Denny out of harms way as several of the Townie Mooks are taken apart...

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Norm and Emma try to look back at where the RUCKUS is coming from...

JIMMY
 Keep moving. Faster. Out the back.

NORM
 Listen to me. You don't need her.
 It's cuffed to me. I have to go
 with you anyway. Point the gun at
 me.

JIMMY
 Oh, fuck you, you sanctimonious
 dick.

EXT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

A SKATER DUDE is the lone smoker. Norm makes severe eyes at him as they pass. Skater Dude catches a glimpse of the Glock and jumps over the side and runs. Jimmy ushers them down the stairs and they start across the lawn...

JIMMY
 You're both coming. When the item
 is in safe hands, I'll call off our
 team. Are we clear?

NORM
 You don't have to hurt anyone.

JIMMY
 (into wrist mic)
 Hold your position. I think I got a
 tail.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Preppie Guy picks his gun up off the floor and tears into the kitchen. The room has cleared out, the floor littered with townie Mooks...

KEVIN

Norm. He's going after Norm!

Kevin follows...

MARTIN

Kevin, get your ass back here!

The rest follow suit...

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Emma and Norm, followed closely by Jimmy are making their way casually across the lawn to the next yard...

EXT. BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

Preppie Guy leaps out the back door. Kevin emerges shortly after and throws all his weight into him, knocking him on his ass...

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Foreign Exchange emerges from the shrubbery of the next yard armed with a SKORPION machine gun...

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Na vashem shest'!

Jimmy and his hostages hit the deck...

EXT. BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

Kevin and Denise stand over Preppie Guy as the deck is lit up by the Skorpion. Martin is able to get both of them in his wingspan and tackle them to the ground...

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Jimmy grabs Norm in a choke hold and backs up towards the shrubbery, gun trained at the deck...

PREPPIE
 (from Deck)
 Federal Agent! Drop your weapons!

Foreign Exchange squints, straining to see who it is...

FOREIGN EXCHANGE
 Eto ty?!

EXT. BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

Several people hang back in the doorway and nearby windows, trying to catch a glimpse. Denny sidles up, commando style. Martin checks the kids, continuing to cover them...

MARTIN
 Guys?! Anyone hurt?! Did anyone get hit?!

DENNY
 Denise?! Are you alright?!

PREPPIE
 She's okay. Everyone stay back.

Preppie slinks to the stairs and leans out with his gun.

PREPPIE (CONT'D)
 Federal agent! Otpustite zalozhnika!

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Foreign Exchange squints hard...

FOREIGN EXCHANGE
 U nas yest' punkt! Ostanovit' drochka i poydem!

Preppie Guy rises calmly to his feet. TWOCK! TWOCK!, Foreign Exchange takes one in the head, one in the heart, perfect accuracy. Jimmy's eyes go wide. He points his gun at Preppie Guy and blazes away, pinning him while backing up with Norm-- CRACK! Jimmy is bludgeoned with a field hockey stick being wielded by a severely adrenalized Leland. Jimmy drops like a ton of bricks, leaving Norm standing stunned by himself...

LELAND
 (adrenaline racing)
 Holy, fuck! You alright, man?

Norm hugs him. Emma quickly gets to her feet and rushes over. She wraps her arms around Leland...

EXT. BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

Preppie Guy makes his way down the stairs, gun drawn. Denise looks up at Martin and starts to turn white. Kevin follows her eyes...

KEVIN
(severe)
Uh, Dad?

A red spot of Martin's right shoulder starts expanding, very rapidly...

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Dad!

DENISE
Mr. Stanley!

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Preppie Guy kicks Jimmy's gun away, then approaches Norm with a key.

NORM
(clutching case)
Who are you?

Preppie pulls out his badge.

PREPPIE
Agent Dart Reilly. I was Gus Grant's partner.

NORM
Was?

He answers with a pained expression. He tries the key in the cuff, doesn't work...

LELAND
What's wrong?

REILLY
I can't believe he gave me the wrong key. Hold really still.

Reilly takes the case, pulls the chain tight, puts the barrel of his gun right on it-- BLAM!

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Denny hangs in the doorway, watching the back deck as Kevin props Martin against the wall. Someone hands him a towel, he tosses it to Kevin...

DENNY

Staunch the bleeding with that.
Direct pressure.

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

LELAND

Hey, Kevin! You guys alright?!

KEVIN

(from deck)
My Dad's been shot!

LELAND, NORM, EMMA

(in unison)
Is he alright?!

MARTIN

(from deck)
I'm fine. Are you kids alright?

They all trot over...

INT. BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

Denny slinks over to Martin...

DENNY

Can you walk, sir? I just want to
get you in the kitchen. In case
people start shooting again.

MARTIN

I think so.

Reilly leaps up the stairs and helps Denny get Martin on his feet...

MARTIN (CONT'D)

You're pretty casual, Denny.
Backyard gun fire an everyday thing
here?

DENNY

Served in Iraq for four years. 2nd
Reconnaissance Battalion.

(MORE)

DENNY (CONT'D)
I just hope they didn't fuck up my
Mom's rose garden.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They get him inside...

KATHY
Is he gonna die?

MEL
Shut up, Kathy.

GUY
Hold on.

Guy clears the kitchen table with his arm, flinging beer cans
and cups everywhere...

DENNY
What the fuck is wrong with you?
We're not doing surgery.

They bring him in and sit him down...

DENNY (CONT'D)
(to Guy)
You're gonna pick those up.

A PARTY GOER passes out from the blood...

RANDOM PARTY GOER (O.C.)
Pussy.

Norm is startled by Gus' phone. He takes it out. Emma and
Leland guess who it is by his expression...

EXT. BACK PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

Norm answers the phone, Emma and Leland huddled around him...

NORM
(into phone)
Claire? We've been waiting for you
to call. Where have you been?

CLAIRE (IN PHONE)
Well we had a mole. Hit us with an
EMP and fried all our servers.
(MORE)

CLAIRE (IN PHONE) (CONT'D)
I've spent the last hour learning
how to build a mainframe from
scratch using decades old
technology, just so I could call
some punk kid and get a bunch
attitude.

NORM
(beat)
Sorry.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUED

Reilly sets the case down and inspects Martin's wound...

REILLY
Agent Reilly, Homeland Security.
How are you this evening?

KATHY
Should I call an ambulance?

Kevin's hair stands up in a "!"...

KEVIN
That would bring the police, right?

DENISE
That's bad, right?

DENNY
Why is that bad?

REILLY
They may be involved.

EXT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUED

Emma and Leland huddle around Norm...

CLAIRE (IN PHONE)
Please tell me you still have it.

NORM
(into phone)
No, we gave it to Agent Reilly.

CLAIRE
(beat)
Agent Reilly? Agent Dart Reilly?

NORM

Yeah.

CLAIRE

No! Is he still there?

NORM

He's inside. What's wrong?

CLAIRE

Okay, you need to get it back from him. He's working with them.

NORM

What?!

LELAND

Dude, what is it? What did she say?

Norm's alarmed expression only makes them more nervous.

NORM

How far out is Agent Yardley?

CLAIRE

Too far to handle this. If that item leaves with Agent Reilly, we likely won't be able to get it back and billions of people are probably going to die.

INT. DENISE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

A SQUAD CAR is seen through the picture window, pulling up in front of the house. An UPTIGHT SENIOR, takes a look...

UPTIGHT

Oh, great! That puts a kibosh on the evening!

Various groans and expletives follow...

EXT. BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

The blues fill the back yard...

EMMA

Um...Norm?

NORM

Oh shit...

CLAIRE
What is it?

NORM
The police just got here.

CLAIRE
Hold on...Holloway, 387 Willow
Gate, right?

NORM
Yeah. How did you-- Never mind.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Mel barrels in from the hall...

MEL
Yeah, umm. The cops are here?
Should I tell everyone to leave?

REILLY
How many?

DENNY
Who's still actually here?

MEL
Everyone. Are you kidding?

Denny gets up to go see, motions for Denise to follow. Reilly takes a hard look at the case, then hurries through dressing Martin's wound...

EXT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUED

The kids wait with baited breath...

CLAIRE
Nothing's been called in-- they're
not cops.

Norm can't help but whimper a little...

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Norm, I don't have time for warm,
encouraging words. The fate of
everyone you've ever known is on
you. Move your ass.

NORM
Fuck...

He looks to the others...

INT. DENISE'S FOYER - SAME TIME

Denny and Denise stand at the front door. Uptight Senior is wildly gesticulating while talking...

UPTIGHT

Which way should we go, huh?!
There's people shooting out back,
and now there's cops--

DENNY

Alright, Shea! Shut up!
(to Denise)
Keep this door locked. If they kick
it in, stall them. I'll be right
back.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUED

Reilly finishes dressing Martin's wound...

REILLY

Are you good?

Martin goes to rotate his shoulder...

REILLY (CONT'D)

No. Don't do that. Try to keep it
still.

KEVIN

Are you alright? I'm gonna check on
Denise.

MARTIN

No I'll check on Denise. You help
me up.

As Kevin helps Martin out of the chair, Reilly goes for the Football-- it's gone...

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD/DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Reilly leaps onto the back porch, gun raised. Norm, Emma and Leland are running towards the tree line, Football in Norm's hand...

REILLY

Wait, stop!

He starts down the stairs. Leland wheels around and points the Skorpion right at him. Everyone stops...

REILLY (CONT'D)

Whoa, whoa! Put that down! What are you doing?!

NORM

I'm getting this out of here.

LELAND

And away from you.

REILLY

Okay, everyone just stop for a second.

INT. DENISE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Through the window, Officers Hill and Churchill, vests on, guns out, sweep past on the way to the front door...

SERENA

Denise? They look like they're here to bust a more than a party.

HILL

(outside door)

Police! Open the door!

Denise stands at the door, frozen...

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

The Mexican stand-off continues...

EMMA

Guys? What are we doing?

REILLY

Who told you that?

NORM

Claire.

REILLY

Claire? Who's Claire?

NORM

Claire from Homeland Security.

EMMA

You have to go, Norm.

REILLY

Now wait a minute. Some woman you've never met calls you and tells you not to trust me. Why are you so quick to trust HER?

NORM

I don't know who to trust right now. All I know is I'm not letting this leave with you.

Reilly takes a step forward. Leland brings the Skorpion up...

INT. DENISE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

BAM!--The dead bolt is giving way-- Denise is still frozen. Kevin puts his hand on her shoulder and she jumps a mile. She turns to see him and Martin. The door finally gives with a CRASH! and Hill and Churchill come barrelling in, each holding a printout of NORM'S CLASS PICTURE. Denise quickly goes into hysterics...

DENISE

Officer! Officer, help me!

Martin goes to grab her, but she throws herself into the path of the cops, grabbing at them, tears streaming down. She grabs one of the printouts and pushes it in Hill's face...

DENISE (CONT'D)

That's him! That's Norm! They had guns! They took him away in a car!

CHURCHILL

Slow down, miss.

Martin raises an impressed eyebrow at Kevin...

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Reilly lowers his weapon...

REILLY

Alright, calm down! Listen to me!

LELAND

No, you listen. They're going to take that somewhere and hide.

EMMA
I'm not leaving you.

LELAND
(ignoring her)
When the FBI get here, I'll call them.

REILLY
(to Norm)
Where are you gonna go? They're crawling all over this place and they will kill you to get it.

LELAND
They know these woods inside and out. They'll disappear like ninjas in the night.

Reilly steps forward again. Leland points the Skorpion...

REILLY
Knock it off. You won't do it.

LELAND
That's my best friend and the woman I love. I will die before I let you near them.

INT. DENISE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Hill mutters something into his radio. Denise is clutched onto Churchill for dear life...

DENISE
I can't remember! It happened so fast!

CHURCHILL
Let's do a quick sweep.

She does whatever she can to slow them, slobbering and clutching.

HILL
We're just gonna take a look around. Miss.

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Reilly is growing impatient, Emma is growing emotional...

LELAND

You're safer out there, baby. And Norm's definitely safer with you.

(beat)

Emma, every day I wake up and thank God that you're my girl. If I've failed to show you that...

EMMA

(regretful, melting)

Leland. I was being stupid. I'm sorry...

Reilly gets bold again and steps. Leland points the Skorpion at Reilly's feet and-- CLAKCLAKCLAKCLAKCLAK!!!!

INT. DENISE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Everyone's attention fixes in the direction of the gun fire...

CHURCHILL

Out back!

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Reilly hops, horrified at the big smoking hole in his shoe...

LELAND

Go now!

Emma pushes Norm into the woods...

INT. DENISE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Churchill is on her way into the dining room. Denise reaches back-- her hand finds an empty beer bottle...

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Churchill makes her way for the back door-- Denny emerges from behind, grabs Churchill's gun while simultaneously disarming and taking her down before she knows what hit her...

DENNY

Police, my mutherfucking Adidas!

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Denise swings the bottle right at Hill's head, DONK!!!, but it doesn't break, much to her chagrin. He points the gun at her-- with a loud battle cry, Kevin shoves her out of the way...and across the floor and over the coffee table...

Martin tears into Hill, grabbing the gun. The two of them careen backwards into the wall, gun discharging several times into the ceiling. Hill punches Martin in his bullet wound, which has started bleeding profusely, and tosses him to the ground. Before Hill can do anything else, he's stopped cold by the feeling of his cheek being caved in by a very big DESERT EAGLE barrel-- Denny on the other end...

DENNY

I've yet to air this thing out on something that breathes. I'm curious to see what this would do to your head.

Denise is being helped up by Serena...

SERENA

How are you two even in the same gene pool?

As Denny disarms and subdues Hill, Kevin rushes to Denise...

KEVIN

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to like actually launch you. I just got--

She shuts him up with a full on kiss on the mouth...

DENISE

Thank you.

DENNY

(to Martin)
Are you alright, sir?

Kevin rushes to his side...

KEVIN

Dad...that was pretty fucking badass.

The language gets him a "look".

DENNY

Let's get you on the couch.

Denny and Kevin help him up.

MARTIN

No. I don't want to get blood on--

DENNY

Sir, you can bleed on my couch any time.

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Blues and Reds begin lighting up the area. Leland backs up, covering Reilly, looking towards the street...

LELAND'S POV: Several black vehicles pull up. David Kamen steps out of his car...

Leland turns back-- CRACK! he's decked in the face, stunned. Reilly bats the gun away and hits him again. Leland falls back, dazed and fighting for consciousness.

REILLY

I'm sorry.

Reilly picks up his gun and runs off into the night...

INT. WOODS FORT - SAME TIME

Emma, Norm and the Football sit on old wooden chairs in a drafty, shoddy, wood plank clubhouse. The moon streams in through the "window" and "roof". Emma pulls an old empty glass bottle of Crystal Pepsi off the "shelf"...

EMMA

How old is this?

NORM

Sixth grade. That night we all slept out here for the first time.

EMMA

That's right.

NORM

Everyone else was asleep. Just you and me stayed up.

(beat)

We shared a Crystal Pepsi.

EMMA

(realizing)

You saved the bottle.

She chokes up...

EMMA (CONT'D)

Norm, you should have told me how you felt.

NORM

It wouldn't do anyone any good.

EMMA

It would do me good. I wouldn't have you hating me.

NORM

(beat)

Girls never gave me the time of day and then you came along, one of the most beautiful girls I'd ever seen. You were nice to me. And it was genuine. I could be myself. And I could trust you to not shit on me. I always felt like I mattered just because we were friends. You're smart, kind, strong. You light up the room whenever you're around. You're the kind of person I want to be. And I've known for a long time how I felt about you. So yeah, Emma. I love you.

She pulls her chair next to his...

NORM (CONT'D)

Would it have made a difference if I had told you? Would it be me and you instead of you and Leland?

She searches for the words...

NORM (CONT'D)

Exactly. So I saved you the trouble of having to avoid me and making everything awkward between all of us.

EMMA

Is that what you think of me? That I would treat you like that?

NORM

It's what I'm used to.

EMMA

Stop it! You know, if anyone else talked about you the way you talk about yourself, I'd kick their ass!

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

(beat)

Norm, you could never, ever hurt our friendship. You think because you're in love with me...

She puts her arms around him...

EMMA (CONT'D)

One of my favorite people in the world is in love with me? How is this in any way bad?

(beat)

Girls like you, Norm. But you gotta give yourself a break. You have this dark, depressing cloud hanging over you all the time.

NORM

If I had Leland's looks, it would be a whole different story. Then I'm mysterious and it's sexy.

She pulls him close...

EMMA

Norm, you know how much I love you, right? You know I'd do anything for you?

She waits for a response...

EMMA (CONT'D)

Right?

(off his nod)

I've been in love with Leland probably for as long as you've been in love with me. If I had known how you felt, that wouldn't have changed. I wouldn't have been able to shut it off any more than you can. It was always going to happen.

NORM

Well that's how it works for you. It's easy when you're beautiful.

EMMA

And that's bullshit! You don't think it ripped my heart out every time he chose other girls over me?

(beat)

The right girl for you is out there. And I'm so sorry it's not me.

He picks up the bottle, looks at it for a bit...then tosses it against a nearby rock, shattering it. Emma recoils and turns away, failing to hold back the tears.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Why did you do that?

NORM
(beat)
I don't know.

They sit in uncomfortable silence, Emma sniffing, Norm wanting to crawl into a hole and die. The silence is broken by Emma's phone. She takes it out, gives a puzzled look at the caller ID, answers...

EMMA
(into phone)
Hello?

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON: JESS RAMOS, 19, pretty, tall and blonde, has her phone to her ear. Her make up is smudged...

JESS
(distressed)
Hi, Emma. Is Norm with you?

EXT. WOODS FORT - SAME TIME

Alarm floods Emma's face, it's contagious...

EMMA
Yeah. Right here.

She hands him her phone...

EMMA (CONT'D)
Is Jess coming home today?!

Norm goes sickly white as he takes the phone...

NORM
(into phone)
Jess?

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Jennifer yanks the phone away and turns to reveal a big bloody bandage over her eye...

JENNIFER
 (into phone, seething)
 Do I have your attention, Norman?

NORM (IN PHONE)
 Yes, just don't hurt her.

JENNIFER
 Then get it back here right...
 fucking...now! You have ten minutes
 or big Sis' is gonna look just like
 me!

EXT. OUTSIDE WOODS FORT - SAME TIME

Norm slowly brings his phone down, weak in the knees...

INT. DENISE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

AGENTS take statements from various party goers. Some Agents are offered beers and politely refuse. Denny shows his piece to a fascinated LAB TECH. Martin sits on the couch as an AGENT looks at his wound, Kevin at his side. Denise brings him some water...

KEVIN
 You're gonna get a lot of crap from
 Mom for this.

DENISE
 I think he can handle it after
 this.

KEVIN
 No, my Mom is completely batshit.

He gets a swat to the head.

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Leland slowly gets to his feet, rubbing his jaw. David Kamen and AGENT YARDLEY, an authoritative Bill Buchanan type, rush to his side...

DAVID
 Leland? Are you hurt? Where's Emma?

LELAND
 I was supposed to call her when you
 guys got here.

He takes his phone out and sees a "missed call" message...

EXT. DUNSTER ROAD - SAME TIME

Emma and Norm double time along in the darkened neighborhood again. Norm has the phone glued to his ear...

CLAIRE (IN PHONE)
Can you stall them?

NORM
(breathless, in phone)
She said ten minutes! She's gonna
kill her--

CLAIRE
I mean after. I'm combing the area.
I'll send any agents I can find
directly to your house. But you
can't let it out of your sight
until then. It will be the end of
civilization. I don't know what
else to tell you, Norm. You've
gotten a really shitty deal
tonight.

Norm rolls his eyes in agreement. Norm and Claire's conversation fades to the BG as Roger's "I Wanna Be Your Man" starts coming from Emma's pocket. She answers her phone...

EMMA
(into phone)
Leland!

LELAND (IN PHONE)
Emma! Listen, I got a message from
Jess. I think she's in trouble.

EMMA
Jennifer has her. She wants to make
an exchange.

EXT. DENISE'S BACKYARD - SAME TIME

David, Yardley and several Agents are huddled around Leland listening on speakerphone...

EMMA (IN PHONE)
We're on our way to Norm's house.
Is the FBI there?

LELAND
 (into phone)
 Yeah they're right here with me.

DAVID
 Honey, it's Dad. Are you hurt?

EMMA
 I'm okay. But they're gonna kill
 his sister.

YARDLEY
 Stay where you are. We're sending a
 team.

DAVID
 Did you hear that, honey? Just stay-
 -

EMMA
 She gave us ten minutes...

EXT. DUNSTER ROAD, A FEW HOUSES DOWN FROM NORM'S - SAME TIME

They are slowing to a brisk walk, both gassed. Emma checks
 the clock on her phone, winces...

EMMA
 (into phone)
 That leaves us like three minutes.
 We gotta go.

EXT. DENISE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Yardley and his AGENTS are mounting up. David develops grey
 hair as he sprints to his SUV...

DAVID
 (into phone)
 Okay. We're on our way. Just...I
 love you, Emma. Don't do anything
 stupid.

EMMA (IN PHONE)
 I love you too. Hurry up.

David opens his door. Kevin, Leland and Denise pile in the
 other side so fast they collide with each other. David
 doesn't have the time or nerve to argue...

EXT. DUNSTER ROAD, IN FRONT OF NORM'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Norm and Emma are hunched over, catching their breath. Norm is close to tears...

NORM

Emma, what do I do!? I have no idea what I'm supposed to do here!

(beat)

I'm seventeen!

Emma rests a comforting hand on his back...

EMMA

Norm, breathe. It's going to be okay.

NORM

I don't know why I threw the bottle. I wish I didn't. I'm sorry, Emma. I really am.

EMMA

I'm still here, aren't I? I'm not going anywhere.

She takes his hand...

EMMA (CONT'D)

This kind of makes all our other problems seem silly, doesn't it?

He looks at her reassuring smile and can't help but crack one himself.

NORM

(beat)

Not really.

INT. NORM'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jess sits at the kitchen table, covered by TWO BRUISERS with Glocks. Jennifer waits, toe tapping...

SENTRY (OVER RADIO)

He's alone. He doesn't have it.

JENNIFER

(into radio)

Just send him in.

Norm is escorted in by the lanky, aforementioned SENTRY. Norm immediately assesses Jess' condition.

She shoots back such a look of exasperated, "what the hell happened here?" that Norm almost cracks up.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Did you search him?

SENTRY
He's a kid--

JENNIFER
(pointing at her eye)
Who did this with a fucking pellet
gun!
(beat)
Get back outside!

As the Sentry skulks away, Jennifer throws Norm against the wall and roughly pats him down...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Think you're so damn smart, not
having it on you, kid. Don't you?
Turns out I WAS seriously
considering with an almost one-
hundred percent certainty, killing
the fuck out of you on the spot.

She points her gun at him...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Where is it?

NORM
Let her go first.

JENNIFER
Bring it in here, first!!!! I'm
done fucking around with you!!!!

She goes over and whisks Jess to her feet and points the gun at her...

NORM
Okay!

Norm pulls out his now unlocked phone, texts Emma...

NORM (CONT'D)
It's here, okay?

A few seconds later and Emma is beside him with the case. One of the Bruisers takes it from her.

NORM (CONT'D)
Please let my sister go--

JENNIFER
Shut up!

The Bruiser enters the combination and swipes a strange LASER ALGORHYTHMIC DEVICE across the thumb pad. He opens it. Jess cranes for a peek inside but can't see. He shuts it and nods at Jennifer...

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
So, fat boy, you're so smart. What would you do with the three of you? I mean, you've seen our faces. Still seeing them, in fact! In stereoscopic vision!

NORM
The FBI is on it's way.

JENNIFER
Then we better do this real quick-like.

--everything is interrupted by a beeping sound. As it grows louder, so does everyone's curiosity. THWAP! THWAP! THWAP! goes the silenced rounds lighting up the two Bruisers. As they slump over, Jennifer turns to the picture window, raises her gun in a rage-- THWAP! THWAP! Double tapped. She slumps over. Norm and Jess stare at each other in disbelief...

NORM
Did you see who that was?!

JESS
(confused)
Some preppy guy...

Norm springs into action, grabs her hand, grabs the Football. They turn for the back door-- The beeping blocks their way, then enters the room-- Reilly, holding a beeping transponder...

REILLY
I'll take it from here.

Norm steps back.

NORM
The FBI is on it's way.

Reilly pulls his gun...

REILLY

Just stop! You guys have no idea what you're dealing with. Do you have any idea who these people are working for? They've been planning this for two years. Getting their people in place, buying loyalties. This whole thing goes all the way to the Vice President of the United States! And you just want to hand it to the FBI?!

(beat)

I don't want to do this.

He cocks his gun...

REILLY (CONT'D)

But it's for the greater good.

GRANT (O.C.)

How much are they paying you?

Gus Grant steps out of the shadowy front hall, Glock trained on Reilly...

GRANT (CONT'D)

You sonofbitch. How long were we partners?

REILLY

Grant, this is bigger than both of us.

Grant brings Norm's phone to his ear...

GRANT

(into phone)

The package is secure. I'm sending it out now. Thanks, Claire.

He hangs up, motions Norm to him, pats him on the shoulder as he passes. The three start down the hall to the front door as Grant and Reilly have it out behind them...

GRANT (CONT'D)

How much did the Georgians pay you to betray your country? To betray me?!

REILLY

Enough. They're paying me enough. What, the great Gus Grant is so incorruptible that he has no price?

(MORE)

REILLY (CONT'D)

My loyalty died when the agency got
my wife killed!

EXT. NORM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Norm, Emma and Jess step out into a waiting chaos of Black Vehicles, police lights, and Emergency Crews. AGENTS immediately swarm them. Yardley takes the Football, hands it off to an Agent who whisks it away to a waiting vehicle. As the Football leaves, the kids are escorted away from the house as a TACTICAL TEAM floods in the front door and around back. EMTS meet them with blankets. Norm watches as David Kamen breaks through and snatches up Emma. They both embrace like they'd never see each other again. Norm and Jess are brought to the back of an ambulance, EMT's fussing over them, Norm watching Emma as she looks around, calling for Leland, who quickly finds her. Within seconds their arms are wrapped around each other, kissing, tearfully reuniting. Norm looks away, mournful. Kevin strides over to him, Denise close behind. Norm sees him. Kevin wraps his arms around him and within seconds, Norm is sobbing. Kevin watches Leland and Emma and just hugs Norm tighter. Denise joins them, not really knowing what else to do.

EXT. NORM'S HOUSE - LATER

Norm and Jess sit on the stoop as the two couples are off giving statements to very intrigued Agents. Norm rubs his now cuffless wrist...

NORM

Are you alright?

JESS

I'm still processing it all. Severe jet lag is probably not helping. Or maybe it is...

NORM

I'm sorry you had to come home to this.

JESS

After nineteen years with Mom and Dad, I don't know. Terrorists in our kitchen somehow just isn't surprising.

Norm hugs her...

NORM

I'm glad you're okay.

JESS

YOU'RE glad-- We're not done talking about this, okay?! I love you. But if you ever do something this stupid...

She leans in and kisses him on the forehead. Leland approaches.

LELAND

You just thwarted a major terrorist plot. You crazy mutherfucker.

Norm stands, Leland gives him his biggest hug he can muster.

LELAND (CONT'D)

Are we cool?

NORM

Why wouldn't we be?

He glances over at Emma, having an animated conversation with David and Denise.

LELAND

You know I would never deliberately fuck you over, right?

NORM

It's okay. The best man got her.

LELAND

The best man--
(flabbergasted)
Coming from the guy who just had a impossible situation dropped in his lap-- Do you know how many people would have given up and just said "fuck this"? I'm a better human being because I know you, Norm. You're one of the best men I've ever met. I love you like a brother.

Norm is speechless. Leland just hugs him again.

LELAND (CONT'D)

I'm gonna take off, go to the Kamens, recover from exhaustion and shock and what not. Call me tomorrow.

Emma meets him half way, there's an unspoken exchange. Leland hugs her. She turns back to Norm and slowly approaches...

EMMA

Hey, Jess. Can I have a moment?

Jess gets up.

JESS

Yeah. I guess I'm being anti-social, anyway.

They watch her go chat up some Feds...

EMMA

Are you alright?

NORM

I think so.

EMMA

Are we alright?

NORM

I think so.

(beat)

Just give me time. We'll be fine.

EMMA

Okay.

She kisses him on the cheek. As she walks to David's car, he notices Kevin and Denise waiting for their turn...

KEVIN

I'm gonna split. Go see my Dad.

NORM

How is he?

DENISE

Being macho. Several armed federal agents had to all but force him in an ambulance.

KEVIN

He has a point. Ambulances are expensive.

DENISE

So is bleeding out while driving.

Kevin makes a conceding gesture at her...

KEVIN

(to Norm)

Dad said for you to call him, like ASAP. Which is a little weird, right?

DENISE

Your Dad is awesome. The apple didn't fall far, huh?

They gaze at each other all smitten-like...

DENISE (CONT'D)

(to Norm)

My brother thanks you a memorable evening. And I don't know if that's sarcastic or not.

She hugs him.

DENISE (CONT'D)

See you soon, Norm.

KEVIN

(walking away)

Call me, tomorrow.

Jess comes back over...

JESS

They're putting us up in a hotel tonight. A really good and expensive one it sounds like. You should grab some things.

She saunters inside. Norm is about to join her...

GRANT (O.C.)

It's for you.

Grant holds out Norm's phone. Norm fetches Grant's phone. They exchange...

GRANT (CONT'D)

Really, there's someone on the line. Don't hang up.

(beat)

Sorry I got you involved. But I certainly picked the right neighbor. By the way, Claire had nothing but nice words for you. That never happens.

He pats him on the shoulder as he walks away.

GRANT (CONT'D)
Don't keep her waiting.

Norm takes his phone call...

NORM
(into phone)
Hello?

SERENA (IN PHONE)
Hello, Norm? It's Serena.

NORM
(pleasantly surprised)
Serena. You're still up?

SERENA
Are you daft? What about you!
You're obviously alive! Which is
awesome! Are you alright?

NORM
Yeah. I think I am.

SERENA
I got your number from Denise. I
hope it's alright.

NORM
No, no. Of course it is.

SERENA
Okay, good. I can't tell you how
relieved I am that you're okay. I'm
still not completely sure what I
witnessed tonight and I'd love for
you to tell me all about it
sometime. But you're probably
exhausted right now.

NORM
(beat)
No. I don't think I'm sleeping
anytime soon...Are you busy--

SERENA
Not at all. I'm a night owl.

NORM
Me too.

SERENA
(beat)
So?

NORM

Umm...I think I might have saved
the world tonight.

SERENA

(beat)

And it's only Friday...

Norm actually finds himself laughing, lighter than we've ever seen him. The conversation continues as we pull back to take in all the Emergency Vehicles, Media Vans, FBI Vehicles and Police and FBI personnel.

FADE TO BLACK.